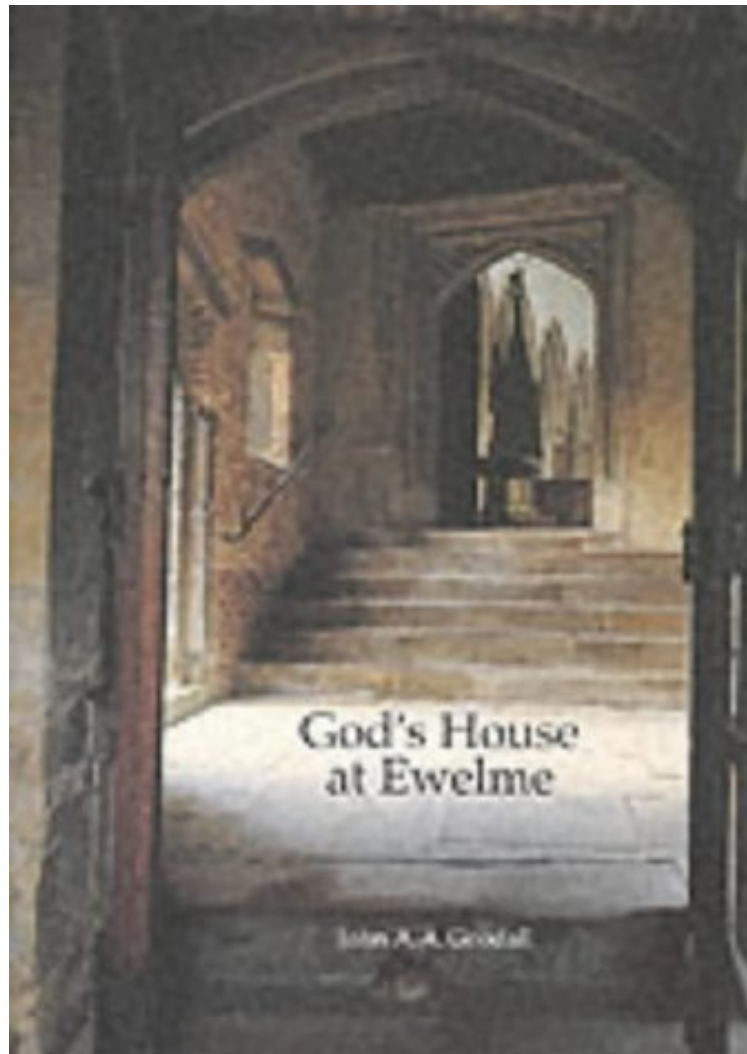


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Gods House at Ewelme: Life, Devotion and Architecture in a Fifteenth-Century Almshouse

John Goodall

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John Goodall : Gods House at Ewelme: Life, Devotion and Architecture in a Fifteenth-Century Almshouse before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Gods House at Ewelme: Life, Devotion and Architecture in a Fifteenth-Century Almshouse:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Scholarship to Delight and to InstructBy E E MartinGoodall has written an exhaustively researched study that does not exhaust the reader. His prose presents details of late medieval political and religious history, art architecture, and household finances, without losing the thread of narrative and

argument that allures the reader's attention, and refuses to manipulate it with any agenda other than getting at the reality of a charming and significant part of England's spiritual, psychological, and cultural past. The photographic illustrations are superb, the plans well made.

This title was first published in 2001. Gods House, at Ewelme, is an extraordinary survival from England's late medieval past: a well documented and superbly preserved chantry foundation established in 1437 by William and Alice de la Pole, then Earl and Countess of Suffolk. As originally constituted, it supported a school, a community of thirteen almsmen and two priests. Their prayers and activities were to be offered for the praise of God and benefit of their founders' souls. Chantry foundations, such as Gods House, were perhaps the single most important objects of devotional and artistic patronage in the Late Middle Ages, and England's wealthiest men and women lavished care and money on them. Few of these institutions survived the Reformation. Despite the richness of their surviving physical remains and the light they shed on the social and devotional history of the period, the great chantry foundations of the period remain little discussed and improperly understood. Gods House at Ewelme presents a fascinating account of the values and forces which shaped chantry devotion as well as the physical arrangements of a medieval religious foundation.