



THE
EXPERIENCE
OF WORSHIP
IN LATE MEDIEVAL
CATHEDRAL AND
PARISH CHURCH

BENCHES AND STOOLS



Photo : Wolfgang Sauber

High bench-stools, choir bench-form, and short chancel stool, assembled informally in front of the Gronow chapel, St Teilo's

Description

High bench-stools (2), medium bench-stools (2), and short bench-forms for singers (2), all made from native Welsh oak. The four stools complement an existing pair of short chancel stools (also made by Jeremy Glenn for St Teilo's). The highest stools were used as credence tables and prie-dieux in the enacted liturgies, with medium-height stools as seats for assisting clergy and servers.

Measurements

High Bench Stool: Length: 24"; Width: 10"; Height: 26".

Medium Bench Stool: Length: 24"; Width: 10"; Height: 22".

Short Chancel Stool: Length: 24"; Width: 20"; Height: 18".

Choir forms (made to seat up to four people): Length: 5'; Width: 10"; Height: 22".

Model

The main model for the bench-stools was a simplified, shaped version of a fifteenth-century French stool surviving in the Cloisters Collection, New York; the characteristic simple apron design also reflects aspects of the design of an original medieval oak chest at St Teilo's. The aprons are made from two horizontal boards that pass through slots cut into the top of each end of the bench, while the legs have an arch cut out to make feet, decorated with a simple cross. The choir benches similarly echo the St Teilo's original fifteenth-century Monmouthshire-style oak houseling bench, though again with the addition of semi-circular cut-out 'feet'. Late medieval iconographical evidence was also taken into account, particularly in terms of confirming the function of stools of various heights not only as seats, but also as book-rests and prie-dieux.

Craftsperson

Jeremy Glenn, woodworker, Abergavenny.

Bibliography

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Note compiled by Sally Harper

