



THE  
EXPERIENCE  
OF WORSHIP  
IN LATE MEDIEVAL  
CATHEDRAL AND  
PARISH CHURCH

# ASPERGES PAIL



Photo :Phil Neal

The St Teilo Asperges Pail (*aspersorium*)

## Description

Cast in 10mm bronze from a turned wood pattern. The *asperses* pail has a smooth, polished bell-shaped body with ornamental bands in the centre and semi-circular trilobite handle. The pail or *aspersorium* was a receptacle for the holy water blessed by the priest, used for the ritual sprinkling of people and objects (especially altars), generally in procession. (Ultimately the bronze-cast St Teilo pail proved too heavy to carry, and it found alternative use as a water stoup.)

## Measurements

Height: 175mm high (without handle); 350 mm (with handle); Diameter: 210mm (top)

## Model

The *asperses* pail draws on the simple diagrammatic images in the printed editions of the Sarum Processional (e.g. Richard Pynson, *Processionale ad Usum Sarum*, 1502, f.1v), and the numerous extant late medieval Flemish specimens designed for liturgical use. It is close to Type No. 7 (Malfait, *Seven Centuries of Holy-water pails*, p.40), which also has a bell-shaped body without feet, and a semi-circular head-shaped handle.

## Craftsperson

Phil Neal, Sculpture and Woodturning, Welbeck (<http://www.sculptor.co.in/>)

## Bibliography

Antoon and Torkild Malfait, translated Walter Leperre, *Seven Centuries of Holy-water pails & Holy-water fonts in bronze, brass and pewter* (Brussels: Antiqua Nova, 2003).

*Late Medieval Liturgies Enacted: The Experience of Worship in Cathedral and Parish Church*, ed. Sally Harper, Paul Barnwell and Magnus Williamson (forthcoming, 2014).

*Note compiled by Sally Harper*

