

HYTHE CHURCHWARDENS' ACCOUNTS IN THE TIME OF HENRY IV.

MR. MACKESON, the indefatigable investigator and preserver of all the Hythe records, enables us to print one of the oldest Churchwardens' Accounts now existing in England. It comprises the receipts and payments of the Wardens of St. Leonard's, Hythe, from the 1st of May, 1412, to the 1st of May, 1413. Very few parishes possess so ancient a record of parochial finance.

The receipts, amounting to £6. 7s. 2d., were derived from five sources:—Arrears, Rents, Offertories, Indulgences, and Legacies.

Of the *Arrears*, which realised 8s. 1½d., no particulars are given. The *Rents*, amounting to 17s. in sums varying from 1d. to 5s., were for the most part, probably, perpetual charges upon various lands, and were applicable to the general expenses of the church. One sum of 20d., however, included in "Rents," was paid by Margaret Cheseman as the rent of a cow, belonging to the church, which was let to her on hire; another sum of 14d. was specially restricted to the purchase of a wax candle, to be burned before the image of St. Mary.

The *Offertories*, amounting to £1. 14s. 7½d., were collected upon twenty-six Sundays in the year. Twenty-five of the collections varied in amount from 6d. to 1s. 6d. each, and included those on Trinity Sunday, Relic Sunday, Advent Sunday, and Christmas Day. The twenty-sixth collection, made upon Easter Day, when all adults were expected to communicate, amounted to 10s. 6d. In those days, the vast majority of the faithful laity never partook of the Holy Communion more than once in a year.

The receipts, under the head of *Indulgences*, are entered upon ten days in the year, but they amounted to no more than 16d. altogether. On the days of St. John Baptist, the Conception of the Virgin, and Christmas Day, it is recorded that nothing was received. One halfpenny on the Feast of the Nativity of the Virgin; three halfpence each on Whit Sunday and the Feast of the Dedication of the Church; three pence each day on the Feasts of All Saints and the Assumption of the Virgin; and five pence on Corpus Christi Day, made up the meagre total. The main bulk of the receipts appear under the head of *Legacies*. These are twenty-four in number, making a total of £3. 6s. 1d., but varying in amount from 1d. to 13s. 4d. One sum of 4d. being the rent received for the hire of a cow bequeathed to the church.

The payments, thirty-six in number, exceeded the receipts, and amounted to £8. 6s. 11½d. If we reckon that money was then worth at least ten or twelve times as much as it is now, we shall see that the expenditure was large. The principal expenses were for the purchase of a book called *Legenda*,* which cost £5, and the "correction" of two other books (the Great Missal and the Great Antiphony)† which cost 13s. 4d. for work, and 2d. for beer to the workman. Four shillings were paid for binding an old Missal and an old Graduale;‡ and buckskin for mending the Graduale and its clasps cost 1s. 7d. A silver "ship" for frankincense was bought for 15s. 4d., and expenses amounting to 12d. were incurred in procuring it. Tiles were laid down in St. Katherine's chancel at a cost of 20d. Keys for the great chest in St. Mary's chancel, and for the "Sepulchre," with a lock and key for the vestry door, cost 6d. Four shillings and two pence were expended upon the north door, its bolts, hinges, and arch. Materials for greasing the bells cost 5½d. Four pence went for rivetting the great chalice. On buckram and linen, and the

* The *Legenda* contained the Lections read at the Matin offices, whether taken from Scripture, homilies of the Fathers, or lives of the Saints.

† The *Antiphony* contained the Antiphons sung in the services of the Hours, arranged for the respective days and hours; it ultimately was made to contain the Invitatories, Hymns, Responses, Verses, Collects, and Little Chapters, *i.e.*, the portions sung in the service of the Canonical Hours.

‡ The *Graduale* was the Antiphony for the service of High Mass, and contained the portions to be sung by the choir.

cost of making those materials up into a cushion to stand on the high altar, and into a banner of the dedication of the church, 1s. 6½d. was expended. Mending a green cope, and the apparels of a red vestment, cost 1s. 8d. Six new cruets were obtained in exchange for one shilling together with the six old ones. Beer given to the men who carried banners on Feast Days, and to the bell-ringers, cost 12½d. For washing vestments, towels, surplices, table clothes, and for sewing apparels and altar frontals, no less than 2s. 3d. were paid. Coal on Easter Eve cost 1d. A funeral bier cost 2d. The winter pasture of a cow, belonging to the church, cost 2s. The writer of the account got 1s. 4d. for his work. The Paschal candle, and other lights for Easter, cost altogether 9s. 2d. Four times during the year the church was thoroughly cleaned, and the "extraportation" of the dust cost 9d. Some repairs to the "clokke" cost 4d., and the same amount was paid for making, near the high altar, something from which to suspend a towel; it was probably a rod, a roller, or a hook, but it is here called "*Le Wever*."

A copy of the original account, discovered, and most kindly transcribed for us, by Mr. Mackeson, is given below.

W. A. SCOTT ROBERTSON.

HYTHE CHURCHWARDENS' ACCOUNTS, A.D. 1412-13.

COMMUNICATED BY H. B. MACKESON, ESQ.

Hethe.—Compotus Johannis Colyn et Willelmi Palmare custodum bonorum et catallorum capellæ S'cti Leonardi de Hethe prædicta a primo die mensis Maii Anno Domini millesimo quadragintesimo duodecimo usque ad eundem diem per unum annum integrum.

Arreragia.

In primis respondent de viii s. et i d. obolo de arreragiis anni præsedentis Summa patet.

Redditus cum firmis.

Item respondent de viii d. receptis de Thoma Canterbury de redditu pro duobus annis

- Item respondent de ii solidis de redditu recepto de Johanne Odyngham
 Item respondent de v solidis receptis de firma Johannis Purle
 Item respondent de xv d. receptis de redditu Thomæ Sende
 Item respondent de ii solidis receptis de redditu in partem solutionis
 Johannis Jowett
 Item respondent de xii d. receptis de firma Johannis Smyth pro duobus
 annis
 Item respondent de viii d. receptis de firma Johannis Vyncent pro uno
 anno pro Johanne Asshendone pro una pecia terræ quondam
 tenemento Johannis Hogeman
 Item respondent de xiiii d. receptis de Simone Lokke pro uno cereo
 inveniendō coram ymagine S'ctæ Mariæ de dono et assignatione
 executorum Walteri Fysshere
 Item respondent de uno denario recepto de redditu Johannis Saunder
 Item respondent de xii d. receptis de redditu Willelmi Waltone
 Item respondent de vi d. receptis de firma Ricardi Brownynge
 Item respondent de xx d. receptis de Mergareta Cheseman pro firma
 unius vaccæ

Summa xvii s.

Collecta.

- Item respondent de xii d. collectis die dominica, videlicet xiiii^{mo} die
 mensis Maii
 Item respondent de xvi d. collectis in die Trinitatis
 Item respondent de xiiii d. collectis die dominica proxima post festum
 Sancti Barnabæ Apostoli
 Item respondent de xv d. collectis die dominica proxima ante festum
 Apostolorum Petri et Pauli
 Item respondent de xiiii d. obolo collectis die dominica in festo
 reliquiarum
 Item respondent de xii d. collectis die dominica in vigilia S'cti Jacob
 Item respondent de vii d. collectis die dominica proxima ante festum
 Sancti Laurentii
 Item respondent de viii d. collectis die dominica proxima ante festum
 Sancti Bartholomæi
 Item respondent de x d. collectis die dominica proxima ante festum
 Nativitatis beatæ Mariæ
 Item respondent de vi d. collectis die dominica proxima ante festum
 S'cti Mathiæ
 Item respondent de vii d. collectis die dominica proxima in festo S'cti
 Leodegarii

- Item respondent de x d. collectis die dominica in festo S'cti Michaelis
in monte tumba (?)
- Item respondent de xii d. collectis die dominica proxima ante festum
omnium Sanctorum
- Item respondent de xiiii d. collectis die dominica in festo S'cti Bricii
- Item respondent de viii d. collectis die dominica scilicet in die adventus
Domini
- Item respondent de x d. collectis die dominica proxima ante festum
conceptionis beatæ Mariæ
- Item respondent de xii d. collectis die dominica in die Natalis Domini
- Item respondent de viii d. collectis die dominica proxima [post]
Epiphaniam Domini
- Item respondent de x d. collectis die dominica, videlicet in die S'cti
Vincentii
- Item respondent de viii d. collectis die dominica in festo Agathæ
- Item respondent de xiiii d. collectis die dominica Septuagesimæ
- Item respondent de xviii d. collectis die dominica quinquagesimæ
- Item respondent de xii d. collectis die dominica quadragesimæ
- Item respondent de xiiii d. collectis die dominica mediæ x^limæ [mid lent]
- Item respondent de xviii d. collectis die dominica ramis palmarum
- Item respondent de x s. vi d. collectis in die Paschæ
- Summa xxxiiii s. vii d. obol.

Indulgentiæ.

- Item respondent de i d. obolo receptis de indulgentia in die Pentecostes
- Item respondent de v d. receptis de indulgentia die corporis Christi
- Item respondent de die S'cti Johannis Baptiste nihil
- Item respondent de iii d. receptis de indulgentia in die Assumptionis
beatæ Mariæ
- Item respondent de obolo recepto in die Nativitatis beatæ Mariæ
- Item respondent de i d. obolo receptis de indulgentia in die dedica-
tionis Ecclesiæ
- Item respondent de iii d. receptis de indulgentia in die omnium Sanc-
torum
- Item respondent de i d. obolo receptis de indulgentia in die S'cti
Leonardi*
- Item respondent de die conceptionis beatæ Mariæ nihil
- Item respondent de die natalis Domini nihil pro collectura
- Summa xvi d.

* St. Leonard was the patron Saint of the church.

Legata.

- Item respondent de iii s. iiiii d. receptis de legatione Johannis Sandre
 Item respondent de xviii d. de vasto duorum torgis (*sic*) (torches)
 conductorum Willelmo canonico pro cadavero (*sic*) Willelmi
 Vmfray
 Item respondent de viii d. receptis de dono Willelmi at Iese
 Item respondent de iiiii d. receptis de legatione uxoris Rogeri Clerk
 Item respondent de iii s. iiiii d. receptis de legatione Thomæ Canter-
 berye
 Item respondent de iiiii d. receptis de legatione uxoris Johannis Chese-
 man, Junioris
 Item respondent de iii s. iiiii d. receptis de dono Johannis Brice
 Item respondent de iii s. iiiii d. receptis de dono Aliciæ Heyward
 Item respondent de xx d. receptis de dono Willelmi at Stone et Thomæ
 Rollyngge pro anima Nicholai at Stone
 Item respondent de vi s. viii d. receptis de Radulpho Prille? Henrico
 Copherst et Thoma Casebourne pro anima Radulphi Longe
 Item respondent de xv d. receptis de legatione Johannis Staple
 Item respondent de ix d. receptis de una flameola? de legatione uxoris
 Rogeri Clerk Bakere
 Item respondent de iiiii d. receptis de legatione Aliciæ Vyncent
 Item respondent de xx d. receptis de dono patris Johannis Payn
 Item respondent de xii d. receptis de legatione Thomæ Bryce
 Item respondent de vi d. receptis de dono Nicholai Martine
 Item respondent de xx d. receptis de dono Aliciæ Heyward pro anima
 Hamonis Siveyn
 Item respondent de vi d. receptis de legatione Johanne Edecrone
 Item respondent de vi s. viii d. receptis de dono Willelmi Sealton
 Item respondent de xiii s. iiiii d. receptis de legatione Johannis Dyn
 Item respondent de ii d. receptis de legatione Agnetis Vere
 Item respondent de iiiii d. receptis de firma unius vaccæ annui pretii
 Item respondent de uno denario recepto de pelle ovina
 Item respondent de xiii s. iiiii d. receptis alia vice de Mergeria uxoris
 Johannis Dyn

Summa lxvi s. i d.

Summa totalis receptorum cum arreragiis vi li. vii s. ii d.

Inde expenduntur

- In primis in emendatione magni calicis videlicet in rivettyngge iiiii d.
 Item in correxcione magni missalis et magni Antiphonarii xiii s. iiiii d.
 Item in Servisia data correctori dictorum librorum ii d.

- Item in bokeram empto pro le pelowe magni altaris et pro vixillo dedicationis ecclesiæ xii d.
- Item in panno lineo pro dicto vixillo iiii d.
- Item in factura dictorum pelowe et vixilli ii d. obol.
- Item in emendatione parurarum rubei vestimenti et in defectu coupæ viridis xx d.
- Item in tribus quarteris calsis combustis pro stauro Ecclesiæ ii s.
- Item in iactura tegularum in cancello sanctæ Katherinæ xx d.
- Item in oleo et sepo pro campanis ungendis v d. obol.
- Item in extraportatione pulveris Ecclesiæ erga festa nativitatis s'cti Johannis Baptistæ Natalis Domini et Paschæ ix d.
- Item in citatione literis et actibus ? versus Stephanum Mersshe pro ostio boriali xxi d.
- Item in Ridis et boltys pro dicto ostio xxi d. obol.
- Item in emendatione de le arche dicti ostii Willelmo Sweyn ii d.
- Item in nonshenchis datis dicto Stephano et in superlevatione dicti ostii vi d. obol.
- Item in mutatione sex violarum antiquarum cum sex novis violis emptis xii [d.]
- Item in servisia data portantibus vixilla et pulsatoribus campanarum in diebus festivalibus xii d. obol.
- Item in lavatione vestimentorum manutergiorum superpelliciorum mapparum et in suitione parurarum et frontellorum ii s. iii d.
- Item in serura cum clave ostii vestiarii et . . . in clavis pro sepulcro et pro magna cista in cancello s'tæ Mariæ vi d.
- Item in le vane pro le klokke solutis iiii d.
- Item in carbone in vigilia Paschæ i d.
- Item in factura de le Wever juxta summo altari super quo pendet manutergium iiii d.
- Item in factura de le Bere portandum defunctos ad Ecclesiam ii d.
- Item pro uno correo (*sic*) vocato bokkeskyn empto de Willelmo Walton pro gradale xiii d.
- Item pro Rybanyng de rubeo correo dicti gradalis et pro emendatione de clapsis (*sic*) vi d.
- Item pro pastura yemali (*sic*) unius vaccæ ii s.
- Item pro ligatione antiqui missalis et antiqui gradalis soluti sunt iiii s. in partem solutionis de vi s.
- Item pro scriptione istius compoti scripti xvi d.
- Item pro uno libro vocato legendæ empto c s.
- Summa vii libræ ix d. obol.
- Item in xiiii libris ceræ emptis erga festum Paschæ vii s.

Item in lymeym ligno et victualibus datis hominibus operantibus circa cereum paschale cum aliis duobus cereis xiiii d.

Item dato (*sic*) operario pro factura dictorum cereorum xii d.

Item in factura navis argenti pro thimiamathe (?) x s.

Item in argento plus quam dicta pecia argentea de legatione Aliciæ Scherbynd v s. iiii d.

Item in expensis Johannis Colyn et Willelmi Palmare euntibus pro conventionem faciendam dictæ navis xii d.

Item in uno navi enneo (*sic*) empto viii d.

Summa xxvi s. ii d.

Summa omnium expensarum viii Libræ vi s. xi d. obolus.

Sic expensæ excedunt recepta xxxix s. ix d. obol. quos parochiani Johanni Colyn et Willelmo custodibus ecclesiæ debent.