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Excerpt
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ANGLO-SAXON WILLS

I. THE WILL OF BISHOP THEODRED.

[*In nomine domini nostri Ihesu Christi.*

Ic þeodred Lundeneware Biscop wille biquethen mine quiden
 mines erfes. þe ic begeten habbe 7 get bigete godes þankes and
 his halegen for mine soule 7 for min louerd þat ic vnder bigeat
 and for min Eldrene. and for alle þe mannes soule þe ic fore-
 5 þingiae. And ic almesne vnderfongen habbe and me sie rithlike
 for to bidden þat is þan erst þat he an his louerd his heregete.
 þat is þanne tua hund marcas arede goldes and tua cuppes
 siluerene. and four hors so ic best habbe. and to suerde so ic
 best habbe. 7 foure schelda. and foure spere. and þat lond þat
 10 ic habbe at Dukeswrthe¹. and þat lond þat ic habbe at Illyntone.
 And þat lond þat ic habbe at Earnningtone². 7 ic an Eadgiue
 fifti marcas redes goldes. And into s̄c̄e Paules kirke mine to
 beste messehaclen. þe hic habbe mid alle þe þinge þe þereto
 15 alle mine *reliquias* þe ic best habbe into Paules kirke. And ic
 an þat lond aet Tit³ into seynte Paules kirke þen hewen to
 bedlonde mid al þat þe þeron stant buten þe men þe þer aren
 fre men alle for mine soule. and ic an þat lond at Suthereye mid
 alle þe fiscoðe þe þerto bireð þen hewen into s̄c̄e Paules kirke.
 20 and frie men þo men for þe Bisscopes soule. and þeodred bisscop
 an þat lond at Tillingham into s̄c̄e Paules kirke þo hewen to
 hare⁴. and fre men þo men for mine soule. And ic an þat lond
 at Dunemowe ouer mine day into s̄c̄e Paules kirke þen hewen.
 And ic an þat lond at Mendham Osgote mine sustres sune ouer
 25 mine day. buten ic wille þat se minstre. And⁵ hide londes at
 Myndham to þere kirke. And ic an þat lond at Scotforð. and
 Mydicaham into Myndham kirke þo godes hewen. And ic an
 Osgot þat lond at Silham. 7 at Isestede. 7 at Chikeringe. 7 at
 Aysfeld⁶ and at Wrtingham. and alle þe smale londe þat þereto
 30 bereð. And ic an þat lond at Horham and at Elyngtone into
 Hoxne into s̄c̄e Aethelbrihtes kirke þer⁷ godes hewen. And ic
 an þat lond at Luthinglond Offe mine sustres sune and his

¹ K. *Ankeswrð*.

² Sic ms. for *Cic*. K. *Tit*. T. *Cic*.

³ Sic ms.

⁴ K. *Æysfeld*.

⁵ K., T. *Earningtone*.

⁶ Sic ms. for *are*. K. *here*.

⁷ K., T. *þen*.

I. THE WILL OF BISHOP THEODRED.

In nomine domini nostri Iesu Christi.

I, Theodred, Bishop of the people of London, wish to announce my will concerning my property, what I have acquired and may yet acquire, by the grace of God and his saints, for my soul and for that of my lord under whom I acquired it and for my ancestors' souls, and for the souls of all the men for whom I intercede, and from whom I have received alms, and for whom it is fitting that I should pray.

First, he grants his lord his heriot, namely, two hundred marks of red gold, and two silver cups and four horses, the best that I have, and two swords the best that I have, and four shields and four spears: and the estate which I have at Duxford, and the estate which I have at Illington, and the estate which I have at Arrington. And I grant to Eadgifu fifty marks of red gold.

And to St Paul's church I grant the two best chasubles that I have, with all the things which belong to them, together with a chalice and one cup. And my best mass-book, and the best relics that I have [are to go] to St Paul's church. And I grant to St Paul's church the estate at St Osyth, as an estate to provide sustenance for the community, with all that is on it, except the men who are there; they are all to be freed for my soul's sake. And I grant the estate at Southery, with all the fishing which belongs to it, to the community at St Paul's church, and the men are to be freed for the bishop's soul. And Bishop Theodred grants the estate at Tillingham to St Paul's church to be the property of the community, and the men are to be freed for my soul. And I grant the estate at Dunmow after my death to St Paul's church for the community.

And I grant the estate at Mendham to my sister's son Osgot after my death, except that I desire that the minster and a hide of land at Mendham [shall belong?] to the church. And I grant the estate at Shotford and Mettingham to God's community at Mendham church. And I grant to Osgot the estates at Syleham, and at Instead, and at Chickering and at Ashfield, and at *Wortinham*, and all the small estates which are attached to these.

And I grant the estates at Horham and at Athelington to God's

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broþer, and fre men þo men halue. and at Mindham also for þe
 Bisscopes soule. And ic an Osgote mine mey Eadulfes sune þat
 lond at Bertune and at Rucham¹. and at Pakenham. And ic an
 þat lond at Newetune. and at Horninggeshæthe. and at Ikewrthe.
 5 and at Wepstede into s̅ce Eadmundes kirke þen godes hewen to
 are for þeodred bisscopes soule. And ic an þat lond at Waldring-
 feld Osgote mine Sustres sune. and min hage þat ic binnin
 Gypeswich bouhte. And ic² Wlstan þat lond at Wrtham so it
 stant. And ic an into eueri bisscopes stole fif pund to delen for
 10 mine soule. And ic an þen Archebiscop e fif Markes goldes.
 And ic an þat men dele at mine biscoprliche binnan Lundene
 and buten Lundene . x . pund for mine soule. And ic an at
 Hoxne at mine biscoprliche þat men dele . x . pund for mine
 soule. 7 Ic wille þat men nieme þat erfe þat at Hoxne stand.
 15 þat ic þerto bigeten hadde. and dele it man on to. half into þe
 minstre 7 dele for min soule. And lete men stonden so mikel
 so ic þeron fond. and fre man³ þo men alle for mine soule. And
 ic wille þat men lete stonden at Lundenebyri so mikel so ic
 þeron fond. 7 nime⁴ þat ic þerto bigat and dele on to. half into
 20 þe minstre 7 half for mine soule. and fre men alle þo men. 7 do
 men þat Ilke at Wunemannedune 7 on Sceon 7 lete⁵ men stonden
 at Fullenham so it nu stant buten hwe⁶ mine manne fre wille
 7 on Denesige let stonden so mikel so ic þeron fond. And dele
 it man on to half⁷ into þe minstre 7 half for mine soule. And
 25 ic an into Glastingbiri . v . pund for mine soule. and ic an
 þeodred min wite massehakele þe ic on Pauie bouhte and 'al'
 þat þerto bireð. 7 simbelcalice 7 þere messeboç þe Gosebricht
 me biquaþ. And ic an Odgar⁸ þere gewele massehakele þe ic on
 Pauie bouhte. 7 þat þerto bireð. And ic an Gundwine þer oper
 30 gewele massehakele þat is ungerenad. 7 þat þe þerto bireð.
 and ic spracacke⁹ þe rede messehakele. 7 al þat þe þerto bireð.
 And wo so mine cuyde ofte: god him ofte heuene Riches buten
 he it er his ende it bete.

¹ K. *Bucham*.

³ T. *men*.

⁵ T. *let*.

⁷ An *e* has been half-erased.

⁹ K., T. *Spratacke*.

² Sic MS.

⁴ K. *mine*.

⁶ K. *hweye*.

⁸ K., T. *Ordgar*.

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community at St Ethelbert's church at Hoxne. And I grant the estate at Lothingland to Offa my sister's son and his brother, and half the men are to be freed there, and also at Mendham, for the Bishop's soul. And I grant to my kinsman Osgot, Eadulf's son, the estates at Barton, and at Rougham, and at Pakenham.

And I grant the estates at Nowton and at Horningsheath and at Ickworth and at Whepstead to St Edmund's church, as the property of God's community, for Bishop Theodred's soul. And I grant to Osgot my sister's son the estate at Waldringfield and my message in Ipswich, which I bought. And I grant to Wulfstan the estate at Wortham just as it stands.

And I grant to every bishop's see five pounds to be distributed for my soul. And I grant to the Archbishop five marks of gold. And I grant that ten pounds be distributed for my soul at my episcopal demesne, in London and outside London. And I grant that ten pounds be distributed for my soul at my episcopal demesne at Hoxne. And it is my will that the stock which is at Hoxne, which I have acquired there, be taken and divided into two parts, half for the minster, and [half] to be distributed for my soul. And as much as I found on that estate is to be left on it, but all the men are to be freed for my soul. And it is my wish that at London there be left as much as I found on the estate, and that what I added to it be taken and divided into two, half for the minster and half for my soul, and all the men are to be freed. And the same is to be done at *Wunemannedune* and at Sheen. And at Fulham everything is to be left as it now stands, unless one wishes to free any of my men. And at Dengie let there be left as much as I found on the estate and let the rest be divided into two, half for the minster and half for my soul.

And I grant to Glastonbury five pounds for my soul. And I grant to Theodred my white chasuble which I bought in Pavia, and all that belongs to it, and a chalice for festivals and the massbook which Gosebriht bequeathed to me. And I grant to Odgar the yellow chasuble which I bought in Pavia, and what belongs to it. And I grant to Gundwine the other yellow chasuble which is unornamented, and what belongs to it. And I the red chasuble and all that belongs to it. And whosoever detracts from my testament, may God deprive him of the kingdom of heaven, unless he make amends for it before his death.

II. THE WILL OF ÆELFGAR.

[I]N nomine domini.

Dis is Alfgares¹ quide þat is erst þat ic an mine louerd tueye suerde fetelsade and² tueye bege ayther of fifti mancusas goldes. and þre stedes. and þre scheldes³. and þre speren. And me kidde þeodred bisscop and Edric Alderman þa ic selde mine
 5 louerd þat suerd þat Eadmund king me selde on hundtuelftian mancusas goldes. and four pund silueres on þam fetelse þat ic moste ben mine quides wirde. And ic nefre forwrouht ne hadde on godes witesse wið mine louerd buten ic⁴ so mote. And ic an Athelflede mine douhter þe lond at Cokefeld. and at Dittone.
 10 and þat at Lauenham. ouer min day. on þe red þat heo be þe bet for mine soule. and hire moder soule 7 for hire brother soule. 7 for hire seluen⁵. And þanne ouer vre aldre⁶day ic an þat lond at Cokefeld into Beodricheswrthe to seynt Eadmundes stowe. And ic wille þat Athelfled vnne ouer 'hire' day þo londes at
 15 Dittone into suilke halegen stowe:✓ suilk hire redlikest þinge for vre aldre soule. And ouer vre⁷ aldreday:✓ ic an þat lond at Lauenham mine douhter childe gif þat god wille þat heo ani haueð. buten Atelfled her wille him his vnnen⁸. and gif heo non ne hadde:✓ gange it into Stoke for vre aldre soule. and ic an
 20 þat lond at Babingþirne Atelflede mine douhter. And after hire day:✓ min other douhter hire day. And ouer here bothre day:✓ mine douhter berne gif he⁹ bern hadde. And gif he⁹ bern¹⁰ ne hadde:✓ þanne go it into sçe Marie Stowe at Berkyngge for vre aldre¹¹ soule. And ic an þat lond at Illeye¹² mine ginger douhter
 25 hire day. and ouer hire day:✓ Berthnoðe his day gif he leng libbe þanne heo. gif he⁹ bern hebben þanne an ic¹³ hem. gif he⁹ non ne habbeþ¹⁴:✓ þanne an ic it Athelfleð mine douhter. ouer here day. and after hire day:✓ into Cristes kirke at Caunterbiri þen hirde de brite¹⁵. And þe lond at Colne and at Tigan¹⁶ ic an min

¹ T. *Ælfgares*.³ Ibid. *cheldes*.⁵ Ibid. omits from *on þe red þat* to *seluen*.⁷ Ibid. *hure*.⁹ T. *heo*.¹¹ Ibid. *alderne*.¹³ Ibid. inserts *it*.¹⁵ For *to brice*.² Addit. MS. *an*.⁴ Ibid. *it*.⁶ Ibid. *alderne*.⁸ Ibid. *hunnes*.¹⁰ Addit. MS. inserts *non*.¹² Ibid. *Illeyge*.¹⁴ Ibid. *habben*.¹⁶ Addit. MS. *Tygan*

II. THE WILL OF ÆELFGAR.

In nomine domini.

This is Ælfgar's will. First I grant to my lord two swords with sheaths, and two armlets, each of fifty mancuses of gold, and three stallions and three shields and three spears. And Bishop Theodred and the Ealdorman Eadric told me, when I gave to my lord the sword which King Edmund gave to me, which was worth a hundred and twenty mancuses of gold and had four pounds of silver on the sheath, that I might have the right to make my will; and God is my witness that I have never done wrong against my lord that I may not have this right.

And I grant to my daughter Æthelflæd the estates at Cockfield and Ditton and that at Lavenham after my death on condition that she be the more zealous for the welfare of my soul and of her mother's soul and of her brother's soul and of her own; and then after our lifetime I grant the estate at Cockfield to St Edmund's foundation at Bedericesworth. And it is my wish that Æthelflæd shall grant the estate at Ditton after her death to whatever holy foundation seems to her most advisable, for the sake of our ancestors' souls. And I grant the estate at Lavenham after our lifetime to my daughter's child if it be God's will that she have any, unless Æthelflæd wishes to grant it to him before; and if she has no child, the estate is to go to Stoke for our ancestors' souls. And I grant the estate at Baythorn to my daughter Æthelflæd, and after her death to my other daughter for her time; and after the death of both of them, to my daughter's child, if she has a child; and if she has no child, then it is to go to St Mary's foundation at Barking for the souls of our ancestors.

And I grant the estate at Eleigh to my younger daughter for her life, and after her death to Brihtnoth for his life if he live longer than she. If they should have children, then I grant it to them. If they have none, then I grant it to my daughter Æthelflæd after their death, and after her death to Christchurch at Canterbury for the use of the community. And I grant the estates at Colne and Tey to my younger daughter, and after her death, if she has a child, to her child; and if she has no child, I bequeathe

gingere douhter. and ouer¹ day gif heo bern hadde. hire bern.
 and gif heo bern² ne hadde: bequeðe it³ Bernothe his day. and
 ouer his day: into Stoke for vre aldre soule And ic an þat lond
 at Piltendone and at Mereseye into Stoke. And ic an þat Athelfled
 5 bruke þe lond þer wile þe hire lef beth one raða⁴ heo it⁵ on riht
 helde. and on þe red þat heo do þan hirde so wel so heo best may
 into Stoke for mine soule and for ure aldre. And ic an þat lond
 at Grenstede into Stoke for mine soule 7 for Athelwardes 7 for
 Wiswiðe⁶. And ic Athelfled þere brice wille hire lif beth on þe
 10 red þat heo do for þa⁷ saule so wel so heo⁸ best may. nu his me
 god uþe 7 min lauerd. And ic an þat lond at Tidwoldingtone⁹
 Alfwold¹⁰ ouer mine day þe he formige ilke ihere þen hird at
 Paulesbiri for vre aldre soule. And ic an¹¹ þat lond at Totham¹²
 Berchnoðe and mine gingere douhter here day. and after here
 15 day: wudelond¹³ into Mereseye Athelfled mine douhter. And
 ic an þat wudelond at Aisfeld¹⁴ into Stoke also Eakild¹⁵ self it
 her bouhte. And ic mine moder þat lond at Ryssebroc gif heo
 leng liuið þan hic. þanne after vnker bother day ic an it Winelme
 gif heo Athelfled on richte hird. And ic wille Bidden suilc
 20 louerd so þanne beth for godes luuen¹⁶ and for alle hise halegen.
 werken min bern þat he¹⁷ werken þat he nefre ne mugen for-
 werken mine quide þe ic for mine soule cueden hadde. and gif
 it wo awende: hadde him wið god gemaene and wið þe holi
 sças¹⁸ þe ic it to becueþen hadde. þat he it nefre ne bete buten
 25 on helle wite se þis quide awende boten it me seluen wende¹⁹
 er min ende²⁰. And ic Athelgar an an hide lond þes þe Aeulf
 hauede be hundtuelti acren ateo so he wille.

¹ Addit. MS. adds *hire*.³ Ibid. *ic*.⁵ Ibid. *ic*.⁷ Addit. MS. *þat*.⁹ Ibid. *Tidweldington*.¹¹ Addit. MS. *and*.¹³ The Addit. MS. reading, *wende lond*, is obviously the correct one.¹⁴ Ibid. *Asfeld*.¹⁶ Ibid. *louen*.¹⁸ Ibid. *stans*.²⁰ Ibid. *endinge*.² Ibid. omits *bern*.⁴ Ibid. *rathan*.⁶ T. *Wifwiðe*.⁸ Ibid. *he*.¹⁰ T. *Ælfwold*.¹² T. *Cotham*.¹⁵ Ibid. *Aylkil*.¹⁷ Ibid. omits *he*.¹⁹ Ibid. adds *it*.

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it to Brihtnoth for his time, and after his death to Stoke for our ancestors' souls.

And I grant the estate at Peldon and that at Mersea to Stoke. And I grant that Æthelflæd is to have the use of the estates as long as is agreeable to her, on condition that she holds it lawfully, and on condition that she does the best she can for the community at Stoke for the sake of my soul and of our ancestors' souls. And I grant the estate at Greenstead to Stoke for my soul and for Æthelweard's and for Wiswith's. And I grant to Æthelflæd the use of it for as long as her life lasts, on condition that she does the best she can for those souls. Now may God grant me this, and my lord.

And I grant the estate at Heybridge to Ælfwold after my death [on condition] that he pay a food-rent every year to the community at St Paul's for our ancestors' souls. And I grant the estate at Totham to Brihtnoth and my younger daughter for their time; and after their death the estate is to go to Mersea for my daughter Æthelflæd. And to Stoke I grant the woodland at Ashfield as *Eakild* himself bought it. And I [grant] the estate at Rushbrooke to my mother if she live longer than I; then after the death of both of us I grant it to Winehelm if he (?) serve Æthelflæd loyally.

And I beseech whoever may then be king, for the love of God and all his saints, that let my children do what they may, they may never set aside the will which I have declared for my soul's sake. And if anyone alter it, may he have to account for it with God and the holy saints to whom I have bequeathed my property, so that he who shall alter this will may never repent it except in the torment of hell, unless I myself alter it before my death.

And I grant to Æthelgar a hide of a hundred and twenty acres of land which *Aeulf* held. He is to dispose of it as he wishes.

III. THE WILL OF WYNFLÆD.

Wynflæd cyð hu hio wile ymbe þæt hio hæfð ofer hyre dæg
 hio becwiþ into cyrcan hyre ofring. . . u¹ 7 hyre beteran ofr'ing-
 sceat 7 hyre rode 7 into beodern² hiwun twa selefrene cuppan 7
 hyre to saulsceatte ælcon godes þeowe mancos go[ld]es 7 butan
 5 þam Ceoldrype 1 mancus 7 Oðelbryhte 7 Else 7 Æþel. . . þe³ 7 an
 pund to Wiltune þam hiwum 7 Fugele anne mancus 7 hio
 becwið Æðelflæde hyre dehter hyre agrafenan beah 7 'hyre
 mentelpreon' 7 þ land æt Ebbelesburnan 7 þa boc on ece yrfe
 to ateonne swa hyre leofosð sy 7 hio [an h]yre þara manna 7 þæs
 10 yrfes 7 ealles þæs þe þær þenne on bið butan þæt man scel for
 hyre saulle þær of don ægþer ge an mannon ge an yrfe 7 æt
 Ceorlatune hio hyre an ealswa þere manna 7 þæs yrfes b[ut]an
 þam frotmannon 7 þæt man finde of þam yrfe æt Ceorlatun[e
 healfes]⁴ pundes wyrþne saulsceat to Mylenburnan 7 healfes
 15 pundes wyrþne saulscet fram Cinnuc⁵ to Gyfle 7 Eadmære þæt
 land æt C[ol]les[h]ylle 7 æt Inngeneshamme 7 hio an him eac
 þæs landes æt Faccancu[m]be þe]⁶ hyre morgengyfu wes his dæg
 7 ofer his dæg gyf Æþelflæd leng lybbe þonne he þonne fo hio to
 þam lande æt Faccancumbe and ofer hyre dæg [g g]a hit eft an
 20 Eadwoldes hand 7 gif god wille þæt Eadwold weorpe to þam
 ge[w]exen a'n' his fæder dæge⁷ þæt he land healdan mæge
 þene bid ic Eadmær þæt he him læte þara twega landa oþer to⁸
 oþþe æt Colleshyl[e] oð æt Ead[b]urggebyrig 7 ofer his dæg buta
 7 hio wile þæt man finde æt Inngenesham[me h]ealfes. pundes
 25 wyrþ'n'e saulsceat to Waneting for hy 7 æt Colleshylle 7 finde
 man of þam yrfe . LX . þene'g'ga wyrð to S'c'rifenanhamme
 . LX . to Colleshylle . LX . to Cillariðe 7 freoge man Wulfware
 folgyge þam þe hyre leofost sy. . .]⁹tryðe ealswa 7 freoge man
 Wulflæde on þæt gerad þæt hio folgyge Æþelflæde 7 Eadgyfe
 30 7 hio becwið Eadgyfe ane crencestran 7 ane sem[estra]n¹⁰ oþer

¹ K., T. read the first missing letter as *f*.² K. *Bedern*.³ Three letters missing. The first may be *w*, *f*, *s*, *r* or *þ*.⁴ Hole in ms. Kemble's emendation.⁵ K. *Cynnuc*.⁶ Space for about six letters.⁷ K. omits *dæge*.⁸ K., T. assume omission after *to*.⁹ Hole in ms. Space for about eight letters.¹⁰ Tear in ms. Kemble's emendation.