



CHESHAM BOIS CHURCH.

An
Almanack
and
Parish Register
for
CHESHAM BOIS

Presented by the Rev. J. Matthews,
with kind wishes
for 1892.

Chesham Bois Almanack

For 1892.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

Excepting the unusual amount of rainfall during the last year, there was no event of striking stir or interest in the parish of Chesham Bois, unless it was the report which got about prematurely in the Autumn that I was intending to resign my office as incumbent. I need not dwell upon the causes of the expected severance of my connection with you, but it is due to you to say, that declining health, and the growing and difficult demands of this rapidly increasing parish, have made it imperative. If you realize the strain upon one, long past the prime of life, in raising above two thousand pounds to restore the Church, and then three hundred pounds to erect a Mission Room, you will not be surprised that a not naturally robust frame should be no longer equal to the task of efficiently conducting the multifarious duties of such a growing Parish. My defective hearing, a very serious drawback in visiting the sick and infirm and instructing the young in Schools and Classes, must also be taken into account. I will not trust myself to write of our leaving this beloved spot. Our earnest desire has been to do our duty to God and to you during the twenty-three

years we have lived among you. But, alas! no one knows better than ourselves, excepting the Judge of all flesh, how very far short we have come of the perfection of service which He desired of us. This I say with unaffected humility, and under a keen sense of how very much more we might have done than we have to advance the Kingdom of Christ among you.

The Motto, which was strongly suggested to my mind in view of the solemn and sublime meeting, face to face, of Pastors and their flocks, before the King of Kings, is

**“Every one of us shall give account of himself
to God.”**

Rom. xiv. 12.

Who will stand with courage and joy at such a time, but those who renounce all merit of their own, and trust only in the merits and death of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins and the justification of their persons? I shall meet all of you there at the last day, and I charge every one of you to meet me *at the right hand* of the Great King.

Let me ask your prayers that whatever of power may be left me to serve God, it may still be laid at the feet of our loving Redeemer and Master. And let me also ask your prayers for my successor, that he may come among you “in the fulness of the blessing of the Gospel of Christ,” filled with the Holy Ghost, and the love of precious souls for whom Christ died. What I have most missed

among you has been *regular, united prayer* for a blessing on the work of the ministry. Let my successor have this at your hands, if you wish his ministry to be a power for good among you. “When asked what was the cause of his great success as a preacher, Mr. Spurgeon pointed to the floor of the Tabernacle and said; ‘In the room beneath you will find three hundred praying Christians. Every time I preach they gather together and uphold my hands by continuous prayer and supplication; *there* you will find the secret of all our blessing.’” May the eyes of a gracious and merciful God ever be upon Chesham Bois for good, and may large numbers from this favoured little parish be found hereafter among those who “have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”

It will be interesting to see how the School and Education problem will be worked out under a new administration. Whichever way it goes, it will have my best wishes for its working for the spiritual and temporal good of the young of Chesham Bois.

Mrs. and Miss Matthews join me in taking an affectionate farewell of you. We shall continually have before us the tokens of your kindly feeling, which we received at your hands two years ago. They will be a link between us and Chesham Bois as long as we live.

Yours most sincerely,

J. MATTHEWS.

Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, which took place from December 1st, 1890, to December 20th, 1891.

Baptisms.

Frederic George Peach.
Thomas Slade.
Muriel Tudor Carver.
Elsie Thornley.
Frederic George Scott.
Emily Clara Reading.
John Walker.
Thomas William Spratley.
Harold Allen Brown.
Dorothy Kate Hartley.

Marriages.

James Charles Nightingale to Annie Bedford.

Burials.

May Turvey, aged 19 months.
Lily Turvey, aged 19 months.
Charles Cox, aged 74 years.
George Cox, aged 77 years.
Elizabeth Weedon, aged 70 years.
"Francis Owen" Green, aged 1 month.
James Walton, aged 62 years.

The Coal Club

Will re-open, as usual, in March, and close at the end of October. No promise as to bonus can be made at present.

The Church Services

Have been remarkably well attended during the past year, to the very great encouragement of the Ministers. The Rev. G. Holloway has continued to give his most kind and valued help almost every Sunday, thereby lightening the Rector's labour, and at times affording him much-needed rest. The

weekly offertories have been well maintained, and the interest in Missions both at home and abroad, seems unabated; while the offertories for the sick and needy, for Church expenses, and for the support of the Schools, have shewn that, while caring for others, the duty of providing for our own necessities has not been neglected. This, of course, applies only to those who attend the Church. More hearty services, on the whole, and a more generous congregation, according to their means, could scarcely be found. Almost everyone seems to put into the collecting plate, and the amount of bronze has often been quite astonishing, shewing that those of slender means give to the utmost of their ability. This is one of the truest signs of a healthy Church, especially when the objects supported are not merely parochial, but for the advancement of our Saviour's Kingdom everywhere. If there is one improvement desirable, it is an increased share of the worshippers in audibly responding during the prayers. You may go into some Churches and scarcely hear a sound, when it is the congregation's part to repeat the prayers, in unison or by turns, with the officiating minister. Nothing is more like a wet blanket to the clergyman. It is utterly contrary to the directions given in the Prayer Book, in which the people are exhorted to take their parts with the minister. The responses were not intended to be *whispered*, but to be repeated aloud. Shyness should not keep any one dumb. Nothing is more animating to the minister, and assuredly more pleasing to God, than the voices of a whole congregation uniting in offering up prayers and thanksgivings with their leader. The choir, especially the men, have, as a rule, done their part in the responses, and have thus set a good example. May their courage in speaking out, as well as their cheerful and voluntary help in leading the singing, be rewarded by God in a rich blessing on their souls. The Bell Ringers and the Sunday School Teachers also deserve the thanks of the whole parish for their voluntary and most valuable assistance. Finally, let us not forget the Confirmation which is to be held on the 30th of January. Let all the children of God who are in sympathy with our church, earnestly pray for a blessing on those who may be presented to the Bishop from this Parish, that they may remain true to their profession, and not become turncoats after having once given their own word of honour to serve the Lord Jesus as His faithful soldiers.

The Daily Prayer Union.

It has been matter of thankfulness that during the past year twenty members were added to the number on my books as Associate for Chesham

Bois, making in all 81. There are now ninety-one thousand members in the Union. Let me remind our members to use their membership cards *daily*, looking at the 30 reasons (at the back of them) for praying for the Holy Ghost. The venerable President of the Union, Bishop Perry, died during the past year, and Dr. Ryle, Bishop of Liverpool, has accepted the vacant post. The name and character of Bishop Ryle, as a faithful Protestant Bishop, well known for his valuable tracts, will, we may trust, give an increased impetus to the spread of the Union, until it is joined by all who believe that the Holy Ghost is the "Power from on High," without Whom no conversions take place, no sanctification of heart, no fruits of righteousness whatever can be produced.

Tract distribution, and Lending Libraries.

It is with much regret that I have to discontinue the circulation of the *Friendly Visitor*. My good wife and I are amply repaid the expense and trouble of issuing them monthly during the last ten years, if but one soul has been saved or profited by their perusal. For many years, however, there have been Parochial Lending Libraries at the Upper School and at the Mission Rooms on the Moor; and these have supplied you with plenty of wholesome reading. Since the Iron Room was opened, Miss Wild has been unwearied in enlarging and improving the library there, and I wish thus publicly to thank her for the kind help she has given. J.M.

The School.

By a new regulation the Education Department requires the Balance Sheet of School Receipts and Expenditure to be affixed to the School door for fourteen days for public inspection. There is therefore no need for them to be published in the Almanack. But you may like to see the Government and Diocesan Inspectors' Reports. Her Majesty's Inspector says: "The children have acquitted themselves well in the examination in the elementary subjects, and are in very good order. Their intelligence is deficient at present, but I hope they will now be taught to think and to express themselves. Recitations are to be taught during the current School year. If the children are successful in this subject, and show a little more general intelligence next year, I hope to be able to recommend the higher grant under Article 101 (a)."

The Diocesan Inspector says: "The School is in excellent order and the Religious Instruction has been painstaking. The two higher Divisions shewed, on the whole, a very fair knowledge of their subjects, and especially of Holy Scripture. The written work was, as a rule, neatly and correctly done. The Infants and lower Standards answered brightly, and shewed a satisfactory knowledge for their age."

The Mission Room.

The Mission Room Accounts have been kindly audited by Mr. G. Bates and a summary of them is here given:—

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.	DISBURSEMENTS.	£	s.	d.
Donations.....	275	12	3	Messrs. Francis & How, preparing Conveyance of site.....	3	13	0
Offertories in Bois Church	19	15	6½	Mr. J. Birch and others, levelling, clearing, and fencing site.....	36	10	9½
Surplus Receipts for celebration of the Queen's Jubilee, 1887.....	3	16	9½	Mr. Lee, Contractor for Iron Room.....	137	8	0
Collected by Miss C. T. Carver....	0	13	0	Messrs. T. Bates & Sons, fencing.....	10	18	3
Net proceeds of two Entertainments	0	15	0	Messrs. J. Keen & Son, brick foundation of Mission Room, and drainage.....	24	4	3
Savings' Bank Interest ..	0	12	9	Mr. Harding, ironmongery	6	13	6½
Sale of earth	0	9	0	Carting chalk	2	6	6
„ waste paper	0	4	7	F. Mead, bricklayer	3	7	10
				Materials for building Offices	31	11	1
				Insurance (2 years') of Iron Room & Offices ..	0	13	0
				Carriage of goods	2	5	8
				Furniture	37	9	2½
				Postage and Sundries..	4	3	9
				Balance in hand	0	14	0½
	£301	18	10½		£301	18	10½

"Audited and found correct."

November 10th, 1891.

(Signed)

GEORGE BATES.

Received for

The above Account includes the balances on both sides, of last year.

“ Audited and found correct.”

December 11th, 1891.

(Signed)

GEORGE BATES.

1892.
DATE TABLE.

*Bissextile or Leap Year

Good Friday, April 15
Easter Monday, April 18
Whit Monday, June 6
Bank Holiday, Aug. 1
Christmas Day, Dec. 25
Bank Holiday, Dec. 26

January.							* February.							March						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	1	2	3	4	5	6	...	...	1	2	3	4	5
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	...	...	...	...	...	27	28	29	30	31	...	...
31	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
April.							May.							June.						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	1	2	3	4	5	6	...	...	...	1	2	3	4
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31	...	...	...	...	26	27	28	29	30	...	...
...
July.							August.							September.						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	1	2	3	4	5	6	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31	...	...	...	25	26	27	28	29	30	...
31	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
October.							November.							December.						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	2	3	4	5	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	...	...	...	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
3	31	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...