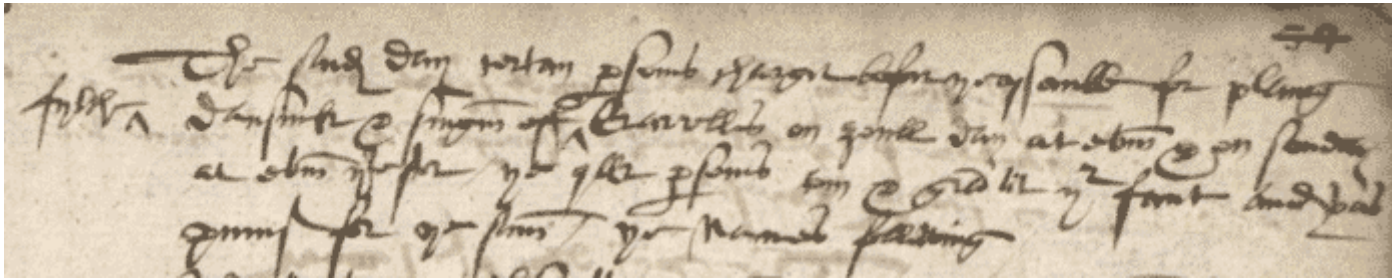


Weekly Poser 391 – minute book of St Nicholas Kirk, Aberdeen, 1574

This week's poser is taken from the minutes books of St Nicholas Kirk, Aberdeen, 1574 (National Records of Scotland, CH2/448/1 page 65). It relates to a case of seasonal unrest heard in front of the kirk session.

The hand is fairly rushed and one of the difficulties is the number of abbreviated words used. The precise expansion of these is sometimes a matter of interpretation. Nevertheless, it is possible to understand the meaning of the passage without necessarily knowing precisely how the clerk would have spelled particular words if he had not abbreviated them. In addition, watch out in particular for letter p abbreviations and the use of the thorn and the yogh.



This week's question: what were the people listed charged with?

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Answer: They were charged with playing, dancing and singing of 'fylthe' carols on Christmas eve.

Transcription:

The said day certan p[er]sons chargit befor the assemble for plaing
dansink & singin[g] of fylthe Karellis on zoull day at even[ing] & on sunday
at even[ing] th[e]rfor the q[ui]lk p[er]sons com & gra[n]tit there fault and vas
punist for th[e]r sinn[ing] th[e]r Names following

If you would like to contribute palaeography posers to the website contact us (onlineresources@nas.gov.uk).