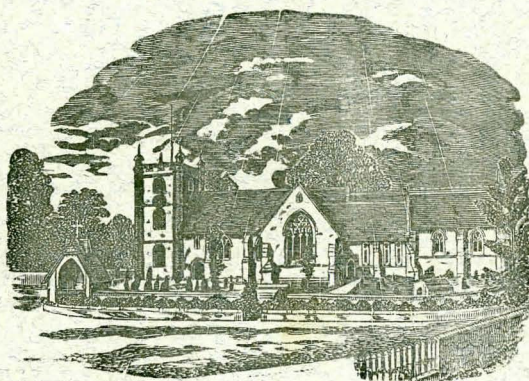


THE
Hambleton Magazine.



OCTOBER, 1900.

Price Three Half-pence.

PARISH REGISTER.

Baptism.

September 2.—Albert, son of William and Phœbe Saunders (at Frieth).

Marriage.

September 22.—Charles Carr and Laura Edwards (at Frieth).

Burials.

July 27.—Mary Ann Sellers, aged 83 years (omitted last month by mistake).

September 16.—Thomas West, aged 59 years (at Frieth).

Many of our readers will be interested to hear that our old friend, the Rev. Herman Francis Prideaux Davson, was married to Miss Gertrude Haughton Sortwell, at the Parish Church of Brill, in this County, on September 11th. Mr. Davson is now Vicar of Worminghall, a small village near Thame.

THOMAS WEST,

Born July 16th, 1841. Died September 11th, 1900.



In Memoriam.

Having been courteously invited by the Rector to contribute a few lines to this Magazine in memory of the late Mr. Thomas West, of Frieth, I cannot do otherwise than respond to the call.

Thomas West was born at Harpsden, but spent nearly the whole of his life at Frieth, with the exception of its earlier years of childhood, and of a year or two in Devonshire later in life when he had charge of a school in that county.

I may indeed speak of him as an old personal friend of thirty years standing, whose friendship I dearly valued, and whose memory I shall always deeply respect. It is difficult to think of Frieth without him, but God has called him to his rest after many years of weakness and ill health, and it would not be well to wish him back again.

As a Schoolmaster he took the greatest interest in his work, and was truly beloved and respected by his scholars. He was a man of great originality and would often strike out a line for himself independently of the red tape of the Education Department. The Maypole dance was an instance of this, which was so successfully performed by the Frieth children. I can also remember a large map of Great Britain made in the School yard of flint stones, let into the ground, which was a capital way of teaching geography. He was also very fond of his museum.

Such things as these shew that his heart was in his work, and that he was always striving to make his mode of instruction novel and interesting to the children committed to his care, and it is not too much to say that he met with well-merited success.

We do not, however, think of him only as a Schoolmaster, although of course that was his chief calling. In almost every good work carried on at Frieth he took a part, and was deeply interested in anything that promoted the advancement and well-being of the village and of those who lived in it.

He was for many years Organist at the Church and also Sexton, although some of the work belonging to the latter office he was obliged to depute to others on account of his own physical weakness. He was a true Churchman, and dearly loved the little Church at Frieth where he spent so many happy hours in prayer and praise.

But now he is gone to his rest and "his works do follow him"!

He will be long remembered, and his name will be truly honoured. I hope that those who were taught by him in Frieth School will never forget their old master, but will try to serve God in their generation as he did in his. He has left us an example of duty performed under bodily weakness of no ordinary kind, which must have made it very hard to labour on under such conditions.

Now that his life's work is done it is a joy to think of him in rest, and at peace in the presence of His Heavenly Master, awaiting "the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come." C.M.W.

The present Rector need add very little except to shew that he is not behind his predecessor in appreciating the great value to himself and the parish of the subject of this notice.

It was just two years ago that Mr. West was compelled to relinquish the offices of Schoolmaster and Sexton that he had held so long and fulfilled so worthily. In spite of a winter at Bournemouth he had grown gradually weaker. He became much worse in the latter part of August, and it soon became evident to himself and others that he must resign all hopes of recovering his strength. He bore this disappointment—for a disappointment it was, not so much on his own account as for anxiety for his family—with great faith and fortitude; as he also bore his physical sufferings with exemplary patience. It was with deep thankfulness that he was able to enjoy the privilege of Holy Communion, with his wife and all his children around him, a week before the end; and that he retained his mind unclouded to the last.

He had been saying a few words to some of his family on the Tuesday evening, when, about 10.30, he just laid his head upon his pillow, and (like David of old) “after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep.” And those who knew him and loved him could not but thank Almighty God, “with Whom do live the spirits of them that depart hence in the Lord, and with Whom the souls of the faithful, after they are delivered from the burden of the flesh, are in joy and felicity,” that it hath pleased Him at length “to deliver this our brother out of the miseries of this sinful world.”

Seldom have men so admirably filled the place in life to which God called them than he; and was not the reason of this that he devoted himself with all his heart and soul to the duties of his calling? He loved his school, and the Church, and village; and as he gave himself to the service of these, so he gained, by reason of this service, that growth in grace which rendered him the gentle, guileless, earnest, unworldly man he was.

The touching Service in the Churchyard, on the still, autumnal afternoon, is described below: the Evening Service with the Nunc Dimittis, and hymns 538, 230, and 537, most aptly selected, made a fitting conclusion to this sad day at Frieth. The Rector preached on Psalm lxxv., 4, “Blessed is the man whom Thou chooseth, and receivest unto Thee: he shall dwell in Thy court, and shall be satisfied with the pleasures of Thy house, even of Thy holy temple.”

FRIETH LETTER.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—As I sit down to write this, we are still under the influence of the sadness caused by Mr. T. West's death. We had all been expecting it, but we cannot help feeling our loss all the same. You will, I know, be putting something in the Magazine about his past services to the district, so I need not enlarge upon them. He was the first person I had anything to do with in Frieth, and I remember how struck I was by the pride he took in everything connected with the Church and village, and the faith he had in what Frieth could do when called upon to exert itself. It is a matter of considerable regret to me, and I think, to others, that we have not yet been able to place a clock on the Village Hall, for he once told me he did so wish to see that done before he died. The funeral on Sunday, September 16th, was quietly impressive. He had chosen the hymns (Nos. 165 and 401) himself, and by his desire there was no singing at the grave-side. It would have been too much for most of us. The beautiful display of wreaths and crosses, rich with the colouring of autumn flowers, testified to the general esteem in which he was held. The long line of School-children following in the procession, together with the presence of the Head-masters of neighbouring schools, Mr. Willis, of Hambleton, and Mr. Bullock, of Lane End, gave a special and appropriate feature to the ceremony. We might observe that several other members of the profession would have been present from a greater distance had they known in time. Mrs. West and the other members of the family have had all our sympathy during the trying time they have gone through, and in the great loss they have sustained.

To turn to more ordinary topics : you will be glad to hear that the dressmaking classes which were so successful last winter are to be followed this season by **Laundry** and **Nursing Classes**, six lessons, I believe, in each course. It was satisfactory to hear from our representative on the central committee that Frieth is considered one of the most deserving villages in the matter of technical education, on account of the keenness with which the various subjects are taken up, and we hope our reputation in this respect may be well maintained. I hear that the rules are to be more strictly enforced than heretofore, but there was little to complain of last season so far as we were concerned.

Not long ago we had a visit from Miss Goldingham, the lady who is working our **White Frontal**. She wished to see the Church before deciding on the colours to be used. Mrs. King finds that money has come in so freely that she has decided to spend £13 10s. on this work, instead of £12 as at first arranged, and Miss Goldingham is very generously giving us more than full market value for our money. The white hanging for the pulpit has also been put in hand, and is to be ready by Christmas.

The **Reading Room** Committee met on the 17th, and decided to open as usual on the first Monday in October. An alteration was made in the rule as to smoking, which will now be permitted every evening after 8 o'clock, but the rule as amended will now be strictly enforced. Mention was made of the possibility of a grand costume concert after Christmas, and the niggers will no doubt appear as before. The first Social of the season will be held in October.

The Harvest Home at Parmoor was held on the 13th, and went off with the swing that characterises all such affairs at Parmoor.

The new **Lending Library** at the Parsonage is not yet paying its way, but new subscribers continue to come in, and those who have already joined have been very complimentary about it.

We must not forget to congratulate E. West, jun., on his first prizes for dahlias and cactus dahlias at the shows—one at the Crystal Palace ; two at the Royal Aquarium—a success which we know has cost him much hard work.

Yours faithfully,

THE FRIETH CORRESPONDENT.

A **Rummage Sale** will be held in the Parish Room on Monday, October 15th, at 3 p.m. Mrs. Stanton will be glad to receive articles of any description for the Sale, which can be left with Mrs. Ware. The proceeds to be devoted to the fund for sending invalids for change.

The **School Needlework** will be sold on the same occasion.

Hambleton School. We are very sorry to have to chronicle a change in the Staff. We have lost Miss Ives, who seemed admirably suited to her post. She will be succeeded by Miss Edith Ball, whose sister was Infants' Mistress at Frieth a few years ago, and was much valued in that capacity.

The "old Rector," being unable to get a satisfactory cowman or garden boy in the Midlands, has come to Hambleton and carried off Charles Sellers and his family, together with Alfred Hobbs.

