

**THE CHURCHWARDEN'S  
MANUAL; OR, A GUIDE  
TO THE ORDINARY DUTIES  
OF A CHURCHWARDEN**

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The Churchwarden's Manual; Or, A Guide to the Ordinary Duties of a Churchwarden by  
Thomas Mackreth

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**THOMAS MACKRETH**

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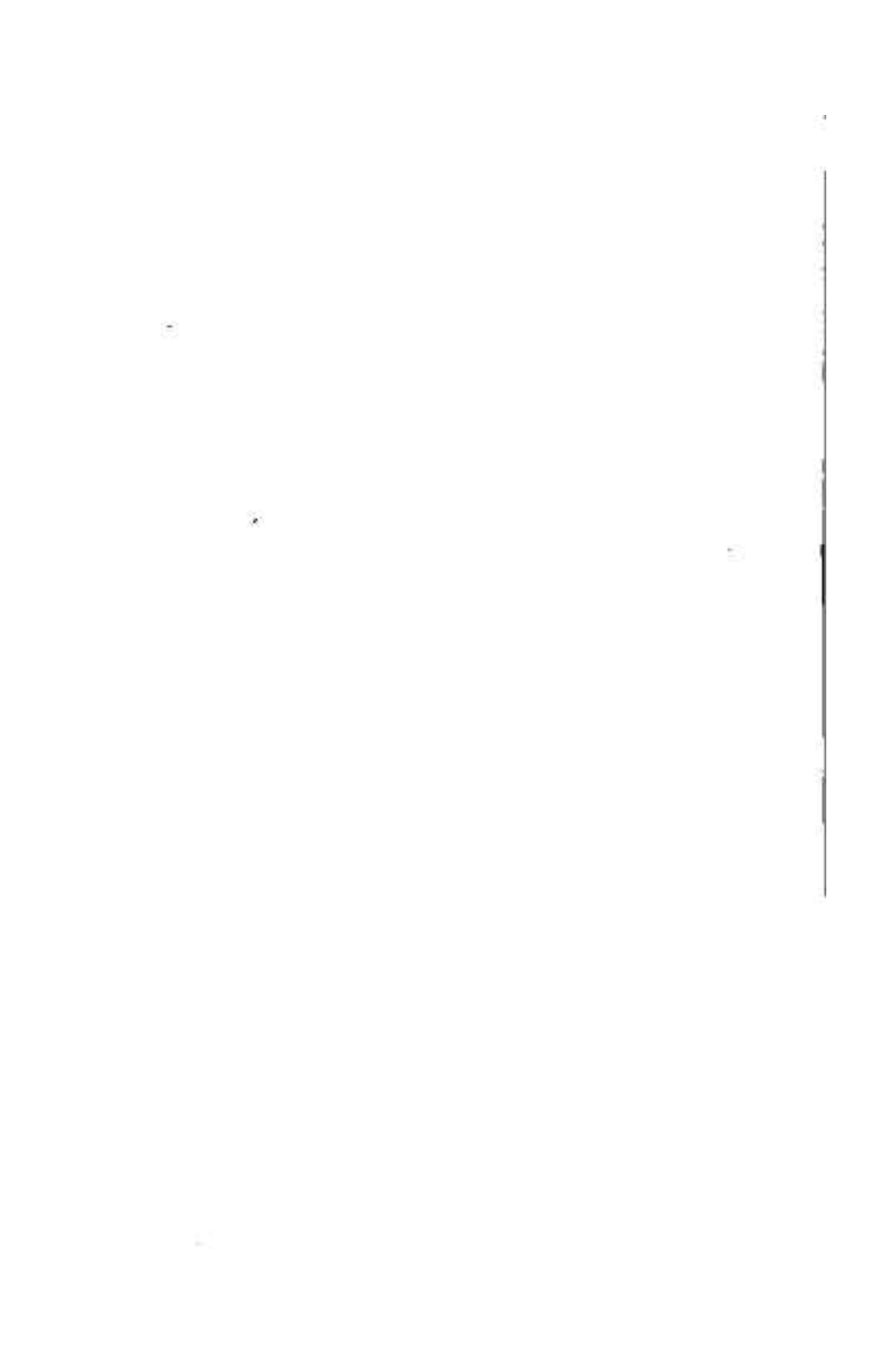
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TO THE  
**Churchwardens and Chapelwardens**  
OF THE  
LANCASTER  
NORTH AND SOUTH DECANAL DISTRICTS,

**THIS WORK**

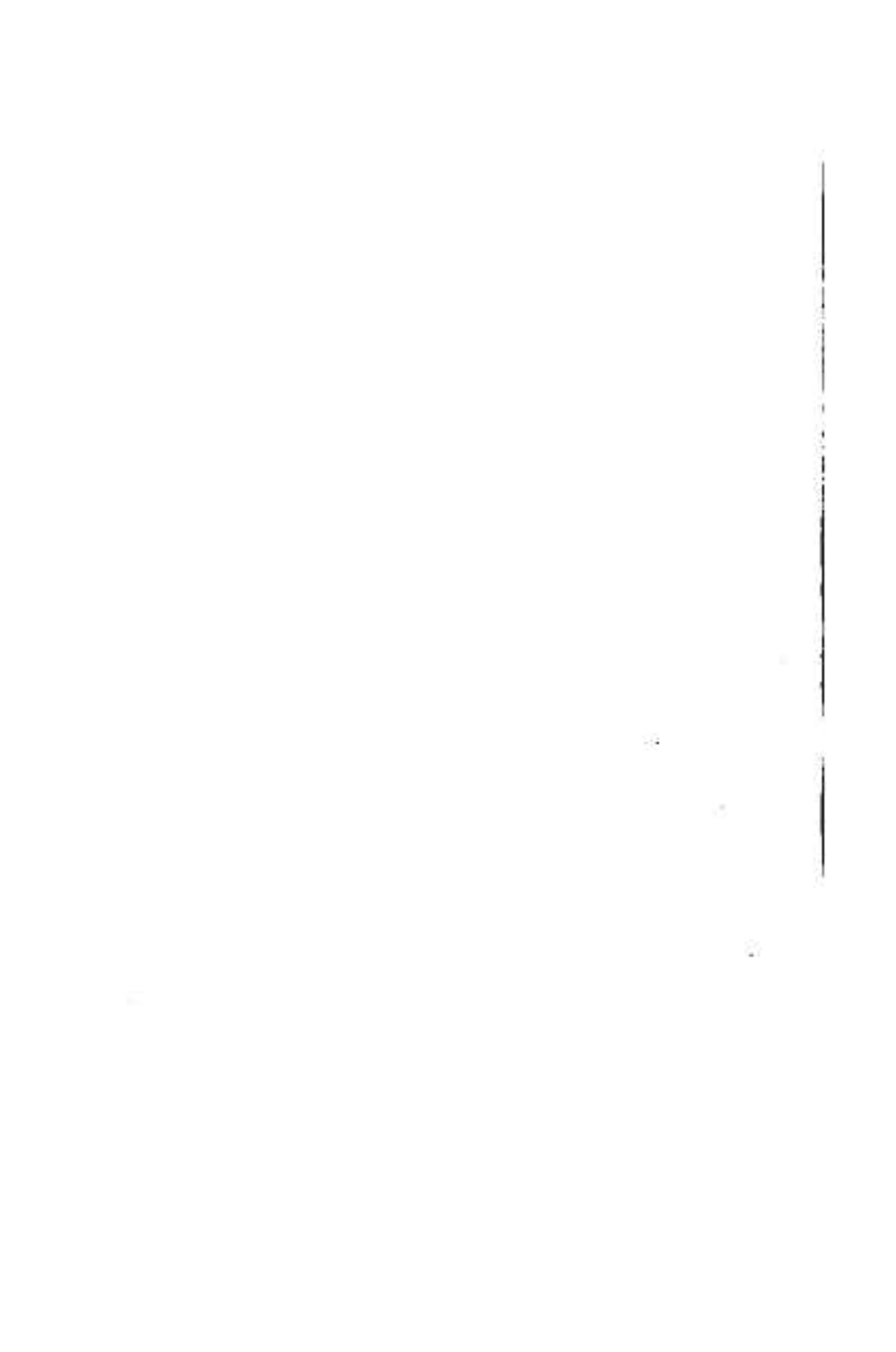
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BY

THEIR OBEDIENT SERVANT,

THOS. MACKRETH.





## PREFACE

TO THE SECOND EDITION.

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ALL the copies of the first impression of this little work have, long since, been disposed of : and my publishers have frequently reminded me that a second edition was much wanted ;— I deferred, however, preparing it as long as the Braintree church-rate case was pending. Judgment has now been given in that important case ; and will be found embodied in this edition, in its proper place.

*Rectory, Halton, Lancaster,  
February 1847.*

## PREFACE

TO THE FIRST EDITION.

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SINCE my appointment to the office of Rural Dean in this district, frequent complaints have been made to me, by churchwardens, of individuals who have refused to pay their church-rates; and my advice has been asked how they were to proceed to compel these refractory parties to pay them. Upon enquiry into the causes which have led to these complaints and difficulties, I have almost invariably found that the church-rates had been made with such an entire disregard of all the necessary forms as would render any attempts to enforce them quite useless. In justice to these churchwardens, I ought

to add that I have observed no disinclination or supineness, in discharging the duties of their office, but only a want of knowledge of the proper mode of doing it—especially in those more important parts which relate to the levying of church-rates and the disposal of church-sittings. It was a desire to supply this want of information which first suggested the following treatise : and it is now offered in a plain and easy form, in the hope that it may in some degree answer the end proposed ; and may also, perhaps, prevent some of those differences and contentions, among neighbours, which, in not a few instances, have arisen, I would gladly believe, from no worse a motive than a sort of determination not to submit any longer to that loose and irregular way in which, for a number of years, it has been the custom, in many places, for church-rates to be levied.