

# Oxfordshire

## HENLEY PROBATE DOCUMENTS

**Ralph MESSENGER, gent of Henley upon Thames**

**Will 1668**

**The National Archives PROB 11/327**

*Numbering at left identifies line of original document*

1 **In the name of God Amen** The  
2 twentieth day of June Anno Domini one Thousand six hundred sixty eight  
3 I Ralph messenger of Henly upon Thames in the County of oxon gent being weake  
4 in body but of a sound mynd and in good and perfect remembrance I praise  
5 Almighty god therefore yet knoweing that death to all men is most certaine  
6 the manner tyme and place thereof most uncertaine doe make and ordaine this my  
7 last will and Testament in manner following Revokeing hereby all former wills  
8 by me made First and principally I commend my soule to Almighty god who  
9 gave it me and my body to the earth from whence it came Trusting to be saved  
10 by the merrittes death and passion of Jesus Christ my Saviour and redeemer  
11 And as for my estate in Landes goodes and Chattells which god Almightye  
12 hath pleased to Lend mee. I devise and bequeath as Followeth Item I give  
13 devise and bequeath unto my dearely beloved wife Anne Messenger my house  
14 wherein I now dwell in Henley aforesaid for and dureing her naturall life  
15 and alsoe one hundred poundes of currant Englaish money yearely dure-  
16 ing her life To be paid her halfe yearely out of my landes and woodes ad-  
17 ioyning in and about Red pittes in the County of Oxon at the severall  
18 feastes of Saint Michael Th[e]archangell and the Annunciac[i]on of St. Mary  
19 the virgin by even porc[i]ons The first payment to be made at such of the  
20 said feastes as shall happen next after my decease with power to distreyne  
21 for such rent as shalbe behind And after the decease of my loving wife Anne  
22 Messenger I give my said house in Henley unto Ralph Messenger my  
23 younger brothers sonne and to his heires And for all my lands woodes &  
24 estate in Redpittes aforesaid I give and bequeath unto my Nephew John  
25 Messenger my eldest brothers sonne and to his heires forever he paying  
26 the said rent of one hundred poundes a yeare to my said wife. Item

27 I give unto Henry Hall of Harding Court in the County of Oxon af[ore]s[ai]d  
28 and David Heard of Henley aforesaid gent their executors and assignes All  
29 my lease and interest which I hold of Robert Knollys of Grayes Court  
30 in the County aforesaid Esquier namely the woodes Astiewshaw[?] and  
31 the most parte of Topsters Coppice in trust and for the only benefitt of  
32 my sister Joane Waters and all her children The proffittes thereof equally  
33 to be devided betweene them. Item I give unto Joane Waters daughter  
34 of my sister Joane over and above her equall parte of the woods the  
35 somme of fiftie poundes of currant Englaish money To be paid her within  
36 one yeare after my decease Alsoe I give and bequeath unto my loving  
37 wife all the goods in my house for and dureing her naturall life. Wee  
38 whose names are subscribed doe declare that Ralph Messenger above  
39 named did make this his last will in the presence of Barth[olomew] Hall  
40 David Hoard, Elizabeth Stevens Sarah Hoard Phillis Johnson. Tho[mas]  
41 Floyd scrivener

*[Summary of the Latin clause]*

7 July 1668

Anne Messenger, relict and principal legatee named in the will of Ralph Messenger, formerly of Henley upon Thames, deceased, was sworn to administer the estate of the said deceased.

16 May 1670

John Messenger, natural brother of the deceased Ralph Messenger, was sworn to administer the estate in lieu of Anne Messenger, relict who has not administered it.

*Transcribed by Janice Cliffe, January 2009, from a photocopy of the Register.*