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MAGAZINE

FOR THE PARISHES OF

S. James, Badsey,

With ALDINGTON,

AND

S. John Baptist,

WICKHAMFORD.

EVESHAM :

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RECORDS OF THE PAST.

The events of the past month have been of an entirely unique kind, and will be handed down to posterity as having no parallel in English History. (1) In the first place we have to record with the deepest thankfulness to Almighty God that peace has come at last in South Africa. Since October 9th, 1899, the date of the Boer ultimatum, we have been involved in one of the saddest and most terrible wars our country has experienced. We did not desire the war, but it was forced upon us, and with faith in God and British pluck and determination we were resolved to carry it through. And now has come, thanks be to God, peace with honour. The very generous and reasonable terms offered to the Boers by our Government were, after much deliberation, unanimously accepted, and the final result was announced to the world in the following simple and unostentatious telegram from Lord Kitchener, which is worthy of being put on record:—"Pretoria, May 31st, 11.15 p.m. Negotiations with Boer delegates. The document containing terms of surrender was signed here this evening at 10.30 p.m. by all Boer representatives, as well as by Lord Milner and myself." Throughout the world there has been but one feeling, that of thankfulness that the war is over, and we are glad to be able to record that it was recognised that peace was the gift of God. Thanksgiving services were very appropriately held in all churches throughout the land, and at the grand service in S. Paul's Cathedral the King himself was present to join in the national expression of thankfulness to Almighty God. In our churches here Sunday, June 8th, was observed as the Day of Thanksgiving, and at all the services this one thought was put prominently before the people. In connection with the end of the war, it is most satisfactory to observe how loyally and faithfully the Boers have carried out the terms of surrender, and now it only remains to show, that by mutual conciliation, sympathy, and good faith, British and Boers can work together in harmony for the common good of South Africa. Certainly new and vast responsibilities have arisen for England, and we can only pray Almighty God that she may rise to the occasion, and build up her Empire in South Africa founded upon the basis of true religion, just laws, and Christian brotherhood.

(2) The other event of momentous importance during the past month was the postponement of the Coronation owing to the serious illness of the King. After many months of great preparation to make the occasion surpass in gorgeous splendour all previous events of the world's history, suddenly and entirely unexpectedly at a moment's notice everything had to be given up. Here, indeed, was the hand of God. Without doubt He had lessons to

teach us, and we may well hope our Nation has taken them to heart. It is the true wisdom of a nation, as well as of individuals, to learn from the signs of the times what is the will of God, and if this great National sorrow has led us to recognise His power, and to trust more upon the unfathomable depth of His mercies, then indeed the events at the end of June have been but a blessing in disguise.

Certainly good has come out of the sadness of the King's illness, for it has drawn the hearts of all his subjects nearer to him and the Royal Family, in deep sympathy and earnest good feeling.

In all churches services of joy and exaltation had been arranged for June 26th; instead of these, services of deep penitence and earnest intercession to God that the life of the King may be spared were offered up. In our own church there was a solemn service with the same earnest prayers that God would restore the King to health again, and our only regret was, that there were not more of the parishioners present to join in the service.

We have watched day by day with anxious expectation the progress of the King's illness; we have received with deep thankfulness the good news of his steady advance towards convalescence; and now we may venture to hope that under the good hand of God he will in due course be restored to health. We thank God for this, and pray earnestly that his life may be long spared, to rule over our Empire in justice and in the fear of God.

As the Rose Garden Fete in Mr. Sladden's is not to be held till July 2nd we are not able to give an account of it in this Magazine. We trust that the day will be fine and that it will be an entire success. We hope to give an account of it in our next number.

COPIES OF THE REGISTERS.

BADSEY.—BAPTISMS.

June 15th, Gwendolen May Agg.
 „ George Alexander Brearley.

BURIAL.

June 13th, Charles Watkins, aged 83 years.

MONIES COLLECTED IN THE CHURCHES (June).

	BADSEY.		WICKHAMFORD.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
June 1, Sick and Needy.....	0	3 7		
„ 8, Church Expenses.....	0	18 11	0	4 3
„ 15, Church Expenses.....			0	6 1
„ 22, Church Expenses.....	0	11 11	0	3 6
„ 29, Sunday Schools.....		0 12 8		
	£2	7 1	£0	13 10