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## 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 Antiphonary)† 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 *Antiphonary* 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 Antiphonary 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.—Comptus 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 duabus 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 xiii d. receptis de Simone Lokke pro uno cereo  
     inveniendo coram ymagine S'ctæ Mariæ de dono et assignatione  
     executorum Walteri Fysshære  
 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 Brownyng  
 Item respondent de xx d. receptis de Margareta Cheseman pro firma  
     unius vaccæ

Summa xvii s.

Collecta.

- Item respondent de xii d. collectis die dominica, videlicet xiii<sup>mo</sup> die  
     mensis Maii  
 Item respondent de xvi d. collectis in die Trinitatis  
 Item respondent de xiii 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 xiii 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 Laurencii  
 Item respondent de viii d. collectis die dominica proxima ante festum  
     Sancti Bartholomæi  
 Item respondent de x d. collectis die dominica proxima ante estum  
     Nativitatis beatae Mariæ  
 Item respondent de vi d. collectis die dominica proxima ante festum  
     S'cti Mathiae  
 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 xiii 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 xiii 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 xiii d. collectis die dominica mediaæ xl<sup>mæ</sup> [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 dedic-  
tionis Ecclesie  
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. iii 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 lese  
 Item respondent de iii d. receptis de legatione uxoris Rogeri Clerk  
 Item respondent de iii s. iii d. receptis de legatione Thomæ Canter-  
     berye
- Item respondent de iii d. receptis de legatione uxoris Johannis Chese-  
     man, Junioris
- Item respondent de iii s. iii d. receptis de dono Johannis Brice  
 Item respondent de iii s. iii d. receptis de dono Aliciaë 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 iii d. receptis de legatione Aliciaë 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 Aliciaë 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. iii d. receptis de legatione Johannis Dyn  
 Item respondent de ii d. receptis de legatione Agnetis Vere  
 Item respondent de iii d. receptis de firma unius vaccæ annui pretii  
 Item respondent de uno denario recepto de pelle ovina  
 Item respondent de xiii s. iii 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 iii d.  
 Item in correccione magni missalis et magni Antiphonarii xiii s. iii 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 iiiii 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 jactura tegularum in cancellio sanctæ Katherinæ xx d.
- Item in oleo et sepo pro campanis ungendis v d. obol.
- Item in extra portatione pulveris Ecclesiæ erga festa nativitatis s'cti Johannis Baptiste 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 xxii 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 maparum 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 cancellio s'tæ Mariae vi d.
- Item in le vane pro le clokke solutis iiiii d.
- Item in carbone in vigilia Paschæ i d.
- Item in factura de le Wever juxta summo altari super quo pendet manutergium iiiii 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 Rybaning 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 iiiii s. in partem solutionis de vi s.
- Item pro scriptione istius compoti scripti xvi d.
- Item pro uno libro vocato legendæ empto e s.
- Summa vii libræ ix d. obol.
- Item in xiiii libris ceræ emptis erga festum Paschæ vii s.

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

Item dato (*sic*) operariō pro factura dictorum cereorum xiid.

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

Item in argento plus quam dicta pecia argentea de legatione Aliciae  
Scherbynd v s. iiiid.

Item in expensis Johannis Colyn et Willelmi Palmare euntibus pro  
conventione facienda dictæ navis xii d.

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

Summa xxvis. 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.