INTERIOR OF ROWINGTON CHURCH 1848
(By A. E. Everett)
Records of Rowington
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 *Shakespeareaniana* 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 Caergwayr*). 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 Doomsday 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* to the deane at warwieke".
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 origi-
nally 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 restora-
tion (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
tables 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 necessaries 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,
Rowington Church Warwickshire.

Showing conjectural growth from 12th to 16th century.
LIST OF ROWINGTON VICARS

ABSOLOM. 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.


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.


JOHN TACHAM. Instituted 15 Oct. 1347. Vacated (?). (Bishop Wolston Reg., v. i, fol. 112 b.) Variousp spelt Thaclram, 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.


RADULPHUS WYKELE. Instituted 26 Apr. 1414. Vacated 1424. (Bishop Cliff. Reg., fol. 64 b.) Previously Vicar of Tardebig, exchanged with J. Racheford.


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.


PHILIP WHITE. Instituted 16 Jan. 1576. Vacated (?). (Bishop Bul. Reg., fol. 12 b, sede vac.)


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.


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.


RICHARD LEES. Instituted 3 Feb. 1726. Vacated 1771. (Bishops' Register.) Vicar for 45 1/2 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 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 liuing." 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.
LIST OF ROWINGTON VICARS

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 Rowvingtonne

(THE M.S.)

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 barlychweý & the lýberties
of pathlowe.

The whole Taske of Rowýngton and pýnley is

The bateaments be

And then remaynethe to be payed for the Taske of
Rowýngton and pýnley

Thrusdaýe (sic) the xxvijth Daye of Januarie dýed
Henry the viijth Kýnge of England ffraunce &
Ireland in the xxxviiith ýere of hýs Reigne in the
ýere of os lord god : xv hondred xlvj. cui² aíppiciet deo¹

that Iohn Rutto c dýd make a surrendr of the gravell
 pyt in hýs fýlde at the highe crosse to amend the fowle
ways in Rowýngton for evr. vt pt in Rolis cui².

The newe yle at Rownton churche was buýld in the first
ýere of quene marýe : A° D¹ 1554° Tempe Nicholai
Bird et Wittmi Cowp gardianori eëcilie de Rownton p’dict

---

¹ Abbreviation of cuíus 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: Iyenge the churche
Coffre that Rowynghon men haue to shewe
for their cömens on Shrowley hethe.

Noñint Universi quod Ego Johes de pesshfn vna cum heredibus vel assignatis
meis teneor Acquetane dffn Abbatem de Redynge et eius tenentes de Rowhyngton
de vna libra pepis erga Walterfn de Cuiff et matilda vxorem eius et eor
heredes seu quos tping dños de Shrewley impbetui: quð quidem libram pepis
solvam quolibt anno ad natale dñi sine ulteriori dilatione pro comimia quam
dicti abbass et homines sui de Rowhynton habent in vasto de Shrowley. Et si
contingat dictab abbitem vel suos tenentes de Rowhynton occasione dicti pepis
termino statuto non solút: Destringi seu in aliquo molestari: obligo me et
heredes meos bona terras et tenementa vna infra manerum de Rowhynton:
quibus xxx manibus devenerunt districlion balliui de Rowhynton qui p tempore
fuerit vt nos distringat de die in diem et districiones retineat donec tam de
dicta libra pepis quð de damnis et expensis si quas sustinuerit plenarie fuerit
satisfacta In cuiu rei testimoniui presens scriptui Sigilli mei impßsione Robo-
ravi his testibus Willmo morin de Snyttedefle: Willmo ballivo de Rohyngton:
 Jordano de lawedeyate. Willmo le ffren 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 natuítie of our 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 pament of the said pound of pep for the said cömone 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 Rowing-
ton 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 Rowýngton & pynley
after x\text{d} the yarde lande

Rowýngton eude after x\text{d} the yarde land whiche is
gathered by the third borrowes & brought to the
Constable

Of Mr Jenett for wythm býrds ground
for Darbyes grounde
Rog\text{r} Averne
John Shaxppere theld\text{r}
Willm ley theld\text{r}
Wiffm Wythyford
John cowps howse
Richard buckes grounde
John nasons howse
Wiffm Oldnalls grounde
Willm Smythes grounde
Thomas Coxe

Sína tot\text{is} \hspace{1cm} vjs \text{id} ob \hspace{1cm} x halfe

Wilm hyll thýrd borrowe for lowston after x\text{d} the yard lande
of Mr burton & of those that occupie w\text{t} hym
Iohn Reve & wiffm Reve
Iohn byrde the yong & of Tybbotts
Robt Collyns grounde
laurence Shaxppere
Thomas gryssolde
Alys Reve
Anthonye mylborne
Alys hill
Iohn Byrd theld\text{r}
Willm ley
Rog\text{r} matthewe

Sína \hspace{1cm} x\text{v}s viij\text{d}

\textbf{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 charter of the manor is made by the gift of Ft.worth, as Jago appeareth by previous charter
made, dated 1554. & printed in 1555.

In part paid to the maistre's

and paid to men laboring in the masonry

and to laborers to feed up masons, etc.

for carriage from the lead to carrigo

and 200 gns. that was promised

and paid, to previous by greater Lord's

and for hire

and paid for 1st lot

and for lead, etc., etc., etc.

and more lead that went, marjery gone to the pipe from

and paid to the carpentors

and paid for lead, etc., etc., etc.

and more lead that went, marjery gone to the pipe from

and paid to the smiths

and paid to the grangs

On tot. 817 gns. 51d.

And all the staves was gathered amongst the pipes and furnished with pipes

And all the chips was gathered amongst the pipes and furnished with pipes

By Wm. Sondy.
The Charge of the newe yle made by the pishyons of Rowington.

as Dothe appere by pticuler bylls then made. a° di 1554
et a° 2° Regine marie

In pimis payed to the masons
Itm payed to men laboringe in the quarrey
and to laborers to sve the masons and
for carryenge stone be syde the carrýge
and labo't that was geven
Itm payed to sawers by nicholas byrde

\( xxjli \) vijs viijd
\( vji \) xd

Itm for lyrne
Itm payed for Tyles
Itm pd to Ro2 Coton for tylinge
and workinge wt the masons
Itm payed to the carpenters
Itm pd for leadd xlij & 8v
Itm more lead that quene marfe gave to the pyshe from
Kenylworth, xlij honndred
Itm payed to the plymęd
Itm payed to the glaýsys

Sīna totlis lxiij xixs viijd

that all the tŷmbre was geven by mfr sferrys and by other
honest men of the pishe. The glasse was geven by mfr Edwards of **
Toward the payments abôveseyd the churche wardens made of the churche
grounde for ffynes xvii legacs vii
And all the rest was gatherýd amongst the pishioûs of Rowington whiche
comethe even to

\( xlij \) xixs viijd
The Rentale of John hylls wyll p am

In pimis for a Tenement in shrewleý by the ýere x8} cheiffe vd
Itm for ij pcells of lande late John Collýns by the ýere vii8 cheiffe ijd
Itm for a pcell of lande late Joo5ne Spensers calýd Sanders viij cheiffe iiijd
Itm for a pcell of lande called preston close p am vj8 viijd cheiffe iiijd
Itm for a Tenement in lapworthe calýd barrýs lande w1 a croft
    calýd shýrelocks croft p am xx8 the chiffe is vj8 viijd
    Sma totlis liij viijd

The cheiffe Rent of all the pcells before named
hathe ev býn payed by the tennts.

A Trene fflowder of ledd is even xix hondred & an halffse
but ýet the vse to bý & sett xx1d hondred to a fflowder.
The Rentale of the churche lands by the ýere

In pǐmis for a pcell of lande callyd harvys bý ýere viij s iiiijd

Itm for a pcell of land callyd lyaunce p anm vj s viijd

Itm for a pcell of ground called Smaley meddowe xjd Ioyning to Smaley broke

Itm forthe of a pcell of land called brockefurlonge jd

Itm for a pcell of land called hockstýd by ýere iiijd

Itm for a pcell of grounde called moore lande p anm iijs vjd

Itm for a pcell of lande called Seynt marie leytton iiijd

Itm for an Acre of meddowe lýenge in leý Tyinge iij s iiijd

Itm for the Rent of ýe great shopp xijd

Itm for the myddle shoppe viijd

Itm for the lyttle shoppe vjd

Sĩm of the churche xxvs viijd

Rent bý the ýere and x5 ýere for packwood

The chyeffe Rents of the pǐmisses must be pδ by the tenants Rents

The chyeffe Ren * * *
The Accounts of Nicholas Byrd for the church
pte made before the pyshons' the vii daye of
maye in the Seventh yeare of the reigne of our
soweigne lord Kynge Edward the Sixt. 1553°.

first the stocke of the churche now in my hands whiche I
receyved of christofer Dale xxxixs iiiid ob

Itm Receyved of John Shakesspere for a yeres Rent of
harvys endyd at myhelmas in the Sixt yeare of the Reigne of
o' Soweigne lord Kynge Edward the Sixt viijs iiijd

Itm of Thomas Shakesspere for a yeres Rent of lyauce endyd
at the sayd mihelmas vijs viijd

Itm of John Ty3 for a yeres rent due at the sayd myhelmas iij's vjd

Itm of Ro' Oldnale for smaleý meddow p am ad lm aiiii

Itm of Rië Shaxspere weyfer for ley Tyings iij's iijd

Itm of John Cowp for hockstyd iijd

Itm of John averne for Seynt marye leyton iiijd

Itm of wifl Saunders forthe of brockfurlonge ijd

Itm Rec' for the Rent of ij shoppes ijs ijd

Itm Rec' of wifl cowp for v strycke of lyme ijs ijd

Itm of John Saunders for lyme ijd

Some of my Receyts xxvij's

The some of my Receyts for thys my first yeare iiij's vijd iiiid ob
the stocke in my hands is

that A forced Ro' dothe owe to the churche ij stryke of lyme
Wifl Saunders owth ij stryke Wifl benett one stryke and a
halfse Ro' ley owth ij stryke. To John Saunders halfse a stryke
The payments of Nicholas Byrd for his first yere to be allowed as folowethe.

In p'mis payed for bread and Ale when I Receyved the office for the Churche pte vjd
Itm p'd for kepynge the bells one quarl in my tyme vjd
Itm payed for viij tyles for the churche viij ijd
Itm payed for a loade of lyme viij.
Itm payed for carrýenge the same lyme iiij iiiijd
Itm payed for viijc tylles forthe churche iij viijd
Itm payd for mm¹ lathe nayles iij viijd
Itm payed for carrýeng sande 6 latthes viijd
Itm payed to mowsley for tylýnge vij Daýes viij.
Itm payed to the Týlers S'vator² ijs iiiijd
Itm for ffetcheng tylýs at yardley iijs
Itm spende at Warwycke at þ³ bussshoppes Vysitacon iij³ iiiijd
Itm payed for the coion boke vjs
Itm payed for the new s'vyce seate in the churche xijd
Itm payed for wrýtýnge my counte iiiijd
Itm for paprc for the Regestre boke iiijd

The some of my payments for this my first yere is ijs vjd
And so all thyngs alowed there remaynethe in my hands at th'ys myne accounte xvjd xjd 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 Wylyam cowe one of the churche wardens for John Hylls Wyff made to the pyshe the viijth daye of maye in the Seventhe yere of the Reigne of our sovgne lord Kynge Edward the Syxt

Reddit.
In p'mis receyved of John genyns of lapworthe for a yeeres rent ended at myhelmas in the sixt yere of the Reigne of our Soveigne lorde Kynge Edward the syxt

Itm of Watton of Shrowley for a yeeres Rent endyd at the sayaad myhelmas

Itm of Wyllm Saunders for a yeeres rent endyd at the sayaad myhelmas

Itm recd of John Gryssolde for a yeeres rent of pston close endyd at the sayaad myhelmas

Itm of John Smythe of pynley for a yeeres rent endyd at the sayaad myhelmas

Itm of Ricd Whyte for a yeeres Rent endyd at the sayaad myhelmas

Itm receyved of John Byrd for the hyre of one Cowe to the use of the hye waies

Itm receyved of m'r ba'lie to be bestowed in the fowle waies for Margarett Cryar

Itm the stocke in my hands that I receyved of Ricd Saunders when I receyved the office

The Soame of my Receyts wt the stocke is
The payments of Wylm Cowp for his first yere to be allowed as here followeth

In p'mis payde to the K'ngs majestyes use of Iohn hylls wyll for half a yere due at the Anunciacion of o' ladie before I receyed the office

Itm to the pyshe Clerke for a yere ended at ymbrý¹ daýes in lent

Itm forthe of Iohn hylls wyll to the K'ngs majestys use for mihelmas in the sixt yere And thanunciacion in the Seventhe of the Reigne of K'nye Edward the Sixt

Itm for arreage² unpayed before my tyme

Itm p'd to the churche me³ forthe of Iohn hylls wyll

Itm payed for bread & wyne for the coöon ⁴

Itm spende in the hye waýes aº Septo Ed¹ Sexti as dothe appere by hy's byll thereof made

Itm payed for w'ynge upp myne Accounte

The Some of hy's payments s for his first yere is

And so all thýngs allowed hym there remaynethe in hy's hands att thýs hy's Accounte to the use of flowle waýes

¹ Ymbrý, viz. Ember days. ² Arrears. ³ Churchwardens. ⁴ Viz. Communion.
The Accounts of Nicholas Byrd for his seconde yeere for the churche pte made before the pishons the xxijth daye of April in the first yeere of the Reigne of o Soileigne ladie quene Marye for one yeere before.

In pmis Receyved of John Shakesspere for a yeres Rent of harves endyd at myhelmas in the first yeere of the Reigne of quene Mary viij's iiijd

Itm of Thomas Shakesspere for a yeres Rent ended at the sayed mihelmas

Itm of John Tynd for a yeres Rent at pe sayed myhelmas iiij's vjd

Itm of Richard Shaxspere weyfer for ley Tyeng for a yere endyd at Señyt marý Daye a0 pimo Marie iijs iiijd

Itm of Rog Oldnale for a yere ended at thanucyacyon of o ladye in the first yeere of the Reigne of quene marýe xjd

Itm of John Averne for for seýnt marie leyton iiijd

Itm of Wiffm Saunders forthe of bruckfurlonge i d

Itm for the Rent of hokstyd at seýnt marie day a0 pimo me iiijd

Itm for the Rent of ij shoppes xx d

Itm for the Rent of thýrd shoppe vjd

Itm for the coifon table vs

Sína of my Receyts xxxs viijd

Item the stocke in my handes for the churche pte as dothe appere in the ende of my last account is even xvjs xijs o6
The payments of Nicholas Býrd for hýs seconde yere
to be allowed v't. s'.

In þísis payd for bread & ale atte mýne Accounts iiiijd
Itm spende at Warf when we had forthe the churche goods xxijd
Itm payd for a new bell roppe xvjd
Itm pœ for satten of burg—a to mende the albes xiiijd
Itm pœ to Joane Cowp for an amyce—a kerchen—a ixd
Itm to Nicholas Slý for mendýng albes & for grene thrýd xijd
Itm payed for mendýng the bettr—chalýce xvjd
Itm pœ for halffe a hýde of whýt led xv d
Itm pœ for an albe and an ammnys—a iiijd xijd
Itm for makýng a new bawdryke—a j d
Itm for franca–sence ijd
Itm payed for a sanctes bell roppe ijd
Itm in meate drýke and money trussýg—the great bell vijd
Itm to Robt Bucke for naýles ijd
Item payed to Wílľm ýve settýng up the Alt r xijd
Itm payd to workmen to helpe hým xvjd
Itm payd for pavýnge in the churche & chauncell iii jd
Itm payed for wrtyng up mýne Accounts iiijd
Itm payd for bordýng Wílľm ýve & his horsse viijd

Sína of mý payments xvjd xijd

And so all thýngs allowed me there dothe remajne in mý hands for the whole stocke of the churche pte at thýs mý seconde yeres accounts even xxxijd ob

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1 satten of burges—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 Wyttam Cowp one of the churche Wardens for hys seconde yere for John hylls wytt made before the pyshons the xxijth Daye of Apil in the first yere of the Reigne of o[r] Soueigne ladie quene marye for one yere before

In piinis Receyved of Iohn genyns of lapworthe for a yeres Rent endyd at Myhelmas in the first yere of the Reigne of quene marye xx s
Itm Receyved of Watton of Shrowleý for a yeres Rent endyd at the sayd Myhelmas x s
Itm of Wylm Saunders for a yeres Rent at the saÿd myhelmas viij s
Itm Receyed of Iohn Gryssolde for yeres Rent of Preston close endyd at the sayd myhelmas viiij d
Itm of John Smythe of pyneley for a yeres Re[n]et at þe sayd myhelmas iij d
Itm of Ricd whyte for a yeres Rent at þe sayd myhelmas iij s
Itm of John býrd for the Rent of one cow xvij d
Itm Receyed of Ricd Shakysperwe wyfer that he gave towards the makynge of the brýdge 1 by his howse iij s iij d

Sîna of my Receyts lvij s iij d
Itm the stocke remayñyng in my handes as dothe appere in my last account before this is iij s 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 payments of willm cowp for his seconde yere to be allowed hym.

In p'nis payed for bread and wyne for my first accompte untill we sett vp the masse Agayne iij s ij d
Itm bestowed in the fowle wayes to men workyng carr'yeng gravell and for makynge the brydge at Shakessperes as dyd appere by my byll thereof made and showed at myne accounte xli s
Itm payed for bread & ale to the carr'yars & workemē ij s
Itm pd and delyūd to John Shaxspere forthe of the money whiche I had of m' baylie for m'gett Cryar vij s viij d
Itm payed for waxe for the Sepulcre lighte & mak'yg the same viij s v d
Itm Delt on good sfr'ydaye to the pore vj s viij d
Itm pd for iij quart' for John hylls Obbytts xvij d
Itm to the pyhe clerke for a yere endyd at seynt marye daye in lent the first yere of the Reigne of quene marye ij s
Itm pd to the constable toward the taske ix s ij d
Itm for a newe pyxe 1 iiij s
Itm payed to the comyssionēs for the certen churche goods churchemē x s
Itm payed to the comyssionēs forthe of John hylls wyl vj s viij d
Itm payed for wrtyng ye vp my counte iiij d
Itm pd for ij tapers whē we sett vp the masse ix d

Sēna of my payments iiij s xvij s ij d

And so all thyngs Allowed there dothe reayne in my handes to the vse of John hylls will at this my seconde accounte xxix s vij d

1 Pyxe or pix, the box or shrine in which the consecrated wafers were kept.
The Accounts of Nicholas Býrd for his thýrd ýere
for the Churche pte made to the pýshýonís the víth dajye
of Mâyë in the fírst g seconde ýeres of the Regñes of
Phillippe and Marie by the grace of god Kýnge and
quene of England sfráunce Neaples g d 1550°

Redditè¹.
In pímis receýved of Iohn Shasspere for the rent of harves for
ýere ended at Mihelmas in the fírst and second ýeres of the Reigne
of philippe and marie viijd iiiijd
Itm of Thomas shaxspere due at the seid mihelmas víjd viijd
Itm of Jo. Týp p. ann due at the seid míhelmas iijd vjd
Itm of Ricd shaxspere weýfor a ýeres Rent due at the seýd
mihelmas iijd iijd
Itm of Roû Oldnale for a ýeres rent endýd at thãncýacýon
of oí ladie in the second ýere of quene marie xijd
Itm of Iohn Averne p Anm iijd
Itm of wíllm saunders forthe of brockfurlong p ann jd
Itm for the Rent of hockstýd p ann iijjd
Itm of Iohn Ëves for the rent of ij shoppes xxjd
Itm of Sir Ricd² for the thýrd shoppe vjd
Itm receývýd for wood solde viijd
Itm receyved for the church Ale at wûtsontýde liijjd viijjd

Itm the stocke remaýnýnge in mû hands as dothe appere in
the ende of mû seconde ýeres accounte xxvijd ijd oþ

Sûna of my receýpts vii xijijd iijd oþ
wî the last ýeres debt vii xijijd iijd oþ

¹ viz. Reddite—received.
² Sir Ricd would be Sir Richard Hethe the chantry priest.
The payments of Nicholas Byrd for his Thyrd yere
to be allowed hym as here folowethe

In p'mis pay'd for bread & ale at the last Counte
Itm payed for trussýnge the beûls
Itm payéd for makyng the lectorne & crosse staves
Itm payed for a frame for the Canapie
Itm to John Cowp for censýs¹ & for ýrons for the rood
Itm spende at John byrdes talkýnge wᵗ budbrok mē
Itm spende at Warr at the bysshopes výsitacyon
Itm payed to John Eves for kepýnge the beûls for one ýere
endýd at Crŷstmas & for a quart² endýd att seýt marie daŷe last
Itm pᵈ for whýtleddʳ bought by John Eves
Itm for wasshýnge the churche gere wᵗ sope ij tymes
Itm payed for ij tuck kýnge gýrdles²
Itm pᵈ for ffranckensence sýnce my last accounte
Itm pᵈ to Wilım leŷ for a wa³ cowle and for shýngle
Itm for w'týnge my counte in the counte boke

Sûna of my payments xiiijs xjd

And so all thýngs allowed me there dothe remáyne in
mý handes at thys myne accounte for the whole stocke
for the Churche pte even

¹ Censers for incense.
² Waist girdles for gowns or surplises.
³ Water cowle for roof spouting and shingles for roofing.
The accounts of Wylym Cowp for his thyrd yere for Iohn hylls wyl made to the pyshyoı̂s the vth daye of maye in the first and seconde yeres of the Reignes of our soueigne lord & ladie philyppe & marie by the gεe of Kýnge & quene of Englande firance Neaples 2d 1555°

Reddit
In prmis Receyved of John genỳns of lapworthe for a yeres rent endỳd at myhelmas annis pimo & ij Regnory phýlyppi & mε xxε
Itm receyved of watton of Shrowley for a yeres rent endỳd att the seỳd myhelmas xs
Itm of Wilím Saunders p am finitam 1 at pε seid mihelmas viijs
Itm of Jo. grýssolde p anım finitam at pε seyd mihelmas vjs viijd
Itm of Iohn smythe p aⁿ finitam at the seid mihelmas ilijs
Itm for a yere for the Close at Crýars ilijs
Itm of Iohn bird for the hyre of a cow xvjd
Itm receyved of Ric’d Saunders for olde reckyngs ilijs iiiijd
Itm the stocke in my handes for Iohn hylls wyl as dothe appere in the ende of my last accounte xxixε vijd
Sña of my receyts w’t iliijε vjs xjd
my last yeres debt

1 for year ended.
The payments of Wyflm Cowp for hys thyrd yere for John hylls will to be allowed as foloweth

In pimis payed the xxvijth DaYe of Aprill to the quenes maisses use forthe of Iohn hylls wyl for iiij halffe yeres endyd at seynt marie daYe in the first yere of her reigne xiiij\(^{s}\)

Itm p\(^{d}\) for mendyng the buttre at the churche howse vijd

Itm p\(^{d}\) to the deane at warwike for whytson farthyngs xijd

Itm payed to the quenes use forthe of John hylls wyl for halffe a yere endyd at m\(y\)helmu\(s\) anno seciido fui regni iiij\(^{s}\) iiij\(^{d}\)

Itm p\(^{d}\) for Iohn hylls obbetts for one yere endyd at the Imbre days in lent last past i\(^{s}\)

Itm to the clerke forthe of John hylls wyl for one yere endyd at the Imbr\(y\)e days in lent last past i\(^{s}\)

Itm b\(^{s}\) churche m\(e\) forthe of John hylls wyl

Itm Dealt on good ffr\(y\)da\(y\)e

Itm payd for wax to Jo. hyll & John horsseley

Itm p\(^{d}\) for makynge the rode light sepulcre & pascha\(f\) tapre xjd

Itm for makynge the Torches\(^{1}\)

Itm paid for betynge\(^{2}\) candells

Itm for w\(i\)tyng e\(p\) my counte in the boke

Itm spende in the hye wayes thys yere as dyd appere by a b\(y\)ll thereof made showed att my counte

S\(f\)na of my payments lvi\(^{s}\) vijd

And so all thyngs allowed there dothe rema\(y\)ne in the handes of me Wyflm Cowp at this m\(y\)ne accounte for the whole stocke of John hylls wyl

xxx\(^{s}\) iij\(^{d}\)

\(^{1}\) Staves of deal on which wax candles were fixed.

\(^{2}\) Kindling or lighting.
The accounts of Nicholas Byrd for the churche pte
for his iiiijth yere made to the pythe the xxvjth daye of Aprill
in the seconde and iiijde yere of the Reignes of philippe & marie
by the gce of God Kynge and Quene of Englannde &c

Reddits
In p'mis Receyved of Iohn Shakesspere for one yers Rent of harvys endyd at mihelmas in the seconde & thyrd yeres of the reignes of philippe and marie
Itm of Thomas Shakesspere for a yeres Rent endyd at
the seid mihelmas
Itm of Iohn Tynd p. a'm at the seid mihelmas
Itm of Ricd Shaxspere p. a'm finit at the seid mihelmas
Itm of Rogr Oldnale for a yeres Rent endyd at thaundiacyon
of o're ladie a° ij et tertio philippi et ma°
Itm of Iohn Averne p. a° finit ad t°mi annuciacois
Itm of Wilftm Saunders p. a'm
Itm for the Rent of hocstyd p. a'm
Itm of Iohn Eves for the Rent of ij Shoppes
Itm of W. Saunders for the Rent of the thyrd shope for a yere endyd ad t° annuciacois

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

Sìna totlis of my Receyts
w't the debt in my handes

viij's iiiijd
vi's viij'd
ij's vij'd
ij's iiiijd
iij'd
vi'd

Sìna totlis of my Receyts
viij's vij'd o'b
The payments of Nicholas Býrd for his iiijth yére to be allowed hym as here folowethe

In pimis payed for bread and ale at p last ýeres accounte  
Itm payed for kepýnge the bells for one ýere endyéd  
at thannúcyacyiion of o' ladie a° dj° et iij° philippi et m°  
Itm p° at streßford for barres grounde  
Itm payed for whytledd to the bells  
Itm payed for franckensens for this ýere  
Itm for wasshýnge the churche gere and for scowrynge  
Itm payed more for barres grounde to m° martýn  

Sôna totîs of his payments xx° vjd whiche  
is allowed hym. And so he dothe owe to Churche  
at thys his last accounte  

Whereof he hathe payed towards the makýnge of the newe  
ylé more then he hathe receýved as dothe appere by his ac°  
thereof made and showed  
Whiche beinge allowed and payed hym. There dothe  
then remaýne to the churche stock but even  
which was delvy'd to John horseley then receývýnge  
the office for the churche pte  

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 Wllm Cowp for Iohn hills will for his iiiijth yere made to the pyhe the xxvjth daye of Apill in the second and iijde yeres of the Reignes of philippe and marie bi the grace of god Kýnge and quene of England ḡd

Reddit

In pīmis Receyved of Iohn Genýns of Lapworthe for a yeres Rent endýd at mihelmas in the second & iijde yeres of the Reignes of philippe and marie

Itm of Watton p a²m finitam at the seid mihelmas

Itm of Wm Saunders p a²m at the seid mihelmas

Itm of Iohn Gryssold p a²m at the seid mihelmas

Itm of Iohn Smýthe of pýnley p a²m

Itm of laurence Shakýsspere at the seid mýhelmas

Itm receyved of Iohn byrd for the hyer of a cow

Itm Nicholas byrd Delyv'd me of the wýtsone ale

Itm the Stocke in my handes for Iohn hylls wýll as Dothe appere in the ende of my last accounte

Sīna totlis Receptionis hoc anno
cm vltimo Debito

\{vjli \ xvijs \ viijd\}
The payments of Wm Cowp for his iiiijth yere
for John hills wyll to be allowed hym

In pimis payed for mendýnge the hie waýes for bread & ale
and for mendýnge a pýcke axe as dyd appere by a ptycular byll
thereof made and showed at myne accounte xiiij s xjd ob
Itm for ij candelstýcks in or' ladie chapell xiiij d
Itm ddlyv to m't baýlie on seýnt peters daye liij s iiiij d
Itm leýed forthe of my purse to make it evý money vijd
Itm p'd for ij new bañer clothes iij s iiiij d
Itm spende on thE that brought home lýme viijd
Itm p'd to p's quenes mats use for a ýere at mihelmas 1555 viij s viijd
Itm payed for Iohn hylls obbetts p a' finito at ýmbre dayes in lent ijd
Itm to the clereke p a' finito at ýmbre dayes in lent 1555 ijd
Itm payed to the churche wardens forthe of John hylls wyll ijs viijd
Itm to Richard Coxe for ledd xx d
Itm p'd for Whytson farthyngs due in a d 1555 xijd
Itm p'd for the Rode light agaynst christemas xijd
Itm for more Waxe xvijd
Itm p'd to George Gryýsolde A ij poundes xxijd
Itm to Iohn hyll for ij pounde of waxe iij s
Itm to Nicholas Saunders a pounde and halffe xvijd
Itm payed for vij li for the Torches vijs
Itm for makýnge torches & rode light xvijd
Itm delt to pore people on good frýday vj viijd
Itm for mendýnge the font coverýnge & for nayles ijd ob
Itm for a sancts bell roppe iiiijd
Itm at streftford for barres grounde x s
Itm spende on ffetchýnge home wodwards wheate ix d
Itm payed to Iohn Cowp for Clýppes ijd

Sýna totlis expencionis vj iijs iiiijd whiche
beinge allowed hym there remaýnethe for the stocke
of Iohn hills wyll but even ix x iiiijd
whiche was ddlyv'd by he seýd wýtým cowp to the handes
of Iohn Gryýsolde then receývynge the office for Iohn hylls
wyll a d 1556°

1 Thé, viz. then.
The accounts of John horseley for the churche pte
made to the pythe the xxix Daye of maye in the iijd
and fffourthe yeres of philippe and marie a° du 1557°

In p°mis Receyvyd of Iohn Shakýssperere for a yeres Rent of harves
endýd at myhelmas in the iijde ¿ fourthe yeres of p. & mríe vijs iiijs
ing of Thomas Shakýssperere for a yeres Rent of lyance due
at the seýde myhelmas vijs viijjs
Itm of Thomas Shakýssperere for a yeres Rent of lyance due
at the seýde myhelmas iijs vijd
Itm Re3 of Iohn Tyi due at the seid myhelmas p. a° iijs iijjd
Itm for Rogr Oldnale p a° xjd
Itm of Ricd Shakýssperere p a° due at the seýd myhelmas iijs iijjd
Itm of Iohn Averne p. a° iiijd
Itm forthe of brock furlonge jd
Itm Recd for the Rent of hockstýd xijd
Itm for a yeres Rent of the Shoppes endýd at Seynt marie daye of John
Eves for ij Shoppes xjd
Itm for the Rent of the Thyrd Shope vijd
Itm Receyed that Rogr ley gave to the churche xiijs iijjd
Itm Recd of Iohn Smythe of pýnleý for wood ixjs

Itm the churche stocke in my handes which I receyved of
Nicholas byrd when I was made churchemâ xixs

The Some of my Receyts iijjs vijs
with the stocke in my hands}
The payments of Iohn horseleý to be allowed hym

bread
In p'imis payed for ᵐ ale on the countie daýe xvijd
Itm pd for Clothe to amende ij surpleces vilj ob
Itm payed for ij strýcks of lyme & for ffecthyainge xijd
Itm p'd for Sope Thrydd ffrankencense & wýtleddr xv'd ob
Itm payed for an hymed boke ij's viijd
Itm spende at výsitacyons at streford ᵐ warwicke iijs ix'd
Itm payed for Tyles carryenge and layenge iijs viijd
& for Roppes
Itm for kepinge the bells ᵐ for one ýere endid at thanncýacyon of oure
ladie in the iijs & fourthe ýeres of philippe ᵐ marie iijs
Itm payed for wrýtinge minnctyons and for artýcles xiiiijd
Itm for ston at Kenýlworthe & for expens the same týme iijs viijd
Itm spende in carryenge stone frome Kenýlworthe iijs j'd
Itm payéd to a Týlor and his mā xvjd
Itm payéd to a Týnker for médynge the led ij'd
Itm payéd for meate & drýnke for whýrrell & fetherston x'd
Itm to Ric'd Coxe workýnge aboute the bells xvijjd
Itm for mete & drýnke to hym & to those that dýd helpe hym iiijs iiijd
Itm at the visitacyon at henley xiiijd
Itm to Iohn Cowp for mendýnge gogings ¹ xxijd
Itm for Castýnge the brasses & for mettall iijs
Itm payéd for a Keý & for Ring iiijd
Itm payéd for Cords to the Véyle & Rode iiijd
Itm payéd for makýnge the belstocks xvjd
Itm payéd to carvers of marýe & John ² xij's
Itm payéd for whýnge myne acounte iiijd

Sma of hys payments for this his ffrîst ýere lv's ix'd

it beinge allowed
And so ᵐ there dothe remaîne in his handes for the churche
pte at this his ffrîst acounte xj's iiijd

¹ gogings—a ducking-stool. ² Images.
The accounts of Iohn Gryssolde for the pte of hylls wyll whiche counte he made to the pyshe the xxiiij daye of maýe in the thyrde and fowrthe yeres of philippe & marie by the gce of god Kinge & quene gce

In pǐmis receyved of Iohn Genýns of lapworthe for a yeres Rent endyð at myhelmas in the iiijd & iiijth yeres of p. & m xx

Itm of Watton of Shrowleý for a yeres Rent endýð at the seýd mihelmas x

It of Katherýne Saunders p. a at the seýd mihelmas vii

Itm for my selffe p. a friným at the seýd mihelmas vjs viijd

Itm of Iohn Smýthe of pýnleý iij

Itm of Laurence Shakýssperë iij

Itm of John bird for the hyer of a cowe xvijd

Itm for stocke in my handes whiche I receyved of Wiým Cowp. levýnge the office for Iohn hylls pte ix iijd

Sǐna of the Rent for year ending. iijli iijvi iiijd
The payments of Iohn Gryssolde to be allowed hym for his first yeres counte. vt se{q}t.

In p[imis payed for carryenge gravell
Itm to iij workmā for fyllynge xx Tumbrels ¹
Itm to Emme bird for meate & drýnke
Itm p[ for Iohn Eves for Iohn hylls wyl for one ýere endyd at the ýmber dayes in lent a° 3° et 4° philippi et m°
Itm p[ forthe of Iohn hylls wyl to the quenes ma[ use for one ýere endyd at mihelmas a° d° M° v. lvj°²
Itm p[ for beîng Ye carrieinge
Itm payd for stone bought at Kenylworthe
Itm payd for meate & dryke & carrynge
Itm p[ for a pounde of waxe for o[r] ladies light
Itm to John Ty[°] for makýnge the same
Itm payd for iij pounde waxe to the sepulcre & paschall
Itm p[ for makinge the same at Warwicke
Itm payd to Sir Thomas ³ for ij obbetts
Itm payd to o[r] Sels forthe of Iohn hylls wyl
Itm Dealt on good frydaye
Itm payd for wîtinge myne accounte
Itm payd for ij pounde of waxe more
Itm payd for a workmā iij dayes
Itm payd for more waxe

Sīna of his payments ij° j° whiche was allowed hym. And so all thyngs payed there dothe Remayne in the handes of Iohn Gryssolde for John hylls stocke even

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 the Church made to the Pope the viijth daye of May in the fourthe & vth yer of the Reignes of Kinge Phillippe and Queene Marye—a° di 1558

In pimis Recd of Iohn Shaxspere for a yeres Rent of harves endyd at Mihelmas in the iiiijth & vth yeres of p & m = viij + viijd

Itm Receyved for the Rent of Lyunce for one yere endyd at the seyd Mihelmas

Itm for the Rent of Tywn due at the seyd Mihelmas

Itm of Rogr Oldnale p a^m

Itm of Ricd Shaxspere p a^m due at the seyd Mýhelmas

Itm of Iohn Averne p a^m

Itm forthe of Brucke forlonge p a^m

Itm the Rent of Hockstyd p a^m

Itm for a yeres Rent of ij shoppes endyd at Saynt Marye daye last past

Itm for the Rent of the iiijd shope

Itm Receyved of Iohn Smythe of Pynleý for wodd

Itm the stocke in my hands as dothe appere in the ende of my last accounte wt nycholas byrds money is

The Sma of his Receyts

for this his seconde yere w the xiiijxj d

Debt of his first yeres accounte
The payments of John Horseley for his second year to be allowed
hym as here followeth.

In pinis payed for bread & Drýrke on the countyre daye xvijd
Itm p[^d] to a glasior for mendýnge the west wyndow xx[^d]
Itm spende when the archdecons visýtyóñ was here xijd
Itm for payntinge the cruçýfixe ij[^a]
Itm p[^d] for bords to sett oô the sacraméêt ij[^d]
Itm for one yere kepinge the bells endýd at saynt marýe daýe iii[^a]
Itm for mendýnge the sensors j[^d]
Itm payed to the masons to make even moneý xvijd
Itm for bread & Drynke to the masons ij[^d]
Itm p[^d] for halfse a hyde of Whýteledd r xx[^d]
Itm p[^d] for a trussinge a bell v[^d]
Itm for ij pounde of Sope to washe the churche gere v[^d]
Itm for a lanterne & for franckensence vij[^d]
Itm for a Roppe that the masons had xijd
Itm for mendýnge the best cope & vestýment iiijd ob
Itm p[^d] for franckensens agaynst East r ij[^d]
Itm for a gyrdle to the vestýments ij[^d]
Itm for makýnge the grate into the churche yarde iii[^a]
Itm payed for ij bell Roppes xvijd
Itm payed for wrýttinge müne acounte iii[^d]

Sôna of his payments for his second
ýere xxij[^a] viijd ob And so all
things allowed hym the sayd Iohn horseley there dothe remayne for
the churche stocke even xxij[^a] ij[^d] ob whereof there is on the compte
yet vn[^d]

of Nicholas byrde xix[^a] which the sayde Iohn horseley could not gett
in hys týme. And the rest he hathe delyû to the hands of Wy’llm
Wyllýams nowe receývinge the office for the churche pte. vz–iiij ij[^d] ob
and the xix[^a] is styll owýnge by Nicholas byrds executo’rs.
The accompts of Iohn Gryssolde for Iohn hylls
wyl made to the Vicare & other of the pishe the
viijth Daye of maye in the fourthe and fifthe
yeres of Kinge philippe and quene marye. 1558.

In p'mis Receyved of Iohn Ienyns for one yeres Rent endyd
at mihelmas in the iiijth & vth yeres of p. & m.
Itm of Watton due at the sayde mihelmas p. a.
Itm of Mr burton due at the sayd mihelmas p. a.
Itm for p'ston close due at the sayd mihelmas p. a.
Itm of Ricd Smythe of pynley then due p a.
Itm of laurence Shaksperere for one yere endyd at the sayd
mihelmas
Itm Receyved of w'lm wyllyams for wheate money
Itm of Iohn birde for the hyer of a cow
Itm the stocke in my hands as dothe appere by the ende
of my last accounte

S'na of his Receyts w't
the stocke due

Iij
iiij

Sfiia of his Receyts w't
the stocke due

The payments of Iohn Gryssold for John hills
wyll to be allowed as here followthe
In p'mis payed to John Saunders for ij daifes carriage
Itm to John grýssolde for ij days carveage
Itm to Richd baker and John Reve for ij daies
Itm to Iohn fìrranude and malkyns for ij daies a pece
Itm to Roger grýssold for ij daýs workinge
Itm to Thomas Saunders for one daýe workýnge
Itm payed for bread & Drjrnke the same tyme
Itm to Katherýne Saunders & Alýs Reve
Itm payed to the hands of Willýam Whaýtley of henley to the quenes mts use for th of Iohn hills wyll for a yere undyed at myhelmas in the fourth and vth yeres of the Reýnes of Kinge philippe and quene marye and in the yere of o lord god d in lvj. viij viijd

Itm to the vicare for Iohn hylls obbetts for a yere endyed at the ýmbrý Daýes in lent q for one quartý behýnde ij vjd

Itm to the clerke for one yere endyed at the ýmbrý daýes in lent in the iiijth q vth yeres of philippe q marýe ij

Itm payed to the masons for Rossen wax q ernýst money xxijd

Itm payed when I went to bye ledd vjd

Itm payed to the vicare for Iohn hylls obbetts for a yere endyed at the ymbry Days in lent for one quartr behynde if vjd

Itm payed to the clerke for one yere endyed at the ymbry days in lent in the iiijth q vth yeres of philippe q marýe ij

Itm for carrýenge lýme q sande q for nayles iij ixd

Itm to the sompn for whitson farthyns for ij yeres endyed at Whytsontýde. a d d in lvj. ij

Itm for waxe q makinge the Rode lýght paschall taps. sepulcre light and a tapre to halowe the font xs vd

Itm payed to Ricd baker for one daýes carrage more gravyll xiiiijd

Itm Dealt on good ffrýdaýe vjs viijd

Itm payed for ffranckensence ijd

Itm payed for ooc týles and the carrýnge iijd

Itm payed for a lode of lýme viij ijd

Itm payed to o selfs forthe of John hills wyll ijs viijd

Itm for witynge my counte in the Counte boke iiiijd

Sũa for his payments for his later ýere iijli vjs xd

Whiche beinge allowed hym there dothe remayne for the stocke of John hylls wyll even vijs vd

whiche was deluyt to the hands of John Reve thd made one of the churche wardens and receyvinge the office for the Counte of John hylls wyll.
The accompts of Iohn Reve for Iohn hills wyll
made to the pishe the xvii\textsuperscript{th} daye of April a° D\textsuperscript{i} 1559

and in the first yeere of the Reigne of A So\textsuperscript{e}igne ladie quene Ellisabethe g\textsuperscript{d}

The Receyts of the se\textsuperscript{y}de Iohn Reve for one yeere

In p\textsuperscript{i}mis receyved of John Jen\textsuperscript{y}ns of lapworthe for one yeeres rent endyd at mihelmas before the date above written xx\textsuperscript{g}

Itm Receyved of Watton of Srowley for one yeeres rent endyd at the sayde mihelmas 1558\textsuperscript{o} x\textsuperscript{g}

Itm of George burton due at the se\textsuperscript{y}de m\textsuperscript{y}helmas p. a\textsuperscript{o} viij\textsuperscript{g}

Itm of Iohn gr\textsuperscript{y}ssolde for a yeere Rent of preston clesse due at the se\textsuperscript{y}de m\textsuperscript{y}helmas viij\textsuperscript{g} viij\textsuperscript{d}

Itm of Richard Smythe of p\textsuperscript{y}nle\textsuperscript{y} for one yere endyd at the sayde m\textsuperscript{y}helmas iiiij\textsuperscript{g}

Itm of laurence Shaxspere for one yeere rent endyd at the se\textsuperscript{y}d m\textsuperscript{y}helmas iiiij\textsuperscript{g}

Itm in my hands that I receyved of Iohn gr\textsuperscript{y}ssolde for the stocke of Iohn hills wyll viij\textsuperscript{g} viij\textsuperscript{d}

Si\textsuperscript{na} of my receyts w\textsuperscript{i} the stocke \{ iij\textsuperscript{ii} j\textsuperscript{d} \}
The accompts of Wm Wylliams for the churche pte made to the pýhe the xiiijth Daye of Apill in the thýrde ýere of the Reigne of our soüeigne ladie quene Elizabethe c. c.

In pýmis Recd of Iohn Shakyspere for the Rent of harvys for one ýere endyd at myhelmas in the seconde ýere of the Reigne of of our soüeigne ladie quene Elizabethe c. c. viij\$ iiijd

Itm of the sey\d Iohn for one ýeres Rent of Iýaunce endýd at the seýde miýhelmas \$ viijd

Itm of Thomas Tyõ due at the seýd myýhelmas iiij\$ vijd

Itm of Ric\d Shaxspere due at the sey\d myýhelmas iiij\$ iiijd

Itm for the Rent of hockstyd p. vno. a° iiijd

Itm for the Rent of Smaley meddow p. vno. a° xjd

Itm for the brokefurlonge p. a° j\d

Itm of Wm Saunders for one shoppe \$ vijd

Itm of Iohn Eves for the mýddle shoppe \d

Itm for the great shop \u

Itm Recd for wood sold forthe of packwodde vijs

Itm for wax sold x\s

Itm receyved for the buryall of Mr Ienett in the ladýe chappell vs

Itm Recd of Wý\m byrde that his father dyd owe xixs iiijd

Itm of Iohn Averne p. a° iiijd

Itm the whole stocke in my hands for the churche pte as dothe appere in the ende of my last accounte xxis xjd ob

The some of all his Receýts \$ iiiijd vijs ixd ob.
The payments of Wm Wyllyams to
be allowed hym. ut. sr

In p'mis payed for bread & ale at the last accompt
Itm spende at the bysshoppes visitacion at warr
Itm for a key to the churche Coffre
Itm payed for harnes & furniture
Itm payed to pags wyff
Itm for kepinge the bells Due at myhelmas
Itm payed for a newe surples
Itm for glasinge the west wyndowe
Itm for coiøn bread & wyne at East
Itm Dealt to people on the ascentyon Daye
Itm dea€ to the pore of the wax money
Itm payed for the coiøn table
Itm payed for wtinge vp myne accounte

Sima of his payments iiiij xixs viijd ob
Toward the payment whereof his Receyved come to iiiij vijs ixd ob. And so

the counte dothe owe wyllyams for the churche pte that he hathe payed more then he hathe receyved xjs xd
whiche must be payed to hym the seyð wyllyams by the next churche man that receyvethe the office for the churche pte.

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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 Churche pte. Made to the pishe the xij\textsuperscript{th} daye of April in the iiij\textsuperscript{th} yere of the Reigne of our so\textsuperscript{e}igne ladie quene Elysabethe

\[ \text{viij}^s \text{ viij}^d \]

In pis receyved of Iohn Shakyspere for the Rent of harvys for one yere endyd at mihelmas in the third yere of the Reigne of our so\textsuperscript{e}igne ladye quene Elysabethe. viij\textsuperscript{s} viij\textsuperscript{d}

Itm receyved of the same Iohn for one yeres Rent of lyaunce Endyd at the sayd mihelmas vj\textsuperscript{s} viij\textsuperscript{d}

Itm of Thomas tynd due at the sayd Mihelmas iiij\textsuperscript{s} vij\textsuperscript{d}

Itm of Ric\textsuperscript{r} shaxspere due at the sayd mihelmas iiij\textsuperscript{s} iiiij\textsuperscript{d}

Itm for the Rent of smaley meddowe p. a\textsuperscript{m} xij\textsuperscript{d}

Itm forthe of hockstyd p. a\textsuperscript{m} iij\textsuperscript{d}

Itm forthe of brockefurlonge p. a\textsuperscript{m} iij\textsuperscript{d}

Itm of Iohn averne p. a\textsuperscript{m} x\textsuperscript{s}

Itm Rec\textsuperscript{d} for the Rent of packwodde p. a\textsuperscript{m} xij\textsuperscript{d}

Itm for the Rent of ij shoppes xij\textsuperscript{d}

Itm for the great Shoppe

\[ \text{Sfia totis of his Receyts for his first yere} \text{xxxv}^s \text{ vj}^d \]
The payments of Thomas Atwod for the churche pte for his first yere to be allowed

In p'mis payd for bread and ale when I receyved the office xijd

sunday afr the

Itm Dealt to pore people on the ascentyon Daye vjs viijd
Itm payd that was owinge to wth wyllýams xjs xjd
Itm spende in the hye wæyes iijs iiiijd
Itm geven to the sompn for the býsshops Iniunctýons iiijd
Itm spende at the archedeacons visitacion ijd
Itm p'd for workinge about the bells & clensing the steple vjs viijd
Itm to the Sumfn for a Kalendt & the co[m]andemēts xxjd
Itm payd for a lyttell roppe to the sancts bêt iijd
Itm p'd for a newe spade 2 mendinge the mattocke ijs
Itm geven to yonge men of balsall at wýtsontýde iijs iiiijd
Itm payed for a forme & a lyttle table for divine syvys iijs iiiijd
Itm to the súpf where he brought the comādemēt for the rode laft iiijd
Itm p'd and spende in takinge downe the Rode laft viijd
Itm payed to thomas saunders for kepinge the bells for one yere endýd at Chrýstmas a° quarto regni Regine Ely[s]abth ijs
Itm payed for halfe a hyde of whýte leddc ijs viijd
Itm payed for cólín bred & wýne all the yere xxd
Itm for cólín bread and wýne at Eastt ijs viijd
Itm p'd for w'tinge my counte in this boke iiijd

Sína of his payments liijd viijd.

Whereof he is payed in his Receyts xxxvijd vjd

And so the churche Dothe hym at thys accounte that he hathe layed forthe more thē he hathe Receyved xviiijd jd
The accounts of Richard Saunders for John hylls wyll made to the pyhe the xij Daye of Apryll in the liijth yere of the Reigne of ost souenege ladye quene Elysabethe, c 1562°

The Receyts p a m

In p'mis Receyved of Ienyns wyffe of lapworthe for the Rent of one yere Endyd at Mihelmas aº tertio Regna Regine uÆ Elysabethe

Itm one yers Rent of wattons howse due at the seyd Mihelmas in the liijde yere of quene Elysabethe

Itm of Iohn grŷssolde for one yeres Rent of a Close in preston Due at the sayde Mŷhelmas

Itm for sanderns due at the sayde Mihelmas

Itm of Richard Smythe Due at the seyd Mihelmas

Itm of larraunce shaxspere for the Rent of one yere endyd at the sayde Mihelmas

Itm Recd for wod solde forthe of Sanderns close

Sũa totiis of his Receyts

liij² viij'd
The payments of Richard Saunders to be allowed hym

In pîmis spende in the hie waïes for Iohn hills wýll  xiijs iijd
Itm payed for a gallon of Ale  iiijd
Itm spende in the hye waïes that was last vndone in týme of wîm hancock and wîth wîllîams  xiijs iijd

hancock
Itm payed that was owinge to wîm wîllîams  xijj iijd
Itm for & tîle iij creasts and gutter tyle  ijs viijd
Itm for carrîenge sande & swêpinge the churche howe  vjd
Itm payed to the quenes maîs vse forthe of Iohn hylîs wîll for one yere endýd at Miheimas in the thyrde yere of the Reigne of quene Elysabethe  vijs viijd
Itm forthe of Iohn hills wîll to the pishe Clerke for one yere endýd at seînt marïe DAYE in lent  ijs
Itm Dealt on good ñrydaïye  vjs viijd
Itm pîd to oî selîfs forthe of Iohn hylls wîll  ijs viijd
Itm payed for wrîtinge up myne accounts  iijd

Sîna totîs of his payments  iijj ijs ixd

Toward the whiche payments the Receyts comethe to  liiijs viijd.

And so Thîs accoute owethe yet to Richard Saunders that he hathe layed forthe more thî he hathe receyved  vijs jd
The accounts of Thomas Atwood for the churche pte made to the pishon's the xviiith Daye of Apryl in the ffyfte yere of the Reigne of o' soueneigne laydyc quene Elysabt c 1563° for one yere before.

In pymis Receyved of Iohn Shakisspere Rent of harvys for one yere endyd at Mihelmas a° quarto Regni Regine Elysabethe viij° viijd
Itm for one yeres Rent of lyauncce due at the sayd Mihelmas vj° viijd
It of Tyn for one yere Endyd at the sajd Mihelmas iiij° iiiijd
It of Ric° shaxspere p a° Due & endyd at the sajd Mihelmas xjd
Itm for smaleý meddowe p a° iiijd
Itm for hocystyd p. a° iiis xjd
Itm forthe of brockfurlonge p a° finit ad festm annû bte 1 me° j
Itm of John Averne p a° finit ad festm annû bte me° iiijd
Itm for a grounde called packe 2 for a yere endyd at the feast of thæncois bte me° a° quarto Regine Elysabethe x° xijd
Itm Rec'd for the Rent of the great shoppe
Itm for the Rent of the other ij shoppes for a yere endyd at the feast of the Annuiciacois bte me° a° quinto Elysabethe xiijd
The Some of his Receyts xxxv° vjd

The payments of Thomas Atwood for his seconde yere to be allowed hym for the churche pte.
In pymis payed for bread and Ale at the last counte xd
Itm spende at the bussshopp of Cannterbyerýes výsitacyon at warr. iiij° vjd
and for makinge bills ã delaývinge the same iiij° iiijd
Itm payéd for ij belî Roppes vij°
Itm payéd for one strýke of lyme for the churche viijd
Itm to the Tyler for mendýnge the churche viijd
Itm payéd for vj creasts for the churche xiijd

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 fletching a lode of Sande iiijd
Itm Dealt for John Oldnalls wyllam spende in the highe waifes xs
Itm payed for mendinge the great bell Clapre ij s vjd
Itm payed to Thomas Saunders for kepinge the bells and steple for one yere endyd at Christmas last 1562° ijs
Itm payed to the pleyers more thē was gatheryd ij d
Itm to Norde for pavinge the chauncell iiij d
Itm a hepe of lyme to the same ijd
Itm payed to the sonnē at eas’t iiij d
Itm for Cōōn bread & wîne all the yere ijs
Itm for Cōōn bread and wîne at Easter ijs viijd
Itm payed for a Key to the great shoppe iiijd
Itm for ij yrone Clyppes for the bells viijd
Itm to be allowed me for the Rent of one shope vjd
Itm owinge me for my last accounte as Dothe appere in the ende of the same Counte xvij s j d

The some of his payments that he hathe laïed forthe iiij d
whereof his Receyts come to xxxvs vjd

And so the counte dothe owe to Thomas at atwod for the churche pte that he hathe laïed forthe more thē he hathe Receyved xv s ix d whiche must be payed hym by the next churche wardens.

mē that there is owinge to Iohn Tybbotts that he leýde downe for the pishe at wolverton xjs
Itm owinge to Richarde Saunders that he laïed forthe to wytson lords of henley and barsewell wē the consent of the pishe vjd viijd
The accompts of Richard Saunders for John hills wyll made to the pishe the xviiij\textsuperscript{th} daye of Aprill in the fift\textsuperscript{th} yere of the Reigne of our Souweigne ladye quene Ellysabethe g d 1563 for one yere last past.

In p\textsuperscript{mis} Receyved of Ienyns wylfe of lapworthe for the Rent of one yere endyd at Mikeham in the iiij\textsuperscript{th} yere of the Reigne of our Souweigne ladje quene Ellysabethe xx\textsuperscript{s}

Itm of Anthonye byrde for one yers Rent endyd at the sa\textsuperscript{yde M}

Itm of p\textsuperscript{ston} close Due at the se\textsuperscript{yd} Mihelmas vij\textsuperscript{s} viij\textsuperscript{d}

Itm for Sanderne due at the se\textsuperscript{yd} mihelma\textsuperscript{s} viij\textsuperscript{d}

Itm of Ric\textsuperscript{d} Smythe p am at the se\textsuperscript{yd} Mihelmas iij\textsuperscript{s}

Itm of larraunce shaxspere due at the se\textsuperscript{yd} feast iij\textsuperscript{s}

S\textsuperscript{m}a tot\textsuperscript{is} of his Receyts \{ lijs viij\textsuperscript{d}

The payments of Richard Saunders for his seconde yere to be allowed hym for John hills wyll.

In p\textsuperscript{mis} payed for carr\textsuperscript{ynge} in the hie wa\textsuperscript{yes}

one Da\textsuperscript{yne} w t f\textsuperscript{f}ve temes xvij\textsuperscript{d} apeces vijs viij\textsuperscript{d}

Itm payed to ix workmen iij\textsuperscript{s} vj\textsuperscript{d}

Itm payed to a work\textsuperscript{man} one Da\textsuperscript{ye} iij\textsuperscript{d}

Itm for mend\textsuperscript{ynge} ij mattocks viij\textsuperscript{d}

Itm for lymy to the churche howse & buttrye xvd

Itm for Crests and gutter Crests iij\textsuperscript{s}

Itm payed to the Tyler xij\textsuperscript{d}

Itm payed to the quenes ma\textsuperscript{ts} vse forthe of John hills wyll for one yere endyd at Mikeham in the iiij\textsuperscript{th} yere of her ma\textsuperscript{ts} reigne vijs viij\textsuperscript{d}
It was paid for bread & ale to workmen in the high wayes viijd
It dealt on good Friday vijs viijd
It to the vicar and Clerk for one yeere endyd at Saint Mary's day in the fiftyfth yeere of the Queen's Majestie's Reigne iiij
It was spente more in the high wayes xij
It owinge as appereth in my last accompt viij jd
It paid to ourselves for the of John Hills will viijd
Soma of his payments 1s ijd. And his Receyts this yeere be liij viijd. And he Dothe owe for John Hills will to be paied to John Shakespeare receyvinge the office ij jd

It there is owinge to the said Richard Saunders that he layd Downe to wytson lords of Henley & BarsweB with the consent of the pishe vjs viijd which they have agreed must be paied hym agayne forthe of the church counte & not oute of John Hills will.
anno dni 1564

In that on sondaye the xxiiij daye of apryl yn the yeare of owre Lord god 1564 George Gryssold beyng churche man for the churche parte made hys accownte before the baylye and other honest men of the paryshe for the fyrrste yeare of hys office and hys receytes and paymentes beyng cownted there remaynethe yn hys handes iiij s

In that Ihon Shaxspere beyng churche man for Iohn hylles Wyll made hys accownte the same yeare and daye before the bayllye and other honest men of the pyshe for the fyrrste yeare of hys office lyckwyse and hys receytes and paymentes beyng cownted there remaynethe yn hys handes xij s viij d

anno dni 1565

In that on sondaye the iij daye of June yn the yeare of owre lord god 1565 George Gryssold beyng churche man for the churche parte made hys accownte before the baylye and other honest men of the pyshe for the seconde yeare of hys office / and hys receytes and paymentes beyng cownted there remaynethe yn hys handes vj s

In that Ihon Shaxspere beyng churche man for Iohn hylles Wyll mad hys accownte the same yeare and daye for the seconde yeare of hys offyce lycke wyse and hys Receytes and paymentes beyng cownted there remaynethe yn hys handes xxxj s iiiij d

anno dni 1566

In that on sonday the xxviiij day of Apryll yn the yeare of owre lord god 1566 George grysold beyng churche man for the churche parte mad hys accownte before the baylye and other honest men of the pyshe for the thyrde yeare of hys offyce and hys receytes and paymentes beyng cownted there remaynethe yn hys handes viij s viij d whych he delyvered to Wyttm Cowp then receyvyng the offyce

In that Ihon Shaxspere made hys accownt for Iohn hylles Wyll the same yeare and daye for the thyrde yeare of hys offyce lyck Wyse and hys Receytes and paymentes beyng cownted there remaynethe yn hys handes xviij s Whycye he delyvered to Iohn benet then receyvyng the offyce

In y't John Shakespere doth owe to y'e pryshe for wood sold yn hys ycre 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 yeare of hys offyce and hys accowntes made before the parryshe on sonday the xx day of Aprytt yn the ix yeare of owre sov'eygne ladý elýsabethe by the grace of god quene of etcete.

In primis Receyed of Ihon Ienyns for one holle yeres rent dew att myhellmas yn the yeare of owre lord god 1566

Item Receyved of Anthoný býrd of Shrowleý x

Item for Sanderns viij

Item of John grysold vj viijd

Item of Rychard smýthe iiiij

It of Thomas Shaxsper iiiij

Item Receyved of Jhon shaxsper yn stocke when I entred ýnto the offyce xviiij

Some of my Receytes wythe the stocke iij x viijd

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

In primis pafd for vj teames yn the hye Way one Daye viij

Item for Worke men to stok and fyll the same xx d

Item to John býrd for xij load of stones ijd

Item to John Reve and John Dall for V load x d

Item for alle to make them all to drýnke vij

Item payd to the quenes maiester vse viijd

Item Delte on good frýdaý vij viijd

Item payed to owre selves iij viijd

Some of my paymentes xxxiij

And ther remaynethe ýn my handes xxxixd

1567.

The Accomptes of WyWm cowp for the churche parte mad to the pyshe on sonday the xxiiij Daý of Aprytt ýn the ix yeare of oure sov'eygne ladý elýsabethe for one yeare last paste

In primis Receyved of Iohn Shaxsper for harveys viijd

Item Receyved of the same Ihon for lýáce viiijd

Item for smalleý medowe xj

Item of Thomas Tyner iij vj
Item Reseyved of Richard Shaxsper
Item for packwoddes
Item for hockstyd
Item of Ihon Avarne
Item forthe of broke forlonge
Item of Ihon Shaxsper for Wodd
Item Receyved of george grisold when I entred yn to the offyce
Item Receyved for the whytson alle

Some of my receytes

The paymentes of WyUlm cowp to be allowed forthe of the same

In primis for bread and alle when I receyved the offyce
Item spent at the Arche Decones vysytacyon for makýnge or bylles and delýýnynge the same and for own dyýn
Item payd to Thomas Sanders for kepýng the belles
Item Delt on the Asentýon Daý and spent yn the hýe wayes accordyng to m r oldnales wyll
Item payd for the homelý bok
Item payd for viij yardes of buckeram for the table
Item payd for bread and wyne for the cômunýon all the yeare
It for a boke of prayýr agâynst the turke
Item to the plumer for mendýng the lead
Item payd for a bell rope
Item payd to the glacýer for glas and workman shype
Item for halfe a strýke of lyme
Item for bread and Wyne to serve the cômunýon at ester and all the wole before

Some of my payments

And there remaynethe yn my hand

Viz. dinner.
The accountes of Iohn benett for John hylles Wyll made before the pyshe
on sondaye the xvij Day of maye beýng the second and last yeare of hys
offyce and the tenthye yeare of owre soveraýne ladýe quene elysabethe
et cetera anno dni 1568

In primis Receyved of Ihon Jenyns of Lapworthe for one yeres rent endyd at
mychaelmas yn the nynthe yeare of quene elysabethe xx

Item of anthony byrd of Shrewley

Item receýved of Rychard smythe iiijs

Item Receýved of Thomas Shaxspere iiiis

Item of Ihon Dalle viij

Item Re of Iohn Grysold vj viijd

Item receýved of Rhichard smythe iiijs

Item receýved of the stocke remaynjng yn my hand as appearethe yn my last account xxxixs vjd

Some of my Receytes

wythe the stocke ys iiiij xijd

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

In primis payd for vj teames one day yn the hyghe wayes ix

Item payd to Ihon Reve for stones a leven loade 1 xxijd

Item payd to Ihon Dalle ix load xvijd

Item Ihon byrd one load ijd

Item yn bread and alle the same day xd

Item the quenes maiestyes rente viijd

Item the Wytson farthynges ijs

Item payd to the clerke for one hole yeare ijd

Item to nycholas Sly for the halfe yeare xijd

Item alowed Anthoný byrd of Shrowley viijd

Item Dealt on good frýday past xijd

Item payd to owre selves as ys accostomed ijd viijd

Item payd for wrtynges myne accompte yn thys boke iijd

Some of my paymentes whyche I have payd thys my last yeare ys xxxvijd

And so all thýnges alowed hym there dothe remayne of Ihon hylles wyll—liis xjd

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1 Viz. eleven loads.
In primis recognia de fons et praefectus for partibus

From for hymes
From for scantajy modules
From for pechested
From for meadland
From for pechsted
From for montay boston
From for brede for long
From for great form
From for receyved for too esabid
From for stock and for good

The payment of Abbot Nepthu to be aladed for partage of the same

In primis paid for breed and all tenures in maner of my last account
From paid for some of the repartitions done on too thorbes for the
From at the hysingdon at horst
From bothe on the Ascension Day and befand in the egregemos
From for making the coppe wood
From paid for keeping too bellows
From for boath and unused for the common at egeyram
From paid for aroand for the bell to bell
From boath and unused at the common at conelmes day
From for ungeld for too bellows
From grace at east day tay gang for the common comum
From for prave of the common comum
From for the common of the same comum
From for my account

Some of my payments the pope
Some paid for my last account
and so all things as allowed me said
Dole some for the same place
The accowntes of Wyffum cowp for the churche parte made before the
pyshe on sonday the xvj day of maye beyng the seconde and last
yeare of hys office and the tenthe of oure sovereigne ladye quene
elysabelthe et cetera annodni. r:5:6:8.

In primis Receyved of Ihon Shaxspere for harvys viij s viijd
Item for lyannce vijd
Item for smalley medowe viijd
Item for hockstyd iiiijd
Item for mehrland iijd vjd
Item for packwoddes x s
Item for sente marý leyton iiiijd
Item for Rychard Shaxsper iijijd
Item for broke for long j
Item for great shope vijd
Item Receyved for the chalys lx s iiiijd
Item for stocke yn my hand xxiijs iijd

The payrnentes of Wyflm cowper to be alowed hym forthe of the same

In primis payd for bread and alle when I made my last accownte vjd
Item payd to thomas ley for Reperatyons done on the clerkes howse xvj s iiijd
Item at the vysytacyon at War-Wyk iij s
Item delt on the Ascentyon Daý and bestoed yn the hyghe wayes x s
Item for mendyng the churche Rayles xx d
Item payd for kepyng the belles ij s
Item for bread and wyne for the coðynyon at chrystemas xijd
Item payd for a Rope for the lyttell bell xvj d
Item bread and wyne at the coðynyon at candelmas daý xijd
Item for whytlether for the belles vijd
Item spente at coventrye when we bowghte the coðynyon cuppe xvj d
Item the pryce of the coðynyon cuppe xlijd vjd
Item for the coðynyon at estur tyme viijd iiiijd
Item for wrytyng my accownte

Some of my paymentes whiche I have payd thyss my last yeare ys iiijd
and for all thyngs allowed me there x s iiijd

Dothe remayne of the churche stocke
The accountes of Jhon collytt for the churche parte on sonday the xv Day of may beynge the fyrst yeare of hys offyce and the eleventhe yeare of owre sov'ygn lady elysabethe anno dni 1569.

In primis Receyved of Jhon Shaxsper for harvys for one yeare endyd at myhelmas last past viij s iii d

Item of the same Jhon for lyaiice vj s viij d

Item of Ihon horsley for pack wodes x s

Item of thomas tyner iiij s vj d

Item of Rychard Shaxsper iijs iiiij d

Item for smalley meddow xi d

Item for hocksted iiij d

Item of Ihon Avarne iii d

Item forthe of brok forlong xj d

Item the great shoppe viij d

Item the other shoppes

Item Receyved of Wyûm Cowp yn stock when I entered ynto the offyce x ij d

Some of my receytes xliij s 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 viij d

Item to thomas saunders for kepynge the belles xij d

Item payd to the mendyng of hygh wayes and delt to the pore peple accordyng to mî oldnales wyâ††

Ite to the clerke to the makyng of the seller flore at hys howse 1 vs iiij

Item for trussyng one bell and mendyng the northe dore xvij j d

It bread and wyne for the coûmunion at dyvers tymes xvijj d

Item the charges of the coûmunion at esture vjs vij oh

Item for whyt lethor for the belles xij d

Item iiij Iren pûnnes for the belles and a staple for the buttery dore v d

Item for the coûmion on sonday last past ij d oh

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 xxxiij s x d

whych beuyng 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 Wyffm Sanders beyng churche man for Ihon hŷlles wŷll mad the same yeare and Day lyck wyse.

Item Receyved of Ihon Jenyns of lapworthe for one hole yeare rent \$xxs\$  
Item Receyved of Jhon Dalle \$vijjs\$  
Item of Athony byrd of Shrowley \$x\$  
Item of Thomas Shaxsper \$iiij\$s  
Item of Jhon grysold \$vjs\$ \$vijd\$  
Item of the good wyfe smythe of pyñley \$iiij\$s  
Item the stocke whych I receyved of Jhon benett \$liij\$s \$vjd\$

Some of my Receytes Wŷthe the stock \$vli\$ \$vjs\$ \$vjd\$

The paymentes of Wyffm Saunders to be allowed hym forth of the same

In primis payed to owe selves as ys accustomed \$ij\$ \$vijd\$  
Item payd to Ihon fayrfaxe \$ij\$s  
Item payd to Ihon Reve for one Dayes worlre wythe hys teame \$xvjd\$  
Item to Rychard Saunder for one day \$xvjd\$  
Item payd to Ihon grysold \$ij\$ \$vijd\$  
Item to Wyffm hancoxe \$xvjd\$  
Item payd to Work men \$xxiid\$  
Item payd for bread and ale \$ixd\$  
Item for xx loades of stones \$iiij\$s  
Item payd to Work men one day and bread and drýnk \$xd\$  
Item payd to m\$r$ ludford \$xxvjs\$ \$vijd\$  
Item to Coke of henley \$vijjs\$ \$vijd\$  
Item payd to Wyffm Clyñt \$xijd\$  
Item Delt to the pore on good fryday \$vjs\$ \$vijd\$  
Item to m\$r$ ludford another týme \$xxs\$

Some of my paymentes \$iiij\$i \$xxjd\$  
whyche beyngle alowed me ther \ndothe remayne yn my hand \$xxij\$s
The accowntes of Ihon Collyt for hys second yeare and the xij yeare of owre sorweygne ladý elysabethe by the grace of god quene of yngle and et: i5610

In primis receyved of Ihon Shaxper for harvys viijs viijd
Item for lyance vijs viijd
Item for smalleý medowe xjd
Item for hogstyt and seynt marý leyton viijd
Item for moreland iijsvjd
Item for pack woddes x
Item of Rychard Shaxsper iijsvijd
Item brok forlong and for the great shopp xiiijd
Item for wod sold to Thomas Shaxsper vijs
Item for wod sold vs viijd
Item the stoke ýn my hand ixsvj
Item Receyved of the yong men gathered by them toward the makeynge of the churche porche viijs

Some of my receyts wythe the stok iiffi vs j

The paymentes of Jhon Collýt

In primis payed for mendyng the grett bell clapper iijsv
Item Delt to the pore peple and bestowed on hyghe waysexs
Item payd for a boke of the newe homelyes and a Key for the steple dore xxvjd
Item the charges of the coñnyon at Chystemas and at ester vijs j
Item payd to Ihon Coxe for makeynge the porche xxiijs
Item for meat and drynk at the rearyng and sawyne the lathe iijsviid
Item to Ihon ley for drawyng the tymber iijs
Item for shýngle for the porche xjs iiijv
Item payd for naýles ijs vjd
Item payd for shynglyng the porche iijs viijd
Item spent at the Archdecdnes vysytacyon xvjd
Item payd to Jhon ley for caryage of tymber and shyngell iijv
Item payd for mendyng the seates ýn the churche x
payd for wrytyng myne accownte iij

The hole some of my paymentes ys iiijli xiijs
And so thys accownt dothe owe me vijs xj
The Accountes of Wyllm Sanders for his second yeare and the xij yeare of owre sonereygne ladye elysabethe 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 $xs$
Item of Jhon Dalle $vij^s$
Item of the good smythe of pynley $iiij^s$
Item of Thomas Shaxsper $iiij^s$

Some of my receytes

The paymentes of Wyllm Sanders

In primis payed to Jhon Dalle for stones $iiij^s$
Item payed at War Wyk at the vysitacyon $iiij^s$
Item payed to the clerke $ij^s$
Item my charges at Worcetur $vs iiij^d$
Item payed to the somner $iiij^d$
Item payed to Coke of henley $viiij^d$
Item Dealt to the poore people on good frydaye $vij^s viij^d$
Item payd to Wyllm Clynt $xij^d$
Item payd to Robart Coxe for makynge a seat in the churche $xviiij^d$
Item payd to Thomas Atwod for iij bordes for the same seate $x^d$
Item for iij bordes of mype owne $vij^d$
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 $iiij^d iiiij^d$
The accountes Wyffm hyll made the iiiij Day of June for hyss fyrst yeare and the xiij yeare of owre soweyne ladye elysabethe by grace of god quene of yngland franc and Ireland et cete anno dñi 1571

shaxsper

In primis receyved of Jhon A for harvys viijs viijd
Item for lyance vijs viijd
Item of Thomas tyner iijsvj dü
Item of Rýchard Shaxsper iijsvijd
Item for hogstyd and S. marye leyton viijd
Item of m C brookes vj dü
Item of Jhon horsley for packwoddes xüs
Item forthe of broke forlonge j dü

The some of my receytes ys xxxiijs vjd

The payments of Wyffm hyll

In primis for bread and Wyne for the coðmnyon on Wyt sonday vjd ob
Item spent at Worcetur when I was there xxiiijd
Item for the coðmnyon the xxx day of Julye iijd ob
Item payed to the mason for mending the stone WaH aboute the churche yard viijoijd
Item payed for fetchyng a load of sand xijd
Item payd to a Worke man the same tyme vjd
Item for sallyng trees and cuttyng them to make the Rayles viijd
Item for halfe a hyde of whyt lether xvijd
Item the coðmnyon on Chrystenmas Day vjd ob
Item delt to the pore people and bestoed ýn the hygte wayes accordyng to master oldnales wyff xs
Item payd for a lock and Keý viijd
Item the charges of the coðmnyon at ester vs j dü
Item at the vysytacyon at War Wyck ijs ijd
Item the coðunion another tyme iijd ob
Item payd at Alcestur the xvij day of maý ix dü
Item. payd for ij betf ropes ijs
Item for makyng cleane the churche howse iiiijd

The some of my paymentes ys xxxvj dü

and so thys account dothe owe me ijs xid
The Accountes of Thomas Shaxsper mad the iiiij day of June for his fyrist yeare 1571 and the xiiij yeare of owre soyledyne ladye elysabethe by the grace of god quene of yngland france and yrelsnd anno dni 1571

In primis of Jhon Jenyns for one yeres rent $xx^a$
Item of Anthony byrd of Shrowley $x^a$
Item of Wyllm Sanders $vij^a$
Item for preston clos $vj^a viij^d$
Item of Walter Colman $iii^j$
Item of my selfe $iii^j$

Some of my receytes $lijs viij^d$

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Item payd to pore peple on good fryday</td>
<td>$vj^a viij^d$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item payd to Worke men and for teames yn the hyghe wayses</td>
<td>$xiijs iij^d$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item payd to m' baýlye for mearsmentes</td>
<td>$vij^a viij^d$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item to the clerke forthe of Jhon hylles wylly</td>
<td>$ij^a$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item payd to owre selves</td>
<td>$ij^a viij^d$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item the quenes maiestyes rent</td>
<td>$vij^a viij^d$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item payd to Rychard Coxe for makynge the rayles abowte the churche yard</td>
<td>$iii^j$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item for hys bordyng x dayes</td>
<td>$ijs$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item for drawyng tymber to the sawpytt</td>
<td>$xvij^d$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item to Jhon Reve for the caryage of tymber</td>
<td>$xvij^d$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item payd to Andrew byrd for Dygynge to sett up the Rayle postes</td>
<td>$vj^d$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item spent Rydyng to Wyscetur</td>
<td>$xxid$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item spent at Alcester</td>
<td>$xxijd$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The some of my paymentes $liij^a j^d$

and so by this acount beýng made ye iiiij daye of June 1571 the pýshe owcthe to Thomas shaxspere consederyng that Thomas eton receýved of antony byýrd of the Receýts above seýd v to paye for lýme that was spent about the churche

---

1 viz. amercements.
The Receytes and the count of Wyffm hýff
for hýs second yere.

In primis Receýved of John shaxspere for Rent of harves
Item receýved of the same John for lýanne
Item of Thomas týn
Item of Rechard shaxsper
Item of hogstyd & seynct mari leyton
Item of mast' Broke for smaley medow
Item of John horsley for packewoodde
It forthe of brokforlonge

. The some of my Receyts is

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In primis Receyved of John shaxspere</td>
<td>viijd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item receyved of the same John</td>
<td>vjvijd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item of Thomas tyne</td>
<td>iijsvjd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item of Rechard shaxsper</td>
<td>iijsiiijd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item of hogstyd &amp; seynct mari leyton</td>
<td>viijd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item of mast' Broke for smaley medow</td>
<td>xjd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item of John horsley for packewoodde</td>
<td>xs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It forthe of brokforlonge</td>
<td>jd</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total Receytes                         | xxxiijsvjd |
The payments of Wyllm hyll for hys second yeare

In primis payd for Bread & ale when I made my last acount  
vjd

Item payd to the pore people & bestowed vn the hýghe ways  
according to John oldnales wýll 
witson  
x

Item payd to the ñ lord of henley  
xiijd

Item payd for bread & wyne for the co[munion the xxxdi daye of June  
iiijd

Item payd at Warwyke at the vicitacyon the vj daye of Julý  
iijs viijd

Item payd for making of the surples  
xiijd

Item payed at worcetur  
xxs

Item payd for a booke of the arttecles  
viijd

Item payed for glasenge  
vijs ijd

Item payd to John skarlet for hes fee when we brought the count  
agaýne  
iijd

Item payd for lýme & tyle and týlyng the churche  
iis vjd

Item payd for the co[munion on chrystenmas daye  
iijd ob

Item payd for bread & wyne for the co[munió at ester daye  
vvs vjd

Item payd to the clearke for kepýng the belles  
js

Item payd at the visýtacyon at Warwyke the xv day of apreff  
xxd

Item payd for a newe seat in the churche  
vs

Remaynyng that is owýnge to me of my last acont  
ijs xjd

Item payd to the beff founder  
iijd

Item payd for wrýtyng up my a count  
iijd

the some of my payments  
xxiijijd vjd

and so this acount dothe owe wyllm hyll  
xijs
The acomptes of Thomas shaxspere
for hys second yeare

In primis Receyved of John Jenýns of lapworthe  xx*
Itým Receyved for the rent of my selfe  iiij*
Itým of John greshold for Rent  vj*
Itm of Antony býrde of shrowleý  x*
Itm receved of walter colman  iiij*
Itm receved for sanders  viij*

The some of my Receýtes lij* viijd
Payments that Thomas shaxspere hathe leyd forthe
for the second yeare to be allowed hym

In primis for teames and laborers in the hýghe waýs  iiijd
Item payed for a xj load of stones  xxijd
Item payd for bread and ale the same týme  viijd
Item payd for the witsons ü  ij
Item payd to owre selves owt of John hýlls wýll  ijs viijd
Item Dealed on the good fridaý to the pore  vjs viijd
Item payd to the clarke  ij
Item payd to John byrd for the cow  ij
Item payd to Roger týbbotts for the same cow  vs
Item payd for the quenes Rent  viijd
Item payd for a Booke  viijd
Item payd at Worcetur  ijs jd
Item owýnge to me of my last acount  vjs vd
Item for wrytynge vp this my acount  iiijd

the some of my paments is  xlvd
mý receýts is  lijs viijd
And so by this acount thomas shaxspere owethe
to þe next churche warden  vij
This page (62) is blank in the MS.

Illustration of Paper Mark on p. 45.
The acompts of John horsleý þe ýonger for his fýrst ýeare
made to the pýshnors à. d. 1572

In primis off John shaxspere for Rent    xv^a
Item of Thomas týn    iijs vjd
Item of Rechard shaxspere þe wever    iij^s iiiijd
It of John horsleý for packewoods    xs
It of Wýliam sanders forthe of brokeforlonge    id
It of Thomas oldnale for smale meddow    xjd
Itm of wytiyam ley for hogsted    iiijd
Itm of John averne for seýnt marý leyton    iijjd
Itm of John fox for rent of the shopps    xijd

Som of my receýts is    xxxiiij^a vjd
The payments of John harsley to be alowed hym agayne for the yeare aforeseyd

Item for bread ale at the acount viijd
Item payd to lord of henley wotton towards Repayrynge of ther brýgge xijd
Item payd to þe lord of henley towards ther bell xxd
Item dealed to the pore for mþ John oldnatts wýll vjþ viijd
Item payd for whytt lether ijþ vjéd
Item payd for a bell Rope xiiijd
Item payd to Robert tybbetts towards þe bell iijþ iiiijd
It payd for a galand of ale at the takýnge downe of the bell iijd
It for swepýnge the churche howse ijþ
Itm payd for halfe a hyde of whytt lether iiþ
tIm payd for bread þe wyne for the coþiþn vn þ s mathes daye viijd
Itm payd for drynke at settyng vpþ the bell vþ
Itm payd to John benet for v pounds of þyron for the letle beþt claper þe nales þ a clýpe of Iron ijþ
It payd for halfe a hundred of týle vjþ
Itm fo for a s trìkke of lýme vjþ
Itm payd for výttle one daye vjþ
Itm payd to the týlor one dayþ and for nals viijingd
It payd for ij boke for the výker iiiijd
Itm payd for a galand of ale apþ s hews dayþ to þe Rýngers iijd
It payd to John lee for turnýng pýlþt beþt claper and for a clýppa of þyron fo one of the bellwheels vjþ
It payd to John fearfox for kepenge of the bell one yeare ijs
It payd for the coþiþn on chrystenmas daye vþ ob
Itim payd for ij galans & a quart of wyne for the communiþ at estere vjþ
Itim paýd for bread the seýd týme for the cohiniō iiiijd
It paýd at the vicitacýð for the vitson üxijd
Itim paýd for makýnge of one bylls and putýnge them vp viijd
Itim paýd for wrýtynge myne a count iiiijd

The some of my Receýtes is xxxiiijś vjd
sofne of his payments to be alowed hým agayně xxxvijs vð ob
fiourth of hýs receýts is
So by thýs a count there is owýnge to John harsley ijsp xð ob

1 Whitsun-farthings.
The Account of Robart Tybbatts On of the churche wardens for John hylles wyll for hys fyrrste yere made before the parysnos in Anno Regni due xxx Elizabeth g d decimo Quinto 1572.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It p'mis Receyved of John gryssolde</td>
<td>vjs vijd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It of Anthonye Býrde</td>
<td>x$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It of wýllm Saund's</td>
<td>vijs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It of John Jenýns</td>
<td>xxs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It of Coleman</td>
<td>iijs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It of Thomas Shaxper</td>
<td>iijs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More of Thomas Shaxp wth Remaynethe of hýs Account</td>
<td>vijs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It of wýllm Saunde's</td>
<td>liij$s iiij$d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It of Thomas Tyner</td>
<td>iiij</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It of John horseleýe out of hýs receýts</td>
<td>iijs iiij$d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It gethered towards the bell</td>
<td>vs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Whereof payed to henleye due to the queenes mati, whereof to be allowed out of this to other churcheman, And so for this whoyll yeares account owethe Sýna ixli xvjd

Sýna viij$s vijj$d

whereof to be allowed out of xviid this to other churcheman

And so for this wholl yeares account owethe

1 Our expenses thither and home.
The Accounts of Iohn horsleye the yongor
for his Second yeare made to the pyhe

Rent
Rec.  |  Item of Iohn Shaxpr  |  xjs  
      |  Item of Thomas Tyner |  iijs vjd  
      |  Item of Richard shaxxper |  iijs iiijd  
      |  Item of Iohn horsleye for pacwods |  x5  
      |  Item of willm saund's for broksforlonge |  j5  
      |  Item of Thomas oldnall for smaley medow |  xi5  
      |  It of willm leye for hogsted |  iiijd  
      |  It of Iohn Av'ne for St. marye leyton |  iiijd  
      |  It of foxe for Rent of the shopes |  xijd  

Some of his Receipts  |  xxxiiijs vjd  
for that yeare

wherof leayd out.

In pimis for bred g ale at o5 laste Account  |  vjd  
It for halfe A Quier of paper  |  ij5  
It for the Comunion on whyt sondaye  |  viijd  
It for mending the churche flore  |  iiijd  
It at Stretford at ye syttinge to ye chansel5  |  xijd  
It the same daye for o5 dyni5s & horsmeat  |  xijd  
It for A Bellrope  |  xiiijd  
It Delt to the poore on thassention daye  |  vjd viijd  
It to foxe for keping the beles  |  ij5  
It for the co[munion the xxij daye of Novemb5  |  xiiijd  
It to the Tyler g his man  |  ij5  
It for a Strýk of lyme  |  viijd  
It to Iohn Benet for mending ye bell  |  vjd  
in Decemb5  
It for a nother bell Rope  |  xiiijd  
It Bred g wyne on chrysmas daye  |  xiiijd  
It at the visýtacon at warr o5 dyni5s g o5 byll  |  vjd  
It for whytlether for the bels  |  xvd  
It bred g wyne at Aster  |  vijd ij5  
It more for bred g wyne  |  x5  
It Remaynethe in mye dett at my last account  |  ij5 x5 o6  

Sm  |  xxxvijd  
And so for this yeare the pyhe Oethe  |  iijd vjd o6  
hým for this account
The account of Robart Tibbats for his second yeare for John hils will made before the gyhno's

Rec in Rent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In pimin of John Genyns</td>
<td>xxvjs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It of Antoni Bryde</td>
<td>xsj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It of xpofor' dale</td>
<td>viijjs lijs viijd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It of Colemā</td>
<td>iijjs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It of John grýssold</td>
<td>vjs viijd</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

more Rec

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It of Thomas Shaxp</td>
<td>xijjs iijjd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>w' Rem of hys fine</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It of Thomas Tysn</td>
<td>xxvjs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sma iijjs vjd

wherof payed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In pimin to willm hyil</td>
<td>xjs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It to willm hancoxe</td>
<td>xijd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It to the Clarke</td>
<td>xijd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It to henleye</td>
<td>viijd viijd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It for the carýage of the Bell</td>
<td>vjs viijd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It to the clerk more</td>
<td>xijd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It To the Ring's on St hues daye</td>
<td>xijd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At the vysytacion</td>
<td>xvs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>geven to the poore on good ffryday</td>
<td>vjs viijd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It at the last vysytacon</td>
<td>viijs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>w' y e whytsonfarthings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It to the Belfoundt</td>
<td>xxvjs viijd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It or Expensis</td>
<td>ijs xid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It to thomis Bird in ernest for the</td>
<td>vjd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mendinge of y e churchhouse</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It a boke to the clerk for y e churchhe</td>
<td>ijs iiijd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It to or Sealves out of Joh hiles will</td>
<td>ijs viijd</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

And so for this yeares account

the pyhe othe hym iijjs vjd

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

Rent In p'mis Rec in Rent as in my second yeare xxxiiiij's vjd
fine It of John leaye for a fine iiiij'd

Whereof leajld out
In p'mis for bred & ale at the laste Account vjd
It delt to the poore y's sonndaye Before why'tsonntyte vjd viij'd
It Bred & wynè on whytsondaye for y's comunion xjd
It to the glasyer v's ijd
It for stones & carynyng to the hye weaye vjd viij'd
It for mettell that went to the Bell iiijs iiijd
It o't chargin xx'd
It at the Taking downe of the Bell xvijd
It at the hanging vp of the bell xx'd
It for halfe A hyde of whytletar ij's x'd
It for A Bell Rope xvjd
It Bred & wynè the sonnday aft S'hues daye x'd
It the same daye to the Rýng's viijd
It Bred & wynè on Chrysma's daýe x'd
It to foxe for keeping the Bels iijs
It Bred & wynè on candlemas daye ix'd
It for Bred & ix qua'ts & a half & ij'd of Wynè at aster vijd viijd
It at the visytacon at warp vijs vjd
It for makinge the bell clap' buckles & nayles iijs
It for mending the churchyarde wale & lyme ij's viijd
It to John cowp for y's bell clap' & othe'r Tryfles xijd
It for half a hide of whytlether ij's viijd
It for bred & wynè for the comunion xv'd
It for mending the churchhouse ijd iiijd
It at ast' to tharsdecon 1 & his dýnñ xx'd
It a bell Roppe for the lyttle Bell xvjd
It for mending the church Rayles iijs j'd

and hit ys so

The wholle yeares account. whiche Res ethe towards the payment of that debt of xlii 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 wyll bye Rob't Tibbats
for hys Thirde yeare made to the pyhno's

Rent. rec. In p'mis Rec in Rent as in my Second yeare
fine It. Rec. of John leaye for a fine
lijs viijd

Iij'i

Wherof leade out
In p'mis to the plýmer
It to henleye due to the Quenes m'ti
To John gryssold for cariege in the hý weay
It for pyckinge of Stones
It to John leaye for cariege
John Birde for ij dayes
Rob't Tibbats ij dayes
Willm hancoxe j daye
to hancoxe sonne for filling ye Tübrell
Thomas Saund's ij dayes
Thomas gryssold j daye
Whyte of whyt leye j yate day
Orsbarsonn j daye
more ffor pyckinge Stones
Spent at Shaxp's ij dayes
Expensý's goinge to ba'gaine for the bell
It Brynging of her whome
It makiinge the obligacon
ffor helpe to lode the Bell
ffor mettell
to the Clarke
ffor hangingeupe the Bell
more to the clerke for swepinge the chu'che
It to the Bellfound'
It for cariege of the Bell
It Bestowed of hampton men
On good frydaýe to the poore
ffor carieag of Earthe & a lode of Sande
It for ot' Allowanc
It for vij lode of stones of Rog'r Av'ne
It for ca'riage
It anothere daies cariege
To ffoxe for ij dayes fyllinge
to Ric'd baker for fylling ye Tübrell
Spent at foxes ij daies
It ffor cariege of Tymb'r for ye church Railes

And so vppon his Thrd yeares
account ye pýhe owethe hym to be
p'd bye the next Churhman
And also for wryting yt vp of the
accounts in this Booke
The accountes of Wijflm leý churche man for the churche parte made on sonday ye xix day of August before the parýshones the yeare 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$

Item of Thomas Tyi3 iij$ vjd

Item of John horsleý for packwodes x$

Item of Rychard Shaxsper for tythenges acre iij$ iiij$ vjd

Item for hogstid iiij$ ivd

Item for S. Marye leyton iiij$ ivd

Item for smallý meddowe vjd

The some of my receytes ys xxxiiij$ v$.

The paymentes of Wýffm leý

Item payd for a pewter botteff vijd

Item for bread and wyne for the comunion ix$ d

Item to John bucke for ij lockes ij$

Item halfe a hide of whit letther ijs iiiijd

Item to Richard whyte for dyging yearthe one day v$ d

Item to the clerke for keping the belles xijd

Item payd to carpenters and workmen for worke done to the churche howse and scole howse xijd iiijd

Item the glycer for mending the wyndow agaynst the vycars seat xxijd

payd for ledges Ropynings and nayles for the Scole howse xxijd

Item payd for sweeping the churche howse ij times iijd

Item payd to the plymnf for mending the leades on the new ýle iijd iiiijd

Item the comunion on christmas xijd

Item for makynge a mattoke xvjd

Item the comunion on paftm sonday ijd ix$ d

Item the charges of the comunion on ester day and all the weke before vs ijd

Item the comunon on low sonday ij$ vb

At the Arche decons vysitacion for Wytson far things xijd

Item for makyng and delyv'inge owre byff there viijd

Item the charges of owre dyn ther iiijs viijd

Item payd to the glacier for mending the wyndow agaynst the baylys seat iijs ijd

The some of my paymentes are even xlv$ vjd vb

Wher by hit aperethe the churche ys yndetted to me the some of xijd vb

---

1 groinings.
The accountes of Jhon Reve churche man for Jhon hilles wyff made on 
sunday the xix day of August befor the parisheners for his first yeare Anno dni 
1576

In primis receyved of Thomas Shaxsper for one yeres rent iiij s
Item of Jhon Jenins of lapworthe xx s
Item for Anthoynye byrd of Shrowley x s
Item of Jhon gryssold vij s viijd
Item of Colman of pinley iiij s
Item of Wyffm Sanders viij s
Item Receyved for seeled wode sold xx d

The some of my receytes ys liij s iiijd

The paymentes of Jhon Reve for his fyrst yeare

In primis payd for bread and ale when we receyved the office first iiijd
Item payd to Coke of henley viij s viijd
Item payd for sawing tymber that went to the churche and Scole howse iijs viijd
Item payd for nayles and hinges and hokes for the churche howse dores xx d
Item payd for one hndred bord and iij fotte iij s
to make the dores and wyndowes
Item to Alexandre smithe for carieng Rodes and bordes viijd
Item ij galanes of aft geven to the Ryngers on s hewes day viijd
Item to the clerke xijd
It carieng a xi loades of yearthe to the mending of the churche howse xvjd
It for bleding the tres and caryeng the tymber to the churche howse xx d
Item delt on good fryday to the pore people vijs viijd
Item to the whytson lord of preston iijs iiijd
Item to be alowed to owre selves ijs viijd

The whole some of my paymentes ys xlv s iiijd
whiche being alowed me there dothe remayne yn my handes ix s
The Accountes of Wylm ley for his second yeare Anno dni 1577.

In primis of elnore shaxsper for one yeres rent xv
Item of Rychard shaxsper iijs iiijd
Item Alys Tyner iijs vjd
Item Ihon horsley x
Item smalley meddow xjd
Item S. marý leyton iiijd
Item hogstyd iiijd

Item of elnore Shaxsper for her fyne of harvys vjd xiiijs
It of Rychard shaxsper for hys fyne xls
Item of elnore Shaxsper for wod sold xxxvs iiijd
Item receyved for iiij okes sold ix$ vijs

The some xii" xix$ vjd

Item to be alowed for my last accownte vijs ob
Item payd for ij bell Ropes iijs ijd
Item delt on sondaý after the Ascendcion day vjs viijd
Item payd to the wytson lord of lapworthe iijs iiijd
Item preston whitson lord iijs iiijd

Item the comunion on whit sondaý vjd
Item the for keping the belles one yeare ijs
The coðnion on sondaý the v of Septem vjd
The vysitacon on thursday the xiij of September iijs
To owen of War Wyk vjd

Item Jhon buk for v barres of Iren for the west wyndow xiiiijd
Jhon cowp for ij Clyppes of Iren ijs
One daýes work attëdyng on the glacier vjd
Item the great bell claper mended iiijd
Item coðnion on Chrissemas day vijd
It the glacier on newyeres day xls vjd
The clerk for keping the belles xijd
To Jhon cowp for mending the belles iiijd vjd

The coðnion at ester last viijd viijd
At the Archedecons visitacion iiijd viijd

a cord for mending the font and for mëding the lyd iiijd
Item payd to elnore Shaxsper whiche she had before payd to vjd viijd
baldwyn uttinge for wrytynge a bok * *

some of my paymentes viii vi$ jd

whiche beinge alowed me there dothe remayne
yn my handes in stocke viii$ xiijs viijd
The Accountes of Jhon Reve for his second yeare

In primis yn Rent as ys accostomed  lijs viijd
Item of Jhon grissold for parcell of his fine  xxs
Item for ij okes  vjs
Item yn owre handes of stoke synce my last accownte  ixs

The some of mý Receytes for my second yeare  iijvijs viijd

The paymentes for mý second yeare are as folowethe

In primis payd to the clerk  ijs
Item to Coke of henley  vijs viijd
It payd for sawing formes for the churche howse  xvjd
It to owen of war wik  vjd
Item to Jhon Cowper  vs
Item for bread and ale  vd
Item to wy3m cowp smithe  iijd
Item at Alcetur at the vysitacion  ijs ijd
Item for wýnding Rodes  xvd
Item delt on good frydaý  vjs viijd
Item to be alowed to owre selves  ijs viijd
Item for wryting my accownt ij yeares  viijd

The some of my paymentes for this mý seconde yeare ys
whiche beinge allowed me ther dothe remayne
yn mý handes  lvjs jd
The accountes of wyffm ley for his third yeare

In primis of elnore shaxspere xv
Item Allys tyd iij vj
Item of Jhon horsley x
Item of Rychard Shaxper iijd
Item for smalle\'y meddow xj
Item for s. mar\’ye leyghton iij
d
Item for hogstid iijd
Item of Richard cowp for wode sold xl
Item of elnore Shaxper for coppis wod xxv
Item for ij tres sold at bewsall to m\’r Skinner 1

The some of my Receytes vii iijd vj

The paymentes of wyffm ley for his iijde yeare

In primis p\’d to the glacier xij
Item for a bell Rope xxiij
Item delt on the Ascecion day viij
Item at my lord b\’yshoppes vysitacion iij
Item to the clerke for keeping the belles j
Item to Roger Shaxsper for mending the bell whelle xvj
To Jhon Cowper for iij Clippes of Iren iij
Item payd for a bell rope ijs
Item for pav\’yng the churche flore iij
Item mending the waft xvij
Item the charges of the communion on palm sonda\’y and all ye weke ix xi
Item for whitlether iij viij
Item communion at one tyme xvij
It making the great bell whell ijs
It tymber for the same ijs
Item for a bell rope xvij
Item the communion on Christemas day xiiij
Item mending the steple dore and the lock of same xiiij
Item payd at stratford for the statute of cappes iijd
Item payd for writing myne account

The some of my paymentes ys lvijd which being alowed me ther dothe remaine yn my handes xlvj iijd

1 viz. Skinner.
The Accowntes of Jhon Reve for his third yeare

In primis receyved yn rent as ys accostomed lijs viijd
t Item for wod sold xls
Item of Rychard Shaxspere vijs
Item of Rychard wht iijs
Item of Nycholas Grene for parcell of his fyne iiij
Item for buriaff of the baýly yn the churche 1 . iijs iiijd

The some of my recibytes viijvijs

The paymentes for his iiijd yeare

In primis to the clerke for keping the belles ijs
Item to coke of henley viijd viij
Item for quarrelles for the churche flore vjd viijd
It for a bursheff of lýme xijd
It for bread and alle xjd
Item delt on good frýdaý vjd viijd
Item payd to robart tybbot whiche was owinge him xxiiijd
Item alowed to owre selves ijs viijd
Item for writing my accountt iiiijd

The some of my paymentes xxxs xd
whiche being allowed me ther dothe vjli xvis ijd
remayne yn my handes
The Accowntes of Wyttm ley for his fourthe yeare mad on sondaie the
tenthe of May before the Vicar and perlyshoners Anno dni 1579
the xxi yeare of quene elysabethe

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In prymis of elnore Shaxsper for one yeres rent</td>
<td>xvs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item of Jhon horsley</td>
<td>x s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item of Alys Tyd</td>
<td>iijs vd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It of Rychard Shaxsper</td>
<td>iijs iijd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item for smalley meddowe</td>
<td>xijd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for s. mary leyghton and for hogstid</td>
<td>viijd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for one shoppe one quarter</td>
<td>yd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item of Allys collyt for buryeng her husband yn the churche</td>
<td>iijs iijd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The some of my receytes</td>
<td>xxxvijd</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The paymentes are as folowethe

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In primis payd for Wytson farthinges</td>
<td>xiiid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item delt on sondaie after the Ascencion day</td>
<td>vijs viijd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item halfe a hide of whit lether</td>
<td>ijs viijd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item to a pore man of budbrok</td>
<td>viijd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The comnon of sondaie the last of August for keping the belles</td>
<td>ijs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It for iij load of tyles for the churche</td>
<td>xviijd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for caryeng the same</td>
<td>ijs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item iij hors load of lyme and carieng hit</td>
<td>xiiiid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for lathe nayles</td>
<td>viijd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The comunion on S. hewges day</td>
<td>iis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It mr Skinid of halfe a strik of lyme</td>
<td>xviijd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To the tyler and his man for tylyng the churche</td>
<td>iis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for making lathe and one crest tyth</td>
<td>iis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It robart Tybbott for caryeng one day</td>
<td>xviijd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wyttm grene for laboring one day</td>
<td>iijd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item bread and atte for the temes and workmen</td>
<td>xxiijd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For clothe for the surplus and makynge hit</td>
<td>xxxiisd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The charges of the comunion at ester</td>
<td>viijd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It for glas and for glasing</td>
<td>xs viijd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for Iren barres for the west wyndowe</td>
<td>xviijd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for lyme for the glacier</td>
<td>ixs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for ij buckelles for bawdrikes</td>
<td>iiijd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for carieng one load of sande</td>
<td>viijd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for wrytting myne acount</td>
<td>iiijd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The some of my paymentes</td>
<td>viixviijsvijd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>whiche being alowed me I do owe unto the parish</td>
<td>iijiivjyijd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for this yeres accownt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And then there dothe remayne yn my handes yn stoke vppon my iij yeres accownt to the use of the pyshe the iust some of</td>
<td>viixviijsvijd</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 viz. just or true.
The account of Jhon Reve mad on sondaÿ the tenthe of may Anno dñi 1579 before the vycar and the parýshners for his iiijth and last yeare the xxi of quene elýsabethe

In primis receved yn Rent as ýs accostomed lijs viijd

The paymentes are as folowethe

In primis p\(^d\) to the clerke ijs
Item p\(^d\) to a pore man of budbroke vjd
Item to the queenes maiesties use vjd
It Richard cowper for stones viijd
It delt to the pore on good fridaï vjid
At the Arch decons visitacion iijd
for witson farthinges xijd
It at stratford for cappes vijs vjd
It p\(^d\) to Jhon horsley behind ýn his accownte ijs vd
Item allowed to owre selves ijs viijd
To Jhon Cowp smith iiiijd
To Rýchard sanders for ij dayes cariage ýn the highe waÿ vijs viijd
To Jhon byrd ij dayes ijs viijd
To Jhon Grissold ij dayës ijs
To my selfe ij dayës cariag ijs viijd
To Thomas Reve one dayës cariage xvjd
Item v workmen ij dayës iijs iiijd
Item for bread and ale x\(^d\)
Item for a chese iiji\(^d\)
Item for wrýtinge myne accownt iiji\(^d\)

The some of my paymentes xliii\(^s\) j\(^d\)
which beinge alowed me there dothe remayne ýn my handes of this yeres accownt ix\(^s\) viijd
And so ther remaignethe ýn my handes ýn stoke to the use of the pyshe vpon my last yeres accordwntes the some of ixî iiijs

Item Jhon Reve ýs to be allowed iiijs for Jhon cowp for stones that he bowght when he was surveyor of the highe wayës.
The Accowntes of Jhon Collins for Jhon hilles wyff for his first yeare
Anno dabi 1581

In primis Receyved yn Rent as ys accostomed
payd by Jhon Collins.

Item payd for sawing formes for the churche howse
It to Roger shaxsper for work done yn the churche howse
To wyffm grene for Rodes and working one day
It for vitell for workmen
It for lock staple and nayles
Item to the clerk
It for whit lether
Item to the quenes maiestie
Item iiij bell Ropes
It to Roger Cox for makynge the grate
It drawing the tymber and meat and drink
It delt on good friday
Item for writing myne accownt
It to be alowed to owre selves

The some of my paymentes are xxxviij iiijd
whiche being alowed me there dothe remayne yn my handes xiiij s vjd

The Accowntes of Jhon Colins for his second yeare

In primis for Rent as ys accostomed
The stock yn my handes

The paymentes for his second yeare

It payd to the clerk
It to the quenes maiesties rent
It for vj strickes of lyme
It given to the lord of lapworth
At the vysitacion for owre byff
The wysson farthinges
the de lyv'inge owre byll & for a lyttell bok
Item delt on good friday
Item payd to the clerk
It to the plimmd
Item for lyme
for lathe nayles and other nayles
At the Archdeacons visitacion
I wysson farthinges
It owre byff
To be alowed to owre selves
For sande
for writyng myne accownt
for x 5 lathe
for vj strikes of lyme

1 year 1580-1.
[1581]

Item Receyved for wodd sold xxvj s viij d
Item iij lathe nayles ijs viijd
It the tyller xvijd

The some of my paymentes lvj s iiiijd
whiche beinge counted to mi receytes stok in my hand xxxvijd

The Accowntes of Jhon Collins for his third yeare
[1582]

In primis for Rent as ys accostomed lijs viijd
It thee stock in my handes xxxvijd
It for the buriafl of Anne hancokes in the churche iiis iiiijd

The paymentes of Jhon colyns for his iij yeare

In primis for ijc of lead xx
Item fetchinge hit home vj d
for x strickes of lyme vs
for one beft Rope xvijd
To the clerk xiijd
It to m Chini for iij lathe xx d
To witftm Cowp for Iren barres xiijd
To Jhon reve a dayes cariage and ix load of stones jjs x d
Jhon byrd one dayes cariage xx d
Rychard cowp one dayes cariage xvijd
To Jhon Grysold one day and one load xvjd
Rychard sanders one day and one load xvijd
Wyftm hancokes

Item xij load of stones of myne owne jjs
It meat and drinke xijd
To laborers ijs vjd
It payd for one planck
It for clothe for ye communion table viijd
It to the quenes maisties use viijd
To the clerk xijd
for iij bell ropes
It delt on good friday
for witftm fartynges
for owre byll and delvyng the same xiiijd
to wyftm cowper for stulbes and clippes for the belles xijd
for mending the steple dore xijd
To owre selves
for sweppinge the churche hows and Rushes
for wrytyng mine accownt
for mendinge the bell rope
Item scowring and sweppinge the leades

The some of my paymentes iiiijd xiiiijd
whiche beinge alowed me I do owe unto the psyhe of my iij yeares accownt xij iiid whiche I deliyved unto Thomas nason yn cosideracion that the psyhe was Indented unto him as appeareth by his accownt.
The Accountes of Thomas Nason for his first yeare for the churche part

In primis Receyved yn Rent as ys accostomed xxxij s vd
Item for wode sold xxvj s viij d

The some of my Receytes iiij s j d

The paymentes are as folowethe

In primis half a hide of whitlether xxij d
Item bread and wyne for the co[m]union on sonda[y] after midsomerday xvij d
It p^d for old letter to Jhon Cowp and iij buckelles for the bell clapers xij d
It for keping the belles vj d
It a lyttell bok for the churche vj d
It making of the church wall vj s
It iij strikinges and dimdyd ^ of lyme xixj d
for carienge yearthe and sand xij d
Item mending the bell agaynst S. hewges day xij j d
The Comunion on the same day xvj d
for kepinge the belles ij quarters xiij d
It a bell Rope xviij d
The co[m]union when Asbasons wyf receyved viij d
the charges of the co[m]union at ester viij s iiij d
for kepinge the belles one quarter vj d
for wryting myne accownt iiij d
for swepinge the churche hows iiij d

The some of my paymentes are xxix s
the receytes

In primis yn rent as ys accostomed xxxij s vd

The paymentes

Item delt on the Ascencion day vj s viij d
It p^d when we were chosen churche men xxij d
It iij lockes and keyes xvij d
It making the bell claper ij s
for keping the belles ij s
It lock and staple for the steple dore x d
Item mending the churche pavement xij d
The co[m]union on S. hewges day xvij d
To the Ryngers yn ale and bread x d
The co[m]union at ester viij d
The wryting myn accownt iiij d

The some of my paymentes xxvj s iij d

^ dimidy—from Latin dimidium, a half.
The Accountes of Thomas Nason for his third and last yeare made before the vicare and the pyshe anno diii 1582

In primis Receyved yn rent as ys accostomed xxxiijs vjd
It there remaynethe yn my handes vppon the last years accounte xxxvijjs iiiijd

The paymentes of my third yeare

Item delte on good-fryday the sonday after the Ascencion daye vjs viijd
It delte the last yeare forgotten yn myne account vjs viijd
To Thomas sanders for kepinge the belles vjd
It half a hid of whitlether ij s iijd
Item the plimmer iij s ixjd
Item Tyling the churche hows xs
It poynting the churche ijs
It Tyling the lyeetteff hows ijs
To Roger shaxsper vjd
Item for vyttelf when the plimf on the churche iij s viijd
Item to the glacier iij s viijd
Item for Tyles vs vjd
Item for carieng them xijd
The cofynunion at midsof xijd
Item kepigne the belles xijd
Item payd to Jhon benett iijd
Item for Tyles xxjd
Item the carieng of them vjd
Item carieng sand iijd
for swepping the churche hows ijd
To Roger shaxsper for mending the belles agaynst S hewges day vjd
It for bread and wyne for the comunion the same day xvijd
for nayles to mend the beff whele vjd
To Jhon benett for stulbes ijd
for vyttelf when the belles were medid xd
for swepping the churche hose iijd
for kepigne the belles ijd quarters xijd
The charges of the cofynunion at ester viijd ijd
At the Archdecons vysitacion for owre dyf at warr iij s iijd
To gatheringe to portesmouth iij s iijd
To wryting of myne accounte iijd
Geven to ij pore wemen ijs vjd
Item to the clerk for kepigne the Register bok ij yeares

The some of my charges layd out iijli xs
And so my account beinge made the pyshe owethe to me vppon my iij yeares accounte xvijd iijd. The whiche I have receyved of Jhon Collins and of wyllm ley and so I am discharged.
The Accowntes of Thomas Tybbottes for his first yeare beinge churche man for the churche parte anno diii 1582.

In primis Receyved of Jhon ley vj s viijd
Item of Alys Tynñ viijd vj d
Item of Thomas shaksper viijd iiiijd
Item of Rychard shaxsper iiijd iiijd d
Item of wyllm leÿ iiiijd
Item of Thomas Marne iijd
Item of Jhon horsley
Thomas oldnale
It for the [buriali of Isabefl Collit yn the churche]¹
The some of my receytes xxxiiij s vd

The paymentes of my fyrst yeare
In primis payd for ij quayres of paper for the wtyinge of the verdtyt of the
cownt of survejle viijd
Item the wrytinge of the same vj s viijd
Item to Roger Shaxsper for squaringe tymber and other work aboute the
churche yarde xiiijd iiiijd d
Item for dyging the post holes vijd
It delt according to m r oldnales wyff vj s viijd
Item picking stones and for caryenge them to the highe way iijd iiiijd d
The coiiiunion bread and wyne xijd
The coiiiunion on S hewges day xvijd
The charges of the coiiiion at ester and all the wek before xijd
The clerk for kepinge the belles ij s viijd
To Jhon buck for mcding the belles vijd
To writing myne acownt t one peniworthe of paper vijd
some of my paymentes xlviijd vd

Thomas Tybbott for his second yeare [1584]
In primis yn Rent as ys accostomed xxxiiijd vd
It the buriall of Isabell Collitt yn the churche
some xxxijd ixd

my paymentes are as folowethe
Item at the archdecons vysitacion the charges of my dynñ ther iijd viijd
It on the Ascencion daÿ accordinge to m r oldnales wyff vj d viijd
It for peyntinge the churche ixd
Item to masons for work done on the churche & one strick of lyme iijd vijd
Item p for stone for the same vjd
Item the coiiiion ² xijd
The coiiiunion on S. hewges xijd
Item bestowed on the Ryngers xijd
It a newe bëff Rope xvijd
It a whell for one of the belles vjd
The charges of the coiiiion at esture ixd xjd

¹ The words in brackets are crossed out in the original.
² Communion.
Item payed to the clerk  \( ijs \ viijd \)
Item \( p^d \) for Stones to mende highe wayes \( xijd \)
It wrytinge myne accounte \( iiijd \)

\( iijs \ iiijd \)

1585 Thomas Tybbott for his \( iijd \) and last yeare made his accoute on sonday the \( xxv^th \) of Apryll anno d\( di \) 1585 before the p\( yshners \) anno \( xxvij \) regine elysabethe

In primis \( yn \) Rent as ys accostomed \( xxxijs \ v^d \)
Item receyved of wyHm lejl pceH of the stock \( yn \) his handes \( xi^s \)

some of my receytes \( iiij \ xij v^d \)

The paymentes for my third yeare are as folowethe

In primis for brikes for the churche flore \( xx^a \)
It for mo brickes and Crest tylles \( vijs \)
It ij strickes of l\( ym \)e \( xijd \)
It diginge of sand \( viijd \)
To Thomas shaxsper for cariage of iij load of brickes \( iijd \)
To the masons for leyenge of the brickes \( xvjs \)
It for leying the stone ov meysey\( y \) and mending the pavement \( xx^d \)
The com\( fiuon \) on Allhalowes day \( ix^d \)
The com\( fiuon \) on S hewges day \( xvijd \)
Item candeff and ale to the Ringers \( v^d \)
Item iij cordes to pece the beff ropes \( iiijd \)
It the comnion at Chrystenmas \( xv^d \)
The com\( fiuon \) at estur and aff the wek befor \( ix^a \ v^d \)
To Jhon ley carienge sand \( xvjd \)
To edward sanders for caryenge one load of brick \( xijd \)
It halfe a hide of whitlether \( ijs \ iiijd \)
It delt on the Ascencion day\( y \) according to m\( r \) oldnales w\( yff \) \( vjs \ viijd \)
It to the clerk for kepinge the belles \( vjs \ viijd \)
Item to the clerk for keping a p\( fit \) remembrannce of the register \( vjs \)
bok the whole tearme of iij yeares \( iiijd \)
Item for writing myne accownt \( iiijd \)

some of my\( s \) paymentes this third yeare \( iiijis \ xjd \)

Item receyved of the wyddowe of Shrewley for v rent dayes \( xxvs \)

There remaynethe to be payd to thomas Tybbo\( tt \) on his iij yeares accownt whiche he hathe payd more the\( an \) he hathe receyved the some of \( xvjs \)
The Accowntes of edward sanders for his first yeare

Redditus In primis of Jhon Jenins
  It Thomas shaxspere
  Item of watter Colman
  Item of wyddow bird
  Jhon Grýsold
  wyffm sanders
  It Thomas hunte

The some of my receytes liiijs iiijd

The paymentes are as folowethe

In primis for bread and ale when we receyved the office xvijjd
payd for sawinge the Rayles for the churcheyard vs xd
Item to Roger Avarne for viij load of stones xiiiijd
Item drawing tymber to the saw pit xvjd
It carieng iij load of timber from lapworthe to the churche ijs xd
It bread and ale at the request of the surveyors xvjd
To the clerk j
To Rychard sanders one dayes cariage and one load of stones xvijjd
Jhon reve for his teame one day xvjd
my owne teame iij dayes and one load of stones ijs viijd
To fillers to the same teames viijd
In bread and ale viijd
To Thomas smyles for vij load of stones xviijd
To Jhon benett for iij load of stones x
It delt on S Thomas day at churche viiijd
Item p\d for halfe hide of whitlether iij
It p\d for iij bell Ropes iij
It the quenes maiesties rent viiijd
Item delt on good frida\y to the pore viij viijd
Item for trussing a bell and mending hit vijd
It alowed to owre selves iij
It wrytinge myne accownt in this bok iij

The some of my paymentes lvijjd

The Accowntes of edward sanders for his ij yeare

receyved In primis of Jhon Jenins of lapworthe xxas
  It of wyffm sanders viijd
  It water colman iij
  Item Thomas Shaxspere iij
  Item Jhon Grýsold vijv viijd
  Item of Thomas hunte vijv
  Item receyved of Thomas Clerke for the shoppes iij
  It of Jhon Jenins for heades of tres xvijjd

The some of my receytes liij xjd
The paymentes of edward sanders for his second yeare

In primis payd for half a hide of whitlether
Item mending the bell ropes
It at the Archdecons visitacion making of byft & delyv'ing same
Item wytson forthinges
It ij strike of lyme
It carieng sand and one load of stone out of the quarreys
Item payd to the masons working on the churche
Item to the clerk
Item a bok of the quenes Iniuctions
It spent at worcetur
Item ýn fees dew to the cowrt there
Item for one bolt of Iren
Item for headinge the beff
Item the quenes maiesties rent
To the clerk
Item mending the bells
Item delt on S Thomas day
To wyttm Cowp for mending one beff
delt to the pore on good fridaý
To Jhon benet for a beff stock and work abowt the same
Item at the Archdecons vysitacion this yeare
Item wytson farthinges
Item owre byll and delyu'ing the same
Item at worcetur owre fees there
Item writing a copie there
Item the somi} his fees
Item spent ýn going to worceture
Item alowed to owre selves forthe of Jhon hilles wyff
Item writinge myne Accownte ýn this bok

The whole some of my paymentes
for this my second yeare

ijd iiijd
The Accountes of Edward Sanders for his third and last yeare made on sunday the xxvth of Apryll anno dni 1585 before the pyshoners the xxvij of quene Elizabethe

In primis receyved in Rent of John Jenins xx
Item of wyffm Sanders viij
Item of Robart Grýsold vjs viijd
Item of Thomas shaxspere iij
Item the clos at pinleý iij
Item of Thomas hunte vjs viijd

The some of my receytes this my third and last yeare xlix

The paymentes of Edward Sanders for his third yeare
In primis payd at worcetur for discharging the cowrte there iiijd
Item the quenes maiesties rent viij
Item delt on S Thomas daye vjs viijd
Item to wyffm Cowp for Trussinge one bell viij
Item for naýles ijd
Item delt on good friday vjs viijd
Item to wyffm cowper for all the newe Irens abownte the bell and trussinge the same bell iij vjd
Item mending ij lockes vjd
Item payd to the Clerk ijs
Item payd to owre selves ijs viijd
Item wrytinge myne Account yn this bok iijd

The whole some of my paymentes for this my third and last yeare ys xxxiijs viijd whiche beinge alowed me there dothe remayne in my handes vpon my thre yeares accownt ijd
The receytes and paymentes of thomas nason for his first yeare

In primis for harvys and lyanne xvs
Item of Rychard shaxsper we2 iij s iiij d
Item of Alys Tǐν iiij s vj d
Item of Jhon horsley x s
Item smalley meddow xjd
Item S. mary leyton iiij d
Item for hogstid iij d

some of my receytes xxxiijs vd

The paymentes of this my first yeare

In primis delt on the Ascencion day vi 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 belf claper ijs
It for kepinge the belles ijs
Item a lock and staple for the steple dore xd
It mendinge the churche pavemente xij d
Item the coðunion on s. hewges xvjd
To the Ryngers yn ale and bred xd
It the coðunion at estur viijd
the writinge of myne accownte yn this boke iij d

The some of my paymentes for this my first yeare xxvj s ijd
whiche beinge alowed me there dothe remayne yn vijd
my handes yn stoke to the use of the pyshe iijd

' 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.
This page (89) is blank in the MS.

Illustration of Paper Mark on p. 57.
The Accountes of Rychard shaxsper for his first yeare

In primis of Thomas oldnaff
Item of Jhon ley
Item Thomas shaxsper
Item of wyiffm ley
Thomas Avarne
Jhon horsley
Alys Tyner
Rychard shaxsper the wod
Item of Thomas shaxsper for wod sold
Item of wyddowe byrd

some of my receytes

The paymentes of my first yeare

In primis delt accordinge to m® oldnales wyiff
Item p®d for a beff Rope
To the clerk for kepinge the belles
To wyiffm Cowp for / for removing one lock
for shutinge the claper of the pulpitt beff
The communion the xxij of August
It. for hillinge the paraphras boke
for paper for the Register bok
for half a hide of whitlether
on s. hewghes day for bread and ale
for ij beff ropes
The communion on s. hewghs day
To the clerk for fire and caddle at his hows
To wyiffm Cowper for meding the belles
To m® whit for writing
Item payd at the visitacion at warwick
It to the som® for his fees
It for a bok of musculus
To wyiffm Cowp for lock and key and other work abowte the belles
for one bell Rope
for falling one tre
The charges of the coiuni6 at ester and all the weke before
for squaring one tre
Item abowt the presentment of the vicaredge
for washing the surplus and Tabeff clothes
To Jhon ley for carieng sand
Item for writing myne accownt
Item payd to wyiffm hill
Item to Rychard smithe

The some of paymentes which beeinge allowed me the pyshe is indetted to me

1 Query—Music.
In primis Receyved Thomas oldnale in rent for one yeare xijd
Item of Jhon ley vijviijd
Thomas shaxsper viijviijd
Wyffm ley iiiijd
Thomas Avarne ix
Alys Tyui iiijd
of my selfe viijd
It of the wyddowe bird xxxiijiiiijd
Item for wode sold in liannce iiijd
The some of my receytes vijii vijs ixd

The paymentes are as folowethe
In primis to the clerk for writing a note & remembrance of the Register bok iijs
Item half a hide of whiteether ijs viijd
Item the queenes Intuctions iiiijd
Item geven to a pore man on the Ascetion day iiiijd
It p to the service bok vijviijd
It to the Glacier for medinge the wyndowes about the churche xviiijd
for lyme and sand viijd
for keping the beffes one year ijs viijd
for a bok of prayer xed
The co[m]uni[o] the tenthe of Jul[i] xivijd
Item half a hide of whit leth[er] ijs xijd
Item payd to the medinge of the highe wayses vijs viijd
The co[m]uni[o] on Allhalowen day xxijd
for one bell rope xxijd
Item on s. hewges day at night for cadeff 1 and vytell iijs iiiijd
The co[m]uni[o]n on christemas day xvijd
Item for medinge the beff whele and other worke iijxijd
Item p to old Thomas shaxsper iijs iiiijd
Item p to the clerk for writinge a note of the Register bok iijs
To Thomas bird for one dayes work viijd
Item the charges of the co[m]uni[o] at esture and all the wek before xijj
Item payd at the Archdecons vysitacion the xxj of apriff last viijviijd
for a newe spad xijd
It p to Thomas shaxsper xj
It p to Jhon ley wyffm hill and Rychard smithe xxijd
Item washinge the surplus and other things vxijd
It to Thomas tybbott owinge on his accownt xjd
Item writing myne Accownt iiiijd
Item delt to the pore on the Ascencion da[y] vijs viijd
It p to wyffm hill xxijd
The some of my paymente vijii xijd
wher vppon the towne is indetted to Rychard shaxsper second viijii xijd
vppon his yeares accountt viijii xijd

1 candle.
The Accowntes of Rychard Shaxsper for Jhon Grýsold
(Receyved and pd since the disceace of the same Jhon Grýsold)

In primis receyved of Jhon Jenins
Item of Robarte grýsold
Item of the wyddowe of Shrewleý
Item of Thomas Shaxpere
Item of Nycholas grene

some of my receytes

The paymentes for the same Jhon grýsold

In primis the quenes maiesties rent
Item pd to the gathering Nantwiche
Item pd to the vicar of hatton for Tythe wode
It to the clerk for híffes wýff
Item delt on good fridajr for hilles wýff
Item for writinge this Accownt

The some of my paymentes

Rychard shaxsper in dett to the pýshe
Vppon this Accownt

[1586] (92)
The Acowntes of Rychard byrd churche man for the churche part
made the same yeare and day befor the pyshners ther assembled

cey
Item rey ^ ved of m^ hunte       vj^ viij^d
In primis of Jhon horsley at the Ascencion day       x^s
Item receyved of Thomas oldnalle       xj^d
Item of Alye Týner       xxj^d
Item Jhon leý for liannce       iiij^ iiij^d
Item of Thomas shaxsper for harvis       iiij^ iiij^d
Item of Rychard shaxsper       xx^d
Item of wyffm leý       iiij^d
Item of Thomas Avarne       iiij^d
Item receyved for wod sold at hogstid       xiiij^s

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

The paymentes of Rychard byrd
In primis delt to the pore accordinge to m^ oldnalles wyff       vj^ viij^d
Item p^d to Rychard smithe       iiij^s
Item to margerett weall for pikinge stones       iiij^d
Item p^d for kepinge the bastard child and keping the woman as appearethe
bý my bifff ther of made       viij^ x^d
Item p^d to the clerk on s. hewghes night for ale and candeff       vj^d
Item on wýsonday for bread and wyne at the Communion       xvjd
Item for bread and ale for the Comunion on the quenes holyday       xvjd
Item the charges of the coffunion at ester and all the wek befor       xiiij^s v^d
Item distributed more to the pore peopell for m^ hunt       vj^ viij^d
Item for writyng myne accownt       iiij^d

some       xliij^s v^d

And so the pyshe 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 Rychard bird churche man for the churche parte for the seconde yeare of his office 1589.

The receytes are as folowethe

In primis of Jhon ley vjs viijd
Item of Alys Tyii iip vjd
Item of Rychard shaxsper wev
Thomas shaxsper
Thomas oldnalle
Wyffm ley for hodgested
Jhon horsley
Thomas Avarne
Item receyved of wyffm ley for his fine of hocksted

The some of my receytes for this my seconde yeare liij vjd

Item payd to Jhon buck for worke done abowut the belles vijd
Item to the clerk for kepinge the belles ij s viijd
To the somii for a bok vjd
Item payd and spente at the visitacion at warwyk ix s viijd
Item for the coynunion the sondaý before s. hewghes daý xjd
Item spent on the Ringers on the Newe holyday
The clerkes wyf for canden and bread and ale vjd
Item the charges for my beinge excomunicate at worcetur
Item the charges of the coynunion the sondaý before estur
It for wyne on or ladý day
Item on estur even the coynunion
Item on estur day the coynunion vs ijd
Item p² and spent at Alcetur at the Archdecons visitacion
It delt to the pore on the Ascencion daý accordinge to m² oldnales wyff
Item to be allowed for that whiche the last acownt dothe owe me xvd
Item for writinge myne Acownt
Item payd to m² oldnaff for half a hide of whitlether
Item to John byrd

Sîma lijs iijd

Richard Birde vpon his ij yeare
accompt hath remaining in his lijs ijd
hands wch he hath discharged

The some xlviijd

1 St. Hugh’s day. See note to p. 64.
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Illustration of Paper Mark on p. 95.
The Acountes of Rychard Iey for his second yeare for Jhon hilles wyll 

In primis of Jhon Jenins xx s
Item the wyddow bird of shrewley x s
Thomas shaxsper iiij s
Item Nyicholas grene iiij s
Item Robart Grysold vj s viij d
Item wyfflm 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 iij xj s

The paymente

In p'mis p d to the supvisors of the highe wayes for stones xiiij s iiij d
Item the coñunion on whitsonday viij 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 viij s viij d
Item for a beff Rope xvij d
It to the somn at the quenes 2 holyday iiij d
To the beff founder in earnest xij d
At the visitacion at warr. xiiiij d
Item p d to Jhon buck for lockes and keys iiij s ij d
Item for winding roddes 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 stepcf flore ix d
To the somn for charges of the excomunicacion iijs x d
Item at the archedecons visitacion iijs j d
Item p d for the statute of Cappes iijs viij d
It alowed to owre selves as is acostomed ij s viij d
Item delt on good Fridaÿ to the pore vj s viij d
It to be alowed that the pyshe was indetted to me as appeareth by my last yeares acount xvij s viij d
Item for writinge my last yeares acounts iiij d

The some of my paymente are iij li xij xj d

the pish indebted vnto Richard Ley 1 vj s iiij d
vpon his ij years accompts
This page (98) is blank in the MS.
The Accowntes of Rychard ley churche man for Jhon hilles wyli made on sonday the one and twentithe of Aprill anno diui 1588 the xxxth of quene elysabeth

In primis receyved of wyffm sanders in rents
Item of Nycholas Grene in rent
Item of Jhon Jenins
Item. of wyddowe byrd
Item of Thomas shaxsper
Item of Robert grýsold

some xx\$ viij\$ iiiijd

The paymentes of Rychard ley

In primis for bread and ale at the last accownt
Item p\$ to Jhon feyrfox for Jhon hilles witt
Item to the same Jhon feyrfox for kepinge the belles
Item to margerett wealle for pickinge xij load of stones
Item p\$ the quenes maisties rente
It p\$ for mending the beff the third beff
Item for a beff Rope
Item p\$ and spent at worcetur the third of August when we wer sumoned thether
Item spent and payd at worcetur by means of the ycaras wrong Informacion agaynst the parýshinors by his slanderous letter
Item delt on good fridaý to the pore peopell
Item for writinge myne accownt
Item alowed to owre selves forthe of Jhon hilles wyff

some xlvij\$
Church Wardens chosen
Año Dm 1589
John Bird for the church
Roger Smith for the Towne
Inp'mis deliv'ed to Roger Smith for the year last past by John Horsley ijjs 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.
NOTES ON THE MANUSCRIPT

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, $15\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ 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
The RIS. 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 Shakspere 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. 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 seriatim, 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 third borrow, 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. 1½d. 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. 8½d. (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 Shakspere for Daies Earth Harvys; Richard Shakspere for Ley Tying; Roger Ley for Hogstyd; and John Gryssold—the latter gave 20s. 8d. 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
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building of the tower at Saint Philip’s Cathedral Church at Birmingham, the contractor being a William Shakspere of Rowington.¹

Pages 6 and 7 are blank in MS.

Page 8.

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. Phillips 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 Adderley Esqr, Willm Dugdale Esqr, Willm Inge Esqr, Willm Binckes Dr of Divinity & Henry Holden, Dr of Physick it is ordered as followeth—

I, William Shakspere 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 Load 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 Load beginning ye 24th of this Instant April till ye Two Hundred Loades is all Delivered, two pence pr Load (over & above ye 6s. 4d.) to be paid for Loading ye Said Stone.

William Shakspere.
NOTES ON THE MANUSCRIPT

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 1d., 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 Lowson 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 "plashe" or "mildam", and the "floodgate pool". At present it is let to Mrs. Moore.

The tenements in Lapworth with "barry's" (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 ffowder of ledd is even XIX hundred 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 "fether", 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 1644, 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.
 NOTES ON THE MANUSCRIPT

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

Page 10.

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.

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 loath 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**

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**

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 me" (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 "fowle 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.

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 bett r 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 Throkmorton 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 Cruett's. (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.

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 exequies 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.

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 sickeness 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 made him no spiced² conscience,
But Christe’s lore, and his apostles twelve
He taught, but first he followed it himselfe.”

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 28**

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**

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 "rōde"—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.**

In the accounts of John Gryssolde, Parish warden, for the year 1557, the mention of wax for the sepulchre and paschal (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 hollering 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
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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.

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 wardens 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 Wylliams, 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 Wylliams'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 Wylliams. 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 5s. is recorded on p. 35, two years after his death, in Wylliams'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.

Wylliams 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.**

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 Caunterbyeryes” 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 pleyars more than was gatheryd ixd.”, 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.**

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.**

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 ap'd S. hews daye to pe Ringers, iijd", 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.

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
NOTES ON THE MANUSCRIPT

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.

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 majestic viij viij". 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.

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 alltogether 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. Howsoever 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.

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 today 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.

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.

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.

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Notes on the Manuscript

Pages 94 and 96 are blank in MS.

Pages 97–100.

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 abroach”.

(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 Horseley 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 Bury-hill, 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 Averns, 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 there-from 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 arrayed 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 "candelstyclrs" 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 necessaries. 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 own 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 sunbonnet 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 isolated 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 £4s. 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 Shakspere Hall, so called as having been the home of a branch of the Shakspere family from before the date of the MS., the last member of the family to reside there probably being William Shakspere, 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 £1. 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 Shakspere 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 Peche 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 ploughshares 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 Averne'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 Shakspere 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 Ives 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 Aespeleye 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 leaf 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 Foundeye) 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-buts, 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 Shakspeare 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. 1, 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 Square 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
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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
A BRIEF RETROSPECT OF THE PARISH

(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 Abbots 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 impropriators to-day whose holdings are of comparatively small value, entailing little liability, I imagine. The only impropriators 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.