

ART. VI – *The Wigton Church Accounts, 1328-9: a translation into English*
BY JEREMY GODWIN, M.A.

IN transcribing and summarising the Wigton church agent’s accounts of 1328-9, possibly the earliest of any churchwardens’ accounts we have, and now preserved at York, Dr Katharine M. Longley¹ has made a valuable contribution, but one for most readers now diminished in its effects by being wholly in Latin, and medieval technical Latin at that. Following a request from a Wigton historian for a translation, I thought that readers of *Transactions* might also like it.

Despite the title of her article, there are few overt mentions of “the Scottish incursions of 1327” in these accounts but they give a vivid picture of an active farming enterprise run for the Rector by his agent and helpers. The Rector of Wigton from 1317 to 1332 was William de Hilton,² who sent instructions to his agent from time to time, but mostly left him to carry on. Besides the domestic and church expenses, there was also the new farm (“grange”) at Waverton, the use of Bolton Wood, and of land at Colmire and Dundraw. The Rector’s tithes included those of Wigton Mill, Dockray Mill, and Waverton Mill.

Note on editing

Textual notes are Dr Longley’s, as are words in round brackets within the inverted commas, and dates of feast-days etc., although I have added the days of the week for extra clarity, and have made the years New Style. Words within {} are deletions. Words within [] are my insertions. Interlineations are indicated in the notes and references.

The Account of John de Preston, Agent³ of Wigton Church from the fifteenth of the Kalends of May A.D. 1328 to the Feast-day of St Martin in Winter next following (17 April-11 November 1328)

He accounts for £14 11s. 8d. outstanding from his preceding account, as is set out at the foot of that one,

Total £14 11s. 8d., which [was duly paid]⁴

He accounts for 39s. 9d. received from letting the free tenancies,⁵ rents payable at Pentecost {concerning which he seeks allowance to himself for the land which J.S.⁶ [gap in text] of Apeltreflat, 12d.}; and 6d., from one acre in {the Closse which Adam the miller holds}⁷ . . . Moneys received from Adam the miller. Also he makes account of £11 5s. 11d. from Adam the miller from the time of the said John

Total £14 5s. 8d. {“Moneys received from

William the cleric. He also accounts for (erased) shillings received through actions of the said William, Total (blank) shillings”}

Moneys received for flour sold through the lord [Rector]:

From Adam Colthird, 39 shillings for six skeps⁸ and a half of flour, price per skep six shillings; and 2s. 6d. from the same person for six estricks⁹ of barley; and 30 shillings

from John de Bothel for five skeps of flour, as appears; from Adam del Heginore, six shillings for one skeep of flour; and from William Nelleson, 10 shillings for 1¹/₂ skeps of flour

Total £4 7s. 6d.

Moneys received from outside Wigton itself:

For £10 from William Waleys of Lathes {by the lord [Rector]'s bidding}; and 14 shillings received for one ox as death-due;¹⁰ and 12s. 0d. for one horse; {and 20s. 0d. for (blank) items paid as death-dues and later sold} and 20s. 0d. received for the death-due of William de Aikhed; and 59s. 9d.¹¹ for 19 skeps of oats and 11 estricks, price per skeep 3s. 0d., from the grange of Waverton from the time of Adam the chaplain; and 50s. 8d. received under the deed of debts from the time of W. de Aberford and of Adam the chaplain;¹² and 36s. 0d. for six skeps of barley later sold, which had been borrowed from the grange of Waverton by the [reverend] lord Adam the chaplain, price per skeep 6s. 0d.

Total £19 12s. 5d.

Altar moneys:

For 8s. 3¹/₂d. received on the Feast-day of the Birth of the Blessed [Virgin] Mary (8 September)¹³ from the offerings; and 11d. given as offerings through the lord and lady; and 8d. received on All Saints' Day (1 November), from the offerings; and 4s. 2¹/₂d. cash for tithes of wool; and 7s. 3d. cash for tithes of lambs, as appears in the detailed account; and 62s. 5¹/₂d. for tithes of dairy produce;¹⁴ and 2s. 6d. for 12 tithe-geese sold for cash later; and 11d. for 22 chickens later sold, but remarkably poor in their condition; and 15s. 0d. for 30 lambs taken away; {and 8s. 0d. from wool and lambs sold through the lord [Rector] for the [upkeep of the] lamp of the Blessed [Virgin] Mary for the year '27}; and 4s. 0d. for death-due of I. De Raghton;¹⁵ and 15s. 2d. from deaths-offerings; and 2s. 6d. paid for the purpresture;¹⁶ and 10s. 11d. from moneys pledged; and 3s. 0d. for young goats sold in gross, viz. 12 sold to I. Gris;¹⁷ and 40s. 0d. for Wigton Mill's tithe, payable on the Blessed Mary's Birthday in the second year of the reign of King Edward II (1328); but nothing paid for the tithe of Dockray Mill and Waverton Mill this year, because the one has been burnt down by the Scots and is not yet rebuilt, and the other mill is flood-damaged and has not been repaired within this present year

Total £8 17s. 9¹/₂d.

Sum total of all these totals £60 15s. 0¹/₂d., and is quit

Expenses:

Necessities account: For repairs to utensils on three occasions, 9d.; for ointment for three stone of wool and one ferthelot¹⁸ made from new, 2d.; and 3s. 10d. in combing the said wool; and 4s. 3d. in spinning it; and 14d. in weaving it;¹⁹ and 3d. in dressing the nap;²⁰ and 3d. for grease therefore; and 2s. 10d. in fulling it;²¹ and 7d. for the purpresture of arable land of Greenrigg;²² also 16d. for one horse at Dundraw²³ for eight weeks; and 7d. for salve to run into the said horse; and 6d. to one particular man for medicine to treat the said horse; and 8d. for a tub to pickle pork in; and 6d. for doctoring a horse's eyes; and 12d. for the privilege of getting timber at Inglewood²⁴

Total 18s. 8d.

Expenses for the upkeep of the chancel;²⁵ He reckons in this account 15s. 0d. in 10 skeps of lime bought for the said work, price per skep (carriage included) 18d. on the first occasion, and 24s. 4d. in 16 skeps of lime bought, price per skep (carriage included) 16d. on the other occasion, and 10d. in the mixing of the mortar in the chancel and churchyard, working piecemeal; and 2s. 6d. in dressing the squared blocks for the stones of the altar,²⁶ working on piece-rate; and 3s. 4d. for the board of two stonemasons for a whole week at the will of the lord [Rector]; and 3s. 4d. for their pay for that same period; and 11d. given to one particular man working alongside them in the stone quarry for that same period; and £6 13s. 4d. to Thomas the stonemason²⁷ hired for the said work, piece-rate; and 64s. 8d. to Patrick the carpenter²⁸ for the said work; and 4d. for help with timber for a cart brought out of Bolton Wood; and 2s. 2d. for 26 large blocks of stone, piece-rate; and 2s. 0d. for two oak-trees in the Forest of Inglewood, for an amercement;²⁹ and 7d. given to the carpenter in drink over various occasions; and 7s. 1d. spent on 17 hundreds of nails³⁰ at 5d. a hundred;³¹ and 10d. for the carrying of water for the said work, from Easter to the end of the operations; and 5d. for one oak-tree in Bolton Wood left-over from the time of Adam the chaplain;³² and 4s. 0d. in 600 laths at 8d. a hundred; and 16d. in laths-work over five days, costing 3d. per day (mid-day meal included); and 4s. 9d. in roofing the choir, as a separate work;³³ and 13d. in managing the works to the said roof for six days, taking 2d. per day; and 3d. in unloading-fees for shipment of green reeds [for thatching the said roof]; and 21d. to a roofer, who took seven days at 3d. per day (mid-day meals included); and 1¹/₂d. to the said roofer's assistant for the said time, taking 1¹/₂d. a day (mid-day meals included); and 18d. in cleaning up in the choir on various occasions; and 24s. 11d. given to the glasswrights³⁴ in part-payment of their charges for making glass for the windows; and 7d. in hurdles, from the time of Adam the miller; and 22s. 6d. on 2,200 [hurdles] woven for the said choir; and 3s. 0d. in boards for the said choir; and 6d. on hurdles for the high altar; and 3d. for one board for the chancel door; and 6d. for two trees for the lentreclasse, viz house-trees; and 12d. given to the servants at Worward beyond Chalk;³⁵ and 12s. 3¹/₂d. on 59 pieces of iron bought for the choir, price 2¹/₂d. per piece; and 12s. 3¹/₂d. for working them into the finished product; and 17d. on getting assistance from various local men hired to assist the said work to make the said products

Total £17 13s. 4¹/₂d. which [was duly paid]

Church expenses account: For wine for Holy Communion services³⁶ from the said day till the Feast-day of St Martin in Winter [11 November], 18d.; and 11¹/₂d. for the expenses of three witnesses who went with the Rector's agent to Carlisle to sue the late lord Dugal's family³⁷ for his death-due now owing, for proving their charges against the said lord; and 6d. for Adam the chaplain who went twice to Carlisle with the Rector's agent, on horseback each; and 33s. 4d. for the stipend of John the chaplain; and 9s. 0d. in expenses of the Bishop and the Rector's agent in going to the Parliament in North[umberland]; and 2s. 3d. for the Rector's agent expenses in going to the Parliament at York; and 4s. 0d. for synodal dues payable at Easter and at Michaelmas [29 September]; and 1d. for incense; and 2s. 0d. for a vestment chest; and 13s. 4d. made over to the Archdeacon for his entertainment and upkeep during his visitation [to Wigton]; and 3s. 5d. brought

over from last year, for wool; and 4s. 10¹/₂d. brought over from last year for lambs
 Total 75s. 3d.

Gardening account:

For the felling and uprooting of a large tree in the garden, for making into sundry different containers, 4d.;³⁸ and 8s. 0d. for making a wall near the malt-kiln, done inclusively as per agreement; and 9d. to one particular man assisting them for that same period, his mid-day meal included; and 2s. 0d. for 1¹/₂ skeps of lime for the said work

Total 11s. 1d.

Carters' account:

With cost of iron shoes for the draught beasts: For one gauge of felloes of wheels, 8d.; and 3d. for one gauge for measuring the hollow spaces in wheels; and 14d. in iron rings for the wheel-rims; and 4d. in buying the bodywork of one of the carts; and 2d. in axles put into a new cart; and 12d. in leather bought for two horse-collars; and 6d. in flocks for [padding] them;³⁹ and in the making of them, 6d.; and 3d. in the making of draw-reins with halters and the various different cords for the harness; and 4d. in two leather halters; and 4d. for ringcaus, and for purchase of harness; and 1d. on whipcord; and 1d. in much water for the harness; and 1d. for threads; and 8d. on a leather jerkin for the horses; also, 15d. for four locks and bolts bought; and 2s. 2d. for 26 iron objects for the lord [Rector's] horses on various occasions {and 3s. 1¹/₂d. on 15 pieces of iron bought for various necessary works in the house and yard; and for the smith's work upon them, 3s. 1¹/₂d.};⁴⁰ and 2d. for planks for dressing thin;⁴¹ in 15 pieces of iron, for its purchase and preparation, 6s. 3d.

Total 16s. 11d.

Houses account:

For making a door for the enclosure-fence (mid-day meal included), 2d.; and 2d. for making of stalls in the stable (mid-day meal included); and 2d. for whitewashing⁴² the inside wall of the cattle-shed (mid-day meal included); and 4d. for roofing the henhouse and for repairing the malt-kiln; and 3d. for carting straw for roofing the malt-kiln, for two days; and 20d. to a certain roofer for five days work on the said malt-kiln's roof; and 16d. for preparing its boards, for four days; and 14d. to a certain roofer for stuffing the roof beyond the granary, for two days; and 3d. for coal for the lord [Rector]'s room; and 8d. for eight chickens bought in

Total 6s. 2d.

Outdoor expenses:

Paid to William the cook, 2s. 0d., on the lord [Rector]'s orders; and 28s. 10d. in expenses of John de Preston⁴³ for 14 weeks and three days up to the Eve of St Matthew (20 September) in the said year of the reign of King Edward II (1328), viz. 21d. a week {"with three servant-lads remaining together at the table"⁴⁴ from the day abovesaid to the Wednesday next before the Feast of the Translation of St Thomas (1 July 1328), at the will of the lord [Rector]"}⁴⁵; and 9s. 6d. in servants' expenses for that same period {of John the Agent with six (servant-lads) at the lord [Rector]'s

table from the day after St James's Day (26 July) to the Wednesday next before the Feast-day of the Assumption of the Blessed Mary (12 August 1328) at the lord Rector's pleasure; and in expenses of the said John with six (servant-lads) at the lord Rector's table, and sometimes seven or eight [of the lads], from the day after the Feast of the Beheading of St John [the Baptist] (30 August) to Tuesday the Eve of St Matthew the Apostle's Day (20 September)⁴⁶; and for the wages⁴⁷ of William de Aiketona,⁴⁸ per month, 3s. 6d. from the said day to the Sunday next before the Feast-day of St Luke the Evangelist (18 October 1328), taking 1¹/₂d. per day; and 2s. 0d. paid to John Caliard by the lord [Rector]'s order, from the time of the lord Adam the chaplain; and 8d. paid to R. de Battle for bringing two draught-beasts sent to Hill;⁴⁹ and 2d. in hay for them; and 1d. for two halters; and 5s. 2d. in agent's expenses and on four horses from Wigton to Hill; and 6d. for a colt's bridle; note of expenses of carting timber and for assisting the taking of tithes of wool and lambs, viz. 16d.; and for looking after two colts in Colmire for eight days, 5d. (mid-day meal included); and 9d. for four large irons for the said colts; and 6d. in walking one colt, {with mid-day meal for nine days}

Total 55s. 5d.

Cash-payment accounts:

To William the cleric of Arthuret,⁵⁰ 60s. 0d.; and 43s. 0d. paid to the lord [Rector] on one occasion; and 6s. 2d. on another occasion; and 12d. to John the cleric on the lord [Rector]'s bidding; and 4s. 0d. for lime, on the lord [Rector]'s bidding, in the time of Adam the miller; and 3s. 0d. to J. the cook, on the lord [Rector]'s bidding; and 9d. to J. the shoemaker, on the lord [Rector]'s bidding; and 1d. for sewing up the lord [Rector]'s shoe

Total 118s. 0d.

Purchase of meat and salt:

For 2¹/₂ carcasses of beef, 24s. 0d.; and 4s. 9d. for two fat pigs bought for the larder;⁵¹ and 12d. for one stone of tallow for wax candles; and 4s. 6d. for nine estriks of salt bought; and 1d. for cotton for Paris candles;⁵² and 1d. for thread for the said candles

Total 34s. 6d.

Purchases of livestock:

For 56 wethers bought, 116s. 8d, price of each 2s. 1d.; and 11d. for agent's expenses with two men at Penrith; and 1d. for God's-penny;⁵³ and 9d. for ointment, with special earth, and tallow, and butter, bought for these same sheep and lambs; and 3s. 4¹/₂d. for paying a servant-lad to watch over the said sheep and lambs shut in for nine weeks, he taking 4¹/₂d. a week; and 4s. 3d. in expenses for three servant-lads following the said sheep and lambs kept-in, from Wigton to Hill, with their pay

Total £6 6s. 0¹/₂d.

Spent on the Official:⁵⁴

Bread, ale, two geese, two chickens from the farmyard, and 12d. on cost of beef, and 9d. on mutton, and 2d. on eggs, and 2d. on candles, and what [was paid for] milk

Total 2s. 1d., which [was duly spent]

Spent on the lord [Rector];

£10 22d.⁵⁵ for lord's expenses over three occasions, with the expenses of the [Reverend] lord John de Crombewell, as is shown in the detailed schedules,⁵⁶ until the Feast of St Martin [in Winter, 11 November] as stated above

[No total given]

Hay and harvest account:

Spent on the hiring of various men at haytime (mid-day meal included), 2s. 7¹/₂d.; and 3s. 4d. on the hiring of various men in August (mid-day meal included)

Total 5s. 11¹/₂d.

Grand total of all the above cash payments and expenses £51 4s. 6d.

Produce despatched from the new grange⁵⁷

Wheat:⁵⁸ for six estriks of wheat received [at Wigton] from despatch from the new grange, divided thus: four estriks for the lord [Rector]'s account, and two estriks for the Official's;

Rye: For ten estriks of rye received from the time of Adam the miller; and for six estriks received from the new grange, entered wholly onto the lord Rector's account over the three occasions;

Barley: For 11 estriks of barley received from Adam the miller, entered wholly on the malt-making account, as appears below;

Oats: For three skeps of oats received from Adam the miller, and two skeps [of oats] from William Tiok, and six skeps five estriks despatched from the new grange [gap in text]; of which, three skeps have been entered on the expenses account of J. de Crombewell, and three skeps seven estriks on expenses over three occasions down to the Feast of St Martin [in Winter, 11 November]; and ten estriks in bran for the dogs over the same period of time, on three occasions, down to the Feast of St Martin; and one skeep and six estriks for flour for putting into drinks; and one skeep 11 estriks on the outlays for the draught-animals and the agent's horse, over the same period; and two estriks for the Official's expenses at the time of the Chapter meeting; and five estriks for the Archdeacon's expenses;

Malting of barley: For 11 skeps of malted barley received from Adam the miller, as appears above, wholly entered onto the lord [Rector]'s expenses;

Draught-animals: For five draught-animals found on the manor;⁵⁹ and for one more, from J. the cook; and one for a death-due; of which, three were sent to Hill, one to the sale (as appears below), and three remain;

Oxen: For two oxen received as two death-dues; of which one was sold and one is still here;

Cows: For five cows found upon the manor; and one cow paid-in as a death-due; which [all] are still here;

Young cattle: For eight young cattle (yearlings male and female), all still here;

Calves: For three calves, the offspring of the three cows above mentioned; and three calves that came in as tithes⁶⁰ from the whole parish; these all are still here;

Sheep: For 56 sheep received from purchase, as appears below; of which, 50 are accounted-for as sent to Hill, and six as on the expenses of J. de Crombewell;

Lambs: For eightscore⁶¹ and 17 [i.e. 177] lambs received from the tithes; of which, sevenscore and 17 [i.e. 157] are accounted-for as sent to Hill, and 30 to sale;

Pigs: For ten pigs found in the wood, and for one pig received as a death-due; of which, ten were killed for the larder, and one is still here;

Geese: For three geese (killed later) and seven found, and fourscore and ten from the tithes, and five from purchase;⁶² of which, 13 are accounted for in the expenses of the lord [Rector] and in the expenses of J. de Crombewell on the first occasion, and seven in the expenses of the lord [Rector] on another occasion as appears in the expenses-[schedule], and 16 were killed for the larder, and three by negligence of the page-boy, and four were killed by dogs, and 12 were put into the sale, and seven are still here; and one was paid to William Horn;

Capons: For three capons found upon the manor; of which, one is on the Official's expenses, and two are unassigned;⁶³

Chickens: For 36 chickens received by purchase; and for 12 by gift; and fivescore and 11 chickens from the tithes: Total, (blank); from which, fivescore and one are accounted-for on the expenses of the lord [Rector] over three occasions with the expenses of J. de Crombewell, and 22 were put into the sale as appears below, and five were lost by disease;⁶⁴ and 31 chickens are still here;

Total of the whole burden⁶⁵ of John de Preston, as is set forth from the other part of this roll

£60 15s. 0¹/₂d., which [was duly spent]

Total of all the payments and expenses of the same John, as is shown in this roll

£51 5s. 3d.

Which sum, subtracted from the total burden leaves

£9 9s. 9¹/₂d.,

which [was duly spent], which he owes

And all debts raised from the time of the said John are [gap in text] his burden against the aforesaid total; and the debts raised from the time of William de Aberford and the lord Adam the chaplain after this account are to be raised on the work of the lord [Rector];

Later, there was allowed to the said [John] 46s. 0d. [gap in text] for the carcasses of [gap in text] oxen, two sheep, and one pig bought and given to Stephen de Workyngton and Margery his wife, from Wigton as a gift in the name of the lord Rector;⁶⁶ and thus he owes £8 12s. 9¹/₂d. debt as may be seen below [gap in text] to various debtors whose names are written on a certain schedule, £6 8s. 7¹/₂d., and there remains 44s. 2d. which [he holds]; he has received also 30s. 0d. from debts written on a certain deed of indenture given by the lord [Rector] from the time of William de Aberford and Adam the chaplain;⁶⁷ and he is also burdened with 73s. 7¹/₂d. for the moneys paid out on wagons,⁶⁸ ploughs, and halfpence for backyards, from the third (year of the reign) of King Edward III after the Conquest, as is shown in two rolls; he is also burdened with £12 11s. 5d. for 26 skeps [gap in text], having sold through him in the autumn of this present year just finished of the said king's reign (except for three skeps) 13 skeps and three and a half estriks, 10s. 0d.;⁶⁹ and excepting [gap in text] skeps, 13 skeps and two estriks, 9s. 0d.; he is also burdened with 108s. 0d. received for 36 stone of wool sold, price per stone, 3s. 0d.; and 2s. 0d. received from the tithes of free multure⁷⁰ at Dockray; and for 41s. 0d. received from the tithe-flour still left from the autumn of the first year; and 4s. 10d. received from Adam the son of Jul[jian] for tithes of oxen sold and for certain [gap in text] sold

Total of the whole debt of John de Preston united in one sum, £27 15s. 0¹/₂d., which [is duly set forth]

Second skin of original, front side:

The Account of John de Preston, Agent of the Church of Wigton, from the Feast-day of St Martin in Winter, A.D. 1328, to the Monday next after the Feast-day of St Hilary following (11 November 1328-16 January 1328/9):

Rents account: He makes account for 39s. 9d. in rents of the free tenants payable on St Martin's Day [11 November];

Altar moneys: He accounts for 21s. 3d. in offerings at Christmas

Total moneys received 61s. 0d.

{Outside expenses: In wages of William de Aiketona by the lord [Rector]'s bidding from the Sunday next after St Martin's Day (Sunday 13 November 1328) to St Thomas the Apostle's Day (21 December); and in wages of J. de Preston from Sunday next after the Epiphany (Monday 9 January 1328/9; and blank) in expenses of J. the turner [for making] sundry containers in a week's work, at the will of the lord [Rector]"}

Church expenses account: For wine for the Holy Communion service over this whole period, 5d.; and paid to the [Reverend] lord Ralph 13s. 4d. in part-payment of his stipend

Total 13s. 9d.

Outside-expenses account: For the wages of William de Aiketona from the Sunday next before the Feast-day of St Martin in Winter (Sunday 13 November 1329) to the Feast-day of St Thomas the Apostle (21 December 1328), at the will of the lord [Rector], 4s. 7d.; and in expenses of William de Aiketona, from Wigton to Hill with one horse, 17d. for expenses; and for wages of John de Preston from the said Sunday to the Monday next after the Feast of the Epiphany (Monday 9 January 1328/9), at the will of the lord [Rector], 9s. 4d., namely 2d. a day; and 14d. for a week's mid-day meals for J. the turner; and 11d. paid to William de Aiketona, for shoe-repairs;⁷¹ and 16d. to J. Kok for his help around the wood from the Feast-day of St Martin to the Wednesday next after the Feast-day of St Hilary [Wednesday 20 January 1328/9].

Official's expenses: For bread, ale, meat, and four cockerels from the farmyard, and 4d. on one young pig, and 1¹/₂d. on eggs

Total 19s. 2¹/₂d.

Purchases of grain: For 17 estriks of wheat purchased, 17s. 0d.

Total 17s. 0d.

Total of all the above expenses, 49s. 11¹/₂d., which subtracted from the above total received leaves 11s. 0¹/₂d. Also he owes from the remainder of the further account of his predecessor in office this present account, as appears at the foot of the same, £14 11s. 8d., which [is duly stated].

Total of the united arrears, £15 2s. 8¹/₂d., which [is duly set forth].

Total of the receipts, £60 15s. 0¹/₂d., which [is duly stated].⁷²

Second skin of original, on back

[M. 2v}

[Signed] J. de Preston.

Notes and References

- ¹ Katharine M. Longley, “The Scottish Incursions of 1327; a Glimpse of the Aftermath. (Wigton Church Accounts, 1328-9)”, *CW2*, lxxxiii, 63-72.
- ² W. N. Thompson (ed.), *The Register of John de Halton* (The Canterbury and York Society, 1913), ii, 141, 151.
- ³ Agent is *procurator* in the Latin, whence the English “proctor”. There is still a Proctor’s Row in Wigton, south of the church.
- ⁴ “which was duly paid” – *qu* is an abbreviation for *quietus* or something similar. In the Pipe Rolls *et quietus est* = “he is quit, the account made and over”.
- ⁵ “Letting”, literally “the farm of”, i.e. the rents. In most Cumberland manors the freeholders also paid rent (“free rent” or “quit rent”).
- ⁶ J.S. is I.S. in the Latin.
- ⁷ The words “the Close which Adam the miller holds” are crossed out. Adam the miller was one of his main helpers: perhaps the Rector had waived this rent as thanks. A gap in the text follows “holds”.
- ⁸ One *skep* = a basketful.
- ⁹ One *estrik* is thought by R. E. Latham, *Revised Medieval Latin Word-List* (1965), 455 (under *stric/a*) to have been a levelled bushful – a “strike”. There were several *estriks* to a *skep*. Latham, *op. cit.*, and Lewis and Short’s *Latin Dictionary* (1927 reprint) have been my sources for this translation.
- ¹⁰ “Death-due”, literally “mortuary”, was a sum in cash or kind due to the Rector from his deceased parishioner’s estate, or that of a deceased non-resident landholder within his parish.
- ¹¹ “59s. 9d.” was originally 59s. 6d., see Longley, *op. cit.*, 70, note 8.
- ¹² Adam the chaplain and William de Aberford were his immediate predecessors in office, see Longley, *op. cit.*, 64. The word “dominus” as “Reverend” explains the apparently knightly clergy (“Sir”) in lists of pre-Reformation incumbents.
- ¹³ Feast-day dates in round brackets are supplied by Dr Longley.
- ¹⁴ Latin for dairy-produce (“album”) means “white stuff” literally, i.e. milk etc.
- ¹⁵ J. is “I” in the Latin. Raghton is nowadays Raughton.
- ¹⁶ A *purpresture* was an illicit clearing made in the forest.
- ¹⁷ “I. Gris”. Gris would be Grice nowadays, as a surname. I = John, James or Isaac etc.
- ¹⁸ A *ferthelot* or *firlot* was a Norse unit of dry measure, thought to be a quarter of a boll – Joseph Wright (ed.), *English Dialect Dictionary* (1961 edition).
- ¹⁹ The Latin here is in the “Franglais” tradition (“spinnacio” and “wevacio”).
- ²⁰ Dressing the nap is technically “burling” (“burlaccio” here).
- ²¹ Fulling is “walking” here, its Northern word.
- ²² Greenrigg is “Grenrigg”
- ²³ Dundraw is “Dondraue”.
- ²⁴ Inglewood’s timber belonged to the King, as a royal forest.
- ²⁵ The chancel of a parish church was the Rector’s personal property, and its upkeep was his sole responsibility. Wigton Church, when John de Preston knew it, had been built by Odard de Logis in the early 12th century: it was demolished in 1787, when the present church was built – Longley, *op. cit.*, 63.
- ²⁶ “Dressing” is *mundacione* here, literally meaning “cleaning”.
- ²⁷ Thomas’s share was large; as master-mason in charge, he also acted as civil engineer and architect.
- ²⁸ Patrick was master-carpenter in charge.
- ²⁹ The “amercement” (a court fine in today’s English) was perhaps payable by the Rector for exceeding his wood-allowance.
- ³⁰ Nails is “nels” here (not even Franglais! But a glimpse of his pronunciation).
- ³¹ “5d.” is underlined in the original for emphasis, or for the auditor’s or Rector’s attention; as is 8d., 2d. the roofer’s 3d., and his assistant’s 1½d.
- ³² “Left-over from the time of”, i.e. as Rector’s agent.
- ³³ The choir is part of the chancel.
- ³⁴ Glasswrights is “glasenwrith” here, i.e. in English, not Latin; so also “fleikes” for “hurdles” and the word “lentrecclose”.
- ³⁵ Chalk Quarries were famous; they lie between Welton and Rosley, and are still occasionally in use.
- ³⁶ “Holy Communion”, i.e. the Mass.
- ³⁷ “Lord Dugal” was Dugal Macdowal, who had been Constable of Dumfries Castle for Edward II in

1311; he surrendered Dumfries to Robert the Bruce on 7 February 1312/3, was sent by Sir Andrew de Harcla from Carlisle to York in 1314, was with Sir John of Argyll (Admiral of the English Fleet in Scotland) on service in Ireland, 1315-16, was Sir John's executor (Sir John having died in London c.1317) in 1326/7, but was himself dead by 5 February 1326/7. His son, Sir Dugal (Duncan) Macdowal was taken prisoner in March 1346: Joseph Bain (ed.), *Calendar of Documents relating to Scotland* (1887), Vol. III.

³⁸ "Containers" is *vasis* here. "Inclusively" is *in grosso*.

³⁹ Flocks are waste-wool, used e.g. for old-fashioned mattresses.

⁴⁰ "house and yard" are two meanings of *curia*, the Latin word here.

⁴¹ "Ringcaus", "wipcord" (*sic*), "drescingthyne", and "ascercacio", I cannot find in any dictionary to hand. Dr Constance Fraser (*pers. comm.*) suggests that *asseres* being "planks", dressing is in the sense of preparing; from which I deduce "dressing thin", Franglais-style again.

⁴² *Daubacio* (a version of *dealbacio*) can mean whitewashing, plastering, or daubing.

⁴³ Prestona, nowadays, Preston.

⁴⁴ "table", i.e. their board.

⁴⁵ ". . . for 14 weeks [gap in text] 21d." is substituted above the line which has been crossed out.

⁴⁶ Interlined: "of servant-lads for the same period".

⁴⁷ Wages is *vadiis*, the word for "pledge", "security", "bail", "wager", or "pawn".

⁴⁸ Aiketona, now Aikton.

⁴⁹ Hill was part of the Rector's estate near Wigton.

⁵⁰ Arthuret is "Artred" here.

⁵¹ The larder was the meat-store.

⁵² I have been unable to discover what "Paris candles" were.

⁵³ "God's-penny" was luck money, a system still in use (and abuse) in the 1970s.

⁵⁴ "The Official" was a Diocesan officer.

⁵⁵ "£10 22d." *sic*: i.e. he thought in pence rather than shillings as the main local unit.

⁵⁶ The "detailed schedules" have not survived, they may have been vouchers made at the time.

⁵⁷ "The new grange" was at Waverton, within the ancient parish of Wigton.

⁵⁸ "Wheat": the climate was still warm enough.

⁵⁹ The strays "on the manor" may have got loose during a Scots raid, or merely through a gap somewhere. Strays belonged to the lord of the manor (here, the Rector).

⁶⁰ Tithes belonged to the Rector as part of his stipend, and were one-tenth of that year's produce, in cash or kind.

⁶¹ A score was 20 items, a common unit in local records.

⁶² "and five from purchase" was added later, interlined.

⁶³ "Unassigned" in the Latin here, means literally "white", which I take to mean "unmarked".

⁶⁴ The Latin word for "disease" here suggests a serious one, being "murrain" in English, the word for cattle-plague etc.: so for hens, perhaps fowl-pest.

⁶⁵ "Burden", i.e. responsibility.

⁶⁶ "Lord Rector" in full here, as donor.

⁶⁷ Dr Longley inserts "domini" (lord), i.e. Reverend) before Adam, at the indenture-mention; I omit it.

⁶⁸ The Latin for wagons here means literally "team of four".

⁶⁹ The three and a half estriks after the 13 skeps were inserted by Dr Longley – presumably she had some evidence to justify this.

⁷⁰ Multure was the use of the mill.

⁷¹ "Shoe-repairs", reading *sutur* for *sotur* here.

⁷² "Total ..." is at the foot of the membrane, under a large blank space.