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MONTHLY  
**MAGAZINE**

FOR THE PARISHES OF

*S. James, Badsey,*

With ALDINGTON,

AND

*S. John Baptist,*

WICKHAMFORD.

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EVESHAM :

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## WICKHAMFORD CHURCH.

When the Restoration Committee decided to undertake the work of restoring the east window and gable of Wickhamford Church, they were well-advised in availing themselves of the professional services of Mr. Ford Whitcombe. Everyone of course anticipated that a wonderful improvement would be effected by the proposed alterations, both in the internal and external appearance of the Church, but the result has exceeded all expectations.

Wickhamford, which has suffered less than many churches at the hands of 'restorers,' still possesses one very beautiful specimen of 14th century work in the window by the pulpit, and the design of this has been followed in restoring the east window. The mere structural alterations thus effected would have gone far to restore to the ancient chancel something of its former glory, but the introduction of stained-glass of a genuinely mediæval character has contributed to reproduce still more faithfully the scene once so familiar to the Abbots of Evesham, with many of whom Wickhamford Manor was a favourite retreat.

It goes without saying that no artist in glass ever expects to please everybody, and individual critics will no doubt find in the Wickhamford window details of form, or colour or composition to which they will feel justified in objecting. We feel sure, however, that all will agree in congratulating Mr. Whitcombe on achieving singular success in two particulars. In the first place, the Crucifixion is an exceedingly difficult subject for a two-light window, but not only has Mr. W. Whitcombe surmounted all difficulties, he has turned them to positive advantage by treating his subject in a manner entirely original, yet perfectly natural and legitimate. In the second place, the artist has succeeded in reproducing with extraordinary faithfulness the semi-transparency and alternating delicacy and richness of tint to which the mediæval glass owes so much of its beauty.

For the benefit of those of our readers who have not seen the window it may be well to mention a few particulars. S. Mary Magdalene is shown weeping at the foot of the Cross, which occupies the left-hand light, whilst in the right-hand light S. John is represented as preparing to take the Blessed Virgin 'to his own home.' Jerusalem is seen in the back-ground, with the sun setting behind the city. In place of the usual canopy-work the two lights are finished with angels holding scrolls bearing the words 'Ecce Agnus Dei qui tollit peccatum mundi,' and in the small central light at the top of the window is an angel bearing the arms of Christ Church, Oxford, the rectors of Wickhamford. The inscription at the bottom of the window runs, 'To the glory of God and in memory of William Henry Price M.A. Vicar of this parish

and also of the parish of Badsey-with-Aldington 1897-1903 who died March 15th 1903 this window is dedicated by parishioners and friends.'

The ceremony of unveiling took place at Evening Prayer on Thursday, July 13th. Prayers were said by the Rev. C. Ashwin, Rector of Dumbleton, and the Rev. J. M. Walker, Vicar of Evesham and Rural Dean, read the lessons and unveiled and dedicated the window. The sermon was preached by the Rev. H. E. Clayton, Vicar of S. Mary Magdalen, Oxford, Fellows' Chaplain of Magdalen College, Honorary Canon of Christ Church, and Rural Dean of Oxford.

Mr. Price worked under Canon Clayton for 13 years as assistant-curate, and the preacher bore eloquent testimony to the character, zeal and ability of his old colleague. At the close of the sermon the Vicar said the General Thanksgiving (making special mention of the example and work of the late vicar) and gave the Blessing.

## GENERAL NOTICES.

In consequence of the Vicar's absence from home the week-day services will be discontinued during the month of August, but there will be no alteration in the Sunday Services. The following clergy have the Bishop of Worcester's permission to officiate:—

Sunday, August 6th	Rev. E. Glanfield,
" " 13th	of Oxford.
" " 20th,	Rev. R. C. Wyatt, curate of Walpole S. Peter, Wisbech.
" " 27th,	Rev. H. N. Grimley, rector of Norton, Bury S. Edmunds.

The Vicar of the Littletons has kindly promised to be 'within call' should the services of a priest be required in a case of emergency. Anyone desiring a ministerial visit is requested to notify Mr. E. Crisp, who will communicate with Mr. Ashworth. Notices of banns and funerals should also be sent to Mr. Crisp, who is acting as deputy-clerk and sexton during Mr. Agg's illness.

Neither the Penny Bank nor the Clothing Club will be open during August.

Parishioners are once more invited to assist in providing an excursion for the members of the Badsey Choir. The parish owes much to the Choir, and we trust it will be ready to acknowledge its indebtedness by a liberal response to this appeal. The Vicar has allotted 30s. out of the fund for Church Expenses, but at least £7 more will be required to provide such an outing as the Choir enjoyed last year. Subscriptions may be sent to either of the churchwardens.