

Northwold Churchwardens' Accounts

1626—1795.

BY PERCY MILLICAN, F.S.A.

This interesting and important record has recently been discovered among the archives of the Norfolk County Council where, it seems, it was deposited some years ago.

Churchwardens' accounts, if properly and consistently kept over a period of many years, throw more light on parochial activity than any other record. Therefore this manuscript is of special interest, for here we have a mass of information relating to alterations and repairs to the fabric and accessories of the church; local charities and the disposal of the income derived therefrom; roads and road repairs; the building and rebuilding of almshouses and of a workhouse; the institution of a parish school; and protective measures against flood, fire and contagion.

The volume comprises some three hundred leaves of paper of folio size bound in calf. Unfortunately the binding has collapsed so that many of the leaves are loose; otherwise the manuscript is in very fair condition, and, with the exception of minor damage, is perfectly legible. Apparently, this record originally commenced in 1625—the year of the accession of Charles I—but the pages for that year are missing.

It is impossible here to include all the items of interest recorded in this book; but the following selection is set forth as a general index of its contents—sufficient, it is hoped, not only to demonstrate the value of this type of parish record, but also to supplement and to confirm the information published in the second volume of Blomefield's *History of Norfolk* concerning this parish.

The Church Fabric.—In 1627, the nave of Northwold Church (especially the north aisle) seems to have been subjected to a thorough overhaul which involved repairs to windows and bells and the renewal of the seating. The last-mentioned item necessitated the purchase of 460 ft. of $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. and 160 ft. of $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. board, some of which was made into "wainscoting" which, when the church was resealed in 1852, was transferred to the walls of the aisles and galleries. The door which presumably opened into the churchwardens' pew is dated 1627 and bears the initials "H.B. & T.R." for Henry Bexwell and Thomas Racke, then churchwardens.

In 1630 "a cover for the Funt" was procured.

In 1631, "a towne chest" was made, and a new pew was supplied "at the upper end of the Church the old being faulted by the visitors and by them commaunded that one should be made

suteable theire to the rest of the stoles". We learn more of this pew, for in the following year, "the newe pewe wherein M^{rs} Burghill the rector's wife sitteth ys to be enlarged by the discretion of the churchwardens and some of the better sort of women their to be placed with the said M^{rs} Burghill by the appointment of John Carter and William Harwoud churchwardens for this yeare 1632".

In 1636, the "pore mans boxe" was repaired, and, in 1637, a "newe communion table" was provided.

One of the pinnacles of the tower was repaired in 1638. In 1639, much of the roof was releaded and a wrought-iron door was set up "betwixt the Church and the Chancell".

In 1642, the chancel floor was made level with that of the nave as it is to-day; and, in 1643, Ives the mason set up the Cross on the porch.¹ Considerable repairs were effected to the church fabric in 1647 involving the use of 3,460 bricks brought from Ely and a quantity of freestone brought by Northwold's river Wissey—presumably from Stoke Ferry. Windows were repaired by the local glazier and nearly a ton of sheet lead was used on the roof.

In 1651, a mason was employed to repair the vestry chimney, and in 1655 Robert Gregory enlarged "the reedinge deske in the Church makeinge it convenient for the minister for to goe up into the pulpit out of the same deske". At this time so much window glazing was being done as to give rise to the suspicion that plain glass was being substituted for the so-called idolatrous paintings condemned by the Puritans.

In 1680, the church was whitewashed and the Sentences written; in 1688, Thomas Stalling was given a shilling for keeping the dogs out of the church; and in 1705-6, J. Smith set a "fane" on the pinnacle of the tower—presumably the weathercock to be seen on the south-west pinnacle to-day.

In 1706, the churchyard gates and posts were "cullered in oil", and the church seems to have been thoroughly painted both externally and internally:

| | |
|--|----------|
| Apr. 3: Pd Tho: Poole the painter in part of 07-05-00 he had for whiteing the Church & Stepel & writing the Sentences, cullering the desk & pulpit, Painting the Queens Arms, font & Dial plate &c | 03-12-06 |
| Laid out for leaf gold to gild the Cherubs head &c. | 00-02-06 |
| More for cullering for the Church doors | 00-00-08 |

The first intimation that a Charity School had been instituted in the parish is to be found under the year 1707:

| | |
|--|----------|
| Dec. 29: For 10 slitt deals used about the new Raised Seats made for the Scollers | 00-15-00 |
| June 25: Pd to Robert Inglebright & Thomas Marshall for building the new Raised Seats for the children behind the south and north door | 02-02-00 |

¹ The names of the churchwardens whose initials originally appeared under this Cross were Edmund Bishop and John Bennett.

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In the early eighteenth century, psalmody as a leisure-hour pastime for young people became cheaply popular, and Societies of Psalm Singers (some good, but the majority bad or indifferent) sprang into existence throughout the country.¹ As a result of this craze which lasted well into the nineteenth century, singing galleries were erected in many churches. We are, therefore, not surprised to learn that a gallery was built at the west end of Northwold Church in 1726 to accommodate the very much enlarged choir.

1732: Paid Mr. Sizeland for teaching the Young People to Sing psalms £1-1-0
 Paid Mr. Rawlings for Entertaining the psalm Singers from Castleacre £0-14-5

At about this time the church was struck by lightning, in evidence of which calamity we find the following quaintly (but unscientifically) expressed entry:

1733-34: 29 Jan: Paid Mr. Thos. Gorden a Bill for Timber & other Stuffe used to Repaire the church & toppe of the Steeple when the Northeast Corner was took off by a Clap of Thunder £5-12-3½

In 1743 two loads of freestone were brought from Stoke Bridge and were used by Howlet, the stone cutter, for repairing the pinnacles of the tower.

Further repairs to the leading of the roof were carried out by Womack, the plumber, in 1776; and, in 1784, the Parish instructed Mr. Dow, the village schoolmaster, to paint the Table of Benefactions now hanging in the tower, for which excellent work he was paid five guineas.

The Royal Arms.—In 1636, six years after the birth of an heir apparent (afterwards Charles II), a mason was paid six pence "for trimming the Kinges Armes". From this it can be assumed that the Arms of James I in this church had been cut in stone, and that the "trimming" merely involved an alteration of the Royal Initials from I.R. to C.R.

This Royal Achievement was destroyed in the first year of Cromwell's regime:

1650: Laid out for putinge the Kinges Armes out 00-02-06

But at the Restoration, this symbol of Royal Supremacy made its immediate re-appearance in all parish churches of any consequence:

1660: Laid out to John Watson of Kings Lynn that came to take the Kings Armes to paynt & wee could not agree with him, so towards his horse Journey & his owne wee gave him 00-02-00
 Laid out to Mr. Samuell Masterman the Painter for setting up the Kings Armes in the Church 02-15-00
 Laid out to Gregory for building a stage in the Church to paint the Kings Armes 00-02-08
 For taking downe the Stage in the Church 00-01-00

¹ For an entertaining description of the conduct of the psalm singers, see Tate: *The Parish Chest*, 168.

The employment of staging indicates without doubt that this Royal Achievement was painted on the wooden boards which at this time usually filled the tympanic space above the rood-screen.

In 1706, Thomas Poole, the painter, painted the Arms of Queen Anne, and his work appears to have remained in the church during the entire reign of George I and most of the reign of George II. It was not until 1750 that the Royal Arms of England quartered with those of Hanover made their appearance in Northwold Church where they have remained unto this day. In that year George Elsy was paid £5-15-0 for this work and for "writing the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer and the Belief".

Sundials and Clock.—A "diell" was repaired in 1628; a "stone diall" set up in 1693; and three sundials were "newly painted" in 1741.

A parish clock first made its appearance in Northwold in 1633—some twenty-four years before pendulum-regulation came into practical use. This clock must therefore have been fitted with the less efficient De Vick balance-wheel—a feature which was doubtless responsible for the constant alterations and repairs found necessary in later years.

An interesting item appears under 30 April, 1715:

Paid William Chapman for a halfe porte Paint-
ing the Diall Plat 01-00-00

This entry indicates that a "half-port"¹ (or something similar) was used for the dial plate. Towards the end of the eighteenth century the clock, having given more than 150 years service to the parish, was so beyond repair that the churchwardens were constrained to make use of a legacy of £50 given by Richard Oram, a former rector, towards its replacement in 1804.

Bells.—As may be expected, this account book contains innumerable references to the bells.

In 1631, one of the five bells was recast by John Draper at his Thetford foundry, the chief item of the transaction being

To Draper for casting the bell and for newe
mettall vj^{ll} xvj^s2

In 1654, Robert Gregory was employed "about mending the Bell Wheelles, makinge five New Rolls for the bells, hanging some of the bells fast in their Stocks which was looce" etc.

In 1659, the great bell (which weighed 7 cwt.) was carried to Bury St. Edmunds to be recast by a bellfounder who is unnamed. His work does not seem to have been altogether successful, for, in 1675, this same bell was taken on a waggon drawn by four horses to Edward Tooke's foundry at Norwich "to be runn".

The second bell (4 cwt.) was recast at Norwich in 1730-1, and all the bells were re-hung in 1744. No important bell-item is recorded in the account book after this date; but it might be

¹ Half-port: a ship's port-shutter having a central hole for the gun-muzzle.

² Recasting a bell at this date cost 18s. per hundred-weight.

mentioned that a new peal of six bells was cast and hung by William Dobson of Downham Market in 1818.

In the first few years covered by this account book, the record of actual bell-ringing is confined to "ringinge of the eight a clocke bell", or curfew, by the parish clerk. Normally the bells were rung on holy and festival days; but, as time passed, the ringers were often employed on less important occasions with the result that their fees and the ale they consumed became a costly extravagance which was noted by Dr. Hinton, the rector, in 1789:

"The expence incurred this year by ringing was £4-5-10. Total expence of ringing in the year from Easter 1789 to 1790 being *more* than one seventh part of the clear Income of the Town & Estate when Land Tax and Chief rent are deducted!!!

"This Estate was certainly not given for *such* purposes."

Almshouses and Workhouse.—An almshouse, or town house, was certainly in existence in Northwold before the commencing date of this record. In 1628, Christopher Person, the village carpenter, was paid two shillings and six pence "for mending the Almes howse". In the following year more extensive repairs became necessary:

- 1629: Laid out to Thomas Hodsell for a thousand bricke for the Almes howse.
A chalder of lime at Stoake Kyll.
2 loade of Marle for the Almes House.
To Bird the mason for 2 chimnies & two ovens at the Almes House.
- 1630: To Thomas Atmeare for mending the chymnie of the towne howse.

But, in spite of these repairs, the whole building collapsed in 1632, and the two occupants, thus rendered homeless, were given "howserome" by hospitable parishioners until a suitable dwelling could be found for their temporary occupation. In 1633, the erection of a new building was completed:

- 1632: To a tymberman which cam to take the Alms house xij^d
To Christopher Person towards the building of the Almes house xxx^s
To Thomas Steede for rent for his howse for 2 Almes folkes to dwell in viij^s
- 1633: For bread and bere at the raysing of the Almes howse v^s vj^d
For daubinge the Almes house viij^s
To the Mason for the Almes howse xj^s ij^d
To the thackers for thacking the Almes howse xxvj^s viij^d
Memorandum there was sould to Christopher Person by John Carter and William Harwoud Churchwardens of the towne aforesaid & with the Consent of the same towne as much tymber out of one of the towne closen as cam to viij^{ll} which viij^{ll} Christopher Person received towards the building upp of the Almes howse with sufficient tymber of oake.

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The following item may refer to this house:

1771-72: Paid Mr. Beales Bill for work done at the
Town house in Church lane £4-10-2½

No differentiation between the terms "almshouse", "town house" and "workhouse" appears in this record—an omission which leaves us confused as to the exact identity of the various properties acquired by the parish in the eighteenth century. For example, we find that the parish purchased a property in 1721:

5 July: Expenses at two meetings at bargaining and
Sealeing the Conveyance of John Parishes
house at Shepards Stone to the use of the Town 00-05-00

25 Aug: Laid out to John Parish for the Purchase of his
House for the Towns use 02-02-00

This house appears to have been rebuilt *circa* 1740 for the reception of three poor families.¹

In 1722-23, an Act was passed authorising churchwardens and overseers to purchase or rent buildings for use as workhouses. Evidently the inhabitants of Northwold exercised their authority as is shown by the following items which unfortunately do not indicate the location of the building:

1785: 22 Jan: 24 sheaves of Reed for the Workhouse £0-2-0

1795: 2 Feb: Resolved that one of the Overseers "be instructed to supply the Parish Workhouse with Flour charging for the same the price on which it shall from time to time be purchased from the Mealmen."

The Charity School.—The erection of raised seats "for the Scollers" in Northwold Church in 1707 has already been noticed. Repairs to the school house were effected in 1720; and, in 1722 and 1723, coal was supplied "for the use of the Charity Scollers". In 1736, Mrs. Bridget Holder, widow of Thomas Holder, lord of the manor, conveyed land in Wretton to the churchwardens of Northwold for the teaching of eight poor children "to read the New Testament and Bible in English beginning at the age of five years and to be taught three years and no longer".

The school was kept in a room built by subscription upon land which was formerly part of the almshouse garden. In 1777 there were eleven scholars. In 1782 John Carter bequeathed £6 per annum for teaching at least eight poor children to read, knit and sew.

The following were masters: Mr. Fish (1752), Mr. Coe (1756) Mr. J. Dunn (1760), Mr. T. Dow (1783), Mr. William Atkins (1788 to the end of the manuscript).

The Prevention and Treatment of Sickness.—In 1646, a contribution was made "towards the Sicknes at Market Dearham". In 1721, we find Dr. Clarke curing Robert Inglebright's arm "hurt at the fire". In 1732, Dr. Cutting cured a boy's leg, and Mr. Coale

¹ Clarke: *Norfolk Charities*, 151. See also the *Report of The Charity Commissioners*, 1834.

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cured "Mr Finsham's Legg". The churchwarden journeyed to Stoke Ferry in 1733 "to prevent an Infectious person being sent to us". In 1738, Dr. Cutting was paid "a Bill for Surgery and Phisicke to Poor People"; and in 1740 Mr. Barham "cured a fractured leg".

But the most interesting item of all is dated 28 January 1788, when arrangements were made for the inoculation of the whole population of the parish against smallpox.

Emergency Contributions.—The Civil War left an aftermath of impoverishment: "1650. Layd out to the poore of the Towne by the churchwardens and overseers with the Consent of the Chief Inhabitants when corne was verye deare and all other provision att a great Rate. . . .03-00-00".

Another item appears under 1795 when the severe frost necessitated the distribution of flour at a reduced price.

The Town Lands, consisting of 108 acres, were bequeathed by Richard Powell and John Peyrs in 1479 and 1501 respectively—the income derived therefrom to be applied to the reparation of the church, but more especially in "putting out" apprentices and for the good of the poor.

Of all the many charitable items recorded in this account book, perhaps the most interesting refer to two poor children who had suffered misfortune. In 1654, the "poor lame boy Bird" had lost a leg. Therefore William Nunn, the tailor, was ordered by the churchwardens to supply him with "Cloath, lyneing and buttons for making upp a suite of Cloathes" also a cap and a *pair* of hose; Robert Gregory, the carpenter, supplied "a wooden legg with all other things thereto belonging"; and Caleb Brett, the shoemaker made him a *pair* of shoes. The boy was then apprenticed by the churchwardens to a tradesman in Stoke Ferry.

In 1656, Amy Bonner, who had been orphaned by the death of her father, was placed temporarily in the care of Thomas Alders, the parish clerk, and his wife. Amy was supplied by William Newell with a suit, and by Farmer Thornton's wife with "a payer of stockings". Robert Mitchell supplied "five yards of cloth to make her shifts" and "a quarter of cloath to make her coyfes". Goodwife Alders "stockinged" the hose and made the "coyfes". William Russell supplied "fowre yardes of tarten (striped woollen cloth) . . . for to make her a coat and apron" also "a payer of bodies for her", and "manchester" (rough woollen trimming) and "inkle" (broad linen tape) for her coat. Her "wescoate" was supported by "whealbon" (whalebone); and finally the shoemaker made her a pair of shoes. She then became a servant in the house of William Thornton who was paid £5-odd for her year's board.

Other charities (and there are many) are recorded in detail in the Commissioners' Report, 1834.

Military Affairs.—In 1637, relations with Scotland became so strained as to cast the shadow of impending war over every village in England, and caused the chief inhabitants to look to their arms:

Item theire ys an old towne armor in the handes of Thomas Reynolds & Thomas Bennett and whereas Thomas Reynolds hath layd out 25^s for new armour it is agreed that the sd. Thomas Reynolds shall be repayd his 25^s restoring the oulde armour to the use of the towne.

In 1642 came the first shock of civil war—reflected, as it was, on this and all other little towns. The town soldier must be armed and war taxes must be paid. Arms for the soldier were procured from Thetford, Middleton and Setchey; rates were paid (1644, 1647) "towards the charge of Newpoort Paynell"; for the "Brittish Armmye"¹ (1644, 1646); "towards the charge of setting forth one thousand foot, one hundred horse & one hundred dradgouns" (1644); for the reducing of Newark (1645); and for the Scots (1645).

In 1645, George Dickons, the town soldier, came home with the town arms and was given two pounds and a further 13s. 6d. "for serving in the Towne Armes when hee went to Wisbech, Newbucknam and Thetford".

In 1660, the town arms comprised a belt, a corselet, a pike, a sword and a head-piece, and, later, a coat. Various training grounds are mentioned in this record: Yarmouth (1667), Eccles Heath (1682) and Mussell (Mousehold) Heath (1684). Items dealing with militia and ammunition rates and contributions to the soldier's pay appear regularly until the accession of William and Mary when this form of service and recruitment was abolished.

Biographical Notes.—The names of many interesting persons appear in this account-book.

Robert Burhill, rector 1622–41, was born at Dymock, Glos. in 1572. He became fellow of Corpus Christi College, Oxford; D.D., 1632; prebendary of Hereford, 1604; rector of Snailwell, Cambs. He was a great Hebrew scholar and, in his younger days, a Latin poet of note. He assisted his friend, Sir Walter Raleigh (then confined in the Tower) in his *History of the World*, and wrote many important works on controversial divinity. On the threatened approach of Civil War in 1641, he sought sanctuary in his Northwold rectory where he died in October of that year.²

John Novell, rector 1641–61, was born at or near Farnham, Surrey, in 1602. He was admitted at Pembroke Hall, Cambridge, 1621; fellow, 1627; M.A., 1628; B.D., 1635; rector of Topcroft, Norf., 1637–40. He died at Northwold in 1661 and his monumental inscription records that he sustained many indignities under the "tyranny of Cromwell the pseudo-Protector".

William Holder, rector 1662–87, was a Nottinghamshire man. He was born in 1616, and became M.A. and fellow of Pembroke Hall, Cambridge, 1640. In 1642, he was instituted rector of Bletchington, Oxfordshire, being "incorporated M.A." in the University of Cambridge in the following year. At the Restoration he became canon of Ely; Fellow of the Royal Society, 1663; canon of St. Paul's and sub-dean of the Chapel Royal, 1674–89. Evelyn in his *Diary* describes the scene in the Chapel Royal on Easter Day, 1684:

¹ Cromwell's "New Model" Army.

² D.N.B.; *Athenae Oxonienses*, 1891, II, 4, 5; Blomefield's *Hist. of Norf.*, II, 218.

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The Bishop of Rochester preached before the King; after which his Majesty, accompanied with three of his natural sons, the Dukes of Northumberland, Richmond, and St. Alban's (sons of Portsmouth, Cleveland, and Nelly), went up to the altar; the three boys entering before the King within the rails, at the right hand, and three Bishops on the left: London (who officiated), Durham, and Rochester, with the Sub-dean, Dr. Holder, The King, kneeling before the altar, making his offering, the Bishops first received, and then his Majesty; after which he retired to a canopied seat on the right hand. Note, there was a perfume burnt before the office began.

In 1659, while at Bletchington, Dr. Holder caused a sensation by teaching a deaf-mute named Alexander Popham to speak—a success which doubtless led to his election as F.R.S. The publication of his work, *The Elements of Speech*, in 1669 added to his renown and elicited words of highest praise from Dr. Charles Burney a century later. Wheatley, in his edition of Pepys' *Diary*, notes this book in connection with a similar (if not the identical) work:

6 Dec., 1668: My wife and I alone to dinner, and then she to read a little book concerning speech in general, a translation late out of French, a most excellent piece as ever I read . . . which do please me most infinitely to read.

In 1687, Dr. Holder removed from Northwold to the benefice of Therfield, Herts. He was buried in St. Paul's Cathedral in 1689, and his works on Harmony and the Julian Calendar were published posthumously.

The exact relationship of Dr. Holder to Thomas Holder, Esq., lord of the manor of Northwold from 1683 until his death in 1713, aged 73, is a matter for further research. That a close relationship existed is certain, for Thomas bore the arms of Holder of South Wheatley, Notts. A Mr. Holder, secretary to Prince Rupert in 1652, is mentioned in the correspondence of Sir Edward Hyde and Sir Thomas Browne.¹ He was probably identical with the Thomas Holder frequently mentioned by Pepys, and was possibly father of Thomas Holder of Northwold and brother of Dr. William Holder, the rector.

Bridget, the widow of our Thomas Holder, was patroness of the Charity School, and died at Northwold in 1740, aged 90. Their only surviving child, Elizabeth, married Henry Partridge² of Buckenham House, Northwold. She died in childbirth, 17 Jan. 1702/3, aged 17, and to commemorate this sad event the following entry appears in the account-book:

Henry Partridge, Esq. hath given to the said Parrish three acres of Land commonly called Novels Close the profits whereof is to be given in bread to the Poor at the Touling of the great Bell for an hour on the Seventeenth day of January for ever. On which day Anno Domini 1703 his wife Mrs. Elis. Partridge died.

Signatures of *curates* appear within the periods given below:

¹ Bray's edition of *The Diary and Correspondence of John Evelyn*, IV, 255 n.

² A pedigree of this branch of the Partridge Family will be found in Burke: *Landed Gentry*. 1848, p. 1007.

Thomas Garnam (1631-35); John Hodges (1640); John Cocke (1662); Richard Muskett (1664-76); George Alsop (1684-5); John Frost (1689-92); John Ellis (1692-3), eventually rector of Cranwich and Ickburgh; Thomas Parlett (1699-1701); Thomas Ralph (1703); Samuel Knight (1705-7); S. Dod (1708); John Williams (1708-13); John Brundish (1714-41), vicar of Foulden, was evidently in charge of the church of Northwold in the absence of the rector, Dr. John Clark, who was also dean of Salisbury; finally, Richard Whish who was curate from 1776 until his death at Northwold in 1810. He attained some eminence as a divine, as did his son, Martin Richard Whish, who is fully noticed by Venn.

An interesting item, which confirms the statement that Roger Hobart was an inhabitant of Northwold,¹ records the fact that James, his son, was buried in the church *circa* 1626.

1626: Due from Roger Hobart, Esqr. for breaking upp of the church to burye James Hobart vj^s viij^d

This entry is repeated under 1628, and, with the addition of the words "his sone", appears annually from 1630 to 1637 inclusive. There is no record of the payment of this debt.

Roger Hobart was the son of Owen Hobart of Guestwick and Morley St. Botolph by his wife, Martha, daughter of John Castell of Raveningham. Roger married Anne Gelebrand of Badingham in 1587 and inherited the manors of Havell's and Dageney's in Northwold by his father's will (proved, P.C.C., 1579). He, his wife and their children were recusants—a fact which, no doubt, caused this branch of the family considerable financial loss and, eventually, condemned it to the obscurity of poverty. In 1644, the administration of the estate of a Roger Hobart of Northwold, deceased, was granted to his creditor.

Henry Bexwell (1581-1654) was churchwarden in 1626. With other chief inhabitants of Northwold, he signed the accounts from that date until 1641. He was the last of the Bexwells of Bexwell in Norfolk, and was baptized and buried there. His monumental inscription, arms and pedigree are recorded by Blomefield (*Hist. Norfolk*, II, 307) and are elaborated in *Norfolk Archaeology*, Visitation of Norfolk, I, 222.

Northwold Cross is only mentioned once in this record:²

1725: Paid John Smith for putting up a weathercock upon the Cross & some Iron work about the treble & 3rd Bell 00-05-04

The *five engine* is described as "one Small water Ingin given by Henry Partridge, Esq., to the use of the Town Anno Dom, 1717". It was a gift supplementary to the five dozen leather buckets presented by the same donor in 1703. Numerous items indicate that both engine and buckets were put to frequent use. The buckets were presumably made by a local sadler and the

¹ *Norf. Arch.*, Visitation of Norfolk, II, 66.

² This Cross is described and illustrated in *Norf. Arch.*, XXV.

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engine was brought from Brandon in January, 1717. From time to time the buckets were "new welted", the engine dressed with hards (refuse flax) and pitch, and the "sucker" releathered.

The upkeep of the *parish stocks and whipping-post* was the responsibility of the churchwardens. Repairs to the stocks were recorded in 1627, and the following later items appear:

| | | |
|-------|---|----------|
| 1699: | Paid for a post for a whipin post and fetching it | 00-04-06 |
| 1700: | 14 Aug. Paid William Horne for Irons for the Whipin post | 00-07-00 |
| | Laid out for lock for it | 00-00-10 |
| | Paid Thomas Marshall for work done to the bells & for makeing & setting up the Whiping Post | 00-05-06 |
| 1786: | 23 Sep. Paid Beales for repairing and painting the stocks | £0-11-8 |

As is usual in Churchwardens' Accounts, many pages are occupied with records of *briefs*, only one of which need be quoted here:

| | | |
|-------|--|--------|
| 1763: | Collected 5 June from House to House for Colledges in America by R. Spinks & Robt. Basham, Churchwardens | £1-2-0 |
|-------|--|--------|

Many other items of diverse interest are recorded in this manuscript. We learn of road and bridge repairs; of clearing the river and its rivulets; of repairing dykes and preventing their overflow; of attendance at the ecclesiastical courts at Swaffham; of the destruction of sparrows and hedgehogs; of bonfires and ringing of bells on loyal and joyful occasions—in fact, this short article can only represent a mere mouthful from a most generous and appetising repast.