

SUMMARY: The document below is the last will and testament, dated 6 December 1545, of Edward Bushell of Cleeve Prior, Worcestershire, eight miles southwest of Stratford-upon-Avon, whose son or grandson may have been the 'Mr Bushell' of Richard Quiney's letter dated 28 October 1598 to William Shakespeare of Stratford (see SBTRO ER 27/4).

For the testator's family, and the family's connections to both Oxford and William Shakespeare of Stratford, see the will of his father, Thomas Bushell (d.1558), TNA PROB 11/42A/53.

Text on the right side is missing in the digital copy, and has been conjecturally supplied in square brackets in the transcript below.

For notice of the will, see also Fry, Edward Alexander, ed., *A Calendar of Wills and Administrators Preserved in the Consistory Court of the Bishop of Worcester, Vol. I, 1451-1600*, (British Record Society Limited, 1904), p. 16 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/calendarofwillsa01worcuoft#page/16/mode/2up>

*No. 347 Bushell, Edward, Clent [sic] 6 December 1545.*

LM: Edwardi bushell de p{ri}ores cleue

In the name of God, Amen. The 6 day of December in the year of Our Lord [God] 1545 and in the 37 year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord [Henry] the 8 by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, and in earth Supreme Head of the Church of England and also of Ir[eland], I, Edward Bushell of Cleve Prior in the diocese of Worcester, gentleman, being(?) sick in body [but] in perfect mind and remembrance, make this my last will and testament in man[ner &] form following, that is to say:

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, and my [body] to be buried in the parish church of Pebworth in such place as it shall please my [dear?] father to appoint and assign there;

Also I bequeath to the mother church of Worcester [6s 8d?];

Also I give and bequeath to the church of Pebworth 6s 8d;

Also I bequeath to the high altar of the parish church of Cleeve Prior aforesaid 12d;

Also I give [and] bequeath to my father, Thomas Bushell of Cleve Prior aforesaid, all the residue of [my] goods and chattels movable and unmovable to be ordered and disposed

and dis[tribut]ed by his discretion to the behoof, benefit and profit and use of my poor children [at] his will and pleasure as my special trust is in him;

And also I make, ordain [and] [f. 137] assign the said Thomas Bushell my sole executor of this my said last will and testament to pay my debts and to distribute the residue to the wealth of my soul and all Christian souls and to the behoof of my said children in manner and form above rehearsed;

These witness: Sir Adrian(?) Bury(?), parson of Worcester(?), Sir Richard Harrison, curate at Cleeve Prior aforesaid, Sir Roger Cocck{es}, and many other;

Dated at Cleve Prior the day and year above-written.

p{ro}batu{m} &c cora{m} d{i}c{t}o com{m}issario die Anno et Loco p{re}dict{is} &c jur{a}mento &c exhibuit Inventariu{m} &c ad sum{m}a xliij li vijs viijd

[=Proved etc. before the said commissary the day, year and place aforesaid etc., by the oath etc. Inventory exhibited etc. [+amounting?] to the sum of £42 7s 8d.]