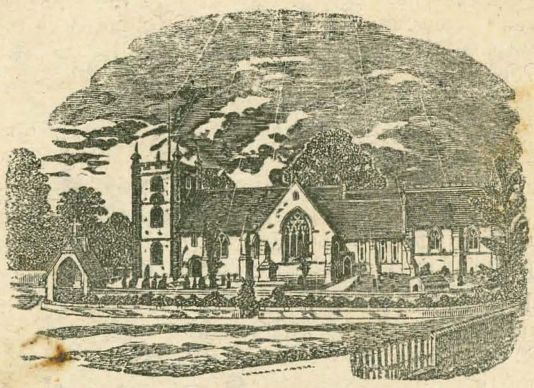
THE

HAMBLEDEN

Magazine.



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HAMBLEDEN PARISH MAGAZINE.

Diocesan Inspection of the Schools. The Rev. F. L. Nash proposes to visit Hambleden School, on Wednesday, July 5th, at 10 a.m.; Skirmett, on Monday, July 10th, at 2.30 p.m.; Frieth, Tuesday, July 11th, at 9.30 a.m., for the purpose of examining the the children in Religious Knowledge.

The Bishop's Pastoral Letter on behalf of the Spiritual Help Society, received a response from this parish by collections in the three Churches, of £7 18s. 3½d. The Bishop looks for additional subscribers to the Diocesan Societies. There is only one in this parish. Will not some of our parishioners send in their names as subscribers, either to the Rector, or Rev. W. Sawyer, Maidenhead?

The **School Treat** which was postponed from Ascension Day, took place at the Rectory, on Thursday, June 8th.

About 200 children assembled in the Church at 2.45, when a "Flower Service" was held, the flowers being afterwards packed and sent to the sick and aged at the Infirmary, at Henley Workhouse, where they were much appreciated.

Many of the mothers came to the Rectory for tea, and to watch the children's games, etc. We were sorry not to see more of the fathers, but doubtless they were busy in the fields. After several hearty cheers, the party sang "God Save the Queen," and dispersed about 7.30.

Girls' Friendly Society. The Festival of the Henley Branch of the above Society was held this year at Crowsley Park, on Tuesday, June 20th. There was a large party of members and associates from Frieth and Hambleden, and all greatly enjoyed the beautiful grounds, which were kindly thrown open by Mrs. Baskerville for the occasion. An appropriate address was given by Miss Mallam, from Oxford.

Church-workers' Outing. A party of forty-four persons accompanied the Rector and Mrs. Stanton to Dorchester, on Thursday, June 22nd. This year the journey was made by land instead of by water. Starting from both Hambleden and Frieth at 7.30 a.m., we went by Turville Heath, Christmas Common, along the edge of the hills, and down by Swyncombe to Ewelme. A halt was made here to "bait" both man and beast. A visit was paid to the picturesque Almshouses, of which the Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford is Master, and to the fine Church close by. It is a beautiful building in the perpendicular style, *i.e.* early in the 15th Century. The South aisle forms the Chapel for the Almshouses, where the daily Prayers are said. The beautiful oak roof and the magnificent alabaster monument of a relative of the poet Chaucer, were much admired. Several of the party were much struck with the oak font canopy; and expressed an opinion, which no one contested, that the Churches both at Hambleden and Frieth, might be improved in this direction. The oak Chancel Screen, which we might also find a use for, would have been more admired, if our inartistic forefathers had not done their best to spoil it, by painting the oak with an imitation oak grain.

(Continued at end.)

To say the truth, it will take some time to remove the disfigurement of the last Century, before this Church will be seen in its true beauty. The School is also a picturesque old building adjoining the Almshouses.

The journey was continued at 10.30, through Benson and Shillingford to Dorchester, where doubtless we were expected, for the Church flag (S. George's Cross on white ground) was flying, and the bells were ringing. The Archbishop of Canterbury as well as the Bishop of Oxford were also expected. His Grace was to preach on the occasion of the Missionary College Festival, at 11.30. Accordingly, we repaired to this noble Abbey Church, where a large congregation especially of clergy from Oxford and all the country side was assembling. At length the procession entered with cross and banners, and the preacher went to the pulpit, but it was not the Archbishop; for, as we were informed, his Grace was unable to be away from his duties in Parliament. In spite of the disappointment, it was something to take part in such a Service in such a Church; a Church that speaks of one of the earliest Missions to our heathen ancestors, and a Service connected with an institution which sends forth well-trained clergy to evangelize the heathen, with whom the English people is constantly coming in contact in all parts of the world. After dinner at the "White Hart," the party scattered in different directions, according to inclination. Some visited the ancient earth-works, the dykes, by which no doubt in old times the inhabitants of the city of Dorcic or Durocina, protected themselves from invaders. These must have witnessed a good deal of fighting between Roman and British; British and Saxon; Saxon and Danes; and probably also in more recent times, Englishmen (let us think of it with shame)—Roundhead, and Cavalier,—engaged in civil strife. Some returned to the Church, where the Vicar kindly came and explained the history and chief features of interest: the Jesse window; the Shrine of S. Birinus; the Crusaders' Tombs; the old glass in the windows, &c.

Dorchester was twice a Cathedral City. Birinus, the first missionary Bishop, after converting and baptising Kynegils, King of the West Saxons, built a Cathedral Church there; but his successor, Heddi, moved the Bishop's throne to Winchester, about 700 A.D. In 778, Offa, King of Mercia or the Marches, defeated the West Saxons at Benson, and from that date Dorchester, with all the country north of the Thames, was severed from Wessex. Dorchester again became a Cathedral City when Alheard, Bishop of Leicester, moved his throne thither, about 890. A Norman Bishop, Remigius, thought Dorchester was hardly central enough to be the Cathedral Church of a Diocese reaching from the Thames to the Humber, and with the consent of William the Conqueror, removed to Lincoln, which remained our own Diocesan centre, until Bishop Wilberforce got Buckinghamshire transfered to the Diocese of Oxford, in the year 1837.

There is food enough for reflection for a party of Church-people in the story of such a place as Dorchester. It reminds them of the beginnings of the Church of England: of the changes and chances in its history. It should serve as a stimulus to us in our day to carry on bravely the work begun with such zeal and self-sacrifice.

We came home by Nettlebed, where we had tea. They seem to expect thirsty travellers there, for every other house seemed to be a licensed place of refreshment. Perhaps it is these places that are intended under the figurative name of "nettle"! The view that we had hoped for, was spoilt by the drizzling mist. We were lucky in not having had this earlier in the day.

Twelve of the Choir men, 4 from Frieth, and 8 from Hambleden, had already had their outing, joining an excursion to Canterbury and Ramsgate. People do not always want a 20 hours working day, but we heard no complaints on this occasion.

The total cost of the two expeditions was £20 13s. 6d.: towards which we have as yet received £12 2s. 9d.; £5 2s. 9d. by the Hambleden Concert, the rest by the subscriptions of kind friends.

FRIETH.

BAPTISMS.

June 4.—George William Abdy.
,, 11.—Milly Brazier.
June 18.—Leonard Frank Simmons.

BURIAL.

June 5.—Emma Ellen West, aged 56 years.

We append extracts from Mr. Wetherall's sermon at Frieth on the occasion of its Jubilee or "Golden Wedding day": we only wish we could print it in full. By the way, it is the ordinary custom to give presents on such a happy occasion! The Church has not yet received any! Her Gracious Majesty's two Jubilees have rather taken the wind out of the sails of other Jubilees. Possibly some of her friends do not quite know what "Frieth Church" would like. There has been talk, perhaps too ambitious, of improving the Chancel with oak screen, panelling, and fittings; and opening a door from the Vestry to the south aisle. The cramped position of the Font is hardly befitting the dignity of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. From this point of view, it would be an improvement to make the porch into a Baptistery, and make a wooden porch and main entrance at the West end (as at Hedsor). This would have the advantage of shutting out the North wind. We are quite hoping that before winter we may hear more of a new heating apparatus, which is much needed.

But if all these are too large, why should not some of the ladies work white and green frontals for the altar?—most churches now-a-days have the four colours—or could not the ladies make new cassocks for the choir boys? A credence table (see West & Collins' catalogue, p. 5) would be a really useful piece of furniture for setting out the requisites for Holy Communion upon, before the Service. Or, smaller still, there is no proper alms dish; nor is the Communion Service book at present in use nearly as good as a book for this purpose ought to be.

I. Samuel vii, 12—"Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

"By a curious coincidence it is 30 years to-day since I began my ministry in Hambleden Parish! Thirty years ago this morning I took part in the Daily Service of your Parish Church for the first time. . . . . Fifty years is a long period of time, and it takes us back to the earlier days of Canon Ridley's ministry. Under God you owe this Church to him and many more blessings and advantages which have been granted to you here! When he became Rector of Hambleden in 1840 there was no Church, no School, no Parsonage at Frieth. It was his energy, his zeal, his love for the welfare of his flock in this part of the Parish that gave birth to these institutions . . . . . and these institutions have grown by degrees. This Church when it was first built consisted only of Nave and Chancel. That School when it was first opened was a small oblong building, large enough to accommodate at the most 40 or 50 children. Yes, Canon Ridley laid the foundation of what to-day we see around us here. . . . . One naturally looks back to the years that are past, and we cannot fail to thank God for them. We recall the simple but hearty Services which used to be held here some 25 or 30 years ago, and we remember many familiar faces which we shall never look upon again on earth. I think I may say that the one feature which used to strike many visitors to this place as the most remarkable was the large attendance of working men at the eleven o'clock Sunday Services. The north side of the Church was filled with them; Barlow, Brown, Smith, Stacey, Street, Parslow, Davis, Widlock, and many others, coming up to the House of God in their quaint smock frocks, the fashion of a bygone age; only one of them still survives; but, perhaps, I ought especially to mention one other dear old friend who outlived his generation and has but very lately been called to his rest. He was *always* here. . . . . Are these sad memories? I trust not. We have no right to be sad and mournful when we speak of the Saints in Paradise. God grant us grace so to follow their good examples that with them we may be partakers of His Heavenly Kingdom. . . . . .

"But, brethren, there is a solemn thought to which I ought to give expression to-day, if I would do my duty towards you.

"Frieth has been a favoured spot for many years. You have had, and still have, good friends: and you possess several beautiful buildings for religious, educational, or secular purposes, as the case may be, towards the erection of which, no doubt, you have done your own part nobly and well. Do you turn them to the best account you can? Remember, that to whom much is given, of them our Lord and Master will ask the more. Your forefathers did not enjoy the privileges that have been granted to you. In the matter of Church Services—there was, of course, the Parish Church there as now, three miles distant: there was the old Ackhampstead Chapel, at which, at the most, there was only one Service, if that. There were no ready or efficient means of education for the young. There was no Village Hall—built principally by a kind donor in memory of a noble life. Your forefathers lived and died without these helps and advantages . . . . . but your cases are so different. . . . . These are enormous privileges for which you must answer before your God. Here is your

Church, use it and thank God for it. There is your School, see that your children attend regularly and make the most of it they can. There is your Memorial Hall, which should help to link you together in one happy family in many varied ways of education and harmless amusement . . . . . I might speak of other things that have taken place during this period. Your staple trade, for instance, which has risen and flourished to such an extent that Frieth chairs are used in our Churches and Cathedrals far and near, and even beyond our own county. . . . . .

"An occasion of this kind reminds us of change. What changes have taken place during these last 50 years. You have lived under three successive Rectors during these 50 years. You have been ministered to by many different clergymen in this House of God. You have seen old friends and dear relatives come and go: you recall many lives that long ago came to a close. But remember this: that amidst all these outward changes which have affected you, there is One Who changes not. He is the same as ever. 'Hitherto hath the Lord helped us.' Man does his little work here, perhaps very imperfectly, and then he is called away and another must take his place; but God is ever abiding: the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever. He was here when this Church was consecrated 50 years ago. He is in our midst to-day as we thank Him for His love. He will be here always according to His promise. This House is called by His Name and is a pledge of His presence. Changes may come: but He changes not. Lean upon Him through Jesus Christ. Give Him your first love: your first desire: your first care. . . . . ."

COLLECTIONS DURING JUNE.

		£	s.	d.
June 2	(Jubilee). —Spiritual Help Society	1	1	6
„ 4	(85 coins).— „ „	0	15	9½
„ 11	(117 „).—Reading Hospital	1	13	8
„ 18	(92 „).—Church Expenses	0	18	2