

## An Index of Walberswick Churchwardens' Accounts 1450-1499

These accounts were transcribed by the Revd R.W.M. Lewis, MA, FSA, a retired clergyman living in Walberswick, in 1947. He wrote a short introduction and a shorter glossary but compiled no index. The accounts are important for three main reasons. They are earlier than most Suffolk churchwardens' accounts (see Northeast 1982, p. 79 for a list), shedding light on the liturgy and workings of a parish church before the reformation. Secondly, they record many details concerning the construction of a large new church after the old one had been abandoned. Thirdly, on page 83, the accounts begin again in 1451 itemising the large income from fishing which enabled the inhabitants of Walberswick to build a 'fish church' on a grand scale, comparable with a contemporary 'cloth church' like Lavenham's. If the building accounts for the earlier church tower (see Lewis, p. vii) and bequests in wills are included, it should be possible to estimate the cost of building and fitting out a new church, one almost entirely paid for by its parishioners. The accounts are a potential source for anyone studying the Suffolk fishing industry of the period because many parishioners who up to page 82 are linked to typical churchwardens' business like the maintenance of books, candles and vestments, appear in the longer, second part of the book as owners and skippers of boats fishing as far as Iceland on one particular voyage and bringing great prosperity to the village. Pages 83-4 are written in Latin but English soon takes over, for words to do with fishing, building work etc. not found in Latin. There are over a thousand individuals named in these forty-nine years, the majority of whom were fishermen. Some of the names survive in probate lists (Grimwade 1979) and are noted here where likely to refer to them.

I have not indexed all the references to food and drink which were often a part-payment to craftsmen and labourers. I have used modern spellings for Christian names but surnames I have kept as transcribed by Lewis, giving the main variations of spellings. In the subject index in brackets immediately after unusual words is a glossary but there are many words which I have not understood in spite of consulting reference works at home. Adding the year and the cost of each item and the quantities of fish caught would have resulted in too crowded an index, so users need to consult Lewis's book for those. Curiously, there are no references to carpenters, boat builders or sail makers; nor are there indications of where the huge catches of fish went to. The builders of the church tower were given a barrel of herrings yearly in part payment.

The index was compiled during the corona virus 'lock-down' when some queries could not be pursued by consulting the original manuscript in Ipswich record office or indeed library reference books, but I hope the index will facilitate the use of the Walberswick accounts by researchers of medieval economic, social and church history. Some transcription and analysis with additional information is to be found in Thomas Gardner's *Dunwich* (1754), pages 144-86. The inventory of the church vestments etc made c. 1483 (Lewis, p. 199) is repeated at the end of my index. I am grateful to David Butcher of Lowestoft for his comments on fishing and fishing vessels, to Philip Kett of Walberswick for general comments and to Keith Briggs for advice on place-names.

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102; fishing 83, 110, in his own boat 91; received from, 200; his lane 79. (Gardner, p. 178 has 'Jetur's Street'. Probate 1471)

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Jenkyn, elder: for gate [going] to London 7

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Jyne, John: master in Robert Dolphyb's boat 138, 141

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Symnett: old debt to gild of Our Lady 161

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William: church cleaning 5; broom for the quay 60; master of William Wicless boat 87, in Potys great boat 93, in Thomas Paschelewes 119, 124, in Nicholas Byrds 141, in Thomas Bridds 147; in Thomas Byrds 154; received from 102; received from him and his wife 213

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## 2. SUBJECTS

The principal headings and sub-headings which are in bold type are: **Building materials. Buildings. Church of St Andrew, 1. Building and parts of building, 2. Furnishings and fittings, 3. Personnel, clerk, sexton, 4. Services and books. 5. Vestments and cloth, 6. Activities, uncertain words and festivals. Dyke and quay. Fishing. Food and drink. St John's House. Tradesmen and craftsmen.**

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Brom/browm [broom plant]: load of, 1, 9; to the hasne[?] 54; load to the keyze [quay; for plugging the gaps between the piles. Kett] 71

Bucket: for buckets and 2 hapys and for a soo 51

**Building materials.** *See also* Scaffolding, Tradesmen

Bricks. *See under* Tile, Waltyell

Cement. *See* Cerement *under* Church, Activities

Clay: 2, 22; load of, 79; cart full of 1, 12, 27, 76; and straw 3; clay and rushes 7, 13; hethe and cleye 11; cleyemen 11; clay, rushes and straw 54

Gravel. *See under* Quay.

Laths: for St John's House 12; for the aumbry 49; 1,000 lath nails 76. *See also* Lathysse[?].

Lead: 43, 75, 253\*, 256, 261; for carting and cost of 41; paid for lead 42-3; paid for 21 cwt of lead 75; for carting hoppe of the lead 41; 2 ledys[?] 253; small ledys for v[?] 253; white lead, 261. *See also* Plumber, Assize, Solder

Lime: 1-3, 14\*, 15, 20, pipe of lime vesselle, lime and carriage 22; 29, 34-5\*, 38, 47, 49, 51\*, 55, 57-8, 63, 66, 69; chaldyr [dry measure] of 70, 74, 76\*, 79, 81, 236\*, 240(x6), 245(x7), 249, 257; for 4 Tacyys[?] 71; from Norwich 42; 44; lym [for] tyll, 5; pipes of lime 7, 16, 22\*, 27\*, 77; sieve for 34; carts of 3, 8, 15, 16, 35?; for church house floor 11; loads of, for Mary Magdalene's enyns[?] 8; a sieve for 34

Nails: 1, 3\*, 9, 14; bolts and nayl for the quay 27; for palyng and nayll 43; 1,000 lath nails 76

Reed [thatch]: 20, 22\*, 43, 51, 54-5, 59, 61\*, 76, 223\*, 256\*, 257, 261; for the church 76; bought for church logge 3; scherynge [cutting] 13, 27\*, 51; carrying of 76; drawing of 76; dythyng [ditching?], 13; a fadym [fathom, a measure of reed, six bundles to a foot in diameter. Yaxley] of reed and half p's[?] 61; 4 fadym of reed 205; reed horyng 29; reed, rushes, straw and heather to the havynne 13; reed and nayl from Richard Buc 3; and rushes etc 13; ladder for the reeders 15; bynygys [bindings] and swathys/sweys [switch or pliable rod laid horizontally across a roof to secure the thatch. Yaxley] for thatching 17, 37, 43, 54; brooches and bynygys 50. *See also* Church repair, Heather

Reysse/Rushes/Rustches: 1, 3; reschys and broschys and workmens' hire 47; carriage of 7, 11, 14, 46, ton of 80; paid to the bailiff for 65; brochys, bindings and sweyths 14; mowing 14, 16, 46, 50; receipt for karftell of reysse 161. *See also* Reed

Sand: 10; carrying of 20, 35, 44, 67, 76; casting of 39, 40, 50-1, 53, 56-7, 76; loam and sand 80

Stone: 4, 132, 213; from old church 5, 56; cwt of 56\*; ton of 232; carriage of 15\*, 20, 22, 34, 39\*, 51, 66, 71\*; gathering of 67; carriage by boat 51; at Southwold 33; weighing 36; sawing 39, 47  
Black stone: 69; carrying and laying in the church 80\*

Flags [flagstones]: craveynge [carving] of, 15; for the church wall 16; for hire of Thomson for curing of the walls with 81

Flint stone: from Dunwich 39; by boat 51; for the porch 57; lime and flint 74

Freestone [limestone or sandstone which can be worked into blocks by a stonemason]: 2\*; 5, 28, 33\*-4\*, 57, 240; 8 tons of and freight 76; carrying of 55-6, 75-6; saw and file for 33; cart and hand barrow for 33; weighing of 50, 56; brought by ship 35, 37\*-9\*; for steeple 66; ton of 220  
Gonstonys/Gouestones/Gu'stonys [gutter stones?]: making of 6, 7, 54

Tiles: 14, 17, 26, 56, 76, 236, 245; from Melton[?] 71; loads of, 8\*; 1,000 tiles 16; for 3,400 tiles 35; carting of, 38, 44-5; tile pins 8, 11; tyell and for schottyng and other gear 8; broken tile 114; chawk tyell [clunch?], waltyell [bricks] 8, 1000, 75; offe [oven?] tyell 8; for kuryng of walls 77; thaktyle [roof tiles] 49, 2,000, 71; carried from Blythforth, 76; from abbot of Leiston, 9; 500 tiles for chapel 44; 500 tiles for golman [?] 44; tiles for the lodge 92; tiles for St John's house 11; 2,040 roof teyls 59

Paving tiles and their carriage 13; 100 of, 14; 18, 33\*, 43-4, 47, 54-5, 57\*; money for paving stone 80; mending of 63, 66, 69, 75, 79, 80; nine tiles after a burial 198

Timber: 38\*-9, 76, 256; to the quay 4, 75; wainscot 5, 51, 77; spars [rafters] 39, 56, 73, 76, 80, 173; 2 planks and 1 spar 182; spars on the north and south sides 76\*; heggeynge [hauling?] wode to church house 11, to clerk's garden 17; plank and timbers for quay 24, 44; from the country 35\*,

37\*; carrying of, from hewnhalle 54; plank received for church 182; timber received for church 186. *See also* Bollys, Tree

**Buildings.** *See* Church of St Andrew, Chapel, Church House, Church Lodge, Henham Lodge, Old Church, St John's House, Shop

Bolts, nails. *See under* Dyke

Bulwark/s: making of, and all things 27; beer spent at 50; bread for (workers at) 63 (Gardner p.179)

Bottys. *See under* Church

Brasses. *See* braces *under* Bells

Burial: 136, 182, 198, 256. *See also* Cement *under* Activities

Butcher's wife: 10

Butts [tubs?]: making of the 47. *See also* Soo (or targets for archery in Gardner p. 164, *recte* p. 180)

Bynygys and swathys [for thatching?]. *See* reed thatch *under* Building materials

C [hundredweight or coomb a measure of 4 bushels]: 20. *See also* Hundred

Calyse [lime fertiliser]: received for town ground 201

Cart/Cowrte, cart-loads: 1, 5, 12, 15, 16, 24, 27, 33, 35(?), 38-9, 41, 44-5, 76, 161; cart wheel 1, 60(?). *See* Gun cart [carriage], Hand cart, Blythburgh priory

Carters: 9\*, 35\*, 43, 60

Carvel. *See* Ship

Castell reyt[?]: 223

Causeway: mending of 26

Cerie [*serura*, a lock?]: 1

Chaldyr [chaldron, a dry measure of varying capacity. Dymond]. *See* Lime

Chamber: year's rent for, from Thomas Draper at Martyllmes [St Martin's] 268

Chapemen [traders]: shops of the gild house of 114

Cheppys. *See* Sheep

Child/children: 3, 31, 63, 182; child's bier 30, 82; child's surplice 5

Chongyn [change?]: 1

**Church of St Andrew: (1) Building and parts of building, (2) Furnishings and fittings, (3) Personnel, (4) Services and books, (5) Activities and uncertain words.** *See also* Old church (Gardner p. 152).

**(1) Building and parts of building:**

Aisle: work on roof of 75\*; making 16 yards of battlements on 75

Battlements: cost of with windows 77. *See* Aisle

Bottys [buttresses?]: making of 65

Casting. *See* Plastering

Chancel: mending of 27; chancel window pane 28; hawnssyng off[?] the 41; holy water stoup at door of 82

Chapel: 500 tiles for 44; payment at the general chapel 58

Chapetyl [carved stone capital?]: 74

Church gate: iron for 2; mending of, 16; post for 72. *See also* Church house at, Shop at.

Church house, at church gate: 11\*; repair of 69-71, 73; hedging 69; dressing the well stage at 82; receipt for church houses 117

Church land: renewing of copies of church's bond of 24; rent from 85, 178

Church loge/loyg [lodge]: 3; reeding and thatching, and for sheathes and bindings 3\*; taking down the reed of 56; board bought for floor of 3; labouring at 13; tile for 92

Church yard: labour in 5; making a sink in 64; curing the walls of 248. *See also* Priest's chamber

Corssys [corses or shafts. Salzman, p. 557]: making of the 48

File. *See below*, Saw

Flagging. *See* Pavement (Flags can also be peat slabs for fuel.)

Floor. *See* Pavement

Grayffe/Grave stone: 9; laying on a grave 25. *See also* Stone

Gouestones/Gutter stones: making of 6, 42; dressing of 48

Iron/Ironwork for church: 75, 77, 79, 80

Lady Chapel: window board 3; iron for window of 14; tabernacle painting of Our Lady 22\* (see Gardner, p. 153); altar cloths and frontals 27; tallow for the Mary 31; candle prickets 72

Latrine. *See under* Priest's chamber

Loft. *See* Vestry

Oil: 77, 240; for the steeple p'c' 1; gallon of 57

Pavement/Pament: in the church 4, 13, 55, 57; mending of 3, 4, 6, 20, 49, 71, 75, 78, 80-1; in the porch, 4; 200 tiles 57

Plastering [casting]: of the church 48

Porch: 4 iron bolts for 57; flint for 57; making 53; painting of 56; planchering of 56; pavement in 4, 15; paid for making roof of 51; rushes for 51; glazing the windows 57; money lent for 65; inventory of room above 199; gift for 217\*; contents of loft over 199. *See also* Reentre (See Gardner p. 156 for making of the porch.)

Priest's chamber: for making of easements [privy] in 33; mending gutter of 56; repair of sink and sege [privy seat] in 82

Reentre for the entryng [inner doorway of porch?]: 82

Repairs: 10; to eaves 15; for reed, clay and men's hire 63; with reed, rushes, brochys, herys and bording 70

Roof: mending of the reed of 9; cleaning of 69, 71, 73, 79; dytyng [preparing] side of 75

Rygyng, church: straw for 13 (Ridging the apex of the roof with straw and patterning it with broches and bindings. Kett)

Sacristry: 8, 9\*

St Christopher's window: mending by glass wright 58

[St] Mary Magdalene: paid to tiler of her enyns [irons?] 8

St Walston [Wulfstan]: his (chapel) window (from the old church, Gardner p. 152) mended 66

Saw and file: for free stone 33

Selyng [ceiling]: money received in town gathering for painting of 78; money for painting crucifix and ceiling 80

Shafts. *See* Corssys

Spars [rafters]. *See* Timber *under* Building materials

Steeple [tower]: board for door in 2; mason's work, glazier's work and carrying of lime 12; gilding 8 fanes to 1\*; mending a fane 5; oil to 1; steeple turrets, iron cramps for 5; a webbe for lead on 26; glasier, for mending windows on 47, 58, 66; paving of 55; cleaning 67

Vestry: work on, by masons and glass wrights 28; whitewashing of 68; inventory of contents 199. *See also* Loft

Vice [a winding stair-case. Gardner, glossary]: making steps of vice onto candle beam 81-82\*

Wall/walls: flaggs for 16, 81; flaging of 50, 54; mason for plastering of 42; cleaning of 17; kuryng

[repairing] of 42, 62, 81, 248; dressing of 42\*; keryyng/kuryng of 42, 77; making of 27, mending of 54, 82; wrying[?] of 26-7, 33

Windows: making of windows 77; glazing of 9; glazing of south window 76; mending of 7, 14, 17, 27\*, 32-3\*, 47-8, 51, 55-6, 58, 63-4, 66\*, 71, 73, 79, 80\*, 82, 212; mending of west window glass 50; mending of St Christopher's window 58; mending of St Walston's window 66; eryllyns [irons, *feramenta?*] to the 43; hole in window for sexton 58; taking down of 37; reparation of church windows 77. *See* Gathering, Glass wright *below*, Lady Chapel, Porch, St Mary Magdalene enyns.

## (2) Furnishings and fittings

Altar/s: 1, 13; cleaning of 51; altar cloths 70\*, 199\*; seen[?] the altar 1; hallowing cloths 70. *See also* Lady Chapel, Reterclothes *under* Vestments. (The surviving stone on the present high altar is likely to have come from one of these altars.)

High altar: mending canopy of 3, 73; cloth of black buckram for 3; altar cloths and frontals 4, 27; hoot [shot?] nails for high altar cloth 3; rowell at laver at 1; tapers for 13; hanging picture at 66\*

Low altar: 2 mats for, 4

St John altar: painting of the crest of 56

St Nicholas altar: cloth for 29; for sheylle[?] on 48

Aumbry [almery]: laths and hinges for 49; making of 49

Awning [owryng, *or* covering?]: making of, over (chapel of) SS Andrew and John 50

Bell/s: 1, 6, 21, 24-5\* 63; dressing of 62\*, 77, 79, 82; gifts towards 129\*, 139\*; hallowing of, 26 139\*; mending of 14, 15, 21. *See also* Curfew bell, Deuture (indenture)

Brasses [braces] for: 38\*, 48

Baudrees/Baldrick [strap to attach clapper]: making 3; leather for 18; white leather for 15, 21, 27

Bell wheel: payment for 38. *See also* Sanctus bell

Day bell: ringing of 63

Founder/Maker: full payment for 3 bells 20; payment for new bell 21; full payment 22

Great bell: making clapper for 15, 20; making wheel for 29; mending of knepyll of 20, 73; stocking, 21; dressing 71

Ironwork for: 20-1, 28, 31, 70-1, 81

Knepyll [clapper]: 23, 26, 33, 34, 48; new knepyll 27; belknepyll maker 62. *See also* Great bell.

Leste [last or least?] bell: full payment to the founder 24; transport of 24

Little bell: 21; knepyllis and bolster of the new 21; timber, workmanship and hanging of 25\*; transport: of 21\*

Rolynes [rollers?]: two, to weigh the bell with 4

Rope/s: 45, 62, 65-6, 73, 79, 81-2; eka [hook] for a 3; knieff for the 4; two staftis[?] for the 5; new 4

Sanctus bell: making a wheel for 21

Stocks 21, 27, 63; bolts for stock and a pan 63; lokyng to 79; tending to 69; trussing 14, 65

Bier: mending of 7, 14; making of 14; making of child's bier 30, 82

Box, church (sometimes called town box): money left in the 16, 23, 25-6, 59, 118, 126, 142, 160, 167, 174, 182, 186, 193, 205, 216, 219, 227, 231, 239, 244, 247\*, 252, 259, 268. *See also* Cask, Chest

Brasses [braces]. *See under* Bells

Candle/s: 48, 77\*, 80; for feast of St Andrew 3; 15, 17, 34; watched by clerk 1, 2, 15, 17. *See also*

Lamp, Rowell, Tapes, Torch

Candlesticks: 17, 26, 256; cleaning and mending of 2, 6, 14, 27, 31, 37, 42-3, 48, 50, 54-5\*, 58, 65, 69\*, 76, 78-9, 81\*, 125; cleaning of latten candlesticks 24, 26; mending of the silver 51; bags for candlesticks 26; kaas [case] for the silver candlesticks 77; candlesticks of St Andrew 26; great candlesticks and harness, cleaning of 66

Candle beam: 256; cleaning of 51; dentorys [indentures] for 33, 69; vice fixed to, for curing of walls 81; masons and labourers making vice steps to 82

Candelabrum: 3

Coton candel[?]: for space of three years 5

Dishes: 6, to set altar candlesticks on 7

Pascal [candle]: watching over Easter night 1; rop[e] to 5

Preketys [prickets] for candles in Lady Chapel 72

Sepulchre candles: kept by clerk 6

Standardis [tall candlestick]: at horflys 1; making of 30; making again at All Hallows mass and wax 11

Tallow: 31; 4 lb tallow candle 80

Tapys/Tapyys/Tapprys [tapers]: 5\*, 13, 14, 17, 27, 33, 46-7, 61, 112, 182, 194(x5), 198, 205\*, 212\*-3\*, 216\*-17(x6); making of 56; tapur syluyr [silver?] 117, 219\*, 223; 227, 232\*; 245(x8), 249\*, 261\*

Cask: 240

Censer/s: silver cup of, and the incense ship, mending 4, 17, 48, 68; cleaning 48\*; soldering 48; chains for 17\*; case for 20; changed at London 76; latten 64, 79; *See also* Silver.

Chalys/Shalys [chalice]: changing of, 66 mending 68; case for 13; pair of silver 199; washing of, by clerk 125

Chest: mending lock of 24; lock and key for, 45, 56. *See also* Box, Case

Chimes [for clock]: ironwork for 26\*, 28; weer/were [wire connected to the clock?] for, 30, 78, 82; sheeting of the plobbe [lead clock weights?] for 82

Clock: 1-3, 65, 78\*, 82; mending 56, 69, 73; iron for, 21; 24-5; wire for 4; board: for the grate of 5. *See also* Chimes (*See* Middleton-Stewart, p. lv.)

Clock: door and canopy making, and bradys teth and boke 7

Clock maker and labour: 2-4\*; 7, 13, 44, 62\*, 65

New clock: by John Payn of Southwold 73

Co'ed [*comedium*, feast of] St Andrew: candelabrum for 3

Comnawict[?]. *See* Crucifix

Cross/es: paid for making 29; mending 14; by goldsmith 57; mending of latten crosses 51. *See also* Town cross

Crucifix: cloth in front of 69\*, 80; comnawict[?] made for 71; bringing home and setting up 77\*; full payment for painting of ceiling and crucifix 80

Cruets: 5, 17

Curtain: mending 23; making fringe for 26

Cushion. *See under* Vestments

Deskysse. *See* Stalls

Door: making, 54; key for 24; holy water stoup at chancel door 82

Font: mending 15; gear that went to 27. (The present font looks to have come from the earlier

church.)

Gear [stuff; *where associated with washing and mending see under Vestments.*]: schottyng and other gear 8; pyx and other gear 58; straw and other gear 11; sundry gear 37; bells and other church gear 71; gear for the font 27

Hearse: for burial, 198; for Easter sepulchre [wooden housing in the north side of the chancel in which bread representing Christ's body was kept from Maundy Thursday until Easter Day. Middleton-Stewart] 16, 17, 31, 33, 37, 42-3, 50, 54-5, 69, 71, 76, 78-9; lamuce and satin hearse cloth 199. *See also* Bier, Stage, Wax

Holy bread stoup: 17. *See also* Skeppys

Holy water: stoup, 17, 42; dressing of, at chancel door 78, 81-2; mending 79

Hosys [hoist?]: making of, to the cloth in front of the rood 3

Images: at high altar 66; painting of Our Lady 22, 65, making base for 22; cleaning of pictures 15; dressing of 72; money for St John's tabernacle 33; dentos [indenture] making for the same 33; removynd [renovating? *See* Falvey 2020, p. 51] of King Henry's taball 79; peytyng of Kyng Harry tabyll 261; St George: 44, 47, irons and wires for the picture of St George 45; cloth for 46. *See also* Awning, St John, St Thomas. (Dowsing's men 'brake down 40 superstitious pictures' in 1643.)

Key: for church door 24, 55\*; for chest 45; sprewss [pine chest?] key 56; payment for breaking 125

Kopys. *See* Copes *under* Vestments

Lamp: cleaning of, 44, 55, 66, 69, 78, 81

Lamuce: for the sepulchre 199 (Lamentations? Gardner p. 158 reads 'Lamide' which he glosses 'seems to have been a mourning vestment or vessel'.)

Lantern: 23, 26, 63; at London 3; making of 30, 60; mending 12, 54; horning[?] of 66

Lavinre basyis [laver basins]: cleaning of 24. *See also* High altar, Quire. (A number of laver basins survive in the the church ruins where there were once altars.)

Lectyn [lectern]: making of 47

Locks: mending 4, 24, 55, 64; 2 locks from smith of Halesworth 58. *See also* Key

Mats: in the church 82

Organ/s: paid for making 31; mending 20, 24, 49\*, 64-5, 77; stowryng of pipes of 47; dressing of 50, 77; relmevyng[?] 65; shelter for organ making 60; leather for 73; 3 pipes 75

Owryng. *See* Awning

Pins: 11

Piscina. *See* laver basin

Pylwe. *See under* Vestments

Pyx: 58; silk lace for 4; little ropes for 4; 2 silk pyx cloths 199; hallowing of at Blythburgh 4; mending 37

Quire: cleaning laver basin in 17. *See also* Stalls

Retable: 2 reterclothes [retable cloths] in vestry loft 199

Rode [rood]: making the hosys [hoist?] to cloth in front of 3; work on, by Matthew Home 59; cleaning 65

Rowall/Ruell [wheel-shaped chandelier. Lewis, Gardner]: filling of 3, 9, 11-14, 17, 24, 47-8; wax for 5. *See also* Tortys. (The lower half of the rood screen with its doors survives in the church.)

Saints Andrew and John: owring [covering? Gardner p. 153 Cwrynge] over 50

St John's tabernacle: 33\*, 68; binding for edges of St John's cloth/clothes 67\*

St Thomas [altar or chapel?]: mending, 68; pycyng of the wall for 57



Sepulchre [Easter]: mending 15; iron for, 17; dyed cloth for 199; watching 1, 44; *See also* Candles, Hearse

Stalls/Steyles: mending quire stalls 2; setting of 42; making 44; pinning of 55; pennyth [fixing?] the deskysse 44; making the desks 50; dressing desks 65. (Some 15th-century quire stalls survive.)

Steyles. *See* Stalls

Tabell/Tabernacle: *See* Image

Throne [bishop's throne?]: and making other ironwork 68

### **(3) Personnel**

Archdeacon: visit of 63

Bishop (James Goldwell, 1472-99): his presence, 79; dinner 60, 65-6, 68, 80; dinner and gallon of wine 63; dinner and horse meat 71, 73. *See also* Throne

Suffragan bishop (Florence Wulley OSB, bishop of Clogher, 1478-1500): his dinner 48, 58; and for al [ale?] costs 49; visit of 51, 55-6; at church ale 198. (For a list of the wining and dining of the two bishops and the archdeacon on their visits see Gardner, p. 164.)

Chaplain: paid to Robert for Rome scot 3

Church masters: 16; accounts made by church masters 108, 111, 118, 126, 200

Church reeve: 25, 32, 85, 231, 238, 252, 257, 259, 268. *See* John Almingham, John Boty, Thomas Brown, Thomas Paschelew, John Pynne, John Poty

Church threuwys [three wardens?]: 213

Church chreywys [treasurers?]: 197

Church warden/s: 14, 26, 182, 216, 219. *See also* Church masters, Church threuwys

**Clerk:** 6\*, 20, 59, 79; back payment 23, 24; paid at Michaelmas 7, 9, 11; paid at Christmas 7, 9; paid at Easter 7, 9, 14; paid at midsummer 8; paid to the new clerk for wax 37; for dinner on St Andrew's Day 75; Southwold clerks' drinking 77. *See also* Richard, John Carlton the old clerk, John Rushmere

corde[?] for the clerk 12; filling the rowall 11\*, 12; washing and cleaning the church, the candel etc 13, 15, 17, 20, 22, 24, 26-7, 71, 76, 80; mending books 22, 73; wait [band of musicians] to fette the clerk for his labour 27; noting [setting to music] of the prekys [prayers] song book 50; noting and writing the service book of Our Lady 51 (see Middleton-Stewart, p. xlii); making of a quire for the new feasts for stuff and for writing and noting 68; for writing new festival services 75; for stonnyng[?] of the kopys [copes] 77

his wife: for washing and cleaning 13, 15, 17\*, 20; making surplices 13, 33; mending vestments 15, 22\*

his house 14, 20, 65, 80; rent, 59, 60, 65, 71\*, 76; door to 22

his garden 13, 17; making his hagge [hedge?] 17, 27; his well 29; paid for wood in the clerk's yard 125

Deacon: Nicholas, money received from 102

Priest: for wax 16; priest child 31; parish priest 216. *See* Sir Alexander, Sir Harry Barbowr, Sir John Colman, Sir Edmund, Sir Ewes, Sir John Ffyld, Sir John, Sir Laurens, Sir Robert Mason, Sir John Pyntys, Sir John Rooke, Sir John Wilkinson, Sir William, Little Sir William. *See also* Chaplain. *See note on list of vicars at end of index.*

Questmen [churchwardens' assistants]: 79\*; paid to, for the town 5; to pay Rome scot 24, 75; their dinners paid 68, 75; James Symson and Patrick Alan 81

Reader: 6, 37, 62; for dressing of the church 49. *See also* Reed thatcher

**Sexton:** William Carter, 55, 62; new sexton 67\*; going to Master Brandon's 55; pycyng[?] the wall for St Thomas 57; hole in the window for 58; cleaning candlesticks 58, 63, 65-6, 68, 73; cleaning church 71; cleaning steeple 67; for a bell rope 62; for half a skin 73; for chimes and feyng [cleaning out] of the grate 62, reward for ringing the day bell 63; ringing the curfew bell 65, 68\*; watching the (sepulchre) hearse 63, 65-6, 68, 73; at Christmas that he was lasstyn off hysper'[vesper?] 65

Quarterly payments to: 55\*, 58-9, 62\*, 67; at Lady Day, 56, 63, 65, 68, 71; at Easter 66; at Michaelmas 65, 67, 77; at midsummer 56, 58-9, 63, 65-6, 68; at Christmas 61-2, 67-8, 236.

*See also* Richard Howlet, Edmund Wryth

#### **(4) Services and books**

Books: Binding and mending: 2, 8, 9, 17, 22\*, 27, 37, 56, 65, 70, 73; making clasps and bindings 22; book skins 50; deerskin for 23; parchment for 34; sheepskin for 23, 39; for senyys [possibly the Great Sentence, words of excommunication read in church four times a year. Middleton-Stewart] for the books 68

Antiphoner 8, 9; brenyng [binding?] of 14

Book/s: cost of from Sir John Walter 35; for the new festivals 75; turning and flourishing the letters of 70; writing in the [accounts?] book 82

Frankincense/Incense: 3-5, 8, 9, 13, 14, 17, 20, 26-7, 34, 50, 64, 69, 70, 73, 76, 78-9, 81-2; 2lb at London 3, 29. *See also* Schepe

Grayle [gradual]: red 32

Manual, made for Sir Edmund [priest] 3

Mass book: paid for closing [clasp] of 80

Paper: 68; 2 quires of 50

Pax [board with representation of crucifixion kissed by priest and congregation during mass.

Middleton-Stewart]: paid to Robert Gardener for two 50

Psalter. *See* Sawtrey

Pye [*pica*, a book of direction for observing correct services throughout the year] 76

Processionaries: 4 and for their weper [mourner?] 30; binding of, and clasp 75

Sawtreys/Sawtyr [psalter]: 2; and other things 71; from William Kowper 253

Schepe [vessel for incense]: 2, 17, cleaning 66

Service book for Our Lady, writing and noting [setting words to music] 50, 51, 55

Service of our Lord, setting home of the new 63

Skeppys: 2, for holy bread 66. *See also* Stoup

Song book/s, parchment for 34; clerk paid for noting the 50, 68

Tallow. *See* Candles *under* Furnishings

Tapers. *See under* Candles

Thread. *See below under* Vestments

Torch/Tortys: 4, 15, 17, 20, 22, 28, 47, 65, 67, 142, 194\*, 198, 205, 245\*, 249; and wax making for 8, 16, 50

Vellum: 4 leaves of, 50; from Richard Mellar 73; for a book 77

Wax: 4, 8, 9, 11\*, 13, 14, 17, 20\*, 22\*, 24, 26\*, 31, 34, 37, 39, 42-4, 46, 48\*-50\*, 63, 65, 71, 73, 76-81, 121\*, 240\*; at London 3, 22, 55, 66; trying of, 54; to priest for 16, 22; for sepulchre 199; and incense for All Hallows 3. *See also* Eke *under* William Cok

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 Loud [land]: the ton loud and the scharenys toen[?] paid by Richard Breton 2  
 Lowm/Loym/Lyome [lime or loam?]: for the quay 24; cost of carting from Norwich 39; paid to the keelman 39; loam and sand 80  
 Lyng. *See under* fishing  
 Magister/Master: Maistris of the boats 153\* *Search* Master *in Index of names*  
 Maidens: money gathered by, left over after painting of King Henry's picture 261  
 Malt: for church ale 46; for greynyng of 46; for May gathering 219  
 Mawd tre/Mawndtre [tray? A maund was a wicker basket. Dymond, *VCH* p. 291, Yaxley. Possibly a large, heavy wooden mallet. Butcher]: a tre that was a 20; receipt for 162  
 May [Day celebrations]: bread and drink when Blythburgh May was here 65-6, 69, 73, 81; malt for May gathering 219; money gathered at May dinner for King Henry's picture 261; gathering of torches for 223; church ale for 236, 249  
 Miller of Blythburgh: for his horse 47  
 Money: for 5s. of bad money and good money, money for to chongyn [change?] 1; for safe keeping 20; a bad piece of gold received 182  
 Mos[?]: 223

Mowing: of heather and leying to qyddyr 13; of heather to the keze [to hold in the backfill like the broom, *q.v.* Kett] 68; mowing of rushes and carrying of clay 13

Nayll [nail]. *See under* Building materials

Net. *See under* Fishing

Old church: carriage of stone from 5; money received 'when they broke down the church' 161 (It was taken down in 1473. Gardner, p. 152)

Palyng: paid, and for nayll 43

Panne[?]: stocks and a 76

Paternys [slippers or overshoes for priests to wear in church in cold weather]: 4 sheep skins for 34

Petty ransom: at Lowestoft 2

Phuesthon [fustian]. *See under* Vestments

Pipe. *See* Pype [measure of lime]

Planchering [construction of floors. Dymond]. *See under* Church, porch

Plasse [place, property?]: 268

Pley't and other costs. *See* Nicholas Mellar

Poleyn [pulley]. *See under* Well

Ponde/Pondres [pound weight]: 2\*, kech for 2\*; making end for 2; at Blythburgh for 2\*

Pot. *See* Kettle

Prison/Prisoners: 44, 48, 50, 71 (There is likely to have been a lock-up at Walberswick. Kett)

Pype, empty[?]: 161. *See* Lime, Organ

**Quay** (Keye). *See above* Dyke, Haven

Quayage: Alexander Richardson for 261; man of Orford for 261

Quitans [relief of debt]: making 9

Ransom: petty, at Lowestoft 2

Raufare[?]: received off Wiliam Alwyn for 156

Reder. *See* Reader *under* Church or Reed thatcher *under* Building materials

Reffe, second, solvyng Hary's reyne[?]: 125

Remembrance: 111, 114

Rent: 5-7, 11, 12, 14, 17\*, 20, 22, 25-6, 30, 36, 49, 57, 60-3\*, 65, 67-8, 71-73, 75, 77\*, 80, 82, 114, 125, 129, 136\*, 139, 156, 173, 178, 194, 198, 201, 232, 249, 253\*, 256\*-7\*, 261\*, 268\*; for halzer [half year] 65. *See also* Bailiff, Margaret Hoyst, Town land

Retirement: of William Haswel, John Mechel and Thomas Comber 168

Rushes. *See* Reeds *under* Building materials

Schakke [gleened grain etc for feeding pigs. Yaxley]: 132

**St John's House**: for land rent and fine 7; laths for 7, 12; digging of clay for 7\*; carrying 2 loads of tile to 8; thaking [roof] tile sent to 8, 12; tiles 27; tiler/s at 12, 30, 33, 50, 57; floor 11; making of walls 8; derpinge [daubing?] of the door of 55, of the east end of the wall of 9; for clay and daubing 31; for dyztyng of 20; masons' work at 14; work at 9, 20, 32; making a mawatre[?] for the chimney, 10; making of the well and well port 12; tiles from Dunwich for 11; making of trustullys [trusses, timber framing or for roof?] 25; to the pyp[?] for wryyng[?] and daubing 12; rent to the bailiff 4, 7, 12, on SS Simon and Jude's Day 9\*; payment to John Mannyng on St Stephen's Day for expenses there 9; for repair of house, all costs 68; receipt for shop at 125, 132

Sakkes[?]: payment when Master Townsend when was here at 49

Scaffolding: staging timber 2; hurdles for staging 2; 2 dozen 37; 38; making hurdles 3; hurdles for the church 56. *See also* Alder

Schere. *See* Sheriff

Sevterolle [*severia rotalis*, wheelbarrow?]: making of 4. *See also* Hand cart

Sewthe[?]: belonging to Yarmouth 44

Seyve of Vater [water filter. Kett] 125

Sheep: cheppys[?], 161; skin 23, 39; for paternys [priest's slippers] 34

Sheriff: tour 5, 6; amercement paid to 66; paid to, for 2 men led to prison 71

Ship: Keche's barge 2; master of, paid for bringing stone 35; paid to men of the kele 35; paid to the keylman [bargeman] for flint and lime 51; 223, 227. *See also under* Fishing

Shop: daubing of middle wall of 23; money from the deacon for, at church gate 99; money for, of St John's house 125; receipt from the clerk for 117; rent for shop of St Andrews 136

Shovel: 5; shovel shafts 37

Silver. *See* Candlestick, Censer, Hanborwe [Hamburg?]

Skor [score]. *See under* Fishing, nets

Sobyr[?]: 156

Solder: soll 43\*; sowdyng leed 253, 256; solder for censer 48

So/Soo [shed. Lewis. But tub more likely as on p. 13]: 51; hooping of 13\*, 76; to Thomas

Sope [soap, soup or supper?]: received in payment 96

Soul [of the departed]: 85\*, 88\*, 92\*, 96\*, 99\*, 102\*, 107, 117, 121, 125, 136, 139, 173

Sovtherand: the too sovtherand 112 (*Cf* Northerne 126.)

Spelutys [spelts?]: paid for 56

Spenette [spernet]. *See* Net *under* Fishing

Spernes [wooden props. Butcher]: receipt of two 205

Stackysse[?]: for carrying of 17

Stage: for the hearse, and boarding 79

Stall bots[?]: suit of, from London 65

Stockslew [stockyard or pound? Kett]: cart at 5

Stocks. *See* Bell, Gun

Suit of Court: commuted to cash payment 30; for stall boats 65

Swey [switch]: paid for 17

Taball/Tablet. *See* Picture

Tapes. *See under* Fishing

Tapys/Tapyys. *See* Tapers *under* Church

Tenement: sold to John Baret. *See under* Blythburgh

Tinkers. *See* Tynkerys

Tock'n[?]: to London for the 46

Towe: for spars, a bord and a 80 (possibly flax or hemp twine used in making ropes. Butcher. Frayed tarred rope used to plug gaps in ship timbers. Kett)

Town: 26, 44; gathering in the town 78; township 227. *See also* Bailiff, Box, Dole, Dolphinby, Thomas Paslew, Blythburgh, Gunpowder, Hurdles, Prisoners, Quay

Town cross: making of 182. *See* William Savage. (In Fish Street, according to Gardner, p. 180. The base of a stone cross is now outside the church porch.)

Town dole [fish tax paid to church at end of fishing season. Butcher; *VCH* p. 291]: of John Palmer

61, 227; of Thomas Bowe 126; of Sawnder Richardson, 219; of Gymyngham 223; of William Clayn' 223; of John Crakynthorpe 223; constitution of dole 227; money from John Almyngham and John Dyyson for dole 268, from John Manning and Clayce Brown 124; William Aswell pays 163

Town land: 5, 125; rent of, and fyene 7; 14, 17, 18, 39\*, 41\*, 43\*, 46-8, 50, 53, 55, 57, 59, 60, 129, 136\*, 139\*, 155, 161, 173, 178, 183, 194, 256-7, 261, 268\*; under Sohamnburrs Close 136; taking up of, 'be hennys 4d, 4d fyne' 82; rent for east end of 114; received for calysse [lime] laying on the town ground 201; rent for land Richard Ballard heynys[?] 268

Town mos/mus[?]: 221, 223

**Tradesmen and Craftsmen** (no references to carpenters). *See also* Building materials, Smith

Glass wright/Glasuer/Glazier: 5\*, 9, 11, 12, 17, 20, 27\*-9, 38, 40-2\*, 47-8, 50-1, 55-6, 58\*, 63-4, 66\*, 71, 73, 79, 80\*, 82, 212; of Norwich 43; pewter for 5; hole made in window for sexton 58

Mason: 1\*, 12, 14, 15\*, 22, 26, 33, 42, 44, 49, 56\*, 62\*; sarvays[?] of the masonys 80; wax and rosyn to the 1, 5; wode to the mason 5; plastering and dressing of church walls 42\*; mending of church walls 54; making gu'stonys 7; making the vice onto beam 82; mending of the gutter on the priest's chamber 56; paid for work on day of St John's nativity 8, on day of nativity of St Mary 10; paid at St Andrew's time 11; paid on Pentecost even 56, for pathyng in the church 44, 55; for breaking down the wall where St George stands and carrying out the material 44; for St John's house 14; for laborys graveynge and mowynge of rushes 16; making statue base 22; going to Boston 34-5; for the bryd[?] 47. *See* Robert Antell, Henry Pays, William

Plasterer: plasterer's hawk 54. *See under* Masons, Church wall

Plumber: paid to 41\*, 42\*, 75; wode [wood?] for 82; paid at London 43; for the steeple 26; dressing the roof 76; work on the bell 26. *See also* Lead

Reeder [reed thatcher]: 3, 10\*, 13, 17, 22, 39, 43, 49\*, 62, 76\*; reeder for mending 3, 27\*; paid to thaxter, his man and Katherine Stowene's son 46; for thaxter, a man's hire and broches [*as next*] 47; for carrying of reed from Blythburgh and bynygys [thatch binding twigs. Yaxley], mowing and carrying of rushes 50; thatching the porch 53; paid for redyng the church 54; for taking down reed on the lodge 56

Smith. *See* Robert Byrd, John Donning, Halesworth, William Lyell, John Payn, Robert, Rumburgh, Southwold. *See also* Goldsmith

Tiler: hire of 8\*, 11, 76, from Bruisyard 77; ferryng of 8; labourers serving 8; at St John's House 30, 50; tile makers 35

Wriths/wryghtys/Writs [some of them evidently carpenters]: 56; of St John's house 4; 7\*, 9, 28, 35-7\*, 39, for taking down timber, setting up stalls and dressing the walls 42\*; for the bellows 63; for cutting spars on north and south sides and dressing the roof 76\*; board and lodging 76\*-7

Transport: ferryng 1\*, 73; of masons 8; of tiler 8\*; hire of horse 21; stone brought by ship 35, 51\*. *See also* Barge, Cart, Ketches, Wagon, Henry, Thomas M'ke, Melton

Trayour man: died at the haven 132. *See* Crayer *under* Boats *under* Fishing

Tre/Tree: payd blakk eze for a tre [?] 38; from Thomas Nun, 96. *See* Maund tre

Trysstyll [trestle]. *See under* Gun

Tuelffester[?] and a sperling net. *See under* Fishing

Tunallys [funnels]: paid for 79

Turney. *See* Attorney

Twynyys [twins?]: of Watyyr Alward 178

Tynkerys [tinkers], the: mending pyx and other gear by 58. (There are several places with the name

Tinker west of the present village.)  
 Uixide [Latin for witsuntide?]: 85  
 Vasschewe. *See* Vessel *under* Fishing  
 Vetayl [victual]. *See under* Food and drink  
 Yeoman: Thomas Baret 83  
 Wagon: hire of 20  
 Wat' [er?]: bearing of 1. *See also* Butt (for water?)  
 Wayte [band of musicians, community funded]: to the wayte to sette the clerk for his labour 27;  
 received of the wayte for the house 257; paid to for 2 chywys [shows] 51; a reward paid to 80  
 Wax: for syment to mason 1; wax and roseyn [resin?] 5\*. *See also under* Church  
 Wekery. *See* St Thomas Chapel *under* Church  
 Well: 46; sinking of 51; making of, and well port at St John's house 12; 17; poleyn [pulley] for the  
 well 39; clay for 79; repair of 79. *See also under* Church house, Clerk's house  
 Wetayl [wheat ale?]: at John de Hoo 2  
 Weyel. *See* Well  
 Wheat: 9 coombs of, for grinding, fetching home and baking 29  
 Wife/Wives: give for a glass window 256. *See* Margaret Amringale, John Aylward, Nicholas Brown,  
 Thomas Ceeton, Cleyvar(?), Richard Combarre, John Edwin, Margaret Fuller, Lyeyl Harry, Aves  
 Jolle, John Manning, John Mellar, Thomas Palmer, Thomas Paslew, William Payne, Margaret Rowe,  
 William Wenne, John Wolward, Burial of, Butcher's, Clerk's, Sexton's, Meat  
 Woman: money received in devotion for her friend's soul 117; friends' souls 121, Barbara 261\*.  
*See also* Lavander, Maidens  
 Wood: 29. *See* Timber *under* Building materials  
 Workmen/Labourers: 1, 3, 4, 8\*, 9\*, 11, 16, 20, 22, 27, 35, 47, 54\*, 59-60\*, 62, 75, 82  
 Wretn. *See under* Fishing  
 Wryyng [cleaning] of the walls; for men's hire 48  
 3ongmen: receipt of gift from the 178

### LIST OF VICARS OF THE PERIOD

There are a number of men called John, with the title 'Sir' given to medieval priests, in the accounts, but none of them has one of the surnames in the list below, copied off a modern board in the church.

1418	John Lacy	1461	John Sampson
1420	Thomas Hadley	1482	John Newton
1427	Roger Ockham	1497	John Brandon
1431	William Kent	1500	John Marham

## INVENTORY

On page 199 of Lewis's book, at some time between the years 1482 and 1484, is an inventory of the contents of 'the loft' and 'the loft over the porch'. It is rare for such an inventory to survive at this date and is more like the later inventories of monastic churches made at the Dissolution, for example that of Blythburgh Priory (Haslewood 1892, p. 99). Because it is not strictly a churchwardens' account it is reproduced here as well as being indexed. I have put some words in modern English but retained the lay-out printed by Lewis although some of the original grammar and syntax is not clear. Gardner (p. 158-9) dates the inventory to 1492, with some different readings which I have noted. The contents are a mixture of vestments and furnishings. As in the churchwardens' accounts, the things to do with the hearse for the Easter sepulchre show what a big part this played in the Easter ritual before the Reformation. The 'loft over the porch' is now empty but a hundred years ago housed a fifteenth-century wooden chest which could well have contained some of the more valuable items listed here (see pp. 24, 45; the chest is now in the nave). The ruined vestry also had an upper room or loft.

*In the loft [over the vestry]*

Firstly, a cope of red velvet  
 Item, 1 cope of black velvet  
 Item, 1 cope of white fustian  
 Item, 8 diaper surplices  
 Item, 3 diaper altar cloths  
 Item 2 plain albs and a  
   great sleeved surplice  
 Item, 2 coloured altar cloths  
 Item, 2 dyed hanging cloths  
 Item, a pair of silver chalices  
   for the communion

*In the vestry*

Item, 5 surplices  
 Item, 2 retable cloths  
 Item, 2 houseling towels  
 Item, 2 corporal cases, one without  
   a kerchief another without [?]

*In the loft over the porch*

Item, 1 cope of white damask  
   with priest, deacon and subdeacon  
   to the same  
 1 cope of white fustian  
 Item, 1 cope of black worsted  
 Item, a vestment with monet [a  
   monstrance bearing a representation  
   of the chalice and bread?]

Item, a vestment of white fustian  
 Item, a vestment of blue worsted  
   with a green [?]  
 Item, the hearse cloth of satin bruges  
   with a red cross of silk  
 Item, 2 pyx cloths of silk  
 Item, a carde cloth  
 Item, 2 cushions of silk  
 Item, the Lamuce [Lamentation?]  
   for the sepulchre  
 Item, 2 corporal cases  
   the dyed cloth for the sepulchre  
 Item, all the wax appertaining to and for  
   the sepulchre remains

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*David Sherlock, 19 December 2020*