

INTERIOR OF ROWINGTON CHURCH 1848
(BY A. E. EVERETT)

Records of **R**owington

VOL. II

BEING A TRANSCRIPT OF A
Sixteenth-Century Manuscript
of Church and Parish Accounts

OF THE

Rowington Charity Estates

TOGETHER WITH

A Brief Retrospect of the Parish
during period of the MS.
and 100 years ago
(1821)

BY

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(SOLE FOUNDATION TRUSTEE OF THE CHARITY)

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“ When industrious persons doe make observation of antiquities, monuments, names, records, &c., it is like so much collected from shipwreck or saved and recovered from the deluge of time.”

LORD BACON.

PREFACE

IT is customary to begin with a Preface, wherein the writer generally refers to himself by giving a reason for the work, or strikes a personal note apologizing for the errors it inevitably contains.

I make no excuse for publishing the MS., for I consider it a duty to transmit to others the long-hidden records of the sayings and doings of past generations ; records which serve in fact as a basis for the annals of our race, for they are the essence of history, in that they reveal the real atmosphere of the times to which they refer. These heirlooms of the past enable us the better to study the lives of our ancestors, but the lack of local information at the period of the MS. makes it impossible to portray the persons mentioned as clearly as one would wish. I much regret that inability to find the requisite material prevents me making from this MS. a consecutive history of the parish and its inhabitants.

One benefit from the study of the past is the removal of that spirit of conceit which makes us forget what we owe to those who have gone before. The record of the past achievements of those who lived on the same soil as we now tread, should awaken in us the desire to show our respect for their memories.

I have sometimes digressed beyond the period covered, in the hope that such matter may be considered relative or interesting, and all information from outside has been culled from well-known standard works. The manner in which the subjects have been treated must be my excuse for the repetitions which occur.

These pages have been written, not for the archaeological expert, or with any pretension to literary ability, as I am not an author by profession, but simply a dabbler in antiquarian lore. I have written as simply as I could in order to suit all my fellow-parishioners, and the work was compiled at a time not at all conducive to quiet and intellectual thought, so I beg my readers to pardon all mistakes and shortcomings.

1922.

J. W. R.

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ABBREVIATION

R. R. i. = *Records of Rowington*, Vol. I. By same author. (1896.)

ROWINGTON CHURCH

OUR fine old church tells its own story, writ in stone, of centuries of parochial and religious life, to which this MS. adds its small quota. Time, the universal destroyer, is nevertheless the universal beautifier. The venerable and picturesque tower speaks in eloquent language, a language handed down to us to read aright, and we must not fall into the errors of the successors of the builders of such noble erections as are spread over the land, who forgot the spirit in which they were created and so became negligent.

The stillness of age is upon our church. Its old grey walls seem to breathe peace and tranquillity. It impresses the mind of the beholder with a train of deep and retrospective thought, pregnant with recollections of romance and chivalry, and it is for us to fill it with new life. The joyous peal of its bells—"A music hallowed by all circumstance", as Southey writes, "though it falls on many an unheeding ear, yet never fails to find some hearts which it exhilarates, some which it softens": and the clang of the single bell utters a tale not to be mistaken, warning us of the event which must inevitably overtake us all:

"Hark, hark! what noise is this? a passing Bell,
That doth our own fate in an other's tell."

(SPARKE, 1652.)

The venerable looking sundial expresses a sermon that the humblest can understand. In the cemetery, a word which signifies a sleeping-place of the dead, the past and present are strangely interwoven. He who died yesterday reposes by the side of him who died centuries before.

The old grey church is the charm of the village, and must appeal to all who will listen to the still, small voice. It stands like an ancient landmark to tell us that despite the wrath of man, the deluded fanatic, and the indifference and neglect of many of the priests, our religion survives and claims our affections for the perils it has surmounted:

"These temples of His grace
How beautiful they stand;
The honours of our native place
And bulwarks of our land."

(DR. WATTS.)

Yet one cannot help recalling the words attributed to one of our early bishops, Wulston, at the rebuilding of Worcester Cathedral after the fire in 1041: "We, poor wretches, destroy the works of our forefathers, only to get praise to ourselves; that happy age of holy men knew not how to build stately churches, but under any roof they offered up themselves living temples unto God, and by their example invited those under their care to do the same: but we, on the contrary, neglecting the care of souls, labour to heap up stones."¹

It was recorded in the *Shakespeariana* some years ago, but with what authority there is no evidence given, that the settlement at Rowington was founded, as many of the oldest towns in the Midlands were, by very early Christians, probably Roman and British, when they were seeking refuge from Pagan persecutors. Whether this be true or not, there is no doubt that a church existed here on the site of the present building either in British or Saxon times, when it would be in the "Deanery of Christianity of Warwick"² (*Decanatus Christianitatis Caergrwayr*). We can be assured that ever since the erection of the church it has served as the centre of the activities of the villagers, religious, secular, and social, and would be intimately connected with the chief events in the lives of each generation which has grown up around its mouldering stone. Surely such a monument as we have in our beautiful church should suffice to remind us of the sacrifice made by our predecessors in their work of love and veneration, and deserves to be maintained and handed down to our children in at least as good a condition as we found it.

To be brief, what we know for facts relating to the erection of our church is unfortunately limited. That there was a church existing here, which would probably be built of timber frame, wattle, and daub, at the time of William I, is gathered from the Domesday Survey, and therefore we can well assume that there has been a church at Rowington for 1,000 years.

The present building is both interesting and curious in construction and, as a fact, is a puzzle to architects of to-day. The conclusion of the most eminent of them seems to be that early in the twelfth century the church consisted of a chancel divided in two parts by an arch, and nave and aisles, on the same formation as at present. Much work might well have been done at the date when it came into possession of Reading Abbey (*circa* 1133), the Abbat building the chancel and the parish the nave. In the fourteenth century the church was restored and the tower, second chancel, and chantry chapel

¹ *Old England*, by Knight, p. 166.

² As it evidently was in 1555.—p. 21. MS. "p^d to the deane at warwike".

added. Probably early in the fifteenth century the arcade in the nave was added, either for effect or to afford abutments to the tower arch.

The word nave comes from the Latin *navis* and Saxon *nafa*, and was so called as representing the ark or ship of the Church, in which "those who seek salvation may take refuge and sail over the waves and through the storms of this troublesome world until they reach the haven where they would be".

The north aisle was built in 1554, as recorded in the MS. The existing font is Norman, of the truncated cone character, and originally had a cover fixed and made to lock up, as ordered as far back as 1220, to hinder superstitious persons from obtaining water for the practice of magic. By a further order this cover was removed at the Reformation, but was replaced by a loose cover, as reference is made to cord for the lid on p. 73 of the MS., the cord probably having been fixed to the roof to draw up the lid. At the date of the restoration (1871) there was a seventeenth-century cover, of which Bloxham gives a sketch, but what became of it is not known. The pulpit is pre-Reformation. A holy-water stoup, possibly of the twelfth century, exists in the wall outside on the east of the north door, and no doubt there was one at the south entrance, probably the identical one which the parish clerk's family (the Gazys) had in their possession, and which to-day is "adorning" a private garden in Lapworth.

The chancel was originally on the same level as the church, the raised steps being inserted at the restoration. There do not appear to be any remains of the piscina which no doubt existed on the south side. On the same side, at the west of the priests' door, there is what is called a "low-side" window. A groove is cut out of one of the mullions, and one on one side of the jamb, to a height of thirty-five inches from the sill. In the mullion is a bolt hole, and at the base of the jamb a hinge hole, pointing to a probable shutter. It has never been satisfactorily settled for what purpose these windows were used. One theory seems to point to confessional uses for persons unreconciled to the Church, but the most probable assumption is that it was used to allow the sanctus bell to be heard outside the church, when rung by the altar clerk at the solemn periods of the Mass (Dr. Cox in *The English Parish Church*) and the fact that the window faces the manor house is a point in favour of the latter theory. The incisions in the lower part of the jambs of the east window-frame were no doubt made for erecting a reredos, whereon were placed the marble tablets of the Commandments, the Creed, and the Lord's Prayer, presented by Richard Reve in 1750, and which still exist in the church. The oak altar table is of seventeenth-century work. There

is no record concerning it, but it was probably a gift of one of the Betham family.

The sedilia, the name applied to the seats in the south wall of the chancel, were evidently intended for two persons, the higher one being for the use of the officiating priest, and the lower for the deacon when assisting him at the celebration. There are several records in the Bishops' Register at Worcester of the appointment of deacons and sub-deacons to Rowington, and one would act as chantry priest. When more than two served here at the same time, as appears in the records (*R. R.* i, p. 140) now and again to have been the case, the third priest probably served as curate in the absence of the vicar, which was not unusual. There is a record of a complaint as early as 1303 of the absence of the Vicar of Rowington from his cure. Pluralists were frequent for many years before the time of the MS. It is quite possible that one of the deacons, in accordance with his bishop's directions, gave what little instruction the young people of the parish received in those days.

The old oak altar rails, erected in 1683, probably by W. Betham, his initials W. B. being carved thereon, as well as those of the Church wardens, were removed at the restoration in 1871, being considered unsuitable to the altered condition of the chancel, which had been raised at the east end. The present rails, which were erected in 1906, came from Studley and may be Laudian.

It is to be feared that the "restoration" was not so genuine as I was led to suppose when writing the notes for Vol. I, but, on the other hand, it was of similar character to most others of the period (1871) though perhaps less drastic than many. All things considered, we must be thankful for what remains, and, in the words of Thomson, "We may regret that past generations have tampered with the building; but for that very reason we should hesitate to tamper with it ourselves, or to replace incongruous work of the past by imitative work of our own. Our treatment of the older work, where it positively calls for renewal, should be tender, conservative, and self-effacing."

The rood-screen in the early church, before the erection of the tower, was probably fixed across where the western pillars of the tower now stand, and the chancel ended where the present screen is now fixed. The rood-screen existing in the sixteenth century has long since disappeared, and at the restoration what was left was found in the old porch. It was in the same position as the present one, and the rood-loft was approached by an entrance on the east side of the north pillar of the chancel closed up at the restoration. The existing par-close screen seems to be of fifteenth-century work, and is in its

original position, dividing the chancel from the old chantry chapel of the Blessed Mary referred to in John Hill's will. This practically denotes the position of the chantry chapel, from which the two existing windows with the ogee-headed and cusped lights now in the north aisle were taken. No one has suggested the size or formation of this chapel, but it might have been of the same width as the present north aisle, the north wall merely being extended to its present length when the aisle was built. There is also mention in John Hill's will of an image of St. Anne the Vernacular being in this chapel, and possibly there was an image of the patron saint St. Lawrence also, though the usual position for the patron saint was on the north side of the high altar. An image of St. John the Baptist existed in the church, and possibly one of St. Lawrence in the niche above the west window outside.

The "steeple" door referred to in the MS. might be the one on the east side of the north-west pillar of the tower, the old stone frame being *in situ*. The new entrance was probably made when the north aisle was built in 1554.

The fine old parish chest with three locks is said to be of thirteenth-century work, which would coincide with the order to procure such receptacles issued in 1287, but I should place it as nearly two centuries later, and the pedestal box, for alms for "the Pore", as early seventeenth century. There are three other oak chests, one belonging to the Feoffees, also with three locks and bearing the initials of John Betham who no doubt presented it, and another which is said to have been used as an almarie (or ambry) for storing the various necessities for the services of the church, and has a small door in front. The third one is a carved oak chest of later period.

The organ was enlarged and placed in its present situation in the north aisle in 1903, when it was removed from a gallery erected in the first part of the chancel in 1871 specially for its accommodation, an unsightly and inconvenient position. Formerly there was an organ, made by Jonathan Smith of Bakers Lane, in the gallery which existed at the west end of the nave, but it could not have been there long, as there are those living who can recollect the music being supplied by a flageolet, bassoon, flute, and violin. The gallery was erected in 1761 to take the place of an earlier one removed the same year (*R. R.* i, p. 98).

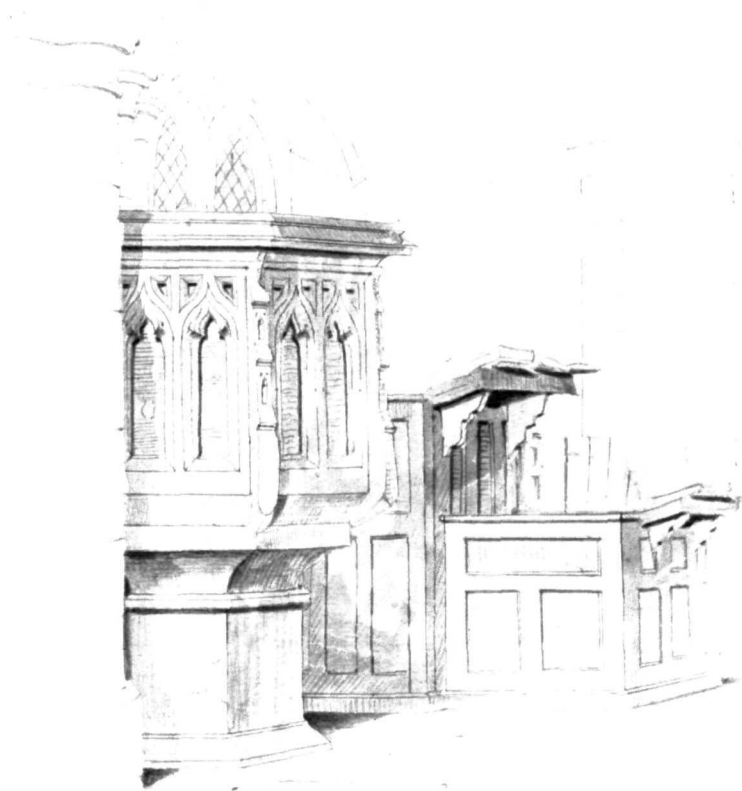
Porches are old adjuncts of the mediaeval church, and were used for many ceremonies at the period of the MS. and long afterwards. Weddings took place therein, and afterwards the bridal couple would proceed to the altar to take the communion. Women knelt there to

be churched, and sometimes funeral services were performed therein. Indeed, the porch was always regarded by our forefathers as very sacred, though it was also used for secular transactions. We have records of many transfers of land in the parish being concluded therein in past times, probably with a view of making them more binding. The present porch was erected in 1906 through the generosity of J. E. Mitchell, Esq. The previous one was in a very dilapidated condition when it was taken down at the restoration in 1871, and it had not been replaced. It may have been the one referred to in the MS. as having been erected in 1570 and repaired later with brick.

The sundial on the south wall of the tower is the original, but I cannot place its age. No doubt the ordinary life of the ancient villagers was governed by the time it recorded, long before the modern clock was fixed. In the returns made in Edward VI's reign, there is mention made of only one clock in Warwickshire and that was at Dunchurch. When clocks first came into use they were put up inside the churches in view of the congregation, and had no exterior faces.

In the days of the MS. the church was a blaze of colour. Walls, altars, and images were all painted, the pillars and pulpit were decorated, probably in a style similar to the restored colouring in the north aisle, which was no doubt taken from remains of the original representation on the back of one of the existing old seats. Scriptural scenes were depicted on the walls—at the restoration one was found on the north wall of the nave, a coloured drawing, representing the creation and fall of man, and doubtless there were others, possibly one of the patron saint St. Lawrence. In the century preceding the Reformation there was a kind of holy rivalry to see who could do the most to enrich and beautify God's House. The men gave their time, while the women kept the church well supplied with embroidery for copes, altar frontals, and the many other requirements of the ritual of those days. Moreover, it is worthy of note that they did not confine their gifts to their own parish, but remembered their mother church at Worcester also, as may be seen by the legacies in their wills at Worcester (*R. R. i*).

The interior of the church has recently received considerable much-needed attention from the wardens, and the new heating apparatus will no doubt add to the general comfort of those attending the services, as well as tending to preserve the furniture, &c. The repairing of the outside of the fabric, however, is likely to become a very serious matter for the inhabitants to undertake, if delayed much

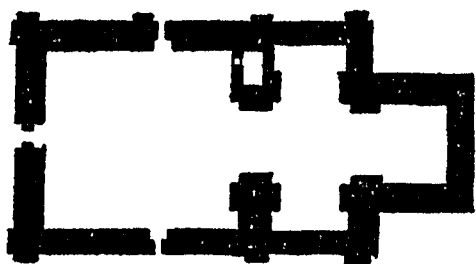


PULPIT, READING DESK AND CLERK'S DESK
ROWINGTON CHURCH 1848
(By A. E. EVERETT)

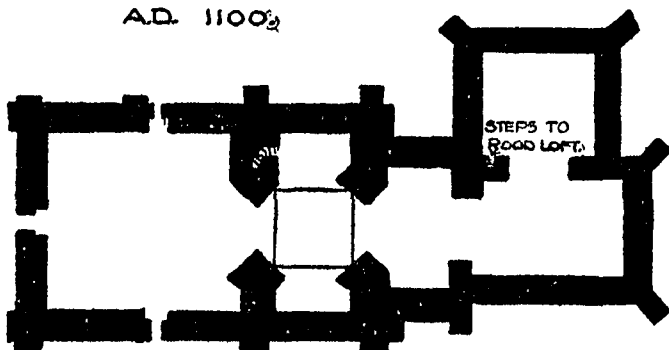
longer. During the last ten years the dilapidations have become very apparent, indeed similar decay seems to have attacked many churches of like age in the district. Several of the windows in Rowington Church are in a very precarious condition, the mullions in some having become almost useless, whilst the general decay of the surface stone of the whole church necessitates drastic treatment. The carvings of the emblems of the Passion on the embattlement on the north side of the tower, which were clearly discernible and in perfect condition twenty years ago, have almost disappeared. It is to be hoped that steps will be taken without delay to inaugurate a fund to meet the liability, and that the work will be undertaken before the damage becomes irreparable.

The sketches of the interior of the church illustrated herein were made by the late Allen E. Everitt over twenty years before the restoration. The frontispiece shows the gallery at the west end, the high oak pews, and the ceiled roof of the chancel, which was uncovered at the expense of the late Miss Betts of Rowington. The other depicts more plainly the "three decker", namely, the pulpit, reading desk, and the clerk's desk.

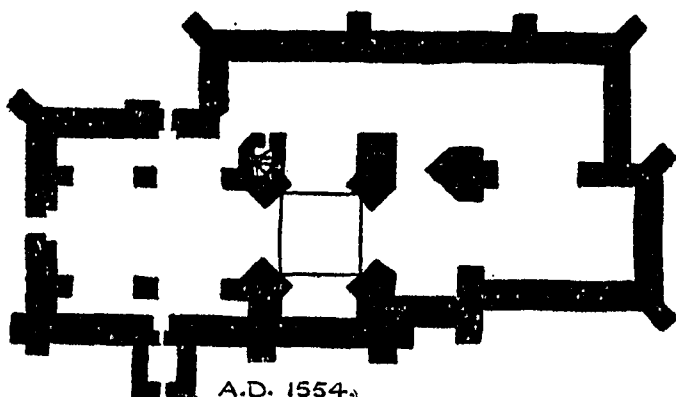
I have not tried to give every detail or interesting point connected with the church, having in view the space at my disposal. Some day it may be possible to make a more complete history, but what is recorded cannot fail to be of use to whoever may undertake the work.



A.D. 1100₂



A.D. 1300,



A.D. 1554,

ROWINGTON CHURCH WARWICKSHIRE.

SHOWING CONJECTURAL GROWTH FROM 12TH. TO 16TH. CENTURY,

LIST OF ROWINGTON VICARS

- ABSOLON. *Instituted* circa 1245. *Vacated* ? post 1270. (Wroxall Records, p. 220.) Vide Ancient deed D 216, P.R.O.; Stratford-on-Avon cartulary; Claverdon par. deeds. Bishop Giffard visited Pinley five times during his episcopacy (1268-1300), and probably Rowington Church on one or more of these occasions.
- JOHN DE MERVE. *Instituted* (?). *Vacated* 1296. (Bishop Gif. Reg., p. 380.) *R. R.* i, p. 3—"John Clericus" mentioned. Had Bishop's licence to farm his vicarage in order to visit Rome, Nov. 1290. Simon appointed deacon of Rowington 1290, and priest 1291.
- SIMON. *Instituted* 13 Kal. Jan. 1296. *Vacated* 1304. (Bishop Ginsb. Reg., fol. 28 b.) *R. R.* i, p. 130. Bishop Ginsborough visited Rowington 13 Oct. 1304 (Bishop Ginsb. Reg.). Roger de Rowynton, deacon 1295, priest 1300; Bishop Reg. Sed. Vac. Simon, chaplain, *R. R.* i, p. 130.
- WILLIAM DE STAUNFORD. *Instituted* 12 Kal. Apr. 1304. *Vacated* (?). (Bishop Ginsb. Reg., fol. 28 b.) Bishop Ginsborough visited Rowington 1 Oct. 1304.
- JOHN (JORDAN) DE APPELFORD. *Instituted* 29 Oct. 1312. *Vacated* (?). (Bishop Reyn. Reg., fol. 64 b.) Dom. Robert le Persones Capellanus of Rowington 1341, mentioned in Norris's *Baddesley Clinton*, p. 3; may have been Vicar after Appelford, or chantry priest.
- GILBERT DE ASTON. *Instituted* (?). *Vacated* 1347. Resigned on account of age. Bishop Wolston visited Rowington 1339.
- JOHN TACHAM. *Instituted* 15 Oct. 1347. *Vacated* (?). (Bishop Wolston Reg., v. i. fol. 112 b.) Variouslly spelt Thackam, Thacham.
- RAD DASTON. *Instituted* (?). *Vacated* 1388. Exchanged with Hugh de Heyham.
- HUGH DE HEYHAM. *Instituted* 4 Sept. 1388. *Vacated* (?). (Bishop Wak. Reg., fol. 54 a.) Previously Rector of Haseley.
- HUGO COOK. *Instituted* (?). *Vacated* 1400. (Bishop Tid. Reg., fol. 58 b.) Previously Vicar of Tanworth. Exchanged with Wm. Godfrey.
- DOM WILLIAM GODFREY. *Instituted* 11 Mar. 1400. *Vacated* 1402. (Bishop Tid. Reg., fol. 58 b.) Previously Vicar of Temple Grafton, exchanged with Robert Belde.
- ROBERT BELDE. *Instituted* 21 July 1402. *Vacated* 1412. (Bishop Cliff. Reg., fol. 61 b.) Previously Vicar of Acton Turville, exchanged with John Hawkys.

- JOHN HAWKYS. *Instituted* 4 Aug. 1412. *Vacated* 1414. (Bishop Cliff. Reg., fol. 47 a.) ? *R. R.* i, p. 9. Previously Vicar of Witteley, exchanged with R. Wykele.
- RADULPHUS WYKELE. *Instituted* 26 Apr. 1414. *Vacated* 1424. (Bishop Cliff. Reg., fol. 64 b.) Previously Vicar of Tardebig, exchanged with J. Racheford.
- DOM. JOHN RACHEFORD. *Instituted* 24 Jan. 1424. *Vacated* 1438. (Bishop Morg. Reg., v. 2, fol. 29 b.) Previously Vicar of Lillington, after holding various other livings. Resigned 1438.
- JOHN COOK. *Instituted* 12 Dec. 1438. *Vacated* 1458. (Bishop Bouch. Reg., fol. 54 a.) Resigned.—Mentioned in *R. R.* i, p. 18.
- JOHN BROWNE. *Instituted* 3 Dec. 1458. *Vacated* (?). (Bishop Carp. Reg., vol. i, fol. 149 a.)
- DOM. WILLIAM GARDEYN. *Instituted* (?). *Vacated* 1499. (Bishop Syl. Gig. Reg., fol. 8 b.) *R. R.* i. Various references. Resigned and had a pension of six marks.—Remained in Rowington, see *R. R.* i, p. 25, and probably died and buried at Rowington.
- THOMAS UTTING. *Instituted* 27 Aug. 1499. *Vacated* 1536. (Bishop Syl. Gig. Reg., fol. 8 b.) Died and buried at Rowington. Will proved, 1 May 1536. *R. R.* i, p. 204.
- DOM. THOMAS HEYWARD. *Instituted* 3 Aug. 1536. *Vacated* 1556. (Bishop Lat. Reg., fol. 2 a.) Died and buried at Rowington. Will proved, 1556. *R. R.* i, p. 204.
- DOM. RICHARD HEITH (HETHE). *Instituted* 17 Feb. 1556. *Vacated* 1562. (Bishop Pates Reg., fol. 24 a.) Died and buried at Rowington. Will proved, 3 Feb. 1562. *R. R.* i, p. 206.
- JOHN WILLIAMS. *Instituted* 1562. *Vacated* 1576. (Bishop Bul. Reg., fol. 12 b, sede vac.) Resigned.
- PHILIP WHITE. *Instituted* 16 Jan. 1576. *Vacated* (?). (Bishop Bul. Reg., fol. 12 b, sede vac.)
- CHRISTOPHER KIRKLAND. *Instituted* 14 Apr. 1578. *Vacated* 1584. (Bishop Bul. Reg., fol. 15. Whitgift.) Died and buried at Rowington, 1584. *R. R.* i, pp. 164, 203.
- HENRY HEYCRAFTE, M.A. *Instituted* 23 Sept. 1584. *Vacated* 1600. (Bishop Bul. Reg., fol. 28 b. sede vac.) Previously Vicar of Stratford.—*R. R.* i, p. 90. Died in office.
- HENRY CLERKE. *Instituted* 4 Nov. 1600. *Vacated* 1637. (Bishop Bul. Reg., fol. 73 a. Babington.) Probably died and buried at Rowington, as his wife was. 23 Dec. 1634. Church Reg. and *R. R.* i, p. 102.
- ROBERT CADIMAN, A.M. *Instituted* 14 Jan. 1637. *Vacated* 1640. (Bishop Thornburgh Reg., fol. 14 b.) Resigned. Church Register.

- ¹ JOHN WISEMAN. *Instituted* 21 July 1640. *Vacated* 1666. (Bishop Thornburgh Reg., fol. 19 b.) Died, and buried at Rowington, 21 Apr. 1666. R. Church Reg. Wife, Frances, buried in chancel 3 Aug. 1652.— See note.
- JOHN FIELD. *Instituted* 31 May 1666. *Vacated* 1684. (Bishop Skinner Reg., fol. 16 a.) Died, and buried at Rowington, 2 Dec. 1684. R. Church Reg.
- WILLIAM SOUTHERNE, B.A. *Instituted* 30 Dec. 1684. *Vacated* 1720. (Bishop Thomas Reg., fol. 38 a.) Vicar for 36 years. Died, and buried at Rowington, 2 Oct. 1720. R. Church Reg.
- JOSEPH STONHALL. *Instituted* 26 Nov. 1720. *Vacated* 1726. (Bishops' Register.) Died 30 Dec. 1726, buried at Rowington 3 Jan. 1727. R. Church Reg.
- RICHARD LEES. *Instituted* 3 Feb. 1726. *Vacated* 1771. (Bishops' Register.) Vicar for 45½ years.
- GILPIN EBDELL. *Instituted* 27 Aug. 1771. *Vacated* 1803. (Bishops' Register.) Vicar for 31 years. Officiated at only two marriages during his vicariate.—Died in office. (George Weale Curate for 30 years, 1773–1803.)
- GEORGE WEALE, B.A. *Instituted* 23 Mar. 1803. *Vacated* 1812. (Bishops' Register.) Died, and buried at Rowington 26 Mar. 1812. R. Church Reg.
- HUGH LAUGHARNE. *Instituted* 10 Sept. 1812. *Vacated?* 1843. (Bishops' Register.) Vicar for 31 years. Died in office. J. Jones, Curate, 1813–14. A. Gem, Curate, 1826–42. W. B. Surtees, 1842–3.
- ARTHUR GEM. *Instituted* 2 Aug. 1843. *Vacated* 1853. (Bishops' Register.) Rebuilt vicarage house. Exchanged with P. B. Brodie.
- PETER BELLINGER BRODIE, M.A., R.D., F.G.S. *Instituted* 15 June 1853. *Vacated* 1897. (Bishops' Register.) Previously Vicar of Foleshill. Vicar for 44½ years. Also Rector of Baddesley Clinton. Died 17 Nov. 1896, and buried at Rowington. (Rev. F. Brodie and Rev. Henry Temple Robson, Curates.) National Schools built 1859, and Church restoration 1871. Mission Chapel at Lowsonford built 1877.
- JOHN OLIVER WEST. *Instituted* 1 Mar. 1898. *Vacated* 1900. (Bishops' Register.) Previously Vicar of St. Matthew's, Duddeston. Exchanged with G. B. James.
- GEORGE BURDEN JAMES. *Instituted* 17 July 1900. *Vacated* 1904. (Bishops' Register.) Previously Vicar of St. Philip's, Bristol. Died in office 21 Apr. 1904, and buried at Shirehampton, Bristol.

¹ John Wiseman had an interregnum of seven years, 1655–62. "By usurped Authority these many yeares wrested wrongfully out of my living." Ch. Reg. 10 Mar. 1655.

"Thus farr for halfe a yeare upon my returning to my place againe wrote by me. John Wiseman, Vicar of Rowington." Ch. Reg. 14 Mar. 1662.

ARTHUR PRITCHARD, M.A. *Instituted* 22 June 1904. Previously Vicar of St. Matthew's, Birmingham. Instituted by Bishop Gore, who stayed the night at Rowington and celebrated the Communion the following morning.

Patrons of the living—1066 Hugh de Grentemesnil.

1094 Adeliza de Ivry or Yvry.

1125-1539 Abbat and Monks of Reading Abbey.

1539 The Crown.

1556 Earl of Warwick.

1625-1866 The Crown.

1866 The Bishop of Worcester.

1918 The Bishop of Coventry.

The patronage of the Vicarage of Rowington was exchanged with that of the new parish of St. Matthias, Malvern Link, Worc., by Earl Beauchamp for the Crown in favour of the Bishops of Worcester, which received the Royal Assent at Balmoral, 14 Sept. 1866.—ex Bishop's Reg. Worcester.

Año 1551

forte est vinum : fortior est Rex : fortiores sunt
mulieres : super omnia vincit veritas.¹

Rowndetonn als Rowingtonne

(THE MS.)

¹ Translation—strong is wine : stronger is the King : stronger are women : truth
conquers above all.

The taske of Rowýngton & pýnley
as it dothe appere in the Taske Roll of
the hundred of barlychwey & the lýberties
of pathlowe.

The whole Taske of Rowýngton }	iiij ^{li} xi ^s xi ^d
and pýnley is }	

The batements be	xi ^s
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And then remayneth to be payed for the Taske of Rowýngton and pýnley	lj ^s xi ^d
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Thrusdaye (sic) the xxvijth Daye of Januarie dýed
Henry the viijth Kýnge of England ffraunce &
Ireland in the xxxviijth yere of hys Reigne in the
yere of o^r lord god : xv hondred xlvj. cui⁹ ai⁹ ppiciet^r deo^r ¹

⁊ that Iohn Rutto^r dýd make a surrend^r of the gravell
pýtt in hys fylde at the highe crosse to amend the fowle
ways in Rowýngton for ev^r. vt pt in Rolis cu^r. ²

The newe yle at Rownton church was buyld in the ffirst
yere of quene marýe : A^o Di 1554^o Tempe Nicholai
Bird et Wiłłmi Cowp gardianori ecclíe de Rownton p'dict

¹ Abbreviation of *cuius animae propicietur deus*—'whose soul God pardon'.

² Abbreviation of *ut patet in rotulis curiae*—'as appears in the court roll'.

A trew copie of the dede : lÿenge the church
 Coffe that Rowýngton men haue to shoue
 for their cõmens on Shrowley hethe.

Noñint Vniuersi quod Ego Johes de pessh̃m vna cum heredibus vel assignatis meis teneor Acquietane dñm Abbatem de Redynge et eius tenentes de Rowhyngton de vna libra pepis erga Walterñ de Cuiñ et matilda vxorem eius et eor heredes seu quostñg dños de Shrewley imppetuū: quā quidem libram pepis solvam quolibet anno ad natale dñi sine ulteriori dilatione pro comimia quam dicti abbas et homines sui de Rowhynton habent in vasto de Shrowley. Et si contingat dictū abbitem vel suos tenentes de Rowhyngton occasione dicti pepis termino statuto non solūt: Distringi seu in aliquo molestari: obligo me et heredes meos bona terras et tenementa vna infra manerum de Rowhynton: quibus xxx manibus devenerunt districtioni balliui de Rowhynton qui p tempore fuerit vt nos distingat de die in diem et districtiones retineat donec tam de dicta libra pepis quā de damnis et expensis si quas sustinuerit plenarie fuerit satisfactū In cui⁹ rei testimoniū presens scriptū Sigilli mei imp⁹ssione Roboravi hijs testibus Wiñmo morin de Snyttefilde: Wiñmo ballivo de Rohyngton: Jordano de lawedeyate. Wiñmo le ffreñ Richardo fabro de haseley et allijs:

1611 A deed with out whereby Johes de pesham bindeth him selfe heures and assignes to acquite the Abitt of Reiding and his tenants of Rowington of a pound of pep against Walter decuell (cuylli) and mad his wife and his heaires and all other the Lords of Shrewley for Ever with libertie for the Balife off Rowington to distraine vpon any of the goods lands and tenements of the said pesham in Rowington in casse the said Abboots tenants be molested if the Same be not yearly paid at the natiuitie of ou⁹ Lord being for the Comon which the Said Abboot and his tenants haue in the wast of Shrewley and a Copie of the same deed to it anext with also the aquitance mad to nicholes Bird for the pāment of the said pound of pep for the said cõnone of Shrewley heath in henry the Eight tyme.

also oldnolds will Speaketh of to Crofts and a medou in the cutotie and posesion of the Throgmartins Called packwoods which is giuenen to the poer of Rowington for Ever.

NOTE. The deed of which this is a bad copy and translation is in the Rowington Trustees chest and is referred to on p. 3 in *R. R.* i, being of a date not later than Edw. I, circa 1300.

The payment for taske of Rowyngton & pynley
after x^d the yarde lande

Rowyngton eude aft^r x^d the yarde land whiche is
gatherd by the third borrowes & brought to the
Constable

Of m ^r Jenett for wylm byrds ground	xv ^d
for Darbyes grounde	x ^d
Rog ^r Averde	v ^d
John Shaxppere theld ^r	vij ^d ob
Willm ley theld ^r	ij ^d ob
Willm Wythyford	ij ^d ob
John cowps howse	v ^d
Richard bucks grounde	ij ^d ob
John nasons howse	j ^d
Willm Oldnalls grounde	x ^d
Willm Smýthes grounde	v ^d
Thomas Coxe	vij ^d ob
Sma tot ^{lis}	vjs i ^d ob
	i halfe

Willm hyll thýrd borrowe for lowston aft ^r x ^d the yard lande	
of M ^r burton & of those that occupie w ^t hym	ijs ix ^d
Iohn Reve & wylm Reve	ijs ix ^d
John byrde the yong & of Tybbotts	v ^d
Robt Collyns grounde	x ^d
laurence Shaxppere	x ^d
Thomas gryssolde	x ^d
Alys Reve	ijs ix ^d
Anthonye mylborne	xv ^d
Alys hill	vij ^d ob
Iohn Byrd theld ^r	ijs
Willm ley	v ^d
Rog ^r matthewe	ij ^d ob
Sma	xv ^s viij ^d

NOTE. This return hardly seems to be a complete one for the parish. Its date must have been before 1559 as John Jenett died that year.

The charge of the newe yle made by the p^{er}sons
of Dorchester at Dorchester by p^{er}sones by the
made. a^o 1554. et a^o 20. Regis marie.

In p^{er}sons payed to the masons. — xxij. viij. viij.

Item payed to men labouring in the quarry
and to laborers to f^{er}re the masons and
for carriage stone. he had the carriage
and also that was given.

Item payed to servants by m^{er}ch^{ant} l^{ord} l^{ord} — xxviij. more by m^{er}ch^{ant} l^{ord} l^{ord}

Item for l^{ord} l^{ord} — m^{er}ch^{ant} l^{ord} l^{ord}

Item payed for l^{ord} l^{ord} — xx.

Item p^{er} to l^{ord} l^{ord} for l^{ord} l^{ord}
and workinge to the masons. — xxxix.

Item payed to the carpenters. — xij. xij. viij.

Item p^{er} for l^{ord} l^{ord} xij. l^{ord} l^{ord}. — xij. xij.

Item more l^{ord} l^{ord} that went m^{er}ch^{ant} l^{ord} l^{ord} to the p^{er}sons from
Dorchester. xij. l^{ord} l^{ord} l^{ord}.

Item payed to the p^{er}sons. — l^{ord} l^{ord} l^{ord}

Item payed to the glass. — xij. xij.

Sum tot. — lxxij. xix. viij.

In test all the timber was given by m^{er}ch^{ant} l^{ord} l^{ord} and by other
most men of the p^{er}sons. The glass was given by m^{er}ch^{ant} l^{ord} l^{ord}
toward the p^{er}sons abroad. the m^{er}ch^{ant} l^{ord} l^{ord} made of the p^{er}sons
grounde for l^{ord} l^{ord} l^{ord}.
And all the l^{ord} l^{ord} was gathered amongst the p^{er}sons of Dorchester where
l^{ord} l^{ord} l^{ord} to. xij. xij. viij.

The Charge of the newe yle made by the pishyons of Rowington.
 as Dothe appere by pticuler bylls then made. a^o dⁱ 1.5.5.4.^o
 et a^o 2^o Regine marie

In p ⁱ mis payed to the masons	}	xxj ^{li} vj ^s viij ^d
Itm payed to men laboringe in the quarrey		v ^{li} x ^d
and to laborers to sve the masons and		
for carryenge stone be syde the carryge		
and labo ^r that was geven		
Itm payed to sawers by nicholas byrde		xxxvij ^s more by M ^r Cowp which he gave
Itm for lyme		iiij ^{li} vj ^s viij ^d
Itm payed for Tyles		xx ^s
Itm p ^d to Roḡ Coton for tylinge	}	xxxix ^s viij ^d
and workinge w ^t the masons		
Itm payed to the carpenters		xj ^{li} xij ^s viij ^d
Itm pd for leadd xliij ^s ʒ 8v		xij ^{li} xv ^s
Itm more lead that quene marȳe gave to the pyshe from Kenylworthe. xliij honndred		
Itm payed to the plym ^m		liiij ^s iiij ^d
Itm payed to the glaysys		xvj ^s x ^d
Sma tot ^{lis}	lxij ^{li} xix ^s vij ^d	

m̄ that all the tymbre was geven by m^r fferrys and by other

honest men of the pishe. The glasse was geven by m^r Edwards of **

Toward the payments aboveseyd the churche wardens made of the churche
 grounde for ffynes

xv^{li} legacs vi^{ti}

And all the rest was gatheryd amongst the pishioⁿs of Rowington whiche
 comethe even to

xlj^{li} xix^s vij^d

The Rentale of John hýlls wýll p a^m

In p ⁱ mis for a Tenement in shrewley	} cheiffe v ^d	
by the yere		x ^s
Itm̄ for ij pcells of lande late John		
Collýns by the yere	vij ^s	cheiffe ij ^d
Itm̄ for a pcell of lande late Joo ^a ne		
Spensers callýd Sanders	vij ^s	cheiffe iij ^d
Itm̄ for a pcell of lande called		
preston close p a ^m	vj ^s vij ^d	cheiffe iij ^d
Itm̄ for a Tenement in lapworthe	} the chiffe is	
callyd barrýs lande w ^t a croft		
callyd shýrelocks croft p a ^m		xx ^s } vj ^s vij ^d
Sma tot ^{lis}	lij ^s	vij ^d

The cheiffe Rent of all the pcells before named
 hathe e^v b^yn payed by the tenants.

A Trene fflower of ledd is even xix hondred & an halffe
 but yet the vse to b^y & se^{ll} xx^{ti} hondred to a fflower.

The Rentale of the churche lands by the yere

In p ^r mis for a pcell of lande callyd		
harvys by yere	viijs iiij ^d	
Itm for a pcell of land callyd		
lyauunce p anm	vjs viij ^d	
Itm for a pcell of ground		
called Smaley meddowe	xj ^d	Ioyning to Smaley broke
Itm forthe of a pcell of land		
called brockefurlonge	j ^d	
Itm for a pcell of land called		
hockstyd by yere	iiij ^d	
Itm for a pcell of grounde called		
moore lande p anm	iijs vj ^d	
Itm for a pcell of lande called		
Seynt marie leyton	iiij ^d	
Itm for an Acre of meddowe lyenge		
in ley Tynges	iijs iiij ^d	
Itm for the Rent of y ^e great shopp	xij ^d	
Itm for the myddle shoppe	vij ^d	
Itm for the lyttle shoppe	vj ^d	
S ^m of the churche	} xxvs viij ^d	and x ^s yere for packwood
Rent by the yere		

The chyeffe Rents of the p^rmisses must be p^d by the tenants

Rents

The chyeffe Ren * * *

The Accounts of Nicholas Byrd for the church
pte made before the pyshon's the vij daye of
maye in the Seventhe yere of the reigne of oure
soūeigne lord Kynge Edward the Sixt. 1553^o.

ffirst the stocke of the church now in my hands whiche I receyved of christofer Dale	xxxix ^s iiij ^d ob
Item Receyved of Iohn Shakesspere for a yeres Rent of harvys endyd at myhelmas in the Sixt yere of the Reigne of o ^r Soūeigne lord Kynge Edward the Sixt	vij ^s iiij ^d
Item of Thomas Shakesspere for a yeres Rent of lyaunce endyd at the sayd mihelmas	vj ^s viij ^d
Item of John Tyn for a yeres rent due at the sayd myhelmas	iiij ^s vj ^d
Item of Rog Oldnale for smaley meddow p am ad sm an	xi ^d
Item of Rið Shaxspere weyfer for ley Tyings	iiij ^s iiij ^d
Item of John Cowp for hockstyd	iiij ^d
Item of John averne for Seynt marye leyton	iiij ^d
Item of wylm Saunders forthe of brockfurlonge	i ^d
Item Rec' for the Rent of iiij shoppes	ij ^s ij ^d
Item Rec' of wylm cowp for v strycke of lyme	ij ^s ij ^d
Item of John Saunders for lyme	ij ^d

Some of my Receyts xxviij^s

The some of my Receyts for thys my first yere & the stocke in my hands is	} iiij ^{li} vij ^s iiij ^d ob

That Alexand^r Rog dothe owe to the church ij stryke of lyme
Wylm Saunders owth ij stryke Wylm benett one stryke and a
halffe Rog ley owth ij stryke. To John saunders halffe a stryke

The payments of Nicholas Býrd for hys first
yere to be allowed as folowethe.

In p ⁱ mis payed for bread and Ale when I Receyved the office for the Churchē p ^t e	vj ^d
Itm p ^d for kepýnge the bells one quart ^r in my tyme	vj ^d
Itm payed for viij ^s tyles for the churchē	vij ^s ij ^d
Itm payed for a loade of lyme	vij ^s
Itm payed for carryenge the same lyme	ij ^s iii ^d
Itm payed for vij ^c latthes forthe churchē	iiij ^s vij ^d
Itm payd for mm ¹ lathe nayles	ij ^j viii ^d
Itm payed for carryeng sande & latthes	vij ^d
Itm payed to mowsley for tylýnge vij Dayes	vij ^s
Itm payed to the Týlers S'vator ²	ij ^s iii ^d
Itm for ffetcheng tylýs at yardley	ij ^s
Itm spende at Warwýcke at þe ³ busshoppes Vysitacon	iiij ^s iiiij ^d
Itm payed for the coion boke	vj ^s
Itm payed for the new s'vyce seate ⁴ in the churchē	xij ^d
Itm payed for wrýtýnge my counte	iiij ^d
Itm for papre for the Regestre boke	ij ^d
The some of mý payments } ^{1s} v ^d for this my first yere is	
And so all thyngs allowed there remaýnethē in mý hands at thýs mýne accounte	xvj ^s xj ^d ob

¹ 2,000.

² servator—assistant.

³ It is interesting to note the use of the Saxon 'th' (þ) in these accounts at this date.

⁴ Service seat—probably for the minister's use.

The accounts of Wýllyam cowp one of the church
wardens ffor John Hylls Wýll made to the pyshe
the vijth daye of maye in the Seventhe yere of the
Reigne of o^r soūeigne lord Kynge Edward the Sýxt

Reddit.

In p ^m is receýved of John genýns of lapworthe for a yeres rent ended at myhelmas in the sixt yere of the Reigne of o ^r Soudeigne lorde Kynge Edward the sýxt	xx ^s
Itm of Watton of Shrowley for a yeres Rent endýd at the sayd myhelmas	x ^s
Itm of Wýllm Saunders for a yeres rent endýd at the sayd myhelmas	viijs
Itm rec ^d of John Gryssolde for a yeres rent of p st on closse endýd at the sayd myhelmas	vjs viij ^d
Itm of John Smýthe of pynley for a yeres rent endýd at the sayd myhelmas	iiij ^s
Itm of Ric ^d Whýte for a yeres Rent endýd at the sayd myhelmas	iiij ^s
Itm receýved of John Býrd for the hýre of one Cowe to the use of the hýe wayes	xvj ^d
Itm receýed of m ^r baylie to be bestowed in the fowle wayes for M ^r garett Crýar	xxvjs viij ^d
Itm the stocke in my hands that I receýved of Ric ^d Saunders when I receýved the office	xlvijs viij ^d ob

The Some of my Receýts	} vj ^{ti} viijs iiij ^d
w ^t the stocke is	

The payments of Wyllm Cowp for hys first
yere to be allowed as here followethe

In p ^{is} payde to the K ^y ngs ma ⁱ est ^y es use of Iohn h ^y lls w ^y ll ffor halffe a yere due at the An ^u nciacyon of o ^r ladie before I receyed the office	iiij ^s
Itm to the p ^y she Clerke for a yere ended at ymbry ¹ dayes in lent	ij ^s
Itm forthe of Iohn h ^y lls w ^y ll to the K ^y ngs ma ⁱ est ^y es use for mihelmas in the sixt yere And than ^u nciacyon in the Seventh of the Reigne of K ^y nge Edward the Sixt	vij ^s iiij ^d
Itm for arrearage ² unpayed before m ^y tyme	vij ^d
Itm p ^d to the churchē m ^e ³ forthe of Iohn h ^y lls w ^y ll	ij ^s vij ^d
Itm payed for bread & w ^y ne for the co ^o ion ⁴	vj ^s ij ^d
Itm spende in the h ^y e wayes a ^o Septo Ed ⁱ Sexti as dothe appere by hys byll thereof made	xxxiiij ^s ix ^d
Itm payed for w ^y tynge upp m ^y ne Accounte	iiij ^d

The Some of hys payments }
ffor his ffirst yere is } lviij^s xj^d

And so all th^yngs allowed h^ym there remayneth in hys hands
att th^ys hys Accounte to the use of ffowle wayes iiij^{li} ix^s v^d

¹ Ymbry, viz. Ember days.

³ Churchwardens.

² ? arrears.

⁴ viz. communion.

The Accounts of Nicholas Byrd for hys seconde yere for the
 churche pte made before the pýshons the xxijth daye of Ap^{ll} in the
 first yere of the Reigne of o^r Souleigne ladie qñe Marye for
 one yere before.

In p ^{is} Receyved of Iohn Shakesspere for a yeres Rent of harves endyd at myhelmas in the first yere of the Reigne of quene Mary viij ^s iiij ^d	
Itm of Thomas Shakesspere for a yeres Rent ended at the sayed mihelmas	vj ^s viij ^d
Itm of Iohn Tynd for a yeres Rent at p ^e sayed myhelmas	iijs ^s vj ^d
Itm of Richard Shaxspere weyfer for ley Tyeng for a yere endyd at Seynt mary Daye a ^o p ^{imo} Marie	iijs ^s iiij ^d
Itm of Rog ^e Oldnale for a yere ended at thanūcyacyon of o ^r ladye in the first yere of the Reigne of quene marye	xj ^d
Itm of John Auerne for for seynt marie leyton	iiij ^d
Itm of Wiſſm Saunders forthe of bruckfurlonge	i ^d
Itm for the Rent of hokstyd at seynt marie day a ^o p ^{imo} m ^e	iiij ^d
Itm for the Rent of ij shoppes	xx ^d
Itm for the Rent of thýrd shoppe	vj ^d
Itm for the coion table	v ^s

Sma of my Receyts

xxx^s viij^d

Item the stocke in my handes for the churche pte as dothe appere in the ende of my last account is even	xvj ^s xi ^d ob
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The payments of Nicholas Býrd for hys seconde yere
to be allowed vt. s^r.

In p ⁱ mis payd for bread & ale atte mýne Accounts	iiij ^d
Itm spende at Warf when we had forthe the churche goods	xxij ^d
Itm payd for a new bell roppe	xvj ^d
Itm p ^d for satten of burgs ¹ to mende the albes	xiiij ^d
Itm p ^d to Joane Cowp for an amyce ² kerchen ³	vij ^d
Itm to Nicholas Slý for mendýng albes & for grene thrýd	ix ^d
Itm payed for mendýng the bett ^r chalýce	xvj ^d
Itm p ^d for halffe a hýde of whýtledde	xv ^d
Itm p ^d for an albe and an ammys ²	iijs xi ^d
Itm for makýnge a new bawdryke ⁴	j ^d
Itm for frankensence	ij ^d
Itm payed for a sanctes bell roppe	ij ^d
Itm in meate dryke and money trussýg ⁵ the great bell	vij ^d
Itm to Robt Bucke for nayles	ij ^d
Item payed to Wiłm ýve settýnge up the Alt ^r	xij ^d
Itm payd to workmen to helpe hym	xvj ^d
Itm payd for pavýnge in the churche & chauncell	iiij ^d
Itm payed for w ^r týnge up mýne Accounts	iiij ^d
Itm payd for bordýng Wiłm ýve & his horsse	viiij ^d

Sñna of mý payments

xvijs v^d

And so all thýngs allowed me there dothe remayne in mý
hands for the whole stocke of the churche pte at thýs mý seconde
yeres accounts even xxxs ijd oð

¹ satten of burgs—a material made at Bruges in Flanders.

² amyce—a garment which priests put on first when they vest themselves preparatory to saying mass.

³ kerchen—a head-cloth of linen.

⁴ bawdryke—baldrick, a leather thong or cord by which the clapper was suspended from a staple in the crown of the bell.

⁵ trussýg—trussing, tying up or fixing the bell.

The Accounts of Wyllyam Cowp one of the church Wardens
for hys seconde yere ffor John hyls wyl made before
the pyshons the xxijth Daye of Ap^{ril} in the ffirst yere of the
Reigne of o^r So^{vereign}e ladie quene marýe for one yere before

In p ^{re} mis Receýved of Iohn genýns of lapworthe for a yeres Rent endýd at Mýhelmas in the ffirst yere of the Reigne of quene marýe	xx ^s
Itm Receýved of Watton of Shrowley for a yeres Rent endýd at the sayd Mýhelmas	x ^s
Itm of Wiffm Saunders for a yeres Rent at the sayd mýhelmas	viijs
Itm Receýed of Iohn Gryssolde for yeres Rent of preston crosse endýd at the sayd mýhelmas	vjs viij ^d
Itm of John Smýthe of pýnley for a yeres Ret at þ ^e sayd mýhelmas	iiij ^d
Itm of Ric ^d whýte for a yers Rent at þ ^e sayd mýhelmas	iijs
Itm of John býrd for the Rent of one cow	xvj ^d
Itm Receýed of Ric ^d Shakýsspere weýfer that he gave towards the makýnge of the brýdge ¹ bý his howse	iijs iiij ^d
S ^{ma} of my Receýts	lvij ^s iiij ^d
Itm the stocke remaýnýng in mý handes as dothe appere in mý last account before this is	iiij ^{li} ix ^s v ^d

¹ Query—a bridge in the lower part of Backlane since done away with by the making of the Canal. This Shakespere family of weavers lived in a cottage opposite to Mrs. Vardy's for many years.

The Accounts of Nicholas Byrd for his thýrd yere
for the Churche pte made to the pýshýoñds the vth daye
of Maýe in the ffirst & seconde yeres of the Regnes of
Phillippe and Marie by the grace of god Kýnge and
quene of England ffraunce Neaples & c 1550^o

Reddite¹.

In pimis receýved of Iohn Shaxspere for the rent of harves for
yere ended at Mihelmas in the ffirst and second yeres of the Reigne
of philippe and marie

viijs iiij^d

Itm of Thomas shaxspere due at the seid mihelmas

vjs viij^d

Itm of Jo. Týñ p. aⁿⁿ due at the seid myhelmas

iijs vj^d

Itm of Ric^d shaxspere weýfor for a yeres Rent due at the seýd
mihelmas

iijs iiij^d

Itm of Roḡ Oldnale for a yeres rent endýd at thañncýacyon
of o^r ladie in the second yere of quene marie

xj^d

Itm of Iohn Averte p Anm

iiij^d

Itm of wiłm saunders forthe of brockfurlong p aⁿⁿ

j^d

Itm for the Rent of hockstýd p aⁿⁿ

iiij^d

Itm of Iohn Eves for the rent of ij shoppes

xx^d

Itm of Sir Ric^d ² for the thýrd shoppe

vj^d

Itm receývýd for wood solde

viiij^d

Itm receýved for the church Ale at wýtsonýde

liiij^s viij^d

Itm the stocke remaýnýnge in mý hands as dothe appere in
the ende of mý seconde yeres accounte

xxv^s ij^d oñ

Sñā of my receýpts }
w^t the last yeres debt } v^{li} xiijs ij^d oñ

¹ viz. *Redditus*—received.

² Sir Ric^d would be Sir Richard Hethe the chantry priest.

The payments of Nicholas Byrd for his Thȳrd yere
to be allowed hym as here folowethe

In p ⁱ mis payd for bread & ale at the last Counte	iiij ^d
Itm payed for trussynge the beſſs	xvj ^d
Itm payed for makynge the lectorne & crosse staves	viiij ^d
Itm payed for a frame for the Canapie	vj ^d
Itm to John Cowp for censys ¹ & for yrons for the rood	xx ^d
Itm spende at John byrdes talkynge w ^t budbrok mē	iiij ^d
Itm spende at Warr at the bysshopes vȳsitacyon	xij ^d
Itm payed to John Eves for kepynge the beſſs for one yere endyd at Crȳstmas & for a quart ^r endyd att seyt marie daȳe last	v ^s
Itm p ^d for whȳtledd ^r bought by Iohn Eves	xij ^d
Itm for wasshynge the churche gere w ^t sope ij tymes	v ^d
Itm payed for ij tuckkynge gȳrdles ²	iiij ^d
Itm p ^d for ffranckensence sȳnce mȳ last accounte	ij ^d
Itm p ^d to Wiſſim leȳ for a wat ³ cowle and for shȳngle	xxij ^d
Itm for wȳtynge mȳ counte in the counte boke	iiij ^d

S^ma of my payments xiiij^s xj^d

And so all thȳngs allowed me there dothe remayne in
mȳ handes at thȳs mȳne accounte for the whole stocke
for the Churche pte even

iiij^{li} xviiij^s iiij^d oſ

¹ Censers for incense.

² Waist girdles for gowns or surplices.

³ Water cowle for roof spouting and shingles for roofing.

The accounts of Wylm Cowp for hys thýrd yere for
Iohn hýlls wýll made to the pýshýoñ's the vth daýe
of maye in the ffirst and seconde yeres of the Reignes
of o^r soueigne lord & ladie philyppe & marie by the g^ōe of
Kýnge & quene of Englande ffrance Neaples Ʒ^d 1555^o

Reddit

In p ^r mis Receýved of Iohn genýns of lapworthe for a yeres rent endýd at mýhelmas annis p ^{mo} & ij Regnory phýlyppi & m ^e	xx ^s
Itm receýved of watton of Shrowley for a yeres rent endýd att the seyd mýhelmas	x ^s
Itm of Wiilf Saunders p a ^m finitū ¹ at p ^e seid mihelmas	vij ^s
Itm of Jo. grýssolde p anñm finitū at p ^e seyde mihelmas	vjs viij ^d
Itm of Iohn smýthe p a ⁿ finitū at the seid mihelmas	iiij ^s
Itm for a yere for the Close at Crýars	iiij ^s
Itm of Iohn bird for the hýre of a cow	xvj ^d
Itm receýved of Ric ^d Saunders for olde reckyngs	iijs iiij ^d
Itm the stocke in mý handes for Iohn hýlls wýll as dothe appere in the ende of mý last accounte	xxix ^s vij ^d
S ^m a of mý receýts w ^t mý last yeres debt	} iiij ^{li} vjs xj ^d

¹ for year ended.

The payments of Wyllm Cowp for hys thýrd
yere for John hýlls will to be allowed as folowethe

In p ^{is} payed the xxvij th Daýe of Ap ^{il} l to the quenes ma ^{tis} use forthe of Iohn hýlls wýll for iij halffe yeres	
endýd at seýnt marie daýe in the ffirst yere of her reigne	xiijs
Itm p ^d for mendýnge the buttre at the churche howse	vj ^d
Itm p ^d to the deane at warwike for whýtson farthýngs	xij ^d
Itm payed to the quenes use forthe of John hýlls wýll for halffe a ýere endýd at mýhelmus anno secūdo fui regni	iijs iiij ^d
Itm p ^d for Iohn hýlls obbetts for one ýere endýd at the Imbre daýs in lent last past	ijs
Itm to the clerke forthe of John hýlls wýll for one ýere endýd at the Imbrýe days in lent last past	ijs
Itm þ ^e churche mē forthe of John hýlls wýll	ijs viij ^d
Itm Dealt on good ffrýdaýe	vijs viij ^d
Itm payd for wax to Jo. hýll & John horsseley	xijs vj ^d
Itm p ^d for makýnge the rode light sepulcre & paschaft tapre	xj ^d
Itm for makýnge the Torches ¹	vij ^d
Itm paid for betyng ^e ² candells	v ^d
Itm for wityng ^e up mý counte in the boke	iiij ^d
Itm spende in the hýe wayes thýs ýere as dýd appere by a býll thereof made showed att my counte	ixs viij ^d

Sma of my payments

lvijs vij^d

And so all thýngs allowed there dothe remayne in the
bandes of me Wyllm Cowp at this mýne accounte for
the whole stocke of John hýlls wýll

xxxs iiij^d

¹ Staves of deal on which wax candles were fixed.

² Kindling or lighting.

The accounts of Nicholas Býrd for the churche pte
for his iiijth yere made to the pýhe the xxvjth daye of Ap'ill
in the seconde and iij^{de} yere of the Reignes of philippe & marie
by the gce of God Kýnge and Quene of Englande &c

Reddit^o

In p'imis Receýved of Iohn Shakesspere for one yers Rent of
harvys endýd at mihelmas in the seconde & thýrd yeres of the
reignes of philippe and marie

viijs^s iiij^d

Itm of Thomas Shakesspere for a yeres Rent endýd at
the seid mihelmas

vijs^s viij^d

Itm of Iohn Týn p. a^m at the seid mihelmas

iijs^s vj^d

Itm of Ric^d Shaxspere p. a^m finit^o at the seid mihelmas

iijs^s iiij^d

Itm of Rog^r Oldnale for a yeres Rent endýd at thaūndiacýon
of o^r ladie a^o ij et tertio philippi et ma^e

xj^d

Itm of Iohn Averte p. a^o finit^o ad t^emi annuciacois

iiij^d

Itm of Wiłłm Saunders p. a^m

j^d

Itm for the Rent of hockstýd p. a^m

iiij^d

Itm of Iohn Eves for the Rent of ij Shoppes

xx^d

Itm of W. Saunders for the Rent of the thýrd shope for a
yere endýd ad t^e annuciacois

vj^d

Itm the stocke for the churche pte remaýnyng in mý handes
as dothe appere in the end of mý last yeres accounte

iiij^{li} xviijs^s iiij^d oñ

Sñā tot^{lis} of mý Receýts

w^t the debt in mý handes

v^{li} iijs^s vij^d oñ

The payments of Nicholas Byrd for hys iiijth
yere to be allowed hym as here folowethe

In p ^m is payed for bread and ale at p ^e last yeres accounte	ij ^d
Itm payed for kepynge the bells for one yere endyd	
at thannūcyacyioñ of o ^r ladie a ^o ij ^o et iiij ^o philippi et m ^e	iiij ^s
Itm p ^d at stretford for barres grounde ¹	x ^s
Itm payed for whytledd ^r to the bells	iiij ^d
Itm payed for franckensens for this yere	vj ^d
Itm for wasshynge the churche gere and for scowrynge ²	xiiij ^d
Itm payed more for barres grounde to m ^r martyn	iiij ^s iiij ^d

S^ma tot^{lis} of his payments xx^s vj^d whiche
is allowed hym. And so he dothe owe to Churche
at thys his last accounte

v^{li} iiij^s jd o^b

Whereof he hathe payed towards the makynge of the newe
yle more then he hathe receyved as dothe appere by his act
thereof made and showed

iiij^{li} iiij^s jd o^b

Whiche beinge allowed and payed hym. There dothe
then remayne to the churche stock but even
which was delyv^d to John horseley then receyvynge
the office for the churche pte

xix^s

a^o di 1556^o

¹ This probably refers to purchase of further land at the farm in Lapworth later called 'Pound farm', left by John Hill: see also page 25.

² This refers to cleaning the various vessels and crosses used in the church.

The accounts of Wiffm Cowp for Iohn hills
will for his iiijth yere made to the pýhe the xxvjth
daye of Ap'ill in the second and iij^{de} yeres of the
Reignes of philippe and marie bi the grace of god
Kýnge and quene of England Ʒc

Reddit^o

In pⁱmis Receýved of Iohn Genýns of Lapworthe for a
yeres Rent endýd at mihelmas in the second & iij^{de} yeres of the
Reignes of philippe and marie

xx^s

Itm of Watton p a^m finit^m at the seid mihelmas

x^s

Itm of W^m Saunders p a^m at the seid mihelmas

viijs

Itm of Iohn Grýssold p a^m at the seid mihelmas

vjs viij^d

Itm of Iohn Smýthe of pýnley p a^m

iiij^s

Itm of laurence Shakýsspere at the seid mýhelmas

iiij^s

Itm receýved of Iohn býrd for the hýer of a cow

xvj^d

Itm Nicholas býrd Delyv'd me of the wýtstone ale

liijs iiij^d

It^m the Stocke in mý handes for Iohn hýlls wýll as

Dothe appere in the ende of my last accounte

xxx^s iiij^d

S^ma tot^{lis} Receptionis hoc anno }
c^m vltimo Debito } vj^{li} xvij^s viij^d

The payments of Wiſſm Cowp for his iiijth yere
for John hills wýll to be allowed hým

In p'mis payed for mendýnge the hie wayes for bread & ale and for mendýnge a pýcke axe as dýd appere by a ptyculer býll thereof made and showed at mýne accounte	xiijs ^s xjd ^d ob
Itm for ij candelstýcks in o ^r ladie chapell	xiiij ^d
Itm delýv to m ^r baylie on seýnt peters daye	liijs ^s iiij ^d
Itm leyed forthe of my purse to make it ev ^o money	vjd ^d
Itm p ^d for ij new bañer clothes	iijs ^s iiij ^d
Itm spende on th ^o that brought home lýme	vij ^d
Itm p ^d to p ^e quenes mat ^s use for a yere at mihelmas 1555	viijs ^s viij ^d
Itm payed for Iohn hýlls obbetts p a ^o finito at ýmbre dayes in lent	ij ^s
Itm to the clerke p a ^o finito at ýmbre dayes in lent 1555	ij ^s
Itm payed to the churche wardens forthe of John hýlls wýll	ij ^s viij ^d
Itm to Richard Coxe for ledd	xx ^d
Itm p ^d for Whýtson farthýngs due in a ^o di 1555 ^o	xij ^d
Itm p ^d for the Rode light agaýnst christmas	iijs ^s
Itm for more Waxe	xviiij ^d
Itm p ^d to George Grýssolde ^{for} ^ ij poundes	xxij ^d
Itm to Iohn hýll for iiij pounde of waxe	iijs ^s
Itm to Nicholas Saunders a pounde and halffe	xviiij ^d
Itm payed for vij li for the Torches	vij ^s
Itm for makýnge torches & rode light	xviij ^d
Itm delt to pore people on good frýday	vjs ^s viij ^d
Itm for mendýnge the font coverýnge & for nayles	ij ^d ob
Itm for a sancts bell rophe	iiij ^d
Itm at stretford for barres grounde	x ^s
Itm spende for ffetchýnge home wodwards wheate	ix ^d
Itm payed to Iohn Cowp for Clýppes	ij ^d
S ^m a tot ^{is} expencionis	vj ^{li} viijs ^s iiij ^d whiche
beinge allowed hým there remaýnethe for the stocke of Iohn hills wýll but even	ix ^s iiij ^d
whiche was delýv'd by the seýd wiſſm cowp to the handes of Iohn Grýssolde then receývyng the office for Iohn hýlls wýll	a ^o di 1556 ^o

The accounts of Iohn horseley for the churche pte
made to the pyhe the xxij Daye of maye in the iij^d
and ffourthe yeres of philippe and marie a^o d^u 1557^o

In p ⁱ mis Receyvvd of Iohn Shakyspere for a yeres Rent of harves endyd at myhelmas in the iij ^{de} & fourthe yeres of p. & m ^{rie}	viijs iiij ^d
Itm of Thomas Shakyspere for a yeres Rent of lyaunce due at the seyde myhelmas	vjs viij ^d
Itm Re ^o of Iohn Ty ⁿ due at the seid myhelmas p. a ^m	iijs vj ^d
Itm for Rog ^r Oldnale p a ^o	xj ^d
Itm of Ric ^d Shakyspere p a ^o due at the seyd myhelmas	iijs iiij ^d
Itm of Iohn Auerne p. a ^o	iiij ^d
Itm forthe of brock furlonge	j ^d
Itm Rec ^d for the Rent of hockstyd	iiij ^d
Itm for a yeres Rent of the Shoppes endyd at Seynt marie daye of Iohn Eves for ij Shoppes	xx ^d
Itm for the Rent of the Thyrd Shope	vj ^d
Itm Receyed that Rog ^r ley ¹ gave to the churche	xiijs iiij ^d
Itm Rec ^d of Iohn Smythe of pynley for wood	ix ^s
Itm the churche stocke in my handes which I receyved of Nicholas byrd when I was made churchemā	xix ^s

The Some of my Receyts } iiij^{li} vij^s
withe the stocke in my hands }

¹ Roger Ley died in 1556, and this item was probably a legacy.

The payments of Iohn horseley to be allowed hym

	bread	
In p ^{is} payed for	^ ȝ ale on the countie daȝe	xviiij ^d
Itm pd for Clothe to amende ij surplecs		vij o ^b
Itm payed for ij strȝcks of lȝme & for ffetchȝnge		xij ^d
Itm p ^d for Sope Thrydd ffrankencense & wytledde ^r		xv ^d o ^b
Itm payed for an hymed boke		ij ^s viij ^d
Itm spende at vȝsitacyons at stretford ȝ warwicke		iijs ix ^d
Itm payed for Tȝles carryenge and laȝenge		iijs vij ^d
	& for Roppes	
Itm for kepinge the bells ^ for one ȝere endid at thanncȝacyon of oure		iiij ^s
ladie in the iiij ^{de} & fourthe ȝeres of philippe ȝ marie		xiiij ^d
Itm payed for wrȝtinge minncȝyons and for artycles		iijs viij ^d
Itm for ston at Kenȝlworthe & for expens the same tȝme		iijs j ^d
Itm spende in carryenge stone frome Kenȝlworthe		xvj ^d
Itm payed to a Tȝlor and his mȝ		ij ^d
Itm payed to a Tȝnker for mȝdynghe the led		x ^d
Itm payed for meate & drȝnke for whȝrrell & fetherston		xviiij ^d
Itm to Ric ^d Coxo workȝnge aboute the bells		iijs iiij ^d
Itm for mete & drȝnke to hym & to those that dȝd helpe hym		xiiij ^d
Itm at the visitacyon at henley		xxij ^d
Itm to Iohn Cowp for mendȝnge gogings ¹		iijs
Itm for Castȝnge the brasses & for mettall		iiij ^d
Itm payed for a Key & for Ring		iiij ^d
Itm payed for Cords to the Veȝle & Rode		xvj ^d
Itm payed for makȝnge the belstocks		xij ^s
Itm payed to carvers of marȝe & John ²		iiij ^d
Itm payed for wȝtȝnge mȝne acounte		

S^ma of hȝs payments for }
 this his ffirst ȝere } lv^s ix^d

it beinge allowed

And so ^ there dothe remaȝne in his handes for the churche
 pte at this his ffirst acounte

xjs iiij^d

¹ gogings—a ducking-stool.

² Images.

The accounts of Iohn Gryssolde for the pte of
hýlls wýll whiche counte he made to the pýshe the
xxiij daye of maye in the thýrde and ffowrthe yeres
of philippe & marie bý the gēe of god Kinge & quene ζ^3

In p ⁱ mis receýved of Iohn Genýns of lapworthe for a yeres Rent endýd at mýhelmas in the iiij ^{de} & iiij th yeres of p. & m	xx ^s
Itm of Watton of Shrowleý for a yeres Rent endýd at the seýd mihelmas	x ^s
It of Katherýne Saunders p. a ^m at the seýd mihelmas	vij ^s
Itm for my selffe p. a ^m finitm ¹ at the seýd mihelmas	vj ^s vij ^d
Itm of Iohn Smýthe of pýnleý	iiij ^s
Itm of Laurence Shakýsspere	iiij ^s
Itm of John bird for the hýer of a cowe	xvj ^d
Itm for stocke in mý handes whiche I receýved of Wiñm Cowp. levýnge the office for Iohn hýlls pte	ix ^s iiij ^d

Sñā of the Rent }
w^t the stocke } iiij^{li} iiij^s iiij^d

¹ for year ending.

The payments of Iohn Grýssolde to be allowed hým
for his ffirst yeres counte. vt seiqt^r.

In pimis payed for carryenge gravell	ij ^s
Itm to ij workmā for fyllýnge xx Tñbrells ¹	ij ^s
Itm to Emme bird for meate & drynke	xvij ^d
Itm p ^d to Iohn Eves for Iohn hýlls wýll for one yere endýd at the ýmbre dayes in lent a ^o 3 ^o et 4 ^{to} philippi et m ^e	ij ^s
Itm p ^d forthe of Iohn hýlls wýll to the quenes ma ^{ts} use for one yere endýd at mihelmas a ^o di M ^{le} v. lvj ^o ²	vij ^s vij ^d
Itm p ^d for betýnge candells	vj ^d
Itm payed for stone bought at Kenýlworthe	ij ^s iij ^d
Itm payed for meate & dryke & carrynge	ij ^s jd
Itm p ^d for a pounde of waxe for o ^r ladies light	xij ^d
Itm to John Týñ for makýnge the same	ij ^d
Itm payed for iiij pounde waxe to the sepulcre & paschall	iiij ^s
Itm p ^d for makinge the same at Warwicke	iiij ^d
Itm payed to Sir Thomas ³ for ij obbetts	xij ^d
Itm payed to o ^r Selffs forthe of Iohn hýlls wýll	ij ^s vij ^d
Itm Dealt on good frydaye	vj ^s vij ^d
Itm payed for w'tinge mýne accounte	iiij ^d
Itm payed for ij pounde of waxe more	ij ^s
Itm payed for a workmā iij dayes	xvij ^d
Itm payed for more waxe	xvj ^d

Sma of his payments }
for this his ffirst yere } ij^s jd whiche was

allowed hým. And so all thýngs payed there dothe
Remayne in the handes of Iohn Grýssolde for John hýlls
stocke even

xij^s iij^d

¹ Tumbrels—carts.

² Anno domini 1556.

³ To Sir Thomas Heyward, vicar, for saying prayers as ordered by John Hill in his will.

The accounts of John horseley for hys seconde yere
for the Church pte made to the pyhe the viijth daye of
maie in the flourthe 2^{vth} yeres of the Reignes of
Kinge philippe and quene marye—a^o di 1558

In pimis Rec ^d of Iohn Shaxspere for a yeres Rent of harves endyd at mihelmas in the iiij th & v th yeres of p 2 ^m	viijs viij ^d
Itm Receyved for the Rent of Lyaunce for one yere endyd at the seyd mihelmas	vjs viij ^d
Itm for the Rent of Tynd due at the seyd mihelmas	iijs vj ^d
Itm of Rog ^r Oldnale p. a ^m	xj ^d
Itm of Ric ^d Shaxspere p. a ^m due at the seyd myhelmas	iijs iiij ^d
Itm of Iohn Auerne p a ^m	iiij ^d
Itm forthe of brucke forlonge p. a ^m	j ^d
Itm the Rent of hockstyd p. a ^m	iiij ^d
Itm for a yeres Rent of ij shoppes endyd at Saynt mary daye last past	xx ^d
Itm for the Rent of the iij ^d shope	vj ^d
Itm Receyved of Iohn Smythe of Pynley for wodd	viijs
Itm the stocke in my hands as dothe appere in the ende of my last accounte w ^t nycholas byrds money is	xjs iiij ^d
<p>The Sma of his Receyts for this his seconde yere w^t the Debt of his first yeres accounte</p>	

} xliiij^s xj^d

The payments of John horseley for his seconde yere to be allowed
hým as here followethe.

In p ^{is} payed for bread & Drýnke on the countye daye	xviiij ^d
Itm p ^d to a glasio ^r for mendýnge the west wýndow	xx ^d
Itm spende when the archdecons visýtacýōñ was here	xij ^d
Itm for payntinge the crucýfixe	ij ^s
Itm p ^d for bords to sett oū the sacramēt	ij ^d
Itm for one yere kepinge the bells endýd at saynt marýe daye	iiij ^s
Itm for mendýnge the sensors	j ^d
Itm payed to the masons to make even money	xvj ^d
Itm for bread & Drýnke to the masons	ij ^d
Itm p ^d for halffe a hýde of Whýteled ^r	xx ^d
Itm p ^d for a trussinge a bell	vj ^d
Itm for ij pounde of Sope to washe the churche gere	vj ^d
Itm for a lanterne & for franckensence	viiij ^d
Itm for a Roppe that the masons had	xij ^d
Itm for mendýnge the best cope & vestýment	iiij ^d oñ
Itm p ^d for franckensens agaýnst East ^r	ij ^d
Itm for a gýrdle to the vestýments	ij ^d
Itm for makýnge the grate into the churche yarde	iiij ^s
Itm payed for ij bell Roppes	xviiij ^d
Itm payed for wrýtinge mýne accounte	iiij ^d

Sñā of his payments for his seconde

yere xxijs viij^d oñ And so all

things allowed hým the sayd Iohn horseley there dothe remayne for
the churche stocke even xxijs ij^d oñ whereof there is on the comple

yet vnpd

of Nicholas býrde ^ xix^s whiche the sayde Iohn horseley could not gett
in hýs týme. And the rest he hathe delyū to the hands of Wyllm

Wýllýams nowe receývinge the office for the churche pte. vz—iijs ij^d oñ

and the xix^s is stýll owýnge by Nicholas byrds executo^rs.

The accompts of Iohn Grýssolde for Iohn hýlls
 wýll made to the Vicare & other of the pishe the
 viijth Daye of maýe in the ffourthe and ffifthe
 yeres of Kinge philippe and quene marye. 1558.

In p ^{is} Receýved of Iohn Ienýns for one yeres Rent endýd at mihelmas in the iiij th & v th yeres of p. & m ^e	xx ^s
Itm of Watton due at the sayde mihelmas p. a ^m	x ^s
Itm of Mr burton due at the sayd mihelmas p. a ^m	viijs
Itm for p ^{is} ton close due at the sayd mihelmas p. a ^m	vjs viij ^d
Itm of Ric ^d Smythe of pýnleý then due p a ^o	iijs
Itm of laurence Shakýsspere for one yere endýd at the sayd mihelmas	iijs
Itm Receýved of w ^m wýllýams for wheate money	viijs
Itm of Iohn birde for the hýer of a cow	xvj ^d
Itm the stocke in mý hands as dothe appere by the ende of my last accounte	xijs iij ^d

S^ma of hys Receýts w^t } iiij^{li} xiiij^s iij^d
 the stocke due

The payments of Iohn Grýssold for John hills
 wýll to be allowed as here followthe

In p ^{is} is payed to Iohn Saunders for ij dayes carriage	ijs iiij ^d
Itm to John grýssolde for ij days carryage	ijs iiij ^d
Itm to Rich ^d baker and John Reve for ij dayes	iis iiij ^d
Itm to Iohn fferranude and malkýns for ij dayes a pece	xv ^d
Itm to Roger grýssold for ij days workinge	viiij ^d
Itm to Thomas Saunders for one daye workýnge	iiij ^d
Itm payed for bread & Drýnke the same tyme	iiij ^d
Itm to Katherýne Saunders & Alýs Reve	ijs iiij ^d

Itm payed to the hands of Wyllyam Whaytley of henley to the quenes m ^{ts} use for th of Iohn hills wýll for a yere undýd at mýhelmas in the fourth and v th yeres of the Reýnes of Kinge philippe and quene marýe and in the yere of o ^r lord god m̄ v lvij ^o	vij ^s viij ^d
Itm to the vicare for Iohn hýlls obbetts for a yere endýd at the ymbrý Dayes in lent & for one quart ^r behýnde	ij ^s vj ^d
Itm to the clerke for one yere endýd at the ymbrý dayes in lent in the iiij th & v th yeres of philippe & marýe	ij ^s
Itm payed to the masons for Rossen wax & ernýst money	xxij ^d
Itm spende when I went to býe ledd	vj ^d
Itm for carrýnge lýme & sande & for naýles	iijs ix ^d
Itm p ^d to the sompñ ¹ for whitson farthyngs for ij yeres endýd at Whytsontýde. a ^o di m̄ v lvij ^o	ij ^s
Itm for waxe & makinge the Rode lýght paschall taps. sepulcre light and a tapre to halowe the font	x ^s v ^d
Itm payed to Ric ^d baker for one dayes carrage more gravýll	xiiij ^d
Itm Dealt on good ffrýdaye	vjs viij ^d
Itm payed for ffranckensence	ij ^d
Itm payed for ^{ccc} tyles and the carrýnge	iiij ^d
Itm payed for a lode of lýme	vij ^s ij ^d
Itm p ^d to o ^r selffs forthe of Iohn hills wýll	ijs viij ^d
Itm for w ⁱ ýnge mý counte in the Counte boke	iiij ^d

Sma for his payments for } iiij^{li} vjs x^d
his later yere

Whiche beinge allowed hým there dothe remayne for the stocke of Iohn hýlls wýll even	vij ^s v ^d
whiche was delyū to the hands of Iohn Reve thē made one of the churchē wardens and receývinge the office for the Counte of Iohn hýlls wýll.	

¹ Sompñ—viz. Summoner or petty officer from Ecclesiastical court.

The accompts of Iohn Reve for Iohn hills wýll
made to the pishe the xv^jth daye of Ap^{ri}ll a^o Dⁱ 1559

and in the first yere of the Reigne of ^{o^r} ^ So^{ve}igne
ladie quene Elýsabethe ȝ^c

The Receýts of the seyde Iohn Reve for one yere

In p ⁱ mis receýved of John Jenýns of lapworthe for one yeres rent endýd at mihelmas before the date above w ⁱ tte ⁿ	xx ^s
Itm Receýved of Watton of Srowley for one yeres rent endýd at the sayde mihelmas 1558 ^o	x ^s
Itm of George burton due at the seyde mýhelmas p. a ^o	vij ^s
Itm of Iohn grýssolde for a yeres Rent of preston closse due at the seyde mihelmas	vj ^s viij ^d
Itm of Richard Smythe of pýnley for one yere endýd at the sayde mýhelmas	iiij ^s
Itm of laurence Shaxspere for one yere rent endýd at the seyd mýhelmas	iiij ^s
Itm in mý hands that I receýved of Iohn grýssolde for the stocke of Iohn hills wýll	vij ^s v ^d

S^ma of mý receýts }
w^t the stocke } iiij^{li} j^d

The accompts of Wiłłm Wýllýams for the churche pte
made to the pýhe the xiiijth Daye of Ap'ill in the thýrde
ýere of the Reigne of o^r soũeigne ladie quene Elizabethē ȝ. ȝ.

In p'imis Rec ^d of Iohn Shakyspere for the Rent of harvys for one ýere endyd at myhelmas in the seconde yere of the Reigne of of oure soũeigne ladie quene Elizabethē ȝ. ȝ.	vij ^s iiij ^d
Itm of the seýd Iohn for one ýeres Rent of lyaunce endýd at the seýde mihelmas	vj ^s viij ^d
Itm of Thomas Týñ due at the seýd mýhelmas	iijs vj ^d
Itm of Ric ^d Shaxspere due at the seýd mýhelmas	iijs iiij ^d
Itm for the Rent of hockstyd p. vno. a ^o	iiij ^d
Itm for the Rent of Smaley meddow p. vno. a ^o	xj ^d
Itm for the brokefurlonge p. a ^m	j ^d
Itm of W ^m Saunders for one shoppe	vj ^d
Itm of Iohn Eves for the myddle shoppe	vj ^d
Itm for the great shop	u
Itm Rec ^d for wood sold forthe of packwodde	vij ^s
Itm for wax sold	x ^s
Itm receyved for the buryall of M ^r Ienett in the ladýe chappell	v ^s
Itm Rec ^d of Wýłłm býrde that his father dýd owe	xix ^s iiij ^d
Itm of Iohn Auerne p. a ^m	iiij ^d
Itm the whole stocke in my hands for the churche pte as dothe appere in the ende of mý last accounte	xxi ^s xj ^d oñ

The some of all his
Receýts

} iiij^{li} vij^s ix^d oñ.

The payments of W^m Wýllýams to
be allowed hým. ut. sr

In pimis payed for bread & ale at the last accompt	xiiij ^d
Itm spende at the býsshoppes visitacyon at war ^r	v ^s
Itm for a key to the churche Coffre	iiij ^d
Itm payed for harnes & furniture ¹	xl ^s
Itm payed to pags wyffe	iiiij ^d oñ
Itm for kepinge the beñs Due at myhelmas	xviij ^d
Itm payed for a newe surples	viiij ^s
Itm for glasinge the west wyndowe	xxiiij ^s
Itm for cōiōñ bread & wýne at East ^r	ij ^s iiij ^d
Itm Dealt to people on the ascentýon Daye	vj ^s viij ^d
Itm deał to the pore of the wax money	vj ^s viij ^d
Itm payed for the cōiōñ table	iiij ^s iiij ^d
Itm payed for wtinge vp myne accounte	iiij ^d

S^ma of his payments iiiij^{li} xix^s vij^d oñ
Toward the payment whereof his Receýt^o
come to iiiij^{li} vij^s ix^d oñ. And so

w^m

the counte dothe owe ^ wýllýams for the
churche pte that he hathe payed more
then he hathe receýved xj^s x^d
whiche must be payed to hým the seýd
w^m wýllýams bý the next churche man
that receývethe the office for the churche pte.

¹ Harness and furniture—necessary articles for carrying on the services as newly ordained.

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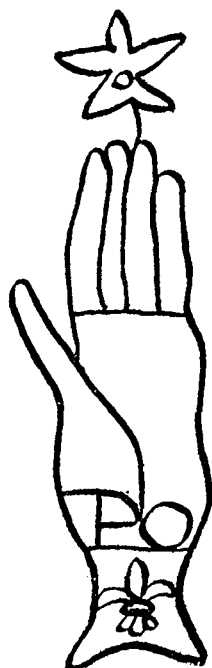


Illustration of Paper Mark on p. 7.

The Accounts of Thomas Atwood for the
 Church pte. Made to the pische the xijth daye
 of Aprill in the iiijth yere of the Reigne of o^r soūeigne
 ladie quene Elýsabethe ʒ ċ

reddit^o

In p ⁱ mis receýved of Iohn Shakýsspere for the Rent of harvys for one yere endýd at mihelmas in the third yere of the Reigne of o ^r soūeigne ladýe quene Elysabethe.	viijs viij ^d
Itm receýved of the same Iohn for one yeres Rent of lýaunce Endýd at the sayd mihelmas	vjs viij ^d
Itm of Thomas týñ due at the sayd Mihelmas	iijs vj ^d
Itm of Ric ^r shaxspere due at the sayd mihelmas	iijs iiij ^d
Itm for the Rent of smaleý meddowe p. a ^m	xj ^d
Itm forthe of hockstýd p. a ^m	iiij ^d
Itm forthe of brockefurlonge p. a ^m	j ^d
Itm of Iohn averne p. a ^m	iiij ^d
Itm Rec ^d for the Rent of packwodde p. a ^m	x ^s
Itm for the Rent of ij shoppes	xij ^d
Itm for the great Shoppe	xij ^d
S ^m a tot ^{lis} of his Receýts for his first yere	} xxxv ^s vj ^d

The payments of Thomas Atwod for the church pte
for his first yere to be allowed

In p ⁱ mis payed for bread and ale when I receyved the office	xij ^d
sonday afr the	
Itm Dealt to pore people on the [^] ascentyon Daye	vjs viij ^d
Itm payd that was owinge to w ^m wyllyams	xjs x ^d
Itm spende in the h ^y e wayes	iijs iiij ^d
Itm geven to the somp ⁿ for the bysshops Iniunctyons	iiij ^d
Itm spende at the archdeacons visitacion	ijs x ^d
Itm p ^d for workinge about the bells & clensing the steeple	vjs viij ^d
Itm to the Sum ⁿ for a Kalendr & the co ^m mandemets	xx ^d
Itm payed for a lyttell roppe to the sancts be ^l	iiij ^d
Itm p ^d for a newe spade & mendinge the mattocke	ijs
Itm geven to yonge men of balsall at wytson ^t yde	iijs iiij ^d
Itm payed for a forme & a lytle table for divine syvys	iijs iiij ^d
Itm to the sūp ⁿ whē he brought the co ^m ādemēt for the rode laft	iiij ^d
Itm p ^d and spende in takinge downe the Rode laft	vij ^d
Itm payed to thomas saunders for kepinge the bells for one yere	
endyd at Chrystmas a ^o quarto regni Regine Elysabth	ijs
Itm payed for halffe a h ^y de of whyte ledd ^r	ijs viij ^d
Itm payed for cōiōn bred & w ^y ne all the yere	xx ^d
Itm for cōiōn bread and w ^y ne at East ^r	ijs viij ^d
Itm p ^d for w ⁱ tinge m ^y counte in this boke	iiij ^d

S^ma of his payments liijs vij^d.

Whereof he is payed in his Receyts xxxvs vj^d

And so the church Dothe h^ym at thys accounte that
he hathe layed forthe more thē he hathe Receyved xviijs j^d

The accounts of Richard Saunders for John
 hýlls wýll made to the pýhe the xij Daye of
 Aprýñ in the iiijth yere of the Reigne of o^r so^{ve}igne
 ladýe quene Elysabethe, Ʒ ċ 1562^o

The Receýts p a^m

In pimis Receýved of Ienýns wýffe of lapworthe for the Rent of one yere Endýd at Mihelmas a ^o tertio Regna Regine uẏē Elysabethe	xx ^s
Itm one yers Rent of wattons howse due at the seýd Mihelmas in the iij ^{de} yere of quene Elysabethe	x ^s
Itm of Iohn grýssolde for one yeres Rent of a Close in preston Due at the sayde Mýhelmas	vj ^s viij ^d
Itm for sanderns due at the sayde Mihelmas	vij ^s
Itm of Richard Smýthe Due at the seýd Mihelmas	iiij ^s
Itm of larraunce shaxspere for the Rent of one yere endýd at the sayde Mihelmas	iiij ^s
Itm Rec ^d for wod solde forthe of Sanderns close	ij ^s
Sma tot ^{lis} of his Receýts	liij ^s viij ^d

The accounts of Thomas Atwood for the church
pte made to the pishon's the xviiith Daye of Aprýff
in the ffýfthe yere of the Reigne of o^r so^ueigne laýdie
quene Elysabt Ʒ ċ 1563^o for one yere before.

for	
In p ⁱ mis Receýved of Iohn Shakisspere ^ Rent of harvys for one	
yere endýd at Mihelmas a ^o quarto Regni Regine Elýsabethe	viijs viij ^d
Itm for one yeres Rent of lýaunce due at the seýd Mihelmas	vjs viij ^d
It of Týñ for one yere Endýd at the saýde Mihelmas	iijs vj ^d
It of Ric ^k shaxspere p a ^m Due Ʒ endýd at the saýd Mihelmas	iijs iiij ^d
Itm for smaleý meddowe p a ^m	xj ^d
Itm for hockstýd p. a ^m	iiij ^d
Itm forthe of brockfurlonge p a ^m finit ^m ad fest ^m annū bte ¹ m ^e	j ^d
Itm of John Averte p a ^m fini ^l ad fest ^m annū bte m ^e	iiij ^d
Itm for a grounde called packe ² for a yere endýd at the ffeast of thāñncōis bte m ^e a ^o quarto Regine Elýsabethe	x ^s
Itm Rec ^d for the Rent of the great shoppe	xij ^d
Itm for the Rent of the other ij shoppes for a yere endýd at the ffeast of the Annuñciacois bte m ^e a ^o quinto Elýsabethe	xij ^d

The Some of his Receýts xxxvs vj^d

The payments of Thomas Atwood for his seconde
yere to be allowed hým for the church pte.

In p ⁱ mis payed for bread and Ale at the last counte	x ^d
Itm spende at the busshopp of Cannterbyeryes ³ výtacyon at warr. and for makinge bills Ʒ delyvinge the same	iiij ^s vj ^d
Itm payed for ij beñ Roppes	iijs
Itm payed for one strýke of lýme for the church	vij ^d
Itm to the Týler for mendýnge the church	viiij ^d
Itm payed for vj creasts for the church	xij ^d

¹ Per year ending at the feast of the annunciation of the Blessed Mary.

² Viz. packwoods in Inwood End let to Margery Horseley.

³ Archbishop Mathew Parker.

Itm payed for ffetcheinge a lode of Sande	iiij ^d
Itm Dealt for John Oldnalls wýllam spende in the highe wayes	
the ffowrthe yere of quene Elysabethes Reigne	x ^s
Itm payed for mendinge the great bell Clapre	ij ^s vj ^d
Itm payed to Thomas Saunders for kepinge the bells and steple for	
one yere endýd at Christemas last 1562 ^o	ij ^s
Itm payed to the pleýars more thē was gatherýd	ij ^d
Itm to Norde for pavinge the chauncell	iiij ^d
Itm a hepe of lýme to the same	ij ^d
Itm payed to the sonm̄ at east ^r	iiij ^d
Itm for Cōiōn bread & wýne all the yere	ij ^s
Itm for Cōiōn bread and wýne at Easter	ij ^s viij ^d
Itm payed for a Key to the great shoppe	iiij ^d
Itm for ij ýrone Clýppes for the bells	viij ^d
Itm to be allowed me for the Rent of one shope	vj ^d
Itm owinge me for mý last accounte as Dothe appere in the ende	
of the same Counte	xviijs j ^d

The some of his payments } ij^s iiij^d
 that he hathe layed forthe }
 whereof his Receýts come to xxxv^s vj^d

And so the counte dothe owe to Iohn Tybbotts that he leyde downe
 pte that he hathe layed forthe more thē he hathe Receýved xv^s ix^d
 whiche must be payed hým bý the next churche wardens.

⁊ that there is owinge to Iohn Tybbotts that he leyde downe	
for the pishe at wolverton	xj ^s
Itm owinge to Richarde Saunders that he layed forthe	
to wýtson lords of henley and barsewell w ^t the consent	
of the pishe	vjs viij ^d

The accompts of Richard Saunders for John
hills wýll made to the pishe the xvijth daye
of Ap'ill in the ffýfthe yere of the Reigne of oure
Soüeigne ladye quene Elýsabethe Ʒ ċ 1563^o for
one yere last past.

In p'mis Receýved of Ienýns wýffe of lapworthe for the Rent of one yere endýd at Mýhelmas in the iiij th yere of the Reigne of oure Soüeigne ladye quene Elýsabethe	xx ^s
Itm of Anthonýe býrde for one yers Rent endýd at the sayde Mýhelmas	x ^s
Itm of p ^r ston close Due at the seýd Mihelmas	vj ^s viij ^d
Itm for Sanderns due at the seýd mihelmas	vij ^s
Itm of Ric ^d Smýthe p a ^m at the seýd Mihelmas	iiij ^s
Itm of larraunce shaxspere due at the seýd feast	iiij ^s
S ^m a tot ^{lis} of his Receýts	} lijs viij ^d

The payments of Richard Saunders for
his seconde yere to be allowed hým for John
hills wýll.

In p'mis payed for carryenge in the hie wayes one Daye w ^t ffýve temes xvij ^d apece	vij ^s viij ^d
Itm payed to ix workmen	iiij ^s vj ^d
Itm payed to a workmā one Daye	iiij ^d
Itm for mendýnge ij mattocks	vij ^d
Itm for lýme to the churche howse & buttrýe	xv ^d
Itm for Crests and gutter creasts	iijs
Itm payed to the Tyler	xij ^d
Itm payed to the quenes ma ^{ts} vse forthe of Iohn hills wýll for one yere endýd at Mihelmas in the iiij th yere of her ma ^{te} reigne	vij ^s viij ^d

Itm payed for bread & ale to workemē in the hie wayes	viiij ^d
Itm Dealt on good frydaye	vjs viij ^d
Itm to the vicar and Clerke for one yere endyd at saynt marye daye in the ffyfthe yere of the quenes mat ^s Reigne	iiij ^s
Itm spende more in the hie wayes	xij ^d
Itm owinge as apperethe in mý last accompt	viijs j ^d
Itm p ^d to o ^r selves forthe of John hills wýll	ij ^s viij ^d

Sma of his payments	ls iij ^d .	And his
Receiyts this yere be	lijs viij ^d .	And he
Dothe owe for John hills wýll to be payed to John shaxspere receyvinge the office	ij ^s vj ^d	

Itm there is owinge to the seýd Richarde Saunders that
he layd Downe to wýtson lords of henley & barswell
w^t the consent of the pishe vjs viij^d
whiche they have agreed must be payed hym agayne
forthe of the church counte & not oute of John hills wýll.

anno dñi 1564

ṁ that on sondaye the xxiiij daye of apryll yn the yeare of owre Lord god
 1564 George Gryssold beyng church man for the church parte/made hys
 accownte before the baylye and other honest men of the paryshe for the fyrste
 yeare of hys office and hys Receytes and paymentes beyng cownted there
 remayneth yn hys handes iijs

ṁ that Jhon Shaxspere beyng church man for Iohn hylles Wyll made
 hys accownte the same yeare and daye before the baylye and other honest men
 of the pyshe for the fyrst yeare of hys office lyckwyse and hys Receytes and
 paymentes beyng cownted there remayneth yn hys handes xij^s viij^d

anno dñi 1565

ṁ that on sondaye the iiij daye of June yn the yeare of owre lord god
 1565 George Grysold beyng church man for the church parte made
 hys accownt before the baylye and other honest men of the pyshe for the
 second yeare of hys office / and hys receytes and paymentes beyng
 cownted there remayneth yn hys handes vj^s

ṁ that Iohn Shaxspere beyng church man for Iohn hylles Wyll
 mad hys accownte the same yeare and day for the seconde yeare of
 hys offyce lycke wyse and hys Receytes and paymentes beyng coñted
 there remayneth yn hys handes xxxj^s iiij^d

anno dni 1566

ṁ that on sonday the xxviiij day of Apryll yn the yeare of owre lord god
 1566 George grysold beyng church man for the church parte mad hys
 accownt before the baylye and other honest men of the pyshe for the thyrd
 yeare of hys offyce and hys receytes and paymentes beyng cownted there
 remayneth yn hys handes viij^s viij^d whyche he delyvered to Wyllm Cowp
 then receyvynge the offyce

ṁ that Ihon Shaxspere made hys accownt for Iohn hylles Wyll the same
 yeare and day for the thyrd yeare of hys offyce lyck Wyse and hys Receytes
 and paymentes beyng cownted there remayneth yn hys handes xviijs
 Whyche he delyvered to Iohn benet then receyvynge the offyce

ṁ y^t John Shakespere doth owe to y^e pryshe for wood sold
 yn hys yere xx^s

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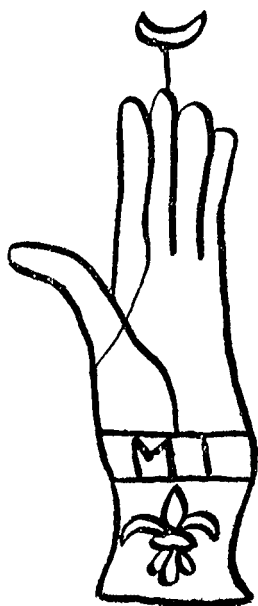


Illustration of Paper Mark on p. 31.

The Receytes of Ihon benett beyng churcheman for Iohn hylles
 wyll the fyrst yere of hys offyce and hys accountes made before
 the parryshe on sonday the xx day of Aprýl yn the ix yere
 of owre sov'eygne lady elysabethe by the grace of god quene of etcete.

In primis Receýved of Ihon Ienyns for one holle yeres rent dew att myhellmas yn the yere of owre lord god 1566	xx ^s
Item Receýved of Anthony býrd of Shrowley	x ^s
Item for Sanderns	viiij ^s
Item of Iohn grysold	vj ^s viij ^d
Item of Rychard smýthe	iiiij ^s
It of Thomas Shaxsper	iiiij ^s
Item Receýved of Jhon shaxsper yn stocke when I entred ynto the offyce	xviij ^s

Some of my Receýtes wythe the stocke	iiij ^{li} x ^s viij ^d
--------------------------------------	---

The paymentes of Iohn benett to be alowed hym for the same

In primis payd for vj teames yn the hye Way one Daye	viiij ^s
Item for Worke men to stok and fyll the same	xx ^d
Item to John býrd for xiiij load of stones	ij ^s ij ^d
Item to John Reve and John Dall for V load	x ^d
Item for alle to make them all to drynke	vij ^d
Item payd to the quenes maiester vse	viiij ^s viiiij ^d
Item Delte on good fryday	vj ^s viij ^d
Item payed to owre selves	ij ^s viij ^d

Some of my paymentes	xxxj ^s iij ^d
And ther remaýnethe yn my handes	xxxix ^s v ^d

1567.

The Accomptes of Wýlſm cowp for the churche parte mad to the pyshe
 on sonday the xxiiij Day of Aprýl yn the ix yere of oure sov'eygne lady
 elysabethe for one yere last paste

In primis Receýved of Iohn Shaxsper for harveyſ	viiij ^s viij ^d
Item Receýved of the same Ihon for lýāce	vj ^s viiiij ^d
Item for smalley medowe	xj ^d
Item of Thomas Tyner	iiij ^s vj ^d

Item Reseyved of Richard Shaxsper	iijs ^s iiij ^d
Item for packwoddes	x ^s
Item for hockstyd	iiij ^d
Item of Ihon Avarne	iiij ^d
Item forthe of broke forlonge	j ^d
Item of Ihon Shaxsper for Wodd	xix ^s
Item Receyved of george grysold when I entred yn to the offyce	viijs ^s viij ^d
Item Receyved for the whytson alle	ix ^s

Some of mý receytes iiij^{li} xjs^s ij^d

The paymentes of Wyflm cowp to be alowed forthe of the same

In primis for bread and alle when I receyved the offyce	viijs ^s
Item spent at the Arche Decones vȳsȳtacȳon for makȳnge o ^r bȳlles and delyȳynge the same and for own dȳn ¹	iiij ^s
Item payd to Thomas Sanders for kepȳng the belles	ij ^s
Item Delt on the Asentȳon Day and spent yn the hȳe wayes accordȳng to m ^r oldnales wyll	x ^s
Item payd for the homely bok	iijs ^s
Item payd for viij yardes of buckeram for the table	v ^s iiij ^d
Item payd for bread and wyne for the cōmunȳon all the yeare	iijs ^s viij ^d o ^b
It for a boke of praȳer agaȳnst the turke	vj ^d
Item to the plumer for mendȳng the lead	vij ^s
Item payd for a bell rope	xvj ^d
Item payd to the glacyer for glas and workman shype	iiij ^s iiij ^d
Item for halfe a strȳke of lȳme	ijj ^d
Item for bread and Wȳne to serve the cōmunȳon at ester and all the wole before	iijs ^s vj ^d

Some of mý payments xlvjs^s xjd^d o^b

And there remaȳnethe yn mý hand xxiiij^s iiij^d

¹ Viz. dinner.

The accountes of Iohn benett for John hylles Wyll made before the pyshe
on sondaye the xvj Day of maye beyng the second and last year of hys
offyce and the tenth yeare of owre soverayne ladye quene elysabethe
et cetera anno dñi 1.5.6.8

In primis Receyved of Ihon Jenyns of Lapworthe for one yeres rent endyd at mychaelmas yn the nynthe yeare of quene elysabethe	xx ^s
Item of anthony byrd of Shrewley	x ^s
Item receyved of Rychard smythe	iiij ^s
Item Receyved of Thomas Shaxspere	iiij ^s
Item of Ihon Dalle	viiij ^s
Item Re of Iohn Grysold	vj ^s viij ^d
Item the stocke remaynynge yn my hand as appeareth yn my last account	xxxix ^s v ^d

Some of my Receytes }
wythe the stocke ys } iiij^{li} xij^s j^d

The paymentes of Ihon benett to be allowed forthe of the same

In primis payd for vj teames one day yn the hyghe wayes	ix ^s iiij ^d
Item paid to Ihon Reve for stones a leven load ¹	xxij ^d
Item paid to Ihon Dalle ix load	xvij ^d
Item Ihon byrd one load	ij ^d
Item yn bread and alle the same day	x ^d
Item the quenes maiestyes rente	viiij ^s viij ^d
Item the Wytson farthynges	ij ^s vj ^d
Item paid to the clerke for one hole yeare	ij ^s
Item to nycholas Sly for the halfe yeare	xij ^d
Item allowed Anthony byrd of Shrowley	viiij ^d
Item Dealt on good fryday last paste	vj ^s viij ^d
Item paid to owre selves as ys accostomed	ij ^s viij ^d
Item paid for wrytynge myne accompte yn thys boke	iiij ^d

Some of my paymentes whyche I }
have paid thys my last yeare ys } xxxviiij^s ij^d

And so all thynges allowed hym there dothe
remayne of Ihon hylles wyll—liij^s xj^d

¹ Viz. eleven loads.

The accountes of Wyllm Cadyss for the charge parte made before the xxij day of may bying the second and last year of his office and the countie of Wyllm for the last year of his office
anno dni 1559

In primis received of Iohn Grayson for parlye	viii s
Item for byanner	v s viii d
Item for smaller meddles	xi s
Item for pockettyd	iii s
Item for more land	iii s viii d
Item for park waddes	xi s
Item for sent mary leston	iii s
Item of bygned Grayson	iii s viii d
Item for brack for long	i s
Item for great spore	vi s
Item received for the escheq	xi s viii d
Item for stock in my hand	xx s

The paymentes of Wyllm Cadyss to be alotted hym for the of the same

In primis paid for bread and alle Wyne made my last account	v s
Item paid to Thomas leys for cooperation done on the clerkes gale	xi s viii d
Item at the bystacyon at War Wyke	xi s
Item doth on the Assentyon day and befood in the galle Wyke	xi s
Item for mending the charge Wyke	xi s
Item paid for kipping the bellies	xi s
Item for bread and Wyne for the commyn at exystennas	xi s
Item paid for adope for the luttell bell	xi s
Item bread and Wyne at the commyn at candelmas day	xi s
Item for wyght for the bellies	xi s
Item spent at candelmas Wyne the luttell the commyn cappe	xi s
Item the payer of the commyn cappe	xi s
Item for the commyn at othe tyme	xi s
Item for mending my account	xi s

Some of my paymentes bying
I have paid the my last year
and so all thynges allowed me
doth remaine of the charge stock

The accountes of Wyflum cowp for the churche parte made before the pyshe on sonday the xvj day of maye beyng the seconde and last yeare of hys offyce and the tenthe of oure soveraigne ladye quene elysabethe et cetera annodni. 1.5.6.8.

In primis Receyved of Ihon Shaxspere for harvys	viijs viij ^d
Item for lyannce	vjs viij ^d
Item for smallej medowe	vj ^d
Item for hockstyd	iiij ^d
Item for moreland	iijs vj ^d
Item for packwoddes	x ^s
Item for sente mary leyton	iiij ^d
Item for Rychard Shaxsper	iijs iiij ^d
Item for broke for long	j
Item for great shope	vij ^d
Item Receyved for the chalys	ljs iiij ^d
Item for stocke yn my hand	xxiijs iiij ^d

The paymentes of Wyflum cowper to be alowed hym forthe of the same

In primis payd for bread and alle when I made my last accownte	vj ^d
Item payd to thomas ley for Reperatyons done on the clerkes howse	xvjs iiij ^d
Item at the vysytacyon at War-Wyk	iijs
Item delt on the Ascentyon Day and bestoed yn the hyghe wayes	x ^s
Item for mendyng the churche Rayles	xx ^d
Item payd for kepyng the belles	ijs
Item for bread and wyne for the coṃnyon at chrystemas	xij ^d
Item payd for a Rope for the lyttell bell	xvj ^d
Item bread and wyne at the coṃunyon at candelmas day	xij ^d
Item for whytlether for the belles	vij ^d
Item spent at coventrye when we bowghte the coṃunyon cuppe	xvj ^d
Item the pryce of the coṃunyon cuppe	xliijs vj ^d
Item for the coṃunyon at estur tyme	vij ^s iiij ^d
Item for wrytyng my accownte	iiij ^d

Some of my paymentes whyche I	} iiij ^{li} ix ^s x ^d
have payd thys my last yeare ys	
and for all thyngs allowed me there	} x ^s iiij ^d
Dothe remayne of the churche stocke	

The accountes of Jhon collytt for the churche parte on sonday the
xv Day of may beyng the fyrst yeare of hys offyce and the eleventhe
yeare of owre sov'eign lady elysabethe anno dñi 1·5·6·9.

In primis Receyved of Jhon Shaxsper for harvys for one yeare endyd at myhelmas last past	viijs iiij ^d
Item of the same Jhon for lyañce	vjs viij ^d
Item of Ihon horsley for pack wodes	x ^s
Item of thomas tyner	iijs vj ^d
Item of Rychard Shaxsper	iijs iiij ^d
Item for smalley meddow	xi ^d
Item for hocksted	iiij ^d
Item of Ihon Avarne	iiij ^d
Item forthe of brok forlong	i ^d
Item the great shoppe	vij ^d
Item the other shoppes	
Item Receyved of Wylm Cowp yn stock when I entered ynto the offyce	x ^s iiij ^d
Some of my receytes	xliiis ix ^d

The paymentes of Ihon Collyt to be alowed hym forthe of the same

In primis payed for bread and ale when I receyved the offyce	vij ^d
Item to thomas saunders for kepyng the belles	xij ^d
Item payd to the mendyng of hygh wayes and delt to the pore peple accordyng to m ^r oldnales wyll	x ^s
Ite to the clerke to the making of the seller flore at hys howse ¹	vs iiij
Item for trussyng one bell and mendyng the northe dore	xviij ^d
It bread and wyne for the coñunion at dyvers tymes	xviij ^d
Item the charges of the coñunyon at esture	vjs vij ^d oñ
Item for whyt lether for the belles	xij ^d
Item iiij Iren pynnes for the belles and a staple for the buttery dore	v ^d
Item for the coñnion on sonday last past	ij ^d oñ
Item payd to the glacyer for mendyng the wyndowes	vjs iiij ^d
Item payd for wrytyng my accownt yn thys boke	iiij ^d
Some of my paymentes ys	xxxiijs x ^d
whyche beyng alowed me there Dothe	
remayne yn my hand evyn	ix ^s xi ^d

¹ Clerk's house was next to Schoolmaster's house on right of existing main entrance to churchyard.

The accountes of Wyſſm Sanders beyng churchman for Ihon hylles
wyl mad the same yere and Day lyk wyse.

Item Receyved of Ihon Jenyns of lapworthe for one hole yere rent	xx ^s
Item Receyved of Jhon Dalle	viiij ^s
Item of Athony byrd of Shrowley	x ^s
Item of Thomas Shaxsper	iiij ^s
Item of Jhon grysold	vjs viij ^d
Item of the good wyfe smythe of pyñley	iiij ^s
Item the stocke whyche I receyved of Jhon benett	liij ^s vj ^d
Some of my Receytes Wytthe the stock	vli vjs vij ^d

The paymentes of Wyſſm Saunders to be allowed hym forthe of the same

In primis payed to owre selves as ys accustomed	ijs viij ^d
Item payd to Ihon fayrfaxe	ij ^s
Item payd to Ihon Reve for one Dayes worke wythe hys teame	xvj ^d
Item to Rycharde Saunder for one day	xvj ^d
Item payd to Ihon grysold	ijs viij ^d
Item to Wyſſm hancoxe	xvj ^d
Item payd to Work men	xxiiij ^d
Item payd for bread and ale	ix ^d
Item for xx loades of stones	iiij ^s
Item payd to Work men one day and bread and drynk	x ^d
Item payd to m ^r ludford	xxvjs viij ^d
Item to Coke of henley	viijs viij ^d
Item payd to Wyſſm Clynt	xij ^d
Item Delt to the pore on good fryday	vjs viij ^d
Item to m ^r ludford another tyme	xx ^s

Some of my paymentes	iiij ^{li} xxj ^d
whyche beyng allowed me ther	
dothe remayne yn my hand	xxiijs

The accountes of Ihon Collyt for hys second yeare and the xij yeare of owre
soroweygne lady elysabethe by the grace of god quene of yngland et : 15610

In primis receyved of Ihon Shaxper for harvys	viijs viij ^d
Item for lyance	vjs viij ^d
Item for smalleȳ medowe	xj ^d
Item for hogstyt and seynt mary leyton	viiij ^d
Item for moreland	iijs vj ^d
Item for pack woddes	xs
Item of Rychard Shaxsper	iijs iiij ^d
Item brok forlong and for the great shopp	xiiij ^d
Item for wod sold to Thomas Shaxsper	vij ^s
Item for wod sold	vs viij ^d
Item the stoke yn my hand	ixs xj ^d
Item Receyved of the yong men gathered by them toward the makynge of the churche porche	viijs

Some of my receyts wythe the stok iiij^{li} vs j^d

The paymentes of Jhon Collyt

In primis payed for mending the grett bell clapper	iijs
Item Delt to the pore peple and bestowed on hyghe wayes	xs
Item payd for a boke of the newe homelyes and a Key for the steple dore	xx ^d
Item the charges of the comynyon at Chrystemas and at ester	vij ^s j ^d
Item payd to Ihon Coxe for makynge the porche	xxiijs
Item for meat and drynk at the rearyng and sawynge the lathe	iijs iiij ^d
Item to Ihon ley for drawyng the tymber	ij ^s
Item for shyngle for the porche	xjs iiij ^d
Item payd for nayles	ijs vj ^d
Item payd for shynglyng the porche	iijs iiij ^d
Item spent at the Archdecōnes vysytacyon	xx ^d
Item payd to Jhon ley for caryage of tymber and shyngell	iijs
Item payd for mending the seates yn the churche	x ^d
payd for wrytyng myne accounte	iiij ^d

The hole some of my paymentes ys iiij^{li} xiijs
And so thys account dothe owe me vij^s xj^d

The Accountes of Wyllm Sanders for hys second yeare and the xij yeare of
owre sonereygne ladye elysabeth by the grace of god quene of yngland
et ce 15610

In primis Receyved of Jhon Jenyns for one yeres rent	xx ^s
Item Anthony byrd of Shrowley	x ^s
Item of Jhon Dalle	vij ^s
Item of the good smythe of pynleȳ	iiij ^s
Item of Thomas Shaxsper	iiij ^s

Some of mȳ receytes

The paymentes of Wyllm Sanders

In primis payed to Jhon Dalle for stones	iiij ^s
Item payed at War Wȳk at the vysitacyon	iiij ^s
Item payed to the clerke	ij ^s
Item mȳ charges at Worcetur	v ^s iiij ^d
Item payed to the somner	iiij ^d
Item payed to Coke of henleȳ	viiij ^s viij ^d
Item Dealt to the poore people on good frydaye	vj ^s viij ^d
Item payd to Wyllm Clynt	xij ^d
Item payd to Robart Coxe for makynge a seat in the churche	xvij ^d
Item payd to Thomas Atwod for iij bordes for the same seate	x ^d
Item for ij bordes of mȳne owne	vj ^d
Item for hys bordynge	xij ^d
Item payd at the vysytacyon for owre byll and for owre dyner	ij ^s
Item payd for a comunyon bok	iiij ^s iiij ^d

The accountes Wyllm hyl made the iiij Day of June for hys fyrst yeare
and the xiiij yeare of owre soūeygne ladye elysabethe by grace of god quene
of yngland france and Ireland et cete anno dñi 1571

	shaxsper	
In primis receyved of Jhon ^ for harvys		viijs viij ^d
Item for lyance		vjs viij ^d
Item of Thomas tyner		iijs vj ^d
Item of Rycharde Shaxsper		iijs iiij ^d
Item for hogstyd and S. marye leyton		vij ^d
Item of m ^r brokes		vj ^d
Item of Jhon horsley for packwoddes		xs
Item forthe of broke forlonge		j ^d

The some of my receytes ys xxxiijs vj^d

The payments of Wyllm hyl

In primis for bread and Wyne for the comnyon on Wyt sonday		vj ^d ob
Item spent at Worcetur when I was there		xxiiij ^d
Item for the comnyon the xxx day of Julye		iiij ^d ob
Item payed to the mason for mendyng the stone Wall aboute the churche yard		viijs ij ^d
Item payed for fetchyng a load of sand		xij ^d
Item payd to a Worke man the same tyme		vj ^d
Item for fallyng trees and cuttyng them to make the Rayles		vij ^d
Item for halfe a hyde of whyt lether		xviij ^d
Item the comnyon on Chrystenmas Day		vj ^d ob
Item delt to the pore people and bestoed yn the hyghe wayes accordyng to master oldnales wyll		xs
Item payd for a lock and Key		vij ^d
Item the charges of the comnyon at ester		vs j ^d
Item at the vysytacyon at War Wyck		ijs ij ^d
Item the comunion another tyme		iiij ^d ob
Item payd at Alcestur the xvij day of may		ix ^d
Item payd for ij beff ropes		ijs
Item for makyng cleane the churche howse		iiij ^d

The some of my paymentes ys xxxvjs v^d
and so thys accownt dothe owe me ijs x1^d

The Accountes of Thomas Shaxsper mad the iiij day of June for hys fyrst
 yeare 1571 and the xiiij yeare of owre soūeygne ladye elýsabethe by the
 grace of god quene of yngland france and yreland anno dñi 1571

In primis of Jhon Jenyns for one yeres rent	xx ^s
Item of Anthony byrd of Shrowleý	x ^s
Item of Wyñm Sanders	viijs
Item for preston clos	vjs viij ^d
Item of Walter Colman	iiij ^s
Item of mý selfe	liij ^s

Some of mý receytes lijs viij^d

The paymentes of Thomas Shaxsper
 to be alowed hym forthe of the same

Item payd to pore peple on good fryday	vjs viij ^d
Item payd to Worke men and for teames yn the hyghe wayes	xiijs liij ^d
Item payd to m ^r baylye for mearsmentes ¹	vjs viij ^d
Item to the clerke forthe of Jhon hýlles wýll	ij ^s
Item payd to owre selves	ijs viij ^d
Item the quenes maiestyes rent	viijs viij ^d
Item payd to Rychard Coxe for makyng the rayles abowte the churche yard	liij ^s
Item for hys bordyng x dayes	lijs
Item for drawyng tymber to the sawpytt	xviij ^d
Item to Jhon Reve for the caryage of týmber	xviij ^d
Item payd to Andrew byrd for Dygyng to sett up the Rayle postes	vjd
Item spent Rydyng to Wyscetur	xxi ^d
Item spent at Alcester	xxij ^d

The some of mý paymentes liiij^s jd

and so bý this account beýng made y^e liij daye of June
 1571 the pýshe owethe to Thomas shaxspere
 consederyng that Thomas eton receýved of antony
 býrd of the Receýts above seýd v^s to paye for lýmē
 that was spent about the churche

¹ viz. amercements.

The Receytes and the count of Wylm hyll
for hys second yere.

In primis Receyved of John shaxspere for Rent of harves	viijs iiij ^d
Item receyved of the same John for lyanncce	vjs viij ^d
Item of Thomas tyt	iijs vj ^d
Item of Rechard shaxsper	iijs iiij ^d
Item of hogstyd & seynct mari leyton	vij ^d
Item of mast ^r Broke for smaley medow	xj ^d
Item of John horsley for packewoodde	x ^s
It forthe of brokforlonge	j ^d
The some of my Receyts is	xxxiijs vj ^d

The acomptes of Thomas shaxspere
for hys second yeare

In primis Receýved of John Jenýns of lapworthe	xx ^s
Itým Receýved for the rent of my selffe	iiij ^s
Itým of John greshold for Rent	vj ^s viij ^d
Itm of Antony býrde of shrowley	x ^s
Itm receved of walter colman	iiij ^s
Itm receved for sanders	vij ^s

The some of my Receýtes lijs viij^d

Payments that Thomas shaxspere hathe leyd forthe
for the second yere to be alowed hym

In primis for teames and laborers in the hýghe waýs	iijs vjd
Item payed for a xj load of stones	xxij ^d
Item payd for bread and ale the same tyme	viijs ^d
Item payd for the witsons ^{iv} q	ij ^s
Item payd to owre selves owt of Iohn hýlls wýll	ij ^s viijs ^d
Item Dealed on the good ffriday to the pore	vjs viijs ^d
Item payd to the clearke	ij ^s
Item payd to John býrd for the cow	ij ^s
Item payd to Roger týbbotts for the same cow	v ^s
Item payd for the quenes Rent	viijs viijs ^d
Item payd for a Booke	viijs ^d
Item payd at Worcetur	ij ^s jd
Item owýnge to me of mý last acount	vjs v ^d
Item for wrýtynge vp this mý acount	iiij ^d
the some of mý paments is	xlvs vjd
mý receýts is	lijs viijs ^d
And so by this acount thomas shaxspere owethe	
to þ ^e next churchē warden	vij ^s

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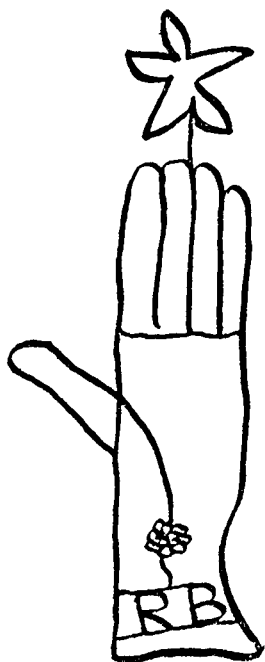


Illustration of Paper Mark on p. 45.

The acompts of John horsleý þ^e yonger for his fyrst yeare
made to the pýshnors ā. d. 1572

In primis off John shaxspere for Rent	xv ^s
Item of Thomas týñ	iijs vjd
Item of Rechard shaxspere þ ^e wever	iijs iiij ^d
It of John horsleý for packewoods	x ^s
It of Wýlīm sanders forthe of brokeforlonge	i ^d
It of Thomas oldnale for smale meddow	xjd
Itm of wýllýam leý for hogsted	iiij ^d
Itm of John averne for seýnt marý leýton	iiij ^d
Itm of John fox for rent of the shopps	xij ^d
Som of mý receýts is	xxxiiij ^s vjd

The payments of John harsley to be alowed
hým agayne for the yeare aforeseyd

Item for bread & ale at the account	viiij ^d
Item payd to lord of henley wotton towards þ ^e Repayrynge of ther brýgge	xij ^d
Item payd to þ ^e lord of henley towards ther bell	xx ^d
Item dealed to the pore for m ^r John oldnafts wýll	vjs viij ^d
Item payd for whytt lether	ijs vj ^d
Item payd for a beñ Rope	xiiij ^d
Item payd to Robert týbbetts towards þ ^e beñ	iijs iiij ^d
It payd for a galand of ale at the takýnge downe of the bell	ij ^d
It for swepýnge the churche howse	ij ^d
Item payd for halfe a hýde of whýtt lether	iijs
Item for bread & wýne for the cōmūō vn s mathes daye	vij ^d
Item payd for drynke at setting vpp the bell	v ^d
Item payd to John benet for v pounds of yron for the letle beñ claper & nales & a clýpe of Iron	ijs
It payd for halfe a hundred of týle	vj ^d
Item fo for a strýke of lýme	vj ^d
Item payd for výttele one daye	vj ^d
Item payd to the týlor one daye and for nals	viiij ^d
It payd for ij boke for the výker	iiij ^d
Item payd for a galand of ale apō s hews daye to þ ^e Rýngers	iiij ^d
It payd to John lee for turnýng pýlpýtt beñ claper and for a clýppa of yron fo one of the bellwheles	vj ^d
It payd to John fearfox for kepenge of the bell one yeare	ijs
It payd for the cōmūion on chrýstenmas daye	v ^d oñ
Item payd for ij galans & a quart of wýne for the communiō at estere	vj ^d

Itim payd for bread the seyd tyme for the coṃiniō	iiij ^d
It payd at the vicitacyō for the vitson \overline{q} ¹	xij ^d
Itim payd for makynge of one bylls and putynge them vp	viiij ^d
Itim payd for wrytynge myne a count	iiij ^d

The some of my Receytes is	xxxiiij ^s vj ^d
some of his payments to be alowed hym agayne	
ffourth of hys receyts is	xxxviij ^s v ^d oḃ
So by thys a count there is owynge to John harsley	
	ij ^s x ^d oḃ

¹ Whitsun-farthings.

The Account of Robart Tybbatts On of the
 churche wardens ffor John hylles wýll
 ffor hys ffyrste year made before the
 parysnos in Anno Regni due xxx Elizabeth & 3^d
 decimo Quinto 1.5.7.2.

Itm p ^{is} mis Receýved of John gryssolde	vjs viij ^d
It of Anthonye Byrde	x ^s
It of wýllm Saund ^r s	vij ^s
It of John Jenýns	xx ^s
Itm of Coleman	iiij ^s
It of Thomas Shaxper	iiij ^s
More of Thomas Shaxp w th }	
Remaynethe of hys Account }	vij ^s
Itm of wýllm Saunde ^r s	liijs iiij ^d
It of Thomas Tyner	ij ^{li}
It of John horseleýe out of hys receýts	iijs iiij ^d
It gethered towards the bell	v ^s

	S ^m a	ix ^{li} xvj ^d	
Whereof payed to henleýe due }			vij ^s viij ^d
to the quenes mat ⁱ			
Itm to John ffarefoxe			ij ^s
Itm to the bell founder			iiij ^{li} iiij ^s
or Expensis Thythe ^r & whom ¹			xiijs xj ^d
It ffor the makinge of the obligatō			vij ^d
It to the Rýngers in Alle			ij ^d
spent at foxes at the bringeng of the bell			v ^d
It to the bell founder on St pet ^r s daye			lix ^s ij ^d
It to the Rýnge ^r s on Saynt hues daye			iiij ^d
To the poore on good frydaye			vjs viij ^d
It Or dyn ^{ns} at the vÿsýtacon			xix ^d
It payed to or Seelves			ijs viij ^d

S^ma vij^{li} xvijs vij^d
 whereof to be allowed out of } xvi^d
 this to other churcheman }

And so for this wholl } xiiij^d
 yeares account owethe }

¹ Our expenses thither and home.

The Accounts of Iohn horsleye the yongor
ffor his Second yeare made to the pyhe

Rent

Rec. Itm of Iohn Shaxp ^r	xjs
Itm of Thomas Tyner	iijs vjd
Itm of Richard shaxxper	iijs iiij ^d
Itm of Iohn horsley for pacwods	x ^s
Itm of willm saund ^r s for brokforlonge	j ^d
Itm of Thomas oldnall for smaley medow	xi ^d
It of willm leye for hogsted	iiij ^d
It of Iohn Av ['] ne for St. marye leyton	iiij ^d
It of foxe for Rent of the shopes	xij ^d

Some of his Receipts } xxxiiij^s vjd
for that yeare

wherof leayd out.

In p ⁱ mis for bred & ale at o ^r laste Account	v ^d
Itm for halfe A Quier of paper	ij ^d
It for the Co ^m union on whyt sondaye	viiij ^d
It for mending the churche flore	iiij ^d
It at Stretford at y ^e syttinge to y ^e chaunsel ^r	xij ^d
It the same daye for o ^r dyn ^u s & horsmeat	xij ^d
It for A Bellrope	xiiij ^d
It Delt to the poore on thassention daye	vjs viij ^d
It to foxe for keping the beles	ij ^s
It for the co ^m union the xxij daye of Novembr	xiiij ^d
It to the Tyler & his man	ij ^s
It for a Stryk of lyme	viiij ^d
It to Iohn Benet for mending y ^e bell in Decembr	vj ^d
It for A nother bell Rope ^	xiiij ^d
It Bred & wyne on chrysmas daye	xiiij ^d
It at the visytacon at warr o ^r dyn ^u s & o ^r byll	vjs
It for whytlether for the bels	xvj ^d
It bred & wyne at Aster	vjs ij ^d
It more for bred & wyne	x ^d
It Remaynethe in mye dett at my last account	ijs x ^d o ^b

S^m

xxxviijs j^d o^b

And so for this yeare the pyhe Oethe } iijs vij^d o^b.
hym for this account

The account of Robart Tibbats for his second
yeare for John hils will made before the pyhno^rs

Rec in Rent

In p ⁱ mis of John Genýns	xx ^s
It of Antoni Bryde	x ^s
It of x ^p ofor ¹ dale	viijs ^s lijs ^s viij ^d
It of Colemā	iijs ^s
It of John grýssold	vjs ^s viij ^d

more Rec

It of Thomas Shaxp	xiijs ^s iiij ^d
w ^{ch} Rem of hýs fine	
It of Thomas Týn	xx ^s
S ^m a	iiij ^{li} vj ^d

wherof payed

In p ⁱ mis to willm hýll	xjs ^s
It to willm hancoxe	xij ^d
It to the Clarke	xij ^d
It to henleye	viijs ^s viij ^d
It for the caryage of the Bell	vjs ^s viij ^d
It to the clark more	xij ^d
It To the Ring ^r s on St hues daye	xij ^d
At the výtacion	xvj ^d
geven to the poore on good ffryday	vjs ^s viij ^d
It at the last vysytacon }	
w th y ^e whytsonfarthings }	viijs ^s
It to the Belfound ^r	xxvjs ^s viij ^d
It o ^r Expensis	ijs ^s xi ^d
It to thomas Bird in ernest for the }	
mendinge of y ^e churchhouse }	vj ^d
It a boke to the clark for y ^e churche	ijs ^s iiij ^d
It to o ^r Seelves out of Joh hiles will	ijs ^s viij ^d

And so for this yeares account }
the pyhe othe hým

iiij^s vij^d

The account of John horsleye fore his
third yeare made to the pyhe

Rent	In p ⁱ mis Rec in Rent as in m ^y second yeare	xxxiiij ^s vj ^d
fine	It of John leaye for a fine	iiij ^{li}

Wherof leayd out

In p ⁱ mis for bred & ale at the laste Account	vj ^d
It delt to the poore y ^e sonndaye Before whytsontyte	vj ^s viij ^d
It Bred & wyne on whytsondaye for y ^e comunion	xj ^d
It to the glasyer	v ^s ij ^d
It for stones & carýng to the hýe weaye	vj ^s viij ^d
It for mettell that went to the Bell	iiij ^s iiij ^d
It o ^r chargis	ij ^s ij ^d
It at the Taking downe of the Bell	xviij ^d
It at the hanging vp of the bell	xx ^d
It for halfe A hyde of whytlether	ij ^s x ^d
It for A Bell Rope	xvj ^d
It Bred & wyne the sonnday af ^r S ^t hues daye	x ^d
It the same daye to the Rýng ^{rs}	viiij ^d
It Bred & wyne on Chrysmas daye	x ^d
It to foxe for keping the Bels	ij ^s
It Bred & wyne on candlemas daye	ix ^d
It ffor Bred & ix qua ^{rs} & a half & ij ^d of Wýne at aster	vij ^s vj ^d
It at the visýtacon at war ^ṛ	vij ^s
It for makinge the bell clapr buckles & nayles	iiij ^s
It for mending the churchyarde wale & lyme	ij ^s viij ^d
It to John cowp ^r for y ^e bell clapr & othe ^r Tryflies	xij ^d
It for half a hide of whytlether	ij ^s viij ^d
It for bred & wyne for the co ^m union	xv ^d
It for mending the churchhouse	ij ^s iiij ^d
It at ast ^r to tharsdecon ¹ & his dýn ⁿ	xx ^d
It a bell Roppe for the lyttle Bell	xvj ^d
It for mending the church Rayles	iiij ^s j ^d

and hit ys so

And so Remaynethe in his hands of his	} xxxviij ^s viij ^d
The wholle yeares account. whiche	
Res ethe towards the payment of that	
debt of x ^{li} due to the Belfounder	
Thirty seven shillings sevenpence	

John horsle ys allowed hym by John ²
Received hys accompt ij^s v^d

¹ Archdeacon.

² Meaning—as allowed by John Hill's will.

The account of John hyls wýll býe Rob^t Tibbats
ffor hys Thirde yeare made to the pyhno's

Rent. rec. fine	In p ⁱ mis Rec in Rent as in mý Second yeare It. Rec. of John leaye for a fine	lijs viij ^d iiij ^{li}
	Wherof leade out	
	In p ⁱ mis to the plýmer	xij ^s viij ^d
	It to henleye due to the Quenes m ^{ti}	viijs viij ^d
	To John gryssold for cariage in the hý weay	iijs iiij ^d
	It for pyckinge of Stones	xvj ^d
	It to John leaye for cariage	iijs
	John Birde for ij dayes	iijs
	Rob ^t Tibbats ij dayes	iijs
	Willm hancoxe j daye	xvj ^d
	to hancoxe sonne for ffilling y ^e Tübrell	iiij ^d
	Thomas Saund's ij dayes	viijs
	Thomas gryssold j daye	iiij ^d
	Whyte of whyt leye j ýate day	iiij ^d
	Orsbarsonn j daye	iiij ^d
	more ffor pyckinge Stones	xx ^d
	Spent at Shaxp's ij dayes	ijs iiij ^d
	Expensýs goinge to ba'gaine for the bell	viijs viij ^d
	It Brynging of her whome	iiij ^s ij ^d
	It makinge the obligacon	ijs
	ffor helpe to lode the Bell	iiij ^d
	ffor mettell	iiij ^s iiij ^d
	to the Clarke	xij ^d
	ffor hanginge upe the Bell	iiij ^d
	more to the clerke for sweping the churche	xij ^d
	It to the Bellfound ^r	xl ^s
	It for cariage of the Bell	xviij ^s
	It Bestowed of hampton men	vj ^d
	On good frydaye to the poore	vjs viij ^d
	ffor cariag of Earthe & a lode of Sande	xviij ^d
	It for o ^r Allowanc	ijs viij ^d
	It for vij lode of stones of Rog ^r Av'ne	xiiij ^d
	It for ca ^r riage	xviij ^d
	It anothe ^r daies cariage	xviij ^d
	To ffoxe for ij dayes fyllinge	viijs
	to Ric ^d baker for fylling y ^e Tübrell	viijs
	Spent at foxes ij daies	vj ^d
	It ffor cariage of Tymbr for y ^e church Railes	vj ^d

And so vppon his Thrd yeares
account y^e pyhe owethe hým to be } xxiiij^d
p^d bye the next Churhman
And also for wryting yt vp of the } viij^d
accounts in this Booke

The accountes of Wýřm ley churchē man for the churchē parte made on sonday
ye xix day of August before the parýshones the yere of oure lord god: 1576

In primis Receyved of elnore shaxsper for one whole yeres rent of lyance and harvys dewe at mychaelmas last past	xx ^s
Item of Thomas Tynd	iijs vjd
Item of John horsley for packwodes	x ^s
Item of Rychard Shaxsper for tythenges acre	iijs iiij ^d
Item for hogstid	iiij ^d
Item for S. Marye leyton	iiij ^d
Item for smalleý meddowe	vjd

The some of mý receytes ýs xxxiijs v^d

The paymentes of Wýřm ley

Item payd for a pewter botteř	vjd
Item for bread and wyne for the cōmunon	ix ^d
Item to John bucke for ij lockes	ijs
Item halfe a hide of whit lether	ijs iiij ^d
Item to Richard whyte for dyging yearthe one day	v ^d
Item to the clerke for keping the belles	xij ^d
Item payd to carpenters and workmen for worke done to the churchē howse and scole howse	xij ^s iiij ^d
Item the glacyer for mending the wyndow agaynst the vycars seat payd for ledges Royninges ¹ and nayles for the Scole howse	xxij ^d
Item payd for sweping the churchē howse ij times	iiij ^d
Item payd to the plymīd for mending the leades on the new yle	iijs iiij ^d
Item the cōmunon at christmas	ix ^d
Item for makýng a mattoke	xvj ^d
Item the cōmunon on pařm sonday	ijs ix ^d
Item the charges of the cōmunon on ester day and all the weke before	v ^s ij ^d
Item the comunon on low sonday	ij ^d oř
At the Arche decons vysitacion for Wytson far thinges	xij ^d
Item for makýng and delyv'inge owre býř there	vij ^d
Item the charges of owre dýn ther	iijs vij ^d
Item payd to the glacier for mending the wyndow agaynst the baylys seat	iijs ij ^d

The some of mý paymentes are even xlv^s vjd oř

Wher bý hit aperethe the churchē ys yndetted

to me the some of xij^s oř

The accountes of Jhon Reve churchē man for Jhon hilles wyll made on
sonday the xix day of August befor the parisheners for his first yeare Anno dñi
1576

In primis receyved of Thomas Shaxsper for one yeres rent	iiij ^s
Item of Jhon Jenins of lapworthe	xx ^s
Item for Anthonye byrd of Shrowley	x ^s
Item of Jhon gryssold	vj ^s viij ^d
Item of Colman of pinley	iiij ^s
Item of Wyllm Sanders	vij ^s
Item Receyved for ssold wode sold	xx ^d

The some of my receytes ys liiij^s iiij^d

The paymentes of Jhon Reve for his fyrst yeare

In primis payd for bread and ale when we receyved the office first	iiij ^d
Item payd to Coke of henley	vij ^s viij ^d
Item payd for sawing tymber that went to the churchē and Scole howse	iiij ^s viij ^d
Item payd for nayles and hinges and hokes for the churchē howse dores	xx ^d
Item payd for one hundred bord and iiij fotte to make the dores and wyndowes	iiij ^s
Item to Alexandre smithe for carieng Rodes and bordes	vij ^d
Item ij galanes of aff geven to the Ryngers on s hewes day	vij ^d
Item to the clerke	xij ^d
It carieng a xi loades of yearthe to the mending of the churchē howse	xvj ^d
It for bleding the tres and caryeng the tymber to the churchē howse	xx ^d
Item delt on good fryday to the pore people	vj ^s viij ^d
Item to the whytson lord of preston	iiij ^s iiij ^d
Item to be alowed to owre selves	ij ^s viij ^d

The wholle some of my paymentes ys xlv^s iiij^d
whiche being alowed me there dothe
remayne yn my handes ix^s

The Accowntes of Wyllm ley for his second yeare Anno dñi 1577.

In primis of elnore shaxsper for one yerres rent	xv ^s
Item of Rychard shaxsper	iijs iiij ^d
Item Alys Tyner	iijs vj ^d
Item Ihon horsley	x ^s
Item smalley meddow	xj ^d
Item S. mary leyton	iiij ^d
Item hogstyd	iiij ^d
Item of elnore Shaxsper for her fyne of harvys	vj ^{li} xiiij ^s
It of Rychard shaxsper for hys fyne	x ^{ls}
Item of elnore Shaxsper for wod sold	xxxv ^s iiij ^d
Item receyved for iij okes sold	ix ^s
Item v ashes sold	viijs

The some xii^{li} xix^s vij^d

Item to be alowed for mý last accownte	viijs oñ
Item payd for ij bell Ropes	iijs ij ^d
Item delt on sonday after the Ascendcion day	vjs viij ^d
Item payd to the wytson lord of lapworthe	iijs iiij ^d
Item preston whitson lord	iijs iiij ^d
Item the comunon on whit sonday clerke	v ^d
Item the for keping the belles one yeare	ijs
The coñnion on sonday the v of Septem	v ^d
The vysitacon on thursday the xiiij of September	iijs
To owen of War Wyk	vj ^d
Item Jhon buk for v barres of Iren for the west wyndow	xiiij ^d
Jhon cowp for ij Clyppes of Iren	ijs
One dayes work attēdyng on the glacier	vj ^d
Item the great bell claper mended	iiij ^d
Item coñunion on Chrissemas day	viijs
It the glacier on newyeres day	xljs vj ^d
The clerk for keping the belles	xij ^d
To Jhon cowp for mending the belles	iijs vj ^d
The coñunion at ester last	viijs viij ^d
At the Archedecons visitacion	iijs viij ^d
a cord for mending the font and for mēding the lýd	iiij ^d
Item payd to elnore Shaxsper w ^{ch} she had before payd to baldwyn uttinge for wrytynge a bok	* * vjs viij ^d

some of mý paymentes v^{li} vjs j^d

whiche beinge alowed me there dothe remayne
yn mý handes in stocke vij^{li} xiijs vij^d

The accountes of wyſſm ley for his third yeare

In primis of elnore shaxspere	xv ^s
Item Allýs tyñ	iijs vj ^d
Item of Jhon horsley	x ^s
Item of Rychard Shaxper	iijs iiij ^d
Item for smalleý meddow	xj ^d
Item for s. marye leyghton	iiij ^d
Item for hogstid	iiij ^d
Item of Richard cowp for wode sold	xl ^s
Item of elnore Shaxper for coppis wod	xxv ^s
Item for ij tres sold at bewsall to m ^r skinñ ¹	vj ^s

The some of mý Receytes

vli iiij^s v^dThe paymentes of wyſſm ley for his iiij^{de} yeare

In primis p ^d to the glacier	xij ^d
Item for a beſſ Rope	xxij ^d
Item delt on the Ascecion day	vjs viij ^d
Item at mý lord býshoppes vysitacion	iiij ^d
Item to the clerke for keping the belles	ijs
Item to Roger Shaxsper for mending the bell whelle	xvj ^d
To Jhon Cowper for ij Clippes of Iren	iiij ^d
Item payd for a bell rope	ijs
Item for pavýng the churche flore	iijs
Item mending the waſſ	xviiij ^d
Item the charges of the comunion on palm sonday and all y ^e weke	ix ^s xi ^d
Item for whitlether	iijs viij ^d
Item comunion at one týme	xviiij ^d
It making the great beſſ whell	iijs viij ^d
It tymber for the same	ijs
Item for a bell rope	ijs
Item the comunion on Christemas day	xviiij ^d
Item mending the steple dore and the lock of same	xiiij ^d
Item payd at stratford for the statute of cappes	xiiij ^s iiij ^d
Item payd for writing mýne account	iiij ^d

The some of my paymentes ýs lviijs j^d

whiche being alowed me ther dothe

remayne yn mý handes

xlvjs iiij^d¹ viz. Skinner.

The Accountes of Jhon Reve for his third yeare

In primis receyved yn rent as ys accostomed	lij ^s viij ^d
Item for wod sold	x ^{ls}
Item of Rychard Shaxspere	vij ^s
Item of Rychard whit	iiij ^s
Item of Nycholas Grene for parcell of his fyne	ij ^{li}
Item for buria ^{ll} of the bayly yn the churche ¹	ij ^s iiij ^d

The some of my receytes viij^{ti} vij^s

The paymentes for his iiij^{de} yeare

In primis to the clerke for keping the belles	ij ^s
Item to coke of henley	viiij ^s viij ^d
Item for quarrelles for the churche flore	vj ^s viij ^d
It for a burshe ^{ff} of lyme	xij ^d
It for bread and alle	xj ^d
Item delt on good fryday	vj ^s viij ^d
Item payd to robart tybbot whiche was owinge him	xxiiij ^d
Item alowed to owre selves	ij ^s viij ^d
Item for writing my account	iiij ^d

The some of my paymentes xxx^s x^d
 whiche being allowed me ther dothe
 remayne yn my handes vj^{li} xvi^s ij^d

¹ ? John Reve the elder.

The Accountes of Wylm ley for his fowrthe yeare mad on sonday the
tenth of May before the Vicar and perýshoners Anno dñi 1579
the xxi yeare of quene elysabeth

payd to Jhon Collins Constable	In prymis of elnore Shaxsper for one yeres rent	xv ^s
	Item of Jhon horsley	x ^s
	Item of Alys Tynd	iijs vjd
	It of Rychard Shaxsper	iijs iiij ^d
	Item for smalley meddowe	xi ^d
Wylm ley hadde payd oute of his handes at the xxiijthe Auguste yn the xxiijth yere of or sorveigne lady elysabethe reynes Rychard sanders Thomas shaxsper Rychard shaxsper and Thomas ley	for s. mary leyghton and for hogstid	viijs ^d
	for one shoppe one quarter	v ^d
	Item of Allys collyt for burieng her husband yn the churche	iijs iiij ^d
	The some of my receytes	xxxvijs ij ^d
	The paymentes are as folowethe	
	In primis payd for Wytson farthinges	xii ^d
	Item delt on sonday after the Ascencion day	vjs viij ^d
	Item halfe a hide of whit lether	ijs viij ^d
	Item to a pore man of budbrok	vj ^d
	The comon of sonday the last of August	viijs ^d
	for keping the belles	ijs
	It for iij load of tyles for the churche	xvijs
	for caryeng the same	ijs
	Item iij hors load of lyme and carieng hit	iijs
	for lathe nayles	xiijs ^d
	The comunon on S. hewges day	viijs ^d
	It m ^r Skinnd of halfe a strik of lyme	x ^s viij ^d
	To the tyler and his man for tylyng the churche	xiijs ^d
	for making lathe and one crest tyll	xvj ^d
	It robart Tybbott for caryeng one day	iijs ^d
	wylm grene for laboring one day	iijs ^d
	Item bread and aile for the temes and workmen	xxs viij ^d
	For clothe for the surplus and makyng hit	viijs iiij ^d
	The charges of the comunon at ester	xxvijs vj ^d
	It for glas and for glasing	v ^s
	for Iren barres for the west wyndowe	ix ^d
	for lyme for the glacier	iijs ^d
	for ij buckelles for bawdrikes	viijs ^d
	for carieng one load of sande	iijs ^d
	for writyng myne acownt	iijs ^d
	The some of my paymentes	vli xvijs vjd
	whiche being alowed me I do owe unto the parish	iijs ^d xvj ^d
	for this yeres account	
	And then there dothe remayne yn my	
	handes yn stoke vpon my iij yeres account	
	to the use of the pyshe the iust ¹ some of	vli xvijs vjd

¹ viz. just or true.

The account of Jhon Reve mad on sondaý the tenthe of maý Anno
dñi 1579 before the vȳcar and the parȳshners for his iiijth and
last yēare the xxi of queene elȳsabethe

In primis receved ȳn Rent as ȳs accostomed lijs viij^d

The paymentes are as folowethe

In primis p ^d to the clerke	ij ^s
Item p ^d to a pore man of budbroke	vj ^d
Item to the quenes maiesties use	vj ^d
It Richard cowper for stones	viijs
It delt to the pore on good fridaý	vjs viij ^d
At the Arch decons visitacion	iijs
for witson farthinges	xij ^d
It at stratford for cappes	vjs vj ^d
It p ^d to Jhon horsleý behind ȳn his accownte	ij ^s v ^d
Item allowed to owre selves	ij ^s viij ^d
To Jhon Cowp smith	iiij ^d
To Rȳchard sanders for ij dayes cariage ȳn the highe waý	ij ^s viij ^d
To Jhon býrd ij dayes	ij ^s viij ^d
To Jhon Grissold ij dayes	iijs
To mȳ selfe ij dayes cariag	ij ^s viij ^d
To Thomas Reve one dayes cariage	xvj ^d
Item v workmen ij dayes	iijs iiij ^d
Item for bread and ale	x ^d
Item for a chese	iiij ^d
Item for wrȳtinge mȳne accownt	iiij ^d

The some of mȳ paymentes xliijs j^d

which beinge alowed me there dothe remayne ȳn

mȳ handes of this yeres accownt ix^s vij^d

And so ther remaȳnethe ȳn mȳ handes ȳn stoke

to the use of the pȳshe vpon mȳ last yeres

accountes the some of ix^{li} iiij^s

Item Jhon Reve ȳs to be allowed iiij^s for Jhon cowp for
stones that he bowght when he was surveyor of the
highe waýes.

The Accounttes of Jhon Collins for Jhon hilles wýll for his first yeare
Anno dñi 1581¹

In primis Receyved yn Rent as ys accostomed	lijs viij ^d
payd by Jhon Collins.	[1580]
Item payd for sawing formes for the church howse	xxij ^d
It to Roger shaxsper for work done yn the church howse	xviij ^d
To wýllm grene for Rodes and working one day	vij ^d
It for vittell for workmen	vij ^d
It for lock staple and nayles	xviij ^d
Item to the clerk	ij ^s
It for whit lether	ij ^s vj ^d
Item to the quenes maiestie	vij ^s viij ^d
Item iij bell Ropes	iiij ^s iiij ^d
It to Roger Cox for makýng the grate	iiij ^s
It drawing the týmber and meat and drink	xij ^d
It delt on good friday	vj ^s viij ^d
Item for writing myne accountt	iiij ^d
It to be alowed to owre selves	ij ^s iiij ^d

The some of my paymentes are xxxviij^s iiij^d
whiche being alowed me there dothe remayne yn my handes xiiij^s v^d

The Accounttes of Jhon Colins for his second yeare	[1581]
In primis for Rent as ys accostomed	lijs viij ^d
The stock yn my handes	xiiij ^s iiij ^d

The paymentes for his second yeare

It payd to the clerk	xij ^d
It to the quenes maiesties rent	vij ^s viij ^d
It for vj strickes of lyme	iiij ^s
It geven to the lord of lapworthe	xviij ^d
At the výtacion for owre býll	vij ^d
The wýtson farthinges	xij ^d
the de lyv'inge owre býll & for a lyttell bok	xij ^d
Item delt on good friday	vj ^s viij ^d
Item payd to the clerk	xij ^d
It to the plim̃	ij ^s vj ^d
Item for lyme	iiij ^s
for lathe nayles and other nayles	xviij ^d
At the Archdeacons visitacion	iiij ^s iiij ^d
I wýtson farthinges	xij ^d
It owre býll	xiiij ^d
To be alowed to owre selves	ij ^s viij ^d
For sande	vj ^d
for wrýting myne accountt	iiij ^d
for x ^c lathe	vj ^s
for vj strikes of lyme	iiij ^s

¹ year 1580-1.

Item Receyved for wodd sold

Item ij^m lathe nayles

It the tÿller

xxvj^s viij^d

ij^s viij^d

xvij^d

The some of mÿ paymentes
whiche beinge cownted to mi receytes
stok in my hand

lvj^s iiij^d

xxxvij^s v^d

The Accowntes of Jhon Collins for his third yeare

[1582]

In primis for Rent as ys accostomed

lij^s viij^d

It thee stock in mÿ handes

xxxvij^s v^d

It for the buriat of Anne hancokes in the church

ij^s iiij^d

The paymentes of Jhon colyns for his iij yeare

In primis for ij^c of lead

xx

Item fetchinge hit home

vj^d

for x strickes of lÿme

v^s

for one beſt Rope

xvij^d

To the clerk

xij^d

It to m^r Chinñ for ij^c lathe

xx^d

To wiſſm Cowp for Iren barres

xij^d

To Jhon reve a dayes cariage and ix load of stones

ij^s x^d

Jhon byrd one dayes cariage

xx^d

Rychard cowp one dayes cariage

xx^d

To Jhon Grysold one day and one load

xvj^d

Rychard sanders one day and one load

xvij^d

Wÿſm hancokes

xvj^d

Item xij load of stones of myne owne

ij^s

It meat and drinke

xij^d

To laborers

ij^s vj^d

It payd for one planck

iiij^d

It for clothe for þ^e cōmunion table

vj^s viij^d

It to the quenes maiesties use

vij^s viij^d

To the clerk

xij^d

for ij beſt ropes

ij^s

It delt on good friday

vj^s viij^d

for witson farthinges

xij^d

for owre byll and delyv'inge the same

xiiij^d

to wÿſm cowper for stulbes and clippes for the belles

xij^d

for mendinge the steple dore

ij^d

To owre selves

ij^s viij^d

for swepinge the church hows and Rushes

iiij^d

for wrytyng mine accownt

iiij^d

for mendinge the bell rope

vj^d

Item scowring and swepinge the leades

ij^d

The some of my paymentes
whiche beinge alowed me I do owe unto the
pÿshe of my iij yeares accownt xij^s iiij^d whiche I delyv'ed
unto Thomas nason ÿn cōsideracion that the pÿshe was
Indetted unto him as appeareth by his accownt.

iiiij^s xiiij^d

seconde

The Accounttes of Thomas Nason for his ~~first~~ yeare for the churchē part

The first yeare of Thomas nason
standeth after edward sanders (p. 88)

In primis Receyved yn Rent as ys accostomed	xxxiijs v ^d
Item for wode sold	xxvjs viij ^d

The some of mý Receytes iij^{li} j^d

The paymentes are as folowethe

In primis half a hide of whitlether	xxij ^d
Item bread and wýne for the cōmunion on sonday after midsomerday	xviij ^d
It p ^d for old lether to Jhon Cowp and iij buckelles for the bell clapers	xiij ^d
It for keping the belles	vj ^d
It a lýttell bok for the churchē	vj ^d
It making of the church wall	vj ^s
It iij strikes and dimdd ¹ of lýme	xxxj ^d
for carienge yearthe and sand	xiij ^d
Item mēding the bell agaýnst S. hewges day	xiij ^d
The Comunion on the same day	xviij ^d
for kepinge the belles ij quarters	xiij ^d
It a bell Rope	xviij ^d
The cōmunion when Asbasons wýf receyved	viij ^d
the charges of the cōmunion at ester	viij ^s iij ^d
for keping the belles one quarter	vj ^d
for wrýting mýne account	iiij ^d
for swepinge the churchē hows	iiij ^d

The some of mý paymentes are xxix^s

the receytes

In primis yn rent as ys accostomed	xxxiijs v ^d
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The paymentes

Item delt on the Ascencion day	vj ^s viij ^d
It p ^d when we were chosen churchē men	xxij ^d
It ij lockes and keyes	xvj ^d
It making the beſſ claper	ij ^s
for keping the belles	ij ^s
It lock and staple for the steple dore	x ^d
Item mending the churchē pavement	xiij ^d
The cōmunion on S. hewes day	xvj ^d
To the Rýngers yn ale and bread	x ^d
The cōmunion at ester	viij ^d
The wrýting mýn account	iiij ^d

The some of mý paymentes xxvjs ij^d

¹ dimidy—from Latin dimidium, a half.

The Accountes of Thomas Nason for his third and last yeare
made before the vicare and the pyshe^{ers} anno dñi 1.5.8.2.

In primis Receýved yn rent as ys accustomed xxxiijs v^d
It there remayneth yn my handes vppon the last years accounte xxxvijs iiij^d

The paymentes of my third yeare

Item delte on good fryday the sonday after the Ascencion daye	vjs viij ^d
It delte the last yeare forgotten yn myne account	vjs viij ^d
To Thomas sanders for kepinge the belles	vj ^d
It half a hid of whitether	ijs ij ^d
Item the plimmer	iijs ix ^d
Item Tyling the churche hows	x ^s
It poynting the churche	ijs
It Tyling the lyttell hows	ijs
To Roger shaxsper	vj ^d
Item for vyttell when the plim ^m worked on the churche	ijs vj ^d
Item to the glacier	iijs viij ^d
Item for Tyles	v ^s vj ^d
Item for carieng them	xij ^d
The comunion at midso ^m	xviij ^d
Item keping the belles	xij ^d
Item payd to Jhon benett	iiij ^d
Item for Tyles	xxj ^d
Item the caryinge of them	vj ^d
Item carieng sand	iiij ^d
for sweping the churche hows	iiij ^d
To Roger shaxsper for mending the beles agaynst S hewges day	vjs
It for bread and wyne for the comunion the same day	xviij ^d
for nayles to mend the be ^{ll} whele	vj ^d
To Jhon benett for stulbes	ij ^d
for vyttell when the belles were mēdid	x ^d
for sweping the churche howse	iiij ^d
for keping the belles ij quarters	xij ^d
The charges of the comunion at ester	viijs ij ^d
At the Archdecons vysitacion for owre dyn at warr	iijs iiij ^d
To gatheringe to portesmouthe	iijs iiij ^d
To wryting of myne accounte	iiij ^d
Geven to ij pore wemen	ijs vj ^d
Item to the clerk for keping the Register bok iij yeares	ij ^s

The some of my charges layd out iiij^{li} x^s

And so my account beinge made the pyshe owethe to me vppon my iij
yeares accounte xviijs iiij^d The whiche I have receýved of Jhon Collins
and of wylm ley and so I am discharged

The Accountes of Thomas Tybbottes for his first year
beinge church man for the church parte anno dñi 1.5.8.2.

In primis Receyved of Jhon ley	vjs viij ^d
Item of Alys Tyn̄n	iijs vj ^d
Item of Thomas shaksper	viijs iiij ^d
Item of Rychard shaxsper	ijjs iiij ^d
Item of wylm ley	iiij ^d
Item of Thomas Marne	iiij ^d
Item of Jhon horsley	x ^s
Thomas oldnale	vj ^d
It for the [buriall of Isabell Collit yn the church] ¹	

The some of my receytes xxxiijs v^d

The paymentes of my first year

In primis payd for ij quayres of paper for the w ^r tyng of the verdýt of the cownt of surveye	viiij ^d
Item the wrytinge of the same	vjs viij ^d
Item to Roger Shaxsper for squaringe tymber and other work aboute the church yearde	xiijs iiij ^d
Item for dyging the post holes	vj ^d
It delt according to m ^r oldnales wyl	vjs viij ^d
Item picking stones and for caryenge them to the highe way	ijjs iiij ^d
The comunion bread and wyne	xiiij ^d
The comunion on S hewges day	xviij ^d
The charges of the comunion at ester and all the wek before	x ^s j ^d
The clerk for kepinge the belles	ijjs viij ^d
To Jhon buck for mēding the belles	vj ^d
To writinge myne acownt & one peniworthe of paper	v ^d

some of my paymentes xlvij^s v^d

Thomas Tybbott for his second year

[1584]

In primis yn Rent as ys accustomed	xxxiijs v ^d
It the buriall of Isabell Collitt yn the church	iijs iiij ^d

some xxxjs ix^d

my paymentes are as folowethe

Item at the archdecons vysitacion the charges of my dyn̄n ther	iijs viij ^d
It on the Ascencion day accordinge to m ^r oldnales wyl	vjs viij ^d
It for peyntinge the church	ix ^s
Item to masons for work done on the church & one strick of lyme	iijs vj ^d
Item p ^d for stone for the same	vjs
Item the cornion ²	xx ^d
The comunion on S. hewges	xiiij ^d
Item bestowed on the Ryngers	xij ^d
It a newe beff Rope	xvj ^d
It a whell for one of the belles	vjs
The charges of the comunion at esture	ix ^s x ^d

¹ The words in brackets are crossed out in the original.

² Communion.

Item payed to the clerk	ij ^s viij ^d
Item p ^d for Stones to mende highe wayes	xij ^d
It wrytinge myne accounte	iiij ^d

some liijs iiij^d

1585 Thomas Tybbott for his iij^d and last yeare made his accoute on sonday the xxvth of Apryll anno dñi 1585 before the pyshners anno xxvij regine elysabethe

In primis yn Rent as ys accostomed	xxxiijs v ^d
Item receyved of wylm ley pceff of the stock yn his handes	xl ^s
some of my receytes	iiij ^{li} xiiij v ^d

The paymentes for my third yeare are as folowethe

In primis for brikes for the churche flore	xx ^s
It for mo bricke and Crest tyles	vij ^s
It ij strickes of lyme	xij ^d
It diginge of sand	viiij ^d
To Thomas shaxper for cariage of iij load of bricke	iijs
To the masons for leyenge of the bricke	xvj ^s
It for leying the stone ov meyse and mending the pavement	xx ^d
The comunion on Allhalowes day	ix ^d
The comunion on S hewges day	xviij ^d
Item candeil and ale to the Ringers	vj ^d
Item ij cordes to pece the beff ropes	iiij ^d
It the comnion at Chrystenmas	xv ^d
The comunion at estur and all the wek befor	ix ^s vj ^d
To Jhon ley cariege sand	xvj ^d
To edward sanders for caryenge one load of brick	xij ^d
It halfe a hide of whitlether	ijs iiij ^d
It delt on the Ascencion day according to m ^r oldnales wylf	vjs viij ^d
It to the clerk for kepinge the belles	vjs viij ^d
Item to the clerk for keping a pfit remembrannce of the register bok the whole tearme of iij yeares	vjs
Item for writing myne accownt	iiij ^d

some of my paymentes this third yeare iiij^{li} iij^s x^d

Item receyved of the wyddowe of Shrewley for v rent dayes	xxv ^s
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There remayneth to be payd to thomas Tybbott on his iij yeares accownt whiche he hathe payd more theⁿ he hathe receyved the some of xvjs

The Accounttes of edward sanders for his first yeare

Redditus In primis of Jhon Jenins	xx ^s
It Thomas shaxspere	iiij ^s
Item of watter Colman	iiij ^s
Item of wyddow bird	vs
Jhon Grýsold	vjs viij ^d
wyflm sanders	vij ^s
It Thomas hunte	vjs viij ^d

The some of my receytes liiij^s iiij^d

The paymentes are as folowethe

In primis for bread and ale when we receyved the office	xviij ^d
payd for sawinge the Rayles for the churchyard	vs x ^d
Item to Roger Avarne for vij load of stones	xiiij ^d
Item drawing tymber to the saw pit	xvj ^d
It carieng iij load of timber from lapworthe to the church	ijs x ^d
It bread and ale at the request of the surveyors	xvj ^d
To the clerk	ijs
To Rychard sanders one dayes cariage and one load of stones	xviij ^d
Jhon reve for his teame one day	xvj ^d
my owne teame ij dayes and one load of stones	ijs xj ^d
To fillers to the same teames	ijs vj ^d
In bread and ale	vij ^d
To Thomas smýles for vj load of stones	xviij ^d
To Jhon benett for iiij load of stones	x ^d
It delt on S Thomas day at church	vjs viij ^d
Item p ^d for halfe hide of whitlether	ijs vj ^d
It p ^d for ij bell Ropes	iijs
It the quenes maiesties rent	vijjs viij ^d
Item delt on good friday to the pore	vjs viij ^d
Item for trussing a beff and mending hit	vj ^d
It alowed to owre selves	ijs viij ^d
It wrytinge myne accountt in this bok	liij ^d

The some of my paymentes

lvij^s xj^d

The Accounttes of edward sanders for his ij yeare

[1584]

receyved In primis of Jhon Jenins of lapworthe	xx ^s
It of wyflm sanders	vij ^s
It water colman	iiij ^s
Item Thomas Shaxspere	iiij ^s
Item Jhon Grýsold	vjs viij ^d
Item of Thomas hunte	vjs viij ^d
Item receyved of Thomas Clerke for the shoppes	ijs
It of Jhon Jenins for heades of tres	xviij ^d

The some of my receytes lijs x^d

The paymentes of edward sanders for his second yeare

In primis payd for half a hide of whitlether	ijs iiij ^d
Item mending the bell ropes	vj ^d
It at the Archdecons visitacion making o ^r byll & delyv'ing same	xiiij ^d
Item wytson forthinges	xij ^d
It ij strike of lyme	xij ^d
It carieng sand and one load of stone out of the quarreys	xiiij ^d
Item paid to the masons working on the church	vij ^s
Item to the clerk	xij ^d
Item a bok of the quenes Iniunctions	vj ^d
It spent at worcetur	iijs ij ^d
Item yn fees dew to the cowrt there	xix ^d
Item for one bolt of Iren	iiij ^d
Item for headinge the beff	ijs
Item the quenes maiesties rent	viijs viij ^d
To the clerk	xij ^d
Item mending the bells	xviiij ^d
Item delt on S Thomas day	vj viij ^d
To wyllm Cowp for mending one beff	x ^d
delt to the pore on good fridaý	vjs viij ^d
To Jhon benet for a beff stock and work about the same	xx ^d
Item at the Archdecons vysitacion this yeare	iijs
Item wytson farthinges	xij ^d
Item owre byll and delyu'ing the same	xij ^d
Item at worcetur owre fees there	xv ^d
Item writing a copie there	iiij ^d
Item the som ⁿ his fees	xij ^d
Item spent yn going to worcetur	ijs vj ^d
Item alowed to owre selves forthe of Jhon hilles wyll	ijs viij ^d
Item writinge myne Accownte yn this bok	iiij ^d

The whole some of my paymentes
for this my second yeare iiij^{li} iijs ix^d

The Accowntes of edward sanders for his third and last yeare made
on sonday the xxvth of Aprýt̃ anno dñi 1·5·8·5 before the
pyshoners the xxvij of quene elysabethe

In primis receyved in Rent of Jhon Jenins	xx ^s
Item of wyt̃m Sanders	viijs
Item of Robart Grýsold	vjs viij ^d
Item of Thomas shaxspere	iijs
Item the clos at pinleý	iijs
Item of Thomas hunte	vjs viij ^s

The some of mý receytes this mý third
and last yeare xlix^s iiij^d

The paymentes of edward Sanders for his third yeare

In primis payd at worcetur for dyscharging the cowrte there	iiij ^d
Item the quenes maiesties rent	viijs viij ^d
Item delt on S Thomas daye	vjs viij ^d
Item to wyt̃m Cowp for Trussinge one beſt	vjs
Item for nayles	ij ^d
Item delt on good fridaý	vjs viij ^d
Item to wyt̃m cowper for aſt̃ the newe Irens abownte the beſt̃ and trussinge the same beſt̃	iijs vj ^d
Item mending ij lockes	vj ^d
Item payd to the Clerk	ijs
Item payd to owre selves	ijs viij ^d
Item wrytinge mýne Accownt yn this bok	iiij ^d

The whole some of my paymentes for this mý third and last
yeare ys xxxiijs viij^d whiche beinge alowed me there dothe
remayne in mý handes vppon mý thre yeares accownt ij^d

The receytes and paymentes of thomas nason for his first yeare

In primis for harvys and lyanne	xv ^s
Item of Rychard shaxsper we th ¹	iijs ^s iiij ^d
Item of Alýs Týñ	iijs ^s vj ^d
Item of Jhon horsley	x ^s
Item smalley meddow	xj ^d
Item S. mary leyton	iiij ^d
Item for hogstid	iiij ^d

some of mý receytes

xxxiijs^s v^d

The paymentes of this mý first yeare

In primis delt on the Ascencion day	vijs ^s viij ^d
Item spent when we were chosen churche men	xxij ^d
Item p ^d for ij lockes	xvj ^d
Item for making the beñ claper	ijs ^s
It for kepinge the belles	ijs ^s
Item a lock and staple for the steple dore	x ^d
It mendinge the churche pavemente	xij ^d
Item the coñunion on s. hewges	xvj ^d
To the Ryngers yn ale and bred	x ^d
It the coñunion at estur	viiij ^d
the writinge of mýne accownte yn this boke	iiij ^d

The some of mý paymentes for this mý first yeare
 whiche beinge alowed me there dothe remayne yn
 mý handes yn stoke to the use of the pyshe

xxvjs^s iij^dvijs^s iiij^d

'The other ij yeares of Thomas nason
 are before Thomas Tybbotes accownte.'

¹ Weaver.

NOTE.—This account should follow page 80. See note on p. 81.

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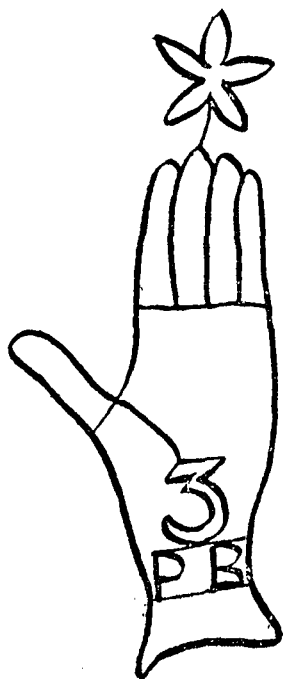


Illustration of Paper Mark on p. 57.

The Accountes of Rychard shaxsper for his first year

In primis of Thomas oldnañ	xj ^d
Item of Jhon ley	
Item Thomas shaxsper	
Item of wyñm ley	iiij ^d
Thomas Avarne	iiij ^d
Jhon horsley	x ^s
Alys Tyner	xvj ^d
Rychard shaxsper the wod	iijs iiij ^d
Item of Thomas shaxsper for wod sold	xxij ^s
Item of wyddowe byrd	v ^{li}

some of mý receytes

vijli x^s iiij^d

The paymentes of mý first year

In primis delt accordinge to m ^r oldnales wyñ	vjs viij ^d
Item p ^d for a beñ Rope	xvij ^d
To the clerk for kepinge the belles	ijs viij ^d
To wyñm Cowp for / for removing one lock	ij ^d
for shutinge the claper of the pulpitt beñ	xvj ^d
The comunion the xxij of August	xvij ^d
It. for hillinge the paraphras boke	v ^s
for paper for the Register bok	j ^d
for half a hide of whitlether	ijs xj ^d
on s. hewghes day for bread and ale	xx ^d
for ij beñ ropes	iijs iiij ^d
The comuniõ on s. hewghs day	xv ^d
To the clerk for fire and cādeñ at his hows	vj ^d
To wyñm Cowper for mēding the belles	iiij ^d
To m ^r whit for writing	vjs viij ^d
Item payd at the visitacion at warwick	iijs iiij ^d
It to the somn ⁿ for his fees	ijs
It for a bok of musculus ¹	vijjs vj ^d
To wyñm Cowp for lock and key and other work abowte the belles	ijs
for one bell Rope	xvij ^d
for falling one tre	iiij ^d
The charges of the comuniõ at ester and all the weke before	ix ^s vj ^d
for squaring one tre	x ^d
Item abowt the presentment of the vicaredge	xvij ^d
for washing the surplus and Tabetñ clothes	iiij ^d
To Jhon ley for carieng sand	xij ^d
Item for writing myne account	iiij ^d
Item payd to wyñm hill	v ^{li}
Item to Rychard smithe	xxij ^s

The some of ^{mi} \wedge paymentes ix^{li} viijs vij^d
 whiche beinge alowed me the pýshe is indetted
 to me xxxvijs iiij^d

¹ Query—Music.

The Accountes of Rychard shaxsper for his second yeare his receytes and paymentes are as folowethe

In primis Receyved Thomas oldnale in rent for one yeare	xj ^d
Item of Jhon leý	vjs viij ^d
Thomas shaxsper	viijs viij ^d
Wyñm leý	iiij ^d
Thomas Avarne	iiij ^d
Jhon horsley	x ^s
Alys Tyñ	iijs vj ^d
of my selfe	iijs iiij ^d
It of the wyddowe bird	xxxiijs iiij ^d
Item for wode sold in liannc	iiij ^{li}

The some of my receytes vijli vjs ix^d

The paymentes are as folowethe

In primis to the clerk for writing a note & remembrance of the Register bok	ijs
Item half a hide of whitlether	ijs viij ^d
Item the quenes Iniuctions	iiij ^d
Item geven to a pore man on the Ascension day	iiij ^d
It p ^d for the service bok	vjs vj ^d
It to the Glacier for medinge the wyndowes about the churche	xvs iiij ^d
for lyme and sand	viiij ^d
for keping the beffes one year	ijs viij ^d
for a bok of prayer	x ^d
The comuniõ the tenthe of July	xviij ^d
Item half a hide of whit lether	ijs x ^d
Item payd to the medinge of the highe wayes	vjs viij ^d
The comuniõ on Allhalowen day	xx ^d
for one bell rope	xx ^d
Item on s. hewges day at night for cadeñ ¹ and vyttell	iijs iiij ^d
The communion on christemas day	xviij ^d
Item for medinge the beff whele and other worke	iijs x ^d
Item p ^d to old Thomas shaxsper	iijs iiij ^d
Item p ^d to the clerk for writinge a note of the Register bok	ijs
To Thomas bird for one dayes work	vj ^d
Item the charges of the comuniõ at esture and all the wek before	xijs
Item payd at the Archedecons vysitacion the xxj of aprill last	viijs viij ^d
for a newe spad	xiiij ^d
It p ^d to Thomas shaxsper	x ^s
It p ^d to Jhon leý wyñm hill and Rychard smithe	xx ^s
Item washinge the surplus and other thinges	vj ^d
It to Thomas tybbott owinge on his account	x ^s xj ^d
Item writing myne Account	iiij ^d
Item delt to the pore on the Ascencion day	vjs viij ^d
It p ^d to wyñm hill	xx ^s

The some of my paymentes vijli x^s viij^d
 wher vpon the towne is indetted to Rychard shaxsper
 second
 vpon his ^ yeares account viijs ix^d

The Acowntes of Rychard byrd church man for the church part
made the same yere and day befor the pÿshners ther assembled

Item rey ^{cey} ^ ved of m ^r hunte	vjs viij ^d
In primis of Jhon horsley at the Ascencion day	x ^s
Item receyved of Thomas oldnatte	xj ^d
Item of Alys Týner	xxj ^d
Item Jhon ley for lyannce	iijs iiij ^d
Item of Thomas shaxsper for harvis	iijs ij ^d
Item of Rychard shaxsper	xx ^d
Item of wÿtſm ley	iiij ^d
Item of Thomas Avarne	iiij ^d
Item receyved for wod sold at hogstid	xlijs ^s

some of xxxv^s vj^d and more vjs viij^d

The paymentes of Rychard byrd

In primis delt to the pore accordinge to m ^r oldnalles wyt	vjs viij ^d
Item p ^d to Rychard smithe	iijs
Item to margerett weall for piking stones	iiij ^d
Item p ^d for kepinge the bastard child and keping the woman as appeareth by my biſſ ther of made	vij ^s x ^d
Item p ^d to the clerk on s. hewghes night for ale and candel	vj ^d
Item on wÿtsonday for bread and wyne at the Communion	xvj ^d
Item for bread and ale for the Comunion on the quenes holyday	xvj ^d
Item the charges of the comunion at ester and all the wek befor	xliijs ^s v ^d
Item distributed more to the pore peope for m ^r hunt	vjs viij ^d
Item for wrytyng myne accownt	iiij ^d

some xliijs^s v^d

And so the pÿshe ys Indetted to
me vpon this Acownt xv^d

[Church wardens chosen]¹

ano Dm 1589

[John Bird for the church]

[Roger Smith for the] Towne

¹ The words in brackets are crossed out in the original.

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Illustration of Paper Mark on p. 77.

The Accountes of Rycharde bird churchman for the church parte
for the seconde yeare of his office 1.5.8.9.

The receytes are as folowethe

In primis of Jhon leý	vjs viij ^d
Item of Alys Tyñ	ijjs vj ^d
Item of Rycharde shaxsper wēv	ijjs iiij ^d
Thomas shaxsper	vijjs iiij ^d
Thomas oldnalle	xj ^d
Wyñm leý for hodgested	iiij ^d
Jhon horsleý	x ^s
Thomas Avarne	iiij ^d
Item receyved of wyñm leý for his fine of hocksted	xx ^s

The some of mý receytes for this mý seconde yeare liijs v^d

Item payd to Jhon buck for worke done abowut the belles	vij ^d
Item to the clerk for kepinge the belles	ijjs viij ^d
To the somñ for a bok	vj ^d
Item payd and spent at the visitacion at warwýk	ixs viij ^d
Item for the coñmunion the sonday before s. hewghes day	xj ^d
Item spent on the Ringers on the Newe ¹ holyday	ijs
The clerkes wyf for candelñ and bread and ale	vj ^d
Item the charges for mý beinge excommunicated at worcetur	iijs x ^d
Item the charges of the coñmunion the sonday before estur	iiijjs ij ^d
It for wyne on o ^r lady day	iijs iiij ^d
Item on estur even the coñmunion	iijs
Item on estur day the coñmunion	vs ij ^d
Item p ^d and spent at Alcetur at the Archdecons visitacion	iijs xj ^d
It delt to the pore on the Ascencion day accordinge to m ^r oldnales wýñ	vjs viij ^d
Item to be alowed for that whiche the last acownt dothe owe me	xv ^d
Item for writinge myne Acownt	iiij ^d
Item payd to m ^r oldnañ for half a hide of whit leather	ijs iiij ^d
Item to John byrd	vj ^d

Sñma ljs iiij^d

Richard Birde vpon his ij yeare
accompt hath remaning in his } ijs ij^d
hands w^{ch} he hath discharged }

The some xlvijjs v^d

¹ St. Hugh's day. See note to p. 64.

This page (96) is blank in the MS.



Illustration of Paper Mark on p 95.

The Accounttes of Rychard ley for his second yeare for Jhon hilles wýff

In primis of Jhon Jenins	xx ^s
Item the wyddow bird of shrewley	x ^s
Thomas shaxsper	iiij ^s
Item Nýcholas grene	iiij ^s
Item Robart Grýsold	vj ^s viij ^d
Item wýffm sanders	
Item receyved of wyllm ley for his fine	xx ^s
Item receyved of Roger smithe for alders sold to him	xj ^s vj ^d

The some of my receytes of this my second yeare iiij^{li} xv^s

The paymentes

In p ^r mis p ^d to the supvisors of the highe wayes for stones	xiiij ^s iiij ^d
Item the coñunion on whitsonday	vj ^d
Item spent at the quarter sys ¹ at warr.	x ^d
Item p ^d to the clerk	ij ^s
It the quenes maiesties rent	viiij ^s viij ^d
Item for a beff Rope	xviiij ^d
It to the som ⁿ at the quenes ² holyday	iiij ^d
To the beff founder in earnest	xij ^d
At the visitacion at warr.	xiiij ^d
Item p ^d to Jhon buck for lockes and keys	iiij ^s ij ^d
Item for winding rodde and studdes and other work done to the churche house and for lyme and pargetting ³ the walles	ix ^s iiij ^d
Item for ij planckes for the step ^e ff flore	ix ^d
To the som ⁿ for charges of the excoñunicacion	iiij ^s x ^d
Item at the archedecons visitacion	iiij ^s j ^d
Item p ^d for the statute of Cappes	iiij ^s viij ^d
It alowed to owre selves as is acostomed	ij ^s viiiij ^d
Item delt on good friday to the pore	vj ^s viij ^d
It to be alowed that the pyshe was indetted to me as appeareth by my last yeares accownt	xviiij ^s viij ^d
Item for writinge my last yeares acownt	iiij ^{li} j ^d

The some of my paymentes are iiij^{li} xviij^d

the pish indebted vnto Richard Ley } v^s iiij^d
vpon his ij years accompts

¹ Query—sessions.² St. Hugh's day, see p. 64.³ plastering.

This page (98) is blank in the MS.

The Accountes of Rychard ley churchman for Jhon hilles wyll made on sonday the one and twentithe of Aprill anno dñi 1.5.8.8. the xxxth of quene elysabethe

In primis receyved of wyllm sanders in rents	iiij ^s
Item of Nycholas Grene in rent	iiij ^s
Item of Jhon Jenins	x ^s
Item of wyddowe byrd	v ^s
Item of Thomas shaxsper	ij ^s
Item of Robert grysold	iiij ^s iiij ^d

some xx^s viij^s iiij^d

The paymentes of Rychard ley

In primis for bread and ale at the last account	x ^d
Item p ^d to Jhon feyrfox for Jhon hilles wyll	ij ^s
Item to the same Jhon feyrfox for kepinge the belles	ij ^s viij ^d
Item to margerett wealle for pickinge xij load of stones	iiij ^s
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Item p ^d for mending the beff the third beff	xx ^d
Item for a beff Rope	xvj ^d
Item p ^d and spent at worcetur the third of August when we wer sumoned thether	v ^s
Item spent and payd at worcetur by meanes of the vycaras wrong Informacion agaynst the parýshinors by his slanderous letter	xij ^s ij ^d
Item delt on good fridaý to the pore peopell	vj ^s viij ^d
Item for writinge myne account	iiij ^d
Item alowed to owre selves forthe of Jhon hilles wyll	ij ^s viij ^d

some xlvij^s

Church Wardens chosen

Año Dñ 1589

John Bird for the church

Roger Smith for the Towne

Inp^rmis deliv'ed to Roger Smith for
the year last past by John Horsley } iij^s
for the hier of a cowe }

Rowingtonne

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NOTES ON THE MANUSCRIPT

THE MS. book which is herein transcribed was recently found by Mr. Sydney Mitchell when clearing out his office at Solihull, a village about eight miles distant from Rowington. Mr. Mitchell succeeded his father, who followed the Hardings, in the profession of lawyer in Solihull, and it is quite natural to conclude that it is to a member of the latter family that the loss of the book to Rowington for so many years is due. The Hardings were a legal family of old standing in Warwickshire, and for over thirty-five years, from about 1786, Joseph Harding was steward to the lord of the manor of Rowington, and it is quite conceivable that the book was required by him to settle some point respecting property. However, the parish is much indebted to Mr. Mitchell for his readiness in restoring it to its rightful home. The incident is good evidence of the necessity for a thorough search being made in all muniment rooms, and if such interesting and, in a sense, valuable records are to be preserved, they should be placed in safe custody. In Warwickshire the newly-formed Dugdale Society would be a very proper body to commit them to, and one in a position to make their contents known to those most interested. The Honorary Secretary is F. C. Wellstood, Esq., F.S.A., Stratford-on-Avon.

The MS. begins in the century which was the commencement of the period known as Modern Times. The period of progression from the mediaeval was marked in England by at least three great movements—the new type of ecclesiastical life, the new idea of government, and the Reformation. The MS. is a modest record of effects caused by the latter, which was perhaps the most important, in that it more intimately affected the lives of all classes of people, and in order to understand it we want to bear this fact in mind. The divergency of opinion, and still more the changeableness of men's minds, led our bishops, lords, and the people generally, to side now with one party, now with the other, and now change sides again, to the perplexing of honest and simple men, and to the undoing of their fortunes. The need for a general reformation of the Church had been universally recognized long before the date of the MS., and more than one effort had been made by the ecclesiastical authorities to insist on higher moral standards for the clergy, and to rid the Church of various evil customs, but they had produced no permanent result. In this respect there seems to be some similarity in the views of the community at the present time, and it is in like manner difficult to foresee the future of the Church. The stipends of the clergy are in many instances quite inadequate to free them from anxiety, but one cannot help thinking that in many cases they have themselves to blame for entering into the calling without possessing the right spirit. Good men who fulfil their duty are rarely left without the assistance they need.

Changes in the middle of the sixteenth century were so drastic and frequent that the minds of the people must have been quite distracted. The severance of the Church of England from the authority of the Pope, the repeated change in the doctrine and practices of the Church, and the exposure of priestly forgeries of supposed relics and false legends, were all calculated to upset the people. Just previous to the commencement of the MS., the services in the Church were all in a foreign tongue, and though Coverdale's Bible had been printed in 1536, and ordered to be placed in every parish church, chained to a desk or pillar, yet there were but few available even after the "Great" Bible was issued in 1539, which is said to have been received by the people with joy. Though they knew the Paternoster in Latin, the Lord's Prayer in English was practically unknown to them, so much so that our own Bishop, Latimer, at the time made a practice of saying it before and after his sermon for the people to repeat after him, in order that they might learn it.

Moreover, the question of conscience was not the only perplexing trouble lying heavy on men's hearts, for, according to Strype, "one, a wise and observing man", speaks of the miseries of this time, and calls them "the plague that Almighty God revenged the contempt of his holy institution in the aforesaid reign" (Queen Mary), and proceedeth to enumerate the evils existing :

"What immoderate rains and tempests raged in one year! what intolerable heat and droughts in another year! what penury and scarceness of corn and victuals! what hunger and famine thereof follows! And what disease and sickness everywhere prevailed, the like whereof had never been known before, which began in the Great Death 1556, and increased during the two following years. In the summer of 1557 an exceeding great number of all sorts of men perished, including many husbandmen and labourers, so that in harvest time, in divers places, men would have given one acre of corn to reap and carry in another. In some places corn stood and shed on the ground for lack of workmen. In 1558 a similar state of affairs existed, only the plague or fever raged more disastrously, and the scarceness of harvest men was so great that those who remained took twelve pence for that which was wont to be done for three pence. All which, and a great many miseries more lying upon the nation, and the loss of Calais not the least, looked like the frowns of God upon the Queen and her government."

These brief extracts of the chronicler will suffice to convey to the reader the hardships of the times, and no doubt Rowington suffered in a more or less degree as other parts of the country. Stratford is said to have lost ten per cent. of its population in one year (1557) owing to the plague, and the entries of Rowington Wills at the Worcester Probate Court are far more numerous in the years 1558 and 1559 than any other years in the century.

Thus it will be seen that the times were cruel, and, unfortunately, at the period when the MS. opens, good men were scarce. It was not a period of deep thinkers. Again in this respect the times seem similar to the present, and it is discouraging to look around us and feel that we do not see democracy.

What we see is not true freedom, but freedom run to riot; men struggling for themselves, spending on themselves the fruits of their inheritance in order to achieve what they call prosperity; and God is far away. But history may repeat itself,

And all the ruins of distressful times
Repair'd with double riches of content.

(*K. Richard III*, iv. iv.)

For let us remember the old popular theory that Nature, when she wants great men, will bring them forth, as she did during the first twenty-five years of the period covered by the MS., which saw the birth of a new generation in England, which included the most brilliant men England ever produced, amongst them being our William Shakespeare, the greatest of all Englishmen. It is also interesting to note that this period may be said to have seen the beginning of the modern English language, founded mainly on the dialect of the Midlands, or Shakespeare's English, similar to that used in our MS.

The book is composed of fifty leaves, made up of one hundred sheets of hand-made paper, $15\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{3}{4}$ inches, bound with a pre-Reformation missal and part of a Service Book. The paper, which is of even texture, strong, hard, and of a creamy colour, was probably imported from Holland, and on twenty-seven of the pages the maker's mark is impressed. These marks vary in design and are of some interest. The hand mark, which is supposed to have originated the name "hand paper", is the oldest, having been in use prior to 1450. This is impressed on nineteen pages of the MS., up to 1577, when it is replaced by eight illustrations of the pot or flagon design (which gave the name "pot paper"), seven of the pots being surmounted with a boss and one with a crescent. Illustrations of each specimen of both designs are given herein. There is nothing to call particular attention to these marks, except that the Rev. S. Denne, F.S.A., in his paper published in *Archaeologia*, vol. xii (1796), appeared not to have seen an earlier illustration of the pot mark than 1604. The faultiness in the designs was due to the fact that they were composed of wire, which was placed in the frame in the making of the paper, and often got misplaced.

The MS. is well written by sundry hands, and is a good specimen of such records, but there is nothing singular about it unless it be the continued use of the Saxon letter þ for "th", which had almost died out at this period. The writing is well preserved, due no doubt to the excellent ink used, which was home-made with oak galls and sulphate of iron. The majority of the totals of the accounts agree with the details, but not all.

The accounts are continuous from 1553 to 1558, and with the exception of payments made on the Church part in 1558-9, and both accounts in 1559-60, cover the period up to 1588-9. The first four pages were written at different dates, and no doubt specially placed in front for the purpose of reference when the MS. was bound, which was probably effected when the second supply of paper was procured about 1570. Pages 2 and 3 were probably written as early as

1545, but the translation on p. 3 seems to have been added as late as 1611, and shows a deterioration in scholarship.

The MS. contains Parish Accounts principally appertaining to the repairs and maintenance of the church and roads. With few exceptions the cost was provided from the receipts of benefactions made to Trustees on behalf of the parish. At the present time most of the property referred to exists in real estate or government consols, and the proceeds are to-day distributed by the Trustees of the Rowington Combined Charity Estate. At the period covered by these accounts there were Trustees, or Feoffees as they were then called, who were successors of a long line reaching back to 1450 according to our records, and probably many years previous thereto, and who controlled the various properties and administered the estate as their successors in like manner do to-day. They continued as originally constituted up to 1889 when the last additions were made. These included the writer, who is the sole foundation Trustee and survivor of the ancient system of election. I am now well able to endorse the refutation I gave when the imputations were made some thirty odd years ago by persons in high political positions, as to the administration of the Charities, and after carefully studying all the matter available have come to the conclusion that the imputations made were not justified, in fact, taking into consideration human nature as it is, would say that the Trustees appear to have conscientiously administered the trust during the nearly five hundred years of its existence. There may be one or two items that need some explanation, and perhaps the most obvious is the loss of the land at Bushbury in Staffordshire, which was bought for £30 in 1638, and leased for five hundred years to Thomas Attwood, son of Robert Attwood, gent., of Rowington. The lease was only signed by William Shakspeare on behalf of the Trustees. The Attwood family left Rowington a few years afterwards, and this fact, together with the nature of the lease and payment, leaves an impression that the Trustees were hoodwinked. The Trustees made an effort in 1763 to recover the property by taking the matter into court, but lost their case at a cost of £94 10s. 3d. (*R.R.* i, p. 67). There is little else to complain of. On one or two occasions, certain Trustees evidently obtained control of the Charities and administered them according to their own inclinations, but such did not materially deprive the poor at the time of any of their share, and they are to-day receiving more than their full share of the benefits of the Charity estate. Such a situation need never recur under the present scheme, if all business is conveyed, as it should be, through the clerk, and no personal element be allowed to prevail.

Perhaps the most striking feature in these accounts is the small amount debited to the poor. Up to 1561 there appears only the item of 6s. 8d. bestowed on Good Friday, as per John Hill's Will. From this date a further 6s. 8d. was given on Ascension Day according to the Will of John Oldnall, and a like sum, the gift of Thomas Hunt, in 1579, but of this there is no mention until 1583, when it is shown as being bestowed "on St. Thomas' day at Church", a custom that was perpetuated in recent years by the distribution of

meat on that day. Thus the total recorded as spent upon the poor amounted to only £1 a year out of the Feoffees' Estates. It was evidently all that was left specifically for that purpose; and, as a matter of fact, all that could to-day definitely be construed as their share would probably not amount to one-tenth of the whole receipts. The chief reference appertaining to the major portion would probably be contained in the codicil attached to the Feoffment Deed made by John Saunders in 1629, which reads as follows:

"All of which said properties not mentioned in the wills of John Hill and William Oldenall, or whose use hath not been heretofore declared, are by this deed ordained for the use of the poor inhabitants, repairing of the Parish Church, bridges, highways within the Manor of Rowington and to other godly charitable uses according to the discretion of the feoffees and their heirs and assignees, according to the trust and confidence in them reposed." Dated 28 April 1629. (*R.R.* i, p. 47.)

I would not refer to this matter but to show that succeeding Trustees have dealt very fairly with their poorer neighbours, who have often been misled by false assertions and impressions.

In like manner the Church branch has been generously treated.¹ A good deal that was left to, or utilized for the Church, or spent on that account, was for purposes which could not be complied with after the Reformation, being considered as superstitious rites, and since declared as illegal. Most of the endowment was left for the good of the parishioners generally, for the repairs to the highways, military taxes, and repairs of the Church, and Church house—so-called, but parish house in reality—&c. To-day the ratepayers can hardly be said to receive their due share or indeed but little direct benefit therefrom. However, little complaint need be made by any section of the community in the distribution of the Estate as agreed to by the Commissioners in 1895, except as regards the educational branch, which, under the altered regulations of the Educational Authorities, practically further robs the parishioners or ratepayers of the relief justly their due. The reader must not infer that nothing further was done for the poor during the period of the MS., as it is certain that poverty existed, and probably other parish accounts were kept which dealt with these matters. Agriculture was in a transitory condition. The ordinary small holdings were being starved out and enclosed, and arable lands turned into sheep runs—Roger Oldnall, who farmed at Mousley End, died in 1558 and left 648 sheep to his son, and no doubt there were others. Thus many labourers were thrown out of employment.

At the period of the MS. the funds appear to have been administered by the two Church wardens—those relating to the Parish, as distinct from the Church, by the Parish warden, and those for the Church by the Vicar's warden. Whether the latter was chosen at this period by the minister in conjunction with the parishioners, as is customary, is not clear, but probably it was so, though in at least one instance it states that both wardens were chosen by

¹ In 1871 the Trustees contributed £300 out of the Estate towards the restoration of the Church.

the parishioners. At any rate they made individual presentments to the parishioners of their disbursements from the charitable bequests.

We will now take the pages seriatum, noting the various items of interest.

Page 2.

Hereon is given an account of the "Taske of Rowington" which probably refers to the King's Tax or Subsidy. It seems curious that the hundred of Barlichway should be described as in the "liberties of pathlowe" at such a late date. Rowington does not appear ever to have owed suit to the Court of Pathlowe, which served as the title of a hundred in the Conqueror's time, the confines of which, according to Dugdale, included but a small area from Stratford to Henley in Edward II's time, and was within the hundred of Barlichway at the date of this MS.

This account unfortunately lacks detail, but it is interesting in that it includes Pinley hamlet along with Rowington, of which some doubt has lately been expressed, though in the writer's opinion there is no doubt that Pinley always remained a part of Rowington parish, as Dugdale stated it originally was. We have several mentions of its inclusion in our early records—one as early as 1290. The attachment of part of the parish to Pinley Priory might have been the cause later of complication, inasmuch as that part would cease to pay tythes, by special privilege of the Apostolic See. But there was an important dispute on behalf of Rowington between the Abbat of Reading and the Prioress of Pinley, regarding the tenths of the newly-built windmill in Pinley in 1348, which was settled by the Prioress agreeing to pay "six strykes of corn" at the feasts of St. Michael and the Annunciation of the Blessed Mary by equal portions, which appears to convey absolute proof of Pinley's liability for the great tithes due to the Parson of Rowington. What happened at the Dissolution is not very clear, though the tithes lapsed. Yet, apparently, the question of the tithes of this part of the parish has led to more than one legal case. We have some mention thereof in *R. R. i*. I remember seeing a tithe map of this part of the parish in our Church chest, but it disappeared in the time of the Rev. P. B. Brodie, who took little interest in this district, except geologically in which he was an enthusiast, and who arranged with the Rev. E. Kempson of Claverdon to administer the ecclesiastical duties of the Pinley End. It would seem that the Manor of Kington within the parish of Claverdon was a similar instance, except that it was of less importance, and probably held no manorial court, consequently appointed no parish officers. Pinley held manorial courts and appointed an overseer, who doubtless assessed the manorial lands and collected the rates thereof. Lowson End, another hamlet within the parish of Rowington, had a separate overseer also who assessed and collected its rates. Probably there did not appear to be any reason to interfere with the arrangements existing before the Dissolution, and so a feeling of separate existence grew by reason of the custom. However, to avoid any future complications the Local Government Board issued a special order, dated 24 March 1886,

ordering that the two parts of the township of Pinley should be amalgamated with the parish of Rowington.

Attention might be called to the notes recorded on this page, as being of some interest and no doubt at that time considered of importance. The death of King Henry VIII took place early on the morning of Friday, 28th January, 1547, and messengers would at once leave the capital for the country with the news, who might easily be supposed to have reported that he died the previous day, though he actually died in the night, thus accounting for the inaccuracy in the record, where Thursday is stated. It would take several days for the correct news to reach Rowington, when the record having been entered would not be altered. The year's date recorded, 1546, would be according to the civil, ecclesiastical, and legal reckoning of that period, but according to the historical calendar it would be 1547. It is doubtful whether the entry of the death of the king was recorded more from affection than relief, for he had become unscrupulous, tyrannical, and cruel in his latter years.

The Gravel Pit, which was the chief source of supply for mending the highways at this time, would be considered a valuable gift. It was probably in the field above the County Council's farm (Ord. Map 332), but has been worked out many years ago. Possibly it was the "graves puttes veld" referred to in 1297. (*R. R. i*, p. 5.)

The building of the new aisle we shall have occasion to refer to later on.

Page 3.

Hereon will be found a copy of the deed referring to the right of common on Shrewley Heath by the inhabitants of Rowington. This probably was inserted therein by reason of the case being brought by King Henry VIII in 1544 against the parishioners for payment of the acknowledgement of the annual charge of one pound of pepper, which, evidently, had been allowed to lapse. The result of the case was that the parish had to pay ten years' arrears, namely ten pounds of pepper, at a cost of 16s. 8d., as can be seen in *R. R. i*, p. 27, and it would thus be thought necessary to keep it in mind, though there does not appear to be any further record of the payment of this rent in these accounts or elsewhere. The original deed, of which this is an illiterate copy, is in the Feoffees' Chest, and there are several references to it in *R. R. i*. This deed states that John de Pesham, as early as *circa* 1300, gave to the parish a charge on a field at Mousley End to pay for the annual fee of one pound of pepper demanded by the king, and this rent charge was paid to the Trustees up to 1902, when it was redeemed by Mr. Dugdale. The field on which it was charged is called Pipers (Peppers?) Close to this day. The donor of this gift would be the John Pesham who built Lapworth Hall in Edward II's time.

Page 4.

Gives in detail a record of the Taxes described on p. 2, collected by William Hill, the thirdborrow, at Rowington, probably during one of the first years of the MS., not later than 1558. Evidently it was a tax only on the freeholders,

the omission of the manorial domain being accounted for by their being the property of the king and therefore free from tax.

Page 5.

Is perhaps the most interesting page in the book, as it records the expenses entailed in the building of the new (north) aisle in the year 1554, which was the date cut in the stone above the west window of the aisle, outside, but as the letters have become indistinct, there was a doubt, which this record clears up.

Without going into detail of the respective items thereon, though all are more or less interesting, perhaps the total amount expended will appeal more to the ordinary reader. There were further payments of £4 4s. 1½*d.* made on this account as late as 1555-6 (p. 22), which added to the expenditure recorded here would make a total of £67 3s. 8½*d.* (equal to nearly £1,000 at to-day's rates—1921), no little sum for the parish to have collected, as we read that all the money was given by the parishioners, who would number no more than 450—say half the number living here to-day. The amount credited to the contribution from the Church wardens appears to have been derived by making the tenants of the Feoffees' lands pay a lump sum down for the privilege of occupation of the lands at a nominal rent. This will be seen in the case of William Sanders for Brookfurlong; Joan Shakspeare for Daies Earth Harvys; Richard Shakspeare for Ley Tying; Roger Ley for Hogstyd; and John Gryssold—the latter gave 20s. 8*d.* presumably for re-entry to Preston Close. In addition there was the proceeds of the sale of timber on the estate, and there were also legacies, of which there is mention in *R. R.* i, showing that preparation for the building had been in hand some years.

It is also worthy of note that the Church wardens did not neglect the repair of the main building, as the previous year's accounts show. This no doubt was instigated by the injunctions lately issued requiring the Church wardens and Vicars to keep their churches and vicarages in good order.

The reference to "Lead that Queen Mary gave to the parish from Kenilworth" is an interesting item. No doubt this lead, as also some of the stone used in the building, came from the Priory which existed there and had been suppressed in her father's reign. A lump of lead shaped in the fashion of the mould into which it was originally run by the dismantlers of the Priory in Henry VIII's time, and still retaining the king's mark, has in recent years been dug up in the ruins. It is to be seen in Kenilworth Church, and would be similar to the ingots sent to Rowington. The reason why stone was brought to Rowington is not apparent, unless the haulage from Kenilworth cost less than quarrying at home, for there was evidently good stone available here, as illustrated by the fact that stone was taken from Rowington to construct the chancel of the Guild Chapel at Stratford in 1452, and, in 1543, Rowington stone was specified in the contract for building the new cross at Coventry, though it was not used. Even at so late a date as 1710 stone from Rowington Quarry (two hundred loads) was used in the

building of the tower at Saint Philip's Cathedral Church at Birmingham, the contractor being a William Shakspeare of Rowington.¹

Pages 6 and 7 are blank in MS.

Page 8.

1553.

Hereon will be found a list of the properties enumerated in John Hill's Will, and it is dated, in accordance with the copy existing in the Feoffees' Chest, 7th May Edward VI 1553 (*R.R.* i, p. 51). The title infers that all such lands had been left by John Hill personally, which if true, as it probably was, would fully justify his title as "a worthy man to be had in memory". It is stated that he was buried in the south porch, but there is nothing to verify this, though in old days the porch must have been regarded as a very sacred spot, inasmuch as the first Archbishop of England (St. Augustine) and his five successors were buried in the porch of the Abbey Church at Canterbury. Bloxham records that Hill's tomb, whereon was a brass plate, was on the east of the south door, and, if so, it is probable that it was removed at the restoration, a deplorable action. If it were not for his charitable bequests which have continued to be distributed from century to century, there would remain nothing to keep his memory green to-day. These, however, have comforted many a poor widow since his day until now, but as regards some of the other bequests, distributed at later date, it is open to doubt whether all the recipients thereof have really benefited, or whether some were made poorer in spirit, thus suffering more poverty than they might have done had they not learned to lean on charity.

The first item refers to the small homestead now in the occupation of Henry Taylor at Little Shrewley (Ord. Map 154, 216). We have a record in our Charity Deeds of the building of a new house here in 1559-60 by Robert Watton, the tenant, accounting for the low rental on a lease of twenty-one years. It is also interesting as this building exists to-day, though it has been added to since.

The land called "late John Collyns" in this list refers to Pinley Rudding (Ord. Map 53, &c.), and the said John Collyns probably also occupied the adjoining field called Colinsey. Collyns was his adopted name, his father's

¹ Note from the Minute Book of Commissioners for building St. Philips Church :

April ye 17th, 1710

At a meeting of ye Commrs appointed for building a new Parish Church in Birmingham in ye County of Warwick—present—Ye Right Honble. Willm Lord Digby, Sr Charles Holte, Bart, Clobery Holte Esqr, Arden Adderly Esqr, Willm Dugdale Esqr, Willm Inge Esqr, Willm Binckes Dr of Divinity & Henry Holden, Dr of Physick it is ordered as followeth—

I, William Shakespear of Rowington in ye County of Warwick Do promise & agree wth ye Said Commrs to deliver at ye pitt at Rowington Quarry, ready for Loading Two Hundred Loades of Stone, each Loade Containing Twenty foot Broken according to ye Scantlings in ye bill to be given and according to ye Judgmt of Mr. Wm. Smith & to deliver ten loades pr week. Quarry Man Like at four shillings pr Loade beginning ye 24th of this Instant April till ye Two Hundred Loades is all Delivered, two pence pr Loade (over & above ye 6s. 4d.) to be paid for Loading ye Said Stone.

William Shakspeare.

name being Atte Lye, whose family no doubt lived hereabout from the fourteenth century. The Trustees of the Charity sold this property to James Booth, Esq., in 1921, and also the land called Newlands (Ord. Map 71), which was on the other side of the road, at the back of Cryers Oak Farm, in 1906.

Sanders is not mentioned in the MS. again under the same name—one which probably originated from its occupiers for a long time—but its real name was, and is, "Brocksturneveld" (Broxtonfields). The property was purchased from Joan Spencer by John Hill in 1471 (*R.R.* i, p. 11). The rental appears in the accounts of the Vicar's warden, under the name of Brookfurlong, at 1*d.*, showing that it had been compounded for a number of years, probably for funds towards the building of the new aisle. The fields are situated at Lawson End, close to the Mission Chapel, and are numbered 364 and 365 on Ord. Map. Mention of the property does not occur in the MS. accounts after 1574, but early in the next century it was rented by the Shakesperes of Brookfurlong.

Preston Close still bears the same name, though it was also called Captain's Close, and lies at the bottom of Pekwel Hill, past Preston Church, on the left (Ord. Map 122 and 123) adjoining a field anciently called "plasshe" or "milldam", and the "floodgate pool". At present it is let to Mrs. Moore.

The tenements in Lapworth with "barrys" (Barr's) land and Shyrlocks", both personal names, were the property called in later times Pound Farm, sold to the late Reginald Parker in 1903 and now owned by Mr. Wale.

The note at the foot of the page, "A treue fflowder of ledd is even xix hondred and an halffe", &c., shows that the anomaly of English weights was prevalent in those early times. The word "ffowder" means "fodder" which is Saxon, and is sometimes spelt as "fother", and was generally used with reference to lead. In the old dictionaries it is given as representing 2,000 pounds by weight, or a wain load.

Page 9.

On this page we get a list of the rentals of the Feoffees' properties, entitled "Church lands".

Harvys (Ord. Map 889, &c.) refers to the small property adjoining Wroxall, generally called "Daies Earth Harvys", left by Christina Celey (Sele, ? Selet)—usually spelt Cetey in other records—for the benefit of the parishes of Rowington and Budbrook jointly, but unfortunately we have no further record of the donor. The property must have been given to the parish more than one hundred years before this MS. commences, and one cannot help feeling regret at severing our interest therefrom through the sale of the property to J. B. Dugdale, Esq., which has lately taken place (1921) in the interest of the Charity Estate.

The next property, Lyaunce (Ord. Map. 374, &c.), has a similar history in so far as we have no record of the donor, and it is probable that we have held it longer than Harvys, possibly even as much as a hundred years, and that

either this holding or Harvys is the same as Robert de Arderne conveyed to William le Celer in 1328 (*R.R.* i, p. 6). There was considerable property given to Church purposes during the ravages of the Black Death in the fourteenth century, and Lyaunce may have come to us during that period. This property still belongs to the parish and is let to H. Bolton.

Smalley Meadow cannot be located with certainty, but it lay down by the "Cock-in-the-Tree" Inn, joining Smalley Broke, on the west side of the highway, and the land appears to have been exchanged for certain other lands with Sir William Antrobus in 1844, unless it was sold in 1662 (*R.R.* i, p. 50).

Brockefurlonge (Ord. Map 364, 365) refers to land also called Sanders, mentioned on p. 8.

Hockstyd (Ord. Map 716) is a small field at the back of the new almshouses in the Alley-way.

Moorelande (Ord. Map 243), situated at Lowsonford, close to the railway bridge, was sold to the Great Western Railway Company, for making the Henley line, in 1894.

Seynt Marie Leyton (Ord. Map 697) was a small piece of garden ground adjoining the house occupied by J. Bold, in the Back Lane, to whom it was sold in 1904. The donor of this is unknown, as also of Ley Tyinge (Ord. Map 510), which is a small part of the meadow down at Madmore, still in hand. This probably is the same as "Tyners", as a family of that name existed at the time of the MS. and is frequently mentioned in these accounts.

The three "shoppes" have long since disappeared, and their situation has not been located with certainty, but possibly the lower part of the Court House was utilized as shops during the period of the MS.¹

It is unfortunate that we have no records of all the donors of these properties, from whom the parish has benefited for so many years, so that their names might be handed down for remembrance, and it might be well to record the following names of additional benefactors to the parish, who are not mentioned in the MS.

John Milborn gave Priests Field at Lowsonford, near where he lived.

Thomas Reeve gave £100, and he, no doubt, was the Thomas Reeve who died in 1612, and whose memorial tablet is in the north aisle of the Church.

Richard Hodgkins gave £30 in 1638, with which the land at Bushbury was purchased, but, unfortunately, was lost to the Charity prior to 1760.

John Bird, gent., gave £50 in 1669 to purchase land for the benefit of the poor of Rowington.

Madame Elizabeth Wollascott, widow of Thomas Wollascott, gave £50 previous to 1685. Her daughter Mary married Richard Betham, but we have no further reference to her except a memorial stone in the Church.

¹ The Court House, Schoolmaster's House, and the small Cottage fringing the front of the Churchyard were pulled down in 1859, and the material used in the building of the new Schools, towards the expenses of which the Trustees contributed £70, and the land merged in the churchyard.

There are other minor gifts mentioned on the Benefaction Board which used to be in the Church.

Page 10.

1553.

Gives a list of the tenants of the lands referred to on p. 9, and the rents paid to Nicholas Bird, Vicar's warden, for the year 1553, and calls for no particular attention.

Page 11.

1553.

On this page we have the earliest records as rendered by the church wardens of Rowington, yet come to light. They are for the year 1553, and are those of the Vicar's warden, whose special charge seems to have been the care of the fabric and furniture of the Church, the expenses connected therewith being provided from the receipts of benefactions apparently made specially for that purpose, though there is no direct evidence in most of the cases. However, the custom, no doubt, was sufficient to warrant the commissioners allocating to the Church the share of the Charities now allowed by their scheme.

The Parish warden apparently had to utilize the funds left for keeping up the highways. All these expenses were defrayed by the proceeds of benefactions left in John Hill's will, and from additions made since. We shall find later on that extra land was added to Barr's and Shyrlocks Closes in Lapworth, and other instances appear in the MS., and in the wills of the period, of legacies left for these purposes. Thus the parishioners were relieved for many years in paying these charges, and also with respect to the maintenance of the Church Services even to this day. With regard to the former, it was no doubt often needed and of real benefit, but it is an open question whether it has tended for good in the latter case.

It will be observed that at the period of the MS. all Church accounts were reckoned from the 25th March, which ended the ecclesiastical year. In England in the seventh, and so late as the thirteenth century, the year was reckoned from Christmas Day, but in the twelfth century the Anglican Church began the year on the 25th March, which practice was also adopted by civilians in the fourteenth century. This style continued until the reformation of the calendar by statute in 1752, by which the legal year was ordered to commence on the 1st January 1753. Even then the Church was loathe to alter, and for some time both years' dates were entered in the records for the first three months of the year. It is somewhat remarkable that the Anglican Church still continued to use the old style in making up their accounts, even to this day, but under the new Parochial Church Councils Measures (1921) this is to be altered, and accounts will now have to be rendered to 31st December.

Sir Thomas Hayward was Vicar at this time (1553) and Richard Hethe appears to have been the Chantry Priest, or to have acted as Deacon, since 1546. "Sir" was a translation of "Dominus", a courtesy title given to such clergy as had taken the first degree of Bachelor of Arts.

It is interesting to note the last item on this page, which alludes to the

purchase of paper for the "Registre Boke", proving that a register was kept; and further evidence is given on p. 82, where we see that the parish clerk was paid for keeping the register. Unfortunately it has been lost, and there are no copies thereof at Worcester.

Page 12

1553.

Gives a list, for the year 1553, of the tenants of the properties left by John Hill, and described on p. 8. Among them is John Jennings of "Barry's Land" at Lapworth, of whom there used to be a rumour that his descendants were connected in some way with the Jennings family who founded the famous "Howe Millions", and I remember our registers being searched, some thirty odd years ago, for evidence connected with the family. There are two additions to the list of property given on p. 8, both lands being in Pinley, and one would be Newlands and the other probably Pinley Rudding.

The only other noticeable item is that of the "hyre of one cowe", which refers to the lending out of the parish cow, and is interesting. The charge of 16 pence per year seems to have been the usual one paid in the district for the hire of a cow, which custom was a general one in most country parishes. It must have been so in Rowington, as legacies are left for this purpose in some of the wills of the parishioners of that period. From this one would gather that in the instance given the cow was specially intended for the benefit of the parish generally as well as the hirer. Those who are further interested cannot do better than refer to the excellent account of this custom given by Robert Hudson on p. 107 of his book *Memorials of a Warwickshire Parish* (Lapworth).

Page 13.

1553.

On this page we get the accounts of the Parish warden, William Cowper, or Cooper, for the same year. The item 2s. 8d. to the "churche mē" (churchwardens) occurs regularly in the MS., and was in accordance with John Hill's will for their trouble in administering his various bequests.

Attention might also be called to the amount spent on the highways in this year, inasmuch as it exceeded half of all the payments made by the Parish warden. The amount £3 9s. 5d. remaining over would be the balance of his account and not solely intended for the use of the "ffowle wayes" as stated.

We might well assume that William Cowper was identical with the "Wm. Coper" whose widow, Joan, died in 1626, "age 105", as noted on the mural tablet now on the outside of the south wall of the nave, but which was formerly on the chancel floor. This Joan would be the maker of the "amyce kerchen" mentioned on p. 15 of the MS. William Cowper appears to have lived at Mousley End, occupying land rented at 18s. 8d.—a good sum in those days.

Nicholas Bird came of a family who had owned property in the parish (Pinley) two hundred years previous to this date, and was still a freeholder, living at Rowington End, and rated at £10 for his freehold, in addition to which he rented other lands. He died in 1557, and by his Will left "12d. to the High Altar of Rowington Church in discharge of my conscience for

tythes by me forgotten". He appears to have died in debt to the Church accounts for 19s., which his successors had trouble in recovering, but which was paid, presumably with interest, in 1561 (see p. 35).

Pages 14, 15.

1554.

These are interesting pages, inasmuch as they cover the year in which Queen Mary came to the throne, when she not only restored the religious system of Henry VIII, but, having strong leanings towards Rome, reintroduced all the ritual of that Church, as several items on these pages denote. Note particularly the third line on p. 15, "when we had forthe the churche goods", which refers to bringing back from Warwick the various paraphernalia used in the Romish Church, which had been condemned as idolatrous by the Commissioners of Edward VI, and evidently stored there, but which the parish was now allowed to buy back. There is another item of 10s. for this in the Parish warden's accounts, so the total amount paid for the restoration of these goods appears to have been 11s. 10d. On p. 14 it will be seen that the communion table was sold for 5s., and that the old mensa, or stone altar, was set up again. The table had not been allowed to remain long, for the order directing the substitution of tables for stone altars was only dated 19th November 1550.

"Mendying the bettr chalyce" indicates the existence of a second chalice, and this must have come into the Church after the returns made under the order of Edward VI in 1552, which stated that only one chalice existed here. It may have been presented by John Oldnall, and later, when the form of religion was again altered, returned to him, which is assumed from the fact that in his Will dated 1558 he bequeathed a chalice to Mistress Throk Morton of Coughton Court (*R. R.* i, p. 208). In those days many of the Church treasures found their way into private houses. We have no further mention of a second chalice, or any reference to its disposal.

It might be interesting to give the inventory of Church goods at Rowington made in these returns of Edward VI.

- 1 chalice & 3 bells, one little sance (sanctus) bell.
- 6 vestments, one vellet, 4 silke.
- 1 cope, silke.
- 5 Altarclothes.
- 4 Albes. (White undergarment worn by priest at celebration.)
- 2 stream's. (Stoles.)
- 3 ban^r clothes. (Banners.)
- 2 candlestyckes.
- 2 Cruetts. (Metal vessels, 1 for wine, 1 for water.)
- 2 crosses, one coper (copper), one plate.
- 6 towells.
- 1 Altar fronte, say (satin).

Pages 16, 17.

1554.

The first item of the Parish warden, on p. 17, is another reminder of the

change in the Church services at that time. The Communion was no longer administered to the people, but the Mass set up again, and it was necessary to purchase a new "pyxe"—a box in which the consecrated wafers were kept—as stated on this page.

John Hill's obit is recorded as having been said for the three previous quarters, in accordance with his Will, which required it to be said four times a year on Fridays in Ember weeks, and in addition 2s. to be paid to the clerk for the "tolling of one bell at the time of his exiques annually for ever". After the Reformation, when obits and tolling of bells ceased to be allowed, the 2s. was still payed to the clerk, but for keeping the bells. Unfortunately, there is no record of the actual day of John Hill's death, which occurred in the year 1502.

Pages 18-25.

1555-6.

On pages 18 and 24 we notice the items for Church ale at Whitsuntide, a frequent means employed for increasing the Church funds. In both instances it will be observed that a good sum was procured. The custom originated in very early times, indeed, it is said it can be traced to the heathen festivities of the unconverted Angles and Northmen. The Church Ales were conducted by the church wardens, who collected the malt, or contributions thereto, from the parishioners, and brewed the ale at the Church House. It was afterwards drank here, or sometimes even in the Church itself, and the proceeds helped to swell the Church coffers.

On p. 19 we have an early record of a meeting of the Rowington Feoffees with those of Budbrook, no doubt with respect to Harvys Land, at which, of course, they had to indulge in refreshments as was customary to do at all meetings, whether Church, feoffee, or parochial.

An interesting item "^pd to the deane at Warwike for whytson farthyngs" will be found on p. 21. Whitsun Farthings—or Pentecostals, as they were often called—were certain pious oblations made at the feast of Pentecost, or Whitsuntide, by parishioners to their priest, and sometimes by inferior churches or parishes to the principal mother church. These oblations were divided into four parts, one for the parish priest, a second for the poor, a third for repair of the church, and a fourth for the bishop, and such seems to have probably been the case at Rowington, as is shown by the payments made, in later instances in the MS., to the Whitsun Lord.

On p. 25 will be noted the reintroduction of Peter Pence by Queen Mary, which had been prohibited by Henry VIII and was afterwards finally abolished by Queen Elizabeth. It was paid at the feast of St. Peter-in-vinculis, on the 1st August, which is more commonly known as "Lammas Day", a name which came down from the Ancient Britons, who celebrated the joy of harvest on this day, and which was utilized by the early Church for receiving offerings of the first-fruits. Lammas Day at the period of the MS. would actually occur about ten days later in the year than it does to-day, owing to the alteration in the

calendar. The Latin words "in vinculis" refer to the chains in which St. Peter was bound, and are added to prevent confusion with the ordinary St. Peter's Day held on the 29th June.

A few lines down one might notice the use of the word "ymbre" as it perpetuates the Saxon way of spelling "ember".

The accounts of Nicholas Byrd and William Cowper close on this page, and it will be observed that they had served four years, a somewhat unusual proceeding, Church wardens rarely retaining office more than two consecutive years, a wise procedure, which, in the interest of the Church, might be more adhered to to-day.

During the last year of the wardens' office (1556) the Vicar—Sir Thomas Hayward—died. He had been Vicar since 1536, so had experienced all the various changes in the ritual instituted by Henry VIII, Edward VI, and Queen Mary, and was apparently a general favourite in the village. In 1551 he witnessed Dame Constance Ferrers' will, and as she was a staunch Catholic, it gives further proof of the Vicar's religious tendencies. He was succeeded by Sir Richard Hethe, who had been appointed to Rowington as Chantry Priest some years before, and who seemed to hold similar religious views.

The priests in charge of parishes seem, on the whole, to have done their duty better than we should have expected considering the amount of superstition which we associate with the religion of pre-Reformation times. The "Instructions for Parish Priests" written in the Middle Ages by John Myrk, a monk in Shropshire, of which the Early English Text Society have published a copy, has little superstition about it, and some "good sound morality such as it would be pleasant to hear preached at the present day", as the Editor adds. The manual directs what sort of a man the priest should be in his behaviour, what he should teach to his parishioners, and how the people should behave in Church, "which is God's house, not a place for idle prattle or jesting". There is evidence that religion was then a greater power among the people generally than it is to-day. We read in Chaucer's description of these mediaeval times what sort of men some of the parsons were :

"Wide was his parish and houses far asunder,
But he ne left nought for no rain ne thunder
In sikeness and in mischief to visite
The farthest in his parish much and lite.¹
A better preast I trow that nowhere none is.
He waited after no pomp ne reverence,
Ne maked him no spiced² conscience,
But Christe's lore, and his apostles twelve
He taught, but first he followed it himselve."

And though Chaucer wrote this 200 years previous to the time of our Sir Thomas Hayward, and before superstition had obsessed the minds of clerics and laymen alike, yet it would appear that the picture it portrays would have

¹ rich and poor.

² scrupulous.

answered well for "Master Vicar Hayward", or even Richard Hethe who followed.

Page 26

1557.

Commences the accounts of the two new wardens, John Horseley and John Gryssolde, the former being Vicar's warden, and his accounts are given first. There is nothing to draw attention to in the receipts, but there are one or two interesting items on

Page 27.

1557.

Such as the bringing of further stone from Kenilworth, which stone was probably used for renewing the buttress at the east end of the chancel, and came, no doubt, from the ruins of the Priory.

"Gogings" refers to the parish ducking-stool, which was used for punishing unruly wives, &c.

A few lines further down is an item for cords to the "Veyle and Rode". This, no doubt, refers to the lenten veil, a great curtain or sheet of painted linen or other material, whereby the high altar and its surroundings were completely shut off from the choir during the whole forty days of Lent. This custom preceded the erection of chancel screens, and evidently continued afterwards, as the old rood screen that used to exist, and is referred to elsewhere, was probably erected before this date, as was the par-close screen still in situ. The rood (from Saxon "róde"—a cross or crucifix), which was repainted in the following year (page 31), would bear thereon an image of our Saviour. It may have been suspended from the archway, as is suggested by the holes remaining in the arch, in which probably were inserted the "irons for the rood" (page 19), and probably rested on the rood beam in the rood loft. On either side carved effigies of St. Mary and St. John, each about sixteen inches high, would be placed, as were evidently made at this time, and mentioned on this page, to replace those taken away in the preceding reign. The entrance to the rood loft was on the east of the north side of the chancel archway, as existed before the restoration.

Pages 28-33.

1557-8.

In the accounts of John Gryssolde, Parish warden, for the year 1557, the mention of wax for the sepulchre and paschall (p. 29) would, of course, refer to the paschal light kept burning before the sepulchre. The latter was a more or less elaborate, though usually temporary, erection of wood, covered over with the most precious hangings which the Church possessed, and was erected on Good Friday, near the altar—usually on the north side—to represent the tomb wherein Christ's body was laid for burial. On Good Friday it was customary for the people to go to the sepulchre and pray until early in the morning of Easter Day. A large light, called the Paschal, was kept burning before it during this time, and the people strove to have a large and expensive candle for the purpose—the paschal taper at Westminster Abbey one year is said to have been 300 pounds in weight—hence the cost for wax was considerable.

These expenses recur the following year (p. 33) for the last time, such practices being abolished after the death of Queen Mary at the end of 1558. Permanent sepulchres were erected in some churches, and one still exists in Solihull Church.

Gryssolde is another spelling of "Greswolde", the name of a well-known family in the county, who can be traced as living in the parish at least one hundred years previous to the MS., and who were connected with that armigerous family of Yardley and Solihull. At this period there was more than one member of the family living here, and they probably belonged to the elder branch (see *R. R. i.*, p. 137). The warden probably lived at one of the Rookery Farms, and was an uncle of that Robert Greswolde who suffered imprisonment and afterwards death at the stake at Warwick, for his conscience and constancy to his friend "Mr. Sugar", who also suffered death at the same time. Sugar was a Catholic missionary priest from Douay, and was a native of Wombourne in Staffordshire. He and Robert Greswolde were apprehended on the highway at Rowington, and suffered a year's confinement before their death (see *R. R. i.*, p. 174).

John Gryssolde served as warden for two years, his last year's accounts being on pp. 32-3, and died in 1586. According to his Will he owed the parish stock £3 which is not recorded in these pages, inferring that other accounts existed at that time.

We know nothing of John Horseley except that he resided at Inwood End.

During the tenure of these two wardens an important man of Rowington died, namely John Oldnall, who had been bailiff of the parish and farmer of the manor probably from before 1523. His family appears to have come to the parish before 1460, probably as tenants of the manor for the Abbat of Reading, and this John remained here, after the dissolution of the Abbey (1539), as tenant or farmer for the king. The word farmer originally signified one of such tenants who took the domain or some other piece of land, paying for it a "farm" or "firma", i.e. a settled, established rent: hence the word farmer. Oldnall died in 1558, aged 76, and was buried in the north aisle. What a great day would be the day of his burial! What a howling and holloaing of the mourners, according to the customs of those days! The chief rooms in the house of the deceased would be draped in black cloth, as also the bed of the survivor, who occupied it for a stated time and there received the visits of condolence. A canopy of dark purple velvet, which was called a hearse, would be carried over the coffin, and erected in the Church, remaining there while a dirge was being sung. The mourners would carry small branches of bay, rosemary, and other evergreens, as emblems of the soul's immortality, and these they threw into the grave. These mourners were frequently poor people engaged for the occasion and paid for their services, and sometimes black gowns were provided for men who were to precede the bier. The Church also would be draped in black, and there would be a great concourse of the parishioners, who would be well fed by the deceased's family with cold foods of all kinds and wines and ale: sometimes these feasts lasted for several days. The poor had their feasts in like manner, the guests contributing offerings of

food as at their weddings. These foolish customs lasted till quite recent times, but now, wisely, have been entirely abandoned.

Oldnall's memorial stone was removed at the restoration to the chancel, to its great destruction, by reason of the softness of the stone which is alabaster. He was a rich man and had a large family, and his will, which is preserved at Worcester, covers four large sheets. He was a strong Catholic, and made the Vicar of Rowington one of his overseers, but left the large sum of £6. 13s. 4d. to the Vicar of Coughton Court "to pray for me", as he evidently realized that such wishes could not be complied with at Rowington owing to the existing laws, though they might be carried out privately. Oldnall had obtained, only a year before his death, a renewal of the lands of the manor for twenty-one years, and these he left to his daughter Alice, who had married John Jennet. His executors had to pay a heriot to the lord of the manor, of a beast, which was a cow of red colour valued at 13s. 4d.

John Oldnall was the last of a long line of bailiffs, from Ingulf, a monk in 1151 (*R.R.* i, p. 2), who served under the régime of the Abbats of Reading. He was followed in that office by John Tybbotts, whose position, of course, would not be of quite the same importance and became less so as time went on. In recent times the chairman of the Trustees was called bailiff, but the reason for this is not apparent, and the position has now become obsolete. The key of the Feoffees' Chest, entrusted to the writer over thirty years ago, bears an ancient tag on which could then be faintly discerned the inscription "the Bailies Key".

Pages 34, 35.

1559.

On p. 34 are given the receipts of John Reve, the Parish warden for the year 1559, which are similar to those of the preceding ones. There is no record of his payments, neither are there any accounts of the other warden for that year, nor of either of the wardens for 1560, even their names not being mentioned. This might be accounted for by the religious turmoil existing in the country owing to the accession of Queen Elizabeth, and the reversion of the manner of religion to that existing in Edward VI's time, which probably was not in accordance with the views of the chief parishioners. There were several vacant benefices in the diocese in the return made in 1565, including Baddesley Clinton, "vacant for 13 years", showing the unsettled state of the Church. What general effect the change had in Rowington is not apparent, though one can imagine what probably happened from the fact that most of the inhabitants were staunch Roman Catholics, and the Vicar, Sir Richard Hethe, who had been in residence for some time, was of like religion. He, like the previous Vicar, probably temporized, as he was not disturbed in his cure. Possibly they both acted with the full approval of their parishioners, though at this period it is evident that Richard Hethe would receive little sympathy from the Archbishop—Matthew Parker—or from his own Bishop—Edwin Sandys—both being staunch Protestants.

Pages 35, 36

1561.

Contain the accounts of the Vicar's warden, William Wyllyams, but those of the Parish warden are wanting. From the former's payments it appears as though they had only just begun to alter the style of the services. The unusual items in the accounts presented here were due to the Act of Uniformity passed at the commencement of the year, to which the Bishop, on his Visitation at Warwick, would no doubt enjoin strict obedience. Thus it was necessary to buy new vestments and furniture, and procure a Communion Table, the cost of which was not extravagant if we are to compare the price paid with the amount received by the sale of the old one (see p. 14). They would also, of course, dispose of all forbidden articles, and we notice all the wax was sold and the proceeds given to the poor. The Communion Table used at the time of the MS. was not a fixture, and in many instances was moved at Communion time and set in the centre of the chancel. One can easily imagine how this custom tended to irreverence, which is found to have existed in many churches, and which later necessitated the order made by Archbishop Laud that altar rails were to be erected, which no doubt helped to raise the character of the worship of the Church of England. There is no record come to light as to when the present handsome Elizabethan Table was erected, but, at the visit of Bloxham in the early forties, it was not in its original position, though existing in the Church, and its place was occupied by the small table presented by the Rev. George Weale in 1803, a very poor specimen which still remains in the Church. The old table was replaced in the Rev. A. Gem's time. Bloxham also mentions the oak altar rails presented by John Betham, referred to in the notes on the Church, which were removed at the restoration (1871), and these could hardly have been the original Laudian rails.

William Hancoxe was William Wyllyams's fellow-warden, as we gather from *R. R.* i, though we have none of his accounts in this MS. He was a freeholder and lived at Poundley End, as did William Wyllyams. Hancoxe had married Elizabeth, a daughter of John Oldnall, so would have some standing in the parish, and his family can be traced as living here in 1485. John Jenett, gent., whose burial in the Lady Chapel at a cost of 5*s.* is recorded on p. 35, two years after his death, in Wyllyams's accounts, was brother-in-law to Hancoxe's wife.

The Church coffer mentioned, for which a key was required, probably refers to the one known to-day as the Parish Chest.

Page 37 is blank in MS.

Pages 38, 39.

1562.

Wyllyams was followed as Vicar's warden by Thomas Attwood, who lived at the house now occupied by Mr. Currall at Inwood End. He had for his co-warden Richard Saunders, who resided at Poundley End, and who was one of a family who had existed in the parish since 1450 at least.

Thomas Attwood seems to have received the Queen's Injunctions from the Summoner—a paid officer of one of the ecclesiastical courts—which included the Bishop's directions for the setting up of the Ten Commandments in the Rood Loft, but if placed there they could not have remained long, as, in the next item, the loft is stated to have been taken down, when the Commandments were probably removed to the chancel. These must not be confused with the marble tablets existing in the Church to-day.

During this year (1562) the Vicar, Sir Richard Hethe, died, and was buried in the Church. He had been a Trustee of the Charities, but there does not appear to have been another Vicar acting as such until 150 years later (1712) when William Southern was appointed. He was succeeded as Vicar by John Williams, a man of very different character and views.

Pages 40–5.

1562–3.

Only the ordinary items and accounts of the Parish warden, Richard Saunders, appear on pp. 40–1, but on p. 42 we note the Visitation of the "Busshopp of Caunterbyryes" to Warwick, at which the churchwardens of Rowington had to attend. This would be Archbishop Matthew Parker, who was the originator of the "Bishops' Bible".

On p. 43 there is an interesting item, viz. "payed to the playars more than was gatheryd ix*d*.", which reminds us that in those days dramatic representations of the chief events in the life of our Lord were played on Sundays and Feast days, sometimes in the church or churchyard if no suitable large building was obtainable, and formed one of the most popular features in mediaeval life. The expenses were covered by a collection among the people, which in the instance recorded was not large enough to pay the performers and had to be made up from the parish funds.

Pages 44–5 cover the accounts of Richard Saunders's last year.

Page 46.

1564.

Here we have a very brief account of the three years 1564–6, written in a different hand from the previous years. Unfortunately no details are given, but simply the total balance in hand each year. This seems to show a lack of interest in Church matters, and may be accounted for by the personality of the new Vicar, John Williams. There is no record of his institution, nor does Dugdale mention him, neither is there any further reference to him available, and we can only assume that he remained in office until the appointment of Philip White, January 16, 1576.

Times had been changing fast indeed. Many of the old inhabitants had died or left the parish since 1557, and new names appear amongst the freeholders, only two of the year 1548 remaining in 1561.

Page 47 is blank in MS.

Pages 48–51.

1567–8

On these pages we return to the usual mode of keeping the accounts, beautifully written, in a different hand again, and very neatly kept, being those

of John Benet, who served as Vicar's warden for these two years, and William Cowper, Parish warden for the same period. They were both Feoffees of the Charity, but there is no further reference to John Benet in our records, except that his daughter and heiress, Joan, married John Fetherstone of Packwood.

The item in his accounts on p. 48 "For alle to make them all to drynke" reads curiously, but must not be taken to mean other than for a drink for all the men engaged on work at the Church, undertaken by the wardens.

Benet's co-warden, William Cowper, seems to be the man who served in like capacity from 1553-6, under a Vicar holding very different views on religion from his successors. On taking up office again Cowper, no doubt, felt somewhat grieved by the difference in the Church services and the neglected appearance of the Church, and he endeavoured to improve matters. For instance, we notice that he bought buckram (p. 49) to cover up the ugliness of the cheap Communion Table, and he appears to have had the churchyard railings repaired, as the item (p. 51) "for mendyng the church rayles" would not refer to the altar rails as they had not yet been ordered to be set up. Why he should have changed the Communion Chalice for a Cup is not apparent, as they are similar vessels, but, at any rate, it could not have been for the small monetary gain that was made. There is interest in the knowledge that the Cup was bought at Coventry, and the price paid for it. What became of this Cup is not known, but presumably it was disposed of later on, as the Chalice now in use is said to be of the date of 1676, and the silver paten 1757.

The book of prayer against the Turks mentioned as having been purchased (p. 49) was no doubt the outcome of the fear, which had been present for some years, of the Turks progressing further into the West. As far back as 1544 special collections were made in the diocese for defence against the Turks, when Rowington contributed 7s. 4d. during the wardenship of Alexander Roger and John Hill, and this is the earliest reference of Church wardens we have found (P. R. O. 58. 201 a).

Pages 52-5.

1569.

On these pages we have the accounts of John Collyett for the Church part and William Saunders for the Parish. Of John Collyett there is no further record, and presumably he was the John Collyett of Kingswood who died in 1578. In their accounts, which are equally well kept and written as the previous ones, we get the first mention of a parish clerk, John Fayrfaxe (p. 53). The date of his appointment is not given, but he must have been clerk for many years, and was acting as such when called upon to give evidence in the case against Mr. Skinner in 1583. His burial is recorded in the Parish Register, December 3, 1623.

Lower down on p. 53 we notice rather large payments made to Mr. Ludford. This would be Anthony Ludford, son of Clement Ludford. He was probably

a lawyer, as he was a member of the Middle Temple, and the payment would be, no doubt, the cost of the case of William Skinner against the parish, heard at Warwick Assizes. William Skinner owned the great tithes of Rowington, which in those days were paid chiefly in kind, and he appears to have demanded more than was customary. Though he lost his case it evidently involved the parish in considerable expense. Anthony Ludford lived in the parish up to about 1648, but at which house is not discernible from the records. As he was fined at the Manorial Court for not clearing out his ditch in Smalley (*R.R.* i, p. 55) one might conclude that his house was thereabout—possibly at the farm now occupied by J. Avern. Incidentally, Ludford was fined at the same court for “not keeping his dog chained and muzzled as was ordained”, showing that such rules existed even in those early days.

On p. 54 we notice several items relating to the building of the Church porch, which are the first mention of a porch we have, though no doubt one previously existed. In this account there is no mention of any bricks, so one must conclude that it was a timber-framed porch, and could hardly have been the one which was pulled down in 1871, as that, according to Bloxham, was a “Brick Building”.

In the same account we get an item for mending the seats in the Church and making new ones, showing that such existed here, though there would not be many as seats were not common in those days. Possibly the three old ones still existing may be some of these identical seats. There is more than one mention of the Bailiff’s Seat, which looks as if he had a special one assigned to him, as was customarily provided for a mayor in a borough.

Pages 56-61

1571-2.

Give the accounts for the next two years, the wardens being William Hyll, Vicar’s warden, and Thomas Shaxspere, Parish warden. They both lived at Lowson End, the latter at Brookfurlong Farm, in the old house lately occupied by William Lowe.

Page 62 is blank in MS.

Pages 63-70.

1573-5.

John Horseley, who was a tanner, and presumably a son of the former warden of that name, served as Vicar’s warden, and Robert Tybbatts as Parish warden, for the year 1572, and apparently they carried on until 1575. Both wardens lived at Inwood End.

From 1540 the Tybbatts family figured prominently in the parish affairs for three hundred years, the name being variously spelt. At the period under review, one John Tybbatts lived at Mousley End, occupying the house “in right of his wife”. The last member of the family to reside in the parish was William Tibbitts who farmed at Mousley End. He died in 1897, after having served as a Trustee of the Charities from 1848 for upwards of forty-six years, a period only exceeded by Archdeacon Thomas William Bree, who became a Trustee the same year and continued until June 1899.

During these wardens' years of office, new, or re-cast bells were set up, and the expenses were rather heavy, resulting in a deficit of the accounts, which they were able to adjust in the usual way by a call on the Charity Estate, a convenient mode favoured by many of their successors up to recent times. Sixty years after this date (1663), when another Tybbatts was Church warden, three new bells, including a large one, were erected.

At the time of the commencement of the MS. there were only three bells, and considering the amount spent on the bells at this date, the question arises whether extra ones were not added, making the number up to five, which are known to have existed soon after the close of the MS. and which still remain. One can quite imagine what might have happened, for, during the wardenship of these men a special Thanksgiving Day was instituted to celebrate the accession of Queen Elizabeth, and such an occasion would be a sufficient excuse for increasing the number of bells. We read from the "Pleasant Conceits of Old Hobson, 1607", that "Upon Saint Hewes day being the seventeenth of November, upon which day the tryumph was holden for Queene Elizabeths hapy government, as bonefiers, ringing of bells, and such like." On p. 64 we get the record of the observance of this day in Rowington under the item "payd for a galand of ale apō S. hews daye to þ^e Ringers, iij^d", and on p. 95 it is called the "newe holyday", and on p. 97 the "Queene's holyday". It was first publicly celebrated about the year 1570. This day was also the one set apart by the Roman Catholic Church to commemorate St. Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, a much respected man in his day, and it is possible that many of the parishioners thought more of that fact than commemorating Queen Elizabeth, thus accounting for the entry being only designated as St. Hugh's Day.

On p. 70 may be noticed an entry *re* "whyte of Whytleye yate". Note the use of "yate" for "gate", which has dropped out of use in this district though still heard in the southern counties. This gate was an entrance to Shrewley Common from Mousley End.

Pages 71-8.

1576-9.

These pages are taken up with the accounts of William Ley as Vicar's warden, and John Reve as Parish warden, for the years 1576-9. Neither of these men appear to have been appointed Feoffees, but they are shown to have acted as such by virtue of their office, like several other wardens during the period of the MS., and as is customary for them to do to-day.

William Ley appears to have occupied a cottage only (*R. R. i*, p. 182), and John Reve was a yeoman living at Lowson End. Members of the latter's family have been residents in the parish since 1470, probably earlier, and have connexions still remaining here. No doubt, Richard Reve, gent., citizen of London, who died in 1765, and whose mural tablet testifying to his benefaction to the parish exists in the Church, was born here.

There are not many items in these wardens' accounts which call for attention, but on p. 71 we notice one relating to work done at the "scole Howse and

Churche Howse", which is the earliest mention we have of a school existing in the parish during the period covered by the MS. From the wording it would appear that the school house was separate from the Church house, but this is improbable. As a matter of fact, originally there was only one building, of two storeys, the top room being used as a Court Room, while the lower might have been taken up by the three "shoppes" often referred to in the MS. At a later date the whole building was used as a School house, the upper part for boys and the lower for girls.

The reference to the burial of the "bayly yn the churche" on p. 76, probably refers to John Tybbatts, as he is recorded as bailiff in 1561 (*R. R.* i, p. 41). Three shillings and fourpence seems to have been the usual charge for burials in the Church, but it was evidently more when a special position was chosen, as in the case of John Jennet. There was no charge to the parishioner for burial in the churchyard in these times, yet such was a rule in some parishes. In the accounts of St. Mary at Hill for the same year, there are receipts of entries "for burying in church, in great churchyard, and in pardon churchyard, and a regular table of fees to be paid to the parish for such. The payments, varied, of course, according to the position selected, and had nothing to do with the clergyman's fee, which was fixed at one penny as a minimum, though more was often given according to the means of the family" (Abbot Gasquet).

Rowington parishioners were immune from many payments in those days by reason of the income from bequests. Church expenses alone would be fairly heavy, and possibly are not all entered here. Wax and candle money was a constant expense, indeed in many parishes a special tax was made for this purpose to which every one had to contribute their share, and collections for special objects were also common in many churches. It is hardly to be supposed that the accounts here presented are a complete record of the expenditure of the parish, but rather only the accounts of the revenue from the invested bequests.

Christopher Kirkland was instituted as Vicar in 1584, but there is no record of the resignation or death of Philip White or John Williams, his predecessors. They were probably all three of but moderate learning.

The item on p. 78 for "a chese, iiij^d", may seem somewhat curious appearing in a Church warden's accounts, but, no doubt, the cheese was purchased to provide a meal for workmen engaged on special work on the roads.

On the same page the item of 7s. 6d. for "cappes" evidently refers to fines collected by the Church wardens for infringement of the Statute of 13 Elizabeth, c. 19, which was enacted for the protection of the "Worshipful Company of Cappers", and enjoined the wearing of woollen caps on Sundays and holydays.

Pages 79-82.

1580-2.

These pages record the accounts of John Collins, Parish warden for the years 1580-2, and one would imagine that the entries in the book for the three

years were copied in at the same time during the last year, thus accounting for the date 1581 at the top of p. 79.

In the accounts on p. 79 will be noticed an item "to the queenes majestie viijs viij^d". This was a tax usually paid to the bishop. We have a note of the same being 13s. 4d. in 1305. It was a special levy made on ecclesiastical goods, presumably annually, but it seems often to have been overlooked at Rowington.

On p. 80 the mention of rushes reminds us that in those days the Church was not adequately paved, with the exception of the chancel, and the frequent disturbances of the ground for interments naturally added to the unpleasantness. The conditions were such that as we notice in the accounts the continual use of lime and frankincense was necessary, and at all festivals the ground was strewn with rushes. They were also used at the Court house and in private houses. At Christmas and on special occasions holly, ivy, rosemary, and bay were used, not only as a decoration, as is customary to-day, but also to act as a palliative.

John Collins's co-warden was Thomas Nason, whose first year's accounts are given on p. 88, and his two remaining years on pp. 81-2.

The "tyling the lyttell hows", entered on p. 82, would refer to the cubiculum, or single-roomed house, on the west side of the twenty steps in the churchyard, which existed up to 1871. "The gatheringe to portesmouthe," recorded lower down, reminds one of the Queen's call for funds for the assistance of the Netherlands, when the English forces were ordered to assemble at Portsmouth, and this would refer to a special collection made for that purpose.

Pages 83-7.

1583-5.

These wardens were followed by Thomas Tybbatts and Edward Sanders. During their tenure of office (three years) there were trying times in the parish, judging from the extract from the State Papers given in *R. R.* i, p. 162. From the report there given it would appear that the trouble concerned one, William Skinner, who came from Shelfield (Little Alne) and who resided at the Hall at this time, having married John Jennet's widow, Alice, a daughter of John Oldnall. He was a Feoffee of the Charity for many years, and an active man in the parish. In 1583 he was notified as a strong papist; with harbouring Jesuits; and defending the title of Mary, Queen of Scots, to the crown, &c. He had been brought before Mr. Job Throkmorton of Haseley, and subjected to an examination before witnesses, amongst whom were Christopher Kirkland, the Vicar, John Fairfax the parish clerk, John Cooper, William Saunders, and Thurstian Tubbs, Tanner, all of Rowington. He had many friends in the parish who were also suspected papists, including his brother-in-law, Thomas Hunte of Bushwood, and Thomas Attwood. Mr. Throkmorton, in sending up particulars of the examination to "Mr. Secretary Warcuppe", added that "Mr. Skinner was so stubberne and dogged that he altogether refuseth eyther to enter into recognoissance or to be axaied (examined) by vs. Therefore we

wholy leave him to the cowcell (council) to wring from him what they can. He hath greate frynds and money at will, wherein I thinke he putteth more trust than his owne innocencye. Howsoer things fall out, I can assure your Mr. Warcuppe he is a pillious (parlous) subjecte as any the Queen hathe of his coate, and hath ben a deadly enemye to the gospell and to the proceedings thereof any time these XX yeare. The Lorde turne his harte or cutte him of speedelye." Mr. Skinner is reported to have said that if people were not compelled to attend Church under the reformed religion, "not passinge 10 of our pyshe would attend I warrant thee", which remark strengthens the opinion before expressed of the religious views of the parishioners. There is much more of the like, but those interested can refer to the record. It does not state the result, but Mr. Skinner probably had good friends in high quarters who intervened on his behalf. He must have been active in some movement against the laws, otherwise it is difficult to understand why he should have been molested. We note he contributed £25 towards the defence of the country at the time of the threatened Spanish Invasion in 1558. William Skinner appears to have been a man of some means, who gained further wealth by acquiring monastic lands. Little Alne itself, from where our branch of the family sprang, had been the property of the Priory of Studley. About this time many people became rich at the expense of the monasteries, acquiring their properties at a low value by bribery or favour, though some of the purchasers were connected with, or were partisans of, the old faith, and bought their lands from other than selfish motives. The Great War gave us many similar examples of greed and avarice, which no doubt existed similarly at the time of the dissolution of the monasteries, advantage being taken of our country's misfortune to accumulate wealth, and many received honours for doing nothing, while others became poor through loyalty and patriotism, cheerfully endeavouring to do their share by voluntary service and unobtrusive generosity, often entailing no little amount of deprivation and self-sacrifice, without recognition. We have no record of William Skinner's death, or indeed any further reference to the family except of his son, Anthony, who had license "to go into any parts beyond the seas, and to return without molestation on notification to the governors of Cinque ports" (*Cal. State Papers Dom.* 12 Aug., 1606). It is possible that Robert Skinner, Bishop of Worcester 1663-70, may have been a close connexion of our branch, as he used the same arms.

Mr. Job Throkmorton was an eminent man of his time, and was, no doubt, over-zealous in the case against William Skinner in order to keep in favour with the authorities, thereby protecting his own interests and possibly those of his family also. His uncle, Sir Robert Throkmorton, was fined six years previously (1577) 100 marks and £100 in goods for absenting himself from Church, and Sir Robert's son, Thomas, £100 yearly and £100 in goods for a like offence. Job Throkmorton was a Trustee of the Rowington Charities, as his father Clement was also, and both held the Manor of Haseley.

In the first years of Elizabeth's reign, those of the old form of the Catholic

faith were allowed to perform their own particular services privately within their own dwellings, and it was not until the different risings in the country, stirred up by disaffected priests against the Protestant Queen, that the laws were made more stringent and enforced against papists. It was then made prohibitive for any member of the Church of Rome to celebrate his religion, and all who refused to take the Oath of Supremacy were deemed guilty of high treason and called Recusants. As evidence of the Anti-Protestant feeling existing in the parish, and the propensity for the Romish doctrines right up to the close of the MS., and long after, we have a record that in 1590, Anne Ley, wife of the Church warden for the previous year, was bound over to confer with Mr. Heycroft, the preacher at Rowington, as she would not conform: and in a Recusant Roll in the Record Office, dated 1592, will be found a list of twenty-one Rowington inhabitants who were all fined sums varying from £40 to £80 for not conforming, that is to say, "as being of the age of 16 years and upwards and did not go to the Parish Church, or to any other Church or usual place of Common Prayer, and were not there at the time of Common Prayer at any time within a specified month, according to the Act of Parliament passed in the 28th year of Elizabeth". In 1604 there were as many as twenty-six adult papists in Rowington, and even as late as 1715 many of the parishioners were heavily fined for recusancy.

Page 90.

1586.

Richard Shaxpere and John Gryssolde appear to have served for the years 1586 and 1587, the latter as Parish warden. He died during his second year of office, which may account for there being no record of the accounts for that year.

The item for "hillinge" the paraphrase book records the rebinding thereof. In 1547 (Edward VI) an injunction was issued ordering each parish to "provide within three months one Boke of the whole Bible of largest volume, in English, and within one twelve-month the Paraphrases of Erasmus, the same to be sette up in some convenient place within the Churche", and this injunction was repeated in 1559. This item, therefore, probably refers to this book. In some churches the wardens chained the book to the desk for protection, as mentioned in some Church warden's account "payed for a chayne for ye paraphrases, 4s." Until recently there still remained an example of a chained book to be seen at Wootton Wawen Church, but unless the old desk surviving in our Church was used for these books, which is quite likely, we have nothing appertaining to this custom.

The item "About the presentment of the Vicarage" is puzzling, as it was two years since Christopher Kirkland died, and Henry Heycroft, M.A., was appointed in the same year. Henry Heycroft was evidently of a different character from the three previous vicars, but does not appear to have been any more favourably received. He was presented to the living by Ambrose, Earl of Warwick, and at the time was Vicar of Stratford-on-Avon—also in the gift

of the Earl of Warwick—and, like a good many other clerics of the time and since, was double-beneficed, holding also Ripston, Co. Hereford, which fact may have occasioned complaint to the Bishop.

During the period of the MS. the Church services on Sunday were fixed by authority "at due and convenient hours". This meant generally 7 to 8 a.m. for morning prayer, to be followed immediately by the Litany and Communion; and 2 to 3 p.m. for evening prayer.¹ Lights were not used in parish churches except at Christmas, and possibly the cost of candles had something to do with the arrangement for the services at such early hours.

The Church wardens' duties at the time, and right up to 1837, would to-day be considered quite onerous, and, judging from the numerous queries in Grindal's Articles issued in 1571, much disciplinary, educational, and secular work was controlled by ecclesiastical authority, which imposed a great deal of extra work upon the wardens and necessitated their assistance to the ministry on many points. From the two sets of articles issued by Bishops Grindal and Sandys one is able to obtain a good idea of the attitude of the Church and its work at this period. The inquiries were very complete, and, among the many directions, Grindal enjoins great insistence on clear and audible reading of everything read in the Church, which might well be impressed upon the clergy to-day, some of whom seem to forget that "God is not mocked". Another direction is interesting in that it refers to the perambulations of the parish, and states that "it is the duty of the substantial men of the parish to walk the bounds with the clergy on the days of Rogation, commonly called gang-days". To the extra duties necessitated by these articles Queen Elizabeth added the care of the necessitous poor of the parish, and, as we have already observed, the Church wardens here had also to look after certain repair of the roads. Injunctions and articles poured in regularly in these times. We have in our chest the answers to one set of queries made in 1585 (*R. R. i.*, p. 90).

Page 91.

1587.

In 1587 the Church warden, Richard Shaxsper, received further injunctions issued by the Queen. From them we gather that the clergy were somewhat negligent, as, amongst other directions, they were ordered to preach at least eight sermons a year in their own cure. In Henry VIII's time four sermons annually were considered sufficient. Edward VI increased the number to eight, but in Elizabeth's time they reverted to four and the reading of a homily on the other Sundays, until the issue of these injunctions. From about this date sermons became a great feature of the services.

Pages 93 and 95.

1588.

For the year 1588 we have Richard Bird, Vicar's warden, and Richard Ley, Parish Warden. During their second year of office the victory over the Spanish Armada was celebrated, as signified in the item "spent on the Ringers on the newe holyday".

¹ *Shakespeare's England.*

Pages 94 and 96 are blank in MS.

Pages 97-100.

1589.

The entries on p. 97 are out of place, being the second year's accounts of Richard Ley as Parish warden. His first year (1588) is entered on p. 99. Unfortunately, the records close with reports of trouble in the parish, and the wardens were summoned to Worcester respecting a letter written by the Vicar, which the wardens considered slanderous; and the Vicar's warden was excommunicated (p. 95). We note that the expenses entailed thereby were paid by the parish. Richard Bird evidently did not neglect his duties, as witness the repairs effected by him in Church and Church house. The "pargetting" of the walls of the latter, a mediaeval word for plastering, was probably done to make it suitable for a school. Of the real cause of the trouble, or the outcome thereof, there is no record, and fortunately in those days there were no mischief-making parish magazines, and scandal-mongers and speakers of evil were drastically dealt with.

The MS. ends with but a vague reference to this episode, and perhaps it is as well to leave it so, and not, by further inquiry,

"Set this ancient quarrel new abroad".

(*Romeo and Juliet*, I. i.)

The only further items are a record, on p. 100, of the wardens chosen for the the year 1589-90, and the payment of three shillings by John Horsey for the hire of a cow for the past year, which is more than that paid at the period when the MS. begins: but this payment may have included more than the hire.

Thus close the records of the MS. which should serve to help us to bear in mind that we are living on this earth but for a short season, and are all only trustees of what intellect and wealth we may possess, given to us to utilize for the benefit of our fellow men, and for which we shall be called to account. One wonders if the times have changed for the better during the centuries elapsed since the MS. was written. Let us hope so, though it does not appear that many advantages have accrued from the social improvements which have certainly arisen. There is a lack of that *esprit de corps* to-day which is essential. Those who would help their fellow men are sorely hindered and discouraged by the jealousies of individuals who think only of themselves and their own particular fads, created by them for their own glorification (whether in national affairs or village communities) instead of realizing that we ought to work together in freer, grander, more Christlike spirit in the highest interests of humanity. It is certain that no amount of legislation can ameliorate the conditions of life in our villages, unless it be accompanied by a transformation of character. Where we have high moral character, industry, and self-denial, there is nothing to forbid our village life being as happy as the imagination could devise.

A BRIEF RETROSPECT OF THE PARISH OF ROWINGTON

DURING THE PERIOD OF THE MS. (1550-1600)
AND ALSO ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO (1821)

THE original settlement at Rowington, as stated in *Records of Rowington*, No. 1, was no doubt of Saxon origin, and at no time was it under the domination and influence of a resident lord. In the year 1125 the lordship of the "Vill Rokington", with all things to it pertaining, was granted by Adeliza de Ivry to the Abbey of Reading. Adeliza was the wife of Roger de Yvry or Ivry and daughter of Hugh de Grentemesnil, to whom William the Conqueror granted the lordship.

There appears to have been about forty-four acres attached to the manor house in the gift, which are specifically named in later deeds as "Great Buryhill, Little Buryhill, Two Upper closes, rick-yard, gardens and land whereon the Manor house stood, all of which shall at all times hereafter for ever be subject to and chargeable with the repairs of the Chancel of Rowington Church and to the re-building of the said Chancel when necessary". These lands may have been the original lands set apart by the founder of the church for the revenue of the priest serving there, but on the transference of the manor to the Abbey of Reading, the Abbat and monks became the impropriators of the benefice, with the consent of the Bishop, and thereby perpetual parsons of the parish church. They would have to depute some person approved by the Bishop to perform divine service in the parish, who, being merely their deputy, was called Vicar, and who in effect would be the curate of the real parson, and would receive a yearly salary from the monastery in tithes or glebe or rent, severally for the perpetual maintenance of the cure, which salary became afterwards a perpetual vicarage. One can imagine that some such ordinance was made here by the attachment of a house, which the Vicar would have to keep up at his own expense, of glebe lands, generally a virgate of land as was the case at Rowington, and the lesser tithes, consisting of tithes of hay, vegetables, flax, hemp, chickens, calves, lambs, piglings, honey, of the parish dove cotes, eggs, apples, fruit trees, herbs, and flowers; also tithes of milk, cheese, and butter of the tenants, and of the mills let to farm, but not of the domain of the manor. He would also have the oblations at the four principal feasts, the offerings of wax, pence paid at confession, and mortuaries.

Such ordinance would not annul the liabilities of the parson or impropriator for the upkeep of the chancel of the parish church.

No doubt, in the days of the Abbats this liability was fully discharged, but

I have not come across any record since the dissolution of the monastery of any payments made by the various owners of this property on account of this charge, though it is quite conceivable that there may have been such in the days of the Bethams.

The village has always been strictly an agricultural community with a sprinkling of weavers; a peaceful habitation with an uneventful history. No battle was ever fought within or near its borders; no historical event ever took place here; no important family ever made it their home, though at one period it contained six families who were entitled to bear arms, and at the date of the MS. there were five. Thus the ruling spirit in the conduct of the affairs of the parish was one of the ordinary parishioners, its administration being carried on by their own chosen body of representatives. Almost every parishioner can be said to have taken his share of duty in turn as Reeve, Church warden, Overseer, Tithingman, Constable, or Ale Taster, &c. The bailiff in early days would be appointed by the Abbat of Reading, and though the manor appears to have been farmed out some time before and up to the Dissolution, the bailiff of the parish would no doubt be the farmer thereof. The personal influence of the manorial lords would not be very great owing to the distance they lived from the parish, yet I have no doubt that the death of the good Abbat, Hugh Farringdon, at the dissolution of the monastery in 1539, was deeply regretted by the inhabitants. Though Wroxall Priory adjoined the parish on one side and Pinley Priory was at the other end, the parishioners would have no connexion with either of them, each house being jealous of its prerogative; neither do they appear to have had much to do with their neighbours in the adjoining parishes. It was just such a situation as was likely to develop a spirit of independence on the one hand and on the other a narrowness and stagnation of mind in the parishioners. Yet it would appear possible to have been an ideal parish after the Reformation had been effected, where a vicar of the right mould and spirit could have done much good. But, alas, not many of the vicars who have followed since the Reformation appear to have made much attempt to fulfil their rightful duty, or to have taken advantage of their unique position. So long as men who have not been spiritually called are admitted to the ministry and sent to parishes where they are unsuited to the congregation, remaining there despite the uncongenial atmosphere, so long will there be failures and the churches remain empty. But this is by the way.

Of those families residing in Rowington at the period of the MS. and whose descendants live in the parish to-day, there remain the Averbs, Slys, Saunders, Reeves, Rogers, Smiths, and Hancocks, and the Shaksperes have only lately died out. Some of these families go back as far as the fourteenth century in the parish records. Great changes in human propensities have occurred since the time of the MS. Life was then far more simple, and there were but few comforts, luxuries, or amusements. The people had simpler tastes and less common sense, and were romantic and superstitious. Faith was stronger,

though no doubt it was much weakened during the Reformation by the revealing of the falseness of many cherished superstitions, and there is but little remaining to-day. The objects of life were different; people lived much more in the present, and were less prudent than the men of to-day.

In our parish chest is an inventory of the household goods of Margaret Cryer, who left the legacy mentioned on p. 12. Her husband, Thomas Cryer, farmed in "Lowston End" at the same farm as is to-day called "Cryer's Oak" at Lye Green. The inventory was taken in 1553, and one can gather therefrom a good account of the mode of living among the middle class in the parish in the days of the MS. The hall was practically the only living room on the ground floor, though the contents of the "kitchen" rather point to that room being used for cooking the meals. The mention of "anndyrone"—used for wood fires—reminds us that no coal was used in Rowington at that time, only wood. Whether there was a fireplace in the hall there is nothing to show, but if there had been, on Easter Sunday, or God's Sunday as it was called, it was customary to put the fire out in the hall, and "clear away all things that is foul with smoke or fumes, and where the fire was shall be gayly arayed with fayre flowres, and strewed with green ryshes all aboute"—hence to-day's custom in the country of decorating our grates with evergreens and flowers when they are not used for fires. The breakfast hour was 6.30 or 7.0, the dinner hour 11.0, and the supper 5.0. The domestic furniture in this house consisted of two chairs "and other stoles"—usually three-legged—but often only one chair existed. There were six "candelstycks" of latten ware, and some of them maybe had spikes only, whereon the candles were stuck. A "table board", not fixed, but formed into a table by laying it upon trestles, and "old paynted clothes" which were a substitute for tapestry for hanging on the walls, are also included in the inventory. There is no mention of knives or forks, and, indeed, there are but few mentioned in inventories of that time. Each man carried his own knife, and was enjoined to keep it clean and not bring it "unskoured" to the table; and fingers were generally used for forks! Widow Cryer had five silver spoons, and there is evidence of plenty of linen table cloths and napkins, and "xxvii pecys of pewter" and sundry cooking vessels and pans. In the chambers were three bedsteads, two feather beds, and three mattresses, with a good supply of necessary adjuncts, including eighteen pairs of sheets, and more "paynted clothes abowte the bedds". The mention of flax, towe, and wolle reminds us that the women spun their own yarn for the linen they used. Hence the word spinster came into use. The housewife of the period would lead a very different life from that of her sister to-day. She would have to be able to cook, bake several kinds of bread, make cheese of various sorts, brew ale, prepare all sorts of wines, and make many other necessities. She would also have to know how to prescribe for all kinds of sickness, make plaisters, ointments, &c., and, indeed, be versed in scores of quaint recipes of which no housewife of that day could be ignorant. In fact, it was held that a woman had no right to enter into matrimony unless possessed of a good

knowledge of all these necessary arts—a little different from her sister of to-day. One is reminded of the old ballad :

They wore shoes of a good broad heel
And stockings of homely blue,
And they spun them upon their own wheel
When this old hat was new.

The farming industry at Rowington was simply self-sufficing. The prices given for various stock in the inventory referred to will convey in some measure the value of money at this period. Best oxen (draught) £1, cattle of two years 10s., calves 3s. 3d., sheep and store pigs 2s. each. Wheat varied from 6s. a quarter in 1540 to 20s. in 1600. Beef was 2d. per pound, bread at 1d., wages 3d. to 6d. per day. Not being obliged to buy the necessities of life the people had no need to sell their produce. But little coin money was needed, except for the payment of rent, and even this was often paid in corn.

The parish being somewhat isolated and having little need of communication with its neighbours, still less with the outside world, the roads were neglected and in no condition to encourage travelling. The fields and live stock therefore had to provide all that was necessary for food and clothing, and no more was looked for. The village had its own mills and craftsmen, and nearly every household had its oven and brewing kettle or furnace. Women made their own coarse cloth and linen, and men tanned their own leather. Cows were kept only for milk and pigs for bacon, but ewes were often milked, six ewes yielding as much as one cow. Oxen were judged by their power of draught and not by their fattening capacity. Sheep were prized for their fleeces and their leather, not for their mutton, and the wool of Ryelands and Cotswold sheep commanded the highest prices. Except in a salted state little meat was eaten. The rule of eating fish twice a week was extended to three times in Elizabeth's reign, and adding the many fasting days to the Lenten season, there would be but half the year wherein to eat flesh. White meat, by which was meant milk, butter, eggs, and cheese—Banbury cheese was considered the best in those days—was the staple food of most classes in the country, and especially of the labouring class, and this spartan fare was varied only on the numerous feast days. Incidentally the chronicles of this early period refer to the bad conditions of farming existing, very low prices, great reduction of rents, and of the ruin of farmers.

The village of Rowington must have presented a very pleasant picture at the time this MS. was written, as it was situated almost in the centre of the Warwickshire Arden, which formerly extended beyond the county boundaries, and was, according to Drayton, the largest of the British forests. Its scenery right through its greatest length, from north to south, Hay Wood to the outer boundary of Pinley (a distance of about three and a half miles), is diversified by gentle hills and valleys which are gratifying to the eye, while its frequent spots of sylvan beauty tend to soothe and elevate the mind. A land of hills and valleys, "in wisdom hast Thou made them all, the earth is full of Thy riches". Yes, all

must recognize that the objects and scenes of nature are the pictures by which "The Truth" is illustrated. The whole face of nature, to him who can read it aright, is marked, like a dial plate of a watch, with significant intimations of the objects and processes of the world unseen. The Bible discloses all this to us. When I was a young man, visiting a remote part of Shropshire, I came across a farmer leaning over a gate, evidently deep in contemplation, and in answer to a query as to his thoughts he replied, "To think that God made all these little hills and dales"—a sermon I have never forgotten.

Rowington abounds in little home-scenes of rural repose and sheltered quiet. Every antique farm-house and many of the moss-grown cottages are pictures in themselves; and as the roads are winding, and the view often shut in by high banks or hedges, the eye is constantly delighted by a succession of small landscapes of captivating loveliness. Such a scene may be said to be associated in the mind with ideas of order, quiet, sober, well-established principles of hoary usage and reverend custom. This perhaps is the great charm of rural England and of this typically English county. It generates a sweet home feeling that is, after all, the parent of the steadiest virtues and purest enjoyments.

The nineteenth century opened, and may also be said to have closed, without upsetting the serenity of the old-world character of the sixteenth-century Rowington. To an inhabitant of fifty years ago reading the MS. there would be little of strangeness about it, and but slight variation in the customs of the villagers or the language spoken, and the characters depicted therein would almost appear familiar to him.

During the period in which I have known Rowington there have, however, been many changes both in the appearance of the dwellings and the ways of living of its inhabitants. There still exist several beautiful old farm-houses—with large barns, some no longer used for the purpose for which they were built—and many cottages, built, for the most part, of brick-noggin, with a few examples of wattle and daub between the timber frames. But the greatest change is in the everyday life and characteristic dress, and the language used by the agricultural workers. No more is Shakespeare's "lazy thresher with a flail" seen in the barn, and the wooden plough and the ox team have disappeared—the last oxen I saw used in a plough was on Holywell Farm. No longer do we meet the old carter in his smock-frock, worked in beautiful patterns on the chest, walking beside his team with his long whip, proud of his horses all decked in brightly polished brass ornaments. The good wife's sun-bonnet and beautifully washed mob-cap are fast disappearing from use. Knee-breeches I never saw in Rowington, but their sensible purpose is still exemplified by the habit of tying up the trouser below the knee. Altogether the change in the clothing has detracted from its utility and its picturesque appearance.

Perhaps one misses most the loss of the pleasure of hearing good old English local sayings and phrases, and the stories of actual experiences told in homely wording, which were so charming and restful to listen to. Many

a treasure did I gather and send to Professor Wright for his great Dialect Dictionary.

Certainly village life fifty years ago possessed some features for which we look in vain to-day. There was more contentment and quiet happiness in all classes. The spirit of restlessness which marks our age is an enemy to some of the highest interests of mankind. The hankering after changes in legislation, as well as in personal circumstances, brings but little gain. If there were more public spirit and less self-seeking, there might be a much higher standard of morality, intelligence, and social well-being. Yet one is reminded that the seniors of every age exclaim against the growing corruption of the times. Our fathers told us of the "good old times", but, as they were but human, and nature varies but little, I expect the times have varied but little also. As in the time of William the Conqueror robbery was rampant, so it was at the period of the MS., and so it is to-day. But, though human nature has not changed, yet there is a difference in the aspect of the country. How much more beautiful the landscape of Rowington must have appeared before the building of the railway and canal changed the contour of the land; and before the enclosure of the common lands which fringed the village all around its borders and practically secluded it from the outside world! Not only poets and painters, but all of us recognize the fact that the world owes its picturesqueness to its waste places. During the century of the MS. and since, many encroachments and enclosures were made, but the greatest was made about a hundred years ago (1824) when Rowington Green, Turners Green, Bushwood Green, Pinley Green, &c., were enclosed, nearly 390 acres in extent, a certain portion being within the parishes of Bushwood and Lapworth. Richard Fowler of Aston, gent., was the sole Commissioner. The first meeting respecting the enclosure was held at the Cock Inn on 18th July 1815, and the award was signed on 4th May 1824.

Perambulating, or beating, the parish boundaries was a customary annual event in many parishes, indeed it behoved the inhabitants to be very precise in this matter if they considered their own interests, and no doubt Rowington, from the day when the manor was given to the Abbey of Reading, had been careful to keep all that was their due, though there is evidence that the boundary both between Bushwood (Old Stratford) and Lapworth parishes was not clearly defined, and neither of the interested parties seemed anxious to determine it. I am unable to state when the last perambulation of Rowington was made, but no doubt there have been one or more within the lifetime of some of the present inhabitants. When the commons were open the parish took toll of all who had encroached thereon, and we have records of those who were liable to fines, and the amounts paid by them for several years prior to the enclosure. The accounts for the year 1807 give the list for Rowington Green and Bushwood Common, the dues amounting to £4 9s. 6d.; for Shrewley Common as much as £11 16s. 6d.; and for Pinley Green 14s. 4d.; giving a total of £17 0s. 4d. These sums were collected on 3rd and 4th November, and

during the perambulation £8 18s. 7d. was spent, chiefly in eating and drinking at the various inns *en route*, while the balance, £6 5s. 6d., was expended on cloth, &c., for the poor of the parish. From this one would infer that these processions had ceased to be regarded seriously and were looked upon more as holiday jaunts.

The last perambulation of which we have any record was on 3rd June 1829—the month of June appears to have been the usual one at this period for these processions—when dues from Shrewley Common, the only one open, were collected, and the amount received totalled £5 15s. 9d., all of which was spent at the Cock, with the exception of 1s. 6d. “gave to 3 boys going round”, and sundries 12s. As Shrewley Common was enclosed soon after—the Act receiving Royal Assent in 1831—there would be no fines payable, and the lack of the “needful” to give the impetus no doubt caused any enthusiasm for these perambulations to wane, though other beats have certainly taken place since. One can imagine that the balance received from the fines of the commons, though comparatively small, must have been a welcome addition to that accruing from the charitable bequests. As each parish had to provide for and look after its own poor, it must have been no light work for the two overseers at Rowington, the cost in 1821 being £773 7s. There were over twenty permanent necessitous cases. Mr. Kimball was the medical attendant, and there is every reason to conclude that the work was carried out satisfactorily under the then existing circumstances. It is quite obvious from a perusal of the various accounts that the duties of the parish officials at this date would be considered very burdensome to-day, and that the rates and calls on the farmers were somewhat heavy, the poor rate being 5/- in the £, and the highway rate 6d. In 1834 there was grumbling about the inequality of assessment, and a parish meeting was called, whereat it was decided to have the parish revalued and assessed by Messrs. Whateley and Chapman—well-known valuers. The valuation still exists in our parish chest, and one sees therefrom that agricultural land was assessed from £1 to £2 per acre. Whether the result of the assessment was satisfactory or not is not stated, neither is the amount charged by the valuers.

To revert to the enclosing of the commons, it is very unfortunate for history that the Commissioner had no “native” to assist him with the nomenclature, for few old names are retained on the map for districts, lanes, farms, or fields; indeed, in several instances such misleading names are given as “Lonesomeford”, “Finwood”, and “Austerton”, which appear to have originated at that period. The result of the enclosures rather leads one to conclude that they were the work of land grabbers who were more or less newcomers to the parish, or such as considered their own advantage in preference to that of the parishioners as a whole. Very different was the action of the freeholders and tenants generally one hundred and fifty years previously, when they agreed together to prosecute anybody who infringed the rights of the commons (*R. R.* i, pp. 48 and 55).

As a result of my inquiries, the parish copy of the enclosures award, together

with the map, have been returned to Rowington, for they, like the MS., had wandered into another parish where they lay forgotten. However, these are now deposited in our parish chest. With the assistance of this map it is easier to portray the appearance of the parish at the period when the MS. was written, and, by taking the reader an imaginary walk around, detailing the old landmarks by the way, to pass on some idea thereof; also, by reference to the probable residences of the various persons mentioned in the MS., to make the notes thereon more interesting.

Starting our journey from the top of Rowington Green in 1821, we should find William Wheeler living at the Green Farm, and John Bradbury at the Old Quarry Farm-house, which he renovated and added to. Proceeding past the old mill known as "Bouncing Bess", situated on the top of the Green at an elevation of 421 feet above sea-level, and two hundred yards back on the edge of the common, we should come to the small old farm-house, formerly moated, occupied by Joseph Roe. It is now known as Shakspeare Hall, so called as having been the home of a branch of the Shakspeare family from before the date of the MS., the last member of the family to reside there probably being William Shakspeare, who married Anne, the daughter of William Ives of Rowington Hall, and who removed to Knowle Hall about 1750. I believe their descendants went into the East India Service.

The next old farm-house was the White House, since renovated and renamed The Lyons, where we should find in occupation Joseph Newberry, who had been in service at Baddesley Hall. From here, which is at the same elevation as in front of the mill, we should see practically the whole of the common, and on a June day what a beautiful prospect it would be, dotted with clumps of golden gorse and fringed around with red-tiled or thatch-roofed cottages.

On the right was the Bell Inn, next to the blacksmith's shop where Job Smith plied his trade, and behind which stood the old pound, which had just been repaled by John Gazy at a cost of 14s. It still existed in my time on the right side of the road leading past Acles pit to Weston's farm and Kingswood, where the old house called Kingswood Manor House stands. This house was always in Rowington parish, so its title could hardly be justified except by the fact that Henry Ferrers, who lived and died there, purchased Kingswood Manor in 1596. The small house adjoining was occupied, early in the last century, as an inn called "William the Fourth".

Just over Kingswood brook, which marks the boundary between Rowington and Lapworth parishes, on our right stood, until recent years, the cottage wherein Humphry Shakspeare died in 1729. He left a legacy of £1 per annum to Rowington charities. In the cottage there used to be a stone whereon is engraved the arms of the Peché family, and this has since been embedded in the south wall of Lapworth Churchyard. The bridges at Kingswood and Fox's brooks were built in 1842 and cost £166 14s. 1d., towards which Mr. Bolton King contributed £15. Before that time Kingswood brook

and possibly Fox's also were provided with foot-bridges only. There is note of repairs to bridge at Madmore in 1813-14 (cost £15) and again in 1821. In old times a lane called Sim Lane existed between Mrs. Weston's farm and the highway, passing at the back of Kingswood Manor House, and the question as to the repair of this lane by the parish was a cause of litigation in 1778, the lawyer's expenses costing the parish £8 15s. 1d. I am inclined to think that the parish lost the case, as they spent money afterwards for repairs to the lane. I fail to find any record as to when the lane was enclosed, but its use was destroyed by the building of the canals, as the lane led to Brome Hall and on to Lapworth Street.

But we continue our journey from the pound straight on down the Green, leaving Joseph Webb's wheelwright's shop, where the farmers' wooden plough-shares were made, on the left, the cottage only remaining to-day, and pass William Smith's house (The Elms) followed by Thomas Tybbotts' on our right. Here we should not be likely to miss "Grinning Jinny", another mill, built entirely of wood on trestles, which stood opposite to Thomas Buffery's, where Mr. Clutterbuck now resides, Buffery being the miller. The boundary of the Green passed behind Mr. Lingard's new house. Turning round we should get a glimpse of yet another mill—commonly called "Tom o' the Wood", Thomas Avern's, which was situated in the Back Lane, adjoining St. Anne's Meadow. The line of the common on the south side ran in front of the Charity Cottages and Mr. Hanson's farm, which John Hawkes owned and occupied at this date (1821), thence straight to Back Lane, returning alongside the front of John Pettit's house (now Mr. Reynolds's) and E. Boddington's (now E. Saunders's) and the "Three Horse Shoes", thus giving an open view. This Back Lane, as originally called, was variously known as Baker's, Buck's, or Avern's Lane, from old inhabitants who lived therein at different periods, and ran past Mrs. Vardy's, coming out by the New Inn. It was truly a back lane, and more or less impassable in wet weather, so much so that a paved way, called "The Causeway", had been made, and was entered by a stile at the back of the cottage opposite Mrs. Vardy's, and ran along the back of the Woodlands, where Thomas Wallis lived, and the present schools, coming out at the head of the alley by the Hall, alongside the orchard. Thomas Wallis had been Treasurer of the Feoffees for sixteen years and was superseded in that office this year (1821) by John Bradbury. If a new name is required for the Back Lane, either St. Anne's or Leyton Road would be appropriate, as both would perpetuate old landmarks. The small plot of land long in the possession of the Charity Feoffees and known as "St. Mary Leyton's" lay in this Back Lane.

We should now have arrived at the "Three Horse Shoes" Inn, later, about 1826, turned into three cottages by David Buffery, where we might meet John Hawkes, serving this year in the capacity of Village Constable, just returning from Stratford, where he had been to draw for the militiamen of Rowington. Passing the old thatched cottage still existing, and the New Inn,

kept by James Barnett, we should pass over the newly made canal bridge—the canal was finished to Rowington in 1796—and proceed past William Gardner's cottage, coming to Joseph Burge's house (now Mr. T. F. Smith's) at the corner of Halsturton Lane, which opens on to Turner's Green.

This green extended right up to Mrs. Vardy's house, and from thence the boundary went by the house adjoining, occupied by the Shakspeare family of weavers at the time of the MS., and along the hedge running by the fine old Early Tudor house—probably the residence of the Ive's family who lived in Rowington in the 15th and 16th centuries, from whom it derived its name of Ivy House, or Cottages—and on to about where the present railway bridge stands. This point was called Inwood End, and from hereabouts commenced a wood called Aespeleye¹ Wood, which extended in early days more or less through the whole district beyond to Lapworth Street, running back up to the old British Lane, and possibly across the "Steort" into Lapworth and Old Stratford parishes. The Saxon word "Steort" signified a promontory, as that part of Lapworth running between Rowington and Old Stratford parishes forms, and gave the name Halsturton (the house on the Steort) to the lane running therefrom to Turner's Green. Finwood, as this district is now called, though only so since the early part of 1800, will be seen is a corruption of Inwood. It was in this wood (Aespeleye) that the Abbat of Reading claimed pannage for his men of Rowington as early as the twelfth century, and it rather looks from the records as if the parochial ownership of the promontory referred to was a debatable matter for many years.

However, to proceed on our journey, we should pass the farm-house of William Bolton, the Church warden, on our left, where the Attwood family lived at the time of the MS. (now Mr. Currall's), and go close by another, opposite Robert Mander's farm on our right. These two last-mentioned Tudor farm-houses were open to Finwood Green, as hereabouts was called at this date, and one of them was probably the site of the Inwood family's "living", of whom we have mention in our early records, and who doubtless took their name from the situation "in-the-wood". We will take the "New" road, made in 1811 at a cost of £70, since the building of the canal, go past Mander's and straight on. We have an item in the overseers' book of the purchase by the parish of land at Lowsonford from a Mr. and Mrs. Farmer of Weston (near Stoneleigh) at a cost of £34 6s. 10d., for the purpose of the new road. There were also repairs to the bridge over the brook the same year, at a cost of £15. The old road went to the left by Barnhurst's farm, coming out at Lowsonford, alongside the "Fleur de Lys" Inn.

Passing over the canal we should come to cross-roads. The one right in front is but a short lane or fordrough leading to Samuel Sly's copyhold cottage on the common called Bushwood Green. The land was open up to the existing old house opposite to Barnett's at the corner of this lane, and from that point

¹ Asp-lea—the lea on which the Asp tree grew.

"And tremble like a leafe of Aspin greene." (Spenser.)

all the land on the left, bounded by the road up to Hobbs Hill Closes in Parker's Lane, together with Sugar's Close in Taters Lane, which were the only enclosed lands on the common. Henley railway line now passes through Sugar's Close.

Bushwood Green was of considerable extent, and open to Parker's Lane as far as the Brook House Farm, extending northward along Bushwood Coppice, and running therefrom to Lapworth Street. The Green, in the words of an old inhabitant, now dead, who well remembered the village, "was wild and pretty, but Rowington Green was beautiful—the best of them all". Passing along we should arrive at the "Fleur de Lys", and just past that inn the level is 283 feet, the lowest in the parish. Here a branch road goes off to the right, and a short way up divides into two. The one to the right is Parker's Lane referred to. Jos. Weetman was paid £17 3s. 9d. in 1823 for one rood of land (£68 15s. per acre) at the corner, for the purpose of widening the lane, and the total cost for laying it out was £70. It led to Bushwood Hall Farm, where Thomas Howlette lived at this time, but at the period of the MS. it was occupied by Thomas Hunt. The latter left a dole of 6s. 8d. on Sugar's Close for the benefit of the poor of the parish, which is regularly recorded in the MS. as having been paid, and is still paid at the present time. One would judge that Thomas Hunt was no mean scholar—probably a lawyer—and a connexion of Thomas Hunt, master of Stratford Grammar School. The beneficiary deed conveying the dole given by him was, as notified on the deed, written by his own hand.

The other turning, on the left, past the "White Horse" Inn kept by Jacob Taylor, is Rookery Lane, and leads up to Poundley (or Poundeye) End and the Rookeries, where the Greswolde family lived at the time of the MS. and probably from 150 years earlier. Trending our way along through Lowson End, up "Brocsturneway"—where the "brook turns away" south, and just past the Mission Hall, we should pass the "Broxton Fields" mentioned in the MS. on our right. These are still held by the Charity Trustees, and adjoin the Morehill Farm owned in 1821 by John Gem, and were no doubt anciently cultivated and enclosed. They lay between the mill of Thomas Marie and the "Hetybutts", or "Eddy Butts" (Ord. Map 341, 342), as stated in our records as early as the thirteenth century (*R. R.* i, p. 5). "Eddy" seems to signify "where the brook winds", from Anglo-Saxon derivation. It may be that the affix "butts" may refer to the contour of the land, as the word also signifies a ridge of land, and such exists thereabouts. If it refers to shooting-butts, the record is the first mention we have of any butts in the parish. That there were butts is certain, for the laws from very early days enjoined that every man child of the age of seven years and above should be provided with a bow and arrows and be taught their use. If they failed to practice such shooting during the space of one month from the age of seventeen to sixty they were mulcted in their wages. At the end of the fifteenth century the King commanded every Englishman to have a long bow of his own height, and that butts should be made in every township at which the inhabitants were to shoot "up

and down" upon feast days under the penalty of one halfpenny for any time they omitted to perform the service. There is mention of "his bow and his arrows" in the inventory of the goods of John Shaxspere's will in 1546. Probably "The Heytbutts" would be made of earth banked with turf and from 100 to 140 yards apart. There were probably two sets of butts, one in the lower field and one in the upper, and the archers having bent their bows against the upper butts would travel across and proceed to shoot the arrows back to the lower butts. There were probably other butts at Inwood End, as signified by the name "Annabuttes" given to a field thereat, and at Mousley End, where we get another field called the "Kyte Buttes". A little farther along from the "Broxton Fields", past the "Masons' Arms" Inn on our left, and opposite the turn to the right, stands "Brokfurlong" Farm, at this time in the occupation of John Fetherstone, where yet another branch of the Shaxspere family lived at the period of the MS. and for some generations before. At the making of the railway this house was opened as an inn called "The Black Horse".

Bearing to our left, and proceeding on for half a mile, we should arrive at High Cross. Here, probably, a wayside cross or calvary stood in early days, which would be visited in the perambulations by the parish priest in Rogation Week before the Reformation. A short way to the east was Park Farm, now called "Pitts". From High Cross we should turn to the right, and sharp to the left, leaving Holywell Green on our right, remarking that there used to be a gate there by which one entered on to the Green, and that there still exists an old sixteenth-century farm-house, known as Holywell Farm, where William Bolton lived at that time. There is a turn to the right off the Green, which led to Peacock Green. Both greens were, with the others, enclosed at this date.

We should pass along to Pinley Green and arrive at the old "Green Dragon" Inn, kept by John Pinfold. Here, turning to our right and going up the "Combsey", all open land, we should come to Lye Green, where there was a gate called Lye Green Gate leading from the Green into Claverdon parish, and near this spot is the boundary of our parish on the south side, and its greatest elevation—425 feet. The turn to the right is Clay Lane, which leads to Holywell, but, retracing our steps for half a mile and leaving "Newlands" on our left at the back of "Cryer's Oak" farm—so called from the Cryer family who lived here previous to 1553—we come to a fordrough on our right which leads to "Pinley Rudding", a homestead belonging to the parish up to this year. From here, traversing two fields would bring us to Claverdon Manor Farm, through which the parish boundary passes. I remember an old inhabitant of the district describing his experience as a boy during one of the old customary "beats", when he was passed through the larder window of this manor farm to mark the boundary at that point. This would be a further corroboration of the evidence of Nicholas Greene, a yeoman of Rowington, given at a Commission which sat at Warwick in 1599, and is detailed in *R. R.* i, p. 172.

Herein the said Nicholas Greene affirmed that Rowington, in the perambulations at which he was present, included those lands "parcel of the said Nunnery of Pinley", as being within the parish of Rowington. He stated also that certain old men parishioners of Rowington had informed him that they also had included the said lands in their perambulations in their day, and that such lands were all accounted as being in the parish of Rowington.

Leaving Pinley Abbey on our right we should again arrive at the cross-roads by the "Green Dragon". Widow Bragg, who set the haws to make the hedge on the enclosure hereabouts, still resides near by. Across the way, close to where Thomas Smith's blacksmith's shop existed, and where Hancock's shop now stands, we should observe another pound which served this end of the parish, and passing along we should come to Caudel Herne, vulgarly called "Colley Irons", the words probably signifying an enclosed or warm corner. It is situated in Shrewley parish, where the boundary skirts the road on the right. A little farther along we should pass a lane on our left which leads to Park Farm and High Cross, and just beyond this lane should arrive where Shrewley boundary crosses the road, at which point was a gate, called Pinley Gate, situated almost opposite to William Leeson's sixteenth-century farm-house called "Yew Tree Farm", now Mrs. Rogers's. This gate was the entrance from this end of the parish to Shrewley Common, which bordered the parish right up to "Lyaunce Farm" and "Harvies", and extended right away up to Kenilworth. An old inhabitant who used to travel across this common told me that one might easily lose one's way in traversing it, which goes to prove its wild nature. At Shrewley, near to Mr. King's farm, was another gate which led to Hatton and Warwick. Turning to the left towards Rowington, we should cross the boundary by the "Common Gate" from Shrewley Common to Rowington, opposite to which stood Lowland Farm, occupied by D. Redings, to-day by Mr. E. Page. On the right-hand side of the road we should see Oldfield Farm, where J. Willington lived. The name Oldfield no doubt refers to the old circular moat behind the present house, which clearly denotes the site of a very old building. Opposite, we have the entrance to the High House, which was owned and occupied by Thomas Wells, by far the largest ratepayer at this date. The present house was built by Richard Betham over 200 years ago, but whether one existed here before there is no evidence to show. It was built in the times when Roman Catholics were persecuted for following their faith, and no doubt contained a secret hiding-place, for one of the Fowlers of St. Thomas's (Staff.) found refuge there.

Travelling down the hill we should pass another old farm-house on our left, in the occupation of John Taylor (now John Avern), and passing over Smalley Brook should come to the "Cock-in-the-Tree" Inn, kept by James Avern. Just beyond, on our right, would be Squadge Lane—spelt Squage in the highway accounts. Squadge Lane is an ancient one leading to Whitley End and Mousley End. In 1793 the parish was served with an indictment respecting the repairing of this lane, with which they objected to comply and so went to

law. The result was rather costly, as Lawyer Greenway's (Warwick) bill amounted to £53 2s. 4d., and the case evidently went against the parish, as the extra expenses incurred by the overseer for repairs recorded in 1795, when the case was settled, would imply. There were two overseers of the highways for Rowington, one acting for Church End, and the other for Lowsonford End. They both presented separate accounts of receipts and expenditure, apparently making a levy beyond the ordinary composition on their respective districts when required for special work done therein. There were also overseers of the poor for each of these districts, and they, in like manner, kept separate accounts.

At the end of Squadge Lane, which runs into Coldfield (or Colefield) Lane, is a picturesque old farm-house, now owned and occupied by Mr. William Smith, which I believe was the home of William Cowper, a Church warden during the period of the MS., whose wife was the centenarian, Joane Coper, referred to in the notes on the Church. This house, which I believe was originally called Whitley End Farm, is worth attention, for such untouched specimens of Tudor farm-houses are becoming rare on our countryside. In old days there used to be a lane continuing on from Squadge Lane, but about fifty yards south, which led due east to an old barn called Tankard's or Piper's, and came out opposite to the land called "Harvies", where a portion of the lane still exists. A farm-house and two small holdings or cottages were located hereabouts, but disappeared some years ago, though the barn existed till recent times, adjoining the field on which the pound of pepper was charged, as mentioned in the MS. (Ord. Map 857). A man named Tankard, or Tanquard, was the representative of Rowington when a perambulation of the parish boundary between the lands of the Abbats of Reading and those of Hugh, the lord of Hatton, was made *circa* 1150 (*R. R.* i, p. 1), and it is quite conceivable that this barn, which stood on the parish boundary, was the site of Tankard's "living".

Returning to Coldfield Lane, at the top of which stand the two old Shrewley mills, one of which may have been the mill referred to *circa* 1329 (*R. R.* i, p. 7) and traversing it in a northerly direction we should come to Coldfield Gate, which stood about a quarter of a mile down the lane from the mills; and passing Whitley End Farm should arrive at Tadpole Green (not a very old name). From this point another lane goes east towards Shrewley Common, guarded by Whitley Gate. The house on the left, with a sundial, was "Whitley Elm", where "Old Thomas Shakespeare" died (Church Register, 1669). At Tadpole Green the parish was awarded, by the Commissioner in 1824, ground between the road and Quarry Farm lands for a gravel pit, but it seems that the parish has now lost this ground, as it has lost other rights, through neglect.

Keeping straight on down Coldfield Lane, often referred to in the overseers' books, and passing Tadpole Lane, leading to John Fletcher's farm on our right, we should come to a small stream which, rising in Hay Wood, traverses the centre of the parish, joining the Kingswood brook by the Mission Church at Lowsonford, and ultimately finding its way into the Bristol Channel. This

stream is the same as Fox's brook, but is called hereabouts Tadpole brook. The lane beyond the brook is called Quarry Lane, from the ancient stone quarry which lies at the back of Quarry Farm, and it leads on to Rowington Green and Baddesley Clinton.

At the bottom of Quarry Hill on the Wroxall side of the road, at the corner of the boundary between Rowington and Baddesley Clinton parishes, may be seen the remains of a small brick bridge, over which a foot-road led to the mill belonging to the Priory of Wroxall. There is a bill of £17 os. 2d. paid this year (1821) to J. Bradbury by the overseer for repairs to bridge in Quarry Lane, which might refer to this bridge. Bradbury seems to have usually supplied bricks where required. The mill was situated in the corner of the field No. 3 on Ord. Map, and it may be that the name "Mousley" had some connexion therewith. This district is an old inhabited part of Rowington. It is surmised that, at the time of the MS., Roger Oldnall, who farmed in a big way, lived hereabouts, and Richard Broke, gent., occupied the house where John Fletcher now resides, and which seems to have been called "The Hill". It was also in this house that John Warner, Lord Mayor of London in 1619, was born or resided. Here, also, lived and died Samuel Smalbroke and his wife Elizabeth, parents of Richard Smalbroke, D.D., Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry (1739-41). Their memorial stones lie in the north aisle of our church.

Retracing our steps to the foot of Squadge Hill on the Warwick highway, we should pass over the foot-bridge of Fox's brook. One John Fox was bailiff of Rowington in 1413, and the brook may have been named after him, as he owned a part of Gilbert's Land close to where it rises. He probably also owned the water-mill which used to exist at Foxbrook, the field adjoining serving as a pool to feed it. The house was owned at this date (1821) by Richard Draper, and was occupied by Thomas Bolton.

Proceeding on our way over Church bridge, which spans the small stream called Laurence brook, we should climb a short steep ascent, on top of which stands our village church, grey and old, the most striking feature in our village. Opposite thereto is the Hall, originally the old manor house of the parish appertaining to the Abbats of Reading. Whether any of the Abbats ever visited or stayed at their manor house is not known, though some information might have been obtained had the cartularies of the Abbey been preserved. In 1806 Samuel Aston of Birmingham bought the Hall and farm from William Smith, a native of Great Wolford, Co. Warwick, who had purchased the property from Thomas le Blanc in 1804. Samuel Aston erected the stone front, filling up the front of the old E-shaped house of the Tudors, and was living there in 1821. Thomas Fetherstone was his bailiff, and he was the grandfather of F. T. Taylor, the present station master at Snow Hill, Birmingham, who was born at the Hall. William Skinner, who followed soon after John Oldnall, resided here during the period of the MS., when the buildings on the site, including six barns, stables, &c., consisted of twenty-five bays.

Alongside the churchyard, the first house we should come to would be Abraham Sly's on the right of the twenty steps. This house formerly belonged to the parish, but was lost through neglect. It has since been purchased by subscription, and the land joined to the churchyard. We should see from here the old wooden-faced clock which abutted from the tower window alongside the old sundial, but facing the south-west. The clock-face was removed at the restoration, and a new metal face placed on the west side of the tower. On the left of the twenty steps was a one-roomed cottage occupied at one time by William Gazy, the parish clerk, which practically adjoined the schoolmaster's house. William Gazy became clerk in 1801 on the death of his father, John Gazy, the previous parish clerk, and occupied the office until his death in 1846, a period of forty-five years, though he served during the latter years of his father's life, and so may be credited with even a longer period. Francis Evans was schoolmaster at this time (1821) having been appointed in 1817, following the Rev. J. Jones, who was also curate. The latter received a salary of only £16 per year as schoolmaster, but Francis Evans had a capitation fee for teaching the "free scholars" which amounted to £32 per year, and at this date there was an average of sixty-two scholars. He continued as schoolmaster for nearly forty years, and during his period conducted the Sunday School also, for which he received a further £3 per year. The smallness of the salary is incredible to-day, yet it is probable that the children were turned out equal in intelligence and morality to those of these times of gross extravagance. It may interest the modern educationist to learn that Rowington School children had a garden ground as early as 1810, when a piece of ground was purchased by the Feoffees of Abram Sly "beloe Culver close" (opposite Fox Brook House) for £5 5s. for the use of the school. The old pedagogues were often good men, though shockingly ill-paid. William Poolton, schoolmaster, who died in 1793, began his duties at the munificent salary of £10 per annum! The schoolmaster at this date (1821) had only to cross the passage from his dwelling to reach the school-house adjoining, a two-storied building with a pent-house on the north side; and then came a gateway to the churchyard, which extended to where the present chestnut tree stands. Hereabouts came the entrance to the low half-timbered vicarage of five bays in extent, at this time stuccoed over, and the old straw-thatched barn of four bays, evidently the Vicars' old tithe barn, no doubt much needed before the "fruits" were finally commuted for money in 1846. The present vicarage was erected about 1850 in the Rev. Arthur Gem's time, and was added to by his successor, the Rev. P. B. Brodie. The Rev. Hugh Laugharne, who came from Warwick, was Vicar at this time, having succeeded the Rev. George Weale in 1812. The School-house was the same building as is referred to in the MS. as the Church-house and Court-house, and was probably originally built for the latter, as in early times the Manorial Court was of considerable importance, and its meetings would be red-letter days in the parish. We have a record of a court being held during the period of the MS. by the deputy steward, William Hill

(see *R. R. i*, p. 160). Besides the jury of "twelve true men" many inhabitants of the village would be present to the summons of the bailiff, who, standing at the front door of the Court-house, called out "Oyez, Oyez, All manner of persons that have anything to do at a general Court Baron and Customary Court here about to be holden for the manor of Rowington draw nigh and give your attendance and you shall be heard". Those who were required to answer summonses for breaking the Assize of ale and beer, failing to clean out their ditches, which were the majority of cases among others to be heard, would of necessity have to attend, but disputes about property between tenants and the receiving of the surrender of lands and admitting grantees or successors was also effected at such courts. It would be interesting to note that we have a record as early as 1284 (*R. R. i*, p. 129) of two Rowington men being condemned to death for theft, and hanged at the Court-house, and this would hardly be an exceptional case as the Abbat of Reading enjoyed the privilege of the hundred courts. The question arises, where was the gallows erected? Probably on Sentence Corner, the name given to the open space we should see in front of us after passing the school-house, where Corbett's shop now exists, but which at this date (1821) was open up to Mrs. Merriman's cottages and Mr. Ghent's house. Hereon, no doubt, also stood the village stocks, of which we have record of being mended by William Gazy at this period, and various other "sentences" would be served here.

Going up the hill we notice the old "Elephant and Castle" Inn, now called "Wayside", which not only existed at the time of the MS. but long before, and which no doubt received its name from an early occupier coming from Coventry and using that city's arms as a sign. Adjoining the inn is a field called the Bull Ring, alongside St. Anne's Meadow. This might indicate the site whereon the sport of bull-baiting was carried on in ancient days, probably on the annual festal day of St. Laurence, the patron saint of the parish church. In later days the village wake or statute fair, now obsolete, was held at the "Elephant" on this day. I well remember some fifty years ago one Johnson, the waggoner at Silhill Hall Farm, attending thereat, and returning with a report of the crowds present and the good time he had enjoyed. "Mr. Perks" (Edward Perks) was mine host, and his good wife, Katherine, hostess, at this time (1821), and if we called at the inn would be able to tell us many interesting details of the inhabitants of the houses we have passed during our journey round the parish. But it is dangerous to digress, though it might make the reading more entertaining, and space will not allow.

Leaving the inn and continuing up the hill we should soon arrive at the Alley-way on Rowington Green. The name Alley signified a narrow lane or by-way, and was probably introduced at the time of the enclosures. It is a fine old name ("Alle the aleis were made playne (clean) with sond".—John Lydgate, 14th cent.) and is often used in describing the ways between the pews in churches, such as the "middle alley" or "side alley". At the back of the Alley is "Hogstyd" close, the place where the hogs were collected

off the common at certain times of the year, and when they required ringing by the parish hog-ringer. On our right, opposite to the "Hogstyd" Close, and adjoining the small farm-house, now called the Glebe Farm, we should pass the Queen's Close, evidently a reminiscence of the days when the Queen was Lady of the Manor. The lane adjoining was called Queen's Lane, commonly known as "Quenny Lane" as recorded in the Commissioner's Award. Three queens have been owners of the Manor—Catherine (Parr) 1543-53; Elizabeth, for a short period; and Henrietta Maria, wife of Charles I. Catherine, being the first, and coming immediately after the long lease of the Abbats of Reading, 1543, would be the queen from whom the name originated. There used to be a report in the parish that William Smith, who purchased the lordship of the Manor in 1801-3, resided in a cottage in front of this farm, but this is very doubtful and evidence is wanting. More probably he was the William Smith who lived on the other side of the common at the house known to-day as "The Elms". He was also owner of the great tithes, and it rather looks as if his purchase of both manor and tithes was a speculation on his part, as he at once proceeded to sell everything of value appertaining to those offices. He might be said to have been the last lay-rector of the parish, and, like his predecessors, does not appear to have spent anything either on the Church or parish. The great tithes were, for the most part, redeemed during his time, and others have been since, leaving but few impropiators to-day whose holdings are of comparatively small value, entailing little liability, I imagine. The only impropiators who figure as having expended anything on the Church are the Trustees of the Charities. Mary, the daughter of William Smith, was Lady of the Manor in 1821, and Joseph Harding, gent., was steward; this probably accounts for the MS. getting into the Hardings' office, as stated in the notes thereon.