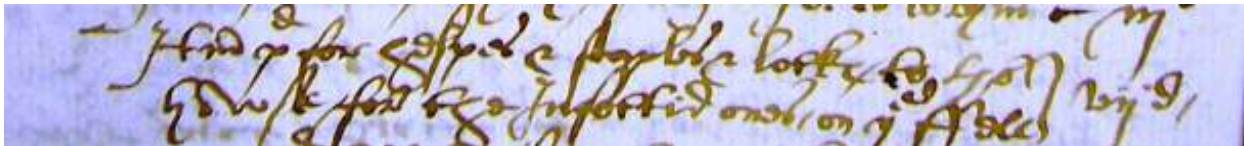


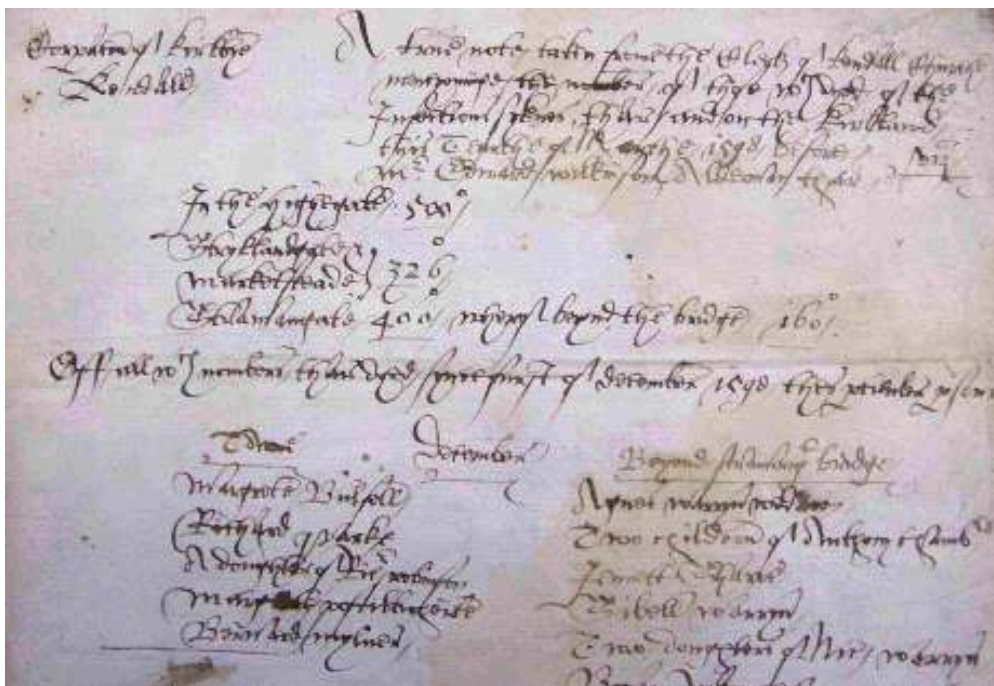
A particularly nasty visitation of Plague in which, it is thought, over half the population died, hit Kendal in 1598. Here are some sources from the Corporation archives that tell us about the outbreak, including measures taken to deal with it and a document outlining details of numbers of inhabitants who died. There is also a puzzle here for you to have a go at reading the handwriting of 16<sup>th</sup> century documents.



Item p[ai]d to Rob[er]t Fissher & Ned Harryson for vewing of corps XII<sup>d</sup> (12p)



Item p[ai]d for hesses & stapls & lockes to the howse for the infected ones on ye Fell VII<sup>d</sup> (7p)



Sources on display here show that items were purchased for locking up a plague isolation house on the Fell; officials were paid to check the dead to determine whether they had died of plague; individuals were also paid for digging graves and 'watching' (probably to ensure plague victims stayed in the isolation houses and that those from surrounding villages also affected by plague did not enter Kendal in search of shelter or support).

Have a go at deciphering the hand writing in this 16<sup>th</sup> century note on symptoms of the plague

This tells you what the first three signs of the plague are -  
Can you work out the missing words?

This note describes the first three signs of the plague:

The firste is grevynge pynne in the face part of the head and next to the eye, and laste the death is a great heavyness of the body above the head, and a great drowsyness & heavyness for want of slepe.

Handwritten notes and deciphered words:

- heavenes (heaviness)
- grevynge = pynne (pain)
- the = the
- firste = fyrste (first)
- heavyness = shevering (shivering)
- drowsyness = drowsyness (drowsiness)
- heavyness = slepe (sleep)
- grevynge = cowlde (cold)