

John Traherne, rector of Eastnor, 1751

Ref: TNA, PROB11/803

In the name of God Amen. I John Traherne Rector of Eastnor in the County of Hereford being well in health and good and perfect memory and understanding God be thanked for the same do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following. **First** I recommend my soul to my most merciful God my body to the earth there to be buried in such decent manner as my executor hereafter named shall think fit yet it is my request that it should be buried within the rail, on the south side of the communion table of the church of Eastnor; and that the grave may be bricked on the sides and after the body is buried arched over with brick before the earth be thrown in. **As for my worldly goods** which God hath blessed me with I give and dispose of the same as followeth. That my executor may not be troubled by any of my relations on the account of this my last will and testament I therefore give to all such as prove their relationship to me either as first or second cousins the sum of one shilling each which shall be paid upon demand only and not otherwise. **As for my sermon notes** and all manuscripts that shall be found in my closet or scrutore that stands in the parlour either in my own handwriting or others I give and bequeath unto the Reverend Lucy Berkeley brother to Rowland Berkeley Esq. of 'Cotberidg' [Cotheridge?] Worcestershire. **Item** it is my will and bequest that my servant James Long who I do nominate and appoint to be my sole executor shall as soon as convenient may be after my decease collect and receive all monies due to me for tithes or the arrear of tithes from the parishioners of Redmarley Dabiot in the County of Worcester and also all monies due to me for tithes or arrear of tithes in the parish of Eastnor in the County of Hereford which monies when received I will and require that he forthwith discharge my funeral expenses and all my debts. **And whereas** James Long my executor and his wife have faithfully and honestly served me, I do without any other reason appoint him my sole executor and do bequeath to him all goods and chattels that I shall be possessed of at my decease, unless it be such as or in my last will and testament already bequeathed. **In witness** whereof I do here set my hand and seal to the same on the thirteenth of June in the year of Our Lord one thousand seven hundred and fifty one and in the twenty fourth year of the reign of his present Majesty King George the second. Jo. Traherne
Signed, sealed and declared in the presence of us: William Bridge senior, Richard Godsall, William Bridge junior

This will was proved at London before the Right Honourable Sir George Lee Knight doctor of law Master keeper or commissary of the prerogative court of Canterbury lawfully constituted the twenty eighth day of July in the year of Our Lord one thousand seven hundred and fifty three by the oath of James Long the sole executor named in the said will to whom administration was granted of all and singular the goods cattles and credits of the deceased being first sworn by commission duly to administer

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Note: ‘The Rev^d M^r Jn^o Trahern Rector of this Parish’ was buried on 21 June 1753 (Herefs. RO BO93/3)

There once was an inscription in the church:

Here lieth the body of JOHN TREHERNE Clerk [....?] of London [....?] Domestic
C[haplain ...] Ironside Bishop of Hereford and Rector of this Church 52 years. He
died June [....?] in the 79 year of age, Anno Dom. 1757 [sic, really 1753]

Reference in the survey of monumental inscriptions made by the Herefordshire Family History Society, citing H. Somers-Cocks, *Eastnor*, which says: “We are indebted to Mr. HERBERT PULLING for the following extracts from monuments which could be seen in the church before it was demolished and rebuilt in 1851. For the most part these stones were in such a bad state of decay that it was found impossible to replace them after the restoration”: