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Thomas Steel

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**PRESCOT CHURCHWARDENS' ACCOUNTS,
1635–1663**

Edited by
Thomas Steel

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

There is an obvious satisfaction for me, as Vicar of Prescott, to be able to present to a wider public more of the rich records of this ancient parish.

Much of the work was completed during a period of study leave in 1997 and I must express appreciation to my bishop (now Lord Sheppard), my colleagues and my parishioners for making that possible. Few perhaps of the Society's volumes have been worked on in circumstances and places as far removed from their subject as the beaches of Barbados, the snows of the Canadian winter, the summer delights of Sydney harbour and the alleged perils of Rio de Janeiro.

My debts of gratitude are enormous. In old Lancashire the task would never have been completed without the patient help of Anna Watson (Lancashire Record Office) and Professor Richard Hoyle (then at the University of Central Lancashire). At Cambridge I had the generous hospitality of my patrons (King's College) and enthusiastic encouragement from Dr. Beat Kümin. In Vancouver I was able to pick the brains of Dr. John Craig. Dianne Taylor's help made the work in Australia memorable. Others who deserve sincere thanks include Professor Walter King, Dr. Kenneth Fincham, Dr. Malcolm Gratton, Nigel Morgan, Michael Griffiths and Jill Drabble. The staff of many record offices were co-operative beyond the call of duty. Dr. Betty Ramsay kindly allowed me sight of her work on the Walton churchwardens' accounts.

Dr. Philip Morgan bore editorial responsibility for condensing the original work, which was rather longer and wider in scope. After long delays, it fell to Dr. Jenny Kermode to remotivate me and to guide the final approach to publication in her delightfully spirited and efficient way.

Amongst other published churchwardens' accounts, I have found most useful Drew's work on Lambeth, Hanham's on Ashburton and of course Bailey's on sixteenth-century Prescott. Indeed the entire *corpus* of Bailey's work on Prescott is an inspiration to any local historian.

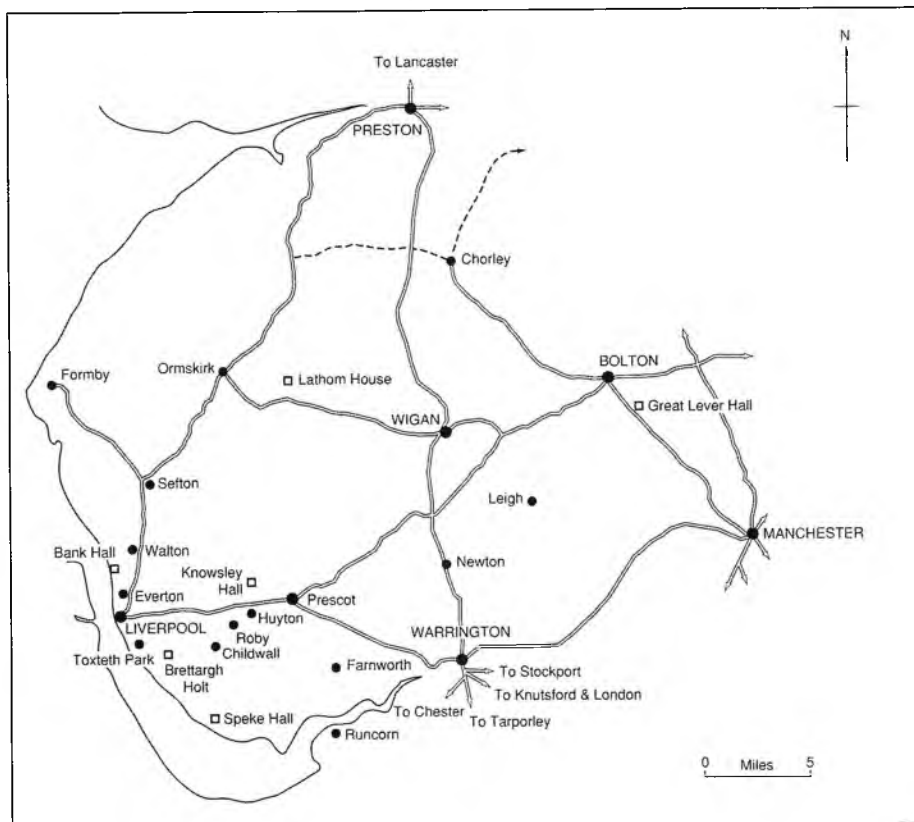
I cannot lay claim to startlingly new conclusions about this fascinating period, but I have tried to research the background thoroughly and I hope that the result is a balanced assessment. It is much to be hoped that more of Prescott's records will be published in due course.

Thomas Steel, Prescott, 2002.

ABBREVIATIONS

BIHR	Borthwick Institute of Historical Research, York
CI	Childwall Churchwardens' Accounts
CRO	Cheshire Record Office, Chester
CS	Chetham Society
KCC	King's College Cambridge
LPRS	Lancashire Parish Register Society
LRO	Lancashire Record Office, Preston
PCC	Prerogative Court of Canterbury
PRO	Public Record Office
RSLC	Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire
SRO	Staffordshire Record Office, Stafford
THLC	<i>Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire</i>
TLCAS	<i>Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society</i>
<i>VCH, Lancs.</i>	The Victoria History of the Counties of England: the Victoria History of the County of Lancaster, ed. W. Farrer and J. Brownbill
<i>VCH, Chesh.</i>	The Victoria History of the Counties of England: a history of the county of Chester, ed. B.E. Harris, C.P. Lewis, A.J. Thacker.
<i>Visitation</i>	<i>The Visitation of the County Palatinate of Lancashire made in the year 1664-5, by Sir William Dugdale, Norroy King of Arms</i> , ed. F.R. Raines, CS, Orig. Ser. (1872-73), volumes I (84), II (85), III (88)
Wn	Walton Churchwardens' Accounts

Place of publication in all references is London unless otherwise stated.



PRESCOT'S PLACE IN SOUTHWEST LANCASHIRE:
showing the principal road network in the seventeenth century



PRESCOT PARISH: with its fifteen townships

*For Carole Arnold, Andrew Basinger, Ray Clark and
Dorothy Webster, Churchwardens of Prescott, 2002.*

INTRODUCTION

The richness of Prescott's historical record has attracted considerable scholarly attention.¹ There are court rolls from 1511,² and parish registers from 1538.³ Churchwardens' accounts survive from 1521, except for an *hiatus* from 1608–1634, and are Lancashire's earliest pre-Reformation series. Poor survival rates for accounts from the Chester diocese and the north of England generally make those for Prescott particularly valuable.⁴ The accounts for 1521–1607 were published by the Record Society in 1953⁵ and this volume continues their publication to 1664. Some additional sixteenth century material which has come to light since Bailey's edition, together with a single sheet summarising payments from the accounts of 1618–9, are included as appendices.

THE PARISH AND ITS PEOPLE

The ancient parish of Prescott lay in the rural deanery of Warrington in the diocese of Chester, and covered some 58 square miles or 37221 acres of the hundred of West Derby. Most of the parish was low-lying and fertile, with undulations where red

¹ B.A. Kümin, *The Shaping of a Community: The Rise and Reformation of the English Parish, c.1400–1560* (Aldershot, 1996); J.S. Craig, 'Ecclesiastical policy and local community: the parish of Prescott, 1558–1603' (research paper for M.A., Carleton University, Ottawa, 1988). W.J. King has also worked extensively on Prescott.

² In the main these relate only to Prescott township. For the original rolls: LRO, DDCs and DDKc. For those for 1511–1599: *A Selection from the Court Leet and other Records, 1447–1600*, ed. F.A. Bailey, RSLC, 89 (1937). For Bailey's notes on the rolls 1602–1648: *Prescot Records*, ed. J. Knowles (Knowsley, 1980). For an eighteenth century summary of the rolls 1509–1681: Tickle, Hall and Cross (Prescot solicitors), *Epitome of the Manor Rolls of Prescott* (usually called the 'Abstract Book'). For a detailed commentary on the 'Abstract Book': E.B. Driffield, 'Prescot in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries', I–XIX, *The Prescott Reporter* (15 Apr.–5 Aug. 1921).

³ *The Registers of the Parish of Prescott, 1531–1595*, ed. J. Perkins, LPRS, 137 (1995); *The Parish Register of Prescott, 1573–1631*, ed. F.V. Driffield, LPRS, 76 (1938); *The Register of Prescott Parish Church, part 2, 1632–1666*, eds R. and F. Dickinson, LPRS, 114 (1975); *The Registers of the Parish of Prescott, 1665–1726*, ed. J. Drabble, LPRS, 149 (2000).

⁴ R. Hutton, *The Rise and Fall of Merry England: The Ritual Year, 1400–1700* (Oxford, 1994), p.50; A. Foster, 'Churchwardens accounts of early modern England and Wales: some problems to note, but much to be gained', in *The Parish in English Life, 1400–1600*, eds K. French, G. Gibbs and B. Kümin (Manchester, 1997), pp.77–83. Hutton listed surviving accounts, but did not notice those for Childwall from 1571: Liverpool RO, transcript, H238.1ALL [hereafter CI]; Walton from 1628: Liverpool RO, 283 SMW/11/3 [hereafter Wn]; and Wigan from 1651: Wigan RO, D/P24/5/1. All three were, like Prescott, in Warrington deanery.

⁵ *The Churchwardens Accounts of Prescott, Lancashire, 1521–1607*, ed. F.A. Bailey, RSLC, 104 (1953). For a full commentary on these accounts: F.A. Bailey, 'The churchwardens accounts of Prescott, 1523–1607', *THLC*, 92 (1940), pp.133–201; *ibid.* 95 (1943), pp.1–30. [hereafter, Bailey, 'Commentary'].

sandstone deposits occur in the central area. On the north or 'Prescot side' of the parish were the eight townships of Eccleston, Parr, Prescot, Rainford, Rainhill, Sutton, Whiston and Windle; and on the south, or 'Farnworth side' the seven further townships of Bold, Cronton, Cuerdley, Ditton, Great Sankey, Penketh and Widnes *cum* Appleton. For tax purposes the parish was divided into the 'quarters' of Prescot, Whiston and Rainhill; Sutton; Eccleston and Rainford; Windle and Parr; Widnes *cum* Appleton; Bold; Cuerdley and Cronton; Ditton and Penketh; and an anomalous additional 'half-quarter' of Great Sankey.⁶ The parish included within its boundaries the sites of the modern towns of Widnes and St Helens, and much of the western side of Warrington. There were four dependent chapels, 'St Ellens', at Hardshaw in Windle,⁷ Rainford, Sankey ('newly built' in 1650), and Farnworth (in Widnes township). Farnworth kept its own registers and wardens' accounts.⁸ The Prescot churchwardens' accounts cover the seven townships of Farnworth side only in respect of church leyses, their assessment, collection and arrears (a considerable proportion of the business).

The rectory, with its associated manor (Prescot Hall), has been held by King's College, Cambridge since 1448. The college exercised a rather indirect supervision of its interests; the greater tithes were farmed by a sequence of local gentry, and the lease of Prescot Hall always carried with it the duty of chancel repairs.

Repeated indicators show Lancashire to have been one the poorest and least populated counties in the kingdom.⁹ Its population in 1664 has been estimated at 150,669 and it has been suggested that the total had hardly changed since 1642.¹⁰ Bailey thought that Prescot town may have had 400 inhabitants in 1592, not increasing greatly by 1660.¹¹ By 1664 the total population of Prescot parish was perhaps 5490, some 3233 on Prescot side and the remainder on Farnworth side.¹² In 1640 the vicar, John Aldem, observed that on Prescot side 'the most part of our land is heath ground, full of mosses and very barren, yielding little commodity except coales'. The inhabitants, he added, were 'very pore, a great parte of them living in summer tyme by digging and winding coals, in the winter tyme by begging'. Farnworth side, by contrast had 'fayrer and more lordshippes . . . , more free houlders, more good and riche farms and householders' and people there 'generally live more generously and plentifully than wee doe'.¹³

⁶ F.G. Paterson, *History of Prescot* (1908), p.47; *VCH, Lancs.* III, p.341.

⁷ An ancient donative chapel, vested in the Eccleston family in 1613: *Notitia Cestriensis*, II, ed. F.R. Raines, CS, Orig. Ser. 21 (1850), p.206.

⁸ *The Register of Farnworth Chapel in the Parish of Prescot, 1538-1612*, ed. F.A. Bailey, LPRS, 80 (1941); *The Registers of Farnworth Chapel, 1612-1698*, ed. R. Dickinson, LPRS, 97 (1958). Farnworth chapelwardens' accounts are extant only from 1679: CRO, P283/4080/186.

⁹ R. Schofield, 'The geographical distribution of wealth in England, 1334-1649', in *Essays in Quantitative Economics*, ed. R. Floud (Oxford, 1974), p.97; C. Haigh, *Reformation and Resistance in Tudor Lancashire* (Cambridge, 1975), p.20.

¹⁰ B.G. Blackwood, *The Lancashire gentry and the Great Rebellion, 1640-1660*, CS, 3rd Ser. 25 (1978), pp.3-4.

¹¹ F.A. Bailey, 'Prescot grammar school in Elizabethan times', *THLC*, 86 (1935), p.8.

¹² I am grateful to Nigel Morgan for this information.

¹³ KCC, PRE/31.

On the other hand the town of Prescott lay at the junction of the main east-west route in south-west Lancashire, and boasted an economy which also included the manufacture of earthenware, hardware and glass, clock-making, weaving and tanning.¹⁴ It also had the nearest coal to the Liverpool-Warrington road and has been claimed as the only town in Britain where copyholders secured control over their minerals.¹⁵ By 1590 Prescott township was producing 2500 tons of coal annually¹⁶ and by 1664 it had, together with Cuerdley (on Farnworth side), a far lower percentage of single-hearth households than anywhere else in the area.¹⁷

Prescot lay just to the west of that mysterious 'boundary line' dividing old catholic south-west Lancashire from the '“industrialising” pastoral regions' of enthusiastic Puritanism spreading westwards from Manchester and Bolton.¹⁸ The land-owners of West Derby hundred were mostly recusant and catholicism was sustained in an almost seigneurial form. Prescot had been slow in enforcing the reformation changes of the previous century and in 1604 shared with Huyton, Childwall, Wigan and Eccleston, a reputation as one of the 'most catholic' parishes in Lancashire.¹⁹ The halls at Mossborough (Rainford),²⁰ Eccleston²¹ and Sutton²² served as mass centres in the parish during this period. There was also 'an old ruined building called Windle Shaw Chapel':²³ occasional recusant burials are recorded there and at Eccleston Hill.

The Vicars

Meanwhile, puritanism was growing, especially in the market towns of Liverpool, Ormskirk, Wigan and Newton, and also in Prescot, although clergy influence was perhaps as important as the spirit of dissent fostered in market places.²⁴ Cambridge-educated clergy were often active in propagating the new doctrines, and although Prescot, under the patronage of King's College, had incumbents who were clearly conformist, their puritan sympathies often showed.²⁵

¹⁴ *Prescot Register, 1573–1631*, ed. Driffield, p.v.

¹⁵ F.A. Bailey, 'Early coal-mining in Prescot', *THLC*, 99 (1947), pp.4, 7.

¹⁶ J.E. Hollinshead, 'An unexceptional commodity: coal in south-west Lancashire in the sixteenth century', *THLC*, 145 (1996), pp.1–19; J. Langton, 'Coal output in south-west Lancashire, 1590–1799', *Economic History Review*, 2nd Ser. 25 (1972), p.41.

¹⁷ Information from Nigel Morgan.

¹⁸ R.C. Richardson, *Puritanism in North-West England* (Manchester, 1972), pp.12, 15, 142.

¹⁹ Haigh, *Reformation and Resistance*, pp.318–319.

²⁰ Seat of a branch of the Lathom family, kinsmen of Lord Derby, but strongly recusant.

²¹ Seat of the Ecclestons, rebuilt in 1567 and (with 15 hearths) second only to Bold Hall in Prescot's hearth tax rankings: *VCH, Lancs.* III, p.367; for a drawing: J. Bridge, *The Lowe House Story, 1743–1993* (St Helens, 1993), p.46.

²² Seat of the Hollands, several of whom became Jesuit priests.

²³ *Commonwealth Church Survey*, ed. H. Fishwick, RSLC, I, (1898), p.71: it was once a chantry for the Gerards of Bryn.

²⁴ A.M. Everitt, 'The marketing of agricultural produce', in *The Agrarian History of England and Wales*, ed. J. Thirsk, IV (Cambridge, 1967), p.488; Richardson, *Puritanism*, p.13.

²⁵ Richardson, *Puritanism in North-West England*, pp.59–69; R.C. Richardson, 'Puritanism and the ecclesiastical authorities', in *Politics, Religion and the Civil War*, ed. B.S. Manning (1972), p.31; P. Collinson, *The Elizabethan Puritan Movement* (1967), p.127.

John Aldem,²⁶ formerly vice-provost of King's and vicar from 1616 until his death in 1642, was linked by marriage with two of the most prominent protestant families in the north-west, the Hindes of Bunbury, and the Brettarghs of Brettargh Holt.²⁷ Although a new surplice was made for Aldem in 1640–1, by 1633 the surplice-hating Richard Mather had been giving a weekly lecture at Prescott. In 1640 Aldem wrote of 'the tymes of popery and ignorance', and, like many of the 'godly', later asked for burial in church 'in as quiet and silent a manner as may be'.²⁸ Clergy of all kinds came to be at odds with their people at this time and the House of Commons was deluged with complaints in 1640–1641. Aldem's difficult relationship with the people of Farnworth probably contributed to their petition for parish status in 1640.²⁹ He died on 7 September 1642, just as hostilities were beginning in the civil war.

Aldem's successor, Richard Day,³⁰ provides some puzzles of allegiance. He was instituted in February 1643, but was deprived in August 1646; he had been absent in Cambridge for long periods and was accused of refusing to take the national covenant requiring the renunciation of episcopacy.³¹ The living was entrusted to the sequestration of three parishioners who were newly appointed elders of the Warrington presbyterian *classis* (John Lathom,³² William Barnes³³ and William Glover).³⁴ In August 1647, however, Day convinced the county committee that his absence from Prescott had been because of heavy fighting in the area and that he would now 'be disengaged from his service in Kings

²⁶ Aldem (1572–1642) was born at Windsor and ordained at Lincoln in 1606: KCC, A. Allen, *Skeleton Collegii Regalis*, II, p.1035; W. Sterry (ed.), *The Eton College Register, 1441–1698* (Eton, 1943), p.3.

²⁷ Aldem married Anne, widow of William Brettargh (1572–1609): his daughter Rachel married Samuel, son of William Hinde, 'a veteran of the wars between Popery and Protestantism': E. Duffy, 'The long reformation: catholicism, protestantism and the multitude', in *England's Long Reformation, 1500–1800*, ed. N. Tyacke (1998), p.39; R. Stewart-Brown, 'The Brettarghs', *THLC*, 88 (1936), pp.211–39.

²⁸ KCC, PRE/31; LRO, WCW/Prescot/1642. In 1631 another Lancashire clergyman requested burial 'without singing or ringing': Richardson, *Puritanism*, p.30.

²⁹ A. Foster, 'The clerical estate re-vitalised', in *The Early Stuart Church, 1603–1642*, ed. K. Fincham (Basingstoke, 1993), pp.149, 159; KCC, PRE/30. See pp.xxiv, xxxiv.

³⁰ Born at Bray and a grandson of William Day (1529–1596), bishop of Winchester: KCC, Allen, *Skeleton*, III, pp.1246–1247; J. and J.A. Venn (eds), *Alumni Cantabrigienses*, Part I to 1751, II, p.23; Sterry, *Eton Register*, p.98.

³¹ *Plundered Ministers Accounts*, ed. W.A. Shaw, RSLC. 28 (1893), pp.33–34.

³² John Lathom of Whiston (1606–1672), grandson of Andrew Lathom, gent., of Whiston (d. 1570) and son-in-law of Edward Aspinwall (1568–1633), the prominent Toxteth Park puritan. John's brother Paul (1609–1663, minister at Standish) served on the committee for ordinations from Dec. 1644, but was among those committed to the tower by Cromwell, when jealousies broke out between independents and presbyterians: *Tracts relating to Military Proceedings in Lancashire during the great Civil War*, ed. G. Ormerod, CS, Orig. Ser. 2 (1844), p.208. John's brother-in-law Jerehijah Aspinwall (c.1594–1657), a justice, was in the Liverpool *classis*: *Minutes of the Manchester Classis*, ed. W.A. Shaw, I, CS, New Ser. 20 (1890), p.9. John complained at the restoration that he was being 'persecuted of malice': BIHR, V/1662–3/letter bound in CB2.

³³ Of Sankey, gent. (d. 1657).

³⁴ Again appointed sequestrator in Nov. when Robert Clift, Henry Lawton, George Deane, Robert Lyon and Edward Potts were added to the commission: Oxford, Bodley Ms. 324, pp.34, 37; *Plundered Ministers Accounts*, p.41. Glover was probably the mercer, closely associated in property dealings with Henry Lawton from 1654–1671: 'Abstract Book', ff.128r–167v.

Colledge': he was therefore reinstated. Now an avowed 'member of the godly party', he felt able to sign the petition of gentlemen of the party in West Derby hundred in 1649, calling for the (re)appointment of the puritan John Moore as governor of Liverpool.³⁵ Day had made an important alliance with a local gentry family by marrying Sarah, daughter of Henry Ogle.³⁶ Day presided at a parish meeting for the last time on 29 September 1649 and died in April 1650.³⁷

On 23 June 1650 Edward Larkin of King's College was presented to the living but was never instituted: 'he had been a very troublesome creature in this colledge especially in the year 1650'. In September 1650, Day was succeeded 'in his vicarage and in his bed' by John Wythens, fellow of King's College and logic reader of the university.³⁸ Ordained deacon and priest in 1648 by Thomas Fulwar, formerly bishop of Ardfert (Ireland),³⁹ Wythens soon continued the alliance with the Ogles by marrying Richard Day's widow Sarah. He remained vicar until his death in 1667.

Desertion to independency was not a serious threat in this part of Lancashire and it has been estimated that only five *per cent* of parishioners attended such gatherings when conformity became no longer compulsory.⁴⁰ Local puritanism gained its strongest hold in the chapelries: Liverpool (in Walton) and the extra-parochial Toxteth Park were early examples, but Prescott's chapels of Rainford, 'St Ellens' and Great Sankey were soon to follow suit.

The Gentry

Secular leadership in this part of Lancashire rested primarily with the earls of Derby. With an annual income of over £6000 and almost unchallenged in the domination of the county until the 1640s, the Stanleys had 'little lesse respect than kings'.⁴¹ Henry

³⁵ BL, Add. Mss 15671, f.96; *Plundered Ministers Accounts*, pp.55–6. The Historic Manuscripts Commission was mistaken in assigning this to 1643 (Report X, App. iv, 66). Moore (c.1599–1650), of Bank Hall, Kirkdale was 'bitter and unscrupulous' and an 'acid puritan'. Made Colonel in 1643, he served on the county committee and Liverpool *classis*: E. Broxap, *The Great Civil War in Lancashire* (Manchester, 1910), p.34; *The Moore Rental*, ed. T. Heywood, CS, Orig. Ser. 12 (1847), pp.iv–xlvi. See p.xviii.

³⁶ Henry (c.1586–1648) was the heir of John Ogle (c.1558–1612) and lessee of Prescott Hall from 1633. As a widower he married an attendant of Charlotte, wife of James, Lord Strange and died at Roby in 1648, 'much in debt', leaving a second family of eight small children: *The Visitation of the County of Lancaster, 1664–5*, ed. F.R. Raines, III, CS, Orig. Ser. 85 (1872), p.223; PRO, DL/1/380.

³⁷ He made his will on 9 Apr. 1650 and was buried in church on Good Friday (12 Apr.). He left a 'good store of bookes and a bedd' at King's College: LRO, WCW/Prescot/1650.

³⁸ KCC, Allen, *Skeleton*, III, pp.1398–9. Born in London c.1621, Wythens was presented on 22 Aug. 1650 and married to Sarah Day at Clerkenwell on 3 June 1651: Sterry, *Eton Register*, p.373. He seems to have been absent during the plague outbreak of Oct. 1652 when Henry Bolton (curate since July 1650) was among the 'town notables' petitioning the justices: Paterson, *Prescot*, p.14.

³⁹ BIHR, V. 1662–3/Exh.Bk., f. 35v.

⁴⁰ J. Spurr, *The Restoration Church of England, 1646–1689* (Yale, 1991), p.5.

⁴¹ *A Discourse of the Warr in Lancashire*, ed. W. Beaumont, CS, Orig. Ser. 62 (1864), p.63.

Ogle's father John stressed at the end of his life that since the age of 17 he had been 'towards the Right Honourable and Earles of Derby att all tymes upon comand request or warning'.⁴² In 1646 his grandson Cuthbert Ogle of Whiston, having been in arms against parliament, pleaded in excuse that he had been under Lord Derby's power.⁴³ By 1633 William, the sixth earl, had retired to write comic plays, leaving his heir James, Lord Strange in charge of his estates and of his political influence in the north-west. Although a committed royalist when the time came, Strange seems to have been conventional in his sympathies: he disliked Arminianism, patronised preachers and tried hard to effect a political compromise in Lancashire. Yet by December 1642 his enemies were calling him 'the great ringleader of the Popish faction and Malignant partie'.⁴⁴ The opinion was shared by some in Prescott. On 22 July 1642, just after the seizure of the Liverpool magazine, 'Richard Taylor, a dissolute younge fellow residinge in Prescott did use scandalous and uncivil words in depravation' of Lord Strange in the house of James Angsdale (a butcher). Claiming that Strange 'had taken away all the armour and ammunition . . . and was an upholder of papists in soe as hee would undoe all the cuntrye hereby', Taylor said contemptuously: 'Lett my lord kisse my arse'.⁴⁵

England's local gentry are often supposed to have played a dominant part in parish affairs, but their role at Prescott may have been more limited. There seem to have been about 26 such families in the parish, mainly minor 'peasant gentry', with little influence beyond their own holdings.⁴⁶ They were usually absent from the annual meetings and the 'intermittent and largely superficial' involvement which Craig noted in later sixteenth century parish affairs probably remained true for most of them.⁴⁷ Kümin concluded that the only really influential families in sixteenth century Prescott had been the Stanleys, their stewards the Ogles, and the Bolds.⁴⁸ A hundred years later there had been little change.⁴⁹ The vicar had complained in 1586 that 'all our gentlemen are either obstinate recusants or verie cold professors'.⁵⁰ Their power

⁴² PRO, STAC 8/256/14.

⁴³ *Royalist Composition Papers*, ed. J.H. Stanning, IV, RSLC, 36 (1898), p.356.

⁴⁴ Ormerod, *Tracts*, p.64.

⁴⁵ LRO, DDCs/Paper Roll/1642. The Taylors and Angsdales were often in trouble for breaches of the peace. In 1643 James Angsdale stole the chain which had 'anciently belonged' to the town bell: LRO, DDCs/Paper Roll/1643; in 1644 he cut off the point of the constable's finger when drunk, being described as 'with-out rule or government, despising all authorities': LRO, DDCs/Paper Roll/1644. By 1652 he was 'an enemy to all goodness': LRO, QSP/67/427.

⁴⁶ B.G. Blackwood, 'The cavalier and roundhead gentry of Lancashire', *TLCAS*, 77 (1967), pp.10–11. Heads of families styled 'gent.' in the accounts are Alcocke, Ball, Brettargh, Bridgeman, Chorley, Edgerton, Lynch, Parr, Pemberton, Watmough; those with members described as 'Mr', 'Mrs' or 'Esq.' were: Ashton, Bold, Brook, Browne, Eltonhead, Gouldesborrow, Holland, Lathom, Livezey, Lyme, Mead, Ogle, Penketh, Stockley, Wetherby.

⁴⁷ Craig, 'Ecclesiastical policy', p.55.

⁴⁸ Kümin, *Shaping of a Community*, p.80.

⁴⁹ Wilkinson found four justices from Prescott parish in the pre-war period: Henry Ogle, Richard Bold, Edward Bridgeman (the bishop's brother) and Thomas Ashton of Penketh: D.J. Wilkinson, 'The commission of the peace in Lancashire, 1603–42', *THLC*, 132 (1983), pp.63, 65.

⁵⁰ KCC, PRE/22; *Court Leet Records*, ed. Bailey, pp.299–302.

had been strongly challenged at that time and had perhaps never recovered. It has been suggested that Neile and Laud sought deliberately to undermine local gentry élites and in so doing contributed to the later breakdown of government.⁵¹ The Prescott churchwardens' suits against Henry Ogle and James Pemberton⁵² in 1635–6 certainly provide vivid examples of gentry who were humiliated in the church courts.⁵³ The heads of households in and around Prescott parish who were styled 'gent.' in the 1630s, were almost all recusants or 'church papists' and most of them, when the time came, declared for the king. The only parliamentary supporters were the Bolds of Bold, the Brooks of Sankey, the Lathoms of Whiston and, after 1646, the Ogles of Whiston and Roby.⁵⁴

The Bolds of Bold Hall on Farnworth side were the most eminent family in the parish itself, with an impressive annual income of c.£1750. They were unusual in having conformed after earlier recusancy. As well as chapels at Farnworth and in Bold Hall, they had a seat in Prescott church and are commemorated there still by a bench-end in the chancel (the 'griffin' of Bold), by an inscription to Sir Thomas Bold and his wife Lady Bridget in the roof and by the arms of Richard Bold in the nave.⁵⁵ The timber-framed Bold Hall, with its stone tower, was by far the largest property in the parish.⁵⁶ At the death of Richard Bold in 1636 his heir Peter (d. 1658) was only nine and was never in arms, but it was not long before he was giving unequivocal youthful support to the parliamentary cause: he was the wealthiest of the Lancashire roundheads.

The Ogles, stewards to the Derbys over two centuries, appear frequently in the accounts. John Ogle of Whiston, the supposed principal rebuilder of the church in 1610, was in 1591 'a comer to church but no communicant'.⁵⁷ He is commemorated by an effigy in the chancel, by a chair in the sanctuary inscribed with his name,⁵⁸ and by arms in the nave and on its roof timbers. His heir Henry farmed Prescott Hall,⁵⁹

⁵¹ C. Hill, 'Parliament and people in seventeenth-century England', *Past and Present*, 92 (1981), p.100; A. Foster, 'Church policies', in *Conflict in Early Stuart England*, ed. R. Cust and A. Hughes (Harlow, 1989), p.209.

⁵² Of Halsnead, Whiston (d. 1655). Cited as a recusant in 1633, Pemberton was ordered to pay leys arrears in full in Aug. 1638: he was buried in church and a wooden memorial plaque placed in the chancel.

⁵³ See pp. xxi, xxix, xxxv.

⁵⁴ The only other parliamentary supporters in the whole district were Moore of Bank Hall, Case of Huyton, Stanley of Bickerstaffe, Ireland of Hutt, and Aspinwall of Toxteth: Blackwood, *Lancashire Gentry*, p.41.

⁵⁵ Sir Thomas married Bridget Norris of Speke in 1607. His successor and nephew Richard Bold (1590–1636) was a justice and one of the few conformist gentry in the parish. For his death: *Lancashire Funeral Certificates*, ed. T.W. King, CS, Orig. Ser. 75 (1866), p.58. An upright alabaster effigy survives in the Bold chapel at Farnworth: it is illustrated in P. Fleetwood-Hesketh, *Murray's Lancashire Guide* (1955), p.40.

⁵⁶ Bold Hall had been an important mass centre at the end of Elizabeth's reign. It was completely rebuilt in 1616 and had 20 hearths by 1662: *VCH, Lancs.* III, p.409. Old Bold Hall is depicted in a window at Farnworth church, illustrated in A. Foster, *History of Farnworth Church* (Farnworth, 1981), p.32.

⁵⁷ PRO, SP 12/235 [4].

⁵⁸ Effigy and chair are illustrated in C.W. Budden, *An Introduction to the Ancient Churches of the Liverpool Diocese* (Liverpool, 1929), facing pp.65, 72; for the chair: F. Crooks, 'The sanctuary chair of Prescott church, 1610', *THLC*, 79 (1927), pp.1–2, fig.1.

⁵⁹ Photographs of Prescott Hall are in A.S. Roberts, *Prescot of Yesteryear* (Prescot, 1990), p.30 and R.J. Tyler, *Prescot in Old Picture Postcards* (Zaltbommel, 1993), view 43. With eight hearths in 1666, it was smaller than the vicarage: *VCH, Lancs.* III, p.354.

in addition to lands in Roby, Whiston and Huyton and was a magistrate from 1627–1641,⁶⁰ working at the end of this period with the puritan justices Moore and Ashton. He pursued an unsuccessful campaign against the church beautification of the 1630s, but took no part in the ‘great rebellion’. Ogle’s Prescott Hall estate was assessed for a full third of the township’s church rate liability throughout the period.⁶¹ Henry’s sons Cuthbert (c.1614–1670, married to Elizabeth, daughter of John Harrington of Huyton Hey) and Henry (c.1622–c.1649, married to Frances, daughter of Richard Bold) were conformists, who were quick to enrol in Lord Strange’s force in 1642. Henry junior (a captain) joined Strange’s march on Manchester and was taken prisoner at Edgehill, but ‘shewn curtisie’ and released. He was captured again at Leigh on 24 December 1642, but was at the first siege of Lathom House and was probably the ‘Captain Ogle’ still active there in 1644.⁶² Cuthbert (who had suffered great losses when his mill at Whiston was burned down in the fighting) compounded in 1646.⁶³ Another son, Edward, was a burgess of Liverpool in 1644 and may have been the ‘Captain Ogle’ involved in parish affairs on behalf of the parliamentary colonels in 1644–5: ‘Edward Ogle’ signed the accounts in 1645. From 1646 the three brothers, soon followed by their vicar brother-in-law Richard Day, seem to have given support to parliament. All four allied themselves with the godly party in the 1649 petition.⁶⁴

The Eight Men

In 1555 an episcopal decree had set up Prescott’s select vestry or body of ‘eight men’ and day to day governance of the parish lay with them and with the churchwardens, for whose selection they were responsible.⁶⁵ Subject to annual election on St Luke’s day (18 October), the eight men had the role of appointing the wardens, setting church rates and approving the accounts. Until 1602 they had been appointed directly by the ‘vicar and gentlemen’, a practice which has been seen as the institutionalisation of oligarchic gentry control of churchwardens.⁶⁶ Yet while such bodies tended to become self-perpetuating, they were sometimes formed genuinely in the interests of efficiency, so that parish government could proceed ‘without molestation or troubling of the common people’.⁶⁷ At Prescott, about a third of the churchwardens served as one of the eight men and there appears to have been little social distinction

⁶⁰ Wilkinson, ‘The commission of the peace’, p.65.

⁶¹ CRO, EDC 5/1637/86.

⁶² Ormerod, *Tracts*, pp.169, 184; A.J. Hawkes, ‘Wigan’s part in the civil war’, *TLCAS*, 47 (1931–2), pp.105–6.

⁶³ *Composition Papers*, IV, p.236.

⁶⁴ Yet in 1654 Henry junior was agent for Charles, earl of Derby in the re-purchase of his father’s confiscated Rainford manor and in 1660 Cuthbert and Edward joined with John Harrington and Henry Eccleston in petitioning the justices to relieve a soldier from Sutton, wounded fighting for Charles II: LRO, QSP/199/24.

⁶⁵ The Church’s ‘eight men’ were paralleled by the town’s ‘four men’, two nominated by the manorial steward and two by the 24 jurymen of the court leet and baron.

⁶⁶ Haigh, *Reformation and Resistance*, p.19; Bailey, ‘Commentary’, p.179.

⁶⁷ *Lambeth Churchwardens Accounts*, ed. C. Drew, Surrey Record Society, 18 (1941), p.xiii.

between the two groups. From 1634 both groups were usually elected by and from their own 'middling' kind. The eight men continued, however, to be chosen from Prescott side only, despite an episcopal order in 1620 that two of them should represent Farnworth side.⁶⁸

The Churchwardens

Parishes were much more than convenient units of ecclesiastical administration: each was 'a complex legal web of property rights, financial interests, tithe dues and temporal responsibilities'.⁶⁹ At the centre of all these demands and expectations were the churchwardens, elected for twelve months' service at the vestry meeting each Easter week and admitted to office under oath at the rural dean's annual visitation.⁷⁰ First appearing in canon law in 1127, churchwardens gradually came, long before the reformation, to exercise certain informal secular functions in addition to their ecclesiastical responsibilities. By the seventeenth century these secular duties had greatly increased. Both royal and ecclesiastical policy relied heavily on the administrative structures of the Church and on churchwardens in particular for loyal co-operation: they came to occupy a vital intermediate position between crown, gentry and people.⁷¹

Churchwardens had wide-ranging roles in the enforcement of policy and the provision of information, responsible alike for the orderly conduct of worship, maintenance of the church fabric, provision of books, and of bread and wine for the communion, the reporting of absenteeism, recusancy and immorality, the administration of poor relief, burying unknowns, care of parish armour and provision of muskets and powder, and of course for the collection of church rates and for taking legal action when these were not forthcoming.⁷² In many ways the churchwardens' role became more crucial than that of the incumbent: they provided continuity as the 'memory' of the parish. It is important to try to understand not only their functions, but also the financial resources available to them, their liabilities and the conventions by which they worked.

To what sort of men was wardenship entrusted? In common with all officers of English local government, churchwardens were unpaid, non-professional and part-time. In some places they were chosen by rotation or house-row.⁷³ There seems to have been an implicit requirement that they should have adequate financial resources to bear the delayed cash flow inherent in the system.⁷⁴ Most Prescott wardens had other experience of office at manorial or parochial level and there was a similar

⁶⁸ Bailey, 'Commentary', pp.176–8; *Churchwardens' Accounts*, ed. Bailey, p.vii; LRO, DDX/480/18/16.

⁶⁹ J. Bettey, *Church and Community* (Bradford-on-Avon, 1979), pp.106–7.

⁷⁰ Both usually followed by feasting. The oath was considered essential for authority to levy rates and became increasingly important: J. Addy, *Sin and Society* (1989), p.48.

⁷¹ E. Carlson, 'The origin, function and status of the office of churchwarden', in *The World of Rural Dissenters*, ed. M. Spufford (Cambridge, 1995), pp.164–207.

⁷² J.S. Craig, 'Co-operation and initiatives', *Social History*, 18 (1993), p.359.

⁷³ Addy, *Sin and Society*, p.47.

⁷⁴ Craig, 'Co-operation', p.365.

⁷⁵ Kümin, *Shaping of a Community*, pp.30, 32, 39.

incidence of dominant personalities as Kūmin found for the sixteenth century.⁷⁵ It is impossible to measure the effect of election by what was in effect a 'closed vestry', on the calibre of wardens.⁷⁶ There are very few instances of declared reluctance to serve and every reason to think that there was the same mixture of attraction to the status and nervousness at shouldering the heavy responsibilities as is often felt by churchwardens today.

In 1590 some Lancashire clergy characterised their churchwardens as 'commonly of the meanest and lowdest sort of people and therefore most fit to serve the humour of the gentry and multitude'.⁷⁷ Three miles across the valley from Prescott was the adjacent parish church of Childwall. A local verse described the duties of its sidesmen thus:

To ken and see and say nowt
To eat and drink and pay nowt
And when the wardens drunken roam
Your duty is to see them home.⁷⁸

Alleged wasteful expenditure on feasting at audit time and on the occasion of the swearing-in ceremonies (when wardens took their oaths before the rural dean), and excessive expenses claims for supervising workmen or attending services, were common complaints. After years of conflict at Prescott, fixed scales for payments such as these were to be agreed in 1682 and 1696.⁷⁹

At Prescott, Craig noticed that 'yeomen, artisans and husbandmen were all probable candidates for wardenship, while the local gentry, day labourers and the poor were not'. All the wardens he could identify in the period 1558–1603 were yeomen or husbandmen.⁸⁰ Bailey, too, found that the sixteenth century Prescott wardens were 'yeomen, craftsmen and traders', certainly 'all below the rank of gentlemen'.⁸¹ Andrew Foster suggests that wardens in market towns were more business-like and of a slightly higher social status and this consideration may apply in some degree to Prescott, whose seventeenth century wardens seem to have been typically yeomen of the 'middling sort', of the kind who often described themselves as 'better' or 'more substantial'.⁸²

Churchwardens frequently had difficulties in playing their required role in ecclesiastical jurisdiction. This was sometimes because they were 'addicted to puritanism' themselves or simply incapable of enforcing unpopular orders.⁸³ The commonest complaint by authority was their failure to present offenders, whether this was caused by 'friendship, neighbourly feeling, pity, procrastination, social

⁷⁵ Addy thought it an advantage: *Sin and Society*, pp.80–1.

⁷⁷ *A Description of the State Civil and Ecclesiastical of the County of Lancaster, c.1590*, ed. F.R. Raines, CS, Orig. Ser. 96 (1875), p.9.

⁷⁸ J.C. Cox, *Churchwardens' Accounts* (1913), p.3. Sidesmen were assistants to the churchwardens.

⁷⁹ LRO, PR 2880/4/5/1 (1682); Paterson, *Prescot*, p.45 (1696).

⁸⁰ Craig, 'Ecclesiastical policy', pp.26, 62.

⁸¹ Bailey, 'Commentary', p.137.

⁸² A. Foster, 'Churchwardens' Accounts', in French, Gibbs and Kūmin (eds), *The Parish*, p.83; Craig, 'Co-operation', p.359.

⁸³ Richardson, 'Puritanism and the ecclesiastical authorities', in *Politics, Religion and the Civil War*, ed. Manning, p.28.

pressures or corruption'.⁸⁴ Speaking scathingly in 1633 of a country 'full of Papists...and full of Puritans too', Archbishop Richard Neile's visitors attacked 'these wilful churchwardens' whom they 'could not gett...to present any'. 'Till some...be exemplarily punished', they reported, 'the rest will never take care to discharge their duties and their othes'.⁸⁵ The notorious puritan William Prynne had specifically suggested tactics to avoid presenting at visitations.⁸⁶ This should be no surprise, for churchwardens seldom exercised their delicate role for more than a year, after which they had to return to their 'middling' places in the community. As Marshall has remarked: 'they can hardly be seen without qualification as agents of the state' and 'must have placed considerable value on the good opinion of their neighbours'.⁸⁷ Churchwardens did, however, come to play a crucial role between the gentry and the ordinary inhabitants in implementing state policy. From the civil wars onwards the Prescott accounts show a progressive clarification of lines of authority in the 'monthly meetings' of the justices with wardens, overseers and constables and in the equally important quarterly petty sessions.⁸⁸

There is no doubt that the duties of churchwardens were onerous and that they suffered from the conflicting pressures of the demands of the church courts and of local communities. Churchwardens needed both tact and diligence. If they enjoyed a few opportunities for self-advantage, it was always true that any suspicion of impropriety or neglect could provoke a legal action and the ever-present threat of excommunication. Henry Meade⁸⁹ and Thomas Walles,⁹⁰ churchwardens of Prescott in 1634–5, when the first of two local gentry was sued for rate arrears, were immediately subjected to attacks on their honesty.⁹¹ William Wood (churchwarden in 1637) travelled to Wigan to defend the parish from further orders to provide for the poor and found himself committed to prison for two days and obliged to pay £1 in fees for the privilege.⁹²

⁸⁴ Addy, *Sin and Society*, p.81.

⁸⁵ SRO, D1287/9/8/3 A92, f. 4.

⁸⁶ W. Prynne, *Briefe Instructions for Churchwardens* (1635–6).

⁸⁷ P. Marshall, 'Introduction', in *The Impact of the English Reformation, 1500–1640*, ed. P. Marshall (1997), p.5.

⁸⁸ J. Kent, 'The centre and the localities: state formation and parish government in England, 1640–1740', *The Historical Journal*, 38, II (1995), pp.382–4.

⁸⁹ Almost certainly a son of Thomas Meade (vicar of Prescott from 1583–1616 and a strict puritan), Henry was warden during four years of extraordinary expenditure on church improvement. He died, allegedly in debt to the parish: CRO, EDC 5/1638/137. See pp.xxix, xxxiv, 41. He was buried in church on 26 August 1637.

⁹⁰ Walles (1605–1660), was a Prescott innkeeper, vintner and 'shearman'. Churchwarden during the years of beautification and constable in the upheavals of 1643 and the plague year of 1652, he was accused in 1646 of having been in arms against parliament as part of Lord Derby's army, paid a £20 fine and took the national covenant and negative oath. King noticed that from 1647, Walles (and his widow Margery after him) always headed the list of non-observers of the Prescott manor court's 'assize of ale': he concluded that this was a local tax on alehouse-keepers: W.J. King, 'The regulation of alehouses in Stuart Lancashire', *THLC*, 129 (1980), p.38.

⁹¹ CRO, EDC 5/1635/90. See pp.xxix–xxx.

⁹² William Wood of Sutton (d. 1673), one of the eight men in 1634–5, imprisoned at the quarter sessions in June 1637. See below p.26. His will survives: LRO, WCW/Sutton/1673.

A marked feature of the accounts is the frequency and distance of the official journeys the churchwardens had to make, over the roughest of roads at all seasons of the year. The consistory court at Chester, the dean's court or quarter sessions at Wigan or Ormskirk, the parliamentary colonels at Warrington, archbishop's visitors at Manchester, the county committee at Preston, justices at Liverpool, assizes at Lancaster, inquisitions at Chorley, the bishop at Lever: the summons to attend had to be obeyed and travel was relentless, journeys usually involving nights away from home and farm. Food for horses and the cost of their hire are often mentioned and fitness to ride may have been a necessary qualification for election.

In 1546, in a measure common in multi-township parishes, the number of churchwardens had been increased from two to four, one for each quarter of Prescott side. Bishop Gastrell was later to record that there were 'four wardens for Prescott side, *viz* Prescott, Whiston and Rainhill, one for each township in its turn; Sutton, one; Eccleston and Rainford, one; Windle and Parr, one; the first of which is named by the vicar and the other three by the eight men'.⁹³ In 1637 William Wood was 'the warden for Sutton quarter'.⁹⁴ Four 'schoolwardens' were also elected annually for Prescott School. On Farnworth side Gastrell noted that four chapelwardens represented the quarters of Widnes; Bold; Cronton and Cuerdley; and Ditton, Sankey and Penketh. The first was appointed by the curate and the remainder by the Farnworth vestry.

The Accounts

The accounts were presented for approval at the ritualised annual meeting in which oral and written testimony were mixed and at which, if Cox is to be believed, women parishioners had voting rights.⁹⁵ The audit was in no sense a formality, for the churchwardens merely held between accounting periods the corporate sovereignty of the parish meeting. At Prescott approval was several times deferred, but despite occasional questioning of specific items of expenditure there is no record of any being disallowed. In a sense, too, even the record of receipts and payments is incidental to the record of audit and election, which was the primary function of the annual meeting.⁹⁶ The 1604 canons required the annual meeting to be held in Easter week and although an ordinance of 1648 specified Easter Monday or Tuesday, this brought no change at Prescott where Easter Tuesday had long been the invariable day.

Churchwardens' accounts were usually 'made faire' by literate amateurs, using primary sources including sexton's bills, clerk's wages books and collectors' accounts.⁹⁷ However, the recorded transactions may represent 'only a fragment of the real financial arrangements which underpinned parish life'. We can never know, for example, how many obligations were rendered in kind and can only make

⁹³ *Churchwardens' Accounts*, ed. Bailey, p.vii; Bailey, 'Commentary', p.165; Kūmin, *Shaping of a Community*, p.172; *Notitia*, p.203. The point was made in evidence in 1634: CRO, EDC 5/1634/103.

⁹⁴ LRO, QSB/1/194/47.

⁹⁵ Foster, 'Churchwardens' Accounts', p.85; Cox, *Churchwardens' Accounts*, p.11.

⁹⁶ *Lambeth accounts*, pp.xii–xiii.

⁹⁷ *Ibid.* p.xv.

assumptions about what the churchwardens were supposed to include. Foster remarks that parish communities often subverted the best intentions of those who imposed record-keeping on them!⁹⁸ For example, the absence of recorded expenditure does not necessarily imply the absence of a custom or activity. In rural areas churches were often bedecked with greenery at festivals without any cost having to be entered. Similarly the discontinuance of the rogationtide perambulation cannot be presumed when the payments for extensive hospitality are not made.⁹⁹ In both cases what was required may simply have been freely given. It has also been pointed out that a special rate or collection was often omitted from the accounts if it was spent in its entirety on its declared object.¹⁰⁰

The written record of accounts in the Prescott church book usually follows the common form detected by Beat Kümin.¹⁰¹ It begins with a heading, including a statement of the accounting period (Easter-Easter); then come the balance or arrears from the previous account; individual items of income ('the charge'); the total income (charge plus other income); individual items of expenditure ('the discharge'); the total expenditure; the balance and acquittal of officers; finally come any memoranda concerning sums unpaid and money still remaining in other hands. An inventory of church goods was also supposed to be taken, but these are rare and none survive for Prescott in this period. Nor is there any clear evidence of a division of responsibility between the wardens.

Church Leyes

Traditional sources of income, such as endowments, special collections, burial fees, pew rents and money from 'church ales' and entertainments, were already losing importance at Prescott by the sixteenth century in favour of a heavy reliance on compulsory church leyes or rates on local landholders.¹⁰² Local assessments, frequently based on the poor rate, could be enforced in the church courts.¹⁰³ The assessment for Prescott leyes remained standard throughout the period: Prescott side was assessed at £4 (20s from each quarter) and Farnworth side at £3 16s (16s 10d from each township or pair of townships). There were 192 leyes laid between 1634 and 1663, an average of more than six a year, which should have yielded £1497 12s. Burial fees and the sale of redundant church furnishings yielded £44 and £2 0s 3d respectively during the same period.

Church rates had begun to rise everywhere as a result of the repair and beautification orders following the visitations of the early 1630s. This caused an immediate reaction in many parishes. Non-payment of church rates trebled between 1633 and 1636, and Foster has shown that refusal sometimes indicated bitterness with a social or political cause. Churchwardens were harassed, defaulters frequently

⁹⁸ Foster, 'Churchwardens' Accounts', p.85.

⁹⁹ See pp.22, 63.

¹⁰⁰ *Lambeth Accounts*, pp.xv-xvi.

¹⁰¹ Kümin, *Shaping of a Community*, p.84.

¹⁰² *Ibid.* p.115, n.202.

¹⁰³ *Lambeth accounts*, pp.lii-iii.

sued for payment and gentry pews often removed.¹⁰⁴ All these things occurred at Prescot and no fewer than 82 leyes, raising £248, were laid between May 1634 and October 1637.¹⁰⁵ After 1642 a more traditional annual imposition of two to four leyes produced an average income of £23 10s a year.

Non-payment on Farnworth side was a serious and long-standing problem. Farnworth petitioned against Prescot church rates in 1291, 1555, 1620 and 1640.¹⁰⁶ Frequent trouble in collecting leyes on Farnworth side can be traced through the accounts of both the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and in the consistory court records.¹⁰⁷ The seventeenth century accounts record the use of troops for the purpose.¹⁰⁸ In 1640 the people of Farnworth had petitioned the Commons to be made an independent parish, citing their grievances about church rates and excessive expenditure, especially for the new organs and the organist's stipend at Prescot.¹⁰⁹

It is clear from surviving constables' accounts for Sutton township that by 1658 leyes for the repair of the parish church were consolidated with demands for maintenance of the army and navy and of the poor and impotent, together with payments towards maimed soldiers and prisoners, and highway and bridge repairs.¹¹⁰ Church rates only added to a steadily rising burden of civil taxation.

The Poor

The accounts bear eloquent witness to the strains which relief of the poor, maimed soldiers and prisoners placed on parishes. While there was much local variation, the churchwardens were involved in two separate systems of poor relief: voluntary alms giving based on medieval precedent and controlled by later legislation; and the compulsory system under the 'poor law' of 1598–1601. At Prescot a combination of vigorous manorial independence and periods of puritan control led to energetic and aggressive treatment of poverty in which aid for the deserving and the unemployed was matched by forceful discouragement of idleness and of outsiders.¹¹¹ Under an Elizabethan statute parishes were assessed for 2d–10d per week for maimed soldiers. Raising of the money was to be agreed in the parish or settled by wardens and constables, or justices and paid to the high constable before each quarter sessions. Payments for those in Lancaster gaol ('gaol money' or 'rogue money') were between 6d and 8d, imposed by the justices and collected by the churchwardens Sunday by Sunday, to be handed over quarterly.¹¹² Finally came the ½d to 6d imposed by the justices for the relief of those in the Marshalsea and King's bench prisons, with any

¹⁰⁴ Foster, 'Church Policies', p.216.

¹⁰⁵ Addy, *Sin and Society*, p.73.

¹⁰⁶ The disputes of 1291 and 1555 were cited in 1620: CRO, EDC 5/1619/10. For the decree of 1620: LRO, DDX/480/18/16, discussed in Bailey, 'Commentary', pp.176–8.

¹⁰⁷ CRO, EDC 5/1612/17; 1619/10; 1634/103; 1635/90; 1636/68,110; 1637/86; 1638/137.

¹⁰⁸ See pp.xxxvii, 105–8.

¹⁰⁹ KCC, PRE/30; PRE/31. See pp.xiv, xxxiv.

¹¹⁰ LRO, PR 3404/13/1.

¹¹¹ M.K. McIntosh, 'Local responses to the poor in late medieval and Tudor England', *Continuity and Change*, III, 1 (1988), pp.212, 230.

¹¹² Cox, *Churchwardens' Accounts*, pp.336–7; *Lambeth Accounts*, pp.xliv–v.

balance to go to the county's hospitals and almshouses. Usually called 'hospital money' this is never mentioned in the Prescott accounts. In practice however, the contributions for maimed soldiers and the gaol and hospital money were often met from ordinary sources and simply consolidated.¹¹³

The wardens, overseers and constables exercised over-lapping roles in poor relief, but in particular the law required the churchwardens and overseers nominated by the justices to assess the inhabitants and collect weekly contributions. In practice these sums were difficult to collect in full and assessments at Prescott were usually subsumed in the church rates. A witness testified in 1637 that the maintenance of poor children 'cast or put upon' the parish had been met customarily from the leys.¹¹⁴ Additional income should perhaps have come from the 12d fine for absence from church, first imposed in 1559, but this seems largely to have been ignored at Prescott as elsewhere,¹¹⁵ except for a short period in 1641–1642 when it was collected from all recusants and distributed to the poor under the supervision of the justices.

In 1641 the parish had to find more than £20 in allowances of £1 or £1 10s (a good deal less than the national average) which they were ordered by the justices to pay to the 'impotent poor'. The relief system came under particular strain in the dearth following the disastrous harvest of 1646, when poor rates became crippling and troops taking free quarter exacerbated the problem.¹¹⁶ In 1647 a petition from the Warrington *classis* on behalf of William Cooper, a destitute former soldier, spoke of 'the great pressures which lie upon congregations from multitudes of collections'.¹¹⁷

By 1650 arrears in regular payments were so severe that the vestry introduced a special 'tax', separate from the other leys, to be spent only on the poor. In addition there were the sums handed out to destitute travellers (with passes to show that they had been punished elsewhere, or explaining their circumstances), providing them with alms and a night's lodging: at Prescott these tended to receive 6d. or 1s.¹¹⁸ During the outbreak of plague in 1653 there were said to be more than 500 poor people in Prescott and Whiston unable to maintain themselves.¹¹⁹ It has been estimated that by the 1660s as many as 25 *per cent* of the national population needed parochial relief and it was often impossible for the wardens to collect a full rate.¹²⁰

As for the voluntary system, many wardens were happy to meet casual demands for relief from their funds, rather than holding a special collection. Fines for certain offences often went into the poor box and solemn fasts usually involved alms giving for the poor.

¹¹³ *Ibid.* p.xlv.

¹¹⁴ For '40, 30, 20, at least ten years': CRO, EDC 5/1637/86.

¹¹⁵ Addy, *Sin and Society*, pp.69–70.

¹¹⁶ J. Walter and K. Wrightson, 'Dearth and the social order', *Past and Present*, 71 (1976), pp.39–40.

¹¹⁷ LRO, QSB/1/292/50.

¹¹⁸ Prescott's position on the main route between Ireland and the rest of England made it vulnerable to claims from travellers. See pp.28, 82, 84, 91, 120–1, 145. For sums payed elsewhere: P. Slack, *Poverty and Policy in Tudor and Stuart England* (1988), pp.82, 92.

¹¹⁹ LRO, QSP/79/29.

¹²⁰ Addy, *Sin and Society*, p.63.

The frequent journeyings of the churchwardens often resulted from the heavy obligations which the poor law placed upon them. Although responsibility for the poor was shared with the overseers, the churchwardens had constantly to be on the alert for any new charge which might be made on the parish. It was alleged in 1641 that many poor had ‘gotten orders . . . upon false suggestions’ and the wardens promised a full survey.¹²¹ Amongst their most regular travels were those to the quarter sessions (usually at Ormskirk or Wigan) to ‘prevent orders against the parish’: this involved briefing (and paying) attorneys to show cause why a particular petitioner had not acquired the right to be maintained at parish expense.

THE PARISH CHURCH

The parish church was situated in the western-most corner of its large parish, but stood on an eminence at 250 feet and was a prominent landmark for miles around.¹²² The church had been rebuilt in 1610, with today’s magnificent roof and 96 feet-long nave, displaying high on its walls the arms of eight prominent local gentry families.¹²³ This continued a tradition, for the glazing had long been embellished in this way.¹²⁴ The church is said to have been pewed in 1611.¹²⁵ There are two surviving plans (undated, but clearly from the seventeenth century) showing layout and pew allocations. The plans show the pulpit and reading desk (not moved in 1634), with the ‘altar’, in a north-south position at the east end and apparently raised or railed. Seats for ‘the clerk’ and ‘the minister’ are in the midst of the nave close to the north aisle. While the position of the altar and the dated companion plan for Rainford make it likely that the plans relate to the changes made in 1634, other features suggest at least a close connection with the arrangements of 1610–1611. The pew allocations for seven gentry families are in direct relation to their armorial bearings on the walls above.¹²⁶

¹²¹ LRO, QSR/38 (1641). All the orders then in force are listed in LRO, QSB/1/250/38. See p.78.

¹²² The earliest exterior views of the church are: mid/late seventeenth century (‘The mansion house of Knowsley and the demesne thereunto belonging’, map) and pre-1729 (P. Tillemans, ‘Knowsley Park from Riding Hill, looking towards Prescott’, painting), both at Knowsley Hall; 1743 (W. Winstanley, ‘The south prospect of Prescott’, reproduced in L. Knowles, *A Prospect of Prescott*, Knowsley, 1982, front cover) and (in detail) c.1740–1750 (painting in Prescott church, reproduced in Knowles, *Prospect*, p.4, there wrongly attributed to the nineteenth century).

¹²³ Richard Bold of Bold (d. 1636); Edward Eccleston of Eccleston (d. 1624); Sir Thomas Gerard of Bryn and Windle (d. 1621); John Ogle of Whiston (d. 1612); Francis Watmough of Micklehead in Sutton (d. 1614); William, earl of Derby (d. 1642); Sir Thomas Tyldesley of Wardeley and Great Sankey (d. 1635); and Henry Byrom of Byrom and Parr (d. 1613).

¹²⁴ J.P. Rylands, ‘Comments on the arms existing in the churches of Prescott, Wigan and Liverpool in the year 1590’, *THLC*, 33 (1882), pp.247–8; LRO, WCW/Rainhill/1606.

¹²⁵ *Notitia*, p.203.

¹²⁶ LRO, DDK 115/12 [part], ‘A copy of the platform of seats in Prescott Church which was got from Mr Lawton in 1741’; *ibid.* DDK 295/6. It appears that the first belongs with LRO, DDK 115/12 [part], ‘A copy of the platform of Rainford Ould Chapel fixed by John Chester bishop of Chester in the year 1634’. For a similar layout at Tarporley, Cheshire, c.1634: CRO, EDP/263/5. Maltby was in error dating this to 1613: J. Maltby, *Prayer Book and People in Elizabethan and Early Stuart England* (Cambridge, 1998), p.49.

It is clear that it was existing seating in the chancel, which was ‘made quire-wise’ in the alterations.¹²⁷ Near the chancel entrance the surviving plans mark ‘the way to the singing gallery’. This suggests that there was a loft on the old rood screen, probably that adapted for the organ in 1636.¹²⁸ Opening off the chancel was the vestry, and immediately south of this was an area of the nave occupied by Mr Bold’s seats and called on one of the plans ‘The North Chappell’ and in the accounts ‘Mr Boulds chapell’: the Bold arms appear on the north wall, directly above.¹²⁹ The steeple, with its ring of four bells and clockhouse, had, like the chancel, probably not been rebuilt in 1610 and had been ‘in ruins’ in 1620.¹³⁰

Beautification and Repairs

Prescot’s accounts reveal the enormous energy and expenditure which went into both recurring repairs and church improvement throughout this period. The rebuilding in 1610 followed the 1608 visitation¹³¹ and may be seen as part of a ‘minor building revolution’ in the ‘heroic attempt to re-equip catholic worship spaces for protestant use’, signalled by Archbishop Whitgift’s national survey of church fabrics in 1602.¹³² In a similar way many churches were compulsorily reordered in the 1630s, as ‘perspective theatres for . . . sacramental kingship’, part of a movement variously called ‘Arminianism’, ‘Laudianism’, ‘ceremonialism’ or ‘Carolinism’.¹³³ Charles I and Archbishop Laud sought, in effect, to impose upon the whole nation ‘the culture of the Chapel Royal’.¹³⁴

Visitations in 1633 and 1634 found that the fabric of Prescot church was ‘very ruinous and much decayed aboute the rooffe and other parts’ and ‘wanted ornaments’.¹³⁵ In 1632 the archbishop of York, Richard Neile, ‘the great adversary of the puritan faction in the north’ and one of Laud’s most successful colleagues, had extended the powers of the York high commission to the diocese of Chester.¹³⁶ Richard Mather, curate of Toxteth, who had been delivering a weekly lecture at Prescot, was presented and immediately suspended for refusing to wear the surplice and told that it would have been ‘better for him that he had gotten seven bastards’: he sailed for New England the following year.¹³⁷ Of the deanery’s churchwardens the

¹²⁷ See App III.

¹²⁸ See pp. 12, 100, 229.

¹²⁹ It has often been claimed that this was once a Bold chantry: Bailey, ‘Commentary’, pp. 159–160; Paterson, *Prescot*, p. 55; a dig in 1998 found no evidence for this: Liverpool Museum, Merseyside Sites and Monuments Record, ‘An assessment of archaeological deposits below the vestry at St Mary’s Church, Prescot, Merseyside (Site 53)’, P.A. Connelly and R.A. Philpott (March, 1998).

¹³⁰ CRO, EDC 5/1619/10.

¹³¹ CRO, EDV 1/15 (f. 115b).

¹³² D. MacCulloch, ‘The myth of the English reformation’, *Journal of British Studies*, 30 (1991), p. 13.

¹³³ Foster, ‘Church policies’, p. 195.

¹³⁴ J. Davies, *The Caroline Captivity of the Church* (Oxford, 1992), pp. 15, 21.

¹³⁵ CRO, EDC 5/1634/103.

¹³⁶ Foster, ‘Church policies’, p. 205.

¹³⁷ J. Mather, *The Life and Death of Richard Mather* (Cambridge, Mass., 1670), p. 11; BIHR, V/1633/CB2 (RV1A/ 23), f. 345v. Richard lived 1596–1669.

visitors wrote: 'We threatened them much, but they are moved at nothing'.¹³⁸ In the following year the lenient Bishop Bridgeman was harried by Neile into continuing the process in his own triennial visitation in 1634. Eventually Bridgeman was able to say (probably with real satisfaction) that 309 churches in the diocese had been 'brought to uniformity and decency' between 1633 and 1636: he reported to Neile in 1637 that 'by your godly care wee have gotten all our churches (almost) newly seated and made very fine and uniform'.¹³⁹

At Prescott the churchwardens undertook an ambitious programme of repairs and improvements, and their accounts provide an invaluable guide to the impact of Laudian reforms in a northern parish. On 6 May 1634 the eight men ordered the first four of no less than 82 church leyes in three and a half years to pay for work which was to cost £250 2s. The church was completely reflagged and largely resealed, a new communion table enclosed by a 'decent rayle' installed, a new clockhouse provided, dividing doors fitted between nave and chancel, new bells cast and a pair of organs installed on the screen.¹⁴⁰ There was much redecoration, with extensive use of whitewash in the aisles, the nave pillars, the belfry and over the west door, while colours were used for the chancel doors, west arch and west window and on each side for the ten nave arches, which were adorned with acorns and globes.¹⁴¹

The bishop's personal involvement in some of the work was remarkable. As well as taking a close interest in the building of a new organ,¹⁴² Bridgeman paid a personal visit to Prescott church on 29 April 1635 and ordered that three gentry pews (those of John Lancaster,¹⁴³ Richard Bold and Thomas Eccleston)¹⁴⁴ 'for uniformity sake . . . be taken downe' and made into forms, 'saying he would have no pews there but the Earl of Darbys'. The doors between the nave and chancel were ordered at the same time.¹⁴⁵

The bulk of the works ordered by the visitations occur as costs in the accounts for the year 1635–6. A local joiner, Laurence Marsh, made five new seats and turned the wainscoting from the Lancaster pew into the required doors dividing nave and chancel,¹⁴⁶

¹³⁸ SRO, D1287/9/8/3 A/92, f. 4. The Prescott wardens may have been interviewed with those from Walton, at Warrington on 25 November 1633: Wn, f. 20v.

¹³⁹ PRO, SP 16/345 [85]; *Calendar of State Papers Domestic, 1636–1637*, p.410; Foster, 'Church policies', pp.202–3.

¹⁴⁰ Similar work at Puddletown, Dorset cost £130, raised by five rates in 1634–1637: Foster, 'Church Policies', p.92. See App III and IV. Hostility was often aroused not simply by the reordering of churches after neglect, but by interference with recently completed improvements: MacCulloch, 'Myth', p.14.

¹⁴¹ See pp.9–10. Colours used at Childwall in 1646 included ortonment (king's yellow) and indigo: Cl, p.202.

¹⁴² See pp.xxxiv, 6.

¹⁴³ Lancaster (1611–1643) of Rainhill Hall, cited for recusancy in 1633 and later sequestrated: he was landlord to Thomas Wallles. The will of Lancaster's grandfather Thomas in 1606 asked for his arms to be 'sett in colours' in the 'southe glasse windowe' of his 'chapel' in Prescott church: LRO, WCW/Rainhill.

¹⁴⁴ Thomas Meade's landlord and a grandson of Edward Eccleston: he succeeded in 1631.

¹⁴⁵ CRO, EDC 5/1682/12. See pp.xxxiv, 3, 7, 9, 16, 229. He acted similarly at Davenham, Cheshire in 1635 and on 15 Apr. 1636 at Backford: R. Richards, *Old Cheshire Churches* (Manchester, 1973), p.37; *VCH, Chesh.* II, p.34.

¹⁴⁶ From Eccleston (b. 1607), he testified to this work in a pew dispute in 1682: CRO, EDC 5/1682/12. See pp.xxix, 4, 9, 10, 45, 229.

while John Rigby of Wigan was commissioned to carve a new communion rail and organ case, and to make the chancel seats 'quire-wise'. In 1636 Rigby's thirteen oak stalls with misericords and a new poor box completed the black oak ensemble still in place today.¹⁴⁷

A strange episode concerns an order from the bishop for a duplicate of Lord Strange's seat to be made for Mr Bold's chapel. Commissioned from Rigby, the seat was almost complete when the bishop cancelled the order: Rigby then petitioned for payment, which the bishop directed to be made out of parish funds. The cancellation probably resulted from Richard Bold's death on 19 February 1636. Of the three gentry whose pews had been removed the previous April, Bold was the only non-recusant and the seat for his chapel was perhaps to have been a compensatory gesture.¹⁴⁸

Several local gentry, including Henry Ogle, James Pemberton, Mr Edgerton of Hardshaw,¹⁴⁹ Richard Watmough of Micklehead¹⁵⁰ and Edward Bridgeman of Sankey (a younger brother of the bishop),¹⁵¹ showed their opposition by withholding payment of leyes from the outset. In March 1635, Henry Ogle, the tenant of Prescott Hall, was sued in the consistory court at Chester for arrears.¹⁵² In 1636 the churchwardens extended the suit to James Pemberton, who complained bitterly that the 'ancienne seate and buriall place' of him and his ancestors had been taken away from him and 'allowed and appointed for one who is a popysh recusant'.¹⁵³ There is no record of action being taken against any other leye defaulters. Counter-suits against churchwardens as a result of costly post-visitation improvements were common.¹⁵⁴ Henry Ogle pursued Henry Meade and Thomas Walles, two of the churchwardens, from April 1635, alleging that they had appropriated materials to their own use, had allowed two recusants' seats (belonging to their landlords) to 'stand unaltered', had consorted with recusants in alehouses and that, having been elected in 1633, they had continued as wardens

¹⁴⁷ See pp.7–9, 13, 14, 16, 229. A previous attempt by Marsh and John Barton to make a rail had been pronounced unacceptable. It appears from the accounts that Rigby was adapting existing seating at Prescott.

¹⁴⁸ See pp.xvii, 7–8, 15–16.

¹⁴⁹ Edward and Richard Edgerton held Hardshaw Hall (Windle) under Lord Derby in 1633: *VCH, Lancs.* III, p.373. Raphe Edgerton of Hardshaw was buried in church in 1656–7.

¹⁵⁰ A convicted recusant, whose estate was sold in 1652: *VCH, Lancs.* III, p.361; he died in Sept. 1652 at the height of the plague outbreak.

¹⁵¹ A justice, but regularly in leyes arrear. In 1635 the constable of Warrington testified that Bridgeman had called him a 'sawrie knave and a brazen-faced knave' for trying to collect taxes from him. A staunch protestant royalist, his 'faire house' at Sankey was stormed by the parliamentarians in 1643: Bridgeman, *Wigan Church*, pp.346–347; A.J. Hawkes, 'Wigan's part in the civil war', *TLCAS*, 47 (1931–2), p.92.

¹⁵² CRO, EDC 5/1637/86; 1638/137.

¹⁵³ CRO, EDC 5/1636/68. The surviving seat-back in the chancel, carved with Pemberton's name was probably re-used in 1636 and perhaps began life as part of his pew. Paterson, *Prescot*, p.56 thought that the inscription 'J. Pemberton M.P.' indicated that Pemberton had been steward of the manor and that this was the steward's seat, but he was never steward. 'M.P.' probably stands for '*moerens posuit*' ('sorrowfully placed'): the seat may have first been a memorial to Pemberton's father James, senior (d. 1626).

¹⁵⁴ Addy, *Sin and Society*, p.73.

for four years 'by the meanes and procurement of Mr Aldem' (the vicar) and not by election or appointment of 'the better sort'.¹⁵⁵

Parishioners were liable for all except chancel repairs. The steeple seems to have been especially troublesome, some £34 5s 8d being spent on it in this period, perhaps reflecting the structural stresses imposed by the popular custom of bell-ringing. It was pointed and bolted with iron in 1638–9 and there were further viewings of steeple defects in 1642–3, 1645–7 and again in 1655–6. Special leyes were imposed in 1658–9 and in 1664–5 it was clasped with iron bands. All these efforts were in vain and the tower was to be completely rebuilt in 1685–1687.¹⁵⁶ Maintenance of the bells during the same period accounted for £134 1s 5d. The vestry also needed much attention, eventually requiring scaffolding and virtual reconstruction in 1654–5. In 1640–1 the 'outiles' were slated and dressed and their roofs completely renewed.¹⁵⁷ The vestry, steeple and the church itself were all kept locked and the locks themselves regularly repaired and renewed.

Services and Seasons

Church services were important not least as the only times the whole community met together, although the attempts at compulsion often led directly to rowdiness and quarrelling over secular matters.¹⁵⁸ There were usually two services (morning and evening prayer) in English parish churches each Sunday, with an additional service of holy communion quarterly, or more rarely monthly, as at Prescot. Evening prayer was always in the afternoon. We know from Roger Lowe's diary that by the restoration baptisms and burials at Prescot were both held on Sunday afternoons.¹⁵⁹

No services other than the communions are named in the accounts, but from the beginning of the period until 1645 they would all have been according to the *Book of Common Prayer* of 1559 (revised in 1604), with use of the *King James Bible* of 1611: a new church bible was acquired in 1643–4. The *Prayer Book* was replaced by the *Directory for the Publique Worship of God* (essentially a guide to approved do-it-yourself services) in January 1645. By June less than ten *per cent* of parishes had acquired the *Directory* and in August county committees were ordered to sell copies to all parishes and to supervise the destruction of prayer books.¹⁶⁰ Even so, less than a quarter of all parishes are recorded as buying the *Directory*. Prescot was one of these, paying 8d for a copy at the end of the year. There was an obviously enthusiastic return to the *Book of Common Prayer* when it was published in 1662: the first two

¹⁵⁵ CRO, EDC 5/1635/90; 1638/137; *Notitia*, p.16; CRO, EDC 5/1637/86; 1638/137. It was further alleged that on 20 Mar. 1635 they had been in the alehouse of William Brown, a recusant, at the time of divine service and there 'conferred upon temporal affairs' and delivered a bond. The puritans did not oppose alcohol, but sabbath profanation could not be disregarded by the court.

¹⁵⁶ There were to be further rebuildings in 1729 and 1797.

¹⁵⁷ The south aisle roof was again renewed in 1680: LRO, PR 2880/4/115.

¹⁵⁸ Bettey, *Church and Community*, pp.76–7.

¹⁵⁹ R. Lowe, *The Diary of Roger Lowe* (1877), p.74.

¹⁶⁰ *Acts and Ordinances of the Interregnum*, eds C.H. Firth and R.S. Rait, I (1911), pp.755ff.

copies had already been bought (for 9s 6d and 5s) by Easter 1662 and two further copies were acquired for 16s 8d in 1662–3.

Among the most informative items in churchwardens' accounts are the entries relating to the celebration of holy communion. By 1635 (and until 1643) it was most common in the Church of England for this to take place quarterly, although there were some parishes (of which Prescott was certainly one) in which the celebration was monthly. Additional celebrations were possible on the greater festivals of Christmas, Easter and Pentecost. John Morrill drew attention to a very striking continuation of communion patterns (both in regard to occasions and admission rules) through many of the troubled years.¹⁶¹ Monthly communion at Prescott (on the first Sunday) had been the custom during Thomas Meade's incumbency, in the years to 1616 and it was clearly still in force in 1637, when testimony was given that the 'charge of monthly communions' had been met from the church leys for '40, 30, 20, at least ten years'.¹⁶² Monthly communions are specifically referred to in each year from 1637 to 1646, from 1648 to 1657 and in 1659–60. Celebrations at the chapel of St Ellen are listed in each year from 1637–8 to 1642–3 and at Rainford from 1638–9 to 1642–3. Monthly communions were also the practice at Farnworth in c.1640.¹⁶³

Ronald Hutton has also shown how the 'festival communions' of Christmas, Easter and Pentecost (when named in the accounts) are often an indicator of a more 'ceremonialist' flavour in a parish's worship and life.¹⁶⁴ Certainly it was only the most puritan incumbents who did not celebrate communion at Christmas and Easter in the years to 1642.¹⁶⁵ Communions on Easter Sunday and the associated days of Palm Sunday, [Maundy] Thursday and Good Friday or 'at Easter' are recorded regularly at Prescott until 1644–5 and then not again until Easter Sunday 1663. No other festivals are mentioned by name in this connection. 'The promiscuous communions at Easter and Christmas'¹⁶⁶ were officially banned, from 1646. Those of Easter declined sharply to 1650, but began reappearing after 1654 and had become widespread again (though not apparently at Prescott) by 1660. The great rallying point for disaffection with the puritan regime was its attempt from its victory in 1646, to abolish Christmas. 'The more they tried . . . the more certain their downfall became'.¹⁶⁷ Unfortunately the Prescott accounts are silent about this issue.

It is difficult to guess how many communicants there may have been at any one celebration, although the provision of holy communion on four or five qualifying days in some Easter seasons suggest that quite large numbers conformed. The number of potential communicants was estimated in c.1601 as 4000 for the whole parish¹⁶⁸ and it was claimed in 1640 that there were 450 families and over 1200

¹⁶¹ J. Morrill, 'The Church in England, 1642–1649', in *Reactions to the English Civil War, 1642–1649*, ed. J. Morrill (Basingstoke, 1982), p.105.

¹⁶² CRO, EDC 5/1637/86.

¹⁶³ KCC, PRE/31.

¹⁶⁴ Hutton, *Merry England*, p.182.

¹⁶⁵ Morrill, 'Church in England', pp.105–7.

¹⁶⁶ So described in *A Petition Humbly Presented to his Highnesse the Lord Protector* (1654), quoted in Hutton, *Merry England*, p.216.

¹⁶⁷ Morrill, 'Church in England', p.114.

¹⁶⁸ T.E. Gibson, *Lydiat Hall and its Associations* (1876), p.248. There were thought to be c.2000 in 1604: Haigh, *Reformation and Resistance*, p.273.

communicants on Farnworth side, although John Aldem stated in the same year that when celebrating at Farnworth he had never seen 'above 20 to 30'.¹⁶⁹

Wine for Prescott church was provided until his death in 1660 by Thomas Walles and afterwards by his widow Margery and son John. Father and son both served turns as churchwarden and John was a joint donor of one of the new chalices in 1663–4. The costs of bread and wine were customarily met from leyes, although there was some variation and the accounts include references to special collections for the purpose and to a contribution towards the cost by the new vicar, Richard Day (for his first year only!) in 1643.¹⁷⁰

Huge quantities of wine were purchased for the communion in some parishes (one Yorkshire parish bought 23 gallons for 200 communicants at six celebrations),¹⁷¹ but in the absence of more accurate communicant numbers it is difficult to make a judgement in Prescott's case. Thomas Walles' payment for wine for one communion ranged from c.7s 6d (1637–8) to £1 5s on Palm Sunday 1665. Margery Walles charged 4s 8d for seven quarts of communion wine supplied to Walton in 1657–8.¹⁷² The wine used was probably cheap claret. Morrill noted that by 1650 amounts spent on bread and wine were usually the same as before the war, although he found some parishes spending only a third of the earlier sums, suggesting their adoption of stricter admission rules and 'closed communion'.¹⁷³

The Liturgical Background

Of all items of church furnishing in the period, the altar, or communion table, was the most controversial. In the early part of the century the table was sometimes kept at the east end in an 'altar position', but by 1633 it was supposed to stand wherever the bishop thought 'convenient': this often meant it being placed 'longways' in an east-west position and moved into the body of the church at communion time.¹⁷⁴ For Laud the altar was 'the greatest place of God's residence upon earth, greater than the pulpit'¹⁷⁵ and the Elizabethan table now became the Caroline altar, placed permanently at the east, converted from a tablewise axis to an altarwise north-south one and surrounded by a decent rail at which communion was to be received.¹⁷⁶ These changes usually necessitated the purchase of a new table and rails, as happened at Prescott in 1635–6.

¹⁶⁹ KCC, PRE/30, 31.

¹⁷⁰ See pp. 101, 107.

¹⁷¹ Cawthorne (near Doncaster), cited in Addy, *Sin and Society*, p. 78.

¹⁷² (Wn, f. 118r.), i.e. 8d a quart. The accounts for several years from 1666 show six or seven bottles of wine being provided for each communion at Prescott church. Cox suggests 6d a quart as a typical price for wine: *Churchwardens' Accounts*, ed. Bailey, p. 95; Dora Bailey cites 6d a quart as the price of claret in 1663: *Prescot Court Leet*, ed. D. Bailey (Liverpool, n.d.), p. 32.

¹⁷³ Morrill, 'Church in England', p. 106.

¹⁷⁴ I am grateful to Dr Kenneth Fincham for his helpful clarification of these rules.

¹⁷⁵ Foster, 'Church policies', p. 203.

¹⁷⁶ In Chester diocese, kneeling for communion was seldom enforced and Neile admitted in 1634 that nowhere in it was the table 'any whit respected': PRO, SP 16/259 [78].

In September 1641, only five years after the new arrangements at Prescott, the House of Commons ordered the removal of 'tables placed altarwise and other reliques of idolatry': tables were to be moved to 'some other convenient place', the rails taken away, and chancels levelled 'as heretofore they were'. Prescott complied by October, the table probably being placed in the midst of the nave, with seats around it.¹⁷⁷ Despite the return of communion rails in 1664–5, the accounts are silent about whether a new altar was provided at that time.

By the 1630s puritan influence had long made preaching and lecturing paramount and the pulpit had become the real focus of attention in most churches. Seating had usually been arranged for this purpose, often blocking views of the chancel. There would certainly have been such an emphasis at Prescott, which had become in 1584 a centre for preaching exercises: these seem still to have been continuing in c.1640.¹⁷⁸ Prescott also had a weekly market day lecture by Richard Mather by 1633.

Preaching is frequently mentioned in the accounts, usually in terms of fees paid to visiting preachers, entertainment given to them and the searches, occupying so much of the churchwardens' energy, for replacement preachers, when the Prescott clergy were absent or sick. It was customary in the area for there to be a guest preacher on Easter Sunday afternoon.¹⁷⁹

Surprisingly the pulpit itself occurs less often: a cover was bought for its cushion in 1643–4; the cushion was renewed in 1650–1; the pulpit itself was lowered and a seat placed in it in the same year; its door required new hinges in 1647–8; and it was varnished in 1656–7.

Puritan love of the pulpit was almost matched by distaste for the font (or at any rate for the font 'stone', which gave it its permanence). By 1633 the font had become a powerful symbol of the Church's authority, binding together all the families of a parish on an equal basis and it had become common, as at Prescott, to preserve an ancient font when other church furnishings were renewed.¹⁸⁰ Fonts (and much of the theology and ceremony of baptism) became objects of particular loathing by the puritans. In 1630 William Rice of Prescott had been presented for 'washing his hands in the font very irreverently and indecently'.¹⁸¹

The Laudians had been concerned to enhance the font's dignity and as control began to slip from their hands in 1641–2, the Prescott font was removed well in advance of the order to do so. In the commonwealth years baptism had to be administered from a mere pewter basin (commonly costing only 6d) kept on a stand by the minister's seat.¹⁸² Use of a baptistery was specifically forbidden in the 1645 directory. The font stone, with its lead and cover, was among the first of the church

¹⁷⁷ See p.82.

¹⁷⁸ Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, Ms. 197, ff.175–185; CRO, EDC 5/1695/13.

¹⁷⁹ The vicar of Prescott preached at Childwall on Easter Sunday 1654, for which he received 10d: Cl, p.212.

¹⁸⁰ Betty, *Church and Community*, p.26.

¹⁸¹ BIHR, V/1629–30/CB, ff.113r–115v.

¹⁸² Cox, *Churchwardens' Accounts*, p.153.

furnishings to be returned at the restoration.¹⁸³ It was put in place immediately after Charles II was proclaimed king in May 1660, under the same acquittance as the setting up of his arms.¹⁸⁴

The Organs

The installation of the new pair of organs at Prescott was, at more than £50, the most costly item in the post-visitation improvements of 1635 and was closely supervised by the bishop himself. The wardens paid several visits to his Lancashire residence, Great Lever Hall, to discuss the project, accompanied on six occasions by 'part of the eight men' and 'dyvers of the parishioners'.¹⁸⁵ The construction work was let to one Thomas Dawes in 1635 and a workshop erected for his use. Tin for the pipes was bought at Wigan and other metal was later supplied by the music enthusiast and former churchwarden, Henry Meade.¹⁸⁶ By 1638 Ferdinando Parker had been appointed to play the instrument at an annual salary fixed by the vicar, gentlemen and eight men.¹⁸⁷

In 1640 the people of Farnworth complained at having to contribute towards the cost of 'the making and adorning of a paire of organs and for the continuall maynetayning of an organist', to which the vicar retorted that it must be 'a grieve to them that wee should have a pare of organs as well as they'.¹⁸⁸ In the event the luxury was not to survive the coming puritan onslaught against this 'abomination'. An order of 9 May 1644 banned organs, together with their frames and cases, but action had already been taken at Prescott. Parker's salary payment at Michaelmas 1642 is marked 'his last quarter' and in 1643–4 the accounts note the sale of organ pipes, ironwork and wooden pipes and a final payment to him of £1, 'quyetly to leave of and deliver upp the key'. The organ boards were sold in 1644–5 and some 'seelinge' and the doors the following year. No more is known of organs at Prescott until a redundant pair from St Asaph cathedral was acquired in September 1749.¹⁸⁹

Bell-ringing and the Clock

In 1637 new second, third and fourth bells were cast at Wigan by the bellfounders

¹⁸³ This may have been a new one. An ancient font, thought to have come from Prescott, was later found in Roby churchyard and returned: J.W. Ellis, 'The medieval fonts of the hundreds of West Derby and Wirral', *THLC*, 53 (1901), pp.72–3.

¹⁸⁴ See p.199.

¹⁸⁵ See p.6. The bishops of Bath and Wells, and of Coventry and Lichfield both pressed for the purchase of organs and clocks in their visitation articles at this time.

¹⁸⁶ Meade's inventory shows him to have been a collector of musical instruments: LRO, WCW/Eccleston/1637. His collection included 'one harpshicall with pypes; one pare of virginalls; one base vyall; one orforyall; one lute; one citterne; one olde broken bandore'.

¹⁸⁷ Parker had been a Liverpool burgess in 1635: G. Chandler, *Liverpool under Charles I* (Liverpool, 1965), p.151. In 1639 the vicar and eight men ordered a salary increase from £6 13s 5d to £8: Kenyon Ms. 172. He died at Prescott in 1646.

¹⁸⁸ KCC, PRE/30. An organ had been installed at Farnworth in 1606: CRO, EDC 5/1633/13. See pp.xiv, xxiv.

¹⁸⁹ LRO, PR 3404/4/164.

Scott¹⁹⁰ and Clibbery¹⁹¹ and all the bells rehung by James Boates of Liverpool.¹⁹² The bells were tried out on 24 November 1637 by 'the gentlemen on Farnworth syde and others on this syde' and by 'the Cheshire men' later that year. The involvement of the Farnworth men was an unusual eirenic gesture and stands out in the accounts as the only time any consideration seems to have been shown to the Farnworth constituency. As for the Cheshire men, it was a rare honour for ringers to be invited from another county.

The high expenditure (common to most English parish churches at this time) on ropes, shackles and baldricks reveal heavy wear and must indicate far more frequent use than payments to ringers in the accounts might suggest. The bells would have been rung for all Sunday services and each evening for curfew: these duties would have fallen to the clerk as part of his paid responsibilities.¹⁹³ Ronald Hutton has shown how much the records of payments to ringers on special occasions can reveal about changing loyalties in a parish.¹⁹⁴ Unfortunately the Prescott record is not so detailed. The one unvarying commemoration throughout the period was that of 5 November (sometimes called Gunpowder Treason Day or the King's Holyday). The anniversary of Charles I's accession on 27 March 1625 seems to have been kept at Prescott only in 1640 and 1641, obviously in response to the canon passed at Laud's behest seeking its better observance and called by Hutton 'the action of a desperate régime...about to crumble'.¹⁹⁵ Indeed the ringing on 27 March 1641 is described in the accounts as for 'the kings birth day', suggesting that the church officers did not even know what they were commemorating.¹⁹⁶

Bells were rung (as was customary for distinguished visitors) in April 1635 to welcome the bishop to Prescott and at both Farnworth and Prescott in 1638–9 to welcome Edmund Mainwaring, chancellor of the diocese, when he arrived from Chester to take depositions in the churchwardens' long-running suit against Messrs Ogle and Pemberton.¹⁹⁷ During the troubled years from 1641 the bells were rung on certain official thanksgiving days: for peace (in 1641–2); 'a thanksgiving day'

¹⁹⁰ The Scotts were a nationally known bell-founding dynasty: D. Sinclair, *History of Wigan* (Wigan, 1882), I, pp.204–205.

¹⁹¹ William Clibbery (d. 1642) was a noted bell-founder, working at Holt (Denbighshire) from 1623–1640: J.P. Earwaker, 'Bellfounders in Lancashire and Cheshire and adjacent counties in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries', *THLC*, 42, (1890), p.161.

¹⁹² Boates was a Liverpool carpenter who acquired expertise in work on bells. He did work for Childwall in 1639–40 and Walton in 1630–1. He was already 'old James Boates' in 1639, so it was perhaps his son who cast a bell for Childwall in 1661 'when the mettall did runn upon the workemen': Cl, pp.179–180a, 232; Wn, f.10r.

¹⁹³ Bettey, *Church and Community*, p.116; Cox, *Churchwardens' Accounts*, p.213. At Childwall in 1635–6, there was ringing at 7, 8, and 9am each Sunday: Cl, p.170.

¹⁹⁴ Hutton, *Merry England*, pp.183–6.

¹⁹⁵ *Ibid.* p.187.

¹⁹⁶ Charles I's birthday was 19 Nov.

¹⁹⁷ See pp.3, 42. Edward Mainwaring, LL.D., was a prominent ecclesiastical lawyer, b.1579 at Over Peover, Chancellor of York archdiocese from 1630, he became chancellor of Chester in 1633: R.A. Marchant, *The Church under the Law* (Cambridge, 1969), p.47. Once Mainwaring agreed to come in person to Prescott to receive depositions, Henry Ogle must have known that his case was lost.

(1650–1); and after the victories of parliament in 1651 at Wigan Lane (ringing on 31 August) and Worcester. There is no mention of two other days when ringing was ordered: 4 November 1644 (the capitulation of Liverpool), and 7 September 1648 (the victory over the Scots at Warrington).

At the restoration of Charles II in 1660, there was ringing on 14 May (to mark the proclamation) and on ‘the last of May’ before the sermon and then afterwards until 8pm (to commemorate ‘restoration day’, or Charles’ formal entry into London). Hutton showed that Chester was a centre from which spread a new custom of ringing on Christmas day and this duly began at Prescott in 1660.¹⁹⁸ Charles’ coronation on 23 April 1661 also marked the recommencement of annual celebratory ringing.

Most parish churches had clocks by this time, often installed without dials in a special ‘clockhouse’.¹⁹⁹ A new clockhouse was provided at Prescott after the 1633 visitations²⁰⁰ and regular clock repairs and maintenance were carried out at first by Thomas Rothwell²⁰¹ and later by John Ashton. At less than £4 the cost of this was hardly a burden. Clocks (unlike sundials) caused no offence to puritans and usually survived undamaged through the troubles of the 1640s.

CONFLICT, FAMINE AND PESTILENCE

Civil War

In the years to 1638 the accounts show the churchwardens preoccupied with church improvements and their high costs, but priorities must soon have changed completely as civil unrest and then the horrors of bloody warfare, harvest failure and plague swept across the area in rapid succession in the years to 1654.

As hostilities began, Prescott was one of six Lancashire towns chosen as royalist garrisons in October 1642²⁰² and the earl of Derby held the area for the king until April 1643. Despite fierce fighting for control of nearby Wigan and Warrington, Prescott’s annual vestry meeting went ahead as scheduled on 4 April 1643, although the first parliamentary assault on Warrington had begun the night before! Later that month Lord Derby fled to Prescott ‘thinking there to have drawn in the country to him’, but was ‘pursued close’ and escaped to the Isle of Man.²⁰³ Victorious parliamentary forces passed through Prescott and ‘by Knowsley’, eventually gaining control throughout Lancashire, leaving Lathom House as the only royalist stronghold in the county.²⁰⁴ These events were reflected in the Prescott churchwardens’ accounts:

¹⁹⁸ Hutton, *Merry England*, p.248.

¹⁹⁹ Cox, *Churchwardens Accounts*, p.228.

²⁰⁰ A new clock was to be provided in 1669: LRO, PR 3404/4/194.

²⁰¹ Of Ince Blundell, he had made a clock for Walton in 1634–5, taking a pattern of Prescott’s clock: Wn, f. 35r.

²⁰² Broxap, *Civil War*, p.58.

²⁰³ Ormerod, *Tracts*, pp.98–9; Broxap, *Civil War*, p.84.

²⁰⁴ Ormerod, *Tracts*, p.137; Beaumont, *Discourse*, pp.37, 39. Knowsley Hall (adjacent to Prescott) and Lathom (near Ormskirk) were Lord Derby’s two Lancashire residences.

military ranks were often used from this point, until long after the final victory of parliament in 1646.²⁰⁵

Troops raised under Captain William Pateson in Wigan for the defence of Liverpool were quartered in Prescott at Christmas, 1643.²⁰⁶ Prince Rupert's campaign in 1644 was more disruptive, involving assaults and counter-assaults at Liverpool and the 'massacre' at Bolton. Leaving Wigan on 6 June, he may have spent a night at Prescott before he 'faced Leverpoole, quartered at Banck Hall' the following day.²⁰⁷ Lancashire was reported to have 'suffered more than it could endure' from Prince Rupert's army and the *Commons Journal* in September 1644 spoke of 'such spoil, rapine and unheard-of cruelties in some parts the people have hardly anything to cover their nakedness or their children bread to eat'.²⁰⁸ Prisoners were housed in Prescott church around this time,²⁰⁹ and the wife of William Blundell found herself threatened with capture, called 'divell', 'Roundhead whore', 'catt' and 'Parlymant queane' by royalist soldiers who burst into her bedroom.²¹⁰ During the difficult years of 1644–1646, Prescott's vicar, Richard Day, fled to Cambridge, later citing the fierce fighting in the area as the reason for his alleged desertion. Soldiers were employed to collect leys arrears on Farnworth side, but other soldiers were later accused of stealing money collected for leys in Sutton.²¹¹ The execution of the king on 30 January 1649 goes unnoticed in the accounts, but the act forbidding the proclamation of any new king (which gave the first confirmed news of the execution) was read at Prescott at 5pm on 7 February.²¹²

There were more problems for the town in the campaign of August 1651. The parliamentarian Colonel Lilburne marched to Prescott a week after the royalist victory at Warrington, and quartered there with his 'wearied and somewhat scattered Regiment through our tedious March from Scotland', later reinforced by troops from Liverpool, Chester and Manchester.²¹³ After the ensuing royalist defeat at Wigan Lane prisoners were again housed in Prescott church on three separate occasions.²¹⁴ Nearby Walton petitioned for compensation for housing 700 prisoners (*sic*) in their church for five weeks, when £20 of damage was caused to forms and windows.²¹⁵ In 1652 the constables of Prescott were three years behind with their accounts.²¹⁶

²⁰⁵ See pp.99–162, *passim*.

²⁰⁶ Beaumont, *Discourse*, p.45; Broxap, *Civil War*, p.95.

²⁰⁷ C.H. Firth, 'The journal of Prince Rupert's marches', *English Historical Review*, 13 (1898), p.736.

²⁰⁸ Ormerod, *Tracts*, pp.196–182 [*sic*]; *House of Commons Journal*, III, p.625, quoted by D. Pennington, 'The war and the people', in *Reactions*, ed. Morrill, pp.116, 121.

²⁰⁹ See p.106.

²¹⁰ LRO, DDCs (paper roll)/1646: William Blundell (d. 1660) was a prosperous Prescott merchant and parliamentary supporter.

²¹¹ See pp.105–8.

²¹² It was first read in Lancashire at Leigh at noon on 5 Feb: J. Croston, *History of the County Palatine and Duchy of Lancaster*, I (1888), p.314.

²¹³ Ormerod, *Tracts*, pp.295, 297, 301.

²¹⁴ See p.151.

²¹⁵ LRO, QSP/55/3. In 1644 Prince Rupert had given quarter to 700 in Bolton church: Prince Rupert's Diary, f. 33, quoted in J. Barratt, *The Siege of Liverpool* (Bristol, 1993), p.42.

²¹⁶ 'Abstract Book', f. 124v.

Harvest Failure

Three sets of payments in the accounts for 1648–1650 cover journeys by the churchwardens into Rainford, Sutton and Farnworth chapelry by warrant from the justices ‘to search for corn’.²¹⁷ This was a consequence of the catastrophic harvests of 1646–1648, and although puritans often blamed dearth on the misuse of grain, there had been rumours since 1640 of the buying up of corn, especially by recusants.²¹⁸ The Warrington presbyterian *classis* petitioned in 1647 that ‘the multitude of alehouses, ales and merry nights are occasions of drunkenness, robberies and other sins’ and also of ‘great dearth of barley, the ordinary breadcorne of poore people’.²¹⁹ The ‘poore distressed’ of the hundred petitioned the justices in session at Prescott in the summer of 1648, not only to suppress superfluous alehouses, but to order compulsory sale of all corn held in store.²²⁰ The Prescott registers show an increase in burials in the five months from March–July 1649 and a reduced number of baptisms in the spring and summer of 1650.²²¹

Plague

Dearth was compounded by the widespread plague epidemic of 1652–1653. The inhabitants acknowledged that ‘it hath pleased God to visitt the towne of Prescote with the plague’ and Prescott and Whiston were quarantined in September 1652.²²² On 17 October Henry Reynolds of Wigan was apprehended trying to reach Whiston ‘to helpe the poore infected disordered people there visited with the plague’.²²³ On 26 April 1653 the justices received certification that there had been outbreaks in several fresh houses, and that Prescott and Whiston ‘remaine confyned’. Meanwhile, Eccleston and Bold were keeping watch lest the infected poor ‘brake forth’ from their quarantine, ‘wandering abroad and begging’.²²⁴

The constables of Prescott hired Lawrence Croft for the most dangerous work: he was to fumigate houses, bury infected corpses and guard quarantined plague contacts in special wooden cabins on the outskirts of the town. Croft did nine weeks work and a month’s ‘cabinning’, during which he buried 64 people. At the end of it all he was kept a further fortnight in solitary confinement in one of the cabins and by January 1654 he had still not been paid.²²⁵

The disruption caused by the epidemic probably explains why the receipts and payments for 1652–3 and 1653–4 were never entered in the church book. A troubled period had already been signalled by two unsuccessful attempts to

²¹⁷ See p. 130.

²¹⁸ Walter and Wrightson, ‘Dearth’, pp. 38–9.

²¹⁹ LRO, QSB/1/288/22.

²²⁰ LRO, QSP/3/28; QSP/7/3.

²²¹ *Prescot Registers, 1632–1666*, ed. Dickinson, pp. 43, 102–103. Paul Slack noted ‘vociferous complaints of destitution in the north after the bad harvests of 1647 and 1648, but no great jump in mortality’: P. Slack, *Poverty and Policy in Tudor and Stuart England* (1988), p. 50.

²²² R. Sharpe-France, ‘A history of plague in Lancashire’, *THLC*, 90 (1938), pp. 1–175, esp. 51, 97, 117.

²²³ Wigan RO, CL/2.

²²⁴ LRO, QSP/79/10a.

²²⁵ The constables were ordered to pay Croft £15: LRO, QSP/91/5.

elect the eight men in late 1651: no further election is recorded until 1654. The plague outbreak seems clearly reflected in the parish registers, which show a big increase in burials in the two years from 1652, with the heaviest incidence in the months of August–October 1652 (and in the winter of 1653–1654).²²⁶ The court rolls continue in an unbroken series without reference to the plague, although the business in 1653 was small and the constables were again three years in arrears with their accounts in 1654.²²⁷

RESTORATION

The Prescot accounts confirm the ‘quick, confident and joyful’ restoration of Anglicanism in 1660–1662.²²⁸ The first church furnishings to be renewed at Prescot were the king’s arms and the font stone, quickly followed by a new weathercock, a kneeling stool and a font cover.²²⁹ In 1661–2 there followed new communion cups and flagons (exchanged at Wigan), new forms for seating and the first copy of the new *Book of Common Prayer*. A silver bowl and large silver dish were bought in Chester in 1662–3 and the Lord’s prayer and creed painted over the church door. In 1663–4 there was a new reading desk, two flagons,²³⁰ forms, stools and the first of two silver chalices (bought in Chester).²³¹ Finally, in 1664–5, a new set of communion rails carved by Peter Marsh were positioned around the altar.

Through all the vicissitudes of these 30 turbulent years, the parish had continued to be administered, the church repaired and the poor relieved. Great credit must surely go to the successive churchwardens, eight men and clergy whose labours are displayed here and who somehow made it happen.

THE MANUSCRIPTS

While all the documents here have been given the title ‘churchwardens accounts’, it should be emphasised that some of the material might more properly be called ‘vestry

²²⁶ *Prescot Registers, 1632–1666*, ed. Dickinson, pp.109–113. The record of baptisms for these years is too defective to be useful. p.112.

²²⁷ ‘Abstract Book’, ff.125. 126r., 129r.

²²⁸ Morrill, ‘Church in England’, p.112.

²²⁹ See pp.199–202.

²³⁰ Still in use, the flagons (tankard-shaped, with spreading bases, dome lids and whistle handles) were made in Cork, by ‘BB’, perhaps Benjamin Burton, warden of the Dublin Company of Goldsmiths in 1695: Paterson, *Prescot*, p.59.

²³¹ The first, inscribed ‘John Walles, Robert Mosse, Henry Gaskell, churchwardens of Prescott, 1663’, has a Dublin mark. The second, inscribed ‘The communion cupp of Prescot. Roger Case, Henry Webster, Brian Ley, Edmund Ellam, churchwardens AD 1663’, has a London mark of 1662 and ‘made [RW?]’.

minutes', since it concerns the annual election of the eight men. Another book was kept for business concerning the school.²³²

The main document published in this edition is the 'church book' for the years 1637–1664.²³³ The textblock is on English paper (20 cms × 31.2 cms) made in the 1620s. The front and back covering pages are very dirty, suggesting that the volume originally had no covering boards, as was common in the period. The remainder of the textblock is reasonably clean but there is some damage to the fore-edge, which is weak and stained brown, probably from damp and lack of boards. It has been rebound sewn on hemp cords in a tight back style popular in the mid-nineteenth century. The covering is reversed calf, with endpapers dating from 1829. Pagination (1–358) was added later, although several pages were omitted in the sequence.

At least six scribes were involved in regular keeping of the book.²³⁴ The first worked from 1637–1651 (pp.1–82, 84–148, 158–160, 162, 178–181), with the second assisting from 1648–1651 (pp.149–157, 161, 164–177). A third scribe seems to have taken over in 1651 (pp.182–209) and another in 1654 (pp.210–256). There was a further change in 1659 (pp.258–286) and yet another in 1662 (pp.287 onwards). This last scribe's hand is also to be found in the next church book, which was commenced in 1663. There are difficulties throughout the volume in distinguishing between original signatures and scribal copies of names.²³⁵ Instances of inaccurate addition in the money columns abound.

The first appendix to this volume is made up of manuscripts, which probably once belonged to the parish 'ley book' (and its supplementary 'wax' or 'burial book'), and which have come to light since Bailey's edition of the sixteenth century accounts. These comprise receipts and payments for 1532, payments for the year 1556–7, the approval of the accounts and elections for 1562, the laying of church leyes for steeple repairs in 1563 and 1565, and elections for 1568. They formed part of a bundle of documents acquired by the Lancashire Record Office in 1981. Most of the material is in effect the missing 'paper register' for 1538–1595, although some relates to the affairs of Prescott school from 1625–1640 and to the election of parish officers and to financial matters in a later period.

Some documents now amongst the consistory court records at Chester have also been included in this edition. These comprise a summary of the churchwardens' receipts and payments for the year 1618 to 1619, and a full record of receipts and payments for 1635–6, both presumably copied from the missing 'church book' for 1608–1637. Nothing was known of this at the time of the Liverpool diocesan inventory of 1908 and it seems possible that it was sent to the bishop's registry at Chester as evidence during the bitter lawsuits over church leyes in the 1630s and never returned.

²³² Knowsley Borough Archives, DDPs/1/37; F.A. Bailey, *History of Prescott Grammar School* (Prescot, 1993), p.20.

²³³ LRO, PR 3404/4/1

²³⁴ Among them Peter Kenwricke (sexton until 1647) and his successor Edward Darbishire (probably the last scribe in this book and the first in the next). Certain single pages in other hands (p.49, perhaps John Aldem); (pp.144, 167, perhaps John Wythens) may have been entered by the vicar of the day.

²³⁵ Walter King observed how often scribes copied signatures exactly: W.J. King, 'Untapped resources for social historians: court leet records', *Journal of Social History*, 15 (1981–2), p.703.

The 1618–19 summary was used in a court action in January 1620, resulting from the resentment on ‘Farnworth side’ about its liability to pay leyes to Prescott. The parish churchwardens (Edward Finney, Thomas Cooper, Henry Lyon, and John Sutton) brought an action for leyes arrears against the Farnworth chapel wardens (John Wright of Cronton, William Hey of Ditton and Gilbert Bancke of Bold) and once again cited the opinions and orders of the bishop of Lichfield and Richard, archdeacon of Chester in 1291 and of George, bishop of Chester in 1555.²³⁶ The summary is published here as a second appendix.²³⁷

The consistory records also contain files from the churchwardens’ action for recovery of leyes arrears, begun in 1635 and completed in 1638. Published here are documents submitted by the churchwardens and not preserved elsewhere, but not the associated case material.²³⁸ Also included here are two schedules of church improvements and of church rates or ‘leyes’ for 1634–1637,²³⁹ together with the leye orders for 1635–6, and a certified copy of the full and rich accounts of 1635–6.²⁴⁰ The copy accounts precede the main document in this volume, while the schedule and orders make up the third and fourth appendices.

EDITORIAL CONVENTIONS

Original spelling has been retained. All abbreviations and contractions, including names, have been silently expanded, except ‘annex’, ‘c.’, ‘esq.’, ‘etc’, ‘fest.’, ‘gent.’, ‘Mr’, ‘Mrs’, ‘viz’, ‘vizt’, ‘vidlt’, and some [*marginated* items] where they have been left undisturbed. ‘*Inprimis*’ and ‘*Imprimis*’ have both been rendered as ‘*Inprimis*’. The archaic ending ‘con’ (as in ‘visitacon’) has always been rendered ‘tion’. The ampersand has been rendered as ‘and’. The use of capital letters and certain archaisms have been modernised: ‘ye’ is always ‘the’; ‘ff’ is ‘f’; ‘i’ becomes ‘j’ (and *vice-versa*) where appropriate.

Doubtful readings have been shown [thus?]. Where a single letter or digit cannot be read it is shown as [.]. Words or phrases which cannot be read are shown as [...] or [...], as appropriate. Longer missing sections are explained, e.g. [*damaged*]. All editorial comments are shown in italics within square brackets. Deletions are shown thus: < >. Insertions are shown thus: \ /. The abbreviations ‘L’, ‘l’, ‘Li’ and ‘li’ have all been rendered ‘£’, as has ‘pound’ when referring to money. ‘ob’ and ‘qr’ have been rendered ‘½d’ and ‘¼d’.

Numbers 1–10 (whether arabic or roman) have all been rendered ‘one’–‘ten’. Numbers ‘2’, ‘4’, ‘7’, ‘9’ and ‘10’ have been rendered variously as ‘two’/‘twoo’;

²³⁶ Both recited in the decree of 15 Jan. 1620: LRO, DDX/480/18/16.

²³⁷ CRO, EDC 5/1619/10.

²³⁸ For other papers in this case: CRO, EDC 5/1634/103; 1635/90; 1638/137.

²³⁹ CRO, EDC 5/1637/86, entered on three parchment sheets (19.2 cms × 30 cms) at the end of the file.

²⁴⁰ The copies of the leye orders for 1635–6 form two parchment sheets of a large file of depositions and responsions (28 cms × 41.5 cms): CRO, EDC 5/1636/68. The certified copy of the receipts and payments for 1635–6 is entered on five sheets (20.5 cms × 30.5 cms) folded to make a ten-folio double-sided booklet, of which the last four folios are blank: CRO, EDC 5/1636/110.

‘four’/‘foure’; ‘seven’/‘seaven’; ‘neene’, ‘nine’ and ‘nyne’; and ‘ten’/‘tenn’, according to the last preceding full spelling of the number in the documents. Numbers 11 and upwards have been rendered as ‘11’ upwards in all cases. No attempt has been made in the main series of accounts to distinguish between unreadable words and figures and those lost through tearing or decay. In the pence columns there are some instances of an amount clearly beginning with ‘0’ where the second digit may not always have been ‘0’: where these cannot be restored by complete page or section totals, they have been shown as 0[.]. Similarly there are many entries in the pence columns which could have originally included a $\frac{1}{2}$ d, $\frac{1}{4}$ d or $\frac{3}{4}$ d. Fractional amounts are rare in the accounts and therefore this possibility has been ignored.

Dates (whether or not abbreviated and whether in English or Latin and including the forms ‘7ber’, ‘8ber’ and ‘9ber’ for September, October and November) have all been rendered as *e.g.*, ‘4 November 1635’. ‘New style’ year numbering has been used for dates between 1 January and 25 March: ‘1 January 1635/6’ becomes ‘1 January 1636’. The form ‘1635-6’ has been used for a full year of the accounts (Easter-Easter).

Marginal checking marks, ‘+’, ‘++’ and ‘×’, have not been reproduced in this edition.

PRESCOT CHURCHWARDENS' ACCOUNTS, 1635–1636

Cheshire Record Office, EDC 5/1636/110

[flr][Tuesday in Easter week 19 April 1636]

Prescott [*damaged*] of the parishe church of Prescott of theire receites and payments for the use of the sayd parishe (church) for the yeare of our Lord God 1635 last past¹ which were seene heard and allowed by the viccar and the eight men

[20 leys this yeare granted *marginated*]

Receaved of the constables of Prescott which was uppon arreare the last yeare	2	6	8
Receaved of the constables of Cronton which was uppon arreare the last yeare	0	15	0
Receaved of the constables of Prescott part of 20 leys	4	6	2
Receaved of the constables of Whiston part of 20 leys	4	5	10
Receaved of the constables of Raynhill 20 leys	5	0	0
Receaved of the constables of Eccleston part of 20 leys	9	13	8
Receaved of the constables of Raynforthe 20 leys	10	0	0
Receaved of the constables of Windle part of 20 leys	9	11	4½
Receaved of the constables of Parr part of 20 leys	9	18	8
Receaved of the constables of Sutton part of 20 leys	19	2	4½
Receaved of the constables of Bould part of 20 leys	16	15	11
Receaved of the constables of Widnes part of 20 leys	16	11	2
Receaved of the constables of Curdley 20 leys	8	14	6
Receaved of the constables of Dytton 20 leys	[4?]	13	4
Receaved of the constables of Sankey part of 20 leys	8	3	1
Receaved of the constables of Cronton part of 17 leys	5	19	7
Receaved of the constables of Penkett part of 20 leys	5	12	4
Burialls ²			
Receaved for a child of Ascroft of Eccleston	0	6	8
Receaved for a child of William Lyne ³	0	6	8

¹ The accounts for 1635–6, approved on Tuesday in Easter week, 1636.

² A fee of 6s 8d for burial in church was usual throughout the kingdom until c.1640: Cox, *Churchwardens' Accounts*, p.57. It had been 2s at Prescott in 1607: Bailey, 'Commentary', p.155.

³ Lyne was constable in the plague year of 1652. A shopkeeper (LRO, QSB/1/77/32), he was buried in church in 1662–3.

2 Accounts 1635–1636

Receaved for a buriall of Robert Gleast ⁴ child	0	6	8
Receaved for the wyfe of Richard Sefton of Raynforth	0	6	8
Receaved for the buriall of Rafe Houghton of Whiston	0	6	8
Receaved for a child of Henry Sutton of Tarbock	0	6	8
One buriall of Edmund Tunstall of Sutton not receaved but promised to be payd the next Tuesday by Henry Roby	0	6	8

[f1v]

[*damaged*] names re[.]ed by the cunstables

In Cronton

Josephe [Fernifall?]	0	9	11
<i>Uxor</i> William Glover	0	0	1
Henry Orme	0	0	5
Savage Holland	0	4	6½
George Deane ⁵ and George Lytherland	0	1	2
Mr Gouldeborrow	0	1	0½
Thomas Septon	0	0	5
Dority Windle ⁶	0	0	0½
Bryan Lea and William Rayneforthe	0	0	4½
William Bannor of Bould	0	0	9

In Widnes

John Barnes	0	2	10
John Wellin	0	0	7
John Gouldicar	0	0	9
John Herrison	0	1	0

In Sankey

Edward Bridgman esq.	0	7	9
Theophelous Lynche	0	2	6

In Penkett

Thomas Farrar	0	0	9
Widow Hope	0	0	1
Francis Robinson	0	0	2

In Sutton

Richard Watmoughe	0	3	4
Dority Halsall	0	2	6
Margrett Holland	0	2	6

⁴ Robert Glest (d. 1650) of Lord Derby's manor of Glest in Eccleston was one of the eight men in 1637–9 and 1640–1, gave evidence against Henry Ogle in 1637 and signed the petition of the 'godly' in 1649, but was never churchwarden in the period for which records survive. He seems to have been a money-lender and at his death was owed large sums by several local yeomen. For his will: PRO, PROB 11/215/22.

⁵ From Rainhill and a kinsman of John Lathom, Deane occurs in parish affairs from 1639. He became an elder of the Warrington *classis* and a sequestrator of Prescot benefice in 1646. He was buried in church in 1651: for his will: PRO, PROB 11/216/64.

⁶ Dorothy, a Cronton widow (d. 1641), one of those terrorised by the feared apparitor Percival Slack, who threatened to pull her house down: LRO, QSB/1/210.

	In Parr			Mylesons house	0	2	4½
Peeter Byrom	0	0	8	Robert Lea	0	4	7
John Hill	0	0	8	William Barnes	0	1	8
	In Windle			Hawards House	0	0	4
Rafe Waynwright	0	2	6	Ellis Pyke	0	0	1½
Henry Leadbeter	0	5	3	Jane Spray	0	0	2
Richard Taylor	0	6	6	John Justis and			
Mr Edgerton	0	3	9	Edward Justis	0	1	2½
William Ellam	0	0	1½	Henry Ogle for			
Thomas Winstandley	0	4	6	Prescott	3	6	8
	In Eccleston			Remayning in the			
Thomas Boulton leygatherer				constables of			
hathe in his hands	0	6	4	Prescott hands	2	6	0
	In Whiston						
James Pemberton gent.	0	14	2				

[f2r]

[damaged]

<i>Item</i> spent by the churchwardens 20 April dyvers gentellmen of the parish beinge there in present the churchwardens accounts being putt of untill another day ⁷	0	12	0
<i>Item</i> spent by the churchwardens when there accounts were taken	0	3	8
<i>Item</i> paid to the ringers 29 April when the lord bishop came to vew the church ⁸	0	4	0
Paid to Mr Barkeley of Chester ⁹ for court charges as concerninge the suite betweext Mr Ogle and the churchwardens as will appeare by his mans acquittance	0	12	0
Paid to the deane ¹⁰ when the churchwardens took there oathes at Childwall	0	2	4
Spent the same day by the ould and new churchwardens at Childwall and at Prescott	0	4	6
Spent by one of the churchwardens in goinge to Wiggan to			

⁷ Approval of the accounts was not often postponed: this delay was obviously due to the suits between Henry Ogle and the wardens. See pp.xvii, xxi, xxix.

⁸ See pp.xxviii, xxxv.

⁹ John Barkeley was a notary public and the attorney acting for the churchwardens against Henry Ogle: Master Humphrey appeared for Ogle: CRO, EDC 5/1637/74. Barkeley and Humphrey had represented the chapelwardens of Farnworth and certain Sankey freeholders in a similar action over church leys in 1633: EDC 5/1633/13.

¹⁰ The (rural) dean of Warrington was William Lewis (d. 1661), vicar of Childwall from 1624 until his ejection at the start of the civil war.

John Rigby as concerninge the makinge of new seates and the vewing of his tymber	0	1	10
Spent by the ould and new churchwardens when they first mett aboute the makinge of there presentment to the deane when they could not present it by reason of some of the churchwardens and sworne mens absence	0	5	6
Payd which was owinge to Ann Dychfield for the keeping of Thomas Hunts children ¹¹ by order from the bench which was unpaid the last yeare	1	5	0
Spent by the ould and new churchwardens when they made there presentment to the deane 1 May	0	3	11
Payd to the sextone ¹² part of his wages 2 May	1	0	0
Spent by the churchwardens 1 May when the eight men fierst mett and layd leys	0	5	4
Payd for wrytinge presentment to the deane and answeringe everie article	0	3	4
Payd for wrytinge precepts to Prescott syde and Farneworth syde for the fierst six leys	0	2	6
Payd for bringinge precepts to Raynforth Windle and Parr	0	0	6
Spent by one of the churchwardens in rydinge to Farneworthe three severall days for the receavinge of twoo of the fierst six leys due 19 May last	0	2	0
[f2v]			
[<i>damage</i>] church and for [lattinge?] the [bell/clock?] house [...] stayres	[.]	[.]	[.]
Payd by the churchwardens for the removinge of certan new seates within the church and settinge them uniformall ¹³	0	0	10
Payd to Richard Marshall for new bands and gudgeons for the west dore and mendinge the ould ones making one iron boulte and plates of iron for the same dore and settinge them on	0	13	11
Payd for nayles doble and sengle spykens and other things pertayninge to the bellfray	0	6	6

¹¹ Thomas Hunt, a collier and ‘painfull workeman’, was caught in a sudden fire in a coalpit in 1633 and died within the week. His wife had died the year before and the justices at Ormskirk ordered the churchwardens to make provision for the youngest five of their seven orphaned children (all five under 11 and one only three) to Ann Ditchfield, Hunt’s mother’s sister: LRO, QSB/1/122/53.

¹² Peter Kenwricke (c.1565–1653), sexton until his enforced retirement in 1647: see p.117. Churchwardens in 1602–3, he was engrossing the churchwardens’ accounts into the church book by 1603–4: *Churchwardens’ Accounts*, ed. Bailey, pp.141–147. He was a witness for Henry Ogle against the vicar and churchwardens in 1637. Kenwricke’s father Christopher (d. 1603) had been a recusant. Peter’s grandson George Kenwricke became sexton in 1669.

¹³ See pp.28–9, 229.

Payd for lether petches for syse for the paynter and the whyter duringe the tyme of all theire work within the church	0	9	11
Payd for leadinge lyme to the church one day	0	3	0
Payd for leadinge stones from the ould church steele to the west dore and other broken stones and to men for helpinge the loadinge of the same stones	0	3	0
Padyd by the churchwardens in sendinge to Windle and Parr for the receavinge of twoo of the first leys	0	0	0
Payd to Henry Byrom of Parr for tablinge of a child of William Gerrard by order from the bench midsommer quarter	0	10	0
Payd to Margrett Hodgeson of Eccleston for tablinge of a child of Matthew Willcock the same quarter lykewyse ordered	0	7	6
Payd for fyre coales and turfe for the paynter duringe the tyme of all his worke for the heatinge of his collers	0	3	8
Payd to Henry Darbeshire 5 July for layinge the hyer loft within the bellfray fyndinge new planks for the same cuttinge topp of the west dore fyndinge ribs for the same layinge a barr and for the fynishinge of the same worke	1	4	0
Payd for the churchwardens dynners in rydinge to Farneworthe severall days for the receavinge of the second twoo leys due 24 June	0	2	0
Payd to six men for helpinge George Standish with the church ladders in to the hyer belfray and spent	0	1	8
Payd for carriinge rushes ¹⁴ and mouldes oute of the bellfray and makinge the floore levell	0	1	6
Payd to Richard Hitchmough ¹⁵ of Sutton fore keeping one of his children the same quarter by bench orderes	0	7	6
[f3r]			
[damaged]			
Payd for wrytinge the same [damaged]	[.	.	.]
Spent in deliveringe of it upp	0	1	2
Payd to the glasier for glasinge part of the church	0	9	4
Payd to William Fletcher for pytche and tallow for the west end of the church	0	6	1
Payd for doble spykens	0	0	6

¹⁴ Used as a floor cover, for cleanliness and warmth. There is no evidence from Prescott of the annual ceremony of rush-bearing, resisted by the puritans, although it was kept at Walton until at least 1639: Wn, *passim*.

¹⁵ A daily labourer in Prescott for 40 years, he was awarded a regular allowance of 30s *p.a.* in 1634 for his three small 'poor children' after the death of his wife, but had repeatedly to petition quarter sessions as 'aged, poor and impotent' when new churchwardens discontinued payment and he faced prison: LRO, QSB/1/142/40; QSB/1/194; QSO/1636, 1637; QSR/34.

Paid to Henry Darbishire for more church worke	0	1	0
Paid for leadinge more lyme to the church one whole day [15?] August	0	3	0
Paid to Thomas Lyon for hayre for the plasterer to make mortar in one sek	0	1	0
Paid to one for goinge to Farneworthe with a note for the warninge of the last twoo of the first six leys due at August last and for wrytinge the note	0	0	6
Spent by the churchwardens in rydinge to Farneworthe for the last twoo of the first six leys severall tymes	0	2	0
Paid also to one for goinge to Farneworth as concerninge the meetinge of the eight men and for wrytinge the note	0	0	6
Spent by the churchwardens at the meetinge of the eight men when the second leys were granted	0	4	2
Paid for wrytinge precepts to Prescott and Farneworth syde at the grantinge of the said leys	0	2	6
Paid and spent by one of the churchwardens for horse meate and mans meate five severall tymes in rydyng to Lever to the lord bishopp as concerninge the makinge of one payre of orgaynes havinge an order and also beinge presented to his lordshipp by Henry Meade and Thomas Walles twoo of the churchwardens aboute 1 January 1634 and the most of the tymes the sayd churchwarden beinge away three days and the rest twoo	1	13	4
Spent by the churchwardens at six severall meetings as concerninge the same orgayns part of the eight men and dyvers of the parishioners accompanyinge them ¹⁶	1	13	10
Paid to Mr Was ¹⁷ the lord bishopp secretari at severall tymes for makinge of orders for the sayd orgaynes and for sollycitaye in the churchwardens cause for performance of his lordships orders	0	8	3
[f3v]			
[<i>damaged</i>] aboute the meeting of the [<i>damaged</i>] orgaynes and wrytinge five severall notes	[.	.	.]
Paid for wrytinge precepts to Prescott syde and Farneworthe syde for the second six leys	0	2	6
Paid to the hyghe constable aboute 20 September for maymed souldiers	1	6	0

¹⁶ See pp. xxviii, xxxiv.

¹⁷ Thomas Wasse, administrative assistant to Bishop Bridgeman, occurs frequently from 1633 in the bishop's correspondence: SRO., P1003. The will of 'Thomas Wasse of Stockport, gent.' was proved in 1672: CRO, WS/1672.

Payd for an acquittance	0	0	2
Spent in bringinge the money to him	0	1	7
Payd to Rafe Hallsall ¹⁸ for nayles hookes and layinge of a gudgeon	0	2	0
Spent by the churchwardens in goinge to Hyton takinge a workman thether to vew the rayle aboute the communion table	0	1	6
Payd by the churchwarden and spent in rydinge to Farneworthe severall tymes for the receavinge of four of the second six leys due uppon St Mathew day which was granted at the second meetinge of the eight men	0	2	0
Payd to Lawrence Marsh for goinge to Lever to vew the rayle aboute the communion table within the lord bishopp chappell ¹⁹	0	3	6
Payd in goinge to Wiggan and spent by one of the churchwardens for the brininge of John Rygby word as concerninge the makinge of the quire ²⁰	0	1	6
Payd to John Rigby and his man for comminge to Prescott accordinge to the churchwardens agreement for the takinge measure of the quyre there day wages	0	2	0
Spent by the churchwardens the same day	0	1	10
Payd to Hodgesons wyfe of Eccleston for tablinge of a chyld of Mathew Willcock Michelmas quarter	0	7	6
Payd to Henry Byrom of Parr for tablinge of a chyld of William Gerrards the same quarter	0	10	0
Payd to Richyard Hytchmoughe for keepinge and tablinge of a chyld of his	0	7	6
Payd to John Rygby for the makinge of 13 new seates and poore mans box with one lock and three keys bands and nayles for the same seates and box	12	10	8
Payd to Thomas Lytherland for coppinge out a warrant which came from the hygh constable to the churchwardens for the inquiryng of recusants goods and lands	0	0	6

[f4r]

Payd to [*damaged*]

Payd to John Rygbys man when hee came to Prescott to take

¹⁸ A blacksmith and ironworker, buried in church in 1646: LRO, QSB/1/77/13; LRO, WCW/Prescot/1647.

¹⁹ Holy Trinity chapel at Great Lever Hall, built by Bishop Bridgeman in 1634 and consecrated in 1636: *VCH, Lancs.* V, p.185.

²⁰ See pp.xxvii, xxix.

measure of the Lord Strang ²¹ seate for the makinge of such another his day wages	0	1	0
Spent the same day by the churchwardens	0	1	6
Payd to one for goinge to Farneworth aboute the chusinge of the new eight men and wrytinge a note	0	0	6
Spent the same day when they were chosen	0	1	0
Spente by the churchwardens and syde men 20 October in fierst meetinge and framing of a presentment concerning recusants goods and lands	0	4	0
Spent the day followinge in perfecting theire presentment as also havinge ancient men of everie towne assistinge the churchwardens geevinge them better intelligence of recusants goods and lands and what they were possessed of	0	4	6
Payd by James Heskeyne one of the churchwardens to one for wrytinge Windle presentment	0	1	0
Spent in Windle the same day by the same churchwarden	0	1	0
Payd by the churchwardens to [<i>sic</i>] at Wiggan to Mr Farrintons cleark ²² for wrytinge every townes particuler presentment at the inquiry	0	6	6
Spent by all the churchwardens and sworne men beinge at Wiggan one whole day when they delivered up there presentments to Mr Farrinton and the rest of the justicces	0	[12?]	[.]
Payd to Henry Darbishire for okum and his laboure and his laboure [<i>sic</i>] aboute the end of the steeple and consideration for his scaffolds	0	4	6
Payd to the sextone annother part of his wages	1	0	0
Payd to the ringers for ringinge uppon the kings holyday ²³	0	9	0
Payd for a belrope for the greate bell 20 October	0	5	7
Spent by the churchwardens in makinge presentment to the deane	0	4	6
Payd for wrytinge the same presentment	0	3	4
Payd the second tyme to John Rygby and his man when they came to agree with the churchwardens at Prescott aboute the makinge of the quyre Mr Alden beinge by there wages	0	2	0
Spent the same day by the churchwardens	0	3	4
Allso payd to John Rygby and his man when they met three of			

²¹ Probably strictly the pew of Strange's father (William, sixth earl of Derby), which the bishop had allowed to remain. See pp.xxix, 15–16.

²² William Farington of Worden, near Chorley (d. 1658), a justice, sheriff and key royalist. A payment of 3s 4d to 'Mr Farringtons clerke' occurred at Walton that year, apparently connected with the inquisition at Wigan into recusants' goods and lands: Wn, f. 39v.

²³ 5 Nov.

the churchwardens at Sefton to take vew of that quyre within that chansell ²⁴ and to make the quire within Prescott cancell in most poyntes after the same fashion there wages	0	2	0
[f4v]			
Sp[ent] [<i>damaged</i>] to Wiggan to speake for [tynn?] and other materialls for the orgaynes ²⁵	0	1	6
Paid to James Taylors sonn for goinge to Wiggan to John Rygby for the stayinge of a seate which was allmost fynished and should have beene placed in Mr Boulds chappell ²⁶ by order from the lord bishopp	0	0	8
Paid and spent by twoo of the churchwardens when they bought tynn at Wiggan	0	3	4
Paid to one for goinge to Wiggan with a horse and for bringinge the same tynn to Eccleston	0	2	0
Paid to one for goinge with a note to Farneworth for the warninge of leys which were unpayd and wrytinge the note	0	0	6
Spent at Prescott in meetinge Sanky men and Curdeley men at the receite of leys	0	0	8
Paid to Richard Whitfield for iron worke aboute the bells	0	3	6
Paid to Henry Darbishire for takinge upp the bells	0	2	6
Paid to Thomas Fletcher for helpinge him	0	0	6
Paid to Richard Whitfield for more iron worke about the bels	0	6	8
Paid to Thomas Fletcher for helpinge him	0	0	10
Paid to one for goinge to Raynhill for the receaving of leys	0	0	4
Spent by one of the churchwardens in goinge to Sutton to the constables takinge Lawrence Marshe with him and receaving of leys for the makeinge of new seates	0	1	3
Paid to Henry Darbishire accordinge to the churchwardens agreement for putting upp a chymley dobinge thatching stone worke and fyndinge all the stuff for the sayd worke house for Thomas Dawes orgaynist ²⁷	0	19	6
Paid to George Standish for whytinge the hyer belfray walles the hyer loft the lower bellfray the lower loft whytinge over			

²⁴ Sefton had a magnificent sixteenth century quire and screen, which survive. Only the finials of the stalls and the general layout bear resemblance to that of Prescot.

²⁵ Wigan had long been a centre for the metal trades and was the obvious place to look for materials for organ pipes.

²⁶ See pp.xxix, 15–16.

²⁷ ‘Orgaynist’ here means organ builder: there is no evidence that Dawes was ever hired to play the instrument. In 1636 ‘Thomas Dawes the organist’ and George Wright were fined 3s 4d by the manor court for ‘making an affray and drawing blood thone upon the other’: LRO, DDCs/paper roll/1636.

the west dore whytinge the southe ile ²⁸ and tearinge part of it whytinge the north ile the pillers and poyntinge dyvers places of the steeple which was defective and allso whytinge all within the body of the church as may appeare by his acquittance	4	16	0
Paid for lyme for the church whytinge and plastering lyme seene measured and layd in steepe by Georg Standish aboute [. .] July 24 bushell for morter of 6d the bushell	0	12	0
Paid to lyme for morter aboute 22 July 26 bushell	0	13	0

[f5r]

Paid for whytinge lyme after [8d] the bushell aboute the 17 September eight bushell	0	5	4
Paid for whytinge lyme aboute 30 September tenn bushell	0	6	8
Paid for whytinge lyme aboute [. .] October 12 bushell	0	8	0
Paid to William Raynforthe for colleringe the bellhouse twoo dores tymber worke of the lower loft tymber of the hyer loft colleringe the west window the west arche whytinge the tenn arche with chalke colleringe the same tenn arches of bothe sydes makeinge ackornes and one globe on the poynt of every arche and the sayd William Raynforth for the fynding all the collers for the same worke varnishe and all other materialls belonginge to the same except petches for syse as may appere by his acquittance	10	5	0
Paid to Lawrence Marshe for five new seates makeinge end rayles for other seates and letting some of the benches into the stone pillers	5	15	0
Spent by the churchwardens at the meetinge of the eight men 24 November for the layinge of new leys	0	7	2
Paid to one for goinge to Farneworthe with a note to be warned for leys due at new yeares day and for wrytinge the note	0	0	6
Paid for leadinge more lyme to the church halfe a day	0	1	6
Spent by the churchwardens in makinge another presentment to the deane	0	2	6
Paid for wrytinge the same presentment	0	1	6
Paid the wrytinge precepts to Prescottt syde	0	2	0
Paid for wrytinge precepts to Farneworth syde	0	2	0
Paid to John Wade for neene seks of moss	0	1	6
Spent in rydinge dyvers days for the receaving of leys due at new yeares tyde	0	2	0

²⁸ This is the first mention of the two aisles (sometimes called 'out iles') built out between the nave pillars in 1610. Narrower than the present aisles, they were to be replaced in 1819.

Spent at Prescott when Mr Allden and the churchwardens did agree with Thomas Dawes for the making of the orgaynes	0	6	6
[f5v]			
[<i>damaged</i>] a clapper for the [. . . bell. . .]			
Spent in rydinge to Farneworthe for leys which were undpayd and due at Anderutyde	0	1	6
Payd to Thomas Fletcher for helpinge Rafe Halsall aboute the bells	0	0	6
Payd to Hodgesons wyfe for tablinge of a chyld of Mathew Willcocks Chrystmas quarter	0	7	6
Payd to Henry Byrom of Parr for tablinge of a child of Wiliam Gerrards the same quarter	0	10	0
Payd to Richard Hitchmough of Sutton for keepinge a poore child of his the same quarter	0	7	6
Payd to Ann Lyon of Sutton for and towards the keepinge of her children the same quarter	0	10	0
Payd to Ann Dychfield of Prescott for the keeping of Thomas Hunts children midsommer quarter	1	0	0
Payd to Thomas Houghton of Eccleston for the releevinge of him	0	6	8
Spent in rydinge to Windle and Parr for the receit of there leys	0	1	6
Payd to Edward Parr of Raynhill for tablinge and keepinge of a child taken up in Raynhill	2	6	8
Payd to William Leadbeter for poyntinge Thomas Dawes workehouse	0	2	4
Payd to Henry Darbishire for makeinge twoo shopp windowes for Thomas Dawes workehouse	0	2	6
Spent in goinge to Wiggan with Thomas Dawes for the buinge of tynn and other materialls for the orgaynes beinge away twoo dayes	0	5	4
Payd to one for goinge to Farneworth with a note to be warned for the meetinge of the eight men and for wrytinge the note	0	0	6
Spent at the meetinge of the eight men at the grantinge of six leys	0	7	0
Payd to John Wade for mossinge and slatinge	0	5	6
Payd to one for goinge to Farneworth for the brininge of precepts	0	0	4
Payd for wrytinge precepts to Prescott syde	0	2	0
Payd for wrytinge precepts to Farneworth syde	0	2	0
Payd to John Wade for 22 seks more of moss	0	2	0
Payd to Thomas Gouldicar for keepinge a child of Thomas Smythes	0	10	0

Spent by the churchwardens when they tooke Thomas Dawes bound for the makinge of orgaynes	0	3	6
[f6r]			
[<i>damaged</i>] leys due 26 February	[.	.	.]
Payd for wryting precepts to Prescottt syde for the last six leys	0	2	0
Payd for wrytinge precepts to Farneworth syde and a copy of the order	0	2	0
Payd for bringinge precepts to Farneworth syde	0	0	4
Spent by the churchwardens when they first mett to cast over theire accounts before the last meetinge of the eight men	0	3	0
Payd to one for goinge to Wiggan with Thomas Dawes for the buyinge of more tynn and other materials for the orgaynes being away twoo days	0	3	4
Payd for mendinge the hammer of the clock	0	0	6
Payd for a new springe for the clock	0	0	6
Spent by the churchwardens when part of the eight men mett about the plasinge of the orgayn loft ²⁹	0	4	8
Payd for a barr for the clapper fallinge bak and a prid	0	0	6
Payd for foure bands for Thomas Dawes shop windowes	0	1	4
Payd for nayles and foure stables	0	0	9
Payd for twoo wedges for the dore	0	0	3
Payd for twoo stables and a boulte	0	0	2
Payd for one clape and nayles	0	0	6
Payd for twoo payre of bands for the rayle	0	3	4
Payd to John Wade more for slatinge	0	3	6
Spent by the churchwardens when Mr Alden and the churchwardens did agree with John Barton and Lawrence Marshe conditionally for the makinge of a new rayle aboute the communion table which rayle to be made of good and well seasoned tymber withoute knott shale or lapp and to be halfe pillers which condition in no poynt was performed	0	12	0
Payd to the glazier more for glasinge and mendinge the church windowes	0	14	4
Spent by the churchwardens when Mr Allden and the eight men mett as concerninge the vewinge of the rayle which was sett upp none of the churchwardens beinge by and at the sighte and the insufficiency of the rayle it was ordered by Mr Allden and the eight men that they should take it downe agayne and to convert it to there one use	0	4	8

²⁹ See pp.xxvii, 82, 229.

[f6v]

[<i>damaged</i>] twoo severall tymes [. . .] the payinge of Lawrence Ford for his tynn ³⁰	[.]	4	0
Spent by the churchwardens and syde men when they made there presentment to the highe constable agaynst Lent syse	0	6	2
Spent by the churchwarden in goinge to Raynforthe to deliver it up	0	1	8
Payd for wrytinge the presentment	0	3	4
Payd to William Mullinex for goinge to Wiggan to John Rigby for the bringinge of him word as concerninge the makinge of the new rayle	0	1	0
Payd to James Taylors sonn for goinge to John Barton joyner as concerninge the pullinge downe of the rayle	0	0	2
Spent by the churchwardens at the takinge of it downe and after when John Rigby tooke the makinge of the rayle and the seelinge <of the> at the back of the rayle	[.]	4	1
Payd to Thomas Boon for poyntinge the hyer leades and some glass aboute the churche	0	0	10
Payd for a lock for the lower leads dore and setting it on	0	1	2
Payd to Ann Dychfield 10 March for keeping of Thomas Hunts children Michlelmas quarter by order from the benche	1	0	0
Spent at the receite of Sanky leys	0	0	5
Payd for soderinge the hyer leade where was defective	0	1	6
Payd for oyle for the clock	0	2	0
Payd for mendinge and makinge shakells for the bells	0	2	0
Payd for one pound of candles for the ringinge of corfey ³¹	0	0	6
Payd to one for goinge to Farneworth with a note for for the warninge of the last three leys	0	0	6
Spent by the churchwardens in rydinge to Farneworthe at the receite of them and the same day goinge to Prescott to pay money which was owinge for church busines	0	1	6
Payd to Hodgsons wyfe for keeping of a chyld of Mathew Wilcock our Lady day quarter	0	7	6
Payd to Henry Byrom of Parr for keepinge of a chyld of William Gerrard <of Parr> the same quarter	0	10	0

³⁰ Probably the Wigan metal merchant of that name: Bridgeman, 'Wigan church', p.318; D. Sinclair, *History of Wigan* (Wigan, 1882), I, p.206; II, pp.2, 4, 12, 52.

³¹ Curfew was rung at nearby Huyton every evening from mid-Oct. until Lady day: F.T. Turton, 'Notes on the history of Huyton', *THLC*, 34 (1883), p.86.

[f7r]

[<i>damaged</i>] cond[. . .] and the seelinge [. . . .] a makinge and allso to see the sufficiency of the tymber and the worke was ryghte <and> perfect and don in a neate mannor	0	[.	.]
Paid to Thomas Houghton of Eccleston for his mayntenance our Lady day quarter by order	0	6	8
Spent by the churchwardens the second tyme when they cast over there accounts	0	3	4
Paid for wrytinge over the names of chrystnings <and> burialls and weddings in payment agaynst the synod ³²	0	5	0
Spent by Thurstan Scott for attendance of monthly comunions	0	1	8
Spent by James Heskeyne for lyke attendance	0	9	6
Paid to Richard Marshall and Henry Darbeshire for a peece of wood and for iron worke for the west dore and there paynes	0	3	0
Paid to William Mullinex for goinge to Wiggan to John Rigby for the bringinge of the orgayn case	0	1	0
Paid to a boy for goinge to Eccleston to the ley gatherers and geeving them warninge to bringe in there leys in for the payinge of John Rigby for the orgayne case ³³	0	0	3
Paid to John Wade for dressinge halfe a roode of slate and [holing?] them	0	3	0
Paid for halfe a roode of slate	0	9	0
Paid for leadinge of them	0	12	0
Paid for wrytinge the churchwardens accounts into the church booke	0	5	0
Spent by the churchwarden and payd for his dynners for dayly attendance for all the church worke don the last yeare as for poynting plasteringe setting up of new seates orgayn making slatinge and other workes done about the church which will not amount to above 4d the day which hathe beene allowed dyvers yeares as this booke can witnes ³⁴	2	15	0
Paid for wyne for all the monthly comunions	3	10	11
Paid for one comunion booke ³⁵	0	8	0
Paid for another belrope	0	3	7

³²This was the statutory annual copy of the parish register, ordered in 1597 to be made on parchment each Easter week, now usually called the 'bishops transcript'.

³³There are several cases of newly collected leyes being used immediately to pay outstanding bills.

³⁴This entry relates to the accusation then being levelled that the churchwardens had been charging unreasonable sums for attendance allowances: CRO, EDC 5/1638/137. See p.xx.

³⁵The *Book of Common Prayer* of 1559, revised in 1604.

[f7v]

[<i>damaged</i>] bordes for the organs	[.]	4	0
Payd for a <i>coram nomin</i> [<i>recte quorum nomina?</i>]	0	2	6
Payd to William Mullinex for goinge to Chester for it	0	2	6
Payd to our procter for his fee	0	2	0
Payd to one for goinge to Farneworth with a note for the warninge of the eight men to meete about the takinge of the churchwardens accountes and for wrytinge the note	0	0	6
Spent by Henry Meade for attendinge the monthly comunions	0	2	3
Payd to James Standish for goinge to Wiggan for John Rigby for the bringinge of a note which was the lord bishops hand as concerninge the makinge of a seate which was intended for Mr Bould his chappell	0	1	0
Payd to a boy for goinge to Thurstan Scott aboute the makinge of his accountes	0	0	2
Payd for the curate and sextones dynners when they ministered the comunion at St Ellin <chappell> and Raynforthe chappell	0	2	0
Spent by James Heskeyne for attendance uppon Palme Sunday comunion and Easter	0	0	8
Spent lykewyse by Thurstan Scott uppon Palme Sunday	0	0	4
Payd for a new spade for the parish use	0	2	6
Payd for keepinge Richard Hytchmoughs child our Lady day quarter	0	7	6
<Payd to Henry Byrom of Parr for keepinge a child of William Gerrards of Parr the same quarter	0	10	0
Spent by the churchwardens in goinge to Wiggan>			
Payd to An Lyon of Sutton for the keepinge of her children the same quarter by order	0	10	0
Spent by Thurstan Scott when hee brought £4 of money to Prescott towards the payinge for the orgayne case	0	0	8

[f8r]

[<i>damaged</i>] layinge of the first [ley]	[.]	.	[.]
Payd lykewyse for enteringe the second six leys into the same booke 25 August	0	0	8
Payd also for enteringe an order the concerninge the orgayne 16 September	0	0	8
Payd also for enteringe another order concerninge the orgayne 22 September	0	11	0

Paid for drawinge an order made by the lord bishop of Chester concerning the chancel 29 Aprill ³⁶	0	1	0
Paid for wrytinge the same fayre order whereunto his lordship subscribed his hand	0	1	0
Paid for enteringe the same order into the church booke	0	1	0
Paid for enteringe another order into the church booke which came from the lord bishop 24 September	0	1	0
Paid for washinge the church lynnens	0	5	0
Paid for keeping of the plate and flaggons cleaned	0	2	0
Paid for an indente note of the church goods	0	2	0
Paid for bread for the monthly comunions	0	5	0
Paid for enteringe an order into the church booke for the laying of twoo leys 24 November	0	0	4
Whereas by an order from the lord bishopp of Chester one of the churchwardens caused a seate to bee made and allmost fynished which should have beene placed within Mr Boulds chappell so it was that his lordshipp did withdraw his order and did wryte to one of the churchwardens that if the sayd seate was begoon uppon it should not goe forward untill the churchwardens heard further from his lordshipp so it is that John Rigby the joyner hathe sustained greate loss for the loss of his tymber whereas the lord bishopp hearinge of it did wryte unto Mr Allden and the church officers that the parishe should recompense him for his loss which the sayd Rygby dothe refer himselfe to Mr Allden and the eight men which did allow him ³⁷	1	6	4
Paid by the churchwardens for wrytinge there accounts all the yeare	0	3	3
[f8v]			
Paid to Thomas [Dawes] towards the makinge [of] the orgaynes for the buinge of his materialls [as?] tynn, leade, bellowes bords, bords for his pypes tynn glass for his table and his wages and other necessities for himselfe (and [. .] spending money for his [. .]) sum in all which hee dothe acknowled	41	12	3
Receaved before John Rigby of Wiggan			
Paid to Hamlett Whitfield ³⁸ for his paynes takinge for the good of the parishe as hee thought	0	2	2
Sum in all disbursed by the churchwardens 1635	150	10	0

³⁶ The bishop made this order orally, during his visit on 29 Apr. See pp.xxviii, 3.

³⁷ See pp.xxix, 9, 15.

³⁸ A blacksmith: LRO, QSB/1/14/13, he was buried in church in 1646.

Receaved by the churchwardens	150	6	4
Moreover added to their disbursements	1	6	8
Totall of all payments with that addition of John Rigby	151	16	8
Remaining due to the churchwardens	1	10	4

This accounte seene taken and allowed and agreed uppon by consent of Mr Allden the vicar and the eight men whose names are subscribed

John Allden vicar; William Lyme, Edmund Lyon, John Barnes, William Wood, Richard Parr, Edward Greene, eight men

This is a true copy of the accounts of the churchwardens before named <and> examined and compared <by> 28 September by

[*signed*] Peter Kenwricke, Henry Meade churchwarden

PRESCOT CHURCHWARDENS' ACCOUNTS, 1637–1663

Lancashire Record Office, PR 3404/4/1

[1637–1638]

[1]³⁹ 23 April *anno domini*

The eight men whose names are subscribed meeting in the parish church of Prescott and fynding money to bee wanting for the necessary occasions of the parish church of Prescot have agreed and with the consent of Mr Aldem doe sett it downe that six whole church leyes shal bee collected and gathered thorow the parish of Prescott to bee paid to the churchwardens or some of them in manner followinge *videlicet* three of them att or before 8 May now next comminge and thother three att or before 1 July now next comminge. Witnes theire hands therto

[*signed*] John Aldem vicar; Roberte Glest, George Lyon junior, Thomas Lyon, Richard Woods, four of the eight menn

[*1a blank, verso*] 24 April 1638

The accounts of William [Wood, John Litherland], Thomas Lyon and Edward [Holland church] wardens of the parish church of Prescot of theire receipts and payments for the use of the said parish for the yeare of our Lord God 1637 last past as followeth

22 leyes this yeare

William Wood his receipts

Received of the cunstables of Sutton in parte of 22 whole

church leyes beinge 20s att a church ley	21	13	7
In arere in Sutton			
Robert Lea	0	4	[.]
John Justice and Edward Justice ⁴⁰	0	0	[.]
John Grunday	0	0	[.]
William Chawner ⁴¹	0	0	[.]
Jane Spray	0	0	[.]
	0	6	5

³⁹Most of the pages bear numbers (1–359), which are obviously later additions. Four pages were missed in this numbering and ‘I, a-c’ have been used to complete the sequence.

⁴⁰R *per* William Wood *marginated*.

⁴¹Presented at visitations in 1630 and 1633 for ‘committing the detestable sin of incest with his owne sister’: BIHR, V/1630/CB, ff.113r–5v; *ibid.* V/1633/CB2, pp.345v–7r, 379r, 380r.

	<i>in toto</i>	22	0	0
Received of the cunstable of Bold 22 leys beinge 16s 10d att a ley		18	6	8
Received of the cunstable of Widnes <i>cum</i> Appleton in parte of 22 leys beinge 16s 10d att a ley		14	3	4
Arere in Widnes				
Edward Ball gent.		0	7	0
William Leigh		0	1	4
Richard Chawner		0	0	[.]
		0	8	[.]
unpaid by the cunstable of the said towne which they confesse to have received ⁴²		3	14	[.]
	<i>in toto</i>	18	6	[.]
Received of the cunstable of Cuardley all the whole 22 leys beinge 8s 9d att a ley		9	12	6
		63	[.]	[.]
[1b] [Received] of the cunstable of Ditton in parte of 14 whole church leys being 11s 2d att a ley		7	13	8
Arere in Ditton				
Mrs Marsh		0	2	8
	<i>in toto</i>	7	16	4
Received of the cunstable of Penketh in parte of 22 leys beinge 5s 8d att a ley		6	2	10
Arere in Penketh				
Widdow Robinson beinge 1d att a ley		0	1	10
	<i>in toto</i>	6	4	8
Received of the cunstable of Sankie in parte of 18 leys beinge 8s 8d att a ley		7	12	6
Arere in Sankie				
Mr Bridgeman		0	3	6
	<i>in toto</i>	7	16	0
Burialls				
Received for the buriall of a child of James Nayler in the church		0	6	8
Received for the buriall of George Lyon of Rainford in the church		0	6	8
	<i>in toto</i>	0	13	4
		22	2	4

⁴² R *per* William Wood *margined*.

The totall of William Wood his receipts in ready money	85	18	5
[1c] John Litherland his receipts			
Received of the cunstable of Prescott in part of 22 whole church leys beinge 10s att a ley	7	5	[.]
In arere for Prescott			
Henrie Ogle esq. for all the 22 church ley beinge 3s 4d att a ley	3	13	4
Jane Greene	0	0	3
William Standish	0	0	[.]
Richard Higginson	0	0	[5?]
Thomas Newman	0	0	1
Katherin Stevenson	0	0	1
John Hougland	0	0	[5?]
	3	14	[.]
<i>in toto</i>	11	0	0
Received of the cunstable of Whiston in parte of 22 leys beinge 4s att a ley	4	14	6
Arere in Whiston			
James Pemberton gent. for all the whole 22 leys beinge <5s> 8½d att a ley ⁴³	0	15	6
<i>in toto</i>	5	10	0
Received of the cunstable of Rainhill 22 whole church leys beinge 5s att a ley	5	10	0
Received of the cunstable of Cronton in parte of 22 leys beinge 8s 1d att a ley	8	14	9¼
Arere in Cronton			
Savage Holland for parte of the 22 leys beinge 2¼d att a ley	0	3	0¾
<i>in toto</i>	8	17	10
Received of the cunstable of Ditton eight whole church leys beinge 11s 2d att a church leye	4	9	4
	30	13	11
[2] Received of the cunstable of Sankie in parte of fower whole church leys beinge 8s 8d att a ley	1	13	8
Arere in Sankie			
William Tompson tenant to Mr Bridgeman beinge 3d att a ley	0	1	0
<i>in toto</i>	1	14	8

⁴³ R *per* William Wood *marginated*.

The totall of John Litherlands receipts in ready money	32	7	7¼
--	----	---	----

Thomas Lyon his receipts

Received of the cunstable of Rainford 22 whole church leyes beinge 10s att a ley	11	0	0
Received of the cunstable of Eccleston in parte 22 leyes beinge 10s att a ley	10	12	7½
Arere in Eccleston			
Henrie Webster of the Pitts for 19 leyes	0	5	3½
Ellen Meade widdow for fower leyes beinge 4½d att a ley	0	1	6
Jeophray Wilkinson	0	0	5½
James Toppinge	0	0	1½
	0	7	4½
<i>in toto</i>	11	0	0

The totall of Thomas Lyon his receipts in ready money	21	12	7½
---	----	----	----

[3] Edward Holland his receipts

Received of the cunstable of Wyndle 22 church leyes beinge 10s att a ley	11	0	0
Received of the cunstable of Parr 22 leyes beinge 10s att a ley	11	0	0
The totalls of Edward Holland his receipts in ready money	22	0	0

[4] Payments and disbursements made by these accomptants as followeth *vizt*

William Wood his payments

<i>Inprimis</i> spent by the old and new churchwardens and sworne men in meetinge at Wigan to take theire oathes and receive a booke ⁴⁴ and in goinge to Wigan to make presentments to the visitation	0	18	9
Paid for a booke of articles	0	3	6
Spent in meetinge att Childwall to take oathes of old and new churchwardens and sworne men	0	4	4
Paid for the administringe of the oathes and for the call of theire names	0	1	8
Spent in goinge upon perambulation fower severall dayes ⁴⁵	0	3	1
Paid to the belfounders in earnest of theire bargaine	0	1	0

⁴⁴The Walton accounts record 'a booke of penance' issued at the visitation, in addition to the articles: Wn. f. 48r.

⁴⁵The practice of walking the parish boundaries and blessing the crops had been revived under Neile and Bridgeman. It took four days at Prescott. See pp.xxiii, 63.

Paid to a messinger for bringinge a letter to Wigan unto the belfounders	0	0	8
Spent att the meetinge of the old and new churchwardens and eight men and the belfounders and others two severall tymes att Halsalls about the castinge of the belles	0	9	0
Spent in goinge to Chester to deliver up presentments	0	2	6
Paid to John Taylor for blowinge the bellwes of the organs	0	0	6
Spent when the belfounders were chippinge the belles two severall dayes	0	2	6
Paid to the organist for amendinge the organs and puttinge them into tune	2	0	0
Spent att severall tymes in attending to see the organs amended	0	3	6
	4	11	0
[5] Paid to the belfounders in part for hanglinge the bells	2	[.]	[.]
Paid for two pounds of candles for George Bate	0	0	[.]
Paid to Henry Meade for mettalls to amend the orgaines	0	0	[1?]
Spent by two churchwardens att Wigan in attendinge two dayes and a night havinge two horses att grasse and alsoe in procuringe two bells weighed	0	19	[?]
Spent in attendinge severall daies to agree about the takinge downe of the two first belles and alsoe to receive the third and fowerth bell when they were brought from Wigan	0	3	8
Paid to George Bate in earnest of his bargaine att the takinge of the teeringe	0	0	6
Spent att the same tyme	0	0	10
Spent in attendinge the communion two daies	0	1	0
Spent att another tyme att the chippinge of the bells to make them tunable	0	3	8
Paid for a rope for Nell Miller ⁴⁶	0	1	0
Paid for 18 threve of barley straw for daube	0	1	6
Paid for leadinge thereof	0	1	0
Paid to a slater for amendinge some decayed places in the church roof	0	1	0
Spent att the hanglinge of the greate bell havinge the helpe of eight men to draw up the same	0	3	6
Spent att the drawinge upp of the third bell havinge the helpe of severall men and att the hanglinge thereof	0	2	0

⁴⁶A bell (see app. IV). 'Nell Millers crofts', on the south side of Fall Lane (now West Street), occur frequently in the court rolls from 1581: F.A. Bailey, 'Early coal-mining in Prescot', p.10.

Paid to Peter Kenwricke for one quarters wage as sexton	0	15	0
	4	16	1
[6] Paid to Edward Finney and Henry Darbishire for 22 hundred rowles for the roof	0	5	0
Paid to Mr Clibbery the belfounder more in part and for the bells	2	13	4
Paid more to him	1	0	0
Paid more to him	0	10	0
Paid to Thomas Walles for wyne for the communion in May June and July	1	2	4
Paid to George Wright and Henry Darbishire in parte for hanglinge the first and seacond belles	0	1	0
Spent in goinge to Farnworth to receive church leyes	0	0	8
Spent upon the cunstables of Sankie att the bringinge of theire leyes to Prescott	0	1	0
Paid to Richard Litherland for pewter for the amendinge of the organ and for coales	0	1	10
Spent upon the cunstables of Cuardley when they brought theire leyes to Prescott	0	1	4
Paid for three new bell ropes	0	8	4
Spent in goinge to buy the same	0	0	8
Paid to John Taylor for blowinge the organ bellowes whilst the organ was in amendinge	0	3	0
Paid to George Bate in parte for tearinge	0	8	0
Paid to Thomas Lyon for spent lyme and haire	0	5	0
Paid to John Travers for white lyme for the church	0	6	0
Paid for oyle for the new bells	0	0	6
Paid for puttinge up the new ropes	0	0	4
	7	8	4
[7] Paid more to Scott one of the belfounders	0	[.]	[.]
Paid more to George Bate in parte for tearinge	1	0	7
Paid to Edward Finney for a head for the third bell	0	2	6
Geven to a poore soldier which was pressed forth of Prescott	0	0	[3?]
Spent in attendinge the teeringe of the church severall daies and in providing materialls for the same	0	4	[.]
Paid to the belfounders in parte	7	4	[.]
Paid more to the belfounders 22 September 1637	34	0	[.]
Spent upon the workemen that teared the roof of the church and upon the men that first hanged the first and seacond bells	0	2	9

Spent in goinge before Mr Ashton ⁴⁷ with two cunstables and three of the churchwardens beinge served with a warrant	0	5	0
Spent in payinge the belfounders two severall payments beinge a greate company	0	6	0
Spent in goinge to demand church leyes att Farnworth quarter five severall daies and upon the cunstables in payinge of the same	0	2	6
Spent one communion day coming to attend ⟨one⟩ att the communion	0	0	[6?]
Paid to George Bate for tearing and pointinge about the leads and ridginge	0	12	0
Spent in attendinge five monthly communions and two dayes att Easter	0	4	[.]
	44	13	⟨11⟩
[8] Spent in makinge presentments to the ordinary att Chester	0	5	6
Paid to one for bringinge the said presentments to Chester	0	2	6
Paid to James Boates in earnest to hangle the belles	0	0	6
Paid for two loads of lyme towards the tearing of the church roof	0	5	0
Paid for cariage thereof	0	1	6
Paid for timber to be spoakes for the bell wheelles	0	5	0
Spent in goinge to seeke for belheads and other timber for the belles two daies with two persons	0	3	0
Paid in parte for the third and fowerth bell heads	0	4	2
Spent in procuring the third bell letten downe and taken up with the helpe of three men besides workemen	0	2	6
Spent at the takinge downe of the greate bell	0	1	0
Paid for an old axle tree to bee wedges and bawdericks for the clappers	0	0	6
Paid for carryinge of ratchments to bee spoakes for all the wheels	0	0	8
Paid to the ringers one fowerth parte for ringinge on the kings holy day	0	2	6
Paid to Peter Kenwricke his last quarters wage as sexton due now att Easter 1638	0	15	0
	2	9	4

⁴⁷Probably Thomas Ashton of Penketh, esq. (d. 1645); or perhaps Edmund Assheton of Chadderton (1601–1650), a noted anti-royalist; or James Ashton of Chadderton, on the county committee from 1645. Thomas and John Ashton of Penketh were protestant brothers, in arms for the king: when John was killed at Bolton in 1643, Thomas succeeded to the estates, but compounded in 1646 possessing ‘nothing but his clothes’ and died that year.

[9] Paid to James Boats in parte for hanglinge the bells	0	[.	.]
Paid to Raph Halsall for worke done about the bells	0	10	7
Paid more to Raph Halsall for iron ware and worke done about the hanglinge of the said bells	1	0	0
Paid more to James Boats in parte for hanglinge all the bells	2	11	0
Spent upon the gentlemen on Farnworth syde and others on this syde of the parish comminge to ringe the belles to try them upon 24 November last ⁴⁸	0	6	[?]
Paid to a messinger to goe to Chester to bringe noates of the church leyes	0	3	0
Paid for carriage of lyme from Henry Woods house to the church to teare the rouf	0	0	4
Paid to Peter Kenwicke for one quarters wage	0	15	0
Paid to a slater to put up old slates	0	1	0
Paid to Henrie Woods for lyme and heyre to teare the church	0	10	6
Paid for boards for the bell wheels	0	4	[?]
Paid to two messingers to goe to Chester about directions to Mr Barkeley	0	5	0
Paid for a booke to write ⟨on⟩ our accounts into and for the carriage thereof	0	3	0
Spent in goinge to Chester about suits there stayinge three daies	0	5	6
This accomptant craveth allowance for his labor in goinge to Chester	0	3	0
Spent in goinge to ⟨Chester⟩ Childwall beinge assited to appeare there	0	1	0
Spent in goinge to Farnworth to demannd and receive leyes	0	2	0
	7	17	11
[10] Spent in cominge to Prescott fower severall daies to take noats out of the church booke to goe to Chester	0	1	6
Paid to Richard Marshall for iron worke owinge by Henry Mead by the appointment of Mr Aldem	1	1	6
Spent att the sessions holden att Wigan in June last beinge committed as a prisoner staying there two daies and for fees for his imprisonment ⁴⁹	1	0	0
Spent in comminge three severall tymes to Prescott to serve Mr Ogles with proces ⟨ouf⟩ out of ⟨his⟩ the consistory cort	0	1	6
Spent in goinge to Chester to returne proces and other occasions	0	8	0

⁴⁸ See p.xxxv.⁴⁹ See p.xxi.

This accomptant craveth allowance for his labor in goinge to			
Chester and stayinge three dayes	0	3	0
Paid more to George Bate for tearinge the church	0	10	0
Coasts against Mr James Pemberton			
Paid to Mr Henry Gerard ⁵⁰ for coasts as appeares by a noate of particulers	0	13	10
Spent in goinge two severall daies to Warington about the same busines	0	1	0
Paid to the baliffs in parte to execute proces against Mr Pemberton	0	6	0
Spent att sundrie daies upon them	0	2	0
Paid to a messenger to goe to Newton to Mr Gerard about the <i>significavit</i>	0	0	6
Paid for the sealle	0	2	6
Paid to the sherif for his fee	0	6	8
Paid for the attorneys fee	0	3	4
	5	1	4
[11] Spent in meetinge the parishoners and overseers of the poore			
severall daies to asseesse money for the poore	0	13	4
Paid for wyne for the monethly communions	5	8	8
Paid to the belfounders for a composition by the eight mens consent	1	0	0
	7	2	0
The totall of William Wood his payments	83	19	7
Soe his receipts beinge	85	18	5
and his payments	83	19	7
there remaineth in his hands to account for	1	18	10
John Litherland his payments			
<i>Inprimis</i> geven to a passinger that had greate losse by fyre and robbery	0	1	0
Paid to the heigh cunstable for the maymed soldiers as appeareth by an acquittance	1	6	0
Paid for the acquittance	0	0	[2]
Spent in bringinge the same money	0	0	6
Paid to William Rainforth for worke done in the last yeare in paintinge and whitinge within the church	3	0	3

⁵⁰Henry Gerard of Newton (b. c. 1605), a kinsman of Sir William Gerard of Bryn.

Paid to George Bate in parte for helping to scaffold for tearinge	0	2	0
Spent in goinge to the private sesions att Ormskirke beinge called thither by precept from justices of peace concerninge a souldier which petitioned for maintanance	0	2	3
Spent in attendinge to see the bells putt in frame	0	2	8
	4	14	10
[12] Spent aboute the orgaines whilst they were in amendinge	0	1	0
Spent att the meetinge of the eight men about the parish busines	0	6	0
Paid to George Bate in parte of his wages for tearinge the church roof	1	14	0
Paid more to George Bate for and towards the tearinge and whitinge of the roof	1	10	0
Paid to the belfounders in parte	1	16	0
Paid more to the belfounders	1	10	0
Paid to the man that was pressed for a souldier for Prescottt towne beinge bestowed on him for Whiston Rainhill and Windle	0	3	0
Paid to a man that had a passe from lord deputie of Ireland beinge in greate distresse	0	0	6
Paid to Raph Halsall for iron and worke to the two bells and Nell Millers clapper	1	2	0
Paid to the carpender in parte for (hana) hanginge (the) two bells	0	17	0
Spent at the same tyme	0	2	0
Paid to William Davidson for a load of spent lyme	0	1	0
Paid for leadinge of the same	0	0	8
Paid to the belfounders more in parte	1	16	0
Paid to the heigh cunstable for the releef of the prisoners in Lancaster gaole as appeareth by an acquittance	1	6	0
Paid for the acquittance	0	0	2
Spent in goinge to bringe the same	0	0	6 ⁵¹
Spent in meetinge the churchwardens to make presentments to the ordinary by an injunction <i>iure legis</i>	0	1	6
Paid more to the belfounders	2	0	0
	14	[7?]	4
[13] Spent att the same tyme	0	[.]	[.]
Spent in makinge presentments of recusants goods	0	0	[.]

⁵¹ 8 erased

Spente in settinge Boates the belhanger in worke	0	0	[.]
Paid to Mr Ireland of Liverpool ⁵² for two bell heads	0	10	0
Paid to two men to helpe to saw the bell heads	0	0	6
Spent upon them	0	2	0
Spent in fetchinge them from Liverpooll	0	1	0
Spent in meetinge the eight men about the layinge of the eight leyes last layd in <i>anno domini</i> 1637	0	4	0
Spent att the choosinge of the eight men	0	7	0
Spent att the gettinge up the greate bell	0	4	0
Paid for a mans dinner that brought money from Farnworth syde	0	0	6
Spent in goinge to demand leyes severall tymes att Farnworth	0	1	0
Paid for cariage of two belheads from Liverpooll	0	5	0
Paid to James Boats in parte for hanglinge all the bells (0 1 3)	2	2	0
Paid for a planke for the bell loft	0	1	6
Paid to a man for to hould att the cart when the belheads were fetched for the two first bells	0	0	8
Spent upon the belhanger Boats and his fellowes workinge late one eveninge	0	1	4
Paid for a horse to goe to seeke bell heads for the first and seacond bells	0	0	6
Spent att the same tyme	0	0	6
Spent in going three other severall daies to demand leyes on Farnworth syde	0	1	4
Spent att the takinge downe and gettinge up of the first seacond and third bells the seacond tyme	0	5	0
	4	10	6
[14] Paid to Thomas Fletcher the elder for mendinge of two bell ropes			
	0	0	3
Paid to Thomas Fletcher the younger for helpinge the belhanger Boats	0	0	3
Paid for nayles for the bell wheeles	0	1	3
Paid in parte to the ringers for ringinge on the kings holiday	0	2	6
Paid to a glasier for glasinge the church windowes ⁵³	0	5	6
Paid for wyre for the glasse windowes	0	0	3

⁵² Probably Gilbert Ireland of the Hutte, Hale (1624–1675), who was to succeed his father-in-law Sir Thomas Ireland of Bewsey in 1639: *Visitation*, II, p.165. He signed ‘G Ireland’ when approving the accounts.

⁵³ The windows had perhaps been blown in by the same ‘greate wyndes’ which hit Walton on 16 Nov: Wn, f. 50r.

Spent upon the glasier	0	1	0
Paid for three new bell ropes	0	8	6
Spent in attendinge severall daies about the hanginge of the bells	0	1	6
Spent att the meetinge of the gentlemen of the parish and eight men to make provision for the poore	0	8	7
Paid to Gerard Cotterall for amendinge the organes about Christmas last	0	10	0
Paid to James Houghton for a suite of cloathes for the souldier that was (Prescott) pressed for Prescott	0	10	0
Spent in goinge severall tymes to demand leyes on Farnworth syde	0	1	0
Paid to George Bate in parte for whytinge the church	1	0	0
Paid to Robert Hitchin for nayles pitch and candles about the hanginge of the bells	0	5	2
Spent in goinge to the heigh cunstable with the churchwardens and sworne men to deliver presentments	0	2	6
	3	18	3
[15] Spent upon divers cunstabes on Farnworth syde att the receipt of church leyes	0	2	[6]
Spent in attendinge six monethly communions and att Easter	0	4	0
Spent in goinge to Chester two severall tymes to Chester to fetch citations and to appeare aboute suits against Mr Ogles and others stayinge either tyme three daies with my selfe and my horse	0	16	0
Paid to Edward Finney for a greate rope and a jill and a planke to gett downe the bells	0	14	0
Paid to a messinger to goe to Childwall to bringe presentments	0	0	6
Spent upon the gentlemen of the parish and diners of the Cheshire men cominge to ringe the bells ⁵⁴	0	6	8
Paid to Raphe Halsall for iron and worke done about the hanginge of all the bells	0	11	3
	<2	3	8>
	2	14	11
The totall of John Litherland his payments	30	6	6
Soe his receipts beinge	32	7	2¼
and his payments <i>ut supra</i> there remaineth in this accomptants hands	2	0	8¼

⁵⁴ See p.xxxv.

[16]	Thomas Lyon his payments			
	<i>Inprimis</i> spent att the meetinge of the ould and new churchwardens and the eight men about the accompts of Henrie Meade	0	3	4
	Spent in meetinge the eight men and others of the parish about the layinge of eight church leyes layd 18 July 1637	0	4	8
	Spent by two of the churchwardens att Wigan in attendinge two daies and a night havinge two horses att grasse about the new castinge of the seacond bell and in procuringe the same waighed	0	14	10
	Spent att the meetinge of the sworne men and the rest of the churchwardens in makinge presentments to the heigh cunstable	0	7	4
	Spent in goinge to Wigan to meete the visitors upon a citation ⁵⁵	0	2	6
	Paid to the visitors for an injunction <i>sub pena juris</i> to make presentments to severall articles	0	4	0
	Paid to the belfounders in parte for castinge the seacond third and fowerth belles belonginge to the parish church of Prescottt	9	0	0
	Paid to the belfounders att another tyme in parte	3	0	0
	Spent in meetinge the churchwardens and cunstables and divers other of the parish to make inquisition of all recusants goods within the parish	0	5	2
		14	1	10
[17]	Paid to Peter Kenwricke in parte of one quarters wage due att Christmas	0	10	[.]
	Paid to the belhanger Boats in parte for hanginge all the bells	0	5	0
	Paid for ash wood to hangle the clapp[er]s in for the first and seacond bells	0	1	0
	Paid for amendinge the bell ropes for two of the bells	0	0	4
	Paid for mendinge of a locke for the belhouse doore	0	0	2
	Paid to William Fletcher for nayles usefull for the hanginge	0	1	3
	Paid for oyle and grease for the bells	0	0	3
	Paid to George Bate in parte for whitinge the church roof	1	10	0
	Paid to Raph Halsall for iron and worke done for the first and seacond bells	1	0	0
	Spent in meetinge the churchwardens and swornemen to make presentments to the ordinary by an injunction <i>sub iure legis</i>	0	1	6
	Spent in meetinge the churchwardens (and) swornemen and cunstables to make presentments to the assices	0	5	6

⁵⁵The chancellor held a correction at Wigan in Aug., also attended by the Walton wardens: Wn, f. 49r.

Geven to a poore lame souldier that had a passe	0	0	6
Spent in attendinge the hanging of the bells six whole daies	0	3	6
Paid for wrytinge of articles of agreement and a bond for performance betwixt the belfounders and the churchwardens	0	2	6
Paid for wrytinge nyne precepts into nyne severall whereof one for Farnworth syde	0 4	2 4	6 0
[18] Paid for wrytinge a bond from the organist to the churchwardens	0	0	4
Paid for 15 severall precepts for the eight church leyes layd 18 July	0	3	9
Paid for wrytinge presentments to the heigh cunstable 25 August 1637	0	3	4
Paid for drawinge presentments of recusants goods	0	1	6
Paid for ingrossinge of the same with more presentments of recusants goods	0	3	4
Paid for wrytinge 15 severall precepts for the eight church leyes layd 23 October	0	3	9
Paid for wrytinge presentments to the deane 24 October	0	3	4
Paid for abstractinge severall noates of instructions for suits att Chester for leyes in arere thes fower yeares	0	2	0
Paid for wrytinge presentments to the heigh cunstable of all recusants within this parish	0	3	4
Paid for wrytinge two long noats to give warninge to asseesse money for the pore	0	0	8
Paid for bread for the monethly communions and att Easter	0	6	0
Paid for washinge the church linnens	0	5	0
Paid for keepinge cleane the church pleate and flagons	0	2	0
Paid for makinge up the regester for the sinod	0	5	0
This accomptant craveth allowance for expences six communion daies	0 2	3 6	0 4
[19] Paid for keepinge the perticuler accompts of all the churchwardens this yeare	0	5	[0]
Paid for wrytinge the same over againe into the church booke	0	5	0
Spent in meetinge severall daies about perfectinge this accompt since Easter weeke	0	2	[6]
The totall of Thomas Lyon his <receipts> payments	21	4	8

Soe his receipts being	21	12	7½
and his payments <i>ut supra</i> there remaineth in this accomptants hands	0	7	1½
Edward Holland his payments			
Paid to a messenger to deliver precepts for church leyes	0	0	8
Spent in meetinge the belfounders about the bells on the fayre day att Prescottt	0	1	8
Paid to George Bate in parte for teeringe	0	5	0
Paid for castinge of sand	0	0	4
Spent in meetinge to have sett the bell steeple to bee pointed	0	0	6
Paid in parte for scaffoldinge	0	4	0
Spent about the same	0	0	8
Spent upon them that ledd the bells to Wigan	0	0	8
Spent in goinge to the monethly meetinge ⁵⁶	0	1	4
Geven to two severall souldiers	0	0	8
Spent in meetinge the belfounders to view the bells	0	1	0
[20] Paid to Thomas Garnett for leadinge sand and clay	0	3	6
Spent in attendinge to see the same done	0	0	8
Paid to George Bate towards the scaffoldinge	0	1	0
Paid to Henrie Darbshire for rowles for teeringe	0	3	6
Spent when the bells came home with the founder and att severall other tymes	0	3	4
Spent att the chippinge of the bells	0	0	11
Paid for lyme	0	0	6
Paid to George Wrigt in earnest for takinge downe the bells	0	0	6
Spent att the same tyme	0	0	3
This accomptant craveth allowance for bringinge of a cart load of lyme from Cowley Hill	0	1	6
Paid to George Bate for worke	0	5	0
Spent in goinge to buy lyme and heyre	0	0	6
And att another tyme	0	0	6
Spent att the hanginge of the bells	0	0	5
Spent by two churchwardens in goinge severall daies to Farnworth to receive the first six leyes	0	4	2
Paid to George Wright more for takinge downe the bells	0	4	6
Paid to Thomas Lyon for lyme and haire	0	3	0
Spent in goinge to the sessions about a souldier and the poore	0	4	6
Paid for leadinge daube and earth	0	2	4

⁵⁶For 'monthly meetings' see p.xxi.

[21] Spent in goinge to procure the daube ledd	0	1	[.]
Spent in attendinge the mossing of some decayes in the roof	0	0	1
Paid for nayles	0	0	2
Paid to Henry Martindale ⁵⁷ for his wages	0	2	4
Spent when the last bell was cast	0	2	6
This accomptant craveth allowance for bringinge the seacond bell to Wigan and fetchinge it home	0	11	0
Spent upon the ringers for ringinge most parte of a day to try the bells whether tunable	0	2	8
Spent in bringinge the bell home	0	0	8
Paid for a load of straw and leading the same from Cowley Hill	0	2	6
Paid to the belfounders in parte	2	0	0
Paid more att another tyme	5	10	0
Paid for lyme to the whytinge of the church rooffe 11 bushells	0	7	6
Spent in goinge to Chester to fetch a <i>quorum nomine</i> for such as were behind with their leys	0	5	10
This accomptant craveth allowance for his labor in goinge to Chester and stayinge three daies	0	3	0
Paid to Peter Kenwricke in parte for one quarters wage	0	5	0
Spent in makinge presentments to Mr Lewis deane	0	2	8
Paid for pitch and alker	0	2	2
Spent in attendinge five severall daies the hanglinge of the first and seacond bells	0	3	6
Paid to the ringers one fowerth parte for ringinge on the kings holyday	0	2	6
[22] Spent upon the ringers and belhangers when they were hang the seacond tyme	0	2	0
Paid for paper to make presentments of all recusants goods	0	0	4
Paid for a pound(s fo) of cattells when the church was teared	0	0	5
Paid for sallett oyle for the bells	0	0	2
Spent att Liverpooll when I went to buy alker	0	1	0
Spent in procuringe workemen to hangle the bells	0	0	8
Spent in goinge to Chester to returne the <i>quorum nomine</i> and to bringe forth an excommunication	0	6	0
This accomptant craveth allowance for his labor in goinge to Chester beinge two daies absent	0	2	0

⁵⁷Henry, the father of Adam Martindale, had a flourishing business in house building and repairing, which was 'quite dead' after the troubles. His funeral at Prescott in 1658 is described in: *The life of Adam Martindale by himself*, ed. R. Parkinson, CS, Orig. Ser, 4 (1845), pp.119–20.

Spent in goinge to seeke for belheads for the third and fowerth bell	0	8	0
Paid for leadinge therof	0	2	0
Paid to Mr Barkeley as appeares by his bill of particuler	1	1	10
Spent in makinge presentments to the deane 24 October 1637	0	7	0
Spent in goinge to Chester 23 November to give directions concerninge the drawinge of the libell stayinge three dayes	0	12	0
Paid to Mr Barkeleys man for expedition	0	0	6
This accomptant craveth allowance for his labor in goinge to Chester	0	3	0
Paid to George Lyon for boards to bee wheeles for all the bells	0	11	0
[23] Paid more to Mr Barkeley as appeares by his bill of particulers	1	6	[.]
Paid more to Mr Barkeley as appeares by his noate of particulers	1	14	4
Spent in cominge to Prescott to hyre Cotterall the organist	0	2	2
Paid to him in parte for mendinge the organs	0	1	[.]
Spent in cominge two severall tymes to Prescott to agree with Mr Watmough about his church leyes	0	1	[.]
Spent in comminge to agree with Mr Conney ⁵⁸ about his church leyes	0	2	0
Paid to Henry Woods for lyme and heyre to teare the church	0	10	0
Spent in goinge to the quarter sesions to Wigan	0	7	4
Spent in goinge before the deane beinge assited	0	1	0
Spent in goinge to Prescott to meete Mr Ogles fower severall daies to serve him with proces	0	2	4
Paid to a messinger to come to tell us that Mr Ogles was in the towne when wee had proces against him	0	0	[?]
Spent upon the ringers that came from Cheshire	0	3	4
Spent att severall tymes when I received church leyes from the cunstabes of Parr and Windle	0	2	4
Paid for three pound of candles for Boats to worke by and to ringe curfey by	0	1	0
Spent when the churchwardens mett to make theire presentments to Chester	0	2	6
Spent att the inquisition concerning recusants goods	0	1	6

⁵⁸Perhaps the captain for whose use the constables of Prescott took a house in 1644: LRO, DDCs/paper roll/1650. The arrears of Coney and Watmough seem to have been recovered without pressing charges.

[24] Spent when wee paid the belfounders their last payment	0	2	8
Spent when the communion was ended att St Ellens chappell upon the curate Mr Burrowes ⁵⁹ and others of the towne	0	4	0
Spent att Warrington in attendinge three severall daies for Mr Henry Gerard about busines concerninge Mr Pemberton	0	2	0
Geven to the baleiffs which undertooke to execute the writt \langle he \rangle against Mr Pemberton	0	1	6
Geven to a boy to goe to Newton about the same busines	0	0	3
Spent in attendinge six monethly communions and att Easter	0	4	0
Paid for wyne att Easter	4	0	0
The totall of Edward Holland his payments	26	16	9
Soe his receipts beinge £22 and his payments <i>ut supra</i> there remaineth due to this accomptant	4	16	9

[*signed*] John Aldem vicar; Roberte Glest, Richard Wood [*copy marks*], George Lyon junior, Thomas Lyon claiepotter,⁶⁰ fower of the eight men \langle of the eight men \rangle

[1638–9]

[25] 28 August 1638

The eight men whose names are subscrybed meetinge in the parish church of Prescott and fyndinge money to bee wantinge for the necessary occasions of the parish church of Prescott doe agree with the consent \langle with \rangle of Mr Aldem that two church leyes shall bee collected throughout the said parish and paid to the churchwardens or some of them [. \langle our hands \rangle] att or before the feast day of St Michael the archangel next. Witnes our hands

[*signed*] John Aldem vicar; George Lyon junior, Thomas Lyon [*marks*], two of the eight men

The choice of the eight menn for the Parish of Prescott upon St Luke day being 18 October *anno domini* 1638 to serve for the yeare following accordinge to the order of the right reverend father in God John lord bishop of Chester as follows

Prescott	Evan Garnett
Rainhill	Edward Greene
Sutton	James Worsley

⁵⁹Curate of St Helens in 1638 and 1640–1, presented in 1621 (when a curate at Warrington) for replacing the sign of the cross in baptism with the ‘sign of the covenant’: D. Lambert, ‘The lower clergy of the Anglican church in Lancashire, 1558–1642’, unpublished MA thesis, Liverpool, 1964, app. III.

⁶⁰He was from Rainford, where claypotters and clay pipemakers were concentrated.

Eccleston	Robert Gleast
Parr	John Mosse
Rainforth	Thomas Lyon
Ditton	Robert Norman
Cuadley	Thomas Leigh, eight menn

Elected by

John Aldem vicar; Henry Lawton, Edward Potts, William Wood, Edward Holland, churchwardens⁶¹

[26] 29 January 1638

Wee the vicar and the eight men of the parish church of Prescott meetinge in the said church and findinge money to bee wantinge for the necessary occasions of the parish church of Prescott att the request of the churchwardens have agreed that three whole church leyes shal bee collected and gathered through the parish of Prescott to bee paid to the churchwardens or some of them att or before 12 February next. Witnes our hands hereunto subscrybed

[*signed*] John Aldem vicar; Roberte Glest, Richard Woods [*mark*], Thomas Lyon claiepotter

[1639–40]

[27] The election and choyce of the churchwardens to serve for the yeare followinge chosen 16 April *anno domini* 1639

Prescott Whiston and Rainhill		Surveyors
James Ditchfield of Prescott	Prescott	Evan Garnett
Sutton		Henry Darbshire
Richard Woodd	Whiston	John Lathom
Rainford and Eccleston		William Forrest
Robert Lyon of Rainforth	Rainhill	George Deane
Parr and Windle		Edward Ackers
Henrie Eccleston of Parr	Sutton	Thomas Wilcock
		son of John Wilcock
⟨Surveyors⟩ Swornemen		Raph Sutton
Prescott Whiston and Rainhill	Rainford	John Naylor
Henry Garnett of Rainhill		John Tunstall
Sutton	Eccleston	William Wood
Edmund Tunstall		John Cowper
Rainford and Eccleston	Wyndle	William Winstanley

⁶¹ The eight men seem to have been elected on this occasion, quite improperly, by the vicar and churchwardens.

William Traves of Eccleston
 Parr and Wyndle
 Robert Billinge of Windle

Parr
 John Traves
 Bryan Haward
 Christopher Bordman

Elected by us whose names are subscribed

[*signed*] John Aldem vicar; Roberte Glest, James Worsley, Evan Garnett [*mark*],

[*signed*] Edward Greene, John Mosse, Thomas Lyon [*marks*]

[1638–39]

[28] 16 April 1639

Whereas it was hertofore ordered and agreed upon by Mr Aldem the gentlemen of this parish and the eight men that Mr Parker should receive yearly £6 13s 4d for his paines for ⟨playinge and tuninge⟩ playinge upon the organs to be collected out of the parish now the said Mr Aldem the gentlemen of the parish and the eight men meeting in the parish church of Prescottt and conceivinge that the said yearly wages of £6 13s 4d is to little to maintayne the said Mr Parker wee doe this day order and agree that the churchwardens shall yearly from henceforth pay the some of ⟨eight⟩ £10 to the said Mr Parker ⟨and to his now wife towards her maintainance the some of 40s to bee paid⟩ quarterly duringe and untill wee shall order the same otherwise of which some it is agreed that the churchwardens shall pay his wife and children 40s *per annum* by quarterly payments

In presence of
 [*signed*] Thomas Eccleston

[*signed*] John Aldem vicar
 Roberte Glest
 Evan Garnett [*mark*]

[*signed*] Edward Greene
 John Mosse [*mark*]

[*signed*] James Worsley
 Thomas Lyon [*mark*]

[29] 16 April 1639

The accompt of Henry Lawton⁶² Edward Potts William Wood and Edward Holland churchwardens of the parish church of Prescottt of theire receipts and payments for the use of the said parish for the yeare of our Lord God 1638 last past as followeth

Eleaven church [leyes] for this yeare

Inprimis theis accomptants doe charge themselves with the receipt of 11 whole church leyes within the severall towneshippes followinge *vizt*

In Prescottt 11 whole church leyes beinge 10s att a church ley 5 10 0

⁶² Lawton and Potts were appointed parliamentary sequestrators in Nov. 1646, and were associated in property transactions in 1647: 'Abstract Book', ff.109r, 116v.

In Whistonn 11 whole church leyes beinge 5s att a church leye	2	15	0
In Rainhill 11 whole church leyes beinge 5s att a church ley	2	15	0
In Sutton 11 whole church leyes beinge 20s att a church ley	11	0	0
In Eccleston 11 whole church leyes beinge 10s att a church ley	5	10	0
In Rainford 11 whole church leyes beinge 10s att a church ley	5	10	0
In Windle 11 whole church leyes beinge 10s att a church ley	5	10	0
In Parr 11 whole church leyes beinge 10s att a church ley	5	10	0
In Widnes <i>cum</i> Appleton 11 whole church leyes beinge 16s 5d att a church ley	9	5	2
	53	5	2

[30] In Cuardley 11 whole church leyes beinge 8s 9d att a church ley	4	16	3
In Cronton 11 whole church leyes beinge 8s 1d att a church ley	4	8	11
In Ditton 11 whole church leyes beinge 11s 2d att a church ley	6	2	10
In Penketh 11 whole church leyes beinge 5s 8d att a ley	3	2	4
In Sankye 11 whole church leyes beinge 8s 8d att a ley	4	15	4
In Bold 11 whole church leyes beinge 16s 10d att a ley	9	5	[2]

Theis accomptants lykewise chargeth themselves with the
receipts of severall somes of money for burialls in the parish
church afforesaid *vizt*

For the buriall of Richard Naylor of Rainford	6[s]	8[d]			
For the buriall of Ann the wief of Hugh Gease of Cronton	6	8			
For the buriall of Richard Lyon of Eccleston	6	8	1	0	0
	<i>in toto</i>		33	10	10

They likewise charge themselves with the receipts of severall somes of money received
of the severall persons followinge appearinge to bee due upon the foote of the last
yeres churchwardens accompts *vizt*

[31] Upon the foote of the last yeres accompt of the said William Wood £1 18s 10d					
Off Thomas Lyon of Rainford upon the foote of his last yeres accompt £7 [<i>recte</i> s] 1½d					
Off John Litherland of Whiston upon the foote of his last yeres accompt 40s	<i>in toto</i>		4	5	11½

Theis accomptants lykewise charge themselves with the receipts
of arrers returned by the last yeres churchwardens of the
severall persons herafter mentioned *vizt*

Off John Justice of Sutton and Edward his sonn 10d

Of the cunstables of Widnes for which they returned £3 14s 8d

in toto 3 15 6

Theis accomptants likewise charge themselves with the receipt of £5 3½d from Mr James Pemberton of Whiston for 71 leyes in arreare and unpaid by him in severall yeares last past beinge 8½d att a ley and of the some of 50s for charges and costs of suit brough against him for the same as by an order therof made 18 August last past appeareth⁶³

5 0 3½
in toto 13 1 9

The totall of all theis accomptants receipts wherwith they charge themselves this last yeare past doe amount in all to the some of

99 17 9

[32 *blank*, 33] Of which receipts all the said accomptants have paid disbursed, crave allowance and respite of the severall somes followinge *vizt*

Paid to George Bate and George Wright in earnest of a bargaine made with them concerninge the pointinge of the steeple for £7 the some of

0 0 [.]

Spent by the accomptants att the makinge of the said agreement

0 2 0

Paid to Bate and Wright att severall tymes *vizt*

Att one tyme 3 0 0

Att another tyme 0 13 0

Att another tyme 0 10 0

in toto 4 3 0

The some of £4 3s is all they have received by reason the worke is not above half finished

Spent by one of the accomptants upon the said Bate and Wright att three severall tymes

0 2 0

Spent in attendinge the worke three daies

0 2 4

Spent by all these accomptants upon the gentlemen of the parish and the eight men att the choyce of the churchwardens swornemen and surveyors in Easter weeke 1638

0 9 0

Spent alsoe by these accomptants upon the like occasion in Easter weeke 1639 last past

0 11 0

Paid to Mr Lewis the deane for administringe the churchwardens and swornemen their oathes that were elected in Easter weeke 1638

0 2 8

⁶³ Pemberton's arrears were recovered in full, with costs: recovery of Ogle's arrears is not recorded, but must be presumed.

Paid to the parator for the call of their names ⁶⁴	0	0	4
Spent by these accomptants and the swornemen att Childwell when they received their oaths	0	8	6
	6	4	4
[34] Paid to the heigh cunstable for provision for two fatherles children for which they have an order under the hand of the sherriffe of this countie appearinge by an acquittance	0	9	11
Paid for acquittance	0	0	2
Paid to Mr Barkeley with the privytie of Mr Aldem and the eight men for money undertaken to him by Henry Meade deceased late one of the churchwardens of this parish for coasts of suite against Mr Pemberton ⁶⁵	1	6	0
Given to a messinger for carriage of a letter to Chester about suite commenced against Mr Ogle	0	0	4
Paid more to the said Mr Barkeley for coasts of suite against Mr Ogle for leyes in arere for the hall of Prescott appearinge by an acquittance	0	15	0
Spent by one of these accomptants in goinge to Chester to execute suite against the said Mr Ogle and stayinge three daies	0	5	6
Which accomptant craveth allowance for his horse travel to Chester the same tyme	0	3	0
Paid to Mr Lawrence Carter for his paines in comminge to Prescott and takinge the depositions of certaine witnesses produced on the behalf of the parish against Mr Ogle	3	14	0
Spent by one of the accomptants in goinge to Chester and stayinge three dayes out to procure Mr chancellor to come to Prescott about the difference betwixt the parish and Mr Ogle	0	6	0
	6	19	11
[35] Paid to Thomas Walles for extraordinary charges when the chancellor and all his attendants were att Prescott and many of the parishoners produced for witnesses <i>prout per</i> acquittance ⁶⁶	15	2	0
Spent att Farnworth upon the chancellor and his attendants when these accomptants went to meete him on the way comminge betwixt Chester and Prescott	0	6	[.]

⁶⁴ The standard fees: similar sums were paid when the Walton wardens took their oaths at Childwall that year: Wn, f. 53r.

⁶⁵ See pp. xxi, xxix.

⁶⁶ It was a nice vindication for Walles, after the accusations made against him by Ogle, to have the profitable business of entertaining the chancellor and his entourage!

Geven to the ringers att Farnworth for ringinge as hee came through the towne and to the ringers of Prescott for ringinge when hee was come to Prescott ⁶⁷	0	5	6
Paid to Mr Barkeley parte whereof was owinge to him for coasts layd out against Mr Ogle parte therof given to him for his paines in comminge to Prescott with the chancellor	3	6	0[.]
Given to Mr chancellor for his paines in comminge to Prescott	6	0	0
Given to Mr chancellors men att the same tyme	1	0	0
Spent by one of the accomptants in comminge to Prescott to search in the booke of accompts for the names of annycant churchwardens and eight men that were to bee produced for witnesses against Mr Ogle	0	1	4
Paid for makinge of 40 ticquetts ⁶⁸ for producinge of witnesses in the same suite	0	6	8
Spent by one of these accomptants in goinge to Chester to speake to Mr chancellor a seacond tyme about his comminge to Prescott and stayinge three daies	0	7	6
Which accomptant craveth allowance for his horse travell to Chester the same tyme	0	3	0
	26	18	8
[36] Paid to severall balives for bestowinge their labor and paines severall tymes to have apprehended Mr Pemberton upon a <i>significavit</i> and spent severall tymes in meetinge them about the same			
	0	4	3
Paid to the said balives att severall tymes more for bestowinge their labor and paines in the said busines	0	5	0
Spent by these accomptants upon the gentlemen and others of the parish when Mr Pemberton his suite was agreed on and ordered	0	4	10
Paid to the belhanger Boats and his men for hardeninge and trussinge the bells beinge fower workemen fower daies	0	12	0
Spent by one of these accomptants upon the workemen in attendinge to see the worke well done	0	4	0
Paid to George Wright for trussinge one of the bells	0	1	0
Paid to Richard Marshall for worke about the bells and church doores	0	10	6
Paid to Raph Halsall for smythes worke done about the bells appearinge by a noate of particulers	0	3	4

⁶⁷See p.xxxv.⁶⁸Slips of paper referring witnesses to those questions in the articles to which their responses would be expected.

Paid to Peeter Kenwricke which hee had layd out for oyle for the clocke and bells and for candles to ringe curfey by	0	4	6
Paid for three new bell ropes for the seacond third and fourth bells	0	10	9
Paid to George Wright for sowderinge the topp of the church flagon	0	0	6
Spent att the meetinge of the gentlemen of the parish and of the eight men about the takinge of the last yeares accompts by one of these accomptants	<0	18	0>
	0	5	0
	3	5	8

[37] Paid for a load of flaggs to flagg att the west doore of the church	0	4	[?]
Paid for leadinge the same from Huyton Hey wood ⁶⁹	0	2	0[.]
Paid for a new spade for the church use	0	2	7
Paid for removinge of earth from the place where the flaggs were to bee layd	0	0	[.]
Paid to a mason for layinge of the same flaggs	0	2	[.]
Paid for wryteinge presentments to the deane	0	3	4
Spent in meetinge to make the same presentments by the old and new churchwardens and swornemen	0	9	0
Paid to Mr Lewis deane for an order to enquiry further of severall articles not answered unto sufficiently by these accomptants presentments afforsaid as it was alledged	0	3	4
Paid to his man for his paynes	0	0	4
Paid for wryteinge out againe the presentments upon the said order	0	3	4
Spent by these accomptants and the swornemen in meetinge to make the said presentments	0	7	0
Spent in goinge to Childwall to deliver upp the said presentments	0	1	6
Paid for wryteinge presentments to the deane upon an other citation	0	3	4
Spent by those accomptants and the swornemen att the makinge of the said presentments	0	8	0
Spent in goinge to Childwall to bringe a breife and receive an order for further inquisition upon our said presentments	0	9	0
	2	11	7

[38] Paid for wryteinge presentments to the deane upon the said order	0	3	4
--	---	---	---

⁶⁹Part of the estate of John Harrington (d. 1653) of Huyton Hey.

Spent by these accomptants and the swornemen att the makinge of the said presentments	0	7	0
Paid for wryteinge presentments to the heigh cunstable	0	3	4
Spent by these acomptants and the swornemen att the makinge of the said presentments	0	12	0
Spent in goinge to Farnworthe to bringe the said presentments to the heigh custable	0	0	6
Paid for wryteinge presentments to the heigh cunstable in August last	0	3	4
Spent by these accomptants and the swornemen in meetinge to make the said presentments	0	9	0
Paid for 20 measures of stone lyme to pointe the steeple with att 6d the measure	0	10	0
Paid for carriage therof from Sutton to the church	0	1	6
Paid more for lyme towards the pointinge of the steeple	0	15	0
Paid for carriage therof to the church	0	2	0
Paid to William Davison for two sacks full of heire to blend with the lyme towards the pointinge thereof	0	5	0
Paid for cariage therof to the church	0	1	0
Paid for leadinge and gettinge of sand to temper with the lyme	0	2	0
Paid to Raph Halsall for smithes worke done by him about the steeple	0	12	0
Paid to George Wright for boultinge the steeple with iron boults	0	3	4
Paid more to him for s[...]inge the heighest stone of the steeple	0	2	6
	4	12	10
[39] Spent att the puttinge upp of the faine of the steeple ⁷⁰	0	1	0
Paid for amendinge the locke of the organ doore	0	0	[4?]
Paid for the wyre for the clocke	0	0	8
Spent upon St Luke day att the choyce of the eight men upon the gentlemen of the parish	0	11	8
Spent by one of these accomptants in goinge severall tymes to demand and receive church leyes in Rainford and Eccleston	0	2	[.]
Paid for a messinger for bringinge precepts into severall townes	0	0	[.]
Spent by one other of these accomptants in goinge to receive leyes severall tymes	0	2	0
Spent by one other of these accomptants in goinge fower severall tymes to receive leyes on Farnworth side	0	3	0[.]
Spent upon the cunstables of Penketh when they came to bringe their church leyes to Prescott	0	1	0

⁷⁰Probably replacement of the old vane, since no purchase costs are recorded.

Spent by one other of these accomptants in goinge severall tymes on Farnworth side to demand and receive leyes	0	2	[.]
Spent by one other of these accomptants in goinge severall tymes on Farnworth side to receive churchleyes	0	3	[.]
Paid to a joyner for makinge the doore betwixt the chancell and the church ⁷¹	0	12	8
Paid to George Rainforth for colouring those dores	0	6	6
Paid for bands for the said doores	0	3	4
Paid for glew and nayles for the chancell	0	1	2
Spent by one of these accomptants in goinge to the monthly meetinge before the justices att Childwell	0	1	2
	2	11	6

[40] Spent by two of the churchwardens att two monthly meetings att Childwell	0	2	0
Spent by one of the accomptants in goinge to a monthly meteinge att Childwell	0	1	2
Spent by one of the accomptants in goinge to the sesions holden att Wigan 17 November last to prevent an order which should have beene granted for the releiffe of Widow Hill	0	2	0
Spent by one other of these accomptants in goinge to the sesions att Ormskirke in May 1638 concerninge some orders for the poore	0	3	4
Paid to an attorney for his fee to plead to the said orders att the sesions in July after	0	3	4
Spent by one of these accomptants att the said sesions	0	4	6
Spent by two of these accomptants in goinge to Warrington to meete Mr Ireland and Mr Bridgeman ⁷² about a child that was to bee releived by the parish	0	2	6
Paid to a messenger for bringinge two severall noats to Wigan concerneng seats that were to bee made for the communicants to sitt upon ⁷³	0	0	4
Spent by one of these accomptants in goinge to Wigan about those seats	0	1	6
Paid for nayles for the joyner	0	0	9
Spent by one of these accomptants in attendinge two daies att the church to see the worke done	0	1	4
Paid for fetchinge those seates from Wigan to Prescott	0	8	0

⁷¹ It is unclear whether these coloured doors replaced those made by Laurence Marsh on the bishop's orders in Apr. 1635. See p.xxviii.

⁷² Edward Bridgeman (brother of the bishop).

⁷³ The seats were made in Wigan, probably by Rigby. The cost of these seats seems too high for them to be identified with the rather crude benches surviving around the sanctuary walls.

Paid to a man for holdinge the carts from Wigan			0	0	6
			1	11	3
[41] Spent by all of these accomptants upon the joyner and all the rest of the workemen att the settinge upp and placinge of the said seates			0	13	0
Paid for matts to lye about the communion table			0	1	0
Paid to the joyner for makinge and settinge upp therof att one tyme	5	10	2		
And att an other tyme	1	13	4		
	<i>in toto</i>		7	3	6
Paid to the heigh cunstable towards the releiffe of the prisoners att his majesties gaolle of Lancaster			1	6	0
For an acquittance			0	0	2
Spent by one of these accomptants in goinge to Farnworth to pay the said money to the heigh cunstable			0	0	4
Spent upon the ringers and others of parish that came to ringe on the (kin) 5 November last			0	10	0
Paid to Mr Parker this yeare att severall tymes for playnge on the organns <i>vizt</i>					
Att one tyme	0	16	8		
Att another tyme	3	06	2		
Att another tyme	0	16	8		
And att another tyme	0	16	8		
	<i>in toto</i>		5	16	2
Paid to Richard Holmes for blowinge the organ bellowes att (two) severall tymes <i>vizt</i>					
Att one tyme	0	5	0		
Att an other tyme	0	2	6		
and att another tyme	0	7	6		
	<i>in toto</i>		0	15	0
Paid to Peter Kenwricke as sexton this yeare <i>vizt</i>					
Att one tyme	1	10	0		
Att another tyme	0	15	0		
Paid for a spade for the church use			0	1	6
Paid to Thomas Naylor for carrying sand out of the bell house			0	0	6
			18	12	2
[42] Paid to John Wade for slatinge and amendinge slates on the north side of the church			0	1	0

Paid to Thomas Naylor for glasinge the church windowes where defects were		0	14	0
Paid to Richard Litherland for money expended in <i>anno</i> 1637 by the then churchwardens about the church busines		0	4	0
Spent by one of these accomptants in goinge before Mr. Bridgeman and Mr Ashton to show theire warrants wherby money was to bee collected for the poore		0	1	6
And in meetinge the justices att Childwell		0	1	6
Spent by all of these acomptants in goinge severall tymes into the parish to demand distrayne and receive money taxed for the poore this yeare <i>vizt</i>				
By the accomptant Henry Lawton	10	0		
By William Woods	10	0		
By Edward Potts	6	6		
By Edward Holland	5	0		
			<i>in toto</i>	1 11 6
Paid to William Fletcher with the consent of the parish for money remayninge in surplusage to the said William Fletcher upon the foote of his accompt as churchwarde		6	7	9
Spent by one of the accomptants in bringinge wyne to the communion att Rainford and alsoe upon the curate Mr Pike ⁷⁴ the minister there the sexton and others after the communion was ended		0	3	4
Spent by one other of these accomptants after the communion was ended att St Ellen chappell upon Mr Burrowes minister there the curate the sexton and others		0	3	11
		9	8	6
Paid to Thomas Walles vintner for wyne for the monthly communions and att Easter this last yeare att the church and chappell afforsaid and for old decrepitt folke att severall tymes as foloweth <i>vizt</i>				
[43] Att one tyme	9	16	4	
Att another tyme	3	0	0	
			<i>in toto</i>	12 16 4
Spent by these accomptants in attendinge att the monthly communions and att Easter this last yeare as followeth <i>vizt</i>				

⁷⁴Thomas Pike, born at Coventry *c.*1611, curate of Rainford from 1638–1642 and later minister of Radcliffe: A.G. Matthews, *Calamy Revised* (Oxford, 1934), p.40.

By one of the accomptants *vizt*

Henry Lawton 4 6

By William Wood 4 6

By Edward Potts 4 6

By Edward Holland 4 6 *in toto* 0 17 6

Paid for 15 severall precepts for church leyes layd 24 April 1638 0 3 4

Paid for 15 severall precepts for church leyes layd 28 August 1638 0 3 9

Paid for drawinge an order betwixt the parish and Mr Pemberton concerninge an agreement made with him for leyes arere 0 1 0

Paid for 15 severall precepts for church leyes laid 19 January 1638 0 3 9

Paid for enterringe into the church booke severall orders under the hands of Mr Aldem and the eight men for the grantinge of the leyes aforesaid 0 1 6

For makinge presentments to the assizes 23 March 1638 of all recusants within the parish 0 3 [9]

For wryteinge the regester to the synodd 0 5 0

For keepinge clean the church plate and flagons 0 2 0

For washinge the church linnen this last yeare 0 5 0

For bread for the monthly communions and att Easter 0 5 6

Paid for drawinge over the accompts of all these accomptants 0 4 6

Paid to have the same putt into this booke 0 4 6

15 17 5

[44] One of these accomptants *vizt* Edward Holland craveth to bee allowed the some of £4 16s 8d reman[ing] in surplusage upon the foote of his last yeares accompt as churchwarden 4 16 8

These accomptants crave to bee respyted of the severall somes followinge appearinge to bee in arere and unpaid within the severall townes and by the severall persons as followeth *vizt* for church leyes layd this last yeare

In Sutton

Robert Lea 2[s] 7½[d]

John Lea junior 0 3

Edmund Lyon for Chawners house 0 1½

Idem Robert Lea 1 1½

John Justice and Edward his sonne 0 5

Idem John Justice *per* Erloms house 0 0¾

<i>Idem</i> Edmund Lyon	0	0½				
<i>Idem</i> John Justice and Edward his sonne	1	3				
Ann Erlom	0	2				
William Chawner	0	1½	<i>in toto</i>	0	6	2¼
In Wyndle and Hardshaw						
James Kenion	0	3				
Henry Leadbeter senior	0	8½	<i>in toto</i>	0	0	11½
In Ditton						
In arere and unpaid by the cunstables of Ditton <i>vizt</i>						
William Weedall and Thomas Coppall which they confesse they have received				1	2	4
In Penketh						
Thomas Ashton esq.	1	0				
Frances Robinson	1	0	<i>in toto</i>	0	2	0
				6	8	1¾
[45] In Widnes <i>cum</i> Appleton						
Roger Houghton	1[s]	3¾[d]				
Thomas Kidd	0	7½				
Edward Ball gent.	7	0				
Margrett Davison	0	1½				
Widdow Pemberton	0	3¾				
Richard Flitcroft	0	1½				
William Leigh	1	0				
John Wellinge	1	8				
Thomas Jessope ⁷⁵	0	3				
John Lawton	1	6				
John Woods	1	8				
John Lea	0	4				
<i>Idem</i> Roger Haughton	0	3				
<i>Idem</i> John Wellinge	0	3½				
Gilbert Leadbeter	0	0½				
<i>Idem</i> Thomas Jessope	0	0¾				
John Eaton	0	0½	<i>in toto</i>	0	16	7 [¼]
In Cronton						
Widdow Glover	0	1¼				

⁷⁵Thomas Jessope, gent, of Widnes, one of the eight men in 1640–41, was presented in 1630 for practising ‘phisick and chirmurgery’ without a known licence: CRO, EDV 5.

Widdow Leightfoote	0	2				
Savage Holland	0	7				
<i>Idem</i>	0	4				
Parcevall Slacke ⁷⁶	0	1				
John Fletcher	0	2¼				
Richard Gregory	0	0¾	<i>in toto</i>	0	1	6¼
In Sankie						
Edward Bridgeman esq.	3	11¾				
Theophilus Linch	2	6				
William Worsley	1	3				
Mathew Earle	1	9	<i>in toto</i>	0	9	5¾

In arere alsoe and unpaid by the cunstables of Bold *vizt* John
Marsh and Evan Leigh for church leyes which they confesse
they have received 0 14 6
All which somes abovsaid these accomptants crave to bee respyted by reason that they
have charged themselves therwith and the same is not as yet received

[46] Lastly these accomptants crave to bee respyted the some of 4s 3d double charged
upon them *vizt* first they charge themselves with the receipt of 11 whole church leyes
within Whiston this yeare wheras Mr James Pemberton was in arere 4s 3d
seacondly they acknowledge the receipt of the said some of 4s 3d
beinge parte of the money received or charged within the
agreement concerninge Mr Pemberton 0 4 3
The total of all which payments disbursements and allowances
doe amounte unto 107 8 4
Soe their receipts beinge 99 17 9
and their payments and allowances *ut supra*
these accomptants remaine in surplusage 7 10 7

John Aldem vicar; Roberte Gleast, James Worsley, Edward Greene, Thomas Lyon *filius*
Ro[berte] Lyon *defuncti*, Evan Garnett

[1639–40]

6 May 1639
Forasmuch as Mr Aldem the vicar and eight men whose names are subscriybed meetinge

⁷⁶Percival Slacke of Cronton, an apparitor for the consistory court, seems richly to have earned the dread and contempt which people felt for his profession. He was excommunicated in 1635: CRO, EDC 5/1635/105; and then accused in 1638 of coming in the night to the house of William Knowles (linen webster), breaking the windows, forcing the door open and threatening to cut Knowles' throat and to break the bones of everyone in the house, calling justice Henry Ogle a 'knave': LRO, QSB/1/210/41. In an earlier incident, although not licensed to do so, he 'gave fisticke' to Robert Bushell, who died four days later: *ibid.* QSB/1/182/50. Slacke was buried at Farnworth in 1642.

this day and fyndinge upon view of the churchwardens accompts money to bee wantinge to satisfy the old churchwardens upon theire accompts or other necessary uses doe therfore order fower whole church leyes to bee collected and gathered throughout the whole parish to bee paid as followeth *vizt* two therof upon or before the feast of Thascencion of Jesus Christ next and thother two upon or before 24 June next out of which two first the old churchwardens to bee satisfied the surplusage due unto them John Aldem vicar, Roberte Gleast, James Worsley, Evan Garnett, Thomas Lyon *filius* Roberte Lyon *defuncti*, Edward Greene

[47] The election and choyce of the eight men to serve for the yeare followeing made upon St Lukes day *anno domini* 1639

Prescott	William Fletcher
Whistonn	John Ashtonn
Sutton	William Wood
Ecclestonn	Edward Potts
Windle	Edward Holland
Rainhill	Henry Lawton
Widnes	John Holt junior
Cronton	William Parr, eight men

Elected by

John Aldem vicar; Henry Darbishire, Henry Ecclestonn, Peter Kenwricke

29 October 1639

Wee the vicar and the eight men of the parish church of Prescott meetinge in the said church and fynding money to bee wanting for the necessary occasions of the said parish church att the request of the church wardens have agreed and doe order that fower whole church leyes shalbee collected and gathered through the said parish and that the same shalbee paid over to the churchwardens or some of them in maner followeing *vizt* two of them att or before 20 November next and thother two att or before 20 December next. Witnes our hands herunto subscribed

John Aldem vicar	
John Ashton	William Wood
William Fletcher	William Parr
Henry Lawton	Edward Holland
Edward Potts	John Hoult, eight men

[48] The election and choyce of the churchwardens to serve for the yeare followinge chosen 7 April *anno domini* 1640

Prescott Whiston and Rainhill		Surveyors
William Browne junior	Prescot	Thomas Parr
<i>de Whiston</i>		John Walker

Sutton	John Sutton	Whiston	William Ackers junior
Eccleston and Rainford			James Houghton
	James Jollie of Eccleston	Rainhill	Henry Case
Wyndle and Parr			John Ackers
	⟨Thomas⟩ John Lyon	Sutton	James Worseley
	of Wyndle		Ellis Glover
	Swornemen	Eccleston	Robert Gleast
Prescott Whiston and Rainhill			Edmund Lyon
	James Sadler of Prescott ⁷⁷	Rainford	James Naylor
Sutton	Henrie Johnsson		Thomas Lyon
Rainford and Eccleston		Wyndle	Edward Holland
	Peter Tunstall of Rainford		Richard Cowley
Windle and Parr		Parr	Mathew Tickle
	Henry Parr <i>de</i> Heath		Edmund Ellom
	<i>infra</i> Parr		

Elected by us whose names are subscribed

John Aldem vicar; Thomas Eccleston; William Fletcher, John Ashton, Henry Lawton, William Wood, Edward Pott, Edward Holland, six of the eight men

[49–50 *blank*, 51] Prescott parish

The accompts of James Ditchfield Henry Eccleston Roberte Lyon and Richard Wood churchwardens of the parish church of Prescott of all their receipts and payments for the use of the said parish church from Easter in *anno domini* 1639 till this present 7 May *anno regis* Charles *nunc Angliae etc.* 16,⁷⁸ 1640 as followeth *viz* eight church leyes this yeare 1639

Inprimis theis accomptants charge themse the \receipt/ of eight whole church leyes within the severall townships followinge *viz*

In Prescott Whiston and Rainhill eight whole

church leyes being 20s att a ley	8	0	0
In Sutton eight whole church leyes being 20s att a ley	8	0	0
In Eccleston and Rainford eight whole church leyes beinge 20s att a ley	8	0	0
In Windle and Parr eight whole church leyes beinge 20s att a ley	8	0	0
In Widnes <i>cum</i> Appleton eight whole church leyes beinge 16s 10d att a ley	6	14	8

⁷⁷ Sadler (d. 1652) was a buttonmaker, married to Jane, a sister of Thomas Walles, the prominent Prescot innkeeper: their sons John Sadler and John Walles had shipowning interests in Liverpool.

⁷⁸ This is the only occurrence of dating by regnal year in the seventeenth-century accounts.

In Cuardley and Cronton eight whole church leyes beinge 16s 10d att a ley	6	14	8
In Ditton and Penketh eight whole church leyes beinge 16s 10d at a ley	6	14	8
In Sankey eight whole church leyes beinge 8s 8d att a ley	3	9	4
In Bold eight whole church leyes beinge 16s 10d at a ley	6	14	8
	62	8	0

They alsoe charge themselves with the receipt of arrears due and
unpaid in *anno domini* 1638 of the severall persons
followinge *vizt*

[52] Of the cunstables of Ditton William Weedall and Thomas Coppall which remayned in their hands	22[s]	4[d]			
Of the cunstables of Bold <i>vizt</i> John Marsh and Evan Leigh which remayned in their hands	14	6			
Of John Lawton	18	<i>in toto</i>	1	18	4

They alsoe charge themselves with the receipt of 26s 8d for
burialls within the church of the severall persons followinge *vizt*

Rainford	Ann <i>uxor Jacobi</i> Lyon	6	8		
Rainford	⟨Ales <i>uxor</i> Edward Percivall Ales <i>uxor Edwardi</i> Parr \gent/	6	8⟩		
Prescott	Jacobi <i>filius Edwardi</i> Stockley	6	8		
Knowsley	Margrett <i>uxor Richardi</i> Tyrer	6	8		
	<i>in toto</i>	1	6	8	

<i>Item</i> these accomptants charge themselves with the receipt of 7s 10d received from Edward Holland one of the last churchwardens and appearing to remaine in his hands upon the foote of his accompt beinge exhibited severally by itself	0	7	10
Received more for the old church styles that were pulled upp	0	2	0
Sum totall of all the whole charge	66	2	10

[53] Of all which said severall somes soe received theis accomptants have received
crave allowance and respyte of the severall somes followeing *vizt*

Inprimis paid to Henry Lawton one of the last
churchwardens for money remayninge in surplusage to
him upon the foote of is accompt exhibited severally and

now entered into the booke of accompts joyntly with the rest of his fellowes and as alsoe appereth by his acquittance	7	13	7
Spent by all theis accomptants upon themselves and the swornemen when they went to receive theire oathes	0	10	6
Paid to the deane for his fees	0	3	4
Spent by all theis accomptants upon the gentlemen of the parish and the last churchwardens att the takeinge of theire accompts	0	11	[8]
Spent by all theis accomptants and the swornemen in makeinge presentments to the deane in May last	0	10	4
Paid for 15 severall precepts for fower churchleyes layed 6 May 1639	0	3	9
For one other precept for the cunstable of Prescottt the old one beinge out of his office	0	0	[3]
Paid to Phillip Holland for goeing to Farnworth severall tymes to bringe precepts into Farnworth chappellrye	0	1	0
Paid for a rope for Nell Miller	0	1	2
Paid to Raph Halsall for worke done aboute the amending of the bells	0	7	4
Paid for mending the pulpitt quishion	0	0	6
Spent by all theis accomptants in goeing to Childwall beinge assessed to appeare theire and to receive an order to enquire further upon the booke of articles	0	6	4
Paid for the citation	0	1	0
Spent by theis accomptants and the sworne men in meeting to make presentments to the deane and to enquire further upon the booke of articles	0	5	8
	10	16	5
[54] Spent in bringinge the same to Childwall by one of theis accomptants	0	1	10
Paid to the heigh cunstable for releefe of the maymed souldirs <i>prout per</i> acquittance	1	6	0
Paid for the acquittance	0	0	2
Paid to Mr Eltonhead ⁷⁹ for a tree towards the makeinge of three new styles for the church yeard	2	4	0

⁷⁹This was either Richard Eltonhead of Eltonhead (b. c.1582) or his son Richard (b. c.1611): *Visitation*, I, p.103. One took up arms for the king, but compounded in 1649; another 'assisted the forces against parliament'. Both were alive in 1664, together with a third generation Richard (b. c.1643). The eldest Richard died later that year (leaving geometrical instruments amongst his effects) and was buried in the church: G. Rankin, 'The Eltonhead family', *THLC*, 108 (1956), p.362.

Paid to Richard Bold and others for helpinge to load the said trees being three loads	0	1	6
Spent by one of theis accomptants in goeing to buy the said trees and procuringe carpenders to goe aboute it	0	1	8
Paid to Mr Eltonhead for one other tree to make and finish up the said styles	1	16	6
Spent by one of theis accomptants in goeing three severall tymes aboute the falleinge and cutteinge therof	0	3	0
Paid for helpeinge to load these trees beinge three loads	0	1	6
Paid for leadinge of the said trees from Eltonhead wood to Prescott being six loads	0	10	0
Spent att two severall tymes upon the carpender and his man with whom the agreement was made for the makeing of the church styles	0	2	6
Paid to the carpender and his man att severall tymes vizt			
Att one tyme	1	10	6
Att another tyme	1	8	4
Att another tyme	0	16	6
<i>in toto</i>	3	15	4
Spent upon the gentlemen of the parish and the eight men att the laying of the fower first leyes	0	8	0
Spent on comeinge severall dayes to attend the worke and alsoe for the placeinge of the church steeles and alsoe spent upon the worke men	0	9	4
	11	0	4
[55] Paid for a copy of the names of all such as as weare in arreare with their leyes in <i>anno domini</i> 1638 to collect the same by			
Paid for wrytinge presentments to the heigh cunstable in August of all recusants within the parish	0	1	0
Paid for a copy theirow to bee in a readines for the churchwardens to present by	0	3	4
Spent by theis accomptants and the sworne men in meetinge to make the said presentments to the heigh cunstable	0	2	0
Spent by one of theis accomptants in bringinge the same to the heigh cunstable	0	8	6
Spent by one of theis accomptants in bringinge money to the heigh cunstable for the maymed souldirs	0	1	0
Paid for a locke for the bell house doore	0	1	2
Paid for mending the pulloff wyre for the clocke and iron worke about the clocke	0	2	[0]
Paid for a pound of candles for the church use	0	0	6

Paid to Peter Kenwricke for oyle and trayns for the clocke and bells	0	4	0
Paid for mendinge of the surplisse	0	0	6
Paid for laying and hameinge of the church picke	0	1	4
Paid for eight ashlers to amend the church walles att 3d a peece	0	2	0
Paid for leadinge theirow being two loads	0	2	0
Paid for fower ashlers more to amend the church walles att 3d a peece	0	1	0
Paid for leadinge (and loading) theirow	0	1	4
Paid for makinge presentments to the deane 14 October last	0	3	4
Spent att makeinge theirow	0	3	4
Paid for writing a lettere to the heigh cunstable concerninge a precept sent to theis accomptants where with they were not chargeable	0	0	4
Paid to a boy to bringe a note in to Farnworth chappellrye concerninge the ellection of eight men	0	0	6
	2	0	2

[56]

Paid for 15 severall precept for fower church leyes laid 29 October 1639	0	3	9
Spent by theis accomptants upon the eight men att the laying and allowinge of the said leyes and alsoe att the ellection of the eight men	0	11	0
Paid for enteringe into the booke of accompts the ellection of the eight men and a cobby therof	0	0	6
Paid for enteringe into the booke of accompts two severall orders under the hand of Mr Aldem and the eight men for the eight church leyes laid as afforesaid	0	1	0
Paid for cobby, two orders and writing a nnote to the chappellwardens of Farnworth	0	0	6
Paid for writinge a schedule to goe to Chester of all such as weare behind with theire leyes	0	1	0
Paid to Mr Parker att severall tymes for playing on the organ <i>vizt</i> Att one tyme which was			
arreare in <i>anno domini</i> 1638	1	0	6
Att another tyme	2	10	0
Att another tyme	5	0	0
Paid to Mr Holmes att three severall tymes for blowinge the organ bellows <i>vizt</i>			
		<i>in toto</i>	8 10 6

Att one tyme	0	5	0			
Att another tyme with the parish nowe in arreare to him	0	2	6			
Att another tyme	0	10	0	<i>in toto</i>	0	17 6
Paid by all theis accomptants in meeting to make theire presentments ready for the inquisition holden at Chorley				0	5	0
Paid to the ringers for ringing 5 November being the kings holyday				0	10	0
Spent by all theis accomptants upon the ringers and themselves that day				0	2	6
				10	13	9
[57] Spent by one of theis accomptants in goeing fower severall tymes on Farnworth syde to demand leyes						
				0	5	0
Paid to a messenger for goeing severall tymes on Farnworth syde to bring precepts for church leyes				0	1	6
Spent in goeing to Childwall beinge assyted to appeare to receive an order for to enquire further upon the booke of articles				0	3	6
Paid for the said order to the deane				0	3	4
Paid to his clarke				0	0	6
Spent by theis accomptants and the swornemen in meetinge to enquire upon the same order				0	6	0
Spent in bringing the same presentments to Childwall				0	3	0
Paid for bands gudgons and nayles for the church yate with other iron worke				0	5	8
Spent by one of theis accomptants in goeing two severall tymes to Warrington to buy two bell ropes				0	2	6
Paid for those two bellropes				0	8	6
Paid to a glasier for repayringe the glase of the church windowes where defects were				0	19	4
Spent upon the glasier				0	0	8
Paid for a new spade for the church use				0	2	6
Paid for lyme to bee mortar to make upp the church walles where defects were				0	4	4
Paid to Roberte Hatton and Raph Houghton for worke done by them aboute the church walles and stiles				0	14	6
Paid for putting earth into the saw pitt that the carpender had made to saw timber for the church styles and for clensing the church yard				0	1	0
Paid to one for mendinge the clocke				0	1	6
Paid to one for tuneing and mending the organs				0	4	0

Paid to Peter Kenwricke for his yeares wages the last yeare	3	0	0
	7	7	4
[58] Paid for writing presentments to the heigh cunstable att the last assyzes	0	3	4
Spent by theis accomptants and sworne men in making the said presentments	0	7	0
Spent in bringinge the same to the heigh cunstable	0	1	6
Paid Edward Potts one of the last churchwardens apperinge to bee in surplusage to him upon the foote of his accompt being made severally	0	4	10
Spent by theis accomptants in goeing to demand leyes and upon the cunstable of Farnworth chappellrye in comeing severall tymes to pay theire leyes	0	5	0
Paid to Thomas Walles vintner att severall tymes for wyne for the monthly communions and att Easter this yeare both for the church and the chappells as also for old decrepitt folk <i>vizt</i>			
Att one tyme	1	13	8
Att another tyme	3	10	0
Att another tyme	3	10	4
Att another tyme	3	10	0
And att another tyme	1	9	8
<i>in toto</i>	13	13	8
Spent by one of theis accomptants upon Mr Pyke the curate the sexton and others after the communion was ended att St Ellen chappell	0	4	0
Spent by one other of theis accomptants upon Mr Pyke the curate the sexton and others after the communion was ended att Rainford chappell	0	2	6
Paid for writinge the register to the synodd in parchement	0	5	0
	15	6	10
[59] Spent by all theis accomptants upon the gentlemen of the parish and the eight men upon Tuesday in Easter weeke last att the ellection of the new churchwardens	0	14	6
Spent by theis accomptants 1 May instant in meetinge to make theire presentments ready to the visitation	0	3	4
Spent by theis accomptants upon the new churchwardens and swornemen goeing to the visitation	1	9	4
Paid for keeping cleane the church plate and flagons this yeare	0	2	0
Paid for washinge and keepinge cleane the church linnens	0	5	0

Paid for bread for the monthly comunions and att Easter this yeare both for the church and chappells			0	5	6
Spent by all theis accomptants in attending six monthly communions and att Easter this (past) last yeare as alsoe upon the sworne men as followeth <i>vizt</i>					
By Henry Eccleston	0	6	0		
By Roberte Lyon	0	4	6		
By Richard Wood	0	2	0	<i>in toto</i>	0 12 6
Spent by all theis accomptants upon the gentlemen of the parish and the eight men upon the 27 April in comeing to receive our accompts			0	9	4
Paid by all theis accomptants for writing and keepeinge theire severall accompts of theire receipts and payments <i>vizt</i>					
By James Ditchfield	0	6	8		
By Roberte Lyon	0	2	0		
By Henry Eccleston	0	1	6		
Paid for a quire of paper	0	0	4	<i>in toto</i>	0 10 6 4 12 0

[60] Theis accomptants crave to bee respyted of the severall somes of money due and unpaid by the severall persons followeinge for church leyes layed this yeare last past and charged upon theis accomptants bee received *vizt*

Prescott

Jennett Orrell <i>vidua</i>	0[s]1[d]				
John Leadbeater	0	3			
Katheren Steavenson	0	1			
John Frodsham	0	4			
Anthony Prescott	0	1			
William Hardman	0	2			
George Standishstreete	0	1			
Thomas Heyes	0	6			
Margrett Angsdall	0	4			
John Ainsworth	0	2			
Hughsons children	0	1			
<i>Uxor</i> Fletcher	0	1			
Richard Higgenson	0	2	<i>in toto</i>	0	2 5
Cronton					
Mary Glover	0	3½			
Thomas Almond	0	10½			
Richard Abbott	0	1	<i>in toto</i>	0	1 3
Sankey					

Edward Bridgman esq	1	2				
Theophilus Smith [<i>recte</i> Lynch] gent.	3	4				
Robert Mather	0	2				
Thomas Penketh	0	7				
Henry Rothwell	0	4				
Richard Farrer	0	8				
Mawd Smith	0	4	<i>in toto</i>	0	6	7
Penketh						
Thomas Barber cunstable of Penketh	1	0		0	1	0
				0	11	3
[61] Sutton						
Edward Roughley	3	2				
John Justice	0	7½	<i>in toto</i>	0	3	9½
Eccleston						
Henry Webster of the Pitts ⁸⁰	1	1½		0	1	1½
Parr						
John Hill	0	3				
Peter \Byrom/(Bordman?)	0	11		0	1	2
Windle						
David Pinnington	2	0		0	2	0
Paid for drawing and writing out theis accompts				0	5	0
Paid for to have the same written out againe into the churchbooke of accompts				0	5	0
				0	18	1
Sum total of all theis accomptants disbursements and allowances are				63	6	2
Soe theire receipts beinge £66 2s 10d						
and theire payments <i>ut supra</i> theire remans in theis accomptants hands				2	16	8

[1640–1]

[62 *blank*, 63] 29 June 1640

We the vicar and the eight men of the parish church of Prescott meetinge in the said parish church and finding money to bee wantinge for the necessary occasions of the said parish church of Prescott have att the request of the churchwardens of the said parish agreed that fower whole church leyes shalbee collected and gathered throughout the whole parish and to bee paid to the said churchwardens or some of them att and upon 1 August next. Witnes our hands the day and yeare first above written

⁸⁰R *per JJ marginated.*

[*signed*] John Aldem vicar; Henry Lawton, Williem Wood

[64 *blank*, 65] St Luke day 18 October 1640

The election and choyce of the eight men to serve for the yeare followinge

Prescot	Thomas Walles
Rainhill	Edward Greene
Sutton	James Worsley
Eccleston	Robert Glest
Rainford	John Naylor
Parr	Henry Eccleston
Bold	Thomas Marsh
Widnes	Thomas Herne

Elected by us whose names are subscribed

[*signed*] John Aldem vicar; Joseph Brookesbanke curate;⁸¹ William Alcocke, John Allcock, Henry Lathom;⁸² William Browne junior [*mark*], [*signed*] James Jolly, John Sutton, John Lyon [*marks*] churchwardens

[66 *blank*, 67] 2 February 1640

Wee the vicar and eight men of the parish church of Prescott meetinge in the parish church of Prescott aforesaid and fyndinge money to bee wantinge for the necessary occasions of and belonginge to the said parish church att the request of the churchwardens are agreed and doe order that fower church leyes shalbee forthwith collected and gathered throughout the said parish and shalbee paid over to the churchwardens or some of them att or before 1 March now next comminge. Witnes our hands herunto subscribed the day and yeare abovesaid

By us [*signed*] John Aldem vicar; Roberte Glest, Thomas Walles, Edward Greene, Thomas Jessup, Thomas Marsh, five of the eight men

[67a *blank*, 68] Tuesday in Easter weeke 27 April 1641

The accompts of William Browne John Sutton James Jolly and John Lyon churchwardens of the parish church of Prescott of theire receipts and payments for the use of the said parish church in the yeare of our Lord 1640 last past (followeth) till this present day as followeth

12 churchleyes

Inprimis these accomptants charge themselves with the receipte of 12 whole church leyes within the said parish from the severall townshippes followinge *vizt*

⁸¹ Curate from 1 Nov. 1638.

⁸² Henry Lathom of Whiston (c.1570–1652), father of the puritan John Lathom: *Visitation*, II. p.177, rather than his distant kinsman Henry Lathom of Mossborough (1575–1649), a notorious recusant.

Prescott Whiston and Rainhill	12	0	0			
Sutton	12	0	0			
Eccleston and Rainford	12	0	0			
Wyndle and Parr	12	0	0			
Widnes <i>cum</i> Appleton	10	2	0			
Cuardley and Cronton	10	2	0			
Ditton and Penketh	10	2	0			
Sankie	5	4	0			
Bold	10	2	0	<i>in toto</i>	93	12 0

Item with the receipte of severall somes of money
for burials in the church as followeth *vizt*

William Ackers of Rainford	6	8				
Henry Ackers his sonne	6	8				
Richard Lyon of Sutton	6	8				
A boy of Thomas Ashtons of Eccleston	6	8				
John Sumner of Sutton	6	8				
A girle of Henry Suttons of Tarbocke	6	8				
Raph Tunstall of Rainford	6	8				
Thomas Shaw of Whiston	6	8				
Margrett his wyfe	6	8	<i>in toto</i>	3	0	0
				96	12	0

[69] *Item* received for an old surplesse 2 0

For an old chaine of the churchyard

gate leadinge from the crosse ⁸³	2	0	<i>in toto</i>	0	4	0
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Item with the receipte of 12s 11d in parte of the some of 56s 8d remayninge in the hands
of the last churchwardens upon the

foote of theire accompte				0	12	11
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<i>Summa</i> totall of theise accomptants charge				97	8	11
--	--	--	--	----	---	----

[70] Payments disbursements and allowances craved by theise accomptants as follow
vizt

Inprimis spent by theise accomptants comminge to Prescott when
the old churchwardens came to have made theire accompte and
to deliver upp the church goods to theise accomptants by bill
indented

	0	6	8
--	---	---	---

Spent upon another day in comminge a seacond tyme to receive
the same goods by bill indented the accompte of the last
churchwardens beinge deferred

	0	6	[8]
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⁸³ Presumably the base: the cross had been removed at the reformation. See p.101.

Paid for wryteinge a payre of indentures of the church goods	0	1	0
Paid att the visitation att Wigan for a book of articles	0	3	10
Spent by all the accomptants in goinge to Wigan to the visitation to receive theire oathes and the said booke of articles	0	7	0
Spent by these accomptants the last churchwardens and the sidemen in meetinge to make presentments to the visitation	0	7	0
Paid for wryteinge presentments to bee brought to the visitation	0	3	4
Spent upon the gentlemen of the parish and the eight men in meetinge to laye fower church leyes beinge the first that were layed in the yeare 1640	0	7	0
Paid for wryteinge precepts for those church leyes	0	3	0
Spent in comminge to Prescott to fetch precepts and to procure a messenger to bringe them forth	0	0	6
Paid to a messenger to bringe precepts to Farnworth Rainford and Parr	0	1	0
Spent in meetinge to make presentments to bee send to the register office att Chester beinge commanded att the visitation soe to doe and to enlarge them accordinge to the booke of articles then received	0	5	4
	2	12	4
[71] Spent upon the ringers that were entreated to ringe the bells that these accomptants might view and see wherin they were amisse and consider how the bells and frame were to bee amended			
	0	2	6
Spent also in meetinge Boats the bell hanger to shew him the defects of the bells and to agree with him for the amendinge therof	0	3	4
Paid to Boats and his man for amendinge the bellframes and hanginge the bells and clappers	1	2	4
Paid to Raphe Halsall for iron and worke done about the bells appearinge by an acquittance	0	14	0
Spent in attendinge and provydinge things necessary for Boats duringe the tyme of the worke beinge ten dayes	0	7	0
Paid for nayles for the bellframes and grease for the bell stoopes	0	2	0
Spent in goinge with the curate upon perambulation fower dayes	0	2	0
Paid to the heigh cunstable for releefe of the maymed souldiers accordinge to his warrant <i>prout per</i> acquittance	1	6	8
For an acquittance	0	0	2
Spent upon fower ringers that were entreated to try the bells after they were amended and upon Boats and the workemen	0	3	6

Spent by two of these accomptants in goinge to Farnworth two severall dayes to demand and receave fower church leyes	0	2	6
Spent by one of these accomptants in comminge to Prescott to measure the old surplesse and to advyse how much cloath would bee a new surplesse	0	0	6
Spent lykwise in comminge another day to buy cloath and putt the surplesse to the workinge	0	0	6
	4	7	0
[72] Paid for 11 yards and a halfe of holland cloath to bee a surplesse att 5s 6d the yard abatinge 3d att all and for threed to make the same withall 12d in the whole as appeareth by Raph Hall acquittance ⁸⁴			
	3	4	0
Paid to Alexander Rylands for makeinge of the said surplesse	0	5	0
Spent in comminge to fetch the surplesse from the makinge and to procure it washed against Prescott fayre ⁸⁵	0	0	6
Spent by these accomptants in procuringe and seeinge the christeninge mariages and burialls registered accordinge to theirre oath	0	1	4
Spent upon Thomas Lomas who came to view the defects of slates and mosse aboute the church and in procuringe him to doe the worke	0	1	0
Paid for pinnes and koggs to hange the ladders on	0	0	4
Paid for mosse and mossinge and for Thomas Lomas workemanshipp in pointinge and slatinge about the church where defects were <i>prout per</i> acquittance	2	19	4
Paid for new slates which were wantinge	0	3	0
Spent in comminge to reckon and pay Thomas Lomas	0	2	8
Paid to Richard Pye for fower bushells of lyme and to Thomas Parr for three bushells of lyme att 6d the bushell	0	3	6
Paid for cariage of fower bushells from Eccleston	0	0	4
Paid to Henry Woods for heyre and plasteringe	0	1	0
Spent in attendinge the worke and provydinge of things necessary duringe all the worke	0	4	0
Paid to Mr Parker an arreare of £5 due to him att Easter 1640 and his quarters wages due att midsummer 1640 £5 <i>in toto</i>	5	0	0
Paid to Peter Kenwricke his quarters wages due <i>eode prout per</i> acquittance	0	15	0
	13	1	0

⁸⁴ The renewal of the surplice shows Aldem's conformity: the best 'holland' linen was being used. See p.xiv.

⁸⁵ The surplice was to be ready for the annual fair on Pentecost eve. For the fair, see also p.33.

[73] Paid to Richard Holmes an arreare of 5s due to him att Easter 1640 and his quarters wages due att midsommer last beinge 5s as organ blower <i>in toto</i>	0	10	0
Paid to Thomas Walls for wyne for three months communions <i>vizt</i> May June and July <i>prout per</i> acquittance	2	16	4
Spent upon the gentlemen of the parish and the eight men att the layinge of fower leyes layd 29 June	0	6	4
Paid for wryteinge precepts for the said church leyes	0	3	0
Spent in comminge to fetch them and to procure a messinger to bringe them out	0	0	6
Paid to a messinger to bringe precepts to Farnworth	0	0	4
And for a messinger to Rainford	0	0	4
Spent at Ormskirke sesions in July 1640 in goinge to procure overseers of the poore	0	2	0
Spent by all these accomptants and the overseers in meetinge the poore that had orders from the bench to take order for theire payment ⁸⁶	0	4	6
Paid to severall of those that had orders from the bench theire half yeares pay as followeth			
Paid to Elizabeth Lyon late wyfe of Edward Lyon senior her halfe yeares allowance <i>prout per</i> acquittance	1	0	0
Paid to Henry Hitchin his halfe yeares allowance <i>prout per</i> acquittance	1	0	0
Paid to Richard Hitchmough his halfe yeares allowance <i>prout per</i> acquittance	0	15	0
Paid to Isabel Fearnies the half yeares allowance due to her for keepinge of Lawtons child	1	0	0
Paid to Jane Greene her halfe yeares allowance <i>prout per</i> acquittance	1	0	0
	8	18	4
[74] Paid to Margrett Lea of Farnworth widdow her half yeares allowance <i>prout per</i> acquittance	1	0	0
Paid to John Lea the half yeares allowance due to him for keepinge of a child of John Berryes <i>prout per</i> acquittance	1	0	0
Paid to Elizabeth Lyon late wyfe of Gyles Lyon deceased her half yeares allowance <i>prout per</i> acquittance	1	0	0

⁸⁶ A major effort was under way to regularise payments to the poor. Of those to whom payments were made here, twelve were to have allowances ratified by the Ormskirk quarter sessions in July 1641.

Paid to Ann Earle in parte of her halfe yeares allowance of 15s the some of 10s <i>prout per</i> acquittance	0	10	0
Paid to Ann Webster of Whiston her half yeares allowance for keepinge of young Poole <i>prout per</i> acquittance	1	0	0
Paid to Ann Lyon of Sutton her halfe yeares allowance <i>prout per</i> acquittance	0	15	0
Paid to John Spencer of Rainford his half yeares allowance <i>prout</i> <i>per</i> acquittance	0	15	0
Paid to Ann Ditchfield of Prescottt the half yeares allowance due to her for keepinge of Hunts children <i>prout</i> <i>per</i> acquittance	0	10	0
Paid for makinge acquittances for severall of these payments	0	1	0
Spent by two of these accomptants in goinge two severall tymes to demand and receive Farnworth side church leyes	0	3	4
Paid for makinge presentments to the heigh cunstables to bee sent to the assyzes att August last	0	3	4
Spent by these accomptants and the sidemen att the makinge therof	0	5	6
Spent in meetinge the heigh cunstable to deliver him the said presentments	0	1	0
Paid for 30½ pounds of lead for the topp of the revestry for conducting of the water	0	6	1
Spent by one of these accomptants in goinge to Warrington to buy it	0	0	8
Paid to Thomas Lomas for layinge of the lead and pointinge of the revestry	0	2	4
	7	13	3
[75] Spent upon severall of the cunstables of Farnworth syde that came to pay theire leyes att Prescottt	0	2	2
Paid for a bell rope for the greate bell for for cariage therof from Warrington	0	4	10
Spent in goinge to Warrington and to bespeake and procure the same to bee made	0	0	8
Paid to Mr chancellor for three books for the church use att his correction houlden att Wigan ⁸⁷	0	6	10

⁸⁷The Childwall accounts make clear that the 'three books' for the Wigan correction on 11 Aug. were a book of canons and two prayer books appointed to be read publically on 28 Mar. There is no mention at Prescot of the additional 'book appointed to be read at the public fast' by royal command, for which Walton and Childwall both paid 1s 2d: Wn, f.62v; Cl. p.181.

Spent in goinge to the said correction	0	7	2
Paid for wrytinge presentments to bee sent to the registers office att Chester accordinge to directions and the booke of articles then received	0	3	4
Spent by these accomptants in meetinge to make the said presentments as alsoe the sidemen	0	5	6
Paid to a messenger that undertooke the delivery of them into the office	0	1	6
Paid to Mr Parker organist his quarters wages due att Michalmas last <i>prout per</i> acquittance	2	10	0
Paid to Richard Holmes organ blower his quarters wages due <i>eode prout per</i> acquittance	0	5	0
Paid to Peter Kenwricke his quarters wages as sexton due <i>eode</i> <i>prout per</i> acquittance	0	15	0
Paid to Thomas Walls for wyne for three monthes communions <i>vizt</i> August September October <i>prout per</i> acquittance	2	10	8
Paid to Thomas Godicar for slates for the bellhouse window and pointinge	0	3	0
Paid to Henry Darbishire for rayles for the windowes and for amendinge the planks in the ringers loft and amendinge a ladder with new staves	0	1	0
Paid to Thomas Ditchfield for amendinge the locke on the lower leads doore and for makinge a new key	0	0	6
Spent in comminge to Prescott to have the christenings mariages and burialls registred accordinge to their oath	0	1	0
	7	18	2
[76] Spent upon two men that came to viewe the church and to have agreed for the varnishinge of the organs and beutifyinge of the church topp ⁸⁸			
	0	1	0
Spent in goinge to Childwell before Mr Lewis beinge cyted to come before him	0	3	4
Paid for the cytation	0	1	0
Paid for wrytinge presentments accordinge to an order from the deane	0	3	4
Spent by theise accomptants and the sidemen in meetinge to make the said presentments	0	5	0
Spent in bringinge them to Childwall	0	0	6

⁸⁸This is the last evidence of 'beautification' before the puritan reaction and iconoclasm of 1641 onwards.

Paid to a messenger that went to Farnworth with a noate to give notice of the election of the eight men	0	0	6
Spent upon the gentlemen of the parish att the election of the eight men	0	7	0
Paid to a messenger for bringinge a noate to Farnworth to commande the cunstable to pay in their church leys	0	0	4
Spent by the accomptants in meetinge the overseers to make provision for the poore that had orders from the bench	0	2	0
Given to a poore impotent womman which had letters patente for greate losses sustayned by fyre	0	1	2
Paid to the ringers for ringinge on the kings holyday	0	10	0
Spent by these accomptants upon themselves and the ringers that day	0	5	0
Paid to Henry Astley for takinge of the locke of the church doore and of the heigher and lower leads and settinge on the same againe and for mendinge of the sworne mens forme ⁸⁹	0	1	6
Spent <i>eode</i>	0	0	6
Paid to Peter Kenwricke for a pound of candles to ringe curfey by	0	0	6
Paid to Mr Parker and George Wright for puttinge the organs in tune and amendinge them	0	4	0
	2	6	8
[77] Paid to George Wright for amendinge the church flagon	0	0	4
Paid to Mr Parker organist his quarters wages due att Christmas as <i>prout per</i> acquittance	2	10	0
Paid to Richard Holmes (his) organ blower his quarters wages due <i>eode prout per</i> acquittance	0	5	0
Paid to Peter Kenwricke sexton his quarters wages due <i>eode prout per</i> acquittance	0	15	0
Paid to Thomas Walles vintner for wyne for three monthes communions <i>vizt</i> November December January <i>prout per</i> acquittance	2	13	0
Spent by all these accomptants in meetinge to make presentments to bee certified to the parlyment ⁹⁰ of all the recusants on this syde of the parish	0	7	0
Paid for wryteinge a presentment therof faire (written) in parchement	0	3	4

⁸⁹ The sworn men (sidesmen) were assistants to the churchwardens, especially in making presentments.

⁹⁰ This is the first evidence of parliament's direct involvement in parish affairs. Similar certification from Walton and Childwall occurred at the end of the year: Wn, f. 65v.

Spent by one of these accomptants in bringinge the same to Mr Ashton	0	0	8
Paid to Henry Derbeshire for mendinge of the steele stepps and for amendinge the little bell wheele	0	1	0
Spent att the same tyme	0	0	6
Paid to Nicholas Anderton for wyre for the clocke	0	0	2
Spent in goinge to Warington to bespeake two bell roapes	0	0	10
Paid for two bell ropes	0	8	0
Paid for cariage of them	0	0	4
Spent upon the eight men that came to taxe fower church leyes 2 February 1640	0	7	0
Paid for wryteinge precepts for those church leyes	0	3	0
Paid for enteringe into the booke of accompts three severall orders under the hande of Mr Aldem and the eight men for the taxinge of the 12 leyes this last yeare	0	1	6
Paid to two messingers for goinge to Farnworth and to Rainford to bringe precepts for church leyes	0	0	8
	7	17	4
[78] Paid to two messingers for to goe with two precepts to Parr two severall tymes			
	0	0	8
Spent by these accomptants in meetinge the overseers to taxe and assesse somes of money for the poore	0	2	6
Spent by these accomptants and sidemen in meetinge to make presentments to the assyzes last	0	6	0
Paid for wryteinge those presentments	0	3	4
Spent upon the cunstable of Bold Widnes and Cronton in comminge to Prescott to pay theire church leyes	0	1	6
Given to the ringers in money and drinke that range on 27 March last beinge the kings birthday ⁹¹	0	3	4
Spent by these accomptants in comminge to meete Thomas Lomas to agree with him aboute the slatinge and dressinge of the out ile	0	2	0
Paid for materialls for the worke <i>vizt</i> for two ratchments 3s 2d, for one hundred and a halfe of latts 4s 6d, for heyre to blend with the lyme 1s for six bushell of lyme and cariage therof from Pyes in Eccleston 4s 8d	0	13	4
Paid to Thomas Lomas for slates mosse slatinge mossinge uncoveringe and coveringe a new the rooffe of the out ile and upholdinge it good for seaven yeares and for mossinge and			

⁹¹ 27 Mar. was Charles I's accession day, not his birthday.

slatinge and pointinge severall other places about the church <i>prout per</i> acquittance	6	3	4
Paid for carriage of sand to make mortar of	0	0	4
Paid for takinge upp of the stone gutters of the out ile and layinge them againe	0	0	6
Paid for amendinge of the church rooffe and a place on the north out ile	0	0	6
Paid to William Holland for glasinge aboute the church where defects were <i>prout per</i> acquittance	0	12	0
For acquittance	0	0	2
Spent in attendinge William Holland to shew him the defects of the windowes where they were to bee amended	0	1	0
Paid for siftinge of lyme and makeinge of dawbe and pointinge of the glasse	0	1	3
	8	11	9
[79] Spent by these accomptants in attendinge Thomas Lomas duringe the worke and in provydinge him necessaries ten dayes			
	0	5	0
Paid to three severall messingers for bringinge three severall noats on Farnworth side to command them to bringe in their leyes	0	1	0
Spent in goinge to Warington two severall dayes to receive Mr Bridgmans arrears ⁹²	0	1	0
Spent by theise accomptants in goinge to Ormskirke to meete the justics of peace concerninge the subsidyes ⁹³	0	5	0
Spent by two of these accomptants in goinge three severall dayes to demand and receyve money on Farnworth side	0	4	6
Paid to severall of those that had orders from the bench their latter half yeares payment as followeth <i>vizt</i>			
Paid to Ann Webster of Whiston her half yeares allowance for keepinge younge Poole	1	0	0
Paid to Jane Greene her half yeares allowance <i>prout</i> <i>per</i> acquittance	1	0	0
Paid to Isabell Hey her half yeares allowance for keepinge Lawtons child <i>prout per</i> acquittance	1	0	0

⁹²It seems that an agreement for payments by the bishop's brother was secured, although he continued in arrears until the following year.

⁹³The Walton and Childwall wardens went to the same meeting about subsidies: Wn, f. 65v; Cl, p. 183. A Prescot parish meeting on 30 Nov. 1641 voted to spend £50 collected for the Scottish war, on a lawsuit concerning funds for Prescot grammar school: Knowsley borough archives, DDPs/1/37; Bailey, *Prescot Grammar School*, p. 20.

Paid to Thomas Lomas for mossinge aboute the church where defects were	0	10	0
Paid to Thomas Lomas for worke done by him att the east end of the south out ile <i>prout per</i> acquittance	1	3	0
Paid to Raph Halsall for amendinge one of the bell wheeles and the chancell doore locke	0	1	4
Spent in goinge to Farnworth and Cuardley to demand and receave churchleyes	0	1	0
Given to a distressed minister that came out of Ireland with the consent of Mr Aldem	0	2	6
Spent by the accomptants in meetinge to make presentments to the heigh cunstable att the last assyses	0 3	5 11	11 7
[104] Paid for wryteinge of those presentments	0	3	4
For a coppye thereof to present by	0	3	4
Spent by the churchwardens in comminge to returne the warrante which was sent to them concerninge the takinge of the Protestation with the names of the inhabitants of every towne that were to take it ¹¹³	0	3	10
Paid to a messenger for goinge to the cunstables of Rainford and Parr with the warrant for the Protestation	0	0	6
Paid to John Lea his latter halfe yeares allowance for keepinge of a child of James Berryes <i>prout per</i>	1	0	0
Paid to John Spencer his latter halfe yeares allowance	0	10	0
Paid to Elizabeth <i>nuper uxor</i> Gyles Lyon <i>defunct</i> her latter halfe yeares allowance <i>prout per</i> acquittance	1	0	0
Paid to Elizabeth <i>nuper uxor Edwardi</i> Lyon <i>defunct</i> her latter halfe yeares allowance <i>prout per</i> acquittance	0	15	0
Paid to Margrett Lea her latter halfe yeares allowance for keepinge of a child that was left in Farnworth <i>prout per</i> acquittance	1	0	0
Paid to Ann Earle her latter halfe yeares allowance <i>prout</i> <i>per</i> acquittance	0	10	0
Paid to Henry Hitchin his latter halfe yeares allowance <i>prout</i> <i>per</i> acquittance	0	10	0
Paid to Jane Greene widdow her latter halfe yeares allowance for her selfe 10s and for keepinge of Lawtons child 20s <i>in toto</i>	1	10	0

¹¹³ The Protestation was drawn up by the commons in May 1641 for securing the king's person, the privileges of parliament and the defence of the 'reformed protestant religion'.

Spent in goinge to Cuardley to commence a suite against the cunstables of Cuardley for an arreare of 35s	0	1	0
Paid to Mr Parker his quarters wages due att Christmas last <i>prout</i> <i>per</i> acquittance	2	10	0
Paid to Richard Holmes his quarters wages due <i>eode</i>	0	5	0
Paid to Peter Kenwricke his quarters wages due <i>eode</i>	0	15	0
Paid to Peter Kenwricke which hee had layd out for oyle for the clocke and bells	0	4	0
Paid for wyre for the clocke	0	0	4
Spent by the accomptants in comminge to Mr Ogle at Huyton to give an accompt what was done in the seacond warrants for 12d a peece for every sabbath dayes absence	0	5	8
Paid for latts to pinn att the backe of the organs betwixt the chancell and the church ¹¹⁰	0	2	0
Paid for nayles to pinn the latts with	0	0	6
Paid to Thomas Walles for three monthes communion wyne <i>vizt</i> November, December, January <i>prout per</i> acquittance	2	15	4
	7	10	6
[103] Spent in meetinge Mr Ogle att Prescott concerninge the distrebutinge of the recusants money amongst the poore and bringinge in the names of the poore people			
	0	5	4
Spent upon the eight men att the layinge of the three last leyes	0	7	6
Paid for wrytinge of precepts for those leyes	0	3	0
Paid for entringe into the booke of accompts three severall orders under the hands of Mr Aldem and the eight men for the church leyes layd this last yeare	0	1	6
Paid to a messinger for goinge with precepts into Farnworth chappelry for those three leyes last layd	0	0	4
Spent in goinge to Norton two severall dayes to speake with Mr Brooke ¹¹¹ concerninge Jane Smythes children	0	2	4
Paid to Mr Tompson ¹¹² for a fee att the last sesions holden att Wigan	0	3	4
Spent by one of these accomptants in goinge to the sesions to prevent orders and stayinge two dayes	0	4	6

¹¹⁰The organ had by now been removed.

¹¹¹Henry Brooke, esq. of Norton Priory (near Runcorn) and of Cuerdley (b. 1611) succeeded his father in 1632. Brooke was a justice and later a member of the Cheshire county committee. His house was besieged in 1643: Beaumont, *Discourse*, p.ix.

¹¹²Tompson was an attorney often hired by the churchwardens at the quarter sessions.

Paid to the ringers for ringinge on the day commanded for thanksgivinge for peace ¹⁰⁵	0	2	6
Spent by the accomptants in comminge to take upp the rayles and remove the communion table accordinge to the order of the house of commons	0	2	0
Paid to John Barton of Sutton for takinge them upp ¹⁰⁶	0	0	6
Spent by the accomptants in meetinge to joyne with Mr Aldem in a certificate to the house of commons concerninge the performance of theire orders sent downe	0	3	0
Spent by two of the accomptants in goinge to returne the same certificate to Mr Moore	0	2	0
Paid to Raph Halsall for amendinge the church picke and the bellfree dore locke	0	1	0
Paid to Henry Darbishire for a picke hawme	0	0	3
Paid to him for amendinge of the church steele by Jane Boltons	0	0	6
Spent in meetinge to make a presentment or certificate to Mr Moore of all recusants and loyterers that were come to the church and of such as had received the communion ¹⁰⁷	0	4	0
Paid for wryteinge therof	0	2	0
Paid to a messenger for bringinge the same to Banke Hall ¹⁰⁸	0	0	6
	1	7	7
[102] Spent by the accomptants in goinge to Childwell to meete Mr Ogle concerninge the collectinge of 12d <a day> a peece for every sabbath dayes absence from the church <of every person> ¹⁰⁹			
	0	5	0
Spent in goinge an other day to make returne of theire warrants and of what was collected and what goods were distrayned and of whom and to give accompt of theire doinge therin	0	5	6
Spent upon the cunstables of Rainford att the receipt of the fower church leyes	0	0	6
Given to a poore distressed Irish man that had a passe from Mr Ogle directed to the churchwardens	0	0	8

¹⁰⁵ 4/7 Sept. 1641.

¹⁰⁶ Removal of rails and table was ordered on 1 Sept. At Childwall the rails were not removed until 24 Oct: Cl, p.188. It was ironic that Barton, whose inadequately made rails had been rejected in 1635, should now be called upon to remove their replacement. See pp.xxxiii, 12.

¹⁰⁷ Walton's accounts describe this as a certificate of all recusants 'converted' between Michaelmas and Christmas: 'church papists' were clearly being offered an important chance to conform: Wn, f. 70v.

¹⁰⁸ The moated manor house of the Moore family at Kirkdale, demolished c.1760.

¹⁰⁹ For fuller details of how Messrs Ogle and Ashton supervised this collection and distribution at meetings in Huyton and Prescot in Dec. and Jan: Cl, p.189.

Paid to Richard Holme his quarters wages due <i>eode</i>	0	5	0
	7	12	8
[100] Paid to Peter Kenwricke his quarters wages due <i>eode</i>	0	[15]	0
Spent att the taxinge of fower church leyes layd in October last upon the eight men	0	7	0
Paid for wryteinge of precepts for those leyes	0	3	0
Spent in meetinge John Carr to agree with him for the teeringe and whyteinge of the out iles on both side of the church	0	2	4
Paid to Carr att severall tymes accordinge to our agreement the some of	2	0	0
Spent in comminge severall dayes to attend the worke and to provyde thinges necessary for the worke	0	4	6
Paid for a citation to assyte the cunstables of Cuardley for leyes arreare by them and to a messinger that brought it	0	4	0
Paid to Thomas Walles for wyne for three monthes communions <i>vizt</i> August, September October <i>prout per</i> acquittance	2	13	0
Paid to the ringers for ringinge on 5 November last	0	10	0
Spent upon the ringers that day	0	2	6
Spent in goinge to Warrington to provyde a new bell rope for the seacond bell	0	0	8
Paid for the same bellrope	0	3	4
Paid for cariage thereof from Warrington	0	0	3
Spent by the accomptants in goinge to Childwell to meete Mr Ogle and Mr Moore beinge commanded by them to goe thithier to receave directions for to make presentments of all recusants and loyterers	0	4	10
Spent in meetinge to make the said presentment of all recusants and loyterers	0	6	2
Paid for wryteinge of the said presentments	0	3	4
Spent by these accomptants in goinge to Childwell to deliver the same	0	3	6
	8	3	5
[101] Paid to Thomas Lomas and his men for mossinge and slatinge in a place of the north out ile where defects were	0	1	0
Paid to Nicholas Anderton for a pound of candles to ringe curfey by	0	0	6
Spent att the election of the eight men on St Luke day last	0	5	10
Spent in goinge three severall dayes to collecte leyes on Farnworth side by one of these accomptants	0	2	0

Paid to John Eddleston his halfe yeares allowance <i>prout per acquittance</i>	0	10	0
Paid to Margrett Case widdow ¹⁰² in parte of her whole yeares allowance of 25s the some of	0	15	0
Paid to Ellen Crosby widdow her allowance for this yeare <i>prout per acquittance</i>	0	6	8
	14	0	10
[99] Paid to Thomas Robinson for the use of Jane Smithes child for this yeares allowance <i>prout per acquittance</i> ¹⁰³			
	1	7	6
Paid to Elizabeth Singleton for a child of Thomas Woode of Farnworth allowed for this yeare past <i>prout per acquittance</i>	0	10	0
Spent in meetinge to pay the said severall payments to the poore	0	5	0
Spent by all these accomptants in goinge to Ormskirke to meete the justice there concerninge the pole money ¹⁰⁴	0	6	2
Spent by these accomptants in meetinge the cunstable every one within their devisioun to asseesse the pole money	0	4	0
Spent by one of these accomptants in goinge one day to Ormskirke with the cunstable to deliver the presentments and one other day to Warrington to pay the money	0	3	0
Paid to the heigh cunstable for releefe of the maymed soldiers <i>prout per acquittance</i>	1	6	8
Paid for the acquittance	0	0	2
Spent in comminge two severall dayes to make presentments to the heigh cunstable att the assyses in August last beinge that they could not bee perfected the first day	0	10	0
Paid for wryteinge those presentments	0	3	4
Paid to Richard Taylor in parte of 4s beinge his yeares wages	0	1	10
Paid to Mr Parker his quarters wages ended 29 September last past <i>prout per acquittance</i>	2	10	0

¹⁰² Case (a blind widow from Whiston) had an allowance without order by agreement with the justices in July 1641.

¹⁰³ Smith was to put the churchwardens to great trouble and expense for ten years. Robinson (of Wallasey) was her brother-in-law. Jane was the wife of William Smith of Cuerdley: LRO, QSB/1/138/4. They had been involved in breaches of the peace from 1633: LRO, QSB/1/126/7,8,23, but an order for 40s *p.a.* for the maintenance of their son Peter was granted *c.*1641 at Wigan: *ibid.* QSP/23/12. In Apr. 1646 a further petition of Peter (now nine) referred to the earlier, neglected order in the hands of John Ackers: LRO, QSB/1/272/35. There was a new order by justices Ireland and Brooke in Aug. 1647 and after a 'full and deliberate hereing' at the Ormskirk sessions in Apr. 1650, the wardens were ordered to pay arrears of £16.

¹⁰⁴ The Walton and Childwall wardens were also at Ormskirk about 'the great pole munie', levied in June 1641 to pay off the Scottish and English armies: Wn, f.68v; Cl, p.187.

Paid to Peter Kenwricke his quarters wages due <i>eode</i>	0	15	0
Spent att the payment of the said wages	0	1	0
Spent in meetinge the overseers before midsomer sesions last to make a certificate what allowance the overseers and churchwardens thought fitt to bee allowed to the poore that had orders	0	3	4
Spent by one of the accomptants in goinge to the sesions aboute the same busines	0	4	4
Paid for an order for that purpose	0	2	8
	7	5	10
[98] Paid to Thomas Walles for wyne for three monthes communions <i>vizt</i> May June and July	2	8	8
Spent upon the cunstables of Whiston and Cronton att the receipte of theire church leyes	0	0	6
Paid to John Lea of Sutton his halfe yeares allowance for keepinge of a child of James Berryes	1	0	0
Paid to John Spencer his halfe yeares allowance <i>prout per</i> acquittance	0	10	0
Paid to Ann Lyon of Sutton for her whole yeares allowance <i>prout per</i> acquittance	0	10	0
Paid to Richard Hitchmough his whole yeares allowance <i>prout per</i> acquittance	0	10	0
Paid to Elizabeth <i>nuper uxor</i> Gyles Lyon <i>defunct</i> her halfe yeares allowance <i>prout per</i> acquittance	1	0	0
Paid to Elizabeth <i>nuper uxor Edwardi</i> Lyon <i>defunct</i> her halfe yeares allowance <i>prout per</i> acquittance	0	15	0
Paid to Margrett Lea her halfe yeares allowance for keepinge of a child that was left in Farnworth <i>prout per</i> acquittance	1	0	0
Paid to Ann Earle her halfe yeares allowance <i>prout per</i> acquittance	0	10	0
Paid to Henry Hitchin his halfe yeares allowance <i>prout</i> <i>per</i> acquittance	0	10	0
Paid to Ann Ditchfield her whole yeares allowance <i>prout per</i> acquittance	0	5	0
Paid to Jane Greene widdow her halfe yeares allowance 10s and for keepinge of Lawtons child 20s <i>prout per</i> acquittance	1	10	0
Paid to Ann Webster in parte of her whole yeares allowance of 35s the some of	1	0	0
Paid to Roger Winstanley his halfe yeares allowance <i>prout per</i> acquittance	0	10	0

Paid for wryteinge presentments to the deane	0	3	4
Spent by two of the accomptants in goinge to deliver them	0	2	0
Spent upon the eight men in meetinge to assesse the first fower leyes	0	7	6
Paid for wryteinge of precepts for those fower leyes	0	3	0
Spent by one of the accomptants in cominge to Prescottt to fetch precepts for those leyes	0	0	6
Paid to a messenger for bringinge precepts on Farnworth side	0	0	8
Paid to an attorney for his fees att the quarter sessions holden att Ormskirke in May last and for an order that noe orders should bee granted for any allowance for the poore but such as the overseers and churchwardens should in their discrecions thinke fitt ¹⁰¹	0	6	4
	2	15	4
[97] Spent by two of the churchwardens and an assistant of the parish in stayinge two dayes and two nights att the sesions to prevent orders that should have beene brought upon the parish			
	0	10	0
Paid to a messenger for goinge to the cunstable of Cuardley to give them notice to pay in their arreares or ells a citation would proceed against them	0	0	4
Spent by one of the accomptants in goinge to receive arreares on Farnworth side	0	0	8
Spent by the accomptants in meetinge the overseers to taxe and assesse what allowance the poore people that had orders should have beinge referred to the discrecion of the overseers and churchwardens	0	5	0
Paid to Tom Fletcher for hedginge the yiew tree aboute	0	2	0
Spent by one of the accomptants in goinge eight severall dayes to demand and receive churchleyes on Farnworth side	0	6	6
Paid to Roger Winstanley in satisfaction of all arreares due to him for his allowance accordinge to an order from Judge Whitfield <i>prout per</i> acquittance	2	0	0
Paid to Mr Parker his quarters wages due 24 June last <i>prout</i> <i>per</i> acquittance	2	10	0
Paid to Richard Holmes his quarters wages due <i>eode</i>	0	5	0

¹⁰¹ In 1641 the churchwardens had promised the justices a full survey of the poor, following their claim that many had 'gotten orders upon false suggestions': LRO, QSR/38. This resulted in 14 confirmed orders on 19 July, totalling £18 10s *p.a.* There were to be no further orders without a certificate from the wardens. There were also allowances to some without orders: LRO, QSB/1/250/38. See p.xxvi.

Peter Sefton of Rainford	6[s]	8[d]			
Widdow Garnett of Whiston	6	8			
A child of James Naylor of Rainford	6	8			
Two daughters of William Hyde of Rainford	13	4			
William Ackers of Sutton	6	8			
			<i>in toto</i>	2	0 0

Item with the receipte of the some of 15s 4d remayninge in the
hande of the last churchwardens appearinge upon the foote of
theire last accompte

0 15 4
88 11 4

[95] *Item* with the receipte of severall arreares returned in the last
churchwardens accompts *vizt*

Of Henry Roby cunstable of Rainford an arreare of 20s
remayninge in his hands

1 0 0

Of the cunstables of Ditton an arreare of 4s remayninge in
theire hands

0 4 0

Of the cunstables of Cuardley an arreare of 35s remayninge
in their hands

1 15 0
2 19 0

Summa totall of the charge 91 10 4

[96] Payments disbursements and allowances craved by theise
accomptants as follow *vizt*

Inprimis paid with the last churchwardens

Spent on Tuesday in Easter weeke last in makinge and
deliveringe upp theire accompts

0 4 6

Spent upon the gentlemen of the parish and the eight men after
the accompts taken and the election of the churchwardens
sidemen and surveyors

0 6 0

Spent by two of the accomptants and the sidemen in goinge to
Childwall to receave theire oathes and a booke of articles

0 8 0

Paid to Mr Lewis for administringe of theire oathes

0 2 0

Paid for a booke of articles

0 0 8

Spent by two of the churchwardens that continued in theire office
in goinge to receave theire oathes beinge <after> cyted
to appeare

0 2 0

Spent by the old and new churchwardens and the old and new
swornemen in meetinge to make presentments to the deane
upon the booke of articles

0 8 10

Raynford	Henry Robye	Eccleston	William Webster
Crownnton	William Wright	Ditton	George Nodby

This election made by us whose names are under written

[*signed*] John Aldem vicar; John Ackers, William Browne, Roger Thomason, John Parr¹⁰⁰ [*copy marks*]

[91 *blank*, 92] 16 February 1641

Wee the vicar and eight men of the parish church of Prescott meetinge this day in the said parish church and fyndinge money to bee wantinge for the necessary occasions of and belonginge to the said parish church att the request of the churchwardens are agreed and doe order that three whole church leyes shalbee forthwith collected and gathered throughout the said parish. To be paid over to the church wardens or some of them att or before 10 March next. Witnes our hands herunto subscribed the day and yeare abovesaid

[*signed*] John Aldem vicar; William Webster, Thomas Croft, George Nodbii, three of the eight men

[93 *blank*, 94] Tuesday in Easter weeke 12 April 1642

The accompte of John Ackers John Sutton James Jolly and John Mosse churchwardens of the parish church of Prescott of theire receipts and payments for the use of the said parish church in the yeare of our Lord God 1641 last past till this presente day as followeth

11 church leyes

Inprimis theise accomptants charge themselves with the receipte of 11 whole churchleyes within the said parish from the severall towneshippes followinge *vizt*

Prescott Whiston and Rainhill	11	0	0
Sutton	11	0	0
Eccleston and Rainford	11	0	0
Wyndle and Parr	11	0	0
Widnes and Appleton	9	5	2
Cuardley and Cronton	9	5	2
Ditton and Penketh	9	5	2
Bold	9	5	2
Sankie	4	15	4
	85	16	0

Item with the receipte of severall somes of money for burialls
in the church *vizt*

¹⁰⁰Parr (1620–1667) is commemorated by a brass plaque in the chancel: Paterson, *Prescot*, p.81.

Elected by us
 John Aldem vicar
 Robert Glest
 Henry Eccleston
 John Taylor
 Edward Greene
 Thomas Walles

[85 *blank*, 86] 18 May 1641

Wee the vicar and eight men of the parish church of Prescott meetinge this day in the said parish church and fyndinge money to bee wantinge for the necessary occasions of and belonginge to the said parish church att the request of the churchwardens are agreed and doe order that foure whole church leyes shalbee forthwith collected and gathered throughout the said parish and shalbee paid over to the churchwardens or some of them att or before Pentecost next. Witnes our hands hereunto subscrybed the daye and yeare abovesaid

John Aldem vicar; Thomas Walles, Henry Eccleston, Edward Greene, Thomas Hearne, Thomas Marsh, Robert Glest

[87 *blank*, 88] 12 October 1641

Wee the vicar and eight men of the parish church of Prescott meetinge this daie in the said parish church and fyndinge money to bee wantinge for the necessary occasions of and belonginge to the said parish church att the request of the churchwardens are agreed and doe order that fower whole church leyes shalbee forthwith collected and gathered throughout the said parish and shalbee paid over to the churchwardens or some of them (att or before) in manner followinge *vizt* two of them att or before Martinmas next and \then/ two of them att or before St Thomas day before Christmas next. Witnes our hands hereunto subscrybed the day and yeare abovesaid

[*signed*] John Aldem vicar; Roberte Glest, Thomas Walles, Edward Greene, Thomas Marsh [*mark*] fower of the eight men

[89 *remainder*, 90] St Luke *fest.* 1641

The choyce of the eight men representing the whole body of the parish for the businesses of the church according to an order of the most [*sic*] reverend father in God John bishop of Chester⁹⁹

Prescott	Henry Darbishire	Quiston	William Ackers junyor
Sutton	William Woodes	Wyndle	Thomas Croft

⁹⁹The last reference in the accounts to Bishop Bridgeman: he fled Chester in 1645 and died in 1652. The 'order' was simply the one he made in 1620, restating the functions of the eight men and the arrangements for their election. See pp.xviii–xix.

[83] Paid for wryteinge a bond ⟨from⟩ \for/ Thomas Lomas to
sealle for the upholdinge of the slatinge of the outile for
seaven yeares

0 0 6

Spent by the accomptants in meetinge to make this accompt

0 4 0

0 4 6

Summa totall of the payments allowances and respytes

96 13 7

Soe there receipts beinge 97 8 11

and there payments allowances

and respytes 96 13 7

There remayneth in these accomptants hands the some of

0 15 4

Wee the vicar and the eight men whose names are subscriybed doe allowe of this
accompte. Witnes our hands herunto subscriybed

John Aldem vicar; Robert Glest, Henry Eccleston, Thomas Walles, John Naylor, James
Worsley, Edward Greene, Thomas Hearne, Thomas Marsh

[1641–2]

[84] Tuesday in Easter weeke 1641⁹⁸

The election and choyce of the churchwardens sidemen and surveyors, within the
parish of Prescott *vizt*

Churchwardens

Prescott Whiston and Rainhill

John Ackers of Rainhill

Sutton

John Sutton

Eccleston and Rainford

James Jolly of Eccleston

Wyndle and Parr

John Mosse of Parr

Sydemens

Prescott Whiston and Rainhill

Robert Woodfall of Whiston

Sutton

John Barton

Eccleston and Rainford

Edmund Hey

Wyndle and Parr

Thomas Roughley of Wyndle

Surveyors

Prescott Thomas Walls

Eccleston

Edward Potts

Thomas Parr

Edmund Lyon senior

Whiston John Ashton

Rainford

William Hyde

John Ackers

Edmund Tunstall

Rainhill John Kenwricke

Wyndle

Henry Cowley

Thomas Deane

Thomas Lyon claypotter

Sutton George Liveze

Parr

John Knowles

William Wood

William Martyn

⁹⁸ 27 Apr. 1641.

In Widnes				
Elizabeth Gadicar		0	0	6
		7	4	6
[82] Within Sankie				
Edward Bridgman esq.	13d			
Theophilus Lynch	20d			
Thomas Penketh	14d			
The same Edward Bridgman	13d			
<i>Idem</i> Theophilus Lynch	20d			
remayninge in the cunstables hands for which they have given noe returnes	8d	0	8	0
In Penketh				
Thomas Ley	12d			
Thomas Barber	10¼d			
Thomas Farrar	4d			
<i>Idem</i> Thomas Barbar	5¼d			
<i>Idem</i> more	5½d			
<i>Idem</i> Thomas Farrar	4d			
Francis Robinson	4d	0	3	4
In Cronton				
Cuthbert Almond	16d			
Dorothy Wyndle	2d	0	1	6
In Sutton				
Robert Lea		0	1	9
In Wyndle				
Frances Kenion		0	0	4
Henry Roby cunstable of Rainford \for/ two of the last fower leyes		1	0	0
Remayninge in the hands of the cunstables of Cuardley of the last fower leyes beinge ⁹⁷		1	15	0
And in the hands of the cunstables of Ditton of the last fower leyes		0	4	0
Paid for wrytinge and keepinge in order the severall accompts of these accomptants this yeare last past		0	4	0
Paid for puttinge them in forme and engrossinge them all into one		0	5	0
Paid for wrytinge them over into this booke		0	5	0
		4	7	11

⁹⁷r by John Ackers *margined*.

Paid to Richard Holmes organ blower his quarters wages due <i>eode prout per</i> acquittance	0	5	0
Paid to Peter Kenwricke his quarters wages due <i>eode prout</i> <i>per</i> acquittance	0	15	0
Paid to Peter Kenwricke which hee had paid for oyle for the clocke and bells	0	4	0
Paid to Thomas Walles for wyne for three monthes communions <i>vizt</i> February March, and Aprill now instant, <i>prout per</i> acquittance	2	18	0
Spent by all these accomptants upon themselves the heigh cunstable and assistants that went with them through the parish to seke for recusants armes ⁹⁶	0 12	7 17	10 4
[81] Paid to Thomas Walles for Easter wyne <i>vizt</i> Palme Sunday, Thursday, Good Fryday, Easter Sunday and wyne for St Ellen and Rainford <i>prout per</i> acquittance			
	4	19	0
These accomptants crave to bee allowed for for attendinge every of them six monthly communion dayes and att Easter every one 4s <i>in toto</i>	0	16	0
Spent upon Mr Burrowes the curate and others after the communion was ended att St Ellen	0	3	6
Spent att Rainford upon Mr Pyke the curate and others after the communion was ended att Rainford	0	3	0
Paid for breads for the monthly communions and this Easter last past	0	5	0
Paid for washinge the church lynnens this last yeare past	0	5	0
Paid alsoe for washinge and keepinge cleane the church plate and flagons	0	2	0
Paid (to have) for makinge upp the register to the synodd faire in parchment	0	5	0
Spent by one of these accomptants in comming to see the same done	0	0	6
Spent by one of these accomptants in comminge to Prescottt to pay those that had orders from the bench their latter halfe yeares allowance	0	5	0
These accomptants crave respyte of severall somes of money as yet not by them received but to bee <i>insuper</i> upon the severall persons followinge <i>vizt</i>			

⁹⁶ The same process at Walton spoke of disarming and 'noting all armour, weapons and furniture belonging to recusants, by warrant from the privy council': a list of recusants' arms is in LRO, QSB/1/246.

Paid to Henry Hitchin his half yeares allowance <i>prout per acquittance</i>	1	0	0
Paid to Margrett Lea her half yeares payment <i>prout per acquittance</i>	1	0	0
Paid to Ann Earle her half yeares allowance beinge 15s and 5s unpaid the last half yeare <i>prout per acquittance</i>	1	0	0
Paid to Ann Ditchfield of Prescott her half yeares allowance for keepinge Hunts children <i>prout per acquittance</i>	0	10	0
Paid to John Walker for three monthes allowance for Radleyes children <i>prout per acquittance</i>	0	12	0
Paid to Ann Lyon of Sutton her half yeares allowance <i>prout per acquittance</i>	0	15	0
	8	13	6
[80] Paid to Elizabeth Lyon widdow late wyfe of of Edward Lyon her half yeares allowance <i>prout per acquittance</i>			
	1	0	0
Paid to John Spencer of Rainford his half yeares allowance <i>prout per acquittance</i>	0	15	0
Paid to John Lea of Sutton his half yeares allowance for keepinge of a child of John Beryes <i>prout per acquittance</i>	1	0	0
Paid to Elizabeth Lyon <i>uxor</i> Gyles Lyon her half yeares allowance <i>prout per acquittance</i>	1	0	0
Paid to Richard Hitchmough his halfe yeares allowance <i>prout per acquittance</i>	0	15	0
Paid for wryteinge acquittances for these severall payments	0	1	6
Paid to Richard Hitchmough by consent of the overseers in satisfaction of an arreare of 28s due to him by order from the bench	0	6	0
Paid to Mr John Alcocke ⁹⁴ which hee had spent in goinge to Lancaster to prevent one Winstanley a stranger who had an order under Judge Vernons ⁹⁵ hand that these accomptants and the overseers shold make provision for his releefe or ells bee bound to answeare the contempt	1	0	0
Paid to Mr Parker organist his quarters wages due 25 March last <i>prout per acquittance</i>	2	10	0

⁹⁴ Alcocke (d. 1653) served as churchwarden, overseer and one of the eight men. He left £50 to the parish, for apprenticing poor boys: PRO, PROB 11/226/98. This long journey to Lancaster was to no avail and Roger Winstanley had an order for 20s *p.a.* ratified in July 1641.

⁹⁵ Probably William Vernon, esq., of Shakerley (near Leigh), a member of Warrington *classis* with the temporary rank of judge in 1646: B.G. Blackwood, 'The cavalier and roundhead gentry of Lancashire', *TLCAS*, 77 (1967), p.88.

Paid to Ann Webster the remainder of her yeares allowance for keeping of Pooles child	0	15	0
Paid to John Eddleston his latter halfe yeares allowance <i>prout</i> <i>per</i> acquittance	0	10	0
Paid to Margrett Case widdow the remainder of her halfe yeares allowance <i>prout per</i> acquittance	0	10	0
	9	1	0
[105] Spent by these accomptants in meetinge to pay the said severall payments to the poore	0	5	8
Spent in meetinge the glasier to view the defects of the church windowes and to give order for repayinge therof ¹¹⁴	0	1	6
Paid to the glasier for glasinge where defects were about the church	0	14	6
Paid for six ashlers towards the makinge of a dyall in the churchyard	0	1	0
Spent by these accomptants in meetinge to joyne with the cunstable in presentinge a new [list] of all recusants and loyterers to bee delivered to Mr Ogle and Mr Ashton	0	4	6
Paid to Mr Parker his quarters wages due 25 March last <i>prout per</i> acquittance	2	10	0
Paid to Richard Holmes his quarters wages due <i>eode prout</i> <i>per</i> acquittance	0	5	0
Paid to Peter Kenwicke his quarters wages due <i>eode prout</i> <i>per</i> acquittance	0	15	0
Spent by these accomptants 2s a peece in goinge to collecte money for the poore distressed subiects in Ireland upon themselves and such as went with them to take the names of the givers and what they gave <i>in toto</i>	0	8	0
For takinge a particuler of theire names of the givers and what they gave	0	2	0
Paid to Robert Hatton and Raph Houghton for amendinge the church walles where defects were	0	1	6
Given to the ringers for ringinge on 27 March beinge the day on which the kings majestie began his raigne	0	3	0
Spent upon the cunstable of Rainford att the receipte of theire churchleyes	0	0	8
Paid to Thomas Walles for three monthes communions wyne <i>vizt</i> February, March and Aprill <i>prout per</i> acquittance	2	18	8
	8	11	0

¹¹⁴ Probably damage caused by the 'great winde' of 24 Mar., which broke 2s worth of glass at Childwall: CI, p.190.

[106] Spent by one of these accomptants upon the minister and others after the communion was ended att Rainford	0	3	0
Spent alsoe upon the minister and others after the communion ended att St Ellen	0	3	0
Spent by these accomptants in comminge to pay £7 5s 2d to the heigh cunstable which was by them collected in the parish for releefe of the poore distressed subiects in Ireland	0	[4]	6
Paid for an acquittance	0	0	2
Paid for bread for the monthly communions and att Easter this last yeare	0	6	0
Paid for washinge the church lynnens this last yeare	0	5	0
For washinge the church plate and flagons this last yeare	0	2	0
Paid for makinge upp the register faire written in parchment to bee sent to the synodd	0	5	0
These accomptants crave to bee allowed for expenses in attendinge every one of them six monthly communions and att Easter last 4s a peece <i>in toto</i>	0	16	0
Paid for keepinge these accompts in order severally this last yeare	0	5	0
For a payre of indentures of the church goods to bee delivered over to the next churchwardens	0	1	0
Paid to Richard Taylor the remainder of his yeares allowance of 4s the some of	0	2	2
Spent by theise accomptants in comminge to make this accompt	0	4	0
Paid for makinge upp this accompt	0	5	0
Paid for to have the same written upp into the booke of accompts	0	5	0
	3	6	10

[107] *Memorandum* that there is due and unpaid to Thomas Walles for Easter wyne *vizt* on Sunday 13 March, 20 March, 27 March, Easter Sunday, Thursday and Friday before Easter weeke and for wyne for St Ellen and Rainford the some of £5.

These accomptants crave to bee respyted severall somes of money formerly charged upon these accomptants for church leyes received which as yet they have not received but to remaine *insuper* upon the severall persons followinge *vizt*

The cunstables of Prescott for the three church leyes layd last*	1	10	0
The cunstables of Whiston for the same three church leyes*	0	15	0
The cunstables of Rainhill for the same three church leyes*	0	15	0
The cunstables of Sutton for the same three church leyes ¹¹⁵	3	0	0

*Rd *per* J.A. *marginated*, for John Ackers

¹¹⁵Rd *per* J.S. *marginated*, for John Sutton.

The cunstabes of Widnes <i>cum</i> Appleton for the same three church leyes	2	10	6
The cunstabes of Cuardley and Cronton for the same three church leyes ¹¹⁶	2	10	6
The cunstabes of Ditton and Penketh for the same three church leyes*	2	10	6
The cunstabes of Bold for the same three church leyes*	2	10	6
The cunstabes of Sankie for the same three church leyes*	1	6	0
Within Widnes			
Remayninge in the cunstabes hands of the fower church leyes layd in October last ¹¹⁷	0	3	0
	17	11	0
[108] Within Sankie			
Edward Bridgeman gent.	2	2	
William Worsley	0	10	
Thomas Penketh	1	2	0 4 2
Within Penketh			
Thomas Lea	1	0	
more unpaid there	0	10	0 1 [10]
Within Cronton			
Thomas Sefton	0	9	
<i>Uxor</i> Lightfoote	0	5½	
Richard Abbott	0	3½	0 1 6
Within Eccleston			
Mrs Mead for 11 church leyes this last yeare	4	1½	
Robert Cropper for three leyes	0	2	
Lawrence Peers unpaid	0	4	0 4 7[½]
Within Ditton			
Jennett Davison for Marshes ground	0	8½	0 0 8½
Remayninge in the hands of the cunstabes of Sutton of fower church leyes layd in October last for which they have given noe returns ¹¹⁸			0 5 0
			0 17 10
Total of the accomptants payments disbursements and allowances are	91	15	5

¹¹⁶Of Cuardley 26s 3d *marginated*.¹¹⁷Rd 2s 6d *marginated*.¹¹⁸Rd *per* J.S. *marginated*.

Soe their receipts beinge	91	10	4			
and their payments and						
allowances	91	15	5			
these accomptants are in surplusage upon this accompt				0	5	1

[109] 12 April 1642

Wee the vicar gentlemen of the parish and the eight men whose names are subscrybed doe allowe of these accompts Witnes our hands herunto subscrybed
John Aldem vicar; Henry Ogle, Richard Eltonhead,¹¹⁹ Henry Derbishire, William Ackers, William Wood, William Wright, William Webster, Thomas Croft

[1642–3]

[110] Tuesday in Easter weeke 1642¹²⁰

The election of the churchwardens sidemen and surveyors within the parish of Prescott to serve the yeare followinge

Churchwardens		Surveyors	
Prescott Whiston and Rainhill	Prescott	Thomas Parr	
Evan Garnett of Prescott		Thomas Walles	
Sutton William Gandy	Whiston	Henry Ashton	
Eccleston and Rainford		Henry Woods	
James Naylor of Rainford	Rainhill	Henry Lawton	
Wyndle and Parr		Edward Greene	
Raph Foster of Wyndle	Sutton	Thurston Scott	
Sydemmen		John Barton	
Prescott Whiston and Rainhill	Eccleston	Edward Potts	
William Stringefellow		Edmund Lyon junior	
of Rainhill	Rainford	John Naylor	
Sutton William Mann		Henry Gaskell	
Eccleston and Rainford	Wyndle	Thomas Lyon of the Foulds	
Edward Denton of		Thomas Roughley	
Rainford	Parr	Henry Eccleston	
Wyndle and Parr		Thomas Barton	
Robert Foster of Parr			

Elected by us

John Aldem vicar; Henry Darbishire, William Ackers, William Webster, William Woods, William Wright, Thomas Croft

¹¹⁹The involvement of Ogle and Eltonhead (on this occasion only) shows the minor gentry participating in parish affairs after a long absence and nonpayment of leyes. In Mar. 1643 Ogle was accused of calling the mayor of Liverpool a ‘drunken sott and a traterly rouge’: Chandler, *Liverpool*, p.310.

¹²⁰12 Apr. 1642.

[111 *blank*, 112] 9 August 1642

Wee the vicar and the eight men of the parish church of Prescott meetinge this day in the said parish church and fyndinge money to bee wantinge for the necessary occasions of and belonginge to the said parish church at the request of the churchwardens are agreed and doe order that fower whole church leyes shalbee forthwith collected and gathered throughout the said parish to bee paid over to the churchwardens or some of them att or before 1 September next. Witnes our hands herunto subscribde the day and yeare abovesaid

[*signed*] Petrus Jackson,¹²¹ *curatus de Prescot predicta in nomine vicarii*; Williem Wood, Henrie Robie, William Webster, William Ackers, Henrie Derbshire

[113 *blank*, 114] St Lukes day 18 October 1642

The election and choice of the eight men to serve the yeare followinge *vizt*

Prescott	Thomas Parr
Rainhill	Edward Greene
Sutton	George Litherland
Eccleston	John Lyon
Wyndle	Richard Parr
Parr	John Tickle
Bold	Henry Barrow
Widnes	Henry Edwardson

Elected by us whose names are subscribde

[*signed*] Peter Jackson *curat[us in] nomine vicarii sede vacante*; John Alcock, Henrie [Patten?], John Ashton, Williem Wood, Henry Eccleston, Thomas Litherland, Henry Woodes, Raphe Halsall, [Edward Home?]

[115 *blank*, 116] Tuesday in Easter weeke 4 April 1643¹²²

The accompts of John Ackers John Sutton James Jolly and John Mosse churchwardens of the parish church of Prescott of theire receipts and payments for the use of the said parish church since theire last yeares accompt made in Easter weeke 1642 till this present day *vizt*

Fower churchleyes layd this last yeare

Inprimis these accomptants charge themselves with the receipt of fower church leyes within the severall townships of the said parish *vizt*

¹²¹ Jackson (b. 1602 in Westmorland, educated at Cambridge and ordained at York in 1632) became curate of Prescot on 17 July 1642. He was acting on 6 Aug. in the name of Aldem, who died on 7 Sept. Vicar of Castlesowerby in Cumberland from 1656, Jackson was ejected in 1660: Matthews, *Calamy*, p. 292.

¹²² Day, was instituted as vicar on 21 Feb. 1643 and contributed towards the cost of the Easter wine, but had still not arrived in Prescot by Easter week, when the annual meeting went ahead despite fierce fighting in the area. Curiously, the burial register for Monday 10 Apr. contains the entry, *Advena quidam nomine Mr Day*, 'A stranger by the name of Mr Day'.

Prescott Whiston and Rainhill	4	0	0			
Sutton	4	0	0			
Eccleston and Rainford	4	0	0			
Wyndle and Parr	4	0	0			
Widnes <i>cum</i> Appleton	3	7	4			
Cuardley and Cronton	3	7	4			
Ditton and Penketh	3	7	4			
Bold	3	7	4			
Sankie	1	14	8			
				<i>in toto</i>	31	4 0

Item with the receipt of three whole church leyes arreared and unpaid in *anno* 1641 and returned the last accompt upon the severall townships followinge *vizt*

Prescott Whiston and Rainhill	3	0	0			
Sutton	3	0	0			
Cuardley	1	6	3			
Ditton and Penketh	2	10	6			
Bold	2	10	6			
Sankie	1	6	0			
				<i>in toto</i>	13	13 3

<i>Item</i> with the some of 5s remayninge in the hands of the cunstabes of Sutton and returned the last accompt	0	5	0
	45	2	[3]

[117] <i>Item</i> with the some of 6s 8d for the buriall of old Mrs Holland ¹²³ in the church	0	6	8
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<i>Item</i> with the some of 13s 4d for the buriall of two daughters and one sonne of William Hyde of Rainford in the church	0	13	4
The totall of these accomptants receipts is	46	2	3

[118] Payments disbursements and allowances craved by these accomptants as followeth

<i>Inprimis</i> they crave allowance of 5s 1d due to them for a surplusage appearinge upon the state of their last yeares accompt	0	5	1
---	---	---	---

¹²³ 'Mrs Anne Holland, *vid.*, Sutton', was buried on 18 Dec. 1642. She was widow of Richard Holland of Sutton Hall and mother of Father Thomas Holland, SJ (1600–1642), hanged at Tyburn six days earlier: B. Holland, *The Lancashire Hollands* (1917), p.252; J. Gillow, *Bibliographical Dictionary of the English Catholics*, 3 (1887), pp.35–37; H. Foley, *Records of the English Province, Society of Jesus* (1877), I, pp.542–65.

Spent upon the gentlemen of the parish and the eight men on Tuesday in Easter weeke 1642 after the election of the officers and the churchwardens accompts taken	0	8	[0]
Paid to Thomas Walles for wyne due and unpaid to him the yeare before these accompts	5	0	0
Paid for a bell rope for the seacond bell	0	3	4
Spent by theise accomptants in goinge to meete Mr Ogle and Mr Ashton to receave directions concerninge the distrayninge of recusants goods for 12d a peece for every Sundayes absence from the church	0	4	2
Spent in meetinge to asseesse what allowance the poore should have out of the parish that had orders from the bench and to bee certified to the sessions	0	3	4
Paid to Mr Tompson for his fee att the sessions holden in May last	0	3	4
Spent by one of the churchwardens in goinge to Ormskirke to the sessions and stayinge two dayes	0	4	0
Paid to Henry Easthead heigh cunstable for releefe of the maymed souldiers	1	6	0
Paid for an acquittance	0	0	2
	7	17	5
[119] Spent in bringinge the said money to the the heigh cunstable	0	1	0
Paid for a spade for the church use	0	2	2
Spent in goinge three dayes on Farnworth syde to demand and receave church leyes	0	2	6
Given to a poore Irish man that had a passe	0	1	0
Paid to Mr Parker organist his quarters wages due att midsomer last	2	10	0
Paid to Richard Hoomes organ blower his quarters wages due att the same tyme	0	5	0
Paid to Peter Kenwricke sexton his quarters wages due att the same tyme	0	5	0
Spent att the receipt of three leyes from the cunstables of Whiston	0	0	4
Spent by all the accomptants upon themselves and the workemen in viewinge the defects of the church steeple	0	2	4
Paid to George Wright and George Standish for amendinge of the church steeple	0	6	8
Spent upon them att severall tymes	0	1	0

Spent upon the eight men in meetinge to lay fower church leyes in August last	0	6	4
Paid for wryteinge of precepts for those fower church leyes	0	3	0
Spent in sendinge out those precepts	0	1	0
Paid to Thomas Walles for wyne for three monthes communions <i>vizt</i> May, June, and July	1 6	16 14	8 0
[120] Given to a poore travellor that had a passe	0	1	0
Spent att a meetinge of the overseers and churchwardens about the poore ¹²⁴	0	4	0
Paid to Margrett Case widdow her whole yeares allowance out of the parish	1	10	0
Paid to Ellen Crosby of Whiston her whole yeares allowance	0	5	0
Paid to Margrett Lea in parte of her yearely allowance	0	19	6
Paid to Thomas Aspinwall his whole yeares allowance	0	10	0
Paid to Ann Earle her halfe yeares allowance	0	10	0
Paid to John Eddleston his whole yeares allowance	0	10	0
Paid to Elizabeth Singleton her halfe yeares allowance	0	10	0
Paid to Thomas Holland his halfe yeares allowance	0	10	0
Paid to Ann Webster her halfe yeares allowance	0	15	0
Paid to John Lea of Sutton in parte of his yearely allowance	0	6	8
Paid to Jane Greene widdow in parte of her yearely allowance for herself and Lawtons child	0	18	0
Paid to Humphrey Leigh his halfe yeares allowance	0	10	0
Paid to Elizabeth late wife of Gyles Lyon deceased in parte of her yearly allowance	0	10	0
Paid to Elizabeth late wife of Edward Lyon deceased in parte of her yearely allowance	0 8	10 19	0 2
[121] Paid to John Leigh the halfe of his yearely allowance	1	0	0
Paid to Richard Hitchmough in parte of his yearely allowance	0	2	0
Spent in meetinge two dayes about makinge presentments to the heigh cunstable att the assyzes in August last	0	8	4
Paid for wryteinge those presentments	0	3	4
Spent in goinge to demand and receave church leyes in severall townships	0	1	6

¹²⁴Several new allowances were paid that year for the first time.

Given to a poore traveller	0	0	6
Paid to Fardinando Parker in parte of his quarters wages due att Michalmas beinge his last quarter	1	10	0
Spent upon the gentlemen of the parish att the election of the eight men	0	4	0
Paid to Peter Kenwricke his quarters wages due att Michalmas last	0	15	0
Paid to Thomas Walles for wyne for three monthes communions vizt August, September and October	1	11	4
Paid to the ringers for ringinge on the kings holiday	0	4	0
Paid for a pound of candles to ringe curfey by	0	0	6
Paid to George Wright of Knowsley for mendinge the clocke	0	6	0
Paid for wyr for the clocke	0	0	4
Paid to Raph Halsall for amendinge the bell heads	0	2	0
Paid to Peter Kenwricke his quarters wages due att Christmas last	0	15	0
	7	3	10
[122] Paid to Thomas Walles for wyne for two monthes communions vizt November and December			
	1	0	0
Paid for bread for the monthly communions and at Easter	0	6	[0]
Paid for washinge the church lynnens this last yeare	0	5	0
Paid for washinge and keepinge cleane the church plate and flagons	0	2	0
Paid to Peter Kenwricke his quarters wages due att our Lady day last	0	15	0
Paid to him for oyle for the clocke and bells	0	4	0
Spent upon the minister and others after the communion was ended att St Ellens chappell	0	4	0
Spent likewise upon the minister and others after the communion was ended att Rainford	0	3	8
These accomptants crave to bee allowed them for expences in attendinge every one of them six monthly communion dayes and att Easter last 4s a peece <i>in toto</i>	0	16	0
Paid for keepinge theise accompts severally in order this last yeare	0	3	4
For wryteinge a paire of indentures of the church goods	0	1	0
Spent in meetinge about the makeinge and finishinge of these accompts this last yeare	0	5	0

Paid for engrossinge these accompts faire over into one	0	3	4
	4	8	4

[123] Paid for the wryteinge of them into the booke of accompts	0	3	4
--	---	---	---

Memorandum that there is due and unpaid to Thomas Walles for wyne for fower monthes communions *vizt* January, February, March, and Aprill

These accomptants crave to bee respyted severall somes of money, formerly charged upon them in this accompt which as yet they have not receaved but to remaine *in super* upon the severall persons followinge *vizt*¹²⁵

The cunstabes within the chappelry of Farnworth are arreare and unpaid all the fower church leyes taxed this last yeare which in the whole is	15	4	0
---	----	---	---

The cunstabes of Whiston are arreare likewise for the fower church leyes layd this last yeare ¹²⁶	1	0	0
---	---	---	---

The cunstabes of Rainhill are likewise arreare and unpaid the said fower church leyes ¹²⁷	1	0	0
---	---	---	---

Of the three church leyes arreare and unpaid in *anno* 1641 wherewith these accomptants have charged themselves they have in returnes the severall somes followinge

Francis Robinson ¹²⁸	0[s]	7[d]		
Francis Barber	0	6		
Richard Abbott ¹²⁹	0	3½		
Thomas Ashton esq.	0	6		
Henry Wood	1	6		
Richard Leigh ¹³⁰	0	3		
Peter Cowley	0	3		
Thomas Penketh ¹³¹	1	10		
William Worsley ¹³²	0	10		
Richard Jameson	0	10	0	7 4½
			17	14 8

¹²⁵ £3 12s 8d *marginated*.

¹²⁶ Rd 8s 2d unpaid 11s 10d *marginated*.

¹²⁷ Rd x *marginated*.

¹²⁸ Penketh R *marginated*.

¹²⁹ Cronton *marginated*.

¹³⁰ Penketh *marginated*.

¹³¹ Thomas Penketh of Sankey was presented in 1630 for teaching recusants' children: BIHR, V/1630/CB, ff.113r–5v.

¹³² Sankie *marginated*.

[124] Arreares within Sutton for the said three leyes
and for the fower church leyes layd this last
yeare

Richard Watmough	6[s]	2¼[d]
Robert Lea	4	9¾
Margrett Roby	0	7½
Homphrey Wilcocke	0	10½
Elizabeth Holt	0	3½
John Woodfal	11	1¼
Raph Haward	0	7½
Raph Haward <i>et mater</i>	1	8
John Justice	0	8¼
John Justice and Edward Justice	0	8½
John Pownall	1	1
Roger Downall	0	6¼
Richard Eltonhead senior	3	4
William Wood	1	11
Thomas Potter junior	0	1
John Torbocke	0	5
James Worsley	0	11
John Hey	0	2
John Barnes junior	0	2
Edward Foster	0	4½
Robert Cowley	0	4
Richard Holland	1	11
John Seddon junior	0	1
John Barnes for parte of Woodfalls	0	2½
William Naylor	0	5
William Sampson	0	6
Thomas Litherland	0	1
Henry Jollybrand	0	7½
George Glover	0	10
Richard Sheapard	0	3
[125] John Bold	1	0
John Fenney	0	3½
William Sutton	0	8
Roger Ince	0	1
Margrett Wilkinson	0	3½
Steevensons house	0	0½

Mathew Barton	0	1			
George Webster	0	4½			
Edward Jeopharson	0	1½			
<i>in toto</i>			1	14	9
The cunstables of Rainford are unpaid the fower church leyes layd the last yeare ¹³³			2	0	0
Mrs Mead of Eccleston unpaid			0	1	6
The cunstables of Parr are unpaid of the fower church leyes ¹³⁴			0	10	0
The cunstables of Wyndle are unpaid of the fower church leyes			1	0	0
			3	11	6
The totall of the accomptants disbursements and allowances are			58	3	8
Soe their receipts beinge	46	2	3		
and their payments and disbursements	58	3	8½		
These accomptants are in surplusage the some of	12	1	5½		

Wee have perused these accomptants and doe allowe of the same. Witnes our hands
[*remainder blank*]

[1643–4]

[126–127 *blank*, 128] Tuesday in Easter weeke 4 April 1643
The election and choyce of the churchwardens sydemen and surveyors within the
parish of Prescott to serve the yeare following *vizt*

Churchwardens	
Prescott Whiston and Rainhill	John Ackers of Rainhill
Sutton	John Sutton
Eccleston and Rainford	James Jolly of Eccleston
Wyndle and Parr	John Mosse of Parr
Sydemen	
Prescott Whiston and Rainhill	Robert Woodfall of Whiston
Sutton	John Barton
Eccleston and Rainford	Edmund Hey of Rainford

¹³³ Rd *marginated*.

¹³⁴ Rd *marginated*.

Wyndle and Parr		Thomas Roughl[sic] of Wyndle	
	Surveyors		Surveyors
Prescott	Thomas Walles	Eccleston	Edward Potts
	Thomas Par		Edmund Lyon junior
Whiston	Henry Ashton	Rainford	John Naylor
	Henry Woods		Henry Gaskell
Rainhill	Henry Lawton	Wyndle	Thomas Lyon de Foulds
	Edward Greene		Thomas Roughley
Sutton	Thurstan Scott	Parr	Henry Eccleston
	John Barton		Thomas Barton

Elected by us [*remainder blank*]

[129 *blank*, 130] 22 August 1643

Wee the vicar and the eight men of the parish church of Prescott meetinge this day in the said parish church and fyndinge money to bee wantinge for the necessary occasions of and belonginge to the said parish church att the request of the churchwardens are agreed and doe order that two whole church leyes shalbee forthwith collected and gathered throughout the said parish to bee paid over to the church wardens or some of them att or before the feast day of St Mathew the appostle \as alsoe all former arreares/ now next coming. Witnes our hands herunto subscrybed the day and yeare abovesaid [*signed*] *Petrus Jackson curat[us in] nomine vicarii*; John Lyon, Edward Greene, George Litherland, John Tickle [*mark*], [*signed*] Thomas Parr, five of the eight men

[131 *blank*, 132] Tuesday in Easter weeke 1644

The accompts of John Ackers John Sutton James Jolly and John Mosse churchwardens of the parish church of Prescott of their receipts and payments for the use of the said parish church since their last yeares accompt made in Easter weeke 1643 till this present day beinge 23 April 1644

Two church leyes layd this last yeare

Inprimis these accomptants charge themselves with the receipt of the said two church leyes from severall townshippes within the said parish herein hereafter mentioned

Prescott, Whiston and Rainhill quarter	2	0	0	
Eccleston and Rainford quarter	2	0	0	
Wyndle and Parr quarter	2	0	0	
				<i>in toto</i> 6 0 0

Item they charge themselves with the receipt of certaine arreares unpaid in *anno* 1642 and returned upon their last yeares accompt within the severall townshippes followinge

From the cunstable of Whiston in parte of 20s due for fower church leyes layd that yeare	8[s]	2[d]			
From the cunstable of Rainhill an arreare of fower church leyes layd that yeare	20				
From the cunstable of Rainford an arreare of fower church leyes layd the same yeare	40				
From the cunstable of Parr an arreare of fower church leyes layd the same yeare	10		3	18	2
			9	18	2
[133] From the cunstable of Wyndle in parte of an arreare of 20s the some of			0	10	0
<i>Item</i> these accomptants charge themselves with severall somes of money for burialls in the church <i>vizt</i>					
For the buriall of Mrs Stockley	6	8			
For the buriall of Henry Leadbeter the elder of Wyndle	6	8			
For the buriall of Henry Leadbeter his sonne	6	8			
For the buriall of Isabell wife of Henry Lathom of Whiston ¹³⁵	6	8	<i>in toto</i>	1	6
Received for organ pypes and iron about the organs				0	6
Received for the organ wooden pypes				0	6
				2	9
Total of these accomptants receipts				12	7
<i>Memorandum</i> that all the townships within the chappelry of Farnworth have neglected to pay two whole church leyes taxed this last yeare and therefore these accomptants have not charged themselves therewith					
				7	12
<i>Item</i> the townshipp of Sutton hath neglected to pay the same and therefore these accomptants have not charged themselves therewith				2	0
					0
[134] Payments disbursements and allowances craved by theise accomptants as followeth					

¹³⁵ Isabell was a daughter of the recusant Christopher Kenwricke.

<i>Inprimis</i> they crave allowance of the some of £12 1s 5½d due to them for a surplusage appearing upon the foote of there last yeares accompt	12	1	5½
Spent upon the gentlemen of the parish and the eight men on Tuesday in Easter weeke last after the election of the officers the accompts beinge deferred till a further tyme	0	6	0
Spent upon the eight men in meetinge to take the churchwardens accompts	0	5	0
Paid for drawinge a particuler of all the arreares of church leyes to bee certified to Collonell Moore	0	1	0
Paid for three severall warrants from Collonell Moore for obtayninge of church leyes arreares	0	3	0
Spent in goinge three dayes about the procuringe of those warrants	0	3	0
Spent in goinge into severall townships both on this side of the parish and on Farnworth side to give them notice thereof	0	3	6
Spent in goinge to the quarter sessions holden att Ormskirke in May last about the parish busines	0	2	0
Paid and expended in takinge downe the organs and mendinge the church steele	0	3	6
Paid for a locke for the revestry doore	0	2	6
Paid for a church byble for the church use	0	8	0
Paid for a cover for the pulpitt cushion	0	2	6
	14	1	5½

[135] Spent in meetinge Mr Moore to advyse with him concerninge those warrants hee granted for the arreares of church leyes	0	2	0
Paid for mendinge the bell heads	0	1	0
Paid for wyne for two monthes communions <i>vizt</i> May and June	1	2	8
Paid to Mr Parker organist beinge his last payment agreed to bee paid to him by the eight men and churchwardens quietly to leave of and deliver upp the key	1	0	0
Spent upon the cunstables of Whiston att the receipt of their church leyes	0	0	6
Spent in goinge to Liverpoole to certifie the cunstables neglecte in collecting the arreares	0	1	0
Paid for wryteinge precepts for two church leyes layd this last yeare	0	3	0
Spent upon the eight men att the taxinge therof	0	3	8

Paid for drawinge two severall petitions to the collonells att Warrington for the arreares of church leyes	0	2	0
Spent in goinge to deliver the same to the collonells two severall dayes	0	2	6
Spent in goinge on Farnworthe side with a warrant from the collonells att Warrington to give the cunstables notice to appeare att Winwicke	0	2	4
Paid for wyne for part of the monthly communions in August, the communion in July and the the other parte of the communion in August beinge paid out of money collected in the church for that purpose ¹³⁶	0	6	2
	3	6	10
[136] Paid to the glasier for repayringe and amendinge the glasse windowes about the church where defects were			
	1	19	0
Spent att severall tymes in attendinge the saide worke	0	3	0
Paid for six iron barrs for the church windowes	0	3	0
Paid to Robert Hatton for pointinge the glasse windowes	0	1	0
Paid for lyme to pointe with	0	0	8
Spent att the receipt of church leyes from the cunstables of Rainforth and Eccleston	0	0	8
Paid to Elizabeth Case beinge a poore old blynd woaman for her releefe out of the parish	0	10	0
Spent in goinge to attend the collonells five severall dayes att Warrington and one day att Winwicke about the arreares of church leyes and other busines of the parish	0	4	6
Spent in meetinge the colonells att Bold Heath an other day about the same busines	0	0	8
Paid for severall orders and warrants procured from the collonells att Warrington concerninge church leyes	0	8	0
Paid to Peter Kenwricke in parte of his wages for this last yeare	1	0	0
Paid for wyne for three monthes communions <i>vizt</i> September, October and November	1	13	8
Paid for a spade tree for the church use	0	0	8
	6	4	10
[137] Paid to Henry Darbishire for removinge formes into the organ loft ¹³⁷ and for hanginge the chancell doore			
	0	1	0
Given to the ringers for ringinge on 5 November last	0	3	6

¹³⁶There were difficulties that year over payment for bread and wine. The new vicar bore part of the cost at Easter 1643, but a debt to Thomas Walles still arose. See pp.xxxii, 101.

¹³⁷The organ had been destroyed: its loft was now obviously a storage space.

Paid to Thomas Walles in parte of £3 12s 8d owinge him the last yeare for wyne for fower monthly communions	1	0	0
Paid for wyne for three monthes communions <i>vizt</i> December, January and February	1	9	4
Spent by theise accomptants upon themselves and the ministers in this side of the parish att Warrington beinge called thither to take the national covenant ¹³⁸	0	3	6
Paid for mendinge the church rooffe with slate and for amendinge the church wall	0	5	0
Paid for removinge the church dyall and makinge new stone stepps ¹³⁹	0	2	0
Paid for takinge upp the stones which lay in the bottom of the crosse in the church yoard ¹⁴⁰	0	0	8
Paid for wyne for two monthes communions <i>vizt</i> Aprill and March last	1	4	0
Paid for bread for the communions this last yeare past	0	5	0
Paid for wryteinge a paire of indentures for the church goods	0	1	0
Paid for keepinge these accompts in order severally this last yeare	0	2	6
Paid for wryteinge them all into one	0	2	6
Paid for wryteinge them into the booke of accompts	0	2	6
Spent by these accomptants in meetinge to make upp theire accompts	0	3	4
	5	5	10
[138] Paid to Thomas Walles the some of 18s beinge the remainder of the some of £3 18s due to him for Easter wyne 1643 the residue beinge paid by Mr Day vicar of this parish			
	0	18	0
These accomptants crave to bee allowed them for attendinge every one of them six monthly communion dayes and att Easter last 4s a peece <i>in toto</i>	0	16	0

Returned within the severall townships followinge for
church leyes wherewith these accomptants have charged
themselves wherof they crave respite in regard they are
arreare and unpaid

¹³⁸ The curates of Prescot, Rainford and St Helens went with the wardens to take the covenant oath. Richard Day had scruples and refused. The Childwall wardens went to Ormskirk to take it: CI, p.194.

¹³⁹ A sundial had been erected in the churchyard in 1603: it was probably that near to which Adam Martindale's mother had been buried in 1632. It was replaced by a new one in 1641–2 (see p.85), but this was now removed because of puritan aversion. Another was eventually provided, for Adam Marthindale's brother Thomas was buried 'neare the dyall in the churchyard' in July 1663: Parkinson, *Life*, pp.17, 172.

¹⁴⁰ See n.83.

The cunstables of Whiston for two church leyes layd this last yeare unpaid	0	4	6
Bryan Haward and Adam Knowles of Parr returned for those two church leyes	0	2	6
	2	1	0
Totall of their payments allowances and respites are	30	19	11½
Soe their receipts beinge	12	7	9
and their payments and allowances	30	19	11½
These accomptants are in surplusage upon this accompt	18	12	2½
These accompts were allowed and subscribed unto by Richard Day vicar; Thomas Parr, John Tickle, Richard Parr, Henry Barrow, fower of the eight men			

[1644–5][139 *blank*, 140] Tuesday in Easter weeke 1644¹⁴¹

The election of the churchwardens sidemen and surveyors to serve the yeare followinge

Churchwardens		Sydemens	
Prescott	Whiston and Rainhill	Robert Woodfall of Whiston	
	John Ackers of Rainhill	John Barton of Sutton	
Sutton	John Sutton of Suttton	Edmund Hey of Rainforth	
Eccleston and Rainford		Thomas Roughley of Wyndle	
	James Jolly of Eccleston		
Wyndle and Parr			
	John Mosse of Parr		
		Surveyors	
Prescott	Thomas Litherland	Eccleston	William Webster
	Nicholas Anderton		John Traves
Whiston	Henry Ashton	Rainford	Henry Sefton
	John Litherland		Edward Bispham
Rainhill	Edward Greene	Wyndle	Thomas Lyon of the Foulds
	William Parr		Thomas Rougley
Sutton	James Worsley	Parr	James Sorrocold
	William Wood		William Martin

Elected and approved of by
Richard Day vicar; Thomas Parr, John Tickle, Richard Parr, Henry Barrow, fower of the
eight men

¹⁴¹ 23 Apr. 1644.

[141 *blank*, 142] St Lukes day 18 October 1644

The election and choice of the eight men to serve for the yeare followinge

Prescott	Thomas Parr	Rainhill	Edward Greene
Sutton	George Litherland	Eccleston	John Lyon
Wyndle	Richard Parr	Parr	John Chaddocke
Sankey	William Hasleworth	Cuardley	John Wright

[*signed*] *Petrus* Jackson *curatus in nomine vicarii*; Peter Kenwricke

[143–145 *blank*, 146] 22 October 1644

Forasmuch as wee the vicar and eight men of the parish of church of Prescott whose names are subscrybed meetinge in the said parish church and consideringe the repaire of the said parish church and for provydinge of bread and wyne for the monthly communions which without a present supply of money cannot bee maynetayned and other necessary occasions of and belonginge to the said parish church att the request of the churchwardens doe order and thinke fitt that fower whole church leyes shalbee forthwith collected and gathered through the whole parish to bee paid over unto the churchwardens or some of them att or before Martinmas next as alsoe all former arreares Witnes our hands herunto subscrybed the day and yeare abovsaid

[*signed*] *Petrus* Jackson *curatus in nomine vicarii*; Richard Parr, John Lyon, Thomas Parr eight men

[147 *blank*, 148] Tuesday in Easter weeke 1645

The accompts of John Ackers John Sutton James Jolly and John Mosse churchwardens of the parish church of Prescott of their receipts and payments for the use of the said parish church since their last yeares accompt made in Easter weeke 1644 and till this present day beinge 8 April 1645

Fower church leyes layd this last yeare but noe parte therof collected. Therefore these accomptants doe not charge themselves therewith but referr the same to bee collected the next yeare. These accomptants charge themselves with the receipt of severall arreares of church leyes hereafter mentioned *viz*

Inprimis with severall arreares unpaid in *anno* 1641 *vizt*

From the cunstables of Widnes in parte

of an arreare of 3s remaining in their

hands that yeare

0 2 6

From Thomas Penketh an arreare of

0 1 10

From Thomas Sefton and

Uxor Lightfoote of Cronton

0 1 2

In toto

0 5 6

Item with severall arreares unpaid in *anno* 1642 *vizt*

From the severall cunstable within the chappelry of Farnworth fower whole church leyes arreare that yeare	15	4	0			
From Francis Robinson of Penketh	0	0	7			
From Thomas Ashton esq., Henry Wood Peter Cowley and Thomas Penketh for <the> arreares that yeare	0	4	1			
From severall persons within Sutton in parte of an arreare of 34s 9d the some of	0	15	10			
				<i>in toto</i>	16	4 6

Item with severall arreares unpaid in *anno* 1643 *vizt*

[149] From the severall cunstable within the chappelry of Farnworth two whole church leyes arreare that yeare	7	12	0			
From the cunstable of Sutton two whole church leyes arreare that yeare	2	0	0			
From the cunstable of Whiston an arreare of two leyes	0	4	6			
				<i>in toto</i>	9	16 6

Item they charge themselves with severall
somes of money for the burialls in the church *vizt*

For the buriall of Isabell wife of William Ackers the younger of Whiston	6	8				
For the buriall of William Hyde of Rainforth	6	8				
For the buriall of Mr Edward Parr of Haysom ¹⁴²	6	8				
For the buriall of Widdow Shaw of Rainforth	6	8				
For the buriall of Ann wife of Edward Ackers of Rainhill	6	8				
For the buriall of Ann Webster Alexander Webster and John Webster of Prescott	20	0				
				<i>in toto</i>	2	13 4

¹⁴²Parr (d. 1645) had lived at Haysarm in Rainford since at least 1628: he was buried in church.

<i>Item</i> with the receipt of 9s for boards which belonged to the organs sold to Thomas Kenion for	0	9	4
Totall of these accomptants charge is	29	9	2

[150] Payments disbursements and allowances craved by theise accomptants as followeth

<i>Inprimis</i> they crave allowance of the some of £18 12s 2½d due to them for a surplusage appearinge upon the foote of their last yeares accompt	18	12	2[½]
Spent upon the gentlemen of the parish and the eight men on Tuesday in Easter weeke last after the election of the officers and the accompts taken	0	5	0
Paid for wyne for the monthly communion in Maye	0	11	6
Spent in goinge three dayes to Warrington to attend the collonells about the arreares of church leyes	0	2	6
Paid for wyne for the monthly communion in June	0	8	0
Spent in goinge on Farnworth side two dayes about their church leyes	0	1	6
Spent upon St Lukes day att the ellection of the eight men	0	3	0
Paid for a bell rope for the seacond bell	0	2	8
Paid for wyne for the monthly communion in October their beinge noe communion in July, August, and September ¹⁴³	0	7	8
Paid to two souldiers for goinge two dayes into Cuardley for Penketh to distraine for church leyes arreare ¹⁴⁴	0	3	0
Spent upon the eight men in meetinge to asseesse fower church leyes through the parish	0	3	4
Paid for oyle for the clocke	0	0	2
Paid for a bell rope for the greate bell	0	4	0
Paid for a warrant under the [. .] generalls hand for the collectinge of church leyes arreare	0	1	0
Spent in goinge to Everton to attend the generall ¹⁴⁵ and procure his hand herunto	0	1	0
	21	6	6½

¹⁴³These were the first three months after Prince Rupert's seizure of Liverpool and a time of chaos leading to the final siege in Oct: it is the only recorded instance of Prescott's monthly communion being interrupted. See p.xxxi.

¹⁴⁴Soldiers with power to distrain goods in lieu of rate payments must have been a terrifying experience for the two townships (and for Sankey and the rest of Farnworth side shortly afterwards). Childwall used soldiers for the same purpose two years earlier: Cl, p.194. See pp.xxiv, 108.

¹⁴⁵This visit may have taken place before 1 Nov. 1644 and thus have been to the royalist general. Prince Rupert is said to have set up his headquarters near Everton beacon in May. For the parliamentarians, Sir John Meldrum was lieutenant-general of the northern forces in 1644.

[151] Paid to the ringers for ringinge on the 5 November in commemoration of the gunpowder treason	0	4	0
Paid for wyne for the monthly communion in November last	0	8	4
Paid to two souldiers for collectinge leyes in Sankie	0	1	0
Spent att the receipt of Sankey leyes	0	0	4
Paid for dressinge the church when the prisoners had lyen in it ¹⁴⁶	0	0	2
Paid for mendinge the bell heade	0	2	0
Spent in goinge to Warrington one other day about the church leyes arreare	0	1	0
Paid for a pound of candles to ring curfey by	0	0	5
Paid for a bell rope for the little bell	0	1	0
Spent upon two severall ministers in comminge to preach when Mr Jackson was sicke	0	2	0
Spent in goinge into Widnes and Cronton to collecte theire church leyes	0	1	0
Paid for mendinge the church wall	0	1	0
Paid to Richard Marshall for locke and keyes about the church and churchyoard	0	6	0
Paid for an iron rod for a windowe on the north side of the church	0	1	6
Spent in goinge into Ditton to collecte church leyes	0	1	0
Paid for daubinge about the church porch	0	0	6
Paid for wyne for the monthly communion in December	0	6	8
Paid to William Holland the glasier for glasinge about the church in divers places	1	0	0
Paid to Henry Darbshire for mendinge the church steeles and ladders	0	5	0
Spent upon the glasier in comminge severall dayes to sett upp glasse	0	1	0
	3	3	11
[152] Paid for pointinge the glasse	0	0	6
Spent upon (Ogle) Captaine Ogle ¹⁴⁷ and Captain Marsh ¹⁴⁸ and upon the eight men in meetinge about the church leyes arreare on Farnworth syde reference beinge had to them from the collonells at Warrington	0	6	[.]

¹⁴⁶This first account of prisoners being housed in the church seems to belong after the surrender of Liverpool to parliament on 1 Nov. 1644. The prisoners may however have been some of the 400 royalists taken at Ormskirk on 19 Aug. See pp.xxxvii, 151.

¹⁴⁷Probably Edward, son of Henry Ogle.

¹⁴⁸Probably John Marsh of Bold, appointed to the Warrington *classis* in 1646, or Thomas Marsh of Bold and Penketh: LRO, QSB/1/146/7. Captain Marsh of Cuerdley was doubtless the same man.

Spent in goinge to Warrington and takinge some of the parish with us to certifie the collonells that the parishioners on Farnworth side could shew noe cause why they should not pay theire church leyes arreare	0	3	4
Paid for an order that day which wee procured for collectinge in the arreares without any further delay	0	1	6
Paid for wyne for the monthly communion in January	0	11	0
Paid to three souldiers for goinge on Farnworth syde to collecte the arreares	0	3	0
Paid more to souldiers for goinge on Farnworth syde to collecte arreares	0	2	6
Paid to Thomas Walles the some of £2 12s 8d beinge the remainder of a debt £3 12s 8d due and unpaid to him for wyne for fower monthes communions as may appeare in the accompte made att Easter 1643	2	12	8
Paid more to him for wyne for the communions att Easter 1644 it beinge then left unpaid in hope the vicar would have discharged the same as hee did the yeare before ¹⁴⁹	2	0	0
Paid for wyre and oyle for the clocke	0	1	1
Paid for mendinge the chest in the revestry	0	1	8
Paid for wyne for the monthly communion in February	0	12	4
Spent in goinge three dayes to collecte leyes on Farnworth syde	0	2	0
	6	18	3
[153] Paid for fetchinge of wyne from Warrington	0	1	0
Paid for wyne for the monthly communion in Marche	0	13	0
Paid to Peter Kenwricke sexton in parte of his wages for this yeare last past	1	6	8
Spent in goinge fower dayes more to collecte leyes on Farnworth syde	0	2	4
Paid for two communion cupps of pewtar ¹⁵⁰	0	2	0
Paid for drawinge and wryteinge these accompts into order	0	2	6
Paid for wryteinge the same into the booke of accompts	0	2	6
Paid for wryteinge a paire of indentures of the church goods	0	1	0
Paid for bread for the monthly communions and att Easter this last yeare	0	5	0
Paid to Thomas Walles for Easter wyne last vizt Palme Sunday and Easter Sunday the some of	3	0	0

¹⁴⁹ Although he was in Prescot for Easter 1644, Day was clearly unwilling for his communion payment in 1643 to become a precedent. See pp.xxxii, 101.

¹⁵⁰ Pewter chalices were all the puritans would allow.

These accomptants crave allowance of 4s a peece expended in attendinge att the monthly communions and att Easter in the whole	0	16	0
Paid to Richard Marshall for hanglinge the chancell doore and mendinge the locke of the church yate	0	2	0
Spent in meetinge to make perfecte these accompts two severall dayes	0	3	4
These accomptants crave respite or allowance of 11s 3d beinge arreares which they had collected in Sutton and was forcibly taken from one of these accomptants namely John Sutton by Captaine Bewsicke his troops ¹⁵¹	0	11	3
These accomptants likewise crave respite or allowance of 19s 2d received in course money namely two pences which afterwards were not allowed of	0	19	2
	8	7	9

[154] <i>Item</i> they crave respite or allowance of 4s which was lost in collectinge the arreares within Widnes and other towneshippes on Farnworth syde	0	4	0
Totall of these accomptants payments and allowances are	40	0	5½

Soe theire receipts being	29	9	2
and theire payments and allowances	40	0	5½
these accomptants are in surplusage upon the accompts	10	11	3½

These accompts were allowed and subscrybed unto by Peter Jackson *in nomine* vicar; Richard Parr, Thomas Parr, George Litherland, William Hasleworth, four of the eight men; Edward Ogle, George Martland, William Webster, Thomas Litherland, Henry Torbocke, parishioners

[1645–7]

[155 *blank*, 156] Tuesday in Easter weeke 1645

The election of the churchwardens sidemen and surveyors to serve the yeare followinge

Churchwardens	Sydemen	
Prescott Whiston and Rainhill	Whiston	Robert Woodfall
John Ackers of Rainhill	Sutton	Edmund Seddon

¹⁵¹ Perhaps John Bexwicke, gent. (a free burgess of Liverpool) or John Beswicke, the Warrington ropemaker.

Sutton	John Sutton	Rainford	Edmund Bispham ¹⁵²
Eccleston	and Rainforth	Parr	William Leigh
	James Jolly of Eccleston		
Wyndle and Parr			
	Thomas Holland of Wyndle		
	Surveyors		
Prescott	Thomas Litherland	Eccleston	John Cowper
	William Fletcher		George Rainforth
Whiston	John Ashton	Rainford	Henry Sefton
	John Litherland		Edward Bispham
Rainhill	William Stringfellow	Wyndle	Thomas Lyon of Fould
	John Barrowe		Thomas Roughley
Sutton	James Worsley	Parr	James Sorrocold
	Edmund Tunstall		William Martin

Elected and chosen by

Peter Jackson curat *in nomine vicar*; Edward Ogle, George Martland, William Webster, William Fletcher, Thomas Litherland, Henry Torbocke, parishioners; Richard Parr, Thomas Parr, George Litherland, William Hasleworth, four of the eight men

[157 blank, 158] St Lukes day 18 October 1645

The election and choise of the eight men to serve the veare followinge

Prescott	Thomas Parr	Rainhill	Edward Greene
Sutton	George Litherland	Eccleston	William Webster
Wyndle	Richard Parr	Parr	John Chaddocke
Ditton	Robert Norman	Penketh	Richard Jenkinson

[signed] Richard Day vicar;¹⁵³ Peter Kenwricke, Thomas Kenion

[159 blank, 160] Tuesday in Easter weeke 1647

The accompts of John Ackers John Sutton James Jolly and Thomas Holland churchwardens of the parish church of Prescot of their receipts and payments for he use of the said parish church since their last accompts made in Easter weeke 1645 till this present day beinge 20 April 1647 beinge for two whole yeares as followeth

¹⁵² He had been summoned on 8 Oct. 1642 to appear 'with his best armes' before Lord Derby: PRO, PL9/3.

¹⁵³ This is the first clear evidence of Day's presence at Prescot in 18 months and the last for another two years: see pp.xiv–xv, 124. Articles against him were to be published on 25 November: Shaw, *Plundered Ministers*, p.11.

Noe church leyes layde these two last yeares

These accomptants charge themselves with the receipte of fower whole church leyes layd in *anno* 1644 wheerewith they did not charge themselves in there last accompts made in *anno* 1645 in regard the same were not then collected

The said fower church leyes on Prescott side of the parish doe

extend to	16	0	0
And on Farnworth side of the parish they doe extend to	15	4	0

Item with the receipt of severall arreares followinge *vizt*

From Brian Haward and Adam Knowles an

arreare of	2[s]	6[d]	
From Mr Watmough an arreare of	6	0	
From Robert Lea an arreare of	4	9	
From John Barnes an arreare of	0	2	
From the cunstable of Wyndle an			
arreare of	10	0	

<i>in toto</i>	1	3	5
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Item for burialls in the church *anno* 1645

John Ackers of Whiston	6	8	
Richard Sefton of Rainford	6	8	
Raph Halsall of Prescott	6	8	

<i>in toto</i>	1	0	0
	33	7	5

[161] *Item* received for parte of the organs as followeth

For seelinge sould to Henry

Darbshire	1	17	6
For one of the organ doores sould to			
Henry Marshall	0	3	6
For the other organ doore sould to			
Peter Hearefoote	0	3	0

<i>in toto</i>	2	4	0
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Item received for a buriall in the church this last yeare 1646

namely Mr Harpers daughter of Cowley Hill	0	6	8
	2	10	8

Totall of the receipts	35	18	1
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[162] Payments disbursements and allowances craved by theise accomptants as followeth

<i>Inprimis</i> they crave allowance of the some of £10 3s 3½d due to them for a surplusage appearing upon the foote of their last yeares accompt	10	11	3½
Spent upon the gentlemen of the parish and the eight men on Tuesday in Easter weeke <i>anno</i> 1645 att the election of the church officers and the accompts taken	0	7	0
Paid to Thomas Walles for wyne for the monthly communion in May 1645	0	11	0
Paid to Thomas Goodicar for slate and slatinge wheere defects were aboute the church	0	5	6
Paid to Thomas Walles for wyne for the monthly communion in June 1645	0	10	0
Spent upon the eight men in meetinge to viewe the defects of the steeple	0	5	0
Paid to Thomas Walles for the monthly communion wyne in July 1645	0	9	4
Spent upon masons and other workemen in coming to viewe the defects of the steeple	0	1	8
Paid for a pulled rope for the clocke	0	1	4
Paid to Thomas Walles for wyne for the monthly communion in August 1645	0	11	0
Spent in comminge severall dayes to attend the worke aboute the steeple	0	4	0
Paid for a bell rope for the third bell	0	3	4
Paid to Mr Lancaster for three loads of lyme for repaire of the steeple	0	19	0
	14	19	5½
[163] Paid for leadinge three loads of lyme from Rainhill to Prescott	0	3	0
Paid to George Standish and Edward Bate in parte of their wages for masons worke and pointinge aboute the steeple	0	10	0
Spent upon ten men that carryed upp wood and stone for repayre of the steeple	0	4	0
Paid to Mr Chorley ¹⁵⁴ and Henry Darbishire for two load of tymber for repaire of the steeple	0	10	0
Paid for leadinge one loade of stone and two loads of tymber from Rainhill to Prescott	0	4	6
Paid to Henry Parr for gettinge one load of stones on Rainhill hill	0	1	6

¹⁵⁴ Alexander Chorley of the manor house, Rainhill gained possession of an estate there by 1651; he was cited as a recusant in 1663.

Paid to Mr Brooke for iron and steele to make boults and plates for the steeple	1	2	0
Paid for cariage therof from Warrington	0	2	0
Paid to George Standish and Edward Bate the remainder of their wages for worke done aboute the steeple	0	16	0
Spent upon them when the worke was ended	0	2	0
Spent upon Mr Fletcher in comminge to preach three severall dayes att Prescottt	0	4	0
Paid to Henry Darbishire for wrights worke aboute the steeple	0	7	6
Paid to Raph Halsall for workinge the iron and steele for the steeple	0	7	0
Paid to Thomas Walles for wyne for the monthly communion in September 1645	0	8	8
Paid for wyne for the monthly communion in October 1645	0	10	0
Spent on St Lukes day att the election of the eight men	0	6	6
	5	18	8
[164] Paid to Thomas Walles for wyne for the monthly comunion in November 1645	0	9	0
Paid to the ringers for ringinge on the gunpowder treason day 1645	0	6	0
Paid for candles to ring curfey by	0	0	6
Paid for oyle for the clocke	0	0	6
Paid to Henry Darbishire for mendinge the church steele and putting upp barrs in the church windowes	0	1	0
Spent in meetinge the cunstables of the parish aboute framinge presentments to the comittee of accompts	0	3	0
Spent in goinge to Preston before the comittee ¹⁵⁵ to procure a warrant for the church leyes arreare	0	4	[0]
Paid to the clerke for his paines in procuringe warrants for the church leyes arreare	0	3	0
Paid to Thomas Rothwell for mendinge the clocke	0	2	6
Spent upon him afterwards	0	1	0
Paid for wyne for the monthly comunion in December 1645	0	7	0
Spente in procuringe a warrant from Collonel Booth ¹⁵⁶ for the arreares of church leyes	0	3	6
Paid for a spade iron for the church spade	0	1	4

¹⁵⁵The committee for the county was formed on 29 Aug. 1645: it met monthly, usually at Preston, and included Messrs Moore, Gilbert Ireland, Birch and James Ashton of Chadderton.

¹⁵⁶John Booth (governor of Warrington 1644–1647) was a younger son of Sir George Booth of Dunham.

Paid to William Holland the glasier for repayre of the glasse about the church	0	10	0
Spent upon him att severall tymes	0	2	0
Paid more to the glasier	0	2	0
Paid to Raph Halsall for amendinge the iron band in the church windowes	0	1	6
Paid for wryteinge coppies of the warrants for church leyes arreare to bee sent on Farnworth side	0	1	4
Paid for wyne for the monthly comunion in January 1645	0	12	0
Paid for wyre and oile for the clocke	0	0	6
	3	11	8

[165] Paid to the ringers for ringinge curfey in supply of what was given them	0	1	0
Paid for wyne for the monthly comunion in February 1645	0	10	0
Spent in goinge severall tymes into Widnes to collecte church leyes arreare	0	2	8
Paid for wyne for the monthly comunion in March 1645	0	15	0
Spent in goinge into Bold severall dayes to collecte church leyes	0	1	0
Spent in goinge into Ditton two dayes	0	1	0
Spent in goinge into Sankie three severall dayes	0	2	0
Spent in goinge into Cuardley and Penketh severall dayes	0	2	8
Paid to Raph Halsall for smythes worke aboute the bell heads	0	4	6
Paid to Richard Marshall for smithes worke aboute the clocke and bells	0	3	9
Spent upon Mr Morris ¹⁵⁷ in comminge to preach att the church	0	3	6
Spent upon Mr Wright ¹⁵⁸ in comminge to preach one day	0	3	8
Paid to John Halsall for puttinge upp the bell ropes	0	0	6
Spent in travellinge aboute to procure a minister to preach in Mr Dayes absence ¹⁵⁹	0	2	6
Spent in meetinge together to make our accompts	0	3	4
Paid for breade for 12 monthly comunions	0	5	0

¹⁵⁷ Perhaps William Morris of Grappenhall, clerk (d. 1662): CRO, WS/Grappenhall/1662.

¹⁵⁸ John Wright (d. 1685) was ordained in 1645 by the 11 Lancashire ministers who formed the 'committee for ordinations', and was appointed to the Warrington *classis* in 1646 when minister at Billinge. He signed the 'harmonious consent' in 1648 and preached the 'excellent sermon' at the funeral of Adam Martindale's father in Prescot church on 6 May 1658: Parkinson, *Life*, p.119.

¹⁵⁹ Day's failure to appear before the county committee was first reported in Aug. 1646: he was ejected and the living sequestered: see pp.xiv–xv. Large numbers of such ejections led to an acute shortage of available clergy.

Paid for drawinge upp our accompts	0	2	6
Paid for a directory ¹⁶⁰ for the church use	0	0	8
Paid to Peter Kenwricke sexton in parte of his wages <i>anno</i> 1645	0	13	4
	3	18	7
[166] <i>Anno</i> 1646			
Spent in Easter weeke 1646 after the hearinge of our accompts and the election of the surveyors	0	8	[.]
Paid to William Holland for glasing aboute the church wheere defects were	0	11	0
Paid for a bell rope for the first bell	0	2	6
Paid to Henry Darbishire for mendinge the church steeles	0	2	0
Paid to Mr Henry Orme high cunstable for the releefe of the maymed souldiers <i>prout per</i> acquittance	1	9	2
Spent in goinge to Wigan to pay the said money	0	1	0
For an acquittance	0	0	2
Spent in meetinge to make presentments to the assyzes att August 1646	0	5	10
Paid to the ringers for ringinge on the gunpowder treason day <i>anno</i> 1646	0	4	0
Spent in goinge to the quarter sessions att Ormskirke and an other quarter sessions att Wigan to prevent any orders against the parish	0	2	6
Paid to Robert Hatton and others for makinge upp the church walles and the church windowes with iron barrs and with bricks	0	8	6
Paid to Rothwell for mendinge the clocke this last yeare	0	4	0
Spent in collectinge arreares of church leyes this last yeare	0	1	6
Spent in meetinge to make presentments att the last assyzes	0	4	0
Spent in goinge to bringe the said presentments to the high cunstable	0	1	0
Spent in meetinge to make upp these accompts	0	2	0
Paid for keepinge the regester booke this last yeare in order	0	2	0
	4	9	8
[167] Paid for enteringe these accompts into the church booke			
For drawinge an inventory of the church goods	0	1	0
Arreares of the fower church leyes wheerewith these accomptants stand charged in this accompt In Cronton			

¹⁶⁰ The *Directory* had been issued on 4 Jan. 1645 and compulsory distribution ordered in Aug., but one was not bought at Prescot until *c.* Easter 1646.

Robert Vose	1[s]	9[d]			
George Nodby	0	4½			
Lawrence Huson	0	3	0	2	4½
In Sankie					
James Ley	0	2			
Hamlett Traves	0	2			
Henry Cowper	0	2			
Mr Penketh	1	8			
Thomas Penketh	1	2			
William Worsley	0	10	0	4	2
Cunstable of Penketh arreare	3	10	0	3	10
In Widnes					
William Barnes	1	1½			
John Holt*	4	8			
John Norland	2	0			
Elizabeth Goodicar	1	1½	0	8	11
In Whiston					
Henry Ogle esq. ¹⁶¹	2	3			
Mr Browne, Mr Wetherby ¹⁶² and George Deane for Mr Wetherbies land	3	6			
James Pemberton, gent.	1	3			
Peter Hearefoote*	0	3			
John Worrall	0	1			
George Shuttleworth	0	1			
Peter Hornby	0	1			
John Ford junior	0	1	0	7	7
			1	10	4½

[168] Unpaid within the townshipp of Prescott in
poore folkes hands

5 7 0 5 [7]

 In Sutton

Richard Eltonhead, senior*	3	4
Richard Eltonhead junior	1	8
William Woods	1	11
Thomas Wilcocke of Sutton Heath*	0	10
John Barton*	0	9½
Thomas Foster	0	1

* Rd per J.A. marginated, for received by John Ackers.

¹⁶¹ It appears that Ogle had paid his earlier arrears.

¹⁶² George Wetherby, gent. of Whiston, presented in 1633 for failing to have his children lawfully baptised. He died in Aug. 1652, just as the Whiston plague outbreak was nearing its peak.

Chawners house	0	1			
Alexander Chorley gent.	1	2			
James Worsley*	1	5			
John Torbocke	0	7			
William Sutton	0	1			
James Greenhough	0	1			
Richard Watmough gent.	3	3			
Edmund Gaskell	0	3½			
Henry Harrison	0	9			
Mr Blundell*	1	8			
Henry Hitchin	0	1			
Margrett Roby	0	10			
Thomas Barnes	0	1			
Sherlocks house	0	2			
George Litherland*	1	2½			
Thomas Traves	0	3			
Mathew Kenion	0	8			
Mrs Livezey	0	2			
Elizabeth Finney and Henry Hitchin	0	2			
Robert Hankinson	1	1			
Robert Cowley	0	4			
Mr Holland	1	11			
William Edwardson	0	5			
Bryan Byrom	0	1½			
Ales Bateman	0	1			
William Barnes	0	4			
Thurstan Scott*	0	7½			
Henry Jellybrand	0	7½			
Alexander Potter* and Fennow	0	7			
William Sutton*	0	8			
Worsley and Barton for Justice ground ¹⁶³	0	2	1	8	7
			1	14	2
[169] Within Sutton					
John Haward	0	1½			
Henry Sutton	0	8			
Michael Martindale*	0	5½	0	1	3
Total of the disbursements and arrears			36	3	10

¹⁶³[...marginated], probably for 'received by John Ackers'.

Soe their receipts beinge	35	18	1			
and their payments and arreares	36	3	10			
The accomptants are in surplusage				0	5	9

20 April 1647

Wee the minister, the eight men, and others of the parish have perused these accompts and doe approve thereof onely wee thinke fitt and soe order that the accomptants accordinge to severall warrants granted unto them shall collecte levy and gather all the arreares of church leyes which are returned in their accompts amountinge in the whole to £3 2s 4½d out of which they are to retaine to themselves the surplusage abovesaid beinge 5s 9d and alsoe the some of 10s for their charges and expences in collectinge the same and to pay over the remainder therof unto the next churchwardens att or before the feast of Pentecost next comminge. Subscribed by

Nathaniel Hoyle minister;¹⁶⁴ Robert Glest, Henry Lawton, George Deane, William Fletcher, John Lathom, James Worsley, John Litherland; Richard Parr, Edward Greene, William Webster, George Litherland, eight men

[170] 20 April 1647

Forasmuch as Peter Kenwricke sexton of the parish church by reason of his old age the weakenes of his body and of his memory is conceived to bee unfitt for the executinge of the place. And therefore it is thought fitt and soe ordered that Edward Darbshire¹⁶⁵ of Prescott aforesaid shalbee sexton of the parish church in the roome and place of the said Peter Kenwricke and shall perform and execute the said place in all things therunto belonginge until further order bee provided to the contrary. And that hee shall duringe his continuance in the said place receive all the church duties due to him as sexton. And for a further augmentation of his wages it is thought fitt that Mr Edward Stockley clerke of the parish church shalbee moved to give an allowance unto the said Edward Darbshire out of the clerks wages due to him as clerke of the place. And if the said Edward Stockley shall not be pleased to give the said Edward Darbshire a competent allowance out of the clerks wages that then the said Edward Darbshire shall have the yearly allowance of 40s *per annum* paid unto him by the churchwardens yearly out of the church leyes of the parish. And because that thaforesaid Peter Kenwricke is very indigent and poore and hath very small meanes to maintaine himselfe withall. It is therefore ordered that the said Peter Kenwricke shall have an allowance of 26s 8d *per annum* paid unto him by the churchwardens yearly out of the church leyes of the parish duringe the tearme of his naturall life to bee paid by 6s 8d a quarter

¹⁶⁴ Hoyle occurs only once as Day's replacement. Overdue payments were ordered to be made out of the sequestrated income to 'Mr Hale' in Sept. 1647: BL, Add Ms 15671, f. 196; *Plundered Ministers*, ed. Shaw, p.58.

¹⁶⁵ A Prescott innkeeper (d. 1665): LRO, WCW/Prescot/1665. In 1664 Roger Lowe drank before and after his nephew's baptism at 'Edward Darbshires (clarke of the church)': Lowe, *Diary*, p.74.

Robert Glest	John Lathom	Subscrib'd by
Henry Lawton	John Ackers	Nathaniel Hoyle minister
George Deane	James Jolly	Richard Parr
Thomas Holland	John Sutton	Edward Greene
		William Webster
		George Litherland, eight men

[1647–8]

[171 *blank*, 172] 20 April 1647

The election and choyce of the churchwardens and other officers to serve the yeare followinge

Churchwardens			
	Prescott, Whiston and Rainhill	Evan Garnett of Prescott	
	Sutton	Henry Harrison	
	Eccleston and Rainford	Henry Gaskell of Rainford	
	Wyndle and Parr	Thomas Tickle of Parr	
Surveyors			
Prescott	William Fletcher	Eccleston	Robert Glest
	Thomas Litherland		Edward Potts
Whiston	Henry Ashton	Rainford	Thomas Lyon
	John Litherland		Richard Hyde
Rainhill	Lawrence Lea	Wyndle	Thomas Lyon of Foulds
	John Barrowe		John Traves
Sutton	Henry Roughley	Parr	<Thomas> William Turner
	John Ackers		James Sorrocould
Elected by			
Robert Glest	John Lathom	Nathaniel Hoyle minister	
Henry Lawton	John Ackers	Richard Parr	
George Deane	James Jolly	Edward Greene	
John Sutton	Thomas Holland	William Webster	
		George Litherland, eight men	

[173 *blank*, 174] 8 June 1647

Forasmuch as the eight men and divers of the parish whose names are hereunto subscrib'd meetinge this day in the parish church and findinge theere is a greate necessitie of money to bee speedily collected and gathered within the parish for the necessary repaire of the parish church which hath beene longe unrepayred for wante of money¹⁶⁶ att the request of the churchwardens wee doe order and agree that fower whole

¹⁶⁶In Feb. 1647 a parliamentary edict led to an order requiring the repair of all churches in the hundred: LRO, QSP/11/32.

church leyes shalbee forthwith collected and gathered through the whole parish to bee paid over unto the churchwardens or some of them att or before 1 July next comminge as alsoe all arreares of former church leyes Witnes our hands herunto subscribed the day and yeare abovesaid

Edward Greene, Richard Parr, William Webster, eight men;

John Alcocke, George Deane, Henry Lawton, John Lathome, Edward Ackers, William Mercer, John Litherland

[175 *blank*, 176] St Lukes day 1647

The election and choyce of the eight men to serve the yeare followinge

Prescott	Thomas Litherland	Whiston	Henry Ashton
Sutton	John Sutton	Rainforth	Thomas Lyon
Eccleston	Edmund Lyon	Wyndle	John Lyon of the Foulds
Cronton	William Parr	Widnes	Robert Wright tanner

Elected by us

[*signed*] Richard Daye vicar;¹⁶⁷ William Lyme, Thomas Walles, John Alcock

[177 *blank*, 178] Tuesday in Easter weeke 1648

The accompts of Evan Garnett Henry Harrison and Henry Gaskell churchwardens of the parish church of Prescott of theire receipts and payments for the use of the said parish church from Tuesday in Easter weeke 1647 being the tyme of theire ellection untill this present day being 4 April 1648 as followeth

Fower church leyes layd this last yeare

The accomptants charge themselves with the receipt of the said

fower church leyes being on Prescott side	16	0	0
And on Farnworth side	15	4	0

Item with the receipt of severall somes of money

for burialls in the church *vizt*

John Barnes of Rainford	6[s]	8[d]			
Mrs Lathom of Rainford	6	8	0	13	4
Totall of these accomptants receipts			31	17	4

[177 *recte* 178a *blank*, 178b]

Payments and disbursements made by the accomptants as followeth

¹⁶⁷The Lancashire committee spent much energy on Day's case throughout 1647. He had already been granted the tithes due to him before his desertion. He was granted more time to prepare his case in Jan. and the sequestration was eventually removed on 4 July. Despite a brief renewal of the suspension on 6 Sept., while arrangements were made to pay those who had officiated in his place. Day was back in post by Oct: BL, Add Mss 15670, ff. 199, 221; 15671, ff. 17, 96, 170, 196; Oxford, Bodley Ms 324, pp.34, 37, 119; *Plundered Ministers*, ed. Shaw, pp.36, 41, 47, 52, 55–8.

Paid to George Tyrer for mending of the the clocke two severall tymes	0	7	6
Paid for a picke and a halme for the church use	0	3	0
Paid for lyme and pointing therof about the church	0	6	0
Spent in going to the quarter sessions att Aprill last to prevente orders which might bee brought against the parish	0	3	6
Paid for hinges for the pulpitt doore	0	0	6
Paid for dressing and clensing of the church	0	2	8
Paid to Peter Kenwicke for his halfe yeares wages allowed him by the parish	0	13	4
Spent upon two ministers that came to preach att the church	0	1	6
Spent upon an other minister that came to preach	0	1	0
Spent upon the eight men in meeting to lay church leyes forthe church use	0	3	0
Paid for a warrant from Captine Ireland for the collecting of church leyes	0	2	6
Spent in going six dayes to collect church leyes in the parish	0	6	0
Spent in goeing to the quarter sessions in August last to prevent orders against the parish	0	4	8
Paid to an attorney for his fees	0	3	4
	2	18	6
[179] Paid to Thomas Almond in parte for keeping of a child charged upon the parish			
	0	5	0
Spent in goeing on Farnworth side severall dayes to demand church leyes	0	6	8
Paid for two bell ropes	0	7	6
Given to eight poore distressed people that came out of Ireland with a passe	0	2	0
Paid to John Halsall for amending the bell heads	0	5	0
Paid to Thomas Almond in further parte for keeping a bastard child charged upon the parish	0	10	0
Paid to a blind woman of Childwell parish who had an order for reliefe out of this parish ¹⁶⁸	0	5	0
Paid to Ann Webster of Whiston who hath likewise an order from the bench	1	0	0
Given to a poore distressed gentleman who came out of Ireland	0	1	0

¹⁶⁸This was Margaret Houghton, born in Prescot and now blind and lame. She had lived many years in Childwall by 1638, when its vicar testified that she would be content to 'be provided for amongst the impotent poore'. Both sets of wardens were ordered to examine her: LRO, QSB/1/206/33. The Prescot wardens later defaulted and 'Mr Ireland' obtained an order for 20s against them: Cl. p.199.

Given to another gentleman who came out of Ireland and had a passe	0	2	0
Paid for writing precepts for church leyes	0	2	6
Paid to Peeter Kenwricke the remainder of his wages allowed him by the parish	0	13	4
Paid for a warrant from Mr Ireland for church leyes arreare	0	2	6
Paid to Edward Darbishire in parte of his wages allowed him by the parish	0	6	8
Paid to Gyles Lyons sonne in parte of his allowance from the parish	0	5	0
Paid to a lame man in Sutton by order from the bench in parte	0	2	0
	4	16	2
[180] Spent in going six dayes into the parish to collect church leyes	0	6	[.]
Paid to Thomas Almond more for keeping of a child charged upon the parish	0	9	0
Spent in going to the quarter sessions att Wigan in November last to prevent orders against the parish	0	3	0
Paid for a warrant from Sir Thomas Standley ¹⁶⁹ to distraine for church leyes	0	3	6
Paid to Widdow Smyth in parte for her mantaynance by order from the bench	0	5	0
Paid more to Gyles Lyons sonne	0	5	0
Paid to William Cooper ¹⁷⁰ a lame man in Sutton by order from the bench in parte	0	6	0
Given to two gentlewomen that came out of Ireland	0	2	0
Spent in going severall dayes on Farnworth side to collect church leyes	0	5	8
Given to a poore man and his wief that came out of Ireland to pay for theire lodginge	0	1	0
Paid to the glasier for glasing the church windowes were defects were	2	12	0
Spent upon him att severall tymes	0	1	6
Spent att a meeting of the parish about the choise of the eight men	0	3	0
Paid to the ringers for ringing 5 November last	0	6	8

¹⁶⁹Sir Thomas Stanley of Bickerstaffe (1616–1653), a cousin of Lord Derby, and a ‘consistent, if lukewarm, roundhead’: Broxap, *Civil War*, p.18.

¹⁷⁰Cooper had been a soldier and was now ‘lame in both legs and ready to perish’. The moderator of the Warrington *classis* petitioned the justices that he ‘sitts weeping over his sadd condition with often a naked back and often a naked bellie’: the wardens and overseers were ordered to make provision: LRO, QSB/1/292/50.

Spent upon them afterwards	0	0	6
Paid to John Ley of Sutton who had an order from the bench for tenne yeares arreares	5	0	0
Paid to Thomas Aspe for pointing and mending of the church wall	0	3	2
	10	13	0
[181] Paid more to Gyles Lyons son towards his mantaynance	0	5	0
Paid to John Arrowsmith of Eccleston for mantayning of Standishes children	0	5	0
Paid to one [<i>blank space for name</i>] of Sankie for a child borne in the parish left fatherlesse	0	5	0
Paid to William Cooper a lame man of Sutton in further parte of his allowance	0	14	6
Paid more to Gyles Lyons sonne	0	1	0
Given to a poore blind woman	0	1	0
Given to a blind man who should have had a collection in the church	0	2	0
Spent att the last quarter sessions att Wigan	0	3	0
Paid more to Edward Darbishire in further parte of his wages	0	13	4
Paid to Thomas Almond in further parte for keeping a child charged upon the parish	0	5	0
Spent att the receipt of church leyes from the cunstabes of Eccleston	0	0	6
Spent in meeting to make theire accompts	0	3	0
Spent by two of the accomptants namly Henry Gaskell and Henry Harrison in attending att the church either 12 saboths	0	12	0
Evan Garnett one of the accomptants craveth allowance of the some of 6s which hee lost in receiving clipped money from severall cunstabes ¹⁷¹	0	6	0
	3	16	4
[182] Paid for entring the names of the christenings and burials into the register booke	0	2	[.]
Paid to Edward Darbishire in further parte of his wages	1	0	[.]
Paid for drawing theis accompts	0	2	[.]
And for entring them into the book of accompts	0	2	[.]
Paid for bread for the monethley communion	0	2	[.]

¹⁷¹ Respect *marginated*.

The accomptants Henry Gaskell and Henry Harrison crave allowance of 4s lost in receiving clipped money ¹⁷²	0	4	0
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Arrears charged upon these accomptants and not yet received

By the cunstable of Prescott	0	5	0			
By the cunstable of Windle*	0	10	6			
By the cunstable of Widnes*	3	7	4			
By the cunstable of Ditton*	1	1	2			
By the cunstable of Cronton	1	12	4			
By the cunstable of Sankie	0	2	0	6	18	4
				8	11	6

[183] Arrears of the church leys wherewith these accomptants have
charged themselves and are not as yet received

Sutton

Edward Roughley	1[s]	7[d]			
<i>Uxor</i> George Wilcocke	0	2			
John Barton	0	1½			
Richard Litherland	0	0½			
James Barton	0	1			
Richard Eltonhead senior	3	4			
<i>Uxor</i> George Wilcocke	0	6½			
John Barton	0	9½			
Chawners house	0	1			
Alexander Chorley	1	2			
James Greenhough	0	0½			
Richard Watmough	1	2½			
Edward Ackers	0	5			
George Litherland and Edmund Gaskell	0	4			
John Barnes	0	2			
Elizabeth Jenkinson	0	2			
Sherlocks house	0	2			
Richard Tompson	0	1			
Cicely Liveze	0	2	0	10	8
Total of their disbursements			31	6	2
Soe their receipts being	31	17	4		
and their disbursements	31	6	2		

* Rd *per* Evan Garnett *marginated*.

¹⁷² Respect *marginated*.

there remaineth in the accomptants hands	0	11	2
[184] <i>Memorandum</i> that there is due and unpaid to Thomas			
Walles for wine for three moneths			
communions	1	17	0
Alsoe to William Holland the glasier			[<i>sum blank</i>]

Wee the vicar and the eight men with others of the parish have perused these accompts and doe approve therof only conceive it fitt and reasonable and doe order accordingly that all the arreares of church leyes shalbee collected and paid as farr as they will extend to satisfy the orders charged upon the parish before any new church leyes bee laid
Witnes our hands

	Richard Daye vicar
Thomas Litherland	John Alcocke
Henry Ashtonn	
William Parr	
Robert Wright	
Edmund Lyon	
John Sutton	
John Lyon	
Thomas Lyon	

[1648–9]

[185 *blank*, 186, Tuesday in Easter week 4 April 1648]
The ellection and choise of the officers to serve the yeare following

Churchwardens			
	Prescott Whiston and Rainhill	Evan Garnett of Prescott	
	Eccleston and Rainford	Henry Torbocke of Eccleston	
	Sutton	William Mann	
	Windle and Parr	Thomas Tickle of Parr	
Surveyors			
Prescott	Thomas Litherland	Eccleston	William Webster
	Thomas Parr		Henry Webster potter
Whiston	John Ashtonn	Rainford	Edmund Tunstall
	George Lyon junior		George Lyon
Rainhill	George Deane	Windle	John Traves
	John Ackers		William Ellom
Sutton	William Wood	Parr	James Sorrocold
	Mathew Barton		William Turner

Elected by us

Richard Daye vicar; George Deane, Thomas Litherland, Henry Ashtonn, Thomas Lyon
[*copy mark*], John Lyon

[187 *blank*, 188] 11 May 1648

Forasmuch as wee the vicar and the eight men of the parish whose names are herunder written meetinge this day in the parish church and findinge that the arreares of church leyes wilbee too shorte to satisfie money allowed to the poore by order from the bench beside the church is out of repaire in severall places therof att the request of the churchwardens wee doe order and agree that fower whole church leyes shalbee forthwith collected and gathered thorow the whole parish both for satisfaction of the said orders and likewise for the necessary repaire of the parish church to be paid over to the churchwardens or some of them att or before 1 June next comminge. Witnes our hands hereunto subscrybed the day and yeare abovesaid

[*signed*] Richard Daye vicar; Thomas Litherland, William Parr, Edmund Lyon, three of the eight men

[189 *blank*, 190] St Lukes day 1648

The election and choyce of the eight men to serve the yeare followinge

Prescott	Thomas Litherland
Whiston	Henry Ashton
Sutton	John Sutton
Rainford	Thomas Lyon
Eccleston	Edmund Lyon
Wyndle	John Lyon of the Foulds
Cronton	William Parr
Widnes	Robert Wright tanner

[191 *blank*, 192] 5 December 1648

Wee the vicar and eight men of the parish whose names are herunder written meetinge this day in the parish church and findinge money to bee wantinge for the speedy payment of severall poore people who have order from the bench for their releefe and likewise for some necessary repaire for the church doe order and agree that two whole church leyes shalbee forthwith collected and gathered thorough the whole parish to bee paid over to the churchwardens or some of them att or before 1 January next comminge. In witnes wherof wee have herunto subscrybed our names

1 December *anno domini* 1648

[*signed*] Richard Day vicar; John Sutton [*mark*], [*signed*] Edmund Lyon, two of the eight men; John Ackers, overseer [*mark*]

[1649–50]

[193] Tuesday in Easter weeke 27 March 1649

Churchwardens and other officers ellected to serve for the yeare following

Churchwardens

Prescot Whiston and Rainhill	Evan Garnett
Sutton	William Mann
Rainford Eccleston	Henry Torbocke
Windle and Parr	Thomas Tickle

Surveyors

Prescott	Thomas Litherland	Eccleston	John Cooper
	Thomas Parr		George Rainford
Whiston	William Edwardson	Rainford	Edward Bispham
	William Browne		Thomas Lyon
Rainhill	John Kenwricke	Windle	John Travers
	Edward Ackers junior		William Ellam
Sutton	William Gandy	Parr	John Mosse
	Thomas Wilcocke		Edwardmund Ellam

Ellected by

⟨Richard⟩ Richard Day vicar; William Parr, Thomas Litherland two of the eight men; Edmund Lyon, Robert Glest, George Deane, John Lathom, John Ackers, George Litherland, John Litherland, Peter Herford, Roger Dey

[194] 29 September 1649

Forasmuch as wee the vicar and eight men of the parish meetinge this day in the parish church and findinge money to bee wantinge for the releefe of the poore charged upon the parish by order from the bench and likewise for the necessary repaire of the parish church att the request of the churchwardens doe order and agree that fower whole church leyes shalbee forthwith collected and gathered thorow the whole parish to bee paid over to the churchwardens or some of them att or before 11 November next comminge. And wee doe further order that the now churchwardens shall collecte all the arreares of church leyes and make theire accomt unto the parish before any more church leyes bee taxed upon the parish. Whitnes our hands herunto subscribed

[*signed*] Richard Daye vicar; William Parr, Henry Ashtonn, Thomas Litherland, Edmund Lyonn [junior?]

[1650–1][195 *blank*, 196] Tuesday in Easter weeke 16 April 1650

The ellection and choise of the officers within the parish to serve the yeare followinge

Churchwardens

Prescott Whiston and Rainhill	Evan Garnett of Prescott
Eccleston and Rainford	Henry Sephton of Rainford
Sutton	George Litherland of Sutton
Windle and Parr	John Traves of Windle

Surveyors

Prescott	William Glover	Eccleston	James Ascrofte
	Henry Marshall		Richard Holland
Whiston	Henry Ashton	Rainford	Peeter Naylor
	James Justice		Robert Lyon
Rainhill	Thomas Forber	Windle	Thomas Gerard
	William Stringfellow		Thomas Lyon potter
Sutton	John Rylands	Parr	William Martin
	Joseph Potts		Henry Eccleston

Overseers of the poore

Richard Parr of Windle
Henry Roughley of Sutton

Elected by us

Cuthbert Ogle ¹⁷³	John Ackers
John Alcock	John Sutton
John Alcock junior	Peeter Parr
William Lym	
John Lathom	
Henry Ashtonn	
Thomas Litherland	
Edmund Lyon	
Thomas Lyon, fower of the eight men	

[1648–50]

[197–199 *blank*, 200] 14 May 1650

The accompts of Evan Garnett William Mann and Henry Torbocke churchwardens of the parish church of Prescott on the behalfe of themselves and Thomas Tickle theire fellow churchwarden latly deceased of all theire receipts and payments for the use of the said parish church from Tuesday in Easter weeke 1648 being the tyme of theire ellection untill this present day being for the space of two whole yeares as followeth

Six church leyes layd *anno* 1648

Fower church leyes layd *anno* 1649

¹⁷³ Cuthbert (Day's brother-in-law) had renounced his royalist allegiance by taking the national covenant on 17 Feb. 1646 and paying a £120 composition: he now joined his two brothers in becoming involved in parish affairs a week after Day's death.

<i>Inprimis</i> the accomptants charge themselves with the receipt of fower church leyes laid 11 May 1648 for releefe of the poore and necessary repaire of the parish church being £16 on Prescott side and £15 4s on Farnworth side in the whole	31	4	0
<i>Item</i> with the receipt of two church leyes layd 5 December 1648 for releefe of the poore and necessary repaire of the parish church being £8 on Prescott side and £7 12s on Farnworth side in the whole	15	12	0
<i>Item</i> with the receipt of fower church leyes layd 29 September 1649 for releefe of the poore and for the necessary repaire of the parish church being £16 on Prescott side and £15 4s on Farnworth side in the whole	31	4	0
<i>Item</i> with the some of 11s 2d remaining in the hands of the last churchwardens upon the foote of their accompts	0	11	2
<i>Item</i> with the receipt of severall arreares of church leyes due in <i>anno</i> 1647 <i>vizt</i>			
from the cunstabes of Widnes	3	7	4
from the cunstabes of Ditton	1	1	2
from the cunstabes of Cronton	1	12	4
	84	12	0

[201] *Item* with the receipt of severall somes of money for burials

in the church <i>vizt anno</i> 1648	[s]	[d]
Margrett Parr of Rainford	6	8
Ann Parr of Rainford	6	8
Ellen Parr of Rainford	6	8
Henry Lathom of Mosberow esq.	6	8
Jane Gorse of Eccleston widow	6	8
Hugh Ascroft of Eccleston	6	8
John Traves senior of Eccleston	6	8
<i>Anno</i> 1649		
Roberte Roughley of Torbocke	6	8
Henry Standish of Eccleston	6	8
John Lyon of Eccleston	6	8
Roberte the sonne of John Rainford	6	8
Cicely the daughter of Henry Roughley	6	8
John the sonne of Henry Ashton	6	8
Margrett Elphicke of Bold widdow	6	8
Edward Ackers of Rainhill	6	8
Elizabeth <i>uxor</i> Henry Roby of Rainford	6	8
Thomas Croft of Windle	6	8

<i>In toto</i>	5	13	4
Total of the charge is	90	5	4

[202] Payments expences and allowances craved by the accomptants as followeth

Spent upon Tuesday in Easter weeke <i>anno</i> 1648 att the taking of the old church wardens accompts and choosing of new churchwardens	0	10	0
Spent in appearing before Sir Thomas Stanley att Prescottt to have beene sworne churchwardens ¹⁷⁴	0	1	6
Spent in going into Windle to buy slate for the church	0	0	4
Spent in viewing of the church to see what slate must bee bough for repaire of the church	0	1	0
Paid to Thomas Webster for repaire of the glasse windowes about the church	0	7	4
Spent in going to the quarter sessions att Wigan	0	1	6
Paid to an attorney for his fee	0	3	4
Paid for two warrants thone against Thomas Tickle ¹⁷⁵ thother against the overseers of the poore to cause them to come in and serve theire offices	0	2	0
Paid to William Cooper a lame man of Sutton by order from the bench	1	14	0
Paid to John Poughtin for mending the church stiles	0	0	8
Paid to a blind woman of Childwell who had an order from the bench for her releefe	0	5	0
Paid to Thomas Almond of Wigan for keeping of a bastard child charged upon the parish	0	10	0
Paid to Gyles Lyons wief for manteynance of a blind boy charged upon the parish for two yeares and a halfe one halfe yeare being yet unexpired	5	0	0
Spent att a privie sessions att Prescottt	0	1	0
	8	17	8

[203] Payd to John Lomas for keeping a fatherles child charged upon the parish for three quarters and a halfe	1	15	0
Paid more to John Lomas in full for one yeare	0	5	0
Paid to Katherin Steevenson for manteyning a bastard child charged upon the parish for three quarters and a halfe	1	15	0

¹⁷⁴After the transfer of higher ecclesiastical powers to the justices in 1646, the wardens had to have their election ratified and be sworn by them.

¹⁷⁵The only incidence in the seventeenth-century accounts of apparent compulsion to serve. Tickle had already been warden since 1647. He died in office in Mar. 1650 and was buried in church.

Paid more for two shirts for that child	0	1	5
Paid to Peeter Kenwricke for one quarters wages	0	6	8
Paid more to him att severall tymes	0	17	4
Paid for a warrant from Sir Thomas Stanley for leyes arreares	0	2	0
Spent in going to demand and collect church leyes arreares on Farnworth side	0	2	8
Spent in attending att the quarter sessions att Prescottt	0	2	6
Spent in going into Rainford fower severall dayes to demand church leyes	0	1	6
Spent in goeing into Rainford to make search for corne by warrant from the justices ¹⁷⁶	0	1	0
Spent in goeing into Sutton to make lyke search for corne by warrant from the justices	0	1	4
Spent in going into the chappellry of Farnworth to make lyke search for corne	0	1	6
Spent at the laying of fower church leyes 11 May 1648	0	3	0
Paid for writing precepts for fower church leyes lay 11 May to Thomas Martindale	0	2	6
Paid for leading of slate for the slate and for laying the slate and for mossing where defects were	3	0	0
Spent in fetching the slater and in measuring the slate and attending the worke att severall tymes	0	3	0
Paid to Richard Marshall for taking downe the bells and repairing the bellheads with new iron	1	19	0
Spent in attending att the repaire of the bells severall dayes	0	1	6
	11	1	11
[204] Paid for mending of the greate bell clapper	0	0	6
Spent in goeing to distraine for leyes within Eccleston	0	0	6
Paid to John Arrowsmith a yeaes dyett for two of Standishes children by order from the bench <i>prout per</i> acquittance dat 15 January 1648	4	0	0
Spent in sending out precepts for church leyes	0	0	6
Spent in goeing to execute a warrant against the cunstables of Sutton for neglecting their office about Mr Day his tythes	0	1	0
Paid to Thomas Goodicars wief for getting mosse for the church use	0	6	0
Spent in goeing on Farnworth syde about the prevention of a child which should have beene putt upon the parish	0	1	0

¹⁷⁶ See p. xxxviii.

Spent in going to give the cunstable on Farnworth syde warning to pay theire church leyes	0	1	6
Paid to Henry Appleton of Farnworth for keeping of a bastard child charged upon the parish for one yeare and a halfe	1	0	0
Paid to Katherin Roughley widdow for her allowance for one yeare by order from the bench <i>prout per</i> acquittance dated 17 April 1649	2	0	0
Spent att a privie sessions att Prescottt	0	1	0
Paid for bringing a precept into Rainford	0	0	2
Spent in going into Rainford fower severall tymes to demand leyes	0	0	10
Spent in going on Farnworth syde from cunstable to cunstable to demand church leyes	0	2	0
Paid to William Abshall ¹⁷⁷ for his allowance for one yeare and some odd by order from the bench	1	8	0
Paid to William Holland which was owing to him for glasing aboute the church	1	2	9
Spent upon the glasier att severall tymes in doing the worke	0	1	8
Spent in going on Farnworth syde to collect church leyes	0	1	6
	10	8	11
[205] Paid to the ringers for ringing on 5 November 1648	0	5	0
Spent att Luketyde <i>anno</i> 1648 about the choosing of the eight men	0	3	4
Paid for precepts for two church leyes layd 5 December 1648	0	2	6
Spent att the laying therof	0	2	6
Spent in sending out precepts for church leyes	0	1	0
Spent in going on Farnworth syde to collect church leyes	0	2	2
Paid to Margrett Garnett of Eccleston in parte of her yearly allowance by order from the bench	1	0	4
Spent in collecting church leyes within Suttton six severall dayes	0	4	0
Paid to Edward Darbshire his wages for the yeare 1648	2	0	0
Paid for keeping the regester booke <i>anno</i> 1648	0	2	0
Paid for bread for the monethly communions for the yeare 1648	0	5	6
Spent upon Tuesday in Easter weeke 1649 att the election of the church wardens and other officers	0	4	6
Paid for a warrant from Collonel Moore and Mr Ashton of Chatterton for church leyes arreare	0	2	6

¹⁷⁷ A mason, aged 90: LRO, QSP/7/7.

Spent att the procuring therof	0	0	6
Paid to Henry Hitchin for his allowance from the parish for two yeares	4	0	0
Paid for copping of a warrant concerning church leyes	0	0	6
Spent in meeting the overseers of the poore aboute the poore of the parish	0	1	8
Spent in giving entertainment to the ministers that preached severall dayes in Mr Dayes absence	0	3	0
Spent in goeing with the overseers of the poore to collect leyes on Farnworth syde	0	3	0
Spent in goeing to the quarter sessions att Wigan	0	3	4
Paid for an order concerning the poore of the parish	0	1	0
Paid for two bell ropes	0	7	0
Paid for carriage therof	0	0	6
	9	15	10
[206] Paid to Margrett Case widdow for her allowance out of the parish by order from the bench	1	8	0
Paid for slats which were wanting to finish the repaire of the church	0	3	0
Paid for a waight for the clocke	0	0	4
Paid to Thomas Walles for wyne for the communions due to him in the year 1647	1	17	0
Paid to Thomas Walles in parte of £9 1s 4d due to him for wyne for the monethly communions for the year 1648 and the year 1649	7	14	0
Paid for writing precepts for fower church leyes 29 September 1649	0	2	6
Spent at laying of these fower church leyes	0	3	4
Paid to Jane Pool of Sutton for her allowance out of the parish by order from the bench	1	11	0
Paid to Winstanleyes child of Sutton for his allowance out of the parish	2	5	6
Paid to John Billinge of Sutton for his last allowance out of the parish	0	8	0
Spent in gathering church leyes in Sutton distraining severall tymes	0	3	6
Spent in making presentments to the assizes att August 1649	0	3	4
Spent in goeing to the quarter sessions att Ormskirke aboute Michaelmas 1649	0	2	6
Paid for an attorney to speake for the parish against Jane Smith	0	3	4
Paid to Thomas Wood for removeing slate out of the church yoard into the chancell	0	1	10

Paid to Thomas Webster for glasing in severall places about the church windowes	1	2	6
Spent in viewing the defects and seeing the worke done	0	1	6
Spent in going on Farnworth syde with the overseers to collect and distraine for church leyes	0	2	6
Paid to Widdow Garnett in further parte of her allowance out of the parish	0	11	4
	18	5	0

[207] Spent in going to Liverpoole being served to appeare there aboute Jane Smith	0	2	0
Spent in going to Warrington with the overseers of the poore and six more of the parish to meete the justices concerning Jane Smith	0	8	10
Paid for a warrant against Jane Smith and her daughter	0	2	4
Spent in going another day to Warrington with the overseers of the poore and others of the parish to meete the justices concerning the said Jane Smith	0	9	6
Spent att a meeting of the church wardens and overseers of the poore before the sessions last kept att Wigan	0	1	6
Spent in attending att the same sessions	0	3	6
Spent in going to Ormskirke to procure a warrant from Sir Thomas Stanley for church leyes arreare	0	1	0
Paid to John Arrowsmith for this last yeares allowance for manteyning Standishes children 15 January 1649	4	0	0
Paid for mending of the clocke	0	4	0
Paid for nailes and wyre	0	0	1
Spent att the mending therof	0	0	4
Spent in getting the clapper of the greate bell mended	0	0	6
Paid to John Poughtin for mending the bell wheelles	0	2	0
Paid for two new bell roapes and carriage thereof	0	8	0
Spent in going to Farnworth to meete the cunstables aboute church leyes arrears	0	2	0
Spent in going to Bewsey ¹⁷⁸ to acquaint Mr Ireland what charge was imposed upon the parish for releefe of the poore and to prevent any further orders	0	1	0
Spent in going to Bewsey an other day about Jane Smiths busines	0	0	10

¹⁷⁸ Bewsey Old Hall, near Warrington.

Spent in goeing to Farnworth to know the age of Peeter Smith sonne of the said Jane	0 6	0 8	8 1
[208] Paid to a wooman in Appleton for keeping of a fatherles child of one Knowles chargable upon the parish in parte for two yeares past	2	5	0
Spent in goeing to Farnworth syde taking a man to distraine fower severall dayes for leyes	0	4	0
Given to a man to goe alonge to distraine for leyes those fower dayes	0	4	0
Spent upon the ringers for ringing 5 November 1649	0	6	6
Paid to Katherin Roughley in parte for this last yeares allowance due to her by order from the bench <i>prout per</i> acquittance 10 November 1649	1	5	8
Paid to John Arrowsmith in parte of this yeares allowance for manteyning of Standishes children <i>prout per</i> acquittance 20 June 1649	0	14	4
Spent in goeing an other day to distraine for leyes on Farnworth syde	0	1	4
Given to one to goe alonge to distraine	0	1	0
Paid to John Lea in parte of his allowance out of the parish for manteyning Berries child	2	0	0
Paid to John Lea in full of his allowance due from the parish	0	10	0
Spent in meeting the high cunstabes at Prescott aboute the Engagement	0	1	6
Spent in meeting to make presentments to the last assizes	0	2	0
Spent in meeting Collonel Birch ¹⁷⁹ and Captine Cubbon ¹⁸⁰ about the engagement	0	1	8
Spent in goeing into Rainford to receive church leyes	0	0	8
Paid for two trenchers to sett the communion flagons upon	0	0	8
Paid for [nouzing?] and putting upp two new bellropes and mending the old ones	0	1	0
Paid to Robert Hatton for mending the church wall and pointing the glasse	0	1	6
Spent in meeting Collonel Birch att Prescott by warrant concerning Jane Smith	0	1	6

¹⁷⁹Thomas Birch of Birch (1608–1678) became governor of Liverpool in 1644 and its MP from 1649–1658. A member of the county committee from 1645, he had a particular hatred of James, earl of Derby; J. Booker, *History of the Ancient Chapel of Birch*, CS, Orig. Ser. 47 (1859), pp.90–7.

¹⁸⁰Probably John Cubbon, yeoman of Burtonwood.

Paid to Mr Tompson for withdrawing three recognizances for the churchwardens for appearing att the sessions concerning Jane Smith	0	13	6
	8	15	10
[209] Spent att the quarter sessions next after by all the accomptants in staying two nights and two dayes	0	8	4
Paid to Mary Ballard of Cuardley in stead of a collection in the parish church	0	2	0
Paid to John Eddleston of Ditton who had an order from the bench for his manteynance in full discharge of his order	0	5	0
Paid to Widdow Reads daughter instead of a collection in the church	0	2	0
Paid to William Byrom of Parr in parte of his yeares allowance by order from the bench	0	6	8
Paid to John Platt and Widdow Traves of Windle in parte of their allowance by order from the bench ¹⁸¹	0	10	0
Spent in goeing three severall dayes on Farnworth syde to distraine for leyes	0	3	0
Paid to a man to goe alonge to distraine	0	3	0
Spent upon Tuesday in Easter weeke 1650 att the election of the church wardens and other church officers	0	4	6
Spent more in goeing on Farnworth syde to collect and distraine for leyes	0	2	6
Paid to Edward Darbshire for his yeares wages for the yeare 1649	2	0	0
Paid to Thomas Woods for his paines about dressing and keeping cleane the church	0	6	8
Paid for making upp the register this last yeare	0	2	6
Spent in meeting to make upp and perfect theis accompts	0	2	4
These accomptants crave to bee allowed for horse hire in ryding into Farnworth chappellry to collect and distraine for leyes they being enforced to hyre horses severall dayes to ryde on	0	10	0
Alsoe the accomptants crave allowance of 4s apeece expended in attending the monethly communions and other sabboth dayes when there were collections for the poore in the whole	0	16	0
Paid for drawing these accompts	0	3	6
Paid for writinge them into the booke of accompts	0	3	6
	6	11	6

¹⁸¹ The order made only to widdowe Traves, *marginated*.

[210] Paid to William Webster one of the overseers for withdrawing his recognizance being bound over to the sessions concerning Jane Smith	0	4	0[.]
Paid to him for his expences att that sessions	0	3	0[.]
Paid for cording for the clocke and for wyre and oyle	0	2	2
Paid for mans dyett namely Edward Rushton for a fortnight and some odd dayes who had an order from Judge Rigby ¹⁸² for his releefe	0	8	2
	0	18	[.]
Arreares of church leyes			
Prescott for six church leyes <i>prout per</i> two notes	0	15	0
Prescott unpaid for the fower last church leyes layd 29 September 1649	1	0	0[.]
Sutton unpaid of tenn church leyes <i>prout per nota</i>	0	2	0[.]
Widnes unpaid aboute	1	10	0[.]
Cuardley unpaid	0	1	0[.]
Cronton arreare <i>prout per nota</i>	0	3	[0?]
Penketh arreare	0	6	3
Bold arreare	0	3	0
Sankie arreare	0	4	3
Whiston arreare	0	5	4
	4	10	9
[211] Payments from 14 May till 21 May now instant			
Payd to Edward Rushton who had an order from Barron Rigby for his releefe <i>prout per</i> acquittance	0	10	0
Spent att a meeting of the parish about the taking of the accompts	0	3	0
Paid for a <i>certiorari</i> concerning Jane Smith and charges of fetching therof from Preston unto Mr Barron ¹⁸³	0	4	0
Paid to Thomas Litherland for copping therof	0	0	6
Paid to Mr Tompson for receipt of the writt	0	6	8
Paid to Henry Ackers for bringing the writt	0	2	0
Spent upon him att his goeing thither and att his returne backe	0	0	10
Paid for two bellropes for the parish use	0	8	0
Paid to John Ackers overseer of the poore which hee had spent att the quarter sessions att Wigan in January 1648 being called thither as an overseer	0	4	0

¹⁸²Alexander Rigby became a judge, and then a baron of the exchequer: he died on circuit in 1650: Picton, *Memorials*, p.84.

¹⁸³Probably Arthur Barron, an attorney frequently employed in the palatinate court: PRO, PL15, *passim*.

Paid to Mr Barron for solliciting aboute to [sic] parish busines att the same tyme to prevent an order which was to have beene granted to one Winstanley	0	3	4
Paid to John Ackers which hee had spent in goeing to Warrington three severall tymes being called thither as an overseer of the poore aboute Jane Smiths busines	0	2	0
Paid more to him which hee had spent in goeing to Liverpoole two severall tymes being called thither as an overseer of the poore aboute Jane Smiths busines	0	1	2
Paid to John Ackers which hee had spent in goeing to the last quarter sessions holden att Wigan in January last being called thither as an overseer concerning Jane Smith	0 2	3 9	6 0
[212] Paid to Mr Barron for solliciting for the parish att the same sessions	0	3	4
Paid to John Ackers which hee payd for withdrawing the recognizance att the last quarter sessions holden att Ormskirke being bound over aboute Jane Smiths busines	0	4	[6?]
Paid to Mr Barron for solliciting for the parish the same tyme	0	3	4
Paid for a horse hyre for a wooman to ryde upon to Ormskirke as a witnes in that busines	0	1	6
Paid to John Ackers which hee had spent in staying att the said sessions two dayes	0	4	0
Paid to Richard Marshall for smithes worke done aboute the clocke inner doores and bells as appeares in particulars	0	9	8
Paid to John Ackers overseer which hee had spent in procuring the register booke att Farnworth to bee searched up concerning Jane Smiths child ¹⁸⁴	0	0	8
Spent in meeting a seacond tyme to perfect these accompts and lykewise goeing on Farnworth syde to learne a more certainty of the arreares	0 1	2 9	0 0
The totall of the accomptants payments disbursements and allowances are	85	1	3
Soe there receipts being	90	5	4
and there disbursements allowances <i>ut supra</i>	85	1	3
The accomptants are in <i>debet</i> to the parish upon this accompt	5	4	1

¹⁸⁴No such baptism at Farnworth is recorded: *Farnworth Registers, 1612–1698*, ed. Dickinson.

Of the £5 4s 1d assessed there are in arreare within the parish as
appeareth before in these accompts the some of

4 10 9

[213] 21 May 1650

Wee the eight men and others of the parish whose names are herunder written have heard and perused these accompts and conceive it fitt and soe order that the accomptants shall procure acquittances to bee produced and shewed for making good the severall payments herin mentioned and not vouched already by acquittances and the arreares to bee respited for some convenient tyme that the accomptants may endeavour to collect in the same and for such arreares as cannot be gotten by distresse or other lawfull meanes in that case provided the accomptants to bee discharged therof which said acquittances are to bee brought in and the said arreares collected and made accompt of att or before 1 August next coming or ells these accompts not to bee allowed att all and whereas there are severall of the poore within the parish who have orders from the bench for their manteynance which are not yet provided for and many of them are much in arreare of what is allowed to them it is therfore thought fitt by the eight men overseers of the poore and others of the parish and ordered accordingly that there shalbee fower church leyes forthwith collected and gathered within the parish for the releefe of the poore and that the same shalbee payd over unto the churchwardens or some of them att or before 10 June next coming. Witnes our hands herunto subscribed the day and yeare abovesaid

George Deane

Richard Parr

Henry Roughley

Thomas Litherland, overseers of the poore

Thomas Litherland

Henry Ashtonn

William Parr

Edmund Lyon

Thomas Lyon, five of the eight men

John Alcocke junior

John Ackers of Rainhill [*copy mark*]

Thomas Lyon

[1650–1]

[214] 23 July 1650

A tax layd by the churchwardens and overseers of the poore within the parish of Prescott whose names are herunder written for the manteynance and releefe of the poore and impotent within the said parish for the space of one moneth next coming as followeth

Prescott	1	6	8
Whiston	1	6	8
Rainhill	1	6	[8]
Sutton	4	0	[0]
Eccleston	2	0	0

Rainford	2	0	0
Windle	2	0	[0]
Parr	2	0	0
Widnes <i>cum</i> Appleton	3	7	[4]
Bold	3	7	[4]
Ditton	2	4	8
Penketh	1	2	[8]
Cuardley	1	15	[0]
Cronton	1	12	4
Sankie	1	14	8
	31	4	0

Wee have called to our assistance the cunstable of the parish to joyne with us in taxing the particular inhabitants within every severall townshipp and the cunstable of Farnworth side have refused to joyne with us or give us any assistance in taxing therof and in regard there are no overseers of the poore on Farnworth side to further us and the cunstable denying to assist us wee cannot make an assessment upon the particular inhabitants of each severall townshipp wee being ignorant both of the persons and estates of most of them all which wee referr to the consideration and further direction of the honourable the justices of peace *per quorum [nomina]* as they shall thinke fitt¹⁸⁵

Evan Garnett [<i>copy mark</i>]	Richard Parr
George Litherland	⟨George Deane⟩
John Traves	George Deane
Henry Sephton, churchwardens	Henry Roughley, overseers

[215 *blank*, 216] St Lukes day 18 Oct 1650¹⁸⁶

The election and choyce of the eight men to serve the yeare followinge

Prescott	Henry Marshall
Rainhill	John Ackers
Sutton	William Wood
Eccleston	William Webster
Parr	William Turner
Rainford	Henry Gaskel
Bold	William Houghton
Widnes	Thomas Leigh

¹⁸⁵ Farnworth side was by now refusing to co-operate in any way, although its schoolmaster (Richard Westhead, who held that post 1649–1651) was supplying the interregnum at the parish church at a stipend of 15s per week: C.R. Lewis, *History of Farnworth Grammar School* (Farnworth), 1905, pp.87–8.

¹⁸⁶ Wythens had by now been instituted as vicar, but seems not yet to have arrived in Prescot. He signed the accounts for the first time at Easter 1651.

Elected and chosen by us

[*signed*] William Lym

Thomas Litherland

[*marks*] Edmund Lyon

John Parr

Thomas Parr

Henry Parr

John Parr, butcher

[*signed*] William Tarbocke

[*marks*] Richard Litherland

Thomas Wood

Robert Hatton

[217 *blank*, 218] Tuesday in Easter weeke 1 April 1651

Wee the vicar and eight men and others of the parish whose names are subscribed meeting this day in the parish church and demanding from Evan Garnett George Litherland John Traves and Henry Sephton churchwardens an accompt of the receipts and payments for the parish use the yeare last past they affirme that their accompts are not yet ready to bee given to the parish butt pray that they may have tyme given them to bring in their accompts till this day moneth being 29 of this instant Aprill and doe promise and undertake to make their accompts ready to bee received that day and that they will in the meanetyme collect all the arreares within their severall divisions and charges since their severall tymes of being churchwardens (saving such arreares as are desperate and cannot by order of law bee obteyned And that they will make good the said arreares within their severall divisions of their owne particular charges if they doe not collect and gather them against 29 of this instant moneth (except the arreares before excepted) And therupon it is ordered that they shall have tyme given them accordingly and that there shalbee a new election made of churchwardens according to the usual custome of the parish only the old churchwardens to continue in the office untill their accompts bee perfected as aforesaid Witnes our hands

John Withens vicar of Prescott

William Webster

John Alcocke

William Wood [*copy mark*]

John Lathom

Evan Garnett [*copy mark*]

John Ackers [*copy mark*]

Henry Ashton

George Litherland

three of the eight men

Richard Parr

Henry Sefton

Thomas Holland

John Traves

Peeter Parr

[1651–2]

[219] Tuesday in Easter weeke 1 April 1651

The election and choice of officers within the parish to serve the yeare following

Churchwardens

Prescott Whiston and Rainhill

Thomas Woods of Whiston

Sutton

John Sutton

Eccleston Rainford

William Wood of Eccleston

	Windle and Parr	William Martin of Parr
	Surveyors	Overseers of the poore
Prescot	Peeter Herford	John Ackers of Rainhill
	John Poughtin	George Litherland of Sutton
Whiston	John Ashton	John Mosse of Parr
	William Browne	William Marsh of Widnes
Rainhill	Lawrence Lea	
	John Barrowe	
Sutton	John Bold	Elected by us
	Edmund Tunstall	
Eccleston	Henry Webster potter	John Wythens vicar
	Edmund Lyon	William Webster
Rainford	Edward Bispham	William Wood [copy mark]
	Richard Hyde	John Ackers, three of the eight men
Windle	George Martland	John Alcock
	Thomas Lyon the elder	
Parr	James Sorrocold	
	Henry Eccleston	

[1650–1]

[220] 29 April 1651

The accompts of Evan Garnett George Litherland Henry Sephton and John Traves churchwardens of the parish church of Prescott of theire receipts and payments for the use of the said parish church from 14 May last past being the tyme of the delivering upp of the last churchwardens accompts untill this present day as followeth

Fower church leyes

One tax for the poore layd this last yeare

<i>Inprimis</i> the accomptant Evan Garnett chargeth himselfe with the some of £5 4s 1d charged upon him upon the foote of the last yeares accompt of which there was in arreare then returned £4 10s 9d which the accomptant although hee hath used all meanes hee could for obteyning therof yet cannott retaine the same only hee hath received 23d therof which together with the remainder of the said £5 4s 1d (the arreares being deducted as aforesaid) comes to				0	15	[3]
<i>Item</i> the accomptants charge themselves with the receipt of fower church leyes layd 21 May 1650 the said church leyes being on Prescott side £16 and on Farnworth side £15 4s in the whole				31	4	0

<i>Item</i> they charge themselves with the receipt of one tax or ley laid by the churchwardens and overseers of the poore for and towards the releefe and manteynance of the poore the same tax being layd 23 July last past amounting in the whole to the some of	31	4	0
	63	3	3

[221] *Item* with the receipt of severall somes of money for burialls in the
church *vizt anno domini* 1650

Mrs Livezey of Sutton ¹⁸⁷	6	8	
Jennett Roughley widdow	6	8	
Katherin Livezey of Sutton	6	8	
Ann Lancaster of Rainhill widdow	6	8	
Robert Glest of Eccleston	6	8	
George Deane of Rainhill	6	8	
Mary Ackers of Sutton	6	8	
In the whole	2	6	8
Some of the charge is	65	9	11
<i>Item</i> they further charge themselves with the some of 20s for railes sold which stood about the communion table ¹⁸⁸	1	0	0
Some of the whole charge is	66	9	11

[222] Payments expences and allowances craved by the accomptants as followeth

Spent upon the taking of the last accompts and laying of fower church leyes	0	5	8
Spent in goeing to Liverpoole being served with a warrant from Jane Smith	0	1	2
Spent by the accomptants in meeting the overseers of the poore dayes together to attend the justics att Prescottt	0	5	10
Spent in meeting to make presentments to the governor of Liverpoole ¹⁸⁹ concerning the poore	0	2	0
Spent 10 July last by the accomptants and overseers of the poore in goeing to Childell to deliver presentments concerning the poore	0	4	0[.]
Spent by one of the accomptants in goeing to a private sessions att Prescottt	0	1	0

¹⁸⁷The Livezey family of Ravenhead Hall (also called Livesey Hall) in Sutton were recusants: Bridge, *Lowe House*, p.42. Lieutenant George Livezey was in arms for the king and was killed in a skirmish in 1644; his heir Lawrence was then a minor; *Visitation*, II, p.189.

¹⁸⁸The rails had been removed nine years earlier. See pp.xxxiii, 82.

¹⁸⁹Thomas Birch had by now succeeded Robert Venables as governor.

Payd 21 May 1650 to Ales Houghton widdow towards the manteynance of a girle of one William Knowles <i>prout per</i> acquittance	0	5	0
Payd the same day to William Martland for the use of one Margrett Garnett towards her manteynance <i>prout per</i> acquittance	0	4	0
Payd the same day to Margery Roughley for the use of Katherin Roughley towards her manteynance as by an acquittance	0	4	0
Payd the same day to Jane Arrowsmith towards the manteynance of Thomas Standish children as by an acquittance	0	8	0
Payd the same day to Ellin Byrom towards the manteynance of one William Byrom as by an acquittance	0	4	0
[223] Spent by one of the accomptants att a privie sessions att Prescott	0	0	6
Spent 13 July att a meeting att Prescott about the poore	0	2	6
Payd to William Aspe of Prescott towards his manteynance by order from the bench as appeares by fower severall acquittances	1	6	8
Spent att Farnworth att a meeting of the cunstables overseers and churchwardens 16 July 1650	0	5	0
Spent att a meeting att Childwell of the overseers and churchwardens before Collonel Birch	0	4	0
Payd to Henry Hitchin towards his manteynance by order from the bench as appeares by two severall acquittances	2	0	0
Spent upon eight men att the taking downe of the kings armes	0	1	6
Spent 13 August att a meeting of the overseers and churchwardens att Prescott	0	4	6
Payd for writing precepts for fower church leyes layd this last yeare	0	2	6
Spent in meeting Collonel Birch att Prescott about the parish busines	0	2	8
Spent in goeing to Warrington to retaine Mr Barron to plead att the sessions	0	0	10
Payd to him for his fee	0	3	4
Spent att the quarter sessions att Ormskirke 16 July 1650 by two of the accomptants	0	4	6
Spent in meeting att Prescott before the sessions	0	1	10
[224] Spent in goeing on Farnworth side fower severall dayes to gather leyes	0	4	0

Payd to Ellen Byrom for the use of William Byrom her sonne towards his manteynance by order from the bench as appeares by fower severall acquittances	2	0	0
Payd to Elizabeth Lyon towards the manteynance of her sonne Thomas Lyon by order from the bench as appeares by fower severall acquittances	2	4	0
Spent by the accomptants and overseers in goeing to Liverpoole by order from Collonel Birch aboute the parish busines	0	4	6
Payd to Ellen wief of Thomas Robinson for and towards the manteynance of Peeter Smith by order from the bench as may appeare by two severall acquittances ¹⁹⁰	8	0	0[.]
Spent att a meeting of the overseers and churchwardens att Prescott about the poore to lay a tax for them	0	4	8
Payd for writing the said tax	0	0	6
Payd for writing precepts for the said leyes	0	2	6
Payd to Jane Traves for her manteynance according to the agreement amongst the churchwardens and overseers as by two acquittances	0	17	0
Spent in goeing to Sutton and Bold to gather church leyes	0	3	2
Payd to Richard Walker towards the releefe of John Walkers children by order from the bench as appeares by three severall acquittances	3	0	0
Payd more to him without acquittance	0	1	0
Spent in goeing on Farnworth side two dayes to gather leys	0	2	2
Spent in meeting to make a catalogue of the names of the poore	0	3	2
[225] Payd to Ales Houghton towards manteyning of a child begotten by one Knowles as by three acquittances			
	1	10	0
Payd by one of the accomptants and expended in goeing to the assizes at Lancaster in August last concerning the suite against Jane Smith as appeares by a noate of particulars	2	10	0
Payd to William Martland for the use of Margrett Garnett towards her releefe by order from the bench as appeares by two severall acquittances	1	0	0
Payd to Robert Hey for the releefe of him and his wief by order from the bench as by three acquittances	1	10	0

¹⁹⁰ The long struggle to avoid an order in the case of Peter Smith had been lost at Lancaster assizes in Aug. 1649. On 8 Oct. 1649 the Wigan sessions ordered the parish to raise the maintenance arrears of £16 by a special rate and to continue payments of £2 *p.a.*: LRO, QSR/43. A final hearing in 1650 reinforced the order to pay the arrears.

Payd for a shirt cloath for Peeter Pendleton an old infirme man of Sutton	0	1	8
Payd for a smoake cloath for Ales Awin an old infirme weoman (man) of Sutton	0	1	8
Payd for a smoacke and a wascoate for a poore lane [<i>sic</i>] child of Robert Rabones	0	2	8
Payd to Mary Ballard for to prevent a child being charged upon the parish	0	3	0
Spent in goeing to gather leyes on Farnworth side three severall dayes	0	3	0
Spent in meeting the overseers att Prescott concerning the poore	0	3	8
Given to Peeter Pendleton for provision hee being ready to starve for want	0	2	8
Spent in goeing to the quarter sessions att Wigan 16 October 1650	0	3	2
Payd to Mr Barron for his fee att the same sessions	0	3	4
Payd to Richard Marshall for worke done for the church as by his acquittance	0	10	0
[226] Payd to Thomas Walles in full satisfaction of all reaconings due to him for wine received before that day as by his acquittance 15 August 1650			
	1	9	0
Payd to Margrett wief of Lawrence Johnson for her allowance by order from the bench as by three severall acquittances	2	0	0
Spent on St Lukes day att the election of the eight men	0	5	6
Given to a number of poore people that came out of Ireland with a breefe	0	1	0
Payd to Katherin Steevenson towards the manteynance of a poore child by order from the bench as by acquittance	0	5	0
Payd to Margery Roughley towards the releefe of Katherin Roughley her mother as appeares by two severall acquittances	1	2	0
Payd more to the said Margery Roughley for the use of her mother	0	5	0
Payd to John and Jane Arrowsmith towards the manteynance of Thomas Standish children as by three acquittances	2	0	0
Payd for two bell ropes and carriage thereof from Warrington	0	6	10
Spent in gathering leyes in Windle	0	1	0
Payd for a winding sheete for Thomas Ellom	0	4	0
Payd to the ringers for ringing 5 November last	0	5	0
Spent att the quarter sessions att Wigan 13 January last	0	3	3

Paid to Mr Barron for his fee att the said sessions	0	3	4
Paid to Francis Fletcher towards his releefe by order from the bench as appeares by acquittance	0	10	0
[227] Paid to Thomas Singleton for manteyning a child charged upon the parish as by acquittance	0	6	8
Paid to Thomas Woods for washing of the kings arms over	0	1	0
Paid to Thomas Abshaw for removeing of the stones which fell of the revestry	0	1	6
Spent in goeing on Farnworth side three severall dayes to gather church leyes	0	3	8
Spent in goeing with the cunstables of Whiston to gather church leyes	0	0	8
Spent in goeing to gather church leyes in Penketh	0	1	0
Paid for a new pulpitt quishion and making thereof as appeares by a noate of particulers	0	10	6
Paid for belowes for the church use	0	0	6
Paid to Humphrey Berry in parte of his allowance by order from the bench as by acquittance	0	10	0
Given to Abraham Thomasson a poore lame boy not able to helpe himselfe	0	3	0
Paid for removeing the pulpitt lower and setting a seate in the same	0	2	6
Paid to John Platt towards the releefe of himselfe and his wief by order from the bench as by two acquittances	0	15	0
Paid to Ales Atherton towards the releefe of Katherin Humbleby by order from the bench as by acquittance	1	0	0
Spent upon 11 March last att a meeting of the churchwardens and overseers	0	5	4
Spent upon the ringers for ringing upon a thanksgiving day	0	1	0
Paid to Edward Darbishires wief which was owing for bread	0	0	4
[228] Given to a man with a breefe who had his house burned	0	1	[.]
Paid to John Marshall for cording wyre and oyle for the clocke	0	1	2
Spent in goeing to gather church leyes on Farnworth side two severall dayes	0	2	0
Paid to Mr Barron for his fee att the last assizes	0	3	4
Spent in retayning Mr Barron	0	0	6
Given to Peeter Pendleton an old aged man	0	1	6
Paid for a pewter dish for the font ¹⁹¹	0	2	[4?]

¹⁹¹ All the puritans would allow for baptisms: the dish had to be kept on a stand near the minister's seat. See p.xxxiii.

Spent by two of the accomptants in distrayning for leyes on Farnworth side	0	1	0[.]
Spent att the last quarter sessions att Ormskirke	0	4	4
Payd for drawing a petition and delivering it upp to the bench	0	1	6
Payd for an order to distraine for church leyes	0	1	4
Spent in goeing to Wigan for the said order	0	1	0[.]
Spent upon Tuesday in Easter weeke att the ellection of the new churchwardens and other officers	0	6	0
Payd to Edward Darbishire for his wages for this last yeare past as by acquittance	2	0	0
Spent in goeing to Bewsey and from thence to Warrington to procure a warrant to distraine for leyes	0	1	0
Payd to Mr Irelands clerke for the warrant	0	2	6
Spent in goeing on Farnworth side to collect and distraine for leyes two severall dayes	0	1	6
Spent in collecting leyes in Eccleston	0	1	0
[229] Spent in coming to Prescott to attend the justices the last privie sessions	0	3	4
Payd for making upp the regester booke this yeare	0	2	6
Payd for acquittances for money paid to severall persons	0	3	6
One of the accomptants namely Evan Garnett craveth allowance of 4s paid to one for setting downe his payments for the fower yeares hee was a churchwarden	0	4	0
The accomptant George Litherland craveth allowance of 4s Spent in attending att the church severall saboth dayes the yeare past	0	4	4
The accomptant Henry Sephton craveth allowance of 4s 6d spent by him in attending 11 saboth dayes in the yeare past	0	4	6
The accomptant John Traves craveth allowance of 3s 4d spent by him in attending att the church tenn saboth dayes in the yeare past	0	3	4
Payd for entring orders into the church booke this last yeare	0	1	6
Spent by the accomptants in meeting att Prescott to make upp theire accompts	0	3	6
Payd to Henry Camier [<i>recte</i> Canner?] for his allowance by order from the bench as by acquittance	2	0	0
Payd to Henry Hitchin in parte of his allowance as by two severall acquittances	1	10	0
[230] Payd to Thomas Walles for wyne for the last communion being the seacond Sunday in Aprill	1	11	0[.]

Payd to Edward Darbishire for bread for the same communion	0	1	0
Payd to Richard Marshall for smithes worke done for the church use as appeares by a noate of particulars	0	8	4
Payd for writing and making upp of theis accompts	0	3	0[.]
Payd for entring them into the booke of accompts	0	3	6
The totall of the payments disbursements and allowances is	57	3	0[.]
Soe theire recept being £66 9s 11d and theire disbursements and allowances £57 3s 1d, the accomptants are in <i>debet</i> upon this accompt the some of	9	6	10

[231] The accomptants crave to bee respited the severall somes of money herafter mentioned which are desperate and cannott bee gotten *vizt*

The cunstables of Whiston in arreare	0	4	8
Sutton in arreare <i>vizt</i>	[s]	[d]	
Edward Roughley	3	2	
John Barton	0	3	
William Fairehurst	0	1	
John Justice	0	1½	
Mathew Barton	0	1	
Thomas Traves	0	1	0 3 9½
Widnes			
Ales Harrison	0	9	
Thomas Kidd	0	2¾	
John Bankes	0	2¾	
Thomas Haward	0	1¼	
John Walkden	0	0¾	
Widdow Woods <i>per</i> Plumpton	0	3¾	
Henry Greene	0	5¾	
Ann Lancaster	1	0	
Ellen Hawarden	0	1¼	
Henry Wood	1	10¾	
William Litherland	0	1¼	
Thomas Bullin	0	4	
John Taylor	0	0¾	0 5 6
The cunstables of Penketh in arreare			0 4 8

[232] Sankie

Richard Cooper	1	3
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John Golden	0	4			
John Richardson	0	8			
Bryan [Seuxsmith?] ¹⁹²	0	5			
Thomas Brewer	0	2			
Edward Appleton	0	4			
Ellen Mather	0	4			
Jennett Lea	0	2			
Thomas Halsall	0	2			
Elizabeth Halsall	0	2	0	4	0
The cunstables of Cronton in arreare			0	2	[.]
The cunstables of Prescott in arreare			0	10	11
The cunstables of Bold			0	3	4[.]
The cunstables of Cewardley			0	2	8[.]
The totall of the arreares extends to the some of			2	1	11½
The accomptants crave allowance for this dayes expences in meeting to perfect these accompts and deliver them upp to the parish			0	6	8
			Total	2	8 7½
Which some of	2	8	7½		
being deducted out of the foresaid some of	9	6	10		
they are indebted to the parish the some of				6	18 2½

[233] Wee the eight men and parishioners whose names are herunder written have perused the accompts and approve therof only wee thinke it fitt and order accordingly that the accomptants shall collect and gather all the arreares within theire severall collections according to a former order and that they pay over the said arreares together with the said some of £6 18s 2½d unto the new churchwardens att or before 1 June next coming for the church use and such arreares as are desperate and cannot bee gotten the accomptants to bee therof discharged and theire reasonable charges and expences in collecting the arreares to bee allowed to them. And it is alsoe ordered that in regard there are taxations layd by the churchwardens and overseers of the poore for the use of the poore which money is accompted for in a promiscuous way with other payments for the church use that henceforth all moneyes layd for the use of the poore shalbee layd and accompted for severally by itselpe and not joynly with other accompts

Henry Marshall, William Webster, William Wood, John Ackers [*copy mark*], Henry Gaskell [*copy mark*], William Turner, six of the eight men;

¹⁹² *Recte* Sixsmith.

[234] 20 May 1651

Henry Marshall, William Webster, William Wood; John Ackers, William Turner [*copy marks*] five of the eight men; George Litherland; John Mosse, William Barrow [*copy marks*], Henry Tarbocke

A tax layd by the churchwardens and overseers of the poore within the parish of Prescott whose names are here under written for and towards the manteynance and releefe of the poore and impotent within the said parish as followeth

Prescott	1	13	4				
Whiston	1	13	4				
Rainhill	1	13	4				
Sutton	5	0	0				
Eccleston	2	10	0				
Rainford	2	10	0				
Windle	2	10	0				
Parr	2	10	0				
Widnes <i>cum</i> Appleton	4	4	5				
Cewardley and Cronton	4	4	5				
Dittton and Penketh	4	4	5				
Bold	4	4	5				
Sankie	2	2	4				
				Total	39	0	0

¹⁹³ An influential Prescott figure. Often clerk of the manor court, he gave evidence in the churchwardens' suit against Henry Ogle in 1637 and was appointed ranger of Knowsley Park in 1647. He married a daughter of William Brettargh and was thus linked to John Aldem, the vicar. For his will see LRO, WCW/Prescot/1655.

William Wood, Thomas Woods, John Sutton; William Martin [*copy mark*]; George Litherland; John Ackers, John Mosse, William Barrow [*copy marks*]

[236] 20 April 1652

The accompts of Thomas Woods William Wood John Sutton and William Martin churchwardens of the parish church of Prescott of their receipts and payments for the use of the said parish church from 1 April which was in the yeare of our Lord God 1651 untill this present day as followeth

<i>Inprimis</i> the accomptants charge them selves with the receipt of two church leyes layd 24 May 1651 for the necessary repaire of the parish church and other uses being £8 on Prescott side and £7 12s on Farnworth side in the whole	15	12	0
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<i>Item</i> with some of £3 remaining in the hands of last churchwardens upon their accompts being in parte of £6 18s 2½d	3	0	0
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Item with the receipt of severall somes of money for burials in the church *vizt*

Mr Lathom ¹⁹⁴ of Mosborrow	0	6	8
John sonne of Henry Ashton of Whiston	0	6	8
Henry Roughley of Eccleston	0	6	8
The totall of the charge is	19	12	0

[237] Payments expenses and allowances craved by the accomptants as followeth

Paid to Thomas Walles for wine att the two communions <i>prout per</i> acquittance	2	10	0
Paid to Edward Darbishire for bread for the two communions	0	2	0
Paid to Thomas Webster for glasse for the church windowes and for mending of the same	1	2	9
Paid to John Sutton for soder to soder the leades with	0	3	0
Paid to Thomas Woods butcher for dressing the church after the prisoners were in it three severall tymes ¹⁹⁵	0	10	0

¹⁹⁴William Lathom (succeeded his father Henry in 1649, but died in 1652) was the last of the Mossborough Lathoms in the male line (his elder brother Thomas was killed fighting for the king at Newark).

¹⁹⁵Probably prisoners from the battles at Wigan on 23 Aug. and/or Worcester on 3 Sept: see pp.xxxvii, 106. Large numbers of prisoners from Worcester were housed in Walton church: Wn, f. 86r. See LRO, QSP/55/3.

Payd to the ringers for ringing on the thanksgiving day for the victory att Worcester and an other thanksgiving day for the victory att Wigan ¹⁹⁶	0	5	0
Payd for a warrant to gather the church leyes	0	2	0
Spent att the same tyme	0	2	6
Payd to Edward Darbishire for one yeares wages allowed him by the parish	2	0	0
Payd for writing 15 receipts for two church leyes layd for the use of the church	0	2	6
Payd to the ringers for ringing on 5 November	0	8	0
Payd for a bell rope for the greate bell and a laching for it	0	5	0
Payd to Richard Marshall for smithes worke done about the bells	0	4	10
Payd to Henry Marshall for oyle and wyre for the clocke	0	1	10
Payd to Thomas Woods for lyme to point the glasse windowes	0	2	0
[238] Payd to Henry Aspe for pointing the windowes	0	0	0[.]
Payd to George Standish for pointing the steeple and mending the walles about the churchyard	0	3	[4?]
Payd to Thomas Wilcocke for lyme and haire	0	4	6
Payd to William Browne of Wigan plummer for exchanging the old lead about the steeple for new after the rate of ½ for the ⟨pound⟩-change <i>per</i> pound the some of <i>prout per not[am]</i>	1	2	6
Payd for two hundred and a halfe of new lead to William Browne after the rate of 20s the hundred <i>prout per not[am]</i>	2	10	0[.]
Payd to William Wood for carriage of the old lead to Wigan and bringing the new lead from thence and leading of sand	0	12	0
Payd for coalles to soder with	0	0	4
Payd to Thomas Woods butcher for carrying of the colles and casting the sands	0	0	6
Spent att the hanging of the first bell	0	1	8
Payd to George Tyrer for worke done about the steeple being 15 dayes himselfe after the rate of 7d the day and his sonne 12 dayes after the rate of 6d the day as appeares by an acquittance 14 February <i>ultimo</i>	1	1	0
Payd to him for 13½ pounds of soder after the rate of 14d the pound <i>prout per</i> acquittance 14 February 1651	0	15	6
Payd to him for 80 turfes and cariage therof	0	0	6
Payd to him for making of three pounds of John Suttons pewter into soder	0	0	6

¹⁹⁶Lord Derby surrendered after Worcester, was tried at Chester on 1 Oct. and executed at Bolton on 15 Oct.

Paid to him for scowring of the gutters in the lower leades and putting upp some slates there	0	2	0
[239] Paid for drawing a petition to the justices about the church leyes arreare	0	1	0
Spent in meeting the overseers to lay the church leyes about the poore	0	4	0
Spent upon the ringers on 5 November	0	2	0
Spent att setting upp of the glasse of the church windowes	0	2	0
Spent att taking the old glasse downe ¹⁹⁷	0	1	0
Spent att the meeting about the ellection of the eight men	0	7	0
Spent att an other tyme att the meeting about the ellection of the eight men and noe ellection being made either tyme the old ones continued ¹⁹⁸	0	5	0
Spent in goeing to Sankie to collect church leyes two severall dayes	0	2	0
Spent in goeing to Penketh severall dayes to collect church leyes	0	2	0
Spent in goeing to Ditton three severall dayes to collect church leyes	0	2	2
Spent upon the constables of Prescott Whiston and Rainhill att the payment of the church leyes	0	1	4
Spent upon George Tyrer in coming fower severall tymes to see the worke about the leades and other places of the church	0	2	6
Paid to a boy to bring the precepts to Rainhill and Sankey cunstables	0	0	4
Spent upon Thomas Webster and a boy att setting upp of the glasse this latter tyme	0	0	8
Spent in goeing to Widnes three severall tymes to collect church leyes	0	3	0
Spent in goeing to Wigan two dayes about the leades and George Tyrer lying there two dayes and a night about the same	0	5	8
[240] Paid to George Tyrer for those two dayes	0	2	0[.]
Spent in goeing to Cronton to collect church leyes two severall dayes	0	1	10
Spent in goeing to Cewardley three severall dayes to collect church leyes	0	2	8
Spent in goeing to Sutton to collect church leyes fower dayes	0	2	0

¹⁹⁷ The windows may have been damaged by prisoners, as at Walton: LRO, QSP/55/3.

¹⁹⁸ The two unsuccessful attempts to elect the eight men are sure signs of a troubled period.

Spent att taking downe of the leades	0	2	0
Spent upon the workemen att the laying of the leades	0	2	0
Spent in goeing three severall dayes into Bold to collect church leyes	0	2	8
Spent in goeing to Windle severall tymes	0	1	8
Spent att the privie sessions att Prescottt about the procuring of a warrant for gathering arreares of church leyes	0	3	0
Spent in goeing to the quarter sessions att Wigan about the parish businesse being there two dayes and two nights	0	3	0
Payd for drawing of these accompts	0	3	0
Payd for entring them into the booke	0	3	0
The totall of the charges and expences is	18	6	9
Soe theire receipts being	19	12	0
And theire disbursements	18	6	9
There remains charged upon the accounts	1	5	3
Of this some of 25s 3d the accomptants crave allowance of 3s 4d a peece for theire attendance att the monethly communions and other saboth dayes	0	13	4
And alsoe of 6s 8d for charges and expences the day of the taking of these accompts upon themselves and the parishioners	0	6	8
Totall	1	0	0
Soe remaining in theire hands	0	5	[3]

[241] This 5s 3d is allowed by the parishioners to bee payd over to Thomas Wood sexton¹⁹⁹ for his paines and care in looking to the church

Wee approve and allow of the accompts Witnes our hands

John Wythens vicar; John Alcocke junior, William Blundell senior, John Lathom, William Parr, Richard Parr

[1652–3]

[242] Tuesday in Easter weeke 20 April 1652

The election and choise of the officers within the parish to serve the yeare following

Churchwardens

Prescott Whiston and Rainhill
Sutton

Thomas Deane of Rainhill
John Ackers²⁰⁰ for him James Traves

¹⁹⁹ Wood seems only temporarily to have taken over as sexton from Edward Darbishire.

²⁰⁰ It was reported that Ackers' great-uncle, uncle and father all died of the plague during his year of office: Sharpe-France, 'Plague', p.129.

	Eccleston and Rainford	John Tunstall of Rainford
	Windle and Parr	William Naylor of Windle
	Surveyors	Overseers of the poore
Prescott	Thomas Walles	Thomas Ashton of Eccleston
	Thomas Knowles	John Worsley of Sutton
Whiston	William Forrest	John Plumptre of Widnes
	Henry Hey	⟨John [.] of Sankie⟩
Rainhill	Roger Mollyneux	William Houghton of Bold
	William Parr	
Sutton	John Wood	Ellected by us
	Henry Sutton	John Wythens vicar
Eccleston	John Pye	John Alcocke junior
	John Tunstall	William Blundell
Rainforth	Richard Woods	John Lathom
	Thomas Lyon	John Ackers [<i>copy mark</i>]
Windle	Thomas Barton	William W Wood William Webster
	Peeter Gaskell	Richard Hyde George Litherland
Parr	John Knowles	[<i>copy mark</i>] Henry Tarbocke
	John Chaddocke	William Parr
		Evan Garnett [<i>copy mark</i>]
		Richard Parr
		Henry Webster
		William Stringfellow
		John Mosse

[1653–4]

[243 *blank*, 244] 25 May 1653

A tax layd by the churchwardens and overseers of the poore within the parish of Prescott whose names are here underwritten for and toward the manteynance and releefe of the poore and impotent within the said parish as followeth

Prescott	1	13	4
Whiston	1	13	[4]
Rainhill	1	13	4
Sutton	5	0	0
Eccleston	2	10	0
Rainford	2	10	0
Windle	2	10	0
Parr	2	10	[0]

Widnes <i>cum</i> Appleton	4	4	[5]
£2 3s 11d £2 7d			
Cewardley and Cronton	4	4	5
£2 16s 4d 28s 2d			
Ditton and Penketh	4	4	5
Bold	4	4	5
Sankie	2	2	[4]
Total	39	0	0

It is ordered that this money bee taxed and assessed within the severall towneshippes of the parish and coppies of each tax delivered by the cunstables of each severall towneshipp unto the overseers or some of them And the said money to bee payd over to the said overseers att or before 24 June next coming

Thomas Deane	Thomas Ashton
John Traves	James Worsley
William Naylor	John Plumpton
John Tunstall, churchwardens	William Houghton, overseers

[1652–3]

[245] 25 May 1652

It is ordered by the eight men and others of the parish whose names are subscribed that two whole church leyes shalbee forthwith collected and gathered through the parish for the necessary repaire of the parish church to bee payd over to the churchwardens or some of them att or before 24 June next coming And it is alsoe ordered that the churchwardens shall use all lawfull meanes possible for the obteyning of the arreares in Evan Garnetts hands late churchwarden in 1650 and others appearing due upon the church booke of accompts before any more church leyes bee layd

John Ackers, William Wood [*copy marks*], William Houghton, Thomas Ashton, James Worsley, John Sutton, John Mosse [*copy mark*], John Plumpton

[1653–4]

[246] Tuesday in Easter weeke 1653²⁰¹

The ellection and choice of officers to serve for the yeare ending *vizt*

The old churchwardens *vizt*
 Thomas Deane of Rainhill
 James Ackers of Sutton
 John Tunstall of Rainford
 William Naylor of Windle, continued

²⁰¹ 12 Apr.

Overseeers of the poore
 Thomas Torbocke of Sutton
 William Turner of Parr
 Raph Barnes of Sankey
 Henry Fletcher of Penketh

Ellected by us

[<i>signed</i>] Thomas Deane	[<i>signed</i>] William Webster
John Ackers [<i>mark</i>]	William Wood [<i>mark</i>]
[<i>signed</i>] George Litherland	[<i>signed</i>] Edward Potts
James Worsley	James Traves
John Tunstall [<i>mark</i>]	William Blundell junior
[<i>signed</i>] Edward Darbshire	

[247 . .] July 1653

A tax layd by the churchwardens overseers of the poore within the parish of Prescott and others of the parish whose names are underwritten for the mainteynance and releefe of the poore and impotent within the said parish for twelve moneths allowance to comence from May last as followeth

Prescott	1	13	4
Whiston	1	13	4
Rainhill	1	13	4
Sutton	5	0	0
Eccleston	2	10	0
Rainford	2	10	0
Windle	2	10	0
Parr	2	10	0
Widnes with Appleton	4	4	5
Cuardley and Cronton	4	4	5
Ditton and Penketh	4	4	5
Bold	4	4	5
Sankey	2	2	4
	39	0	0

It is ordered that this money bee taxed and assessed within the severall townships of this parish and the overseers to issue forth their precepts to the severall cunstabls within this parish which said cunstabls are to pay over the said money unto the said overseers att or before 1 August next

John Ackers [<i>copy mark</i>]	Edward Potts
James Traves	William Blundell
	Thomas Deane

James Worsley	William Wood	John Tunstall [<i>copy mark</i>],
William Webster [<i>copy mark</i>]		churchwardens
George Litherland	William Houghton	

[248] 12 July 1653

It is ordered by the eight men and others of the parish whose names are subscribed that two whole church leyes shalbee forthwith collected and gathered through the parish for the necessary repaire of the parish church to bee payd over to the churchwardens or some of them att or before 29 September next

William Wood [<i>copy mark</i>]	James Worsley
John Ackers [<i>copy mark</i>]	William Blundell
William Houghton	Thomas Torbocke [<i>copy mark</i>]
William Webster, fower of the eight men	George Litherland
	Edward Darbishire

[1654–5]

[249]

Tuesdaye Easter weeke 1654 [*recte* 1655]²⁰²

The accompts of Henry Eccleston John Poughtin Joseph Potts and John Tunstal churchwardens of the parrish church of Prescott of theire receipts and payments for the use of the said parrish church from Tuesday in Easter weeke last paste beinge 28 March 1654 untill this present day as followeth

Fower church leyes laide this laste yeare

Inprimis they charge themselves with the receipts of fower church

leyes thorow the parish beinge on Prescott side £16 and on

Farnworth side £15 4s in all

	31	4	0
--	----	---	---

Alsoe they charge themselves with the receipte of 8s 10d beinge

an arreare remayninge in the hands of James Traves

churchwarden upon the foote of his accompt

	0	8	10
--	---	---	----

Alsoe with the receipte of 6d for 3 pounds of leade belonginge to

the church which was sould

	0	0	6
--	---	---	---

Alsoe with severall somes of money receaved for severall burialls
in the church *vizt*

Jane Ackers of Sutton spinster	6[s]	8[d]
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Anne Fennowe of Sutton	6	8
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James Pemberton of Whiston	6	8
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²⁰² 17 Apr.

Elizabeth wife of Thomas Lyon of Rainford	6	8		
Ales Ackers of Sutton widdow	6	8		
In all			1	13
				4
Total	33	6	8	

Alsoe they charge themselves with 12s received from John Tunstall late churchwarden in parte of his arreares	0	12	0	
Totall	33	18	8	

[250] 8 June 1654

Payments disbursements and allowances craved by these accomptants as followeth

Spent att a meetinge of the eight men and the parishioners to take the old churchwardens accompts and to laye two church leys	0	4	0	
Paid to Edward Gerard for a spade for the church use	0	2	0	
Paid for 15 precepts for the first church leyes	0	2	[8]	
Paid for leadinge of stone two dayes from Rainhill towards repayinge of the vestry	0	6	0	
Paid for leadinge of stone fower dayes from Rainhilll towards reparinge of the vestry	0	12	0	
Paid for 20 mesures of lyme att 8d the measure to make mortar on for the vestry walles	0	13	4	
Spent in goeing to Liverpoole to buye the same	0	1	0	
Paid for two carts to goe fetch it from Liverpoole	0	6	8	
Paid for helpinge to lead it	0	0	4	
Paid for carringe thereof into the church	0	0	4	
Paid more for a horse loade of lyme and carrage therof from Liverpoole	0	2	9	
Paid for a collocke and a bowle and a syne for the masons use	0	2	3	
Paid for cordinge to make scaffolds for the vestry	0	0	6	
	2	13	10	

[251] Paid for heare to make mortar withall	0	6	0	
Paid for carrage therof	0	0	6	
Paid for leadinge of sande to blende with the mortar	0	2	0	
Paid to Adam Bate and his men and to George Standish and his sonne for repayinge and redifying the the vestry and for gettinge of stones for the repayre therof and for pointinge about the church church walls after the rates of 22d a daye to Adam Bate and his man and [2?]s a day to George Standish and his sonne <i>prout per</i> note of agreement and acquittance				

therupon	8	12	6
Paid for castinge upp the reckoninge and makinge acquittance from the measons	0	0	4
Spent upon the masons att severall tymes	0	2	6
Spent in goinge on Farmoorth side to demande and collecte church leyes	0	3	0
Paid for the hyre of a horse to ride upon on Farmoorth side	0	1	0
Paid for sparrs for the vestry	0	6	8
Paid to Edward Rilands and his sonne four wrights worke donne at the vestry	0	1	10
Paid for leadinge of two loades of slate from Billinge to Prescottt	0	10	0
Paid to Thomas Martland for dressing slate and slatinge of the vestry <i>prout per</i> acquittance	0	15	9
For an acquittance	0	0	2
Spent upon the slater	0	1	0
	11	3	3

[252] Paid to Richard Marshall for worke done for the church use as appeares in a note of particulars and an acquittance	1	14	2
For an acquittance	0	0	2
Spente on St Lukes daye after the ellection of the eight men	0	3	8
Spent in goinge to collecte and distrane for Farnworth side two severall dayes	0	5	4
Spent in attendinge att a privy sessions at Prescottt	0	2	0
Spent att a meetinge of the overseers and churchwardens about the poore	0	2	0
Paid for slate for the vestrye	0	8	6
Spent in leadinge them from Billinge	0	2	0
Paid to Henry Marshall for charges of a <i>certiorari</i> and expences therupon concerninge John Wrights order	0	16	6
Spent in goinge on Farmoorth side severall dayes to demande and collecte church leyes	0	4	0
Spent att the layinge of the two latter church leyes	0	3	4
Paid for wryteinge of precepts for those leyes	0	2	6
Spent att a meeteinge of the overseers of the poore and the churchwardens att Prescottt concerninge the poore	0	3	0
Paid for mendinge of the great bell wheele two severall tymes with boards and nayles	0	4	6
	4	11	8

[253 *blank*, 254]

Spent in goinge to Warrington to bespeak fower bell ropes	0	1	0
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Paid to John Beswicke ²⁰³ for fower bell ropes	0	16	0
Paid for carrage therof from Warrington	0	0	6
Spent in goeing to the privy sessions concerninge John Wrights busines	0	3	6
Spent att a meetinge of the overseers and churchwardens att Peaseley Crosse ²⁰⁴ about the poore of the parrish	0	3	0
Paid to Thomas Walles for 14 bushall of stone lyme for the church and church walles <i>prout per</i>	0	14	0
For an acquittance	0	0	2
Paid to John Wright for lyme and heire and pointinge of the church windowes where neede was	0	1	0
Paid for halfe a hundred of latts to latt the vestry	0	1	3
Spent upon the justices clerke for procureinge the justices hands to the latter church leyes	0	1	[6]
Paid to a messenger to goe on Farmmoorth side to give notics of a meetinge about layinge of church leyes	0	0	3
Spent in goinge into Penketh and Sankie and other places on Farmmoorth side to collecte church leyes	0	2	6
Spent att a meetinge of the overseers and churchwardens to collecte leyes in Sutton Windle and Rainhill	0	4	0
	2	7	8
[255 blank, 256] Paid to the ringers for ringinge upon 5 November laste			
	0	5	0
Paid to Thomas Walles for wyne for three monthly communions this laste yeare <i>prout per</i> acquittance	2	17	6
For an acquittance	0	0	2
Paid for bread for the three communions	0	1	2
Paid for oile for the clocke	0	0	6
Paid to Richard Marshall for worke done for the church use <i>prout per</i> bill and acquittance	0	10	10
Spent att a meetinge of the overseers and churchwardens att Prescott	0	2	6
Pade to Thomas Webster for glaseing and reparinge of the church windowes where defects were <i>prout per</i> bill and acquittance	1	3	5
Spent upon him and others who helped to sett upp ladders	0	0	6

²⁰³ Bell ropes were always obtained from Warrington: a supplier is here named for the first time. The only other named supplier (John Roper of Warrington) appears to be the same man, for the wife of 'John Roper *alias* Beswicke' was buried at Warrington in 1667.

²⁰⁴ In Sutton, on the highway between Warrington and Ormskirk, long used for assemblies, described in 1633 as 'a convenient place for the mustering of soldiers and the exercising of artillery': PRO, DL 1/334.

Paid for keepinge John Poughtin churchwarden his accompts this laste yeare	0	2	0			
Paid to Edward Darbishire for his wages this laste yeare <i>prout per</i> acquittance	2	0	0			
Paid for candiels to ringe curfey by	0	0	5			
Spent in meetinge to make the church wardens accompts	0	2	6			
Paid for a church byble for the church use	2	0	0			
	9	6	6			
 [257] Paid for makinge and perfectinge theise accompts	0	3	4			
Paid for entringe them into the booke of accompts	0	3	4			
The accomptants crave respyte of the severall arreares followinge <i>vizt</i>						
The cunstables of the townshipp of Widnes <i>cum</i> Appleton arreare all the two latter church leyes	1	13	8			
Widnes for the two first church leyes						
William Woods	0	0¾				
Thomas Streete	0	0¾				
Richard Acton	0	3	0	0	4½	
Cuardley						
Captaine Marsh and John Linaker	0	0	11			
Penketh						
Henry Woods	0	8				
Thomas Lea	0	6	0	1	2	
The accomptants crave allowance for theire charges in attendinge the communion dayes and other sabbath dayes	0	10	0			
Totall is £32 15s 8½d	2	12	9½			
Soe theire receipts being	33	18	8			
and theire disbursements	32	15	8½	32	15	8½
There remaineth in the accomptants hands	1	2	11½			

15 May 1655

Received by the accomptants since the makinge of theise accompts as followeth

Received of the cunstables of Widnes <i>cum</i> Appleton all the arreares of the two latter church leyes	1	13	8			
Received of Richard Acton an arreare of the two first church leyes	0	0	3			
Received of Captaine Marsh and John Linaker an arreare of	0	0	11			
Totall	1	14	10			

Wherof these accomptants crave allowance as followeth

[258] Spent on Tuesday in Easter weeke upon the vicar the gentlemen of the parish and the eight men laste after the tackinge of the accompts and choosinge of new churchwardens and other officers				0	8	6
Spent by the accomptands in goinge on Farmoorth side to collecte the arreares above said				0	5	2
Paid for a skinne to cover the church byble and for coveringe therof				0	2	0
These accomptants crave allowance for this dayes charges and expences				0	5	0
Paid for perfectinge of these accompts				0	1	0
				1	1	8
Soe the receipts beinge	1	14	10			
and the disbursements and allowances	1	1	8			
There remaineth in the accomptants hands	0	13	2			
This 13s 2d together with the 22s 11½d oweinge upon the first accompts make the whole debt				1	16	1½
Forth of which there is allowed to John Ashton for sweepinge of the church and the [seates?] and for sh[ut?]inge the pavements in the churchyord				0	5	0
And allowed to Thomas Knowels for killinge of two foxes				0	2	0
Soe then there remaines	1	9	1½			
which the ould churchwardens have paid over unto Thomas Lyon one of the new churchwardens				1	9	1½
Wee have perused these accompts and doe allow therof. Witnes our hands						
William Webster	John Wythens vicar					
William Kenwricke						
William Forrest [<i>copy mark</i>]	Henry Ashtonn					
John Sadler	Edward Greene					
Edward Darbishire	James Worsley, three of the eight men					
William Blundell [junior?]						

[259] 17 April 1655

Wee the vicar eight men and parishioners of the parish church of Prescott whose names are herunto subscrybed have hard these accompts publicly reade and doe aprove and alowe thereof onely wee thinke fitt and soe order that the accomptants before they bee discharged out of there offices of churchwardens shall collecte leuye and gather all such arreares as are returned in these accompts and shall paye over the same or so much

as is leayable unto the same churchwardens att or before this daye month next comminge howbeit it is declared and agreed thatt the accomptants shall have resonable charges and expenses allowed them for collectinge the said arreares deductinge what shallbee gotten of the parties for makeinge distresses for the said arreares alsoe it is ordered that 22s 11½d alsoe remayninge in the accomptants hands upon the foote of this accompte shall likewise bee paid over unto the next succeedinge churchwardens att or before this day moonth

Henry Ashtonn	John Wythens vicar
James Worsley	John Alcock
Edward Greene	John Lathom
William Wood	John Ackers
Richard Cowley	Henry Marshall
John Parr, six of the eight men	

[1655–6]

[260] Tuesday in Easter weeke 1655

The election and choyse of the officers within the parrish to serve the yeare followinge

Churchwardens

Prescott	Whiston	Rainhill	John Lyon of Whiston
Sutton			Richard Taylor
Eccleston		Rainford	Richard Wood of Rainford
Windle		Parr	Thomas Lyon of Windle claypotter

Surveyors

Overseers

Prescott	Thomas Parr	Windle	Thomas Lyon of the Fould
	Thomas Knowles		
Whiston	Gilbert Caldwell	Sutton	William Wood
	Thomas Shawe	Widnes	Thomas Hearne
Rainhill	William Potter	Bould	James Barton
	John Barrowe		
Sutton	Edmund Seddon		Ellected by us
	John Fennowe		John Wythens vicar
Eccleston	John Traves		John Alcock
	Henry Torbock		Henry Ashtonn, one of the eight men
Rainford	Henry Sefton		John Lathome
	Richard Lyon		
Windle	Robert Mosse		James Worsley
	John Eddleston		Edward Greene

Parr	Nechlas Ashton	Richard Cowley
	Edmund Ellom	William Wood
		John Parre, eight men

[261] 18 October 1654

Wheras ther was lately an order granted by the justices of peace of this county for the maintainance of one John Eccleston his wife and children which order was att the last quarter sessions att Wigan removed by *certiorari* before the justices of assyzes att Lancaster which busines is att the entreaty of the said Eccleston and with the consent of the justices of the peace att the laste quarter sessions afforesaid referred to the parishioners of this parish to give some allowance unto the said Eccleston for the tyme paste and to clear the parish of him for the future. It is therefore desired and thought fitt that the churchwardens and overseers of the poore shall take the busines into consideration and shall give unto him such allowance in charity as they in theire discretion shall thinke fitt and in case the said Eccleston shall refuse to accepte therof then the busines to bee proceeded in before the justices of assyze upon the parish charges

[*signed*] John Wythens vicar; John Alcock, James Worsley, William Webster, William Lyme, George Litherland, Thomas Litherland, Edward Greene, John Parr, Edward Darbshire

[262] Saint Luke daye 18 October 1654

The ellection and choyce of the eight men to serve the yeare followinge

Whiston	Henry Ashton
Rainhill	Edward Greene
Sutton	James Worsley
Eccleston	William Wood of Glugsmor
Wyndle	Richard Cowley
Rainford	John Parr
Widnes	William Parr
Bold	William Wood

Ellected by us

[*signed*] John Wythens vicar; Peter Garnett, Thomas Litherland, Henry Marshall, John Alcock, William Lyme, William Webster, George Litherland, John Webster

[1655–6]

[263] 9 May 1655

It is ordered by the eight men and others of the parish whose names are subscrybed that two whole church leyes shall bee forthwith collected and gathered thorough the

parrish for the necessary repayre of the parrish church to bee paid over to the church wardens or some of them at or before 24 June next comminge. By us

Henry Ashtonn	John Wythens vicar
Edward Greene	William Wood
John Parr	Thomas Hearne
John Parr	James Barton [<i>copy mark</i>]
James Worsley	Thomas Lyon
	Henry Tarbock
	Henry Marshall
	John Poughtin [<i>copy mark</i>]

[264] St Luke day 18 October 1655

The ellection and choice of the eight men to serve for the yeare following

Prescott	Edward Greene
⟨Whiston	Thomas Woods⟩
Rainhill	John Ackers
Sutton	James Worsley
Eccleston	Henry Torbocke
Parr	William Martin
Rainford	Edmund Barnes
Penketh	Richard Jenkinson
Cuadley	John Linaker

Ellected by us

[*signed*] John Wythens vicar; Cuthbert Ogle, John Alcock, William Lyme, Henry Marshall, John Ackers, William Parr, John Poughtin [*mark*], [*signed*] William Webster

[1656–7]

[265] . . July 1656 Prescott

Wee the vicar eight men and others of the parish whose names are subscribed meetinge att the parish church and findinge money to bee wantinge for the necessary repaire of the said church doe order that two whole church leyes shallbee forthwith collected and gathered within the said parish for the repaire of the said church and the same to bee paid over to the churchwardens or some of them att or before 10 September next. Witnes our hands

Edmund Barnes	John Wythens vicar
John Ackers	John Alcock
James Worsley	Henry Marshall
Henry Tarbock	John Parr
William Martin, five of the eight men	Edward Darbshire

[266] St Lukes daye 18 October 1656

The ellection and choyce of the eight men to serve the yeare followinge

Prescott	William Glover
Whiston	John Lyon
Sutton	Richard Wood
Wyndle	John Lyon of the Foulds
Eccleston	William Webster
Rainford	Henry Sefton
Widnes	John Houlte
Bold	Mathew Houghton

Elected by us

[*signed*] John Wythens vicar; John Alcock, William Lyme, Thomas Litherland, Henry Tarbock, John Parr, Edward Darbishire

[267] [1]3 Maye 1656

A taxe laide by the churchwardens and overseers of the poore within the parish of Prescott whose names are herunder written for and towards the maytaynance and releefe of the poore and impotente within the said parish as followeth

Prescott	1	13	4
Whiston	1	13	4
Rainhill	1	13	4
Sutton	5	0	0
Eccleston	2	10	0
Rainford	2	10	0
Wyndle	2	10	0
Parr	2	10	0
Widnes <i>cum</i> Appleton	4	4	5
Cuardley and Cronton	4	4	5
Ditton and Penketh	4	4	5
Bold	4	4	5
Sankie	2	2	4
Total	39	0	0

It is ordered that this money bee taxed and assigned upon the severall towneshippes of the parish to bee paid over unto the overseers or some of them att or before 3 June next comminge. By us

Thomas Bate [<i>copy mark</i>]	
William Stringfellow	Thomas Woods
John Knowles [<i>copy mark</i>]	George Lyon
James Swifte, churchwardens	Richard Grease, overseers

[1655–6]

[268] Tuesdaye in Ester weeke 1656

The accompts of John Lyon Richard Taylor Richard Wood and Thomas Lyon churchwardens of the parish church of Prescott of theire receipts and payments for the use of the said parish church from Tuesdaye in Ester weeke last past beinge 17 April 1655 untill this presente daye beinge 8 April 1656 as followeth

Two church leyes laid this yeare

Inprimis they charge themselves with the receipte of two whole

church leyes thorough the parish beinge on Prescott side £8				
and on Farnworth side £7 12s in all	15	12	0	

Alsoe they charge themselves with the receipte of 48s 8d beinge an arreare which remained in the hands of Thomas Deane late one of the churchwardens of this parish

2	8	0
---	---	---

Alsoe they charge themselves with the receipte of 26s beinge an arreare which remained in the hands of John Tunstall late one of the churchwardens of this parish

1	6	0
---	---	---

Alsoe they charge themselves with the receipte of severall somes of money for buriels in the church as followeth

Margrett wife of James Ashcrofte of Eccleston	6[s]	8[d]			
James Traves of Windle	6	8			
Henry Roby of Rainford	6	8			
Henry Sutton of Rainhill	6	8	1	6	8

[269] Alsoe they charge themselves with the receipte of £1 9s

1½d remaining in the hands of the last church wardens	1	9	1
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Totall	22	1	9
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[270] Payments disbursements and allowances craved by the accomptants as followeth

Paid to a messenger for goeing to the cunstable of Rainhill

with a warrant concerning church leyes arreare	0	0	3
--	---	---	---

Paid to a messenger for goeing to Farnworth to give notice of a meetinge about layinge of church leyes

0	0	4
---	---	---

Paid to a messenger for goeing on Farnworth side to deliver three precepts

0	0	10
---	---	----

Paid to a messenger for goeing to Farnworth with a declaration from my lord protector

0	0	4
---	---	---

Spent in goeing thorough the townshipp of Prescott to colecte money for the releefe of the poore protestants within the

duckdome of Savoy*	0	1	0
Spent in goinge thorough the townshipp of Rainhill to collecte money for the same use*	0	2	0
Spent in goinge thorough the towneshipp of Whiston to collecte money for the same use*	0	1	6
Spent in goinge to Rainhill with a mason to buye stones for the church steele*	0	1	0
Paid to Hugh Parr of Rainhill for stones for the church steele <i>prout per</i> acquittance	0	9	2
Paid for an acquittance	0	0	2
Paid to a mason for helpinge to load stones	0	1	0
Spent att a meetinge of the gentelmen of the parish and eight men about the laying of two church leyes and money for the poore*	0	7	6
	1	5	1
[271] Spent in goinge thorough the towne shippes of Eccleston and Rainford to collecte money for the releefe of the poore protestants within the duckdome of Savoye*			
	0	2	6
Spent in goinge thorough the towne shipp of Sutton to collecte money for the same use*	0	2	6
Spent in goinge thorough the towne shippes of Windle and Parr to collecte money for the same use*	0	3	2
Paid for writinge out the particulers of every ones gifte on this side of the parish to bee retorned with the money which was collected*	0	3	4
Paid for drawinge upp a certificate to the clarke of the councell ²⁰⁵ concerninge the same collection	0	1	0
Spent in goinge to Bold to paye the same by all the accomptants	0	2	4
Spent upon a mason in bargayninge with him to make a church steele	0	1	0
Paid for two dayes leadinge of stone from Rainhill to Prescott	0	8	0
Paid to a man to goe alonge with the cart that led stone	0	2	0
Spent att a privie sessions att Prescott 20 July last past by the accomptants and the overseers of the poore*	0	4	0
Paid to Henry Marshall which hee had expended in procuringe some arreares which were due from Thomas Deane and John Tunstall by order from the justices	0	9	0
	1	18	10

* 'g' *marginated*.²⁰⁵ The council of state.

[272] Given to John Ashton for dressinge of the church and tendinge of the clocke with the consent of divers of the parish	0	10	0
Paid for timber to make a new church steele <i>prout per</i> acquittance	0	10	0
Paid for an acquittance	0	0	2
Paid for leadinge of the said timber from Whiston to Prescott	0	4	0
Paid to two carpenters for the falinge and cuttinge of the timber and for helpinge to lead the same	0	2	4
Spent upon the carpentar in agreeinge with him to make the church steele*	0	1	0
Paid to Thomas Browne for more timber towarde makinge the church steele and other uses for the church <i>prout per</i> acquittance	0	9	0
Paid for an acquittance	0	0	9
Paid to a wrigh[t] for helpinge to buye timber	0	0	6
Paid to Thomas Browne for two dayes sawinge of timber	0	2	0
Paid for two dayes sawinge of timber	0	2	0
Paid to a workeman to scowere the sawe pitt	0	0	6
Spent in goinge on Farnworth side to demand and receave church leyes*	0	3	6
Spent att a private sessions att Prescott by the accomptants and the overseers of the poore 24 August last*	0	4	6
Paid to Robert Kenion mason for worke done att the church steele <i>prout per</i> acquittance	0	17	4
Paid for an acquittance	0	0	2
	3	7	[9]
[273] <i>Item</i> to Thomas Keakewicke joyner for makinge a new church steele and for making a new yate and mendinge the bell frame <i>prout per</i> acquittance	0	19	10
Paid for an acquittance	0	0	2
Paid to Thomas Fleetwood for iron worke for the new yate in the churchyard a ⟨hash⟩ haspe for the like yate and makinge clapes for the old church steele	0	1	10
Spent upon Thomas Keakewicke when hee made the new church steele*	0	0	6
Spent upon the ley layers of Prescott when they laid the church leyes*	0	0	8
Paid to a workman shifting earth and makinge stoope holes for the new steele and takinge upp the old ones and settinge new stoopes for the yate	0	2	0
Spent upon the workmen at severall tymes in meetinge to recon with them*	0	3	4

Spent upon workmen in viewinge the defects of the steeple*	0	2	8
Paid to George Litherland for killinge of a foxe	0	1	0
Given to a messinger to bringe a note to Farnworth about choosing new eight men	0	0	4
Spent upon Luke daye att the ellection of the eight men*	0	8	6
Spent in goinge to gather leyes on Farnworth side*	0	3	6
	2	1	4
[274] Paid to Thomas Browne for a new yate for the church yoard neare Jane Boltons house <i>prout per</i> acquittance			
	0	7	6
Paid for an acquittance	0	2	0
Paid for caridge thereof	0	0	6
Paid for hanglinge thereof	0	0	6
Paid for wine for a monthly communion 1 July 1655	0	19	6
Spent in goinge two severall tymes to collect leyes in Eccleston*	0	2	0
Spent in goinge on Farnworth side to collecte and gather church leyes*	0	4	2
Given to the ringers in money and drinke for ringinge upon 5 November last past	0	7	0
Paid to Richard Marshall for severall worke done aboute the church this laste yeare as appeareth by an acquittance	1	7	0
Given to severall passingers who had a passe to goe for Ireland	0	1	4
Paid to Robert Kenion mason for worke done att the church porch as apeareth by an acquittance	0	18	0
Paid for an acquittance	0	0	2
Paid more to Robert Kenion for pointinge the botom of the steeple and the leades <i>prout per</i> acquittance	0	13	4
Paid for an acquittance	0	0	2
Paid to Edward Greene for a carpett cloath for the communion table and furniture to it as appeareth by an acquittance ²⁰⁶	2	19	8
Paid for an acquittance	0	0	2
	8	3	[0]
[275] Paid to Edward Greene for soder and soderinge the high leades <i>prout per</i> acquittance			
	0	11	0
Paid for an acquittance	0	0	2
Paid for lyme for pointinge of the steeple and for cariage thereof from Liverpoole	0	15	0
Paid for hire for the lyme	0	1	8

²⁰⁶ From this point there were moves towards greater decency in worship.

Spent upon the workmen that pointeu and sowdered the steeple*	0	1	8
Spent when the last churchwardens made upp and perfected theire accompts and paid in the arreares*	0	2	6
Spent att a privie sessions att Prescottt by the accomptants and overseers*	0	3	6
Spent att another privie sessions att Prescottt*	0	1	2
Spent in goinge to collecte leyes on Farnworth side severall dayes*	0	4	0
Paid to Thomas Walles for wine for a monthly communion 14 October 1655 <i>prout per</i> acquittance	0	17	10
Paid for an acquittance	0	0	2
Paid more for wine for a monthly communion 16 March 1655	1	4	0
Paid for an acquittance	0	0	2
Given to severall passingers who were goinge into Scotland	0	1	0
Paid for bread for the monthly communions	0	1	6
Paid to Edward Darbishire for his wages this laste yeare*	2	0	0
	6	5	2
[276] Paid for a spade tree and a pick hawm for the church use	0	1	2
Spent by the accomptants in attending severall sabbboth dayes and communion dayes this laste yeare 4s a peece in the whole*	0	16	0
Paid for writinge precepts for church leyes*	0	2	6
Paid for drawinge upp theise accompts*	0	3	4
Paid for entringe them into the booke of accompts*	0	3	4
Spent by the accomptants in meetinge to make upp theise accompts*	0	2	6
Alsoe they crave allowance of 10s for this dayes charges and expences*	0	10	0
Arreares of church leyes			
John Linicar of Upton	0	0	5[.]
Savage Mason of Upton ²⁰⁷	0	0	[.]
Hamlett Naylor of Widnes	0	0	2
Samuel Barrow of Sankey	0	0	4
John Minshall of Sankey	0	0	4
Hugh Whitestones of Sankey	0	0	[.]
	2	0	3
Total of the disbursements are	24	2	0
Soe the receipts beinge	22	1	9

²⁰⁷Presented in 1665 as a 'quaker and a notorious seducinge person': CRO, EDV 1/34.

and the disbursements *ut supra* they are in surplusage upon this
 accompte

2 0 3

[1656–7]

[277] Tuesday in Easter weeke 8 April 1656

The ellection and choice of the officers within the parish to serve the yeare followinge

Churchwardens

Prescott Whiston and Rainhill	William Stringfellowe of Rainhill
Sutton	John Knowles
Eccleston and Rainford	James Swift of Eccleston
Windle and Parr	Thomas Bate of Parr

Surveyors

Prescott William Glover
 Henry Marshall

Whiston John Litherland

Rainhill William Case
 William Kenwricke
 Thomas Wainwright

Sutton George Litherland
 Thurstan Scott

Eccleston Thomas Ashton
 William Wood of Glugsmoor

Rainford William Tarleton
 William Holte

Windle Edward Holland
 Raphe Foster

Parr William Turner
 Thomas Lawton

Overseers

Whiston	Thomas Woods
Eccleston	George Lyon
Cranton	Richard Grease
Sankie	Thomas Barnes

[278] Wee the vicar eight men and others of the parish whose names are hereunto
 subscrybed have seene and perused the churchwardens accompts and doe allowe and
 approve thereof and doe order that the churchwardens for the next ensueinge yeare
 shall paye over unto the old churchwardens who are now discharged the some of £2 3d
 which they are in surplusage upon their accompte out of the first church leyes which
 shalbee collected in the parish and shall alsoe paye unto the severall persons here under
 named for the killinge and destroyinge of foxes the severall somes followinge

To John Mercer for one foxe head	0	1	0
To Robert Willes for two foxe heades	0	2	0

To Randle Pinington and William Woods of Bold for fower foxe heades	0	4	0
To Robert Webster of Eccleston for seaven foxe heads	0	7	0

Alsoe wee doe approve of the officers now chosen

	John Wythens vicar
Henry Ogle	John Lin[a]ker
John Lathom	John Ackers
	Richard Hey
	Henry Tarbocke
	William Martin

[279] 8 April 1656

It is ordered that two whole church leyes shalbee forthwith collected and gathered thorough the whole parish both for satisfying of the old churchwardens as alsoe for the necessary repaire of the parish church to bee paid over unto the new churchwardens or some of them att or before 10 May next comminge. Witnes our hands hereunto subscribed the daye and yeare abovesaid

John Wythens vicar; John Ackers, William Martin, John Linicar, three of the eight men

Childwall 27 May 1656

An order that the churchwardens shall paye in the some of £3 16s 3d to the new churchwardens within the space of a month upon paine of beinge proceeded against accordinge to the lawe and that the new churchwardens shall returne an accompte unto us concerninge the same

[*signed*] G Ireland, John Foxe²⁰⁸

[280] Tuesday in Easter weeke 1657

The accompts of William Stringfellow Thomas Bate John Knowles and James Swifte churchwardens of the parish church of Prescott of their receipts and payments for the use of the said parish church from Tuesday in Easter weeke laste paste beinge 8 April 1656 untill this presente daye beinge 31 March 1657 as followeth

Fower church leyes laid this laste yeare

Inprimis they charge themselves with the receipts of fower church

leyes taxed upon the parish this laste yeare paste beinge on

Prescott side £16 and on Farnworth side £15 4s in all	31	4	0
---	----	---	---

Alsoe they charge themselves with the receipte of severall somes of money for burialls in the church as followeth

²⁰⁸ John Foxe of Rhodes, once a royalist but also a puritan: he was a magistrate from 1643.

John Halsall of Prescott	6[s]	8[d]		
Margaret daughter of Robert Lyon of Rainford	6	8		
Raph Edgerton of Hardshaw gent.	6	8		
Elizabeth daughter of James Traves of Windle	6	8		
Elizabeth wife of John Ackers of Rainhill	6	8		
John Ackers of Rainhill	6	8		
In all			2	0 0
Totall of the accomptants charge is			33	4 0

[281 *blank*, 282] Payments and disbursements made by the accomptants as followeth

Paid to a messinger for goinge on Farnworth side to deliver precepts for the first fower church leyes			0	1	0
Paid for sendinge a precepte to Rainford the same tyme			0	0	2
Paid for writeinge of precepts for the two first church leyes			0	2	6
Paid for meate and drinke for Adam Bate George Standish John Wright John Jaques and others that should have taken the whyteinge of the church			0	5	6
Paid for meate and drinke for Thomas Haslow ²⁰⁹ John Haslow and others who came from Warrington to take the whyteinge and varnishinge of the church it beinge agreed that they should have theire charges borne that daye			0	6	0
Paid to the said Thomas and John Haslowe in earnest of the bargaine			0	1	0
Paid to Edward Darbyshire for drawinge upp the agreement conserninge the said worke			0	0	6
Paid for a ladder for the church use			0	8	0
Paid for two bell ropes for the church use			0	7	6
Paid for carryinge the said bell ropes from Warrington to Prescott			0	0	4
			1	12	6
[283] Paid for fetchinge three horse loades of lyme from Rainford for the church use			0	3	0
Paid to Thomas Haslowe and John Haslowe in parte for paintinge and whyteinge of the church as appeareth by an acquittance			7	0	0
Paid more to them as appeareth by an other acquittance			1	15	0

²⁰⁹Hired to paint the Lord's prayer and the creed in the church porch in 1663. Childwall paid him to 'draw the kings arms' in 1663: Cl, p.245. Haslow was probably also responsible for the king's arms in Prescot church: see pp.xxxix, 199. He died at Warrington in 1673: LRO, WCW/Warrington/Admon/1673.

Paid for an acquittance	0	0	2
Paid more to them as appeareth by an other acquittance	1	0	0
Paid more to them as appeareth by an other acquittance	1	15	0
Paid for fetchinge a longe ladder from Leiftenante Lawtons which was bought for the church use	0	1	6
Paid for fetchinge two longe ladders and one shorte one which were borrowed for the church use	0	1	6
Paid for scaffold boards and shorte ladders which were hyred for the workemen for the church use	0	4	6
Paid for bringinge all the ladders backe againe	0	2	6
Paid more to Thomas Hasloe and John Halsoe for varnishinge aboute the rood lofte ²¹⁰ the [pue?] and pulpitt and dressinge the finger and other collowringe as appeareth by an acquittance	2	10	0
Paid for meate and drinke which was bestowed on the workemen att severall tymes whilst the worke was in hande	0	6	8
	14	19	10
[284] Paid for wyre and oyle for the clocke	0	1	0
Paid to John Leigh for a foxe head	0	1	0
Given to a poore passinger whose wife was in labor in the parish for the releefe of himselfe his wife and cheldren	0	1	0
Paid for bringinge a note to Farnworth to give notice of the election of the eight men	0	0	3
Paid for meate and drinke att the ellection of the eight men on St Lukes day	0	4	6
Paid to William Browne for slatinge mossinge and pointinge the church aboute where need was as maye appeare by an acquittance	1	16	0
Paid more to the said William Browne for two plates of leade and pointinge the leades and the church windowes as appeareth by an acquittance	0	12	0
Paid for two acquittance for the same money	0	0	4
Bestowed upon the workemen att the settinge of the mossinge and glaseinge of the church	0	1	10
Paid to Thomas Houlte for fower foxe heades	0	4	0
Paid to Robert Willeyes for two foxe heades which were allowed the laste Easter	0	2	0

²¹⁰This term seems an extraordinary pre-Reformation survival. The loft had been largely destroyed in the previous century, but was obviously repaired to house the organ in 1635–6. See p.xxvii.

Paid for meate drinke and lodgeinge for two woman two severall tymes which came by warrant from Justice Rosthorne ²¹¹	0	2	6
	3	6	5
[285] Paid for repayringe the wall att the higher ende of the church	0	4	6
Paid for slates for the church use and leadinge therof	0	11	0
Paid for seven foxe heades	0	7	0
Paid for an acquittance for the same	0	0	2
Paid for meate and drinke when the eight men and others of the parish mett together to laye the two latter church leyes	0	4	6
Paid for writinge of precepts for the said two church leyes	0	2	6
Paid for the sendinge of a precepte to Rainford	0	0	2
Paid to Mr Bolds man for a warrante to gather in the arreares of church leyes	0	2	0
Paid for one to goe to Liverpoole two severall tymes to procure Justice Foxe hande to the said warrant	0	1	2
Given to Sibbill Lambert widdow which had a breefe for a collection for herselfe and three chilren	0	0	6
Paid for a pounce of candles for the sextons use	0	0	5
Paid for wyne for two monthly communions as appeareth by two severall acquittances	2	5	0
Paid for two acquittances	0	0	4
Paid to Thomas Webster glasier for glaseinge about the church where defects (was) weare <i>prout per</i> acquittance	1	4	9
	5	4	0
[286] Paid for meate and drinke att a meetinge of the overseers and churchwardens concerninge the poore	0	4	4
Paid to Richard Marshall for mendinge the theird bell and clappinge two ladders <i>prout per</i> acquittance	0	9	0
Paid for wyne for a monthly communion as maye appeare by an acquittance	1	1	0
Paid for an acquittance	0	0	2
Paid for meate and drinke att a meetinge of the overseers and churchwardens concerninge George Glover of Windle	0	4	6
Paid to Edward Darbyshire for his whole yeares wages for his laste yeare paste as appeareth by an acquittance	3	0	0

²¹¹ Colonel Edward Rawsthorne of New Hall was a justice in 1633: *Visitation*, III, p.247.

Paid for charges and expences in goinge on Farmoorth side eight or nyne severall dayes to collecte church leyes which weare arreare	0	6	4
Paid to William Parr and John Sutton for two foxe heads	0	2	0
Paid for wyne for one monethly communion daye <i>prout per</i> acquittance	1	1	0
Paid for an acquittance	0	0	2
Paid to Richard Maudishley for tymber and makeinge of a church steele <i>proutt per</i> acquittance	0	7	0
Paid for an acquittance	0	0	2
	7	2	10

[287] Paid for communion bread for this laste yeare	0	2	6
Paid for drawinge upp theise accompts	0	2	6
Paid for to have them entred into the booke of accompts	0	2	6
Paid for sendinge notice to Farnworth to meete this daye	0	0	4
Theise accomptants crave allowance for theire charges in attendinge the communion dayes and other saboth dayes	0	10	0
	0	17	10
Total of disbursements	33	3	5

Soe the receipts beinge	33	4	0
and the disbursements	33	3	5
Theire remaineth in the accomptants hands	0	0	7

Wee allowe and approve of theise accompts Witnes our hands
John Wythens vicar; Henry Ogle, Henry Lawton, John Lathom, William Webster,
George Litherland, Thomas Lyon, William Wood

[1657–8]

[288] Tuesday in Easter weeke 31 March 1657

The ellection and choyce of the churchwardens overseers of the poore and surveyors to
serve the yeare followinge

Churchwardens

Prescott Whiston and Rainhill	William Torbocke of Prescott
Sutton	Edmund Seddon
Eccleston and Rainford	John Lassell of Rainford
Windle and Parr	John Eddleston of Wyndle

Overseers of the poore

Surveyors

Sutton	James Worsley	Eccleston	James Ascrofte
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Parr	John Houghton		Lawrence Holland
Widnes	Henry Edwardson	Rainford	Thomas Sefton
Bold	William Woods		William Gaskell
		Wyndle	William Barrowe
	Surveyors		Thomas Gerard
Prescott	John Poughtin	Parr	Henry Eccleston
	Robert Walley		John Mosse
Whiston	George Litherland		
	Thomas Shawe		
Rainhill	William Kenwricke		
	Thomas Ackers		
Sutton	John Sutton		
	John Barton		

Wee approve hereof

John Withens vicar; Henry Ogle, Henry Lawton, John Lathom, William Webster, George Litherland, William Wood

[289 *blank*, 290] St Lukes day 18 October 1657

The ellection and choice of the eight men to serve for the yeares followinge

Prescott	John Alcocke gent.
Rainhill	Henry Lawton
Sutton	William Wood
Parr	John Mosse
Rainford	Edmund Browne
Windle	Peter Lyon
Cuardley and Cronton	Thomas Foster
Ditton and Penketh	William Kenion

Ellected by us

[*signed*] John Wythens vicar; William Webster, John Lyon, Thomas Wyke, William Farrer [*mark*], [*signed*] Edw[ard] Darbshire

[291 *blank*, 292] Tuesday in Easter weeke 1658 13 April

The accompts of William Tarbocke Edmund Seddon John Lassell and John Eddleston churchwardens of the parish church of Prescott of theire receipts and payments for the use of the said parish church from Tuesday in Easter weeke last past beinge 31 March 1657 untill this present daye beinge 13 April 1658 as followeth

Four church leyes laid this last yeare

Inprimis they charge themselves with the receipte of fower church leyes thorough the parish beinge on Prescott side £16 and on Farnworth side £15 4s in all

31 4 0

Also they charge themselves with the receipte of 13s 4d for two buriall in the church	0	13	4
Totall of the accomptants charge is	31	17	4

Payments and disbursements made by the accomptants as
followeth

First paid att a meetinge of the eight men and other parishioners to laye church leyes for meate and drinke	0	3	4
Paid for meate and drinke with meetinge the overseers of the poore to lay leyes for the poore	0	2	0
24 July paid to John Walles ²¹² for six yards of hollond for a communion table cloath as maye appeare <i>per</i> an acquittance	0	14	6
6 August paid to William Devias of Bold 6s for six foxheds which should have beene paid for by the last churchwardens as may appeare <i>per</i> an acquittance	0	6	0
[293] Paid to Thomas Keackwicke for two dayes and a halfe worke about the bell wheels att 16d <i>per diem</i>	0	3	4
Paid to John Poughtin for a spade tree and a pick halme that was left unpaid <i>per</i> the last churchwardens	0	1	2
Paid to John Poughtin for five boards for to mend the bell wheeles	0	2	0
Paid to Thomas Browne for a peece of timber used about the said wheeles	0	1	0
Paid for a horse for Adam Bate and for meate for his horse and my one and for meate and drinke for ourselves with goinge to Bold to looke att some timber and from thence to Warrington to bespeak ropes to bee made	0	[3?]	6
Paid to John Beswicke for ropes and cords as may appeare by an acquittance	1	2	0
Paid for caridge of the said ropes from Warrington	0	0	4
Paid to Richard Marshall for worke done aboute the church and bells as may appeare by a note of particulers and an acquittance	0	14	10
Paid for bringinge precepts to Farnworth side	0	0	8
Paid to Thomas Keackwicke for medinge another bell wheele beinge one days worke and a halfe	0	2	0

²¹²John (son of Thomas Walles), was a prosperous merchant with shipping interests in Liverpool. He was later churchwarden and one of the donors of a new chalice at the restoration.

Paid for nayles to mend the said wheelles	0	0	6
Paid to John Poughtin for corde for the said wheels	0	2	0
20 August paid to Thomas Walls for wyne used 9 August as may appeare by an acquittance	0	19	6
Paid for a wiskett for the use of the said parish	0	0	3
	2	10	1
[294] Paid for nyne measures of lyme for the use of the said parish	0	8	5
Paid for bringinge a note of publication of the ellection of the eight men to Farnworth	0	0	4
Paid for meate and drinke for our horses and selves with goinge to Liverpoole to passe our words to the justices of peace for our appareance att the quarter sessions	0	3	6
Paid for meate and drinke for our horses and selves with goinge to Wigan to the quarter sessions in defence of the parish against one Byrom of Parr who had an order to receive 40s <i>per annum</i> out of the parish and paid for attorneys fees and for the fine wee all beinge indited	0	18	0
1 December paid to Thomas Walls for wine used 22 November as maye appeare <i>per</i> an acquittance	0	18	6
Paid to Thomas Webster for soder lead and workmanshipp as maye appeare by an acquittance	1	0	2
Paid to Thomas Ashton skinner for heire as may appeare by an acquittance	0	4	6
Paid for 20 bushell of lyme as may appeare <i>per</i> an acquittance	0	15	0
Paid for cariage of the said lyme from Liverpoole	0	3	4
Paid to Thomas Ashton James Fletcher and others for ten fox heads which should have beene paid for <i>per</i> the last churchwardens as may appeare <i>per</i> an acquittance	0	10	0
Paid for meate and drinke for my horse and myselfe with goinge to Liverpoole to buy the said lyme	0	0	9
Paid to Thomas Glover for a foxe head as may appeare by an acquittance	0	1	0
	5	3	6
[295] Paid for meate and drinke with goinge to Farnworth side fower severall dayes to gather the two first church leyes	0	6	0
Paid to Thomas Walles for wine used the laste of February as may appeare by an acquittance	1	2	0
Paid for meate and drinke for my horse and selfe with goinge to Liverpoole two severall dayes to procure warrants for to collecte church leyes	0	2	0

Paid for a warrant to give notice to severall persons in Widnes Penketh and Sankie to pay in their church leyes or ells to appeare before the justices to shew cause to the contrary	0	2	0
Paid for nales for mendinge the church steels	0	0	6
Paid for meate and drinke for my horse and selfe with goinge to Liverpoole to procure a warrant of distresse	0	1	0
Paid for the said warrant	0	2	0
Paid for meate and drinke with goinge to Farnworth side five severall dayes by Edmund Seddon John Lassell and William Tarbocke to collecte the two latter church leyes	0	9	0
Paid for wine used 4 April as may appeare <i>per</i> acquittance	1	5	0
Paid for a peece of timber for lentalls for the steeple as may appeare by an acquittance	0	16	0
Paid for leadinge the said timber	0	3	0
Paid for meate and drinke att the leadinge of the said timber	0	1	0
Paid to Edward Darbshire for his wages as may appeare <i>per</i> an acquittance	3	0	0
Paid to Edward Darbshire for bread for the communions as may appeare by an acquittance	0	2	8
Paid to the ringers 5 November	0	8	0
	8	0	2
[296] Paid to one to goe to Farnworth to bringe a note of publigation of this meetinge			
	0	0	4
Paid to Richard Marshall for a barr of iron and for work done about the church as may appeare by an acquittance	0	9	6
Paid to Adam Bate for puttinge upp the lintall into the steeple as may appeare by an acquittance	1	0	0
Paid to Adam Bate for worke aboute the steeple as may appeare by an acquittance	11	3	6
Paid for a pound of candles for John Ashton when hee began to ringe the bell	0	0	5
Paid for oyle and wyre for the clocke and for takinge the clock in sunder and dressinge it	0	1	8
Paid for writinge precepts for fower church leyes att two severall tymes	0	5	0
Besides wee crave allowance for attendinge att the church upon the saboth dayes wee crave	0	10	0
	13	10	5
Totall of the disbursements are	31	13	0

Soe the receipts beinge	31	17	4			
and the disbursements	31	13	0			
Theire remaineth in the accomptants hands				0	4	4

Wee allowe and approve of theise accompts Witnes our hands

John Wythens vicar; John Alcocke, Thomas Litherland, Henry Lawton, John Lathom, Edmund Barnes

[1658–9]

[297] 13 April 1658

Overseers chosen att Prescott church att a publicke meetinge att the said parish church

Churchwardens

Prescott Whiston Rainhill	John Ackers
Sutton	Thomas Tarbocke
Windle and Parr	William Turner
Rainford Eccleston	William Webster

Surveyors

Prescott	Richard Marshall	
	Thomas Marrowe	
Whiston	Henry Foster	
	Richard Jameson	By us
Rainhill	Thomas Wainwright	John Wythens vicar
	Edward Lyon	John Alcocke
Sutton	Henry Harrison	Henry Lawton
	Edward Holme	John Lathom
Windle	John Rainford	William Wood
	Thomas Atherton	Edmund Barnes
	John Lyon	William Stringfellow
Parr	Nicholas Ashton	Peeter Lyon
	Thomas Orrell	Thomas Litherland
Rainford	Thomas Tarleton	Richard Hyde
	Henry Gaskell	
Eccleston	Edward Potts	
	James Swift	

Overseers of the poore

Eccleston	James Glest
Rainhill	Edward Deane
Kowardley	Robert Martland
Ditton	Thomas Hey

[298] 11 May 1658

A tax laid by the churchwardens and overseers of the poore within the parish of Prescott whose names are subscribed for and towards the mainteynance and releefe of the poore and impotent within the parish as followeth

Prescott	1	13	4
Whiston	1	13	4
Rainhill	1	13	4
Sutton	5	0	0
Eccleston	2	10	0
Rainford	2	10	0
Windle	2	10	0
Parr	2	10	0
Widnes <i>cum</i> Appleton	4	4	5
Bold	4	4	5
£2 3s 11d £2 6d			
Cawardley and Cronton	4	4	5
£2 16s 3d 28s 2d			
Ditton and Penketh	4	4	5
Sankey	2	2	4
	Total	39	0 0

It is ordered that this money bee taxed and assessed within the severall townships of the parish of Prescott and coppyes of each tax delivered to the cunstable of each severall townships by the overseers or some of them and the said money to bee paid over to the said overseers att or before 24 June next comminge

John Ackers	Edward Deane
William Webster	Robert Martland
Thomas Torbocke [<i>copy mark</i>]	Thomas Hey [<i>copy mark</i>], overseers
William Turner, churchwardens	

[299] 11 May 1658

This daye att a publique²¹³ meetinge of the parishioners of the parish church of Prescott upon motion of the churchwardens it is ordered that two whole church leyes shalbee laid thorough the whole parish for the necessary occasion of the church att [*sic*] that the same bee paid over to the churchwardens att or before 24 June next. Witnes our hands

John Wythens vicar	Richard Arrowsmith [<i>copy mark</i>]
Edward Stockley	William Ploumbe [<i>copy mark</i>]
John Alcocke	Edward Darbshire

²¹³The term suggests that many more parishioners had a role in parish government from this time.

Edward Deane	Thomas Sumner
Robert Marsland	
Thomas Hey [<i>copy mark</i>]	
William Kenwricke	

St Lukes daye 18 October 1658

The ellection and choise of the eight men to serve the yeare followinge

Prescott	William Lyme
Rainhill	William Stringfellow
Whiston	Henry Ashtonn
Sutton	John Sutton
Windle	Thomas Lyon potter
Eccleston	Thomas Ashtonn
Widnes	Robert Wright tanner
Cronton	John Parr

Ellected by us

John Wythens vicar; John Alcocke, John Parr, William Tarbocke, Edward Darbshire

[300] 24 November 1658

Att a publike meetinge of the parishioners of the parish of Prescott it is this day ordered that two whole church leyes shalbee forthwith collected and gathered thorough the whole parish to bee paid over to the churchwardens for the necessary use and repaire of the parish church on or before 1 January next comminge. Witnes our hands

	John Wythens vicar
Edmund Barnes	Thomas Ashtonn
Edward Deane	Thomas Ashtonn
Edward Darbshire	John Sutton
Thomas Lyon [<i>copy mark</i>]	Thomas Lyon

13 April 1658

Foxheades brough in this daye and agreed by the parishioners to bee paid 12d for every head by the new churchwardens

<i>Inprimis</i> Edmund Barnes	three
Peeter Lyon of Fenney Bancke	fower
Edward Standish of Sutton	one
James Fletcher of Eccleston	five
John Jaques of Eccleston	one
John Jackson of Whiston	one
William Devias of Bold	fower
John Eddleston of Windle	one

Edmund Seddon	one
William Tyrer of Tarbock	one

[301 *blank*, 302] 25 January 1658

A tax laid by the churchwardens and overseers of the poore within the parish of Prescott whose names are subscribed for and towards the mainteynance and releefe of the poore and impotent within the parish as followeth

Prescott				0	16	8
Whiston				0	16	8
Rainhill				0	16	8
Sutton				2	10	0
Eccleston				1	5	0
Rainford				1	5	0
Windle				1	5	0
Parr				1	5	0
Widnes and Appleton				2	2	2½
Bold				2	2	2½
Cawardley	1	1	11½			
Cronton	1	0	3½	2	2	2½
Ditton £1 8s 2d and Penketh 14s 1d				2	2	2½
Sankey				1	1	2
				19	10	0

It is ordered that this money bee taxed and assessed within the severall townshippes of the parish of Prescott and coppies of each tax delivered to the constables of each severall townshippes by the overseers or some of them and the said money to bee paid over to the said overseers att or before 14 February next comminge

John Ackers
Edward Deane
William Webster

[303 *blank*, 304] 31 May 1659

This day at a meeting of the parishioners of the parish church of Prescott at the church of Prescott aforesaid upon the motion of the churchwardens of the said parish and their complaynt for want of money for the necessary repayre of the steeple and other charges about the said church it is agreed that two whole church leyes shalbe layd through the said parish to be paid to the churchwardens or some of them at or before 24 June next [*signed*] J[ohn] Wythens vicar; Edward Stockley, William Lyme, Henry Marshall, William Webster, Thomas Lyon, Henry Tarbock, Edward Darbshire

[305 *blank*, 306] Tuesday in Easter weeke beinge 5 April 1659

The accompts of John Ackers William Webster Thomas Tarbocke and William Turner

churchwardens of the parish church of Prescott of their receipts and payments for the use of the said parish church for one year last past beginning at Easter 1658 as followeth

First they charge themselves with the receipt of fower whole church leys through the parish beinge in the in the whole the some of	31	4	0
Alsoe they charge themselves with the receipt of 46s 8d for seven burialls in the church	2	6	8
Total	33	10	8

Payments and disbursements paid and laid out by the accomptants of which they crave allowance

First they crave allowance of 2s paid by them to the justices for the approving of their election	0	2	0
Alsoe of 3s spent by them in stayinge at the privie sessions to wate for the same approbation	0	3	0
Alsoe of 10s spent by one of the accomptants upon himselfe and his horse in goinge to Preston to pay 26s to the sheriffe which was collected by command from my lord protector for poore protestants beyond sea	0	10	0
Alsoe of 12d spent at a meetinge of the church wardens when they sent a certificate to London concerninge the said collection	0	1	0
Alsoe of 4d paid to Raph Parr for goinge to Farnworth with a note to the eight men on that side concerninge the parish businesse	0	0	4
Alsoe of 12d spent by one of the accomptants in goinge to Liverpoole to buy lyme for the church	0	1	0
Alsoe of 18s 4d paid for 22 bushells of lyme to John Loonte	0	18	4
	1	15	8
[307] Alsoe of 4s 6d paid for cariage of the same lyme to Preston	0	4	6
Alsoe of 6s 3d paid to Thomas Goodicar and Henry Hunt at two severall tymes for slatinge and mossinge the church	0	6	3
Also of 18d spent by one of the accomptants in goinge to Farnworth to gather leyes	0	1	6
Alsoe of 4d paid to Raph Parr for goinge to Farnworth to give notice of a meetinge of the eight men	0	0	4
Alsoe of 12d paid to John Ashton for going to Farnworth side to bringe precepts for the first two church leyes	0	1	0
Alsoe 2s 6d spent by one of the accomptants in goinge to Farnworth side to receive leayes	0	2	6

Alsoe of 2s 6d paid to Thomas Goodicar for puttinge up slate and mossinge the church one other tyme	0	2	6
Alsoe of 12d paid to John Ashton for goinge to Warrington to bespeake bell ropes	0	1	0
Alsoe of 3s spent in goinge to Farnworth another tyme to meete the cunstable to receave leys	0	3	0
Alsoe of 12d spent by one of the accomptants in goinge to Rainford to demand church leys	0	1	0
Alsoe of 12d paid to John Holt for a fox head	0	1	0
Alsoe of 12d paid to Richard Lyon for a foxe head	0	1	0
Alsoe of £7 3s 9d paid to Adam Bate for pointinge the church as by acquittance	7	3	9
	8	9	4
[308] Alsoe of 35s 10d paid to Thomas Webster for glasinge the church as by acquittance	1	15	10
Alsoe of 6s paid to John Ashton for a wheelebarrow and for dressinge the alleys	0	6	0
Alsoe of 27s 4d paid to Richard Marshall for worke done att the church	1	7	4
Alsoe of £4 10s paid to Margery Walls for wyne for fower communions	4	10	0
Alsoe of 2s 6d paid to Edward Darbishire for bread for those communions	0	2	6
Alsoe of 12d paid to John Ashton for bringinge precepts to Farnworth side for the latter two church leyes	0	1	0
Alsoe of 12d paid for oyle and wire for the clocke	0	1	0
Alsoe of 4d paid to Raph Parr for goinge to Farnworth with a note aboute the choise of the eight men	0	0	4
Alsoe of 4d paid to Ann Leadbetter for caryinge water to Adam Bate to make mortar	0	0	4
Alsoe of 12d paid to Thomas Goodicar for puttinge upp slates one other tyme aboute the church	0	1	0
Alsoe of 12d paid to George Litherland for a fox head	0	1	0
Alsoe of 12d paid to William Tyrer for one fox head	0	1	0
Alsoe of 3s paid to Henry Thomasson for three fox heades	0	3	0
Alsoe of 4s 6d spent by one of the accomptants in goinge three severall tymes to Farnworth side upon himselfe and horse to receave leyes	0	4	6
Alsoe of 15s paid to John Roper for three bell ropes	0	15	0

Alsoe of 2d paid for cariage of them	0	0	2
Alsoe of 12d spent by one of the accomptants att Warrington att the buyinge of them	0	1	0
	9	11	0
[309] Alsoe of 5s paid to Thomas Ashton for haire for mortar for the pointinge of the church	0	5	0
Alsoe of 8s paid to the ringers for ringinge upon 1 November ²¹⁴	0	8	0
Alsoe of 12d paid by John Ackers one of the accomptants unto Edward Darbishire for keepinge a particuler of his receipts and disbursements	0	1	0
Alsoe of 12d spent by two of the accomptants att the settinge of the pointinge of the church	0	1	0
Alsoe of 3s 4d spent by two of the accomptants in goinge to Farnworth side for leyes	0	3	4
Alsoe of 6s 6d paid for a quarter of a rood of slate for the church	0	6	6
Alsoe of 4s paid for leadinge the same	0	4	0
Alsoe of 2s spent in goinge another tyme to Farnworth side for leyes	0	2	0
Alsoe of 4s paid for fower fox heads	0	4	0
Alsoe of 5s 6d paid for flaggs for the steeple windowes	0	5	6
Alsoe of 4s paid for leadinge the same	0	4	0
Alsoe of 3s spent another tyme goinge to Farnworth side to gather leys	0	3	0
Alsoe of £3 paid to Edward Darbishire for his yeares allowance by the parish	3	0	0
Alsoe of 3s spent in goinge two severall tymes to Penketh to gather leys	0	3	0
Alsoe of 10s for the accomptants paynes and charges in attendinge the communions and other church businesse this yeare past accordinge as formerly hath beene allowed	0	10	0
Alsoe of 2s 6d paid for writinge precepts for the two first church leyes	0	2	6
Alsoe of 2s 6d paid for writinge precepts for the latter two church leys	0	2	6
	6	5	4
[310] Alsoe of 2s 6d paid for drawinge framinge and castinge up this accompt	0	2	6

²¹⁴ Perhaps a scribal error for 5 Nov. It is unlikely that there would have been ringing on the old All Souls night.

Alsoe of 2s 6d for writinge this accompte when allowed into the church booke	0	2	6
Alsoe of 3s 3d paid to Thomas Goodicar John Ashton and Thurstan Parr for puttinge upp the flaggs into the steeple windows beinge two dayes in doinge therof	0	3	3
Alsoe of 12d paid to William Tyrer for one fox head more	0	1	0
Alsoe of 12d paid to George Litherland for one fox head more	0	1	0
Alsoe of 2s 6d paid for writinge a copy of this accompte ready to bee shewed to the justices of peace	0	2	6
Alsoe of 12d paid by one of the accomptants for a fox head to Thomas Thirlwind	0	1	0
Alsoe of 18d spent by William Turner one of the accomptants in goinge to Farnworth 4 April instant to demand theire leyes	0	1	6
	0	15	3
Alsoe the accomptants desire to bee respited the severall somes followinge beinge arreare and unpaid unto any of them			
In Penketh			
By James Brettargh gent. ²¹⁵	0	0	8
By Thomas Lea	0	1	0
By John Minshall of Sankey	0	0	2
	0	1	10
Alsoe they desire allowance of 3s paid to Edmund Barnes for three fox heads which was unpaid to him the last <day> yeare	0	3	0
[311] Alsoe of 12d paid to William Devias of Bold for one fox head brought	0	1	0
Alsoe of 4d paid to Raph Parr for goinge to Farnworth to give notice of the meetinge this daye	0	0	4
	0	6	2
Totall disbursed and respited	27	11	2
Soe the receipts beinge	33	10	08
And the some disbursed and respited beinge	27	11	02
The accomptants are in debit upon this accompte	5	19	6

5 April 1659

Wee whose names are subscribed beinge parishioners of the parish church of Prescott

²¹⁵James Brettargh (b. c.1626) succeeded to the Brettargh Holt estate in Aigburth in 1659: *Visitation*, I, p.57. James was later ordered to maintain the children of his poor brother William, after a bitter family dispute: LRO, QSP/211/13: R. Stewart-Brown, 'The poor Brettarghs', *THLC*, 99 (1947), pp.89–93.

have examined this accompte and approve and allow of the same as they are now stated and alsoe of the election of the officers now chosen

Peter Parr	John Wythens vicar
Edward Deane	William Lyme
John Lyon	John Lathom
Thomas Lyon	Henry Lawton
	James Glest

[1659–60]

[312] 5 April 1659

The ellection of the churchwardens for the parish church of Prescott to serve for the yeare followinge

Prescott	Whiston	Rainhill	William Ackers of Rainhill
	Sutton		Robert Harrison
	Eccleston	and Rainford	Edmund Barnes
	Windle	and Parr	Peter Lyon

Surveyors

Prescott	Edward Darbishire, Thomas Knowles
Whiston	John Lathom, John Lyon
Rainhill	Thomas Wainwright, Edward Lyon
Sutton	James Worsley, John Sutton
Eccleston	George Lyon, Thomas Kenion
Rainford	Richard Hyde, Thomas Lyon
Windle	Henry Darbishire, Thomas Roughley
Parr	John Chaddocke, Richard Bordman

Overseers of the poore

John Parr, James Glest, John Ditchfeild, Gilbert Arrowsmith

[313] St Lukes day 18 October 1659

The ellection and choise of the eight men to serve for the yeare followinge

Prescott	Henry Marshall
Whiston	John Lathom
Sutton	Richard Taylor
Eccleston	William Webster
Parr	John Mosse
Windle	Thomas Lyon, potter
Widnes	Robert Denton
Bold	Mathew Houghton

Ellected by us

John Wythens vicar; John Alcocke senior, John Parr, Henry Tarbocke, Edward Darbishire

[314] 29 November 1659

A day [*sic*] laid by the churchwardens and overseers of the poore within the parish of Prescott whose names are subscribed for and towards the mainteynance and releefe of the poore and impotent within the parish as followeth

Prescott				0	16	8
Whiston				0	16	8
Rainhill				0	16	8
Sutton				2	10	0
Eccleston				1	5	0
Rainford				1	5	0
Windle				1	5	0
Parr				1	5	0
Widnes <i>cum</i> Appleton				2	2	2½
Bold				2	2	2½
Cawardley	1	1	11½			
Cronton	1	0	3½	2	2	2½
Ditton	1	8	2			
Penketh	0	14	0½	2	2	2½
Sankey				1	1	2
				19	10	0

It is therefore ordered that this money bee taxed and assessed within the severall townships of this parish and coppyes of each tax delivered to the cunstables of each severall townships by the overseers or some of them and the said money to bee paid over to the said overseers att or before 2 January next comminge

William Ackers

Peeter Lyon

Edmund Barnes, churchwardens

James Glest

John Parr

John Ditchfield

Gilbert Arrowsmith, overseers

[315 *blank*, 316] Tuesday in Easter weeke 24 April 1660

The accompts of William Ackers Robert Harrison Edmund Barnes and Peeter Lyon churchwardens of the parish church of Prescott of theire receipts and payments for the use of the said parish church from the Tuesday in Easter weeke last past untill this present day beinge 24 April 1660 as followeth

First they charge themselves with the receipte of £5 19s 6d

received of the churchwardens beinge the arreare upon the foote of theire accompts	5	19	6
Alsoe received two whole church leyes through the parish beinge on Prescott side £8 and on Farnworth side £7 12s in all	15	12	0
Alsoe for eight burialls in the church as by a particuler under the hand of Edward Darbishire in all	2	13	4
Totall received	24	4	10

Payments and disbursements as followeth

First paid to Raph Parr for givinge notice to the eight men on Farnworth side of a meetinge att the church	0	0	6
Spent att Edward Darbishires when the eight men and some of the parish mett	0	2	0
Paid to Thomas Walls for wyne for fower monthly communions as appeares by acquittance	6	0	0
Paid for an acquittance for the same	0	0	2
Spent on Edward Darbishire and two of the accomptants in goinge to Warrington to speake for the bell ropes	0	1	0
Paid for two bell ropes to John Roper of Warrington	0	9	0
Spent when wee went to fetch them and for cariage ²¹⁶			
Spent by two of the accomptants when wee went to demand the church leyes on Farnworth side five severall tymes	0	9	0
Spent att the ellection of the eight men	0	1	0
	7	3	8
 [317] Paid to John Ackers for fower fox heads	0	4	0
Paid for an acquittance	0	0	2
Paid to Thomas Webster for mendinge the leads	0	4	0
For an acquittance	0	0	2
Paid to John Bate for pointinge the same	0	2	0
For an acquittance	0	0	2
Paid to Thomas Webster for glasinge	0	4	10
For fower fox heads to William Woods and Richard Banks in to Bold	0	4	0
For an acquittance	0	0	2
Paid for writinge 15 precepts for the payment of the church leyes	0	2	6
Paid to the ringers for ringinge on the 5 November	0	8	0
Spent att the same tyme	0	0	6
Paid to Peeter Lyon for fower fox heads that William Webster should have paid for	0	4	0

²¹⁶ No sum entered.

Paid for seven foxe heads to Peeter Lyon	0	7	0
Paid for a new spade to the church	0	2	6
Paid to Richard Marshall for smiths worke	2	2	4
Paid to John Ashton for wire and oyle and repaire of the clocke	0	4	0
Paid for a pound of candles	0	0	5
Paid for six foxe heads to William Webster as appeares by acquittance	0	6	0
For an acquittance	0	0	2
Paid for timber for the mendinge and repairinge of the church stiles lychyate and for lintalls for the steeple	2	0	2
For an acquittance			2
Paid for leadinge of the said timber from Rainford to Prescott	0	18	0
Spent in [<i>space for several words blank</i>] of the timber	0	2	0
	7	17	1
[318] Spent in meate and drinke upon the carpenders and carters and ourselves when they brought the timber			
	0	5	0
Spent upon the carpenters when the worke was set unto them	0	2	0
Paid to the carpenters for doinge the worke as appeares by an acquittance	1	18	0
Paid for an acquittance	0	0	2
Spent (in meetinge) upon the eight men and ourselves att the layinge of two church leyes	0	4	0
Spent when the overseers of the poore mett	0	2	0
Spent in meetinge Daniell Sefton ²¹⁷ mason to set the pointinge of the steeple	0	1	0
Paid to John Ashton for goinge to disapoint Daniell Sefton for cominge about it	0	1	0
Spent upon Adam Bate and ourselves in setting the steeple worke to the said Adam Bate	0	3	0
Given in earnest to Adam Bate	0	1	0
Paid to John Lunt of Liverpoole for 20 measures of white lyme att 10d the measure	0	16	8
For an acquittance	0	0	2
Spent by two of the accomptants in goinge to buy the lyme	0	2	0
Spent when hee went to fetch it	0	1	6
Paid to William Wood and John Tunstall for loadinge of it	0	3	4

²¹⁷He occurs as a 'freemason of Ormskirk' in 1642: LRO, QSB/266/13. Daniel's descendant Henry Sephton (c.1686–1756) was to repair the steeple in 1714 and build Prescott's new tower in 1729: H. Colvin, ed. *A Biographical Dictionary of British Architects, 1600–1840* (Yale, 1995), p.726; D. Findlay, 'The pious works of Henry Sephton', *Georgian Group Journal*, 6 (1996), pp.24–36.

For an acquittance				0	0	2
Paid for cariage of the lyme into the church				0	0	6
Paid for caryinge same to the leads				0	1	0
Paid to Adam Bate for siftinge and blendinge the said lyme				0	2	0
				4	4	6
[319] Paid to Thomas Walls for wort to blend the said lyme with				1	0	0
For an acquittance				0	0	2
Paid to Edward Darbishire for bread for fower comunions				0	2	6
Paid to him for his allowance for keepinge cleane the church and church yoard and the seates as formerly				3	0	0
Paid for drawinge this accompte and writinge it into the church booke				0	5	0
The accomptants crave to bee allowed for their attendance as formerly				0	10	0
Alsoe they desire to bee respited theise severall somes followinge to wit						
For Sankie	0	1	4	0	1	4
For Penketh	0	8	2	0	8	2
beinge unpaid by the said townes				5	7	2
Soe the charge beinge	24	4	10			
and the disbursements beinge	24	12	5			
The accomptants are in surplusage the some of				0	7	5

24 April 1660

This accompte hath beene examined and thought fit that the receipts and payments shalbee balanced and made even although severall particuler disbursements are thought unreasonable which for the future are desired to bee amended and further that the some of 6s 8d charged for the buriall of Mr Ashworth his child shalbee repaid to Edward Darbishire (to the said Edward Darbishire) and given to the said (Edward Darbishire) Mr Ashworth as a gift from the parish.

Approved of by us 3 May 1660 G Irelande, L Vanstonne

[1660–1]

[320] 24 April 1660

Officers elected to serve the yeare followinge

Churchwardens	
Prescott Whiston Rainhill	Thomas Knowles
Sutton	Edmund Gaskell

Eccleston Rainford
Windle and Parr

Thomas Ashton
Nicholas Ashton

Overseers of the poore
George Litherland of Sutton
John Lyon of Windle
Bryan Sixsmith of Sankie
Thomas Heyes of Penketh

Surveyors of the highways

Prescott	Edward Booth and Richard Arrowsmith
Whishton	John Lathom and John Lyon
Rainhill	Thomas Forber and Edward Parr
Sutton	John Wood and Abraham Key
Eccleston	Henry Tarbocke and William Wood
Rainford	John Tunstall sonne of Mathew, Gawther Barrowe
Windle	Thomas Holland and Thomas Martindale
Parr	John Haward and James Pinnington

Elected by us

Henry Marshall	John Wythens	William Blundell
John Lathom, eight men	Henry Ogle	Thomas Litherland
	Edward Stockley	Thomas Wycke
	Henry Lawton	Gilbert Arrowsmith
		John Dit[chfield?]

[321] 29 May 1660

A tax laid by the churchwardens and overseers of the poore within the parish of Prescott whose names are subscribed for and towards the mainteynance and releefe of the poore and impotente within the parish as followeth

Prescott	1	13	4
Whiston	1	13	4
Rainhill	1	13	4
Sutton	5	0	0
Eccleston	2	10	0
Rainford	2	10	0
Windle	2	10	0
Parr	2	10	0
Widnes <i>cum</i> Appleton	4	4	5
Bold	4	4	5
Cawardley	2	3	11
Cronton	2	0	6

Ditton	2	16	3			
Penketh	1	8	2			
Sankey	2	2	4	39	0	0

It is ordered that this money bee taxed and assessed within the severall townships of the parish of Prescott and copies of each tax delivered to the cunstables of each severall townshipp by the overseers or some of them and the said money to bee paid over to the said overseers att or before 24 June next cominge

George Litherland, John Lyon [*copy mark*], overseers

[322] 22 May 1660

Upon a meetinge this day of the parishioners of the parish of Prescott it is ordered that fower whole church leyes shalbee forthwith collected and gathered thorough the whole parish for the necessary repaire of the parish church to bee paid over to the church wardens or some of them att or before 24 June next. Witnes our hands hereunto put the day and yeare aforesaid

John Wythens vicar; Edward Stockley, William Lyme, Thomas Wycke, William Webster, John Lyon, George Litherland, Edward Darbishire, Richard Cowley

St Lukes day 18 October 1660

The ellection and choise of the eight men to serve the yeare followinge

Prescott	Henry Marshall
Rainhill	Edward Deane
Sutton	Richard Taylor
Rainford	Edward Barnes
Eccleston	William Wood
Windle	John Eddleston
Bold	William Woods
Cuardley	John Liniker

Ellected by us

John Wythens vicar; William Webster, George Litherland, Henry Tarbocke, Henry Webster, Edward Darbishire

[323] 24 January 1660

A tax laid this day of £23 8s by the churchwardens and overseers of the poore within the parish of Prescott whose names are subscribed for and towards the mainteynance and releefe of the poore and impotent within the said parish to bee paid from the severall townships hereafter named att or before 20 February next and assessed upon the severall townships as followeth

Prescott	1	0	0
Whiston	1	0	0
Rainhill	1	0	0

George Litherland

John Lyon, overseers

The accompts of Thomas Knowles Thomas Ashton Nicholas Ashton and Edmund Gaskell churchwardens of the parish church of Prescott of their receipts and payments for the use of the said parish church from Tuesday in Easter weeke last past untill this present day beinge 16 April 1661 as followeth

31 4 0

3	0	0
34	4	0

First paid for bringinge a note to Farnworth to Edward Appleton of all the churchwardens and overseers names for the yeare followinge	0	0	3
Paid for a certificate under the hands of the justices of the peace of their approuement of the churchwardens	0	2	0
Spent the same in waytinge of the justices till wee were approved on	0	1	0
Paid 14 May to the ringers att the proclamation of the kinge ²¹⁸ by the vicars consent and others of the parishioners	0	5	0

²¹⁸ There is some confusion about dates in this first year of restoration. Ringing was ordered to celebrate Charles II's proclamation in early May, on his entry into London and birthday (29 May), his accession and the martyrdom of his father (30 Jan.) and his coronation (23 Apr.). Both Prescott (14 May) and Walton (Wn, f.132v), record ringing for the proclamation in 1660. See pp.xxxvi, 199, 207.

Paid for hanginge upp the kinges armes and settinge upp the font stone ²¹⁹	0	5	0
Paid to John Poughtin for a legg for the font stone	0	0	4
Paid to a mesinger for goinge to Farnworth to give notice to the parishioners of a meetinge att the church	0	0	4
Spent att a meetinge aboute the leyes and agreeinge with Adam Bate to pointe the steeple	0	1	6
	0	15	[5]
[325] Paid for sendinge out warrants for the church leyes	0	0	8
Paid the last of May to the ringers for ringinge before the sermon and after the sermon till eight of the clocke in the night ²²⁰	0	5	0
Spente of carters for leadinge a tree and a ladder for the church use	0	1	6
Paid 23 June for coppinge out a proclamation for his majestie and sendinge it to Huyton	0	0	6
Paid to Thomas Langshaw for makinge a lead for the font stone as appeares by acquittance	0	19	11
Spent of the plumber and for an acquittance	0	0	8
Paid to Mrs Lyme for two bushells of mault to temper the lyme with as appeares by acquittance	0	6	8
Paid to Thomas Ashton for a stone and a halfe of haire	0	2	0
Paid for a lyme buckett to draw upp lyme to the topp of the steeple	0	0	6
Paid for fyre for soderinge the lead about the font stone	0	0	2
Paid to Thomas Taylor for a new collocke and a new sine and a boule for the church use	0	1	10
Paid to Edward Blundell for fetchinge a load of sand from Thattow Heath	0	0	6
Paid to Adam Bate for pointinge the steeple as appeares by acquittance	5	10	0
Att the same tyme spent of him and for acquittance	0	0	6
Paid to Justice Rosthernes clerke for a warrant aboute the church leyes	0	2	0
Paid for the hire of a horse in goinge to Wigan aboute the faine for the topp of the steeple and spent att that tyme in meate and drinke	0	1	6

²¹⁹The early setting up of the font stone marked an enthusiastic return to traditional ways. See pp. xxxiii–iv.

²²⁰This ringing should have been on 29 May to mark the king's birthday and his entry into London. Walton rang for 'his majesties comeinge into England': Wn, f.133r.

Spent in goinge to Farnworth side of the parish for meate and drinke to gather in leyes	0 7	1 14	0 11
[326] Paid to a messenger in fetchinge the cunstable of Widnes to Farnworth	0	0	2
Paid to Oliver Whaley for a new wethercock and castinge the old one in as appeares <i>per</i> acquittance	0	12	6
For an acquittance	0	0	2
Spent 4 September of Adam Bate and Thomas Webster in agreeinge aboute work for the church	0	1	2
Spent in goinge to Penketh to gett in the church leyes	0	0	10
Paid for a warrant to the justices to gett in the church leyes	0	2	0
Spent 23 September in waytinge of the justices beinge warned by a warrant from the cunstable	0	0	8
Paid to Ann Wood for caryinge hedgewood	0	0	3
Paid to a messenger in goinge to Farnworth to give notice for the choosinge of the eight men att Prescott church	0	0	4
Spent of the four men in layinge the church leyes	0	0	6
18 October spent att a meetinge of the eight men att Prescott	0	1	4
Paid to the ringers for ringinge upon 5 November	0	8	0
Spent in goinge to Rainforth to gather church leyes	0	0	10
Paid to Thomas Ashton spinner for heire to putt in lyme for pointinge the church walles	0	0	8
Paid to John Ashton for work about the church	0	2	0
Spent att a privie sessions beinge warned by the cunstable to appeare before the justices	0	0	6
Paid for furnishinge of a stoole for the church use	0	4	2
Paid to Henry Lyon of Whiston for five fox heads as appeares by acquittance	0	5	0
For acquittance	0 2	0 [1	2 3]
[327] Paid to Henry Tomasson for ten fox heads as appeares by acquittance	0	10	0
For an acquittance	0	0	2
Paid for one fox head	0	1	0
Paid to Richard Marshall for smithes work as appeares by acquittance	0	19	1
For an acquittance	0	0	2
Paid to John Bate for settinge upp the fane on the church end	0	1	8

Paid to Thomas Goodicar for six dayes worke and mosse as appeares by acquittance	0	8	2
For an acquittance	0	0	2
Paid to Adam Bate for pointinge and repairinge the church walles as appeares by acquittance	0	17	0
For acquittance	0	0	2
Paid to Margery Walles for wyne as appeares by acquittance	4	7	6
For acquittance	0	0	2
Paid for mendinge the clock	0	4	0
Paid to Captaine Case ²²¹ for stone lyme and for cariage of it	0	1	5
Paid to Henry Webster 6d as earnest for the bell wheeles	0	0	6
Spent of the workmen of the church	0	1	0
Paid to John Walles for oile candles and nailes	0	2	10
Paid 10 April to Richard Holland and George Standish for mendinge upp the steeple in parte	0	10	0
Spent the same tyme att a meetinge of the justices att Prescott and payinge of the workemen	0	1	0
Paid to Edward Darbishire for comunion bread	0	2	1
Paid to a messenger for goinge to Farnworth side to give notice to them theire to come to the ellection of the new officers	0	0	4
To John Ashton for makinge a hedge att the church wall	0	0	4
	8	8	9
 [328] Spent when wee sett the pointinge of the steeple	0	1	10
Spent att layinge of the church leyes	0	2	8
Spent when wee went to buy timber for the church	0	2	8
Spent when I went to Wigan to buy the fane	0	2	0
Spent when the steeple was pointed and the fane sett upp	0	2	6
Spent another tyme when wee mett about settinge of the pointinge of the steeple	0	1	6
Spent when the stepp for the seacond bell was mended	0	0	6
Spent when wee mett the eight men to view the church what work was fittest to bee done	0	3	8
Spent when wee went to Sankey and to Penketh to collecte the church leyes	0	1	6
Spent when wee sett the glasinge of the church and the puttinge upp of the lintalls	0	1	6
Spent when wee went to collecte the arreares in Sankey	0	1	2

²²¹ Case lived at Red Hazles, Huyton. In Jan. 1653 the Wigan sessions appointed him receiver for monyes collected for the poor and infected: Sharpe-France, 'Plague', p.128.

Paid to John Ashton to buy wire for the clock	0	0	6
Spent upon St Lukes day att the choosinge of the eight men	0	3	6
Spent when the overseers of the poore wold putt their office upon the churchwardens	0	1	4
Spent when wee went to Rainforth to collecte the churchleyes	0	1	6
Spent 1 December when wee weare warned by warrant to meete the justices att Prescottt	0	1	8
Paid for slate and the leadinge	0	8	0
Spent on the workmen and him that drive the cart	0	1	0
Spent when the timber was brought from Haddock wood and the ladder from Parr cole pitts ²²²	0	2	6
Spent when wee mett the workmen to pay them their wages for work which they had done att the church	0	2	0
	2	[3	6]
[329] Paid to James Fletcher for eight fox heads as appeares by acquittance			
	0	8	0
Paid to William Nelson for one fox head as appeares by acquittance	0	1	0
Paid to Thomas Webster for glasinge as appeares by acquittance	0	13	4
Paid to Henry Webster for amendinge the first bell wheele as appeares by acquittance	0	5	0
Paid to Thomas Gerard for a cover for the font and for the frame of the stoole to kneele on as appeares by acquittance	0	6	8
Spent when wee sett the bell wheeles to bee mended	0	2	6
Spent att meetinge of the justices att Prescottt	0	1	0
Paid to Thomas Webster for glasse	0	10	0
Paid to William Ashton for bringinge a ladder to Prescottt	0	2	0
Spent when wee sett the pointinge of the steeple	0	2	10
Spent when the church leyes were laid	0	2	8
Spent when wee sett the worke for the church	0	1	6
Spent when wee went to Penketh and Sankey to collecte church leyes	0	2	6
Spent when wee sett the glasinge of the church	0	1	6
Spent when we weare warned by warrant to meete the justices att Prescottt	0	1	8
Spent when wee bought the timber in Haddock wood	0	1	6
Spent when wee mett the workmen to pay em their wages	0	2	0
Paid to Edward Gerard for a spade	0	2	0

²²² 'Mr Byroms cole pitts at Parr': LRO, QSP/179/11.

Spent when wee went to bespeak ropes and for fetchinge of them when they were made	0	2	0
Spent when wee went to Ditton, Farnworth and Cronton to collecte church leyes	0	5	0
	3	14	8
[330] Spent att meetinge of the justices att Prescott	0	1	0
Paid to John Houghton of Parr for seven fox heads	0	7	0
Paid to Richard Holland and George Standish for puttinge upp the lintalls into the steeple	1	0	0
Spent when wee mett the justices for approbation	0	1	8
Spent when wee sett the lintalls to Adam Bate	0	1	8
Spent when wee sett the glasinge of the church	0	0	8
Spent when wee went two severall tymes to Farnworth side to collecte church leyes	0	2	2
Spent when wee went to Bold to collecte the church leyes	0	0	8
Spent att the privie sessions	0	1	0
Spent att our meetinge in Eccleston	0	1	2
Spent when wee mett att St Ellins chappell to know how wee stood with the parish	0	1	0
Spent about gateringe church leyes for the quakers ²²³	0	6	0
Paid for ashlors and leadinge them	0	6	0
Spent att Rainhill hill and att Prescott when we unloded the stone	0	1	0
Spent in meetinge the justices att Prescott	0	1	0
Paid to John Ashton for removinge morter and other necessary work aboute the church	0	2	0
Paid to the ringers on Christmas day ²²⁴	0	1	0
Spent when wee paid the workemen and laid the leyes for the poore	0	2	8
Paid to Richard Holland and George Standish for puttinge upp the lintalls into the steeple	0	14	0
Paid to Edward Darbishire for his allowance for keepinge cleane the church and churchyard and the seates as formerly	3	0	0
Paid for 15 precepts for fower church leyes	0	2	6
Paid for framinge this accompte and writinge it into the church booke	0	5	0
	6	19	[2]

²²³ This is the sole reference to Quakers in the accounts, but fear of a Quaker take-over in nearby Warrington led to Sir George Booth's uprising in 1659. At Walton there were payments 'towards suppressing quakers' as early as 1652–3: Wn, f. 93r.

²²⁴ The new custom of ringing on Christmas day (either at midnight or at dawn) is said to have begun around Chester. It occurs here for the first time at Prescott: Hutton, *Merry England*, p.248. See p.xxxvi.

[331] Alsoe they desire to bee respited these severall somes
followinge (to witt)

For Prescott	0	0	3	0	0	3
For Sankey	0	1	0	0	1	0
beinge unpaid by the said townes				0	1	3

Paid to William Hurst for a tree for church use and for leadinge of it as appeares by acquittance	1	10	0
--	---	----	---

Paid to John Roper of Warrington for ropes for the church use as appeares by acquittance	0	19	6
---	---	----	---

Paid to Thomas Webster for glasse for the church as appeares by acquittance	0	10	0
--	---	----	---

Paid to John Houghton for seven fox heads as appeares by acquittance	0	7	0
---	---	---	---

	3	7	9
--	---	---	---

Total	34	3	6
-------	----	---	---

and the disbursements	34	3	6
-----------------------	----	---	---

Soe the accomptants are indebted	0	0	6
----------------------------------	---	---	---

Given John Ashton for burninge fox heads	0	0	6
--	---	---	---

Wee have perused these accompts wee conceive there are some expences putt into the accompts which are <unce un uncer> unnecessary (to witt) about leadinge of timber aboute glasinge and collectinge of church leyes which wee order shall not be taken into precedent hereafter and thereupon wee allow of theise accompts but wee order that for the future the churchwardens shall not put any charges upon the parish for distraininge for church leyes but that the parties makinge defaulte to pay their leyes shall pay the charges of the distresse made

John Wythens vicar

Cuthbert Ogle Edward Stockley

Henry Ogle Henry Lawton

[1661–2]

[332] 16 Aprill 1661

The ellection and choice of the church officers to serve the yeare followinge *vizt*

Churchwardens

Prescott Whiston Rainhill	Rowland Ashton of Whiston
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Sutton	John Wood
--------	-----------

Eccleston and Rainford	Thomas Lyon the elder
------------------------	-----------------------

Windle and Parr	Thomas Lyon of the Foulds
-----------------	---------------------------

Overseers of the poore

Rainhill	Lawrence Lea	Windle	Thomas Taylor
Parr	John Chaddocke		Thomas Thrilwynd
Sankey	Bryan Sixsmith		the elder
Penketh	Thomas Heyes	Parr	Henry Martin
			Bryan Byron

Surveyors of the highways

Prescott	Richard Marshall	Ellected by us
	Peeter Garnett	
Whiston	Henry Lathom	John Wythens vicar
	Thomas Shaw	Cuthbert Ogle
Rainhill	Thomas Wainwright	Henry Ogle
	Thomas Burscough	Edward Stockley
Sutton	Thomas Wilcocke of Thatwell Heath	Henry Lawton
	Mathew Cowley	
Eccleston	George Lyon,	
	Robert Webster	
Rainford	Edmund Tunstall,	
	John Tunstall of Hollywell Mosse	

[333] 11 June 1661

Upon a meetinge this day of the parishioners of the parish of Prescott it is ordered that two church leyes shalbee forthwith collected and gathered thorough the said parish for the necessary repaire of the parish church to bee paid over to the churchwardens or some of them att or before the 11 July next. Witnes our hands hereunto putt the day and yeare aforesaid

John Wythens vicar; Thomas Ashton, John Lyon, Nicholas Lyme, John Tarbocke, Thomas Knowles [*copy mark*], John Blundell, James Lyon [*copy mark*], Edward Darbishire

[334] 17 December 1661

A tax laid this day of £23 8s by the churchwardens and overseers of the poore within the parish of Prescott whose names are subscribed for and towards the mainteynance and releefe of the poore and impotent within the said parish to bee paid from the severall towneshowpes herafter named att or before 30 January next and assessed upon the severall towneshippes as followeth

Prescott	1	0	0
Whiston	1	0	0
Rainhill	1	0	0
Sutton	3	0	0

Eccleston	1	10	0							
Rainford	1	10	0							
Windle	1	10	0				12	0	0	
Parr	1	10	0							
Widnes and Appleton	2	10	8							
Cuardley 1	6	4								
Cronton 1	6	4	2	10	8					
Ditton 1	13	9								
Penketh 0	16	11	2	10	8					
Bold			2	10	8					
Sankey	1	5	4	11	8	0	23	8	0	
Rowland Ashton										
John Wood										
Thomas Lyon of Rainford [<i>copy mark</i>]										Lawrence Lea, overseer
Thomas Lyon, churchwardens										

[335 *blank*, 336] Tuesday in Easter weeke 1 April 1662

The accompts of Rowland Ashton John Wood Thomas Lyon of Rainford and Thomas Lyon of the Foulds churchwardens of the parish church of Prescott of their receipts and payments for the use of the said parish church since the last yeares accompts made in Easter weeke 1661 till this presente daye beinge 1 April 1662 as followeth

First they charge themselves with the receipts of two church

leyes beinge on Prescott side £8 and on Farnworth side

£7 12s in all

15 12 0

Alsoe for three burials in the church as by a particular under

the hand of Edward Darbishire in all

1 0 0

Totall of these accomptants charge is

16 12 0

Payments disbursements and allowances craved by these accomptants as followeth

Paid for a certificate under the hands of the justices of peace of

their approvement of the churchwardens

0 2 0

Spent the same day in waytinge of the justices till wee were

approved on

0 2 10

Paid for bringinge a note to Farnworth of the churchwardens

and overseers names for the yeare followinge

0 0 4

Spent at a meetinge of the churchwardens and eight men to lay

church leyes

0 6 11

Spent att another meetinge of the churchwardens to lay

church leyes

0 3 10

Spent when wee mett together to view the church to see what worke was fittest to bee done	0	2	0
Spent att another meetinge of the parishioners and eight men to lay church leyes	0	8	0
	1	5	11
[337] Spent at a meetinge of the churchwardens for the gettinge forth of the precepts	0	2	2
Paid to the ringers for ringinge on the coronation day ²²⁵	0	8	0
Spent on the same day	0	1	0
Spent on the constables and ourselves when we went to gather moneyes from house to house within every quarter beinge commanded by a breife	0	7	10
Spent in goinge to Cronton to gather churchleyes	0	0	6
Spent at a privy sessions beinge warded by the constables to attend the justices there	0	2	8
Spent on St Lukes day when we met to choose the eight men but none were chosen	0	3	6
Spent att another privy sessions beinge warned by the constables to attend the justices there	0	4	0
Spent in goinge to Liverpoole to gett a warrant of the good behaviour withdrawne which old Browne of Prescottt had gotten forth against the churchwardens and overseers of the poore	0	2	0
Spent at a meetinge of the churchwardens and overseers of the poore to lay money for the poore within the parish	0	4	10
Spent on the cunstables of Bold when they paid their church leyes	0	1	10
Paid to Ralph Parr for goinge to Farnworth two severall tymes	0	0	8
Spent when we paid money to the high constables for two briefes	0	1	2
Paid for two acquittances	0	0	4
Paid to a sicke woman which had an order for money within the parish	0	1	0
Paid for new bell ropes	0	13	6
Paid for cariage of the bell ropes	0	0	6
Paid for an acquittance	0	0	2
Paid to John Ashton towards his wages	1	13	0

²²⁵ 23 Apr. 1661. There is no mention of ringing on 30 Jan. or 29 May that year. Walton rang for the coronation and on 29 May. In 1662 Prescot rang only for coronation day. Walton also rang that year on 30 Jan. 1663 (accession day), calling it 'the kings return' and on 29 May. There were payments at Childwall in 1661–2 for 'the day of the kings restitution' and for ringing all day on coronation day: Cl, p.231; Wn, ff. 139v, 146r; see pp.xxxvi, 198–9.

Paid by the consent of Mr Withins to a man which had a breife	0	2	6
	4	11	2
[338] Paid for ringinge on the kings holyday	0	10	0
Spent the same day	0	4	0
Spent in goinge to Farnworth side to gather church leyes	0	6	10
Spent when we mett to view what harme the church had received by the great winde and agreeing with a workman to mend the roofe with slate	0	4	0
Paid to Thomas Goodicar for mendinge the church roofe with mosse and slate	0	9	0
Paid for latts and nailes	0	0	4
Spent of Thomas Goodicar at severall tymes	0	1	0
Spent in goinge to Wigan to exchange to exchange the church flagons and cupps	0	1	0
Paid for the exchange of cupps and flagons	0	3	9
Paid to Thomas Webster for reparing the church windowes with glasse	0	7	11
Spent when we paid the high constable two briefes	0	1	5
Paid for two acquittances	0	0	4
Spent in goinge to Warrington and Winstanley to pay a briefe to Mr Blackburne	0	1	2
Paid for an acquittance	0	0	2
Paid to Henry Lyon of Whiston for five fox heads	0	5	0
For an acquittance	0	0	2
Paid for the common prayer booke ²²⁶	0	9	6
Spent in goinge two severall tymes to Farnworth syde	0	3	10
Paid to John Ashton for dressinge the clocke for oyle, wyre for nailes for the bell wheeles and for candles as appeares by a note	0	7	6
Paid to John Ashton for his wages	1	7	0
Paid for a common prayer booke	0	5	0
	5	8	11
[339] Paid to Edward Darbishire for bread for the communion	0	2	6
Paid to Margerie Walls for wine for the communion	3	0	0
Paid for making precepts for two church leyes	0	2	6
Paid for framinge this account and writinge it in the church booke	0	5	0
Paid to Edward Darbishire which was agreed to be paid the last yeare	0	6	8

²²⁶The parish's first copy of the 1662 *Book of Common Prayer*. 9s 6d was the standard price for the more expensive edition, paid also by Childwall and Walton. Walton bought theirs from 'Jeremie of Warrington': Cl, p.232; Wn, f.140r.

Paid to him for keepinge cleane the communion table cloath flagons and bowles	0	2	6
Paid to Thomas Dagnall for three fox heads	0	3	0
Paid to Peter Lyon of the Fenny Bancke for two fox heads	0	2	0
Paid to Thomas Cliffe for one fox head	0	1	0
Paid to Nicholas Ashton for one fox head	0	1	0
Paid to Richard Marshall for a boult and for a hange locke for the church doore at the west end and for a rod for one of the bell wheeles	0	3	0
	4	9	2

Also they desire to be respited these severall somes followinge *vizt*

For Sankey	4[s]	4[d]			
For Penketh	1	8	0	6	0
For Prescott			1	0	0
For Rainford			0	0	2
For Eccleston			0	0	4
			1	6	6

Soe the receipts beinge	16	12	0
The disbursements	17	15	2
and respited	1	6	6
Soe the accomptants are in surplusage	2	9	8

[340] 1 April 1662

We whose names are subscribed have perused these accompts and doe approve and allow of them as they are before declared

	John Wythens vicar
Henry Marshall	Henry Ogle
William Wood	William Blundell
Richard Taylor	
John Linaker, eight men	

Officers elected to serve for this yeare 1662

Churchwardens	Surveyors of the highwayes
Prescott Whiston and Rainhill	Prescott Thomas Rainford
Roger Case	Robert Standishstreet
Sutton Brian Lea	Whiston William Melling
Eccleston and Rainforth	William Jamesonne
Henry Webster, potter	Rainhill Lawrence Lea
Windle and Parr	Thomas Wainwright

Edmund Ellom	Sutton	Thomas Wilcocke of Sutton Heath
Overseers of the poore	Eccleston	George Webster
John Sutton		William Wood
Edmund Barnes	Rainforth	James Swift
Robert Denton		Peter Latham
Thomas Wright	Windle	John Gerrard
		John Eddleston
		James Traves
	Parr	Robert Foster
		John Battersby

[341] Fox heads brought in the last account and yet unpaid for

By Ellen Hinckes	two
Thomas Wainwright	one
Richard Browne	one
John Holt	one

More fox heads brought in this day to be paid
for by the new churchwardens

Roger Woods of Widnes	fower
John Sutton	two

Whereas the churchwardens are indebted to the severall persons under named in severall somes of money herein mentioned, it is now agreed that the new churchwardens shall pay the same out of the first money they shall receive

To Henry Webster the elder of Knowsley	2	0	6
To Richard Marshall	0	11	0
To Thomas Fleetwood	0	3	0

Also the churchwardens upon this accompt are in surplusage the some of 23s 2d It is now agreed that the new churchwardens shall pay the same also out of the first money they shall receive

John Wythens vicar; Edward Stockley, Thomas Theldwall, Richard Marshall,
Edward Darbshire, Thomas Lyon

We have perused thabove written accounts of the churchwardens of Prescott parish and doe allow the same and doe order and thinke fitt that the said churchwardens shall upon their owne charge collect and be chargeable with the said arreares of £1 6s 6d by them uncollected Given under our hands 7 April 1662

Thomas Norres, John Entwistle

[1662–3]

[342] 29 April 1662

Upon a meetinge this day of parishioners of the parish of Prescott it is therefore ordered that fower churchleyes shall be forthwith collected and gathered through the whole parish for the necessary repaire of the parish church to be paid over to the churchwardens or some of them att or before 22 May next. Witnes our hands hereunto put the day aforesaid

Henry Marshall

William Wood, eight men

John Wythens vicar

Thomas Alcocke

John Parr,

Edward Darbshire

A tax laid by the churchwardens and overseers of the poore within the parish of Prescott whose names are subscribed for and towards the maintenance and reliefe of the poore and impotent within the parish as followeth

Prescott; Whiston; Rainhill; Sutton; Eccleston; Rainforth; Windle; Parr; Widnes *cum* Appleton; Bold; Kawardley; Cronton; Ditton; Penketh; Sankey [*no sums entered for any township*]. It is ordered that this money be taxed and assessed within the severall townships of the parish of Prescott and coppies of each tax delivered to the constables of each towne.

[343] 18 October *anno* 1662

Att a publicke meetinge of the parishioners of parish of Prescott in the parish church these persons followinge were elected to serve for the eight men for the yeare followinge

Henry Marshall of Prescott, John Lyon of Whiston, Richard Taylor of Sutton, William Wood of Eccleston, John Parr of Rainforth, William Turner of Parr, Robert Denton of Widnes, Thomas Wright of Cronton

Elected by us

John Wythens vicar; Edward Stockley, John Lathom, Henry Lathom,²²⁷ Peter Herefoote, Edward Darbshire

[344–345 *blank*, 346] 4 November 1662

Upon a meetinge this day had of the vicar eight men and other of the parishioners of the parish of Prescott it is ordered that two church leyes shalbee forthwith collected and gathered thorough the whole parish not onely for the necessary repayre of the parish church but likewise for the buyinge of plate and a surplice and other necessary

²²⁷ Henry Lathom (1636–1692) was a Whiston coal proprietor and son of the puritan John Lathom: *Visitation*, II, p.177. Henry here takes part in parish business for the first time.

ornaments²²⁸ for the said parish church to bee paid over to the churchwardens or some of them on or before 1 December next. As witness theire hands herunto putt the daye and yeare abovesaid

[signed]	John Parr	[signed]	John Wythens vicar
	Henry Marshall		Thomas Lyon
	John Lyon		Rowland Ashton
	William Wood,		John Woods
	fower of the eight men		Thomas Lyon [mark],
			parishioners

[347] 6 January 1662

Att a meetinge of the parishioners \the eight men/ of the parish of Prescott in the parish church theire it is ordered that neither the formes bought at the charge of the parish nor any other goods belonginge to the said parish church shalbe lent out to any person or persons either by the churchwardens or any other in whose custodie the same are. The number of the formes nowe beinge in the said parish church beinge fower longer formes and 18 shorter formes

It is further ordered that an order due to Richard Marshall for worke done by him for the said parish shalbe paid unto him by the churchwardens for soe much as he shall make to apeare to be due.

and by the eight men [signed]	Agreed by us [signed]
Henry Marshall	John Wythens vicar
John Lyon	Samuel Byrom
William Turner	Henry Ogle
William Wood, fower of the eight men	Thomas Alcock
	Edward Stockley
	Thomas Litherland

[348] Tuesday in Easter weeke 21 April 1663

The accompts of Roger Case Brian Lea Henry [Webster] and Edmund Ellom churchwardens of the parish church of Prescott of their receipts and payments for the use of the said parish church since the last yeares accompts made in Easter weeke *anno domini* 1662 till this presente day beinge 21 April *anno domini* 1663 as followeth

First they charge themselves with the receipt of six whole church

leyes from the towshipps of Prescott Whiston and Rainhill			
beinge in the whole the some of	6	0	0

Also with the receipt of six whole church leyes from the			
towneshipp of Sutton beinge in the whole	6	0	0

²²⁸Parishes which had lost silver and surplices in the troubles were required to replace them: Prescott had exchanged its (pewter) flagons and cups at Wigan earlier in the year.

Also with the receipt of six whole church leyes from the towneshipp of Sutton beinge in the whole	3	0	0
Also with the receipt of six church leyes from the towne of Rainford beinge in the whole	3	0	0
Also with the receipt of six church leyes from the towne of Windle beinge in the whole	3	0	0
Also with the receipt of six church leyes from the towne of Parr beinge in the whole	3	0	0
Also with the receipt of six whole church leyes from the chappellrie of Farnworth beinge in the whole	22	16	0
Also with two burialls in the church <i>vizt</i> William Lyme and John Barnes	0	13	4
Totall	47	9	4

Payments disbursements and allowances craved by these accomptants as followeth

Spent att a privy sessions by the accomptants beinge commanded to appeare before the justices	0	2	0
Paid to the justices clarkes for their fee	0	2	0
Spent by the accomptants 29 April which was appoynted for layinge of church leyes	0	7	6
Spent 8 May when we agreed with Thomas Martyndale about slateinge the church	0	3	2
Totall	0	[14	8]
[349] Spent 20 May when we mett the overseers of the poore about layinge leyes for the poore	0	4	0
Spent 24 May beinge called to Warrington before the deane to take our oathes ²²⁹	0	5	0
Paid 9 June 1662 to William Hurst of Haddocke for spars wether bords and latts for the church porch	0	8	6
Paid for leadinge the tymber from Haddocke	0	2	6
Spent when the tymber was fetched	0	1	6
Paid for tenne measures of lyme	0	8	4
Paid for carryinge of it from Liverpoole	0	2	0
Paid to John Ashton to carry in the lyme to the vestry	0	0	4
of him that carryed the lyme	0	0	6
Paid to Thomas Martyndale for slates and for slateinge the church when it was in decay and for layinge a new coat of slate on the church porch	0	13	4

²²⁹ The church courts had been restored and the wardens quickly found themselves journeying to answer to the new rural dean and to the new chancellor, John Wainwright. A group of rural deaneries, including Warrington, had been vested in Henry Bridgeman, son of the former bishop and new Dean of Chester: *VCH, Chesh.* III, p.39.

Paid to John Walls and Thomas Glover for latt nayles and spikeinges which the slaters made use of	0	2	1
Paid for an acquittance from Thomas Martyndale	0	0	2
Paid for beere given to the slaters over and above theire former agreement	0	1	0
Paid to John Ashton for carryinge precepts to the cunstables of Farnworth side for payment of the first fower church leyes	0	1	0
Spent on the slaters when we came to Prescott to view the worke when it was finished	0	1	0
Payd to Edward Rylands for cuttinge a bole for the church porch and puttinge up wetherbords and sparrs for the porch	0	3	0
Payd to John Walls for nayles	0	0	3
Payd to Thomas Sumner for a ladder for the church use	0	12	6
Paid for bringinge of it to Prescott	0	2	0
Spente at the same tyme when the ladder was brought	0	0	10
	5	10	4
[350] Spent att Farnworth when we mett the cunstables on Farnworth syde to receive their church leyes 21 June 1662			
	0	2	2
Spent upon the masons when we mett them att Prescott to agree upon the church worke	0	2	0
Payd to Margery Walls 29 June 1662 for wyne att the first communion	0	10	0
Spent by the accomptants that day	0	1	4
Payd to John Ashton 7 July 1662 in part of his wages allowed him	1	10	0
Paid to Mr Ogle 26 July 1662 for six loads of clay for the church use	0	1	6
Paid to William Forrest for leadinge stones from Rainhill for repairinge of the church yarde walls and one stepp in the staires to the steeple	0	5	6
Paid to the ringers for ringinge on his majesties coronation day	0	10	0
Paid to Richard Arrowsmith for leadinge six loades of clay (for the church use)	0	1	6
Paid to John Ashton for castinge the same six loades of clay	0	1	0
Spent att the privy sessions att Prescott being called thither by Thomas Browne	0	3	4
Paid for six bushell of lyme att 10d the bushell	0	5	0
Paid for cariage of it	0	1	4
Spent by one of the accomptants beinge served with a warrant to goe before Mr Norres ²³⁰ concerninge Thomas Browne	0	0	8

²³⁰ Thomas Norris of Speke Hall, succeeded his father in 1651, but suffered sequestration. In 1660 he accused John Lathom and his fellow sequestrators of fraud: Liverpool R.O., 920NOR/2/515.

Paid to Richard Harper for old hay to make daube for repayringe of the church	0	0	6
Paid to George Standish and Richard Hollande for tearing whitinge and pointinge the church porch and for tearing whitinge and pointinge where it was wantinge and for ridginge stonnes for to ridge the church and porch and for makinge up the church yarde wall and findinge all the stones accordinge to an agreement with them made	4	0	0
[351] Payd for an acquittance	0	0	2
Payd for two bookes of common prayer for the church use	0	16	8
Spent upon the man that brought the bookes	0	0	8
Paid to John Lyon for heyre to make lyme mortar for the church	0	3	0
Paid to Thomas Ashton for heyre and patches to make size to size the church porch	0	1	3
Paid for nayles for lattinge the church porch	0	0	6
Spent on the masons at Prescott when we mett them to pay for their worke when it was finished accordinge to agreement	0	2	10
Paid to Richard Marshall for a clippe for the second bell head and nayles 1s for a spade iron 1s 6d for two keyes for the lead doores and mendinge the locke 1s for two clappes for the church porch to tye the bowle and spars together 1s 6d for mendinge the rod for the two bell wheels 6d for mendinge the clapper for the great bell 2s for bells and cotterells for preservation of the steeple and for a stay for the high lead stayres 8s 6d for the churchwardens forme 4d			
<i>in toto</i>	0	16	4
For an acquittance from Richard Marshall	0	0	2
Spent at the same tyme when I accompted with him	0	1	0
Spent at a privy sessions held at Prescott 30 September 1662	0	0	6
Paid to Margery Walls for wyne att the communion 12 October 1662	0	9	0
Paid for the accomptants dinners the same day	0	1	4
Paid to a messenger that was sent to Farnworth to give notice for the election of the eight men	0	0	4
Spent at a meetinge of the parish on St Lukes day 18 October 1662 at the election of the eight men	0	3	8
Spent at a meetinge in Prescott for makinge presentments to Chester by the command of the chancellour ²³¹	0	4	6

²³¹ See p.213.

[352] Spent att a meetinge in Prescott for layinge two church leyes	0	4	4
Paid for wrytinge the presentments to Chester	0	2	0
Spent att Warrington meetinge the apparitor to send presentments to Chester	0	1	0
Paid for makeinge our presentments to Manchester and att the takinge of our oathes	0	15	6
Spent when we went to Manchester to make presentments to the commissioners of the archbishop of Yorke ²³²	0	15	6
Paid to a boy to bringe a note to the cunstables of Penketh and Sankey to pay in their leyes	0	0	4
Paid to Thomas Marrow for holland to make surplices	2	6	11
Payd for an acquittance	0	0	2
Spent at the same tyme	0	0	4
Paid to Mrs Lowe for makeinge the surplices	0	7	0
Paid to the ringers for ringinge on 5 November	0	5	0
Paid to John Roby for a fox head	0	1	0
Spent on the ringers on Christmas day	0	1	0
Paid more to John Ashton in part of his allowance	0	14	6
Paid to Margery Walls for wyne at the third communion	0	7	11
Paid for three dinners	0	1	0
Payd more to John Ashton in further part of his allowance	0	6	6
Spent at severall tymes in goinge to Farnworth to meet the cunstables to receive two church leyes	0	3	0
Paid to Mr Thomas Chapman ²³³ of Chester for a silver bowle and a large silver dish weighinge 21¼ ounces for the parish use as appeareth by acquittance	6	3	0
Spent in goinge to Chester to buy them	0	3	0
Payd 14 March 1662 for six bushell of lyme to repayre the church wall	0	5	0
Paid to Edward Blundell for carryinge of it from Liverpoole	0	1	4
[353] Spent upon the masons when they came to view the churchyarde wall and goinge to the delfe with them	0	0	10

²³² Archbishop Accepted Frewen held his primary metropolitical visitation in 1663, requiring churchwardens to certify the beautifying of their churches and the provision of surplices, a silver cup and tober and to hand in a terrier. The Prescot and Walton wardens were summoned to the visitors at Manchester; the Walton wardens were away two days. The vicar of Childwall had to go to Warrington to 'excuse for the parish about the church furniture'. The Wigan wardens were at both these sessions: Cl, p.232; Wn, f.147r; Wigan RO, D/P24/5/1 p.57; see p.xxxix.

²³³ Chapman was admitted to the freedom of the Goldsmiths' company of Chester on 29 Mar. 1662 and had the commission to alter the city sword in 1669. He died in 1706. His mark is unknown: M.H. Ridgeway, *Chester Goldsmiths*, Altrincham (1968), pp.130–1.

Spent 11 March 1662 in goinge to Warrington to agree with Thomas Hasloe to write the Lords prayer the creed <i>etc.</i> over the church doore within the porch	0	1	0
Spent when I mett Thomas Hasloe at Prescott to sett him on worke and to consider where the writinge should be written	0	0	6
Paid 28 March 1663 to Thomas Hasloe for writinge the Lords prayer the creed <i>etc.</i> within the church porch	0	10	0
Spen [<i>sic</i>] the same tyme on Thomas Hasloe when he was payd	0	2	0
Paid for removinge the stones out of the street into the churchyarde which belonge to the church yarde wall	0	0	6
Paid to George Standish and Richard Holland for stones and for wallinge up the church yorde wall and poyntinge	1	0	0
Paid for leadinge the stones from Rainhill	0	12	0
Spent at the same tyme on the carters	0	1	0
Spent at the same tyme on the masons when the stones were lead	0	0	6
Paid 10 April 1663 to Thomas Webster glasier for reparinge the church windowes with glasse ²³⁴	1	5	0
Payd 12 April 1663 to John Walls for wyne for the communion	1	0	0
Paid to John Ashton for the remainder of his allowance	0	7	0
Paid to Richard Tildesley for three bookes of articles	0	3	0
Spent when we mett at Prescott to frame our accompts	0	1	0
Payd for wyne on Easter Sunday beinge 19 April	0	9	0
[354] Paid to Edward Darbishire for bread for five communions	0	2	6
Paid to John Walls for wyre for the clocke	0	0	8
Paid for oyle for the clocke	0	1	10
Paid for candles for the sextone	0	0	6
Payd for reparinge of the church gate to the vicaridge ²³⁵	0	3	0
Payd for a bell rope	0	4	6
For carriage of it from Warrington	0	0	2
Spente by one of the accomptants in gatheringe church leyes in Prescott	0	4	6
Spent by one of the accomptants on the glasier when he had done his worke	0	0	6
Paid to John Ashton for carryinge precepts to Farnworth side for the two church leyes	0	1	0

²³⁴ Some had perhaps remained unrepaired since the severe hailstorm which hit south-west Lancashire in Aug. 1662.

²³⁵ The vicarage (linked to the church then as now by a gated pathway) was described in 1650 as 'a mansion and dwellinghowse called the viccaradge', with a garden, orchard and two crofts, totalling 2½ acres and worth £5 *p.a.*: *Commonwealth Survey*, ed. Fishwick, p.70.

Paid to Richard Browne of Whiston for a fox head	0	1	0
Paid to Thomas Wainwright for another fox head	0	1	0
Paid for the charges of the old churchwardens beinge summoned to Manchester by order	1	4	6
Paid to the old churchwardens which were in arreare	1	3	2
Paid for writeinge 15 precepts for the fower church leyes	0	2	6
payd for writeinge 15 precepts for the two last church leyes	0	2	6
For drawinge and framinge this accompt	0	2	6
For writinge them into the church booke	0	2	6
Paid to Edward Darbishire for washinge and makinge cleane the surplices and makinge cleane the communion table cloath and for washinge the church flagon and bowle	0	3	0
Paid to him for keepinge of the three churchwardens accompts ²³⁶	0	3	0
Paid to John Sutton for two fox heads which was due in arreare	0	2	0
[355] Paid to Ellen Hinkes for two fox heads in arreare upon the last account			
	0	2	0
Paid to Henry Webster of Knowsley which was due in arreare upon accompt	2	0	6
Payd for an acquittance	0	0	2
Payd to Henry Eccleston and Edmund Taylor for two fox heads	0	2	0
Paid to Mr Lancaster for one fox head	0	1	0
Payd to Henry Lyon of Whiston for two fox heads	0	2	0
Payd to John Dagnall for three fox heads	0	3	0
Payd to Richard Marshall for a latch for the vicaridge yate and a bande for the churchwardens forme	0	1	0
Payd to Richard Marshall which was arreare to him upon a former accompte	0	11	0
Payd to Thomas Fleetwood which was also arreare upon a former accompt	0	3	0
Payd to William Hurst of Haddocke for fetchinge a peece of tymber belonginge to the parish of Prescott out of Haddocke Wood to his owne house to preserve it	0	1	0
Which peece of tymber the accomptants conceive to be worth 4s			
Payd to Thomas Wright of Widnes for one fox head	0	1	0
Payd to John Holt for two fox heads beinge in arreare upon a former accompt	0	2	0
Payd to Roger Woods of Widnes for fower fox heads beinge in arreare upon a former accompt	0	4	0

²³⁶ It was evidently the job of Darbishire (the sexton) to keep the 'church book'.

Payd to a messenger to goe to Farnworth to give notice of the election of new officers	0	0	4
Paid to another messenger to goe to Farnworth to gett the officers newly elected published	0	0	4
Payd for a sive to sift lyme and for a wiskett	0	0	7
The accomptants crave allowance of 6s 4d which they spent upon Tuesday att a meetinge of the parish for choosinge new officers	0	6	4
<i>Summa</i> totall of the disbursements and arreares	45	1	1

[356] Soe the receipts beinge	47	9	4
and the disbursements and arreares	45	1	1
The accomptants are indebted the some of	2	9	0

Soe the accomptants desire to be respited the severall somes followinge beinge in arreare

Raph Barnes of Sankey	0	2	8
Samuell Barrow	0	0	8
William Barnes	0	1	8
John Minshall	0	0	4
Margrett Marsh	0	0	4
Samuell Barnes	0	1	0
Totall	0	6	7

Wee whose names are underwritten have seene and examined this accompt and doe approve thereof as now stated and also direct the new churchwardens to receive the arreare of 48s 4d from [the] old churchwardens and out of the same to pay for a newe deske for the parish use made by Peter Marsh the some of 18s

Henry Marshal	Edward Stockley
John Lyon	John Lathom
William Wood,	John Woods
three of the	Rowlande Ash
eight men	James Lyon
	Edward Darbishire

[1663-4]

[357] 21 April 1663

Att a publicke meetinge of the parishioners of parish of Prescott these persons followinge were elected officers to serve for the yeare followinge

Churchwardens

Prescott Whiston and Rainhill John Walls

Sutton	Thomas Wilcocke of Sutton Heath
Eccleston and Rainford	Henry Gaskell
Windle and Parr	Robert Mosse of Mosbancke ²³⁷ senior

Sydsmen

Prescott Whiston and Rainhill	Thomas Thompson junior
Sutton	Thomas Baxter
Eccleston and Rainford	Henry Prescott of Eccleston
Windle and Parr	William Ashton of Parr

Surveyors of the high way

	Robert Standishstreet		
	John Almond	Prescott	
	Gerrard Potter		Ellected by us
	and John Ackers	Whiston	John Withens vicar
Eight men	John Barrow and		Samuel Byrom
Henry Marshall	William Kenwricke	Rainhill	Edward Stockley
John Parr	John Rylands and		William Blundell
John Lyon	Matthew Barton senior	Sutton	John Lathom
Richard Taylor	John Tunstall and		Thomas Litherland
William Wood	Thomas Boulton	Eccleston	
	Gowither Barrow and		
	John Birchall	Rainforth	
	Peter Lyon and		
	William Graves	Windle	
	William Billinge and		
	Edward Parr junior	Parr	

[358] Overseers of the poore within the parish

Prescott	Thomas Fleetwood, Thomas Annis
Whiston	George Litherland, John Carr
Rainhill	Alexander Chorley, Edward Ackers
Sutton	James Worsley, Richard Tunstall
Eccleston	James Glest, Peter Robinson
Rainford	Richard Hyde, Richard Wood
Windle	Thomas Hollande, Thomas Cliffe
Parr	Robert Houghton, John Battersbie

[359] 9 June 1663

Upon a meetinge this day in parish church of Prescott upon publicke notice given the Sunday before it is agreed that fower whole church leyes shalbe layd through the whole

²³⁷Mossbank (the birthplace of Adam Martindale) was in Windle township.

parish to be paid to the churchwardens or some of them att or before 10 July next to be
imployed for the necessary repayres of the church. Witnes our hands

	John Wythens vicar
	Cuthbert Ogle
	Rowland Ashton
Eight men	Edward Stockley
John Lyon	Henry Webster
	John Plombe
	Edward Darbshire

APPENDIX 1

EXTRACTS FROM THE LEYE AND WAX BOOK, 1531–1568¹

[1531–1532]

[f1r (4) 144]²

anno domini 1522 [*recte* 1532]³

Payment mayd by the forsad Hugh and Rychard⁴ of the said sommez

<i>Inprimis</i> to Jams Watmogth ⁵ for mendyng of the shaykyls of the bells	2[s]	6[d]
<i>Item</i> to the same Jams leyther to the shaykyls		2
<i>Item</i> to the glayser for mendyng of the rod seler wyndoe ⁶ and the wyndoe in Sanct James chapell ⁷ with other wyndos	3	
<i>Item</i> for the borde ⟨e⟩ of hym and two servant two days		14
<i>Item</i> for a pewter dych to mayke soyder of		3
<i>Item</i> for a neche to a belrope to Edwart Holland		3
<i>Item</i> for turvne to mayke fyr to melt the sowder with to the glaysers	0	1

¹ LRO, DP 459.

² The first is a folio number, adopted for this edition; that in brackets is a conservation number (nos. 3–56) indicating the order in which it was found on arrival at the LRO; the last (nos. 144–8), surviving on five sheets, seem to bear some relation to the page numbers in the published edition: *Churchwardens' Accounts*, ed. Bailey. It is regrettable that scribal styles and foliation cannot be compared, since the original accounts from which Bailey worked have since been lost.

³ Folios 72–3 of the original leye book, covering 1531–3, were missing but Bailey noted that the scribe had twice written '1523' for '1533' in the account for the next year: *ibid.* pp.15n, 16. Perhaps the same scribe has here written '1522' for '1532'. These appear to be the missing folios and belong after p.15 in the published volume.

⁴ Hugh Standish and Richard Garnett, churchwardens in 1530–1: *ibid.* pp.14–5. The parish was then in the diocese of Lichfield and had two churchwardens, appointed and audited on St Catherine's day (25 Nov.). The vicar from 1529–1541 was Simon Matthew *alias* Cour, born at Biggleswade and ordained at Lincoln in 1518. A prebendary of St Paul's from 1533 and a reformer, he was probably entirely non-resident at Prescott: C.H. and T. Cooper, *Athenae Cantabrigienses*, I, 1500–1585 (Cambridge, 1858), pp.78, 533; KCC, Allen, *Skeleton*, I, p.361; Venn, *Alumni*, III, p.162.

⁵ From Eccleston and a dominant personality in parochial affairs, supervising the restoration of the old ways of worship as 'principal warden': Kümin, *Shaping of a Community*, p.32; Bailey, 'Commentary', p.173. Closely involved with repairs to the Prescott bells and organs from 1524 and probably from the local gentry family of Watmough, from Micklehead in Sutton, he seems to have been 'James Watmough of Eccleston, clockmaker', *fl.* 1545–1546: PRO, DL 30/520/17; F.A. Bailey, 'An old watchmaker's shop', *Transactions of the Ancient Monuments Society*, 1 (1953), pp.107–112.

⁶ Probably in the rood solar, or loft: *Churchwardens' Accounts*, ed. Bailey, pp.9, 30, 38–9, 54, 56.

⁷ Probably the chapel of St James of Compostela, mentioned in 1523–4: *ibid.* p.6.

Acompts taykyn <of the> by gentylmen of the parech of Prescott for
thesse two yeres last past of the Hugh Stondych and Rychard Garnett
and thaye are mett

[f1v (3)]

[*damaged*] persell and somez recay [*sic*] recayved by Hugh
Stondysh and Rychard Garnet church wardyns for thos yeres
above named

Inprimis for Cowper wyffe of Byllynch for the beryall
in the church

2[s]

Item for the bereall of Kateryn Shaye

2

Item for the bereall of Jhon Haptn hat [*sic*] departed with
Olever Fryth⁸

2

[1556–1557]

[f2v (9) 145]⁹

[*damaged*] to make [.]

16

[...] Thoms Garnet Jamis

[...] <aying> [...] in the leey [...]

[...] and by Jams Wattmogh

[...] parte of the

[...] for the reseate

8

[...] Jams Wattmogh for Thomas Garnet [...] 20 day

[of [...]] for goyng to Farneworth for the leays which we [...]

6

[...] to Thomas Smyth for brygyg off Curdelay ley to Prescote

2

[...] and by Jams Wattmough John Terbocke and Thomas Garnet

at [...] at the byshopps vysytacyon¹⁰ apon owre dyners and

dyngke [*sic*] [...] horse meate

15½

[...] by Jams Watmough wen he went to Wykan to delyver

to [...] presentatyon to the parson of Wykan¹¹

3½

[...] [church?] wardens [...] unto [...] by thes bockes

2[1?]

9½

⁸Fryth (d. 1545) occurs in the accounts from 1523–1530, he and his wife supplying grease, wick yarn, boards and lyme: *ibid.* pp.2–14, *passim*.

⁹The folio is badly decayed and torn, but is evidently a missing page from the leye book for 1556–7 and should follow p.19 in Bailey; *ibid.* Wattmough, Terbocke and Garnet, together with Richard Denton, were churchwardens in that year.

¹⁰Probably the primary visitation of the Marian bishop and ‘ferocious papist’ Cuthbert Scott, held in 1556–7: CRO, EDV1/2. In 1555 Bishop George Coates had issued a repair decree addressing the ‘great ruins and delapidations’ at Prescott: LRO, DDX/480/18/16.

¹¹Richard Gerrard (d. 1558), rector.

[1561–1562]

[f3r (7)]¹²

The accompts of John Ledbetr Edmond Colley Hugh Par and George Bowre church wardens of the parishe of Prescott taken 5 December in the [*damaged*] for on whole yere last past before the eight men with the consent of the gentellmen of the parishe

The names of the eight men	
Hug Parre	Rauf Hayward
George Denton	Robard Wytlow
Edmond Colley	Rychard Garden
Van Glest	George Deyne

At which tyme the said wardens were founde in arrears to the parishe all thyngs alowed and accepted for in bothe the church bocks 6s.

Memorandum at the same tyme John Ledbetr Hugh Grene Henry Roughley the younger Wylliam Cowper ar chosen by the eight men to be church wardens for the present yere

William Whitlocke *vicarius*¹³
 Richard Eltonhed
 Wylliam Holland
 Henry Coney
 Mathew Deane

[f3v (8)]

Memorandum [. . .] the [. . .] day [of . . .] *anno domini* 1562 the gentlemen of the parishe church of Prescott with one consent have elected and chosen these persons folowing to be the eight able and sufficient men according to the forme of the ordynaris ordinance¹⁴ that is to say

¹² The following two folios are in the same hand. Leadebeter, Colley and Bowre, together with Hugh Parr, were churchwardens in 1560 and 1561–2 and were followed in 1563–4 by Leadebeter, Grene, Roughley and Cowper. The set of ‘eight men’ listed here were in office in Jan. 1560 and Jan. 1561. This folio thus probably records approval of the accounts of 1561–2 and the election of new churchwardens and of the eight men in 1562. That year is clearly written on the verso, and sheets for it are recorded as missing from the published volume, but it is difficult to place this folio in its correct sequence: *Churchwardens’ Accounts*, ed. Bailey, pp.46, 50, 52 n.1.

¹³ Whitlock, b. at Beche, near Wokingham, became a fellow of King’s in 1540 and vice-provost in 1558. Appointed to Prescott later that year he was vicar for 25 years. Although usually non-resident he signed the accounts in 1559. It had been reported that year that he was ‘not present, nor keepeth hospitality’: *ibid.* p.46; C.J. Kitching, *The Royal Visitation of 1559*, p.79; PRO, SP/12/10. A noted antiquary, he died unmarried at Lichfield in 1583: Cooper, *Athenae*, I, p.485; K.C.C., Allen, *Skeleton*, I, p.179; Venn, *Alumni*, I, p.395; *DNB*, 21, p.141.

¹⁴ The decree of the ordinary. Bishop George Coates, constituting the eight men in Aug. 1555: CRO, EDC 5/1619/10; LRO, DDX/480/18/16.

Henre Coney	Richard Derbyshire
Richard Gardayn	Richard Parr
Hughe Parr	Miles Peresson
Robert Kenwryght	Rauff Hayward

[1563]

[f4r (6) 147]
Memorandum it is agreed by the eight men [.] July in the yere of or Lord God 1563 that one hole ley shalbe gathered in the parishe of Prescot and Farneworthe side for the reparations and mendment fo the stepull with other thyngs pertening to the said church

<i>Item</i> to be payd on Prescot syde of the parishe	4[s]	
<i>Item</i> on Farnworthe side of the parishe	3	16

Prescot quarter *per me* Henry Coney Richard Arden
Sutton quarter Myles Persson Rauffe Hayward
Wyndell and Pare quarter Richard Pare Richard Derbshyre
Eccleston and Ranforthe quarter Robart Kenwrecke Hugh Pare

[1565]

[f4v]
[*Memorandum*] it is agreed by the eyght men 26 [. .] in the yere of our Lord God God [sic] 1565 that one wholl <yeare> ley shall be gathered in the paryshe of Prescot and Farneworthe syde for the reparations and amendment of the steple with other things perteyneinge to the sayde church *videlicet*

In Prescot syde of the paryshe	4	
<i>Item</i> in Farneworthe syde of the paryshe	3	16
The names of the eitht men that did ley the same ley		

Henery Conney	Richard Parre
Richard Garden	Richard Derbyshyre
Miles Peresson	Robert Kenwricke
Rafe Hayward	Hughe Parre

[1568]

[f5r (56) 148]¹⁵

¹⁵ A new and neater hand.

Memorandum 31 October *anno domini* 156[8] *et anno regni Elizabethae Dei gratia Anglie etc. regina etc. decimo* the gentlemen and parishoners of the parishe of Prescott have assembled themselves together in the said parishe church there concernyng the election of their eight men named in their constitution for taxation of reparations of the churche whiche being there present the same day have elected and nomynated the same as foloweth *videlicet*

For Prescott	Whiston	Raynehill
Henre Tailior	Andrew Lathom ¹⁶	Peter Lancastre ¹⁷
Sutton	Parr	Wyndle
Rauff Hayward	Brian Hayward	Edwarde Roughleye
Eccleston	Raynforth	
Robert Cowper	William Tunstall	
[signed] William Parr gent.		Raugh Soutton
		William Standyshe
		Rychard Wattmoughe
		Mathew Traves
		Henry Coney
		Thomas Hayston
		Thomas Potter
		John Laton ¹⁸

APPENDIX II

PRESCOT CHURCHWARDENS' ACCOUNTS, 1618–1619¹⁹

[1618–1619]	[£ s d]
<i>Inprimis</i> the charge of bread and wyne for the monethly comunions	
is 4s monethly or thereabouts and so for the whole yeare	48

¹⁶ Of Whiston (d. c. 1570), a younger brother of George Lathom of Irlam: *Visitation*, II, p.177.

¹⁷ Of Rainhill Hall (d. 1592): *Prescot Registers, 1531–1595*, ed. Perkins, p.251.

¹⁸ John Laton (d. 1569) was lessee of Prescott Hall and a nephew of Robert Brassey, vicar from 1541–1558 and provost of King's.

¹⁹ CRO EDC 5/1619/10 [part]

<i>Item</i> the charges of repairing and cleane keeping of the comunion plate ²⁰ and flaggons <i>per annum</i>	2[s]	
<i>Item</i> the provision and repaire of the churchbooks ²¹ the comunion clothes ²² and cushion withe pulpit clothe and cushion	30	
<i>Item</i> for the washing of the comunion clothes and surples ²³	5	
<i>Item</i> the yerely allowance for the maimed souldiers	26	
<i>Item</i> the charge of poore children bastards and suchlike wherewith the parishe is charged and this yeare 1619 the charge of one poore child in Windle and another poore child in Bold in Farneworth side wherewith the parishe is charged by an order from his majesties justices which amounteth unto <i>hoc anno</i>	6	
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<i>Item</i> the expenses in bellrops shakles and other charges about the bells	26	8
<i>Item</i> for ringing upon dayes comanded as the coronation of his majestie, ²⁴ 5 November ²⁵ and other daies in remembrance of his majesties deliverance ²⁶	10	
<i>Item</i> maintaning of the clock ²⁷ in order and repare	10	
<i>Item</i> the charg of a pick and spade for the church	2	
<i>Item</i> charges which the churchwardens expende in sending and calling for the leys imposed upon the inhabitants in Farneworth side	13	4

²⁰ A silver communion cup was listed in the inventory of 1606: *Churchwardens' Accounts*, ed. Bailey, p.151.

²¹ Books belonging to the parish listed in 1606 were Erasmus' *Paraphrases*, Jewel's *Apology*, a great bible, a new communion book, an old communion book and a book of homilies: *ibid.* p.151.

²² In 1606 there were 'two table cloaths, one linen, one woollen': *ibid.* p.151.

²³ In 1606 there were two surplices, one each for vicar and curate: *ibid.* p.151.

²⁴ James I had been crowned on 25 July (St James' day) 1603.

²⁵ In 1606 parliament had ordered perpetual celebration of the anniversary of the 'gunpowder treason': Hutton, *Merry England*, p.182.

²⁶ On arrival in England, James ordered thanksgiving every 5 Aug. for an earlier escape from kidnapping in Scotland. There was also pressure for local commemoration of his accession day (24 Mar.) and his birthday (19 June). Clergy were supposed to remember four out of the five days (19 June, 25 July, 5 Aug, 5 Nov. and 24 Mar.): *Churchwardens' Accounts*, ed. Bailey, pp.182–3.

²⁷ A clock, together with a steeple and bells, is mentioned in the first year for which accounts survive (1523–4) and regularly thereafter: *ibid.* pp.6 *et seq.*

APPENDIX III

SCHEDULES OF CHURCH IMPROVEMENTS, 1634–1637²⁸

*Prima schedula de qua fit mentio in articulis praedict[is]*²⁹

Inprimis the parish church of Prescott wholly and newly flagged in the floare thereof
Item the seats in the said church made uniforme and the same for the most part new seated

Item a new comunion table and a decent rayle about the same sett in the channcell, and the seates in the said channcell made quier wise

Item a new organ and organ loft

Item the kings armes sett up a new in a frame

Item one part of the rooffe of the said church tyred, shott, over with lyme and hayre, and afterwards putt in collors and all the rest of the rooffe tyred and whyted over

Item the clockhouse new made

Item the first, third, and fourth bells new cast and made tunable, with addition of much new mettle thereunto to make them tunable and alsoe a little bell called Nell Miller new cast with addition of new mettall

Item the carriage of stone and timber and all other necessary expences about the foresaid workes

Item bread and wyne for comunions expences of suits for church layes detayned and diverse other expences and moneyes disbursed in and about the service and occasions of the said church and payable by the churchwardens for the tyme being in the yeares mentioned in the second schedule hereunto annexed amounting in the whole to the totall and proportion of the layes and cessments therein alsoe specified

*Schedula secunda de qua fit mentio in articulis annex*³⁰

A schedule of churchlayes and cessments imposed to and for the use of the church of Prescott as followeth

In the yeare of our Lord 1634

Inprimis vizt 6 May 4 layes

Item 25 July 6 layes

²⁸ CRO, EDC 5/1637/86 [part].

²⁹ First schedule of things of which mention is made in the aforesaid articles.

³⁰ Second schedule of things of which mention is made in the articles annexed.

<i>Item 13 October</i>	4 layes	16 layes
<i>Item 2 February</i>	2 layes	

In the yeare 1635

<i>Inprimis 5 May</i>	6 layes	
<i>Item 25 August</i>	6 layes	
<i>Item 24 November</i>	2 layes	20 layes
<i>Item 9 February</i>	6 layes	

In the yeare 1636

<i>Inprimis 31 May</i>	4 layes	
<i>Item 19 July</i>	12 layes	24 layes
<i>Item 17 January</i>	8 layes	

In the yeare 1637

<i>Inprimis 22 May</i>	6 layes	
<i>Item 18 July</i>	8 layes	22 layes
<i>Item 22 October</i>	8 layes	

APPENDIX IV

LEYE ORDERS, 1635–1636³¹

5 May 1635

The eight men whose names are subscriybed fynding money to bee wantinge for the necessari occasions of and belonging to the parish church of Prescot have with the consent of Mr Allden vicar theire and uppon motion of the churchwardens agreed and sett downe that six whole church leys shalbe forthwith taxed and levyed throughout the whole parish of Prescott afforesayd to be payde to the churchwardens as followethe *vidlt* twoo of the sayd leys att or before 19 May now instant too other at or before 24 June next and the other too leys att or before 1 August next.

Witnes theire hands subscriybed to this

John Allden vicar; James Worsley, Mathew Tickle, John Lyon, Richard Cowley

25 August 1635

The eight men whose names are subscriybed fynding money to bee wantinge for some necessarie occasions of the parish church of Prescot have with consent of Mr Allden

³¹ CRO, EDC 5/1636/68 [part]

vicar there and uppon motion of the churchwardens agreed and sett downe that six whole church leys shalbe forthwith taxed and levyed throughoute the whole parish of Prescott afforesayde to be payd to the churchwardens as followethe viz fower of the sayd leys at or before the feast of St Mathew the apostle next and the other too leys at or before the feast day of St Andrew the apostle next. Witnes theire hands hereto subscriybed

John Allden vicar; [M]athew Tickle, [James Wors?/Richard Cow?]ley [*remainder of names lost*]

[.]4 [December 1635]

[The eight men w]hose names are subscriybed [fynding] money to be w[anting]e for some necessarie occasions of [th]e parish church of Prescot have with consent of M[r All]den vicar there and uppon motion of the churchwardens agreed and sett downe that too whole church leys shalbe forthwith taxed and levyed throughoute the whole parish of Prescott afforesayd to be payd to the churchwardens at or before 1 Januari next. Witnes there hands hathe subscriybed

John Allden vicar; the mark of Edmund Lyon [*copy mark*], Edward Greene, William Wood, Richard Parr, William Bould, William Parr, John Barnes

9 Februari 1635

The eight men whose names are subscriybed fyndinge money to be w[anting]e for the necessarie occasions of the parish church of Prescot have with the consent of Mr Allden vicar there and uppon motion of the churchwardens agreed and sett downe that six whole church leys shalbe forthwith taxed and levyed throughout the whole parish in forme following viz three whereof at or before 26 Februari next and the other three at or before 25 Marche next. Witnes there hands hereto subscriybed

John Allden vicar; William Lyme, William Bold, Edmund Lyon, [Jo]hn Barnes, [William] Woo[d]

GLOSSARY

Acquittance: full receipt, account, discharge

Alker (alder): tree whose wood resists water decay

Alley: pathway in churchyard, aisle in church

Anderutye: St Andrew's Tide (30 November and days following)

Anno regis: regnal year

Article: question in judicial hearing or visitation

Ashler (ashlar): square piece of stone (here sandstone)

Assices/assizes: periodical sessions in each county, presided over by judges, to try serious crimes

Assited: see cyted

Attorney (attorney): legal agent for cases or pleading

Axle tree: central part of wheel axle

Bailif/baleiff/balive (bailiff): sherriff's officer, issuing writs, processes and distrains

Baldrick/bawderick: leather thong suspending clapper from staple in crown of bell

Bandore: lute-like instrument, used as bass to a cithern

Belfray (belfry): steeple

Belsaller: upper room in belfry

Bench: magistrates sitting together

Breife: letter patent licensing charity collection in church

Bushel/Bushell: four pecks or eight gallons

Carpet cloath: cloth cover for altar

Certiorari: writ transferring proceedings to higher court

Cessments: assessments

Chancell/chansell/chancel: east end of church, beyond nave

Chancellor: judicial officer, representing bishop, presiding over consistory court

Chappellrye: sub-division of parish, with chapel-of-ease

Chippinge: removing small pieces (here of metal, to tune bells)

Citation: initial summons, especially in ecclesiastical court

Cittern (cithern): guitar-like instrument

Clapes: clappers of bells

Clipped money: money with edges fraudulently pared

Colocke (collock): tub, large pail

Composition: settling of debt or claim

Consistory: bishop's court (literally, place of standing waiting)

Corfey/curfey: curfew, evening bell

Correction: session of consistory court to hear offences

Cotterell/cotter: iron pin (here to preserve steeple)

Course money: money in current circulation, legal tender

Covenant: solemn pact in support of the Scots, against the king and the English liturgy

Creed: statement of faith (from *credo*, I believe)

Cyted/assited: required by citation to attend or respond

Daube: plaster

(Rural) Deane: senior vicar or rector in an area

Defunct: deceased

Depositions: evidence, testimony of witnesses

Directory: new forms of worship authorised to replace Prayer Book

Distrayne: force obligation by distress of goods

Dobinge: daubing, plasterwork

Dressinge: preparing, cleaning, polishing

Dyall: sundial or clock

Dyett: food

Engagement: compact with Scots Commissioners in 1647, in which the king engaged to support the Covenant and Presbyterian party

Eodem: the same

Esquire: landed proprietor

Excommunication: sentence excluding offender from community of church

Faine/fane: weathercock or vane

Fayre day: at Prescot, the day after *Corpus Christi* in May or June

Filius: son

Finger: clock finger

Font stone: stone baptismal font

Gill/jill: vehicle for carrying timber, winch

Gudgeon/gudgon: hinge, staple hanging on hinge in gatepost

Hacke: strong picke-axe or spade

Halme/hawme: wooden handle, haft of pick axe

Hameinge: attaching horse's collar with wood or metal

Hanglinge: hanging

Holland: Dutch linen cloth

Horse meat: food for horses

Ile: aisle

Indente: note of church goods, order, agreement

Injunction: authoritative order

Insuper: moreover, as mentioned above

Iure legis: by authority of law

Jill: see Gill

Lapp: faulty timber, lopped-off branches

Latts/Lattinge: timber laths, wooden strips for fastening slates

Leads/leades: upper levels in tower; leaded windows

Lentalls (lintels): timber or stone block over door or window

Leyes/leys/laves/leays: rates

Libel: paper setting out case preferred by plaintiff, set of articles issued at beginning of cause

Loyterers: vagrants, idlers

Luketyde: St Luke's tide (18 October and days following)

Lychgate: roofed gate to churchyard

Martinmas: St Martin's Day (11 November)

Mossinge: laying moss under slates or tiles

Mouldes: dirt

Nouzing: ?noosing bellropes

Nuper: lately

Okum/oakum: loose fibre from rope or flax to seal joints

Odynarie: one with authority in ecclesiastical cause (here bishop)

Orforyall (orpharion): lute-like instrument, popular in seventeenth century

Orgaynist: organ builder

Our Lady day: Feast of the Annunciation (25 March)

Palme Sunday: one week before Easter (then a permissible day for Easter communion conforming)

Parator (apparitor): court official serving citations on defendants

Pentecost: Whitsun, seventh Sunday after Easter

Perambulation: official walk round boundaries

Petches/patches: dried skin used to make size

Petchys: pitchers?

Pole money: poll tax

Poore mans box: box for offerings for the poor

Precepts: orders

Presentment: statement to court, usually by wardens, accusing wrongdoers

Pressed: forcibly enlisted

Prid/pridd(e): iron for bells, vessel or implement

Privie sessions: private sessions

Proces: progress of an action through courts

Procter: attorney, proxy

Promiscuous: indiscriminate, casual

Protestation: mandatory oath of loyalty to protestantism

Prout per: as may appear by

Pulloffe wyre: pulley (here for clock)

Pus: ?pews, special seats

Pytche, pitch: black resin protecting wood from moisture

Quarter sessions: civil courts trying criminal cases four times *per* year

Quier wise: inward-facing

Quire/quyre: choir, part of chancel, with seats facing inwards

Quishion: cushion

Quorum nomina: one citation relating to a number of named defendants

Ratchments: strips of wood fastened on roof ridge or lateral joints to prevent rain ingress

Rayle: rail, usually wooden, dividing altar and sanctuary from body of chancel

Recusant: objector, refuser (usually Roman Catholic, refusing communion)

Revestry: vestry, room opening off chancel

Ribs: roof timbers, purlins

Rod seler/rood soller: rood loft, loft opening off stairway in rood screen

Rood(e)/rod: crucifixion scene on screen in front of chancel arch, always destroyed at reformation

Rood: square measure of repair work (here of slating)

Rowles (rolls): strips of wood, here used in plastering (*c.f.* ratchments)

St Thomas day: 21 December

Saller/seler/soller (cellar): solar, upper room

Sallett oyle: salad oil

Seelinge: wainscot, panelling

Sek: sack

Sexton(e): one in charge of grave-digging and bell-ringing

Shale: faulty timber, a stripped tree

Shaykyls/shakles/shakells (shackles): leather loop for suspending bell-clapper

Shott: covered

- Shuteinge: cleaning out (here, gutters)
Significavit: writ directing imprisonment of obstinate offender
 Sine/syne/syve: sieve
 Smoake: smock
 Soyder/soderinge/sowder/soder: solder
 Spade tree: spade handle
 Spyken: long nail
 Stave: step in ladder
 Steele/stile/style: stepped gate to churchyard
 Steepe: soaking solution
 Stepull: steeple
 Stoores: posts or props (here for bells and gates)
Sub iure legis: under authority of law
Sub pena juris: under penalty of law
 Subsydies: special taxes
 Surples: white linen vestment (here, for clergy)
 Sworne men/Syde(s)men: assistants to churchwardens
 Synod(d)/sinod: authoritative church meeting (here at rural deanery level)
 Syse (size): glutinous wash
 Syse: assizes
- Tablinge: providing meals and accommodation
 Teer/tearinge/teeringe/tyred: plaster, daubing
 Temper: mix, blend, moderate
 Thrave: two stooks of 12 sheaves each
 Thresh: threshing implement, clump of rushes
 Ticquetts: papers telling witnesses which articles they should respond to
 Trayns: connected parts of mechanism, actuating one another
 Trencher: wooden board or dish to set flagons on
 Trussinge: hanging up
 Turv/turvne/turfe: peat for fire
 Tyred: see teer
 Tythes: tenth part of agricultural production, paid to church
- Upholdinge: supporting
Ut supra: as above
Uxor: wife
- Vidua*: widow
 Visitation: inspection of parishes (here by bishop or archbishop)
 Visitors: bishop or archbishop's officers, conducting inspection

Wainscot: wooden panelling

Whyte, whytinge: whitewash(ing)

Winding sheet: burial shroud

Wiskett: tool basket

Workehouse: workshop

Wort: unfermented beer

Yate: gate (here, to churchyard)

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