



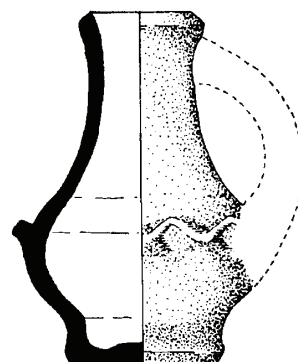
THE
EXPERIENCE
OF WORSHIP
IN LATE MEDIEVAL
CATHEDRAL AND
PARISH CHURCH

THE EARTHENWARE CRUETS

Cruets are required at the Mass for wine and water. Some medieval survivals are earthenware. An example, probably from the 13th or 14th century, was found in the church at Eglwys Gymyn, near Pendine in Carmarthenshire. It was discovered in the drain of the medieval piscina in the south chancel wall during restoration work in the 19th century.¹



Carmarthenshire County Museum Photo, Chaffer and Parricall 2010



Photo, Sally Harper

John Hudson, a potter based in Mirfield in West Yorkshire, made new cruets based on this original, using the photograph and the sectional drawing. He specialises in making pottery based on medieval originals.

Although it had been suggested that the body of the cruet was made in two pieces, he was adamant that any potter worth his salt would throw it as a single piece, and pinch the clay for the crimped decoration.

Here the new cruets are in use at the beginning of the late medieval Jesus Mass, as enacted in St Teilo's Church on 14 September 2011. The priest pours the wine into the chalice in preparation for the Mass. He will then bless the water in the other cruet, and add a small quantity to the wine.



Photo, Andy Price

1. J. M. Lewis, 'Medieval Church Cruets in Pottery', *Medieval Archaeology*, 12 (1968), 147–9