

An
Almanack
and
Parish Register
for
CHESHAM BOIS.

Presented by the Rev. J. Matthews,
with kind wishes
for 1882.

To the Parishioners of Chesham Bois.

DEAR FRIENDS,

God has mercifully brought us in safety through another Year, and has dealt very graciously with us. Let us praise Him for His goodness.

We could not have had a better year, so far as weather was concerned, for the work of restoring and enlarging the Church. Scarcely any rain fell, to signify, till the aisle was built, and nearly the whole roof was tiled.

The good attendance at the Sabbath Services in the School-room, as well as the heartiness of the worship, was such as to fill me with thankfulness. The continuous fine weather was a great comfort to those who came from distant parts of the Parish to those services.

I have to make an apology to you. The great amount of writing on account of the Church, and my having to spend much time there, to a great extent prevented my visiting you at your homes: but I am looking forward to the pleasure of going in and out amongst you again during the New Year.

The attendance at the Sunday and Day Schools has, I regret to say, greatly fallen off. I wish I could persuade you all to take a warmer interest, as Parishioners, in your own little Parochial School.

Several Old Scholars have ceased to help the School funds: but, on the other hand, several have newly begun to subscribe. Did all our dear Old Scholars know how much their hard-earned contributions are valued, I think not one would decline giving some assistance, however little.

The Census, which was taken on the 4th of last April,—the very day on which the works at the Church were commenced,—reveals that our population has increased considerably during the last ten years; thus adding to my responsibilities as a Minister, and also to my opportunities for doing good.

I congratulate you on the improved appearance of your venerable little Church, and the increased accommodation it affords. To all of you, who regard it with interest and affection, the work thus far accomplished by God's help should be cause for devout gratitude to Him, who disposed so many friends to assist us. May the pious wish of one of the many kind contributors be fulfilled, that "the pure Word may long be faithfully preached in it!"

Wishing you all a very "Happy New Year," I remain

Yours faithfully,

J. MATTHEWS.

The Census.

It is interesting to compare the present population and number of dwelling-houses in Chesham Bois with what they were in former years during this century.

Lyson, in his *Magna Britannia*, published in 1806, vol. 1, page 461, says that then there were, in Chesham Bois, 23 inhabited houses, and one uninhabited, 29 families, and 135 inhabitants.

In one of the Parish Registers there is the following entry:—

“1821. Memorandum. The Census or Population of the Parish was taken this year, which amounted to about 155, including all ages, and inhabiting about 33 dwelling-houses.”

There is no other such entry till 1841, when the following occurs in the hand-writing of the Rev. James Stevens, who was then Rector of this Parish:

“1841. Memorandum. The Census of the Population of this Parish was taken on the 7th day of June this year; the result of which was as follows:—Males, 99. Females, 119. Total, 218. Houses, 42.”

There is no memorandum of the census of 1851, or 1861; but that of 1871 is thus recorded:—

“1871. Memorandum. The Census of Population of the Parish of Chesham Bois was taken this year. The return was, Males 124. Females 134. Total 258. Dwelling-houses at the same time, sixty-five.”

An entry was made in the same book, of the census taken last year thus:—

“On Monday, April 4th, 1881, the Census of the Parish was taken. Result:—Inhabited houses, 84; uninhabited, 3; total 87. Persons:—Male, 172. Female, 179. Total, 351.”

The Table below makes it easier to observe the increase of Population.

	Inhabited Houses.	Unin- habited.	Total.	Males.	Females	Total.
1806	23	1	24	—	—	135
1821	—	—	33	—	—	155
1841	—	—	42	99	119	218
1871	—	—	65	124	134	258
1881	84	3	87	172	179	351

May our names be found not only on the Registers of our country, but also “written in the Lamb’s Book of life.”

Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, from December 1st, 1880, to November 30th, 1881.

Baptisms.

Edith Sarah Holt.

Marriages.

Edward Walter Hall to Charlotte Alice Hazelgrove.

Burials.

James Hill, aged 41 years.

Ann Bates, aged 38 years.

Sarah Benns, aged 74 years.

Thomas Woodley, aged 1 month.

Kate Ellement, aged 5 months.

The Services of the Church

Are at half-past ten throughout the year on Sunday mornings; at half-past six in the evening during Summer, and at three in the afternoon during Winter. There will be Morning Service, with Sermon, at half-past ten, in the Church, on

GOOD FRIDAY, April 7th, and

ASCENSION DAY, May 18th.

CHRISTMAS DAY, December 25th.

The Lord’s Supper

Will be administered on the First Sunday of each Month, except April, and June, and also on

EASTER DAY, April 9th.

WHIT SUNDAY, May 28th, and

CHRISTMAS DAY, December 25th.

The Offertory at the Lord’s Supper, from the end of November, 1880, to the end of November, 1881, amounted to

£6 12s. 7½d.

Two-thirds of the Offertory are used in relieving the Poor, and the rest is added to the Churchwardens’ Fund for the expenses of repairing, cleaning, and warming the Church.

The Churchwardens are Mr. William Cox, and Mr. John Pontin, to whom applications for Sittings should be made.

The Clerk is Mr. JOHN BIRCH.

Baptisms.

Children are baptized after the Second Lesson on any Sunday Evening in Summer, or afternoon in Winter, *except* on Sundays when there is Holy Communion. It is requested that notice of Baptisms may be given the day before.

On account of the Sunday Services being held in the School-room during the restoration of the Church, several parents postponed the Baptism of their children. It is hoped that all who value this blessed Ordinance will now lose no time in bringing their children to that Holy Sacrament, that they may be made members of the visible Church of Christ, and receive the spiritual blessings promised to the children of believers. Mark 10: 13—16. Malachi 2: 15. 1 Cor. 7: 14. Acts 2: 39.

The handsome Font that now adorns our Church, in the place of the former small, unsightly one, is the gift of the Rev. E. T. Drake, Rector of Amersham.

The Service for the Churching of Women

Can be arranged for any Sunday after Morning or Evening Service.

There is no fixed Fee for this Service; but a Thank-offering should be made according to the means of the giver; and this offering may be dropped into the Box at the Church door, for the support of the Mission Room and the Sunday School.

The Choir.

The gratuitous services of the members of the Choir are greatly appreciated by the rest of the congregation, as well as by the Rector and his family, who hereby offer them their best thanks.

Lending Library.

A small Library is open to the School, on Mondays, from 12 till half-past 12; and at the Mission Room, on Saturdays, from three till four o'clock. An admission fee of twopence is charged to each person desiring the loan of books. This is necessary for covering, repairing, and replacing books. The admission fee of twopence is the only payment charged to any one Member for the use of the Library during the season it is open.

Band of Hope.

The present condition of the Band of Hope is discouraging. Many of the original members have "broken," and only a few new ones have joined. There are peculiar hindrances to such an Institution on Bois and Amersham Commons, especially because water suitable for drinking is obtainable by very few of the population. Until some scheme can be devised and carried out for remedying this serious defect, it is unreasonable to hope for the success of any Temperance movement.

A Coal Club

Was established in the three Districts of the Parish in the Autumn of last year, which the parishioners gladly availed themselves of. The large Bonus which was promised to be added to deposits made in the three months, to which they were limited in the first instance, cannot be re-engaged: but as liberal an addition as possible will be allowed to members who may join on the re-opening of the Club in March,—the Rules of which will be circulated in February.

The Mission Room.

There is a Weekly Service at the Mission Room on the Moor at Seven o'clock on Thursday Evenings, from the end of harvest to the end of June. The expense of keeping this room open falls rather heavily on the Rector.

If the plan suggested in last year's Almanack for relieving this burden were kindly acted upon more generally by those who regularly attend the Services of the Church, there would no longer be any need to appeal for help.

The Mission Room and the Sunday School Accounts.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.	PAYMENTS.	£	s.	d.
Subscriptions and Donations	2	0	6	Balance due to Treasurer			
Contents of Church Box, from Oct. 31st, 1880, to Nov. 27th, 1881.	3	6	10 ³ / ₄	Oct. 31st, 1880	10	14	10 ³ / ₄
Balance due to Treasurer	13	19	10	Sunday School expenses	1	8	4
	£19	7	2 ³ / ₄	Rent of Mission House from Oct. 30th, 1880, to Nov. 14th, 1881.	6	16	0
				Repairing Chairs	0	8	0
					£19	7	2 ³ / ₄

Day School Accounts.

Summary of Receipts and Expenditure to January 31st, 1881.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.	PAYMENTS.	£	s.	d.
Government Grant	45	15	0	Balance overdrawn.....	5	19	8 ³ / ₄
Part Rent of Watercress Beds	20	0	0	Teachers and Monitress..	76	13	3
Voluntary Contributions	32	16	0	Books, Apparatus, and Stationery	3	17	0
Ditto from Old Scholars educated at the School	2	1	6	Fuel	5	10	0 ¹ / ₂
Allotments	1	7	6	Furniture, Repairs, Cleaning, and Insurance	24	4	6
School Pence	34	14	5 ³ / ₄	Money Prizes to Children	22	9	11
Sale of Needlework and Materials	0	19	9 ¹ / ₂	Sundries.....	9	1	9
Balance due to Treasurer	10	1	11				
	£147	16	2		£147	16	2

T. CLUTTERBUCK, Esq., has, with his usual kindness, given £5 to reduce the above overdrawn Balance.

The School.

LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS.

The Rev. Lord Wriothlesley Russell	Miss Gay
Lady Wriothlesley Russell	Mr. H. Glenister
Lady Chesham	Mrs. Haden
Mrs. Beckley	Rev. G. Holloway
Mr. Bennett	Mrs. J. Matthews
Rev. J. H. Blackman	Mrs. Pegg
Miss Blackman	J. W. G. Pegg, Esq.
Mrs. Butler	Mrs. Picard
Miss Carver	Mr. G. Rose
Miss C. T. Carver	C. H. Statham, Esq.
Miss A. H. Carver	Mrs. Weller
Mrs. Folkard	G. Weller, Esq.
Mr. W. Ford	E. Weller, Esq.
B. Fuller, Esq.	The Rector
Captain J. Fuller.	

The Ratepayers also contribute £20 of the rent of the Parish Watercress Beds.

The number of children presented for examination by the Inspector last year was 59, and the average attendance was 63.

The School Managers are THE RECTOR, E. WELLER, Esq., and MR. H. GLENISTER. The Schoolmistress is MRS. JOHNSTON.

ANNIE GOMM and ALICE BATSON are the Monitresses.

Old Scholars' Fund.

This has again been fairly supported. Some names have disappeared, but others have taken their place. The Subscribers are :—

Sarah Holt	Emma Gomm
Lydia Evans	Mrs. Walter Brown
Kate Saunders	Mary Wilkinson
Georgina Saunders	Rosa Willoughby
Alice Birch	Mary Batson
Jane Birch	George Batson.
Alice Gomm	

Rules of the School.

- I.—Each child to pay Two-pence a week.
- II.—One Penny will be returned for every week the child makes *not less than Six attendances*.
- III.—One Penny will be *given*, besides the above, for every week the child is *not absent once*.
- IV.—These moneys will be paid in April and October, or whenever the child leaves the School.
- V.—No other prize-money will be given.
- VI.—Children, except infants, must buy their lead and slate pencils.

NOTE—The agricultural distress having caused much suffering in these parts, as well as everywhere else, it was found that great difficulty was experienced in paying so high a school fee as three-pence, even though two-pence of it was returned from time to time. The fee has therefore been lowered to two-pence, of which one penny will be returned *conditionally*. In prospect of coming changes in the Revised Code, it was resolved to abandon the plan of giving prizes for passes, and to offer rewards for punctual attendance instead, which will be within reach of the youngest and dullest, as well as of the older and quicker children.

Inspection.

Partly owing to several unavoidable changes in the School Staff during 1879, but still more from the severity of the Examination, through the Inspector "screwing up" the Standards, the School suffered so much that it will take a long time to recover itself.

Home and Foreign Missions.

"Jesus said, Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Mark xvi. 15, 16.

"The Lord Jesus would have us know that all the world needs the Gospel. In every quarter of the globe man is the same,—sinful, corrupt, and alienated from God,—without holiness, without faith, and without love.

"The Lord Jesus would have us know that the salvation of the Gospel is to be offered freely to all mankind. The glad tidings that 'God so loved the world that he gave His only-begotten Son,' and that 'Christ has died for the ungodly,' is to be proclaimed freely to every creature.

"Let us see, in these words of Christ, the strongest argument in favour of Missionary work, both at home and abroad. Remembering these words, let us be unwearied in trying to do good to the souls of all mankind."—*Dr. Ryle, Bishop of Liverpool*.

It is hoped that all, who read the above stirring words of Bishop Ryle, will take an increased interest in Missionary work, and become regular Subscribers, if not so already. The following list, being much smaller than the one printed in the Almanack for last year, would seem to show a decay of Missionary zeal among us.—The name of Mr. Nightingale was accidentally omitted from last year's list.

Names of Subscribers and Collectors.

Mrs. J. Matthews	Mrs. G. Saunders	Sophy Bright
Miss Matthews	Mrs. Aris	Mrs. J. Weedon
Mr. J. H. Matthews	Job Nash	" W. Adams
Mr. T. F. Matthews	Mrs. A. Wilkinson	" Hobbes
Miss Carver	Mrs. Mead	" Palmer
Miss C. T. Carver	William Gomm	" D. Smith
Miss A. H. Carver	Mrs. W. Glenister	" Hill
Mr. E. Weller	Susan Pearce	Thomas Hill
Mr. Clements	Mrs. Harry Reynolds	Mrs. Arnott
Mrs. Johnston	Mrs. Grimsdell	" Ringsell
Mr. W. Cox	Mrs. H. Grimsdell	" Moses Wilkinson
Miss Cox	Mrs. Jesse Gomm	" Turvey
Mr. W. Joiner	Annie Gomm	" R. Wilkinson
Miss Joiner	Mr. Woodbridge	Mr. Pontin
Mrs. Puddephatt	Mrs. Charles Cox	Mrs. H. Pontin
Henry Puddephatt	Mrs. Wood	Mrs. D. Darvell
Mr. Birch	Mr. Nightingale	Mr. T. Keen
Alice Birch	Mrs. Mortimer	Mrs. T. Keen
Mary E. Birch	Mrs. E. Gilbert	The Rector

The following are the Contributions from Chesham Bois, which appeared in last Year's Reports:—

	£	s.	d.
Society for Promoting Christianity among the Jews ..	4	5	6
Church Missionary Society	10	6	7
British and Foreign Bible Society	2	12	1
Church Pastoral Aid Society	1	1	0
Irish Church Missions and Connemara Orphanage ..	1	7	4
Colonial and Continental Church Society.....	10	6	
	£20	3	0

The Church.

Never perhaps did the inhabitants of Chesham Bois realise how precious their little Church was, till they were deprived of the pleasure of worshipping in it for seven long months, while it was being restored and enlarged. The number of visitors on Sundays to the sacred spot, and the numerous inquiries as to how soon it would be re-opened, showed the lively interest felt in it on all sides. And the crowded congregations on the day of the re-opening and the following three Sundays also proved how great was the pleasure of being able to assemble once again within the familiar walls. The delight manifested in the countenances of the parishioners at the improvement which the Building has undergone would of itself be a sufficient reward for the labour and anxiety endured, even if the certainty of Divine approbation and blessing had not been enjoyed. One or two have expressed a natural regret at the loss of the old high pews: but, on the other hand, the increased comfort and roominess of the Church are so evident, that the inconveniences of the old pews, the noisy and rickety gallery, the steps down into the Church, the small chancel arches with the heavy mass of masonry above, and the rotten oak panelling, which was a refuge for scores of bats, will be

remembered only to enhance the enjoyment of the Sanctuary as it now is. And then, the sittings being all free, that is, without charge, though of course allotted to the regular worshippers as before, offer a welcome, not only to the parishioners, but, if disengaged, to any visitors who may drop in from time to time.

The hassocks and hymn-books have been provided on purpose to increase the comfort of the worshippers, who, it is believed, will take a pleasure in keeping them clean and sound, that they may last as long as possible.

It may here be stated, that the hassocks were *not* intended to be used as *footstools*, at least by males, but for kneeling upon during prayer,—kneeling, where possible, being the proper attitude in addressing the King of kings. It is hoped that none, in future, will sit during prayer, unless disabled by age or infirmity. The hassocks will soon be worn out, if the feet are placed on them; whereas, if only used for kneeling, they will last for many years.

The honesty of visitors is relied upon not to remove from the Church the hymn-books, which are placed for their use during Service, on purpose that they may join in the singing, which should always be as congregational as possible.

The new warming apparatus seems to answer admirably, and will be a great boon in winter, and a vast improvement on the old stove.

Perhaps the Rector may have felt too much reluctance to canvass the Parish for donations towards the work of restoration and enlargement. For one thing, it was doubted whether the Parishioners, as a body, were in favour of the contemplated improvements; and, for another, the depression in trade and agriculture made him feel a delicacy in asking them for contributions. Nevertheless, as time went on, and the works were approaching completion, and the improvements became more and more manifest, it was most gratifying to him to see one parishioner after another kindly volunteering to

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collect from fellow-parishioners, or coming forward with a contribution, and also to find that most of the householders gave something, however little. Still, all that has been contributed by the landowners and inhabitants of the Parish has formed but a small part of the funds that were required for so expensive a concern. But God, who in his Providence seemed to enjoin the undertaking of the duty, did, in the most wonderful and interesting manner, raise up many and unexpected helpers,—especially in the persons of Mrs. and Miss Gay, of Brighton,—so that the great bulk of what was needed has been provided. All in the parish, who love God, and at the same time have an affection for their ancient little Church, hallowed as it is with so many precious memories, must not fail to thank their heavenly Father for His great goodness to Chesham Bois, in thus renovating and enlarging for them their much-loved Sanctuary.

One thing more remains to be done, besides the effort of collecting the balance of expenses already incurred. The Church is not complete without a Tower for the three bells, whose sweet music has been heard throughout the hills and valleys round for hundreds of years. And there must be no relaxation of prayer and labour till this also is accomplished. Let but the same faith continue to animate us that has sustained our courage hitherto, and ere long our hearts, our ears, and our eyes will be gladdened by the sight of the Tower with its clock, the call of the bells to holy Worship, and the joy of having one of the prettiest and most comfortable of churches.

The Rector here takes the opportunity of gratefully acknowledging the hearty co-operation of the Churchwardens, without whose sympathy and goodwill he would have found it far from pleasant, if not impossible, to inaugurate and carry on the work.

Golden Number 2
Epact 11
Solar Cycle..... 15
Dominical Letter A
Roman Indiction 10
Julian Period 6595

1882

DATE TABLE.

Good Friday, Apl. 7
Easter Monday, „ 10
Whit Monday, May 29
Bank Holiday, Aug. 7
Christmas Day, Dec. 25
Bank Holiday, „ 26

JANUARY.			FEBRUARY.			MARCH.		
Sunday	1	8 15 22 29 ...	Sunday	...	5 12 19 26	Sunday	...	5 12 19 26
Monday	2	9 16 23 30 ...	Monday	...	6 13 20 27	Monday	...	6 13 20 27
Tuesday	3	10 17 24 31 ...	Tuesday	...	7 14 21 28	Tuesday	...	7 14 21 28
Wed.	4	11 18 25 ...	Wed.	...	1 8 15 22 ...	Wed.	...	1 8 15 22 29
Thurs.	5	12 19 26 ...	Thurs.	...	2 9 16 23 ...	Thurs.	...	2 9 16 23 30
Friday	6	13 20 27 ...	Friday	...	3 10 17 24 ...	Friday	...	3 10 17 24 31
Sat'day	7	14 21 28 ...	Sat'day	...	4 11 18 25 ...	Sat'day	...	4 11 18 25 ...
APRIL.			MAY.			JUNE.		
Sunday	...	2 9 16 23 30	Sunday	...	7 14 21 28	Sunday	...	4 11 18 25
Monday	...	3 10 17 24 ...	Monday	...	1 8 15 22 29	Monday	...	5 12 19 26
Tuesday	...	4 11 18 25 ...	Tuesday	...	2 9 16 23 30	Tuesday	...	6 13 20 27
Wed.	...	5 12 19 26 ...	Wed.	...	3 10 17 24 31	Wed.	...	7 14 21 28
Thurs.	...	6 13 20 27 ...	Thurs.	...	4 11 18 25 ...	Thurs.	...	1 8 15 22 29
Friday	...	7 14 21 28 ...	Friday	...	5 12 19 26 ...	Friday	...	2 9 16 23 30
Sat'day	...	1 8 15 22 29 ...	Sat'day	...	6 13 20 27 ...	Sat'day	...	3 10 17 24 ...
JULY.			AUGUST.			SEPTEMBER.		
Sunday	...	2 9 16 23 30	Sunday	...	6 13 20 27	Sunday	...	3 10 17 24
Monday	...	3 10 17 24 31	Monday	...	7 14 21 28	Monday	...	4 11 18 25
Tuesday	...	4 11 18 25 ...	Tuesday	...	1 8 15 22 29	Tuesday	...	5 12 19 26
Wed.	...	5 12 19 26 ...	Wed.	...	2 9 16 23 30	Wed.	...	6 13 20 27
Thurs.	...	6 13 20 27 ...	Thurs.	...	3 10 17 24 31	Thurs.	...	7 14 21 28
Friday	...	7 14 21 28 ...	Friday	...	4 11 18 25 ...	Friday	...	1 8 15 22 29
Sat'day	...	1 8 15 22 29 ...	Sat'day	...	5 12 19 26 ...	Sat'day	...	2 9 16 23 30
OCTOBER.			NOVEMBER.			DECEMBER.		
Sunday	...	1 8 15 22 29	Sunday	...	5 12 19 26	Sunday	...	3 10 17 24 31
Monday	...	2 9 16 23 30	Monday	...	6 13 20 27	Monday	...	4 11 18 25 ...
Tuesday	...	3 10 17 24 31	Tuesday	...	7 14 21 28	Tuesday	...	5 12 19 26 ...
Wed.	...	4 11 18 25 ...	Wed.	...	1 8 15 22 29	Wed.	...	6 13 20 27 ...
Thurs.	...	5 12 19 26 ...	Thurs.	...	2 9 16 23 30	Thurs.	...	7 14 21 28 ...
Friday	...	6 13 20 27 ...	Friday	...	3 10 17 24 ...	Friday	...	1 8 15 22 29 ...
Sat'day	...	7 14 21 28 ...	Sat'day	...	4 11 18 25 ...	Sat'day	...	2 9 16 23 30 ...