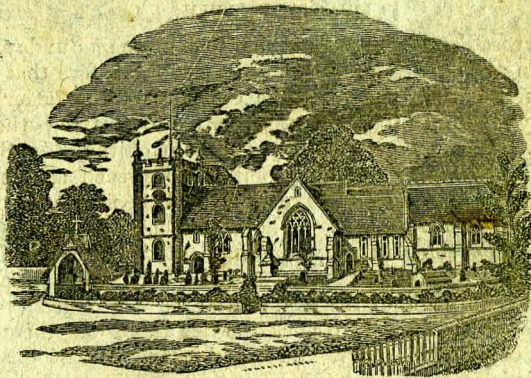


THE
HAMBLEDEN
Magazine.



PRICE THREE HALFPENCE.

November, 1883.

Extracts from the Parish Registers.

BAPTISMS.

- Oct. 7th.—Alfred Reid, son of Emily Tilbury, of Little Frieth.
,, William Hurfa, son of William and Sarah Williams, of
Hambleden.
,, Herbert John, son of Charles and Elizabeth Sellers, of
Skirmett.
Oct. 14th.—Harold, son of Charles and Emma Alice Webb, of Frieth.
,, William, son of Frederick and Emma Griffin, of Frieth.
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MARRIAGES.

- Oct. 21st.—James Webb, to Sarah Gray.
,, 29th.—Vincent Cherrill to Sarah Hobbs.
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BURIALS.

- Oct. 2nd.—Elizabeth Moulds, Mill End, aged 31.
,, 3rd.—Margaret Broadway, Pheasants, aged 41.
,, 17th.—John Joseph, Hambleden, aged 42.
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The Editor must apologize for the late issue of the Magazine this month, but it has been kept back in order that an account of the Tower Dedication Festival might be inserted.

HARVEST FESTIVALS.

The Harvest Festival at Hambleden took place on Sunday, Oct. 7th. It had been arranged to hold it on the Sunday before that date, but in consequence of wet weather the carrying of the latter corn was much delayed, and so it was thought better to postpone the Festival for a week. We were sorry to lose the help of the Rev. S. Sturges, Vicar of Wargrave, who had promised to preach at the Morning Service if the Festival could have been held as first arranged. But this could not be helped, and we hope that he will be able to come to us instead on some future occasion. Sunday, October 7th, was a fine day, and everything went off satisfactorily. The Services were well attended throughout the day, and there was a good number of Communicants. At the 11 o'clock Service there was the usual procession of choristers, clergy, and working men, bearing sheaves of corn. This is certainly a striking feature of the Hambleden Thanksgiving Service. It is literally carrying the first-fruits into God's House and thereby acknowledging Him as the Giver of our Harvest store.

The Evening Service was Choral, and the singing was joyous and bright; a very earnest sermon was preached by the Rev. ARTHUR FEARON, Vicar of Great Marlow. The processional hymn, both Morning and Evening, was that beginning "Onward Christian Soldiers." The Church, as is usual on such occasions, looked very pretty, and the decorations of flowers and corn added not a little to the brightness of the Service.

On the same evening a similar Service was held at Skirmett School Chapel. The Chapel, which was prettily decked for the occasion, was quite crammed with worshippers, who, as they always do there, joined heartily in the singing, which, though of course more simple than at the Parish Church, is, we believe, none the less acceptable to

Almighty God, since it is the "best" that under the circumstances can be offered to Him.

The Festival at Frieth did not take place until Sunday, Oct. 21st. This date was considerably later than usual, but the backwardness of the Harvest rendered the delay necessary. We believe that the congregations throughout the day were good, and the Services in accordance with the occasion. The collections there, as at Hambleden and Skirmett, were for the Foreign Missions of the Church, and the total sum, as will be seen below, amounted to something considerable, which is we trust a substantial proof of gratitude to God for mercies received.

	£	s.	d.
Hambleden	16	11	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Frieth	4	10	0
Skirmett	0	14	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
	£21 15 7 $\frac{1}{2}$		

MEMORIAL TOWER DEDICATION FESTIVAL.

Many persons in the Parish have been looking forward to this Festival with feelings of joy and thankfulness, in that the work at the Tower as a tribute of affection to their late Rector was satisfactorily completed, and ready to be dedicated to the glory of God. Nov. 1st, All Saints' Day, had been fixed for the Festival, and the Bishop of the Diocese and the Rural Dean (Rev. R. Chilton), had promised to come and preach. The former had not been at all well for some few weeks past, and it seemed very doubtful if he would be able to fulfil his engagement, but we are thankful to say he came, though we fear he was feeling far from strong. The weather favoured us, as it has done this year at all our parochial gatherings. Indeed, for November, it was a splendid day and could not well have been finer. There was an Early Celebration of the Holy Communion at eight o'clock, at which there was a fair number of Communicants. This Service was followed at 11 o'clock, by Morning Prayer, Sermon by the Bishop, and a Second Celebration, at which the Bishop was the Celebrant.

Before Morning Prayer began, the members of Hambleden and Frieth Choirs met at the Vestry, and having put on their surplices proceeded down the Church, accompanied by Mr. Nash and Mr. Trusted, and then leaving the Church went to the Lych Gate to await the Bishop and Clergy, who were at the School. As soon as the latter joined them, the procession, headed by the Church Banner, entered the Church, and as it advanced up the aisle "The Church's One Foundation" was sung. There was a large congregation, partly composed of our own people, and partly of friends from far and near, who had been anxious to come to the Service.

The Bishop's Sermon was listened to with rapt attention. His text was taken from Ephesians v., 25—28. He spoke of Christ's great love for the Church and of God's will that all its members should be sanctified, though the sin of man and the opposition of the Evil One frustrated the accomplishment of His Will. He then went on to speak of the Saints of God who *were* truly sanctified, and made some very feeling and touching remarks respecting the late Rector, and of his Father before him, who had worked so earnestly for many years in this Parish, and who had taught their flock so faithfully in that House.

The Evening Service was at seven, and the Rev. R. Chilton preached a very plain earnest sermon upon Hebrews xiii., 7. He also made some very nice allusions to the late Rector, his work, and

his writings. We are very thankful that the Services passed off so well—and many persons expressed themselves pleased with the manner in which the Services were conducted. The combined Choirs, by their ready help, did much to bring about this happy result.

The Collections were very good, amounting to £22 2s. 1³d.; the debt upon the Church Bell Account is therefore paid off. It is very nice to hear the sound of our bells again, and we hope that they will be no further expense for a very long time to come.

MISSIONARY MEETING.

A Missionary Meeting will be held in Hambleden School Room, on Wednesday Evening, November 28th, at seven o'clock. We hope many persons will make an effort to attend it.

All Missionary Boxes must be returned to the Rectory by Dec. 1st.

MEDMENHAM CORNER.

BIRTH.

September 19th.—Mrs. George Field, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

October 13th.—Henry James Smith, of the Parish of Wargrave, to Tryphena Tilbury of this Parish.

CHURCH CONGRESS.—It says something for the interest taken in the welfare of the Church in these parts, that in point of attendance the late Congress at Reading has distanced all meetings that had taken place before. We must have a copy of its proceedings when the book is published, and that can go the round of the parish. Much valuable and instructive information will then be obtainable by those who were not able to be present at the Congress itself.

We must congratulate our neighbours of Hambleden upon the completion of the work upon their Church Tower. It has been done in grateful memory of the long and zealous labours of the late Rector. We are sure no Medmenham person who knew Mr. Ridley will pass the tower without thinking of the good which he ever tried to do and to teach, both in his own parish and in the neighbourhood, for our one Master's sake.

The Michaelmas changing did indeed affect us with more than usual force. It is a grave matter to have lost the Norcott family from our midst. The Church has relied upon their services both in ringing and singing for many years. We must take this opportunity of thanking William Norcott for his attention in both these respects. His welfare, and that of his family, is a subject of much interest among his many Medmenham friends.

The Night School was re-opened on Monday, the 22nd of October. As yet the attendance is very scanty.

It cannot be too firmly laid down that people are not permitted to touch the Church Bells at pleasure. The Vicar has the care of them, and there is an authorized body of ringers. If other persons take upon themselves to ring the Bells, they may find themselves in trouble.