



CASTLEMORTON CHURCH, WORCESTERSHIRE.

The Longdon, Bushley, Queenhill, & Holdfast

Parochial Almanack & Year-Book

For 1881.

OUR FRONTISPIECE.



LAST year's Almanack contained a notice of the beginning of a good work at Castlemorton, in the repair and restoration of its interesting old Church; we have now the satisfaction of recording the completion of that work, under the direction of Mr. Ewan Christian, of Whitehall-place, London, the Architect employed by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in all the works they are concerned with of the same kind. In this case the restoration of the Chancel fell on them, as representing the lay rectors, and their architect was employed by the Parishioners upon the rest of it.

No doubt the old Church and its time-worn and dilapidated state was well-known to many of our readers; if they will go and see it now they will be pleased and perhaps astonished at its changed appearance, and inclined to envy the good people of that ancient chapelry the enjoyment of their dignified and venerable House of Prayer. About £1100 has been expended on it exclusive of the outlay on the chancel, and it is a pleasant thing to hear that the well-conducted workmen of the builder (Estcourt, of Gloucester—who contracted for and did the work so nicely), have left nothing but remembrance of good conduct and civility behind them.

The Church, having been closed during its repair, and the service held in the National School-room, was solemnly re-opened on the 2nd of June; and the day was made still more interesting to the people of the parish by the presence of their Bishop, who was kind enough to come and preach to them on the occasion.

The restoration of the church has been already followed by the separation of the district from the Parish of Longdon, of which it was from the beginning a dependent chapelry; so that Castlemorton now stands as an independent benefice, of which the Rev. E. C. DOBREE FOX will be the first Incumbent.

LONGDON.



BESIDES the re-opening of Castlemorton Church—the account of which appears as the leading notice referring to the frontispiece—there are two other things which have to be especially recorded of the past year, which if carried out in future years in the same good spirit that has now begun them, seem to give promise of much good, viz., the improved arrangements of the Feast day of Longdon Club and the establishment of the Flower Show.

The members of the Club attended service in the church as usual on the 29th May, and afterwards enjoyed their dinner in the school-room. They then adjourned with their band of musicians to a meadow that was kindly lent for the occasion by Mr. H. Ellis, of the Parsonage Farm, where they spent a merry afternoon in games and pastimes. The

manager and leaders of the Club deserve great credit for this most successful effort to improve upon the practice of former years, and by withdrawing it a little from the public house and from the public road, to provide an orderly and happy village holiday, which all alike can join in heartily and take pleasure in promoting. We hope in future years it may be made still more attractive under the same careful oversight.

A Flower Show has been this year instituted, to be held annually between hay-making and harvest, under rules and regulations which have been widely circulated in the parish. The first exhibition, which was held in the grounds of Chambers Court, on the 23rd July, by the kind permission of Mr. Russell, was exceedingly successful. The show of flowers and vegetables was remarkably good—better than could have been expected for the first year, and after the unusual severity of the last winter; and so many of the cottagers won prizes for the productions of their gardens, that much encouragement was given to increased attention to them. Prizes were given also to the best kept cottage garden, and to the best baked loaf of bread; and to the children also, for the best collection of wild flowers and of grapes.

The School of the Parish is in excellent condition under the charge of Mrs. Long. At the visit of the Government Inspector, on the 25th of March, ninety-six children attended, of whom eighty-two were presented for examination, and of these two only failed to satisfy him. This is a degree of excellence which is very creditable to the mistress and satisfactory to the managers of the School, as it must be also to the parents of the children. The Government Inspector only takes account of the discipline and order of a school and its general teaching, leaving the oversight of its religious instruction to the diocesan or Bishop's officer. The children were examined in this most important branch of their instruction on the 14th January, by the Rev. C. Dickens. It was a day of heavy snow, and only 71 were able to be present; but all of these passed his examination to his satisfaction, as is shown by his report of it.

On February 5th there was a Concert in the School-room, given by the Choir, in which some of the children of the school and others took part. Some of the songs of the children were very much enjoyed, and showed how very well they had been taught.

The choir this year, for the first time, took part in the glorious Choral Festival which was held in Worcester Cathedral, dined in the Hall of St. Alban's Orphanage, and came home by water in a great thunder-storm!

The annual meeting of the Associates and Members of the Upton Branch of the Girls' Friendly Society was held this past year at Longdon, as the central parish of the Rural Deanery. About 70 were assembled from the surrounding parishes, meeting for a special service in the church at 2.30, and drinking tea in the garden of the Vicarage. Unluckily a storm came on as they were seated at the tables and drove them all indoors for shelter. This is an excellent Society, in which young women bind themselves to help each other, and to be helped, by mutual sympathy, and prayer, and good example, in a life of modesty and watchfulness, and duty to God and to their own souls; in prudence and thriftiness for their own good; in duty and helpfulness to their parents and faithfulness to their employers. Wherever they may go to live they will be nearly sure to find some associates or sisters to uphold and encourage them, for there are from 33,000 to 40,000 who have joined in the Society, and 13,000 or 14,000 ladies who have joined it as associates for the purpose of befriending and assisting them. A report was read from the Secretary of the Upton Branch, which showed a steady increase in the funds and number of its members. Twenty of them received a bonus on their savings, and six received the premium (reward) given for long service, that is, for keeping their places.

We have been blessed this year with a more abundant harvest and more seasonable weather than in some years past, and our thankfulness has been expressed in more abundant offerings. The Rev. George Butterworth, of Deerhurst, preached at our Harvest Home Service, on Oct. 1, and £7 10s. was collected. Of this, half was given to the Rural Hospital in Tewkesbury, and half to the relief of famine in Armenia.

The Vicar was from home for four Sundays in the month of August, and his duties were performed by the Rev. Noel Freeling, Vicar of Holywell, in Oxford.

EXTRACTS FROM

Longdon Parish Registers.

1879. BAPTISMS.
 Nov. 30.—Fanny, daughter of Thomas and Emma Powell.
 Nov. 30.—Rosanna, daughter of William and Sarah Ann Davis.
 Nov. 30.—John Samuel, son of John and Sarah Ann Griffiths.
 1880.
 Jan. 25.—James, son of Thomas & Caroline Clark.
 Jan. 25.—Edward Benjamin, son of Benjamin and Emma Johnson.
 Feb. 26.—John Butt, son of Henry A. and Caroline Ellis.
 Mar. 28.—Thomas Ernest, son of Thomas and Emily Mustoe.
 Mar. 28.—Mabel, daughter of Ellen Jeynes.
 Mar. 28.—George Alexander, son of Thomas and Rose Hall.
 April 25.—Hannah, daughter of John and Martha Peters.
 April 25.—Harry, son of William and Harriet Purser.
 May 9.—Eliza, daughter of John and Elizabeth Rayer.
 May 30.—Mary Ann, daughter of Mark and Ellen Newman.

May 30.—Walter William, son of Henry and Fanny Humphry.
 May 30.—Margaret, daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth Pendry.
 July 25.—Lily Harriet, daughter of Joseph and Harriet Long.
 July 25.—Charlotte, daughter of William and Mary Ann Reid.
 Aug. 11.—Frances, daughter of Henry and Maria Bubb.
 Aug. 15.—Alice, daughter of Seth and Elizabeth Healey.
 Oct. 18.—Gertrude Edith, daughter of John and Ellen Wasley.
 Oct. 31.—Catherine, daughter of John and Elizabeth Taylor.

1879. MARRIAGES.
 Dec. 1.—George Hawkins to Fanny Bunn.
 1880.
 May 10.—Frederick Berry to Hannah Reece.
 Nov. 4.—Alfred Palmer to Mary Jordan.
 Nov. 13.—William Hawker to Sophia Caswell.

1879. BURIALS.
 Dec. 8.—William Joseph Creese, aged 42.
 Dec. 15.—John Drew, aged 62.
 1880.
 June 26.—Hannah Powell, of Upton, aged 68.
 June 26.—Thomas Harris, aged 94.
 Aug. 6.—Sarah Cowley, of Bushley, aged 56.

BUSHLEY.

ANCIENT RECORDS OF "PULL" AND PULL COURT.



N former papers in this Almanack I have treated of the history of various parts of the Parish — of Bushley Park and of Payne's Place. I propose to deal this time with that part, or *member of the parish* (as it is called in old records), named PULL.

I believe that "PULL" is a Saxon word meaning fertile, and has no reference at all to any pool or pond, such as Park Pool. It must have been of considerable extent, probably including all the rich pasture land between Bushley Green and Queenhill Brook, well deserving the name of fertile; the boundaries, however, cannot now be known. The ground called "Pullin" was of course Pull-end, or the *end of Pull* in that direction. Several houses were situated in "the Pulle" besides the Court. For example, in the old Parish Register, in the 16th century, we find the names of John Hayward, Robert Bedill, Nychoas Hill, George Wyther and others, described as "of the Pulle," besides which we read of "Edward Grene's house at the Poole End." "Powel's Pitch" was no doubt the site of the dwelling of a man named Powel.

The earliest historical record that I have found of any one living at Pull, is in one of the deeds of Tewkesbury Abbey, by which we learn that "In the time of the Abbot Alan (1187—1202), Simon de Columba granted to the Church of S. Mary at Tewkesbury, where lies the body of his wife Roisia and of his daughter Roisia, for the benefit of his own soul and the souls of his said wife and daughter, the whole tithe of the hay on the lordship of his land of Pulla, which his Lord King Henry (II) gave to him for his service," &c. (*vide* Dugdale, vol. ii. p. 75.) This Simon de Columba came of a noble Norman family; one of this name came over with William the Conqueror, and appears on the Roll of Battle Abbey. The chief branch of the

family settled in Somersetshire, at Nether Stowey, and were Barons of Parliament. The owner of "the Pulle" had other land in Bushley, and was a pious as well as a wealthy man, for we have another record that he made a further grant of two-thirds of the tithe of his lands in Bushley to the Abbey Church of Tewkesbury, reserving one-third expressly for the use of *his own oratory*. This seems to imply that he had built a small church or chapel on his land here, for the benefit of his neighbours, which according to one of the ecclesiastical laws of the Saxon King Eadgar (A.D. 967) he was entitled to endow with one-third of the tithe of his property, while two-thirds were due to the mother church of the district.

The family remained here for more than 100 years. Another Simon, or perhaps two, followed this one in their office of "Keepers of the King's Park" and owners of Pull. (*Vide* Nash, vol. ii. App. lxvii.) The last of the name of whom we have record is Hugo de Columba, who still kept the Park of Bushley for the King (Edward I.) in 1272.

William de Columba, another son of Simon, settled at Hanley, and Richard, another son, on his death-bed it seems, became a monk of Tewkesbury Abbey, and bequeathed to Tewkesbury his property.

I have no further record of this family, but I think that we may take it as proved that the first church at Bushley was built by Simon de Columba before 1202, while living at Pull, of which church perhaps the Bowl of our present Font is the only relic.

From the death of the last of the family of Columba I have found no mention of Pulle until in 1531, when a lease of Pull Court for 99 years was granted by the Abbot of Tewkesbury to Mr. Edward Tynedale, who was steward to the Abbot, and had some years previously been appointed by the Crown as manager of the Crown property of Berkeley. He was a man of substance, descended probably from an old knightly family from the banks of the river Tyne. He married as his second wife, cir. 1539, Johanna, the daughter of William Lawrance, of Sevenhampton, Esquire, and widow of William Blomer, of Cowley, Esq. Her grandson, Giles Blomer (who died 1624), was the father of Martha Blomer, who married Roger Dowdeswell about 1600, the founder of the present family of the Dowdeswells of Pull Court.

Mr. Edward Tynedale died at Slymbridge in Gloucestershire (one of his estates), in 1546, and left Pull to his wife for twelve years, for the maintenance of herself and her children, and after that to his eldest son Thomas.

This Thomas Tynedale sold his interest in the lease, in 1561, to his brother-in-law Edward Trotman, of Cam, who again, in 1574, sold it to Mr. William Childe, the eldest son of Mr. Childe, of Northwicke and Pensax, of whom we shall speak presently.

While the bulk of the Pull Court property went to Thomas Tynedale, the eldest son, the Oxeye fell to the share of Edward Tynedale, jun., a younger son, who granted it to his half brother, William Blomer. It was thus inherited by Giles Blomer, who sold it to his son-in-law, Roger Dowdeswell, in 1609, for £456. In this way the Oxeye became the first piece of land in Bushley possessed by the family of Dowdeswell.

We must not let the name of Tyndale pass without a word about that William Tyndale, whose name, as the translator of the Bible into English, has become famous in history.

There had been translations of parts of the Bible into our native tongue ever since the days of King Alfred the Great; but they had become antiquated, and since the time of Wickliff, any new translation without due authority of Church and State was prohibited. But William Tyndale, one of the first and most zealous of the Reformers, saw that little progress could be made in the Reformation of Religion in England without a new translation of the New Testament at least, into our mother tongue. For this purpose he fled across the sea into Germany, where he laboured upon the work, and finished it in 1527. Coverdale joined him at Hamburg and helped him to translate part of the Old Testament; but Tyndale never got further than the first five books of Moses.

For any private person to attempt such a work might well be thought presumptuous, and was not likely to be tolerated in the time of Henry VIII. in any one without the authority of either the Church or the State, and this man, Tyndale, was an apostate monk, and was besides a man of violent and extreme opinions. His version of the Bible was charged with being a false one, written for party purposes, and the whole of the first edition was bought up and destroyed by Warham, Archbishop of Canterbury, and Tonstal, Bishop of London, in 1527. The money was immediately employed again by him in the printing of another and better edition in 1535. This, together with Coverdale's translation of the Old Testament, revised and corrected by Archbishop Cranmer, afterwards obtained a position of authority in England under the name of *the Great Bible*. In spite, however, of this success, he was, after a year and a half's imprisonment, tried and put to death at Vilvorde as a heretic and his body afterwards was burnt (in 1536).

Although we owe so much to William Tyndale as the man who, at the cost of great suffering and even of his life, gave us our English Bible, still it is clear from his other writings that he was by no means an amiable man. He seems to have been proud of his own attainments, obstinately clinging to his own will, coarse and violent in speech and writing. He must, however, have been a marvellous scholar, for his work forms the foundation of our present English Bible, improved indeed by many revisions, but still substantially the same as he wrote it.

Like many other great men, little is known for certain of the family history of William Tyndale. It used to be said that he was born at a house called Hunt's Court, in the parish of Stinchcombe, but the latest researches of the present day have discovered that he was the brother of Edward Tynedale, of Pull Court. The evidence is corroborated by the fact that Edward Tynedale in his will bequeathed to the parish priest of Tewkesbury, together with his best bow and bow case, two books by famous heretical teachers—namely, Calvin and Pellican—which he had no doubt obtained from his brother William.

Our readers will remember that Bushley Park had been in the possession of Bishop Ridley, whose friend, Nicholas Carr, held the lease of it for many years. We now see that William Tyndale was closely connected with the family at Pull Court. Thus is our little secluded country parish connected with two of the foremost men in those stirring times of the sixteenth century, and the name of our dear home finds a place in one of the most important epochs of the history of our country.

Mr. Childe, of whom we spoke just now, bought Pull Court from Mr. Edward Trotman, a grandson of Edward Tynedale, in 1574. On Mr. Childe's death in 1601, the estate passed to his son William, and from him to Sir J. Rouse, in 1609. He in turn sold it, in 1628, to Mr. Roger Dowdeswell, who through his wife, Martha Blomer, was connected with Mrs. Johanna Tynedale. From that date to this the history of Pull Court has been the history of the family of Dowdeswell, which though not particularly heroic or famous in the annals of England, may still have some points of interest for the readers of this little publication, and may find a place in its columns another year.

Principal Local Events.

January 14, 1880.—The Church Choir, together with all others who are actively engaged in carrying on the services in the Parish Church, met for their annual supper on this day, at the Parsonage instead of the School, and enjoyed a very pleasant evening.

March 23.—Her Majesty's Inspector of Schools paid his official visit on this day, the result of which was a very satisfactory report, and a large grant from Government.

April 23.—The school was examined by the Diocesan Inspector, who continues to report im-

provement in the religious knowledge of the children at each annual visit.

May 1.—Col. Currie, of the Mythe, and A. C. Dowdeswell, Esq., were appointed magistrates of the borough of Tewkesbury by the Lord Chancellor.

May 3.—The Monday in Rogation Week was again observed here as a Day of Prayer for God's blessing on our Crops. The Rev. J. J. Mercier, of Kemerton, preached to a good congregation at a special service in the evening.

THE GENERAL ELECTION.

Tewkesbury (March 31).—The result of the election at Tewkesbury was that Capt. W. E. Price

(L) was returned by 9 votes over John Fowler, Esq., C.E. (C).—A petition was presented against Capt. Price's election, on the ground of bribery and corruption, and that gentleman was unseated when the Petition was tried at Gloucester on June 17th.—On July 10th, a second election was proceeded with, the result of which was that R. B. Martin, Esq., eldest son of Mr. Martin, of Overbury Court, was elected by the very large majority of 82 above J. A. Fowler, Esq., the eldest son of the lately-defeated candidate.

WEST WORCESTERSHIRE (April 3rd).—The voters from this parish, to the number of 23, went to the polling station at Upton-on-Severn in a break and four to support the Conservative candidates, Sir E. A. H. Lechmere and Mr. Winn Knight, who were returned to Parliament by an enormous majority over their opponent, Mr. Willis, of Kidderminster.—The defeated candidate lodged a petition against the return of the elected members, for alleged general bribery and corruption, which was heard July 8th. Several voters of high character and position in this and other parishes were subpoenaed as witnesses for the Petitioner, but the charges were so utterly groundless that not a single case of undue influence could be proved. The judges expressed their opinion of the frivolous nature of the petition, and great indignation was felt by the gentlemen who at great expense of time and trouble—in the middle of hay harvest—had been summoned to Worcester on such a vexatious and frivolous pretence.

THE BATH AND WEST OF ENGLAND AGRICULTURAL SHOW.

June 7th.—The steamer, "Ceres," was chartered by Rev. E. R. Dowdeswell for the purpose of conveying an excursion party from the parish to visit the show at Worcester. By the able assistance of Messrs. Cuthbert, Hobbs, I. Bloxham, D. Wilkes, G. Taylor, S. Starling (of Longdon), F. Stone (of Queenhill), and Charles Taylor (of Twynning), 150 tickets were easily sold in the neighbourhood at 1/6 each, to include the journey and a tea. The Bushley Band gave their services; the weather was beautifully fine; the journey was successfully and quickly made, and was much enjoyed by all on board. The Society's show was a very good one and highly appreciated by the visitors. Tea was prepared for the excursionists (by the kind permission of Miss Stillingfleet) in the grounds of S. Alban's Home, Diglis, which is conveniently situated close by the river, and was well served by Mrs. Hemming, and many other willing friends. The party returned without a mishap by about 9 p.m., after spending a very happy and enjoyable day. It is hoped that a similar excursion may become an annual event in the parish.

June 17.—The steamship "Ceres" was again in request to take the members of the choirs of Bushley, Longdon, and Upton-on-Severn with their friends, to Worcester, to take part in the Triennial Festival of the Choirs of the Diocese at the Cathedral. The weather in the afternoon was unfortunate and the return journey was made through continuous rain; still it was felt that the grand services in which we had engaged made up for the inconveniences of our wet journey home. Thirteen hundred choristers in surplices, besides a large number of ladies, took part in this Festival. The sight alone of such an army of singers as they march into the splendid

Cathedral, with their banners, is most imposing. The united sound of this glorious chorus as with one heart and one mouth they praise the One God, is grand and heart-stirring. No one who was present could fail to go away encouraged and edified.

August 2.—Mrs. Sarah Cowley, for 23 years housekeeper at Pull Court, died at St. Leonard's-on-Sea, at the residence of Mr. A. Sutherland Grame, whither she had gone (June 22nd) for the sake of change of air. Mrs. Cowley had won for herself respect and love of all who knew her. She had discharged the duties of her responsible position with the utmost fidelity to her master, and with great kindness and wisdom towards those placed under her care. She attracted to herself by her power of sympathy those who needed comfort or advice, and none knew better than she how to heal up differences and make peace. A deep sense of duty guided all her actions and became nothing less than self-devotion in serving those whom she loved and honoured. All who knew her will lament her, especially her own relations and friends, but perhaps to none will her loss be so great as to the master and mistress and the family whom she has for so many years served so faithfully and devotedly in sickness and in health. Her death, like her life, was bright and happy with Christian Faith and Hope. She was buried, at her own request, in Longdon churchyard, beside her father and mother, on August 6th.

Aug. 8.—We have yet to record another death, that of Mr. George Parkyns, the younger brother of Mrs. W. E. Dowdeswell, of Pull Court, which has caused great sorrow to his many friends. It appears from evidence given at a coroner's inquest, that the poor young gentleman had spent the day at Portsmouth, and intending to return by the last steam-boat to his family at Ryde, was accidentally drowned, having lost his way in the dark and stormy night. Very many of us will remember him as a school-boy at Malvern College, spending his holidays at Pull Court. He was just coming to his prime, with a prospect of a young life before him, when he was snatched away from his sorrowing family.

Sept. 10.—The death of Mr. Josiah Castree, sen., at Bournemouth, at the advanced age of 82, was not unexpected by his friends. His health had long been failing, and he had for several years entirely withdrawn from business. For more than 60 years he had been agent for the Pull Court Estate, and had won the confidence and esteem of every one with whom he had to do. He was buried at Down Hatherley.

Sept. 17.—It is with sincere regret that we record the sudden death, after a very brief illness, of our old friend, Mr. E. H. Selfe. For more than 16 years he has been a constant visitor at Pull Court, and by his happy disposition and many amiable qualities, endeared himself to all who knew him in every class of society. In the old days of the Harvest Homes he was the life and soul of those joyous festivals.—his great delight was to make those about him happy. Although it is natural for us to think of him chiefly in connection with holiday making and pleasant companionship we cannot forget that as a barrister of the Oxford Circuit he engaged in the sterner duties of life with power and success. He was called to the Bar about twelve years ago, and was a member of the Middle Temple. He was educated at Harrow and Christ

Church, Oxford, where he took high honours, and has since become distinguished for his ability in his profession. He was actively engaged in professional duties to within three days of his death. He was buried in the church-yard at Addington, the country seat of the Archbishop of Canterbury, who was his uncle by marriage, and many of his old friends were present to pay the last token of respect and love to one so dear to them. Feeling allusions to his loss were made at the Hanley County Court, and Worcestershire and Gloucestershire Quarter Sessions, but in few places outside his own family will he be so keenly missed as in the parish of Bushley.

Sept. 29.—The tolls on the Mythe Bridge over the Severn, realized in 1876, £452 18s. 1d.; in 1877, £478 18s. 9d.; from Jan. 1878, to March, 1879, £527 0s. 5d.; March, 1880, £412 7s. 2d., when they were sold for the current year to Mr. T. Lender for £472.

Nov 11.—On this day, Mr. W. H. Merrell, of the firm of Messrs. Bayliss and Merrell, of Tewkesbury, was married in Bushley Church, to Miss Ellen Butt, the second daughter of our respected neighbour, Mr. Thomas Butt, of Hill House. The bridegroom was attended by Mr. G. Watson, jun., as best man. The bridesmaids were Miss Eliz. Butt and Miss Merrell. The bride was given away by her father. It is beyond the power of the Editor to record the dresses of the bride and her bridesmaids, but it may be safely said that it was one of "the prettiest weddings that ever was seen." The choir boys were present to make the service bright with psalms and hymns. Mr Butt entertained a party of relations and friends at breakfast at Hill House after the ceremony, to do honour to the newly-wedded pair, who left, en route for London, early in the afternoon, with hearty wishes of a long and happy life to their happiness in life.

THE DOUBLE MURDER AT KEVINGTON.

The horrible murder of Mr. Edward Ellis and his wife, on the morning of October 31, by a man named Jos. Waller, has a melancholy interest for us at Bushley. Ellis had been gamekeeper to Mr. R. B. Berens, of Kevington, for more than fifty years, and his wife, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Bullingham, was a native of Bredon, and begun life as a servant in the kitchen at Pull Court. From thence she went to Kevington as cook, and was for many years housekeeper there. She married Ellis only a few years ago.

The facts of the horrible outrage are probably known to all our readers, but may be recorded briefly thus. The man Waller had been drinking till late at night; he had a revolver with him, and went into the wood behind Ellis's cottage, where he fired a shot, and then went and called up the keeper, telling him that there were poachers in the wood. The brave old man was soon ready, and accompanied Waller deep into the wood, where his murderer turned upon him, and shot him with the pistol, and afterwards cruelly beat him with the keeper's own staff.

The wretched man then went back and enticed Mrs. Ellis out of the house on the plea that her husband was wounded by the poachers and wanted her, when she too fell an easy victim to his violence. The motive for this bloody deed has not been made clear. It may have been the hope of plunder, or that he had a personal grudge against Ellis, who had employed him as a night

watcher through last winter, or it may be that the man is a dangerous madman, which theory his conduct since his arrest seems to corroborate. Ellis was 74 years of age, his wife was 60. They were both universally esteemed and respected.

The Health of the Parish.

The Parish has been entirely free from any infectious diseases this year. This is the first for many years that neither scarlet fever, typhoid, nor small-pox, nor diphtheria, have made their appearance amongst us.

Those who have died among us, with one exception, have all been well stricken in years.

The Congate's Accounts.

The sum of £44 0s. 11d. was collected in Church during the year. This is the smallest amount contributed to charitable purposes in this parish for many years. It has been spent thus:

For Foreign Missions—				
On St. Andrew's Day ...	4	8	10	
On other Saint's Days ...	1	16	8	
				6 5 6
For Home Missions—				
Diocesan Church Extension.....	1	3	0	
Diocesan Board of Education.....	1	3	0	
				2 6 0
For Tewkesbury Rural Hospital.....	8	8	0	
The Sick and Poor in Bushley.....	27	1	5½	
				£44 0 11½

The sum of £3 coming from lands in Eldersfield for the poor of Bushley was not distributed in 1879. The accumulated amount for the two years 1879-1880 will be given away before Christmas, this year.

The Missionary Association in connection with the Diocese of Bloemfontein in S. Africa is in a flourishing condition. There are 34 members. They meet once a month for work. During the year 1879 they collected or contributed £15 in cash, and despatched a box to S. Africa containing needlework, &c., &c., to the value of £25. This box was lost in the passage, but it was insured, and the amount at which it was valued has been refunded by the Company.

EXTRACTS FROM

Bushley Parish Registers.

1880. BAPTISMS.
- March 25—Herbert, son of Charles and Mary Ann Roberts
- March 25—Ernest, son of William and Jane Green.
- April 18—Louisa, daughter of James and Eliza Stone.
- April 18—Alfred, son of Isaac and Esther Attwood.
- May 2.—James Frederick, son of Henry and Ellen Cole.
- August 1—Helah, daughter of Samuel and Rhoda Sage.
- September 19.—Arthur Henry, son of Thomas Edwin and Elizabeth Stallard.
- September 29.—Clara, daughter of Henry and Rose Starling.—Privately baptized.

1879. **MARRIAGES.**
 Dec. 23.—Adam Howell, and Anne, daughter of the late Mr. John Woodward, of this parish, farmer, were married.
1880.
 Feb. 3.—Henry Starling, widower, and Rosanna Stone, spinster, both of this parish, were married.
 Nov. 11, 1880.—Mr. William Henry Merrell, of Tewkesbury, to Ellen, the second daughter of Mr. Thomas Butt, of Hill House, Bushley.
- June 23.—At Guarlsford Church, by Rev. J. R. Wathen, assisted by Rev. A. Allen, brother of the bride, Maitland Frederick, youngest son of M. Kenyon Stow, Esq., of Stoke Bishop, to Jessie Lydia, younger daughter of Rev. C. Allen, Vicar of Bushley (residing at the Rhydd).
- Aug. 12.—At S. George's, Hanover-square, London, by Ven Archdeacon Grant, assisted by Rev. E. R. Dowdeswell, Major Wilmot Grant, late of the Rifle Brigade, and Catherine Carolina Berens, daughter of the late Richard Berens, Esq., of Kevington, and niece of W. Dowdeswell, Esq., of Pull Court.
1880. **BURIALS.**
 Feb. 2.—John Woodward, of the Wood Street, farmer, aged 84
 Feb. 25.—Thomas Philips, of the Green, blacksmith, aged 67.
 June 12.—Maria Jelf, of Westmancote, daughter of the late Mr. Jelf, formerly of Hill House, Bushley, aged 74.
 July 31.—Ann Philips, widow of the late Thomas Philips, aged 69.
- Aug. 6.—At Longdon Church, Mrs. Sarah Cowley, for 23 years housekeeper at Pull Court, aged 56.
 Aug. 8.—George, youngest son of Sir Thomas and Lady Parkyns, brother of Mrs. W. E. Dowdeswell, was drowned at Portsmouth. He was buried at Beckenham, Kent, Aug. 13.
 Sept 10.—Mr. Josiah Castree, sen., of College Green, Gloucester, for more than 60 years Agent for Pull Court Estates, died, aged 82.
 Sept. 17.—At Trentham, Edward Henry Selfe, barrister-at-law, second son of the late Mr. Selfe, Police Magistrate, died suddenly, aged 38.

QUEENHILL & HOLDFAST.



HE death of the Rev. G. H. Clifton, which occurred the second week in February, was an event which brought sorrow to many homes. For more than 40 years Mr. CLIFTON had been Rector of Ripple, together with Queenhill and Holdfast, having been instituted to the living in 1838, and during his long incumbency he had, by his kindly manners and generous disposition, won the affection of his parishioners. He died at the age of 72, after a long and trying illness, on the 12th of February, and was buried on the 17th, in the Churchyard at Ripple, on the south side of the chancel.

But the death of the Rector of Ripple is not only an event deeply felt by his many friends, it is a matter of great importance to the hamlets of Queenhill and Holdfast. Hitherto, from time immemorial, these hamlets have formed part of the ecclesiastical parish of Ripple, but it has long been felt, that from their size and importance, and from the fact of their being separated from Ripple by the river Severn, they ought to be formed into an independent parish, with a vicar of their own, and divided in all respects from the mother church of Ripple. The Bishop had long ago determined that this should be done at the next vacancy, and so far back as the year 1863 an order in council was obtained to this effect, which has now been carried out, and Queenhill and Holdfast now stand alone for ecclesiastical purposes as a distinct parish.

It will be remembered that a few years ago the Glebe Farm in Queenhill was sold to Mr. G. E. Martin, the purchase money was properly invested, and from it an endowment has been provided for the new Vicar of Queenhill.

The parishioners were much pleased and gratified when the Bishop offered the new living to the Rev. E. H. M. Stone, who for nearly twenty-two years had lived and laboured among them as Curate in charge of the parish with so much earnestness and devotion.

As incumbent of Queenhill, Mr. Stone will be spared those long journeys to Ripple, and be able to devote himself, as he loves to do, to his old friends at Queenhill and Holdfast, amongst whom he has lived so long.

1880. **BAPTISMS.**
 May 15.—Ernest, son of James and Elizabeth Tandy.
 Sept 5.—Annie Catharine, daughter of Adolphus and Miriam Bishop.
- Oct. 17.—Alice, daughter of George and Emma Brown.
 Oct. 24.—Henry, son of James and Annie Prosser.
- BURIAL.**
 Oct. 13.—Charles Jones, aged 49 years.