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Thomas Steel

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There is an obvious satisfaction for me, as Vicar of Prescot, 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 Kümén. 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 Prescot. Indeed the entire corpus of Bailey’s work on Prescot 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 Prescot’s records will be published in due course.

Thomas Steel, Prescot, 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  Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire
TLCAS Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society
Visitation The Visitation of the County Palatinate of Lancashire made in the year 1664–5, by Sir William Dugdale, Norroy King of Arms, 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 Prescot, 2002.
INTRODUCTION

The richness of Prescot’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 Prescot 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 Prescot 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

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. 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, Rainford, Sankey (‘newly built’ in 1650), and Farnworth (in Widnes township). Farnworth kept its own registers and wardens’ accounts. The Prescot churchwardens’ accounts cover the seven townships of Farnworth side only in respect of church leyes, 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. Its population in 1664 has been estimated at 150,669 and it has been suggested that the total had hardly changed since 1642. Bailey thought that Prescot town may have had 400 inhabitants in 1592, not increasing greatly by 1660. By 1664 the total population of Prescot parish was perhaps 5490, some 3233 on Prescot side and the remainder on Farnworth side. In 1640 the vicar, John Alden, 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’.

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8The 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.
12I am grateful to Nigel Morgan for this information.
13KCC, PRE/31.
On the other hand the town of Prescot 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. 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. By 1590 Prescot township was producing 2500 tons of coal annually 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.

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. 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. The halls at Mossborough (Rainford), Eccleston and Sutton served as mass centres in the parish during this period. There was also ‘an old ruinated building called Windle Shaw Chapel’, 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. 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.
John Aldem,\textsuperscript{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.\textsuperscript{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 Prescot. 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’.\textsuperscript{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.\textsuperscript{29} He died on 7 September 1642, just as hostilities were beginning in the civil war.

Aldem’s successor, Richard Day,\textsuperscript{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.\textsuperscript{31} The living was entrusted to the sequestration of three parishioners who were newly appointed elders of the Warrington presbyterian \textit{classis} (John Lathom,\textsuperscript{32} William Barnes\textsuperscript{33} and William Glover).\textsuperscript{34} In August 1647, however, Day convinced the county committee that his absence from Prescot had been because of heavy fighting in the area and that he would now ‘be disengaged from his service in Kings

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


\textsuperscript{28} KCC, PRE/31; LRO, WCW/Prescot/1642. In 1631 another Lancashire clergyman requested burial ‘without singing or ringing’: Richardson, \textit{Puritanism}, p.30.

\textsuperscript{29} A. Foster, ‘The clerical estate re-vitalised’, in \textit{The Early Stuart Church}, 1603–1642, ed. K. Fincham (Basingstoke, 1993), pp.149, 159; KCC, PRE/30. See pp.xxv, xxxiv.


\textsuperscript{31} \textit{Plundered Ministers Accounts}, ed. W.A. Shaw, RSLC, 28 (1893), pp.33–34.

\textsuperscript{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: \textit{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 Jeremijah Aspinwall (c.1594–1657), a justice, was in the Liverpool \textit{classis}: \textit{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’: B1HR, V/1662–3/letter bound in CB2.

\textsuperscript{33} Of Sankey, gent. (d. 1657).

\textsuperscript{34} Again appointed sequesterator 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; \textit{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 Prescot'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


34 Henry (c.1586–1648) was the heir of John Ogle (c.1558–1612) and lessee of Prescot 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.

35 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: IRO, WCW/Prescot/1650.

36 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.


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 Earls 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 Prescot. On 22 July 1642, just after the seizure of the Liverpool magazine, ‘Richard Taylor, a dissolute youreng fellow residinge in Prescot 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 countrye 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 Prescot 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 Prescot 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

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42PRO, STAC 8/256/14.
44Ormerod, Tracts, p.64.
45LRO, 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.
48Kümin, Shaping of a Community, p.80.
50KCC, 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 elites and in so doing contributed to the later breakdown of government. The Prescot churchwardens' suits against Henry Ogle and James Pemberton in 1635–6 certainly provide vivid examples of gentry who were humiliated in the church courts. The heads of households in and around Prescot 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 Lathom of Whiston and, after 1646, the Oges of Whiston and Roby.

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 Prescot 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. The timber-framed Bold Hall, with its stone tower, was by far the largest property in the parish. 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'. He is commemorated by an effigy in the chancel, by a chair in the sanctuary inscribed with his name, and by arms in the nave and on its roof timbers. His heir Henry farmed Prescot Hall,

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52 Of Halsnead, Whiston (d. 1655). Cited as a recusant in 1633, Pemberton was ordered to pay leyes 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.
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 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 Prescot church, 1610', THLC, 79 (1927), pp.1–2, fig.1.
in addition to lands in Roby, Whiston and Huyton and was a magistrate from 1627–1641, 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 Prescot Hall estate was assessed for a full third of the township's church rate liability throughout the period. 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. Cuthbert (who had suffered great losses when his mill at Whiston was burned down in the fighting) compounded in 1646. 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.

The Eight Men

In 1555 an episcopal decree had set up Prescot'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. 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. 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'. At Prescot, about a third of the churchwardens served as one of the eight men and there appears to have been little social distinction

CRO, EDC 5/1637/86.
Composition Papers, IV, p.236.
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.
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.
Haigh, Reformation and Resistance, p.19; Bailey, 'Commentary', p.179.
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 Prescot side only, despite an episcopal order in 1620 that two of them should represent Farnworth side.

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’. 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. 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.

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. 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. 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. Most Prescot wardens had other experience of office at manorial or parochial level and there was a similar
incidence of dominant personalities as Kumin found for the sixteenth century. It is impossible to measure the effect of election by what was in effect a ‘closed vestry’, on the calibre of wardens. 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 lewdest sort of people and therefore most fit to serve the humour of the gentry and multitude’. Three miles across the valley from Prescot 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.

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 Prescot, fixed scales for payments such as these were to be agreed in 1682 and 1696.

At Prescot, 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. Bailey, too, found that the sixteenth century Prescot wardens were ‘yeomen, craftsmen and traders’, certainly ‘all below the rank of gentlemen’. 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 Prescot, 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’.

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. The commonest complaint by authority was their failure to present offenders, whether this was caused by ‘friendship, neighbourly feeling, pity, procrastination, social

76 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, 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).
81 Bailey, ‘Commentary’, p.137.
pressures or corruption'. 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 get...to present any’. ‘Till some...be exemplarily punished’, they reported, ‘the rest will never take care to discharge their duties and their othes’. The notorious puritan William Prynne had specifically suggested tactics to avoid presenting at visitations. 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’. 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 Prescot 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.

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 Meade and Thomas Walles, churchwardens of Prescot in 1634–5, when the first of two local gentry was sued for rate arrears, were immediately subjected to attacks on their honesty. 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.

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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).
89 Almost certainly a son of Thomas Meade (vicar of Prescot 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 Prescot 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 Prescot 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 Prescot side. Bishop Gastrell was later to record that there were ‘four wardens for Prescot 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’. In 1637 William Wood was ‘the warden for Sutton quarter’. Four ‘schoolwardens’ were also elected annually for Prescot 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. The audit was in no sense a formality, for the churchwardens merely held between accounting periods the corporate sovereignty of the parish meeting. At Prescot 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. 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 Prescot 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. 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

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. 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. 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.

The written record of accounts in the Prescot church book usually follows the common form detected by Beat Kümin. 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 Prescot 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 Prescot by the sixteenth century in favour of a heavy reliance on compulsory church leyes or rates on local landholders. Local assessments, frequently based on the poor rate, could be enforced in the church courts. The assessment for Prescot leyes remained standard throughout the period: Prescot side was assessed at £4 (20s from each quarter) and Farnworth side at £3 16s (16s 1Od 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 Os 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

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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.
103 Lambeth accounts, pp.iii–iii.
sued for payment and gentry pews often removed. All these things occurred at Prescot and no fewer than 82 leyes, raising £248, were laid between May 1634 and October 1637. 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. 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. The seventeenth century accounts record the use of troops for the purpose. 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.

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. 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. 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. Finally came the 7d 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.
107 CRO, EDC 5/1612/17; 1619/10; 1634/103; 1635/90; 1636/68; 110; 1637/86; 1638/137.
109 KCC, PRE/30; PRE/31. See pp.xiv, xxxiv.
110 LRO, PR 3404/13/1.
balance to go to the county’s hospitals and almshouses. Usually called ‘hospital money’ this is never mentioned in the Prescot 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 Prescot 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 leyes.116 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 Prescot 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 leyes, 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 Prescot 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 Prescot 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.
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.  

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. 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. This continued a tradition, for the glazing had long been embellished in this way. The church is said to have been pewed in 1611. 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.

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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 Prescot’, painting), both at Knowsley Hall; 1743 (W. Winstanley, ‘The south prospect of Prescot’, reproduced in L. Knowles, A Prospect of Prescot, Knowsley, 1982, front cover) and (in detail) c.1740–1750 (painting in Prescot church, reproduced in Knowles, Prospect, p.4, there wrongly attributed to the nineteenth century).
123 Richard Bold of Bold (d. 1636); Edward Eccles 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).
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. 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. 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. 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.

**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 visitation 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. 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’. Charles I and Archbishop Laud sought, in effect, to impose upon the whole nation ‘the culture of the Chapel Royal’.

Visitations in 1633 and 1634 found that the fabric of Prescot church was ‘very ruinous and much decayed aboute the roofe and other parts’ and ‘wanted ornaments’. 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. 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. 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).


133 Foster, ‘Church policies’, p.195.


135 CRO, EDC 5/1634/103.

136 Foster, ‘Church policies’, p.205.

visitors wrote: 'We threatened them much, but they are moved at nothing'. 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'.

At Prescot 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 leys in three and a half years to pay for work which was to cost £250 2s. The church was completely reflagged and largely reseated, 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. 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.

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, Bridgeman paid a personal visit to Prescot church on 29 April 1635 and ordered that three gentry pews (those of John Lancaster, Richard Bold and Thomas Eccleston) ‘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.

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.

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138 SRO, D1287/9/8/3 A/92, f. 4. The Prescot warden 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 orment (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 landord to Thomas Walles. The will of Lancaster’s grandfather Thomas in 1606 asked for his arms to be ‘set in colours’ in the ‘southe glasse windowe’ of his ‘chapel’ in Prescot church: LRO, WCW/Rainhill.
144 Thomas Meade’s landlord and a grandson of Edward Eccleston: he succeeded in 1631.
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.\footnote{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 Prescot.}

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.\footnote{See pp.xvii, 7-8, 15-16.}

Several local gentry, including Henry Ogle, James Pemberton, Mr Edgerton of Hardshaw,\footnote{Edward and Richard Edgerton held Hardshaw Hall (Windle) under Lord Derby in 1633: \textit{VCH, Lancs.} Ill, p.373. Raphe Edgerton of Hardshaw was buried in church in 1656-7.} Richard Watmough of Micklehead\footnote{A convicted recusant, whose estate was sold in 1652: \textit{VCH, Lancs.} Ill, p.361; he died in Sept. 1652 at the height of the plague outbreak.} and Edward Bridgeman of Sankey (a younger brother of the bishop),\footnote{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, \textit{Wigan Church}, pp.346-347; A.J. Hawkes, 'Wigan's part in the civil war', TLCAS 47 (1931–2), p.92.} showed their opposition by withholding payment of leyes from the outset. In March 1635, Henry Ogle, the tenant of Prescot Hall, was sued in the consistory court at Chester for arrears.\footnote{CRO, EDC 5/1637/86; 1638/137.} In 1636 the churchwardens extended the suit to James Pemberton, who complained bitterly that the 'anciente seate and buriall place' of him and his ancestors had been taken away from him and 'allowed and appointed for one who is a popyshe recusant'.\footnote{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, \textit{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).} 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.\footnote{CRO, EDC 5/1637/86; 1638/137.} 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...
for four years ‘by the meanes and procurement of Mr Aldem’ (the vicar) and not by election or appointment of ‘the better sort’.

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. 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. 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 rowdyism and quarrelling over secular matters. 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.

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. 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

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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.

There were to be further rebuildings in 1729 and 1797.

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

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


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 Prescot 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. Monthly communion at Prescot (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 leyes for ‘40, 30, 20, at least ten years’. 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.

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. Certainly it was only the most puritan incumbents who did not celebrate communion at Christmas and Easter in the years to 1642. Communion on Easter Sunday and the associated days of Palm Sunday, [Maundy] Thursday and Good Friday or ‘at Easter’ are recorded regularly at Prescot 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’ 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 Prescot) 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’. Unfortunately the Prescot 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 parish and it was claimed in 1640 that there were 450 families and over 1200

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 Prescot 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 Prescot’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 Prescot in 1635–6.

169KCC, PRE/30, 31.
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 Prescot 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.
174 Foster, ‘Church policies’, p.203.
175 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 Prescot, 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’. Prescot complied by October, the table probably being placed in the midst of the nave, with seats around it.\footnote{See p.82.} 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 Prescot, which had become in 1584 a centre for preaching exercises: these seem still to have been continuing in c.1640.\footnote{Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, Ms. 197, ff.175–185; CRO, EDC 5/1695/13.} Prescot 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 Prescot clergy were absent or sick. It was customary in the area for there to be a guest preacher on Easter Sunday afternoon.\footnote{The vicar of Prescot preached at Childwall on Easter Sunday 1654, for which he received 10d: Cl, p.212.}

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 Prescot, to preserve an ancient font when other church furnishings were renewed.\footnote{Bettey, \textit{Church and Community}, p.26.} Fonts (and much of the theology and ceremony of baptism) became objects of particular loathing by the puritans. In 1630 William Rice of Prescot had been presented for ‘washing his hands in the font very irreverently and indecently’.\footnote{BIHR, V/1629–30/CB, ff.113r–115v.}

The Laudians had been concerned to enhance the font’s dignity and as control began to slip from their hands in 1641–2, the Prescot 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.\footnote{Cox, \textit{Churchwardens’ Accounts}, p.153.} 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 furnishings to go.

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furnishings to be returned at the restoration.\(^\text{183}\) 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.\(^\text{184}\)

**The Organs**

The installation of the new pair of organs at Prescot 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’.\(^\text{185}\) 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.\(^\text{186}\) By 1638 Ferdinando Parker had been appointed to play the instrument at an annual salary fixed by the vicar, gentlemen and eight men.\(^\text{187}\)

In 1640 the people of Farnworth complained at having to contribute towards the cost of ‘the making and adorning of a pare of organs and for the continuall maynetaying of an organist’, to which the vicar retorted that it must be ‘a grieffe to them that wee should have a pare of organs as well as they’.\(^\text{188}\) 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 Prescot. 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 Prescot until a redundant pair from St Asaph cathedral was acquired in September 1749.\(^\text{189}\)

**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 Prescot, 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 harphshicall with pypes; one pare of virginalls; one base vyall; one orforyall; one lute; one cittome; 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 Prescot 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.
Scott and Clibbery and all the bells rehung by James Boats of Liverpool. 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. Ronald Hutton has shown how much the records of payments to ringers on special occasions can reveal about changing loyalties in a parish. Unfortunately the Prescot 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 Prescot 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’. 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.

Bells were rung (as was customary for distinguished visitors) in April 1635 to welcome the bishop to Prescot and at both Farnworth and Prescot 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. 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, £10r.
193 See pp.3, 42. Edward Mainwaring, L.L.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 Prescot 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 Prescot in 1660. 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’. A new clockhouse was provided at Prescot after the 1633 visitations and regular clock repairs and maintenance were carried out at first by Thomas Rothwell 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, Prescot was one of six Lancashire towns chosen as royalist garrisons in October 1642 and the earl of Derby held the area for the king until April 1643. Despite fierce fighting for control of nearby Wigan and Warrington, Prescot’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 Prescot ‘thinking there to have drawn in the countrey to him’, but was ‘pursued close’ and escaped to the Isle of Man. Victorious parliamentary forces passed through Prescot and ‘by Knowsley’, eventually gaining control throughout Lancashire, leaving Lathom House as the only royalist stronghold in the county. These events were reflected in the Prescot 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 Prescot’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 Prescot) 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 Prescot 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 Prescot 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 Prescot 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, Prescot’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 leyes arrears on Farnworth side, but other soldiers were later accused of stealing money collected for leyes 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 Prescot 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 Prescot 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 Prescot 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 Prescot were three years behind with their accounts.216

206 Beaumont, Discourse, p.45; Broxap, Civil War, p.95.
209 See p.106.
210 LRO. DDCs (paper roll)/1646: William Blundell (d. 1660) was a prosperous Prescot merchant and parliamentary supporter.
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.
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 com’. 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. The Warrington presbyterian classis petitioned in 1647 that ‘the multitude of alehouses, ales and merrynights are occasions of drunkenness, robberies and other sins’ and also of ‘great dearthe of barley, the ordinary breadcome of poore people’. The ‘poore distressed’ of the hundred petitioned the justices in session at Prescot in the summer of 1648, not only to suppress superfluous alehouses, but to order compulsory sale of all corn held in store. The Prescot 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.

Plague

Dearth was compounded by the widespread plague epidemic of 1652–1653. The inhabitants acknowledged that ‘it hath pleased God to visit the towne of Prescote with the plague’ and Prescot and Whiston were quarantined in September 1652. 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’. On 26 April 1653 the justices received certification that there had been outbreaks in several fresh houses, and that Prescot and Whiston ‘remaine confyned’. Meanwhile, Eccleston and Bold were keeping watch lest the infected poor ‘brake forth’ from their quarantine, ‘wandering abroad and begging’.

The constables of Prescot 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.

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

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217 See p.130.
219 LRO, QSB/1/288/22.
220 LRO, QSP/3/28; QSP/7/3.
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). 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.

RESTORATION

The Prescot accounts confirm the ‘quick, confident and joyful’ restoration of Anglicanism in 1660–1662. 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. 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, forms, stools and the first of two silver chalices (bought in Chester). 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

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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.
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 Prescot, 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. The main document published in this edition is the 'church book' for the years 1637–1664. 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. 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. 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 Prescot 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.

233LRO, PR 3404/4/1
234Among 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 Alden); (pp.144, 167, perhaps John Wythens) may have been entered by the vicar of the day.
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 Prescot. 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. The summary is published here as a second appendix.

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. Also included here are two schedules of church improvements and of church rates or ‘leyes’ for 1634–1637, together with the leye orders for 1635–6, and a certified copy of the full and rich accounts of 1635–6. 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’, ‘vizl’, ‘vidit’, 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 [ . . . . ] 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: 

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’;

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236 Both recited in the decree of 15 Jan. 1620: LRO, DDX/480/18/16.
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 x 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 responses (28 cms x 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 x 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.
Introduction

‘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 ¼d, ¼d or ½d. 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

[f1r] Tuesday in Easter week 19 April 1636
Prescott [damaged] of the parish church of Prescott of theire receites and payments for the use of the sayd parish (church) for the yeare of our Lord God 1635 last past\(^1\) which were seene heard and allowed by the vicar and the eight men

[20 leys this yeare granted marginated]
Receaved of the constables of Prescott which was uppon arreare the last yeare

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Constables</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prescott</td>
<td>2 6 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cronton</td>
<td>0 15 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whiston</td>
<td>4 6 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raynhill</td>
<td>4 5 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eccleston</td>
<td>9 13 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raynforthe</td>
<td>10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windle</td>
<td>9 11 4½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parr</td>
<td>9 18 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sutton</td>
<td>19 2 4½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bould</td>
<td>16 15 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widnes</td>
<td>16 11 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curdley</td>
<td>8 14 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Receaved of the constables of Dytton 20 leys

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Constables</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dytton</td>
<td>[4?] 13 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sankey</td>
<td>8 3 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cronton</td>
<td>5 19 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penkett</td>
<td>5 12 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Burialls\(^2\)
Receaved for a child of Ascroft of Eccleston

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 6 8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Receaved for a child of William Lyme\(^3\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 6 8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

\(^1\)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 Prescot in 1607: Bailey, ‘Commentary’, p.155.

\(^3\)Lyme was constable in the plague year of 1652. A shopkeeper (LRO, QSB/1/77/32), he was buried in church in 1662–3.
Receaved for a buriall of Robert Gleast's 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

[flv]
[damaged] names re[.] ed by the cunstable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In Cronton</th>
<th>In Widnes</th>
<th>In Sankey</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Josephe [Fernifall?]</td>
<td>0 9 11</td>
<td>0 2 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uxor William Glover</td>
<td>0 0 1</td>
<td>0 0 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Orme</td>
<td>0 0 5</td>
<td>0 0 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savage Holland</td>
<td>0 4 6½</td>
<td>0 1 0½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Deane and George Lytherland</td>
<td>0 1 2</td>
<td>0 0 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Gouldesborrow</td>
<td>0 1 0½</td>
<td>0 0 4½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Septon</td>
<td>0 0 5</td>
<td>0 0 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dority Windle</td>
<td>0 0 0½</td>
<td>0 0 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bryan Lea and William Rayneforthe</td>
<td>0 0 4½</td>
<td>0 0 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Bannor of Bould</td>
<td>0 0 9</td>
<td>0 2 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In Penkett

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In Sutton</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Farrar 0 0 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widow Hope 0 0 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francis Robbinson 0 0 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>In Parr</th>
<th>Mylesons house</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>4½</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peeter Byrom</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Robert Lea</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Hill</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>William Barnes</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Hawards House</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Ellis Pyke</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rafe Waynwright</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>John Justis</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Leadbeter</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Edward Justis</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Taylor</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Henry Ogle for</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Edgerton</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Prescott hands</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Ellam</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Winstandley</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Eccleston</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Boulton leygatherer</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hathe in his hands</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Whiston</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Pemberton gent.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[damaged]

*Item* spent by the churchwardens 20 April dyvers gentellmen of the parish beinge there in present the churchwardens accounts being putt of untill another day

|                          | 0 | 12 | 0 |

*Item* spent by the churchwardens when there accounts were taken

|                          | 0 | 3  | 8 |

*Item* payd to the ringers 29 April when the lord bishop came to vew the church

|                          | 0 | 4  | 0 |

Payd to Mr Barkeley of Chester for court charges as concerninge the suite betweext Mr Ogle and the churchwardens as will appeare by his mans acquittance

|                          | 0 | 12 | 0 |

Payd to the deane 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 |

---

1 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.
2 See pp.xxviii, xxxv.
3 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 leyes in 1633: EDC 5/1633/13.
4 The (rural) dean of Warrington was William Lewis (d. 1661), vicar of Childwall from 1624 until his ejectment at the start of the civil war.
Accounts 1635–1636

John Rigby as concerninge the makeinge of new seates and the vewinge of his tymeber

Spent by the ould and new churchwardens when they first mett aboute the makeinge of there presentment to the deane when they could not present it by reason of some of the churchwardens and sworne mens absence

Payd which was owinge to Ann Dychfield for the keepinge of Thomas Hunts children by order from the bench which was unpayd the last yeare

Spent by the ould and new churchwardens when they made there presentment to the deane 1 May

Payd to the sextone12 part of his wages 2 May

Spent by the churchwardens 1 May when the eight men fierst mett and layd leys

Payd for wrytinge presentment to the deane and answeringe everie article

Payd for wrytinge precepts to Prescott syde and Farnworth syde for the fierst six leys

Payd for bringinge precepts to Raynforth Windle and Parr

Spent by one of the churchwardens in rydinge to Fameworthe three severall days for the receavinge of twoo of the fierst six leys due 19 May last

[f2v]

[damage] 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 uniformall13

Payd to Richard Marshall for new bands and gudgeons for the west dore and mendinge the ould ones making one iron boult and plates of iron for the same dore and settinge them on

Payd for nayles doble and sengle spykens and other things pertayninge to the bellfray

---

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. Churchwarden 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
durng 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 durng the tyme
of all his worke for the heatinge of his collers 0 3 8
Payd to Henry Darbishire 5 July for layinge the hyer loft within
the bellfray fyndinge new plankes 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 rushes14 and mouldes oute of the bellfray and
makinge the floore levell 0 1 6
Payd to Richard Hitchmough15 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 Prescot of the annual ceremony
of rush-bearing, resisted by the puritians, although it was kept at Walton until at least 1639: Wn, passim.
15 A daily labourer in Prescot 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.
Payd to Henry Darbishire for more church worke 0 1 0
Payd for leadinge more lyme to the church one whole day [15?] August 0 3 0
Payd to Thomas Lyon for hayre for the plasterer to make morter in one sek 0 1 0
Payd 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
Payd alalso 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
Payd for wrytinge precepts to Prescott and Farneworth syde at the grantinge of the said leys 0 2 6
Payd and spent by one of the churchwardens for horse meate and mans meate five severall tymes in rydyngye to Lever to the lord bishopp as concerninge the makinge of one payre of orgaynes havinge an order and alalso 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 them16 1 13 10
Payd to Mr Was17 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 lordshipps orders 0 8 3

[F3v]
[damaged] aboute the meetinge of the [damaged] orgaynes and wrytinge five severall notes [. . .]
Payd for wrytinge precepts to Prescott syde and Farneworthe syde for the second six leys 0 2 6
Payd to the hyghe constable aboute 20 September for maymed soldiers 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.
Accounts 1635–1636  

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 Farneworth the 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 quyre\(^{20}\) 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 Richyward Hychmoughe 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 coppiinge out a warrant which came from the hygh constable to the churchwardens for the inquyringe of recusants goods and lands 0 0 6

\[f4r\]

Payd to [damaged]

Payd to John Rygby\(s\) 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\textsuperscript{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 their presentment as also havinge ancient men of everie towne assistinge the churchwardens gevinge 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 \[sic\] at Wiggan to Mr Farrintons cleark\textsuperscript{22} for wrytinge every townes particular presentment at the inquyry 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 justices 0 [12?] [.]
Payd to Henry Darbishire for okum and his laboure and his laboure \[sic\] aboute the end of the steeple and consideration for his scaffolds 0 4 6
Payd to the sextone another part of his wages 1 0 0
Payd to the ringers for ringinge uppon the kings holyday\textsuperscript{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 qyure Mr Alden beinge by there wages 0 2 0
Spent the same day by the churchwardens 0 3 4
All also payd to John Rygby and his man when they met three of

\textsuperscript{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.

\textsuperscript{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.

\textsuperscript{23} 5 Nov.
the churchwardens at Sefton to take view of that quyre within that chansell and to make the quire within Prescott chancell in most points after the same fashion there wages 0 2 0

[f4v]
Sp[ent] [damaged] to Wiggan to speake
for [tynn?] and other materials for the organes
Payd 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 by order from the lord bishopp
Payd and spent by two of the churchwardens when they bought tynn at Wiggan
Payd to one for goinge to Wiggan with a horse and for bringinge the same tynn to Eccleston
Payd to one for goinge with a note to Farneworth for the warninge of leys which were unpayd and wrytinge the note
Spent at Prescott in meetinge Sanky men and Curdeley men at the receite of leys
Payd to Richard Whitfield for iron worke aboute the bells
Payd to Henry Darbishire for takinge upp the bells
Payd to Thomas Fletcher for helpinge him
Payd to Richard Whitfield for more iron worke about the bells
Payd to Thomas Fletcher for helpinge him
Payd to one for goinge to Raynhill for the receaving of leys
Spent by one of the churchwardens in goinge to Sutton to the constables takinge Lawrence Marshe with him and receaving of leys for the makinge of new seates
Payd to Henry Darbishire according 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
Payd to George Standish for whyttinge the hyer belfray walles the hyer loft the lower belfray the lower loft whyttinge 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\textsuperscript{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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Payd for lyme for the church whytinge and plastering lyme seene measured and layd in steepe by Georg Standish aboute [. .] July</td>
<td>4 16 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 bushell for morter of 6d the bushell</td>
<td>0 12 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payd to lyme for morter aboute 22 July 26 bushell</td>
<td>0 13 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[f5r\]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Payd for whytinge lyme after [8d] the bushell aboute the 17 September eight bushell</td>
<td>0 5 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payd for whytinge lyme aboute 30 September tenn bushell</td>
<td>0 6 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payd for whytinge lyme aboute [. .] October 12 bushell</td>
<td>0 8 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payd to William Raynforth for colleringe the bellhouse twoo</td>
<td>10 5 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dores tymber worke of the lower loft tymber of the hyer loft</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>colleringe the west window the west arche whytinge the tenn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arche with chalke colleringe the same tenn arches of bothe sydes makeinge ackornes and one globe on the poyn 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 patches for syse as may appere by his acquittance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payd to Lawrence Marshe for five new seates makeing e end rayles</td>
<td>5 15 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for other seates and letting some of the benches into the stone pillers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent by the churchwardens at the meetinge of the eight men</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 November for the layinge of new leys</td>
<td>0 7 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payd to one for goinge to Farneworthe with a note to be warned</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for leys due at new yeares day and for wrytinge the note</td>
<td>0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payd for leadinge more lyme to the church halfe a day</td>
<td>0 1 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent by the churchwardens in makeinge another presentment to the deane</td>
<td>0 2 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payd for wrytinge the same presentment</td>
<td>0 1 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payd the wrytinge precepts to Prescott syde</td>
<td>0 2 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payd for wrytinge precepts to Farneworth syde</td>
<td>0 2 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payd to John Wade for neene seks of moss</td>
<td>0 1 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in rydinge dyvers days for the receaving of leys due at new yeares tyde</td>
<td>0 2 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\textsuperscript{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]
[damaged] 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 P arr 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 Eccleton for the relievinge 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 poynteinge Thomas Dawes
    workehouse 0 2 4
Payd to Henry Darbishire for makinge 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
    tooo 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

[før]
[damaged] leys due 26 February [. . . .]
Payd for wryting precepts to Prescott 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 aboute the plasinge of the orgayn loft 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 boult 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 Aliden 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 insufficency of the rayle it was ordered by Mr Aliden and the eight men that they should take it downe agayne and to convert it to there one use 0 4 8

See pp.xxvii, 82, 229.
[f6v]

[damaged] twoo severall tymes [...] the payinge of Lawrence Ford for his tynn

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spent by the churchwardens and syde men when they made there presentment to the highe constable agaynst Lent syse</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payd for wrtyinge the presentment</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payd to William Mullinx for goinge to Wiggan to John Rigby for the bringinge of him word as concerninge the makinge of the new rayle</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent by the churchwardens at the takinge of it downe and after when John Rigby tooke the makinge of the rayle and the seeinge (of the) at the back of the rayle</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payd to Thomas Boon for poyntinge the hyer leades and some glass aboute the churche</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payd for a lock for the lower leads dore and setting it on</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payd to Ann Dychfield 10 March for keeping of Thomas Hunts children Michlemas quarter by order from the benche</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent at the receite of Sanky leys</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payd for soderinge the hyer leade where was defective</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payd for oyle for the clock</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payd for mendinge and makeinge shakells for the bells</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payd for one pound of candles for the ringinge of corfey</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payd to one for goinge to Farneworth with a note for for the warninge of the last three leys</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payd to Hodgsons wyfe for keeping of a chyld of Mathew Wilcock our Lady day quarter</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payd to Henry Byrom of Parr for keepinge of a chyld of William Gerrard (of Parr) the same quarter</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

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.
14 Accounts 1635–1636

[damaged] cond[... and the seeling[e [. . ] a makinge and
also to see the sufficiency of the tymber and the worke was
ryghte (and) perfect and don in a neate mannor
Payd to Thomas Houghton of Eccleston for his mayntenance our
Lady day quarter by order
Spent by the churchwardens the second tyme when they cast over
there accounts
Payd for wrytinge over the names of chrystnings (and) burials
and weddings in payment against the synod
Spent by Thurstan Scott for attendance of monthly comunions
Spent by James Heskeyne for lyke attendance
Payd to Richard Marshall and Henry Darbishire for a peece of
wood and for iron worke for the west dore and
there paynes
Payd to William Mullinex for goinge to Wiggan to John Rigby
for the bringinge of the orgayn case
Payd 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 orgayn case
Payd to John Wade for dressinge halfe a roode of slate and
[holing?] them
Payd for halfe a roode of slate
Payd for leadinge of them
Payd for wrytinge the churchwardens accounts into the
church booke
Spent by the churchewarden 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
Payd for wyne for all the monthly comunions
Payd for one comunion booke
Payd for another belrope

32 This 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’.
33 There are several cases of newly collected leys being used immediately to pay outstanding bills.
34 This entry relates to the accusation then being levelled that the churchwardens had been charging
35 The Book of Common Prayer of 1559, revised in 1604.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Entry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1635-1636</td>
<td>[damaged] bordes for the organs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[.] 4 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Payd for a coram nomin [recte quorum nomina?]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0 2 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Payd to William Mullinex for goinge to Chester for it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0 2 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Payd to our procter for his fee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0 2 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Payd to one for goinge to Farneworth with a note for the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>warninge of the eight men to meete about the takinge of the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>churchwardens accountes and for wrytinge the note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spent by Henry Meade for attendinge the monthly comunions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0 2 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Payd to James Standish for goinge to Wiggan for John Rigby for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>the brininge of a note which was the lord bishops hand as</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>concerninge the makinge of a seate which was intended for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mr Bould his chappell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Payd to a boy for goinge to Thurstan Scott aboute the makinge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>of his accountes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0 0 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Payd for the curate and sextones dynners when they ministered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>the comunion at St Ellin (chappell) and Raynforthe chappell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0 2 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spent by James Heskeyne for attendance uppon Palme Sunday comunion and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Easter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0 0 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spent lykewyse by Thurstan Scott uppon Palme Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0 0 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Payd for a new spade for the parish use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0 2 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Payd for keepinge Richard Hytchmoughs child our Lady day quarter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0 7 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Payd to Henry Byrom of Parr for keeping a child of William</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gerrards of Parr the same quarter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0 10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spent by the churchwardens in goinge to Wiggan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Payd to An Lyon of Sutton for the keepinge of her children the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>same quarter by order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0 10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spent by Thurstan Scott when hee brought £4 of money to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prescott towards the payinge for the orgayne case</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0 0 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[f8r]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[damaged] layinge of the first [ley]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[. . .]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Payd lykewyse for enteringe the second six leys into the same</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>booke 25 August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0 0 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Payd allso for enteringe an order the concerninge the orgayne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16 September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0 0 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Payd allso for enteringe another order concerninge the orgayne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22 September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0 11 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Payd for drawinge an order made by the lord bishop of Chester concerning the chancel 29 April 1636

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29 April</td>
<td>Payd for wrytinge the same fayre order whereunto his lordship subscribed his hand</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Payd for enteringe the same order into the church booke</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Payd for enteringe another order into the church booke which came from the lord bishop 24 September</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Payd for washinge the church lynnens</td>
<td>0 5 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Payd for keeping of the plate and flaggons cleaned</td>
<td>0 2 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Payd for an indente note of the church goods</td>
<td>0 2 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Payd for bread for the monthly comunions</td>
<td>0 5 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Payd for enteringe an order into the church booke for the layinge of twoo leys 24 November</td>
<td>0 0 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 beeene 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 upon 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 1637

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Payd by the churchwardens for wrytinge there accounts all the yeare</td>
<td>0 3 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[f8v]

Payd 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 necessaries for himselfe (and [...] spending money for his [...] sum in all which hee dothe acknowled

Receaved before John Rigby of Wiggan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Payd to Hamlett Whitfield for his paynes takinge for the good of the parishe as hee thought</td>
<td>0 2 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sum in all disbursed by the churchwardens 1635

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>150 10 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

26 The bishop made this order orally, during his visit on 29 Apr. See pp.xxviii, 3.
27 See pp.xxix, 9, 15.
28 A blacksmith: LRO, QSB/14/13, he was buried in church in 1646.
Receaved by the churchwardens 150 6 4
Moreover added to their disbursements 1 6 8
Total of all payments with that addition of John Rigby 151 16 8
Remaining due to the churchwardens 1 10 4

This account seen taken and allowed and agreed upon 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
finding money to be wanting for the necessary occasions of the parish church of
Prescot have agreed and with the consent of Mr Aldem do sett it downe that six whole
church leyes shal bee collected and gathered thorrow 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 other 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In arere in Sutton</th>
<th>21</th>
<th>13</th>
<th>7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robert Lea</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Justice and Edward Justice</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Grunday</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Chawner</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane Spray</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

39 Most of the pages bear numbers (1–359), which are obviously later additions. Four pages were
missed in this numbering and ‘1, a-c’ have been used to complete the sequence.
40 R per William Wood marginated.
41 Presented 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.345r–7r, 379r, 380r.
Received of the cunstables of Bold 22 leyes beinge 16s 10d att a ley

|          | 18 | 6 | 8 |

Received of the cunstables of Widnes *cum* Appleton in parte of 22 leyes beinge 16s 10d att a ley

|          | 14 | 3 | 4 |

Arere in Widnes
Edward Ball gent.
William Leigh
Richard Chawner

|          | 0  | 7 | 0 |
|          | 0  | 1 | 4 |
|          | 0  | 0 | [] |
|          | 0  | 8 | [] |

unpaid by the cunstables of the said towne which they confesse to have received\(^{42}\)

|          | 3  | 14 | [] |

in toto

Received of the cunstables of Cuardley all the whole 22 leyes beinge 8s 9d att a ley

|          | 9  | 12 | 6 |

|          | 63 | [] | [] |

\-[ib] [Received] of the cunstables of Ditton in parte of 14 whole church leyes being 11s 2d att a ley

|          | 7  | 13 | 8 |

Arere in Ditton
Mrs Marsh

|          | 0  | 2 | 8 |

in toto

Received of the cunstables of Penketh in parte of 22 leyes beinge 5s 8d att a ley

|          | 6  | 2 | 10 |

Arere in Penketh
Widdow Robinson beinge 1d att a ley

|          | 0  | 1 | 10 |

in toto

Received of the cunstables of Sankie in parte of 18 leyes beinge 8s 8d att a ley

|          | 7  | 12 | 6 |

Arere in Sankie
Mr Bridgeman

|          | 0  | 3 | 6 |

in toto

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 |

in toto

|          | 22 | 2 | 4 |

\(^{42}\) R *per* William Wood *marginated.*
The total of William Wood's receipts in ready money

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>85</th>
<th>18</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

[1c] John Litherland's receipts

Received of the constables of Prescott in part of 22 whole church leys beinge 10s att a ley

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>7</th>
<th>5</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

In arre for Prescott

Henry Ogle esq. for all the 22 church leys beinge 3s 4d att a ley

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>3</th>
<th>13</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Jane Greene

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>0</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
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</table>

William Standish

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>0</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>[]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Richard Higginson

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>0</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>[5?]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Thomas Newman

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>0</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Katherin Stevenson

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>0</th>
<th>1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

John Hougland

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>0</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>[5?]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

in toto

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>11</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Received of the constables of Whiston in parte of 22 leys beinge 4s att a ley

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>4</th>
<th>14</th>
<th>6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Arere in Whiston

James Pemberton gent. for all the whole 22 leys beinge (5s) 8½d att a ley

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>0</th>
<th>15</th>
<th>6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

in toto

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>5</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Received of the constables of Rainhill 22 whole church leys beinge 5s att a ley

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>5</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Received of the constables of Cronton in parte of 22 leys beinge 8s 1d att a ley

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>8</th>
<th>14</th>
<th>9¼</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Arere in Cronton

Savage Holland for parte of the 22 leys beinge 2½d att a ley

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>0</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>0¾</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

in toto

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>8</th>
<th>17</th>
<th>10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Received of the constables of Ditton eight whole church leys beinge 11s 2d att a church leye

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>4</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

30 13 11

[2] Received of the constables of Sankie in parte of lower whole church leys beinge 8s 8d att a ley

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1</th>
<th>13</th>
<th>8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Arere in Sankie

William Tompson tenant to Mr Bridgeman beinge 3d att a ley

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

in toto

|               | 1  | 14 | 8  |

---

[^1]: R per William Wood marginated.
The totall of John Litherlands receipts in ready money

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>32</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7½</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thomas Lyon his receipts

Received of the cunstables of Rainford 22 whole church leyes
beinge 10s att a ley

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Received of the cunstables of Eccleston in parte 22 leyes beinge
10s att a ley

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7½</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Arere in Eccleston

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Henrie Webster of the Pitts for 19 leyes</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellen Meade widdow for four leyes beinge 4½d att a ley</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeophray Wilkinson</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Toppinge</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4½</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[ \text{in toto} \]

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The totall of Thomas Lyon his receipts in ready money

\[ \text{in tota} \]

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7½</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Edward Holland his receipts

Received of the cunstables of Wyndle 22 church
leys beinge 10s att a ley

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Received of the cunstables of Parr 22 leyes beinge 10s att a ley

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The totalis of Edward Holland his receipts in ready money

\[ \text{in tota} \]

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[3] Payments and disbursements made by these accomptants as followeth \textit{vizt}

William Wood his payments

\textit{Inprimis} spent by the old and new churchwardens and sworne
men in meetinge at Wigan to take theire oaths and receive a
booke\textsuperscript{44} and in goinge to Wigan to make presentments to the
visitation

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid for a booke of articles

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Spent in meetinge att Childwall to take oathes of old and new
churchwardens and sworne men

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid for the administreinge of the oathes and for the call of theire
names

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Spent in goinge upon perambulation fower severall dayes\textsuperscript{45}

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid to the belfounders in earnest of theire bargaine

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\textsuperscript{44}The Walton accounts record ‘a booke of penance’ issued at the visitation, in addition to the
articles: Wn, f. 48r.

\textsuperscript{45}The practice of walking the parish boundaries and blessing the crops had been revived under Neile
and Bridgeman. It took four days at Prescot. See pp.xxiii, 63.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paid to a messinger for bringinge a letter to Wigan unto the belfounders</td>
<td>0 0 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent att the meetinge of the old and new churchwardens and eight men and</td>
<td>0 9 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the belfounders and others two severall tymes att Halsalls about the castinge of the belles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in goinge to Chester to deliver up presentments</td>
<td>0 2 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to John Taylor for blowinge the bellowes of the organs</td>
<td>0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent when the belfounders were chippinge the belles two severall dayes</td>
<td>0 2 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to the organist for amendinge the organs and puttinge them into tune</td>
<td>2 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent att severall tymes in attending to see the organs amended</td>
<td>0 3 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4 11 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[5] Paid to the belfounders in part for hanglinge the bells</td>
<td>2 [-]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for two pounds of candles for George Bate</td>
<td>0 0 [-]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Henry Meade for mettalls to amend the orgaines</td>
<td>0 0 [?]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent by two churchwardens att Wigan in attendinge two dayes and a night</td>
<td>0 19 [?]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>havinge two horses att grasse and alsoe in procuringe two bells weighed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in attendinge severall daies to agree about the takinge downe of the two first belles and alsoe to receive the third and fouerth bell when they were brought from Wigan</td>
<td>0 3 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to George Bate in earnest of his bargaine att the takinge of the teeringe</td>
<td>0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent att the same tyme</td>
<td>0 0 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in attendinge the communion two daies</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent att another tyme att the chippinge of the bells to make them tunable</td>
<td>0 3 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for a rope for Nell Miller[46]</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for 18 threve of barley straw for daube</td>
<td>0 1 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for leadinge thereof</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to a slater for amendinge some decayed places in the church roof</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent att the hanglinge of the greate bell havinge the helpe of eight men</td>
<td>0 3 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to draw up the same</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent att the drawinge upp of the third bell havinge the helpe of severall men and att the hanglinge thereof</td>
<td>0 2 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[46\] A 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 second belles 0 1 0
Spent in goinge to Farnworth to receive church leyes 0 0 8
Spent upon the custables of Sankie att the bringinge of their
leyses 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 custables of Cuardley when they brought
their 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 seconde
bells 0 2 9
Spent in goinge before Mr Ashton with two cunstables and three of the churchwardens beinge served with a warrant
Spent in payinge the belfounders two severall payments beinge a greate company
Spent in goinge to demand church leyes att Farnworth quarter five severall daies and upon the cunstables in payinge of the same
Spent one communion day coming to attend (one) att the communion
Paid to George Bate for tearing and pointinge about the leads and ridginge
Spent in attendinge five monthly communions and two dayes att Easter

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spent in goinge before Mr Ashton with two cunstables and three of the churchwardens beinge served with a warrant</td>
<td>0 5 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in payinge the belfounders two severall payments beinge a greate company</td>
<td>0 6 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in goinge to demand church leyes att Farnworth quarter five severall daies and upon the cunstables in payinge of the same</td>
<td>0 2 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent one communion day coming to attend (one) att the communion</td>
<td>0 0 [6?]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to George Bate for tearing and pointinge about the leads and ridginge</td>
<td>0 12 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in attendinge five monthly communions and two dayes att Easter</td>
<td>0 4 [1]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[8] Spent in makinge presentments to the ordinary att Chester
Paid to one for bringinge the said presentments to Chester
Paid to James Boates in earnest to hangle the belles
Paid for two loads of lyme towards the tearing of the church roof
Paid for cariage thereof
Paid for timber to be spoakes for the bell wheeles
Spent in goinge to seeke for belheads and other timber for the belles two daies with two persons
Paid in parte for the third and fowerth bell heads
Spent in procuring the third bell letten downe and taken up with the helpe of three men besides workemen
Spent at the takinge downe of the greate bell
Paid for an old axle tree to bee wedges and bawdericks for the clappers
Paid for carryinge of ratchments to bee spoakes for all the wheels
Paid to the ringers one fowerth parte for ringinge on the kings holy day
Paid to Peter Kenwricke his last quarters wage as sexton due now att Easter 1638

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spent in makinge presentments to the ordinary att Chester</td>
<td>0 5 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to one for bringinge the said presentments to Chester</td>
<td>0 2 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to James Boates in earnest to hangle the belles</td>
<td>0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for two loads of lyme towards the tearing of the church roof</td>
<td>0 5 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for cariage thereof</td>
<td>0 1 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for timber to be spoakes for the bell wheeles</td>
<td>0 5 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in goinge to seeke for belheads and other timber for the belles two daies with two persons</td>
<td>0 3 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid in parte for the third and fowerth bell heads</td>
<td>0 4 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in procuring the third bell letten downe and taken up with the helpe of three men besides workemen</td>
<td>0 2 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent at the takinge downe of the greate bell</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for an old axle tree to bee wedges and bawdericks for the clappers</td>
<td>0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for carryinge of ratchments to bee spoakes for all the wheels</td>
<td>0 0 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to the ringers one fowerth parte for ringinge on the kings holy day</td>
<td>0 2 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Peter Kenwricke his last quarters wage as sexton due now att Easter 1638</td>
<td>0 15 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2 9 4

---

6. Probably 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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[9] Paid to James Boats in parte for hanglinge the bells</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Raph Halsall for worke done about the bells</td>
<td>0 10 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid more to Raph Halsall for iron ware and worke done about the hanglinge of the said bells</td>
<td>1 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid more to James Boats in parte for hanglinge all the bells</td>
<td>2 11 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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[^8]</td>
<td>0 6 [?]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to a messinger to goe to Chester to bringe noates of the church leyes</td>
<td>0 3 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for carriage of lyme from Henry Woods house to the church to teare the rouf</td>
<td>0 0 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Peter Kenwricke for one quarters wage</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to a slater to put up old slates</td>
<td>0 10 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Henrie Woods for lyme and heyre to teare the church</td>
<td>0 4 [?]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for boards for the bell wheels</td>
<td>0 5 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to two messingers to goe to Chester about directions to Mr Barkeley</td>
<td>0 3 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for a booke to write (on) our accounts into and for the carriage thereof</td>
<td>0 3 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in goinge to Chester about suits there stayinge three daies</td>
<td>0 5 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This accomptant craveth allowance for his labor in goinge to Chester</td>
<td>0 3 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in goinge to (Chester) Childwall beinge assited to appeare there</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in goinge to Farnworth to demandd and receive leyes</td>
<td>0 2 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7 17 11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


This accoumtant 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\textsuperscript{50} for costs as appears by a noate
of particulers 0 13 10
Spent in goinge two several 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 significavit 0 0 6
Paid for the sealle 0 2 6
Paid to the sherif for his fee 0 6 8
Paid for the atturneys fee 0 3 4
5 1 4

[11] Spent in meetinge the parishoners and overseers of the poore
several daies to assesse 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
\textit{Inprimis} 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

\textsuperscript{50}Henry 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 the roof 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 maintenance 0 2 3
Spent in attendinge to see the bells putt in frame 0 2 8
[4] 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 Prescott 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) hanglinge (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
Spent in meetinge the churchwardens to make presentments to the ordinary by an injunction iure legis 0 1 6
Paid more to the belfounders 2 0 0
[14] 14 [7?] 4

[13] Spent att the same tyme 0 [ . ]
Spent in makinge presentments of recusants goods 0 0 [ . ]

58 erased
Spente in settinge Boates the belhangler in worke 0 0 [.]  
Paid to Mr Ireland of Liverpoll\textsuperscript{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 \textit{anno domini} 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 belhangler 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 seconde bells 0 0 6  
Spent att the same tyme 0 0 6  
Spent in goinge three other severall daies to demand leyes on Farnworth syde 0 1 4  
Spent att the takinge downe and gettinge up of the first seconde and third bells the seconde 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 belhangler 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\textsuperscript{53} 0 5 6  
Paid for wyre for the glasse windowes 0 0 3  

\textsuperscript{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: \textit{Visitation}, II, p.165. He signed ‘G Ireland’ when approving the accounts.  
\textsuperscript{53}The windows had perhaps been blown in by the same ‘greate wyndes’ which hit Walton on 16 Nov: Wn, f.50r.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spent upon the glasier</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for three new bell ropes</td>
<td>0 8 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in attendinge severall daies about the hanglinge of the bells</td>
<td>0 1 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent att the meetinge of the gentlemen of the parish and eight men to make provision for the poore</td>
<td>0 8 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Gerard Cotterall for amendinge the organes about Christmas last</td>
<td>0 10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to James Houghton for a suite of cloathes</td>
<td>0 10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in goinge severall tymes to demand leyes on Farnworth syde</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to George Bate in parte for whytinge the church</td>
<td>1 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Robert Hitchin for nayles pitch and candles about the hanglinge of the bells</td>
<td>0 5 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in goinge to the heigh cunstable with the churchwardens and sworne men to deliver presentments</td>
<td>0 2 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 18 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[15] Spent upon divers cunstables on Farnworth syde att the receipt of church leyes</td>
<td>0 2 [6]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in attendinge six monethly communions and att Easter</td>
<td>0 4 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td>0 16 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Edward Finney for a greate rope and a jill and a planke to gett downe the bells</td>
<td>0 14 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to a messinger to goe to Childwall to bringe presentments</td>
<td>0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent upon the gentlemen of the parish and diners of the Cheshire men cominge to ringe the bells</td>
<td>0 6 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Raphe Halsall for iron and worke done about the hanglinge of all the bells</td>
<td>0 11 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(2 3 8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 14 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30 6 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The totall of John Litherland his payments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soe his receipts beinge</td>
<td>32 7 2 ¼</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and his payments ut supra there remaineth in this accomptants hands</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 0 8 ¼</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

54 See p.xxv.
[16] Thomas Lyon his payments

*Inprimis* spent att the meetinge of the ould and new
churchwardens and the eight men about the accompts of
Henrie Meade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 3 4</td>
<td>Spent in meetinge the eight men and others of the parish about the layinge of eight church leyes layd 18 July 1637</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 4 8</td>
<td>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 secon bell and in procuringe the same weighed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 14 10</td>
<td>Spent att the meetinge of the sworne men and the rest of the churchwardens in makinge presentments to the heigh cunstable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 7 4</td>
<td>Spent in goinge to Wigan to meete the visitors upon a citation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 2 6</td>
<td>Paid to the visitors for an injunction <em>sub pena juris</em> to make presentments to several articles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 4 0</td>
<td>Paid to the belfounders in parte for castinge the secon bell and fowerth belles belonginge to the parish church of Prescott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 0 0</td>
<td>Paid to the belfounders att another tyme in parte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 0 0</td>
<td>Spent in meetinge the churchwardens and cunstables and divers other of the parish to make inquisition of all recusants goods within the parish</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14 1 10</td>
<td>Paid to Peter Kenwricke in parte of one quarters wage due att Christmas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 10 [.]</td>
<td>Paid to the belhangler Boats in parte for hanglinge all the bells</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 5 0</td>
<td>Paid for ash wood to hangle the clapp[er]s in for the first and secon bell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 1 0</td>
<td>Paid for amendinge the bell ropes for two of the bells</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 0 4</td>
<td>Paid for mendinge of a locke for the belhouse doore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 0 2</td>
<td>Paid to William Fletcher for rayles usefull for the hanglinge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 1 3</td>
<td>Paid for oyle and grease for the bells</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 0 3</td>
<td>Paid to George Bate in parte for whitinge the church roof</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 10 0</td>
<td>Paid to Raph Halsall for iron and worke done for the first and secon bell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 0 0</td>
<td>Spent in meetinge the churchwardens and swornmen to make presentments to the ordinary by an injunction <em>sub iure legis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 1 6</td>
<td>Spent in meetinge the churchwardens (and) swornmen and cunstables to make presentments to the assices</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

55 The chancellor held a correction at Wigan in Aug., also attended by the Walton wardens: Wn, f. 49r.
Geven to a poore lame sooldier that had a passe 0 0 6
Spent in attendinge the hangling of the bels 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 2 6
4 4 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 thses 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 assesse 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 3 0
2 6 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 *ut supra* there remaineth in this accomptants hands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Edward Holland his payments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to a messinger to deliver precepts for church leyes</td>
<td>0 0 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in meetinge the belfounders about the bells on the fayre day att Prescott</td>
<td>0 1 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to George Bate in parte for teeringe</td>
<td>0 5 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for castinge of sand</td>
<td>0 0 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in meetinge to have sett the bell steeple to bee pointed</td>
<td>0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid in parte for scaffoldinge</td>
<td>0 4 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent about the same</td>
<td>0 0 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent upon them that ledd the bells to Wigan</td>
<td>0 0 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in goinge to the monethly meetinge[^56]</td>
<td>0 1 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Given to two severall soouldiers</td>
<td>0 0 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in meetinge the belfounders to view the bells</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[20] Paid to Thomas Garnett for leadinge sand and clay</td>
<td>0 3 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in attendinge to see the same done</td>
<td>0 0 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to George Bate towards the scaffoldinge</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Henrie Darbishire for rowles for teeringe</td>
<td>0 3 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent when the bells came home with the founder and att severall other tymes</td>
<td>0 3 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent att the chipinge of the bells</td>
<td>0 0 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for lyme</td>
<td>0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to George Wrigt in earnest for takinge downe the bells</td>
<td>0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent att the same tyme</td>
<td>0 0 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This accomptant craveth allowance for bringinge of a cart</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>load of lyme from Cowley Hill</td>
<td>0 1 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to George Bate for worke</td>
<td>0 5 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in goinge to buy lyme and heyre</td>
<td>0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And att another tyme</td>
<td>0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent att the hanglinge of the bells</td>
<td>0 0 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent by two churchwardens in goinge severall daies to</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farnworth to receive the first six leyes</td>
<td>0 4 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to George Wright more for takinge downe the bells</td>
<td>0 4 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Thomas Lyon for lyme and haire</td>
<td>0 3 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in goinge to the sessions about a soouldier and the poore</td>
<td>0 4 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for leadinge daube and earth</td>
<td>0 2 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[^56]: For 'monthly meetings' see p.xxi.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[21] Spent in goinge to procure the daube ledd</td>
<td>0 1 [ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in attendinge the mossing of some decayes in the roof</td>
<td>0 0 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for nayles</td>
<td>0 0 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Henry Martindale(^{57}) for his wages</td>
<td>0 2 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent when the last bell was cast</td>
<td>0 2 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This accomptant craveth allowance for bringinge the second bell to Wigan and fetchinge it home</td>
<td>0 11 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent upon the ringers for ringinge most parte of a day to try the bells whether tunable</td>
<td>0 2 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in bringinge the bell home</td>
<td>0 0 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for a load of straw and leading the same from Cowley Hill</td>
<td>0 2 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to the belfounders in parte</td>
<td>2 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid more att another tympe</td>
<td>5 10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for lyme to the whytinge of the church rooife 11 bushells</td>
<td>0 7 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in goinge to Chester to fetch a <em>quorum nomine</em> for such as were behind with theire leyes</td>
<td>0 5 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This accomptant craveth allowance for his labor in goinge to Chester and stayinge three daies</td>
<td>0 3 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Peter Kenwricke in parte for one quarters wage</td>
<td>0 5 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in makinge presentments to Mr Lewis deane</td>
<td>0 2 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for pitch and alker</td>
<td>0 2 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in attendinge five severall daies the hanglinge of the first and second bells</td>
<td>0 3 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to the ringers one fourerth parte for ringinge on the kings holyday</td>
<td>0 2 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^*\) Henry, the father of Adam Martindale, had a flourishing business in house building and repairing, which was 'quite dead' after the troubles. His funeral at Prescot 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 particular
1 6 [.]
Paid more to Mr Barkeley as appeares by his noate of particular 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 Conney58 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 dajes 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 cunstables of Parr and Windle 0 2 4
Paid for three pound of candles for Boats to worke by and to ringe curfe by 0 1 0
Spent when the churchwardens mett to make there presentments to Chester 0 2 6
Spent att the inquisition concerning recusants goods 0 1 6

58 Perhaps 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 theire last payment
Spent when the communion was ended att St Ellens chappell upon the curate Mr Burrowes\(^ {59} \) and others of the towne
Spent att Warrington in attendinge three severall daies for Mr Henry Gerard about busines concerninge Mr Pemberton
Geven to the baleiffs which undertooke to execute the writt (he) against Mr Pemberton
Geven to a boy to goe to Newton about the same busines
Spent in attendinge six monethly communions and att Easter
Paid for wyne att Easter
The toall of Edward Holland his payments
Geven to the baleiffs which undertooke to execute the writt (he) against Mr Pemberton
Geven to a boy to goe to Newton about the same busines
Spent in attendinge six monethly communions and att Easter
Paid for wyne att Easter
The toall of Edward Holland his payments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spent when wee paid the belfounders theire last payment</td>
<td>0 2 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent when the communion was ended att St Ellens chappell upon the curate</td>
<td>0 4 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Burrowes and others of the towne</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent att Warrington in attendinge three severall daies for Mr Henry Gerard</td>
<td>0 2 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about busines concerninge Mr Pemberton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geven to the baleiffs which undertooke to execute the writt (he) against</td>
<td>0 1 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Pemberton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geven to a boy to goe to Newton about the same busines</td>
<td>0 0 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in attendinge six monethly communions and att Easter</td>
<td>0 4 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for wyne att Easter</td>
<td>4 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The toall of Edward Holland his payments</td>
<td>26 16 9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Ut supra 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 (of the eight men)

[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 (with) of Mr Aldem that two church leyes shall bee collected throughout the said parish and paid to the churchwardens or some of them [. . . . . (our hands)] att or before the feast day of St Michaell 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Village</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prescott</td>
<td>Evan Garnett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainhill</td>
<td>Edward Greene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sutton</td>
<td>James Worsley</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^ {59} \)Curate 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.

\(^ {60} \)He was from Rainford, where claypotters and clay pipemakers were concentrated.
Accounts 1637–1664

Eccleston  Robert Gleast
Parr  John Mosse
Rainforth  Thomas Lyon
Ditton  Robert Norman
Guardley  Thomas Leigh, eight men

Elected by
John Aldem vicar; Henry Lawton, Edward Potts, William Wood, Edward Holland, churchwardens

[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 subscribbed
[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
  James Ditchfield of Prescott
  Richard Woodd
  Robert Lyon of Rainforth
  Parr and Windle
  Henrie Eccleston of Parr

Sutton
  Whitson
  Rainhill

Rainford and Eccleston
  Robert Lyon of Rainforth

Parr and Windle

(P) Swornemen
Prescott Whiston and Rainhill
  Henry Garnett of Rainhill

Sutton
  Edmund Tunstall

Rainford and Eccleston

Surveyors
Prescott  Evan Garnett
  Whitson  John Lathom
  Rainhill  George Deane
  Sutton  Thomas Wilcock

[Surveyors] Swornemen
Prescott Whiston and Rainhill
  John Naylor

Rainford  John Tunstill

Sutton
  William Wood
  John Cowper

Rainford and Eccleston
  William Winstanley

61 The eight men seem to have been elected on this occasion, quite improperly, by the vicar and churchwardens.
38 Accounts 1637–1664

William Traves of Eccleston  
Parr and Wyndle  
Robert Billinge of Windle  

John Traves  
Parr  
Christopher Bordman

Elected by us whose names are subscrib'd  
[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 Prescott and conceivinge that the said yearely 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 yearely 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 durninge 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 Lawton Edward Potts William Wood and Edward Holland churchwardens of the parish church of Prescott 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 towneshipps followinge vizt

In Prescott 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 *cum* Appleton 11 whole church leyes beinge 16s 5d att a church ley

[30] In Cuardley 11 whole church leyes beinge 8s 9d att a church ley
In Cronton 11 whole church leyes beinge 8s 1d att a church ley 4 16 3
In Ditton 11 whole church leyes beinge 11s 2d att a church ley 4 8 11
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 receipt 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

*in toto* 33 10 10

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

[31] Upon the foote of the last yeares accompt of the said William Wood £1 18s 10d
Off Thomas Lyon of Rainford upon the foote of his last yeares accompt £7 [recte s] 1½d
Off John Litherland of Whiston upon the foote of his last yeares accompt 40s

*in toto* 4 5 11½

Theis accomptants lykewise charge themselves with the receipt of arrers returned by the last yeares 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 appeareth

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

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

| 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 theire oathes that were elected in Easter weeke 1638

0 2 8

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 accountants and the sworn men at Childwell when they received their oaths & 0 & 8 & 6

| 6 & 4 & 4 |

\[34\] Paid to the high constable for provision for two fatherless children for which they have an order under the hand of the sherriff of this county appearing by an acquittance & 0 & 9 & 11

Paid for acquittance & 0 & 0 & 2

Paid to Mr Barkeley with the privytye 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 costs of suite against Mr Pemberton\(^65\) & 1 & 6 & 0

Given to a messenger for carriage of a letter to Chester about suite commenced against Mr Ogle & 0 & 0 & 4

Paid more to the said Mr Barkeley for costs of suite against Mr Ogle for leyes in arrear for the hall of Prescott appearing by an acquittance & 0 & 15 & 0

Spent by one of these accountants in going to Chester to execute suite against the said Mr Ogle and staying three days & 0 & 5 & 6

Which accountant craveth allowance for his horse travel to Chester the same time & 0 & 3 & 0

Paid to Mr Lawrence Carter for his pains in coming to Prescott and taking the depositions of certain witnesses produced on the behalf of the parish against Mr Ogle & 3 & 14 & 0

Spent by one of the accountants in going to Chester and staying three days out to procure Mr chancellor to come to Prescott about the difference between 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 at Prescott and many of the parishioners produced for witnesses prout per acquittance\(^66\) & 15 & 2 & 0

Spent at Farnworth upon the chancellor and his attendants when these accountants went to meet him on the way coming 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 Prescott67

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

Given to Mr chancellor for his paines in comming to Prescott

Given to Mr chancellors men att the same tyme

Spent by one of the accomptants in comminge to Prescott to search in the booke of accompts for the names of annyant churchwardens and eight men that were to bee produced for witnesses against Mr Ogle

Paid for makinge of 40 ticquetts68 for producinge of witnesses in the same suite

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

Which accomptant craveth allowance for his horse travell to Chester the same tyme

[36] Paid to severall balives for bestowinge there labor and paines severall tymes to have apprehended Mr Pemberton upon a significavit and spent severall tymes in meetinge them about the same

Paid to the said balives att severall tymes more for bestowinge there labor and paines in the said busines

Spent by these accomptants upon the gentlemen and others of the parish when Mr Pemberton his suite was agreed on and ordered

Paid to the bellhanger Boats and his men for hardeninge and trussinge the bells beinge fower workemen fower daies

Spent by one of these accomptants upon the workemen in attendinge to see the worke well done

Paid to George Wright for trussinge one of the bells

Paid to Richard Marshall for worke about the bells and church doores

Paid to Raph Halsall for smythes worke done about the bells appearinge by a noate of particulers

67 See p.xxxv.

68 Slips 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 curfeuy by 0 4 6
Paid for three new bell ropes for the second 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 flag the west doore of the
| church | 0 4 [?] |
| Paid for leadinge the same from Huyton Hey wood 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 enquirye further of several
articles not answereed 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 |

Part 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 accomptants 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 cunstable 0 0 6
Paid for wryteinge presentments to the heigh cunstable in August 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 carriage 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 boultts 0 3 4
Paid more to him for st[j...]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\textsuperscript{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

\textsuperscript{70}probably replacement of the old vane, since no purchase costs are recorded.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spent by one other of these accommodants in goinge severall tymes on Farnworth side to demand and receive leyes</td>
<td>0 2 \text{[.]}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent by one other of these accommodants in goinge severall tymes on Farnworth side to receive churchleyes</td>
<td>0 3 \text{[.]}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to a joyners for makinge the doore betwixt the chancell and the church$^{71}$</td>
<td>0 12 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to George Rainforth for colouring those dores</td>
<td>0 6 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for bands for the said doores</td>
<td>0 3 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for glew and nayles for the chancell</td>
<td>0 1 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent by one of these accommodants in goinge to the monthly meetinge before the justices att Childwell</td>
<td>0 1 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 11 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[40] Spent by two of the churchwardens att two monthly meetings att Childwell</td>
<td>0 2 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent by one of the accommodants in goinge to a monthly meteinge att Childwell</td>
<td>0 1 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent by one of the accommodants 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</td>
<td>0 2 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent by one other of these accommodants in goinge to the sesions att Ormskirke in May 1638 concerninge some orders for the poore</td>
<td>0 3 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to an attorney for his fee to plead to the said orders att the sesions in July after</td>
<td>0 3 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent by one of these accommodants att the said sesions</td>
<td>0 4 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent by two of these accommodants in goinge to Warrington to meete Mr Ireland and Mr Bridgeman$^{72}$ about a child that was to bee releived by the parish</td>
<td>0 2 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to a messinger for bringinge two severall noats to Wigan concerning seats that were to bee made for the communicants to sitt upon$^{73}$</td>
<td>0 0 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent by one of these accommodants in goinge to Wigan about those seats</td>
<td>0 1 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for nayles for the joyner</td>
<td>0 0 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent by one of these accommodants in attendinge two daies att the church to see the worke done</td>
<td>0 1 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for fetchinge those seates from Wigan to Prescott</td>
<td>0 8 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$^{71}$ 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

in toto 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 playinge on the organns

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

in toto 5 16 2

Paid to Richard Holmes for blowinge the organ bellowes att (two) severall tymes

Att one tyme
0 5 0
Att an other tyme
0 2 6
and att another tyme
0 7 6

in toto 0 15 0

Paid to Peter Kenwricke as sexton this yeare

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
18 12 2

Paid to John Wade for slatinge and amendinge slates on the north side of the church
0 1 0
Paid to Thomas Naylor for glasing the church windowes where defects were 0 14 0
Paid to Richard Litherland for money expended in anno 1637 by the then churchwardens about the church business 0 4 0
Spent by one of these accountants in going before Mr. Bridgeman and Mr. Ashton to show their warrants whereby money was to be collected for the poor 0 1 6
And in meetinge the justices at Childwell 0 1 6
Spent by all of these accountants in going several times into the parish to demand distress and receive money taxed for the poor this year vizt
By the accountant Henry Lawton 10 0
By William Woods 10 0
By Edward Potts 6 6
By Edward Holland 5 0
in toto 1 11 6
Paid to William Fletcher with the consent of the parish for money remaining in surplusage to the said William Fletcher upon the foot of his account as churchwarden 6 7 9
Spent by one of the accountants in bringing wine to the communion at Rainford and also upon the curate Mr. Pike74 the minister there the sexton and others after the communion was ended 0 3 4
Spent by one other of these accountants after the communion was ended at St. Ellen chapel upon Mr. Burrowes minister there the curate the sexton and others 0 3 11
9 8 6
Paid to Thomas Walles vintner for wine for the monthly communions and at Easter this last year at the church and chapel aforesaid and for old decrepit folk at several times as followeth vizt

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
[43] & \text{At one time} & 9 & 16 & 4 \\
& \text{At another time} & 3 & 0 & 0 \\
in toto & & 12 & 16 & 4
\end{array}
\]

Spent by these accountants in attending at the monthly communions and at Easter this last year as followeth vizt

---
By one of the accomptants *vizt*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Henry Lawton</td>
<td>4 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Wood</td>
<td>4 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward Potts</td>
<td>4 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward Holland</td>
<td>4 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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 concerning 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 several 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 lynnen 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 accomplish as churchwarden 4 16 8

These accomptants crave to bee respy ted 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robert Lea</td>
<td>2[s] 7½[d]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Lea junior</td>
<td>0 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edmund Lyon for Chawners house</td>
<td>0 1½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Idem</em> Robert Lea</td>
<td>1 1½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Justice and Edward his sonne</td>
<td>0 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Idem</em> John Justice <em>per</em> Erloms house</td>
<td>0 0¾</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Amount (lbs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idem Edmund Lyon</td>
<td>0 0½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idem John Justice and Edward his sonne</td>
<td>1 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann Erlom</td>
<td>0 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Chawner</td>
<td>0 1½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in toto</td>
<td>0 6 2½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Kenion</td>
<td>0 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Leadbeter senior</td>
<td>0 8½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in toto</td>
<td>0 0 11½</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In Wyndle and Hardshaw

In arere and unpaid by the constables of Ditton vizt

William Weedall and Thomas Coppall which they

confesse they have received

1 2 4

In Penketh

Thomas Ashton esq.

Frances Robinson

in toto

6 8 1½

[45] In Widnes cum 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

0 3

John Lawton

1 6

John Woods

1 8

John Lea

0 4

Idem Roger Haughton

0 3

Idem John Wellinge

0 3½

Gilbert Leadbeter

0 0½

Idem Thomas Jessope

0 0¾

John Eaton

0 0½ in toto 0 16 7 [¼]

In Cronton

Widdow Glover

0 1¼

75 Thomas Jessope, gent, of Widnes, one of the eight men in 1640–41, was presented in 1630 for practising ‘phisick and chirurgery’ without a known licence: CRO, EDV 5.
Widdow Leightfoote 0 2
Savage Holland 0 7
Idem 0 4
Parcevall Slacke76 0 1
John Fletcher 0 2¼
Richard Gregory 0 0¼ in toto 0 1 6¼

In Sankie
Edward Bridgeman esq. 3 11¼
Theophilus Linch 2 6
William Worseley 1 3
Mathew Earle 1 9 in toto 0 9 5¼

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 whereas 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 amoute unto 107 8 4
Soe theire receipts beinge 99 17 9
and theire 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 souscrybed 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 fisicke’ 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 viz 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 satisfyed 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 followeinge made upon St Lukes day anno domini 1639

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prescott</td>
<td>William Fletcher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whistonn</td>
<td>John Ashtonn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sutton</td>
<td>William Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecclestonn</td>
<td>Edward Potts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windle</td>
<td>Edward Holland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainhill</td>
<td>Henry Lawton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widnes</td>
<td>John Holt junior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cronton</td>
<td>William Parr, eight men</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 wantinge 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 following viz two of them att or before 20 November next and thother two att or before 20 December next. Witnes our hands herunto subcrybed

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
Prescot Thomas Parr
John Walker
Sutton John Sutton
Eccleston and Rainford
James Jollie of Eccleston
Wyndle and Parr
(Thomas) John Lyon of Wyndle
Swornemen
Prescott Whiston and Rainhill
James Sadler of Prescott
Sutton Henrie Johnstone
Rainford and Eccleston
Peter Tunstall of Rainford
Windle and Parr
Henry Parr de Heath
infra Parr

Whiston William Ackers junior
Rainhill James Houghton
Rainhill Henry Case
Sutton James Ackers
Eccleston Ellis Worseley
Eccleston Robert Gleast
Eccleston Edmund Lyon
Rainford James Naylor
Rainford Thomas Lyon
Windle Edward Cowley
Windle Richard Cowley
Parr Mathew Tickle
Parr Edmund Ellom

Elected by us whose names are subscribbed
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 vizt eight church leyes this yeare 1639

Inprimis theis accomptants charge themse the receipt/ of eight whole church leyes within the severall townships followinge vizt
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 cum Appleton eight whole church leyes beinge 16s 10d att a ley 6 14 8

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.

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

In Ditton and Penketh eight whole church leyes beinge 16s 10d
at a ley

In Sankey eight whole church leyes beinge 8s 8d att a ley

In Bold eight whole church leyes beinge 16s 10d at a ley

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 theire hands 22[s] 4[d]

Of the cunstables of Bold vizt
John Marsh and Evan Leigh which
remayned in theire hands 14 6

Of John Lawton

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

in toto 1 6 8

Item 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 followeinge 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

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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
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Spent by all theis accomptants upon themselves and the
swornemen when they went to receive theire oathes

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<td>0</td>
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<td>6</td>
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Paid to the deane for his fees

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
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Spent by all theis accomptants upon the gentlemen of
the parish and the last churchwardens att the takeinge
of theire accompts

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>[8]</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>11</td>
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Spent by all theis accomptants and the swornemen in makeinge
presentments to the deane in May last

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<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
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Paid for 15 severall precepts for fower churchleyes layed
6 May 1639

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
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For one other precept for the cunstable of Prescott the old one
beinge out of his office

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<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>[3]</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
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Paid to Phillip Holland for goeing to Farnworth severall tymes to
bringe precepts into Farnworth chappelrye

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<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
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Paid for a rope for Nell Miller

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
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Paid to Raph Halsall for worke done aboute the amending of the
bells

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<tr>
<td>0</td>
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Paid for mending the pulpite quision

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<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
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</table>

Spent by all theis accomptants in goinge to Childwall beinge
assessed to appeare theire and to receive an order to enquire
further upon the booke of articles

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<thead>
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Paid for the citation

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
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</table>

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

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<thead>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[54] Spent in bringinge the same to Childwall by one of theis
accomptants

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
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Paid to the heigh cunstable for releefe of the maymed souldirs

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<tr>
<td>1</td>
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prout per acquittance

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<tr>
<td>0</td>
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<td>2</td>
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Paid for the acquittance

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Paid to Mr Eltonhead⁷⁹ for a tree towards the makeinge of three
new styles for the church yeard

---

⁷⁹This was either Richard Eltonhead of Eltonhead (b. c.1582) or his son Richard (b. c.1611): Visitation, 1, 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 helping to load the said trees being three loads 0 1 6
Spent by one of these accountants in going to buy the said trees and procuring carpenters to go about 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 these accountants in going three several times about the falling and cutting thereof 0 3 0
Paid for helping to load these trees being three loads 0 1 6
Paid for leading of the said trees from Eltonhead wood to Prescott being six loads 0 10 0
Spent at two several times upon the carpenter and his man with whom the agreement was made for the making of the church styles 0 2 6
Paid to the carpenter and his man at several times vizt
At one time 1 10 6
At another time 1 8 4
At another time 0 16 6
in toto 3 15 4
Spent upon the gentlemen of the parish and the eight men at the laying of the four first leys 0 8 0
Spent on coming several days to attend the work and also for the placing of the church steeles and also spent upon the workmen 0 9 4
11 0 4

[55] Paid for a copy of the names of all such as were in arrear with their leys in anno domini 1638 to collect the same by 0 1 0
Paid for writing presentations to the high constable in August of all recusants within the parish 0 3 4
Paid for a copy thereof to be in a readiness for the churchwardens to present by 0 2 0
Spent by these accountants and the sworn men in meeting to make the said presentations to the high constable 0 8 6
Spent by one of these accountants in bringing the same to the high constable 0 1 0
Spent by one of these accountants in bringing money to the high constable for the maymed soldiers 0 1 0
Paid for a lock for the bell house door 0 1 2
Paid for mending the pulloffe 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 layinge 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 theirof 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) theirof 0 1 4
Paid for makinge presentments to the deane 14 October last 0 3 4
Spent att makeinge theirof 0 3 4
Paid for writinge 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

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 ofaccompts the ellection of the eight men and a copy of thereof 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 copy of, 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 vizt Att one tyme which was arreare in anno domini 1638 1 0 6
Att another tyme 2 10 0
Att another tyme 5 0 0 in toto 8 10 6
Paid to Mr Holmes att three severall tymes for blowinge the organ bellowes vizt
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Att one tyme</td>
<td>0 5 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Att another tyme with the parish nowe in arreare to him</td>
<td>0 2 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Att another tyme</td>
<td>0 10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>in toto</strong></td>
<td>0 17 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid by all theis accomptants in meeting to make thereire</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>presentments ready for the inquisition holden at Chorley</td>
<td>0 5 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to the ringers for ringing 5 November being the kings holyday</td>
<td>0 10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent by all theis accomptants upon the ringers and themselves that day</td>
<td>0 2 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>10 13 9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[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 going severall tymes on Farnworth syde               |         |
| to bring precepts for church leyes                                          | 0 1 6   |
| Spent in goinge to Childwall beinge assyted to appeare to receive an order   | 0 3 6   |
| for to enquire further upon the booke of articles                           |         |
| 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 goinge 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 morter 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 clensinge 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 cunstables att the 
last assyzes  0  3  4  
Spent by theis accoomptants 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 accoomptants in goinge to demand leyes and upon 
the cunstables 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 decrepitte folk vizt 
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  in toto  13  13  8  
Spent by one of theis accoomptants upon Mr Pyke the curate 
the sexton and others after the communion was ended 
at St Ellen chappell  0  4  0  
Spent by one other of theis accoomptants 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 synod in parchment  0  5  0  15  6  10  

[59] Spent by all theis accoomptants upon the gentlemen of the 
parish and the eight men upon Tuesday in Easter weeke last 
at the ellection of the new churchwardens  0  14  6  
Spent by theis accoomptants 1 May instant in meetinge to make 
theire presentments ready to the visitation  0  3  4  
Spent by theis accoomptants upon the new churchwardens and 
swornemen goinge 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

Spent by all theis accomptants in attending six monthly comunions and att Easter this (past) last yeare as alsoe upon the sworne men as followeweth \textit{vizt}

By Henry Eccleston \hspace{1em} 0 6 0
By Roberte Lyon \hspace{1em} 0 4 6
By Richard Wood \hspace{1em} 0 2 0 \hspace{1em} \textit{in toto} \hspace{1em} 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

Paid by all theis accomptants for writing and keepeinge their severall accompts of their receipts and payments \textit{vizt}

By James Ditchfield \hspace{1em} 0 6 8
By Roberte Lyon \hspace{1em} 0 2 0
By Henry Eccleston \hspace{1em} 0 1 6

Paid for a quire of paper \hspace{1em} 0 0 4 \hspace{1em} \textit{in toto} \hspace{1em} 0 10 6

\hspace{1em} 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 \textit{vizt}

Prescott

Jennett Orrell \textit{vidua} \hspace{1em} 0[s][d]
John Leadbeater \hspace{1em} 0 3
Katheren Steavenson \hspace{1em} 0 1
John Frodsham \hspace{1em} 0 4
Anthony Prescott \hspace{1em} 0 1
William Hardman \hspace{1em} 0 2
George Standishstreete \hspace{1em} 0 1
Thomas Heyes \hspace{1em} 0 6
Margrett Angsdall \hspace{1em} 0 4
John Ainsworth \hspace{1em} 0 2
Hughsons children \hspace{1em} 0 1
\textit{Uxor} Fletcher \hspace{1em} 0 1
Richard Higgenson \hspace{1em} 0 2 \hspace{1em} \textit{in toto} \hspace{1em} 0 2 5
Cronton

Mary Glover \hspace{1em} 0 3\frac{1}{2}
Thomas Almond \hspace{1em} 0 10\frac{1}{2}
Richard Abbott \hspace{1em} 0 1 \hspace{1em} \textit{in toto} \hspace{1em} 0 1 3
Sankey
Accounts 1637–1664

Edward Bridgman esq 1 2
Theophilus Smith [recte Lynch] gent. 3 4
Robert Mather 0 2
Thomas Penketh 0 7
Henry Rothwell 0 4
Richard Farrer 0 8
Mawd Smith 0 4 in toto 0 6 7
Penketh

Thomas Barber cunstable of Penketh 1 0

in toto 0 1 0
0 11 3

[61] Sutton
Edward Roughley 3 2
John Justice 0 7½ in toto 0 3 9½

in Eccleston

Henry Webster of the Pitts 80
Parr
John Hill 0 3
Peter Byrom/Bordman? 0 11
Windle

David Pinnington 2 0
Paid for drawing and writing out theis accompts
Paid for to have the same written out agaime into the
churchbooke of accompts
0 5 0
0 18 1

Sum total of all theis accomptants disbursements and
allowances are 63 6 2

Soc theire receipts beinge £66 2s 10d
and theire payments ut supra 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 fourer 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prescot</th>
<th>Thomas Walles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rainhill</td>
<td>Edward Greene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sutton</td>
<td>James Worsley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eccleston</td>
<td>Robert Glest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainford</td>
<td>John Naylor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parr</td>
<td>Henry Eccleston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bold</td>
<td>Thomas Naylor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widnes</td>
<td>Thomas Herne</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Elected by us whose names are subscribbed

[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 leys shalbee fortwith 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 subscribbed 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 their 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 townshipps followinge vizt

---

81 Curate from 1 Nov. 1638.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prescott Whiston and Rainhill</td>
<td>12 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sutton</td>
<td>12 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eccleston and Rainford</td>
<td>12 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyndle and Parr</td>
<td>12 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widnes <em>cum</em> Appleton</td>
<td>10 2 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuardley and Cronton</td>
<td>10 2 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ditton and Penketh</td>
<td>10 2 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sankie</td>
<td>5 4 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bold</td>
<td>10 2 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in toto</td>
<td>93 12 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William Ackers of Rainford</td>
<td>6 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Ackers his sonne</td>
<td>6 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Lyon of Sutton</td>
<td>6 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A boy of Thomas Ashtons of Eccleston</td>
<td>6 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Sumner of Sutton</td>
<td>6 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A girl of Henry Suttons of Tarbocke</td>
<td>6 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raph Tunstill of Rainford</td>
<td>6 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Shaw of Whiston</td>
<td>6 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margrett his wyfe</td>
<td>6 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in toto</td>
<td>3 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in toto</td>
<td>96 12 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[69] Item received for an old surpesse                                      | 2 0      |
For an old chaine of the churchyard gate leadinge from the crosse*83*      | 2 0      |
| in toto                                                                     | 0 4 0    |

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 their accompte | 0 12 11 |

Summa total of these accountants charge                                      | 97 8 11  |

[70] Payments disbursements and allowances craved by these accountants as follow *vizt*

*Inprimis* spent by these accountants comming to Prescott when the old churchwardens came to have made their accompte and to deliver upp the church goods to these accountants by bill indented | 0 6 8   |
Spent upon another day in comminge a second tyme to receave the same goods by bill indented the accompte of the last churchwardens beinge deferred | 0 6 [8] |

*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 accommodants in goinge to Wigan to the visitation
to receive theire oathes and the said booke of articles 0 7 0
Spent by these accommodants 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 lower 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
messinger to bringe them forth 0 0 6
Paid to a messinger 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 accommodants might view and see wherein they were
amisse and consider how the bells and frame were to bee
amended 0 2 6
Spent also in meetinge Boats the bell hangler 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 perambulationower dayes 0 2 0
Paid to the heigh gunstable for releefe of the maymed souldiers
accordinge to his warrant prout per 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 receive fourer church leyes

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<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
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</table>

Spent by one of these accomptants in comminge to Prescott to measure the old surplesse and to advise how much cloath would bee a new surplesse

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<tr>
<td>0</td>
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Spent lykewise in comminge another day to buy cloath and putt the surplesse to the workinge

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<td>6</td>
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</table>

| 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

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
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</table>

Paid to Alexander Rylands for makinge of the said surplesse

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
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Spent in comminge to fetch the surplesse from the makinge and to procure it washed against Prescott fayre

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
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Spent by these accomptants in procuringe and seeinghe the christeninge mariages and burialls registered accordinge to their oath

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<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
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</table>

Spent upon Thomas Lomas who came to view the defects of slates and mossie aboute the church and in procuringe him to doe the worke

<p>| | | |</p>
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<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
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Paid for pinnes and koggs to hange the ladders on

<p>| | | |</p>
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<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
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</table>

Paid for mossie and mossinge and for Thomas Lomas workemanship in paintinge and slatinge about the church where defects were prout per acquittance

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<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid for new slates which were wantinge

<p>| | | |</p>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Spent in comminge to reckon and pay Thomas Lomas

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<thead>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid to Richard Pye for fower bushells of lyme and to Thomas Parr for three bushells of lyme att 6d the bushell

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
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</table>

Paid for cariage of fower bushells from Eccleston

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid to Henry Woods for heyre and plasteringe

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<thead>
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<th></th>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
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</table>

Spent in attendinge the worke and provydinge of things necessary duringe all the worke

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Paid to Mr Parker an arrear of £5 due to him att Easter 1640 and his quarters wages due att midsommer 1640 £5 in toto

<p>| | | |</p>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid to Peter Kenwricke his quarters wages due eode prout per acquittance

<p>| | | |</p>
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<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 13 | 1 | 0 |

---

84 The renewal of the surplice shows Alden'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.
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

\[ \textit{in toto} \]

\begin{tabular}{lll}
10 & 0 & 0 \\
\end{tabular}

Paid to Thomas Walls for wyne for three months communions \textit{vizt} May June and July \textit{prout per} acquittance

\begin{tabular}{lll}
2 & 16 & 4 \\
\end{tabular}

Spent upon the gentlemen of the parish and the eight men att the layinge of fower leyes layd 29 June

\begin{tabular}{lll}
0 & 6 & 4 \\
\end{tabular}

Paid for wryteinge precepts for the said church leyes

\begin{tabular}{lll}
0 & 3 & 0 \\
\end{tabular}

Spent in comminge to fetch them and to procure a messinger to bringe them out

\begin{tabular}{lll}
0 & 0 & 0 \\
\end{tabular}

Paid to a messinger to bringe precepts to Farnworth

\begin{tabular}{lll}
0 & 0 & 0 \\
\end{tabular}

And for a messinger to Rainford

\begin{tabular}{lll}
0 & 0 & 4 \\
\end{tabular}

Spent at Ormskirke sesions in July 1640 in goinge to procure overseers of the poore

\begin{tabular}{lll}
0 & 2 & 0 \\
\end{tabular}

Spent by all these accomptants and the overseers in meetinge the poore that had orders from the bench to take order for theire payment\(^{65}\)

\begin{tabular}{lll}
0 & 4 & 0 \\
\end{tabular}

Paid to severall of those that had orders from the bench theire half yeares pay as followeth

\begin{tabular}{lll}
1 & 0 & 0 \\
1 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 15 & 0 \\
1 & 0 & 0 \\
1 & 0 & 0 \\
8 & 18 & 4 \\
\end{tabular}

\(^{65}\) 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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Ann Earle in parte of her halfe yeares allowance of 15s prout per acquittance</td>
<td>0 10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Ann Webster of Whiston her half yeares allowance for keepinge of young Poole prout per acquittance</td>
<td>1 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Ann Lyon of Sutton her halfe yeares allowance prout per acquittance</td>
<td>0 15 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to John Spencer of Rainford his half yeares allowance prout per acquittance</td>
<td>0 15 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Ann Ditchfield of Prescott the half yeares allowance due to her for keepinge of Hunts children prout per acquittance</td>
<td>0 10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for makinge acquittances for severall of these payments</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent by two of these accomptants in goinge two severall tymes to demand and receive Farnworth side church leyes</td>
<td>0 3 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for makinge presentments to the heigh cunstbles to bee sent to the assyzes att August last</td>
<td>0 3 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent by these accomptants and the sidemen att the makinge therof</td>
<td>0 5 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in meetinge the heigh cunstable to deliver him the said presentments</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for 30½ pounds of lead for the topp of the revestry for conducting of the water</td>
<td>0 6 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent by one of these accomptants in goinge to Warrington to buy it</td>
<td>0 0 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Thomas Lomas for layinge of the lead and pointinge of the revestry</td>
<td>0 2 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7 13 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[75] Spent upon severall of the cunstables of Farnworth syde that came to pay there leyes att Prescott</td>
<td>0 2 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for a bell rope for the greate bell for cariage therof from Warington</td>
<td>0 4 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in goinge to Warington and to bespeake and procure the same to bee made</td>
<td>0 0 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Mr chancellor for three books for the church use att his correction houlden att Wigan(^87)</td>
<td>0 6 10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^{87}\) The 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 messinger that undertooke the delivery of them into the office 0 1 6
Paid to Mr Parker organist his quarters wages due att Michalmas last prout per acquittance 2 10 0
Paid to Richard Holmes organ blower his quarters wages due eode prout per acquittance 0 5 0
Paid to Peter Kenwricke his quarters wages as sexton due eode prout per acquittance 0 15 0
Paid to Thomas Walls for wyne for three monthes communions vizt August September October prout per 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 theire 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 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 wryteinge 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

\[88\]This is the last evidence of 'beautification' before the puritan reaction and iconoclasm of 1641 onwards.
Paid to a messinger 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 messinger for bringinge a noate to Farnworth to commande the cunstables to pay in theire church leyes 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 forme99 0 1 6
Spent eode 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 prout per acquittance 2 10 0
Paid to Richard Holmes (his) organ blower his quarters wages due eode prout per acquittance 0 5 0
Paid to Peter Kenwricke sexton his quarters wages due eode prout per acquittance 0 15 0
Paid to Thomas Walles vintner for wyne for three monthes communions vizt November December January prout per acquittance 2 13 0
Spent by all these accomptants in meetinge to make presentments to bee certifyed to the parlyment90 of all the recusants on this syde of the parish 0 7 0
Paid for wryteinge a presentment therof faire (written) in parchmnt 0 3 4

99 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
Paid to Henry Derbishire for mendinge of the steele stepps and for amendinge the little bell wheele
Spent att the same tyme
Paid to Nicholas Anderton for wyre for the clocke
Spent in goinge to Warington to bespeake two bell roapes
Paid for two bell ropes
Paid for cariage of them
Spent upon the eight men that came to taxe fower church leyes
2 February 1640
Paid for wryteinge precepts for those church leyes
Paid for enteringe into the booke of accompts three several orders under the hande of Mr Aldem and the eight men for the taxinge of the 12 leyes this last yeare
Paid to two messingers for goinge to Farnworth and to Rainford to bringe precepts for church leyes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 February</td>
<td>for wryteinge precepts for those church leyes</td>
<td>0 3 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paid for enteringe into the booke of accompts three several orders under the</td>
<td>0 1 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>hande of Mr Aldem and the eight men for the taxinge of the 12 leyes this last</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>yeare</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paid to two messingers for goinge to Farnworth and to Rainford to bringe</td>
<td>7 17 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>precepts for church leyes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[78] Paid to two messingers for to goe with two precepts to Parr two several tymes
Spent by these accomptants in meetinge the overseers to taxe and assesse somes of money for the poore
Spent by these accomptants and sidemen in meetinge to make presentments to the assyzes last
Paid for wryteinge those presentments
Spent upon the cunstables of Bold Widnes and Cronton in comminge to Prescott to pay theire church leyes
Given to the ringers in money and drinke that range on 27 March last beinge the kings birthday\(^91\)
Spent by these accomptants in comminge to meete Thomas Lomas to agree with him aboute the slatinge and dressinge of the out ile
Paid for materialls for the worke \(vizt\) for two ratchments
Paid to Thomas Lomas for slates mosse slatinge mossinge uncoveringe and coveringe a new the roof 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
*prout per* acquittance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paid for carriage of sand to make mortar of</td>
<td>0 0 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for takinge upp of the stone gutters of the out ile and layinge them againe</td>
<td>0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for amendinge of the church rooфе and a place on the north out ile</td>
<td>0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to William Holland for glasinge aboute the church where defects were  <em>prout per</em> acquittance</td>
<td>0 12 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For acquittance</td>
<td>0 0 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in attendinge William Holland to shew him the defects of the windowes where they were to bee amended</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for siftinge of lyme and makeinge of dawbe and pointinge of the glasse</td>
<td>0 1 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8 11 9

[79] Spent by these accomptants in attendinge Thomas Lomas duringe the worke and in provydinge him necessaries ten dayes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paid to three severall messingers for bringinge three severall noats on Farnworth side to command them to bringe in theire leyes</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in goinge to Warington two severall dayes to receive Mr Bridgmans arrears</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent by theise accomptants in goinge to Ormskirke to meete the justices of peace concerninge the subsidyes</td>
<td>0 5 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent by two of these accomptants in goinge three severall dayes to demand and receyve money on Farnworth side</td>
<td>0 4 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to severall of those that had orders from the bench theire latter half yeares payment as followeth <em>vitz</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Ann Webster of Whiston her half yeares allowance for keepinge younge Poole</td>
<td>1 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Jane Greene her half yeares allowance <em>prout per</em> acquittance</td>
<td>1 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Isabell Hey her half yeares allowance for keepinge Lawtons child <em>prout per</em> acquittance</td>
<td>1 0 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

*The 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 *prout per* 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 5 11

| 3 | 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.  

Paid to a messinger 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 *prout per* | 1 0 0
Paid to John Spencer his latter halfe yeares allowance | 0 10 0
Paid to Elizabeth *nuper uxor* Gyles Lyon *defunct* her latter halfe yeares allowance *prout per* acquittance | 1 0 0
Paid to Elizabeth *nuper uxor* Edwardi Lyon *defunct* her latter halfe yeares allowance *prout per* acquittance | 0 15 0
Paid to Margrett Lea her latter halfe yeares allowance for keepinge of a child that was left in Farnworth *prout per* acquittance | 1 0 0
Paid to Ann Earle her latter halfe yeares allowance *prout per* acquittance | 0 10 0
Paid to Henry Hitchin his latter halfe yeares allowance *prout per* acquittance | 0 10 0
Paid to Jane Greene widdow her latter halfe yeares allowance for her selffe 10s and for keepinge of Lawtons child 20s *in toto* | 1 10 0

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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 arrear of 35s

Paid to Mr Parker his quarters wages due att Christmas last prout per acquittance

Paid to Richard Holmes his quarters wages due eode

Paid to Peter Kenwricke his quarters wages due eode

Paid to Peter Kenwricke which hee had layd out for oyle for the clocke and bells

Paid for wyre for the clocke

Spent by the accomptants in comminge to Mr Ogle at Huyton to give an accompt what was done in the seconde warrants for 12d a piece for every sabbath dayes absence

Paid for latts to pinn att the backe of the organs betwixt the chancell and the church\footnote{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}

Paid for nayles to pinn the latts with

Paid to Thomas Walles for three months communion wynes \emph{vitz November, December, January prout per acquittance}

\begin{tabular}{lll}
& 0 & 1 \\
& 2 & 10 \\
& 0 & 5 \\
& 0 & 15 \\
& 0 & 4 \\
& 0 & 0 \\
& 0 & 4 \\
& 0 & 5 \\
& 0 & 2 \\
& 0 & 0 \\
& 2 & 15 \\
& 7 & 10 \\
\end{tabular}

[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

Spent upon the eight men att the layinge of the three last leyes

Paid for wrytinge of precepts for those leyes

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

Paid to a messinger for goinge with precepts into Famworth chappel for those three leyes last layd

Spent in goinge to Norton two severall dayes to speake with Mr Brooke\footnote{111}{Henry 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, \emph{Discourse}, p.ix.} concerninge Jane Smythes children

Paid to Mr Tompson\footnote{112}{Thompson was an attorney often hired by the churchwardens at the quarter sessions.} for a fee att the last sesions holden att Wigan

Spent by one of these accomptants in goinge to the sesions to prevent orders and stayinge two dayes

\begin{tabular}{lll}
& 0 & 1 \\
& 0 & 2 \\
& 0 & 3 \\
& 0 & 1 \\
& 0 & 0 \\
& 0 & 0 \\
& 0 & 3 \\
& 0 & 4 \\
\end{tabular}
Paid to the ringers for ringinge on the day commanded for thanksgiving for peace\textsuperscript{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\textsuperscript{106} 0 0 6
Spent by the accomptants in meeetinge to joynye 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 meeetinge 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 receaved the communion\textsuperscript{107} 0 4 0
Paid for wrytinge therof 0 2 0
Paid to a messinger for bringinge the same to Banke Hall\textsuperscript{108} 0 0 6
[1 7 7]

\textsuperscript{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)\textsuperscript{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

\textsuperscript{104} 4/7 Sept. 1641.
\textsuperscript{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 ironc that Barton, whose inadequately made rails had been rejected in 1635, should now be called upon to remove their replacement. See pp.xxxiii, 12.
\textsuperscript{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.
\textsuperscript{108} The moated manor house of the Moore family at Kirkdale, demolished c.1760.
\textsuperscript{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 *eode* 0 5 0  
7 12 8

[100] Paid to Peter Kenwricke his quarters wages due *eode* 0 [15] 0  
Spent att the taxinge of fourer 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 arrear by them and to a messinger that brought it 0 4 0  
Paid to Thomas Walles for wyne for three months communions *vizz* August, September October *prout per* acquaintance 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 goinging to Warrington to provyde a new bell rope for the secondd 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 goinging to Childwell to meete Mr Ogle and Mr Moore beinge commanded by them to goe thither 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 goinging 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 curfe by 0 0 6  
Spent att the election of the eight men on St Luke day last 0 5 10  
Spent in goinging 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
\[ \text{prout per acquittance} \]
\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\text{Paid to Margrett Case widdow}^{102} & 10 & 0 \\
\text{in parte of her whole yeares} & 15 & 0 \\
\text{allowance of 25s the some of} & 6 & 8 \\
\text{Paid to Ellen Crosby widdow her allowance for this yeare} & 14 & 0 \\
\text{prout per acquittance} & 10 & 0 \\
\end{array}
\]

[99] Paid to Thomas Robinson for the use of Jane Smithes child for this yeares allowance \(\text{prout per acquittance}^{103}\)

Paid to Elizabeth Singleton for a child of Thomas Woode of Farnworth allowed for this yeare past \(\text{prout per acquittance}\)

Spent in meetinge to pay the said severall payments to the poore

Spent by all these accomptants in goinge to Ormskirke to meete the justice there concerninge the pole money\(^{104}\)

Spent by these accomptants in meetinge the cunstable every one within their devision to assesse the pole money

Spent by one of these accomptants in goinge one day to Ormskirke with the cunstables to deliver the presentments and one other day to Warrington to pay the money

Paid to the heigh cunstable for releefe of the maymed soldiers \(\text{prout per acquittance}\)

Paid for the acquittance

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

Paid for wryteinge those presentments

Paid to Richard Taylor in parte of 4s beinge his yeares wages

Paid to Mr Parker his quarters wages ended 29 September last past \(\text{prout per acquittance}\)

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\text{Paid to the heigh cunstable for releefe of the maymed soldiers} & 1 & 7 \\
\text{Paid for the acquittance} & 0 & 0 \\
\text{Spent in comminge two severall dayes to make presentments to the heigh cunstable att the assyses in August last beinge that they could not bee perfected the first day} & 0 & 10 \\
\text{Paid for wryteinge those presentments} & 10 & 4 \\
\text{Paid to Richard Taylor in parte of 4s beinge his yeares wages} & 3 & 4 \\
\text{Paid to Mr Parker his quarters wages ended 29 September last past} & 1 & 10 \\
\text{prout per acquittance} & 0 & 0 \\
\end{array}
\]

\(^{102}\)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: Wh, f.68v; Cl, p.187.
Paid to Peter Kenwricke his quarters wages due eode
0 15 0
Spent att the payment of the said wages
0 1 0
Spent in meetinge the overseers before midsomer sessions 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 sessions 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 months communions vizt 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 prout per acquittance
0 10 0
Paid to Ann Lyon of Sutton for her whole yeares allowance prout per acquittance
0 10 0
Paid to Richard Hitchmough his whole yeares allowance prout per acquittance
0 10 0
Paid to Elizabeth nuper uxor Gyles Lyon defunct her halfe yeares allowance prout per acquittance
1 0 0
Paid to Elizabeth nuper uxor Edwardi Lyon defunct her halfe yeares allowance prout per acquittance
0 15 0
Paid to Margrett Lea her halfe yeares allowance for keepinge of a child that was left in Farnworth prout per acquittance
1 0 0
Paid to Ann Earle her halfe yeares allowance prout per acquittance
0 10 0
Paid to Henry Hitchin his halfe yeares allowance prout per acquittance
0 10 0
Paid to Ann Ditchfield her whole yeares allowance prout per acquittance
0 5 0
Paid to Jane Greene widdow her halfe yeares allowance 10s and for keepinge of Lawtons child 20s prout per 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 prout per acquittance
0 10 0
| Description                                                                 | Amount  \\
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paid for wyriteinge presentments to the deane</td>
<td>£0 3 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent by two of the accountants in goinge to deliver them</td>
<td>£0 2 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent upon the eight men in meetinge to assess the first fower leyes</td>
<td>£0 7 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for wyriteinge of precepts for those fower leyes</td>
<td>£0 3 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent by one of the accountants in cominge to Prescott to fetch precepts for those leyes</td>
<td>£0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to a messenger for bringinge precepts on Farnworth side</td>
<td>£0 0 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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 discresions thinke fitt[97]</td>
<td>£0 6 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£2 15 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[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</td>
<td>£0 10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to a messenger for goinge to the cunstables of Cuardley to give them notice to pay in theire arreares or ells a citation would proceed against them</td>
<td>£0 0 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent by one of the accountants in goinge to receave arreares on Farnworth side</td>
<td>£0 0 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent by the accountants in meetinge the overseers to taxe and assesse what allowance the poore people that had orders should have beinge referred to the disccresion of the overseers and churchwardens</td>
<td>£0 5 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Tom Fletcher for hedginge the yiew tree aboute</td>
<td>£0 2 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent by one of the accountants in goinge eight severall dayes to demand and receave churchleyes on Farnworth side</td>
<td>£0 6 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Paid to Roger Winstanley in satisfaction of all arreares due to him for his allowance according to an order from Judge Whitfield  
*prout per acquittance*                                                         | £2 0 0 |
| Paid to Mr Parker his quarters wages due 24 June last *prout per acquittance* | £2 10 0 |
| Paid to Richard Holmes his quarters wages due *eode*                          | £0 5 0 |

[97] 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.
Accounts 1637-1664

Peter Sefton of Rainford 6s 8d
Widdow Gamett of Whiston 6s 8d
A child of James Naylor of Rainford 6s 8d
Two daughters of William Hyde of Rainford 13s 4d
William Ackers of Sutton 6s

\textit{in toto} 2s 0s 0d

\textit{Item} with the receipte of the some of 15s 4d remayninge in the hande of the last churchwardens appeareinge upon the foote of theire last accompte

\begin{align*}
\text{Remainder} & \quad 0s 15d 4\text{d} \\
\text{Subtotal} & \quad 88s 11d 4\text{d}
\end{align*}

\textit{[95] Item} with the receipte of severall arreares returned in the last churchwardens accompts \textit{vizt}

- Of Henry Roby cunstable of Rainford an arreare of 20s remayninge in his hands 1s 0d 0s
- Of the cunstables of Ditton an arreare of 4s remayninge in theire hands 0s 4d 0s
- Of the cunstables of Cuardley an arreare of 35s remayninge in theire hands 1s 15d 0s

\begin{align*}
\text{Remainder} & \quad 2s 19d 0s \\
\text{Subtotal} & \quad 91s 10d 4\text{d}
\end{align*}

\textit{[96] Payments disbursements and allowances craved by theise accomptants as follow \textit{vizt}}

\textit{Inprimis} paid with the last churchwardens

- Spent on Tuesday in Easter weeke last in makinge and deliveringe upp theire accompts 0s 4d 6\text{d}
- Spent upon the gentlemen of the parish and the eight men after the accompts taken and the election of the churchwardens sidemen and surveyors 0s 6d 0s
- Spent by two of the accomptants and the sidemen in goinge to Childwall to receave theire oathes and a booke of articles 0s 8d 0s
- Paid to Mr Lewis for administringe of theire oathes 0s 2d 0s
- Paid for a booke of articles 0s 0d 8\text{d}
- Spent by two of the churchwardens that continued in theire office in goinge to receave theire oathes beinge (after) cyted to appeare 0s 2d 0s
- 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 0s 8d 10s
Raynford  Henry Robye  Eccleston  William Webster
Crownton  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 Parr

[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 shalbe fortwith 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 subscribbed 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 towneshipps followinge vizt

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prescott Whiston and Rainhill</td>
<td>11 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sutton</td>
<td>11 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eccleston and Rainford</td>
<td>11 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyndle and Parr</td>
<td>11 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widnes and Appleton</td>
<td>9 5 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guardley and Cronton</td>
<td>9 5 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ditton and Penketh</td>
<td>9 5 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bold</td>
<td>4 15 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sankie</td>
<td>85 16 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Item with the receipte of several somes of money for burials in the church vizt

Parr (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 Chester29

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

29The 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
Spent by the accomptants in meetinge to make this accompt

Summa totall of the payments allowances and respytes
Soe theire receipts beinge
and theire payments allowances
and respites
There remayneth in these accomptants hands the some of

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

| Sydemen | | |
| 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
ldem Theophilus Lynch 20d
remayninge in the cunstables hands for which they have given noe returns 8d 0 8 0
In Penketh
Thomas Ley 12d
Thomas Barber 10½d
Thomas Farrar 4d
ldem Thomas Barber 5½d
ldem more 5½d
ldem 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 4 7 11

97r by John Ackers margined.
Paid to Richard Holmes organ blower his quarters wages due *eode prout per* acquittance 0 5 0

Paid to Peter Kenwricke his quarters wages due *eode prout per* 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 *vizi* February March, and Aprill now instant, *prout per* acquittance 2 18 0

Spent by all these accomptants upon themselves the heigh constable and assistants that went with them through the parish to seke for recusants armes 0 7 10 12 17 4

[81] Paid to Thomas Walles for Easter wyne *vizi* Palme Sunday, Thursday, Good Fryday, Easter Sunday and wyne for St Ellen and Rainford *prout per* 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 *in toto* 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 Prescott 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 *insuper* upon the severall persons followinge *vizi*

---

36 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 *prout per acquittance*  
1 0 0

Paid to Margrett Lea her half yeares payment *prout per acquittance*  
1 0 0

Paid to Ann Earle her half yeares allowance beinge 15s and 5s unpaid the last half yeare *prout per acquittance*  
1 0 0

Paid to Ann Ditchfield of Prescott her half yeares allowance for keepinge Hunts children *prout per acquittance*  
0 10 0

Paid to John Walker for three monthes allowance for Radleyes children *prout per acquittance*  
0 12 0

Paid to Ann Lyon of Sutton her half yeares allowance *prout per acquittance*  
0 15 0

[80] Paid to Elizabeth Lyon widdow late wyfe of of Edward Lyon her half yeares allowance *prout per acquittance*  
1 0 0

Paid to John Spencer of Rainford his half yeares allowance *prout per acquittance*  
0 15 0

Paid to John Lea of Sutton his half yeares allowance for keepinge of a child of John Beryes *prout per acquittance*  
1 0 0

Paid to Elizabeth Lyon *uxor* Gyles Lyon her half yeares allowance *prout per acquittance*  
1 0 0

Paid to Richard Hitchmough his halfe yeares allowance *prout per acquittance*  
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\(^4\) which hee had spent in goinge to Lancaster to prevent one Winstanley a stranger who had an order under Judge Vernons\(^5\) hand that these accomptants and the overseers shold make provision for his releefe or ells bee bound to answere the contempt  
1 0 0

Paid to Mr Parker organist his quarters wages due 25 March last *prout per acquittance*  
2 10 0

---
\(^4\) 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.

Paid to Ann Webster the remainder of her yeares allowance for keepinge of Pooles child 0 15 0
Paid to John Eddleston his latter halfe yeares allowance prout per acquittance 0 10 0
Paid to Margrett Case widdow the remainder of her halfe yeares allowance prout per acquittance 0 10 0

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 churchyoard 0 1 0

[105] Spent by these accomptants in meetinge to pay the said several 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 repayringe therof\footnote{14} 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 churchyoard 0 1 0

Spent by these accomptants in meetinge to joynye with the cunstables in presentinge a new [lis]t 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 prout per acquittance 2 10 0
Paid to Richard Holmes his quarters wages due eode prout per acquittance 0 5 0
Paid to Peter Kenwricke his quarters wages due eode prout per acquittance 0 15 0

Spent by these accomptants 2s a peece in goinge to collecte money for the poore distressed subjectes in Ireland upon themselves and such as went with them to take the names of the givers and what they gave in toto 0 8 0
For takinge a particular of their 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 cunstables of Rainford att the receipte of their churchleyes 0 0 8
Paid to Thomas Walles for three monthes communions wyne \textit{vizt} February, March and Aprill prout per acquittance 2 18 8

\footnote{14}Probably damage caused by the ‘great winde’ of 24 Mar., which broke 2s worth of glass at Childwall: Cl, p.190.
[106] Spent by one of these accomptants upon the minister and others after the communion was ended at Rainford
0 3 0
Spent alsoe upon the minister and others after the communion ended at 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 reliefe of the poore distrest subjectes 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 washeringe the church lynmens this last yeare
0 5 0
For washeringe 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 synood
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 peice *in toto* 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 same 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 weke and for wyne for St Ellen and Rainford the some of £5.

These accomptants crave to bee respyted several 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* 3 0 0

* Rd per J.A. marginated, for John Ackers
*115 Rd per J.S. marginated, for John Sutton.
The cunstables of Widnes *cum* Appleton for the same three church leyes

The cunstables of Cuardley and Cronton for the same three church leyes

The cunstables of Ditton and Penketh for the same three church leyes*

The cunstables of Bold for the same three church leyes*

The cunstables of Sankie for the same three church leyes*

Within Widnes

Remayninge in the cunstables hands of the fower church leyes layd in October last

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Within Sankie

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Edward Bridgeman gent.</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William Worsley</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Penketh</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Lea</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>more unpaid there</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Within Penketh

Within Cronton

| Thomas Sefton          |     | 9  |
| Uxor 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  | 7½ |

Within Ditton

| Jennett Davison for Marshes ground           | 0   | 8½ |
| Remayninge in the hands of the cunstables of Sutton of fower church leyes layd in October last for which they have given noe returns | 0   | 5  | 0  |
|                                             | 0   | 17 | 10 |

Totall of the accomptants payments disburements and allowances are

|          | 91  | 15  | 5  |

---

*116 Of Cuardley 26s 3d marginated.
117 Rd 2s 6d marginated.
118 Rd per J.S. marginated.
Soe theire receipts beinge 91 10 4
and theire payments and allowances 91 15 5
theise 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

[1642–3]

[110] Tuesday in Easter weke 1642
The election of the churchwardens sidemen and surveyors within the parish of Prescott
to serve the yeare followinge

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Churchwardens</th>
<th>Surveyors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prescott Whiston and Rainhill</td>
<td>Presbyterian John Barton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evan Garnett of Prescott</td>
<td>Thomas Parr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sutton</td>
<td>Thomas Walles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Gandy</td>
<td>Whiston Henry Ashton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eccleston and Rainford</td>
<td>Rainhill Henry Lawton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Naylor of Rainford</td>
<td>Edward Greene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyndle and Parr</td>
<td>Sutton Thurston Scott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raph Foster of Wyndle</td>
<td>John Barton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sydemen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescott Whiston and Rainhill</td>
<td>Eccleston Edmund Lyon junior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Stringefellow</td>
<td>Rainhill John Naylor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of Rainhill</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sutton</td>
<td>Sutton Henry Gaskell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Mann</td>
<td>Wyndle Thomas Lyans of the Foulks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eccleston and Rainford</td>
<td>Parr Thomas Roughley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward Denton of Rainford</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyndle and Parr</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Foster of Parr</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

119 The 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.
120 12 Apr. 1642.
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 shall bee 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 subscribbed the day and yeare abovesaid

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

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 subscribbed

Tuesday in Easter weeke 4 April 1643
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 cum Appleton 3 7 4
Cuardley and Cronton 3 7 4
Ditton and Penketh 3 7 4
Bold 3 7 4
Sankie 1 14 8

in toto 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 townshipps 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

in toto 13 13 3

Item with the some of 5s remayninge in the hands of the cunstables of Sutton and returned the last accompt

0 5 0

45 2 [3]

[117] Item with the some of 6s 8d for the buriall of old Mrs Holland in the church

0 6 8

Item 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 total of these accomptants receipts is

46 2 3

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

Inprimis they crave allowance of 5s 1d due to them for a surplusage appearinge upon the state of their last yeares accompt

0 5 1

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 seacound bell 0 3 4
Spent by theise accomptants in goinge to meete Mr Ogle and Mr Ashton to receave directions concerninge the distraintinge of recusants goods for 12d a piece for every Sundayes absence from the church 0 4 2
Spent in meetinge to assesse what allowance the poore should have out of the parish that had orders from the bench and to bee certifdyed 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 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  
<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid for wryteinge of precepts for those fower church leyes  
<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Spent in sendinge out those precepts  
<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid to Thomas Walles for wyne for three months communions
vizt May, June, and July  
<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[120] Given to a poore travellor that had a passe  
<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Spent att a meetinge of the overseers and churchwardens about
the poore  
<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid to Margrett Case widdow her whole yeares allowance out
of the parish  
<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid to Ellen Crosby of Whiston her whole yeares allowance  
<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid to Margrett Lea in parte of her yearely allowance  
<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid to Thomas Aspinwall his whole yeares allowance  
<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid to Ann Earle her halfe yeares allowance  
<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid to John Eddleston his whole yeares allowance  
<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid to Elizabeth Singleton her halfe yeares allowance  
<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid to Thomas Holland his halfe yeares allowance  
<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid to Ann Webster her halfe yeares allowance  
<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid to John Lea of Sutton in parte of his yearely allowance  
<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid to Jane Greene widdow in parte of her yearely allowance
for herself and Lawtons child  
<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid to Humphrey Leigh his halfe yeares allowance  
<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid to Elizabeth late wife of Gyles Lyon deceased in parte of
her yearly allowance  
<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid to Elizabeth late wife of Edward Lyon deceased in parte of
her yearely allowance  
<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[121] Paid to John Leigh the halfe of his yearely allowance  
<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid to Richard Hitchmough in parte of his yearely allowance  
<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Spent in meetinge two dayes about makinge presentments to the
heigh cunstable att the assyzes in August last  
<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid for wryteinge those presentments  
<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Spent in goinge to demand and receave church leyes in
severall townshippes  
<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[124\] Several new allowances were paid that year for the first time.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Given to a poor traveller</td>
<td>0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Fardinando Parker in part of his quarters wages due at Michalmas being his last quarter</td>
<td>1 10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent upon the gentlemen of the parish at the election of the eight men</td>
<td>0 4 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Peter Kenwricke his quarters wages due at Michalmas last</td>
<td>0 15 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Thomas Walles for wine for three months communions</td>
<td>1 11 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>vizt</em> August, September and October</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to the ringers for ringing on the king's holiday</td>
<td>0 4 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for a pound of candles to ring curfew by</td>
<td>0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to George Wright of Knowsley for mending the clock</td>
<td>0 6 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for wine for the clock</td>
<td>0 0 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Raph Halsall for amending the bell heads</td>
<td>0 2 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Peter Kenwricke his quarters wages at Christmas last</td>
<td>0 15 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7 3 10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[122] Paid to Thomas Walles for wine for two months communions _vizt_ November and December | 1 0 0  |
| Paid for bread for the monthly communions and at Easter                   | 0 6 [0]|
| Paid for washing the church linens this last year                         | 0 5 0  |
| Paid for washing and keeping clean the church plate and flagons            | 0 2 0  |
| Paid to Peter Kenwricke his quarters wages at our Lady day last            | 0 15 0 |
| Paid to him for oil for the clock and bells                               | 0 4 0  |
| Spent upon the minister and others after the communion was ended at St Ellens chapel | 0 4 0  |
| Spent likewise upon the minister and others after the communion was ended at Rainford | 0 3 8 |
| These accountants crave to be allowed them for expenses in attending every one of them six monthly communion days and at Easter last 4s a piece _in toto_ | 0 16 0 |
| Paid for keeping these accounts severally in order this last year          | 0 3 4  |
| For writing a pair of indentures of the church goods                       | 0 1 0  |
| Spent in meeting about the making and finishing of these accounts this last year | 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
Theise 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 cunstables 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 cunstables of Whiston are arreare likewise for the fower church leyes layd this last yeare\(^{126}\) 1 0 0
The cunstables 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 theise accomptants have charged themselves they have in returns the severall somes followinge

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Francis Robinson</td>
<td>0[$] 7[d]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francis Barber</td>
<td>0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Abbott(^{129})</td>
<td>0 3½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Ashton esq.</td>
<td>0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Wood</td>
<td>1 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Leigh(^{130})</td>
<td>0 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Cowley</td>
<td>0 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Penketh(^{131})</td>
<td>1 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Worsley(^{132})</td>
<td>0 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Jameson</td>
<td>0 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17 14 8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^{125}\) £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.
Arrears within Sutton for the said three leyes and for the fower church leyes layd this last yeare

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Richard Watmough</td>
<td>6s 2½d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Lea</td>
<td>4 9½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margrett Roby</td>
<td>0 7½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homphrey Wilcocke</td>
<td>0 10½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Holt</td>
<td>0 3½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Woodfal</td>
<td>11 1½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raph Haward</td>
<td>0 7½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raph Haward et mater</td>
<td>1 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Justice</td>
<td>0 8½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Justice and Edward Justice</td>
<td>0 8½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Pownall</td>
<td>1 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roger Downall</td>
<td>0 6½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Eltonhead senior</td>
<td>3 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Wood</td>
<td>1 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Potter junior</td>
<td>0 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Torbocke</td>
<td>0 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Worsley</td>
<td>0 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Hey</td>
<td>0 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Barnes junior</td>
<td>0 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward Foster</td>
<td>0 4½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Cowley</td>
<td>0 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Holland</td>
<td>1 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Seddon junior</td>
<td>0 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Barnes for parte of Woodfalls</td>
<td>0 2½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Naylor</td>
<td>0 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Sampson</td>
<td>0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Litherland</td>
<td>0 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Jollybrand</td>
<td>0 7½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Glover</td>
<td>0 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Sheapard</td>
<td>0 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Bold</td>
<td>1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Fenney</td>
<td>0 3½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Sutton</td>
<td>0 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roger Ince</td>
<td>0 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margrett Wilkinson</td>
<td>0 3½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steevensons house</td>
<td>0 0½</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mathew Barton 0 1
George Webster 0 4½
Edward Jeopharson 0 1½

in toto 1 14 9

The custables of Rainford are unpaid the
lower church leyes layd the last yeare\(^{133}\) 2 0 0
Mrs Mead of Eccleston unpaid 0 1 6
The custables of Parr are unpaid of the
lower church leyes\(^{134}\) 0 10 0
The custables of Wyndle are unpaid of the
lower church leyes 1 0 0
3 11 6

The total of the accountants disbursements and allowances are 58 3 8

Soe there receipts beinge 46 2 3
and there payments and
disbursements 58 3 8½
These accountants are in surplusage
the some of 12 1 5½

Wee have perused these accountants 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.
Accounts 1637—1664

97

Wyndle and Parr
Surveyors
Thomas Roughl[sic] of Wyndle

Surveyors
Prescott
Thomas Walles
Thomas Par

Eccleston
Edward Potts
Edmund Lyon junior

Whiston
Henry Ashton
Henry Woods
Rainford
John Naylor
Henry Gaskell

Rainhill
Henry Lawton
Edward Greene

Wyndle
Thomas Lyon de Foulds
Thomas Roughley

Sutton
Thurstan Scott
John Barton

Parr
Henry Eccleston
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 ass alsoe all former arreares/
now next coming. Witnes our hands herunto subscrybed the day and yeare aboveaid
[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 theire receipts and payments for the use of the said
parish church since theire 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 herafter mentioned

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prescott, Whiston and Rainhill</td>
<td>2 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eccleston and Rainford</td>
<td>2 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyndle and Parr</td>
<td>2 0 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*in toto* 6 0 0

*Item* they charge themselves with the receipt of certaine arreares unpaid in *anno* 1642
and returned upon theire last yeares accompt within the severall townshippes followinge
From the cunstables of Whiston in parte of 20s due for fower church leyes layd that yeare 8[s] 2[d]

From the cunstables of Rainhill an arreare of fower church leyes layd that yeare 20

From the cunstables of Rainford an arreare of fower church leyes layd the same yeare 40

From the cunstables of Parr an arreare of fower church leyes layd the same yeare 10

[133] From the cunstables of Wyndle in parte of an arreare of 20s the some of 0 10 0

Item these accomptants charge themselves with severall somes of money for burialls in the church \emph{vizt}

For the burial of Mrs Stockley 6 8
For the burial of Henry Leadbeter the elder of Wyndle 6 8
For the burial of Henry Leadbeter his sonne 6 8
For the burial of Isabell wife of Henry Lathom of Whiston\footnote{Isabell was a daughter of the recusant Christopher Kenwricke.} 6 8 \textit{in toto} 1 6 8

Received for organ pypes and iron about the organs 0 6 3
Received for the organ wooden pypes 0 6 8
2 9 7

Total of theise accomptants receipts 12 7 9

Memorandum that all the townshipps within the chappelry of Farnworth have neglected to pay two whole church leyes taxed this last yeare and therfore these accomptants have not charged themselves therewith 7 12 0

Item the township of Sutton hath neglected to pay the same and therfore these accomptants have not charged themselves therewith 2 0 0

[134] Payments disbursements and allowances craved by theise accomptants as followeth
Inprimis they crave allowance of the some of £12 1s 5½d due to them for a surplusage appearing upon the foot of there last yeares accompt

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

Spent upon the eight men in meetinge to take the churchwardens accompts

Paid for drawinge a particulier of all the arreares of church leyes to bee certified to Collonell Moore

Paid for three severall warrants from Collonell Moore for obtaininge of church leyes arreares

Spent in goinge three dayes about the procuringe of those warrants

Spent in goinge into severall townshipps both on this side of the parish and on Farnworth side to give them notice thereof

Spent in goinge to the quarter sesions holden att Ormskirke in May last about the parish busines

Paid and expended in takinge downe the organs and mendinge the church steele

Paid for a locke for the revestry doore

Paid for a church byble for the church use

Paid for a cover for the pulpitt cushion

[135] Spent in meetinge Mr Moore to advyse with him concerninge those warrants hee granted for the arreares of church leyes

Paid for mendinge the bell heads

Paid for wyne for two monthes communions vizt May and June

Paid to Mr Parker organist beinge his last payment agreed to bee paid to him by the eight men and churchwardens quyetly to leave of and deliver upp the key

Spent upon the cunstables of Whiston att the receipt of theire church leyes

Spent in goinge to Liverpoole to certifie the cunstables neglecte in collecting the arreares

Paid for wryteinge precepts for two church leyes layd this last yeare

Spent upon the eight men att the taxinge therof
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 Farnworethe 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 *vizt* 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 forms into the 
organ loft[^137] and for hanglinge the chancell doore 0 1 0
Given to the ringers for ringinge on 5 November last 0 3 6

[^136] There were difficulties that year ovr 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.
[^137] The 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 *vizt* December, January and February 1 9 4
Spent by theise accomptants upon themselves and the ministers in this side of the parish att Warrington being called thither to take the national covenant 0 3 6
Paid for mendinge the church roofe with slate and for amendinge the church wall 0 5 0
Paid for removinge the church dyall and makinge new stone stepps 0 2 0
Paid for takinge upp the stones which lay in the bottom of the crosse in the church yoard 0 0 8
Paid for wyne for two monthes communions *vizt* 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 their 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 paide by Mr Day vicar of this parish 0 18 0

Theise accomptants crave to bee allowed them for attendinge every one of them six monthly communion dayes and att Easter last 4s a peece in toto 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

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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: Cl, 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 Martindale’s brother Thomas was buried ‘neare the dyall in the churchyard’ in July 1663: Parkinson, *Life*, pp.17, 172.
140 See n.83.
The constables of Whiston for two church leys layd this last yeare unpaid
Bryan Haward and Adam Knowles of Parr returned for those two church leys
Total of theire payments allowances and respites are
Soe theire receipts beinge and theire payments and allowances These accompts are in surplusage upon this accompt
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 1644[141]
The election of the churchwardens sidemen and surveyors to serve the yeare followinge

Churchwardens
Prescott Whiston and Rainhill
John Ackers of Rainhill
Sutton John Sutton of Sutton
Eccleston and Rainford James Jolly of Eccleston
Wyndle and Parr John Mosse of Parr

Sydemen
Robert Woodfall of Whiston
John Barton of Sutton
Edmund Hey of Rainforth
Thomas Roughley of Wyndle

Surveyors
Prescott Thomas Litherland
Nicholas Anderton
Whiston Henry Ashton
John Litherland
Rainhill Edward Greene
William Parr
Sutton James Worsley
William Wood

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 repanre
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
Witness our hands herunto subscrybed the day and yeare abovesaid
[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 theire receipts and payments for the use of the said
parish church since theire 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 therwith but referr the same to bee collected the
next yeare. These accomptants charge themselves with the receipt of severall arreares of
church leyes herafter mentioned viz

Inprimis with severall arreares unpaid in anno 1641 vizt
From the cunstables of Widnes in parte
          of an arcare of 3s remaining in theire
    hands that yeare    0   2   6
From Thomas Penketh an arcare 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 cunstables within the chappelry of Farnworth fower whole church leyes arreare that yeare

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>15</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Francis Robinson of Penketh</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Ashton esq., Henry Wood Peter Cowley and Thomas Penketh for (the) arreares that yeare</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From severall persons within Sutton in parte of an arreare of 34s 9d the some of</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[in \text{ toto} \ 16 \ 4 \ 6\]

\textit{Item} with severall arreares unpaid in \textit{anno} 1643 \textit{vizt}

[149] From the severall cunstables within the chappelry of Farnworth two whole church leyes arreare that yeare

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>7</th>
<th>12</th>
<th>0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>From the cunstables of Sutton two whole church leyes arreare that yeare</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From the cunstables of Whiston an arreare of two leyes</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[in \text{ toto} \ 9 \ 16 \ 6\]

\textit{Item} they charge themselves with severall some of money for the burialls in the church \textit{vizt}

For the buriall of Isabell wife of William Ackers the younger of Whiston

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>6</th>
<th>8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For the buriall of William Hyde of Rainforth</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For the buriall of Mr Edward Parr of Haysom\textsuperscript{142}</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For the buriall of Widdow Shaw of Rainforth</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For the buriall of Ann wife of Edward Ackers of Rainhill</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For the buriall of Ann Webster Alexander Webster and John Webster of Prescott</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[in \text{ toto} \ 2 \ 13 \ 4\]

\textsuperscript{142}Parr (d. 1645) had lived at Haysarm in Rainford since at least 1628; he was buried in church.
Item with the receipt of 9s for boards which belonged to the organs sold to Thomas Kenion for

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Totall of these accomptants charge is</td>
<td>29 9 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

*Inprimis* they crave allowance of the some of £18 12s 2½d due to them for a surplusage appearinge upon the foote of theire last yeares accompt

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18 12 2½</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 5 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid for wyne for the monthly communion in Maye

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 11 6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Spent in goinge three dayes to Warrington to attend the collonells about the arrearages of church leyes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 2 6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid for wyne for the monthly communion in June

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 8 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Spent in goinge on Farnworth side two dayes about theire church leyes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 1 6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Spent upon St Lukes day att the ellection of the eight men

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 3 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid for a bell rope for the seconnd bell

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 2 8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid for wyne for the monthly communion in October theire beinge noe communion in July, August, and September

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 7 8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid to two souldiers for goinge two dayes into Cuardley for Penketh to distraine for church leyes arrearage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 3 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Spent upon the eight men in meetinge to assesse fower church leyes through the parish

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 3 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid for oyle for the clocke

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 0 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid for a bell rope for the greate bell

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 4 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid for a warrant under the [..] generalls hand for the collectinge of church leyes arrear

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 1 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Spent in goinge to Everton to attend the generall and procure his hand herunto

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 1 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21 6 6½</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

143 These 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 Prescot’s monthly communion being interrupted. See p.xxxi.

144 Soldiers 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.

145 This 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 soldiers 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\textsuperscript{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 their 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 churchyard 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 Darbishire 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\textsuperscript{147} and Captain Marsh\textsuperscript{148} and upon the eight men in meetinge about the church leyes arreare on Farnworth syde reference beinge had to them from the colllons at Warrington 0 6 [.]

\textsuperscript{146}This 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.

\textsuperscript{147}Probably Edward, son of Henry Ogle.

\textsuperscript{148}Probably 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 their church leyes arrear 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 he communions att Easter 1644 it beinge then left unpaid in hope the vicar would have discharged the same as hee did the yeare before\textsuperscript{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 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\textsuperscript{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 \textit{vizt} Palme Sunday and Easter Sunday the some of 3 0 0

\textsuperscript{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.

\textsuperscript{150} Pewter chalices were all the puritans would allow.
These accountants crave allowance of 4s a piece expended in attending at the monthly communions and at Easter in the whole 0 16 0
Paid to Richard Marshall for handling the chancell door and mending the locke of the church yate 0 2 0
Spent in meeting to make perfect these accounts two several days 0 3 4
These accountants crave respite or allowance of 11s 3d being arrears which they had collected in Sutton and was forcibly taken from one of these accountants namely John Sutton by Captaine Bewsicke his troops 0 11 3
These accountants likewise crave respite or allowance of 19s 2d received in course money namely two pence which afterwards were not allowed of 0 19 2
8 7 9
[154] Item they crave respite or allowance of 4s which was lost in collecting the arrears within Widnes and other townships on Farnworth syde 0 4 0
Total of these accountants payments and allowances are 40 0 5½
Soo there receipts being 29 9 2
and their payments and allowances 40 0 5½
these accountants are in surplusage upon the accounts 10 11 3½
These accounts were allowed and subscried 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Churchwardens</th>
<th>Sydemen</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prescott Whiston and Rainhill</td>
<td>Whiston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Ackers of Rainhill</td>
<td>Robert Woodfall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sutton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Edmund Seddon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[151] Perhaps John Bexwicke, gent. (a free burgess of Liverpool) or John Beswicke, the Warrington ropemaker.
Sutton John Sutton Rainford Edmund Bispham
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 yeare 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; 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 theire receipts and payments for he use of the said parish church since theire 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 their 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
And on Farnworth side of the parish they doe extend to
Item with the receipt of severall arreares followinge vizt
From Brian Haward and Adam Knowles an
arreare of
From Mr Watmough an arreare of
From Robert Lea an arreare of
From John Barnes an arreare of
From the cunstables of Wyndle an
arreare of
in toto
Item for burialls in the church anno 1645
John Ackers of Whiston
Richard Sefton of Rainford
Raph Halsall of Prescott
in toto
[161] Item receaved for parte of the organs as followeth
For seelinge sould to Henry
Darbishire
For one of the organ doores sould to
Henry Marshall
For the other organ doore sould to
Peter Hearefoote
in toto
Item receaved for a buriall in the church this last yeare 1646
namely Mr Harpers daughter of Cowley Hill
in toto
Totall of the receipts
[162] Payments disbursements and allowances craved by theise accomptants as
followeth
**Inprimis** they crave allowance of the some of £10 3s 3½d due to them for a surplusage appearinge upon the foote of their last yeares accompt

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spent upon the gentlemen of the parish and the eight men on Tuesday in Easter weeke <em>anno</em> 1645 at the election of the church officers and the accompts taken</td>
<td>0 7 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Thomas Walles for wyne for the monthly communion in May 1645</td>
<td>0 11 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Thomas Goodicar for slate and slatinge where defects were aboute the church</td>
<td>0 5 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Thomas Walles for wyne for the monthly communion in June 1645</td>
<td>0 10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent upon the eight men in meetinge to viewe the defects of the steeple</td>
<td>0 5 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Thomas Walles for the monthly communion wyne in July 1645</td>
<td>0 9 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent upon masons and other workemen in coming to viewe the defects of the steeple</td>
<td>0 1 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for a pulled rope for the clocke</td>
<td>0 1 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Thomas Walles for wyne for the monthly communion in August 1645</td>
<td>0 11 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in comminge severall dayes to attend the worke aboute the steeple</td>
<td>0 4 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for a bell rope for the third bell</td>
<td>0 3 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Mr Lancaster for three loads of lyme for repaire of the steeple</td>
<td>0 19 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[163] Paid for leadinge three loads of lyme from Rainhill to Prescott</td>
<td>14 19 5½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to George Standish and Edward Bate in parte of theirre wages for masons worke and pointinge aboute the steeple</td>
<td>0 10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent upon ten men that carried upp wood and stone for repayre of the steeple</td>
<td>0 4 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Mr Chorley[^154] and Henry Darbishire for two load of tymber for repaire of the steeple</td>
<td>0 10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for leadinge one loade of stone and two loads of tymber from Rainhill to Prescott</td>
<td>0 4 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Henry Parr for gettinge one load of stones on Rainhill hill</td>
<td>0 1 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[^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 Prescott 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 communion in November 1645 0 9 0
Paid to the ringers for ringinge on the gunpowder treason day 0 6 0 1645
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\textsuperscript{155} to procure a warrant for the church leyes arrearage 0 4 [0]
Paid to the clerke for his paines in procuringe warrants for the church leyes arrearage 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 communion in December 1645 0 7 0
Spente in procuringe a warrant from Collonel Booth\textsuperscript{156} for the arreares of church leyes 0 3 6
Paid for a spade iron for the church spade 0 1 4

\textsuperscript{155}The 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.

\textsuperscript{156}John 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 aboute 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 arrearage to bee sent on Farnworth side
                        0 1 4
Paid for wyne for the monthly communion in January 1645
                        0 12 0
Paid for wyne and oile for the clocke
                        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 communion in February 1645
                        0 10 0
Spent in goinge severall tymes into Widnes to collecte church leyes arrearage
                        0 2 8
Paid for wyne for the monthly communion 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 smythes worke aboute the clocke and bells
                        0 3 9
Spent upon Mr Morris\textsuperscript{157} in comminge to preach att the church
                        0 3 6
Spent upon Mr Wright\textsuperscript{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\textsuperscript{159}
                        0 2 6
Spent in meetinge together to make our accomplts
                        0 3 4
Paid for breade for 12 monthly comunions
                        0 5 0

\textsuperscript{157}Perhaps William Morris of Grappenhall, clerk (d. 1662): CRO, WS/Grappenhall/1662.
\textsuperscript{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, \textit{Life}, p.119.
\textsuperscript{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\textsuperscript{160} for the church use  & 0  0  8  
Paid to Peter Kenwricke sexton in parte of his wages \textit{anno} 1645  & 0  13  4  

\begin{tabular}{ll}
[166] \textit{Anno} 1646  
Spent in Easter weeke 1646 after the hearinge of our accompts  & 0  8  \[\text{[\]}\]  
and the election of the surveyors  
Paid to William Holland for glasing aboute the church wheere  & 0  11  0  
defects were  
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  & 1  9  2  
maymed souldiers \textit{prout per} acquittance  
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  & 0  5  10  
att August 1646  
Paid to the ringers for ringinge on the gunpowder treason  & 0  4  0  
day \textit{anno} 1646  
Spent in goinge to the quarter sessions att Ormskirke and an  & 0  2  6  
other quarter sessions att Wigan to prevent any orders  
against the parish  
Paid to Robert Hatton and others for makinge upp the church  & 0  8  6  
walles and the church windowes with iron barrs  
and with bricks  
Paid to Rothwell for mendinge the clocke this last yeare  & 0  4  0  
Spent in collectinge arreares of church leyues 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  & 0  1  0  
the high cunstable  
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  
\hline  
\end{tabular}

\begin{tabular}{ll}
4  9  8  
\hline  
[167] Paid for enteringe these accompts into the church booke  & 0  2  6  
For drawinge an inventory of the church goods  & 0  1  0  
Arreares of the fower church leyues wheerewith these accomptants  &  
stand charged in this accompt  
\textit{In Cronton}  
\end{tabular}

\textsuperscript{160}The \textit{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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>1637-1664</th>
<th>1640-1664</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robert Vose</td>
<td>1s</td>
<td>9d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Nodby</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrence Huson</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**In Sankie**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>1637-1664</th>
<th>1640-1664</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>James Ley</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamlett Traves</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Cowper</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Penketh</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Penketh</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Worsley</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Custable of Penketh arrears**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1637-1664</th>
<th>1640-1664</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**In Widnes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>1637-1664</th>
<th>1640-1664</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William Barnes</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Holt*</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Norland</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Goodicar</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1½</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**In Whiston**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>1637-1664</th>
<th>1640-1664</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr Browne, Mr Wetherby*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deane for Mr Wetherby's land</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Pemberton, gent.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Hearefoote*</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Worrall</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Shuttleworth</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Hornby</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Ford junior</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1637-1664</th>
<th>1640-1664</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**In Sutton**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>1637-1664</th>
<th>1640-1664</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Richard Eltonhead, senior*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Eltonhead junior</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Woods</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Wilcocke of Sutton Heath*</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Barton*</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Foster</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chawners house</td>
<td>0 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexander Chorley gent.</td>
<td>1 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Worsley*</td>
<td>1 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Torbocke</td>
<td>0 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Sutton</td>
<td>0 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Greenhough</td>
<td>0 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Watmough gent.</td>
<td>3 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edmund Gaskell</td>
<td>0 3½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Harrison</td>
<td>0 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Blundell*</td>
<td>1 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Hitchin</td>
<td>0 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margrett Roby</td>
<td>0 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Barnes</td>
<td>0 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sherlocks house</td>
<td>0 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Litherland*</td>
<td>1 2½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Traves</td>
<td>0 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathew Kenion</td>
<td>0 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Livezey</td>
<td>0 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Finney and Henry Hitchin</td>
<td>0 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Hankinson</td>
<td>1 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Cowley</td>
<td>0 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Holland</td>
<td>1 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Edwardson</td>
<td>0 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bryan Byrom</td>
<td>0 1½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ales Bateman</td>
<td>0 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Barnes</td>
<td>0 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurstan Scott*</td>
<td>0 7½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Jellybrand</td>
<td>0 7½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexander Potter* and Fennow</td>
<td>0 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Sutton*</td>
<td>0 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worsley and Barton for Justice ground*</td>
<td>0 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Totall of the disbursements and arreares | 36 3 10 |

[169] Within Sutton

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Haward</td>
<td>0 1½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Sutton</td>
<td>0 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michaell Martindale*</td>
<td>0 5½</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

---
Soe theire receipts beinge 35 18 1
and theire 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 theire accompts amountinge in the whole to £3 2s 4½d out of which they are to retaine to themselves the surplusage aboveaid beinge 5s 9d and alsoe the some of 10s for theire charges and expences in collectinge the same and to pay over the remainder thereof unto the next churchwardens att or before the feast of Pentecost next comminge. Subscrybed 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 weaknesses of his body and of his memory is conceaved to bee unfitt for the executinge of the place. And therefore it is thought fitt and soe ordered that Edward Darbishire 165 of Prescott aforesaid shall bee 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 durante his continuance in the said place receave 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 shall move to give an allowance unto the said Edward Darbishire 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 Darbishire a competent allowance out of the clerks wages that then the said Edward Darbishire shall have the yearely allowance of 40s per annum paid unto him by the churchwardens yearely out of the church leyes of the parish. And because that theforesaid 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 yearely 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 Prescot innkeeper (d. 1665): LRO, WCW/Prescot/1665. In 1664 Roger Lowe drank before and after his nephew's baptism at 'Edward Darbishires (clerke of the church)': Lowe, Diary, p.74.
Robert Glest   John Lathom       Subscrybed 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 subscribyed meetinge this day in the parish church and findinge there 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 money\textsuperscript{166} at the request of the churchwardens wee doe order and agree that fower whole

\textsuperscript{166} In 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 subscrybed 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prescott</th>
<th>Thomas Litherland</th>
<th>Whiston</th>
<th>Henry Ashton</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sutton</td>
<td>John Sutton</td>
<td>Rainforth</td>
<td>Thomas Lyon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eccleston</td>
<td>Edmund Lyon</td>
<td>Wyndle</td>
<td>John Lyon of the Foulds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cronton</td>
<td>William Parr</td>
<td>Widnes</td>
<td>Robert Wright tanner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 thiere receipts and payments for the use of the said parish church from Tuesday in Easter weeke 1647 being the tyme of thiere 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 burials 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

---

167 The 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 pulpit doore 0 0 6
Paid for dressing and clensing of the church 0 2 8
Paid to Peter Kenwricke 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

[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 parish168 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

---

168 This 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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Given to another gentleman who came out of Ireland and had a passe</td>
<td>0 2 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for writing precepts for church leyes</td>
<td>0 2 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Peeter Kenwricke the remainder of his wages allowed him by the parish</td>
<td>0 13 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for a warrant from Mr Ireland for church leyes arrear</td>
<td>0 2 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Edward Darbishire in parte of his wages allowed him by the parish</td>
<td>0 6 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Gyles Lyons sonne in parte of his allowance from the parish</td>
<td>0 5 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to a lame man in Sutton by order from the bench in parte</td>
<td>0 2 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[180] Spent in going six days into the parish to collect church leyes</td>
<td>4 16 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Thomas Almond more for keeping of a child charged upon the parish</td>
<td>0 6 [.]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in going to the quarter sessions at Wigan in November last to prevent orders against the parish</td>
<td>0 3 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for a warrant from Sir Thomas Standley[^109] to distraine for church leyes</td>
<td>0 3 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Widdow Smyth in parte for her mantaynance by order from the bench</td>
<td>0 5 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid more to Gyles Lyons sonne</td>
<td>0 5 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to William Cooper[^170] a lame man in Sutton by order from the bench in parte</td>
<td>0 6 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Given to two gentlewomen that came out of Ireland</td>
<td>0 2 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in going several days on Farnworth side to collect church leyes</td>
<td>0 5 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Given to a poor man and his wife that came out of Ireland to pay for their lodging</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to the glasier for glasing the church windowes were defects were</td>
<td>2 12 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent upon him at several times</td>
<td>0 1 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent at a meeting of the parish about the choice of the eight men</td>
<td>0 3 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to the ringers for ringing 5 November last</td>
<td>0 6 8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[^109]: Sir Thomas Stanley of Bickerstaffe (1616–1653), a cousin of Lord Derby, and a 'consistent, if lukewarm, roundhead': Broxap, *Civil War*, p.18.
[^170]: Cooper 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 'sits weeping over his sad condition with often a naked back and often a naked belly': the wardens and overseers were ordered to make provision: LRO, QSB/1/292/50.
Spent upon them afterwards
Paid to John Ley of Sutton who had an order from the bench for
ten yeares arreares
Paid to Thomas Aspe for pointing and mending of the
church wall

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 0 6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 0 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 3 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 13 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[181] Paid more to Gyles Lyons son towards his mantaynance
Paid to John Arrowsmith of Eccleston for mantayning of
Standishes children
Paid to one [blank space for name] of Sankie for a child borne in
the parish left fatherlesse
Paid to William Cooper a lame man of Sutton in further parte of
his allowance
Paid more to Gyles Lyons sonne
Given to a poore blind woman
Given to a blind man who should have had a collection in
the church
Spent att the last quarter sessions att Wigan
Paid more to Edward Darbishire in further parte of his wages
Paid to Thomas Almond in further parte for keeping a child
charged upon the parish
Spent att the receipt of church leyes from the cunstables
of Eccleston
Spent in meeting to make their accompts
Spent by two of the accomptants namly Henry Gaskell and Henry
Harrison in attending att the church either 12 saboths
Evan Garnett one of the accomptants craveth allowance of the
some of 6s which hee lost in receiving clipped money from
severall cunstables171

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 5 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 5 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 5 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 14 6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 1 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 1 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 2 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 3 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 13 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 5 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 0 6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 3 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 12 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 6 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 16 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[182] Paid for entring the names of the christenings and burialls
into the register booke
Paid to Edward Darbishire in further parte of his wages
Paid for drawing theis accompts
And for entring them into the book of accompts
Paid for bread for the monethly communion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 2 []</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 0 []</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 2 []</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 2 []</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 2 []</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

171 Respect marginated.
The accomptants Henry Gaskell and Henry Harrison crave allowance of 4s lost in receiving clipped money

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arrears charged upon these accomptants and not yet received</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By the cunstables of Prescott</td>
<td>0 5 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By the cunstables of Windle*</td>
<td>0 10 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By the cunstables of Widnes*</td>
<td>3 7 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By the cunstables of Ditton*</td>
<td>1 1 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By the cunstables of Cronton</td>
<td>1 12 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By the cunstables of Sankie</td>
<td>0 2 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8 11 6

[183] Arrears of the church leyes wherewith these accomptants have charged themselves and are not as yet received

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sutton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward Roughley</td>
<td>1[s]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uxor George Wilcocke</td>
<td>0 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Barton</td>
<td>0 1½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Litherland</td>
<td>0 0½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Barton</td>
<td>0 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Eltonhead senior</td>
<td>3 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uxor George Wilcocke</td>
<td>0 6½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Barton</td>
<td>0 9½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chawners house</td>
<td>0 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexander Chorley</td>
<td>1 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Greenhough</td>
<td>0 0½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Watmough</td>
<td>1 2½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward Ackers</td>
<td>0 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Litherland and Edmund Gaskell</td>
<td>0 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Barnes</td>
<td>0 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Jenkinson</td>
<td>0 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sherlocks house</td>
<td>0 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Tompsoon</td>
<td>0 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cicely Liveze</td>
<td>0 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totall of theire disbursements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soe theire receipts being</td>
<td>31 17 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and theire disbursements</td>
<td>31 6 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Rd per Evan Garnett marginated.*

172 Respect marginated.
there remaineth in the accomptants hands 0 11 2

[184] Memorandum that there is due and unpaid to Thomas
Walles for wine for three moneths
communions 1 17 0
Alsoe to William Holland the glasier [sum blank]

Wee the vicar and the eight men with others of the parish have perused these accompts
and doe approve thereof 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 Sorrocoold
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 leytes 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 leytes 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 subscriybed 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

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prescott</td>
<td>Thomas Litherland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whiston</td>
<td>Henry Ashtonn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sutton</td>
<td>John Sutton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainford</td>
<td>Thomas Lyon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eccleston</td>
<td>Edmund Lyon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyndle</td>
<td>John Lyon of the Foulds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cronton</td>
<td>William Parr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widnes</td>
<td>Robert Wright tanner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[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 leytes 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Churchwardens</th>
<th>Surveyors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prescot Whiston</td>
<td>Thomas Litherland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sutton</td>
<td>Thomas Parr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainford Eccleston</td>
<td>Eccleton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windle and Parr</td>
<td>John Cooper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evan Garnett</td>
<td>George Rainford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Mann</td>
<td>Edward Bispham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Torbocke</td>
<td>Thomas Lyon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Tickle</td>
<td>John Travers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>William Ellam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John Mosse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ed(ward)mund Ellam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 subscrybed
[signed] Richard Daye vicar; William Parr, Henry Ashtonn, Thomas Litherland, Edmund Lyon [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 Ogle¹⁷³  John Ackers
John Alcock  John Sutton
John Alcock junior  Peeter Parr
William Lyme
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 laid anno 1648
Fower church leyes laid anno 1649

¹⁷³Cuthbert (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.
Inprimis the accomptants charge themselves with the receipt of four church leyes laid 11 May 1648 for releefe of the poore and necessary repair of the parish church being £16 on Prescott side and £15 4s on Farnworth side in the whole

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>with the receipt of two church leyes layd 5 December 1648 for releefe of the poore and necessary repair of the parish church being £8 on Prescott side and £7 12s on Farnworth side in the whole</td>
<td>15 12 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>with the receipt of four church leyes layd 29 September 1649 for releefe of the poore and for the necessary repair of the parish church being £16 on Prescott side and £15 4s on Farnworth side in the whole</td>
<td>31 4 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>with the same of 1 Is 2d remaining in the hands of the last churchwardens upon the foote of their accompts</td>
<td>0 11 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>with the receipt of severall arreares of church leyes due in anno 1647 vizt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>from the cunstables of Widnes</td>
<td>3 7 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>from the cunstables of Ditton</td>
<td>1 1 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>from the cunstables of Cronton</td>
<td>1 12 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>in the church vizt anno 1648</td>
<td>84 12 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Margrett Parr of Rainford</td>
<td>6 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ann Parr of Rainford</td>
<td>6 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ellen Parr of Rainford</td>
<td>6 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Henry Lathom of Mosberow esq.</td>
<td>6 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jane Gorse of Eccleston widow</td>
<td>6 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hugh Ascroft of Eccleston</td>
<td>6 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John Traves senior of Eccleston</td>
<td>6 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anno 1649</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Roberte Roughley of Torbocke</td>
<td>6 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Henry Standish of Eccleston</td>
<td>6 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John Lyon of Eccleston</td>
<td>6 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Roberte the sonne of John Rainford</td>
<td>6 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cicely the daughter of Henry Roughley</td>
<td>6 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John the sonne of Henry Ashton</td>
<td>6 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Margrett Elphiecke of Bold widdow</td>
<td>6 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Edward Ackers of Rainhill</td>
<td>6 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elizabeth uxor Henry Roby of Rainford</td>
<td>6 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thomas Croft of Windle</td>
<td>6 8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[201] Item with the receipt of severall somes of money for burials in the church vizt anno 1648
Payments expences and allowances craved by the accomptants as followeth

Spent upon Tuesday in Easter weeke anno 1648 att the taking of the old church wardens accompts and choosing of new churchwardens

Spent in appearing before Sir Thomas Stanley att Prescott to have beene sworne churchwardens

Spent in goinge into Windle to buye slate for the church

Spent in viewing of the church to see what slate must bee bough for reparaie of the church

Paid to Thomas Webster for reparaie of the glasse windowes about the church

Spent in goinge to the quarter sessions att Wigan

Paid to an attorney for his fee

Paid for two warrants thone against Thomas Tickle thother against the overseers of the poore to cause them to come in and serve their offices

Paid to William Cooper a lame man of Sutton by order from the bench

Paid to John Poughtin for mending the church stiles

Paid to a blind woman of Childwell who had an order from the bench for her releefe

Paid to Thomas Almond of Wigan for keeping of a bastard child charged upon the parish

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

Spent att a privie sessions att Prescott

Payd to John Lomas for keeping a fatherles child charged upon the parish for three quarters and a halfe

Paid more to John Lomas in full for one yeare

Paid to Katherin Steevenson for manteyning a bastard child charged upon the parish for three quarters and a halfe

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174 After the transfer of higher ecclesiastical powers to the justices in 1646, the wardens had to have their election ratified and be sworn by them.

175 The 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 several tymes & 0 & 17 & 4 \\
Paid for a warrant from Sir Thomas Stanley for leyse arreares & 0 & 2 & 0 \\
Spent in going to demand and collect church leyse arreares on Farnworth side & 0 & 2 & 8 \\
Spent in attending att the quarter sessions at Prescott & 0 & 2 & 6 \\
Spent in going into Rainford fower several dayes to demand church leyse & 0 & 1 & 6 \\
Spent in going into Rainford to make search for corne by warrant from the justices\textsuperscript{176} & 0 & 1 & 0 \\
Spent in going 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 leyse 11 May 1648 & 0 & 3 & 0 \\
Paid for writing precepts for fower church leyse 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 several 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 \\
\[204\] Paid for mending of the greate bell clapper & 0 & 0 & 6 \\
Spent in going to distraine for leyse within Eccleston & 0 & 0 & 6 \\
Paid to John Arrowsmith a yeares dyett for two of Standishes children by order from the bench \textit{prout per} acquittance dat 15 January 1648 & 4 & 0 & 0 \\
Spent in sending out precepts for church leyse & 0 & 0 & 6 \\
Spent in going 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 going on Farnworth syde about the prevention of a child which should have beene putt upon the parish & 0 & 1 & 0 \\
\textsuperscript{176}See p.xxxviii.
Accounts 1637–1664

Spent in going to give the constables on Farnworth syde warning to pay their church leys

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 widow for her allowance for one yeare by order from the bench prout per acquittance dated 17 April 1649

2   0   0

Spent att a privie sessions att Prescott

0   1   0

Paid for bringing a precept into Rainford

0   0   2

Spent in going into Rainford fower severall tymes to demand leys

0   0   10

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 doeing the worke

0   1   8

Spent in going on Farnworth syde to collect church leys

0   1   6

10   8   11

[205] Paid to the ringers for ringing on 5 November 1648

0   5   0

Spent att Luketyde anno 1648 about the choosing of the eight men

0   3   4

Paid for precepts for two church leys layd 5 December 1648

0   2   6

Spent att the laying therof

0   2   6

Spent in sending out precepts for church leys

0   1   0

Spent in going on Farnworth syde to collect church leys

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 leys within Suttton six severall dayes

0   4   0

Paid to Edward Darbishire his wages for the yeare 1648

2   0   0

Paid for keeping the regester booke anno 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 leys arrearage

0   2   6

\(^{177}\) A mason, aged 90: LRO, QSP/7/7.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spent at the procuring therof</td>
<td>0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Henry Hitchin for his allowance from the parish for two years</td>
<td>4 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for copying of a warrant concerning church leyes</td>
<td>0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in meeting the overseers of the poor about the poor of the parish</td>
<td>0 1 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in giving entertainment to the ministers that preached several days in Mr Dayes absence</td>
<td>0 3 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in going with the overseers of the poor to collect leyes on Farnworth syde</td>
<td>0 3 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in going to the quarter sessions at Wigan</td>
<td>0 3 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for an order concerning the poor of the parish</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for two bell ropes</td>
<td>0 7 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for carriage therof</td>
<td>0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[206] Paid to Margrett Case widow for her allowance out of the parish by order from the bench</td>
<td>1 8 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for slats which were wanting to finish the repair of the church</td>
<td>0 3 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for a weight for the clock</td>
<td>0 0 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Thomas Walles for wyne for the communions due to him in the yeare 1647</td>
<td>1 17 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Thomas Walles in parte of £9 1s 4d due to him for wyne for the monethly communions for the yeare 1648 and the yeare 1649</td>
<td>7 14 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for writing precepts for four church leyes 29 September 1649</td>
<td>0 2 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent at laying of these four church leyes</td>
<td>0 3 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Jane Pool of Sutton for her allowance out of the parish by order from the bench</td>
<td>1 11 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Winstanleyes child of Sutton for his allowance out of the parish</td>
<td>2 5 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to John Billinge of Sutton for his last allowance out of the parish</td>
<td>0 8 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in gathering church leyes in Sutton distrainting several times</td>
<td>0 3 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in making presentments to the assizes at August 1649</td>
<td>0 3 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in going to the quarter sessions at Ormskirke aboute Michaelmas 1649</td>
<td>0 2 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for an attorney to speake for the parish against Jane Smith</td>
<td>0 3 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Thomas Wood for removing slate out of the church yard into the chancell</td>
<td>0 1 10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Accounts 1637–1664 133

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 goeing 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 goeing to Liverpoole being served to appeare there aboute Jane Smith 0 2 0
Spent in goeing 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 goeing 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 goeing 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 wheeles 0 2 0
Paid for two new bell roapes and carriage thereof 0 8 0
Spent in goeing to Farnworth to meete the cunstables aboute church leyes arrear 0 2 0
Spent in goeing to Bewsey to acquaint Mr Ireland what charge was imposed upon the parish for reliefe of the poore and to prevent any further orders 0 1 0
Spent in goeing to Bewsey an other day about Jane Smiths busines 0 0 10

178 Bewsey Old Hall, near Warrington.
Spent in going to Farnworth to know the age of Peeter Smith sonne of the said Jane 0 0 8

[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 goinge 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 yeaeres allowance due to her by order from the bench prout per acquittance 10 November 1649 1 5 8
Paid to John Arrowsmith in parte of this yeares allowance for manteyning of Standishes children prout per acquittance 20 June 1649 0 14 4
Spent in goinge 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 cunstables 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 and Captine Cubbon about the engagement 0 1 8
Spent in goinge 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

---


180 Probably John Cubbon, yeoman of Burtonwood.
Paid to Mr Tompson for withdrawing three recognizances for the churchwardens for appearing at the sessions concerning Jane Smith

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 13 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 15 10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[209] Spent at the quarter sessions next after by all the accoumtants in staying two nights and two days

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 8 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid to Mary Ballard of Cuardley in stead of a collection in the parish church

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 2 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid to John Eddleston of Ditton who had an order from the bench for his maintenency in full discharge of his order

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 5 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid to Widow Reads daughter instead of a collection in the church

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 2 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid to William Byrom of Parr in parte of his yeare's allowance by order from the bench

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 6 8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid to John Platt and Widow Traves of Windle in parte of their allowances by order from the bench

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 10 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Spent in going three several days on Farnworth syde to distraine for leyes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 3 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid to a man to goe alonge to distraine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 3 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Spent upon Tuesday in Easter weeke 1650 at the election of the church wardens and other church officers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 4 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Spent more in going on Farnworth syde to collect and distraine for leyes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 2 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid to Edward Darbishire for his yeares wages for the yeare 1649

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 0 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid to Thomas Woods for his paines about dressing and keeping cleane the church

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 6 8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid for making upp the register this last yeare

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 2 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Spent in meeting to make upp and perfect theis accompts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 2 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These accomptants crave to bee allowed for horse hire in ryding into Farnworth chappellry to collect and distraine for leyes they being enforced to hire horses several days to ryde on

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 10 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Alsoe the accomptants crave allowance of 4s apece expended in attending the monethly communions and other sabbath dayes when there were collections for the poore in the whole

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 16 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid for drawing these accompts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 3 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid for writinge them into the booke of accompts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 3 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 11 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

181 The order made only to widowe Traves, marginated.
[210] Paid to William Webster one of the overseers for withdrawing his recognizance being bound over to the sessions concerning Jane Smith

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paid to him for his expenses at that session</td>
<td>0 4 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for cording for the clock and for wyre and oyle</td>
<td>0 2 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for mans dyett namely Edward Rushton for a fortnight and some odd days who had an order from Judge Rigby for his releefe</td>
<td>0 8 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Arrears of church leyes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prescott for six church leyes <em>prout per two notes</em></td>
<td>0 15 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescott unpaid for the lower last church leyes layd 29 September 1649</td>
<td>1 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sutton unpaid of ten church leyes <em>prout per nota</em></td>
<td>0 2 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widnes unpaid aboute</td>
<td>1 10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gradley unpaid</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cronston arrear <em>prout per nota</em></td>
<td>0 3 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penketh arrear</td>
<td>0 6 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bold arrear</td>
<td>0 3 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sankie arrear</td>
<td>0 4 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whiston arrear</td>
<td>0 5 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[211] Payments from 14 May till 21 May now instant

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Edward Rushton who had an order from Barron Rigby for his releefe <em>prout per acquittance</em></td>
<td>0 10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent at a meeting of the parish about the taking of the accompts</td>
<td>0 3 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for a certiorari concerning Jane Smith and charges of fetching therof from Preston unto Mr Barron</td>
<td>0 4 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Thomas Litherland for copyng therof</td>
<td>0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Mr Tompson for receipt of the writ</td>
<td>0 6 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Henry Ackers for bringing the writ</td>
<td>0 2 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent upon him att his going thither and att his returne backe</td>
<td>0 0 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for two bellropes for the parish use</td>
<td>0 8 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td>0 4 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

182 Alexander Rigby became a judge, and then a baron of the exchequer: he died on circuit in 1650: Picton, Memorials, p.84.

183 Probably 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>0</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>0</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>0</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

2[12] Paid to Mr Barron for solliciting for the parish att the same sessions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>0</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>0</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>[6?]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Paid to Mr Barron for solliciting for the parish the same tyme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>0</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Paid for a horse hyre for a wooman to ryde upon to Ormskirke as a witnes in that busines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Paid to John Ackers which hee had spent in staying att the said sessions two dayes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>0</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Paid to Richard Marshall for smithes worke done aboute the clocke inner dooers and bells as appeares in particulars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>0</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Paid to John Ackers overseer which hee had spent in procuring the register booke att Farnworth to bee searched up concerning Jane Smiths child

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>0</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Spent in meeting a seacond tyme to perfect these accompts and lykewise going on Farnworth syde to learne a more certainty of the arreares

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>0</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

1 | 9 | 0 |

The toall of the accomptants payments disbursements and allowances are

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>85</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Soe theire receipts being
and theire disbursements
allowances *ut supra*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>90</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

The accomptants are in *debit*
to the parish upon this accompt

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>5</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

---

184 No 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

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\text{4} & \text{10} & \text{9}
\end{array}
\]

[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 means 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 theire 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

Thomas Litherland
George Deane
Richard Parr
Henry Roughley
Thomas Litherland, overseers of the poore
John Alcocke junior
John Ackers of Rainhill [copy mark]
Thomas Lyon, five of the eight men
William Parr
Henry Ashtonn
Edmund 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

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\text{Prescott} & \text{1} & \text{6} & \text{8} \\
\text{Whiston} & \text{1} & \text{6} & \text{8} \\
\text{Rainhill} & \text{1} & \text{6} & \text{[8]} \\
\text{Sutton} & \text{4} & \text{0} & \text{[0]} \\
\text{Eccleston} & \text{2} & \text{0} & \text{0}
\end{array}
\]
Rainford 2 0 0
Windle 2 0 [0]
Parr 2 0 0
Widnes cum Appleton 3 7 [4]
Bold 3 7 [4]
Diton 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 cunstables of the parish to joyne with us in taxing the particular inhabitants within every severall townshipp and the cunstables 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 cunstables 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 [nominal] as they shall thinke fit\textsuperscript{185}

Evan Garnett \textit{[copy mark]} Richard Parr
George Litherland \textit{(George Deane)}
John Traves George Deane
Henry Sephton, churchwardens Henry Roughley, overseers

[215 blank, 216] St Lukes day 18 Oct 1650\textsuperscript{186}
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

\textsuperscript{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, \textit{History of Farnworth Grammar School} (Farnworth), 1905, pp.87–8.

\textsuperscript{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
Thomas Litherland [marks] Richard Litherland
[marks] Edmund Lyon Thomas Wood
John Parr Robert Hatton
Thomas Parr
Henry Parr
John Parr, butcher

[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 but pray that they may have tyme given them
to bring in their accompts till this day moneth being 29 of this instant April 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 obtayned And that they will make good the
said arreares within their severall divisions of their owne particular charges if they
do 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 aforsaid Witnes our hands

William Webster
William Wood [copy mark]
John Ackers [copy mark]
three of the eight men

John Withens vicar of Prescott
John Alcocke
John Lathom
Henry Ashtonn
Richard Parr
Thomas Holland
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
Sutton
Eccleston Rainford

Thomas Woods of Whiston
John Sutton
William Wood of Eccleston
Windle and Parr
Surveyors
Prescot Peeter Herford
John Poughtin
Whiston John Ashton
William Browne
Rainhill Lawrence Lea
John Barrowe
Sutton John Bold
Edmund Tunstall
Eccleston Henry Webster potter
Edmund Lyon
Rainford Edward Bispham
Richard Hyde
Windle George Martland
Thomas Lyon the elder
Parr James Sorrocold
Henry Eccleston
William Martin of Parr
Overseers of the poore
John Ackers of Rainhill
George Litherland of Sutton
John Mosse of Parr
William Marsh of Widnes
Elected by us
John Wythens vicar
William Webster
William Wood [copy mark]
John Ackers, three of the eight men
John Alcock

[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

*Inprimis* 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]

*Item* 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
Item they charge themselves with the receipt of one tax or ley 
layd 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 *vitz anno domini* 1650

Mrs Livezey of Sutton 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

Item they further charge themselves with the some of 20s 
for railes sold which stood about the communion table 168 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 
ower church leyes 0 5 8

Spent in going 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 Prescott 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 going to Childell to deliver presentments 
concerning the poore 0 4 0[3]

Spent by one of the accomptants in going to a private 
sessions att Prescott 0 1 0

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187 The 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.

188 The rails had been removed nine years earlier. See pp.xxxiii, 82.

189 Thomas 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 *prout per* acquittance 0 5 0
Payd the same day to William Martland for the use of one Margrett Garnett towards her manteynance *prout per* 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 going 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 going 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 going 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 going 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 going 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 going 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 [sic] 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 going 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 going 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 reasonings 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 acquaintances 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 acquaintances 1 2 0
Payd morc 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
Payd to Mr Barron for his fee att the said sessions 0 3 4
Payd to Francis Fletcher towards his releefe by order from the bench as appeares by acquittance 0 10 0

[227] Payd to Thomas Singleton for manteyning a child charged upon the parish as by acquittance 0 6 8
Payd to Thomas Woods for washing of the kings arms over 0 1 0
Payd to Thomas Abshaw for removeing of the stones which fell of the revestry 0 1 6
Spent in going on Farnworth side three severall dayes to gather church leyes 0 3 8
Spent in goinge with the cunstables of Whiston to gather church leyes 0 0 8
Spent in goinge to gather church leyes in Penketh 0 1 0
Payd for a new pulpitt quishment and making thereof as appeares by a noate of particulers 0 10 6
Payd 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 hiswelfe 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
Payd to Edward Darbishieres wief which was owing for bread 0 0 4

[228] Given to a man with a breefe who had his house burned 0 1 [.] Payd to John Marshall for cording wyre and oyle for the clocke 0 1 2
Spent in goinge to gather church leyes on Farnworth side two severall dayes 0 2 0
Payd 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
Payd for a pewter dish for the font\textsuperscript{191} 0 2 [4?]  

\textsuperscript{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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spent by two of the accomptants in distrust for leyes on</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farnworth side</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent at the last quarter sessions at Ormskirke</td>
<td>0 4 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payd for drawing a petition and delivering it up to the bench</td>
<td>0 1 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payd for an order to distrain for church leys</td>
<td>0 1 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in going to Wigan for the said order</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent upon Tuesday in Easter week at the election of the new churchwardens</td>
<td>0 6 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and other officers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payd to Edward Darbishire for his wages this last year past</td>
<td>2 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as by acquittance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in going to Bewsey and from thence to Warrington to</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>procure a warrant to distrain for leys</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payd to Mr Ireland's clerk for the warrant</td>
<td>0 2 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in going on Farnworth side to collect and distrain for leys</td>
<td>0 1 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>two several days</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in collecting leys in Eccleston</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[229] Spent in coming to Prescott to attend the justices the last</td>
<td>0 3 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>privie sessions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payd for making up the register book this year</td>
<td>0 2 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payd for acquittances for money paid to several persons</td>
<td>0 3 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One of the accomptants namely Evan Garnett craveeth allowance</td>
<td>0 4 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of 4s payd to one for setting down his payments for the four years he was</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a churchwarden</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The accomptant George Litherland craveeth allowance of 4s</td>
<td>0 4 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in attending at the church several Sabbath days the year past</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The accomptant Henry Sephton craveeth allowance of 4s 6d spent</td>
<td>0 4 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>by him in attending 11 Sabbath days in the year past</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The accomptant John Traves craveeth allowance of 3s 4d spent by</td>
<td>0 3 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>him in attending at the church ten Sabbath days in the year past</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payd for entering orders into the church book this last year</td>
<td>0 1 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent by the accomptants in meeting at Prescott to make up their accompts</td>
<td>0 3 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payd to Henry Camier [recte Canner?] for his allowance by</td>
<td>2 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>order from the bench as by acquittance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payd to Henry Hitchin in part of his allowance as by two</td>
<td>1 10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>several acquittances</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[230] Payd to Thomas Walles for wine for the last communion</td>
<td>1 11 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>being the second Sunday in April</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 recep being £66 9s 11d and theire disbursements
and allowances £57 3s 1d, the accomptants are in debet
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sutton in arreare vizt</th>
<th>[s]</th>
<th>[d]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Edward Roughley</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Barton</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Fairehurst</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Justice</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathew Barton</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Traves</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widdow Woods per Plumpton</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Greene</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5¼</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann Lancaster</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellen Hawarden</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1¼</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Wood</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10¼</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Litherland</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1¼</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Bullin</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Taylor</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0¼</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The cunstables of Penketh in arreare</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[232] Sankie
Richard Cooper 1 3
John Golden          0  4
John Richardson      0  8
Bryan [Seuxsmith?]   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

The constables of Cronton in arrear 0  2
The constables of Prescott in arrear 0 10
The constables of Bold            0  3
The constables of Cheadley        0  2
The total of the arrears extends to the some of 2  1

The accountants crave allowance for this dayes expences
in meeting to perfect these accounts and deliver them
up to the parish

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totall</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7\frac{1}{2}</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Which some of 2 8 7\frac{1}{2}
being deducted out of the foresaid
some of 9 6 10
they are indebted to the parish the some of 6 18 2\frac{1}{2}

[233] Wee the eight men and parishioners whose names are herunder written
have perused the accounts and approve thereof only wee thinke it fitt and order
accordingly that the accountants shall collect and gather all the arrears within
their several collections according to a former order and that they pay over the
said arrears together with the said some of £6 18s 2\frac{1}{2}d unto the new churchwardens
att or before 1 June next coming for the church use and such arrears as are
desperate and cannot bee gotten the accountants to bee therof discharged and
their reasonable charges and expences in collecting the arrears 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 moneys layd for the use of the poore shalbee
layd and accompted for severally by itselbe and not joyntly with other accounts

Henry Marshall, William Webster, William Wood, John Ackers [copy mark], Henry
Gaskell [copy mark], William Turner, six of the eight men;

\textit{Recte} Sixsmith.
Edward Stockley, William Blundell, John Mosse, William Nailer, Thomas Litherland

[1651–2]

[234] 20 May 1651
It is ordered by the eight men and others of the parish whose names are subscribed that two whole church leyes shall be forthwith collected and gathered through the parish for the necessary repair of the parish church to be paid over to the church wardens or some of them at or before 24 June next. Witness our hands
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

20 May 1651
A tax laid by the churchwardens and overseers of the poor within the parish of Prescott whose names are here under written for and towards the maintenance and relief of the poor and impotent within the said parish as followeth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Tax</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prescott</td>
<td>1 13 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whiston</td>
<td>1 13 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainhill</td>
<td>1 13 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sutton</td>
<td>5 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eccleston</td>
<td>2 10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainford</td>
<td>2 10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windle</td>
<td>2 10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parr</td>
<td>2 10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widnes cum Appleton</td>
<td>4 4 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cewardley and Cronton</td>
<td>4 4 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ditton and Penketh</td>
<td>4 4 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bold</td>
<td>4 4 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sankie</td>
<td>2 2 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>39 0 0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[235] It is ordered that this money be taxed and assessed within the several townships of the parish and copies of each tax delivered by the constables of each several township unto the churchwardens or some of them upon Monday next at Prescott at the privy sessions there to the end they may procure warrants from the justices for the collecting thereof accordingly and the said money to be paid over to the churchwardens or some of them at or before 10 June next coming

193 An influential Prescot 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 Brettarigh 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 accounts 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 year of our Lord God 1651 until this present day as followeth

*Inprimis* the accountants charge themselves with the receipt of two church leys laid 24 May 1651 for the necessary repair of the parish church and other uses being £8 on Prescott side and £7 12s on Farnworth side in the whole 15 12 0

*Item* with some of £3 remaining in the hands of last churchwardens upon their accounts being in part of £6 18s 2½d 3 0 0

*Item* with the receipt of several sums of money for burialls in the church *viz*

Mr Lathom of Mosborrow 0 6 8
John son of Henry Ashton of Whiston 0 6 8
Henry Roughley of Eccleston 0 6 8
The total of the charge is 19 12 0

[237] Payments, expenses and allowances craved by the accountants as followeth

Payd to Thomas Walles for wine at the two communions *prout per acquittance* 2 10 0
Payd to Edward Darbishire for bread for the two communions 0 2 0
Payd to Thomas Webster for glass for the church windows and for mending of the same 1 2 9
Payd to John Sutton for soder to soder the leades with 0 3 0
Payd to Thomas Woods butcher for dressing the church after the prisoners were in it three several times 195 0 10 0

194 William 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).
195 Probably 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\textsuperscript{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 plumber for exchanging the old lead about the steeple for new after the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ for the (pound)-change per pound the some of prout per not[am] 1 2 6
Payd for two hundred and a halfe of new lead to William Browne after the rate of 20s the hundred prout per not[am] 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 \textit{ultimo} 1 1 0
Payd to him for 13$\frac{1}{2}$ pounds of soder after the rate of 14d the pound prout per acquaintance 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

\textsuperscript{196} Lord Derby surrendered after Worcester, was tried at Chester on 1 Oct. and executed at Bolton on 15 Oct.
Payd to him for scowring of the gutters in the lower leades and putting upp some slates there 0 2 0

[239] Payd 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 goinge to Sankie to collect church leyes two severall dayes 0 2 0

Spent in goinge to Penketh severall dayes to collect church leyes 0 2 0

Spent in goinge 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 constables 0 0 4

Spent upon Thomas Webster and a boy att setting upp of the glasse this latter tyme 0 0 8

Spent in goinge to Widnes three severall tymes to collect church leyes 0 3 0

Spent in goinge 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 goinge to Cronton to collect church leyes two severall dayes 0 1 10

Spent in goinge to Cewardley three severall dayes to collect church leyes 0 2 8

Spent in goinge 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 eclect 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 goinge three severall dayes into Bold to collect church
leyes 0 2 8
Spent in goinge to Windle severall tymes 0 1 8
Spent att the privie sessions att Prescott about the procuring of a
warrant for gathering arreares of church leyes 0 3 0
Spent in goinge to the quarter sessions att Wigan about the parish
businesse beinge 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 their receipts being 19 12 0
And their 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 their attendance at 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
Total 1 0 0
Soe remaining in their hands 0 5 [3]

[241] This 5s 3d is allowed by the parishioners to bee payd over to Thomas Wood
sexton 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  Thomas Deane of Rainhill
Sutton  John Ackers 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
### Accounts 1637–1664

- **Eccleston and Rainford**
  - Surveyors: John Tunstall of Rainford, William Naylor of Windle

- **Windle and Parr**
  - Surveyors: Thomas Ashton of Eccleston, John Worsley of Sutton

- **Prescott**
  - Surveyors: Thomas Walles, Thomas Knowles

- **Whiston**
  - Surveyors: William Forrest, Henry Hey

- **Rainhill**
  - Surveyors: Roger Mollyneux, William Parr

- **Sutton**
  - Surveyors: John Wood, Henry Sutton

- **Eccleston**
  - Surveyors: John Pye, John Tunstall

- **Rainforth**
  - Surveyors: Richard Woods, Thomas Lyon

- **Windle**
  - Surveyors: Thomas Barton, Peeter Gaskell

- **Parr**
  - Surveyors: John Knowles, John Chaddocke

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**Overseers of the poor**

- Eccleston: John Tunstall of Rainford
- Windle: William Naylor of Windle

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### 1653–4

[243 blank, 244] 25 May 1653

A tax laid by the churchwardens and overseers of the poor within the parish of Prescott whose names are here underwritten for and toward the maintenance and releif of the poor and impotent within the said parish as followeth:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>1633</th>
<th>1634</th>
<th>1635</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prescott</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whiston</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>[4]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainhill</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sutton</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eccleston</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainford</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windle</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parr</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>[0]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Widnes *cum* 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 townships 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


[1653–4]

[246] Tuesday in Easter weeke 1653

The election 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

[247] 12 Apr.
Overseeers of the poor
Thomas Torbocke of Sutton
William Turner of Parr
Raph Barnes of Sankey
Henry Fletcher of Penketh

Elected by us
John Ackers [mark] William Wood [mark]
[signed] George Litherland [signed] Edward Potts
James Worsley James Traves
John Tunstall [mark] William Blundell junior
[signed] Edward Darbishire

[247 . .] July 1653
A tax laid by the churchwardens overseers of the poor within the parish of Prescott and others of the parish whose names are underwritten for the maintenance and relief of the poor and impotent within the said parish for twelve months allowance to commence 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 be taxed and assessed within the several townships of this parish and the overseers to issue forth their precepts to the several constables within this parish which said constables are to pay over the said money unto the said overseers att or before 1 August next

John Ackers [copy mark] Edward Potts
James Traves William Blundell Thomas Deane
[248] 12 July 1653
It is ordered by the eight men and others of the parish whose names are subscribed that two whole church leys shall be forthwith collected and gathered through the parish for the necessary repair of the parish church to be paid over to the churchwardens or some of them at or before 29 September next

William Wood [copy mark]           James Worsley
John Ackers [copy mark]            William Blundell
William Houghton                   Thomas Torbocke [copy mark]
William Webster, four of the eight men George Litherland
                                            Edward Darbishire

[1654–5]
[249]
Tuesday Easter week 1654 [recte 1655]\(^{202}\)
The accounts of Henry Eccleston John Poughtin Joseph Potts and John Tunstall churchwardens of the parish church of Prescott of their receipts and payments for the use of the said parish church from Tuesday in Easter week last past being 28 March 1654 until this present day as followeth

Four church leys laid this last year
Inprimis they charge themselves with the receipts of four church
leys throught the parish being on Prescott side £16 and on
Farnworth side £15 4s in all 31 4 0
Alsoe they charge themselves with the receipt of 8s 10d being an arreare remaining in the hands of James Traves churchwarden upon the foot of his account 0 8 10
Alsoe with the receipt of 6d for 3 pounds of leade belonging to the church which was sold 0 0 6
Alsoe with severall some of money receaved for severall burialls in the church vizi
Jane Ackers of Sutton spinster 6[s] 8[d]
Anne Fennow of Sutton 6 8
James Pemberton of Whiston 6 8

\(^{202}\) 17 Apr.
Accounts 1637–1664

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
repyringe of the vestry 0 6 0
Paid for leadinge of stone fower dayes from Rainhill towards
repyringe of the vestry 0 12 0
Paid for 20 mesures of lyme att 8d the measure to make mortar on
for the vestry wallles 0 13 4
Spent in goeinge 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 reppyringe and redifyinge 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 prout per note of agreement and acquittance
therupon
Paid for castinge upp the reckoninge and makinge acquittance from the measons
Spent upon the masons att severall tymes
Spent in goinge on Farmoorth side to demande and collecte church leyes
Paid for the hyre of a horse to ride upon on Farmoorth side
Paid for sparrs for the vestry
Paid to Edward Rilands and his sonne four wrights worke donne at the vestry
Paid for leadinge of two loades of slate from Billinge to Prescott
Paid to Thomas Martland for dressing slate and slatinge of the vestry prout per acquittance
For an acquittance
Spente on St Lukes daye after the ellection of the eight men
Spent in goinge to collecte and distrane for Famworth side two several dayes
Spent in attendinge att a privy sessions at Prescott
Spent at a meetinge of the overseers and churchwardens about the poore
Paid for slate for the vestrye
Spent in leadinge them from Billinge
Paid to Henry Marshall for charges of a certiorari and expences therupon concerninge John Wrights order
Spent in goinge on Farmoorth side severall dayes to demande and collecte church leyes
Spent att the layinge of the two latter church leyes
Paid for wryteinge of precepts for those leyes
Spent att a meetinge of the overseers of the poore and the churchwardens att Prescott concerninge the poore
Paid for mendinge of the great bell wheele two severall tymes with boards and nayles
[253 blank, 254]
Spent in goinge to Warrington to bespeak fower bell ropes
Accounts 1637–1664

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paid to John Beswicke(^{203}) for fower bell ropes</td>
<td>0 16 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for carrage therof from Warrington</td>
<td>0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in goeinge to the privy sessions concerninge John Wrights busines</td>
<td>0 3 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent att a meetinge of the overseers and churchwardens att</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peaseley Crosse(^{204}) about the poore of the parrish</td>
<td>0 3 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Thomas Walles for 14 bushall of stone lyme for the church</td>
<td>0 14 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and church walles prout per</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For an acquittance</td>
<td>0 0 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Paid to John Wright for lyme and heire and pointinge of the              | 0 1 0  | 2
| church windowes where neede was                                          |        |
| Paid for halfe a hundred of latts to latt the vestry                     | 0 1 3  |
| Spent upon the justices clerke for procureinge the justices hands        | 0 1 6 |
| to the latter church leyes                                              |        |
| Paid to a messinger to goe on Farmoorth side to give notics of a          | 0 0 3  |
| meetinge about layinge of church leyes                                   |        |
| Spent in goinge into Penketh and Sankie and other places on              |        |
| Farmoorth side to collecte church leyes                                  | 0 2 6  |
| Spent att a meetinge of the overseers and churchwardens to               | 0 4 0  |
| collecte leyes in Sutton Windle and Rainhill                             |        |
|                                                                           | 2 7 8  |

\(^{203}\) 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 Ropper 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 prout per 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
vitz
The cunstables of the townshipp of Widnes cum 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 cum 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

Spent by the accomptands in goinge on Farmoorth side to collecte the arreares above said

Paid for a skinne to cover the church byble and for coveringe therof

These accomptants crave allowance for this dayes charges and expences

Paid for perfectinge of these accompts

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 churchyard 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
William Kenwricke
William Forrest [copy mark]
John Sadler
Edward Darbishire
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 publickly reade and doe approve 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 makinge 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 daye moonth

John Wythens vicar
Henry Ashtonn
James Worsley
Edward Greene
William Wood
Richard Cowley
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Churchwardens</th>
<th>Surveyors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prescott Whiston</td>
<td>Thomas Parr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainhill</td>
<td>Thomas Knowles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sutton</td>
<td>Gilbert Caldwell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eccleston and Rainford</td>
<td>Thomas Shawe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windle and Parr</td>
<td>William Potter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John Barrowe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Edmund Seddon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John Fennowe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John Traves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Henry Torbock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Henry Sefton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Richard Lyon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Robert Mosse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John Eddleston</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overseers</th>
<th>Ellected by us</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Windle</td>
<td>Thomas Lyon of the Fould</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>William Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thomas Hearne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>James Barton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

John Wythens vicar
John Alcock
John Lathom
John Ackers
Henry Marshall

John Wythens vicar
John Alcock
Henry Ashtonn, one of the eight men
John Lathome
James Worsley
Edward Greene
Accounts 1637–1664 165

[261] 18 October 1654
Wheras theer was lately an order granted by the justices of peace of this county for the maintaynance 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 their discretion shall thinke fitt and in case the said Eccleston shall refuse to accepthe thereof 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 Darbishire

[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 thorrough 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 [copy mark]
James Worsley  Thomas Lyon
              Henry Tarbock
              Henry Marshall
              John Poughtin [copy mark]

[264] St Luke day 18 October 1655
The election 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
Cuardley      John Linaker

Ellected by us

[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 repair of the said church doe order that two whole church leyes shallbee forthwith collected and gathered within the said parish for the repair of the said church and the same to bee paid over to the churchwardens or some of them att or before 10 September next. Witness 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 Darbishire
[266] St Lukes daye 18 October 1656
The ellection and choyce of the eight men to serve the yeare followinge

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prescott</td>
<td>William Glover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whiston</td>
<td>John Lyon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sutton</td>
<td>Richard Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyndle</td>
<td>John Lyon of the Foulds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eccleston</td>
<td>William Webster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainford</td>
<td>Henry Sefton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widnes</td>
<td>John Houlte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bold</td>
<td>Mathew Houghton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 reliefe of the poore and impotente within the said parish as followeth

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prescott</td>
<td>1 13 4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whiston</td>
<td>1 13 4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainhill</td>
<td>1 13 4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sutton</td>
<td>5 0 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eccleston</td>
<td>2 10 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainford</td>
<td>2 10 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyndle</td>
<td>2 10 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parr</td>
<td>2 10 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widnes cum Appleton</td>
<td>4 4 5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuardley and Cronton</td>
<td>4 4 5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ditton and Penketh</td>
<td>4 4 5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bold</td>
<td>4 4 5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sankie</td>
<td>2 2 4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totall</td>
<td>39 0 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is ordered that this money bee taxed and assigned upon the severall towneshipps 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 [copy mark]
William Stringfellow
John Knowles [copy mark]
James Swifte, churchwardens

[copy mark] Thomas Woods
[copy mark] George Lyon
Richard Grease, overseers
Tuesday in Easter week 1656

The accounts of John Lyon, Richard Taylor, Richard Wood, and Thomas Lyon, churchwardens of the parish church of Prescott, of their receipts and payments for the use of the said parish church from Tuesday in Easter week last past being 17 April 1655 until this present day being 8 April 1656 as followeth:

Two church leys laid this year

*Inprimis* they charge themselves with the receipt of two whole church leys thorough the parish being on Prescott side £8 and on Farnworth side £7 12s in all: 15 12 0

Alsoe they charge themselves with the receipt of 48s 8d being an arrear 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 receipt of 26s being an arrear 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 receipt of several somes of money for burials in the church as followeth:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Margrett wife of James Ashcroft of Eccleston</td>
<td>6[£] 8[d]</td>
<td>Burial for James Ashcroft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Traves of Windle</td>
<td>6 8</td>
<td>Burial for James Traves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Roby of Rainford</td>
<td>6 8</td>
<td>Burial for Henry Roby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Sutton of Rainhill</td>
<td>6 8 1 6 8</td>
<td>Burial for Henry Sutton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Alsoe they charge themselves with the receipt of £1 9s 1½d remaining in the hands of the last churchwardens: 1 9 1

Total: 22 1 9

Payments disbursements and allowances craved by the accomptants as followeth:

Paid to a messinger for goinge to the cunstable of Rainhill with a warrant concerning church leys arrear: 0 0 3

Paid to a messinger for goinge to Farnworth to give notice of a meetinge about layinge of church leys: 0 0 4

Paid to a messinger for goinge on Farnworth side to deliver three precepts: 0 0 10

Paid to a messinger for goinge to Farnworth with a declaration from my lord protector: 0 0 4

Spent in goinge thorough the townshipp of Prescott to colecte money for the reliefe of the poore protestants within the
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>duckdome of Savoy*</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in goinge thorough the townshipp of Rainhill to collecte money for the same use*</td>
<td>0 2 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in goinge thorough the townshipp of Whiston to collecte money for the same use*</td>
<td>0 1 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in goinge to Rainhill with a mason to buye stones for the church steele*</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Hugh Parr of Rainhill for stones for the church steele prout per acquittance</td>
<td>0 9 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for an acquittance</td>
<td>0 0 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to a mason for helpinge to load stones</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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*</td>
<td>0 7 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 5 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[271] Spent in goinge thorrough the town ships 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 thorrough the town ship of Sutton to collecte money for the same use* | 0 2 6  |
| Spent in goinge thorrough the towne shipps 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 council concerning 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 *prout per* 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 towardre makinge the
church steele and other uses for the church *prout per*
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 receive 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
*prout per* acquittance 0 17 4
Paid for an acquittance 0 0 2

[273] *Item* to Thomas Keakewicke joyner for makinge a new
church steele and for making a new yate and mendinge the
bell frame *prout per* acquittance 0 19 10
Paid for an acquittance 0 0 2
Paid to Thomas Fleetwood for iron worke for the new yate in the
churchyoard 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 several tymes in meetinge to recon
with them* 0 3 4
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spent upon workmen in viewinge the defects of the steeple*</td>
<td>0  2  8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to George Litherland for killinge of a foxe</td>
<td>0  1  0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Given to a messinger to bringe a note to Farnworth about choosinge new eight men</td>
<td>0  0  4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent upon Luke daye att the ellection of the eight men*</td>
<td>0  8  6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in goinge to gather leyes on Farnworth side*</td>
<td>0  3  6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2  1  4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[274] Paid to Thomas Browne for a new yate for the church yoard near Jane Boltons house prout per acquittance</td>
<td>0  7  6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for an acquittance</td>
<td>0  2  0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for caridge thereof</td>
<td>0  0  6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for hanglinge thereof</td>
<td>0  0  6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for wine for a monthly communion 1 July 1655</td>
<td>0 19  6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in goinge two severall tymes to collect leyes in Eccleston*</td>
<td>0  2  0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in goinge on Farnworth side to collecte and gather church leyes*</td>
<td>0  4  2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Given to the ringers in money and drinke for ringinge upon 5 November last past</td>
<td>0  7  0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Richard Marshall for severall worke done aboute the church this laste yeare as appeareth by an acquittance</td>
<td>1  7  0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Given to severall passingers who had a passe to goe for Ireland</td>
<td>0  1  4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Robert Kenion mason for worke done att the church porch as apeareth by an acquittance</td>
<td>0 18  0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for an acquittance</td>
<td>0  0  2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid more to Robert Kenion for pointinge the botom of the steeple and the leades prout per acquittance</td>
<td>0 13  4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for an acquittance</td>
<td>0  0  2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Edward Greene for a carpett cloath for the communion table and furniture to it as appeareth by an acquittance</td>
<td>2 19  8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for an acquittance</td>
<td>0  0  2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8  3  [0]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[275] Paid to Edward Greene for soder and soderinghe the high leades prout per acquittance</td>
<td>0 11  0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for an acquittance</td>
<td>0  0  2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for lyme for pointinge of the steeple and for cariage thereof from Liverpool</td>
<td>0 15  0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for hire for the lyme</td>
<td>0  1  8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

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 there accompts and paid in the arreares* 0 2 6
Spent att a privie sessions att Prescott by the accomptants and overseers* 0 3 6
Spent att another privie sessions att Prescott* 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 prout per 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 sabbath 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 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

Totall of the disbursements are 24 2 0
Soe the receipts beinge 22 1 9

207 Presented 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
- Sutton
- Eccleton and Rainford
- Windle and Parr

**Surveyors**

- Prescott
- Whiston
- Sutton

**Overseers**

- Rainhill
- Eccleton
- Sutton
- Eccleston
- Rainford
- Windle
- Parr

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 theire 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 Pington and William Woods of Bold for
fower foxe heades  
To Robert Webster of Eccleston for seaven foxe heads
Alsoe wee doe approve of the officers now chosen

John Wythens vicar
Henry Ogle  John Lin[aker]
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
thorrough 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 Foxe

[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 theire 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
leyses 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 fourer 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\textsuperscript{209} John Haslow and others who came from Warrington to take the whytinge 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  

[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 whytinge of the church as appeareth by an acquittance 7 0 0  
Paid more to them as appeareth by an other acquittance 1 15 0  

\textsuperscript{209} Hired 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\textsuperscript{210} the [pue?] and pulpit and dressinge the finger and other colowringe as appeareth by an acquittance 2 10 0
Paid for meate and drinke which was bestowed on the workemen att severall tymes whilste 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 children 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

\textsuperscript{210}This 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\[211\]
\[285\] Paid for repayreringe the wall att the higher ende of the
church
Paid for slates for the church use and leadinge therof
Paid for seven foxe heades
Paid for an acquittance for the same
Paid for meate and drinke when the eight men and others of the
parish mett together to laye the two latter church leyes
Paid for writinge of precepts for the said two church leyes
Paid for the sendinge of a precepte to Rainford
Paid to Mr Bolds man for a warrante to gather in the arreares of
church leyes
Paid for one to goe to Liverpoole two severall tymes to procure
Justice Foxe hande to the said warrant
Given to Sibbill Lambert widdow which had a breefe for a
collection for herselffe and three chilren
Paid for a pounde of candles for the sextons use
Paid for wyne for two monthly communions as appeareth by two
severall acquittances
Paid for two acquittances
Paid to Thomas Webster glasier for glaseinge about the church
where defects \{was\} weare prout per acquittance
\[286\] Paid for meate and drinke att a meetinge of the overseers
and churchwardens concerninge the poore
Paid to Richard Marshall for mendinge the theird bell and
clappinge two ladders proutt per acquittance
Paid for wyne for a monthly communion as maye appeare by an
acquittance
Paid for an acquittance
Paid for meate and drinke att a meetinge of the overseers and
churchwardens concerninge George Glover of Windle
Paid to Edward Darbyshire for his whole yeares wages for his
laste yeare paste as appeareth by an acquittance

\[211\] 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 prout per
  acquittance 1 1 0
Paid for an acquittance 0 0 2
Paid to Richard Maudishley for tymber and makeinge of a
  church steele proutt per 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
  Totall 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
    Sutton James Worsley

    Surveyors
    Eccleston James Ascrofte
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>Names</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prescott</td>
<td>John Alcocke, gent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainhill</td>
<td>Henry Lawton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sutton</td>
<td>William Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parr</td>
<td>John Mosse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainford</td>
<td>Edmund Browne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyndle</td>
<td>Peter Lyon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuardley and Cronton</td>
<td>Thomas Foster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ditton and Penketh</td>
<td>William Kenion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ellected by us  

[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 their 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
180  *Accounts 1637–1664*

Also they charge themselves with the receipte of 13s 4d for two
buriall in the church

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0 13 4</td>
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</table>

Totall of the accomptants charge is

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<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31 17 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0 3 4</td>
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</table>

Paid for meate and drinke with meetinge the overseers of the
poore to lay leyes for the poore

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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>0 2 0</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

24 July paid to John Walles<sup>212</sup> for six yards of hollond for a
communion table cloath as maye appeare *per* an acquittance

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0 14 6</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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 *per* an acquittance

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<thead>
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<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0 6 0</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

[293] Paid to Thomas Keakwicke for two dayes and a halfe worke
about the bell wheels att 16d *per diem*

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0 3 4</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Paid to John Poughtin for a spade tree and a pick halme that was
left unpaid *per* the last churchwardens

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<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0 1 2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Paid to John Poughtin for five boards for to mend the bell
whees

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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0 2 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid to Thomas Browne for a peece of timber used about the said
wheles

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<thead>
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<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<p>| | | |</p>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0 [3?] 6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid to John Beswicke for ropes and cords as may appeare by an
acquittance

<p>| | | |</p>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 2 0</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Paid for caridge of the said ropes from Warington

<p>| | | |</p>
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<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0 0 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid to Richard Marshall for worke done aboute the church and
bells as may appeare by a note of particulers and an
acquittance

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0 14 10</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

Paid for bringinge precepts to Farnworth side

<p>| | | |</p>
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<thead>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0 0 8</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

Paid to Thomas Keackwicke for medinge another bell wheele
beinge one days worke and a halfe

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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0 2 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>212</sup> John (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.
Accounts 1637–1664 181

Paid for nayles to mend the said wheeles 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 appearence 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 per annum 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 may appeare per an acquittance 0 18 6
Paid to Thomas Webster for soder lead and workmanshipp as may 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 per 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 per the last churchwardens as may appeare per 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 several persons in Widnes Penketh and Sankie to pay their church leys or ells to appear before the justices to shew cause to the contrary 0 2 0
Paid for nales for mending 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 several days by Edmund Seddon John Lassell and William Tarbocke to collecte the two latter church leys 0 9 0
Paid for wine used 4 April as may appeare per 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 Darbishire for his wages as may appeare per an acquittance 3 0 0
Paid to Edward Darbishire 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 putting 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
There 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
Whiston  Thomas Marrowe
Rainhill  Richard Jameson
Sutton  By us
Rainhill  Thomas Wainwright
Edmond Lyon
Whistle  Henry Harrison
Edward Holme
Windle  John Rainford
Thomas Atherton
John Lyon
Parr  By us
Nicholas Ashton
Thomas Orrell
Rainford  John Wythens vicar
Thomast Tarleton
Henry Gaskell
Eccleston  Edward Deane
Rainford  Thomas Litherland
Kowardley  Richard Hyde
Ditton  James Glest

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 poor within the parish of Prescott whose names are subscribed for and towards the maintenance and relief of the poor and impotent within the parish as followeth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>Amounts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prescott</td>
<td>1 13 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whiston</td>
<td>1 13 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainhill</td>
<td>1 13 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sutton</td>
<td>5 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eccleston</td>
<td>2 10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainford</td>
<td>2 10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windle</td>
<td>2 10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parr</td>
<td>2 10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widnes cum Appleton</td>
<td>4 4 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bold</td>
<td>4 4 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£2 3s 11d</td>
<td>£2 6d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cawardley and Cronton</td>
<td>4 4 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£2 16s 3d</td>
<td>28s 2d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ditton and Penketh</td>
<td>4 4 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sankey</td>
<td>2 2 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totall</strong></td>
<td><strong>39 0 0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is ordered that this money be taxed and assessed within the several townships of the parish of Prescott and copies of each tax delivered to the constables of each several township by the overseers or some of them and the said money to be paid over to the said overseers at or before 24 June next coming:

John Ackers          Edward Deane
William Webster      Robert Martland
Thomas Torbocke [copy mark] Thomas Hey [copy mark], overseers
William Turner, churchwardens

[299] 11 May 1658
This daye at a publique213 meetinge of the parishioners of the parish church of Prescott upon motion of the churchwardens it is ordered that two whole church leys shall be laid thorough the whole parish for the necessary occasion of the church att [sic] that the same be paid over to the churchwardens att or before 24 June next. Witness our hands

John Wythens vicar Richard Arrowsmith [copy mark]
Edward Stockley William Ploumbe [copy mark]
John Alcocke Edward Darbishire

213 The term suggests that many more parishioners had a role in parish government from this time.
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 Darbishire

[300] 24 November 1658
At a publique 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

Edmund Barnes  Thomas Ashtonn
Edward Deane  Thomas Ashtonn
Edward Darbishire  John Sutton
Thomas Lyon [copy mark]  Thomas Lyon

13 April 1658
Foxheads brough in this daye and agreed by the parishioners to bee paid 12d for every head by the new churchwardens

Inprimis 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 poor within the parish of Prescott whose names are subscribed for and towards the maintenance and relief of the poor and impotent within the parish as followeth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prescott</td>
<td>0 16 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whiston</td>
<td>0 16 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainhill</td>
<td>0 16 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sutton</td>
<td>2 10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eccleston</td>
<td>1 5 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainford</td>
<td>1 5 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windle</td>
<td>1 5 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parr</td>
<td>1 5 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widnes and Appleton</td>
<td>2 2 2½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bold</td>
<td>2 2 2½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cawardley</td>
<td>1 1 11½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cranton</td>
<td>1 0 3½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ditton £1 8s 2d and Penketh 14s 1d</td>
<td>2 2 2½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sankey</td>
<td>1 1 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is ordered that this money be taxed and assessed within the several townships of the parish of Prescott and copies of each tax delivered to the constables of each several township by the overseers or some of them and the said money to be paid over to the said overseers at or before 14 February next coming.

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 complaint for want of money for the necessary repair of the steeple and other charges about the said church it is agreed that two whole church leyes shall be laid through the said parish to be paid to the churchwardens or some of them at or before 24 June next.


[305 blank, 306] Tuesday in Easter week being 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 yeare last past beginninge att Easter 1658 as followeth

First they charge themselves with the receipt of fower whole church leyes 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

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totall</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Payments and disbursements paid and laid out by the accountants of which they crave allowance

First they crave allowance of 2s paid by them to the justices for the approinge of their election 0 2 0

Alsoe of 3s spent by them in stayinge att the privie sessions to wate for the same approbation 0 3 0

Alsoe of 10s spent by one of the accountants 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 att 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 accountants in goinge to Liverpool 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 att two severall tymes for slatinge and mossinge the church 0 6 3

Also of 18d spent by one of the accountants 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 accountants in goinge to Farnworth side to receave leayes 0 2 6
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alsoe of 2s 6d paid to Thomas Goodicar for putting up slate and mossing the church one other tyme</td>
<td>0 2 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alsoe of 12d paid to John Ashton for going to Warrington to bespeake bell ropes</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alsoe of 3s spent in going to Farnworth another tyme to meete the cunstables to receive leys</td>
<td>0 3 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alsoe of 12d spent by one of the accomptants in goinge to Rainford to demand church leys</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alsoe of 12d paid to John Holt for a fox head</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alsoe of 12d paid to Richard Lyon for a foxe head</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alsoe of £7 3s 9d paid to Adam Bate for pointinge the church as by acquittance</td>
<td>7 3 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alsoe of 35s 10d paid to Thomas Webster for glasinge the church as by acquittance</td>
<td>1 15 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alsoe of 6s paid to John Ashton for a wheelebarrow and for dressinge the alleys</td>
<td>0 6 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alsoe of 27s 4d paid to Richard Marshall for worke done att the church</td>
<td>1 7 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alsoe of £4 10s paid to Margery Walls for wyne for fower communions</td>
<td>4 10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alsoe of 2s 6d paid to Edward Darbishire for bread for those communions</td>
<td>0 2 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alsoe of 12d paid to John Ashton for bringinge precepts to Farnworth side for the latter two church leyes</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alsoe of 12d paid for oyle and wire for the clocke</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alsoe of 4d paid to Raph Parr for goinge to Farnworth with a note aboute the choise of the eight men</td>
<td>0 0 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alsoe of 4d paid to Ann Leadbetter for caryinge water to Adam Bate to make mortar</td>
<td>0 0 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alsoe of 12d paid to Thomas Goodicar for puttinge upp slates one other tyme aboute the church</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alsoe of 12d paid to George Litherland for a fox head</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alsoe of 12d paid to William Tyrer for one fox head</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alsoe of 3s paid to Henry Thomasson for three fox heades</td>
<td>0 3 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td>0 4 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alsoe of 15s paid to John Roper for three bell ropes</td>
<td>0 15 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

[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 particulier 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 several 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

[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 coppy 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 their leyes 0 1 6

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

---

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prescott</td>
<td>0 16 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whiston</td>
<td>0 16 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainhill</td>
<td>0 16 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sutton</td>
<td>2 10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eccleston</td>
<td>1 5 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainford</td>
<td>1 5 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windle</td>
<td>1 5 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parr</td>
<td>1 5 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widnes cum Appleton</td>
<td>2 2  2½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bold</td>
<td>2 2  2½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cawardley</td>
<td>1 1  3½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cronton</td>
<td>1 0  2 2  2½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ditton</td>
<td>1 8  2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penketh</td>
<td>0 14 0½ 2 2  2½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sankey</td>
<td>1 1  2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19 10 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is therefore ordered that this money bee taxed and assessed within the severall towneshipps of this parish and copyes of each tax delivered to the cunstables of each severall towneshipps 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       James Glest
Peeter Lyon          John Parr
Edmund Barnes, churchwardens 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 their accompts

Alsoe received two whole church leyes through the parish beinge
on Prescott side £8 and on Farnworth side £7 12s in all

Alsoe for eight burialls in the church as by a particular under the
hand of Edward Darbishire in all

Totall received

Payments and disbursements as followeth

First paid to Raph Parr for givinge notice to the eight men on
Farnworth side of a meetinge at the church

Spent att Edward Darbishires when the eight men and some of
the parish mett

Paid to Thomas Walls for wyne for fourer monthly communions
as appeares by acquittance

Paid for an acquittance for the same

Spent on Edward Darbishire and two of the accomptants in
goinge to Warrington to speake for the bell ropes

Paid for two bell ropes to John Roper of Warrington

Spent when wee went to fetch them and for cariage

Spent by two of the accomptants when wee went to demand
the church leyes on Farnworth side five severall tymes

Spent att the ellection of the eight men

Paid to John Ackers for fourer fox heads

Paid for an acquittance

Paid to Thomas Webster for mendinge the leads

For an acquittance

Paid to John Bate for pointinge the same

For an acquittance

Paid to Thomas Webster for glasinge

For fourer fox heads to William Woods and Richard Banks in to
Bold

For an acquittance

Paid for writinge 15 precepts for the payment of the church leyes

Paid to the ringers for ringinge on the 5 November

Spent att the same tymes

Paid to Peeter Lyon for fourer fox heads that William Webster
should have paid for

\[317\] Paid to John Ackers for fourer fox heads

Paid for an acquittance

Paid to Thomas Webster for mendinge the leads

For an acquittance

Paid to John Bate for pointinge the same

For an acquittance

Paid to Thomas Webster for glasinge

For fourer fox heads to William Woods and Richard Banks in to
Bold

For an acquittance

Paid for writinge 15 precepts for the payment of the church leyes

Paid to the ringers for ringinge on the 5 November

Spent att the same tymes

Paid to Peeter Lyon for fourer fox heads that William Webster
should have paid for

\[216\] No sum entered.
Paid for seven foxe heads to Peeter Lyon  
Paid for a new spade to the church  
Paid to Richard Marshall for smiths worke  
Paid to John Ashton for wire and oyle and repaire of the clocke  
Paid for a pound of candles  
Paid for six foxe heads to William Webster as appeares by acquittance  
For an acquittance  
Paid for timber for the mendinge and repaireinge of the church stiles lychyate and for lintalls for the steeple  
For an acquittance  
Paid for leadinge of the said timber from Rainford to Prescott  
Spent in [space for several words blank] of the timber  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paid for seven foxe heads to Peeter Lyon</td>
<td>0 7 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for a new spade to the church</td>
<td>0 2 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Richard Marshall for smiths worke</td>
<td>2 2 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to John Ashton for wire and oyle and repaire of the clocke</td>
<td>0 4 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for a pound of candles</td>
<td>0 0 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for six foxe heads to William Webster as appeares by acquittance</td>
<td>0 6 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For an acquittance</td>
<td>0 0 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for timber for the mendinge and repaireinge of the church stiles lychyate and for lintalls for the steeple</td>
<td>2 0 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For an acquittance</td>
<td>0 2 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for leadinge of the said timber from Rainford to Prescott</td>
<td>0 18 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in [space for several words blank] of the timber</td>
<td>0 2 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7 17 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[318] Spent in meate and drinke upon the carpenders and carters and ourselves when they brought the timber  
Spent upon the carpenters when the worke was set unto them  
Paid to the carpenters for doinge the worke as appeares by an acquittance  
Paid for an acquittance  
Spent (in meetinge) upon the eight men and ourselves att the layinge of two church leyes  
Spent when the overseers of the poore mett  
Spent in meetinge Daniell Sefton\(^\text{217}\) mason to set the pointinge of the steeple  
Paid to John Ashton for goinge to disappoint Daniell Sefton for cominge about it  
Spent upon Adam Bate and ourselves in setting the steeple worke to the said Adam Bate  
Given in ernest to Adam Bate  
Paid to John Lunt of Liverpoole for 20 measures of white lyme att 10d the measure  
For an acquittance  
Spent by two of the accomptants in goinge to buy the lyme  
Spent when hie went to fetch it  
Paid to William Wood and John Tunstall for loadinge of it  

For an acquittance | 0 | 0 | 2
Paid for cariage of the lyme into the church | 0 | 0 | 6
Paid for carryinge 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 lower comunions | 0 | 2 | 6
Paid to him for his allowance for keepinge cleane the church and church yard 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 |
A tax laid by the churchwardens and overseers of the poor within the parish of Prescott whose names are subscribed for and towards the maintenance and relief of the poor and impotent within the parish as followeth:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prescott</td>
<td>1 13 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whiston</td>
<td>1 13 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainhill</td>
<td>1 13 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sutton</td>
<td>5 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eccleston</td>
<td>2 10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainford</td>
<td>2 10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windle</td>
<td>2 10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parr</td>
<td>2 10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widnes cum Appleton</td>
<td>4 4 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bold</td>
<td>4 4 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cawardley</td>
<td>2 3 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cronton</td>
<td>2 0 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[321] 29 May 1660
Accounts 1637–1664

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 towneshipps of the parish of Prescott and copies of each tax delivered to the cunstables of each severall towneshipp 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 several towneshipps hereafter named att or before 20 February next and assessed upon the several towneshipps as followeth

Prescott 1 0 0
Whiston 1 0 0
Rainhill 1 0 0
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Amounts</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sutton</td>
<td>3 0 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eccleston</td>
<td>1 10 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainford</td>
<td>1 10 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windle</td>
<td>1 10 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parr</td>
<td>1 10 0</td>
<td>12 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widnes <em>cum</em> Appleton</td>
<td>2 10 8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuardley</td>
<td>1 6 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cronton</td>
<td>1 4 4</td>
<td>2 10 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ditton</td>
<td>1 13 9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penketh</td>
<td>0 16 11</td>
<td>2 10 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bold</td>
<td>2 10 8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sankey</td>
<td>1 5 4</td>
<td>11 8 0 23 8 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thomas Ashton, Thomas Knowles [copy mark], churchwardens
George Litherland, John Lyon, overseers

[324] Tuesday in Easter weeke 16 April 1661

The accounts 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 until this present day being 16 April 1661 as followeth

First they charge themselves with the receipt of four church leys
beinge on Prescott side £16 and on Farnworth side £15 4s in all

Alsoe for neene burialls in the church by a particuler under the hand of Edward Darbishire in all

Payments and disbursements as followeth

First paid for bringinge a note to Farnworth to Edward Appleton of all the churchwardens and overseers names for the yeare followinge

Paid for a certificate under the hands of the justices of the peace of their approval of the churchwardens

Spent the same in waytinge of the justices till wee were approved on

Paid 14 May to the ringers att the proclamation of the kinge²¹⁸ by the vicars consent and others of the parishioners

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²¹⁸There 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 Prescot (14 May) and Walton (Wn, f.132v), record ringing for the proclamation in 1660. See pp.xxxvi, 199, 207.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amounts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paid for hanginge upp the kinges armes and settinge upp the font stone</td>
<td>0 5 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to John Poughtin for a legg for the font stone</td>
<td>0 0 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to a mesinger for goinge to Farnworth to give notice to the parishioners of a meetinge att the church</td>
<td>0 0 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent att a meetinge aboute the leyes and agreeinge with Adam Bate to pointe the steeple</td>
<td>0 1 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0 15 [5]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[325] Paid for sendinge out warrants for the church leyes</td>
<td>0 0 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td>0 5 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spente of carters for leadinge a tree and a ladder for the church use</td>
<td>0 1 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid 23 June for coppinge out a proclamation for his majestie and sendinge it to Huyton</td>
<td>0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Thomas Langshaw for makinge a lead for the font stone as appeares by acquittance</td>
<td>0 19 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent of the plummet and for an acquittance</td>
<td>0 0 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Mrs Lyme for two busheells of mault to temper the lime with as appeares by acquittance</td>
<td>0 6 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Thomas Ashton for a stone and a halfe of haire</td>
<td>0 2 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for a lyme buckett to draw upp lyme to the topp of the steeple</td>
<td>0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for fyre for soderinge the lead about the font stone</td>
<td>0 0 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Thomas Taylor for a new collocke and a new sine and a boule for the church use</td>
<td>0 1 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Edward Blundell for fetchinge a load of sand from Thattow Heath</td>
<td>0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Adam Bate for pointinge the steeple as appeares by acquittance</td>
<td>5 10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Att the same tyme spent of him and for acquittance</td>
<td>0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Justice Rosthernes clerke for a warrant aboute the church leyes</td>
<td>0 2 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td>0 1 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

219 The early setting up of the font stone marked an enthusiastic return to traditional ways. See pp.xxxiii–iv.
220 This 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 going to Farnworth side of the parish for meate and drinke to gather in leyes | 0 | 1 | 0
| 7 | 14 | 11 |

[326] Paid to a messinger in fetchinge the cunstables of Widnes to Farnworth | 0 | 0 | 2
Paid to Oliver Whaley for a new wethercock and castinge the old one in as appeares per 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 going 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 messinger 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 cunstables 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 | 0 | 2
2 | 1 | 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 appears by acquittance 0 8 2
For an acquittance 0 0 2
Paid to Adam Bate for pointinge and repairinge the church walles as appears by acquittance 0 17 0
For acquittance 0 0 2
Paid to Margery Walles for wyne as appears 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 cariaige of it 0 1 5
Paid to Henry Webster 6d as ernest 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 messinger 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

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 Prescott | 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 theire wages for work which they had done att the church | 0 | 2 | 0

\[^{329}\] 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 Prescott | 0 | 1 | 0
Paid to Thomas Webster for glasse | 0 | 10 | 0
Paid to William Ashton for bringinge a ladder to Prescott | 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 Prescott | 0 | 1 | 8
Spent when wee bought the timber in Haddock wood | 0 | 1 | 6
Spent when wee mett the workmen to pay em theire wages | 0 | 2 | 0
Paid to Edward Gerard for a spade | 0 | 2 | 0

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\(^{222}\) '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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>[330]</th>
<th>Spent att meetinge of the justices att Prescott</th>
<th>0 1 0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paid to John Houghton of Parr for seven fox heads</td>
<td>0 7 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paid to Richard Holland and George Standish for puttinge upp the lintalls into the steeple</td>
<td>1 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spent when wee mett the justices for approbation</td>
<td>0 1 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spent when wee sett the lintalls to Adam Bate</td>
<td>0 1 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spent when wee sett the glasinge of the church</td>
<td>0 0 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spent when wee went two severall tymes to Farnworth side to collecte church leyes</td>
<td>0 2 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spent when wee went to Bold to collecte the church leyes</td>
<td>0 0 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spent att the privie sessions</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spent att our meetinge in Eccleston</td>
<td>0 1 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spent when wee mett att St Ellins chappell to know how wee stood with the parish</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spent about gateringe church leyes for the quakers[^223]</td>
<td>0 6 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paid for ashlors and leadinge them</td>
<td>0 6 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spent att Rainhill hill and att Prescott when we unloed the stone</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spent in meetinge the justices att Prescott</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paid to John Ashton for removinge mortar and other necessary work aboute the church</td>
<td>0 2 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paid to the ringers on Christmas day[^224]</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spent when wee paid the workemen and laid the leyes for the poore</td>
<td>0 2 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paid to Richard Holland and George Standish for puttinge upp the lintalls into the steeple</td>
<td>0 14 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paid to Edward Darbishire for his allowance for keepinge cleane the church and churchyard and the seates as formerly</td>
<td>3 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paid for 15 precepts for fower church leyes</td>
<td>0 2 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paid for framinge this accomplte and writinge it into the church booke</td>
<td>0 5 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[^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 Prescot: 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

| 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 |
| Totall | 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 conceave theiare 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 preicident 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 theire 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 |
| 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 the elder
Sankey Bryan Sixsmith Parr Henry Martin
Penketh Thomas Heyes Bryan Byron

Surveyors of the highways

Prescott Richard Marshall Ellected by us
Peeter Garnett
Whiston Henry Latham John Wythens vicar
Thomas Shaw Cuthbert Ogle
Rainhill Thomas Wainwright Henry Ogle
Thomas Burscough Edward Stockley
Sutton Thomas Wilcooke of Thatwell Heath
Mathew Cowley Henry Lawton
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 reliefe 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 towneshipps as followeth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prescott</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whiston</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainhill</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sutton</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rowland Ashton
John Wood
Thomas Lyon of Rainford [copy mark] 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 theire 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 burialls in the church as by a particular under the hand of Edward Darbishire in all 1 0 0

\[ \text{Totall of these accomptants charge is} \ 16 12 0 \]

Payments disbursements and allowances craved by these accomptants as followeth

Paid for a certificate under the hands of the justices of peace of theire 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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spent when we met together to view the church to see what work was fittest to be done</td>
<td>0 2 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent at another meeting of the parishioners and eight men to lay church leys</td>
<td>0 8 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 5 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[337] Spent at a meeting of the churchwardens for the getting forth of the precepts</td>
<td>0 2 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to the ringers for ringing on the coronation day(^{225})</td>
<td>0 8 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent on the same day</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent on the constables and ourselves when we went to gather moneys from house to house within every quarter being commanded by a breife</td>
<td>0 7 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in going to Cronton to gather church leys</td>
<td>0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent at a privy session being warded by the constables to attend the justices there</td>
<td>0 2 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent on St Luke's day when we met to choose the eight men but none were chosen</td>
<td>0 3 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent at another privy session being warned by the constables to attend the justices there</td>
<td>0 4 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in going to Liverpool to get a warrant of the good behaviour withdrawn which old Browne of Prescott had gotten forth against the churchwardens and overseers of the poor</td>
<td>0 2 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent at a meeting of the churchwardens and overseers of the poor to lay money for the poor within the parish</td>
<td>0 4 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent on the constables of Bold when they paid their church leys</td>
<td>0 1 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Ralph Parr for going to Farnworth two several times</td>
<td>0 0 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent when we paid money to the high constables for two briefes</td>
<td>0 1 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for two acquittances</td>
<td>0 0 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to a sick woman which had an order for money within the parish</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for new bell ropes</td>
<td>0 13 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for carriage of the bell ropes</td>
<td>0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for an acquittance</td>
<td>0 0 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to John Ashton towards his wages</td>
<td>1 13 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^{225}\) 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 Prescott 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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paid by the consent of Mr Withins to a man which had a breife</td>
<td>0 2 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4 11 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[338] Paid for ringinge on the kings holyday</td>
<td>0 10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent the same day</td>
<td>0 4 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in goinge to Farnworth side to gather church leyes</td>
<td>0 6 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent when we mett to view what harme the church had received</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>by the great winde and agreeing with a workman to mend the roofoe with slate</td>
<td>0 4 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Thomas Goodicar for mendinge the church roofoe with mosse and slate</td>
<td>0 9 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for latts and nailes</td>
<td>0 0 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent of Thomas Goodicar at severall tymes</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in goinge to Wigan to exchange to exchange the church flagons and cupps</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for the exchange of cupps and flagons</td>
<td>0 3 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Thomas Webster for reparinge the church windowes with glasse</td>
<td>0 7 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent when we paid the high constable two briefes</td>
<td>0 1 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for two acquittances</td>
<td>0 0 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in goinge to Warrington and Winstanley to pay a briefe to Mr Blackburn</td>
<td>0 1 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for an acquittance</td>
<td>0 0 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Henry Lyon of Whiston for five fox heads</td>
<td>0 5 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For an acquittance</td>
<td>0 0 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for the common prayer booke</td>
<td>0 9 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in goinge two severall tymes to Farnworth syde</td>
<td>0 3 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to John Ashton for dressinge the clocke for oyle, wyre for nailes for the bell wheeles and for candles as appears by a note</td>
<td>0 7 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to John Ashton for his wages</td>
<td>1 7 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for a common prayer booke</td>
<td>0 5 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 8 11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[339] Paid to Edward Darbishire for bread for the communon</td>
<td>0 2 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Margerie Walls for wine for the communon</td>
<td>3 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for makinge precepts for two church leyes</td>
<td>0 2 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for framinge this account and writinge it in the church booke</td>
<td>0 5 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Edward Darbishire which was agreed to be paid the last yeare</td>
<td>0 6 8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

226 The 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.
Accounts 1637–1664

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

Also they desire to be respited these severall somes followinge vizt

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For Sankey</td>
<td>4[£]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For Penketh</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For Prescott</td>
<td>0 6 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For Rainford</td>
<td>0 0 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For Eccleston</td>
<td>0 0 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 6 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Soe the receipts beinge 16 12 0
The disbursements 17 15 2
and respited 1 6 6
Soe the accomptsants 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 Wythenes vicar
Henry Marshall
William Wood
Richard Taylor
John Linaker, eight men

Officers elected to serve for this yeare 1662

Churchwardens
Prescott Whiston and Rainhill
Roger Case
Sutton Brian Lea
Eccleston and Rainforth
Henry Webster, potter
Windlc and Parr

Surveyors of the highwayes
Prescott Thomas Rainford
Whiston William Melling
Rainhill Lawrence Lea

Robert Standishstreet
William Jamesonne
Lawrence Lea
Thomas Wainwright
### Overseers of the poor
- John Sutton
- Edmund Barnes
- Robert Denton
- Thomas Wright
- Edmund Ellom
- Sutton
- Thomas Wilcocke of Sutton Heath
- George Webster
- Eccleston
- William Wood
- James Swift
- Rainforth
- Peter Latham
- John Gerrard
- Windle
- 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: four
- John Sutton: two

Whereas the churchwardens are indebted to the several persons under named in several 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 account 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 Darbishire, Thomas Lyon

We have perused the above 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
[342] 29 April 1662
Upon a meetinge this day of parishioners of the parish of Prescott it is therefore ordered that four churchleyes shall be forthwith collected and gathered through the whole parish for the necessary repair 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 Darbishire

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


Elected by us
John Wythens vicar; Edward Stockley, John Lathom, Henry Lathom, Peter Herefoote, Edward Darbishire

[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 thorrough 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

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.
ornaments\textsuperscript{228} for the said parish church to bee paid over to the churchwardens or some of them on or before 1 December next. As witness there their hands herunto putt the daye and yeare abovesaid

\[\text{[signed]}\]

\begin{align*}
\text{John Parr} & \\
\text{Henry Marshall} & \\
\text{John Lyon} & \\
\text{William Wood, fower of the eight men} & \\
\end{align*}

\[\text{[signed]}\]

\begin{align*}
\text{John Wythens vicar} & \\
\text{Thomas Lyon} & \\
\text{Rowland Ashton} & \\
\text{John Woods} & \\
\text{Thomas Lyon [mark], parishioners} & \\
\end{align*}

\[\text{[347] 6 January 1662}\]

At a meetinge of the parishioners \textbackslash 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 appear to be due.

\begin{align*}
\text{and by the eight men [signed]} & \\
\text{John Marshall} & \\
\text{John Lyon} & \\
\text{William Turner} & \\
\text{William Wood, fower of the eight men} & \\
\end{align*}

\[\text{Agreed by us [signed]}\]

\begin{align*}
\text{John Wythens vicar} & \\
\text{Samuel Byrom} & \\
\text{Henry Ogle} & \\
\text{Thomas Alcock} & \\
\text{Edward Stockley} & \\
\text{Thomas Litherland} & \\
\end{align*}

\[\text{[348] Tuesday in Easter weeke 21 April 1663}\]

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 \textit{anno domini} 1662 till this presente daye beinge 21 April \textit{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

\textsuperscript{228} Parishes which had lost silver and surplices in the troubles were required to replace them: Prescot had exchanged its (pewter) flagons and cups at Wigan earlier in the year.
Also with the receipt of six whole church leyes from the
townshipp 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 *vizt* William Lyme and
John Barnes 0 13 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>47 9 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Payments disbursements and allowances craved by these accomptants as followeth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spent att a privy sessions by the accomptants beinge commanded to appeare before the justices</td>
<td>0 2 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to the justices clarke's for their fee</td>
<td>0 2 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent by the accomptants 29 April which was appoyned for layinge of church leyes</td>
<td>0 7 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent 8 May when we agreed with Thomas Martyndale about slateinge the church</td>
<td>0 3 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 [14 8]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[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 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 of him that carryed the lyme 0 0 6

Paid to Thomas Martyndale for slates and for slatinge the church when it was in decay and for layinge a new coat of slate on the church porch 0 13 4

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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 their 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\textsuperscript{230} concerninge Thomas Browne 0 0 8

\textsuperscript{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 repayreringe of the church 0 0 6
Paid to George Standish and Richard Hollande for tearinge whitinge and pointinge the church porch and for tearinge 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 morter 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 sparrs 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

in toto 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\textsuperscript{231} 0 4 6

\textsuperscript{231}See p.213.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spent at a meeting in Prescott for laying two church leyes</td>
<td>0 4 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for writing the presentments to Chester</td>
<td>0 2 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent at Warrington meeting the apparitor to send presentments to Chester</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for making our presentments to Manchester and at the taking of our oaths</td>
<td>0 15 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent when we went to Manchester to make presentments to the commissioners of the archbishop of York(^{232})</td>
<td>0 15 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to a boy to bring a note to the constables of Penketh and Sankey to pay in their leyes</td>
<td>0 0 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Thomas Marrow for holland to make surplices</td>
<td>2 6 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for an acquaintance</td>
<td>0 0 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent at the same time</td>
<td>0 0 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Mrs Lowe for makeing the surplices</td>
<td>0 7 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to the ringers for ringinge on 5 November</td>
<td>0 5 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to John Roby for a fox head</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent on the ringers on Christmas day</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid more to John Ashton in part of his allowance</td>
<td>0 14 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Margery Walls for wyne at the third communion</td>
<td>0 7 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for three dinners</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid more to John Ashton in further part of his allowance</td>
<td>0 6 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent at severall tymes in goinge to Farnworth to meet the constables to receive two church leyes</td>
<td>0 3 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Mr Thomas Chapman(^{233}) of Chester for a silver bowle and a large silver dish weighing 21(\frac{1}{4}) ounces for the parish use as appeareth by acquaintance</td>
<td>6 3 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent in goinge to Chester to buy them</td>
<td>0 3 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payd 14 March 1662 for six bushell of lyme to repaye the church wall</td>
<td>0 5 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Edward Blundell for carryinge of it from Liverpoole</td>
<td>0 1 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^{232}\) 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 Warington to agree with Thomas Hasloe to write the Lords prayer the creed etc. 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 etc. within the church porch 0 10 0
Spen [sic] 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 poynetinge 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\textsuperscript{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

\textsuperscript{234} Some had perhaps remained unrepaired since the severe hailstorm which hit south-west Lancashire in Aug. 1662.

\textsuperscript{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.
Payd to Richard Browne of Whiston for a fox head 0 1 0
Payd to Thomas Wainwright for another fox head 0 1 0
Payd for the charges of the old churchwardens being summoned to Manchester by order 1 4 6
Payd to the old churchwardens which were in arrear 1 3 2
Payd for writeinge 15 precepts for the four 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 writeinge them into the church booke 0 2 6
Payd to Edward Darbishire for washinge and makinge cleane the surplices and makinge cleane the communion table cloth and for washinge the church flagon and bowle 0 3 0
Payd to him for keepinge of the three churchwardens accompts\textsuperscript{236} 0 3 0
Payd to John Sutton for two fox heads which was due in arrear 0 2 0

[355] Payd to Ellen Hinkes for two fox heads in arrear upon the last account 0 2 0
Payd to Henry Webster of Knowsley which was due in arrear 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
Payd 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 arrear to him upon a former accompte 0 11 0
Payd to Thomas Fleetwood which was also arrear upon a former accompte 0 3 0
Payd to William Hurst of Haddocke for fetchinge a piece of tymber belonginge to the parish of Prescott out of Haddocke Wood to his owne house to preserve it 0 1 0
Which piece of tymber the accomptants conceive to be worth 4s 0 1 0
Payd to Thomas Wright of Widnes for one fox head 0 1 0
Payd to John Holt for two fox heads beinge in arrear upon a former accompte 0 2 0
Payd to Roger Woods of Widnes for four fox heads beinge in arrear upon a former accompte 0 4 0

\textsuperscript{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

Summa totall of the disbursements and arreares 45 1 1

[356] Soe the receipts beinge
and the disbursements and arreares
The accomptants are indebted the
some of

47 9 4
45 1 1
2 9 0

Soe the accomptants desire to be respited the severall somes
followinge beinge in arrear
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
arrear 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Henry Marshal</th>
<th>Edward Stockley</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Lyon</td>
<td>John Lathom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Wood,</td>
<td>John Woods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>three of the</td>
<td>Rowlande Ash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eight men</td>
<td>James Lyon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Edward Darbishire</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[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
Eccleston and Rainford
Windle and Parr

Thomas Wilcocke of Sutton Heath
Henry Gaskell
Robert Mosse of Mosbancke

Surveyors of the high way
Robert Standishstreet
John Almond
Gerrard Potter
and John Ackers
Prescott

Elected by us
John Withens vicar
Samuel Byrom

Eight men
John Barrow and
Henry Marshall
William Kenwricke
John Parr
John Rylands and
Rainhill

Edward Stockley
William Blundell

John Lyon
Matthew Barton senior
Sutton

John Lathom

Richard Taylor
John Tunstall and
Eccleston

Thomas Litherland

William Wood
Thomas Boulton
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
Whiston
Rainhill
Sutton
Eccleston
Rainford
Windle
Parr

Thomas Fleetwood, Thomas Annis
George Litherland, John Carr
Alexander Chorley, Edward Ackers
James Worsley, Richard Tunstall
James Glest, Peter Robinson
Richard Hyde, Richard Wood
Thomas Holland, Thomas Cliffe
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

237 Mossbank (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 employed 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 Darbishire
Payment mayd by the forsd Hugh and Rychard of the said sommez

*Inprimis* to Jams Watmogth for mendyng of the shaykyls of the bells 2[s] 6[d]
*Item* to the same Jams leyther to the shaykyls 2
*Item* to the glayser for mendyng of the rod sele wyndoe and the wyndoe in Sanct James chapell with other wyndos 3
*Item* for the borde (e) of hym and two servant two days 14
*Item* for a pewter dych to mayke soyder of 3
*Item* for a neche to a belrope to Edwart Holland 3
*Item* for turvne to mayke fyr to melt the sowder with to the glaysers 0 1

---

1LRO. DP 459.
2The 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.
3Folios 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.
4Hugh 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 1529–54 was Simon Matthew alias Cour, born at Biggleswade and ordained at Lincoln in 1518. A prebendary of St Paul’s from 1533 and a reformed, he was probably entirely non-resident at Prescot: 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.
5From Eccleston and a dominant personality in parochial affairs, supervising the restoration of the old ways of worship as ‘principal warden’: Kumin, *Shaping of a Community*, p.32; Bailey, ‘Commentary’, p.173. Closely involved with repairs to the Prescot 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’, *ibid.* pp.107–112.
6From Eccleston and a dominant personality in parochial affairs, supervising the restoration of the old ways of worship as ‘principal warden’: Kumin, *Shaping of a Community*, p.32; Bailey, ‘Commentary’, p.173. Closely involved with repairs to the Prescot 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’, *ibid.* pp.107–112.
7Probably in the rood solar, or loft: *Churchwardens' Accounts*, ed. Bailey, pp.9, 30, 38–9, 54, 56.
8Probably the chapel of St James of Compostela, mentioned in 1523–4: *ibid.* p.6.
Appendices

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 [. . . ]

[. . . .] Thoms Garnet Jamis

[. . . .] (aying) [. . . ] in the leey [. . . .]

[. . . .] and by Jams Watmogh

[. . . .] parte of the

[. . . . . . . ] for the reseate 8

[. . . .] Jams Watmogh for Thomas Garnet [. . . ] 20 day

[. . . .] for goyng to Farneworth for the leays which we [. . . .] 6

[. . . . .] to Thomas Smyth for brygyg off Curdelay ley to Prescote 2

[. . . .] and by Jams Watmough John Terbocke and Thomas Garnet at [. . . .] at the byshopp vsyvatcyon10 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.

10 Probably 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 Prescot: LRO, DDX/480/18/16.

11Richard Gerrard (d. 1558), rector.
The accounts of John Ledbetr Edmond Colley Hugh Par and George Bowre church wardens of the parish 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 parish

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 arreares to the parish 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
Richard Eltonhed
Wylliam Holland
Henry Coney
Mathew Deane

Memorandum [. . .] the [. . .] day [of . . .] anno domini 1562 the gentlemen of the parish 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 ordinance 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 and were followed in 1563 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 the accounts of 1561 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 Prescot 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.
Appendices

Henre Coney
Richard Gardayn
Hughe Parr
Robert Kenwryght
Richard Derbyshire
Richard Parr
Miles Peresson
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 Farneworthie side for the reparations and mendment fo the stepull with other thyngs pertening to the said churche

Item to be payd on Prescot syde of the parishe 4[s]
Item 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 Farneworthie syde for the reparations and amendment of the steple with other things perteyneinge to the sayde churche videlicet

In Prescot syde of the paryshe 4
Item 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]

Memorandum 31 October anno domini 156[8] et anno regni Elizabethae Dei gratia Anglie etc. regina etc. decimo the gentlemen and parishioners of the parish of Prescott have assembled themselves together in the said parish church there concernyng the election of their eight men named in their constitution for taxation of reparations of the church where being there present the same day have elected and nomynated the same as foloweth videlicet

For Prescott
Henre Tailior

Whiston
Andrew Lathom\(^{16}\)

Raynehill
Peter Lancastre\(^{17}\)

Sutton
Parr

Whiston
Wyndle

Rauff Hayward
Brian Hayward

Edwarde Roughleye

Eccleston
Raynforth

Wyllie

Robert Cowper
William Tunstall

Raugh Soutton
William Standyse

Rychard Wattmoughe
Mathew Traves

Henry Coney
Thomas Hayston

John Laton\(^{18}\)


APPENDIX II

PRESCOT CHURCHWARDENS’ ACCOUNTS, 1618–1619\(^{19}\)

[1618–1619] [£ s d]

Inprimis 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.


\(^{18}\)John Laton (d. 1569) was lessee of Prescot Hall and a nephew of Robert Brassey, vicar from 1541–1558 and provost of King’s.

\(^{19}\)CRO EDC 5/1619/10 [part]
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>the charges of repairing and cleanke keeping of the communion plate and flaggons per annum</td>
<td>2s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the provision and repair of the churchbooks the communion clothes and cushion with the pulpit clothe and cushion</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for the washing of the communion clothes and surplices</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the yerely allowance for the maimed soldiers</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the charge of poore children bastards and suchlike wherewith the parish 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 parish is charged by an order from his majesties justices which amounteth unto hoc anno</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the charges of the churchwardens and sworne men meeting to make presentments</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the writing of the same presentments precepts accompts and the delivery thereof with fees</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the sexton his charges yearely paid him</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the expenses in bellrops shakles and other charges about the bells</td>
<td>26 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for ringing upon dayes comanded as the coronation of his majestie, 5 November and other daies in remembrance of his majesties deliverance</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maintaining of the clock in order and repare</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the charg of a pick and spade for the church</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>charges which the churchwardens expende in sending and calling for the leys imposed upon the inhabitants in Farneworth side</td>
<td>13 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 'twoo 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 'g unpowder 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, 1634–1637

**Prima schedula de qua fit mentio in articulis praedictis**

*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 rooefe of the said church tyred, shott, over with lyme and hayre, and afterwards putt in collors and all the rest of the rooefe 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 expencs 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 specifyed

**Schedula secunda de qua fit mentio in articulis annex**

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 vizi* 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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Layes 1</th>
<th>Layes 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13 October</td>
<td>Item</td>
<td>4 layes</td>
<td>16 layes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 February</td>
<td></td>
<td>2 layes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the yeare 1635

Inprimis 5 May | 6 layes

Item 25 August | 6 layes

Item 24 November | 2 layes 20 layes

Item 9 February | 6 layes

In the yeare 1636

Inprimis 31 May | 4 layes

Item 19 July | 12 layes 24 layes

Item 17 January | 8 layes

In the yeare 1637

Inprimis 22 May | 6 layes

Item 18 July | 8 layes 22 layes

Item 22 October | 8 layes

APPENDIX IV

LEYE ORDERS, 1635–1636

5 May 1635
The eight men whose names are subscried fynding money to bee wantinge for the necessari occasions of and belonginge 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 throughoute the whole parish of Prescott afforesayd to be payde to the churchwardens as followeth the vidit 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.

Witness theire hands subscribed to this

John Allden vicar; James Worsley, Mathew Tickle, John Lyon, Richard Cowley

25 August 1635
The eight men whose names are subscried 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]
vicarr there and uppon motion of the churchwardens agreed and sett downe that six whole church leys shalbe forthwith taxed and levyed throughouthe the whole parish of Prescott afforesayde to be payd to the churchwardens as followethe \textit{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 their hands hereto subscribbed

John Allden vicarr; [M]athew Tickle, [James Wors]?/Richard Cow?]ley [\textit{remainder of names lost}]

[.]4 [December 1635]

[The eight men whose names are subscribbed fynding] money to be w[antinge]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 throughouthe the whole parish of Prescott afforesayd to be payd to the churchwardens at or before 1 Januari next. Witnes there hands hath subscribbed


9 Februari 1635

The eight men whose names are subscribbed fyndinge money to be w[antinge]e for the necessarie occasions of the parish church of Prescot have with the consent of Mr Allden viccar 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 \textit{viz} three whereof at or before 26 Februari next and the other three at or before 25 Marche next. Witnes there hands hereto subscribbed

GLOSSARY

Acquittance: full receipt, account, discharge
Alker (alder): tree whose wood resists water decay
Alley: pathway in churchyard, aisle in church
Anderutyde: 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

Bailiff/baleiff/balive (bailiff): sherriff’s officer, issuing writs, processes and distraints
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
Glossary

Ile: aisle
Indente: note of church goods, order, agreement
Injunction: authoritative order
Insuper: moreover, as mentioned above
Injure legis: by authority of law

Jill: see Gill

Lapp: faulty timber, lopped-off branches
Latts/Lattinge: timber laths, wooden strips for fastening slates
Leads/leads: upper levels in tower; leaded windows
Lentalls (lintels): timber or stone block over door or window
Leyes/leys/layes/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
Quieri 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 soler: 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
Soyer/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
Stoopes: 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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Places are in bold font. The names of frequently recurring townships and chapelries have not been included: Appleton, Bold, Cronton, Cuerdley, Ditton, Eccleston, Great Sankey, Parr, Penketh, Prescot, Rainford, Rainhill, Sutton, Whiston, Widnes, Windle, Farnworth and St Helens (St ‘Ellens’).

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