

Rich and Poor in Butleigh in the time of James I (1603-1625)

At the back of the Parish Register for 1578 – 1653 there are some lists of people in Butleigh who were in receipt of assistance during the years 1606-1616, the money coming from various bequests and legacies. The recipients may have been poor due to old age and inability to work and the lists of their names below indicate that their poor status lasted for several years in many cases. The sums paid were in pence. There were 12 pence to a shilling and 20 shillings to the pound sterling (i.e. 240 pence). Below the table I have illustrated just a few of the coins of James I that the people of Butleigh might have seen at the time, or received in payment.

The wealthier inhabitants made a collection in 1617 towards the 'erection of Chelsey Colleg' and these are listed in the second table. The two tables together give an indication of the social strata in Butleigh during this period

Lists of Butleigh Poor in receipt of payments under various Wills etc. 1606-1616											
John Periam bequest		Thomas Talbott legacy		Thomas Talbott legacy		Mathew Knolles legacy		Walter Knolles legacy		Elizabeth Walton legacy	
1606		1607		1613		1613		1614		1616	
Abbott Peter	12	Abbott Peter	8	Abbott Peter	12	Abbott Peter	8	Abbott Peter	15		
Arnold Richard	8	Arnold Richard	6	Arnold Richard	10	Arnold Richard	4				
Atwell Joan	8							Atwool John	6		
Baker John	8	Baker John	4	Baker John	10	Baker John	6	Baker John	6		
Barrett Jane	6	Barrett Jane	6	Barrett Jane	4	Barrett Jane	4				
Bartlett William	6										
Bayley William	4										
Boavell Henry	4			Boavell Henry	6	Boavell Henry	6	Boavell Henry	6		
Burdam Henry	4										
				Burdham Mathew	4			Burdham Mathew	12		
Burdam William	4										
Chedd John	12	Chedd John	6	Chedd John	6	Chedd John	4				
Cooke Margaret	6	Cook Margaret	4	Cook Margaret	6	Cook Margaret	4	Cook Margaret	6		
				Ellis Robert	12	Ellis Robert	10	Ellis Robert	12	Ellis Robert	4
Ewens John	8										
				Fussell Mary	6	Fussell Mary	4	Fussell Mary	6		
				Guppy John	6			Guppy John	12	Guppy John	4
Gylle Thomas	6			Gylle Thomas	3						

Hayward Edward	6			Hayward Edward	4			Hayward Edward	6		
						Hayward Katherine	4				
				Hebdiche Robert	6	Hebdiche Robert	4	Hebdiche Robert	6		
Hillard John	12										
				Joyce John	8			Joyce John	6		
Kimbar Michael	6	Kimbar Michael	10	Kimbar Michael	8	Kimbar Michael	8	Kimbar Michael	6		
King William	6			King William	8						
				Masters John	10			Masters John	6		
Pirry Agnes	6	Pirry Agnes	6	Pirry Agnes	8	Pirry Agnes	6	Pirry Agnes	12	Pirry Agnes	4
										Pirry Joan	4
Pirry John junior	12	Pirry John	6	Pirry John	12	Pirry John	10	Pirry John	18	Pirry John	4
Pirry John son	8			Pirry John clerk	8	Pirry John clerk	8	Pirry John clerk	12		
Reeves Joanne	2			Reeves Joanne	3						
						Scott Elizabeth	4	Scott Elizabeth	6		
Scott Joanne	12										
Scott John	8	Scott John	6	Scott John	8	Scott John	8	Scott John	15	Scott John	4
				Scott Sio..?	4						
				Scott Thomas	8						
				Seym(er) Thomas	4						
				Spurrier John	4						
								Squibb Joanne	6		
				Sutton Andrew	4						
				Virarges Adrian	6						
				West Maria	4			West Mary	12		
				White Elizabeth	4	White Elizabeth	4	White Elizabeth	6		
				White Mark	8	White Mark	8	White Mark	12	White Mark	4
White John	12	White John	4	White John	8	White John	8	White John	12	White John	4
White Thomas	12	White Thomas	4	White Thomas	4						

Wholmer George	6									
			Wooll John	6						
Young Alexander	4		Younge Alexander	10						



Gold Unite of 22 shillings



Spur Ryall of 15 shillings



Crown of 5 shillings



Shilling or 12 pence



Six pence



Half Groat or 2d



Penny



Half-penny



copper farthing

James I founded the Theological College in Chelsea which was later demolished to make way for the present Royal Hospital. It was intended to train clergy to cope with the controversial doctrines of the time. The first Provost of the college was appointed in 1610 but the building never finished due to lack of public support, despite appeals from the church and king himself. A poll-tax was re-introduced to be paid on taking the oath of allegiance and supremacy, to aid the funds but to no avail. The College was dissolved by 1655 and was used as a prison during the Commonwealth period of Cromwell. The following people of Butleigh, and their contributions made in 1617, are listed below. 1/- = 1 shilling

Thomas Symcocks	220/-	William Ewens	1/-	Roger Pope	1/-	John Wilton	8d	Thomas Harte	6d
Dyer Symcocks	40/-	Henry Poope	1/-	Joanne Callow	1/-	Edward Knolle	8d	Agnes Burdham	6d
Thomas Rock	6/8d	Edward Talbott	1/-	John Kyppin	9d	Thamezina Perryam	6d	Alexander Symcockes	6d
Briant Poope	1/-	Philip Pirry	1/-	John Ham	8d	John Perryam	6d	Thomas Rugg	6d
Christopher Coward	1/-	John Gybbes	1/-	Thomas Pirry	8d	Thomas Cope	6d	Richard Abbott	6d