

chancel are three ledger stones with the following inscriptions :—

(1) On north :—

Boulton James Armiger ætatis
XXXVIII annor obiit IIII^{to} die
Decembris anno Dni
MDCLXXXIII^o.

Above the inscription is a shield with a dolphin impaling a chevron between three unicorn's heads couped, and above a helmet with cock for a crest.

On the next stone :—

Here lies the body of
Frances James
Relict of Boulton James of Deneford Esq
only Child and Heiress of
Mr. Adam Head of Peasmore.
She was the best of Wives
the best of Mothers & the best of Widows.
She died August the 2. 1720.
Aged 55 years.

Above her inscription is the same coat of arms as her husband's without the crest.

On the third stone on south :—

Here lieth the body of
Sarah James Widow and Relict of
William James late of Denford Esq decd
Obiit 24 Dec Anno { Dom 1699
Ætat. 75.

(To be continued.)

A Churchwardens' Account Book.

By Rev. Canon J. Oldfield, D.D.

IN the parish of Spelsbury, in North Oxfordshire, a Churchwardens' Account Book has survived in a fairly good state of preservation, the entries in which are practically continuous from 1525 to 1703. The book contains 102 leaves of paper, measuring 12in. by 4in. and is bound in a limp vellum cover.

The following are the chief points of interest :—

1. *Custodes luminum sanctorum* : Annual lists are given of the "Keepers of the Lights," with the amounts for which they were responsible, or had collected. Here is a typical entry :—

Ao. M. qui. xxvj.

Sent Erasmus lygths kepars : Guy & Wyllm Ryman.

Stok, viij*℥*. & ij str. of malt.

Sent Myhells : T Smyth, iijs. iiij*℥*. ; Robrt Wevar, vijs.

Sent Antonyse : Ry. Dew, & W. Prcy. Is in stoke, xii*℥*. ; viij*℥*. & v stry. of malt & a halfe.

The Trinity : C Osbaston & Ry. Belchar. iijs. iiij*℥*. & a qtr. of barley.

The bells : J. Smyth, Johnes Hukwell, iijs. iiij*℥*.

Mary of Pyte : W. Rouke & J. Wyntr, iijs. iiij*℥*.

Howr Lady yn ye Chapell : T. Sowche, Robrt Boxe, iijs. iiij*℥*.

Katerynes lygth : W. Meds & Wyse, iijs. ij*℥*. & ij. stryk of malt or xiiij*℥*.

Sent Nycolas lygth : Jhon Maynard, Ro. Ryman, vs. v*℥*.

Sent Clementts : T. Prynce, W. Kygtte, iijs. viij*℥*.

Sent Georges : W. Webe, iijs. v*℥*. & S. Russell, xs. & vj str. of barley.

The Torchys : Ry. Boxe, Jo. Sowch. Stoke, viijs.

Herse lygth : W. Prince & J. Grey, iijs. v*℥*. & dz. a str. of [?]

Sent Cristofer : Ro. Piman, T. Hartte. Stok, viijs.

In one instance, the Torches are described as *fassin[arum]* sc. *custodes*, and the Hearse as *pharetrum*, i.e., *feretrum*.

In only one case does a woman's name appear as Keeper, viz. :

1538. Here floyte the kepers of the Chyrche lyghts yt wer, & what ye stoke be : In primis, Jhon Wynter & Jone Bellchar be keprs of the Trynyte lyght, & ye stok ys xxjs. viij*℥*. Jon Wynter hath yn hys hands vjs. v*℥*., & Jone Bellchar hath yn hur hand xvs.

Certain days in the year were fixed for collecting funds for these lights. These are given under date 1531 as follows :—

The day to gethyr : The Trynite lygth, Candylmas day ; Owre Lady lygth, Ye Annuntyacon of Ow Lady ; The Herse lygth, Any day before All Hallotyde ; Seynt Nycolas lygth [day not given] ; Seynt George lygth, Sentt Mathias day ; Seynt Clementts lygth, Sent Clementts yevyn ; Seyntt Kateryns lygth,

Sentt Thoms yn Cistymas ; Keprs of ye bells, Ye Wensday yn Estyr [week] ; Seynt Erasmus lygth, Sent Stephyns day ; Seynt Cristofers lygth, New Yerrs Yevyn ; Seynt Antonys lygth, Shrowe [Mun]day ; Seynt Myhells lygth, Sent Myhells day ; The Torchys, Bldye Munday ; Sent Androsse lygth [not given].

These detailed entries cease after 1539, but the " Torch lyght " and " Torch stoke " continue to be mentioned up to 1544.

The care of the bells was later provided for by allowing the rent of a house, e.g. :

1598 & 1599. Itn. Cleauers rent, being *xxd.* is allowed for keepinge the bells. 1601. Itn. Cleauer is allowed his rent, *xxd.* 1603. Cleauers rent allowed to the clerke.

2. *Oves Ecclesie.* This appears to have been a method of investing money for the benefit of the Church, and bequests were sometimes made for this purpose.

1540-1. Md. yt Mr. Penyston hathe recevyd at the handes of Wyllm Frenche fyve marks for forty schyp bequethyd by Mastres Osbaston and Rychard Belchare to a wsse knowne by ye testamentt, and also of ye yncrease, *xxiijs. viijd.*

Md. yt Wyllm Webbe of Spellsbure hathe recevy foorr poundns sterlyng at ye hands of Mr. Penystone for to by forty schype of ye money yt Mast. Jone Osbaston & Rychard Belcharre dyd by legacy gyve to a wse declaryd by ye testametts ; ye seyde Wyll. to rendyr by ye yer for ye space of fyve yerrs, *xiijs. iiijd.* for ye terme of v yerrs ; Mr. Penystone beyng sewrty for ye stoke & for ye hyer bothe.

In one case a sheep is mentioned as attached to one of the lights.

1528 & 1533. Sent Erasmus, kepars : Wyllm Ryman & Meds, *xvs. iiijd.* ob. & j schyppe, price *xxd.* & ij stryke of mawltte.

The sheep were hired out in numbers varying from one to twenty, for terms of from one to five years. The value of each is given at the time of hire, and is usually 20 pence, though a few are as low as 15 pence. This was the amount to be repaid in case of loss. The hire appears to have been fourpence per sheep per annum, but in 1526 we have

Syms owthe for iij schyp iij str. of barley, and *xijd.* for ij schyppe.

The value of a bushel of barley at that time was about $5\frac{3}{4}$ d.

The detailed entries rapidly diminish from 1537 to 1556, after which they disappear altogether. This was probably due to the steady rise in the value of sheep after 1536. Direct loans of money then take the place of letting out sheep on hire. By 1561 this was found to require a change of the date for making up accounts.

Dec. 7, 1561. An order taken the same yere for the chosynge of the Chyrche men, that eury yere from henceforthe to change on yerly, & he that refusythe to take the offyc to pay to the Chyrche vse (*) ij bosshell of malte; & to haue the counte at Saynte Lukes daye vpon payne of vjs. viij*d.*, so that the Chyrchemen ceud haue ther moneye that theye doo lend in to the perrysshe.

In addition to sheep, the Church appears to have owned some oxen, for we have among the *Debita Ecclesie*

1533. Robrt Gwy for a cowpl of oxyn, xxijs.

Resolutions were passed for the payment of this debt by instalments, both in 1536 and 1538, but it was not until 1544 that it is reduced to viijs. after which it disappears. According to Prof. Thorold Rogers, the highest price of an ox in 1533 was 22*s.* 8*d.*, but by 1544 it had risen to 30*s.* 5¾*d.*, and after that date the value increased rapidly, reaching 70*s.* 4*d.* by 1549, so that Robert Guy got his yoke very cheaply.

3. *Churchwardens.* The Churchwardens' accounts give very few details of payments, and after 1589 we get merely a statement of the total receipts and payments, reference for the details of these latter being made to their "billes." In 1662 and 1663 these brief statements are signed as having been audited. The following is a typical entry:—

The cowntte of Wyllm Tayler and Rychard Belchar, Chyrche-wardens for ye yer endyd at Sentt Kateryns day, ye xxv day of November, ye yer of ye reyne of Kyng Henr. ye viij, ye xvij, all costs, chargs, & expencs deductt & alowyd, the brozgt yn at ye day of ye accowts for ye Wytson Ale, ls.

It. ye brought yn of ye Chyrche money recevyd at yr entry yn to ye chyrchewardenschyppe, iij*li.* vs. xj*d.* It. for encresys of lyzgths, & rents, & hyer of schype, & oyr profetts dew to ye Chyrche, xls.

And so ye lefte yn ye Chyrch boxe, yr accowntt fynyschyd,

* There are several records of this fine being imposed.

yn redy money, *vjli. xx*d.**, and yn detts dew at ye days assynd, as aperyth her befor.

The Church Ale at Whitsuntide is mentioned as late as 1588. The amount varies from 26*s. 8*d.** to 50*s.*, and averages 35*s. 9*d.**

Up to 1604 the date for rendering accounts is frequently varied by order of the Parish Meeting.

The sources of income are to be gathered from sundry memoranda.

1528. Md. For the ovyrplus of ye dekyngs wags, *vjs. viij*d.**, rentts of ye Chyrche domus, Wodstoke, *vjs. viij*d.** Kytgh, *vs.* for ye [land?]. Sydnall, *xvj*d.** Domus Dekyn, *ijs. iiij*d.** Domus sutor[i]s, *ijs. iiij*d.** Orium [= horreum] *iiij*s.** Ye kechyn, *xij*d.**

The last mention of the Woodstock property is in 1531, when the tenant owed three years' rent. Sydnall, or Sidnowle, also "The Chyrche Med." continues to be mentioned down to 1603, but in 1556 the rental was increased to *xx*d.** The kitchen and the deacon's house appear again in 1536.

The rent of Chyrch kechyn to ye becher [baker] *ijs. wt* ye repracon to hym. The decon for his howse, *iijs.* ye repracons to ye Chyrch.

In 1556 this matter of repairs is again dealt with.

Hyt ys agreyd by ye prychyoners that the tenaunts wyche dwell in ye Chyrche howsys shall kepe ye reperacions thereof, ovr and aboue there rents.

The tailor's house in 1531 only brings in 3*s.* The Church barn is not mentioned after 1531. In 1551 we have:

Here ys to be notyd alsoo that ye Church howse wych Cristofer Lankeforde ustoe dwellyth in ys rentyd be the yere, *xjs.*

This appears afterwards as "Church rent" and "Rent of the Church," and the amount is successively reduced to 10*s. 8*d.**, 9*s. 8*d.**, 9*s. 4*d.**, and 9*s.*, the last mention being in 1587.

In 1529 we have this entry among the receipts for that year:

It. ye ovyrplus of ye yerly rentt of ye Colege of Warwyk, *x* [? *s.*].

Other receipts include bequests,

Note ye John James hathe bequethyd to ye Church halfe a quarter of barley. 1559.
burial fees, generally 3*s. 4*d.**, and "smoke-farthings."

1622. For smoake farthings, 5s. and elevence.

We have very few details of expenses, but the following are noteworthy:

1571. Leayd owte in expencs: (*) smokefarthyng, *xxd.*; to Marten for the bells, *xxd.*; in expencys at ij visitations, *xvjd.*; to ye apperitor for warmyng the courts, *viijd.*; to Ambroes Hucwell for hys feys, *viijd.*; to Marten for logers, *iiijd.*; for bred & wyne, *xvjd.* . . . Itm. for the water pott, *ijs. payd.* Itm. for ij candlestycks, *xxd.* to be payd at Cristenmas nexte. For a tablecloth, *xijd.*; for ij crosse, a sencer, *ijs. iiijd.*

In connection with this purchase of Church furniture, we may note that in 1574 the incoming Churchwardens acknowledge the following receipts, but whether the result of sale, or gifts for purchase is not clear:

For a box, *viijd.* For ye holy Bread box, *ijd.*, and for ye clock wherle, *xxd.* For bras and ij cruets, *viijd.*

4. *Communicants.*

Spellesburi, 1575. Yt ys agreed by the worshepfull and all the prcyoners there, that every communicant wtin the paryche shall gyue one ob. to by bred and wyne ffor the Blessed Communion, not only agaynst Easter, but to serve ffor every monethe in ye yere ffor ye same purpose, as yt ys there ministred, and receyved; and that every howse howlder shall auncer and pay ffor all thoes that be wtin hys howse; and ye tythyng man wtin every towne and vilage shall gether or take vp the same smme of every hose howlder, and, the same so getherred or taken, shall wtowte delay delyver the same vnto the churchewardens for that tyme beyng; and they to prvyde ffor bred and wyne at all tymmes, as ys beffore named. And fforther yt ys agrede that yff any howse howlder denye to paye ffor all ye communicants wtin hys howse, that then the sayde tythyngman shall strayne ffor the same sum; (and the stresse so taken shall cari and beare awaye and make salle thereoff ffor so muche as ye svmme commyth to in that howse) [lined through and the following substituted] and ye stres to kepe tyll yt be auncered.

1580. Memorandum that the xxijth day of October, Ao. 1580, yt was agred by the hoale parish, being assembled at an

* Can anyone suggest why this is included among expenses, and not under receipts?

accompt, that euery communicant shall yearly pay to fynd bred & wyne, one half peny, the wch the tything-men of euery towne shall gather of the Mr. or owner of euery howse for euery parson wthin his howse, before or uppon Myddlelent Sonday ; & yf any parson make defalt in paying the said half peny, or any housholder in paying for euery comuicnt wthin his howse, that then the prsons in whom this defalt shalbe found shall not receyue the [sacram. un] tell they haue discharged the same. In the prsens of Mr. Vicar, the parishiers, & of me, Thomas Penyston.

There are no records of the exercise of this discipline.

5. *Private Seats in Church.*

1611. Memor. that the churchwardens & the pryshe, the daie and yeere next aboue written, haue permitted Thomas Collinge the younger, of Deane, and John Sansome, of Spelsbury, to set up a newe seate adioyninge to the font for their wives, vnder this condicon that they shall avoid the seate as often as the fonte is vsed. If they refuse so to doe, then they shall claime noe title any longer to the seat, but must leaue it to be disposed of by the minister, churchwardens and the pryshe. And they paie to the Churche for the place to sett it up, viij*d*.

M. that the minister, churchwardens, & the prishe haue licenced Thomas Tenant & Alexander Parrat to set up a newe seat where the rood loft doore stood, and they haue giuen to the prishe for the same, viij*d*.

6. *Church Rates.* There are two copies of an order issued from Doctors Commons in 1594 "touchinge a course to be obserued by the assessors in their taxation for the reparacons of the Church and the walls of the churchyard of Wrotham in Kent, & to be applied generally vpon occasions of like repacons to all places whatsoever." The list of things "to be accounted Church reparacons" includes "the Comunion Table, with the couerings thereof; the Communion Cuppe; Bread and wine for the communicants; the bookes; the surplices; the washinge of the Comunion clothes; the candles; the clarke and saxtons wages; the expences of the churchwardens & sidesmen at the Visitations."

The only records of a Church Rate previous to this are in 1586 and 1588—"muney levied by the yard land."

7. *The Poor.* The first mention of the poor is in 1550.

There remayneth in the pore mans box, iijs. iiij*d.*

In 1585 appears the record of the loan of £20 to seven persons. This sum is apparently "Poor's Stock" for it is immediately followed by a list of 20 persons to whom the interest of it (20*s.*) is given. From 1596 the record of these loans occurs frequently, and in 1598 we have the first mention of "ouerseers of the poores stock."

At the same time [a Parish Meeting, Oct. 22] the ouerseers of the poores stock, or the greater part of them, Leonard Riman, Thomas Colinge, Robert Prince, & my selfe, Robert Kisbey, the writer, & the Vicar receiued the rent; but the money was left in their handes yt had it the yeare before.

From 1611 to 1647 these persons are called "Collectors for the Poor" except that in 1636 the election is recorded of "Ouerseers for the Poore." In 1647 the following resolution was passed:—

Mdd. At a meeting of the major pt of the parish, it was agreed that certaine psons of trust should be chosen as ffeoffees in behalfe of the poore, in whose names all bonds &c are to be taken for the use of the poore, that so a legall course may be taken for recovering any money due to the poore in case of any failer in payment of the same; viz. Robert Ryman, Henry Blagrove, George Couling, Abraham Harris, & Edmund Issard. April 23, 1647.

From this time onwards we have always "Overseers for the Poore." "Fafees in trust for the poores stocke" were again elected May 10, 1669. From 1676 we have the churchwardens and overseers of the poor associated in putting youths (and in one case a girl) out to some apprenticeship, but what is not stated.

8. *Miscellaneous.*

1551. Md. that John Gyner hath receyvyd of the *Kyng's tenaunts* in a comen stok, xxiijs. viij*d.* the 24 day of February ij in the forthe yere of oure Suffrayne Lord Kyng Edward the vjth.

1566. Dave Fleccher payeth to ye prych of the muneys wyche remayneth in hys hands of that smme of muneys that he receyvd when he was *constable*.

1567. Cristoffer Lankefford payeth by ye yere to ye Church xijs. iiij*d.*, and owte of that *the lord's rent* must be deducte or taken. Hewghe Wodfford payeth to ye Church yerely iijs., whereof the lord hathe no parte.

Anno Domini 1586. Mr. Doctor James preached at the prishe Church of Spelsburye vpon Blacke Muday in Ester weeke vppon the Lordes Praier. [April 4.]

Mr. Simon Culverway, of Marten Colledge, preached at Spelsburye the xiith of June. [Sunday.]

Mr. Doctor James preached on Mihlemas Day, anno Domni 1586. [Thursday.]

The Register has the following :—

Receyved 14 (*) Aprilis 1620 of Sir Hen. Lea, Knight and Barronett, the summe of xiijs. iiij*d*. to be distributed vnto the poore of the parish of Spelsbury; wch money was for a [P] licence wch was granted him by the Lord Bishopp of Oxford for eating flesh that Lent. I say receyved. Wm. Negose, Vicar.

1634. Collected in the Chirch of Spelsbury, 5 Octobris, for the repayreing of the Church of St. Paule, in London, three shillings, six pence.

Anno Domi 1622. I William Bronker, some times Vicar of Hungerford, in ye couty of Barks, preached one sermon at Spelsbuie ye first dae of September, authorised by John, Lord Bishop of Oxford.

per me, Gulu. Bronker.

* [Maunday Thursday.]

St. Katharine's Hospital and Chapel in Regent's Park, London.

*Abridgment of a Paper read before the O. L. A. B. R. Society,
Feb. 1st, 1910, at Oxford, by H. M. Poynter.*

MAY I begin by explaining the title of my paper, for the word Hospital attached to the present building in the Regent's Park, and to its predecessor, Saint Katharine-by-the-Tower (of London), does not imply, as in the modern use, a cure-house for the sick, but has the secondary meaning, more common in the Middle Ages, of "a place built for the support of the poor, or for shelter or entertainment," as Johnson's Dictionary has it.