

research to unravel all the twists and turns. It must have been extremely stressful for the two tenants who were quite unfitted to undergo such an ordeal. The case dragged on through various courts until 1594 when it was finally settled in favour of the Church Estate. The verdict proving the legal right of the Church Estate to hold the land and finally releasing John Horsington and John Browne from the clutches of the Elizabethan legal system was recorded in the Royal Letters Patent on 30 June 1594.<sup>8</sup> The episode shows how much the parishioners of Compton Dando appreciated and were prepared to fight for the charity which had been created to help maintain their parish church.

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#### References

1. Colin J. Brett, ed., *Crown Revenues from Somerset & Dorset*, Somerset Record Society, 96, (2012), 8-8.
2. Bristol Record Office (BRO), AC/M6 Survey of Compton Dando 1568.
3. BRO, AC/M11/13 Manorial Court Meetings at Compton Dando 1595-1607.
4. Somerset Heritage Centre (SHC), D/P/Com. d3/1/1 Glebe Terrier of Compton Dando 1623.
5. Until 1752 the New Year started on Lady Day, (25<sup>th</sup> March).
6. SHC D/D/cta/H37. It is difficult to make a meaningful estimate of what this represents in today's money, but the Bank of England converter suggests about £14,000.
7. SHC D/D/cta/L14.
8. *Calendar of Patent Rolls*, Elizabeth 30 June 1594.