



THE
EXPERIENCE
OF WORSHIP
IN LATE MEDIEVAL
CATHEDRAL AND
PARISH CHURCH

ST TEILO CRUETS



Photo :Sally Harper

Description

Ten cruets were made for St Teilo's from part-glazed earthenware: four marked with 'A' for aqua; two with 'V' for vinum; others unmarked. Cruets were essential vessels for wine and water at Mass, required both for the mixing of the chalice, and (using water alone) for the various ablutions of the priest and other ministers in the sanctuary. Many cruets were made from earthenware.

Measurements

Height: 125mm; Diameter: 100mm (the Eglwys Cymun model described below is 98mm; 68mm)

Model

Based on a part-glazed earthenware survival from the thirteenth or fourteenth century, discovered in the drain of the medieval piscina in the south chancel wall at Eglwys Gymyn, near Pendine in Carmarthenshire, during restoration work in the nineteenth century (and now in Carmarthenshire County Museum). Other surviving cruets from Dunstable, Ettington and Weoley Castle were also considered, and a mean height and diameter taken. It was suggested originally that the upper section of the Eglwys Gymyn cruet was made separately and fitted into the lower one, with the projecting lower half (left unglazed) pressed inwards in a pie-crust pattern. However, John Hudson was adamant that any good potter would throw such an item as one piece, and then pinch the clay for the decorative 'crust'.

See also description of the St Teilo lavabo bowl and lamp.

Craftsperson

John Hudson, Mirfield, West Yorkshire (<http://www.hudsonclaypotter.co.uk/>)

Bibliography

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G. C. Dunning, 'Medieval Church Cruets in Pottery [Notes and News]', *Medieval Archaeology*, 13 (1969), 226–7.
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Note compiled by Sally Harper

