

Archaeologist Discovers Lost Christian Treasure Trove Hidden Underwater for Years

An unusual discovery in northern England is shedding new light on the history of faith and devotion after an archaeologist uncovered a cache of Christian artifacts deliberately placed in a river decades ago.

As reported by Fox News Digital, archaeologist Gary Bankhead of Durham University recovered rare religious items from the River Wear in Durham, including a bronze crucifix, a silver christening spoon and medals tied to Christian history.



Gary Bankhead

The artifacts were linked to Michael Ramsey, who served as Archbishop of Canterbury from 1961 to 1974.

Bankhead said the discovery “immediately stood apart” from the thousands of items he has recovered while diving the river over the years.

What made the find especially remarkable was how the objects were arranged beneath Prebends Bridge.

“They weren’t scattered randomly across the riverbed,” Bankhead told Fox News Digital. Instead, he found “distinct clusters,” adding that it appeared “as though someone had stood above the bridge and deliberately dropped them into the water.”



Order Dinesh D’Souza’s New Book, “The End of Time” on !

After documenting the artifacts, Bankhead determined the items

had been secretly discarded by Ramsey's housekeeper at the instruction of Joan Ramsey, the archbishop's wife.

According to Fox News Digital, the housekeeper was "extremely upset" by the task. "She recognized that they had real historical and monetary value, and struggled with the idea of throwing them away," Bankhead said.

He also noted the objects were carefully grouped together. "Items relating to Greek Orthodoxy were found together in one location, Vatican-associated objects in another," he explained.

Though the exact reason the artifacts were discarded remains unclear, Bankhead connected the discovery to a much older historical tradition.

"What the hoard makes clear is that this practice stretches back to late-medieval pilgrimage and continues, quite remarkably, into the 20th century," he said.

For Bankhead, the discovery carries meaning far beyond financial value.

"My interest has always been in the history and the story – not the monetary value," he said, noting he donated his share of the hoard's valuation to charity.

James Lasher, a seasoned writer and editor at Charisma Media, combines faith and storytelling with a journalism background from Otterbein University and ministry experience in Guatemala and at the LA Dream Center. A Marine Corps and Air Force veteran, he is the author of *The Revelation of Jesus: A Common Man's Commentary* and a contributor to Charisma magazine. For interviews and media inquiries, please contact media@.