

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 Therne, 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 of 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 Chhota 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 general it is worth approximately £650 today.

PARISH MAGAZINE - January 1900 Part 2

At some point toward the end of 1899, there had been a change with regards to *Old Windsor parish magazine*. Readers were wished ‘rich New Year blessings’, and told they were losing their saleswoman. The paragraph runs thus:

‘With respect to our Old Windsor Magazine, we may say that the change of ‘central’ and the reduction of the price continue to prove a decided success in the way of increasing the sale, which amounts to nearly 200 a month. We are unfortunately losing our saleswoman, who has managed so admirably for so many years past. We hope our readers will make the work of her successor as light as possible, by taking care that their pennies are ready at the beginning of each month, so that there may be very little in the way of keeping accounts to do.’ (copied verbatim)

First thing to notice is that the admirable Saleswoman has not been named. Today the Editor would not escape censure over that kind of mistake.

Secondly, the reference to ‘central’ is obscure. It could refer to a change in the central point at which the magazine is sold. Or it could mean *‘The Dawn of Day’* SPCK insert in the centre. Without the pre-1900 copies it is difficult to verify.

Given that this was written 120 years ago, and Old Windsor would have been a village, very much smaller than today, it is worth noting that 200 copies are sold every month, at one penny per copy.

The Dawn of Day we said last month, printed an ongoing story from H Rider Haggard, but this was not the only content. There were other stories, morally uplifting, with lessons to learn, and articles under headings such as, *The Garden, Household Hints, The Foreign Office of Our Church, and Science Gossip*.

In this edition, Old Windsor readers would have learned under the banner of this last item that *‘Dr Livingstone describes his feeling when seized by a lion as a kind of stupor with no pain or terror, although he is fully conscious of what had happened to him; so a chloroformed subject is able to follow the operation without feeling the instrument.’*

I think we'll have to take Dr Livingstone's word for it!

Offertories and collections ‘to December 25th’ were as follows:

Parish Church:

1st – 4th Sundays in Advent for the Sick and Needy: £2. 17s. 4½d

Christmas Day for the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (SPG): £2. 2s. 11½d

St Lukes: Services were at 8am except on 3rd Sunday when they were at 6.30am, and the Christmas Day service which started at 7am

1st – 4th Sundays in Advent for ‘Church Ex’: 19s. 8d (the collection on the 2nd Sunday was zero)

Christmas Day for the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (SPG): 13s. 21/2d

What I think is a lovely idea, is the listing of Hymns for Sundays and Holy Days. Some days there is only one hymn, other days there are three. How nice to go to church knowing what you will be singing and having a small notion of how long the service may last. Of course, that rather depended on the length of the sermon...