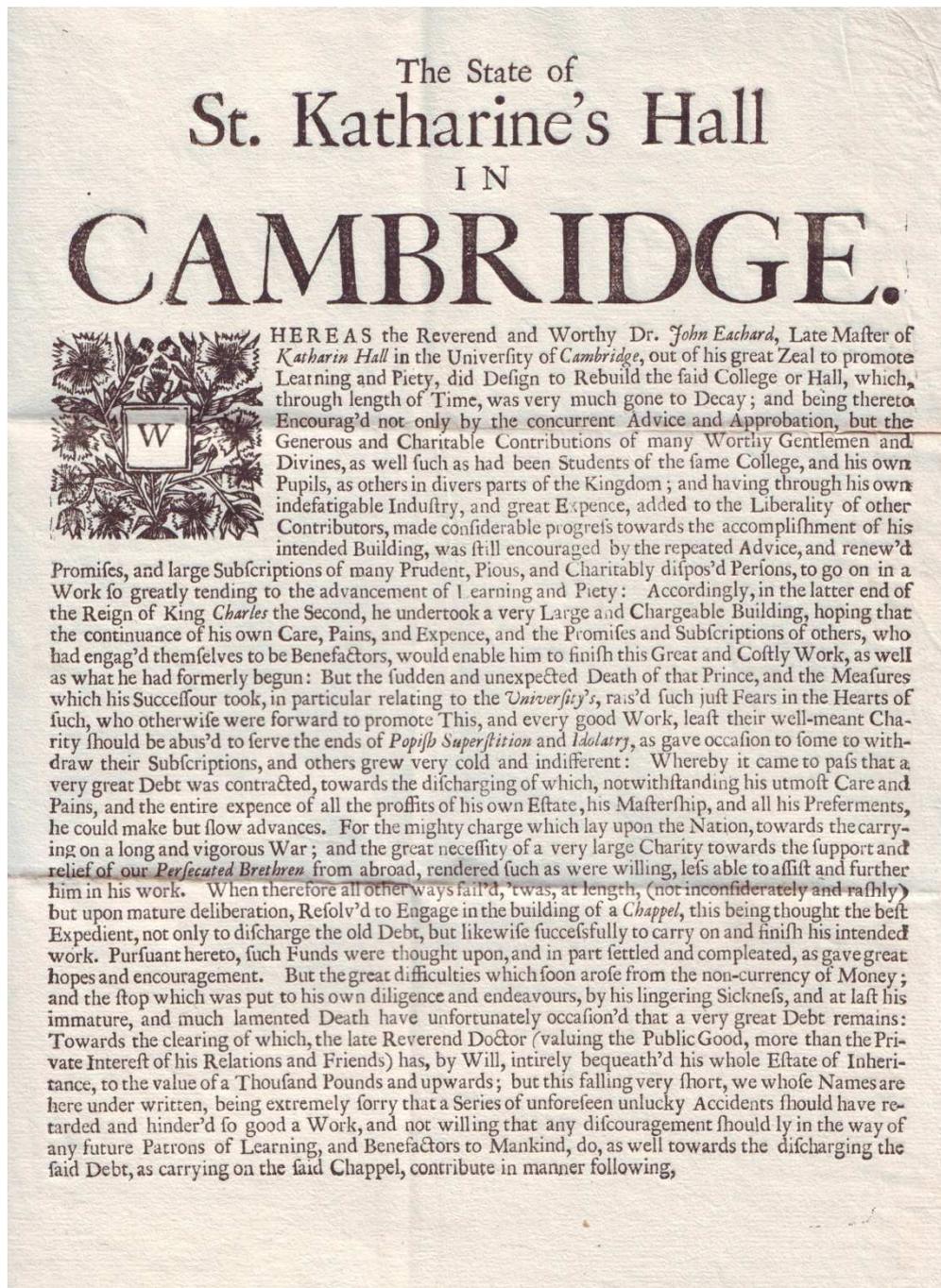


St. Catharine's College Chapel

The College is believed to have had a Chapel since its earliest days. It was originally in the corner of what is today Main Court, where D Staircase currently stands. However, by the late 1600s plans were afoot for a new Chapel – the Chapel the College has today.

Plans for the new Chapel were drawn up during the Mastership of John Eachard, but it was the advocacy of Sir William Dawes, Master after Eachard, that secured the necessary funding.



Original printed Appeal for funds for the new Chapel
Reference: XL/28

So that I remain def: to the	
College on this acc:	2: 0: 0.
	<hr/>
	82: 0: 0.
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For printing 100 of College	00: 12: 0.
cases	<hr/>
Remains due to y College	01: 08: 0.
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Extract from the College Order Book for the 'printing 100 of College cases – 12s [shillings]'
Reference: XL/33, p. 263

*Forma Consecrationis Capelle in
Aula Sancta Catharina, Cantabrigia
Primo die Septembris, A. D. 1704;
Hora nona matutina Reverendus
admodum in Christo Pater, Symon
Episcopus Elyensis, Pontificalibus
indutus in Exteriori Capelle parte
Magistrum et Socios Collegii supra
fidelicis suis et capitulum suis indutos
ad hunc modum alloquebatur.*

*I am come further at your re-
quest, pray, what is it your new desire
of me?*

*Sum Magister Collegii, prefato
humillime reverentia, Schedulam
porrigit, cui Titulus,*

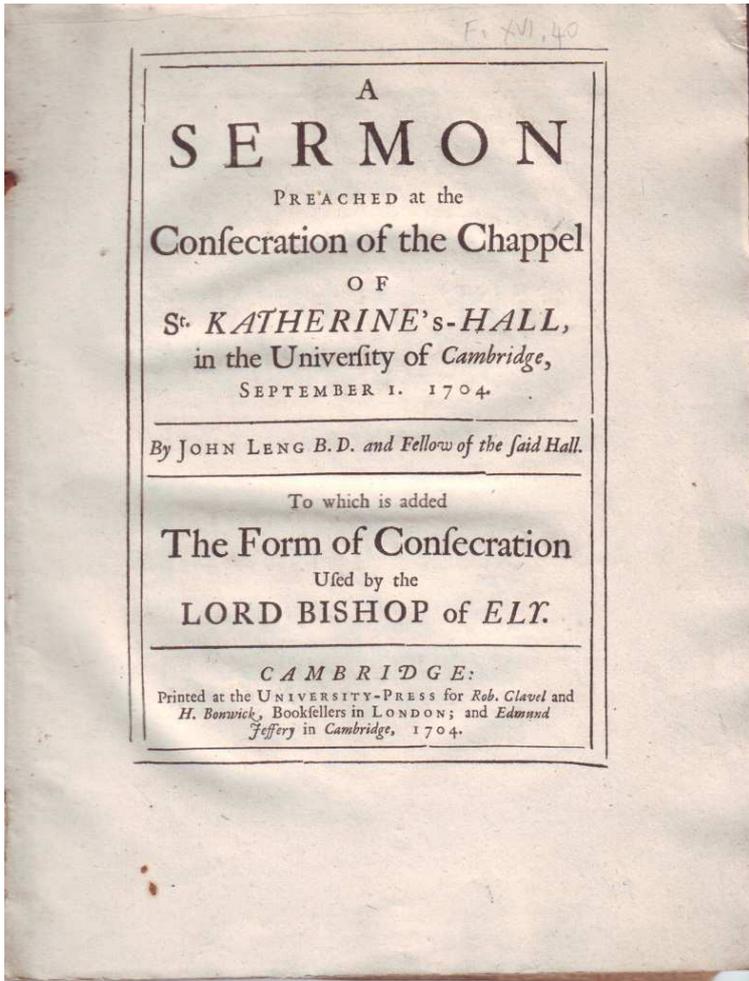
*The humble Petition of the Master
and Fellows of The College or Hall of
St. Katherine the Virgin, in the Uni-
versity of Cambridge. To The Right
Reverend Father in God, Symon Lord
Bishop of Ely, for the Consecration of
their New Chappel.*

*Quam Schedulam, suo et sociorum
nomine, clara voce, perlegebat in
hac verba.*

Extract from the form of consecration of the Chapel
Reference: C/7/14

The Chapel is a continuation of the west parts of the Main Court and appears to have been designed by Robert Grumbold, a mason and architect, baptised in Raunds in Northamptonshire in 1639. In the course of his long career, spanning the later seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, he was involved in many of the collegiate building projects, including those at Clare College and Trinity College.

The Chapel was consecrated by Simon Patrick, Bishop of Ely, on the 1st September 1704 and the sermon at the service was preached by John Leng, Fellow of the College (1688) and later Bishop of Norwich. Leng's sermon was published by the University Press later the same year.



The Chapel has remained relatively unchanged since its consecration in 1704. Some of the fixtures and fittings have changed over time and several stained glass windows have been added, the most recent of which was put in during the summer of 2012.



Title page of Leng's printed Sermon

Reference: St. Catharine's College Library, F.XVI.40

Chapel interior, c. 1930s

Note the presence of carpet in the centre and the altar cloth

Reference: PHOT/3/10/1

The Archivist is always pleased to answer questions about the history of the College or about those who have studied or worked here. Enquiries should be directed to archivist@caths.cam.ac.uk, or call 01223 338343. The Archivist only works for the College on Thursdays and Fridays so there is sometimes a delay in being able to answer queries.