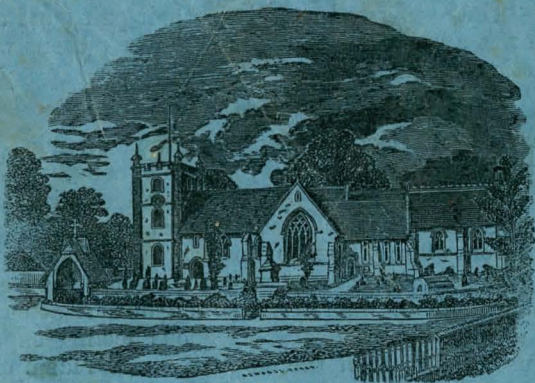


THE
HAMBLEDEN
Magazine.



PRICE THREE HALFPENCE.

May, 1873.

Extracts from the Parish Registers.

BAPTISMS.

April 6th, (born Dec. 26th, 1872), George Osmond, son of George and Mary Lovejoy.

Same day, (born Dec. 2nd, 1872), Caroline Anne, daughter of Zechariah and Alice Coker, Pheasants Hill.

April 27th, (born Mar. 28th), Mabel Rosa, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Courtney.

Same day, (born Feb. 19th), Rosa Louisa, daughter of George and Emma Wells.

MARRIAGE.

April 16th, Theodore Stretch, Esq., to Miss Julia Mariana Cripps.

BURIAL.

April 4th, (died Mar. 28th), Harriett Penn, aged 17 years.

April 24th, (died April 20th), Clara Gutridge, of Pheasants Hill, infant.

HOME MISSIONS.

A meeting in connection with this important subject was held in the Hambleden Schoolroom, on Tuesday evening, April 1st. The attendance unhappily was not very large, but those who were present listened with great attention to a very interesting and forcible address, by the Rev. B. Kitson, Organising Secretary of the "Society for the Employment of Additional Curates." They were well repaid for their pains and attention, and there was a universal regret that so few persons was there. The collection amounted to £1 12s. 10½d.

GOOD FRIDAY.

The Services on Good Friday were well attended. In the morning the Churches were full; and the congregations were attentive and devout. The Evening Services likewise found large congregations. At the Special Services in the afternoon there were from 50 to 60 persons present. Some persons came for one service, and some for others. We hope that each succeeding year more and more serious and devout attention will be given to this day, as deeper religious feeling engenders a deeper sense of sin and of the mode of man's redemption.

The Easter Day Services were on the whole very satisfactory. The singing was good and hearty. The congregations all day were quite large. The number of communicants at Hambleden and Frieth was 111. This supplemented by the number of additional communicants on the Sunday before and the Sunday after, including those at Skirmett, gives nearly 150 altogether. The Evening Service at Hambleden was very joyous. Almost all the congregation remained after service to hear Beethoven's "Hallelujah Chorus" played on the organ, and felt themselves well repaid.

The decorations were more than usually good. The profusion of primroses helped greatly to relieve the dark foliage of the evergreens. We have never seen the cross at the east end so good as it was this year. Great credit is due to the industry

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and skill of those kindly fingers at Rotten Row, which executed this work of devout love. The thanks of all the congregations is due to those many loving labourers who so tastefully adorned both Churches, and at the cost of so much labour and time. We are sure that their kindly toils not only in their results enliven the worship of Easter, but they are highly beneficial in more ways than one to those who undertake them.

Easter week was an especially gay season with us. On Wednesday, April 16th, the whole Parish was put in its holiday attire to join in the marriage festivities of Mr. Theodore Stretch, and Miss Cripps, of Parmoor. Though there was no unnecessary display, the scene in Hambleden, both in and out of Church, was brilliant. The bridal party assembled just before 11 o'clock, and no sooner had they reached their places, than the whole body of the Church was filled with an eager, but attentive, congregation, who conducted themselves with great propriety throughout the service. The Marriage Service was performed by the Rector, assisted by the Rev. F. E. Utterton. The Bride and Bridegroom spoke their answers with great distinctness and with evident heartiness. The ladies' dresses were very elegant and becoming, setting a most excellent example of chaste simplicity. Miss Cripps' Sunday School Scholars, who will sadly miss their kind Teacher, came to Church laden with primroses, which they strewed in rich abundance under her feet as she left the Church. There was a large party, but chiefly members of the family, at breakfast at Parmoor House after the Service. The happy pair left for the Isle of Wight at 2 p.m. As soon as they were gone, a large gathering of poor persons, labourers, their families, and aged men and women, assembled in a tent in the field adjoining the mansion, when most ample justice was done to beef, mutton and plum puddings. Meanwhile all the Frieth week-day and Sunday School children, with the boys of the Hambleden Church Choir, were regaled with tea and cake, which disappeared with marvellous rapidity. All persons, older and younger, appeared to enjoy themselves most thoroughly.

On Thursday, April 17th, we had the most successful entertainment ever given at Hambleden. Great pains had been bestowed upon the preparations by kind friends, who were determined to make it a success. The sincere thanks of all persons is due to these friends, and they have the satisfaction of knowing that their efforts were not thrown away. The musical performances were of a superior order, and we beg to tender our best thanks to those kind performers who gave a large audience so rich a treat. There were nearly 150 persons present. All classes were well represented. Every one seemed determined to take part in the entertainment, and to be pleased with it. The Readings, "Macaulay's Lay of Horatius," and Wordsworth's "Blind Highland Boy," were well appreciated, and the songs of the ladies were loudly *encored*.

The Choir beg to offer their best thanks to those kind friends who in this way raised for their summer excursion a sum but little short of £8.

MEDMENHAM CORNER.

Baptisms.

April 6th, George Hobbs.

April 6th, Rosa Wise.

April 8th, Edith Agnes Todd.

CONFIRMATION.

At the Confirmation held at Henley, by the Lord Bishop, on April 17th, there were three male candidates from Medmenham, one of whom was Samuel Coker, aged 92 years.

It is sometimes considered by persons who have passed the usual age for confirmation without being confirmed, that they had then best leave it alone, but surely the best and only reparation we can make for the neglect of a Holy Scriptural Ordinance, is to neglect it no more. People may be too young to be confirmed; they can hardly be too old to obey God's Word.

Our Lent Services have been pretty well attended this year, all things considered; but till every one feels the necessity to his own soul of answering the call to repentance and Godly sorrow there will remain great room for improvement.

GOOD FRIDAY.—There are signs of this day becoming observed in a way more in accordance with its most solemn thoughts and meaning.

EASTER DAY.—At the early and late celebrations 36 persons in all communicated. Great care had been taken to render the services as bright and joyous as possible. We must express our gratitude to the willing hearts and hands which spared neither time nor pains upon the decorations in the Church. We hope their success has been not little as their labour was great.

April 17th. The good people of Medmenham will have remembered what a loss they suffered on this day in 1872. Their love for their late Pastor cannot wane, nor their sympathy decline for those who were removed by his decease. Many a holy lesson may be recalled by this passage, (Heb. xi. 4), "He being dead yet speaketh."

We have had two Vestry meetings, one on March 27th, for business connected with the Parish, the other on Tuesday in Easter-week, for that connected with the Church. At the first meeting, Messrs. J. Ralston and J. G. Crossman were nominated Overseers, and Mr. P. Hobbs appointed Surveyor of Highways; while Richard Wilkins, Jos. Bird, and Jos. Lowe, were named as eligible to serve the office of constable. A Highway Rate of 6d. in the pound was allowed to the Surveyor.

At the second meeting the Churchwardens' accounts were produced, shewing a balance in hand. Mr. W. Hobbs was re-elected Churchwarden for the Vicar, and Mr. P. Hobbs for the Parish. It was agreed to ask for a subscription when required by the Churchwardens.

PAROCHIAL FUND.—The account for 1872 has been affixed to the notice board of the Church, shewing a balance in hand of £2 8s. 1d.

Ascension Day falls on the 22nd of May, and we shall try to mark so great a Festival as the Church directs.