

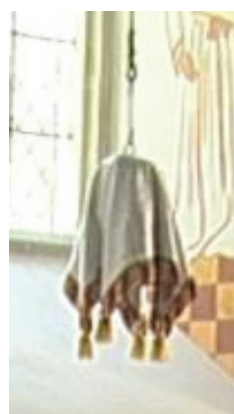


THE  
EXPERIENCE  
OF WORSHIP  
IN LATE MEDIEVAL  
CATHEDRAL AND  
PARISH CHURCH

# THE HANGING PYX



Images from video recording, Andy Brice



A hanging pyx was a common feature in late medieval churches in England and Wales. Hanging above the altar, it was the repository for the consecrated Host – the body of Jesus Christ – ready for use in emergency. It also offered a visual focus for personal devotion.

The only evidence of a medieval wooden hanging pyx is this photograph (near right). This object survived in the church of St Peter in the centre of Bristol, until the church was destroyed in a wartime bombing raid in 1940.



Photo, Fred Little



Photos, Jeremy Glenn

Four craftspeople worked on the new pyx, using the photograph and the diameter of a Host (shown above) as starting point: two woodworkers and a blacksmith in South-East Wales, and a painter in Bristol.

*The hanging pyx is covered by a cloth, and a late medieval example in silk lace survives from Hessett in Suffolk (now kept in the British Museum). A cloth of the correct dimensions, colour and decoration was made by Mary Collings in Ipswich. However, the material used is damask, with a medieval pattern.*