

Did You Know? An Anglican Glossary

The Pax or Paxbrede



The kiss of peace is a practice of the ancient church, but transmitting it by instrument began sometime in the 13th century. A small plate made of gold, or silver, copper gilt, possibly enameled, or wood overlaid with ivory, was kissed by the priest at the *Agnus Dei* and then carried around the church.



A. Welby Pugin, 1863

During the reign of Edward VI, under the new English Church regulations, the clerk took the pax outside the church door and said: *"This is a token of joyful peace, which is between God and man's conscience, Christ alone is the peace maker, which straightly commands peace between brother and brother."* (No hugs from the priest at the church door back then.)

(Paxes were mentioned in a council held at Oxford in 1287. They were listed in the inventories of Old St. Paul's (1295), Winchester Cathedral, St. George's Chapel, Windsor; Durham Abbey, All Souls College, Oxford and in other churches and private collections.)