

Reading together.

In the 1590s Michael Sherbrook, the Rector of Wickersley, wrote this account of the suppression of Roche Abbey by Henry VIII:

And every Person had every thing good cheap; except the poor Monks, Fryers, and Nuns that had no Money to bestow of any thing: as it appeared by the Suppression of an abbey, hard by me, called the Roche Abbey. At the Breaking up whereof an Uncle of mine was present.

Some took the Service Books that lied in the Church and laid them upon their Waine Coppes (carts) to peice (repair) the same: some took Windowes of the Hay laith (barn) and hid them in their Hay; and likewise they did of many other Things: For some pulled forth the Iron Hooks out of the walls that bought none, when the yeomen and Gentlemen of the Country had bought the Timber of the Church: For the Church was the first thing that was put to the spoil;

It would have pitied any Heart to see what tearing up of the Lead there was, and plucking up of Boards, and throwing down of the Sparres (roof timbers); and when the Lead was torn off and cast down into the Church, and the Tombs in the Church all broken and all things of Price, either spoiled, carped away (stolen) or defaced to the uttermost.