

WASC 795

# On Her Majesty's Service

WASC 795

## DEATHS.

- Nov. 17—Mrs. Alice Rose Robinson, wife of Mr. Harry Albert Robinson, of Grange Park, Thorn-ton Heath, and the daughter of Mr. James Sable, of Woollard Street. Died at the Borough Hospital, Waddon, Croydon, Surrey, aged 33 years. Interred at Croydon Cemetery.
- „ 22—Mr. Henry Packford, of Albury Grove Road, Cheshunt, son of the late Mr. William Packford of this Parish. Died at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, aged 52 years. Interred at Cheshunt Cemetery.
- „ 23—Mrs. Eliza Wackett, of the Romeland, and formerly of Baker's Entry. Died at Chase Side, Enfield, aged 65 years. Interred at Waltham Abbey.
- „ 23—Mr. William Lancaster Priest, of Great Chatham Street, Manchester, and formerly of High Bridge Street, aged 73 years.
- „ 24—Mr. Joseph Warwick, of High Bridge Street. Died at Edmonton, aged 61 years. Interred at Waltham Abbey.
- „ 27—Ernest Frank Cuckow, infant son of Mr. George Cuckow, of Woollard Street, aged 6 months.
- „ 28—Mrs. Hannah Chapman, wife of Mr. Charles Chapman, senr., of Station Road, and formerly of Farm Hill and Sun Street (sister to the late Mr. Churchwarden Brett, of Holyfield), aged 78 years.
- „ 30—Mrs. Emma Grocock, of Sewardstone Street, aged 63 years.
- Dec. 3—Mrs. Susanna Tyler, of Woollard Street, widow, aged 78 years.
- „ 4—Eleanor Clark, infant daughter of Mr. Frederic Clark, of Windsor Road, Leyton, and formerly of River View, aged 5 years. Interred at Enfield Highway.
- „ 6—Mr. Albert Walter Wyatt, of Eversleigh Road, Battersea, aged 25 years. Interred at Waltham Abbey.
- „ 10—Walter Barker, infant son of Mr. William Barker, of Woollard Street, aged 10 hours.
- „ 10—Mr. John Hall, formerly of Silver Street. Died at Chase Side, Enfield, aged 64 years.
- „ 12—Mr. John Perryman, of Golden Row, Mott Street, aged 81 years.
- „ 13—Mr. Charles Burton, of Chesham Cottages, Broomstick Hall Road, aged 63 years.
- „ 18—Mrs. Jane Elizabeth Bayly, widow of the late Mr. C. J. Bayly, of Waltham Cross, and daughter of the late Rev. Robert Martin. Died at Morden Lodge, Bexley Heath, Kent, aged 76 years. Interred at Cheshunt Cemetery, the Rev. J. H. Stamp, officiating.

THE HISTORY OF THE ABBEY CHURCH OF  
WALTHAM HOLY CROSS.

## CXLV.

A Vestry Meeting was held on 26th August, 1800, "to take into consideration a claim made by Sir William Wake, Bart., of five shillings in the pound as a compensation for Tithes," and the following resolution was passed: "It appearing by ancient deed that he (Sir William) has not any right to small Tithes, nor to any other Tithes than Corn, Grain, Hay and Wood, for part of which Tithes a *Modus* or ancient composition appears in the year 1696 to have been paid, viz. : 1s. 6d. per acre for Meadow Land, 2s. 6d. for Oats, and 3s. 6d. for Barley. It is therefore ordered and agreed that Mr. John Jessopp be employed to take the opinion of Counsel on the Decree obtained for such *Modus* and the composition of the Tithes, and that the Claim be resisted and any suit he may commence . . . be defended." A committee was then appointed consisting of John Conyers, Esq., the owner of Copped Hall; John Daly, Esq., who held a mansion and property near Lodge Lane; Walter Urquhart, Esq.; John Young, Esq., and Mr. John Jessopp. Another meeting was held on September 20th to consider a letter in which William Bullock, Esq., on behalf of Sir William Wake, signified his readiness to give every reasonable satisfaction respecting the baronet's title to the small Tithes, and it was resolved that the writer be informed that the Parishioners could not give any decisive answer until they were satisfied that Sir William had a right to the small Tithes, but were disposed to give him the full value in case his claim could be made good. As the Vestry Minutes do not supply any further information on the subject and the parties appear on the most friendly terms in later records, we must conclude that the dispute was settled by this conciliatory action on the part of the Vestry.

The Reverend John Mullens, B.A., who succeeded the Rev. Isaac J. P. Colnett in the curacy of Waltham was not appointed until 21st September, 1801, and did not come into residence until the following month; so that the Parishioners were left without a resident Minister for the space of seven months. During the vacancy the offices of the Church were solemnized by various Ministers, amongst whom were the Revd. Robert Montgomery, and the Revd. Rill Hughes, whose signatures appear in the records of weddings. There were, however, only three Marriages during that period, and not one is recorded between the dates of February 16th, on which Mr. Colnett officiated for the last time, and August 1st, when Mr. Montgomery signed the Register, so that Waltham appeared to be languishing under an interdict for several months. The late John Maynard, a schoolmaster of Theydon Bois, in his history of Waltham Abbey, published in 1865, seems to refer to this dark period in the following statement: "About fifty or sixty years ago our church again fell into such a dilapidated state, that during the repairs, which lasted some months, no Divine service was performed in it by its incumbent. During which

## WALTHAM ABBEY CHURCH MONTHLY.

January, 1904.

## LETTER FROM THE VICAR.

MY DEAR FRIENDS AND PARISHIONERS,

The time has again arrived for me to address you in an annual letter.

The Rev. J. H. Stamp hopes to conclude his series of articles on our Parish Church at the close of the present year. The articles which may be now looked for from his pen, will deal with the period, beginning at the year 1800, and will bring the history down to the present date. As they will narrate the events of the long vicariate of the late Rev. James Francis who held this living for thirty-eight years, and will tell of the various improvements carried out at the Restoration of the Abbey Church in 1859-60, and any changes which have taken place since that time, the articles will be of very exceptional interest. I believe the desire for information about our beautiful and interesting Parish Church is increasing year by year, and that these articles concerning the modern history of our Church will be very welcome to all residents in the Parish. The interest shown in the Lecture recently given by the Rev. J. H. Stamp in the Victoria Hall, proves what a high value is set upon information about our Abbey Church.

I trust that the friends of the Magazine will continue the subscriptions which they have hitherto given and by means of which, the heavy expense of printing these articles has been defrayed. Liberality in this direction will enable our local historian to pursue his researches free from any financial anxiety.

I feel constrained to deplore the neglect of Divine Worship on the Lord's Day which is very prevalent at present in the Parish. Such neglect is not only a grievous sin but must tell severely on the spiritual condition of the inhabitants. There never, perhaps, was greater need than at the present time for the repetition of the Exhortation (Heb. x. 25): "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is." Neglect of the Lord's Day and of Public Worship threatens to become a national sin. I fear also there is a strong tendency on the part of individuals to omit private prayer and private reading of the Scriptures. Such neglect is totally destructive of all spiritual life and should be strenuously resisted. The soul cannot prosper if the means God has ordained for its nourishment are not used.

A Confirmation is to take place in the Abbey Church on the afternoon of Thursday, June 2nd. I hope Parents and Guardians will encourage all those who are under their charge to come forward for Confirmation. Classes for instruction will be commenced in due

course. In sending notice of his intention to hold the Confirmation the Bishop of the Diocese uses weighty words, which I quote, in the hope that all who read them will take them to heart. "I cannot exaggerate the importance of the ordinance of Confirmation in parochial or school work. If carefully prepared for and diligently followed up, it has again and again proved to be an epoch in the spiritual life, and I commend your labours in this, as in other branches of the pastoral office to the blessing of Almighty God." Trusting that every blessing both temporal and spiritual may be yours in the coming year.

I remain,

Your faithful Friend and Vicar,

Waltham Abbey,

F. B. JOHNSTON.

1st January, 1904.

1903.

## BAPTISMS.

- Nov. 22—William Henry Stait.  
 „ 22—John William Hodge.  
 „ 22—Frederick Robert Hemming.  
 „ 22—Susannah Ruth Holmes.  
 „ 22—Annie Ivy Lillian Lodge.  
 „ 29—Gertrude Lillian Tillbrook.  
 „ 29—Dorothy Mary Cone. \*  
 Dec. 6—Arthur Thomas Danes.  
 „ 6—Ernest Albert Bradford.  
 „ 10—Kato Elizabeth Farrant.  
 \* At St. Michael's Church, Clapton.

## MARRIAGES.

- Dec. 2—Mr. William Ernest Waters, of Hornsey Road, Holloway, and Miss Emilie Jane Meredith, of Greenfield Street.  
 „ 5—Mr. William Henry Faint, of Flamstead End, Cheshunt, and Miss Mary Annie Weavers, of Warlies Cottages.  
 „ 5—Mr. William Frederick Pegrum, and Miss Emma Withers, of Paradise Cottages, Greenyard.  
 „ 19—Mr. David Feast, of Long Street, and Miss Ellen Clark, of Copt Hall Green.

time a minister (a certain Doctor of Divinity who held a special license for preaching both within and without our Established Churches), went several times on the Sunday afternoons and preached among the ruins to large congregations. May the like never happen again to our church, is the heart desiring prayer of the compiler, whose ancestors have worshipped within its walls for many generations.\* The writer may, however, refer in this passage to the inconvenience experienced by the Parishioners a few years later, when extensive alterations were made in the Abbey Church, although it must be mentioned that Mr. Pickthall, the successor of Mr. Mullens, was then in residence.

On the arrival of the Rev. J. Mullens in October, 1801, the new minister proceeded to attend to the Registers which had been neglected during the vacancy. He carefully made good the omissions in the records, from memoranda left by the former Curate and from information supplied by the faithful Parish Clerk, Mr. John Carr. The last entry in the Register of Baptisms in the handwriting of Mr. Colnett is dated 23rd January, 1801. Thirteen baptisms appear to have been solemnized during his last illness, and his successor after recording the particulars added the following statement: "The above copied from the writings of the late curate Isaac Colnett, found subsequent to his death—what follows up to October 18th, 1801, from the handwriting of the Clerk. Various persons during that Period having performed the duty. *John Mullens*, present curate, October, 1801." This memorandum is followed by seventy-one entries, the first of which is dated March 15th, and then follows a similar statement, namely: "The above from May 15th copied from the handwriting of the Clerk on my taking Possession of the Curacy, October 25th, 1801, *John Mullens, A.B.*" The date *May 15th* is a clerical error, as the first of these entries in the Register is dated *March 15th*. Below the entries inserted at the close of the year he also adds the note: "The above have been duly entered as they appeared at my acceptance of the Curacy of Waltham Holy Cross, September 21st, 1801." In the parallel column the records of funerals were inserted and the entries after 28th November, 1800 (when Mr. Colnett officiated for the last time), until the 18th of the following October (when Mr. Mullens took possession), number fifty-six. The new Curate here also appended the note: "All the above copied from the writings of the Clerk found on my arrival October 25th, 1801. *John Mullens, A.B., Curate.*"

Three months after the death of Mr. Colnett a terrible explosion occurred at the Royal Gunpowder Factory, involving the loss of nine lives. The following account of this sad event was published in the *Gentleman's Magazine* of 1801: "April 18th, between three and four in the afternoon, the corning mill, at Waltham Abbey, blew up, with a great explosion which was sensibly felt all round the neighbourhood. Eight men were blown to pieces into the adjoining meadow, and four horses, much mangled, were left near the mill wheels; fragments of a ninth man were found on

the third day. This fatal accident is ascribed to the overheating of one of the gudgeons of the mills, and had nearly happened a fortnight before. Three of the men have left families, and others only widows. One of these men was the substitute for another who had a narrow escape from a former explosion, and on this occasion had obtained leave of absence. The mill was worked the last time previous to a complete repair. The magazine of dry powder was not 200 yards distant and 400 tons (it must mean *barrels*) of powder had been removed from the mill in a boat not long before it blew up. Sixty-two years ago a similar explosion took place in the same buildings, when one of the men was so completely destroyed that only his clothes were found on Galley Hill." This explosion occurred on the Horse Mill Island in Waltham Marsh, and the names of the unfortunate victims were Henry Hodgson, Thomas Bilton, Richard Ricketts, John Bailey, John Lake, John Miles, Joseph Gibbs, Henry Martin and William Mead. It is said that their mutilated remains were interred together under one mound near the grave of the Rev. I. J. P. Colnett, which adjoins the East path of the Churchyard, but only one name is recorded in the Parish Register in an entry evidently inserted by the Clerk and now almost illegible. It reads as follows: "1801, April 22nd. Henry Martin, one of the eight men killed by the explosion in the Powder Mills on the 18th instant." The writer was probably not aware that nine men lost their lives on this occasion. The son and namesake of John Bailey who was born in the following October, six months after his father's violent death, eventually served the Parish as its last Beadle and occupied the office for many years. His grandson James, a young man of exemplary character, was engaged as Foreman at the Cam House, Lower Island, when the fatal explosion occurred on 13th December, 1893, and he and eight of his men lost their lives. The following entries, with reference to earlier explosions, also occur in our Registers: "Burials, 1665, October 4th. Tho. Guttridge, killd with a Powder Mill; Oct. 5th, Edward Simons, Carpenter, so killd"; "1694, March 6th. Robt. Sherbert, killd by ye Powder Mills"; "1720, November 27th. Peter Bennett of ye Town, killed (by) ye Powder Mills" "1727, May 8th. Francis Shadwick, accidentally blown up by Gunpowder." We do not however meet with any record of an explosion in 1739 as mentioned above in the extract from the *Gentleman's Magazine*.

(To be continued.)

J. H. STAMP, Curate.

22nd December, 1903.

#### WALTHAM ABBEY.

The *Daily Graphic* of 7th December, 1903, contained an interesting reference to "*Harold's Minster*, and the dangerous condition of the Tower," illustrated by three excellent sketches. In the opening lines the writer remarks: "If there is in the length and breadth