

## 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 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.

## 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. 41/2d

Christmas Day for the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (SPG): £2. 2s. 111/2d

**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...

## **PARISH MAGAZINE - January 1900 Part 3**

To start the New Year and round off the old one, we will look at the Sunday School and Day School prizes awarded to the village children. What we are not told for some is exactly what the child did to win the award. For Old Windsorians, the children named may include family members and provide some additional information for family histories.

### **Sunday School Prizes:**

#### **BOYS**

Rev GK Roberts' Bible Class: George Pullin

Class I: Lady Dunboyne's Prizes: H Sainsbury, W Collins, W Welling, A Welling, A Seller, Js Seller, W Halsey, T Wood, G Spring, F Brooks, E Gilbert, G Elliott, T Lerner, R Duley, W Burnham

Class IIa: Miss Riley's and Miss Adam's Prizes: F Littlewood, and T Seller.

Other prizes: H Hankin, W Foster, Edward Boore, William Wood, J Nicholls, G Barrett, Alfred Coleman, Albert Barton, Harry Hart

Class IIb: C Collins, Walter Warner, Bertie Haines, Sidney Boore, D Beesley

Class III: Alfred Collins, G Reddick, Bertie Little wood, and others

#### **GIRLS**

Class I: Margaret Nicholls, Daisy Haycock, Winifred Hart, Ellen Warner, Rose French, Lily Cutts, Lily Williams, Edith Warner, Edith Ralph, Ruth Nicholls

Class II: Lily Barrett, Kate Nicholls, Annir Warner, Ada Boore, Alice Johnson, Edith Collins, Jessie Finch

Class III: May Brooks, Hilda Fuller, Emily Fuller, Minnie Haycock, Mary Duley, Rose Barrett, Louisa Pope, Eliza Ralph, Winifred Haycock, Hilda Ware, Frances Elkins

Class IV: Blanche Fuller, Violet Alders, Daisy Hankin, F Beesley, Gipsy Varnham, Nellie Varnham, Kate Varnham, F Collins, and other

### **Day School Prizes**

#### **BOYS**

Lady Julia Follet's Composition 1st Div: F Edkins

Mrs Owen Tudor's Composition 2nd Div: Peter Dillon

Vicar's Writing Standard III: W Foster;

Standard II: Laurie Brant

Mrs Owen Tudor's Map Drawing: A Welling; Vicar's Standard IV: A Coleman

Hon Mrs W Carington's Regularity and Good Conduct 2nd Div: James Durrant

Master Guy Rennie's Regularity and Good Conduct 2nd Div: Peter Dillon

Lady Dunboyne's Extra Prizes for Regularity: A Seller, J Guttridge, H Hankin, F Foster

Vicar's Religious Knowledge: VI. A Fuller, V. J Durrant

#### **GIRLS**

Mrs Ricardo's Sewing: 1st Div. L Williams, 2nd Div. M Dillon

Lady Julia Follet's Knitting: 1st Div. Lizzie Littlewood

Mrs Irving's Knitting: 2nd Div. Edith Collins  
Mrs Davidson's Darning: Margaret Nicholls  
Hon Lady Murray's Composition: Margaret Nicholls  
Hon Mrs W Carington's Writing: Louisa Pope  
Hon Lady Murray's Regularity and Good Conduct: 1st Div. M Horner  
Vicar's Regularity and Good Conduct: 2nd Div. H Fuller  
Lady Dunboyne's Extra Prizes for Regularity: K Nicholls, D French, M Haycock, E Birrell  
Vicar's Religious Knowledge: VII. M Horner, L Littlewood, Jessie Finch

### **INFANTS**

Hon Lady Murray's Boys' Knitting: Alfred Ralph  
Hon Mrs W Carington's Girls' Knitting 1st Prize: Alice Branscombe  
Mrs Irving's Girls' Knitting 2nd Prize: Monica Dillon  
Hon Mrs W Carington's Girls' Sewing: Daisy King  
Lady Dunboyne's Regularity and Good Conduct: Alfred Collins, Bessie Randall  
Vicar's Good Conduct: Philip Elkins  
Vicar's Holy Scripture: John Duley

## **February 1900**

All the usual church notices are given for services, readings, and details of offertories and collections. The burials in January were:

### **January 3<sup>rd</sup> Jane Clapp aged 62 years**

Jane was a single woman, born in Devon, and was living with her sister Martha and her husband Henry Anthers. Following Jane's life through the census returns, we find that at the age of 12 years in 1841, she is a House Servant in Honiton to the Melrush family. Ten years later, she is listed as a Dairy Maid at Glanwill Farm in Northleigh, Devon. We lose track of Jane in 1871 (probably a transcription error) but in 1881, she is still in Northleigh but with a different farming family, and she is listed as a Domestic Servant. It is hoped that she might have had a happy few years with her family in Old Windsor after a hard life as a servant.

**January 11<sup>th</sup> An unknown man** who was found drowned. Research suggests that it was the body of a man found on Thursday January 4<sup>th</sup> as reported below at the inquest held in The Wheatsheaf on Friday January 5<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Determined Suicide of an Unknown Man.***

*Mr. Weedon, County Coroner, hold inquest on Friday in last week, at the Wheatsheaf, Old Windsor, on the body of man, apparently between 48 and 50 years of age. William Goddinar, the foreman Old Windsor weir, said on the previous afternoon the body passed through the weir, and he, with assistance, got it out of the water. Deceased was stout, and about 5ft. 9in. in height. There was a wound on the throat, collar and neck-tie were found in one of his pockets; but no money was found. Mr. W. W. Flower, medical practitioner, of Egham, who examined the body, gave it as his opinion that it had been in the water between six weeks and two months. There was an incised wound about 3in. long across the throat, which had partially severed the wind-pipe, and appeared to have been self inflicted. Death was due to drowning. A verdict of suicide was returned.*

### **January 15<sup>th</sup> Lucy Ann Miller, aged 53 years.**

Lucy Hodge was born about 1847 in Hurley, to a family of farm workers. In the 1861 census, when Lucy is 12 years old, her father Ambrose is listed as a Farm Carter, her mother Martha is a Field Worker, and her 14 year old brother (also Ambrose) is a Farm Boy. By 1871, 22 year old Lucy is married to Henry Miller, age 25. They are still living in Hurley. Martha Hodge (her mother) is living with them; she is a widow and blind. By 1881, she and Henry have four children, Susan 9, Emily 7, Francis 3, Charles 10 months. Martha is still with them.. In the 1891 census return, Henry and Lucy are living in Old Windsor, but without Martha who may have died in the interim. Children living at home are Susan 19 who is working as a General Domestic Servant, Francis 13, Charles 11, Henry 4, Alfred 1.

**The Second Boer War** was ongoing. January to September of 1900 saw the second phase – the British offensive against the Boers. It is with this knowledge that the church reports on Old Windsor men who are out in South Africa serving with the Army.

*Our readers are aware that three Officers from Old Windsor – Lt Col Malcolm Stevens, Capt. Wilfred Ricardo, and Lt the Honourable Lesley Butler, and also Privates John Bartholomew and John Beesley have gone to South Africa. Capt. Ricardo, who was with the detachment of the*

*Household Brigade serving under General French, was unfortunately taken prisoner while scouting. When trying to rescue a trooper, his horse was shot under him, and he was promptly surrounded and captured.*

**Lt Col Malcolm Wilkinson Stevens** was born in India on July 24th 1844, and served with the Bombay Light Infantry. He and his family resided at The Elms in Old Windsor. Stevens was married twice and had had three children, a boy and two girls. He died in December 1931, at St Albans in Hertfordshire.

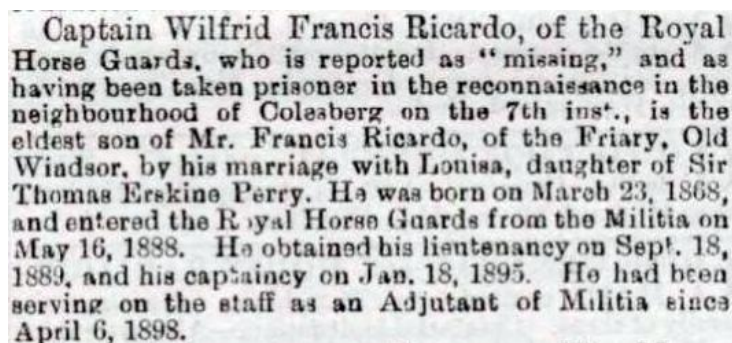
**Lt The Honourable Lesley James Probyn Butler** was born in April 1876, and served not only during the Boer Wars, but also the First World War. He was the second son of Robert Butler, the 16<sup>th</sup> Baron Dunboyne, and one of eight children. The family residence was Ousely Lodge in Old Windsor. Butler died in December 1955.

**Private John Bartholomew** was the son of Joseph and Mary Ann (Cock) Bartholomew, and husband to Anna Wick. He was a Gas Worker in 1901. He served with both the Lancashire Regiment and the Queen's Surreys. In June 1919 at the age of 48 years, he re-enlisted but this time in the Labour Corps. Sadly, he was discharged in May 1920 suffering from malaria and rheumatism.

**Private John Beesley** joined the Royal Artillery in June 1891 at the age of 19 years, and gave his trade as Ostler. His parents were George and Louisa Beesley who lived at 4 Trafalgar Place in Old Windsor. He was a mere 5ft 4ins tall, with grey eyes and dark brown hair, the point of his chin had a scar, and he had tattoo marks on his left forearm. Beesley did not enjoy the best of health. Between April 1892 and July 1897, he spent a total of one hundred and seventy-two (172) days in hospital with various illnesses. John served at home, India, and South Africa where his service entitled him to two medals. The Queen's South Africa Medal with the following clasps: Cape Colony, Orange Free State, and Transvaal. He was also entitled to the King's South Africa medal. Beesley was discharged in 1903 at the end of his term of engagement.

**Captain Wilfred Ricardo** was the son of two of Old Windsor's benefactors, Mr and Mrs Francis Ricardo who lived at the Friary. The Ricardo name appears regularly as generous donors of prizes and to other charitable efforts. Wilfred and his family mixed with the top echelons of society, and his name is mentioned attending a number of society weddings in London.

His capture by the Boers was widely reported in various London and local newspapers:



Captain Wilfred Francis Ricardo, of the Royal Horse Guards, who is reported as "missing," and as having been taken prisoner in the reconnaissance in the neighbourhood of Colesberg on the 7th inst., is the eldest son of Mr. Francis Ricardo, of the Friary, Old Windsor, by his marriage with Louisa, daughter of Sir Thomas Erskine Perry. He was born on March 23, 1868, and entered the Royal Horse Guards from the Militia on May 16, 1888. He obtained his lieutenantcy on Sept. 18, 1889, and his captaincy on Jan. 18, 1895. He had been serving on the staff as an Adjutant of Militia since April 6, 1898.

Wilfred Ricardo was an interesting man. He had a successful military career but was also well known as a horseman. He rode regularly in a wide variety of races around the country, winning quite a few.

His maiden win was at Hawthorn Hill in 1889 where he rode *Grimaldi*.

In the 1894 he won the National Hunt Steeplechase which was held at Derby that year with ten runners. Ricardo rode *Philactery*, owned by Sir Samuel Scott. The favourite, *Olive Branch* was

ridden by Joseph Widger. It sounds like an exciting finish. Ricardo took the last jump just ahead of Widger but ran wide on the bend and lost his lead. On the home stretch to the finish, Ricardo and Philactery went all out and won by two and a half lengths.



It is possible that the horse Ricardo is riding in this photograph is *Philactery*.

I am told by those who know these things that, though his natural weight was 11 st 6 lbs, he frequently had to ride at 10st 7 lbs, making his record of important wins quite formidable:

National Hunt Steeplechase: *Philactery*  
Household Brigade Handicap: *March Hare*  
Warwick Grand Annual: *Ulysses*  
Newmarket Military: *Fanatic*  
Household Brigade Cup: *March Hare*  
Past & Present Steeplechase: *Philosopher*  
Grand Military Gold Cup: *Dunboyne*  
Manchester Handicap: *St Anthon*

He won many minor races on the following horses:  
*County Council, The Mazzard, Bog George, Bar-none, Philosopher, Ulysses, Bouncing Boy, Nephote, The Nun, Siddington, Katerfeltd, and Alphaeus.*

In retirement at his home in Melton Mowbray, Ricardo rode regularly with the Quorn and other packs nearby.

His daughter Mary Sibyl Ricardo, married Henry John Hope, 3<sup>rd</sup> Baron Rankeillour thence she became Lady Rankeillour. The National Portrait Gallery hold photographs of them with their new born son Peter.

Ricardo Road is named after the family.



## **PARISH MAGAZINE - March 1900**

### **Baptism Feb 18th Elizabeth Jane daughter of William John Umpton and Mary Poynter**

According to the 1901 Census, the Poynter family were living at 1 Laurel Cottage, Old Windsor. William was aged 49, a plasterer born in Englefield Green, his wife listed as Emily M E Poynter, was 33, born in Windlesham in Surrey.

Emily appears to be William's second wife, as there are four sons living with them, three of whom are too old to be her sons; Charles Percy U, single, 22, William JU, single, 19, and George U, single, 17. The other children are Harry U 15, Emily M M 11, Leonard J 9, Elizabeth M 5, and Edward J 2. All eight children are recorded as being born in Egham, Surrey.

### **Burial Feb 24th Mary Ann Pullin (New Windsor) aged 87 years**

According to the 1891 Census return, Mary (79) was born in c1813 at Hampton Court in Middlesex. She was living at 24 Victoria Place with Josephine Clements, her 22-year-old, unmarried, grand-daughter. Mary is declared as living by her own means, and Josephine was working as a Housekeeper and Domestic. Interestingly, Josephine was born in Doncaster in Yorkshire.

Going back to the 1881 Census return, Mary (69) was living at 1 Victoria Place, next door to The Bachelor's Arms Public House, and her income is stated as coming from a 'Superannuation'. In this census record, Mary is said to have been born in Molesey, Surrey. Also living with her is Ellen Clark, a 61-year-old unmarried General Servant who was born in Staines.

Earlier records are unclear, so much deeper research is required to uncover more of Mary's life.

## **Lent**

*It is impressive to me that a few short paragraphs regarding Lent, from 121 years ago, can be so relevant to us in the 21st century. The writer (most likely the vicar) asks and answers several questions:*

*How can I make the best use of this season of Lent which God has graciously spared me to enter upon? Lent is intended to help us live the life that God wills us to live.*

*How can we make it a real help towards that most important end?*

- *Try to find out what there is that is plainly wrong in our present life*
- *Ask forgiveness for it*
- *Determine with the help of God's grace, for which we must earnestly pray, to leave it off*
- *Try to discover what is wanting in our present life*
  - a) *what we are leaving undone that we ought to do*
  - b) *what 'fruits of the Spirit' we are failing to display and cultivate*
- *Then set about the doing of those neglected duties and the cultivation of these Christian graces.*

The writer goes on to say that a Lent in which we set ourselves to overcome just one bad habit, carry out one neglected duty, and try to cultivate any one fruit of the Spirit, will set us on the right road.

The Sunday evening course of sermons on the Beatitudes (Matt 5 v 1-11) continued, and the following five preachers were listed for Wednesday evenings in Lent:

Rev C N Nagel, Headmaster of St Mark's School, Windsor

Rev L F Hake, Vicar of Wraysbury

Rev F P Burnett, Vicar of Colnbrook

Rev F F Penruddock, Curate of Windsor

Rev H Bowden Smith, Chaplain of Copper's Hill

### **War**

A more cheerful report than last month; 'Kimberley relieved, General Cronje brought to bay and compelled to surrender!' Readers are asked to continue praying, both at home and church, as there is 'tough work, and plenty of it, still before us.'

Mr and Mrs Ricardo and family were congratulated on the news that 'according to his own account' Captain Wilfred Ricardo was being well treated at Pretoria, as a prisoner of war.

Members of the church branch of the Women's Help Society were busy sewing shirts and other items for soldiers in South Africa. Lady Dunboyne was raising funds for the effort, and enquiries were being made as to whether, or not 'our own County Regiment (both battalions of which are at the Front) is in need of articles of clothing of any kind'. Clothing would be sent to them first but if not required, then all would be sent to those regiments which needed them most.

Lt Edward Blunt was reported as wounded by a shell fragment. Edward was in the 1st Battalion of the Royal Berks, and the son of the previous Vicar, John St John Blunt. There will be more on the Blunt family at a later date.

### **Fuel Allotment Fund**

The Trustees decided to make a second allotment of coal which used up almost all the fund. The either was severe and the price of coal expensive, the distribution went to labourers with young children and to widows.

### **Dawn of Day**

The magazine this month contains two lengthy articles regarding Christians in other countries.

### **A Visit to China**

China raised several issues on etiquette, and female writer was in equal measure amused and repulsed. Poached eggs still in their cooking water, to be eaten with chopsticks but without salt or any other condiments. Fat pork was considered something of a delicacy and could be offered to the visitor straight from the hostess's mouth. Chinese etiquette demanded it be eaten.

Women were not shy in the questions they asked, such as inquiries as to whether the person was married, and if not, why not? What clothes the visitor was wearing underneath their outer dress, and all accompanied by poking, prodding, and close examination.

Sanitation was a problem, and the moat outside one city was used for both laundry and drinking water for example. The result was that the Chinese were 'infested with parasites' such as ringworm and tape-worm. Manure was collected and heaped in the streets, outside houses, so it would be baked by the sun. The unfortunate consequence of this was the stench that pervaded the city streets, and the waves of flies, blue-bottles, and so forth that plagued everyone. 'They are also a loathsome source of infection.' The writer has a very poor opinion of Chinese doctors who 'for very high charges give very bad advice', plastering mud on simple sores or wounds that become badly infected. The writer acquired a supply of medicines from another mission and set up a dispensary in their own compound.

The people were open to the Gospel and heard it 'with wonder and gratitude.' Printed materials were revered, and it was surprising how many of the boys and men of the poorest class were able to read. The reaction of Chinese women to the notion of life after death was 'a deeply affecting sight'.

### **Russia's Church**

From St Andrew's first sight of the mountains of Kieff, and his declaration that 'on these hills shall shine the light of Divine Grace', to the conversion of Kieff citizens Oskold and Dir when prisoners in Constantinople; from the Regent Olga, 'the Morning Star that...lead Russia into the path of salvation' to her son Vladimir's zeal, 'church after church was built, schools were established, the Greek bishops and priests pushed their way ever further and further into the heart of Russia,' occasionally with Vladimir accompanying them, 'thus Russia was enlightened'.

### **Garden and Household Hints**

Sowing Winter Greens: it was time to sow the seeds of 'such useful vegetables as this included Brussel sprouts, savoy, broccoli, and others included under the term "winter greens".'

Flaxseed Poultices: cook the flaxseed, add a tablespoon of lard, and fill two bags (size as required). 'Place in a steamer over boiling water, and they will be ready for frequent changes without making fresh ones'. Apparently, this was handy for use at night, and poultices were kept soft by the lard.

Care of Lamps: If cared for properly, lamps need be cleaned only once a year. A small stiff brush such as a toothbrush can be used to clean the burners, wiping with a soft flannel afterwards. To trim the wick, raise it up and brush off the charred ends. Metal lamps should be rubbed with a soft cloth with a few drops of kerosene, while the chimneys can be polished with a cloth soaked in a small amount of alcohol. 'Wash the brushes and cloths used in the care of lamps often.'

*Health and Safety anyone?*