

**Will of William A'Barrow of Biddenden, Kent  
dated 14<sup>th</sup> April 1491 and Proved (not given) 1491**

*All spelling etc. is as in the original document. Text in [ ] is by way of explanation and correction.*

*Missing words are guesstimated and placed in ( ). See also end notes.*

In the Name of God Amen the xiiij<sup>th</sup> [14<sup>th</sup>] daye of Apryll In the yere of our lord God a [1491]

I **William A Barrow** of the pisse of Bedyinden [*parish of Biddenden*] of A hole mynde and in good Remembrance make my testament and my last will in this wyse

ffirst I bequeith my soule to Almyghti God (my) Saviour and maker and to our blessid lady the virgin his mother and to all the holy company of hevyn and my body to be buryed in the Church yard of the pisse of Bedyinden forseid [*aforesaid*]

Also I bequeith to the hygh Auter [*high altar*] ther(e) for my tythes and offeryngs negligently for gevyn [*forgotten*] xx<sup>d</sup> [20 pence (2\* see end notes)]

Item to ev<sup>r</sup>y lighte in the church aforesaid a iiij<sup>d</sup> [4 pence (2\* see end notes)]

Also to ev<sup>r</sup>y Godchyld a iiij<sup>d</sup> [4 pence (2\* see end notes)]

Also I bequeith to **Johane my wiff** xl<sup>s</sup> [40 shillings (2\* see end notes)] in money, A cowe and a haffer

The Residewe of all my goods After the tyme that my detts bequethis [*bequests*] and funall expensis [*funeral expenses*] by payed I ordeyne and byqueith [*bequeath*] to **William** and **Harry my sonnes** which **William** and **Harry** of this my testament I make and ordeyne executors that they dispoose<sup>(sic)</sup> for the helth of my soule and all Cristen [*Christian*] As they thynke most best for to be done

Also I will that **Johane my wiff** have ev<sup>r</sup>y yere terme of her lyff xxij<sup>s</sup> & iiij<sup>d</sup> [12 shillings and 4 pence (2\* see end notes)] to be payed to her by the said **William** and **Harry my sonnes** quartely<sup>(sic)</sup> And also that she have her dwellyng in the place of Dasyntorne [*house name?*] terme of her lyff wt [*with*] fre(e) In duryng and owte goying [*free entry and out going*] by all the said terme and the said **William** and **Harry my sonnes** and executors repayre the seid place dewys (?) for her at her Comyng In and she there to kepe resonabyll [*reasonable*] the seid place repaye [*repaired*] Also long as she so dwellyng ther(e)

In furtherness if the seid **Johanne** lyff and so no long ther(e) to Abyde ther(e) I will that my seid sonnes or there assignes paye to her terme of her lyff quartely<sup>(sic)</sup> the full uppe (?) of xxvj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup> [26 shillings and eight pence (2\* see end notes)] with the xxij<sup>s</sup> & iiij<sup>d</sup> [12 shillings and 4 pence (2\* see end notes)] before rehersyd [*rehearsed*] y<sup>t</sup> [that] is to saye the Sume in the hole [*whole*] mony in the (w)hole yere a xxvj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>

This witnesseth

**Sir John Emsen**, prest [*priest*]; syngyng in the seid church;  
**William Sorrell**; **Stephyn Stace**; **Willia(m) Mlowte** & others

Probatum fuit: [1491] - no date given.

Notes: \* **William A 'Barrows** death pre-dates parish registers significantly.

- 2\* 4 pence in 1491 is approx. £14.50 in 2023;
- 20 pence is approx. £72.50;
- 12 shillings and 4 pence *per annum* is approx. £536 *per annum*;
- 26 shillings and eight pence is approx. £1,159;
- 40 shillings = £2, which is approx. £1,738.

[Source: *Bank of England Inflation Calculator*]