



Tucked inside the cover of the earliest surviving Stoneleigh Church Register Book is a page entitled “The Disbursements of the Churchwardens for the year 1663”, giving an itemised breakdown of where the money was spent.

As well as transcribing this 350 year old page of expenses, complete with the quaint spellings and capitalisations, I decided also to subdivide the accounts journal into six expenditure accounts – not quite utility bills, maintenance, etc., but something similar.

The first items at the top of the page on the Churchwardens list set the tone and we start with ...

## The Refreshments Account



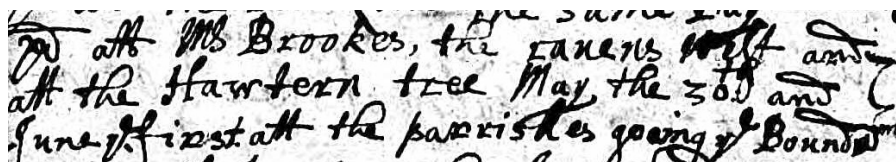
	£	s	d
<i>pd att the visitation May the 6th for our oath</i>	0	4	4
<i>pd also the same Day att Mrs Branks</i>	0	2	0
<i>pd att the red Lion the same day</i>	0	15	0
<i>pd att Mrs Brookes the ravens nest and att the Hawtern Tree May the 30th and June ye first att the parrishes goeing ye bounds more</i>	}	0	19
		0	9
<i>pd to Mrs Brookes when Mrs Price: and He Talor there was</i>	0	1	
<i>pd For Drink for Henery Taylor</i>	0	0	1
(The empty space in the pence column appears regularly where it is unreadable because of folds or tears in the original paper)			
<i>pd att southam att the visitation for our appearance and sommons and other Charges there</i>	0	10	10
<i>pd for beare when the new Churchwardens were Chose and when we Made up our accounts</i>	0	2	8
<i>pd att Coventry Aprill the 20th: 1664 att the Visitation when Christopher Brooks and william whitmore were sworne Churchwadens and other expences there</i>	0	14	6

The year got off to a good start on 6th May for the Oaths, with refreshments at Mrs. Branks and at The Red Lion, totalling £1 1s 4d. This was an outing or 'Visitation' for the incoming churchwardens to be officially installed.

This year, in May 2013, the Visitation services for the new churchwardens of the Coventry diocese were held at Shipston, Kenilworth, Southam and Attleborough. The diocese of Lincoln opted to hold one large service in the Cathedral on 8<sup>th</sup> May for all churchwardens to take their annual oath, the largest single gathering of churchwardens in the diocese for many years.

The 1663 outing for the Oaths was shortly followed by the Beating of the Bounds for two days, with refreshment both at Mrs Brookes and at The Hawthorn Tree. The Hawthorne Tree has not been identified but Mrs Brookes would be Grace Brookes who, with her husband Christopher, ran the Inn in Stoneleigh at this time.

This Inn was latterly known as "The Swan Inn" but here appears to be referred to as "The Ravens Nest".

A snippet of a handwritten manuscript in cursive script. The text is written on aged, slightly stained paper. It reads: "at Mrs Brookes, the Ravens Nest and at the Hawthorn tree May the 3<sup>rd</sup> and June the 1<sup>st</sup> at the parishes going & bounding". The ink is dark, and the handwriting is fluid and characteristic of the 17th or 18th century.

Perhaps this was a local nickname, similar to The White Swan in Stratford, which has the alias the Dirty Duck? Or perhaps The Ravens Nest was another pub visited elsewhere in the parish?

The Stoneleigh Inn was one of the largest buildings in the village with 13 rooms and would have been regularly used as a place for meetings.

Further expenses were incurred at Mrs Brookes for meetings held there with the stationery seller Henery Taylor. Details of items bought at these meetings we'll look at in the Stationery Account.

Mrs Price was the Vicar's wife, so presumably the Inn was not a raven's nest den of iniquity! The vicar at this time was Edmond Price who was only in Stoneleigh for a couple of years, arriving in 1662 and being succeeded by Edward Agborow in 1664. So maybe it was in preparation for Mr. Agborow that these accounts were prepared.

The churchwardens were summoned to go to Southam for another visitation. 10s 10d. Then an expense of 2s 8d was incurred for 'beare' at the Annual Meeting to choose the next churchwardens and to make up the accounts – this meeting probably took place at the Inn, unless it was a take-away to the Vestry?

Finally 14s 6d was paid at the Visitation to Coventry for the swearing in of the new churchwardens: Christopher Brookes from The Inn and William Whitmore, husbandman from Stareton. This item was included in the 1663 accounts but should more properly have started the 1664 accounts.

At this period, low alcohol, 'small beer' was the standard drink for breakfast, lunch, dinner and in between, where it served as a less risky alternative to water which was often polluted.

Tea had only just been introduced to London in the 1660s and it would be a couple of centuries before the massive benefit to the nation's health from simply boiling water would be realised.

The Refreshments Account of £3 10s 2d, was almost as large as the Repairs Account.

## The Repairs Account



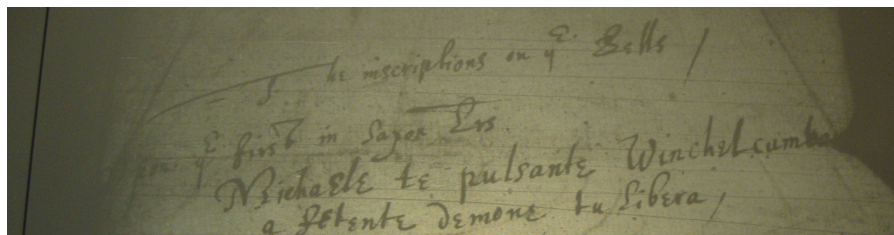
(St Mary the Virgin circa 1790 from the Millennium Stoneleigh & Ashow News)

	£	s	d
<i>pd For Lime tile and to the tyler for Mending the tyleings and poynting the church and steeple and Mending within the Church and beere</i>	1	11	7
<i>pd to Thomas garnet Mending the Church yard pales</i>	0	0	2
<i>pd For pales post and Rales and paleing the Church yard</i>	2	3	
<i>pd for a new sett of bell ropes</i>	0	12	4
<i>pd For glazeing the church windowes</i>	0	1	
<i>pd For Mending the Reading pew</i>	0	1	2
<i>pd to Thomas Elliot mending Worstley Bridj</i>	0	1	8

Thanks to donations from the Leighs specifically for repairing the church and fence, a tiler was employed to make good the tiling and pointing both outside and inside the church, and Thomas Garnet the Stoneleigh wheelwright repaired the churchyard fence. The cost of these repairs was £3 14s 9d, rather more than Lord Leigh's donation of £1.

The 'beere' for the tiler has been included in the repairs account rather than in the refreshments account. Hopefully, it was small beer, with lower alcohol content and provided after descent from the steeple pointing not before.

Major repair work on the church had possibly not been done for about 30 years since the installation of two new bells back in 1632; about which there is some on-going riveting research!



Additional repairs included a new set of bell ropes, glazing the windows, and mending the reading pew.

The Reading Pew was separate from the pulpit, usually located near the nave and used for reading the litany, epistle and gospel. Later, in the 18th century, the three-decker-pulpit was in evidence, with the clerk's pew on the lowest level, then the reading pew, then the pulpit for the sermon at the highest.



A three-decker-pulpit in Norfolk

It was also decided to pay for repairs to Westley bridge over Finham Brook, just to the north of the turn off to Dalehouse Lane. It's still there, just before Brook Farm.

So Thomas Elliott from the cottage on the Meadows side of Church Lane was employed for this purpose. Thomas Elliot went on to be surveyor of the highways and parish clerk.

I don't know exactly why our 17th century churchwardens paid for this bridge repair – in the 14th century endowing, building and maintaining a stone bridge was considered a pious act like endowing a chantry or a parish church, complete with a plenary indulgence from the Bishop, forgiving all sins. But perhaps this repair was simply for a practical reason to enable the people from the north of the parish to attend church services.

The total for the repairs was £4 10s 11d



## The Stationery Account



	£	s	d
<i>pd att Mrs Brookes when I received this book</i>	0	2	0
<i>pd For a paper Booke for Mrs Price to enter Mariages and Briefes in</i>	0	0	4
<i>pd to Henery Talar</i>	0	0	
<i>pd For parchment to enter things for to send to Lichfield</i>	0	0	6
<i>pd for to Henery Talar for 2: procklimations [....]</i>	0	1	4

The first item paid AT Mrs Brooks has been included as stationery rather than refreshment paid TO Mrs Brookes. Much delving has discovered who the 'I' was who received 'this book' which will be revealed shortly.

Unfortunately, it appears that only a couple of pages of 'this book' have survived, tucked into the earliest church registers.

The next item is also sadly lost – a paper book for Mrs Price, the Vicar's wife, to enter Marriages and Briefs in.

It is therefore possible that this paper book for Mrs Price was part of a set of paper books, which have not withstood the ravages of time in the same way that parchment has.

Then we meet Henery the stationery supplier again – unfortunately no pence visible again.

Parchment was purchased to enter things to send to the diocesan centre at Lichfield – these would usually have included a copy of the registers.

There is a gap in the book of Baptism, Marriage and Burial Registers for 23 years from 1641 to 1664, apart from entries for '47 and '48. The registers recommence in 1665, 2 years after these Churchwardens Accounts. This gap in the registers would approximately correspond to the period covering the Civil War; the execution of Charles I; the Commonwealth period of parliamentary rule; and the start of the reign of Charles II in 1660, although the registers' gap is considerably longer. So despite Henery's sale of Parchment, the registers from the gap years, if they were written at all, do not appear to have survived.

The final stationery item 1s 4d paid to Henery was for 2 proclamations of unknown content, but possibly related to the next 2 items in the Charity account.

The total for stationery amounted to 4s 2d

## The Charity Account

	£	s	d
<i>pd to the Losses att gret grimsby</i>	0	2	
<i>pd to the Losses by fire att Milton</i>	0	2	3

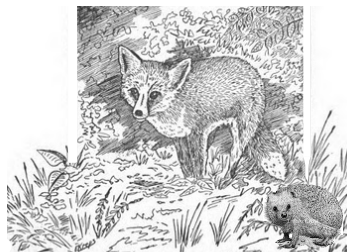
On his return to England, Charles II as Head of the Church re-started a system of raising money for deserving causes by issuing a Church Brief, Letter Patent or King's Letter, licensing a collection in the churches throughout England for a specific cause.

In 1663 a brief was issued for the repair of the harbour at Great Grimsby and it is assumed that this is the cause to which the Stoneleigh churchwardens donated 2s. In the same year Bourne Abbey donated 9s 7d 'for Great Grimsby Haven' and Tavistock recorded a donation of 11s 5d towards the repair of a 'house' in Great Grimsby which may have been a mistranslation from Latin of haven.

In Milton Abbas in Dorset the upper part of the town was destroyed by fire in 1658 resulting in a Church Brief in 1661 for the rebuilding. There had also been a devastating wind recorded in 1662. The Stoneleigh churchwardens gave 2s 3d for this cause.

These two items may have accounted for the 2 'proklimations' for which Henery Taylor the stationery supplier was paid.

## The Pest Control Account



It was standard practice across the country in the 17th and 18th centuries for churchwardens to pay parishioners for catching 'pests'. These included, at varying prices, crows, magpies, jays, sparrows, foxes, badgers, moles, hedgehogs, otters, polecats etc.

In Stoneleigh the churchwardens this year paid for 6 foxes and 8 hedgehogs. The price per head for the Pests was variable, so maybe depended on size.

	£	s	d
<i>pd to Robard Hudson for three fox heads</i>	0	3	3
<i>pd to Robert hudson for killing a Fox</i>	0	1	
<i>pd to Robert Hudson killing 2 Foxses</i>	0	2	

The fox hunter with his tally of 6 foxes was Robard Hudson, son of Robert & Christian Hudson. In 1663 there was a Widdow Hudson in the records, so Robert was probably living with his widowed mother, possibly over the river on Motslow Hill.

The many Hudsons of Stoneleigh were a branch of the Hudson family of Crew Farm. The footbridge over the River Sowe from The Meadows to Motslow Hill was known as 'Hudsons Bridge' with the Motslow Hill residents in the 1901 census recorded as living at 'Hudsons Bridge Bank'. This may be a reference to the builder of the bridge rather than to the residents of Motslow Hill.

The hedgehogs were referred to as urchins with some interesting spelling variations.

<i>pd</i>	<i>to george Cross for killing two urchens</i>	0	0	3
<i>pd</i>	<i>to Christopher Hewett killing a urchen</i>	0	0	2
<i>pd</i>	<i>to will Biddle killing 2 urchtions</i>	0	0	4
<i>pd</i>	<i>to the widow Burbury 3: urchtions</i>	0	0	6

The hedgehog catchers were George Cross and Christopher Hewett from Stoneleigh and Will Biddle from Hurst, who between them caught 5.

A bit more browsing in the Parish Registers found that Robard, George, Christopher and Will had all been baptised in 1647 and were now 16 year old teenagers earning some extra money. Thank you to the vicar Henry Cooper for helping to identify the Pest Control Lads, with his brief attempt to restart the parish registers in 1647, during the registers' gap years.

The champion hedgehog catcher was Widow Burbury who caught 3. Widow Burbury, was probably living in the no-longer-standing 'Stonehouse' at the end of Vicarage Road. Located just on the Meadows side of the entrance to Wentworth House, possible traces of the 'Stonehouse' may still remain in the form of some sandstone blocks retrieved many years ago by David Vaughan, and now edging the gravel drive to Wentworth House.

The total for pest control was 7s 6d

## The Miscellaneous Expenses Account

	£	s	d
<i>gave to the ringers May ye 5th</i>	0	1	0
<i>pd for the Arch Deacons Man</i>	0	1	6
<i>pd For washing the surplis</i>	0	1	
<i>pd For Makeing the Levie and Dockets</i>	0	2	6
<i>pd for Bread and wine</i>	0	1	10
<i>pd to Mathew Brookes as appers by his bill</i>	0	5	8
<i>pd For wrightting and keepeing these accounts</i>	0	1	
<i>pd to John gamble as apperes by his bill</i>	0	2	8

The bell ringers received 1 shilling on 5th May prior to the outing for the Oaths on 6th May, which we saw in the refreshments account.

The Archdeacon's man cost 1s 6d but whether this was for refreshment or some other purpose is not given.

Washing the surplice, a standard item in churchwardens' accounts, cost 1s and 1s 10d was paid for bread and wine – presumed to be for communion rather than refreshment.

Writing and keeping the accounts cost 1s, in addition to the previously mentioned 2s 8d for beer at the Stoneleigh Annual Meeting to choose the next churchwardens and to make up the accounts.

Making the Levie and Dockets cost 2s 6d, this item relates to an item in the Income & Expenditure Account, which we'll look at next.

Finally Mathew Brooks from Hurst, and John Gamble of Hill were paid 8s 4d in settlement of their bills for unidentified services.

The total for miscellaneous expenses amounting to 17s 2d

## The Income & Expenditure Account

	£	s	d
<i>Received of Mr William Robinson the Ld Leighes gift towards the repaire to the parish church of Stonely</i>	0	10	0
<i>Received from my Lord towards the paying for the paleing of the Church yarde</i>	0	10	0
<i>Received when we entred into our office</i>	1	17	7
<i>The Levie granted to the Church att one peny the pound rent amounts to Soe the Levie and the receipts comes to</i>	7	1	9
<i>The Disbursements are</i>	9	19	4
<i>Soe remaines to the succeeding Churchwardens</i>	9	16	2
	0	3	2

The Final Account was recorded on a separate piece of paper and forms a summary Income & Expenditure account for 1663.

Here we have the two 10 shilling donations from Lord Leigh; the funds brought forward from the previous year; and the Levie which we met with The Dockets in the miscellaneous expenses.

‘The Levie granted to the Church att one peny the pound rent amounts to £7 1s 9d’.

The Church Rate was a tax formerly levied in each parish in England and Ireland for the benefit of the parish church. Out of these rates were defrayed the expenses of carrying on divine service, repairing the fabric of the church, and paying the salaries of the officials connected with it. The church rates were made by the churchwardens, together with the parishioners duly assembled after proper notice in the vestry

or the church. In Germany, many people still pay Church tax to the state. The tax raised 5.2bn euros for Catholics and 4.6bn euros for Protestants in 2012.

Then the Disbursements total of £9 16s 2d, the details of which we have been looking through.

Unfortunately the currency converter at the National Archives stops at 2005 when these disbursements would have been equivalent to about £750 perhaps nearly £1,000 today?

And finally the 3s 2d left for the new churchwardens Christopher Brookes and William Whitmore.

**Under this summary there is another line**

*we believe these accounts to be true and just*

Followed by 6 signatures

S    *will Dale*  
    *Hen: Phillipps SS*  
    *James Mayo*  
    *Thomas Garr~*  
    *Tho. C Casmor*  
      *his marke*  
    *Mathew me Falkener*  
      *his marke*

So I thought I better find out a bit more about these people.

Thanks to the Parish Registers, the Hearth Tax Records and especially Nat Alcock's amazingly detailed "People at Home", we have some further information on these names.



## William Robinson

In 1663 William Robinson, gentleman, lived in Stoneleigh Grange, just over the river from the village, with 17 rooms and 3 hearths and, in the pantry, a pair of harpsichords and £31 of silver plate and spoons.

We know the number of hearths from The Hearth Tax records, which for Stoneleigh in 1662 were recorded with a very legible and beautifully ornate script, and acted almost like a census of local residents.

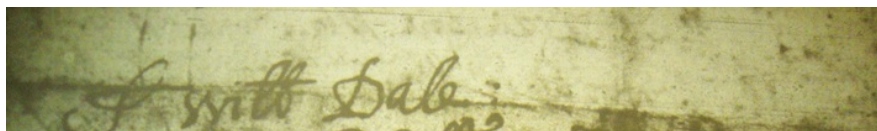
Thomas Lord Leigh	70 hearthes
Edmund Piers Clarke	04 hearthes
William Robinson gent	03 hearthes
William Watson	05 hearthes
Thomas Garrett	02 hearthes
Wm Burgz widow	03 hearthes
Christopher Brookes	03 hearthes
Henry Phillipps	03 hearthes
James Mayo	03 hearthes
George Whitmore	01 hearth
Mathew Faulkner	02 hearthes
Thomas Elliott	01 hearth
William Burdett	02 hearthes
John Ridsge	01 hearth
George Dwyer	01 hearth
Adington widow	01 hearth

Perhaps Mr Robinson was not quite as warm as the vicar in the parsonage with 4 hearths, or William Watson in the Manor with 5 hearths, or Lord Leigh at the Abbey with 70 hearths, but still living in some style.

The Hearth tax or Chimney tax was imposed by parliament to support the household expenditures of Charles II, who felt he was not getting enough money to live in the style he aspired to. It was considered easier to count and tax hearths rather than heads, as hearths were

more stationary than people. This was a separate money earner from the Good Causes as in the Church Briefs.

### William Dale

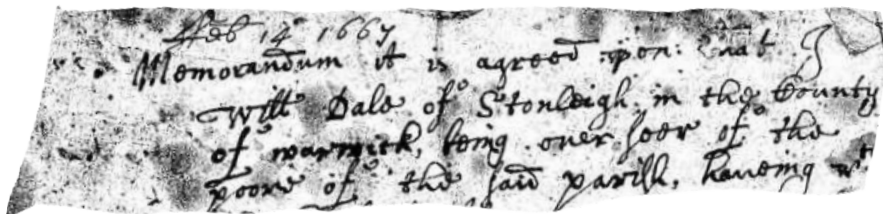


William Dale, gentleman lived in Cryfield near to John Hartley of 'Milborne Grange'.

After the delving mentioned earlier, looking at handwriting samples, it turns out that it was Will Dale who wrote the Churchwarden's Accounts and was the 'I' who purchased 'This Book' at the Inn, the first item in the Stationery Account.

Mr. Dale was Overseer of the Poor in 1667 and was buried in Stoneleigh in September 1707. An inventory of this time, including the enormous sum of £420 in ready money, has been attributed to an unknown Thomas Dale.

In a 1667 Charity Apprenticeship Indenture written by Will Dale there is an interesting spelling of Stoneleigh, the earliest I've seen with the full -leigh rather than just -ly



### Hen: Phillipps



Henry Phillipps, husbandman, son of a fuller from Hill, lived in Stoneleigh down by the bridge at 11-12 Coventry Road with 3 hearths. His distinctive signature, with flourishes after the surname, appears as a witness on the same charity apprentice indenture as William Dale in 1667.

In 1668 Henry's widowed mother Joyce was lodging with him, leaving her possessions from her 3-hearth home in Hill scattered around in various houses of friends and relations including the aforementioned John Gamble of Hill (in the Miscellaneous Expenses account). Wonderful story about Joyce in 'People at Home' p.164, sending for the Stoneleigh tailor Edward Stirton of The Bank, "a very honest understanding man", to express her last wishes.

In 1675 Henry Phillipps was the inventory taker for Thomas Elliot, the repairer of 'Worstley Bridj' over Finham Brook. Henry died in 1699.

### James Mayo



James Mayo lived at 16-17 Birmingham Road, currently called 'Jasmine Cottage', with 3 hearths. He was also a fuller like Henry Phillipps. He died in 1668 but his widow Anne was still there with the 3 hearths in 1674. Their son Joseph was a fuller of a walk mill in Stoneleigh 1677-1703, overseer of the poor in 1679 and churchwarden in 1704, he also lived at 'Jasmine Cottage'.

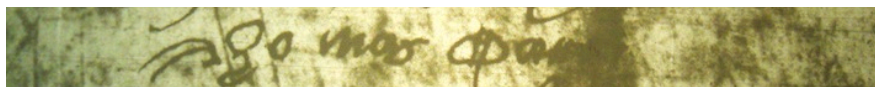
Although James Mayo clearly signed his name 'Mayo' on the Income & Expenditure account, variations were written as Maijo, Mayoe, Maio, Mayho, in other documents.

Fulling was the process of taking woven woollen cloth, rather loose and scratchy, then trampling and beating it in a mixture of water, clay (fullers earth) and stale urine, to achieve a softer felted fabric, shrinking the cloth by up to 50%. The foot-fulling process was very labour intensive with a typical 30m by 2.5m piece of cloth taking three men 2 to 5 days to full. After which the cloth was stretched and dried over a frame called a tenter studded with L-shaped nails called tenterhooks.

The fulling mills were located near to villages in order to facilitate the collection of urine at a penny a bucket, but not too close because of the smell associated with the process!

A comprehensive study of local fulling mills was undertaken by Paul Akers of Warwick University, "The Influence of the Introduction of Mechanical Fulling on the Development of the Coventry Wool Trade".

### Thomas Garrett



A smudge on the paper of the Income & Expenditure account unfortunately obliterates the end of the surname, however, of the various Thomases in Stoneleigh parish at this time, this would most likely be Thomas Garrett.

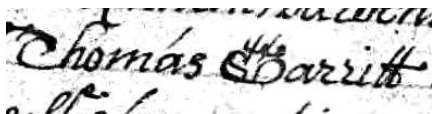
The 1662 to 1674 hearth tax records show Thomas 'Garrett' in Stoneleigh with 2 hearthes. Also, a 1666 Charity Apprenticeship

indenture shows Thomas 'Garritt' as churchwarden. His inventory in 1683/84 places him as a yeoman at 5-7 Coventry Road, on the other side of the road from, and a bit further towards Coventry, than Henry Phillipps.

An unusual but not unique way of writing a capital G, may account for this previously being transcribed as a Thomas Parri in the Income & Expenditure account.



The G from the I & E account signature of Thomas Garrett

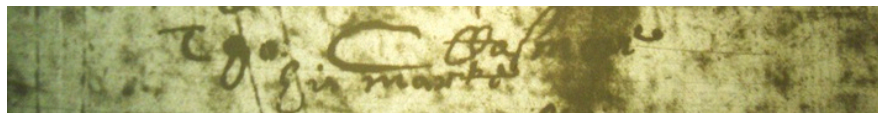


The G in Thomas Garrett from the 1666 apprenticeship indenture.



from the 1662 hearth Tax Records

### Thomas Casmor



Thomas didn't really sign his name - he inserted his mark, the large C, between the Thomas and the Casmor which had been written for him.

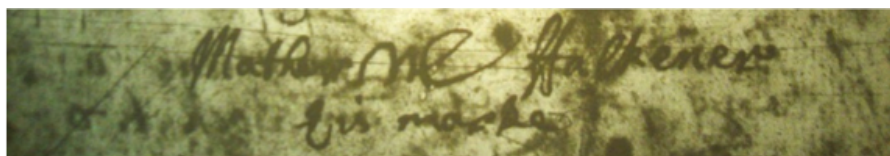
The Casemores lived at Park Farm Stareton

In 1666 'Thomas Casmore the Younger' was a churchwarden shown on the same Apprentice Indenture as Thomas Garrett above. Thomas

the Younger was married in 1665 and by 1677 had produced six children.

In 1684 his inventory was taken - Thomas Casemore yeoman. There is another unfortunate gap in the burial registers from March 1679 to May 1691 so no burial record. The signatory to the Income & Expenditure Account may have been Thomas Casemore the Elder who was still alive until 1674.

### Mathew Falkener



As with Thomas Casemore, Mathew Falkener signed by mark - his marke being the rather endearing “me”.

A further reference to Mathew Falkener is found in an endpaper of the earliest registers, recording that:

this Register booke was bought  
Anno Dom: 1633

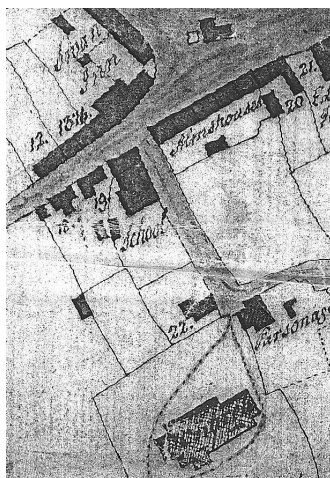
by	{	Mathew Falconer Rich: Suckling Thomas Smyth William Godfrey	}	Churchwardens
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So here is Mathew, a churchwarden 30 years previously, purchasing the earliest surviving Register book in 1633.

The vicar who instigated and recorded the purchase of the new register book in 1633, would have been Edward Maunsell, chaplain to Charles I, who was appointed vicar here in 1632 and was the reason for Parliamentary soldiers attacking the church in 1643 “hoping

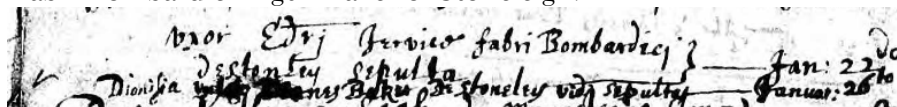
thereby to have murdered the preacher to the great affrightment of the people.”.

Returning to Mathew Falkener. He lived in a 5 room, 2 hearth house on Church Lane which is no longer standing, just north of the church and before the bend in the road at the Parsonage, in an area latterly known as The Vicar’s Gardens and still not built on. The house was also shown on a c.1813 map as no.22



The baptism of Mathew’s daughter is recorded on the first page of the registers in January 1635, then repeated a couple of pages later, interestingly christened Deanes {Denise} and overwritten with the Latin equivalent Dionisia, who was a third century martyr in Turkey.

Mathew’s mother-in-law, the wife of Robert Baker from whom Mathew inherited the house, was also Deanes – Dionisia who was buried in January 1640, which is not particularly relevant but I was very taken by the burial four days earlier of the wife of Edward Jervise “fabri Bombardici” –gunmaker of Stoneleigh.



The baptisms of Mathew Falkener's children record him as a farmer, his inventory records him as a husbandman, his burial in 1670 records him as Parish Clerk.

Mathew Falkener presumably became literate between 1663 when he signed by marke, 'me', and 1670 when he was buried as the parish clerk, unless a parish clerk did not need to know how to write?

Perhaps the earliest Register Book was tucked away safely in the vestry in the Gap years, to be brought out for Henry Cooper in 1647, conveniently covering the baptisms of the pest control lads. Then restarted properly with the arrival of Edward Agborow in 1664 whose arrival maybe prompted this up-to-date account of church funds, written up by Will Dale.

BUT, Perhaps it is thanks to Matthew 'Me' Falkener that the earliest Register Book, was saved for posterity? The Register Book was purchased in 1633 when he was a churchwarden, and contained significant entries for his own family. Did he conceal the Register in his house next to the Church protecting it from destruction during the upheavals of the Civil War? Or is that a leap of my imagination too far?!!



## Notes on the other participants

Will Biddle the son of Edward and Susanna Biddle baptised 11<sup>th</sup> April 1647. Edward is listed as resident in 'Hurst Infra Parochia de Stoneley' with 1 hearth in 1663-71 and was buried in January 1672.

### Grace & Christopher Brookes

The Hearth Tax records 1662 to 1670 show Christopher Brookes with 3 hearths and his inventory relates this to the 13 room Inn on the village green. Grace died in 1667 and Christopher in February 1671.

### Mathew Brookes

25<sup>th</sup> September 1667 Mathew Brooks of Hurst buried.

The 1667 inventory of Matthew Brookes of Canley shows possibly the first recorded use of 'sitting room' instead of 'hall'.

### Widow Burbury

A 1661 inventory but no burial record for Edward Burbury, leaving a widow in 'the Stonehouse' with 7 rooms and 3 hearths, where the Bururys had lived since 1568

The 1662-63 hearth tax lists Widdow Burbury with 3 hearths.

George Cross the son of George & Mary Crosse baptised 20<sup>th</sup> June 1647.

In 1663-72 George Cross(e) is listed with 2 hearths, with a possible sighting of him in 1662 with only 1. Mary 'the wife of Georg Crosse of Stoneleigh' was buried in September 1667 and 'George Cross of Stoneley' in April 1673. Whether George Cross the hedgehog catcher was the father or son is uncertain but the 16 year old son has been chosen as the more likely.

### Thomas Elliot

Thomas and William Elliott both lived in the village at this time and appear in the hearth tax records from 1662 to 1674 under various

spellings (Elliott, Allriott, Abbot). The later records consistently record Thomas as next on the list to the vicars Mr. Agborow and Mr. Clarke in the Parsonage with 4 hearths. His inventory of April 1675 places him at 2-3 Church Lane and his burial on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1675 records him as 'Thom Elliot of Stonely Parish Clark'.

#### John Gamble

1662 and 1663 Hearth Tax records show John Gambole/Gamble at Hill with 1 hearth and a Thomas Phillippes and Widdow Phillippes nearby – the latter probably Joyce before she moved to Stoneleigh to lodge with her son Henry, as John Gamble of Hill was one of the people with whom she left her household goods.

#### Thomas Garnett

The fence mender was a wheelwright in Stoneleigh but at an unidentified location who died in 1678. He first appears in the Hearth tax records in 1663 with 1 hearth and through for the remaining records with 1 hearth but in the last 1672-3 he is in the paupers column.

#### Christopher Hewett

Baptised 20<sup>th</sup> August 1647 the son of Henrie & Anne Huet. Henry Huet/Hewet/Hewett was a fuller as recorded in the baptisms of Christopher's elder brothers Henry in 1636 and Richard in 1639. Anne is listed in the Hearth tax records in 1662 as a widow having 2 hearths, but for the remaining years is Anne Hewett 1 hearth. So in 1663 Christopher would have been living with his widowed mother Anne.

Robert Hudson was the fox hunting son of Robert & Christian Hudson baptised 20<sup>th</sup> October 1647. There is a Widow Hudson in the Stoneleigh 1663 hearth tax returns with 1 hearth, so Robert was probably living at home with his widowed mother.

Henery Talor / Talar / Taylor / Henry Taylor

Good luck to anyone searching for Henery the stationery rep. in Warwickshire around the mid 1600s.

### William Whitmore

December 1670 Elizabeth the daughter of Willm Whitmore of Starton & Anne his wife was baptised, followed by Anne's death in August 1675. Then there is Rachel the daughter of Willm Whitmore of Starton and Elizabeth his wife baptised in November 1679. 'Will Whitmore of Starton' was buried April 1717 and his inventory records him as husbandman.

Hearth Tax Records have William in Stareton in 1662 through to 1674 with 1 hearth.

Later generations of Whitmores were at Wainbody Farm and Wainbody Wood, and an Elizabeth Whitmore who married Francis Robbins of Stoneleigh Grange, was the inheritor of possibly the largest gravestone in Stoneleigh Churchyard.

## Full Transcription

### The Disbursments of the Church wardens For the yeare 1663

	£	s	d
Pd Att the visitation May the 6th for our oath	0	4	4
Pd Also the same Day att Ms Branks	0	2	0
Pd Att the red Lion the same day	0	15	0
Pd Att Mrs Brookes the ravens nest and att the Hawtern Tree May the 30th and June ye first att the parrishes goeing ye bounds more	0	19	0
Pd at Mrs Brookes when I received this book	0	2	0
Pd For Lime tile and to the tyler for Mending the tyling and poynting the church and steeple and mending within the Church and beere	1	11	7
Pd for a paper Booke for Ms Price to enter Mariages and Briefes in	0	0	4
Pd to Henery Talar	0	0	
Pd to Mrs Brookes when Ms Price: and to He Talar there was	0	1	
Pd for parchment to enter things for to send to Lichfield	0	0	6
Pd to Henery Talar for 2: procklimations [....]	0	1	4
Pd Att southam att the visitation for our appearance and sommons and other charges there gave to the ringers May ye 5th	0	10	10
Pd to Thomas garnet Mending the Church yard pales	0	0	2
Pd to the Losses at gret grimsby	0	2	
Pd to the Losses by fire att Milton	0	2	3
Pd for a new sett of bell ropes	0	12	4
Pd for the Arch Deacons Man	0	1	6
Pd to Robard Hudson for three fox heads	0	3	3
Pd to george Cross for killing two urchens	0	0	3
Pd to Christopher Hewett killing a urchen	0	0	2
Pd for glazeing the church windows	0	1	
Pd for washing the surplis	0	1	
Pd for Drink for Henery Taylor	0	0	1

<i>Pd to the Widow Burbury 3: urchtions</i>	0	0	6
<i>Pd to Will Biddle killing 2 urchtions</i>	0	0	4
<i>Pd for Makeing the Levie and Dockets</i>	0	2	6
<i>Pd to Robert hudson for killing a fox</i>	0	1	
<i>Pd to Robert Hudson killing 2 foxses</i>	0	2	
<i>Pd for Bread and wine</i>	0	1	10
<i>Pd to Mathew Brookes as appers by his bill</i>	0	5	8
<i>Pd to Thomas Elliot mending Worstley Bridj</i>	0	1	8
<i>Pd for pales post and rales and paleing the Church yard</i>	2	3	
<i>Pd for Mending the Reading pew</i>	0	1	2
<i>Pd for beare when the new Churchwardens were Chose and when we Made up our accounts</i>	0	2	8
<i>Pd for wrightting and keepeing these accounts</i>	0	1	
<i>Pd to John gamble as apperes by his bill</i>	0	2	8
<i>Pd at Coventry Aprill the 20th: 1664 att the Visitation when Christopher Brooks and william whitmore were sworne Churchwardens and other expences there</i>	0	14	6
<i>The Disbursements are</i>	9	16	

### Notes on the transcription

A transcription of the text of The Disbursements was made, matching the lines, spellings and upper and lower case of the original. Phonetic spelling along the lines of 'write it as it is spoken' was much in evidence. The use of capital letters appears to be random, and not particularly for emphasis, as was customary at that time.

The £ s d numbers were examined, where viewing was possible, however, most of the numbers in the pence column were hidden under folds at the paper's edge. Discernible £ s d numbers, viewed from the microfilm at Warwick Record Office and online at Ancestry, give a total of £9 9s 2d, with only 14 items in the pence column legible.

An earlier transcription of the itemised disbursements by The Birmingham & Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry, (as part of their transcription of the Stoneleigh registers), totalled **£10 1s 0d** and included a number of the currently hidden pence. Adding these in to the visible transcribed numbers brought the total to **£9 14s 2d** and this is what has been used for the transcription. The 'Income and Expenditure' account clearly states **£9 16s 2d** for the Disbursements, so this transcription ended up 2 shillings short of the required total. A shortage presumably made up from the remaining unreadable pence.

The currency converter at the National Archives estimates that in 2005:- £9 16s 2d from 1660 would be equivalent to £752.99, and from 1670 would be equivalent to £814.58

So not a perfectly accurate audit of accounts, but a lot of fun in the researching 350 years later!

Additional information on the people named in the accounts was found from the Hearth Tax Records, the Parish Registers and from Nat Alcock's 'People at Home'.

I hope this has managed to add a little something to picturing the People and the Village as well as the activities of the Churchwardens 350 years ago in 1663.

Pam Baker  
February 2014

The logo is a horizontal, slightly curved rectangular frame with a light beige background and a thin brown border. Inside the frame, the words "Stoneleigh History Society" are written in a dark red, serif font.

Stoneleigh History Society