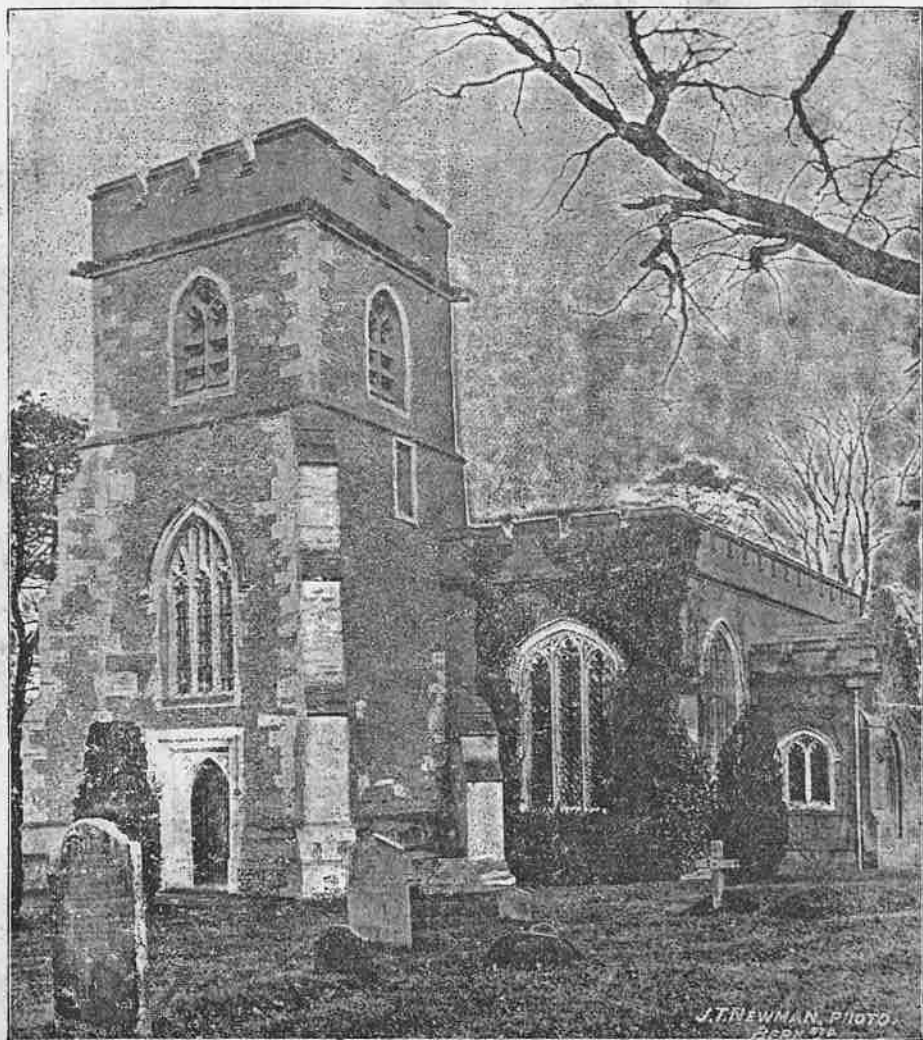


LITTLE GADDESSEN Parish Magazine.

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S. P. G.

This month the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts—the oldest and greatest of our Missionary Societies—enters on the two hundredth year of its existence, having received its Royal Charter from King William III., on June 16th, 1701. It is now, therefore, keeping its fourth year of Jubilee. Some measure of the growth of Missionary work, during the last 50 years, may be obtained by noting that within that time the number of Missionary Bishops has grown from twenty-five to ninety-four. On the occasion of the last Jubilee there were only 1186 clergy in foreign parts: there are now four times that number. British Columbia, the North-West Territories in Canada, Burmah, China, Japan, Corea, and numerous districts in Africa have all been added to the field of Missionary labour since 1851. Efforts are being made to keep this great anniversary by special services and meetings in every Diocese of Great Britain. For the Rural Deanery of Berkhamsted, a special service will be held in the Parish Church of Berkhamsted, on Tuesday, July 10th, at 3.30. The sermon will be preached by the Rector of Little Gaddesden.

THE POST OFFICE.

In the last number of the Magazine we announced that we did not intend to be satisfied until we obtained a certain small concession from the postal authorities. The day of our satisfaction has dawned earlier than might have been expected. On the receipt of the refusal to do anything, the Rector wrote again, urging further reasons, and he has now received the following communication from the Secretary to the Post Office:—"With reference to your further letter, I am directed by the Postmaster General to inform you that, in the exceptional circumstances, arrangements have now been sanctioned for affording a house-to-house delivery of second post letters at Little Gaddesden."

This will be very satisfactory to those who signed the memorial a few months ago. The Rector has sent to the General Post Office the thanks of Little Gaddesden.

WEDDING BELLS.

"There is, sure, another flood toward, and these couples are coming to the ark." These words of the melancholy Jaques, provoked by the appearance of three or four pairs of engaged lovers in Shakespeare's play of "As you like it," have perhaps occurred to more than one person during the epidemic of matrimony which has been rife at Little Gaddesden through June. On one Sunday the Banns of four couples were published in Church—an unprecedented occurrence. But "in the spring the young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love." In addition to the three marriages chronicled below, Robert Diggery, of Little Gaddesden, married Sarah Jane Bees, at Gloucester, on June 4th. May all the young couples live happily ever after, and may they realise that most profound of truths, that their lives, if they are to be happy, must be good!

A TERRIBLE ACCIDENT.

Mourning follows close upon joy in human life, and on June 23rd the village was shocked and saddened by the news that Mr. George Wright, the engineer in charge of the pumping engine in the yard of the Ashridge Estate works, had met with a fatal accident. Familiarity with machinery sometimes causes people to forget the danger to life which the slightest mistake involves. Mr. Wright appears to have been caught by the large fly-wheel. A lad on duty in the engine house, Groom, with great presence of mind, promptly stopped the engine, but Mr. Wright had received fearful injuries, and the wonder was that he still breathed when he was taken up. He lived for rather more than an hour, and did not appear to suffer much. The shock to the system in all probability had deadened the power of feeling pain. He was perfectly conscious, and able to follow, and occasionally to repeat the prayers and verses of Scripture which the Rector said by his side. He prayed that he might see his children before he died, and that prayer was granted. Then he prayed that he might be released from further suffering, and that prayer too was granted. Terrible as were the circumstances of his death, we cannot but feel that great mercy was shown. He made a peaceful and Christian end, humbly trusting in his Redeemer. May the thought of his dying moments be a lesson and example to us all! Mr. Wright was greatly respected in the village. The recent death of his wife had impaired his vigour and health, and perhaps this had something to do with the accident. He had been in charge of the engine for many years, and regarded it with pride and affection. The shock caused by his death to all who knew him is indescribable. The deepest sympathy is felt for his son and daughters, who have within so short a time lost both their parents. An inquest was held in the Reading Room, and adjourned till July 3rd.

On Sunday, June 24th, the Rector preached from Psalm 86, 4, "Comfort the soul of thy servant, for unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul," this being one of the texts which Mr. Wright was able to repeat, while he was dying. The funeral took place on June 26th, and was attended by Lady Brownlow, the Hon. A. Talbot, Mr. and Mrs. Wheatley, and a very large number of friends and fellow-workers.

SPECIAL SERVICE FOR VOLUNTEERS.

This service was held on Sunday, July 1st, at 10.30 a.m. The Church had quite a military look, red, blue and white ensigns and other flags having been hung in chancel and nave. The effect was excellent, and Mrs. Wheatley, to whose good taste it was due, must be congratulated on its success. The Ashridge Company paraded opposite Lady Marian Alford's Cross, and marched to Church to the music of the Battalion Band. The officers present were Colonel Wheatley and Captain Parsons. After "God save the Queen" had been played, prayers were read by the Rector, who also

gave a short address on the duty of putting on "The whole armour of God." The hymns were sung to the accompaniment of the Band, the military music and the men's voices combining in a very striking manner. The parishioners seemed to take great interest in the service, and the Church was crowded. The ordinary morning service was held immediately afterwards, and the Church was again quite full. Several of the volunteers after being dismissed from parade returned to the Church for this second service. This year has been a very important one in the history of the Volunteer movement, and it is pleasant to feel that the occasion has been so worthily celebrated at Little Gaddesden. It is proposed to hold similar services from time to time.

HOLY COMMUNION.

Sundays, July 1st and 15th	...	at mid-day.
,, ,, 8th and 22nd	...	at 8 a.m.
Sunday ,, 29th	at 10 a.m.

The Rector desires to call special attention to the Celebration of the Holy Communion, on Sunday, July 29th, at 10. This time is arranged for the benefit of those parishioners (domestic servants and others) who find it difficult to attend the mid-day or early service. It is earnestly hoped that they will take this opportunity of presenting themselves at the Lord's table.

BAPTISM.

July 1st, 1900, May Whitman.

MARRIAGES.

June 13th, 1900, Albert William Loader, of Sherborne St. John, and Agnes Louisa Cox, of Little Gaddesden.

June 14th, 1900, Septimus George Fitt, of St. John's Wood, and Matilda Fanny Rogers, of Little Gaddesden.

June 20th, 1900, Henry Albert Gee, and Annie Flowers, both of Little Gaddesden.

BURIAL.

June 26th, 1900, George Wright, aged 65 years.