

St John-the Baptist Church: Beating of the bounds in 1682

Anthony Wood (*Life and Times*, ii.20) reports on the beating of the bounds of St John-the-Baptist Church by Fellows of Merton and parishioners on Whit Monday in 1682:

Whit-munday June 5, anno 1682, having been appointed and set apart for a procession-day, some of the fellows and some of the parishioners went on procession to take the limits of the parish of St. John Baptist, viz., in this manner.—

We went out of Merton College back gate and so the south-east corner of the city wall which includes the College mount and garden.

Returning thence wee went through Corpus Christi College back-gate to the President's lodgings beyond and on the west side of that College. Which lodgings wee leaving on the right hand, wee went towards the house of easement and made a cross under C.C.C. summerhouse and on the wall against it,—

Thence returning wee went by the said lodgings, went out of his dore by Ch. Ch. Gate, w<h>ere wee made a cross. Thence to Oriel College common gate; where we should have made a + on the south side of it, for the south half or more of Oriel College is in St. John Baptist parish.

Thence wee left Oriel College corner on the left and their chappell on the left, and went up Grope Lane [Magpie Lane] where on the wall of Oriel College ball court wee made another cross and then going over the gutter wee made another on the farthest extent northward of the tenement called the Magpie (now the Talbot).—

Thence wee returned and went up that street antiently called Kibald's Street where the Universitie carrier's stables are, and so into the back-side of Mr. Robert à Wood where in the house of easement that stands cross Kybald street we made another + close by that + which the parishioners of St. Marie's make.

Thence going through the house on the north side of the tennis court and through the alley that leads into S. John Baptist street [Merton Street], wee went into Logic lane, where in the middle (where an elboe or a turning is) wee made another + upon the farthest extent northwards of a garden ground belonging to Mert. Coll. In the tenure of the said Robert à Wood.—

Thence going to the east end of St. John Baptist Street, wee made another + upon Merton College garden wall.—

Bread and drink to the parish.¹ This procession was performed by John Conant, fellow, and John Duncombe, chaplayne of Mert. Coll., Anthony à Wood, Robert and Edward à Wood (both, the sons of Robert à Wood), Arthur Fowler (under-cook of Merton College), John Badcock, porter, etc.

¹ Presumably provided by Merton College. Other colleges that provided refreshments to senior parishioners who beat the bounds were Lincoln College (All Saints' and St Michael's parishes) and All Souls (St Mary-the-Virgin parish).