



THE
EXPERIENCE
OF WORSHIP
IN LATE MEDIEVAL
CATHEDRAL AND
PARISH CHURCH

FROM SANDON PAX TO ST TEILO PAX

The Pax or Pax Board was an important artefact in the medieval parish church. The people only received communion on Easter Day, as a rule. However, having consecrated the bread and wine, the priest kissed the rim of the chalice, kissed the Pax Board (thereby transferring the Blood of Christ to the Pax), and then passed it to the clerk offering the Peace of Christ. The clerk then took the Pax to the people, who each kissed it in turn (by gender and rank). It was the people's only physical contact with the action of the priest at the altar.



One of only two known medieval wooden Pax Boards was found under a cottage floor in Sandon, Essex, around 1900; it is now kept in the parish church.



Photos, Alison Merry; the image of the back is conflated from three details.

Photos, below (1 to r), Jeremy Glenn (2), Lois Raine, Alison Merry.

Measuring 120mm x 158mm it is in an unrestored state: the kissing plate and stones or beads on the front are long gone, as is the metal handle on the back – though their imprint, and the wear of a hand passing through the handle are still evident.

Using the old Pax as model, five craftspeople made the St Teilo Pax: Jeremy Glenn, woodwork; Ross Smith, metalwork; Lois Raine, gilding; Alison Merry, watercolour; the York Glaziers Trust, the picture glass.

