

ART. X.—*The Churchwardens' Accounts of the Parish of Great Salkeld.* By the Rev. C. M. L. BOUCH.

Communicated at Penrith, April 2nd, 1949.

THESE accounts, published by leave of the rector, the Rev. G. A. K. Hervey, are a great find for local historians. They are on loose sheets and begin in 1547-8. While the series is very far from being complete, fortunately those that have survived cover some of the most interesting periods in English history and, above all, give us the earliest accounts of the kind in these counties that are known. This find affords evidence of the valuable material that may be lurking, unknown to anyone, in our church safes.

The two earliest accounts, for the years 1547-9, seem to be of sufficient interest to be printed in full. They are obviously of the very greatest value to the historian, affording a fascinating glimpse of parochial administration at the end of the middle ages. It will be noted how the churchwardens ran a kind of church farm. In medieval wills gifts of stock are often left to the Church; here we see how the Church turned them to profitable account. We have no evidence when this custom ceased, except that it was before the next accounts, 1583. We get glimpses of the coming of the Reformation in the purchase of the "bybell buke" in 1548 and the "comynion buyke" in 1549. Such a document leaves us, of course, wishing to know more; it is puzzling, for instance, to find four churchwardens in these earliest accounts, when the later ones only show two. Was there a chapel in the parish at this time, for which the two additional churchwardens stood, and which was served by the "prest" whose "wags"

are noted? The charges for lamps and for "the schallas helpyne" are interesting.

It will be noticed how carefully the accounts (the churchwardens seem to have kept two separate ones) are balanced. One is referred to as "the guds of the church" or of the "pochynrs," the other as "the guds of the odd stoke." Each account is set out in the same form: first the money received on "or entre" is entered, then any receipts from the sale of stock or wool are recorded; next follows a list of expenses incurred, the account concluding with a statement of the amount of money in hand and, in 1548/9, with a note of sums lent out on loan. It is not easy to see why two accounts were necessary. One seems to be what would be called today "a church expenses account," the other appears to have been used for paying wages; but they are both carefully kept separate, and each had its own stock of animals. Readers of the present author's book, *Prelates and People of the Lake Counties*, may remember the evidence there cited (pp. 170-4) for the healthy condition of the Church in these parts in the years just before the Reformation; these churchwardens' accounts are further evidence for the correctness of that view.

Anno Dmi cccc xlviij

1548 6 May.

Md that thys begyne the guds of the church that John burrell, hew Scott, Willm Threlkyld, and John blakyt, churchwardens hayth resiant as here afrt follows

In pms Resiant in mony at or entre	xxxiiis.	&	iiiiid.
Item resiant for woll sold	xvis.		
Item resiant for an ox sold	iis.		
Sum to lis iiiid.			

Expenses maid by the afore said church wardens as here after folws

In pms paid for bred and hail at the butts makyn	vid.
Item paid in expens at clippyn of the sheep and for ten to markyn.	vid.

Iten paid for church lamps bought. xiiidd.

Item paid in expens at pereth when we were before the official. xd.

Item paid in expens at kyngs Mts Visitation at carlell. vis. iiiid.
 Item paid to the shepperd and for hoggs gressyng. xvid.
 Item paid for the bybell buke viis.
 Item paid for saipe and cloys wassyng. vd.
 Item pd for the schallas helpyne. 11s. viiid.
 Item paid in expes at pereth for ansnering at byschoppe cortt. vd.
 Item pd in exps when we were before the kyngs comiseners. viiid.
 Item pd in exps for iii tymes goyns to Kirkoswald for the pley. ixd.
 Item pd for a ledd to the bell clapper. iid.
 Item pd for kepyn of two oxyng to John perith iid.
 Item paid for supplicacons and other wyttyns makyn xiid.
 Sum to xxiiis. & xid.
 so remaneth in or hands xxviii vd.

Ano pdc.

Md that the fore said me. hayth resiant of the other guds of
 the church as here aftr appers.

In pmis Resiant in mony at or entre xs. iiiid.
 Item resiant woll sold iiis.
 Item resiant fir skyns sold. xiid.
 Item resiant for a schepp sold. . . .
 sum to xxiiiis. iid.
 Expenses maid of the bove said

In pmis paid to the prest for his wags xs.
 Item paid to the shepperd viiid.
 sum to xs. viiid.

The holl sum of the sids all things coyntytt xlis
 John hogg and Laurence Walker hayth resiant of Elisabeth
 Blakytt

Item res of ye expenses of Thos. Jakson vis. & viiid.
 and iii shepp & a lame, iii fleycs.

1548/49.

Ano Dmi xlix The feast of St. Mark Evangelist.
 Md that thys begns the gudds of the pochynrs that John burrell,
 Hew Scott, William Threlkeld and John blackett, churchwardens,
 hath resiant for the 11 yers fore said as here aftr folows:
 In pmis resiant in money at or own hands. xlis.
 Item resiant for skyns sold. vis. iid.
 Item resiant for lams sold iiis.
 Item resiant for ii waddes² to Nicholas Staynton. viiis.
 Item resiant for scheppe sold to John Hogg and John Jackson. liis.
 Item resiant for one ox sold xiis. viiid.
 Item resiant for ii schepp sold to Thos. mrs. iis. viiid.

² Waddes = pledges see Dialect of Cumberland, W. Dickinson. N.D., p. 352 and 355.

Item resiant for sergis ³		xvid.
Item resiant for woll sold	xviis.	iiid.
Sum to. viil. iiis. xid.		

Expenses maid by the bove naymed John burrell and his falows
as here afrt folows

In pmis paid for a hors to (word faded) of Pereth.	xvs.	
Item paid to me. of Scottby for suiying of the king's grace.	xxvis.	viiid.
Item paid to Maister Salakeld for the sayme	xls.	
Item paid for the comynion buyke	viis.	
Item paid for bells stryngs		iid.
Item paid to John burrell and William Staynton for goyng to pson	vis.	viiid.
Item paid for a mare keppyn to John Penrith	iis.	
Item paid for iiii tymes washyng the church cloys		xxd.
Item paid for paiper to maike the kyng's buke		iid.
Item paid in expenses to Sebbrym	is.	vid.
Item paid to the shepperd for shepp kepyn	iis.	
Item paid to John Garthe for scheppe kepyn		xxd.
Item paid to expes. . the schepp . . . to markyn.		viiid.
Sum. to. vl. vs. id. so remaineth xxxixs. xid.		
Paid in ye hands of margareth mawson	xxd.	
paid in ye hand of John mawson	vis.viiid.	
paid in ye hands of Edmund Staynton	viis.	
paid in ye hands of John blakyer for . . . ii yeres		IIIS.
words faded. Thomas Staynton of [words faded].		

Ano pdco

Md that thys ebgyns the guds of the odd stoke resiant by the
fore said me John Burrell and his falows

In pmis resiant in money	xiiis.	viiid.
Item resiant for skyns sold.	iis.	iid.
Item res. for lams sold.	iis.	
Item res. for ii yows sold to Thos. Mrs.	vis.	viiid.
Item res. for iiii scheppe sold to Jos. Stoyers	xiiis.	
Item res. for ii schepp sold to Thos, Mrd.	iis.	viiid.
Item res. for woll sold	vs.	ixd.
sum. to xliiis. ixd.		

Expenses maid by the bove naymed John Burrell and his felaws as
here afrt folows

In pmis paid in expens in goyng to Pereth cortt for a (word faded) Anthony Watson and Mabyll.		viiid.
Item paid in expes in goyng to Kirkoswald		vid.
Item paid to the scherffe.		xiid.
Item paid to the prest for the fyrst yere wags.	vs. &	ixd.
Item paid to the prest for the second yere wags.	iiiiis &	iiid.

³ Sergis, perhaps payments for candles for the departed.

Sm. to. xiis. iid. so remaneth xxxis. viid.

The holl some remayng of both the syds all thyngs coyntrytt=
 iiiii. xis. vid.

of the wych fore sad some iiiii. xis. vid.

Item in the hands of John blakyt

vis. ixd.

Item in ye hands of John burrell

vs. id.

Item in ye hands of margareth mawson

xxd.

Item in ye hands of John mawson

vis. viiid.

The later accounts are not of sufficient interest to merit being printed in full, since they tend to follow the same form year by year and so involve much repetition. It will suffice to extract anything of interest. After those printed above, the next that have survived are those for 1583-5. Those of 1583 contains the entry "The last yre mone for bread and wyne beganne at Willm Watson at Derke and lefte at John Olephant." An entry in similar form occurs in other years. This custom is mentioned in a rubric to the second Prayer Book of Edward VI and there ordered to be discontinued; its survival is therefore of interest. There is a charge of 3d. "for washyng the sircloth" suggesting that the fair linen cloth of the Prayer Book was not yet in use. On the back of the accounts with the heading "the taske for our books" there is a list of sixty names with sums of 1d., 2d., or 3d. opposite them. Presumably this is an account of money provided by a form of church rate. The 1584 accounts contain a payment to "John Dobson for maiking the Lord's table and the pulpit." This suggests that until now the Pre-Reformation altar was still in use. The lack of a pulpit throws light on the furnishings of our village churches in the middle ages. A payment to "John Penrith wif for candels" is worth noting. The Entries in the 1598 accounts of 8/- for "the amens of the church" and of sums spent for lime and carrier and for serving the slates, showing that the fabric was being cared for, gives another side to the gloomy picture of their state revealed in the York

visitation books (*Prelates and People of the Lake Counties*, pp. 210-11). In the accounts of 1609-10, we have further evidence of this in charges for mending the "leade's" and for "mending the Formes." In these years 6/11 was received "after the rate of 1d. a house for reparations to the church." The accounts of 1622, 1624 and 1628 do not contain anything of special interest; this cannot be said of those of 1629, which are worth setting out in full for comparison with those of eighty years before. They are dated 10 May.

The accounts of Henrie Penrith and Jenkin James, churchwardens of Great Salkeld wch they made unto John Jameson and John Sowerbie appointed for the ensuing yeare 1629

In primis received of the old churchwardens	2s.	6d.
Itm received of the Churchstocke interest	14	4
Itm received for the task of 3d. a seat	18	
Itm of Richard Garth for burieing his child in the church	3	4
Suma	38s.	2d.
Disbursed by the said churchwardens		
In primis for sothering of the bell.	8s.	
Itm for mending of the funt	2	
Itm for washing of the church cloathes		6
Itm for lime and fetching of it	7	6
Itm for sand, nales and slate	2	
Itm for pointing the church	10	
Itm for mending the steeple	2	
Item for the articles	3	
Itm for the Register booke		4
Itm for writing in answer to the articles and our accounts.	1	6
Itm for charges at visitation	1	4
Itm for writing the Register booke		4
Itm for charges at the generall chapter		4
Sum	38s.	10d.
to be paid by the new churchwardens	8d.	

Only a few other accounts have survived; those of 1632 contain a charge of 3/- for lighting the church and there is one, with no date but certainly about this time, with the entry "for charges at seting the tabell 3/-." This presumably refers to the removal of the altar table

from its Elizabethan position in the nave to its Laudian place in the chancel. This is the last of these accounts, except for a few Georgian ones of no particular interest. But there is an odd slip of paper with the following on it "Recd this 5th of June 1661 of the churchwardens of Great Salkeld the sume of twenty shillings in pte of forty shillings for setting up the king's armes by me John Webster." As a Mr. Tho. Webster was at work "beautifying" Clifton church in 1709, it looks as if there must have been a local firm of church decorators of this name.

To return to the earliest churchwardens' accounts: they mention money given to the scholars; they also contain a list of monies on loan. In all the local histories dealing with this parish, the statement that it had a school founded in 1515 recurs. So far evidence in support of this statement has been lacking. But in an undated document among the parish papers which can, however, be safely placed in about 1745 the following occurs:—

That abt the beginning of the reign of King Henry the 8 a sume of money being left to the inhabitants of Great Salkeld the interest whereof was directed to be apply'd towds the maintenance of a master to teach a grammar school there. The then inhabitants of Great Salkeld with the legacy purchased the copyhold interest in the sd. two tenements or parcells of land and in the 6th year of Henry 8th (1514/5) three of the inhabitants were admitted tenants of the lands to hold by copy of court roll as trustees for the sd school.

We need not go into the matter about which this document deals—an attempt of the agent of the then lord of the manor, the duke of Portland, to deprive the people of the benefit of these lands, but what is of very great interest is the clear and definite evidence that a school was founded in the parish at the time referred to.

Mention of the school stock and the parish stock, they

do not seem to have been kept separate, occurs in several of the early 17th century parish papers. Returns of 1614 and 1615 show that the parish stock amounted to £17. 13s. 4d.; this was lent out at 10 per cent. and the borrower had to have a pledge or security. The mention of "Wadds" in the 1549 accounts suggests that that was the custom then. In addition to this stock, the school received three rents of 3/-, 1/6, and 4d.

Among these parish documents there are also several dealing with the manor; of these the earliest is one of 1537, which seems to be a rental. Unfortunately only part of it remains. This shows that there were then forty-nine houses in the manor which ranked as improvements; presumably land which had been recovered from the forest of Inglewood. There were also two "shields or sommer houses"; perhaps for the use of shepherds. One house is called "le Stonehouse," presumptive evidence that there were not many of these. There is also mention of the "old course of the river Eden." These returns give the names of 54 tenants; in 1602 there were 68 of these; in 1621, 85; in 1665, 103 and today the number seems to be 48; striking evidence of the depopulation of the countryside. Finally these records shew that the tenancy in this manor was copyhold and not, as usually in these parts, border tenant right. How this came about is a matter on which we would like to know more.