

[NOT PUBLISHED]



DOCUMENTS

RELATING TO

THE TOWNSHIP OF HINDLEY.

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1879.



Documents

RELATING TO THE

TOWNSHIP OF HINDLEY,

CO. LANCASTER.

ALL SAINTS', CHURCH.

The following are copies of documents deposited in the chest of All Saints' Church, Hindley. For them we are indebted to Mr. John Leyland, of the Grange, Hindley, who has kindly lent a manuscript book containing many interesting items relating to the township, several of which will be printed in the "Scrap Book." Many of the documents refer to the legal proceedings which ended in or arose out of the consecration of Hindley Chapel in 1698. The decree of the Duchy Court, the Petition to the Bishop, and the Deed of Consecration are printed *in extenso* in Mr. Leyland's "Memorials of Hindley." The following, and other documents which will be hereafter given, have not been published. —*Editor.*

DOCUMENT No. 71.

Whereas by Decree of the right Honorable the Chancellor of the Duchy Court at Westminster It is ordred and adjudged that the minister who shall from tyme to tyme officiate in Hindley Chappell shall be Elected and nominated in such manner as hath been hitherto used & that such minister shall be Duly qualified for the Exercise of the ministers function according to the Laws of this Kingdom and that such minister soe elected ought to be

ordained lycensed & qualified according to Law & the Ecclesiastical constitutions of this Kingdom And the sd Decree being Solemnly pronounced in the sd court and since Registered & recorded soe that all persons are obliged to take notice thereof at their perill, And whereas their usual way or manner of Election of a minister hath been by the Ffeoffes and inhabitants of the Chappelry of Hindley aforesd, We therefore the Ffeoffes or Trustees for the sd Chappel and the Donations thereunto belonging Doe hereby give notice to the rest of the Ffeoffes and all the Inhabitants that we appoint & desire them to meet together in the sd Chappel or Chappelyard upon Thursday the twenty third Day of this Instant June between the hours of nine & twelve of the clock in the afternoon then & there to Elect such Minister soe duly qualified or to adjourne the Election to some other convenient day as they shall then & there agree upon. And to the end due notice may come to the knowledge of all persons concerned we desire these presents may be fixed on the sd Chappell Door on Sunday next and every day afterwards until the sd twenty third day of this Instant June And that a messenger be sent to the Ffeoffes and Inhabitants at their usual places of abode to give them personall notice thereof if they can be conveniently mett with.

Witness our hands this Eighteenth day of June Anno Dni 1698.

P. Worthington	James Smith	Wm. Taylor
Jon. Prescott	Thomas Lythgoe	Jan. Duckworth
Jonathan Thom- ason	Matthew Seddon	Wm. Needam
Jon. Ashurst	Jon. Hindley	Henry Leyland
	Jon. Hayes	John Ranicars
	Gilbert Lythgoe	James Cheetham

DOCUMENT No. 73.

In Ducat: apud Westm.

John Prescott of Hindley in ye County of Lancaster yeom. aged flourty seven years or thereabouts one of ye Ffeoffes of ye Chappel of Hindley maketh oath That on ye eighteenth day of this Instant June he this Depondent will sign & subscribe a paper writing reciting Whereas by Decree &c (see Document No. 71) wch sd paper writing was dated & signed by this Deponent wth other

Pfoffees & severall Inhabitants the Eighteenth day of June 1698 & afterwards on y^e nineteenth Instant this Deponent fixed y^e s^d paper writing on y^e Chappell door at Hindley, & pursuant thereto he himself did give notice to severall of y^e Pfoffees who did sign y^e s^d notice or paper writing & p'ticularly to Mr. John Green, William Hilton, & severall others of y^e Inhabitants of Hindley of y^e day & place of y^e Election afores^d who did all appear in y^e Chappell yard of Hindley afores^d at y^e time above mentioned for electing of a Minister, but (before y^e Election begun) Mr. Green, William Hilton, & about twelve more left y^e s^d Chappell yard & going from the same towards their severall dwelling houses (as this Deponent believes) he this Deponent met them, and they being told y^e y^e Pfoffees & Inhabitants were going to elect a Minister for Hindley Chappell, Mr. Green answered What have you to do to Elect we do protest against any Election, & we think we have a man in, naming Mr. Thomas Whalley (who has not supplied or preached in y^e s^d Chappell for several years as this Deponent very well knows) And this Deponent further saith y^t when he w^h severall other Pfoffees & Inhabitants of Hindley came into y^e Chappell yard y^e s^d twenty third day of June, they found a paper writing on y^e Chappell Door purporting to be a protest against y^e Election of any other Minister for y^e said Chappell therein pretending to have Elected & chosen Mr Thomas Whalley, but since y^e Election some differences have happened concerning y^e s^d Chappell Minister and Donations wch have been depending in y^e Honourable Court of y^e Dutchy at Westminster, & also who pretending to be ready to observe y^e Decretal order of y^e Right Honorable y^e Chancellr of y^e Dutchy Court afores^d but y^t they neither saw y^e s^d Decree, nor was duly served w^h any cobby thereof, which s^d writing or protest was signed by John Green, William Hilton, Peter Astley, & three more & dated 23rd June 1698 notwithstanding which paper writing Mr John Jackson Clerke, who is a Minister ordained & qualified (as this Deponent verily believes) according to Law & y^e Ecclesiastical Constitution of this Kingdom, was duly elected & chosen by

severall Ffeoffes & a great number of Inhabitants of Hindley (& no other person named or voted for) to be Minister of ye sd Chappel, & after ye sd Election, this Deponent wth severall others did signe a Subscription under ye sd protest yt a copy of ye sd Decree or of ye Ordering part thereof was read in ye presence of ye sd William Hilton, Peter Astley and severall other Inhabitants of Hindley at James Smiths in Hindley ye Eighteenth of June instant.

Jon. Prescott.

DOCUMENT No 74.

Hindley. 23rd June, 1693.

We the Inhabitants of Hindley, being mett this day together in the Chappell Yard of Hindley according to notice given by severall of the Ffeoffes and best Inhabitants of Hindley who signified to us by setting up a Publication of the same on the Chappell Doore on Sunday the nineteenth of this Instant June that an Election was this Day to be made of a Minister for ye sd Chappell according to a Late Decree made by the Right Honoble the Chancell^r of the Dutchy to that purpose have chosen Joⁿ Jackson Clerke for our Minister and desire the right Reverend father in god Nicholas Lord Bishop of Chester to grant his lycense to the sd Mr. Jackson to supply this cure being regularly Elected by us.

for Mr. Jackson.

Mr. Jon. Hindley.	Gyles Gregory.	Jon. Hyton.
Mr. Peter Worthington.	Matthew Smith.	Jon. Hodson, jr.
Wm. Taylor.	Roger Aspull.	Jon. Hodson, sn.
Jon. Prescott.	Oliver Rigbie.	Joseph Skinner.
Jonathan Thomason.	Rowland Mesdow.	Thomas Rigbie.
James Chestham.	Wm. Needham.	Jon. Morris.
Jon. Marsh.	Jou. Orrett.	Jon. Whittle.
Jon. Rainkera.	Richard Yates.	Roger Rinkera.
Gilbert Lythgoe.	George Green.	Wm. Swift, jun
John Ashurst.	Wm. Williamson.	Wm. Hampson.
Jon. Adams.	Jon. Bethell.	Richard Swift.
Henry Leyland.	Jon. Swift.	Jas. Penington.
Jas. Whittle, junr.	Jon. Heyes.	Jon. Duckworth.
Geo. Jolly, junr.	Henry Walker.	Peter Smith.
Wm. Aspull.	Wm. Rycrofts.	Peter Lythgoe.
Ralph Green.	James Smith.	Robert Rigbie.
James James.	Jon. Harbrother.	George Jolly,
Jon. Rigby.	Wm. Aspull Hus-	seur.
Gilbert Unsworth.	bin.	John Rigbie
Thomas Lythgoe.	Joseph Sutherth.	Naylor.
	Mr. John Johnson.	Jon. Johnson.
	Hugh Hyton.	

DOCUMENT No. 80.

The Case of Hindley Chapell.

The Inhabitants of Hindley in ye Parish of Wigan in ye County of Lanc^{re} being many of them more then two miles distant from ye Parish Church Did for their Ordinary Ease of hearing divine Service preaching &c in ye yeare 1641 Erect a Chappell or place of Oratory in hyndley at ye charg of Severall contributors when ye Act of Uniformity^{9th} Elizabeth Did Injoyn ye Service of ye Church & Conformity in all Parish Churches Chapells & Oratoryes which said Chapell was erected by and with the allowance and consent of the then Bish. of the Diocese and the donacons made (wherewith the same is now endowed) Either by Conformable men or in-Conformable funds or both and y^t this Chappell according to the intent of its Election & endowment was supplied by conforming orthodox Divines untill the times of Usurpation when it (as all other Churches and Chappells) was possess^d of nonconformists and soe continued till the yeare 1682 at which time the then Minister of the Chappell refusing to Conforme according to the act of 14^c Car² sedi wch Injoyns the service of the Church of England &c was by the appointm^{nt} of the then Bish. of the Diocess turned out and a conformable Divine put in his Room and has soe continued ever since through many Successions until July last when their Incumbent Dyed after whose Death a Conformist was Desired to officiate there by most of the Inhabitants but was opposed by Mr. Green and some other Dissenters who p^{re}tend that they are Ff^{re}offices for the ground on which the Chappell stands and therefore it was in their power to appoint such a Minister as they pleased alladging y^t ye last paragraph in the Act for exempting their Masters Protestants subjects Dissenting from the Church of England from the penalties of certaine Lawes prmitted them to certifie this Chappell as a place for the religious worshipp of Dissenters to the Bish. of ye Diocess or to the justices of ye peace att the Quarter sessions which the said Mr. Green very industriously Laboured and at the next Quarter Sessions held at Ormskirke tendered a certificate to

have this Chappell recorded as a place for the worship of Dissenters but failing there within some few Daies afterwards hee made further application to the Quarter sessions at Manchester to have his said Certificate recorded which was there likewise denied him But that Mr. Green might receive all possible satisfaction the sessions were adjourned to the Sheriff's table att Lanc^r where were present 28 Justices who were all of opinion save one that the Clarke of the place ought not to record Mr. Green's Certificate nor that Hindley Chappell bee by their allowance ever used as a place for the religious worship of Dissenters Dureing the Dependance of his said Certificate att the sessions he also tendered a certificate to ye Bishop and Reg^r but was there also rejected being a place of publicke worship and soe under ye unrepealed act of 14^c Car Sedi wch Injoyns the services of the Church in it However a Non Con was putt in by the Dissenting Ffeoffees for the Land onely whereon the Chappell was erected agt the consent of some other Ffeoffees who still continues in the place and by that moanes the most united Chappellic in these parts is broken so that severl p'sons within the said Chappellic whose ancestors contributed to its erection or who have since purchased seats there to hear divine service are deprived of the benefit thereof and the end of the Chappell and Donations by this means perverted.

The Destes all appeared at ye last Sitting Lett them shew ye Deeds before anything Else be done.

To prove that George Greene was a Conformable man who gave the Land wth about 2^s p. ann. whereon the Chappell was Erected the time when and after what maner it was soe and that it was by the Bishops leave and did by his Indenture Dated 17^c Carol. primi made between him on the one part and Edward Green and severl others on the other part reciteing that whereas a Chappell or place of Oratory was intended to be Erected ye foundation thereof being then laid for that purpose did grant and convey to his said Ffeoffes and their heires for ever ye ground whereon the Chappell was to be built.

This is ye only Guilt Mr. Groan is Concerned in:
 [NOTE.—A few (unimportant marginal) references are
 not printed.]

The next document printed is exceedingly interesting. It gives the sworn evidence of John Prescott, one of the subscribers to the notice summoning the feoffes and inhabitants to elect a minister (See Doc. No. 71), and one of the leading supporters of the Rev. John Jackson, the then elected conforming minister of Hindley Chapel. In the absence of a list of the interrogatories the purport of them can be gathered from the attested evidence. The document is lengthy.

—*Editor.*

DOCUMENT NO. 82.

John Prescott of Hindley in the County of Lancr. gent aged 46 years or thereabouts sworn and examined.

1. To the first Interr: he saith that he knows all the parties Exeptants and respondents in this cause.

8. To the eighth interr: hee saith that he heard James Snape late of Hindley decd give his evidence or Testimony before the Comrs for Charitable uses, that Chisenhall Brettergh decd in his life time was a contributor & also an undertaker touching the erections of hindley Chappel and the seats or pews therein made and saith that the said Chisenhall Brettergh as he beleeves had a seat or pew in the said Chappel and died possessed thereof after whose decease Alice Brettergh (Widdow and relict of the said Chisenhall) sould and conveyed the said seat or pew unto Ralph Prescott deceased (This deponents late father) who by virtue thereof held and enjoyed the same during his life and this deponent (since his death) held and enjoyed the same and hath now the right and interest thereof and further saith y^t the several persons hereafter named have seats or pews within the said Chappel either by descent from their Ancestors who paid for the building thereof or by title & derivatives under such persons as purchased the same, That is to say Gilbte Pennington, Robt Adams, Jonathan Thomason, Peter Worthington, John Ranicars, Thomas Lithgow,

John Asshurst, John Morres, With: Aspull, Benjamin Smethurst, With: Needham, John Marsh, Thurston Snape, Ralph Green, With: Pemberton, Thomas Hey, & him this deponent all and every which said persons besides this deponent are in this deponents estimation and as they have very lately declared themselves conformable to the Church of England and the Liturgy thereof and now do and since the Except^t Thomas Whalley got into the possession of the said Chappell have gone from their own Chappell to hear divine service at the Parish Church of Wigan, & also at Leigh, Weethoughton, and other Churches or Chappells because they cannot have the book of common prayer read at their own Chappell within Hindley afores^d.

9. To the ninth interrogatory he saith that there was a Chancell builded at the east end of the s^d Chappell of Hindley wich is narrower in proportion than the s^d Chappell itselfe and that there was likewise a Bell hung up in the said Chappell wherewith to summon and call the inhabitants to divine service and sermon thereat and also a communion table placed therein and hath heard and believes the said Chappell and seats and also the said Bell and communion Table were erected and provided at the general charge of the s^d Inhabitants.

15. To the 15th interrogatory he saith he did well know James Snape dec^d in the interrogatory named and was by and present when the said James Snape about five years agoe appeared before the com^{rs} for charitable uses in the town Hall of Wigan and being sworne to give his testimony touching the matters in Question did give in evidence that Mrs. Frances Duckenfield, Adam Aspull, Thomas Chetham, Roger Culcheth, John Guest, John Aspull, John Marsh, Adam Robertson, Thomas Robertson, Robert Greenhalgh, William Sale, Thomas Morres, John Seddon, Chisenall Brettergh, Humphrey Platt, Thomas Lithgoe, John Marsh, & Thurston Suspe (late father of him the said James Snape) had been characterized for a Puritan yet that he was really otherwise and that he used the prayers of the Church constantly in his own family all which this depon^t better remembers & is satis-

fied therein for that the said James Snape had (before his giving of the said evidence) desired this depon to write down the names of the affore^d persons in order to the supplying and refreshing of his memory upon his giving of the said evidence which this deponent did accordingly and hath the same notes now in his custody which enable him to give the account above mentioned.

17. To the 17th interrogatory he saith he did well know Edward Green (son of George Green) in the interrogatory named who was one of the footes or Trustees named in his father's conveyance whereby that spot of ground whereon the said chappell was erected was granted away and also the Chappell yard thereunto belonging which said Edward Green came very frequently to the prayers of the Church in the said Chappell and at the time of his death left £20 towards the maintainance of a minister of the said Chappell and saith that when he so left the said money one Mr. Robt. Bradshaw was then minister of the said chappell and that he the said Mr. Bradshaw was a person conformable to the church of England and the liturgy thereof & preached the funerall sermon of him the sd Edward Green after his decease.

27. To the 27th interrogatory he saith that he very well remembers Mr. Dennis in the interr. named was minister of Hindley Chappell and that as he remembers and believes he was succeeded by one Mr. Atherton, and that Mr. Atherton was succeeded by Mr. John Wood, who was succeeded by Mr. Richard Croston, who was succeeded by the afore-named Mr. Robert Bradshaw, who was succeeded by Mr. Samuel Shaw, who was succeeded by Mr. James Shaw, in the interrog severally named all which said persons were conformable to the Church of England and the liturgy thereof and saith that the said Mr. Bradshaw had a license from the Bishopp of this Diocess to officiate in the said chappell and that he this deponent hath seen the same and believes some others of the said ministers had likewise licenses to preach and officiate in the said chappell but which of them in particular had such licenses he knows not.

28. To the 28th interrogatory he saith that he never knew y^t the fees or Trustees of the said George Green ever pretended to choose a minister to officiate at the said chappell until the last election that the exceptant John Green made such a p'tence but that during all the time of this Deponents Remembrance the said minister was chosen by the inhabitants of the chappell or the greater part of them and that when they met together upon y^t occasion they always proposed and discoursed of choosing a conformable Minister or else (as some of them usually expressed) the chappell doors would have been locked up, and further saith that when the aforementioned Mr. James Shaw was elected minister of the said chappell he this deponent with several others of the said inhabitants repaired to Mr. Wroe now Doctor of Divinity and Warden of Manchester but then curate of the said parish church of Wigan in order to have the said Mr. Shaw licensed to the said chappelry which said Doctor (after he had discoursed the said Mr. Shaw) promised to recommend him to the Bishop for the purpose afores^d which said Bishop was also Rector of the said parish church of Wigan.

29. To the 29th interrogatory he saith that he very well remembers y^t Mr. John Wood, Mr. Robert Bradshaw, and Mr. James Shaw, during the respective times of their officiating at the said chappell did frequently go to the Parish Church of Wigan at Xmas Easter and Whitsunday to Assist the curate there in reading prayers preaching and administering of the Sacrament and y^t they equally gave notice thereof in the said Chappell upon the Lords day next preceding and invited their Auditors to go with them or come to the Sacrament and that he this deponent & many of the heads of the said inhabiting families did frequently go to the said Parish Church and receive the said Sacrament accordingly.

30. To the 30th interrogatory he saith that the aforementioned Mr. Wood Mr. Robt. Bradshaw and Mr. James Shaw did very frequently Christen children in the said Chappell and bury the dead in the said chappell yard in such sort and manner as in and by the Rubrick of the book of Common

Prayer is in that behalfe prescribed and directed and saith that one Mr. Williamson formerly minister of the said chappell and also the said Mr. James Shaw dyed whilst they were Ministers of the said Chappell and are severally buried in the chappell yard there.

32 and 36. To the 32nd and 36th interrogatory he saith that there several gifts and donations given and bestowed by divers and sundry persons for and towards the maintenance of a minister at Hindley Chappell as particularly the sum of six pounds per annum given by John Raincars and secured by a rent charge upon some lands in Hindley and Pennington The sum of 5^l per annum given by Mrs. Frances Dukinfield and secured by a rent charge forth of certain Lands in the County of Chester, a parcel of Lands in possion worth four pounds ten Shillings per annum. or thereabouts given by Randle Collier and another parcell of Lands in reversion after one life given by the said Randle Collier worth 6^l per annum. A parcell of Land worth 15^l per annum Given by Humphrey Plat, the sum of ten pounds in moneys given by Oliver Stopfor h, the like sum of ten pounds in moneys given by Tho. Aspull the sum of three pounds in moneys given by William Sale the Elder the like sum of three pounds in moneys given by Will. Sale the younger the sum of fifty pounds in moneys given by Mary Collier (widdow and relict of the said Randle Collier) the sum of twenty pounds in moneys given by the aforesamed Edward Green and 15^l per annum. or thereabouts given by Mr. Tho Cook the product of which sd moneys the said deponent hath seen diverse times paid to severall of the said curates and saith he doth not remember the said John Raincars but as to all the rest of the said persons (Except Mrs. Dukenfield and Humphrey Plat) this deponent had seen them frequently come to divine service sermon in the said Chappell, and as for the said Humphrey Platt he this deponent very well remembers that the said James Snape did give in evidence before the said Comrs of Charytable uses that at the sd Erecting of the said Chappell he was a person conformable to the Church of England and the liturgy thereof.

33. To the 33rd Interogatory he saith that some short time before the deccase of the said Mr. James Shaw the Exeptant Mr. Thomas Whalley got into possession of the sd Chappell but how or in what manner he got into the same knows not but saith that he remembers it was upon a Lords Day and in the afternoon of the same day this Dept observed that the lock of the said Chappell door had been broken open but by whom he doth not know.

34. To the 34th Interogatory he saith that he doth not know of what perswasion in religion this Except Thomas Whalley is but believes that he is either a Fresbyterian or Independant and saith that not long after the said Mr. Whalley was got into possession of the said Chappell to wit upon Sunday the fifth of November 1691 he this Deponent (being then one of the Churchwardens of Wigan) brought a book of common prayer to the said Mr. Whalley and delivered the same in the Chappell unto him to be by him read in the said Chappell but he the said Mr. Whalley refused to read the same nor never since read the sd book of common prayers in the said Chappell as this Deponent ever heard of.

35. To the 35th interogatory he saith that after the death of the sd Mr. James Shaw he this Deponent with severall others of the inhabitants of Hindley went to Wigan to wait upon Doctor Stratford then and now Lord Bishop of Chester to request his Lordship to license Mr. Bristowe in the Interogatory named to succeed the said Mr. Shaw in the Chappellry of Hindley and the said Bishop then promised a license accordingly if the said Mr. Bristowe would accept thereof and the said Mr. Bristowe had a license to the said place as he afterwards told this Deponent and this Deponent went with the sd Mr. Bristowe upon a Sunday when he first went to preach at the Chappell and when he came to the Chappell Door finding the same locked hee this Deponent heaved up the latch of the said Door & asking who was within the Chappell was answered by the Exeptant Wilh : Hilton yt he was within the same, where upon the said Mr. Bristowe acquainted him the said Bilton that he had the the Bishops' license to officiate in the said Chappell and offering to produce and show him the same

Demanded by virtue thereof the possession of the said Chappell where the said Hilton answered that he would deliver no possession & that the said Bishop had nothing to doe there and being further asked whether he would resist the said Bishop in authority answered that he would and there upon the said Mr. Bristowe returned back without getting possession of the said Chappell or any other answer relating thereunto than as aforesd.

38. To the 38th interrogatory he saith that the Exceptants and Trustees John Green, Thom Ry-croft, Richard Tonge, James Chetham, Peter Astley, Willm. Hilton, Henry Hart, and James Naylor, have designed and endeavoured to convert the said Chappell into a meeting place for Dissenters from the Church of England and in order thereto did keep and continue the said The Whalley therein for two years or thereabouts but whether they or any of y^m. have converted the profits & pducts, of the said donations for the use of the said The Whalley or no this Deponent knoweth not.

40. To the 40th interrogatory he saith that the Exeptt John Green doth not live in Hindley nor never had any estate there or seat or Pew in the said Chappell y^t this Deponent knows or ever heard of but that he lives in Wigan which is above two miles distant from the same and this Deponent never observed the said John Green come frequently to hear divine service in the same Chappell.

49. To the 49th Interrogatory he saith that he knows the severall Trustees named in the Deeds of Lease and release made by Willm Crook in the interr named and saith that all the said Trustees or feoffees named in the said deeds and who at the time of the making thereof lived within the said Chappelry most usually came to divine service and sermon in the said Chappell and very seldom or never absented themselves from prayers of the said Church when the came to the said Chappell.

51. To the 51st interrogatory he saith that he was present when Thomas Rigby in the interr named appeared before the commrs, for charitable uses in the town hall of Wigan to give his evidence in the Exeptts behalf touching the matters in variance and the said Thomas Rigby being sworne did

then and there give in evidence amongst other things that Mr. Tonge in the interim, named who was reported to be the 1st settled minister at Hindley Chappell did read the Book of common prayer or used the prayers of the Church of England in the said church and this Deponent saith that he better remembers the same for that some short time after this Deponent meeting with the Exceptant John Green at the house of Robts, Finch of Wigan Lur-keeper since deceased and having some discourse with him touching the said evidence given by the sd Tho Rigby Especially as it related to the sd Mr. Tonges reading of prayers in the said Chappell by the said John Green offered to wager 100^s with this Deponent that the said Thomas Rigby would not swear the same and this Deponent offering to take his wager yt sd Rigby had given in his Evidence as aforesaid and the said John Green refusing that offer he this Deponent there upon said unto him you have perhaps instructed him better or to that effect.

53. To the 53rd Interrogatory he saith that during the time the said Mr. James Shaw was Curate and officiated at Hindley all and every the inhabiting Protestants within the Chappelry Except James Naylor the Elder generally came to prayers divine service and sermons within the sd Chappell and none of them ever declined the same, refused the same (Except as aforesaid) during the time of Mr. Shaw's ministry.

54. To the 54th Interrogatory he saith that he this Deponent and some of the said Trustees and many of the inhabitants within the said Chappelry of Hindley (who have Seats and Pews in the said Chappell) have been necessitated since the said Mr. Whalley got possession of the said Chappell to go as far as Wigan, Leigh, Westhoughton, and severall other churches or chappells there abouts to hear and joyne in the prayers and service of Church of England because the said Except^s did not read the same within the said Chappell of Hindley.

John Prescott.

The following memorandum is written at the beginning of a book which is deposited in the chest in the vestry of All Saints' Church, Hindley.

—Editor.

The under-written Memorandum relating to the Chapel of Hindley is thought worthy of preservation. It is copied from an old paper now in the possession of William Chiswell, Chapel Clerk, and seems to have been part of the Instructions to the Solicitor of the Court of Chancery for the Duchy of Lancaster, pending the suit between the Conformists and Nonconformists, inhabitants of Hindley. On the back of the paper is written—John Bridgeman, S.T.P., Rector of Wigan and Bangor, Prebendary of Litchfield and Peterborough, was elected Bishop of Chester March 15, 1613. Died 1657 or 58.

Memorandum.—To prove the Distance the Inhabitants of Hindley are from their Parish Church and their going to Chester to obtain leave from the Bishop (who was also Parson of Wigan) to build a Chapel for the ease of the Inhabitants, which the Bishop gave his consent to, and immediately afterwards they set about the work. The Chapel was finished in 1641 by several Persons in that Town who were called undertakers, and others that contributed to have seats in the Chapel.

James Snape

Thos. Hay

Robt. Green

The Chapel built in 1641, when the statute of 1st Eliz.th enjoined the Service of the Church of England, and allowed of no other in any place whatsoever, and severe penalties upon all Parsons, Vicars, Ministers, &c., who refused or used any other form than that which was prescribed by that Act, and upon all persons that procured or maintained them in so doing; and tho' the Erectors might have some other end in it, yet the Law appropriated it to that use that all other Churches and Chapels were that were within the compass of that Act.

That it was a place for publick Worship its Evident, both from the words of the Dead which gives

the Land, and so within the said Act, but if not yet the very Indowing it makes it a publick Chapell and that the Donors look on it as such and so falls under the Act of 14 c Chs. Sed.

The Feoffees to George Green.

Edward Green, Con
Chisnall Brettaigh,
Con
P. Jarrison, Non-con
Richard Green, Con
Gibb. Lantou, Con
Adam Aspall, Con
Rich. Seddon
William Hay, Con
John Seddon, Con
William Peterson,
Con
James Hulton
Thomas Chestham,
Con
Roger Culcheth, Con
George Bradshaw,
Con
William Crook, Con
John Green, Con

Undertakers.

Chisnall Brettaigh
Adam Aspall
John Seddon
William Peterson
James Hulton,
senr
Thos. Chestham
Roger Culcheth
George Bradshaw
Mrs. Duckinfield
Jo Guesst
Humphrey Platt
Jo Aspall
Thomas Lythgoe
Jo Marsh
Thurstan Snape
Adam Robertson
Thomas Robert-
son
Robert Green-
halgh
William Sale
Thomas Morris

The Severall Donors.

George Green,
Con
Edward Green,
Con
John Ranicars,
Con
Mrs. Duckin-
field, Con
Humphrey
Platt, Con
Oliver Ston-
forth, Con
Thos. Aspall,
Con
Wm. Sale, soth,
Con.
Wm. Sale, junr,
Non-con
Handle Collier,
Con
Mary Collier,
Con
Mr. Crook, Non
Con

The severall Donations are agreed on by all sides and no contest about them, but only how they shall be Employed. What every Def^t is particularly charged with is shewn in the doequett for causes. The 2 of the Donors noted Non Con yet the Gifts were at such times when Conformists were possessed of the Chapell.

To prove the Usage of the Chapell since its erection was built in 1641, and finished at the latter end of the year. In 1642 the

wars broke out before any Minister could be settled. The first sermon was preached by Mr. flogg the Bishop's Chaplain, the second by Mr. Tidaley

Oliver Whalley
Mr. Hatton
proves them
Conformis.

But the Wars coming on space the use of the Comons Prayers &c in the Church decreased, and by an ordinance of the Rump Parliamt the Tythes of Hindley were appropriated to that Chapell and Mr. Tong for some time preached there. We suppose a Non Con : because all other Churches and Chapells were supplied by such then in those days.

the use of the
James Snape
Thos. Hays

NOTES RESPECTING HINDLEY.

Richard Mather was born in Crow-lane, Newton, in 1777, and removed to Hindley with his father when he was nine years old. Here he continued to live until his death, which occurred on the 7th of August, 1859. He kept a book he called a diary, but which was not a diary, but a book of memoranda relating to Hindley.

A copy of the entire book has been kindly lent by Mr. John Leyland, the Grange, Hindley, and the following are extracts of interest. —*Editor.*

OLD INHABITANTS OF HINDLEY.—Remarks upon the old established householders and chief inhabitants of Hindley, beginning with the Clarks of the Chapel of Hindley, Protestant, &c.—James Chisnall Clark in 1760, his son William, 1788, both together was in office better than 68 years. The different names under mentioned consisted principally the choir:—Old Robert Grime and his wife Catherin; Old Richd. Chisnall, dog Pool; Old Alexr. Winward, Gennal; Old Thomas Oakes, Castle Hill; Old Christor. Meadow, Castle Hill; Old John Bullow, Hindley Common; Old Jas. Isherwood, Close leans; James Rigby, Wm. Grime, Ralph Pennington, John Bethal, John Jenkinson, Tim^s. Katock, Richard Hunter, John Lathwate, James Bullow. Women:—Betty Grime, Molly Eatock, Ann Grime. 1813.—Joseph Oakes entered upon the office sexton, died September 9th, 1856. Singers:—Ann Grime, died Aug^t. 29, 1811. Wm. her husband in Febr. 8, 1825, aged 66, was a singer and instrument player 53 yeard and leader of the choir 40 years another choir their of springs nearly continued untill about the year 1839 and there seats taken from them & the brass plates pul'd of seats by Mr. Walker. What a shame when after so many years' servitude by them & there fathers.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.—Begun in 1785 Founded and Established by Ralph Peters Plat Bridge First School in Vipers Alley Mr. Eccles schoolmaster. The other on Hindley Common Teacher Adam Rigby—continued 3 years untill Mr. Peters erected 2 schools

one on Chapel Green the other in Mill Lane. The first charity sermon was preached 1786 Oct 15th by Mr. Bennet Minister at St. Mary's Manchester. Mr. Peters fetch the children from Manchester in a coach, the collection was £22 7s. 6 pence.

NEXT THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE ROADS.—In 1786 the roads to Wigan and Ashton was through the Brooks to Wigan a stone platt laid for foot Peopll and to Ashton from Bird likewise to the old houses next upon the left where Old Edward Smith cobler lived it was releived a little and came out a little higher the roads from Bird eth hand upon each roads was much raised—by Benj Eckersley &c., Surveyors and paved about 1798 or 1799 by the Town. The road up Mill Lane was once in 1787 a Gravel road maintaind by the Township of Hindley the foot road going down the lane was upon John Aspinall side 3 feet higher than the cart road with large cops and stubs to keep teams of. In 1789 Stoney lean was raised by John Marteau overseer and paved by Steven Brooks in or about 1796 or 1797. Cart road was paved 1801 to Mr. Pennington Gate and in 1803 further on by Thos. Estock. Not an house upon the right side going from the Presbytain Houses to the Old Houses facing John Lows wheelwright shop on the other side at 1787. Not one from Mill twining to John Low shop excepting John Burchal Carding Place. Year after Mr. Peter Marsh built those other Step Houses. The next building was Dawber row now Henry Lows and the Catholic Chapel 1792 or 1793 the 3 following cottages John Swift built now Pawdens—but the Sunday School before the above Pawdens built. 1789 then the Barracks built by Mr. Landel a prentice of Mr. Nichs. Marsh to the Manufactor Buifanefs for a warehouse. About 1793 or 1794 upon the other side of the lane Mr. Pennington built an house &c. 1791. Landale and Phillips Dichfield prentice Tennant on the left John Aspinall about 1808. In 1790 under old Lydia Woods hedge and trees facing Bird hand was an old house which Mr. Sumner father bought was puld down and the ancient Peunclefs Bench demolished from under cop.

1781. Old Club begun. Timothy Estock Clark

Increase the waste land in the Flat lean near a Quarter Acre was taken in by Mr. Keansley and Edmen Mandley in or about 1798. About 4 years after Roger Eckersley took the waste land in at Chapel Green nearly halfacre.

LOWE SCHOOL.—There is in the Township of Hindley a school with the following inscriptions thereon :—“This School was built by the Gift of Mrs. Mary Abram, Widow, whose soul I trust triumpheth now amongst the Just. Anno Domini, 1622.” A dwelling house for the Master adjoining the School and there the small closes, containing about one acre & a quarter of land at eight yards to the perch all of which premises are occupied by the Master rent free. There is also the sum of £150 pounds secured by bond given by the Corporation of Liverpool bearing date 12 May 1787 with interest at 4½ p cent. given to Ralph Peters, Robert Holt Leigh, and four others, as Trustees of and for Lowe School in Hindley. This School is further endowed with the yearly sum of £1 charged by Frances Duckinfield on Land at Mobberly as more particularly mentioned hereafter under a Strict head. In addition to the advantage the Master derives from the occupation of the house and land above mentioned he receives from the Corporation of Liverpool which is £1. 0. 0; Mr. Clough in respect of Crook Charity £1. 0. 0; the Agent of Wilkbraham Egerton Esqr. in respect Ducey Clay £1. 0. 0. In 1834 Mr. Mathews Low school master taught in the old School Chapel Green for about two years was clerk for Township left 1834. Mr. Mathews left about 1834 stopt 8 years. John Pollard entered 1842 (absent 8 years) left in 1848 was absent again up to Nov. 1840, 4 years.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH.

The following is extracted from the book deposited in a chest in the vestry of All Saints' Church, Hindley, referred to in Scrap Note, No. 20. The documents printed below occupy page 1 to 6 inclusive. The succeeding pages—7 to 13—

contain a copy of the Will of John Ranicars, of Atherton, which has already been printed in the *Manchester Courier* "Local Gleanings."—*Editor.*

This Indenture made the ninth day of February in the year of our Lord God according to the computation of the Church of England 1654 between Edward Green of Hindley in the County of Lancaster Gentleman of the one party and John Green of Atherton in the said County of Lancaster Brother to the said Edward party to these presents James Duckinfield of Abraham *alias* Abram in the said County Esquire William Rycroft of Westhoughton in the said County Gentleman Peter Harrison of Hindley aforesaid Gentleman John Harrison of Ashton-under-Lyne in the aforesaid County Clerk Captain Jeremiah Harrison of Hindley aforesaid Richard Green of Aspul in the aforesaid County Gentleman Robert Hindley of Aspul aforesaid Gentleman John Tong of Hindley aforesaid Gentleman Humphrey Platt of Hindley aforesaid Gentleman Richard Seddon of Hindley aforesaid Gentleman Gilbert Pennington of Aspul aforesaid Gentleman John Seddon of Hindley aforesaid Yeoman William Haigh of Hindley aforesaid Yeoman Peter Hampson of Hindley aforesaid Yeoman Henry Hilton of Hindley aforesaid Yeoman William Peterson of Hindley aforesaid Yeoman and John Laithwaite of Westhoughton aforesaid Yeoman of the other party,

Witnesseth that whereas the said Edward Green hath of his own accord bestowed and disposed the Lands herein hereafter expressed upon which a Messuage or Mansion House is now erected and built and is intended for a place of Habitation for such Person as from Time to Time shall be the Minister or Preacher of God's word at the Chapel of Hindley aforesaid and for none other use Intent or purpose whatsoever, Now this Indenture further witnesseth that the said Edward Green for the purpose aforesaid and for divers other good Causes Respects and Considerations him thereunto moving Hath granted aliened enfeoffed conveyed and assured and the said Edward Green doth by these presents grant alien

unfeoff convey and assure unto the said John Green James Duckinfield, etc. their Heirs and assigns all and every that part portion and Quantity of Ground as the same is now measured staked and bounded being now or heretofore parcel of a Close called the Round Croft now the Inheritance of the said Edward Green in Hindley aforesaid and now in the Occupation of Ann Hyton, Widow which said parcel of Ground so measured and staked out doth contain sixteen yards or thereabouts in Length from East to West and twelve yards or thereabouts in Breadth from North to South Together with ways Passages and Easements to the said Parcel of Ground hereby granted as shall be convenient and meet and the reversion and reversions remainder and remainders thereof and all the Estate Right Title Property Interest Claim and Demand whatsoever of the said Edward Green of in and to the said Parcel of Land hereby granted or any Part thereof To Have and to Hold all and every the Premises hereby granted or mentioned to be granted with the Appurtenances unto the said John Green James Duckinfield, etc. their Heirs and Assigns for ever And the said Edward Green and his Heirs all and singular the Premises hereby granted or mentioned to be granted with the Appurtenances unto the said John Green John Duckinfield, etc. their Heirs and Assigns shall and will warrant and defend these presents And the said Edward Green for himself his Heirs Executors and Assigns and every of them doth hereby covenant and grant promise and agree to and with the said John Green James Duckinfield, etc. their Heirs and Assigns and to and with every of them that the said Edward Green is at the Time of the Enscaling and Delivery of these Presents notwithstanding any Act or Acts or Thing done by him to the contrary the true and undoubted Owner and Proprietor of the Premises of and for a pure and indefeasible Estate in Fee simple and that the said Edward Green notwithstanding any such Act or Deed as aforesaid hath good and rightful Power and absolute Authority to grant and convey the same according to the Purport and true Meaning hereof And that the said John Green James Duckinfield,

etc. their Heirs and Assigns and every of them shall and may at all times hereafter freely peaceably and quietly have hold possess and enjoy all and every the Premises hereby granted or mentioned to be granted without any Manner of Let Suit Stop Interruption Denyal or Disturbance of the said Edward Green his Heirs or Assigns or of any Person or Persons lawfully claiming by from or under him or them but if any suit Incumberance Trouble or Vexation shall arise from any other person or persons whatsoever touching or concerning the said Land it is the true intent and meaning of the parties to these Presents that the said Feoffees and Towns of Hindley shall defend the said suit at their own proper costs and charges and free and clear and freely and clearly acquitted exonerated and discharged of and from all other and former Bargains Sales Gifts Grants Estates Charges Titles and Incumberances whatsoever had made done or suffered by the said Edward Green in any wise,

And furthermore that the said Edward Green and his Heirs shall and will at all Times hereafter at and upon the reasonable Requests Costs and Charges in the Law of the said John Green James Duckinfield, etc. their Heirs and Assigns make do acknowledge levy suffer and execute all and every such further Act or Acts Thing or Things Assurance or Assurances for the further and better assuring strengthening and suremaking of the premises unto the said John Green James Duckinfield, etc. their Heirs and Assigns Be the same by Fine Recovery or by any other lawful ways or means whatsoever as by the said John Green James Duckinfield, etc. their Heirs or Assigns or their or any of their Council learned in the Law shall be reasonable devised advised or required which said Fine Recovery or other Assurance so to be had levied or suffered of or concerning the Premises either severally by themselves or jointly with any other Lands shall be and enure and shall be adjudged and taken to be and enure To the sole proper use and Behoof of the said John Green James Duckinfield, etc. their Heirs and Assigns for ever and to no other use Intent or Purpose whatsoever In Wit-

ness whereof the Parties above said have herunto set their Hands and Seals the Day and year first above written.
Edw: Green.

Sealed signed and delivered in the presence of us
William Meddow his mark X
Faudle Collyer his mark X
Peter Watson.

Memorandum, That the twenty-seventh Day of February in the Year of our Lord God 1654 within written the within named Edward Green in his own proper Person did deliver quiet and peaceable Possession and Seizure of and in the Parcel of Land within specified to the within named William Rycroft Peter Harrison John Tong Humphrey Platt and Henry Hilton in the Name and Behalf of all the Feoffees within named To have and to Hold according to the Purport and true Meaning of the Deed within written In the Presence of us

William Meddow his mark X
Bandle Collier his mark X
Peter Watson.

The following are extracted from the book referred to in Scrap Notes Nos 20 and 33. They occupy pages 14 to 46. The succeeding pages—47 to 53—contain a copy of the will of Thomas Crooke, of Abram, dated the 9th July, 1688, which has been printed in the *Manchester Courier* "Local Gleanings."
—Aditor.

An indenture dated September 29th, 1662, between Frances Duckinfield alias Croston of Bickershaw in the County of Lancaster, widow, late wife of Robert Duckinfield late of Duckinfield in the County of Chester Esquire deceased upon the one party and Richard Hulton of Westleigh in the said County of Lancaster chapman Nathaniel Molyneaux of Hindley in the same County Chapman Edward Green of Westhoughton in the same County Yeoman Robert Hampson of Hindley aforesaid Yeoman John Batteraby of Westleigh aforesaid Schoolmaster Adam Richardson of Abraham

alias Abergain in the said County of Lancaster Yeoman Mathew Astley of Hindley aforesaid Yeoman James Hay of the same Cooper Henry Hilton of the same Husbandman and Robert Sweetlove of the same Husbandman in and upon the other party. The indenture relates to the disposition of certain charges on lands in Mobberley for charitable purposes.

The next document relates to the rent charge of £6 per annum devised by John Raincars to the Minister of Hindley Chapel. It is headed as follows:—Friday, 18th June, 1669, in the Duchy Court of Lancaster Trinity term in the 31st year of the Reign of King Charles the Second between Edward Green Peter Harrison William Crook William Denny's John Green Nathaniel Molyneux Jeremiah Harrison William Chetam and Ralph Prescott. Plaintiffs Ellen Raincars Peares Raincars John Thomason and Richard Hilton Defendants.

The will of William Sale of Hindley Shoemaker dated January 4th 1678. The following extracts relate to the township of Hindley:—And the sum of three pounds residue thereof to and for the Use of Hindley Chapel. Item I give to the poor people of Hindley aforesaid the sum of forty shillings.

The will of Thomas Aspel of Hindley Yeoman dated August 29th 1678. The following extract relates to the chapel of Hindley:—Item I give the sum of ten pounds to Hindley Chapel for the augmenting of the Stock towards the better maintenance of a preaching minister.

The will of Edward Green of Hindley gentleman dated February 17th 1680. The following extract relates to the Chapel of Hindley:—And the sum of twenty Pounds to be as an augmentation to the Chapel Stock of Hindley to the Intent that the yearly Benefit and Interest thereof may be converted and employed to and for the use of a preaching minister at Hindley Chapel and not elsewhere and the sum of ten pounds to be put forth and disposed to and for the poor within Hindley aforesaid by the Minister for the Timebeing and my said Exors hereafter named and their Heirs for ever.

The following is an account extracted from the book referred to in Notes 20, 23, and 35. The manuscript occupies pages 54 to 60. It gives a connected account of the ending of the dispute between the Non-conformist and Conformist inhabitants of Hindley. A Table of Benefactions suspended inside the Church and printed in Mr. Leyland's *Memorials of Hindley*, will be interesting to compare with the statement of accounts written in the book preserved in the Church Chest. On this Table we read :—

"This Chapel and an house for the curate was built about the year 1641 by the inhabitants of Hindley, the ground being given by George and Edward Green."

Then follows a list of benefactors and benefactions since the erection of the chapel :—

John Hanicar, of Atherton, gave a rent charge upon Stone House for ever ...	£	s.	d.
...	6	0	0
Mrs. Frances Duckinfield, al's Croston, a rent charge upon lands in Mobberly for ever	£	10	0
Humphrey Platt, the yearly crops of hay and grass arising from 3 tofts lying in Low Meadows	0	15	0
Oliver Stapford, a legacy of	10	0	0
Thomas Aspal, do	10	0	0
Edward Green, do	10	0	0
William Sale, sen., do	3	0	0
William Sale, jun., do	3	0	0
Randal Collicie, houses and land in Hindley, to the yearly value of	10	7	0
Mary Collicie, widow, and relict of the said Randal, a legacy of	50	0	0
Mr. Thomas Crooke, of Abrams, gave an estate in Aulston and Whittingham to several pious uses, of which the Minister of Hindley's share is yearly, more or less	0	16	0
Improvements made by the Rectors during several vacancies	114	0	0
Mr. Richard Walls, of Wigan, a legacy of 100	100	0	0
Thomas Lythgow, for a sermon every Saint Thomas' Day, a legacy of	20	0	0

Mr. John Prescott, a rent charge upon his lands in Hindley, for ever ...	0	10	0
Margaret Hart, a legacy of ...	5	0	0
James Pemberton, of Aspull, for an annual sermon on St. James' Day ...	10	0	0

"Nehem. xiii. 14.—Remember me, O my God, concerning this, and wipe not out my good deeds that I have done for the house of my God, and for the offices thereof."

—Editor.

The chapel of Hindley being violently and by force taken out of the hands of the Right Reverend Father in God, Doctor Nicholas Stratford, Lord Bishop of Chester, and of some of the Feoffees inhabitants of the said town, honest men and stout opposers of schism and division, in the year of our Lord, 1690, by John Green, of Wigan, and other Feoffees and inhabitants of the said town, Dissenters from the Church of England, they the said John Green and his adherents did at that instant erroneously elect a Nonconforming Minister at the said chapel contrary to the pious and well-meaning intentions of the founders and benefactors to the said chapel. But the Rector unwilling to lose a chapel within his own parish, at his own proper charge issued out a commission of pious uses, and obtained a Decree against them which Decree (they the said John Green and others making many exceptions against) came to be argued in the Honble Duchy Court at Westminster before divers Chancellors successively presiding in the said court, where at last the said Rector, after a tedious and expensive suit, obtained a further Decree against the said John Green and others, the ordering part whereof is as followeth :—

Monday. 7th March, 1697.

In the Chancery of the Duchy of Lancaster, after Hilary Term, in the tenth year of the reign of King William the Third.

Between John Green, gentleman; Thomas Rycroft, Richard Tong, William Hulton, Peter Atley, James Naylor, Thomas Whalley, and other exceptants to the Decree of the Commissioners for pious uses of a certain place called Hindley Chapel, in the County Palatine of Lancaster, against William

Ford and others, respondents: Whereas a Decree was made by the Commissioners for charitable uses the same being as followeth, to wit, at Wigan, &c., to which refer; after which followeth the ordering part thus:—Now, this day, the cause having been set down in the Paper of Causes for the court's judgment, the Right Honourable the Chancellor of this Court being again assisted with Sir Edward Ward, Knight, Lord Chief Baron of his Majesty's Court of Exchequer; Sir Edward Nevil, Knight, one of the Justices of his Majesty's Court of Common Pleas; and Sir John Turton, Knight, one of the Justices of his Majesty's Court of King's Bench, the Judges' assistants of this court, the said Right Honourable the Chancellor of this Court was pleased to declare, etc. After declaring in what particulars the Decree is to be amended, it concludes:—And it is further ordered, adjudged, and decreed by the said Right Honourable the Chancellor and Council of this Court by like advice, that it be and hereby is referred to the Clerk of this Court, or his deputy, to examine what arrears of money given for the use of a preaching minister at the said chapel have accrued since the 17th day of March, 1661. The trustees are to be accountable for the same. And it is lastly ordered, adjudged, and decreed by the said Right Honourable the Chancellor and Council of this Court by and with the advice of the said Judges' assistants that as to such part or part of the said Decree as are not altered and amended as aforesaid, the same do hereby stand ratified and confirmed.

STAMFORD.

EDW: NORTHLEY.

Jo: Baker, Regr.

In pursuance of which decree the Feoffees and other inhabitants hereunder named willing to have an election of a minister to officiate at the said Hindley Chapel, after the usual manner did (besides the personal notice given to all or most of the gainsaying Feoffees) give public notice to all persons concerned by fixing upon the chapel door as followeth:—[The document has been given in the "Scrap Book." (See Note No. 6.) It is dated 18 June, 1698.] Accordingly a minister was elected

the said day, and a petition sent to the Right Reverend Father in God, Nicholas, Lord Bishop of Chester, that he would confirm the election by granting his licence to the minister so elected, which is as followeth, and signed by the electors. [This document has also been printed in the "Scrap Book." (See Note No. 19.) It is dated 23 June, 1608.] Accordingly the said minister obtained a licence for the said chapel, the 25th day of the said month of June. Likewise the said Chapel of Hindley was consecrated by the said Right Reverend Father in God, Nicholas, Lord Bishop of Chester, upon the Feasts of All Souls, being the first day of November, in the year of our Lord God, 1606. Not long after, in order to complete what was lacking on the respondents' part towards their fulfilling the said decree an account or charge of arrears belonging to the said chapel, which had accrued during the eight years' vacancy was sent to the said Duchy Court by the other Feoffees, and a discount or discharge as far as could be proved of the same by John Green and others, upon arguing whereof an order was obtained in the said court for the payment of the said arrears, deducting the said discharge to William Ford and others, respondents in the said decree, who by an instrument under their hands authorised and deputed Mr. John Prescott to receive the same, which said order and instrument are as follows:—

William the Third by Grace of God of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c., to John Parr, Matthew Astley, Thomas Rycroft, Richard and Abigail Crooke, Henry Sale, Richard Lucas, James Smith, Edward Langton, Esquire; Catherine Platt, widow; George Jolly, Elizabeth Turner, widow; John Prescott, James Whittle, John Partington, Richard Harrison, John Ranicars, Mary Adams, Adam Johnson, Peter Smith, Edward Marsh, and James Pierpoint, Greeting, whereas a certain decree lately made and ordered by the Chaucellor and Council of the Duchy of Lancaster shall appear to you in these words, etc. Given at our Palace at Westminster the sixth day of December, in the tenth year of our reign.

GERARD.

Whereas by order of the Honourable the Chancellor of the Duchy Court, the arrears of the donations given for the use or benefit of the minister of Hindley Chapel are to be paid to us, and the same are to be settled as a fund, the interest whereof to be for the use of the present and succeeding minister, We do hereby authorize and appoint John Prescott, of Hindley, to collect and receive the said arrears pursuant to the said order, and to take care that the same be disposed of accordingly. Witness our hands the 23rd day of December, 1698.

William Ford.

Roger Grimshaw.

James Molyneux.

Edward Woods.

John Parr.

Which arrears what they amount to deducting Jo: Green's discharge, losses, payments, and some small charges of whom collected and to whom disposed and put forth to interest towards the better maintenance of the present and succeeding minister by Peter Warthington, gent., Jo: Prescott, James Cheetham, and John Banicars, trustees for the same, are as follow. The total charge of the arrears of Hindley Chapel betwixt July, 1690, and the receipts, deductions, and losses are as follows:—

An Account of Arrears

received by Peter Warthington, gent., Jo: Prescott, James Cheetham, and Jo: Banicars, as followeth.

		£	s.	d.
From John Parr ...	...	38	0	0
From Mathew Astley ...	...	18	13	0
Henry Sals ...	...	12	18	0
James Smith ..	...	10	0	0
Thomas Rycroft ..	...	8	0	0
Edward Langton, Esq. ...	...	6	0	0
Widdow Platt ...	...	4	4	8
George Jolly * ...	...	0	18	10
Widd Turner ...	...	0	2	0
In, Jo: Prescott's Hands		15	12	7
James Whittle ...	...	1	10	0
Jo: Partington ..	...	1	0	0
Richard Harrison...	...	0	8	6
In, Banicars ..	...	7	8	0

34

			£	s.	d.
Mary Adams	..	...	1	9	0
Peter Smith	..	...	0	3	3
Edw : Marsh	..	...	1	11	0
Jo : Pierpoint	..	...	3	16	0
Total	..	..	£129	14	0

Pd. by Jo : Parr and Mathew Astley to Mr. Whalley and by others for certain use relating to the said chapel, the sum of £21 18 2½

Lost irrecoverably.

By Mrs. Crook, of Abram..	6	0	0
By Richard Lucas ..	3	12	1
By the Fall of Guinea	0	10	0
By Peter Smith ..	0	3	5
Total..	..	..	£10 5 6

Pd. to the present minister at the said chapel, which through mistake was placed in the arrears, viz :—Mr. Langton, arrears for the whole vacancy which by deed (recourse thereunto being had may at large appear) is given after yt, or any such vacancy to the following incumbent the sum of 6 0 0

Mr. Pierpoint's money the same not becoming due till after the present minister's commencement 3 14 6

Total £9 14 6

Further Payments :—

To Mathew Astley, Mathew Seddon, and William Cheetham towards the expenses they were at in taking in and putting out the chapel money, each 3s. viz. :— 0 9 0

The said four Feoffees charging themselves with the sum of £114, the same is secured as follows :

Secured by Jonathan Thomason, of Hindley... .. 60 0 0

Do, by Geo. Parr, of Westleigh. 26 0 0

Do. by Matthew Astley 18 0 0

Total 114 0 0

A true and perfect Account
of all the donations belonging to the Chapel of
Hindley, together with the names of the bene-
factors as they stand this 30th day of
November, Anno Domini, 1699 :

John Ranicars, of Atherton, gave the yearly sum of	6	0	0
Mrs. Frances Duckenfeld, of Abram, per annum	2	10	0
Humphrey Platt, of Hindley, the yearly growth or crops of hay-grass arising off three-quarters of an acre of land lying within the Low Meadows amounting to the yearly sum of ...	0	15	0
Oliver Stopford, of Hindley, per annum	0	10	0
Thomas Aspal, of the same, per annum	0	10	0
Edward Green, of the same, per annum	1	4	0
William Sale, Junr., of the same p. ann.	0	3	0
William Sale, Senr., of the same, p. ann.	0	3	0
Randle Collier, of the same, in land in present possession, to the clear yearly value of	6	0	0
More in the land in reversion not yet fallen to the clear yearly value of ...	4	0	0
Mary Collier, relict of the said Randles per annum	2	10	0
Thomas Crook, of Abram, gent., p. ann.	1	0	0
The improvement of the arrears as in the page foregoing per annum ...	6	16	6
Mr. Jno. Prescott a rent charge p. ann.	0	10	0
Mr. Wall's legacy of £100 Os. Od. ...	5	0	0
Thos. Lythgoe's legacy per annum ..	1	0	0

An Account

how the stock arising from the arrears and other
formes, donations belonging to the Chapel
of Hindley, and any part of them are
called out of the hands of the
persons before-mentioned, and
where otherwise secured :

1701, May 19th, paid in by John Parr, of Westleigh, part of the arrears, the sum of	36	0	0
Paid in by Widd Bycroft, Green's gift, the sum of	20	0	0
	<hr/>		
	56	0	0

Which £56 is let out to Mr. Ralph Peters, of Liverpool, the 4th day of June, 1701, and secured by the said Ralph Peters and Richard Larker, of Ince.

In the year of our Lord 1699, utensils for the sacrament were bought at the sole charge of the orthodox and Church party, inhabitants within the Chapelry of Hindley, and Mr. Samuel Hilton, of Aspull, and bestowed on the said chapel, viz. :— One table cloth and napkin, two pewter flaggons and a pewter plate, one silver chalice and cover (weighing 8oz & 13t. 6dwt., touched or marked with the letters T. P.), and an earthen bottle containing three quarts to fetch wine from Wigan. And in the same year Mr. Worthington, of Hindley aforesaid, did bestow on the said chapel at his own proper charge another silver chalice proportionable to the former, having his cut upon the cover, and the body thereof, which is a goat stepping on a thorn, and on the other side of the chalice the following epigram, wrote in Latin, thus in English :—“ Peter Worthington, of Hindley, Esq., a captain of the militia of this county, and the first who after the consecration of this Chapel voluntarily undertook the office of the chapel warden, did with this silver chalice given to God, not us, munificently embellish the table of the Lord.”

RANDLE COLLIER, OF HINDLEY.

Two centuries ago one Randle Collier, a person evidently of substantial means, resided in Hindley. Nothing is known of him beyond the records preserved of his bounty. Unquestionably, he was a benevolent man. All Saints' Church or Chapel was built in 1641, and like most other new churches both then and since, was at first insufficiently provided with a maintenance for the officiating minister. In the Table of Benefactors hung inside the walls of the church, it is recorded that Randle Collier gave houses and land in Hindley to the yearly value of £10 7s., for the support of the minister. References to his Will,—which appears to have been dated Sept. 8th, 1682,—are met with

in the papers deposited in the Church Chest, but a copy of the Will itself has not been found, although search has been made for it both there and at the Diocesan Registry at Chester. The Linen Cloth Charity distributed every New Year's Day, at the Sunday School, to the aged and necessitous; owes its origin to him. £50 was given by his Will for the support of this Charity, which sum was augmented by subsequent benefactors until it reached £151 6s., the amount now voted for its support in councils. Every year the hearts of more than 20 aged people are gladdened and their comforts increased by the gift of linen cloth through his active benevolence. His wife followed in his footsteps, and devised in her will £20 for the augmentation of the same Charity. The Probate of her Will has been kept among the papers of my family, and an abstract may be interesting. If any of your readers can throw any light upon the history of the Colliers it would prove of local, if not of wider, interest. A tradition exists in the Seddon family that the Colliers and the Seddons were connected by relationship.

—J. L., Hindley.

The probate of the Will is dated 30 Oct., 1684, the Will being dated 12 September, in the same year. The executors to the Will were Ralph Green and Mathew Astley, of Hindley. The testator leaves the following public bequests:—

“Item, my will and mind is and I do bequeath to Mr. Peter Worthington, Mathew Astley, John Prescott, James Marsh, William Peters, Robert Thomaason, Mathew Seddon, and William Cheetham, of Hindley aforesaid, my trusty friends, the sum of Fifty Pounds to be paid or well secured to them by Richard Tonng, of Hindley, his heirs or assigns, in full satisfaction of a debt of One Hundred Pounds which hee lately ought to the said Randle Collier, my late husband, nevertheless in trust to be by them the sd Mr. Peter Worthington, etc., and the survivor and survivors of them his or their heirs and successors from tyme to tyme for to be sett forth and improved to the best advantage, viz. : by purchasing of lands, rents, or loans on interest or otherwise, and that all the sd

yearly benefitt, interest, profit, and advantage of the same shall bee yearlye disposed of, imployed onto, or for the only use and behoofe of such orthodox preacher or minister of God's Word and sacraments as for ye tyme beeing is and soe from tyme to tyme for ever hereafter shall be lawfully authorized to officiate or preach at or in the Chappell or place commonly called Hindley Chapel, within Hindley aforesaid, for and towards the better maintenance of such minister and ministers for ever. Item, my will and mind is and I doe hereby give and bequeath the sum of forty pounds which is due to mee by bond from Ralph Sale and William Ranicar unto Mr. Peter Worthington, etc. [same conditions as in former bequest], and that all the yearly benefit, etc., bee disposed of in manner and forme following, viz. : that the benefit and advantage of the one twenty pounds be honestly and justly bestowed on linen cloath to be equally and impartially divided at Hindley Chappell upon every first day of January yearlye amongst and unto the poore inhabitants of Hindley at the discretion of the aforesaid Mr. Peter Worthington, etc. Item, it is my will, etc., that the yearlye profite of the other twenty pounds be equally and impartially given unto and divided amongst the poore inhabitants of the township of Ince in Makerfield, at the discretion of the aforesaid Mr. Peter Worthington, etc., yearlye and every yeare for ever." The testator directs that she shall be buried beside her husband in the Parish Church of Wigan.

—*Editor.*

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, HINDLEY.

Below is given the remainder of the contents of the book preserved in the Church Chest of All Saints', Hindley, from which extracts have been previously given (see Nos. 20, 33, 35, and 50), and for which we are indebted to Mr. John Leyland.

—*Editor.*

WILL OF JOHN PRESCOTT.

Will of John Prescott, of Hindley, Yeoman, dated October 13th, 1712. The following extract relates to the Chapel of Hindley:—Item

from and after the raising and paying of the said legacies as aforesaid I give, grant, devise, and bequeath all my said messuages, lands, and premises with all and every the appurtenances and the reversion and reversions remainder and remainders thereof and of every part thereof unto my nephew, Ralph Prescott, of Liverpool, linen draper, his heirs and assigns, for ever the remainder of the said term of fourteen years then to come and unexpired being then to cease and determine nevertheless charged and chargeable with the payment of ten shillings a year to the Protestant preaching minister at Hindley Chapel to be paid on every first day of January next after my decease for ever.

MEMORANDA.

A true account of the Curacy of Hindley in the year 1717 as was given into the Chancellor of Chester when in expectation of King's Bounty. Money was as under per annum :—

John Rainicars rent charge	..	..	6	0	0
Mrs. Frances Duckinfield	..	..	2	0	0
Humphrey Platt	..	...	0	15	0
Oliver Stopford	..	..	0	10	0
William Sale, Sent.	...	..	0	3	0
William Sale, Junr.	..	..	0	8	0
Randle Collyer by sundry gifts	...	..	10	7	0
Mary Collyer, widdow	..	..	2	10	0
Mr. Thomas Crook	..	..	0	11	6
By the Improvements in the vacancy	...	..	5	14	0
Mr. Wells' gift	..	..	5	0	0
Thomas Lythgoe for a sermon every Saint Thomas's Day	..	..	..	..	..
Mr. Jno. Prescott rent charge	..	..	0	10	0
Edward Green's gift	..	..	0	10	0

£36 13 6

Memorandum.—That in the year 1717 and 1818 there was laid out of the Chapel Stock £46 upon the new building at the curates' houses, besides £20 5s. 8d which was gathered from contributors.

Samuel Lever, Curate.

Margaret Hart, of Hindley, spinster by her last will and testament, bearing date August the 27th, 1727, gave five pounds to the Chapel of Hindley,

£3 of which was afterwards laid out in the purchase of a small parcel of land at the back of the curates' houses from John Green, and the other two pounds were added to the Chapel stock of money.

Samuel Lever, Curate.

January 10, 1736.—In the year 1710 ten pounds of the Chapel's money was lost by the failure of Mr. Holme, of Holland, which money was put out to him at interest by Captain Worthington in his own name (as Mr. John Prescott has often complained to me the said Captain being no feoffee for the Chapel), but how the Captain got it into his hands I know not. Mr. John Prescott paid me from Mr. Holme 12s. for interest July the 30th, 1709, due some time in the month of April in the same year, which was the last and first money that I ever received upon this account. I have made what inquiry I could after the bond, but could never recover it. The loss of this £10 (I believe) is the reason why Mr. Raucare, who, I suppose, wrote the account on the page foregoing, sets down Edward Green's gift as ten pounds only, whereas it really was twenty pounds (as appears on page 42 of the old book). Possibly the money lost might be part of this legacy or gift.

Samuel Lever, Curate.

Memorandum: 30th May, 1777.—Bolt Leigh, Esq., paid in to the feoffees of Hindley Chapel the £100 (a legacy from Mr. Wells to the said Chapel) and likewise £21 10s. 7½d., money which belonged to the Chapel recovered of Waterworth Bond, both which sums were in the hands of Mr. Alexander Leigh, his late father. And June 13th next following Mr. Thomas Guest, of Lowton, paid in £80, money in his hands belonging to the said Chapel, and these three sums were applied by the feoffees to procure the bounty of Queen Anne to the Chapel.

30th October, 1779.—The deeds relating to the estate in Hindley (called Rosbottoms) which was purchased by the bounty as above were executed this day. The purchase money amounted to £430, of which £200 only were paid out of the bounty, so that £45 which were in the hands of Mr. James Green, of Lowton (belonging to the Chapel), were

obliged to be called in. He paid in the last sum November 10th, 1780, to James Eckeraley and Robert Ashton, two of the feoffees of the Chapel, to make up the deficiency of the £30 in the purchase money and the expenses attending this business, which were considerable as the estate had been mortgaged to Lady Mary Stanley, and she was required to join in conveying. There was still after a further deficiency, for Mr. Wm Clayton (the attorney employed in this affair) brought in a second demand for expenses, which he said had been overlooked and forgotten, so that the feoffees were obliged to cut down some timber, and I, the Curate, gave up half a year's rent to discharge such further expenses. Thomas Lever, Curate.

The Rev. John Crowdson succeeded to the curacy of Hindley on the death of Mr. Thomas Lever. He died December 25th, 1810.

March 3rd, 1811.—The Rev. Edward Grime succeeded Mr. Crowdson, and in the same year, September 10th, vacated the curacy by accepting the living of Marston Biggot, near Frome, in Somersetshire, in the gift of the Earl of Cork and Orrey. The Honourable and Rev. George Bridgeman, Rector of Wigan, 1811, September 11th, presented the Rev. George Henderick to this curacy who was licensed to the same October 3rd by Benyer Edward Sparke, Lord Bishop of Chester.

{Some leaves have been here torn out and on the next following page there is written these Memoranda.}

October 29th, 1830.—The Reverend George Henderick departed this life, and November 6th the Honourable and Rev. George Bridgeman, Rector of Wigan, presented the Reverend Edward Hill to this curacy, who was licenced to the same November 23rd by John Bird, Lord Bishop of Chester.

On obtaining possession of this book I discovered that some leaves had been abstracted immediately after the entry of the presentation of the Rev. George Henderick to this curacy, but by whom, or for what purpose I have not been able to ascertain. Edward Hill, Curate.