

Archive of the Parish magazine from 120 years ago

PARISH MAGAZINE - January 1900

The Dawn of Day magazine was produced by the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge (SPCK). Churches across the country took the magazine and then added their own parish news. The Dawn of Day contains what is believed to be the first and only serialisation of the novel Dr Thorne, by H Rider Haggard. He stated that this was his 'only novel with a purpose' as it addresses the Anti-Vaccination movement prevalent at the time.

Church notices for the parish highlights the command from Queen Victoria that there be a General Collection 'in aid of the Lord Mayor's Funds for the Relief of the Sufferer in the War and their Wives and Families'. This most likely refers to the Second Boer War (1899 – 1901) but could also encompass the Boxer Rebellion (1899 – 1901).

There is a wealth for information for parishioners. The list of Hymns for Sundays and Holy Days is given, Offertories and Collections are enumerated, and December baptisms for the following are listed:

3rd Reginald John Bartholomew
8th Constance Mabel Vickers
17th William Thomas Harris
17th Frederick Charles Hopcroft

A visit from Rev CH Whitley of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts gave a talk regarding their work at the Ckhota Nagpur Mission. It was well attended and 'a collection at the doors realised 6s [six shillings] for the SPG.'

The Sunday and Day Schools' prize-giving occurred on ST Thomas' Day and there is a long list of classes, prizes, and the recipients' names.

Murray Home is cited as having admitted 60 patients during 1899, with stays between 3 weeks and 6 months. The Matron (un-named) was taking a 6-week holiday returning in the middle of January.

Old Windsor Charities

Mentioned are the following:

- Fuel Allotment Fund: coals given to 16 widows and about 50 married labourers
- Bonnell Charity: beef and loaves were distributed on 23rd December to 59 people including '15 widows and aged single persons, and 22 married couples.'
- 'Blankets belonging to the Hughes' Charity were lent out as usual on All Saints Day.'
- Church members are at the heart of their community as evidenced by the comment that 'a kind donation of £5* from Mrs Irving, enabled us to give coals or beef to a good many persons who had not participated either in the Fuel Allotment distribution or the Bonnell Charity.'

*Calculating how much £5 in 1900 is worth today is difficult as it will show differing amounts in terms of food or wages, however in generally it is worth approximately £650 today.