

RECORDS OF EARLY ENGLISH DRAMA

Pre-publication Collections

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Bramley, Hampshire

1542-1625

Edited by Peter Greenfield

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Updated 23 February 2016

1543-44

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)

p. 44 (19 Mar 1543 - 6 Apr 1544) (Receipts)

...

Item recevid of Whitson hayle clere

xx s viij d

...

1544-45

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)

p. 46 (7 Apr 1544 - 29 Mar 1545) (Receipts)

...

Item recevid of witson ayle clere

xix s

...

1548-49

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)

p. 49 (26 March 1548-15 April 1549) (Receipts)

...

Item recevid of witson ayle

xl s xiiij s iij d

...

Note: The two different shilling amounts appear thus; neither is crossed out. Church box held L3 9s 4d at beginning of year. Other receipts were 6s 1d, 2s 8d, 2s, 12d. The two churchwardens expended 22s 5d and 8s 11d (not detailed), so that the church box had at the end of the year L5 3s 6d, and John Kelsey held 18s 4d ob.

1549-50

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)

p. 50 (16 Apr 1549 - 30 Mar 1550) (Receipts)

...

Item recevid of Whitson ayle de clarlo

xxiiij s iij d

Note: No detailed receipts in the accounts for the next three years--4-7 Edw VI (1550-1553).

1553-54

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)

p. 57 (26 Mar 1553 - 24 Mar 1554)

...

Item in hocking money

ij s viij d

...

Note: This entry does not appear in the main list of receipts, expenses and debts, but at the bottom of the page and in a different hand. It thus may not properly belong to this years accounts. No accounts for the next several years.

1560-61

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)

p. 67 (8 Apr 1560 - 30 Mar 1561) (Receipts)

...

Item of Clere gaynes at whitsontide

xxxv s viij d ob

...

1561-62

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)

p. 71 (31 Mar 1561 - 22 Mar 1562) (Receipts)

...

Item of Clere gaynes at whitsontide iij li xvj s vij d ob

Item the churchewyves for iij yeres hocking money whiche remayned xj d

The residewe of the hocking money was bestowed vppon [iij] two

table clothes of iij elles appece at ix d ob ye ell for the making &

marking of them & for treue vessell

xij d

...

1562-63

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)

p. 73 (23 Mar 1562 - 4 Apr 1563) (Receipts)

...

hower gaynys at Wytesontyde <.....>

...

Note: Top right corner of page torn; amount lost.

1563-64

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)

p. 75 (4 Apr 1563 - 26 Mar 1564) (Receipts)

Inprimis of the money remayning in the Churche boxe at the last Accompte vj li xiiij s xj d

Item receuyd for Clere gaynes at Whitsontide xxv s viij d

Item of the Churchewyves for hocking money iij s iij d

Summa--viiij li ij s xj d

Expences Laied out by the Churchwardens

...

Item for bred & wyne against Easter xx d

Item to Crofte the mynstrell ij s

Item for ij keys vj d

Item for nayles ij d

Item for wyne against all Sayntes Daye ij d

...

Notes: While the entries may not be in strict chronological order, the money to the minstrel is placed after Easter; it thus probably refers to a payment for performing at the Whitsun ale, as do the earlier payments to minstrels. The money made 'at Whitsontide' is the proceeds for the ale, which is not always identified as such.

1564-65

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)

p.77 (27 Mar 1564 - 15 Apr 1565)

...

Item of clere gaynes at Whytsontyde

lj s iij d ob

...

1565-66

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)

p. 79 (16 Apr 1565 - 7 Apr 1566) (Receipts)

...

Item Clere gaynes at Whitsontide

xxviiij s

...

1566-67

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)

p. 81 (8 Apr 1566 - 23 Mar 1567) (Receipts)

...

Item for clere gaynes at Whitsontide

xxj s

...

1567-68

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)

p. 82 (24 Mar 1567 - 11 Apr 1568) (Receipts)

...

Item recevid in clere gaynes at whitsontide

xlviij s iij d ob

...

1568-69

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)

p. 84 (12 Apr 1568 - 3 Apr 1569) (Receipts)

...

Item recevid of clere gaynes at [whitsond] whitsontyde

lix s ij d

...

1569-70

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)

p. 85 (4 Apr 1569 - 19 Mar 1570) (Receipts)

...

Item recevid of clere gaynes at whitsontyde

lvij s

...

1570-71

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)

p. 87 (20 Mar 1570 - 15 Apr 1571) (Receipts)

...

Item at whitsontyde of clere gaynes

ij li [vj. s] vj s viij d

...

1571-72

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)

p. 89 (16 Apr 1571 - 30 Mar 1572) (Receipts)

...

Item of clere gaynes of whytsontyde

xxxv s

...

1572-73

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)

p. 91 (31 Mar 1572 - 15 Mar 1573) (Receipts)

...

Item of clere gaines of the Churchale at Whitsontyde

xlx s v d

...

1573-74

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)

p. 92 (16 Mar 1573 - 4 Apr 1574) (Receipts)

...

Item of the Clere gaynes of the Churchale at the last Whitsontyde
And of Iohn Pettie geven towardses the churchale

xlj s ij d
iij s iiij d

...

Note: These two entries bracketed at the right, and summed as 'xliij s vj d'.

1574-75

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)

p. 94 (5 Apr 1574 - 27 Mar 1575) (Receipts)

...

Item of clere gaynes of the Churchale at whitso<...>de the last whitsontyde

xxxvjj s vj d

...

Note: Letters of first 'whitsontide' obscured by an ink blot.

1575-76

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)

p. 96 (28 Mar 1575 - 15 Apr 1576) (Receipts)

...

Item receved of clere gaynes of the churchale at whitsontyde

lv s xd

...

1576-77

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)

p. 98 (16 Apr 1576 - 31 Mar 1577) (Receipts)

Item of Clere gaines at the Churcheale at whitsontide

xxvij s vj d

...

1577-78

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)

p. 99 (1 Apr 1577 - 23 Mar 1578) (Receipts)

...

Item of the clere gaines of the churchale at whitsontide

iiij li

...

1578-79

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)

p. 101 (24 Mar 1578 - 12 Apr 1579) (Receipts)

...

Item for clere gaynes at whitsontide

xlvj s viij d

...

1579-80

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)

p. 103 (13 Apr 1579 - 27 Mar 1580) (Receipts)

Item of Clere gaines at whitsontyde

xliij s ix d

...

1580-81

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)

p. 104 (28 Mar 1580 - 19 Mar 1581) (Receipts)

...

Item of clere gaines at whitsontide

xlvs v d

...

1581-82

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)

p. 106 (20 Mar 1581 - 8 Apr 1582) (Receipts)

...

Item of clere gaines at whytsontide

iiij li xiiij s vj d

1582-83

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)

p. 109 (9 Apr 1582 - 24 Mar 1583) (Receipts)

...

Item of clere gaines at whitsontide

lv s ix d

...

1583-84

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)

p. 110 (25 Mar 1583 - 12 Apr 1584) (Receipts)

...

Item Clere gaynes at whytsontyde

iiij li

...

1584-85

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)

p. 112 (13 Apr 1584 - 4 Apr 1585) (Receipts)

...

Item of Clere gaines at whitsontyde

iiij li iiij s

...

1584-85

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)

p. 113 (5 Apr 1585 - 27 Mar 1586) (Receipts)

...

Of Clere gaines at whitsontide

v li viij s iij d

...

1586-87

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)

p. 114 (28 Mar 1586 - 9 Apr 1587) (Receipts)

...

Item of the Church wyves of hockyng money gathered by them at hocktyde xiiij s
...

1587-88

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)
p. 117 (10 Apr 1587 - 31 Mar 1588) (Receipts)

...
Item of the clere gaynes at whytsontyde iiij li xj s x d
...

1588-89

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)
p. 119 (1 Apr 1588 - 23 Mar 1589)

...
Item of cleare gaines at whitsontied iiij li iij s x d
...

1589-90

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)
p. 121 (24 Mar 1589 - 12 Apr 1590) (Receipts)

...
And of Clere gaines att whitsontide iiij li
...

1597-98

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)
p. 129 (20 Mar 1597 - 9 Apr 1598)

...
Item their receiptes at Whitsontyde William more receiued for his parte
 in all & all the tymes vj li xij s vj d
Item William Hooker vj li xvs vjd
Item Tappinge money lijs ix d
Item the Hockinge money vijs iiijd
The whole summe of their receiptes xvlii viijs jd but their expenses beinge subducted & other
charges about their whitsontyde ale & church as by a longe <blank....> bille therof then

appeared beine [&] caste & compted, there of the stocke & [f...] Whitsontyde gaynes [but] remayned but xxxiijs vijd

...

Note: More and Hooker were cws for the year.

1598-99

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)

p. 130 (10 Apr 1598 - 1 Apr 1599)

...

whitsontyde There Whitsontyde feaste & gaynes & expenses is as followeth
expenses Their Layinges out as it playnely appeareth to all present by their billes
 rightly caste came to xjli ijs ixd.
 Their receiptes also, their billes then accompted & the accompte there
 well allowed was with trinitie sundaye & all xvijl ijs ixd
 The expenses subducted out of the receiptes there remayneth vjli
 whereof iiijs was bestowed to the Church vse vpon a dosen of cupes
 & ij dozen of platters which are reserved with the reste of the Church goodes.

...

Note: the reference to Trinity Sunday probably has to do with the collection taken on that day, which was the last of several collections taken, beginning on Whitsunday and continuing through the following week.

1599-1600

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)

p. 131 (2 Apr 1599 - 16 Mar 1600) (Receipts)

...

Their gaynes of their Whitsontyde feaste all thinges being rightly compted & their expenses therto belonging subducted as appeared to all ^ r at this accompte [.] presente, by their seuerall bills of expenses & receiptes: vjl iiijs viijd which they had equally diuided between them viz ech of them having therof at this accompte made--iijl ijs iiijd

The finall accompte is breefly as followeth

The whole summe of the church stocke deliuered by the Last churchwardens
to Iohn white & Abrahin poulter was
The Whitsontyde gaynes

vjl viijs xd
vjl iiijs viijd

...

1601-02

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)

p. 132 (6 Apr 1601 - 28 Mar 1602) (Receipts)

...

In primis gayned at Whitsontyde iijli vjs vd which they divided betweene them.

...

1605-06

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)

p. 135 (25 Mar 1605 - 13 Apr 1606)

...

Item George Alexander receiued at Whitsuntide all costs & charges defrayed 6li.

Note: last entry of year. Alexander was one of the churchwardens.

1606-07

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)

p.135 (14 Apr 1606 - 29 Mar 1607)

...

so yat there remained of the churches stock *which* he receiued at two
seuerall tymes, at his entringe & at whitsuntide 5li. 19s. 9d.

...

Item Robert Aylef receiued at Whytsundtyde all charges defrayed 4li. 20s.

Note: Aylef was a churchwarden this year.

1607-08

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)

p. 135 (30 Mar 1607 - 20 Mar 1608)

...

So yat there remained of the churches stocke *which* he receiued at two
seuerall tymes, viz, at his entringe & at whytsundtype iiijli. ijs. iiijd

...

1609-10

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)

p. 137 (9 Apr 1609 - 2 Apr 1610)

Item the same Iohn Litlworke receiued at whytsuntide all charges defrayed
... vl. viijs. ijd.

1610-11

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)

p. 137 (3 Apr 1610 - 17 Feb 1611)

Item the same Iohn Litlworke [...] receiued of the whitsuntide gaines
... xls.

Item the same William Warham receiued of the whitsuntyde gaines
... iijli. xiiijs.

1611-12

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)

p. 138 (18 Feb 1611 - 5 Apr 1612)

Item william warham receiued of the whitsuntide getteinges
... xxxijs.

Item Ambrosse wyld receiued of the whitsundtide gettinges
... xjxs. vijd.

1612-13

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)

p. 138 (6 Apr 1612 - 28 Mar 1613)

At this account Iohn whyte was chosen churchwarden for the same yeare
followeinge & receiued at whitsuntide followeinge [the summe] of the
cleare gaines ⁊ the summe of
... iijli. viijs. xd. ob.

Item Abrosse wyld receiued the rest of the sayd whit-suntyde gaines
the summe of
... iijli. viijs. xd. ob

1613-14

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)

p. 139 (29 Mar 1613 - 17 Apr 1614)

...

So that there remained of the Churches stock *which* he receiued the last yeare
& at whitsunday the summe of xxs. jd.

At this account lohn whyte made his accounte & haueinge layde out nothings
in the churches behalf there remained the whole summe *which* he receiued
at whitsunday *which* was ijli. viijd. xd. ob.

...

Note: The replacement of the Whitsun ale as the main source of income for the parish came at this time. A memorandum written in between the accounts rendered 1613 and 1614 (and written at the time of one of them, probably the former) states that all who were at the accounting, including the vicar, the churchwardens and several others, agreed that every communicant should pay a penny a piece each Easter towards the bread and wine used during the whole year (p. 139). Then, on 29 October 1615, another memorandum records that the vicar and churchwardens called a meeting of the entire congregation with the purpose of instituting a church rate assessed on land (e.g., a halfpenny an acre for arable and pasture land) (pp. 140-1). With the exception of the single entry below, the records never again mention gains at Whitsun.

1625-26

Churchwardens' Accounts [HRO: 63M70/PW1](#)

p. 173 (19 Apr 1625 - 10 Apr 1626)

...

Item the gaineinges at whitsunday ^ 1625 the summe of iiijli. xiijs. vjd.

...

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION

Churchwardens' Accounts

Winchester; Hampshire Record Office; 63M70/PW1. 1523-1769. English and Latin. Paper. 0 + 303 + 0. 19th century ink pagination. 327 x 220mm. Good condition, except pages frayed at edges, a few torn. Original cover of parchment, badly damaged, made of several pieces stitched together, including fragments of a fifteenth-century word book in Latin and English, and a fifteenth-century account roll. Case of cream-colored vellum-covered boards made to enclose the book in 1909 by the archdeacon of Winchester. No title on parchment cover; title stamped in gold on red-leather rectangle on front of case: 'BRAMLEY | CHURCHWARDEN'S ACCOUNTS | 1523-1769'. Pagination done in 1873 by Rev. C. Eddy, vicar of Bramley, who has attached some loose papers and explanatory notes at appropriate points in the book. The church ale was an annual event at Bramley. Receipts from the ale, or "at Whitsuntide" appear

in every year with itemized receipts from the first year covered by this account until 1590. After six years of unitemized receipts, the 1597 accounts record no ale, but those rendered in 1598 mention "other charges about their Whitsontyde ale" (p. 129). In 1599 the language changes to "Whitsontyde feaste" (p. 130) until 1605. In 1606 the accounts become summary, but receipts from the "Whitsuntide gaines" persist up to 1614 (p. 139). The accounts rendered in 1615 do not mention Whitsuntide receipts, and instead include a memorandum of 29 October 1614, which states that at a meeting of the parishioners, it was decided to introduce a rate of a half penny an acre (pp. 140-41). The memorandum is signed by the churchwardens and the vicar, Thomas Shereman. The proceeds from the rate in 1617 amounted to 3li. 7s. 4d. (p. 142). I initially speculated that this rate was to replace the Whitsun ale as the parish's main source of revenue, and perhaps it was intended to at the time. (And why? because vicar, or some elements among the parishioners wanted the ale eliminated? Accounts are quiet on that point.) In 1626 the "gaineinges at Whitsunday" show up again, and at very much the amount seen before 1615--about 4li. (p. 173). The accounts then again give less detail until 1635 and 1636, when they do not mention Whitsuntide.