



THE CHURCH OF WITTON-LE-WEAR, FROM THE S. W.

(from a photograph by M^r A. L. Stevenson, of Holywell Hall, Durham).

IV.—WITTON-LE-WEAR CHURCH.

By the Rev. J. F. HODGSON, vicar.

[Read at Witton on the 27th August, 1894.]

IN visiting a strange place, one of the first points, from an archaeological point of view, if not indeed the very first, is to enquire into the meaning and derivation of its name; the etymology of which, though oftentimes seemingly obvious enough, will nevertheless be found, on enquiry, to be something wholly different. Such is the case, not only here at Witton, but as regards the mother church and parish of Auckland; and, to take but one other instance from the county of Durham, that which the railway people, whose schoolmaster would seem to have been very much abroad, have within quite recent years converted into the lofty and romantically sounding 'Eaglescliffe.' Till then, it was known as Egglescliffe, a name which might, by some, perhaps, be thought to have reference to the church or *ecclesia* which dominates the height, but which an appeal to history—in this case, *pace* the late Cardinal Manning, neither 'heresy nor treason'—shows to have as little connection with a church as with eagles, but to have been really and originally Eggesclive—the cliff, that is, belonging to, and occupied by, Egge or Eggi.

Again, with respect to Auckland. Nothing could seem plainer, perhaps, superficially, than that the word meant Oakland. Yet, though the real meaning still remains altogether doubtful and obscure, it certainly does not mean *that*. Both syllables, though of comparatively ancient introduction, are, notwithstanding, distinct corruptions. In 1085, the name was written Alcleat; in 1129, Aclet; soon after 1200, Aclent; and not till 1259, Aucland.

And then as to Witton. What could seem simpler, or more self-evident than that it meant, as various ancient whitened cottages still remain to testify, the White-ton, or village? A practical objection to such a derivation might, no doubt, lie in the fact that, as all ancient villages were more or less whitened, there was no reason why this one should be distinguished from the rest by such a special

appellation. But a sufficient answer might be found in the fact of its peculiar position which, unlike that of most others of its class, was not on the ordinary level of the countryside, where, embowered among trees, it would speedily become inconspicuous; but perched at mid-height on the slope of a broad and deep valley, where, backed above, beneath, and on every side, by hanging woods and fields, it lay a bright white patch, visible in almost all directions, for miles around. Yet, for all that, the answer would be quite wrong; for though 'ton,' of course, means town or habitation, 'Wit' does not mean white but wood; Symeon, who first mentions the place, describing it as 'Wudutun,' the ton, not merely situated in, but probably also built of, wood.

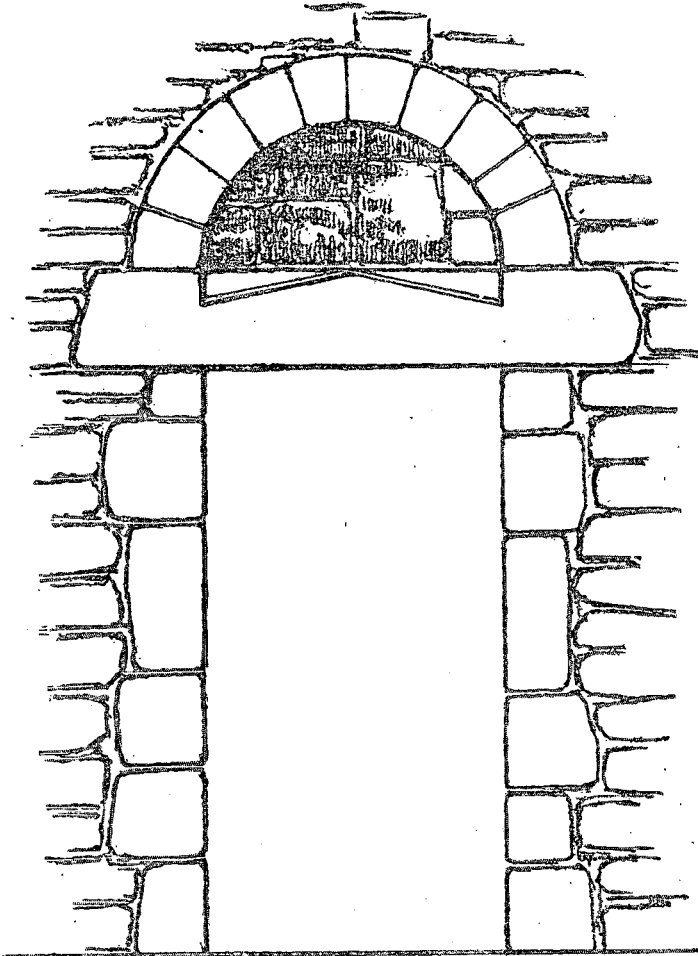
In an inquisition taken in the 24th of Bishop Hatfield (1368-9), we find the name assuming the intermediate form of Wotton. When, where, or by whom its present designation was bestowed, I cannot say; but in the first year of Elizabeth (1558), when the Church Register commences, it is styled 'Wytton upon Wyere,' and the same suffix continued certainly to as late a date as 1735, when Thomas Lamb, the then curate, notifies that he came to reside at Witton upon Wear on the ninth day of June in that year.

In 1787, however, as another memorandum, referring to the rebuilding of the Grammar school at Auckland, shows, the name would seem to have settled down into its present form of Witton-le-Wear.

Of the primitive Saxon church, or its adjuncts, we have at present no visible remains whatever. The existing building, which immediately succeeded it, and which is under the somewhat unusual invocation of S. Philip and S. James, is one of the humblest class. It has, on that account, unfortunately, received but the scantiest notice from Hutchinson, who speaks of it merely as 'a neat edifice, prebendal to Auckland college.' The omission of further particulars is the more regrettable, seeing that nearly all such ancient features as remained up to his time (1794) have, in the interim, been radically destroyed.

Very small and plain, even to baldness, and consisting, in the first instance, simply of an aisleless nave and chancel, it must, I think, have been among the very earliest buildings of its class erected after the Conquest. Indeed, so far as existing evidence serves to show, it

might, perhaps, lay claim to be the very earliest, for though but a single distinct and original feature, the south doorway, is now left, it carries us further back, apparently, than the like remains at either



J.F.H. mens. et del.

SOUTH DOORWAY OF WITTON-LE-WEAR CHURCH.

Croxdale, Haughton, Heighington, or S. Giles's, Durham, the last of which we know to have been finished in 1112. In all these cases, save that of Croxdale, which, though of the same type, is later and

more ornate, the jambs are provided with nook shafts, while here, where there is but a single severely simple order, there is none. From its close agreement, amounting to practical identity of design with those in the transepts of the cathedral, and which are recorded to have been built between 1095 and 1099, we should be warranted, I think, in referring its construction to the very beginning of the twelfth century.

As thus first planned, the church would seem to have continued without alteration for nearly a hundred years, when an aisle, opening by an arcade of three pointed arches, was attached to the north side of the nave. Like most, if not all, such appendages, it was added not so much, if indeed in any sense, for congregational, as for chantry purposes. It would therefore be of private foundation, and furnished, as usual, with a separate altar. That such was the case, though the altar itself is now, of course, gone, we have structural evidence in the planning of the arcade; the eastern respond of which is advanced some three feet from the end of the aisle, so as to form a sort of screen or protection to the altar laterally, while that at the west is carried nearly up to the wall face. But for this reason the arrangement would be palpably absurd, for while such an abutment to the thrust of the arcade was not needed to the east—where the north wall of the chancel afforded sufficient support—to the west it was, as sufficiently evidenced by the fact that, owing to its absence, both the western pillar and respond have been considerably pushed out.

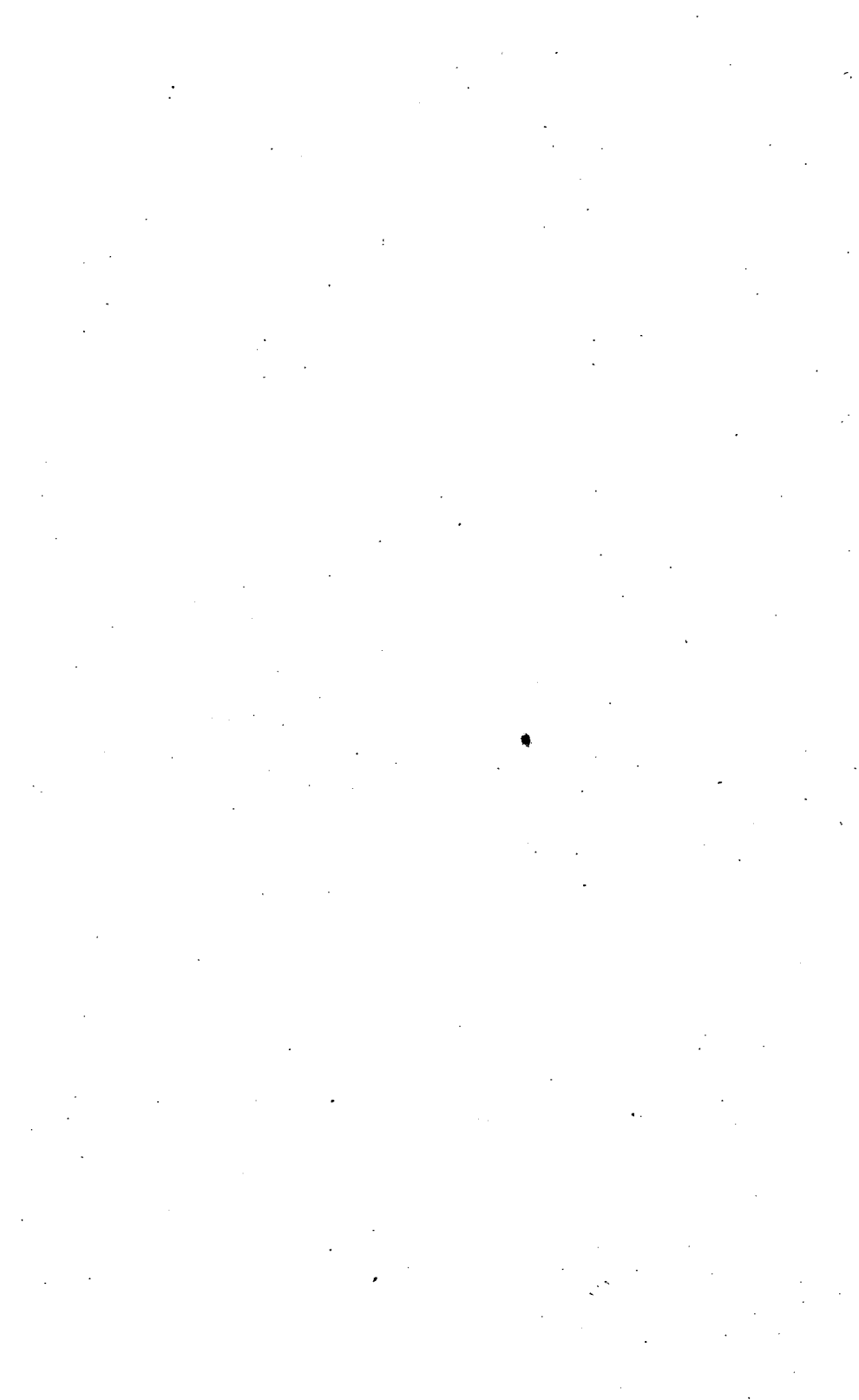
Its purpose, then, being sufficiently declared, the question at once arises as to who may have been the founder? On this point, I think, there can hardly be much room for doubt; for it is quite clear that he must have been a person of considerable local importance, and quite above the common level of the ordinary parishioners. And just as the architectural evidence of the work conclusively fixes its date, so does history, if in a somewhat less positive way, seem to point to the individual at whose cost, and for whose uses, it was carried out.

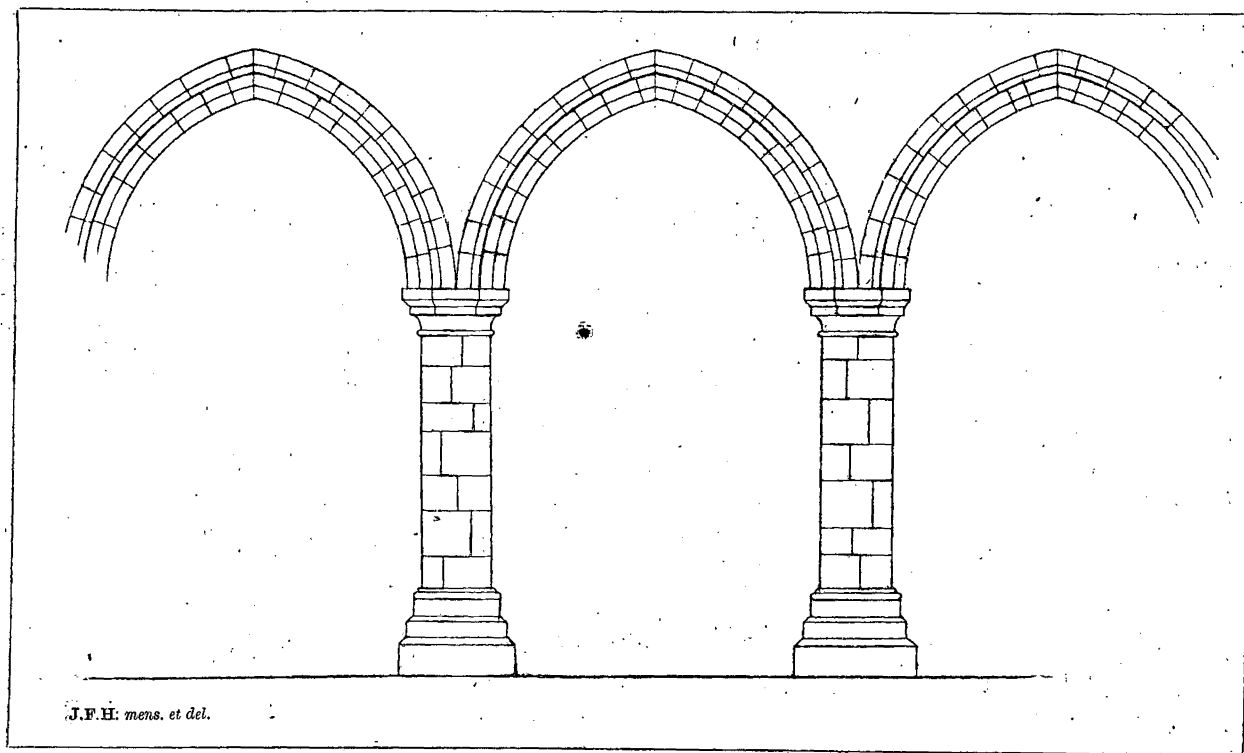
Now, we learn that during the latter part of the twelfth century, king Henry II. sold to Henry de Pudsey or Puteaco, the then royal manor of Witton, for the sum of 2,000 marks, the price of which was paid by his father, the bishop. To him, therefore, as lord of the place at the time (*circa* 1195-1200), and in absence of other competitors of at all comparable likelihood, we may, I think, fairly assign its founda-



SOUTH DOOR OF CROXDALE CHURCH

(from a photograph by Mr A. L. Steavenson).





THE NAVE ARCADE OF WITTON-LE-WEAR CHURCH.

tion. Besides the arcade which, though perfectly simple, and now much mutilated by the erection of galleries, is yet of excellent proportions, the only remaining feature is the east window, a single lancet light, at present blocked up, and only to be discovered from the coal-hole. Plain, to the last degree, it is interesting, nevertheless, as showing an early and somewhat uncommon form of treatment, the usual chamfer being reduced almost to vanishment, and backed by a broad and flat rebate. The form of its rear-arch cannot, unfortunately, now be traced, being hidden both by plaster-work and gallery.

At a later period, about 1245-50, a simple but effective porch was added as a shelter to the south door. It has a segmental pointed arch, with roll and fillet moulding continued down the sides, and finished with a hood-mould, the whole recalling strongly, if in a humble way, the work of the Nine Altars. The roof still preserves its original pitch, and has its water-tabling and cross socket perfect.

Such, so far as can be seen, was the condition of the building up to the close of the fifteenth, or beginning of the sixteenth century, when flat leaded roofs superseded the original high-pitched ones; and two flat, or nearly flat, perpendicular windows of considerable size were inserted in the west, and south walls of the nave—the latter serving to light the then new pulpit, the discovery of whose remains was made but the other day.¹

And so things remained for another century and a half, till the time of the Civil War, when all the ancient fittings, of whatever kind, were here, apparently, as in so many other places, destroyed. Such at least may be inferred from the fact that all the older ones at the present day, including the south door, which bears the incised date of 1664, belong to the period of the Restoration.

Later alterations and defacements are, alas, but too palpably and obtrusively evident. In 1780, as an emblazoned and inscribed panel informs us, the vast compound gallery, which stretches over the west end of the nave, and the whole of the north aisle was inserted by 'John Cuthbert, of Witton Castle, esquire.' Access to this was attained by building an external covered staircase and passage-way across the entire west end, thus enclosing the west window, which was thereupon destroyed and converted into a doorway.

¹ See *Proceedings*, vol. vi, p. 203.

At a still later date, and during the present century, the original Norman chancel arch with its responds was pulled down and utterly destroyed by the then lay rector, the late Sir William Chaytor, M.P. for Durham, to allow space for the construction of two enormous pews, which so encroach upon the surface as to reduce the rightful approach to the altar to a mere exiguous passage-way. At the same time, the old oak roof being taken off, was replaced by one of deal, masked by a flat, white-washed ceiling, similar to others which either then, or thereabouts, were continued over the nave and aisle.

The lowest depths of degradation in the long-suffering and disfigured fane were, however, not yet sounded. About 1850 a hideous window of village-mason origin, and filled, if possible, with still more hideous glass, was inserted to the south-east of the chancel in memory of Thomas Hendry Hopper of Witton castle, esquire ; while another, in all respects similar, but happily without the glass, took the place of the fifteenth century one similarly situated in the nave ; two others, less objectionable, only because less in size, being broken out further west, one of them to light the gallery.

Finally, the north wall of the nave aisle having fallen into ruin, has been reset in the meanest and most brutal manner conceivable, and without the least pretence to any architectural character whatever.

The miserably degraded and forlorn aspect of the much maltreated building at the present time may, therefore, readily be imagined. Yet, even now, it is not without some features of more or less interest.

First, in point of antiquity, may be instanced the rude old Norman font, perfectly plain, circular, and churn-shaped, and which batters greatly towards the top.

Then, above the doorway leading to the vestry, may be seen the remains of a quondam funereal trophy, the projecting iron support for the staff of an armorial banner, now vanished, and which still carries a real seventeenth century helmet (not a wooden dummy as sometimes happens), bearing the crest, apparently, of a lamb. It was once, doubtless, suspended above the tomb of one of the D'Arcys, then, and for many years both before and afterwards, lords of the castle and manor of Witton.

The much cut up and dislocated remains of some wooden panelling of the same, or perhaps somewhat earlier period, and which there can

be little doubt originally formed part of the seats or pews of the same family, may also be observed worked up in two others of more recent date. The designs of the upper horizontal members or friezes—for there are parts of two distinct patterns—are effective enough; that of the richer one, composed of heraldic fleur-de-lys and oak leaves, especially so. As to the rest of the seating, part of which may possibly be of seventeenth century date, the singular fact may be noted that instead of being level, as usual, it rises very perceptibly from south to north, the result of the church being built on the hill side, and its floor-line following the surface of the ground.

But little else remains, I think, worth mentioning. In the midst of the chancel floor, however, may be found beneath the matting an ancient altar slab of Frosterley marble, retaining remains of its five crosses. Its dimensions are very small, only four feet three inches in length, by two feet seven and a half inches in width;² it may, perhaps, have been taken from the chantry. Immediately west of it lies also another slab of the same material, which, though no crosses are now discernible on it, seems pretty certainly to have been devoted to the same uses. It is of very similar size, though somewhat longer, measuring four feet eight and a half inches in length, by two feet six inches in width. One of its corners has, however, unfortunately been largely broken off.

Southwards of, and immediately adjoining, the first of these two slabs, is a large blue Tees marble stone, with the Latin inscription:—

Sub hoc Marmore
depositæ sunt Exuvie.
JOHANNIS HODSHON
hujus Villæ Armiger. Ob:
5^o Die Maij. An^o Salutis
nostræ 1731: Annoq:
Ætat. suæ 62.

Also

*Here lies his dear Wife Mary
Hodgson who departed this Life April
the 18th 1760 aged 81.*

² Though of unusually small dimensions, these two altar slabs are yet considerably larger than some discovered during the restoration of S. David's cathedral, about 20 years ago. One of these is remarkably small, only 14½ inches by 9 inches. It is marked by the usual five crosses, and had been let into a larger slab of a different kind of stone. But even of this, the length is only 2 feet 10½ inches: the width is 2 feet 3 inches, but a slip 2½ inches wide has been cut away. Another, of precisely the same dimensions as this larger slab, was also discovered at the same time. Both are now carefully preserved at the back of the high altar.

It is cracked in two, and would seem, from its moulded edges, levelled up to the line of the floor with cement, to have once probably formed part of an altar tomb; at any rate, to have been certainly filched from somewhere else.

Another Tees marble slab of large dimensions, measuring nearly eight feet long by four wide, occurs also in the passage-way of the nave eastwards: it bears neither matrix nor inscription.

Of later date, but far greater interest than these, however, are two mural monuments in the chancel which should not be passed by. They are those of two former incumbents of the place—men highly esteemed and famous in their day, and whose lives have conferred on it whatever of local fame it may formerly have possessed. Both are good and modest examples of their respective styles, and occupy central, and nearly opposite positions. That towards the south, which is of white marble, shows a tall classic urn with cloth thrown over it, and standing on a broad gradated base displaying beams of light. Before it, and in reference to his dual calling of pastor and pedagogue, appear the shepherd's crook and cane, or stick, in saltire; while in front of them are thrown a scroll and open book. On the scroll is inscribed:—

*Sumat ante omnia Parentis
erga Discipulos suos animum,
ac succedere se in eorum locum,
à quibus sibi liberi traduntur,
existimet. Ipse nec habeat vitia,
nec ferat. Non austeritas ejus
tristis, non dissoluta sit comitas:
ne inde odium, hinc contemptus
oriatur. Plurimus ei de honesto
ac bono sit sermo. Nam quo sæpius
monuerit, hoc rarius castigabit.
Minime iracundus, nec, tamen
eorum, quæ emendanda erunt
dissimulator: Simplex in docendo,
patiens laboris, assiduus potius
quam immodicus.*

—Quintilian, lib. ii. Ca. . . .

On the two leaves of the book:—

—“a good Minister of Jesus
Christ, nourished up in the Words
of Faith and of good Doctrine—

an Example of the Believers, in
Word, in Conversation, in Charity,
in Spirit, in Faith, in Purity.”

Below, on a square tablet :—

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF
THE REVEREND JOHN FARRER
MINISTER OF THIS PARISH
AND MASTER OF THE SCHOOL OF THIS VILLAGE.
HAVING FAITHFULLY DISCHARGED THESE IMPORTANT DUTIES
FOR XXXIII. YEARS.
HE RESIGNED HIS SCHOOL A.D. MDCCXCIV.
ON BEING APPOINTED TO THE RECTORY OF SUNDERLAND NEAR THE SEA
FROM WHICH HE REMOVED IN THE FOLLOWING YEAR
TO THE VICARAGE OF STANWIX NEAR CARLISLE:
WHERE FIRM IN FAITH AND FULL OF HOPE
HE CLOSED A PIOUS AND BENEFICENT LIFE
NOV. XXIII. A.D. MDCCCVIII., AGED LXIII. YEARS.
ON THIS HALLOWED GROUND
DISTINGUISHED BY HIS ACTIVE SERVICES
IN ILLUSTRATING AND IMPRESSING THE SOLEMN TRUTHS OF THE GOSPEL
HIS PUPILS HAVE RAISED THIS MONUMENT
AS A TESTIMONY OF THEIR GRATITUDE AND AFFECTION
FOR HIS TRULY PARENTAL CARE AND DILIGENCE
IN TEACHING THEM THE PRINCIPLES OF LIBERAL AND USEFUL KNOWLEDGE
AND IN TRAINING THEM UP IN THE PATHS OF RELIGION AND VIRTUE.

J. BACON, JUN^R., LONDON.

The northern monument, of fine grained stone, consists of a well designed crocketed and pinnacled niche, on the field of which is cut in black letter :—

The Revd George Hewby
Master of Witton School
xxviii. Years.
Died May viith A.D. mdcccxvi.

✠ That his Memory might not
pass away with the Generation of
those who had learned of him and loved
him, a Scholarship has been founded in
the University of Durham and this
Tablet erected by some of his Friends
and Pupils. ✠

Within the altar rails there lies, moreover, a blue Tees marble slab
on which, beneath a sunk coat of arms, appears the following :—

In this Vault lie the Remains
of J. T. H. HOPPER, Esq^r,
of WITTON CASTLE,
Who died the 30th of October, 1812.
Aged 40.

Several small square stones, it may be added, having mere initials rudely hacked with a pick, appear too in the pavement towards the west end. A reference to the register shows them to be those of quite common people of the humblest sort who, during the last, and more especially the previous century, were, for no apparent reason whatever, buried '*in templo*.'

In this same register, which commences in the first year of Elizabeth, 1558, may also be found many entries relating to the families of Eure and Darcy, former lords of the castle and manor, as well as others to those of Lumley, Coniers, Hutton, and Garth.

The altar plate³ is wholly uninteresting and modern, as is also the bell.

Externally, attention may be pointed to the ancient bell-cot which, notwithstanding the destruction of the original roofs in the fifteenth century, was allowed to retain its place on the but slightly lowered gable. This singular arrangement has led many, viewing the church from a distance, and unacquainted with the fact, to imagine that it had no roof at all. It is worth noticing too—for the fact is, I think, absolutely without parallel among our Durham churches—that this bell-cot is still surmounted by its original small cross.

One other, and, so far as I remember, unique feature about this small and humble sanctuary is, that it possesses still *in situ*, and fixed upon its square massive base, the lower part of the shaft of its cemetery cross. It stands at about five yards distance from the walls, and just in a line with the chancel arch.

Finally, ere we take our leave, the well-nigh vanished sentence of a dial above the priest's door, reminds us of the melancholy truth that—'*Ut hora sic vita*.'

Looking back, instinctively, for a last parting view, we can scarce fail to note how, amid all the neglect, decay, and disfigurement that have befallen it, the situation of this old church—lying centrally on the steep hill side above the village, and enthroned amidst noble trees—is perfect; dominating both it and the conventicles at its feet supremely, and proclaiming itself unmistakably as the *ecclesia*, both of the place and parish.

³ The communion cup, which was stolen in 1832, was of Elizabethan date. The other communion plate, is described in the *Proceedings* of the Society, vol. iii. p. 444. See also vol. v. p. 195, and vol. vi. p. 230.

THE REGISTERS.

The title page of the oldest volume, which consists of 97 parchment leaves $12\frac{3}{4}$ in. by $7\frac{1}{4}$ in., bears this inscription :—UUYTTON UPON | UUYERE THE REGIS | TER BOOKE FOR THE | CHURCHE | *folia hoc infunt octoginta Libro* ♣ . 1558.

On the third page the register proper begins with this introduction :—

This booke of Christnings, weddings, and burials, Made the xxiiij dale of June, 1558. In the firsfe yeare of The Reigne of our most gracious Sou'igne Lady Elyzabeth, by the grace of God Quene of England, ffrance and Ireland, defender of the faith Supreme heade aswell Ecclefiasticall as temporall. Raphe Pickell & Edwarde Tefdell, churchwardens Robert Melmarby preist.⁴

The following are records of former owners of Witton castle, Eures, Conyers, and Darcys :—

1561 May 25. M'garett Euere, baptized.

1562 Mai 7. Charles Euere, bapt.

1562[3] March 18. Charles Euere, buried.

1563 June 4. ffrancis Euere, baptized.

1565[6] Jenuar 21. Willm Euere, bapt.

1568 M'ch 13. Martha Euere, bapt.

1586 Feb^r 21. Raphe Eure, Esq., buried.

1567 October 18. George Conyers miles, buried.

1575[6] March 18. George Conyers, sonne of M^r. John Conyers, bapt.

1611[2] februar 9. Robert Harrington and Mary Conyers, married.

1613 Deceber 16. Willm Conyers, sonn of S^r George Conyers, knight, baptized.

1614 Aprill 18. Jhon Conyers, sonn of S^r George Conyers, knight, buried.

1637[8] Januär 21. Thomas, sonne of Willm Darcy, Esquier, bapt.

1638[9] Ja. 20. John, son of Willm Darcy, Esquier, bapt.

1642 May 22. Mary, Daughter of S^r Willm Darcy, knight, baptized.

1645 July 15. Edward, sonne of S^r William Darcy, Kn^t, baptized.

1646 May 1. Edward, sonne of S^r Willm Darcy, buried.

1651 Maij 1^o. Arthur, sonne of S^r Willm Darcy, k^t, Bapt.

Sept. 2. Dorothy, daughter of S^r Willm Darcy, Kn^t, buried.

1653 March 29. Metcalf Robinson, Esq^r., and Margaret Darcy, Married.

In the following miscellaneous extracts from the Registers the year beginning on the 1st January, according to our mode of reckoning, is given, while in the book itself it begins on the 25th March; and

⁴ Robert Melmarby, curate of Witten, 1558.

therefore, for instance, '1588 Jenuar 11' below appears in the book under 1587.⁵ For four years to 1561 there were no weddings.

- 1562 Aprill 20. John Popelie, buried.
- 1563 Julij 29. Willm Lomlay, buried.
- Octob 21. Elizabeth blackett, bapt.
- 1565 August 3. George Blackett, bapt.
- 1567 Aprill 10. John Huton, buried.
- 1577 May 5. John Claiton and Jane ffrysell, married.
- May 26. Willm Emerson, fili' illic' John Emerson, bapt.
- August 17. Robert Wilkinson Clarke and Margaret Danyell, married.
- 1585 Sept. 21. Oswoulde Thomson and Isabell Staindroppe, married.
- 1588 Jenuar 11. A poore olde-man named ffoster borne at hadden bridge, buried.
- 1590 March 29. Isabell Hedworth, daugh. of M^rmaduke hedwo^rth, buried.
- August 10. John Barnes, a poore servant traviler, buried.
- Sept. 7. A poore Woman, a straunge^r, named herself M^rgarett Ewbanck, burd.
- 1592 May 27. John Raunthat, a poore traveler, buried.
- 1593 Novemb 26. Nicholas Heron and Adylne Huton, married.
- 1594 August 11. Elizabeth Brabande, wife of Henry Brabande, buried.
- 1597 Aprill 23. A poore man travelinge for his releife & dyed in the streat, buried.
- 1600 August 13. Willm Shaftay, sonne of Perceuell Shaftay, baptized.
- August 15. Willm Shaftay, sonn to Percevell Shaftay, buried.
- 1602 februar 9. Henry Rames and Elizabeth Huton, married.
- December 21. Willm Hearon and Katheren Shaftay, married.
- 1603 Deceber 4. Raphe Huton, sonn of Willm Huton, bapt.

In 1604, 'Rob. Wylkynson, curat, Cuthbert Vasey, Willm Tailer, churchwardens,' sign the book.

- 1605 Noueb. 19. George Dowens and Isabell Lampton, married.
- 1606 March 10. Margaret Wilkinson, wife of Robert Wilkinson, buried.
- December 7. Lampton Dowens, sonn of George Dowens, baptized.
- 1607 Noueb. 15. John Huton, sonn of Willm Huton, baptized.
- 1610 Aprill 29. John Ile, sonn of Xpofer Ile, from hunwicke, baptized.

It appeareth by an acquittance signed by henry bailes of Byshoppe Auckland, that he had received the 24 day of June Ano Regni Jacobi Regis 4. &c. of hugh hodgson of maknele the sune of iij^{li}. viij^s. xi^d. granted in benevolence by thinhabitants of the chappelrie of witton vpon weere towarde ye erectioⁿ of a free gramar Schole in byshoppe aucklande aforesaid.—Testes : Rob. Wylkynson, clar., Robert ffawdon.

- 1611 Jenuar 6. Henry Huton, sonn of Willm Huton, baptized.
- Dec. 8. Will^m Barnes, sonn of Thomas Barnes, bapt.
- 1612 Nouembe 25. Thomas Bridges, msus in iter, buried.

⁵ Many of the names of Carlisle, Hodgson, Wien, Tailor, Dobinson, Hutchinson, Crawe, Dixon, Diconson, Pattenson, Barnes, Mawer, Grene.

- 1614 Januar 2. Lancelote Bucke, buried.
 februarie 27. John Garth, sonn of John Garth, baptized.⁶
 Julij 10. Daudid Watson and fridema Thomson, married.
 August 28. Ma'garett Huton, daughter of Willm Huton, baptized.
 1615 Februar. 6. Petrivall Harrington, daughter of Rob't Harrington, bapt.
 Noueber 26. Robert Jackson, Maister of arts, sonn of Henry Jackson,
 buried.
 1617 Aprill 5. William Bucke, buried.
 June 15. Bryan Downes, buried.
 1618 October 25. Agnes Huton, daughter of Willm Hutton, baptized.
 1619 April 24. Thomas Boothe, buryed.
 Maij, 7. Katheren illic' filia vt mater ait Thomæ Hutchinson, bapt.
 Maij 15. Was M^r Robert Wilkinson, Curate De Witton, buried.
 Octob. 17. Thomas Parkinson, sonn of Lawranc Parkinson, bapt.
 October 24. Isabell Downes, wife of George Downes, buried.
 1620 March 26. Robert Carre, a poore man lueinge by almes buried.
 June 12. Was Georg Browne, base sonn of John Browne, baptized.⁷
 Decembr j. Was francis Greene buried, qui seipsum susp :
 1621 Janu. 9. Was Elizabethhe Downes, wedowe, late Wyfe to Bryiame
 Downes, gent. nonogenaria, buried.

In 1621, 'Ra. Greene, curate,⁸ Thomas Roase, George Rippon,
 churchwardens,' sign the book.

- 1621 Nove'br 25. Was Johne Wentlocke, a cutter of Wood for Charcoal,
 buried.
 Decembr. 23. Was Willyam Chapman, son of Thomas Chapman,
 baptized.
 Decemb. 23. Was Anthonye Chapman, his Twynn brother, baptized.
 1622 March 28. Was Raphe Taler Beadman, buried.
 1623 Mch. 21. A man found dead in the river was buried.
 July 3. Leonard Tod, the com'on Smyth, was buried.
 Aug. 24. A poore youth found deed, buried.
 14 or 15 Apr. Was a manchild of Willm Childes borne, not yet
 baptized.
 Octo. 2. W^m. Hutton, gen', was interred nocte p. papistas.

In 1623, 'Robt. Thomson, curate;⁹ John Grindall, Antho. Barnes,
 churchwardens,' sign the book.

- 1624 March 19. Grace, wife of Anthony Riddin, sepulta sine sacerdote
 nocte.

In 1625, 'Robt. Thomson, curat ; Ra. Green, Wm. Dikkeson,
 churchwardens,' occur.

⁶ A large number of instances in which a child baptised one day is buried the next.

⁷ A new form. Not a page almost without two or more baptisms of illegitimate children, and so continued. The page immediately preceding this contains two such.

⁸ Curate 1620-22.

⁹ Curate 1622-39.

- 1626 Ja. 15. An Hutton, spinster, interred nocte.
 Janu. 30. Georg Marshall, found dead, was buried.
 febr. 17. Christopher Wilburne, interred die.
- 1626 March 22. Thomas, son of Thomas Wren, bap. spurius (aspuendo).¹¹
 June 4. A child of John Nicholsons baptized.
 4. An other the same-day baptized, both by Mi. of Sandropp.
 Noue'br 2. Jane Jackson, an old wife, buried.
 Dece. 19. W^m. Byerley, a papist, interred paup'.
- 1627 March 18. Hen. Jacksons wife laboured child not xtened.
 July 8. John Carlile, an old man, buried.
 No. 6. Willm., son of Robt. Wilson, buried and crowned, being
 drown'd.
 No. 20. Elizabeth Nattrice, a poore widowe, buried.
- 1628 Ja. 10. Thomas Rest buryd, who fell into a pitt and so dyed.
 Aprill 27. Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Sickerwham, bap. illegit.¹¹
 July 13. Wm., son of Tho. Byarley, bap., for who Wm. Dobbison is
 bound by word not to charg y^e pish.
 18. Peter Hodson buried, killed with his own knife.
- 1630 May 9th. Thomas, son of Mary Basset, baptized vidua nup'
 relicta.
 Mary Bassetts son, called Thomas, bap. ide' p'dca.
 Nou. 16. Wm. Wascoe, buried in cymiterio.
- 1631¹⁰ febr. 20. William Chyld, buried in templo.
 21. Dorrothie Law, buried in templo.
 Octobr 19. Tho. Diconson, buried by Mr. Kidd.
- 1632 febr. 22. ffrauncs, a woman child, nursed at the fforge, buried.¹¹
 1632 8ber 28. Gaskoyne, son of George Downes, baptized.
- 1633 Aprill 8. Thomas, sonne of Joseph Cradocke, Clerke, bap., natus 3^o
 die circiter horam primam ante meridiem.
 Dece. 16. Dame Maddison, a poore widow, buried.
- 1634 March 24. Robert ffawdon, parish clerke, buried.
 July 10. William Dixon, a poore old man, bur.
 Septeber 22. William, son of Christopher Heron (by bond), baptized
 wife.
 No. 8. Margery Crathorne, exco'. an old gent interred.
- 1635 febr. 14. An daughter of Joseph Cradocke, Clerke, baptized.
 febr. 21. old widow Jackson, buryd, fees (this time buried in the
 church).
 March 27. Richard Benson, an old man (drowned then) buried.
 28. ffrances Draycot, excom a poore man interred.
 May 3. An daughter of John Lumley, baptized.
 June 6. ffrances Jackson, buried in templo.
 July 25. Tobie Jackson, a yong man, buried in templo.

¹⁰ In 1631 several baptisms entered without the name of the child—'a child of,' 'a daughter of.'

¹¹ Different forms of this class of entry.

- 1636 May 21. Mr. Gerard Bankes, buried in y^e church.
 March 15. John, son of Henrie ffornice, bur. sine f.
- 1637 May 17. Elizabeth Dixon, paup., buried (the number of paupers is now very remarkable).
 June 11. Georg Tayler, parish clarke, buried.
 July 30. Mr. Robt. Browne, a schoolm^r, buried.
 Aug. 17. Thomas Rippon, buried intestate.
 Jan. 22. Margret, daughter of John Miller, buried sine (the three following entries have the same ending).
- 1638 7 ber 16. Arther, sonne of Edward Dalpie, gent', (baptized).
 1639¹² July 5. 2 men children of Richard Vaisies, unbapt., buried.
 8ber. 23. Willam Acroid of the Toft hill, alias Houghton house, within the parish of St. Hellen Aucland, being a convicted recusant was interred in the Churchyard of Witton vpon the Weare.
- 1640 Jan. 26. Tho. Talbot, a poore man, bur.
 June 7. John Cuming and Margaret Barnes, married.
 Decem. 5. William Blacket, a poore Prentice, buried.
- 1642 Julij 15. An, daughter of Anthony Coming, buryd.
 Aug. 12. Edward, sonne of Robert Scogaine, minister,¹³ buried.
- 1643 August 6. Reanold, sonne of Anthony Coming, baptized.
- 1644 februe. 16. Elyzabeth, wife of Joseph Cradock, Clerke, bur.
 Dece'ber 31. Dyna, daughter of Robt. Scogaine Clarke, bapt.
- 1646 March 31. John Brabant & Jane Best, married.
- 1649 January 28. Gartrued, illigittimate daughter of Edward Jackson, baptized.¹¹
- 1649 Janu. 29. Margaret Buck, buried.
- 1651 Nov. 23. George Brabant, buried.
- 1652 June 8. George Buck and Elizabeth Booth, married.
 Augu. 23. John Jerome, gentleman, buried.
 Septe. 28. Richard Buck and Grace ffaudon, married.
- 1653 Janu. 6. Dorothy Hutton, widdow, buried.
 June 5. Margaret, daughter of George Buck, bapt.
- About this time there are many baptisms from Hamsterley.
- Dece. 25. Willm., sonne of Metcaff Robinson, Esqr., bapt.
- 1654 Jenu. 12. M^{rs}. Ellin ffelding, buried.
 Octo. 29. Mary, daughter of Richard Buck, bapti.
 Dece. 30. Barbary, daughter of George Buck, bapti.
- 1656 June 8. Elizabeth, daughter of George Buck, bapti.

The name of 'Stephen Cocken' occurs here in large letters in the margin; probably that of the intruded minister.

Septr. 7. Ann, daughter of Richard Buck, bapt.

¹² In twelve consecutive burials in this year no fewer than five, and those quite common people, would seem to have been buried in the church, the letter 't' or 'te' being inserted at the end of each entry.

¹³ Curate 1641-44.

1659 March 2. Peregrina, daughter of Charles Wren, Gent.

The number of still-born children for several years past is very striking.

- 1659 March 27. Margaret, daughter of Richard Buck, bapti.
- 1660 Decem. i. Francis, a sonne of a poore traelling woman, bapti.
- 1661 July 28. Lancelot, sonne of George Buck, baptized.
- Decem. 24. Thomas, sonne of Quintine Gill, bapti.
- 1662 febru. 16. Bartholomew Bee, buried.
- 1663 Janu. 23. Lancelot, son of George Buck, buried.
- Aprill 4. Blanch, a poore old woman, buried.
- 1664 Aprill i. Lidda Lard, buried.

In 1665, 'Stephen Windle, curat, John Carlisle, Ralph Goland, churchwardens,' sign the book.¹⁴

- 1666 Janu. 15. Francis, daughter of Stephen Windle, curate, bapti.
- 1667 Novem. 7. Henry Young, senior, gent., buried.
- 30. Quintine Gill and Jane Vauxe, married.
- 23. Robert, sonne of Francis Ourd, clerk, buried.
- 1668 Janua. 28. Frances, daughter of Francis Ourd, clerk, bapt.

In 1668, 'Francis Ourd, curate,¹⁵ Ralph Hodgson, John Miller, churchwardens,' sign the book.

- 1668 Octo. 30. Eppa Beat, buried.
- 1669 January 2. Francis, sonne of Francis Ourd, Clark, bapti.
- 25. John, sonne of John Garth, bapti.
- 1670 Janu. 17. Anthony, sonn of John Garth, bapti.
- febru. 20. Henry, sonn of Mr. Tho. Brabant, bapti.
- 20. Henry, sonn of Mr. Tho. Brabant, buried.
- July 19. Willm. Mostcroft & Dorothy Hutton, married.
- 1671 Janu. 14. Willm., sonne of John Garth, bapti.
- Januarij 18. Henry Warde, gent., buried.
- febru. 27. John, sonne of Francis Ourd, Clarke, bapti.
- 1673 febru. 28. A childe of a poore travelling man, bury.
- March 25. Ann, daughter of John Garth, bapti.
- Decem. 2. Michael, sonne of Francis Ourd, clark, bapti.
- 1674 March 17. Ellin, daughter of John Garth, bapti.
- March 30. Merioll Garth, buried.
- Aprill 3. Christopher Dixon, a poore man, buried.
- June 16. Ann Simson, a poore woman, buried.
- 1675 febru. 21. Robt. Duckett (being killed in a pit crowned then), buried
- Aprill 20. Katherine Renoldson, a young woman, buried.
- May 9. Elizabeth Carlile, a young woman, buried.
- Octo. 29. A child of a poore travelling womans, bury.
- Noue. 3. Margaret, daughter of Toby Bowes, illigi, bapti.

¹⁴ Stephen Windle, curate 1644-1667.

¹⁵ Francis Orde was curate from 1667 to 1674.

In 1675, 'John Stackhouse, minister;¹⁶ Willm How, Christo. Addeson, churchwardens,' sign the book.

- 1676 Janu. 4. Barbary, daughter of Mr. Willm Witham, interred.
23. [blank] of John Garth, bapti.
- 1677 March 20. Anthony, son of John Garth, buried.
Aprill 19. Thomas, son of John Stackhouse, minister, baptized.
24. George, son of John Garth, bapti.
- 1678 Aprill 20. Thomas, son of John Stackhouse, minister, buried.
Julij 14. Anthony, son of John Garth, bapti.
- 1679 ffebruary 8. Thomas waskoe, a young man, bury.
March 3^d. ffancis Tayler, gent., bury.
June 23. Ann, daughter of John Stackhouse, minister, bapti.
Octo. 14. Jane, daughter of Eure Markendell, bapti.
- 1680 March 21. Elizabeth, daughter of John Garth, bapti.
- 1681 Jany. Mary, wife of John Garth, buried.
- 1683 Sept. 14. A child of John Garths, buried.
- 1685 March 14. Ann, wife of M^r. Hugh Hutchinson, buried.
- 1686 March 16. Elizabeth, wife of John Garth, buried.
August 25. John, son of Mr. John Stachouse, curate, buried.
Nouemb. 2. Ann, wife of M^r. John Stachouse, buried.
- 1687 May 3i. John, y^e sonne of Katherine Patteson, sepult.
- 1689 March 23. Marie, y^e daughter of M^r. Christo Croft, sepult.
- 1689 Decber. y^e 1st. Anne Burleson, daughter of Ann Burleso', illegit., bap.¹⁷
y^e 29. Marie, daughter of M^r. John Stackhouse, cleric, bap.
- 1691 October 27. Elizabeth, daughter of M^r. Jo. Stackhouse, minister, bap.
Nove. y^e 7th. Mary Hutchinson, illegitimate, bap.¹⁸
- 1692 May y^e 17th. Anthony, sonne of John Garth, sepult.
- 1693 No^{br}. the 7. Joanna, daughter of Mr. John Stackhouse, cl^r., bap.
- 1694 March y^e 21th. Mr. William Witham, sepult.
June y^e 22^d. Thomas Gomlin, a stranger's child, sepult.
July the 23. Anne, daughter of M^r. John Markendale, bapt.
September y^e 5th. Jane, the daughter of M^r. John Hodsho'.
- 1696 February y^e 4th. John, sonne of Mr. John Hodsho', bap.
Quyntine Gill, sepult.

Memorand^m. That on ffriday the 30th of Aprill, A^o Dni, 1697; The Hon^{ble}. Robert Boothe Archdeacon of the Archdeaconry of Durham, wth the Rev^d. Ham'ond Beaumont official visitted this Church p'sonally, & then admonished the Churchw^{ds}. to certify, the repair of y^e Chancell, & the Erecting Railes before the Communion Table at the next Michaelmas Visitation.

CUTH. SMITH, Register.

¹⁶ John Stackhouse, minister, 1674-95. We commenced with 'priest,' and after that had 'curate' and 'clark,' now for the first time it is 'minister.'

¹⁷ This is the first time in which an illegitimate child is registered under the name of the mother. In all preceding cases—and they are legion—the father's name only is given.

¹⁸ Still another form of entry of illegitimate births, the name of neither parent being given.

- 1698 June 12th. Jo., so'ne of Jo. Davis, a vagabond beggar, sepult.
- 1701 febr. 17th. William Garth & Marie Moses, of Northbedbourn Township, 'nupt.
- July 30th. Grace Buck, of Witton, sepult.
- 1702 May 5th. Thomas Wright, of y^e South Church Parish, & Eliza Dickeson, of Northbedbourn, in this Parish, nupt.
- 1703 Sep. 16. A poore vagrant Scotchman, sepult.¹⁹
- 1702 Octob^{er}. 13th. Elizabeth, daughter of William Garth, of Northbedbourn, bap.
- 1704 Aprill 23. Georg Gibson, of y^e Parish of Howton, cleric, & Jane Croft. of y^e Chappelrie of Witton upon Weare, nupt.
- June 8. Thomas Miller & Jane Chayter, of Northbedbourn Township, nupt.
- July y^e 6th. Elizabeth, daughter of Eliza Moorca, a stranger at Witton Razis, baptized.
- 1705 februarie y^e 12th. Marie, y^e daughter of William, son of William Garth, of Northbedbourn, vill bap.
- 1707 Jan^{ry} 22th. Edmond, sonne of James Watson, cleric, baptized.
- March 21th. William, sonne of William Garth, of North vill, bap.
- 1708 September 12th. Richard, sonne of a stranger, bap. eod. die.
- 1709 Oc^{ber} 20th. Barbary, daughter of M^r. Lancelott Sissons, cleric' born 8^{ber} y^e 19th about 2 a clock in y^e morning, bap.
- 1708 Aug. 13th. John, son of Lanc^t Sisson, cleric' sepult.
- 1714 November 14th. Mary, daughter of Mrs. Jane Gibson, of Witto, sepult.
- 1715 October 16. William Dobinso' of Witto, sepult in ecclesia.²⁰
- 1717 March y^e 5. Marie, daughter of Joⁿ Dobinso', of Witto Castle, baptized.
- 1717 Sep^{er} 22th. Mary, wife of William Garth, of Harpelie, sepult.
- 1717 March 24. Isabell, daughter of M^{rs}. Jane Gibso', sepult in ecclesia.
- 1720 Jul^y 26th. Anne Buck of Witton, spinster, sepult.
- 1721 John, sonne of William Garth, baptized y^e 27th of December.
- 1720 January y^e 1st. Thomas Forrester, drowned & buried y^e 9th of y^e same month.
- 1721 March 3ith. John, son of Johu Fewler of Wito vill, s^e.
- Sep^{ber} 29th. Mary Buck of Witton, sepult.
- 1722 Ap^{ril} 12th. John Garth of low Widdefield, sepult.
- 1724 Aril. 7th. Margaret, daughter of Will. Garth, Northbedburn, baptised.
- 1725 March the 12. Will. Garth of Harperlie, sepult' in eccles.
- 1726 August 4. William, son of M^r. Reed Hodshon of Witto' Hall, bap.
- 1728 Dec. 10. Hannab, daughter of Parsevels Rogers, of Witton Castle in Witto' vill, baptized.
- 1729 Catherine, y^e daughter of M^r. Henry Blackett of low Bitchbourne, born y^e 29th of March, 1729.

¹⁹ A large number of names entered as 'poor' at this time and a little previously, nine out of nineteen being so described on the single page from which this item is taken.

²⁰ All sorts of common people about this time buried 'in Ecclesia.'

1730 April 14. Debora, y^e daughter of Mr. Henry Blackett of low Bitchbourn, born.

May y^e 5th. Henry Bainbridge of Wolsingham and Elizabeth Garth of Witto' chapplerie, nup.

1731 May y^e 6. M^r. John Hodsho' of Witto' hall, sepult in ecclesia.

1732 Ap^l 14. M^r. Thomas Hodsho' of Greenfield, sepult in ecclesia.

Memorandum That I, Thomas Lamb Clark, came to reside at Witton upon Wear the ninth day of June, Anno Dmⁱ, 1735..

1734 Nov^r. 5. Parc. Rogers of Witton Castle, sepult.

1736 November 15. Simon Taylor, kill'd by his mare of Blakely, buried.

1737 Feb. 13. Mary, daughter to John Hodgson, of Harperley, baptized.²¹

1738 March 5. Barbara, daughter to W^m. Greenwell of Harperley, baptized.

1739 July 27. Stephen Cockey Clark of Witton, buried.

1740 febr^r. 13. Phebe, daugh^r of John Taylor Clark, baptisd.

1741 October 13. John, son of W^m. Greenwell of Harperley Hall [bapt].

In 1741, 'Steph. Teasdale, minister,²² Thos. Baker, Cuthb^r. Hodgson, churchwardens,' sign the book.

1742 feby. 18. Francis Wilkinson of Witton Castle, buried.

1744 July 8th. Will^m., S. of Ann Garthwaite, spurious, filiated upon Jno. Coats, baptized.

October 14. Ann, daughter of John Taylor Clark, baptized.

May y^e 15. M^r. Daltory of Staindrop, a superannuated Exciseman, buried.

Decemb^r. y^e 1st. Henry Blacket, an Anabaptist, buried.

Jan^ry 14. M^r. Hunter, a Papist, buried.

1750 Nov^r. 15. Ann Garth [bur].

1753 May 27. Ralph Keeling, Esq^r., of Witton Castle [buried].

1757 May 7. Ann Brown of Bp. Auckland, an adult Quaker [bapt].

Nov. 11. Johnson, son of M^r. Greenwell, Witton Castle [bap].

1759 July 28th. Cookson, S. of Jno. Stevenson, schoolmaster [bap].

1760 September y^e 26. M^{rs}. Dobinson, wife of Mr. Jno. Dobinson²³ [bur].

Memdm., Feby. y^e 2^d, 1761.—That Mr. John Dobinson of Witton Castle gave me four shillings & eightpence acknowledgement for erecting a tombstone over his wife. As witness, Steph. Teasdale, curate.

1761 Isabella, D. of M^r. Nicholas Greenwell, [bap].²⁴

1762 Aug^t. 22^d. John Taylor Clark, [buried].

1763 Feby y^e 8th. John Pattison, y^e Sexton.²⁵

1764 April 27th. Thomas Brown, an adult Quaker, of Bp. Auckland, [baptised].

1765 May 12th. Elizabeth Hymers, an adult Anabaptist, [baptised].

'John Farrer, Minister,' occurs here.

²¹ There are many other entries of Hodgsons. ²² Minister, 1740-1765.

²³ There are entries of other Dobinsons. ²⁴ Other entries of Greenwell follow

²⁵ The first occurrence of this officer.

- 1766 Mar. 30th. Dorothy, daug^r of Jos. Scarth, an Anabap., [bapt].
 June 22^d. Ann, daug^r of Tho^s. Smith, an adult Anab., [bapt].
 1766 July 5th. Thomas Dickinson, } drowned together } Witton, [bur].
 7th. John Whitfield, } on June the 30th, }
 Augst 17th. George Thompson, an adult Anab., [bapt.]

In 1767 the names of both parents are, for the first time, entered in the baptismal registers.

- 1769 Mar. 30th. Tho^s. Watson & Alice Teasdale, adult Anabaptists, [bap].
 1770 Mar. 18. Henrietta Douglas, of Witton hall, [bur].
 1771 Apr. 29. John Hodgson, who laid violent hands on himself. The coroner's inquest brought it in an act of lunacy.
 1773 June 13th. Grace, illegitimate daug^r of Marg^t Graydon & Jos. Brownbridge, putative Father, [bap].
 Aug. 29th. Henry Broadley Douglas, son of Charles Joseph and Henrietta Douglas, Witton hall,¹¹ [bap].
 1774 Apr. 4th. Hildred Smurthwaite, widow, aged 94 [bur].
 1775 May 14th. William Smith, an adult Anabaptist, [bap].
 Dec^r 28th. George Proud & Mary Humble, [mar].
 1777 Feb^{ry} 1st. William, illegitimate son of Eliz. Forster & W^m. Brass, of Whorlton, [bap].
 1777 N.B.—Six persons in this year made 491 years. Their respective ages are, 81, 85, 70, 91, 83, and 81. Only eight persons were buried in this year.
 1779 May 18th. William Garth, of Low Widdifield, aged 72.
 1781 Sepb^r. 28th. Joseph, son of Marmaduke Cradock, Esq., of Harperley, [bap].
 1782 Nov^r. 20th. John Turnbull in his way to his Settlement [bur].
 1783 Mar 20th. William Weston, a poor boy belonging to the Poor House at Wolsingham, drown'd in the Wear [bur].
 1784 June 17th. Jane Blackett, an adult Anabaptist.
 Sepb^r. 1st. Matthew Law crush'd to death in a coal pit [bur].
 Dec^r. 18th. William Crosby, of Darlington P., who perished in the snow on Dec^r. the 7th, thro' the inclemency of the weather [bur].
 1785 Oct^r. 2^d. Harriett, daug^r of Marmaduke Cradock, Esq., of Harperley.
 1786 Jan^{ry} 23^d. M^{rs}. Sarah Cradock, of Harperley, aged 75 [bur].
 Feb^{ry} 20th. Mrs. Isabel Hodgson, formerly of Witton hall, aged 84 [buried].
 Apr. 12 David Wharton, of Bp. Aukland, drown'd in passing the river in a boat [bur].

Memorandum.—That the Grammar School in Witton-le-Wear was rebuilt from the very Foundation in the Year of our Lord 1787. John Cuthbert, Esq^{re}. of Witton Castle having by one or more Codicils left an hundred Pounds in Trust to the Rev^d. John Farrer, Minister and Schoolmaster, and M^r. Nicholas Greenwell,

Steward at Witton Castle, for the express purpose of enlarging the said School. The Sum of £97 4s. 1d. was receiv'd, the rest defray'd the Law Expenses in a Chancery Suit.

N.B.—The sum expended in rebuilding the School was £134.

	£	s.	d.	
Rec ^d . of Mr. Cuthbert's Legacy ...	97	4	1	
Rais'd by Mr. Farrer & his Frds ..	36	15	11	£134

Trustees for money left to teach 10 Boys in 1788 :—

Henry Attrick Reay, Esq^r., of Hunwick.

Robert Hopper Williamson, Esq^r., of Whickham.

1794 Aug^t. 14th. Mr. Nicholas Greenwell, Witton castle, aged 78 [buried].

1795 William Rawes, Curate [bur].

Mar. 12th. Rosetta Anne, daughter of John Thomas Hendry & Anne Hopper, Witton castle, [bap].

1796 October 18th. Elizabeth Jane, daughter of George Pearson, Esq^{re}., of Harperley Park, and Betty, his wife, late Betty Chaytor, born the 14th September last.

1797 Feb. 4th. Mary Garth, low Widowfield, 97 [bur].

1798 Mary Anne Hopper, June 9th, 2nd daughter of John Tho^s. Hendry Hopper, Esquire, native of Middleham, by his wife, Anne Sparling, native of Walton, Lancashire. Born Nov^r. 9th, 1796 [bapt].

Eliz. Isabella Hopper [bapt. same day].

1799 Martha Shirley Rawes, February 24th, 1st daughter of William Rawes, Clerk, native of Shap, Westmorland, by his wife, Anne Cantwell, native of St. Bennet's, Paul's Wharf, London. [bap].

John Bowness, March 3rd, 1st son of Rev^d. Geo. Bowness, Curate of Hamsterley, a native of Kirk Andrews, Cumberland, by his wife, Catherine Jackson, native of Escomb. [bap].

1800 George Bowness, Curate [bur].

1806 Mark Newby, July 26th, first son of George Newby, native of Barningham, by his wife Margaret, late Crawford, native of Staindrop [bur].

1798 George Pearson, Esquire, Harperley park, Clerk of the Peace for the county of Durham, native of Ryton parish, 54 years, [bur].

1810 George Wright, North Bedburn, farmer, 100 [bur].

1811 John Thomas Hendry Hopper, Esq^r., Witton castle, 40 [bur].

1816 April 15th. Calverly Bewicke Bewicke, Esq^r., & Elizabeth Philadelphia Wilkinson [mar].

1817 Sept. 16th. George Hutton Wilkinson, Esq^r., & Elizabeth Jane Pearson [mar].

Memoranda of the Answers to the questions contained in the schedule to an Act 1^o Geoⁱ 4th intitaled an Act for taking an account of the population of Great Britain & of the increase or diminution thereof.

June 4th, 1821. What was the number of baptisms & burials in your parish in the several years 1811, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 & 20, distinguishing males from females?

Answer—116 males, 113 females. Total bap^d 234.
49 do., 47 do. Total buried 96.

What has been the number of marriages in your parish in the s^d time?

Answer—52.

N.B.—The number of illegitimate children is 22 : This lamentable increase of vice must in part be attributed to lax discipline, and to the manner in which relief is granted to paupers of this description.

This year, 1821, the best wheat in Darlington market has been sold at six shillings and sixpence per bushel ; which, contrasted with the high prices during the war (viz., 18s. and 19s. per bushel) affords some idea of the fluctuation of prices to which in the space of a few years we have been subjected.

Butcher's meat 4d., 5d., and 6d. per pound.

Day labourer's wages per week, 10s., 12s., and 14s.

Geo^e Newby, Curate.

William Gill, Churchwarden.

CHURCHWARDENS' ACCOUNTS.

The following are extracts from the Churchwardens' accounts :—

Hic liber mercatus erat p' utu Parochiæ de witton super Weare Anno Dni 1690.

Aprill y^e 26th Anno Dni 169i ;

Rec^d. of Ralph Potts 4^s : 8^d interest money due upon the bond for y^e wham

It. rec^d of Robert Stobbert sen. 6^s : 10^d due for interest money upon ye bond

January y^e 10th Anno Dni 1692

Memrd' Asels laid on by y^e Minifter and twelve of this Parish of 4^d p' shilling for y^e necesarie repaires of y^e Church ; witness our hands

John Stackhouse Minister²⁶

April 22th 1690 Disbursed p^d to M^{es} Holmes for wine for Commu-

nions (vift) whitfuntide Michaelm & Chriftmafs ... 00 14 00

p^d for a belrope ... 00 01 09

p^d for a ffox head ... 00 0i 00

p^d for 4 foolmart heads ... 00 0i 04

Septem^{br} y^e 20th Anno Dni 169i Disbursd

It' for mending y^e Longsettle ... 00 00 02 00

It' for Ale ... 00 00 06 00

It' for 8 foomert heads ... 00 02 08 00

It' for 2 Raven heads ... 00 01 00 00

It' for 2 Badger heads ... 00 01 00 00

It' for a skep for y^e Minifter to knell ... 00 00 04 00

It' for wathing y^e Linnen ... 00 02 08 00

It' for keeping out the dogs ... 00 04 00 00

Aprill 25th Ao Dni 1692, Debitor Inp^{rs} for a Lairftall ... 00 03 04 00

Disbursd It' for mending y^e Bier ... 00 00 03 00

It' for besoms...	...	...	...	...	...	00	00	06	00
It' for 6 foomert heads	...	...	...	...	...	00	02	00	00
It' for one foomert head	...	...	...	...	...	00	00	04	00

[Payments for washing linen, keeping dogs out of church, for visitations, glazing church windows, etc., occur annually.]

May y^e 14th Ao. Dni. 1693 : Disbursd for year 1692

	li	s	d
Inp ^{rs} for a Bell rope ...	00	02	00 0
It' to Briscoe Mires for a foomert head ...	00	00	04 0
It' to Cuthbert Vasie for 4 Raven heads ...	00	00	08 0
It' to Richard Kilbourn for a foomert head ...	00	00	04 0
It' to Robert ffawd ⁿ for whipping the dogs ...	00	04	00 0

Aprill y^e 21st Ao Dni 1694 : Disbursd for year 1693

It' at one Comunio' for a gallo' of Wine ...	00	07	00 0
It' for 3 foomard heads ...	00	01	00 0

May y^e 12th Ao Dni 1695 : Disbursd for year 1694

It' for mending y ^e Churchgate ...	00	01	8 0
It' for 5 foomert heads ...	00	01	8 0
It' for laying y ^e stones in y ^e Church & mending y ^e stile	00	01	0 0

[Every year charges for 'foomert' heads occur.]

The names of the Twelve choien men for regulating the affairs in y^e Parifh of Witton

M ^r John Hodgson	John Carlile
Nicolas Taylor	Christopher Hodgshon
Rob ^t Taylor	Tho: Todd
John Taylor	Richard Marfhall
M ^r Chris: Croft	Will: Braidly
John Richardson	John Gray

Chofsen Decembr^r 21, 1695.

Geo: Gibson, Minist^r 27

Memorand' The Churchward^{ns} from May y^e 1st 1719 are by cosent to have 6^s allowed for their Charges for the whole yeare.

May y ^e 31 th 1696 It' for a Badgers head ...	00	00	4 0
Aprill 30 th 1697 It' for flagging plaistring & whiteing Church	09	19	0 0
It' for 38 Bowles of Lime ...	00	19	0 0
It' for 6 Bushells of Hare & ffetching ...	00	04	0 6
May 11 th Ao Dni 1698 It' to widdow Turner for 2 Plates	00	02	0 0
It' at Whitsuntide 5 Quarts of Wine ...	00	08	4 0
It' at Xmas. 5 Quarts & a halph ...	00	09	2 0
It' for repairing the seats in publick ...	00	04	0 0
May 15 th Ao Dni 1699 It' for mending y ^e Bell ...	00	06	08
It' for mending y ^e stile & y ^e Bier ...	00	00	8
It' for y ^e Porch Gates... ..	00	19	0
Ap ^{ri} l, 21 th Ao: Dni: 1700 It' for a Cirpeloath ...	02	10	0
It. for a start in y ^e Bell	00	00	4 0
May 18 th Ao. Dni. 1701 It' for a Cloath to y ^e Alter Table	00	15	06
It' for Two poore Travellers	00	01	0 0
It' for 2 Boxes to gather Almes in	00	01	04
May 1 st Ao: Dni. 1702 ; It' for repaireing & hanging y ^e Bell...	00	03	8 0

It' paid for ale when Meeting was about y ^e poore	...	00	02	0	6
It' for 3 Brock heads	...	00	01	0	0
Ap ^l 5 th Ao Dni 1703 It' for bringing a praier Book	...	00	00	6	0
It' for a stile & spade	...	00	05	0	0
May y ^e 4 th Ao: Dni: 1704 It' for wood & workmanfhip about					
Churchyard & Pindfold Doors	...	00	10	0	0
Ap ^l 18 th Ao: Dni 1706 It' for Leather to hang y ^e Belle tounge in	...	00	00	06	0
It' for a Raven head	...	00	00	02	0
May 14 th 1710 for 2 shifts for Jennet Wright	...	00	05	0	
For y ^e Caufie at the low end of Clemie Lonning	...	00	04	0	
1711 p ^d for mending y ^e dyall	...	00	00	6	
1714 To Ro. Tayler for a hack shaft a shovel & hanging the					
Bell Tongue	...	00	01	0	0
1718 for a new Bel Rope	...	00	2	0	
1719 for 4 pate heads	...	00	02	00	

Given to John Tinsly of pilling in the County of Lan-

caster for y^e sea breaking in ... 00 04 00

The names of the twelve chosen men for regulating the affairs of the Parish of Witton

Read Hodgson
Joⁿ Dobinson
Robert Taylor
Simon Taylor
James Croft
George Craggs
Thomas Gills

Tho Carlile
Chris: Hodgshon
William Garth
Joⁿ Snaith
W^m Bradly
George Simpson

Ezra Emerson Minist^r 28

Chofen May The 3^d 1719

1721 for shifting the old Bell	...	00	01	00
paid to Will Wascœ for hanging y ^e bells	...	00	09	00

Nov^{br} 23^d 1723

Whereas there has been an antient Custom upon any Persons being buried in the Body of the Church that the Execut^{rs} or Relations of such Person always paid ten Groats for having such Liberty into the Hands of the Church Wardens then in being who imploy'd the s^d Moneys as they see fit having at the same time the Consent of the twelve of the s^d Parish for such Disposal 'Tis therefore order'd and agreed by and with the Consent of the Minister and twelve that no Person from the Date hereof shall have Liberty of being buried in the Body of the Church except they pay the Su^m of ten Groats to the Church Wardens then for the time being before they be admitted into the Church or take up any Stones in the Body of the s^d Church in Order for such Burial.

[Signed by 'Ezra Emerson Minist^r' and six others, including 'Stephen Corkey Paroc' Cleric'.]

1722 Paid to the Perfon for the poor man	...	0	2	0
for a Badgers Head	...	0	0	6
1727 For y ^e Bishops lre	...	0	1	0
For mending y ^e Punfold wall	...	0	1	9
For putting y ^e Parchment into Register	...	0	0	6
For mending y ^e Surpleth	...	0	0	3

²⁸ Curate 1714-1735

	for Natts	0	0	4
	Church diall	0	5	0
1731	Inp ^s 14 yards of hollin at 3 ^s a yard	2	2	
	To Robert Tayler for mending y ^e Pues... ..	0	7	0
	for 10 ffurdailes & half at 18 ^d a piece	0	15	9
1732 & 1733	for binding y ^e Bible	00	08	00
	Exchanging a Plate	00	00	06
1735	Makeing a new Stile	0	3	0
	By repairing the Punfold Wall	0	0	6
	By a new Bell Rope	0	0	8
1736	By a New Table Cloth	0	16	0
	By a New Flagon	0	5	6
1737	By a pair of New Stocks & a Lock	00	05	00
1743	N.B. This year y ^e following Contributions were given by y ^e Gentlemen whose names are below for procuring Queen Ann's Bounty.			
	The Hon ^{ble} & right Rev ^d y ^e Bp. of Durham	50	0	0
	The patron John Cuthbert Esq ^{re}	63	0	0
	Robert Shafto Esquire	21	0	0
	Lord Crew's Trustees	20	0	0
	The Rev ^d M ^r Teasdale y ^e present Curate	50	0	0
		204	0	0
	& some time after M ^{rs} Douglas of Witton Hall gave	6	6	0
	which defray'd y ^e Charges of a purchase made at Wolsingham			
1755	N.B. The Rails at y ^e altar were erected this year			
	M ^{rs} Cuthbert gave y ^e Altar Cloth & M ^{rs} Douglas y ^e Velvet pulpit Cushion.			
1762	Vestrymen chosen Janry y ^e 19 th			
	M ^r Jn ^o . Dobinson of Witton Castle,			
	M ^r Nicholas Greenwell of Witton Castle			
	Peter Jones			
	Robert Taylor of Witton			
	George Snaith of Marshal Green			
	& George Craggs of Allandale			
	The other Township			
	M ^r Anthony Atkinson of Widowfield			
	William Garth of Low Widdowfield			
	Thomas Briggs of y ^e Fold			
	Thomas Hodgson of Sandy Bank			
	John Jackson of Old Wadlow			
	& John Atkinson Jun ^r of Harperley			
	Witnefs Steph. Teasdale Minister			
1763	To drawing Sentences in the Church	2	11	0
	To taking glass out of Church Window	0	0	2
	To Fomett Heads	0	1	0
1764	To drawing the ten Comandm ^{ts}	4	10	0
	To 4 Foulmarts Heads		1	4
1771	By a Form of Prayer		1	
	By a Pitch-pipe		5	
	By a Foulmart's Head			4
1773	By a Dial 5 ^s and Whitning the Ch £1.7.	1	12	
	By a Bell rope		1	6

1775	By mending Pews & 3 Matts	...	...	...	...	...	2	8
	By a new Ladder	...	...	...	...	...	7	0
	By a Rope for letting down Corpse...	...	...	...	...	...		6
	By a Fox's Head	...	...	...	...	...	1	
	By 5 Foulmart's Heads	...	...	...	...	...	1	8
1779	By 17 Foulmarts & 1 Otter's H ^d	...	...	...	...	...	6	8
1780	By Fox & 12 Foulmarts	...	...	...	...	...	5	0
1783	By Licence for registring without stamps	...	...	...	...	...	6	0
	By binding Book of Offices	...	...	...	...	...		9
	By 7 Foulmart's Heads & Almanac...	...	...	...	...	...	2	11
1793	By a Cover for Font & Seat for Sexton	...	...	...	...	...	14	
	By 5 Foulmart's Heads	...	...	...	...	...	1	8
1795	Stocks & Lock	...	...	...	...	...	13	6
1797	By whitewashing & clean ^g Church	...	...	...	...	...	1	1 0
	By Looking Glafs	...	...	...	...	...	2	6
1803	By a Pitch pipe	...	...	...	...	...		6
1806	By Geo. Ramshaw's Bill	...	...	...	...	...	1	13 3
	By Cleaning the Gravel Walk	...	...	...	...	...	2	6
1808	By Foulmarts heads	...	...	...	...	...	2	4
1811	By a Foulmart's head ²⁹	...	...	...	...	...	1	
1812	By Wine & porter in the time of the Fever	...	...	...	...	...	12	6
	By Carriag for Iron Chest	...	...	...	...	...	1	4
1813	By Iron Chest...	...	...	...	...	...	10	10
1816	By Grave Straps	...	...	...	...	...	4	
1820	Ornaments for pulpit...	...	...	...	...	...	12	8
	Given to a man in distress	...	...	...	...	...	3	6
1821	Window Curtains	...	...	...	...	...	1	6 9½
1822	Briefs 2/-, Candles 5/6...	...	...	...	...	...	7	6
	Green cloth for Door	...	...	...	...	...	15	
[A sum from Mr. Sheppardson or incumbent of St. Mary le Bow in lieu of 2 bottles of wine, of 7s. occurs regularly from 1823 to 1842, when the book ends.]								
1825	Registering Briefs	...	...	...	...	...	2	
1827	Flaggon	...	...	...	...	...	4	4
1832	repairing roads in C ^b Garth	...	...	...	...	...	6	
1833	Postage of a Letter	...	...	...	...	...		5
1834	Cash from Sir W ^m Chaytor Bart being a moiety of the expence of the repair of the chancel	...	...	...	...	...	13	19 8½
	To Cash from G. H. Wilkinson Esq ^r being other moiety of expence for the repair of the Chancel	...	...	...	...	...	13	19 8½
1836	March 26 M ^r P. Fair's Bill for a New Bible	...	...	...	...	...	3	4 6
	from voluntary donations toward a New Bell	...	...	...	...	...	8	10 3
	sold the old Bell	...	...	...	...	...	7	0 3
1838	Aug ^t 6 Paid Carrier for the carriage of 2 Bells to Newcastle	...	...	...	...	...	10	6
	To a Bell Rope	...	...	...	...	...		6 8
	M ^r Abbot's Bill for a new Bell	...	...	...	...	...	17	5 4
1842	To two plans of the pews in the church including frame and glass	...	...	...	...	...	1	7 0

²⁹ The last entry for 'vermin' occurs this year.