

Durham Priory – Master of Jarrow’s Accounts
(performances are at Durham except where marked J; J+D indicates accounts that
include performances at both Jarrow and Durham)

Introduction

1313-1537, but there is only one relevant account before 1402. One or two membranes, overall length 262-938 mm., width 166-296 mm. Single column, with undivided expenses except in the period 1454-57, when repairs are separated from other expenses and the Almonry Bishop payments are illogically included among repairs. Most accounts have a separate line for each item, but in 1422-3 and 1424-5 two or more items are grouped in each line, and in 1503-4B and 1505-6 expenses are written as a continuous paragraph. Until 1476 the usual terminal date is the Monday after Ascension, with the following exceptions:

1313-4 – Five brief accounts on one roll, running from 14th June 1313 to 18th April 1314

1408-9 – Two accounts, running from Ascension Day to the Monday after Ascension, with a change of master at St. Faith (6th October)

1410-1 – SS. Crispin and Crispinian (25th October) to Monday after Ascension; the account for the first term of 1410-1 is lost.

1412-3 – St. Peter’s Chair (22nd February)

1413 – St. Peter’s Chair to Ascension Day

1413-4 – Ascension Day

1417-8 – Monday before Ascension to Monday after Ascension

1422-3 – probably ca. 18th September (see Textual Note) to Monday after Ascension

1436-7 – Friday before Pentecost

1446-7 – Monday after the Translation of St. Cuthbert (5th September) to Monday after Ascension.

After 1476 the usual terminal date is Pentecost, with two exceptions:

1477-8 – Martinmas to Pentecost (no account survives for the first term of 1477-8)

1489-90 – Monday after Ascension.

Jarrow was another cell whose illustrious past contrasted with a rather humble late-medieval existence. Founded in 685 as part of the famous twin monastery of Wearmouth / Jarrow, its original dedication stone can still be seen in St. Paul’s Church, Jarrow. It was famous as the home of Bede, whose works inspired the re-foundation of the house in 1074; however, the rebuilding encountered serious structural problems, and the Jarrow monks were transferred to Durham when a regular Benedictine community was established there in 1083, and it is not known when Jarrow was re-opened. Its financial resources were not really adequate, and although it made regular contributions to the Almonry Bishop ceremony at Durham, there is no reliable record of any performers at Jarrow itself, although the record for 1313-4 may be an exception.¹

Texts

1313-4 (6th December – 10th January)

(J?)

Master of Jarrow’s Account

DUL

¹ See Surtees Soc. 29, Preface vii-xxxiv; Dobson, *Durham Priory* 311-12; A.J. Piper, ‘The Durham Monks at Jarrow’, Jarrow Lecture 1986.

mb1
... Et in donis prioris diuersis ystrionibus ad Natale .v.s. ...

1402-3 (?8th May – 28th May)
Master of Jarrow's Account DUL

Expense: ...
Item *Episcopo* elimosinarie xx d.
...

1403-4 (?28th May – 12th May)
Master of Jarrow's Account DUL

Expense: ...
Item *episcopo* elimosinario² ij.s.

1405-6 (?7th June – 24th May)
Master of Jarrow's Account DUL
d

Expense: ...
Item. *episcopo* elimosinario ij.s³
...

1406-7 (?24th May – 9th May)
Master of Jarrow's Account DUL

Expense: ...
Item *Episcopo* Elemosinarie xx d.
...

1407-8 (?9th May – 28th May)
Master of Jarrow's Account DUL
mb1

Expense: ...
Item *Episcopo* Elemosinarie ij s.
mb2
...

1408 (24th May – 6th October)
Master of Jarrow's Account DUL

Expense: ...
Item *Episcopo* Elemosinarie xx d.
...

1410-1 (25th October – 25th May)

² Sic. , and see also the account for the following year, in the hand of the same scribe, who seems to have understood the title to mean 'the Almoner Bishop'; we have not found this spelling anywhere else.

³ Text from C; A reads 'Item soluti episcopo Elemosinarie ij s.'; B reads 'Item Episcopo Elemosinarie Dunelmi ij s.'

Master of Jarrow's Account	DUL	
Expense: . . .		
Item <i>Domino Episcopo elemosinarie</i>		ij s. ⁴
. . .		
1412-3 (22nd February – 22nd February)		
Master of Jarrow's Account	DUL	
Expense: . . .		
Item <i>Episcopo Elemosinarie infra hunc compotum</i>		ij s.
. . .		
1413 (22nd February – 1st June)		
Master of Jarrow's Account	DUL	
Expense: . . .		
Item <i>Episcopo Elemosinarie</i>		xx d.
1413-4 (1st June – 17th May)		
Master of Jarrow's Account	DUL	
Expense: . . .		
Item <i>Episcopo Elemosinarie infra hunc compotum</i>		xx d.
. . .		
1415-6 (13th May – 1st June)		
Master of Jarrow's Account	DUL	
Expense: . . .		
Item <i>Episcopo Elemosinarie</i>		xx d.
. . .		
1416-7 (?1st June – 24th May)		
Master of Jarrow's Account	DUL	
Expense: . . .		
Item <i>Episcopo Elemosinarie</i>		xx d.
. . .		
1417-8 (17th May – 9th May)		
Master of Jarrow's Account	DUL	
Expense: . . .		
Item <i>Episcopo Elimosinarie</i>		xx d.
. . .		
1419-20 (29th May – 20th May)		

⁴ Text from A; B reads '*Item Episcopo elemosinarie ex curialitate ij s.*', and has no subsection heading.

Master of Jarrow's Account	DUL	
Expense: . . .		
Item <i>Episcopo Elemosinarie</i>		xx d.
. . .		
1422-3 (Autumn – 17th May)		
Master of Jarrow's Account	DUL	
. . .		
Item <i>pauperibus in cena domini ij s. Item episcopo elemosinarie</i>	-	xx d.
. . .		
1423-4 (17th May – 4th June)		
Master of Jarrow's Account	DUL	
Expense: . . .		
[Item <i>episcopo <el>***sinarie</i>		xx d.] ⁵
1424-5 (4th June – 21st May)		
Master of Jarrow's Account	DUL	
. . .		
Item <i>pauperibus in cena domini xvj d. Item in serotecis <xx> d. & episcopo Elimosinarie</i>		iiij s. viij <d.>
xx d.		
. . .		
1432-3 (2nd June – 25th May)		
Master of Jarrow's Account	DUL	
Expense: . . .		
Et <i>Episcopo puerili de Elemosinaria Dunelmi</i>		xx d.
. . .		
1433-4 (25th May – 10th May)		
Master of Jarrow's Account	DUL	
Expense: . . .		
Et <i>Episcopo puerili Elemosinarie Dunelmi</i>		xx d.
. . .		
1434-5 (10th May – 30th May)		
Master of Jarrow's Account	DUL	
d		
. . .		
Et <i>Episcopo puerili Elimosinarie Dunelmi</i>		xx d.
. . .		

⁵ Item erased but mostly legible under ultra-violet light.

1435-6 (30 th May – 21 st May)		
Master of Jarrow's Account	DUL	
Expense: . . .		
Et <i>Episcopo puerili Elemosinarie Dunelmi</i>		xx d.
. . .		
1436-7 (25 th May – 17 th May)		
Master of Jarrow's Account	DUL	
. . .		
Et <i>Episcopo puerili Elemosinarie Dunelmi</i>		xx d.
. . .		
1437-8 (13 th May – 26 th May)		
Master of Jarrow's Account	DUL	
. . .		
Et <i>Episcopo puerili Elimosinarie Dunelmi</i>		<i>nichil quia</i> in remotis [xx d.] ⁶
. . .		
1440-1 (9 th May – 29 th May)		
Master of Jarrow's Account	DUL	
. . .		
Et <i>episcopo Puerili Abbatie Dunelmi</i>	-	ij s.
. . .		
1441-2 (29 th May – 14 th May)		
Master of Jarrow's Account	DUL	
Expense: . . .		
Et <i>Episcopo puerili & scriptori huius compoti</i>		iiij s. iiij d.
1444-5 (?25 th May – ?10 th May)		
Master of Jarrow's Account	DUL	
Expense: . . .		
Et <i>episcopo puerili Elemosinarie & scriptori compoti</i>		iiij s. iiij d.
. . .		
1445-6 (10 th May – 30 th May)		
Master of Jarrow's Account	DUL	
Superplusagia: . . .		
Et <i>Episcopo puerili Elemosinarie. & scriptura compoti</i>		iiij s. iiij d.
. . .		

⁶ In A, the correction '*nichil . . .*' is written before the erased sum; in B it is directly over it, so that the sum erased is illegible.

1446-7 (5th September – 22nd May)
Master of Jarrow's Account

DUL

Expense: . . .

Et *Episcopo puerili*

iiij s. iiiij d.

. . .

1447-8 (22nd May – 6th May)
Master of Jarrow's Account

DUL

Expense: . . .

Et *Episcopo puerili Elemosinarie & scriptura compoti*⁷

iiij s. iiiij d.

. . .

1448-9 (6th May – 26th May)
Master of Jarrow's Account

DUL

Expense: . . .

d

Et *Episcopo puerili Elemosinarie. & Scriptori compoti*

iiij s. iiiij d.

. . .

1449-50 (26th May – 18th May)
Master of Jarrow's Account

DUL

Expense: . . .

d

Et *Episcopo puerili Elemosinarie & Scriptori compoti*

iiij s. iiiij d.

. . .

1450-1 (18th May – 7th June)
Master of Jarrow's Account

DUL

Expense: . . .

Et *Episcopo puerili Elemosinarie & Scriptori compoti*

iiij s. iiiij d.

. . .

1451-2 (7th June – 22nd May)
Master of Jarrow's Account

DUL

Expense: . . .

d

Et *Episcopo puerili Elemosinarie*

'ij s.' [xx d.]⁸

. . .

⁷ Text from C; A and B read '& scribenti *compotum*'.

⁸ Text from A, where the original sum 'xx d.' has been erased, with 'ij s.' written above it; B is substantially identical with the corrected form of A.

1452-3 (22 nd May – 14 th May)		
Master of Jarrow's Account	DUL	
Expense: . . .		
Et <i>Episcopo</i> puerili Elemosinarie Dunelmi		xx d.
. . .		
1453-4 (14 th May – 3 rd June)		
Master of Jarrow's Account	DUL	
Expense: . . .		
Et <i>Episcopo</i> puerili Elemosinarie Dunelmi		xx d.
. . .		
1454-5 (3 rd June – 19 th May)		
Master of Jarrow's Account	DUL	
Reparaciones: . . .		
Et <i>Episcopo</i> puerili elemosinarie Dunelmi.		xx d.
. . .		
1455-6 (19 th May – 10 th May)		
Master of Jarrow's Account	DUL	
Reparaciones: . . .		
Et <i>episcopo</i> puerili Elemosinarie		xx d.
. . .		
1456-7 (10 th May – 30 th May)		
Master of Jarrow's Account	DUL	
Reparaciones: . . .		
Et <i>episcopo</i> puerili elemosinarie.		xx d.
. . .		
1457-8 (30 th May – 15 th May)		
Master of Jarrow's Account	DUL	
Expense: . . .		
Et <i>Episcopo</i> puerili Elemosinarie		<xx> d.
. . .		
1466-7 (19 th May – 11 th May)		
Master of Jarrow's Account	DUL	
Expense: . . .		
Et <i>Episcopo</i> puerili Elemosinarie		xx.d.
. . .		

1468-9 (?30 th May – ?15 th May) Master of Jarrow's Account	DUL	
Expense: . . . Et <i>Episcopo puerili</i> . . .		xx d.
1469-70 (?15 th May - ?4 th June) Master of Jarrow's Account	DUL	
Expense: . . . Et <e>piscono p<ueril>i . . .		ij s.
1471-2 (27 th May – 11 th May) Master of Jarrow's Account	DUL	
Expense: . . . Et <i>Episcopo puerili</i> . . .		ij s.
1472-3 (11 th May – 31 st May) Master of Jarrow's Account	DUL	
Expense: . . . Et <i>Episcopo puerili</i> . . .		ij.s.
1473-4 (31 st May – 23 rd May) Master of Jarrow's Account	DUL	
Expense: . . . [Et <i>Episcopo puerili</i> . . .		ij.s.]
1474-5 (23 rd May – 8 th May) Master of Jarrow's Account	DUL	
Expense: , , , Et <i>Episcopo puerili</i> . . .		xx.d.
1475-6 (8 th May – 27 th May) Master of Jarrow's Account	DUL	
Expense: . . . Et <i>Episcopo puerili</i> . . .		xx d.
1479-80 (30 th May – 21 st May)		

Master of Jarrow's Account	DUL	
...		
Et Episcopo puerili		ij s.
...		
1484-5 (6th June – 22nd May)		
Master of Jarrow's Account	DUL	
Expense: ...		
Et Episcopo puerili		ij s.
...		
1486-7 (14th May – 3rd June)		
Master of Jarrow's Account	DUL	
Expense: ...		
Et Episcopo puerili		ij s.
...		
1488-9 (25th May – 7th June)		
Master of Jarrow's Account	DUL	
Expense: ...		
Et episcopo puerili & cantoribus ad ludum suum		iiij s.
...		
1489-90 (1st June – 24th May)		
Master of Jarrow's Account	DUL	
Expense necessarie: ...		
Et Episcopo puerili & cantoribus ad ludum suum		iiij s.
...		
1493-4 (26th May – 18th May)		
Master of Jarrow's Account	DUL	
Expense: ...		
d		
...		
Et episcopo puerili		ij s.
...		
1495-6 (7th June – 22nd May)		
Master of Jarrow's Account	DUL	
Expense: ...		
Et Episcopo puerili & cantoribus ad ludum suum		iiij s.
...		

1497-8 (14th May – 3rd June)
Master of Jarrow's Account

DUL

Expense: . . .

Et *Episcopo puerili & Cantoribus ad ludum*

iiij s.

. . .

1500-1 (7th June – 30th May)
Master of Jarrow's Account

DUL

Expense: . . .

Et *soluti Episcopo puerili & Cantoribus ad ludum suum*

iiij s.

. . .

1501-2 (30th May – 14th May)
Master of Jarrow's Account

DUL

Expense: . . .

Et *soluti Episcopo Puerili & cantoribus ad ludum suum*

iiij s.

. . .

1503-4 (4th June – 26th May)
Master of Jarrow's Account

DUL

Expense: . . . Et *Episcopo puerili & cantoribus ad ludum suum*⁹ – iiij.s. . . .

1504-5 (26th May – 11th May)
Master of Jarrow's Account

DUL

Expense: . . .

d

. . .

Et *soluti Episcopo puerili & Cantoribus Ad ludum suum*

iiij s.

. . .

1505-6 (11th May – 31st May)
Master of Jarrow's Account

DUL

Expense: . . . Et *Episcopo puerili & Cantoribus ad ludum suum* – iiij s. . . .

1517-8 (31st May – 23rd May)
Master of Jarrow's Account

DUL

Expense: . . .

necessarie Et *Episcopo puerili et cantoribus ad ludum suum*

iiij.s.

. . .

1518-9 (23rd May – 12th June)

⁹ Text from B; A places each item on a different line and omits 'suum'.

Master of Jarrow's Account	DUL	
Expense: . . .		
<i>Necessarie</i> Et <i>episcopo puerili & cantoribus ad ludum suum</i>		iiij s.
. . .		
1521-2 (19 th May – 8 th June)		
Master of Jarrow's Account	DUL	
Exspense: . . .		
Et <i>episcopo puerili & cantoribus ad ludum</i> -		iiij s.
. . .		
1531-2 (28 th May – 19 th May)		
Master of Jarrow's Account	DUL	
Expense: . . .		
Et <i>Episcopo puerili</i> -		ij s.
. . .		
1536-7 (4 th June – 20 th May)		
Master of Jarrow's Account	DUL	
Expense: . . .		
Et <i>soluti Episcopo Puerili & Cantoribus</i>		iiij s.
. . .		

Textual Notes

Usual terminal dates are the Monday after Ascension until 1479-80, when they switch to Pentecost, only reverting to Monday after Ascension for a single year in 1489-90.

- 1313-4: This is the third of five brief Jarrow accounts on the face of the same roll which together cover the period 14th June 1313 – 18th April 1314; the dorse contains four accounts for the manor of Wardley, covering the same period.
- 1402-3: Heading undamaged, but includes no opening date. The account is for a full year, and is assumed to begin as well as end on the Monday after Ascension. This style of heading continues until the account for 1407-8.
- 1405-6: Text from C (draft on paper); for variants in A and B (fair copies on parchment), see footnote.
- 1406-7: Text from A; B substantially identical.
- 1408: Text from A; B and C substantially identical.
- 1410-1: Text from A; for variant in B, see footnote.
- 1412-3: Text from A; B badly damaged, but substantially identical where legible. The heading gives the year as '1411-2', but since the year was reckoned to end on 25th March of the year following, this is equivalent to 1412-3. Similarly, the following account for 1413 gives its year as '1412-3'.
- 1413: Text from A; B substantially identical; see End Note.
- 1415-6: Text from A; B substantially identical.

- 1416-7: Text from B; A faded but substantially identical. Heading damaged and year lost in both copies, but closing date legible in B as Monday after Ascension. The account is for a full year, and takes up the balance of the one closed on the Monday after Ascension in 1416.
- 1419-20: Text from A; B damaged but substantially identical.
- 1422-3: Heading damaged and the opening date is lost. Levels of income and expenditure suggest that this account covers rather more than half a year, and the Master who accounts here, Thomas Moreby, was Cellarer at Durham until 18th September 1422, so this account may have opened shortly after that. The subsection heading is lost.
- 1432-3: Text from A; B substantially identical.
- 1433-4: Text from A; B substantially identical.
- 1434-5: Text from A, with no subsection heading; B has the subsection heading 'Expense', but is otherwise substantially identical. The heading gives the opening date as 'Monday after Ascension, 9th May', but the Monday after Ascension was actually 10th May, as correctly noted in the heading of the account for 1433-4.
- 1435-6: Text from A; B substantially identical.
- 1436-7: Text from A; B substantially identical. The terminal dates in this account switch (for a single year) from Monday after Ascension to Friday before Pentecost (i.e. Friday of the same week), but the heading gives the opening date as 'Friday 27th May', whereas the Friday before Pentecost was in fact 25th May.
- 1437-8: Text from A, where '*nichil*', etc. has been added before an erased '[xx d.]'; B substantially identical, but here the correction is written directly over the erasure, which is consequently illegible. Neither copy has subsection headings. Further, see End Note.
- 1440-1: Text from A; B substantially identical.
- 1441-2: Text from A; B substantially identical.
- 1444-5: Heading damaged, but closing year legible; the opening date is '... after the Ascension' and the closing date 'Monday after . . .' Both are assumed to be the Monday after Ascension, as usual in this period; the account for 1445-6 also begins on the Monday after Ascension.
- 1446-7: Text from A; B substantially identical.
- 1447-8: Text from C (without balance); for variant in A and B (fair copies with balance), see footnote.
- 1448-9: Text from A; B substantially identical.
- 1449-50: Text from A; B substantially identical.
- 1450-1: Text from A; B substantially identical.
- 1451-2: Text from A, where the sum has been written over a deleted 'xx d.'; B (without subsection totals) substantially identical with the corrected form of A.
- 1452-3: Text from A; B substantially identical.
- 1453-4: Text from C, with incorrect subsection totals; A and B (corrected fair copies) are here substantially identical.
- 1454-5: Text from A; B substantially identical.
- 1456-7: Text from A (the Prior's copy); B (the sub-prior's copy) substantially identical.
- 1457-8: Heading damaged, but enough survives for the terminal dates to be unambiguous. The sum of the item is only partly legible even under ultraviolet light, but '<xx> d.' is the only possible sum.

- 1468-9: Heading damaged, but opening year is clear; opening date is ‘***day after ***ension’ and closing date ‘the same day in the year *46*’; the closing date is assumed to be the Monday after Ascension, the probable opening date of the account for 1469-70, and the opening date must then be the same day a year earlier.
- 1469-70: Heading damaged, and dates legible only as ‘from Monday . . . to the same Monday in the year 14**’. However, the account for 1470-1, which begins on the Monday after Ascension, takes up the closing balance of this account, so this must be the account for 1469-70 and its terminal dates are probably, as usual, the Monday after Ascension.
- 1473-4: This entry has been (rather half-heartedly) deleted; the sum of expenses is wrong whether the item is included or not, so it is not possible to say whether the deletion has been taken notice of in totalling the account. Further see End Note.
- 1475-6: Text from A; B substantially identical.
- 1488-9: Draft on paper.
- 1503-4: Text from B; A has each item on a separate line and omits ‘suum’.
- 1518-9: The opening year is stated correctly in the heading of this account, but the closing year is given as ‘1509’; however, as the account includes a regular payment of five pounds to the Master of Farne which makes its first appearance in 1513-4, and the Master of Jarrow here is William Hawkwell, who also appears as Master in the accounts for 1517-8 and 1521-2; the actual year must therefore be 1518-9.

End Notes

- 1405-6: This payment must be for the ceremony that took place in Ascension week 1406, since there was no Boy Bishop ceremony in 1405 – see Hostillar’s account 1405-6 and End Note; it is worth noting that the Jarrow account for 1404-5 survives but includes no Boy Bishop payment.
- 1413: This is one of a number of accounts for periods shorter than one year which show that the Almonry Bishop ceremony cannot have been held on St. Nicholas’s day (6th December) or Holy Innocents (28th December), which were the traditional dates for it elsewhere; this account ends on Ascension Day.
- 1423-4: The cancellation of this payment for the Boy Bishop is surprising, since there is evidence that the ceremony did take place in 1424 (see the 1423-4 accounts of the Almoner, Hostillar, Sacrist and Prior of Finchale), and in both adjacent years (for 1423 see the same officers; for 1425 see the accounts of the Bursar, Hostillar, Sacrist and Prior of Finchale). The financial situation at Jarrow was difficult, but that had not excused the Master there from making contributions during the more serious crisis of 1416-21 (see Dobson, *Durham Cathedral Priory* 312); nonetheless, it seems most likely that in this year the annual chapter meeting at Durham released Jarrow from the obligation to contribute because of its continuing financial problems.
- 1437-8: The correction ‘Nichil quia in remotis’ may perhaps be translated ‘Nothing, because it is in abeyance’ (cf. Lewis and Short, *A Latin Dictionary* 1563-4); there are no other Boy Bishop payments for 1438 or either of the two following years (whereas

there are eight surviving contributions in 1436-7 and nine in 1440-1). The likeliest explanation is that the Boy Bishop ceremony was suspended as an economy measure following the financial crisis in the cathedral priory which came to light following the flight of Bursar Thomas Lawson in 1438, though in 1438 and 1439 there was also an outbreak of the plague (see introduction to the Bursar's accounts, and Dobson, *Durham Cathedral Priory* 285-87).

- 1473-4: The deletion of this item may suggest that there was no Boy Bishop ceremony in 1474: the surviving accounts of the Bursar, Hostillar, Sacrist, Master of Farne and Prior of Finchale include no Boy Bishop payments for this year, and the only other account which does (the Master of Wearmouth's account) may be copying mechanically from the account for the previous year. Interestingly, the following year is the first in which a Boy Bishop payment is said to have been paid to the Feretrar's office (see the Prior of Finchale's account for 1474-5 and End Note), and this may indicate that there was a hiatus in 1474 followed by a reorganisation or discontinuing of the ceremony in 1475. See also Feretrar's account 1480-1 and End Note.
- 1488-9: The payment to singers is included here only because it is lumped together with the Boy Bishop payment. It does not relate to a performance, but is a regular item for the expenses of cathedral singers during their annual holiday after Christmas.
- 1501-2: As the combined payment for the Boy Bishop and the singers' holiday is usually 4 s., the figure of 3 s. here may be a scribal error.