

## NEWTON LONGVILLE PARISH BOOKS.

[By W. BRADBROOK, Hon. Sec.]

The old book of churchwardens' accounts is 16 × 6½ inches, and consists of about 42 paper leaves within parchment-covered boards, and contains entries from 1689 to 1723. The succeeding book is of the same description, but only has about 30 leaves, and contains entries to 1844.

The usual items of yearly expenditure comprise payments for bread and wine, visitation charges, for "ritin," repairs to bells, bell ropes, glazing windows, and other church repairs, given to travellers, for sparrows and vermin, etc.

A selection of items follows:—

### THE BELLS.

1689.	paid Rich. Matthews 2 days work on the bells ... ..	2	2
	,, Will. Reeve for iron work about bells ... ..	2	6
	,, Geo. Stevens for ropes ... ..	15	0
1693.	Bell ropes ... ..	13	6
	for mending the third bell ... ..	7	6
	for mending the fourth bell, etc. ...	17	9
1700.	Oct. 5. Autograph receipt by Richard Chandler for £10, part payment of his account.		
1700.	Paid at Drayton for drink for men that help us load the bell ... ..	2	0
	paid for making and mending of cages and ferrels and staples for the bell ... ..	15	0
	to sam. sutton for mending the second bell ... ..	2	0
	to thee for sayes and ferils for the second bell ... ..	1	0
	to wil. reve for a batricke for the second bell ... ..	2	0
	to shandler for first payment ... ..	10	0 0
	,, ,, last ,, ... ..	8	16 0

	for caring and re-caring the bel ...	8	0
	to thee for the 2 bel claper ... ..	1	0
1703.	Richard Chandler for booling the 2, 3, 4, clapars ... ..	1	10 0
	george stevens for 5 new bel ropes...	1	0 0
1712.	given for rining for peac ... ..	2	6
1716.	for alle when the King com hom ...	5	0
1719.	for beer when the King came home...		6
1712.	paid Thos Hammon for stocking the bells ... ..	2	9 1
	iron work with the bells ... ..	1	3 6
	for the bells and oyl ... ..	19	0
1719.	Apr. 23. to Thos Hammon for mend- ing the bells ... ..	2	9 6
	May 14. paid george Reeve for mend- ing ye clok & bells... ..	1	3 6
1778.	bell ropes ... ..	1	3 6
1779.	„ „ ... ..	1	2 6
1791.	paid at Harraways when the bell was hung up ... ..	10	6
	Bringing bell from Leighton ... ..	2	6
	expenses at visitation and for mid- night peal and spent at Harroways	3	13 6
1794.	paid John Swinstead his bill for the new bell and for 5 bell ropes ...	19	6 3
	(This may be the fourth bell, which has no inscription).		
1795.	for drilling the hole in the bell ...	16	6
1802.	Feb. 26. John Briant for the new bell	20	0 0
1818-9.	Noting the bell for the Queen ...	1	0
	(This was for the death of Queen Charlotte.)		
1820-22.	new bell, etc. ... ..	20	9 7½
1825.	Mr. Taylor, bellfounder. bill ... ..	43	0 8

## THE CLOCK.

1689.	paid Richard Chandler for mending the clock ... ..	5	0
1693.	for mending the clock and the great Bel Claper ... ..	1	1 4
1699.	paid Rich. Chandler for mending the Clock ... ..	11	8

REPAIRS OF CHURCH.

1691. paid Rich. Lukecus for planks legis and stumpes and three days worke for stumpes for the bench in the porch ... ..	10	7
paid theodur fookes for lach and cach and nayles for mending the henge of the church dore ... ..	4	6
paid Will. Tomkins for the ale the workmen drank ... ..	4	8
1700. planks to make the Majestys Arms and work ... ..	4	10
neles for the Kings Arms and the cloath ... ..		5
the pentor for their work ... ..	7	10 0

(These Royal Arms were those of William III.; they are now non-existent. The Arms now in the Church are those which came into use after 1801; that is the present Royal Arms, but with Hanover in pretence. They are painted on a panel of sheet-iron (?) 35 × 39 inches, and hang in the vestry).

At a vestry meeting on 18 Sept., 1828, Thomas Young, chairman, in absence of the Rector; Resolved under the powers of the Act passed 59 Geo. III., 3 cap, 134, to borrow on security of church rates £250 to repair the church. This was repaid by seven annual instalments of £34:14:3½ at 3 per cent. interest.

FOR THE SERVICE OF THE CHURCH.

1693. bread and wine, Whitsuntide 3/10. Christmas 3/9. bread and wine, pame Sunday and Easter ... ..	7	8
1703. whitsun 3 pints of wine 1 lof ... .. christmas 2 quarts of wine 2 lofs ... .. for palm sunday and estear day 3 quarts of wine and 2 lofs ... ..	4	7
	5	2
	9	8

Entries of two and three quarts of wine for the great festivals continue for years; it would appear that the Sacrament of the Altar was only celebrated thrice annually.



No entry occurs of a wild cat after 1696. In the Victoria County History of Bucks, Mr. A. H. Cocks writes that this animal has so long been exterminated that no record nor tradition of it remains, and that he had met with no entry in parish accounts referring to it.

The above entries may have referred to pole cats, as the price paid, 4d. only, is the same paid for pole cats a few years later. On the other hand, the last wild cat in the neighbouring forest of Whittlebury was shot about 1828. The late Mr. W. C. Pearce (born 1828), formerly of Stony Stratford, knew the keeper who shot it, and he used to point out the tree on which he killed it as it lay on one of the branches. As Newton Longville is on the border of Whaddon Chase, and the Chase is no great distance from Whittlebury, it is reasonable to suppose that in the 17th century wild cats roamed in each district.

1689. paid Will. Tomkins for 2 foxes killed  
in Newton Lordship ... .. 2 0

1710. paid for a polecat (first mention) ... 4

Payments for foxes at 1s. per head and polecats at 4d. are common for many years. The polecat is probably extinct in this district. The writer has enquired for years and offered reward for one killed in this district, but never heard of a specimen. A supposed specimen killed a few years ago near Bletchley was pronounced by Mr. Hollis, Curator of the Museum, to be a ferret.

1710. paid for 2 whesalls ... .. 4

1719. paid for 30 whisells, at 2d. each.

The weasel appears to have been present in large number if we may judge by the frequency of entries.

1693. paid for 5 hedgehogs ... .. 1 8

„ „ 19 „ ... .. 6 4

Many subsequent entries.

1710. 9½ dozen of sparrows ... .. 1 7

1712. About 40 dozen of sparrows at 2d. per doz.

1713. About 80 dozen of sparrows at 2d. per doz.

Very many sparrow entries. On 8th Nov., 1780:  
 "I began paying 3d. a doz."

The requisite funds for the above expenses were raised by a levy. In 1689 and 1696 the levy was "4d. per house and halfe peney aker." In 1696 there were 51 people paying. The list is appended, as it represents the householders and heads of families in the parish at the end of the 17th century:—

NEWNTON LONGVILLE.

A levy made the 18 day of March 1696 for the repairs  
 of the Church and other charges.

(at 4d. the House and half-peney aker.)

Mr. Fuller	...	15	4	Jeffrey Willison	...	4
John Brinklow	...	4	1	William Butter	...	4
Robt. Willison	...	2	3½	John Hart	...	4
Jeffrey Hart	...	11½		William Page	...	1 1
Thomas Page	...	1	11	John Chilton	...	1 7
Edward Tomkins	...	4		Thomas Blacket	...	1 7
William Tomkins	...	2	10	John Howson	...	4
Sextus Cooke	...	2	4½	Edward Allin	...	5½
Matthew Cooke	...	2	11	Thomas Brincklow	...	2 5
John King	...	2	2½	Thomas Cooke	...	1 1
Thomas Hall	...	1	5½	Richard Tomkins	...	4½
Thomas Johns	...	11½		William Cooke	...	1 7
William Reeve	...	1	5	William King	...	1 8½
John Page	...	10½		Ralph Rutland	...	2 5
Richard Willison	...	4	11	Jeffrey Hawkins	...	2 9
James Inood	...	4		Thomas Hart	...	1 3
Francis Tomkins	...	4		Thomas Rutland	...	1 0½
Richard Matthew	...	1	9	John Meltorn	...	8½
Francis Horn	...	6½		Widow Chilton	...	1 1
John Cox	...	4		Abraham Cook	...	2 4
John Horn	...	2	2½	Jeffery Cook	...	6½
Thomas Hart	...	1	3½	John Brinklow	...	1 10½
Bennet Tomkins	...	1	3½	William Smith	...	1 7
John Cooke	...	2	2½	William Sheireffe	...	4
Thomas Cooke	...	1	8	Richard Willison	...	4
John Curl	...	7				

ACCOUNTS OF OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

These are contained in three dilapidated paper books, from 1696 to 1739. In 1696 the levy was 2s. 6d. the yard land. In 1697 this produced £19:19:4, which, with £3:1 from the outgoing officers, made £23:0:4. The expenditure was £21:5:10, leaving a balance of £1:14:6.

In 1703 a levy of  $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per acre was made; in 1712, 1d. per acre; and on 18th February another  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. the acre. In 1727 1d. per acre, or 3d. per pound. The chief expenditure was for relief of the poor either by weekly allowance or occasional donation. Other items were payments for clothes, fuel, coffins, lying-in expenses, repairing cottages, etc.

1700.	paid John Suard for 35 weeks ... ..	1	15	0
	for the burying of Thomas Atkins			
	child ... ..	10	4	
	for another of Thomas Atkins			
	children ... ..	10	0	
	given to Mary Hart ... ..	1	0	
	for ye death of Mary Hart... ..	4	0	
	for coffin and shred Mary Hart. ...	13	6	
1707.	paid for coat and making ... ..	8	6	
	charges on the account of Thomas			
	Alling and his miss, first spent			
	when we went before the Justice	2	6	
	att Broughton and when she was			
	carried to Lidlington on horseback	3	6	
	spent at North Marston when I went			
	to search the register ... ..	1	0	

The weekly payment to chronic paupers was 1s. 6d. to 2s. each. The total weekly payments were about 12s.

1710.	Dec. 4. paid to goody king one			
	month's pay ... ..	6	0	
	Dec. 25. paid for a cofing for her ...	8	0	
	for Thatching goody jeramses house	4	0	
	paid for her gown and making ...	7	4	
1714.	paid for Badging the pore... ..	1	8	

By an Act of Will. II. every person receiving parish relief was to wear a badge with a large P in red or blue cloth, together with the initial of the parish, on the shoulder.

payd to Thomas Page when he went to London ... ..	2 17 6
1715. paid to Mr. Mead and for Counsel and charges and going to London twice ... ..	9 14 6

MEDICAL ITEMS.

1700. paid for ye Dr for John Suard ...	1 0 0
paid ye Bonesetter for John Suard and other charges at Olney ... ..	3 9
1707. for fetching the bonnseter to Robert Messinger ... ..	1 6
1711. paid to Mary Tomkins for dowing the offis of a midwife to the carpenters wife ... ..	1 0
paid to john garat for going to the docttor ... ..	2 6

The following is a history with details of an event which is not exceptional in these records:—

1725. To charges about Jefry Hart and Mary Cooke, paid for warnt and examination and other charges at fenny stratford and Newport ...	1 10
Jan. 28 when she was brought to bed 8 pound of chees for the woman at 3½ ... ..	2 4
1 loafe ... ..	1 0
for drinke ... ..	10 4
for men watchers ... ..	3 0
women watchers ... ..	2 0
2 yards of flannell at 16d. ... ..	2 8
for wood ... ..	10
strong water and tobaco ... ..	9¼
Horse hire ... ..	1 6
seugar, pins, candls ... ..	1 9
charges at Stoney Strat. when his father and he was bound ... ..	2 8
paid to Mary Cooke 3s. per week.	

1727. The accounts of the Overseers disallowed—

1. The rate will be appealed against for its inequality in taxing ye home stalls, houses, and tenements and inclosed grounds belonging to the Parsonage, and not those of any other person.
2. The overseers have distributed to other poor than those of Newton Longville.
3. Money paid to Mr. Merwin without details of expenditure.

Written and signed by JAS. EDMONDES. Rector.

The above explains the disagreements between the parishioners and the Rector referred to previously: it appears that attempts were made to load the Rector with the bulk of the rates.

1730. Seven levies produced £61:12:10 $\frac{3}{4}$ .

1735. Aug. 3. paid to John Varrin when he had the small pox at Newport ... 1 5 0  
 Jan. 19. paid to the surgan of Eaton for John Danell wife ... 1 3 0  
 Occasional mention of small-pox.

OTHER ITEMS OF EXPENDITURE.

1722. paid for the iron worke of the Towne Plow ... 1 10 10  
 May 19. paid to Joseph Nichols and Thay ffoocks for scouring littel Smal ding Ford and Great Smal ding highway ... 3 3  
 paid old Thay for trenching at Stoke Brook ... 1 4  
 paid to Geo. West for ditchen at Stoke Brook ... 8  
 paid to Joseph Nickols for scourin Dratin brook ford ... 1 0  
 for maken the Labors drinks when they peckt the by ways ... 2 0  
 1724. July 17. paid to Thos. Walton for loading the stick for the pound ... 1 0  
 1725. Paide to 5 borned slaves sent by the Constable ... 10  
 Several entries of slaves.

1736. Sep. 4. paid for an order to take up the solger ... ..	7 0
Sep. 26. for charges when we went to take the trooper ... ..	16 1

The last item refers evidently to a deserter. Our armies were never wholly manned by voluntary enlistment; the real voluntary soldier was very much in the minority, for the ranks were filled by the compulsory enlistment of criminals, debtors, workless men, etc.; consequently difficulties were common in dealing with unwilling recruits. A local instance is found in the Records of Quarter Sessions, which follows.

The presessment of Robert Willison one of the Cheefe Constables of the hundreds of Newport etc. 15 April, 1708.

Imprimis. I present Thomas Smith of Newton Longvile for poulen out of his knife the sixt day of Aprill Last past And did threaten to stobe mee or aney man else that would send him for her Majtes serves and the eight day of April hee did Asalte mee in the highway After I had tane him to my prisner to goe before the Justices of the peace to be Impresed for her Majtes serves.

ROBERT WILLISON