

Instituted probably about 1468 and licensed by King Edward IV on May 7th, 1478, the *Jesus Guild* undoubtedly played an important part in the beautifying and enlargement of the Church.

The purpose of the Guild is best described in the following extract from the License "to make, found, erect, ordain and establish to the honour, glory and exaltation of the most sweet name of Jesus, to whom is duly bowed every knee of celestial, terrestrial and infernal (beings), a certain perpetual Fraternity or Guild of one master and two wardens, persons ecclesiastical or secular, and other persons of either sex whomsoever desiring to be of that Fraternity or Guild at present admitted or henceforth for ever to be admitted brethren and sisters of the same Fraternity or Guild in the parish church of the Blessed Mary of Pritwell in the County of Essex, to endure for all future times and that the same master and wardens and brothers and sisters shall be able to augment the same Fraternity or Guild as often and whensoever it shall hereafter seem to them necessary and opportune and every year on the Feast of Corpus Christi or within the Octaves of the same they shall be able to elect and to make from themselves one master and two wardens to support the burden of the affairs touching or concerning the said Fraternity or Guild and to rule and govern the same Fraternity or Guild."

The Charter also empowered the brethren to acquire land, to make statutes and ordinances, to use a common seal, to hold a meeting, "to eat and drink in a convenient place in the town of Pritwell every year," and to acquire property of the yearly value of ten marks for the support of a chaplain to perform divine service daily in the parish church and for such other purposes as the members should approve.

Taken from **The Story of Prittlewell Church**
by Ellis N. Gowing, 1932