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FOR THE PARISHES OF

S. James, Badsey,

With ALDINGTON,

AND

S. John Baptist,

WICKHAMFORD.

EVESHAM :

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THE LENTEN SEASON.

The whole of March and part of April—viz., from February 25 onward till April 11th. is this year the season of Lent. The Prayer Book says that the forty days of Lent are to be observed as “days of fasting or abstinence.” The Bishop of the Diocese has sent a letter to all Churchmen in the Diocese of Worcester in which he urges the claims of Lent upon their consciences. The Vicar read this letter from the pulpit on Sunday, February 22nd. In it the Bishop says:—“Lent comes to startle us out of the miserable fearlessness in which we live, into a fresh and healthy fear of God. Upon this godly fear follows repentance. We must know ourselves in general and detail, not as we are in the transitory and untrustworthy judgment of men, but in the only real judgment of God. . . . The next great claim of Lent upon us is to find more time for prayer. . . . Daniel ‘set his face unto the Lord God to seek by prayer and supplication with fasting,’ see Daniel ix. 3-19. The Christian must still join fasting to prayer. . . . Fasting means voluntarily going without what we usually and legitimately allow ourselves, first in food and drink, and then in other kinds of indulgence. And to do this for a definite period of forty days, under some definite rule, and as a matter of obedience, is to keep Lent as a fast. Does this seem strange to us? Nay, in an age when the things we say ‘we cannot do without’ tend to grow upon us, there is a peremptory need for us to assert the dominion of the spirit over the incursions of material comforts—‘To keep under’ or ‘harass’ our body, as S. Paul says; to return to the simpler and harder conditions of living. And what we save by stricter living, by abstinence in the matter of eating or drinking or dressing or smoking or amusement, we should devote to the relief of those who need.”

These earnest words of the Bishop will be read, we are sure, with great interest, and we sincerely hope that the parishioners will use the opportunities, which will be given them, of keeping Lent by a more frequent attendance in God’s own House.

THE BISHOP OF WORCESTER’S VISIT.

Thursday, February 12th, was quite a red letter day in Badsey, when the Bishop of the Diocese came to dedicate the new Clock and Bells. It was fortunately a fine and mild day, and everything passed off most successfully. The special service of Dedication was fixed to commence at 3 p.m. Shortly before that hour the Bishop in his episcopal robes, and carrying in his hand his pastoral staff, the symbol of his office as the shepherd of the sheep in this Diocese, walked from the Vicarage to the Church, accompanied by the Vicar and the Rev. Walmsley Stanley. He was met at the churchyard gate by the choir in surplices, and a procession was formed into the Church, during which hymn 395, “O Word of God above,” was sung. The Bishop went at once to the pulpit, and gave a very practical

address on the following lessons to be learnt from the bells:—(1) They bring to our minds the thought of Christian Joy. (2) They summon us to worship. (3) They bring us together as a united body, and so enforce the thought of Christian brotherhood. After the address Psalms 122 and 150 were sung, during which the Bishop proceeded to the belfry, and solemnly dedicated the clock and two new bells, saying the prayers suitable to the occasion. The Hymn “Christ was made the sure foundation” was sung, and the Bishop gave the Blessing. The collection amounted to £3 9s. Before and after the service merry peals were rung on the bells.

On the same day a Parochial Tea was held in the Old School at 6 p.m., when there was a very large attendance, the room being quite full. Our best thanks are due to the following, who very kindly gave all the provisions and made all the arrangements for the tea:—Mrs. Bennett, Mrs. Cull, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Idiens, Mrs. Johns, Mrs. A. Jones, Mrs. H. Keen, Miss Pendlebury, Mrs. Poole, Mrs. Price, Mrs. Sharp, Mrs. Sladden, Mrs. R. Smith, Mrs. A. Sparrow, Mrs. E. Warner, and Mrs. E. Wilson. Miss Pethard and Mrs. H. Stewart gave donations towards the tea funds. We should add that Mr. A. Sparrow kindly undertook the work in connection with making the tea, and he was assisted by Mr. W. Sparrow. A very interesting entertainment was given in the Old School at 7.30 p.m. The room was crammed to overflowing by an appreciative audience and a very pleasant evening was spent. The following took part in the programme:—Mrs. Walmsley Stanley and Miss Friend, Mrs. R. Taylor, Mrs. R. Smith, Miss Idiens, The Misses McDonald and Miss Cull, The Rev. H. B. S. Fowler, The Vicar, Mr. J. Agg, Mr. T. H. Knight, and Mr. E. Warner. Mrs. Cull kindly lent the piano and Miss McDonald played most of the accompaniments. The entertainment was a happy ending to a very happy day, and we are sure the Dedication of the new Clock and Bells will long be remembered in the minds of the parishioners. We desire to offer our most sincere thanks to those many friends, who worked so hard to make the day so successful, and we must not forget those who did much hard work in getting the room ready and in cleaning away afterwards—viz., Mr. Binyon, Mr. H. Keen, Mr. J. Keen, Mr. R. Keen, Mr. J. Agg, Mr. G. Jones, Mr. L. Sparrow, and Mr. E. Warner. All the money received on the day was equally divided, after paying expenses, between the funds for the new clock and bells. Each fund received £4 9s. 9d. The following is a complete statement of accounts:—Receipts—Collection in Church at Dedication Service, £3 9s.; cash taken at door by Mr. H. Keen, at tea and entertainment, £1 13s. 8½d.; tickets sold, per Mrs. A. Sparrow, 9s.; per Mrs. Sladden, 10s. 6d.; per Mrs. Warner, 6s.; per Mrs. H. Johns, 10s.; per Mrs. H. Keen, 12s. 6d.; per Mrs. Cull, 9s.; per Miss Pendlebury, 5s.; per Mrs. Idiens, 6s.; per Mrs. Poole, 15s. 6d.; per Mrs. W. Keen, 3s.; Miss

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Pethard (donation), 5s.; Mrs. H. Stewart (donation), 2s. 6d.; per Mr. Sparrow (by sale of provisions), 2s. 8½d.; sundries, 4d.; total receipts from all sources, including collection in church, receipts for tea and entertainment, £9 19s. 9d. The expenses, including printing, washing men's surplices for service, cleaning church, etc., amounted to £1 0s 3d., leaving a balance of £8 19s. 6d., to be divided between the Clock and Bell Fund, each receiving the half, *i.e.*, £4 9s. 9d.

THE CLOCK FUND.

The following sums have been received for this fund, in addition to those acknowledged in previous magazines, *viz.* :—Mr. Pearman and Mr. Abbey 10s. 6d., the Firm of Johns & Sons £2 2s., Mrs. Leigh (Hill Crest) 10s., Mr. R. R. Smith 5s., proceeds of tea and entertainment (half) £4 9s. 9d., making a total amount received £88 17s. 10d. It will be remembered that the estimate for the clock was £128, of which half was to be paid as soon as the work was done. A cheque for £64 has accordingly been sent to Messrs. John Smith & Sons, Derby. A case had, in addition, to be provided for the clock, to keep out dust and dirt. This, together with other necessary carpenter's work in fixing the clock has cost £8 14s. 10d., and there are still two other bills not yet paid, *viz.* :—one for inserting glass in window of the clock chamber, and another for doing necessary stone work to the tower around the clock face. These bills will take the greater part of the money in hand, and we hope our friends will not relax their efforts in getting subscriptions to pay off the remaining debt on the clock.

THE FUND FOR THE NEW BELLS.

The Treasurer of this fund has sent the following statement of accounts:—The total amount of Messrs. Mears and Stainbank's account for the new bells was £94 8s. 8d. Of this sum £63 has been paid, leaving a balance to be provided next January of £31 8s. 8d., towards which there is already in hand £1 18s. 11d., that is after taking into calculation the half share of proceeds (£4 9s. 9d.) from the tea and entertainment on February 12. It will be seen therefore that there remains about £29 9s. to be collected, of which £3 has already been promised.

MONIES COLLECTED IN THE CHURCHES.

			BADSEY.	WICKHAMFORD.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Feb.	1st,	Sick and Needy	6 2½	
"	8th,	Church Expenses	12 1	1 7
"	12th,	Clock and Bells	3 9 0	
"	15th,	Church Expenses		6 8
"	22nd,	Church Expenses	10 3½	4 0
Totals			£4 17 7	12 3

COPIES OF THE REGISTERS.

BADSEY—BAPTISM.

February 15th—Ronald Alan Murray, son of Charles Alan and Harriett Murray.

MARRIAGE.

February 11th—David John Sears Dore and Amy Alice Jones.

WANTED

Matchless Cleanser Soap Wrappers.

IN LARGE OR SMALL QUANTITIES.

2d. PER DOZ.

T. M. EVANS,

TEA SPECIALIST,

EVESHAM.