**A**

**Social History**

**Of The**

**Village of Abbotsham**

**1860-1978**

Sincere thanks are given to Mr Clifford Babb for all the time he has given towards the preparation of this study, and to Bideford College for the facilities it has afforded him

**ABBOTSHAM**

Many old parishes and their churches have had their history written by

learned scholars, others by enthusiastic locals, but despite the fact that I do not fall into either category, I have strangely been drawn to the village of Abbotsham, with its beautiful little church of St Helens. On approaching this building an outstanding feature is its very low tower - I wonder whether it was ever surmounted with a spire.

Many a person has visited this lovely little church with its well kept

churchyard, situated in what must be some of the best Devonshire

countryside. To me, the village seems to be always peaceful, people never

seem to hurry, and very little seems to have changed down through the centuries. .

Because of the fact that I am retired and live close to the village, I have been fortunate in being able to research and discover a great deal of information concerning the people who have lived there, how they were employed, and what activities they were involved in during their out of work time. One of the most evident features is that quite naturally people attended their parish church, but also the Baptist Chapel was a very well attended place of worship, with a very enthusiastic congregation.

Although today many of the inhabitants of Abbotsham have come there because of their employment, or have settled there in retirement, this has not

always been the case. Like many other such villages it boasted of quite a

close community, people belonged to the village, and were happy to be there.

I have always considered that every village churchyard can supply a wealth

of information regarding its former parishioners. Old gravestones contained

so very much more detail than those of today. But of course these details

deteriorate with time, especially when situated so close to a wind blown coastline. It is unusual to discover many such epitaphs much older than 300 years old.

I have been fortunate in being able toesearch the old copies of the “Bideford Gazette”, as a result of the diligence of the village correspondents down through the years. Accordingly I have extracted the happenings at Abbotsham, and I believe that the result will give quite a comprehensiveaccount of the day to day lives of the village people.

In addition I have been able to use some extracts from the “Abbotsham Parish Magazine”, which is such a source of valuable information. This

magazine began in 1889, and the Vicar of the parish in 1890 stated, “These

magazines may, in years to come, prove of the greatest interest. They make up in fact a simple history of the life of the parish, and many amongst us, who may be spared to live, will often turn over the pages of such a book, and recall, we trust, with ever growing thankfulness, memories of the past, which is not in reality a past”.

Mike Davy. 8th January 1994.

**ABBOTSHAM COURT FARM**

Mr W Hooper begs to announce that he has received instructions from the

Proprietor RD Beste Esq. to sell by Auction on Monday August 13th 1860 at

6 O’clock in the evening at the “Heart of Oak” Inn, Abbotsham Town, the

Pasturage on the Estate as follows:

To March 1st 1861 A R P

Lot 1 Grass, the Lawn. 6 3 29

Lot 2 Grass Vesper Ridge, Flag Staff, Ivy Green. 11 0 35

Lot 3 Grass West Down and Boat Lake. 24 1 21

Lot 4 Grass Two Lower Yarnsborough. 10 3 3

Lot 5 Grass Two Upper Yarnsborough. 11 2 33

From 1 st Oct. next to March 1 st, 1861.

From 6th Oct. East Down and Pinnecombe 19 2 19

N.B. The back road alone to be used for all the Lots except the Lawn; a right of way to the others is reserved through each. The purchaser of each Lot to keep his own fences, and to have the right to kill rabbits on his Lot. The swedes now growing on the Estate together with the straw will be hereafter sold, to be consumed on the Estate, and preference will be given to the Renters of the Pasturage.

(August 7th. 1860. - Bideford Gazette) hereafter known as 8G.

**ABBOTSHAM COURT FARM**

Mr Hooper will sell by Auction at the Heart of Oak Inn, Abbotsham on

Wednesday September 5th at 6 o’ clock in the evening The Growing Crops

and Hay on the above farm, the property of J.R.D. Beste Esq.

**WHEAT**

A R P

Broad Park 13 1 30

Bountice 12 0 15

Long Down 7 2 1

**OAT**

**E**wes Close 8 1 3

Piccabridge 4 3 14

Landy Hay 7 tons Clover 6 tons

The straw may be removed and the Purchasers may Stock the Ground

Mr. James Bird at Abbotshirn will show the Crops.

(September 4th. 1860 - E3G)

**KENWITH EARM ABBOTSHAM**

**TIMBER FOR SALE**

Mr Frederick Lee has received instructions from the Rev. E. Dansey to sell

by Public Auction at the above Farm on Wednesday 6th day of March next at

2 o clock in the afternoon, about 100 ELM TREES together with many Lots of

good BEECH and ASH trees now lying around and about the said farm, and

well calculated for Shipbuilders and Carpenters use. The use of the Saw Pit

on the estate may be obtained.

(February 26th. 1861 - BG).

**COMBE COTTAGE ABBOTSHAM**

**FARM STOCK AND FURNITURE**

Mr Frederick Lee has received instructions from Leonidas Montezuma Esq. who is leaving the neighbourhood to Sell by Public Auction at the above cottage on Monday September 9th. the following Lots:

Mahogany table, twelve chairs, two kitchen tables, flour hutch, salting tub and cover, brewing tub, pickling pans, water casks, two pig troughs, pigs form, plate rack, bar iron, ladder, cheese press, chaff cutter, patent mangle, one pair wheels and fittings for hay cart, saddle, bridle, harness, prime rick of hay, pig, cow, heifer, two calves, four wheel basket carriage and various other articles.

(September 3rd. 1861 - 8G)

**TENDERS FOR ABBOTSHAM CHURCH**

Tenders are required for New Slating the North side of the Nave of Abbotsham Church, together with materials, lead, gutter etc. The tenders to

include the carriage of materials, and to be sent to the Vicar on or before 1st of September next.

Kenwith. August 8th. 1860.

(August 14th. 1860 - BG).

**KENWITH FARM NR. BIDEFORD**

Mr F.Lee has been instructed by the Rev. E. Dansey to sell at the above farm on Wednesday the 26th day of February next the following PRIME FARM

STOCK, together with Farm implements Produce etc.

Eleven prime cows,(Guernseys and North Devon), half fat bullock, 44 sheep,

6 pigs, useful bay horses, quantity poultry rick of prime landy hay, rick of straw, mangolwurzel, carrots, potatoes, swedes etc.

Dinner will be provided at 12 0’clock and the Sale to commence at 1pm.

(February 18th 1862 - BG).

**THE PARISH CONSTABLES**

The parish Constables appointed at the Magistrates Meeting on Wednesday

last were as follows:-

Edward Moase, Robert Brock, Abbotsham.

(May 13th. 1862- BG)

**ABBOTSHAM N.DEVON**

To be let by tender for a Term of 7,11 or 14 years from Mìchaelmas next all

that excellent FARM with the LIMEKILN thereon called ABBOTSHAM COURT situated in the parish of ABBOTSHAM, DEVON.

Late In the occupation of Mr Robert Tacon as tenant thereof, and now the

proprietor (except the mansion house, with two coach houses stables, courtlage and walledgardens and the lawn and plantation in front, which are

not to be let), all which premises (except as aforesaid) containing 138A 2R

28P or thereabouts and lie within a ring fence.

The Limekiin on the estate will be put in working order in which the taker may burn lime for his own use and for sale.

(June 24th 1862 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

Baptist Chapel - On Wednesday last an interesting service in connection with the close of Harvest was held in the above place of worship. At 5 o’clock a goodly company partook of a bountifully supplied tea, after which a thanksgiving meeting was conducted. Hymns of praise were sung and prayers of thanksgiving were presented. The Rev. George Williams preached the sermon. The Chapel was well filled with attentive and earnest hearers of the Gospel, and the proceedings of the evening were considerably enlivened by the excellent choir of the Bideford Baptist Chapel.

(October 14th. 1862 BG)

**DEATH**

2nd December 1862 - On the 30th ult. at Abbotsham, Marìa wife of Mr Joseph Heywood, aged 53 years.

(December 2nd 1862 BG)

**ABBOTSHAM SUSPICIOUS CASE**

On Friday evening last some sensation was created by a report that some men had been poisoned at Abbotsham. About 7 o’ clock in the in the morning Thomas Copp and Andrew Robins, farm servants of Mr Cork of West Pusehill

Farm, partook of some breakfast consisting of pork broth. At about 10o’clock however they were seized with pain and vomiting, and werereturn home. At 2pm Dr. Ackland was fetched and relieved them with a stomach pump. It appears there had been some unpleasantness once between the men and the servant who prepared the breakfast and she was suspected No poison has been discovered from the contents of their stomachs. It is however noticeable that a part of the broth was taken from a large boiler in which it was made and used by the family the day before without ill effect, while this was put by the servant in a smaller one specially for these men. There was a report that the servant had put some hair oil in the broth to which report some circumstances lend colour, so that she may have wished to sicken the men wìthout intending to poison them.

(January l3th 1863 BG)

**THE COTTAGE GARDEN SHOW**

The Cottage Garden Show was held at Abbotsham on Friday last in the

National Schoolroom which was decorated with flowers and evergreens, a very pretty device being formed of a “V.R.” and “CROWN” in lovely flowers. A number of the gentry of the neighbourhood were present. The women showed some good specimen of their knitting. The display of vegetables was better than last year, the carrots being good, the potatoes fine, and the turnips quite remarkable. E.U. Vidal Esq. President, gave away the prizes. The spade given by Capt. Wren for the best basket of vegetables was gained by James Glover. Seats were fitted up under “the old oak tree” for the visitors, and the village was very lively, the bells ringing merrily.

(July 14th 1863 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On 8th inst at Peppercombe - Mary Jane Yates - a lady aged 45, who, whilst very warm, put her feet in the sea water to cool them, became paralysed and never spoke afterwards. She was much lamented.

(July 21st 1863)

**MARRIAGE.**

On l6th inst at Abbotsham Church by the Rev. Dansey - Mr John Abbot of the firm of Abbot and Son, iron merchants of Bideford, to the eider daughter of Mr Christopher Pedler of Bowood, Abbotsham.

(September 22nd 1863 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM - THE ROYAL MARRIAGE**

This little parish we find has not been behind in their rejoicings on the festive occasion of the Royal Wedding (between the Prince of Wales and Princess Alexandra). It was proposed to give a dinner to the school children, the singers, the clerk etc in the schoolroom near the Church. On the day in question the village put on quite a gay appearance, the neighbourhood of “the old oak tree” and the schoolroom being neatly decorated with flags, laurel etc. About 3 o’ clock the little ones with truly happy faces began to assemble, anxiously awaiting the word of command to be given for them to enter the schoolroom. When everything was ready the party took their seats around a plentiful supply of beef, mutton, meat pies etc. These being duly decreased, six bouncing plum puddings made their appearance. Each person had afterwards a glass of wine to drink the health of the young married pair. Two hymns were sung, “God Save the Queen” and “God Bless the Prince of Wales”. The young party then adjourned to a neighbouring field to have a game of play. In the evening a large bonfire was lighted on Gainsborough Hill, a high piece of land, commanding a very extensive view, bounded by Clovelly and Hartland Point on the west, by Exmoor on the east, by Lundy Island and the sea to the north, and by Dartmoor on the south. Some fine balloons were let off, and also a quantity of fireworks. At the conclusion several cheers were given for the Queen, the Prince and Princess of Wales, Mr Vidal and Mr Dansey and others. This terminated a day which we hope will have a consolation to our widowed Queen, and a blessing to the country at large.

(March 17th 1863 - BG).

**DEATH**

On 19th inst - Richard Turner Esq. of Rixlade, Abbotsham, formerly of the

Grange, Bideford - aged 79.

(April 24th 1866- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

**HARVEST HOME TEA**

A very happy meeting took place at Rehoboth Chapel on Wednesday evening. The Baptist friends, who have kept up Divine Service in the Chapel against many difficulties, have a most commendable custom in connection with the thanksgiving services universal after the gathering of an abundant harvest. In order to counterbalance these harvest feasts, where strong drink is the exciting agent, if false enthusiasm, and where the Giver of good gifts is scarcely thought of, they hold a tea meeting annually, where good fellowship may be enjoyed without much fear of evil results to follow. Such a meeting was that of 1863. There was a capital brewing of the cup that cheers, the Chinese leaves being most liberally used, and the delicious Devonshire cream softening the “strong cup”. Large numbers kept flocking into the little Chapel, and it had to be “tea and turn out”, but a few showers did not disturb the comfort of those who had finished, for Mr Glover most kindly turned the Post Office parlour into a reception room. After all had been attended to, lights were brought, and the company arranged themselves to hear theaddress by the Rev. George Williams of Bideford.

(September 29th 1863 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM - TEA MEETING**

On Good Friday a public tea meeting was held in the Baptist Chapel in this

village, the proceeds from which were devoted to the Baptist Benevolent Society for the support of the sick poor of all denominations. Early in the

day large numbers made their way to the romantic cliffs at Abbotsham, where merry picnic parties were formed. The sweet music of the birds, whose thrilling notes resounded through hill and dale, and the rich foliage embowering the rural cottages, told of the coming joy of spring. In the evening a public meeting was held, the Bideford Baptist Choir being present, and Mr G.C. Williams on the harmonium.

(April 10th 1866 - BG).

**TO BE LET WITH IMMEDIATE POSSESSION**

A small convenient Cottage situate at Ricards Down, Abbotsham - for further

particulars apply Mr John Turner, Coombe, Abbotsham.

(May 15th 1866- BG).

**EAST LANGDON ABBOTSHAM**

SALE OF CORN, COW, PIGS ETC.

Mr R.C. Holman has been instructed by Mr John Penny who is about to decline Business, to offer by PUBLIC AUCTION on Thursday August 2nd by 4 o’ clock in the afternoon at East Langdon :-

WHEAT A R P

Part of Higher Path Field on Little Langdon 1 3 0

BARLEY

Part of Lower Field on Little Langdon 1 0 0

Part of Square Close 1 0 0

Little Plot 0 1 0

OATS

Langdon Path Field 4 0 0

Part of Higher Pathfield on Little Langdon 1 1 0

Part of Lower Field on Little Langdon 0 2 0

DREDGE CORN

Part of Square Close 1 2 0

Also a good Milch Cow, Sow in Pigs, 2 Slip Pigs, a good donkey with Butt and harness; Butt; Long Cart; Stone Roller; Wood Roller; 2 PIoughs; 4 stone Pigs Troughs; wood Pigs Trough; Grinding Stone; Harrows; 2 Ladders; 2 Pigs Forms; Cheese Press, and sundry implements.

(July 31st 1866- BG).

TO BE LET FOR A TERM OR OTHERWISE

A COMFORTABLE COTTAGE - LIKE RESIDENCE CALLED RIXLADE  
IN THE PARISH OF ABBOTSHAM DEVON

With convenient and appropriate Buildings and Sufficient Land if required to keep a horse and cow. The premises are near the village of Abbotsham,

about 2 miles from Bideford, only half a mile from the Bristol Channel where there is excellent sea bathing.

For particulars apply to the owner Mr G. Turner, Solicitor, Bideford.

N.B. About 30 acres of grassland on this Estate will shortly be advertised.

(May 15th 1866- BG).

COTTAGE GARDEN SOCIETY.

The 23rd. annual Summer exhibition of the valuable society, which was established for the purpose of improving the condition of the labouring classes by offering rewards for industry and care in the cultivation of cottage gardens etc was held on Friday last in the National Schoolroom, which was decorated for the occasion. There were some fine specimens of peas, beans, potatoes, turnips, onions, rhubarb, flowers etc. The prizes were given by E.U. Vidal Esq J.P., the Hon. Secretary, in the open air in front of the School.

(July 14th 1868- BG).

**BIRTHS.**

On 11th Inst at Peppercombe, the wife of Mr J. Colmer, prematurely, of a

daughter.

**DEATHS.**

On 14th inst at Peppercombe, Mrs Colmer, lady superintendant of the Hope

Printing Press and Home for Young Women, of consumption.

(August 18th 1868 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

To be sold at Auction by Mr R.E. Holman on Thursday the 3rd. of September next by 6 o’ clock in the evening (on the premises) two FREEHOLD COTTAGES AND GARDEN situate in the village of Abbotsham in the occupation of John Friendship and Samuel Witheridge. Also the household furniture in the cottage in the occupation of John Friendship, comprising of -

iron bedstead, feather bed, bolster and pillows, mahogany chest of drawers,

looking glass, washstand and ware, round mahogany table, deal table, nine

kitchen chairs, easy chairs, two washing trays, boilers, saucepans and other kitchen requisites.

(August 25th 1868 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On the 24th inst. at Abbotsham Church by Rev. E. Dansey, - Mr James Brown, of Monkleigh to Annie the only daughter of Mr. J. Heywood of Abbotsham.

(March 30th 1869 - BC).

**FREEHOLD HOUSES AND GARDENS FOR SALE.**

To be sold by Auction by Mr. F. Lee, Auctioneer, at Pridham’s “New Inn”,

Abbotsham on Wednesday the 17th 1869 at six in the evening by order of the

Mortgagees, the following Desirable Premises, either together or in Lots-

Lot. 1. A dwelling house comprising, Front Kitchen, Back Kitchen, and two

good Bedrooms, with the Garden, Pighouse, Privy - premises situate near the

Vicarage in the village of Abbotsham, in the occupancy of Phillip Tucker at

rent of £4.lOs per annum.

Lot. 2. Dwelling House - front kitchen, back kitchen, two good bedrooms, with Garden, Pighouse, and Privy - in the occupancy of James Bird, at rent of £4 per annum.

Lot. 3. Dwelling house - front kitchen, back kitchen, two good bedrooms,

with Garden, Pighouse and Privy - adjoining Lot 2, in the occupancy of J.

Taylor at the rent of £4 per annum.

Lot. 4. Dwelling House - comprising Front Shop, Kitchen, two large back

kitchens, pantry, coal house, Potato House, and four bedrooms over. Garden, pighouse, Privy, stable, adjoining Lot 1, in the occupancy of Mr G. Squance - yearly value £7.

As the above must necessarily be converted into money immediately, an excellent opportunity is offered to persons seeking a compact little property in a healthy district, either for residence or investment.

(February 1869- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Cottage Garden Society which was established in 1845 is the oldest institution of its kind in the neighbourhood. it has continued owing to the indefatigable exertions of the respected founder Mr E. G. Vidal of Cornborough. The Show takes place twice a year ¡n July and September, and prizes varying from 2s.6d downwards are given. A spade for the best basket of vegetables was given as usual by Captain Wren.

(July 13th 1869- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A meeting on behalf of the Society for the Propogation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts will be held in the Schoolroom at Abbotsham on Friday the 24th at 7 o’ clock in the evening when the Rev. G.L. Towers, Travelling Secretary to the Society and other clergymen will attend. Edward Dansey. Vicar.

(September 21st 1869- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

To be Let by Tender for a term of 7 or 14 years from Lady Day next, all that messuage, Tenement, Farm and Premises called - KEENS situate in the parish of Abbotsham, containing by Tithe measurement 15 acres of good Arable, Meadow and Pasture Land, together with a convenient Dwelling House and Outbuildings, now in the occupation of Mr Robert Brock as Tenant. For viewing the same apply to the tenant or to Mr J. Turner of Coombe, Abbotsham, and for further particulars to Mr G. Turner, Solicitor, Bideford.

(October 5th 1869 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On 11th inst at Abbotsham, Mr Thomas Glover aged 59.

(October 19th 1869 - BG). .

**DEATH.**

On 9th inst at Moreton House, Mrs Catherine Northcote aged 73.

(January 18th 1870 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The 25th Annual Show in connection with the excellent Cottage Garden Society of this parish took place on Friday when it was made the occasion for a general celebration at Kenwith in aid of the Church Restoration Fund. Kenwith is the residence of the Vicar, the Rev. Edward Dansey. The castle which has been connected with so many historical events has been removed, but the ancient mansion still remains as a relic of this once famous habitation, and on Friday the lawn ¡n front of the residence was the scene of a large somewhat fashionable, and most agreeable tea meeting. The show, to which the inhabitants of the neighbourhood, as well as the cottagers have been invited to contribute, took place in a tent and building at the rear of the house, and the produce was sold to the visitors in aid of the fund now being raised for the restoration of the church. The amount equired for the restoration, which is now in progress, is about £300, and of this um upwards of two thirds has been realised. We find on perusing the ubscription list that a sixth part of the £300 has been given by the worthy squire of Cornborough, Mr E.U. Vidal, and that the Vicar is among the principal donors. The proceeds of the show on Friday amounted to £19.6s.7d.

(September13th 1870- BG).

ABBOTSHAM CHURCH

TO BUILDERS AND MASONS.

Persons desirous of tendering for the Slating of the Roof of the Church may see the specifications at Mr C. Pickards, Pitt, Abbotsham, any day between the hours of 10 and 12. Tenders must be sent to him on or before Tuesday 22nd May. The Parish Authorities do not bind themselves to accept the lowest of any tender.

(May 15th 1866- BG).

MARRIAGE.

On the 29th ult at Abbotsham Church by the Rev. Henry S. Eyre, Vicar of Newington, Kent, assisted by the Rev. E. Dansey, Vicar of Abbotsham - Aurthur Luscombe Poole Esq. of the Inner Temple, Barrister at Law, of Brent

Knoll, Somerset, to Margaret Seally second daughter of Edward Urch Vidal

Esq. of Cornborough.

(September 3rd 1867 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On the 26th inst at Abbotsham by Rev. E. Dansey - Mr William Pearce of St. Mary Cray, Kent, to Melinda, seventh daughter of Mr Leonard Woodcock of Abbotsham.

December 28th 1870 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On 2nd inst at High Park, Abbotsham - George Reynolds Esq.

(March 14th 1871 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On 24th inst at Coombe, Abbotsham - Mr John Turner, Jun.

(April 25th 1871 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

To be let from Michaelmas next a GENTEEL RESIDENCE with Garden called CHALTABOROUGH consisting of a Parlour, Kitchen, Five Bedrooms, also a

Stable and Coach house if required. The house is well sheltered, distant about two miles from the celebrated watering place Westward Ho, and within a quarter of an hours walk of the sea.

The taker can also be accommodated with an orchard and a field.

(August 30th 1870 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On 8th inst at Abbotsham Church near Bideford - Francis William Chapman Haslam of St. Johns College, Cambridge to Rose St. Barbe, only daughter of Lt. Col. St. Barbe Browne, late of Bombay, Army.

(August 15th 1871 - BC).

**BIRTH.**

On 23rd uit. at Abbotsham, the wife of Mr. W. Barnes of a daughter.

(February 1st 1881 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Rev. R.W. Sealy Vidal, M.A. Vice Principal of the Theological College, Ely, has been presented to the Vicarage of Abbotsham on the resignation of the Rev. P.R.P. Braithwaite.

(February 15th 1881 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

The New Burials Act: The first funeral under the new Act took place here on Wednesday when the funeral service was conducted by the Rev. W. Wooley, Baptist Minister of Bideford, the Curate in Charge, the Rev. Barber with unexpected kindness, ordering the bell to be tolled on the occasion.

(February 22nd 1881 - BG).

ABBOTSHAM N. DEVON.

To be let by Tender for a term of 7 or 12 years from the 25th day of March next all that desirable FARM called or known as PUSEH1LL situated in the parish of Abbotsham, now in the occupation of Mr. George Cook, containing 145 acres, be the same more or less, of good arable and pasture land. The Farm is well situated within 3 miles of the market town of Bideford and railway station. The taker is to pay the land tax and all other taxes, Tithe commutation Rent Charge, and other outgoings, and to execute a lease of the premises. The taker will be required to pay for the corn in the ground, ploughing, and unexhausted manures on the premises, the amount thereof to be determined in the usual way.

Messrs Hole and Beard Solicitors, Bideford.

(March 1st 1881 - BG).

**DEATH**

On the 5th inst at 3 Sydenham Place, Bideford - Mr Joseph Heywood of Lake

Farm, Abbotsham aged 75 years. The funeral will take place on Thursday

next leaving Lake Farm at 2pm.

(March 8th 1881 - BG).

ABBOTSHAM

The funeral of the late Mr Joseph Heywood took place on Thursday. The cortege which left Lake Farm at 2 o’ clock included 30 conveyances in addition to the mourning coaches. The service was read by the Rev. Barber, Curate in Charge.

(March 15th 1881 - BG).

DEATH.

On the 20th inst at Abbotsham near Bideford (suddenly) Mr Samuel Witheridge aged 73.

(March 29th 1881 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

The School of this Parish has been visited by the Government Inspector, who

reported that the school is in good order, and the instruction of the children much improved. Miss Chalk the school mistress will receive her certificate. The Government Grant is £29.15s, being an increase of £12. lOs on that of the previous year.

(April 5th 1881 - BG).

**BIRTH**

On 30th ult at Abbotsham, the wife of Mr Bale, of a son.

(April 11th 1882- BG).

**DEATH.**

On Good Friday at Orchard, Abbotsham, George Lettey, aged 76. For 38

years the faithful and attached servant and friend of E.U Vidal, Cornborough, Abbotsham.

(April 11th 1882- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Usual Good Friday tea took place at the Baptist Chapel, Abbotsham on

Friday Last, when upwards of 600 sat down. A public meeting was afterwards held in the Chapel, and was well attended.

(April 11th 1882- BG).

**BIRTH.**

On 1st inst at Abbotsham Vicarage, the wife of Rev. R.W. Sealy VidaI, of a son.

(May 16th 1882 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

One and a half acres of good COVER GRASS FOR SALE

Apply, Woodcock, Abbotsham.

(July 4th 1882 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On 24th August at St. Mary’s, Bridgewater by the Rev. R.W. Sealy Vidal, Vicar of Abbotsham, assisted by Re. W.G. Fitz Gerald, Vicar of Bridgewater. Rev. P.R. Ripon Braithwaite, Vicar of St. Luke’s, Jersey - to Emma Anne Sealy, eldest daughter of E.U. Vidal Esq. of Cornborough, near Bideford.

(August 29th 1882 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On 1st inst at Lewisham, Monkleigh, Susan, widow of the late Mr John Pettie

of Abbotsham, aged 65.

(September 5th 1882 - BC).

**DEATH**.

On 5th inst at Abbotsham, Thomas James McLean, grandson of the late

Thomas Essery, aged 16.

(September 11th 1883 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On 25th inst at Coombe, Abbotsham, after a lingering and painful illness,

Mary Mountjoy, the dearly loved wife of John Turner aged 68.

August 28th 1883 - BG).

**SALE**.

On Wednesday July 18th 1883 - Household Furniture and other effects at

RIXLADE the property of Spencer Lynne Esq. Comprising:

Drawing Room - Three seat centre ottoman, walnut settee, walnut davenport, gilt framed chimney glass 50’ x 40’, occasional chairs, occasional and fancy chairs, gipsy and other occasional tables, whatnot, walnut glazed cabinet, many articles of fancy china, pole and rings, cretonne window

curtains, Brussels carpet, wool mats, fire set, coal vase and scoop.

Dining Room - Oak dining table, mahogany arm and easy chair, ladies’ chair to match, four mahogany chairs, cheffionier, table cloth, ebonized chimney

glass, occasional chairs, Brussels carpet, curtains, roller and blinds,

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lamps, dinner service, blue china tea and breakfast service, plated forks and spoons, card tray and coffee pot, copper tea urn, sewing machine.

Four Bedrooms - Iron French bedsteads, spring mattress, palliasses, soft mattresses, feather bolsters and pillows, hanging wardrobe, chest drawers,

toilet tables, washstands, night commode, cane seat chairs, fire sets, fenders, carpets, rugs, blinds and rollers. .

Kitchen - Kitchen table, chairs, clock, lamp, floor cloth and the usual kitchen requisites.

Two wheel trap, butt, pony harness, pony cart harness, wheelbarrow, lawnmower, iron lifting jack, wire netting, pigeons, flower stand, greenhouse stove.

(July 17th 1883 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On 1st inst at Abbotsham, Thomas Essery, aged 72.

(May 8th 1883- BG).

**SALE OF HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE.**

On Wednesday May 2nd 1883 at Keen, Abbotsham. Instructions received from A.W. Ashton Esq. to Sell by Public Auction –

Miscellaneous Household Furniture.

Four Wheel Phaeton suitable for a cob, Two Wheel Pony Dog Cart, Double barrel gun, set of harness, saddle and bridle. Also a splendid GREYHOUND.

(May 1st 1883 - BG).

**DEATH**

On 18th ult at Edge Farm, Abbotsham, Mr Wuhan Hearn aged 65.

(May 1st 1883- BG).

**AUCTION SALE.**

Lot 1 All that messúage or Dwelling House, together with Lawn, walled

garden, coach house, stable, courtlage and offices, situate at Riccards Down in the parish of Abbotsham, now occupied by the Misses Barclay as yearly tenants.

Lot 2 All those two cottages, also situate at Riccards Down with two gardens and courtlages belonging, occupied by Robert Brock and Thomas Braunton.

Lot 3 All that cottage with garden, situate at Riccards Down, occupied by

Robert Grant, blacksmith.

Lot 4 All that cottage with garden situate at Riccards Down, occupied by

Joseph Spratt.

Lot 5 All that Dwelling House with walled garden, situated at Riccards Down, lately occupied by Mrs Trebell, and also the Smiths Shop adjoining occupied by Robert Grant.

Lot 6 All that Large Garden adjoining the last mentioned Lot, now occupied

by Robert Grant. This garden would form an excellent Building Site.

Sale at New Inn Hotel, Bideford, Tuesday the 8th day of May next at 6 for 7pm.

(April 24th 1883 - BG).

**ELECTION OF GUARDIANS.**

The following gentlemen have been nominated to serve as Guardians of the Poor for the Bideford Union and will shortly be declared elected:

Abbotsham - George Turner.

(April 3rd 1883- BG).

**DEATH.**

On 4th inst at Claycott Farm, Abbotsham - Mr Edward Moase aged 71.

(February 5th 1884 - BC).

**DEATH**.

On 26th uIt at Abbotsham, Mary, wife of the late Mr William Ackland, aged 77.

(November 4th 1884 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

To be Let by Tender with immediate possession for such term as may be agreed on, in one or more lots, all these SIX FIELDS of excellent pasture

land, situate at WINDMILL CROSS, adjoining the main road leading from

Bideford to Clovelly, containing together 26A. I R. 11 P. (More or less) –

Lot 1. A field known as “Claws” on the north side of the road 2A 2R 5P

Lot 2. 4 fields known as “Pynewill” on the south side of the road 21A 2R 5P

Lot 3. A field known as “Crockers Close” on the N side of the road 2A IR 1P

(November 18th 1884 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On 19th inst at Abbotsham, Mary, wife of the late Thomas Essery aged 75.

(January 27th 1885 - 8G).

**DEATH.**

On 30th uIt at Abbotsham, Mr Leonard Woodcock aged 86.

(May 5th 1885 - BG).

ABBOTSHAM.

“Liberalism, Its Principles, Power and Progress” was the title of a lecture

delivered by Mr Waring in the National Schoolroom, Abbotsham on Saturday. He dealt with the power of Liberalism. He quoted a conundrum, “Why is a

Conservative like a wheelbarrow” - and the answer was, “Because he never

went except when pushed”. A vote of thanks was proposed to the Vicar for

the use of the room. The Rev R.W.S. Vidai in acknowledging said that he

was so pleased that the meeting had been quiet and orderly. He mentioned

that it was his fixed intention as a clergyman not to ally himself with either political party. The meeting closed with cheers for the Vicar, Mr Pitt-Lewis, Mr Gladstone, and the Queen.

(June 9th 1885 - BG).

CONSERVATIVE MEETING AT ABBOTSHAM.

A well attended meeting was held in the Schoolroom at Abbotsham on

Saturday evening for the purpose of forming a Conservative branch association.

(June 16th 1885-8G).

**MARRIAGE.**

On the 15th inst at Abbotsham Church by the Rev. R. Granville, Rector of

Bideford, assisted by Rev. H. Brembridge - the Rev. Robert Walpole Sealy

Vidal, Vicar of Abbotsham, second surviving son of the late E. U. Vidal Esq. of Cornborough to Gertrude, eider daughter of Maj. Gen. Molesworth, R.A., of Kenwith, Abbotsham.

July 21st 1885- 8G).

**MARRIAGE.**

Wednesday last was a high day and holiday at Abbotsham, the occasion of the rejoicing being the wedding of the vicar of the parish, the Rev. Robert Walpole Sealy Vidal and Miss Gertrude Molesworth, daughter of Maj. Gen.

Molesworth, R.A. of Kenwith. Punctually at the time appointed a quarter past eleven, the bride drove up, and leaning on the arm of her father, entered the church, which was crowded with villagers and friends from Bideford and the neighbourhood, all anxious to witness the interesting ceremony. The service was conducted by the Rev. R. Granville, Rector of Bideford and the Rev. H. Brembridge. The Rev. R. Granville delivered an impressive and affectionate address to the newly married couple. As the bridal party left the church, the village children on each side of the path strewed flowers before the bride and bridegroom, and pelted them with rice, the time honoured expression of “good luck wishes”. It may be mentioned that the bride was attired in a dress of white satin trimmed with Honiton lace flounces, and wore veil and wreath. Mr Edwin Sealy Vidal acted as best man, and the bridesmaids were Miss M. Molesworth and Miss Sealy Vidal, and the two little Misses Smith. The two former wore dresses of ecru canvas, striped with gold and trimmed with wide ecru lace; and hats to match. The two little pages, Master Ambrose Smith and Master A. Molesworth, wore white serge sailor suits.

As the party drove off to Kenwith the bells again pealed forth merrily. The

village in the direction of the Bride’s home was gaily decorated with flags etc, and about half way was a triumphal arch in the centre of which were the words:

God Bless this happy couple.

Long may they live.

And happy be

Dwell in Peace and Unity.

The wedding breakfast was laid at Kenwith House after which the Rev, and Mrs Vidai drove to Bideford and left by train en route for the English Lakes.

The Rev. R.W.S. Vidal is a clergyman who is greatly beloved by his parishioners, and to whom nothing could be more gratifying than their kindly feelings towards himself and his bride.

(July 21st 1885- BG).

**GARDEN FETE AND FANCY FAIR AT KENWITH.**

On Thursday and Friday last the grounds at Kenwith (the residence of Gen. Molesworth) were the scene of a Garden Fete and Fancy Fair. The object of the proceedings was to increase the Abbotsham Church Bells Fund. The renovation of the peal of bells ¡n Abbotsham Church tower is a work which will meet with the commendation from every parishioner. It is the wish of the Vicar, Rev R. W.S. Vidal to have two of the existing bells recast, to add two new ones and rehang the whole, thus providing a peal of six bells. The various departments of the Fair were located within different tents. Having completed the round of pleasure in the tents, visitors wended their way to the Red Barn, kindly lent by Mr Barton, for the purpose of the Dramatic Performances. The Bideford Volunteers Band under Bandmaster Morrish attended on both days. In connection with the Fete there was a Cottage Garden Show in the yard at Kenwith.(Sept. 1st 1885- BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On 3rd inst at the Bible Christian Chapel, Bideford, Mr Thomas Buse of Abbotsham to Miss Elizabeth Champion of Northam.

(Oct. 20th 1885 - BG).

**DEATH**.

On 20th ult at Chaltaborough, Abbotsham, Elizabeth, wife of William J.

Pickard, late of Hyde, Northam, aged 63.

(Dec. 8th 1885 - BG),

**ABBOTSHAM.**

On Wednesday last ail the children of this parish were entertained by the Vicar and Mrs. W. Vidal to tea and a Christmas tree. The muster of the children was very large, numbering considerably over 100, and judging from

the general good humour they seemed thoroughly to enjoy the good things

provided. The tree was loaded with presents given by kind friends in the

village. The Vicar’s wife, Mrs. Molesworth, Miss Turner, Mrs. Wilson and others were indefatigable in their efforts to make the evening so successful.

(Jan. 12th 1886 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Another of the “Penny Reading” Entertainments was given in the Schoolroom

on Thursday evening last, the Vicar, Rev. R.W.S. Vidal presiding. All the

performers did well. The Vicar and Mrs. Vidal sung a duet; Miss Turner played two violin solos; Miss K. Turner and Miss Ludlow contributed a couple of songs each, as did Mr. E.J. Russell and Mr. W. Blackmore. The Vicar gave a reading, Mr: Gordon recited twice, Mr. E. Woodcock sang, and several glees were rendered by the choir.

(Feb. 9th 1886- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

An entertainment of quite a novel character was given on Thursday last by

the scholars of the Abbotsham School, who under the direction of Miss Abraham, the mistress, afforded parents and friends a real treat. In the chair was the Vicar who gave a short speech, announcing the results of the recent examinations. The children’s entertainment consisted of glees, songs and recitations. Many of the recitations were given by tiny “dots”. Jane

Friendship received a prize for diligence in home study, and James Churchill for regular attendance.

(Feb. 16th 1886- BG).

**DEATH.**

On 16th ult at Stone, Abbotsham, Sarah Ann Ackland, aged 22.

(March 2nd 1886 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On 2nd ult at Abbotsham Church - Edward Leonard Woodcock to Elizabeth Ann Líttlejohns.

(March 9th 1886 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The third of the series of Penny Readings which have been given this winter

took place on Wednesday 3rd inst and provided a still greater success. The

room was filled to almost suffocation, and numbers were unable to get in.

(March 16th 1886- BG).

**DEDICATION OF NEW BELLS AT ABBOTSHAM.**

It will be remembered that sometime since a bazaar was held at Abbotsham

for the purpose of raising funds for the purpose of purchasing two additional bells for Abbotsham Church. The money collected then and a little extra from many friends, enabled the excellent Vicar, the Rev. R.W.S. Vidal to proceed with the work, with the result that two splendid new bells have been added, two have been recast, and the belfry put in first rate order. The casting and remoulding was carried out by Messrs. Llewellin and James of Bristol, and the hanging by Messrs. M. Luxton and Son of Winkleigh. On Thursday afternoon a dedication service was held in the Church conducted by Venerable Archdeacon Barnes, who was assisted by the Vicar, Rev. R.W.S. Vidal and Rev. M.D. Dimond-Churchward. The church was crowded and the service choral. A tea was held in the Schoolroom.

During the day, the bells which may be classed as the finest for miles around, (especially the tenor) were rung by ringers from Bideford, Weare Gifford, Winkleigh, Torrington, High Bickington and other parishes, all of whom by the kindness of Mr. J. Turner were supplied with an excellent cold luncheon. The offertory amounted to £5.

(May 4th 1886- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

The annual Cottage Garden Show of the Society, which was founded in 1845, was\_held on Wednesday July 28th in charming weather. A noticeable feature being the nosegays of wild flowers and wild grasses which were shown by the school children. Mr. Broadway, gardener to Miss Poole, was the judge. The whole village was en fete, and the new bells rang out at intervals.

(August 3rd 1886- BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On the 12th inst at the Bible Christian Chapel, Roath, Cardiff by the Rev. J.C. Honey - Arthur the third son of Mr. Thomas Henry Clover of Abbotsham, to Lizzie, the only daughter of Mr. James Rowe of Roath, Cardiff.

(August 17th 1886 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

Thanksgiving Services were held at Abbotsham Church on Sunday. The Vicar preached in the morning and evening, and in the afternoon Rev. Morse of Littleham. There were good congregations on each occasion. The decorations were not overdone, but were in excellent taste - Mrs. Vidal, Miss Vidal, Miss Molesworth, Miss Ward and Mrs. Wilson being responsible. There was a well attended public tea and a Concert in the grounds of Winsford.

(Sept. 21st 1686 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

On Thursday March 17th 1887 at Rickslade, Abbotsham near Bideford, the

property of Mr. W. Fuiford, including good useful Household Furniture will be sold.

(March 15th 1887 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

On Monday evening last a meeting was held for purpose of forming a juvenile

branch of the C.E.T.S. Addresses were delivered by the Vicar and the Rev. M.D. Dimond-Churchward. A branch society was started.

(March 29th 1887 - BC).

**BIRTH.**

On the 25th inst at Abbotsham, the wife of Mr. John Bale, of a son.

(March 29th 1887- BC).

ABBOTSHAM.

On Good Friday a public tea and meeting took place at the Baptist Chapel.

Tea was provided from 4-6pm and about 400 persons sat down. At 7.30 a crowded meeting took place presided over by the pastor, Rev, W. Gillard

(April 12th 1887- BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On 26th ult at the Parish Church, Abbotsham by the Rev. R.W.S. Vidal - Mr. John Pickard of Bideford to Mrs. Rowe of Abbotsham.

(May 10th 1887 - BG).

**CRICKET**

A match between Bideford C.C. and Barnstaple C.C. was played on Saturday. The Rev. R.W.S. Vidal kept the wicket for Bideford well, and also opened the batting.

(June 14th 1887 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

By none could the Jubilee Festival (Queen Victoria had reigned for 50 years) have been celebrated with more enthusiasm than by the Abbotsonians. The Ladies Committee arranged for the tea for nearly 400. The Sports

Committee prepared an interesting programme. Mr. Henry Glover arranged

an awning over the whole extent of the dining and tea tablés, an area of

1,600 feet, and Mr, Moase fixed the tables. The merry peal of bells

announced to the villagers the dawn of the 21st. A Thanksgiving Service

was held in the Church at 12 o’ clock, and at 1 the parishioners, all of whom had been invited, bent their steps to the scene of the days rejoicing. A graceful arch decked with evergreens and flags by Mr. Barton Jun., and Mr.Charles Pickard Jun. spanned the entrance gate to the field lent by J. Turner Esq. of Coombe, and carried the loyal greetings, “Long Live the Queen” - white letters on a red ground by Mrs. Wilson of Keene, and the other “God Save the Queen” by Mrs. Betty of Bowood. The dinner company numbered 115 - roast and boiled beef, and plum pudding. There was a “high tea” - huge joints, the cream, cake and other delicacies, and the steaming tea pots. About 300 sat down - women and children. After sports were indulged in. The company then proceeded to Westpark Hill for a display of fireworks and the bonfire.

(June 28th 1887 - BG)

**PRESENTATION TO REV. W. GILLARD.**

On Tuesday last a public meeting was held in the Baptist Chapel, Abbotsham, to take leave of the Rev. W. Gillard who has accepted the call to the pastorate of the United Churches of Croyde and Georgeham. Mr. T.H. Glover on behalf of the church in an appropriate speech presented Mr. Gillard with an easy chair as token of the love and esteem in which he was held by his congregation, and expressed good wishes on behalf of the whole of the residents of Abbotsham.

(Oct. 4th 1887 - BG).

**BIRTH.**

On 16th inst at Abbotsham, the wife of the Rev. R.W.S. Vidal, Vicar of Abbotsham, a daughter.

(Oct. 18th 1887 - BG).

**BIRTH.**

On 22nd inst at Abbotsham, the wife of Mr. C. Glover, of a daughter.

(Oct 25th 1887 - BG).

BIRTH.

On 15th October at Buckley, Abbotsham, the wife of the Rev. G. Wells, of a

daughter.

(1st Nov 1887 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On November 6th, Mrs. Woodcock (late of Abbotsham) aged 85 years.

(8th Nov 1887 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On December 2nd at 18 Geneva Place, Bideford, Eliza, widow of the late

Samuel Witheridge (Abbotsham) aged 75.  
(13th Dec 1887- BG).

**BIRTH.**  
On January 8th at Abbotsham, the wife of Mr. J. Witheridge, of a daughter.

(17th Jan 1888 - BG).

**BIRTH.**

On March 2nd at Abbotsham Court, the wife of Mr. J. Slee of a son.

(13th March 1888- BC).

**DISTRESSING ACCIDENT.**

Mrs Grant of Abbotsham who is well known at Bideford met with a serious accident yesterday morning. She was driving her pony cart into Bideford as

usual on Monday mornings, whilst coming down Northdown Lane the pony shied, and she was thrown out on the road, and on being picked up she was found to have broken her leg. Mrs. Gant’s daughter was also thrown out, and badly cut her face.

(24th April 1888 - BC).

**BIRTH.**

On April 21st at the Heart of Oak, Abbotsham, the wife of Mr. Edward

Woodcock, of a son

(1st May 1888- BG).

**BIRTH.**

On May 27th, the wife of Constable Webber of Abbotsham, of a son.

(29th May 1888 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Bishop of the Diocese, held a confirmation in this parish on Saturday last when 17 candidates from Abbotsham and one from Littleham were presented. The service was a most impressive one. At the close the Bishop addressed a few words of hearty thanks to the choir. On Sunday the Vicar alluded to the affecting service of the preceding day, and went on to remark that though throughout the country the flags were flying half mast high to record the Victory of the King of Terrors over one of our greatest earthly Princes, he had thought it well to let the flag float on high, to impress upon the hearts of all who saw it, and may be wondering at it, that they were commemorating that day the out pouring in their midst of the Holy Spirit of God by whose mighty power alone Death could be swallowed up by Victory.

(19th June 1888- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

The Baptist Anniversary Services were held on Sunday and Monday last week, the Rev. E.J. Page preached services afternoon and evening on the Sunday, and a public tea was held on Monday, followed by a public meeting.

(17th July 1888 - BG)

**ABBOTSHAM**

The Harvest Festival was kept in the village on Sunday and Monday last week. Thanksgiving Services were held in the Parish Church. There was an early celebration at 8am, and at 11am there was a full choral service. A

Children’s Service was held at 3.30pm. The Evening Service at 6.30 was also choral. The Church had been prettily decorated, and presented a very festive appearance. On Monday afternoon the children marched in procession to Winsford Farm, and there partook of a tea. A public tea was afterwards held in the Barn which had been kindly lent by H. Copp Esq. The tea was provided by Mrs. Bale, and about 300 people were present. Athletic sports were held in the adjoining field. At 7.30 an entertainment was given. A Dance succeeded the Concert, and dancing was kept up until 10pm, when the day ended with the National Anthem.

(Oct 2ndl 888 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

On Friday last the Abbotsham branch of the C.E.T.S. held its first meeting for adults. Interesting addresses were given by the President, the Rev.W.S. VidaI and the Rev. J. Morrell of Torrington. Songs, instrumentals selections and other entertainment were contributed by Misses Vidal, Moiesworth, Perring, Cooke, Merch and Blackmore, and Messrs Dare, Blackmore, Dymond and Best. Several pledges were taken at the end of the meeting.

(October 30th 1888 BG)

**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING AT ABBOTSHAM**

On Monday 14th inst Major Kirkwood fulfilled his engagement by addressing an assemblage of about 100 electors of Abbotsham in the Parish Schoolroom. General Molesworth was voted to the chair.

(January 22nd 1889 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

On Thursday week the prizes and certificates were awarded to the children

attending the Parish School. Ten prizes were given to those who had made over 400 attendances during the past year. As Stephen Bale was present every time the school was opened, he gained the double prizes. The children were publicly examined in reading by the Vicar, and mental arithmetic and grammar by the mistress.

(March 26th 1889 BG)

**DEATH.**

On March 19th at Winsford Barton, Bideford, Elizabeth, the beloved wife of

Mr Henry Copp, aged 51 years.

(March 26th 1889 BG).

**BIRTH.**

On May 3rd at the vicarage, Abbotsham, the wife of the Rev. R.W.S. Vidal,

Vicar, of a son.

(May 7th 1889 BG)

**DEATH**

On June 13th at Pusehill, Abbotsham - John Heywood Brown, the beloved

son of James and Ann Brown, aged 19 years.

(June 18th 1889 BG)

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Anniversary of the Sunday School at the Baptist Chapel was held on

Sunday and Monday, July 28th and 29th. On Monday a public tea was held

followed by a public meeting. The prizes for the year consisting mainly of

hymn books in use at the Chapel were distributed to the scholars.

(July 30th 1889 BG)

**SALE OF PROPERTY AT BIDEFORD.**

At Mr H. Ascott’s New Inn Hotel, Bideford on Tuesday some freehold lands,

situate in the parish of Abbotsham were offered for sale. The whole of it

belonged to Mr J.R. Pine Coffin of Portledge who became the purchaser on

the understanding that there was a charge upon it of £6 per year to the poor of Abbotsham. It transpired however, that the poor were really entitled to an undivided poiety.

Lot I comprised two fields or closes of land containing 5A 2R 26P. it was sheltered from the cold winds and open to the sun the whole year around. It reached £400.

Lot 2 was Windmill Field which went to the hammer at the sum of £310 - the purchaser being Mr W. Turner of The Barton.Lot 3 was 3A OR 25P, and fetched the sum of £195, purchased by Mr Pine Coffin.

The total realised was £905.

(September 3rd 1889 BG).

**BIRTH**

On August 22nd at the Heart of Oak, Abbotsham, the wife of Mr Woodcock of

a son

(September 3rd 1889 BG).

**MARRIAGE**

On the 25th September at Abbotsham Church by the Rev. Canon Atherton

(Rector of Farringdon) assisted by Rev. R.W. Sealy Vidal(brother of the

bridegroom) - the Rev. George Studley Sealy Vidal, Chaplain of New College

and Reader of St. Johns College, Oxford, youngest son of the late E.U. Vidal Esq of Cornborough - to Constance Isabella Knox, youngest daughter of

Deputy Surgeon General S.A. Homan, late of H.M. Indian Army.

(October 1st 1889 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM PARISH MAGAZINE 1889 (Extracts)**

In sending out our Parish Magazine for the first time, we venture to hope that we shall meet with the approval of the parishioners generally. We hope to publish it monthly , notes of the chief events of interest in the life of the parish, and from time to time short articles will appear, which it is hoped will afford either amusement or instruction, and possibly both, to our readers. Notes upon old papers, account books, and registers of the parish will be given, a series of short papers upon the Sunday Lessons throughout the year, and another series upon the Saints of the Kalendar usually known as Black Letter Saints, are also in the course of preparation.

We wish to draw the attention of those of the Parishioners who have a certain amount of leisure time at their disposal, to the Church History Lectures given by the Vicar on Friday afternoons. The difficulty of finding a suitable room has been surmounted by the great kindness of Mrs Storey, who places her drawing room at the disposal of the parish on that afternoon, and we trust that a steady increasing attendance will mark the appreciation of this generosity. All are cordially invited.

We also ask our readers to notice the proposed visit of Mr Stanton, the “Paddington Dustman” on the 11th inst. Mr Stanton is a well known speaker of the day on Temperence questions, and we can promise all who come to

the meeting that they will be most amply rewarded.

**(January 1889).**

On New Years Eve by the kindness of a large number of the parishioners, the

whole of the children in the parish were entertained at tea in the schoolroom. After tea a Magic Lantern was shown by the Vicar and Mr Bell, and on going home each member of the party carried off an orange and a bar of sweets to remind them, as long as they lasted, of the kindly departure of 1888.

The same evening the ringers and the choir met at supper at the Vicarage. About eleven adjournment was made to the tower. The old year was solemnly rung out with a muffled peal, and far and wide over the parish the bells tolled out the passing of the dying year. A few minutes before midnight the bells were stopped, and the ringers knelt, rope in hand, while the Vicar

offered up a short thanksgiving for the mercies of the past year, and a prayer for grace to use the opportunities of the new year to God’s greater glory. Then midnight was slowly struck upon the tenor by the foreman of the ringers, and out rang a merry peal, telling the many who were watching in their homes, how once again had come round the time for new hopes, new

resolutions, and new efforts to learn the true and only secret of a Happy New Year.

We would like to draw attention of the parishioners to the Penny Bank which is now entering its third year in the parish. Started in connection with the School, it is yet intended for any who care to invest in it. And it has this advantage over other Savings Banks, that depositors are able to put in as large sums or as small as they please.

It is hoped that in the coming year more parents will encourage their children to open an account in the bank, and so learn from the beginning of life the great lessons of thrift and independence. Many a child on leaving School may find, as the result of belonging to this Bank, that he or she has quite a nice sum of money, which may either go towards their outfit when they start in life, or be a nest egg for larger deposits in the years to come.

**(February 1889).**

Some of the parents of children in the school have expressed a wish to know

something about the Shoe Club. It has been in existence now for two years, and has we hope been fairly successful in its main object, the inducing of

regular and punctual attendance on the part of the children. We give the

Rules, explaining that an early attendance means being at the School at 9am

in the morning and at 2pm in the afternoon.

Rules of the Abbotsham Shoe Club

1. For every 10 early attendances made in one week, a penny will be added

to the penny paid.

2. For every 10 attendances, not early, a half penny will be added.

3. No arrears allowed.

4. No Club money taken till the school fees are paid.

5. The Club money to be paid every Monday morning.

6. Each child may pay 1d only per week.

7. No cards will be given out after March 25th.

**(March 1889).**

Attendants at our Parish Church will long miss with pain the well known face of Mrs Copp of Winsford Barton, who has been taken from our midst after only two days illness. Besides being a most regular attendant at Abbotsham Church Mrs Copp was always one of the most foremost in helping on

anything in the Parish which needed vigorous and hearty assistance. For

several years the Harvest Festivities have been held at Winsford Barn, and

Mrs Copp’s unfailing kindness and generosity on those occasions, are looked

back upon with true gratitude, mingled now with sad regret that never again in this world can those kind offices be given. We wish to express our deep

condolence with Mr Copp and his family in their bereavement.

After many years of great suffering, borne with marvellous patience, Grace

Blackmore passed to her rest on March 24th. Mrs Blackmore has been completely bed-ridden for many years, and death has come to her as, indeed,

a release from much suffering, and, we trust, an entrance into rest with Christ.

Tne Anniversary of the branch of the CET.S. in this parish was celebrated

on Thursday March 21st. Proceeding began with a service in the Church at

3.30. The choir and clergy met the children of the branch at the gate of the churchyard, and walked in procession into Church singing the hymn “O Lord our strength in weakness”. The sermon was preached by the Rev. M.D.

Dimond Churchward, Vicar of Northam. After the service, which was well

attended, a tea was held in the Schoolroom, at which more than 60 persons

sat down, besides the children - some 50 in number. Tea over, the room

was quickly cleared, and a platform erected for the evening meeting.

The annual report was next read, from which it appeared that the number of

children on the books had increased from 32 to 48, and the adult members from 10 to 21. A service of song entitled “Dragged Down” was then given by

Members of the Branch. Solos were given by M. Blackmore, L. Pearse, E. Moase, and the duets by J. Friendship, L. Pearse, C. Glover and Miss Abraham.

On Thursday March 14th the prizes and certificates in connection with the

Annual School inspection were distributed to the successful children. After

a varied programme, which gave great pleasure both to the children and the

many parents who were present, and the prizes were distributed as follows:

For Regular Attendance

1. Stephen Bale 422 attendances out of 422

2. Charles Tallin 421

3. Charles Bale 417

4. Ernest Clements 416

5. George Tallin 414

6. Jane Clements 413

7. William Slee 413

8. Alfred Glover 407

9. Charles Glover 405

10. Joseph Bale 401

**(April 1889).**

A very terrible case of sudden death occurred on Tuesday April 16th,

Elizabeth Hill being called to her rest literally without a moment’s warning. The poor woman was speaking to a neighbour outside her door when she suddenly fell backwards, and never spoke or breathed again. Her body was laid in its last resting place on Good Friday afternoon, and the funeral procession was largely made up of sympathising neighbours, anxious by their attendance to show their feeling for the bereaved husband and his son, in their great sorrow. Rarely have words fallen upon our ears with such solemn emphasis than did these as we stood round the grave, “In the midst of life we are in death, of whom may we seek for succour, but of thee O Lord, who for our sins art justly displeased”.

On Thursday April 12th a meeting of the Juvenile Branch of the Temperance

Society was held in the Schoolroom. A fair number of members were present. Two recitations were given, one by AIf Glover and the other by little Miss Scott, and the Vicar read the story of the life of a Waif and Stray. One new member was enrolled.

The usual Easter Vestry Meeting was held on Easter Monday, when the accounts for the year were presented, and Messrs John and Charles Turner were reappointed Churchwardens for the ensuing year. The offertory accounts were satisfactory, a sufficient balance remaining in hand to pay off the debt incurred in repointing the tower and north side of the church.

**(May 1889).**

Before the end of this month, if the present weather holds, we shall be in the full swing of haymaking. We venture therefore to make an appeal both to the members of the Temperence Society, and on their behalf to the employers of labour in the parish. To the members themselves that they will be careful in a time of special temptation to resolutely keep their resolution, and to the employers that they will kindly see that their labourers may have opportunities of taking tea and coffee or other non-intoxicating drinks, as well as the usual beer. It has been the experience of all who have worked in the cause of Temperance, that many pledges are unwillingly broken in haytime and harvest, because there has been nothing but beer to drink.

**(June 1889).**

Our readers are reminded that the Cottage Garden Show is to be held this

month; the actual date however, being not yet fixed. It is hoped that there

will be a novel and interesting exhibition of honey, taken from the bees

without destroying them.-.

On June 17th John Heywood Brown was laid to rest in Abbotsham churchyard after a short but distressing illness. Johnie Brown, as he was more widely known, was the eldest son of Mr James Brown of Pusehill. The respected overseer and waywarden of this parish, and was well known as a diligent, trustworthy lad who was just coming on to share with his father much of the latter’s responsibilities. Neither he himself nor his family had any warning given them of the coming blow. He had indeed felt ailing for a few

days, but nothing at all serious developed, until suddenly rheumatic fever

seized upon him, and almost immediately there seemed to be but little hope. He lay for two days more or less unconscious and then God took him to himself. The funeral on Monday was very largely attended, friends from far

and near coming to shew their love and respect both for the young man himself and his sorrowing family. We tender our hearty sympathy to Mr and

Mrs Brown in their heavy trouble.

**(July 1889).**

On Wednesday July 24th the Choir went for an outing to Clovelly. The members, to the number of twenty two, mustered by the oak at half past nine, and with very little delay took to their seats in a four horse break, and started off for their days pleasure. Pleasure they were determined to have, and did have, in spite of the rain which tried very hard all day to damp the spirits of the party. It takes a lot of rain to spoil the fun when all are good tempered and bent on making the best of things, and even the unfortunates, who had to sit outside on the box, and let the rain trickle down their necks pretended they enjoyed it, and managed really to look as if they did.

Two excellent puzzles, which defied all efforts at solution helped on the journey very much, and Clovelly was reached long before some of the party had had what they thought a fair try at getting the five little pigs in their pen. At this juncture the sun actually thought better of it and emerged from his hiding place, and a very pleasant hour or so was spent down upon the beach, the elders of the party strolling about, and expLoring the beauties of the place, the younger ones as a matter of course, amusing themselves by throwing stones. “All hands to dinner” was piped at half past one, and what newspapers call “ample justice” was done to the contents of the various hampers and baskets. After being thus fortified, the whole party decided on seeing the grounds to the very end. It rained more or less most of the way, and the wind was certainly boisterous. Dresses which had been clean and white were so no longer; people who had nervous thoughts about rheumatism resigned themselves to their certain fate. But there was suspicion of giving in. Right out to Mouth Mill everyone got, after the sual amount of racing and sliding and general skylarking. The walk back was rather more solemn, and might have been tedious, had not a good natured squirrel jumped up pretending to be lame, and so beguiling unsuspecting youth set off in pursuit. Then came tea, a short stroll, and then home. Being a choir it was only natural that they should sing, and the journey home was shortened by the more or less harmonious rendering of a somewhat mixed programme. Home was reached about half past nine, and the party broke up having we think, enjoyed their holiday one and all.

**(August 1889)**

The most important event of the month has been the sale of the poor lands at Tealta. The lands in question have been held for many years, how many years no one knows, on somewhat uncomfortable terms. They have been, what is called an “undivided moiety”, that is to say the freehold has belonged partly to the poor and partly to some other party. And as a result nothing could ever be done with the land, either in the way of letting or selling,

without the consent of both parties. For some years past the half belonging

to the poor has been rented by Dr Heywood Smith the owner of the other half, but some months ago Dr. Heywood Smith sold his property to Mr Pine Coffin, and the trustees of the poor land thought that this would be a good

opportunity for making some new arrangements. They therefore applied to the County Court to get an order, either for the division of the lands fairly between Mr Coffin and the poor, so that each might have their own absolutely to themselves, or if that could not be done , for the sale of the lands, the purchase money to be divided equally. The judge ordered a sale, and on Tuesday August 27th the property was put up for auction in three lots. The first lot being two fields lying the Westward Ho side of the road which runs from Cornborough to Westward Ho was bought by Mr Pine Coffin for £400. Lot 2 the field at the top of the hill by Tealta known as Windmill Field, having in it the valuable Tealta quarry, was bought by Mr William Turner for £310, and the last lot being a part of Tealta itself and garden, with one field south of the garden, was sold for £195 to Mr Pine Coffin. The total purchase money thus amounted to £905. From this will have to be deducted all the expenses connected with the legal proceedings, sale etc.

The net remaining sum will then be divided, and the poors’ share will be invested for their benefit under the direction of the Charity Commissioners. it is not expected that all the legal expenses will bellowed out of the purchase money, so that possibly for the next year or two the actual money to be distributed will not be more than in previous years. But when all the expenses are paid there will be considerably more at the disposal of the trustees, who are to be congratulated on the successful issue of their efforts to place the property of the poor on a more firm basis. At a meeting of the parishioners held in March last, it was unanimously agreed to be those present, that they would willingly give up a years pay, and if necessary two, in order to get the matter settled. And we hope that we shall find that it has been settled for good and all, and with very little sacrifice even of present income.

**(September 1889)**

On Wednesday August 28th the children of the parish were invited to spend

that afternoon at Cornborough. A large cart was sent by Mrs Vidal to carry

the younger of the party, and the rest marched gaily up under the care of

Miss Abraham and C. Pickard. The lawn at Cornborough has been the scene of a good many School Feasts in its time, and many generations of children must have spent a happy afternoon upon it. And this School Feast was no exception. Rounders, cricket, see saw, aunt sally and all the various games of our youth were indulged in with great heartiness till the word was given for tea. This was held on the gravel in front of the house, and we think we may say that full justice was done by ail concerned to the various good things provided for them. After tea more games, and the children all assembled outside the drawing room, and gave an exhibition of their Musical Drill under Miss Abraham’s guidance. At about 7 the “carriage” was ordered, and as many children as possible having been packed into the hay, the party drove off, with many cheers for the kind giver of the Treat.

The Harvest Festival Services were held on September 8th. Saturday was spent in preparing and decorating the church, and owing to the kindness of

number of parishioners, a great wealth of flowers and fruit was at the disposal of the decorators. As a result the church in her holiday attire, has seldom if ever, looked more beautiful. Sunday morning was ushered in by an early peal of bells, and at 8.30 the first service was held. The Vicar was assisted by the Rev. H. Crowther, and there were 26 communicants. At 11 o’ clock there was a second celebration of the Holy Communion with 17 communicants. The afternoon service was well attended and the children responded readily and intelligently to the Catechising upon the lessons of the Harvest field. In the evening the church was so crowded that forms and

chairs had to be brought in and placed in the aisles. The service was a very hearty one, prayers being intoned by the Rev. G.S.S. Vidal and the sermon preached by the Rev. W.R. Fox of Bideford. Throughout the day the choir rendered most efficient aid, the anthem “All Thy works praise Thee O Lord” being most nicely sung, and the harmonium being, as usual, carefully and accurately played by our most enthusiastic organist, William Blackmore.

The offertory throughout the day amounted to £5. 1ls. 2d, which was divided

equally between the Bideford Dispensary and Barnstaple Infirmary.

**(October 1889)**

On Monday October 4th an Entertainment was given in the Schoolroom in

connection with the giving away of prizes for proficiency shown in the recent examination in Religious Knowledge. The children assembled soon after 6 and gave a series of recitations and songs. They were also examined

shortly by the mistress in various parts of their work. At the conclusion the prizes were distributed by the Vicar, who spoke a few words as to the

importance of religious instruction, as a foundation upon which to build up all other learning, being indeed the only knowledge which shall “never pass

away”. Prizes were distributed to the following:

Standard vi. John Dennis.

Standard y. Stephen Bale.

Standard iv. Florence Champion. Annie Churchill.

Standard iii. Ernest Macklin.

Standard ii Evelyn Champion.

Standard I Edward Bale. Frank Pickard.

Infants Ben Pennìngton.

Memorial Cards for good answers on the Examination day also given to:

Charles Glover, W. Slee, Elizabeth Moase, Mabel Heywood, Harry Bale, Harry Hopper, C. Tallinand AIf. Glover.

Prizes for general good conduct, punctuality and industry were given to:-

1. G. Tallin. 2. W. Pickard. 3. J. Dennis.

In 1879 Mrs Buck of Moreton left a bequest of £25 to the Vicar of Abbotsham

to use for the benefit of the poor as he might think fit. The then Vicar deposited the money in the NP. Bank, after investing some of it in the

purchase of some blankets to be given out on loan to such of the parishioners as might be in need of them. Since that time the fund has been gradually decreasing as new blankets were purchased, but there is still in the bank between £11 and £12 sufficient at the present rate to last some ten years longer. The blankets are given out on November 1st and have to be

returned on May 1st, washed and in good order. The time having come for

their distribution those parishioners who may wish for a blanket, are

requested to apply to the Vicar, as only a certain number can be given out

each year.

One of the oldest and best known of our parishioners has just been taken to

his rest. After seven years of patient waiting Robert Grant passed away on

October 27th. For many years few were better known than the blacksmith of

Riccards Down forge, but of late years he had been able to do but little, and when his son went to Australia the forge was closed. Robert Grant was a

skilled and enthusiastic gardener, taking many prizes at the Cottage Garden

Show, and we think that almost the last time the old man was out, was when

he came up to the Show in 1888 to take his vegetables up for competition.

We publish below a first list of subscriptions for the New Parish Room, which it is hoped will soon be begun. Our readers will note that this is only the first list, and has but few names. We trust that many more will add their names

before the next magazine appears-

Mrs Vidal £20. 0.0.

Mrs Eyre£1 £10.0.0.

Mrs Lindsday £5.0.0.

Mrs F. Gossett £1.0.0

Collected by Miss Vidal £3.7.0.

The appeal for Cassocks for the Choir has been generously responded to. Five cassocks have already been promised, and if we can get three more, we

may hope to have them ready for Christmas Day.

**(November 1889).**

We are in sight of Christmas and the work of decorating the Church for that

joyous season will soon be upon us. The Vicar wishes it to be widely known

that every offer of assistance will be most gratefully accepted. Many hands

make light work, and there cannot be too many hands in such a labour of

love.

A Missionary meeting will be held in the Schoolroom on Wednesday evening

next at 7.30pm. The chief speaker will be W. Blakeney Esq who is well

known for his varied experience abroad, and for his earnest zeal in

Missionary work. He is a most able and striking speaker, and we trust there

may be a large attendance. There is a good moon on that evening, so that any who may wish to come will find their journey home rendered less difficult for them.

**ABBOTSHAM**

On Monday last a very interesting gathering was held in the Schoolroom when the prizes were distributed to the children by the Diocesan InspectorThe mistress was Miss Abraham and the monitress, Miss Pickard. Thelnspector’;s report indicated that the discipline in the school was “excellent”, and the school generally classed as “very good”.

(October 22nd 1889 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On October 27th at Riccards Down, Abbotsham, Mr Robert Grant, aged 72.

(October 29th 1889 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A pleasing entertainment was given in the Schoolroom at Abbotsham on Monday evening, the proceeds were given to the “London Waifs and Strays” fund. Miss May Abbot and Master J. Abbot sang two comic songs, there were a couple of songs by Miss Crossman, and charades by the children who had been well trained by Miss Abraham.

(December 17th 1889- BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

On Thursday last week a very successful meeting in connection with the C.E.T.S. was held in the Schoolroom. Songs were sung, a pianoforte solo

by Miss Perry, and dialogue given by Misses Pearce and Blackmore. The

singing of an evening hymn brought the meeting to a close.

(December 31st 1889- SG).

**THE ABBOTSHAM POOR LANDS.**

At the Bideford County Court on Wednesday the case of the Abbotsham Poor

Lands Trustees v Mr Pine Coffin again came before the Court. An application was made by Mr W.H. Turner Jun. of The Barton, Bideford under these circumstances. “The property belonging to the poor of Abbotsham was sold some months ago by an Order of the Bideford County Court to the highest bidder. Among the Lots sold was one that had been purchased byMr W.H. Turner, in which it was stated that there would be access to a quarry which was included in the purchase, through another portion of the property which was purchased on behalf of Mr Pine Coffin. The condition of sale wasread in the usual way which distinctly set forth that there was a right of way to

the quarry. Subsequent to the purchase objection was taken by Mr Pine Coffin’s solicitor to the right of way, and an application was made to the

Judge to set this aside. The Judge referred the matter to the Registrar of

the Court for investigation and to decide whether there was a right of way or not. The Registrar found there was no right of way

(March 18th 1890 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

A concert in aid of choir funds was given in the Abbotsham School on Wednesday 16th inst. There was a large attendance. No encores were allowed owing to its length. Pianoforte and violin duet-Miss Perry and Mr Bishop; Song-Miss Thomas; Song-Mr West; Violin duet- Misses Prior; Song- Miss Turner; Song-Mr Edwards; Violin solo-Miss Turner; Song-Mrs Penhale; Song-Mr White; Vocal duet-Mrs Clarke and Miss Blackmore; Violin solo-Miss Prior; Song-Mr Abbot. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the performers, and the singing of the National Anthem brought a very pleasant evenings entertainment to a close.

(April 28th 1890 - BG).

ABBOTSHAM

“RIXLADE” TO LET. Unfurnished, comprising-

Two sitting rooms, five bedrooms, W.C., Kitchen and Offices; good kitchen garden, stable and coach house. For particulars- apply G. Turner, Solicitors, Bideford.

(June 17th 1890 BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On 28th May at St. Luke’s Church, Liverpool, New South Wales, by the Rev.

C.F. Priddle - Rev. Henry Dashwood Sealy Vidal, Curate of St. Lukes’, 3rd surviving son of the late Edward Urch Vidal Esq of Cornborough - to Kate

Elston, eldest daughter of J.B. Bossley Esq., late of Edenson Park, New South Wales.

(July 29th 1890 BG).

**BIRTH.**

On August 9th at the Vicarage, Abbotsham, the wife of the Rev. R.W. Sealy

Vidal, of a daughter.

(August 26th 1890 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM PARISH MAGAZINE 1890 (Extracts).**

**(January 1890)**

With this number begins the second year of the life of our Parish Magazine,

and we think we may say that the experience of the past year has justified us in our undertaking. Kept, as they may very easily be, and bound up at the end of the year in a handy little volume, these magazines may, in years to come, prove of the life of the parish, and many amongst us, who may be

spared to live, will often turn over the pages of such a book, and recall, we trust, with ever growing thankfulness, memories of the past, which is not in reality a past. For we shall find not only that the scenes of by-gone days live again for us, but that the joys and hopes and sorrows, and discipline through which we may have had to pass are not indeed things gone by, but things which have helped to mould us and train us and uplift us-which do, in a sense, live on in us now - “being dead yet to speak”, May this New Year, whatever it brings to any one of us, be in the truest sense, A Happy One

**(January 1890)**

On Sunday December 15th a great excitement was caused, during the performance of the afternoon service, by a message being brought up the

church, to say that Keene House was on fire. The service was promptly

stopped, and every available hand was quickly on the spot, but the flames

had so complete a mastery over the building, that nothing could be done but

try and rescue a portion of the furniture. A number of young men, who were

first on the spot, made a very gallant and strenuous efforts to force their way into the burning rooms, and by their determined action, a good deal of

furniture was brought out before the increased fury of the flames forced them to desist. In about half an hour after the fire was discovered the roof was one mass of flames and soon fell in with a heavy crash, and before darkness finally set in there was but little left but the four walls, and a heap of smouldering ashes. Great sympathy is felt both for the owners and tenant of the ill-fated cottage, but above all things else must predominate the feeling of intense thankfulness that it was no worse. Had such a fire burst out in the night, it is doubtful if any of the inmates could have been rescued, and had the wind not been in a southerly quarter, the sparks would have been carried up towards the village, and much damage done. We have been asked to insert the following:- “Captain and Mrs Wilson desire to express their heartfelt thanks to those friends and neighbours, who at great personal risk, rendered assistance at the fire at Keene on Sunday 15th inst, and for the many kind enquiries and expressions of sympathy which have been received by them”.

Abbotsham December 24th 1889.

**(February 1890)**

On the 5th January the children of the parish met together for a tea and treat. Proceedings began with tea in the schoolroom, which was crammed to

overflowing. After tea various games were indulged in at the Vicarage, and

at 5.30 all were summoned again to the Schoolroom, where they were

hospitably received by the renowned Dwarf, Count Pizzicato, who had

travelled from his distant home on purpose to be present at the entertainment, and by Father Christmas who also came from a far country, covered with snowflakes, to greet his little favourites.

Father Christmas brought with him quite a large collection of presents, which he distributed with his usual generosity. The Count too, was not behind and in kindness, and after holding a lengthy audience, presented nearly everyone of his visitors with a penny whistle or some other instrument of music of the like description. As all these various instruments were played at once and continuously, the noise may be better imagined than described. A parting gift of oranges and sweets sent each child home laden, and, we hope, rejoicing.

(February 1890).

Miss Abraham having announced her intention of giving up her post as Mistress of the School, we take this opportunity of expressing our gratitude to her for the work done by her since she has been in charge of the School. Not only in school but out of school as well she has devoted her time and energies to the welfare of the children under her care. Nor was it enough for her to teach them the knowledge of this world which passeth away. Her great underlying principle was the need of a continually deepening spiritual life, and we have no doubt that in years to come, many a parent in this parish, and many a one who is yet only a child, will look back with thankful hearts, upon Miss Abraham’s work and influence. Mr T.J. White and Mrs White have accepted the post of Master and Mistress, and will at once come into residence and take charge of the school.

(February 1890).

Some enquiries having been made as to the proposed Parish Room, we think it well to say that the necessary portion of the Glebe which will be presented

by the Vicar, will be conveyed by him either to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners or to Trustees appointed by them. The building will then be held by the Trustees to be used for such purposes as the Trust deed, sanctioned by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners will permit.

**(March 1890)**

REPORT OF H.M. INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS.

“The School is in very good order, and the Elementary instruction shews

substantial improvement. English, however has fallen off; the grammatical

part being very defective. Knitting is poor, otherwise Needlework is fairly

taught. The Infants have been well cared for, and Singing by note has again been successfully taken”. The instruction of the Infants has been almost entirely in the hands of C. Pickard, to whom the thanks of the Managers are due for the great care and attention shewn by her in her most

responsible post.

(March 1890).

There is not a great deal of interest to record this month. But as our Magazine may serve in future years as a sort of a little history of the Parish, it may not be out of place to call attention to the scourge of Influenza, which has visited us and is still amongst us. For many years there has not been no such sickness in the parish as during these last few weeks. Very few houses have escaped, and in some instances as many as five and six havebeen laid up at once. Fortunately, so far, we are able to report that though many cases have been very serious, there have appeared no instances which the disease refused to yield to treatment. But the Influenza Epidemic will long be remembered.

**(May 1890).**

In connection with subscriptions for the New Reading Room, we are asked to

announce that the Abbotsham Amateur Negro Comedians propose to give an Entertainment in the Schoolroom on Wednesday May 7th. The performance will be of a varied character, and will conclude with the amusing little comedietta “The Dentist’s Den”. The proceeds after paying expenses will be given to the fund. Doors will be open at 7.30, with entertainment to commence at 8pm.

**(June 1890)**

Whitsun 1890 will long be remembered in this parish. The morning was lovely, and as the ringers met to usher in the day with a welcoming peal, few had any suspicion of what was in store for them. The early service and the 11 o’clock were each well attended, and it seemed as though the “Birthday” of the Church was going to be held in due honour. But soon after luncheon the oppressive heat seemed to betoken something unusual, and just before afternoon service one of the heaviest thunderstorms which has ever visited these parts, broke over the parish. Loud peals of thunder, accompanied with very vivid lightening seemed to come as a fitting illustration of “the sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind” which was heard on the Day of Pentecost. The Church was so dark that it was almost impossible to read, and the torrents of rain scared away all but a very faithful few. Never have we seen such a miserable Whitsun Evening service. We hope we may never see such another. The hail and rain came down in such drenching torrents, that the very roads were washed bare, and in some places, mangolds and such like crops, were actually washed out of the ground. Fortunately no serious damage was done to any person or building, as was the case in several parishes in the neighbourhood.

**(July 1890).**

We hope that the Band of Hope Festival, which had to be postponed owing to

the Epidemic of Influenza, may be held next month. Meanwhile may we sound a note of warning to all members of our Temperance Society, to be on their guard during the special temptations of hay harvest, that they do not in a

moment of weakness break their pledges.

**(August 1890)**

Visitors to the Cottage Garden Show will probably see the School Room as it

is for the last time. The accommodation has for some time past been quite

insufficient, and the ventilation very defective, and it has been determined to turn the whole block of buildings, including the teacher’s house and the cottage below, into one large room, which will make a capital schoolroom with ample accommodation, and much improved light and ventilation. The work of alteration will begin immediately after the breakup of the school for the summer holidays, which will probably be at the end of next week.

**(September 1890).**

On Sunday August 17th the scholars and teachers of the Sunday School

assembled in church in the afternoon for a Special service, conducted by the Rev. Philip Braíthwaite, late Vicar of this parish. After a short service the children were catechised on the Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican. The children answered the questions put to them very eagerly, and showed by their attention and reverence, that they were trying to enter into the meaning of the service. After church the whole of the congregation, at the invitation of the Vicar, went over to the Vicarage garden, and after a short stroll round, to see the flowers, they gathered in front of the house for the distribution of the prizes. The chief prize for the greatest number of marks was taken by Annie Churchill (Girls) and C. Clover (Boys). A prize for Reverent behaviour at prayers in School and in Church given by Miss Vidal was taken by Edward Bale, and one given by Mrs W. Vidal for well learnt

lessons by Louisa Thompson.

**(October 1890).**

The past month has, in a certain sense, been uneventful. Everyone has been busy either harvesting or holiday making. The latter applies more particularly to the children, who have had an unusually long holiday, owing to the alterations in the school. These have now been completed, the school

will open on Monday October 5th, when the new Master and Mistress, Mr and

Mrs Gilbert, will take charge of the School.

**(December 1890).**

A Meeting of the ratepayers was held on Thursday November 27th in the Schoolroom to consider the question of the Tealta Poor Lands, and was

largely attended. There were present the Vicar (Chairman), Messrs T. Adams, T. Best, J. Bale, S.C. Bettye, J. Brown, J. Cory, J. Dannell, S. Davey,

G. Ellis, G. Heywood, J. Hysett, J. Moase, G. Phillpott, J. Tallin, W. Turner Sen, W. Turner Jun, and C.C. Turner. The Chairman stated that he had

received a statement of accounts from Messrs Hole and Peard stating that

the proceeds of the sale of the land, after deduction of expenses, amounted

to £364.14.3d, which sum was now on deposit on the Nat. Prov. Bank at Bideford. This money would be invested by the official Trustee of the Charity Commissioners, and the income would be paid yearly for the benefit of the poor. It was stated, unofficially, that the probable result of the Sale of the land would be that a sum of about £10 would be available yearly for the distribution instead of £6 as before.

**CRICKET.**

BIDEFORD v REV. R.W.S. VIDAL’S Xl.

This match was played at Kenwith on Wednesday last, and resulted in a

victory for Bideford on the first innings by 20 runs.

REV. R.W.S. Vidal’s XI

C. Molesworth 1

R.W. Sealy Vidai 3

J.H. Bellington 1

P.R.R. Braithwaite 3

R.N. Bray 1

E.B. Mackenzie 0

C.B. Mackenzie 2

E. Biggs 9

B. Molesworth 0

G. Molesworth 3

E. Woodcock, not out 1

Extras 6

Total 30

Rev. Vidal took 3 wickets.

C. Molesworth 3 wickets.

Rev. Braithwaite 2 wickets.

(August 12th 1890 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM CHURCH AND CHAPEL.**

Abbotsham Church was prettily decorated on Sunday in honour of the Harvest Festival. The services commenced with an early celebration of Holy Communion at 8 o’ clock, followed at 11 by Matins. There was a Childrens Service in the afternoon, and in the evening a bright service at which the Rev. G.S.S. Vidai was the special preacher. The thanksgiving will be continued tomorrow (Wednesday) with a public tea, followed in the evening with a musical entertainment. The Festival at Abbotsham Baptist Chapel was observed last Thursday. There was a tea in the afternoon, and a meeting in the evening.

(September 30th 1890 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Special importance was given to the Abbotsham Harvest Festival last Wednesday by the re-opening of the Parish Schoolroom that day. General holiday was kept by the parishioners who enjoyed the extensive programme of sports organised by Mr Charles Turner, Colonel Nind and Mr Churchill Turner. The Harvest Home tea was a great success with 8 long tables. Then the proportion and nature of the alterations became apparent. Formerly the building was two storeys high and had a cottage adjoining. The whole of this has been thrown into one great room quite 40 feet long by 25 feet wide. At one end a permanent platform has been erected and there is comfortable sitting capacity remaining for 200 to 250 persons. The room was crowded on Wednesday evening, and the handsome lamps, a present from Miss Vidal, were lit, but no unpleasant heat was felt, owing probably to the great height of the roof. The Rector and parishioners have every reason to be proud of their new possession, the cost of which has been defrayed by

voluntary subscription.

The entertainment was of a superior character. Glees were sung by the Abbotsham choir. The Concert ended at 9 o’ clock, and after a short interval, the fiddler, who, by the way, played a oncertina, struck up a polka and sent several couples pirouetting round the room. Quadrille followed polka, then came valse, galop, schottische, and polka again, until shortly after 10 o’ clock, when the National Anthem was sung, and the company separated. This Harvest Home will not quickly be forgotten.

(October 7th 1890 BG).

**BAPTIST CHAPEL ABBOTSHAM.**

The annual Good Friday Tea and Meeting were held here. The weather was somewhat against successful numbers, nevertheless some 250 sat down to tea.

(March 31st 1891 BG).

**DEATH.**

On May 6th at Plymouth - Cecilia Craig Woodcock, youngest daughter of the

late Leonard Woodcock of Abbotsham.

(May 19th 1891 BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On June 3rd at the Parish Church, Abbotsham by the Rev. R.W.S. Vidal

(brother in law of the bride), assisted by Rev. T.C.N. Molesworth - Charles

John Didham, son of Captain Didham R.N. of Bideford - to May, daughter of

Maj. Gen. Molesworth of Kenwith Castle.

(June 9th 1891 BG).

**BIRTH.**

On June 13th at Abbotsham, the wife of P.C. William Webber, of a daughter.

(June 23rd 1891 BG).

**DEATH OF MR JAMES TAYLOR.**

We regret to record the death of Mr James Taylor, formerly of Abbotsham Court, died yesterday, at Slade, Bideford. He was 75 years of age, and was

a well known railway contractor, - the extension of the L. and S.W.R. from

Bideford to Torrington being an undertaking of his. In these works he was assisted by his son Mr George J. Taylor

(July 14th 1891 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM PARISH MAGAZINE.1891 (Extracts)**

We are able to record with thankfulness that the services of Xmas Day were

more fully attended than usually, in spite of the severity of the weather and the slipperiness of the roads which prevented some of our most regular worshippers from coming. The Church was, as usual, decorated on Christmas Eve, and so many willing hands were engaged that the work was fairly completed before one o’ clock, thus leaving sufficient time for the Church to be thoroughly scrubbed, and got ready for the festival. Early on

Christmas morning those inclined to lie in bed were roused by the pealing of the bells, which broke out on their hymn of praise before daylight dawned. At 8 o’ clock the first Celebration of the Holy Communion took place at which 29 communicated, a larger number than at any previous Christmas. At 11 o’clock a good congregation assembled, and a hearty service was held, the congregation joining with the choir to render the good old Christmas hymns as heartily as possible. The anthem which was nicely sung was Stainer’s “O Zion that bringest good tidings”. At this service 32 communicated. An afternoon service was held at 4 o’ clock.

**(January 1891).**

An entertainment by the “Abbotsham Minstrels” was given on Wednesday last, and was well attended and much appreciated. The programme embraced a very excellent negro entertainment of the genuine negro type, a stump speech on American politics, and a very amusing little comedy entitled, “Mrs Stubbins Cat” which was admirably acted, and elicited loud and long applause. The performers were Messrs Best, Blackmore, Braund, Cole, AIf Glover, C.Glover, Ridge and Woodcock.

**(February 1891).**

June the third was a festival day in the parish, the occasion being the

marriage of Mr Charles Didham to Miss May Molesworth. The wedding which took place at 2pm was a very pretty one, and was largely attended. The bride, attended by her one bridesmaid Miss Avice Vidal, who was supported by her brother Master Edward Vidal, was met by the Choir at the door of the church, and escorted by them, singing a processional hymn to the chancel steps. There the service commenced by the reading of the prefatory address by the Rev. Charles Molesworth, after which the service was conducted by the Vicar. Mrs Charles Didham has for many years taught a class in the Sunday School.

**(July 1891).**

On the reopening of the Sunday School after the holidays, the New Education

Act will be taken advantage of, which abolishes the payment of school pence

for children under the age of fourteen. The managers hope that, as a result

of this Free Education, the parents will be more careful than ever to see that their children come regularly and punctually to school. And as there may be many parents who may wish to put by for their children’s benefit, the money, which up to now they have had to pay for their schooling, the Vicar proposes to re-open the Penny Bank, and he will be glad to receive money every Monday morning at the opening of the School.

**(September 1891).**

On Wednesday 30th September the usual festivities in connection with our

Harvest Home were held in one of the fields of the Glebe. At 3 o’ clock Athletic Sports were commenced, and continued without intermission until dark. The chief features of interest were the Greasy Pole, the Tug of War

and the Steeple Chase. In the last event, after leading the field for the

greater part of the distance, S. Slee was, just before the finish, passed by E. Woodcock and H. Barrett, who finished in that order. For the Greasy Pole it was feared at first there would be only one competitor, but finally three gallant volunteers were found, and these, supported by friends below and forming a sort of ladder, by standing or sitting on one another’s heads, eventually secured the leg of mutton, which at one time threatened to hang till it became too high not only to reach but to eat. The dividers of the prize were Mayne, Lee and Violet. In the Tug of War a team captained by E. Woodcock defeated one led by the Vicar. There was a public tea at 4.30 which was crowded, and at 7.30 a Concert was held in the Schoolroom.

**(October 1891).**

Last year we gave a short statement of the Blanket Charity left by the late Mrs Buck. The fund which was originally £25 has been reduced year by year by the purchase of new blankets, stands at present at £10. 3s. 9d. The rules of the Club are as follows:

1. The blankets are the property of the Vicar of Abbotsham for the time

being.

2. They will be lent from 1st November to 1st of May.

3. The blankets must be returned, washed and in good order. Any person

breaking this rule will not have a blanket lent in the next Winter.

4. After being lent to the same person for three successive winters, a blanket will become the property of that person.

5. All applications for blankets must be made at least a week before

November 1st.

**(November 1891).**

A Missionary Meeting will be held in the Schoolroom on Wednesday November 4th at 7.30. The meeting will be addressed by the Rev. C.R. Tollemache from India and Burmah, and by the Rev. R. Granville.

**(November 1891).**

Last year so many of the subscriptions to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts were sent in so late that the contribution from Abbotsham parish does not appear in the S.P.G. report for the year. This is, of course, disappointing, and several letters have been written enquiring as to the cause of our apparent failure to help forward the work of the Missions. The Vicar hopes that all subscribers (and new ones are needed as well as old), will see their way to send him their annual subscriptions some time during the present month.

**(November 1891).**

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Abbotsham Church choir and ringers, had their annual outing on Thursday last. About thirty two in number left from the Oak Tree at 7am. The Vicar, Rev. R.W. Sealy Vidal, Mrs Vidal and friends followed by train. The company thoroughly enjoyed the drive to Woolacombe Bay. Luncheon was laid in the open air. After grace, the party broke up again, some going to the pretty little church at Morthoe. There the ringers gave a merry peal on the bells. Home was safely reached at 10.45pm, a most enjoyable day having been spent.

(August 4th 1891 BG).

**BIRTHS.**

On August 30th at Abbotsham, the wife of Mr James, of a daughter.

(September 8th 1891 BC).

**POPULATION OF BIDEFORD UNION DISTRICT.**

The following particulars of the relative populations of the parishes within the Bideford Union district will be read with interest:

1881 1891

Abbotsham 469 528

(October 13th 1891 BG).

**BIRTHS.**

On Christmas Eve at Combe Cottage, Abbotsham, the wife of Mr W.

Thornton, of a son.

(January 5th 1892 BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On April 21st at the Parish Church, Abbotsham by the Rev. R.W. Sealy Vidal

- William, the only son of Mr P. Warmington of Bucks Barton, Bideford, to

Mary Cottle (Minnie) eldest daughter of Mr G. Heywood of Lake, Abbotsham.

(May 3rd 1892 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Abbotsham Harvest Festival was held on Sunday when special sermons were preached in the Church. On Monday the Athletic Sports were held under the supervision of a committee composed of the Rev. R.W. Sealy, Colonel Nind (starter), Messrs C. Turner, W. Turner and W.H. Thornton (judges), and H.E. Molesworth (hon. treasurer). The sports consisted of flat races, high jump, throwing the hammer, broad jump, open steeplechase, sack race, donkey race, three legged race and obstacle race, for money prizes, and wound up with a tug of war between ten married men and ten single men.

The Bideford Town Band enlivened the proceedings. A public meeting was held in the schoolroom, and in the evening a concert and negro entertainment.

Special Thanksgiving Services were held in the Baptist Chapel. On Monday afternoon an enjoyable tea was provided.

(September 13th 1892 BG).

**SAD DEATH AT ABBOTSHAM**

Last week an old man of 75 years named James G lover met with an accident

which resulted ¡n his death. He was partially paralysed on one side, was a

fish hawker and well known in the Bideford area, and was living with a

married daughter at Abbotsham. He had been left on his own, and had fallen in the fire, and had been unable to extricate himself. It is thought that

he went to the fire to light his pipe, which was found close by to be full, and died soon afterwards.

(December 13th 1892 BC).

**ABBOTSHAM**

Church of England Temperance Society. - An entertainment was given by the members of the Band of Hope and their friends in the Schoolroom on the 7th inst. Songs, recitations and dialogues were very ably rendered.

(December 13th 1892 BG).

**THE OLD OAK AND THE NEW**

The old oak situated just outside Abbotsham Church is showing signs of age and decay. It is probably hundreds of years old, is very hollow and failing in vitality. In order that the village green may not be without its traditional oak tree, Mr William Turner has kindly provided a young and lusty sapling to be planted only a few paces away from the old tree. The ceremony was performed on Thursday last - the same day that witnessed the meet of the hounds. All the village children assisted ¡n the proceedings, which was marked with much rejoicing.

**(March 7th 1893 BC).**

**WITH THE STEVENSTONE HOUNDS**

Thursday was a veritable “red letter” day for Abbotsham, for, though nominally right in the local hunting country, it is a great number of years since the hounds met there. They did so on Thursday, and “all the world and his wife” were there to see. The assembly included something like half a

hundred carriages, scores of horsemen and hundreds on “Shanks” pony.

Turners Wood, near Kenwith was first drawn, and proved blank, as did also

Winsford, Moreton, and both sides of Upcott Wood. Under Little Ashbridge

Wood music was heard, and a run was expected, but suddenly the hounds chopped a fox, which, to the chagrin of the sportsmen, was found to be fast

caught in a ‘gin’. Just under Buckland Wood one of the hounds was trapped in a gin, but was freed without injury.

(March 7th 1893 BG).

**DEATH.**

On March 10th at Riccards Down Abbotsham, Elizabeth Grant aged 69 years.

(March 14th 1893 8G).

**BIRTH.**

On March 16th at Cornborough Lodge, Abbotsham, the wife of John Bale, of

a daughter.

(March 21st 1893 BG).

**MARRIAGE**.

On July 6th at the Parish Church, Abbotsham, by the Rev. R.W. Sealy, Vicar,

- J. Daniel R.M.L.I. to Miss S.J. Hurford, both of Abbotsham.

(July 11th 1893 BG).

ABBOTSHAM.

The marriage of the Duke and Duchess of York was the occasion of much festivity in Abbotsham, and thanks to the great kindness of Mrs Vidal who

threw open the grounds of Cornborough, a most enjoyable afternoon was spent by the whole parish. The school children marched from the village with music, songs and flags, and after they had been regaled with a sumptuous tea of cutrounds and cakes, their elders sat down in a large marquee erected on the lawn to a dinner of cold meat, salad etc. Then followed games, handbell ringing and dancing, which were kept up with much spirit until after sunset. The entertainment was brought to a close by a brilliant display of fireworks and an enormous bonfire. In connection with the arrangements for provision, Mr G. Taylor gave a sheep, and the residents subscribed liberally.

(July 11th 1893 BC).

**MARRIAGE.**

On the 19th inst at Hagworthingham, Lincs.- Capt. William Sealy Vidai, Royal Engineers, the fifth surviving son of the late Edward Urch Vidai Esq of Cornborough - to Jane Rebekah, fourth daughter of Clement Conington Esq  
of Hagworthingham.

(October 24th 1893 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Mrs Brown wife of Mr James Brown of Puse Hill, Abbotsham died on Tuesday

last from inflammation of the lung. She was 50 years old. The funeral took

place on Saturday at Abbotsham churchyard, the Rev. R.W. Sealy officiating.

On Sunday morning a memorial service was held in the Northam Wesleyan

Chapel to the members of which Mrs Brown was known.

(February 13th 1894 BC).

**DEATH.**

On March 17th at Cornborough Lodge, Abbotsham, Emma Harriet Jesse, only

daughter of John and Emma Bale, aged 1 year and I day.

(March 20th 1894 BG).

**DEATH.**

On June 4th at Pusehill, Abbotsham, William Arthur, son of James Brown,

aged 13.

(June 5th 1894 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM PARISH MAGAZINE. 1894 (Extracts)**

We have seldom had to chronicle a less eventful month than the last month

of 1893. Ail Parochial activity has, so to speak, been paralysed by the

prevailing sickness. Our Day School has been shut, our Sunday School also shut, a large number of the choir have been hors-de-combat, and at times our congregation have shrunk to very small dimensions. Anything like meetings have been impossible, nor have the usual Christmas festivities been held, as everyone hoped. It is well to look at the other side of the

picture, however, and to remember that with all the sickness, which hasvisited us, God has been pleased so far to visit us lightly, and we have no deaths to record. And so we may, with much gratitude, thank Him still for His many mercies, and with sure confidence wish one another a Very Happy New Year.

In consequence of New Years Eve falling on a Sunday and the above mentioned sickness, the annual Choir and Ringers supper was this year omitted, though it is hoped that it may be held later on. A muffled peal was rung both before and after Evening Service, and at 11.15 the ringers met, and rang a farewell peal to the old year. A few minutes before midnight the muffles were cut off, a short prayer of thankfulness for past mercies, and for grace for time to come was offered by the Vicar; then midnight sounded out, on the Tenor Bell, and once more a crash of music proclaimed that another rung of the ladder of life had been reached in safety.

**(January 1894).**

This month opens in some ways a little more hopefully. The fever seems to

have spent itself, at any rate for the present, and at last we are able once more to open our Schools. So long has the Day School been closed that

H.M. Inspector, Mr Codd, has been unable to hold his annual inspection, and

the Government Grant will be given on the basis of last year’s Examination.

This is a little disappointing as we had hoped this year to do really well at our Inspection. The Drawing Examination has also to be put off, and for this, again, we are to receive our grant on last year’s basis.

Though the sickness rife amongst us has been severe, it has not been of fatal character. But two familiar names will be found amongst those who have been taken from us. Old Mr Otho Cook and his servant F. Farleigh died

within a few hours of one another, after a brief illness. Mr Cook was over

ninety and had naturally lived a very quiet and retired life of late years. But he was always ready to shew his interest in anything going on ¡n the Parish,and most liberal in subscribing to any deserving object.

BURIALS William Carlyle Bassett, aged 78 years.

Otho Cooke, aged 92 years.  
**(February 1894).**

Owing to our being late in going to the press, we were able in last month’s

Magazine to notify very shortly the fact of the death of Mrs James Brown of

Pusehill. Very seldom have we had to chronicle an event which has caused

more widespread sympathy. Mrs Brown was an Abbotsham woman, born and bred, and had, we believe, lived the whole of her life at Lake and Pusehill. A very few of the inhabitants of Abbotsham were better known or more respected. We ourselves can remember her when quite a girl, and can recall the kindness and good nature with which she would receive our boyish visits, when we rode home her father’s horses from the plough, at one time our daily delight. After her marriage, the united cares of a large family

and a large farm made heavy demands upon her strength and her time. But

no one ever asked in vain for her help, where it was possible to give it. In all great Parish Festivals, whether a Bazaar for the Bells, or a Jubilee Dinner or a Harvest Home tea, we were always sure of her most willing cooperation.

Nor was she ever unmindful of her poorer neighbours. Surely we may believe that in her case, as well as in that of others better known to the world,

“Her prayers and alms have gone up for a memorial before God”. She was laid to rest near other members of her family on February 10th, and the church was filled with an immense number Of sorrowing friends who came from all parts of the neighbourhood to show their affection for her, and their sympathy with those she has left to mourn.

The School has reopened after a long period of enforced illness, and the number of children in attendance is rapidly increasing, though there is still a good deal of sickness about, in the shape of colds and coughs, and other minor ailments. Last Sunday for the first time for some months, the Church also seemed to have assumed its proper look. The seats so long deserted in obedience of doctor’s orders, were once more occupied by their usual tenants, and Vicar, choir, and congregation rejoiced once more in being able to meet together in deep thankfulness. When we compare the last outbreak of scarlet fever with previous visitations, and can record more than thirty cases, with no fatal results, whereas in former years, as many as 3 and 4 have died in a single family, we may well thank God for His great mercy in thus sparing us.

BAPTISM February 7th Geraldine May, daughter of Frederick and Harriet Barnacott

BURIALS

February 10th Ann Brown, aged 52 years.

February 12th Beatrice Frances Scott, aged 16 years.

**(March 1894).**

BURIALS

March 15th Frederick John Braunton, aged 11 months.

March 18th Rosamund Slee, aged 6 months.

March 20th Emma Harriet Jessie Bale, aged 1 year

March 22nd Medora Eleanor Yeo, aged 2 years

The month which has just passed will long be sadly remembered by very many of this Parish for it has seen the unwonted sight of the funerals of four

quite little children. It would seem as if the scourge of Influenza, which has hitherto spared the little ones, has now attacked them, and in three of the four cases the illness was of a very short duration> the attack being so violent that the poor little children had no chance of fighting against it. Never can we remember such a week of mourning, never was the deeper meaning of Easter as the Day of Resurrection brought more closely home, and we may fairly say that the heart of the whole village has gone out in true sympathy with the bereaved parents.

On Easter Tuesday a very interesting lecture on behalf of the British and Foreign Bible Society, was given by the Rev. R. Perkins, District Secretary. “Pompeii the City of the Dead” and “Italy and the Bible” were illustrated by some very beautiful Magic Lantern slides. In spite of many counterattractions the attendance was a fairly good one and a collection of lOs 9d was handed over to the Hon. Sec. at the close of the meeting.

**(April 1894)**

BAPTISM

April 1st. Hamilton James Shelton, son of John and Marianne Cole.

Mr William Blackmore’s Concert in aid of the Choir outing took place, as announced, on April 26th, and was a great success. Mrs Stobart kindly came with her band of Appledore girls who played the “Toy Symphony” with much spirit and greatly delighted the audience. Several of the Ladies Band also came over and played various selections, and Miss Hopkins and Miss Tatem each gained an encore for their songs. The Choir contributed a glee “Since first I saw your Face”, and Messrs Bazeley and Fowler also sang, the latter contributing a comic element. A large audience was present, but it was a little disappointing to find that, comparatively speaking, few of the parishioners came to support the concert.

We are glad to be able to report that the young oak tree is budding famously, and there is now every prospect of its settling down to grow steadily on, so that the great grandchildren of this present generation may have an oak tree to play round, when we, and our old oak have passed away into forgetfulness.

**(May 1894).**

BURIALS  
May 21st. Charles Ley. aged 14.

The Confirmation at which the Candidates from this Parish will be presented

will take place at Littleham Church on Thursday, June 7th.

The Church is at present being thoroughly cleaned and coloured. And the

opportunity has been taken to open out the two windows, which were discovered in the Chancel Arch when the roughcast was taken off the tower

some few years ago. They are very interesting old windows, and their history goes far back into the middle ages. Two of the most celebrated

Architects of the day have both expressed their opinion recently, that these windows ought to be re-opened, and we think that the result will be very satisfactory.

Miss Vidal have kindly promised a prize for Needlework in the school, a number of their best made articles were submitted for judgement, and the

result has been that Annie James and Emily Slee received the prize for their excellent work. At the same time Miss Vidal gave prizes for the most regular attendance, and these were gained of the Girls by Bessie Slee, of the Boys by Charles and Alfred Tallin, both of whom had attended every time the school was open.

The visit of the Diocesan Inspector to examine the School in Religious

Knowledge is expected this month. it may be interesting to know that when Sir Cameron Gull came on a political visit some time since, he declared our

school room to be one of the brightest and neatest that he had seen in North Devon

**(June 1894)**

MARRIAGE

June 16th. Frederick James Warren and Martha Braunton.

BURIALS

June 7th. John Turner aged 78 years.

June 7th William Arthur Brown aged 13 years.

Since our last issue we have had to mourn the loss of a prominent and much

beloved parishioner, our late Churchwarden, Mr John Turner of Coombe. For several years a great invalid, he yet possessed such a strong vitality, and

was in the intervals of his asthmatical attacks, so bright and vigorous that somehow or another we have fancied that he would be spared for many years. But at the end the summons came somewhat suddenly, and he passed away quite peacefully, almost before it was realised that he was really

anything the worse. Mr Turner was one who, throughout his long life, loved

and did his best to uphold the honour of his own parish. Abbotsham had been his home for so many long years, that his one great delight was to promote in every way its happiness and welfare. He was a steady supporter of the Church, and before his illness there was no more constant and devoted

attendant, and no good object connected with the Church ever wanted his

cordial help and assistance. Never was he happier than with a little child

on lap or riding on his horse, and he would talk for hours about the little ones and their ways. The writer, known to him from childhood, associated with him in almost every public work connected with this parish for the last 14 years, it is a happy memory to be able to preserve, of these years undimmed by anything like mis-understanding, and made bright by constant evidence of confidence and esteem on his side, and of affection and respect for him on ours.

We have also to chronicle another death, which has brought heavy grief into

a home already sorely visited. It is only a short time ago that we had to

speak of the sudden death of Mrs Brown of Pusehill. Now one her children has been taken almost as suddenly. Little Arthur Brown, till a year ago, oneof our brightest and most regular scholars was seized with some attack on the brain, the result, it is supposed, of a blow received some time before, and after a few days unconsciousness he died. He was a bright happy little boy, a great favourite, and his death we feel sure, a very heavy blow to all hisfamily, who we offer our deepest sympathy.

The Vicar has nominated Col. Nind to be his Churchwarden in the place of Mr

John Turner. The latter has held it since the death of Mr E.U. Vidal.

The Cottage Garden Show which will be held this month is rapidly approaching its Jubilee. Founded in 1845, this years show will be actually

the 50th, but following the analogy of the Queen’s Jubilee, we propose to

defer the celebration of our Jubilee till 1895, when, if all be well, we hope to hold one on such a scale as has never been known in Abbotsham.

The Choir Festival was held on June 20th at Bideford, and was attended by

our Choir. The service went very well and the music exceedingly pretty, and a large congregation much enjoyed the service, and the most excellent sermon preached by one, who, if not actually an Abbotsham man, is at least next door to it, the Rev. Richard Turner.

**(July 1894).**

BAPTISMS

July 15th Stanley James, son of James and Louise Jane Daniel.

July 15th Frank Daniel, son of Frederick George and Harriet Copp.

July 22nd Florence Daisy, daughter of Edward and Elizabeth A. Woodcock.

On Thursday July 26th the annual outing of the choir and ringers took place. The place selected to be visited being Hartland, there was no need for a very early start, and the party assembled at the oak at a quarter to 10. We had a very comfortable drive to Hartland Quay. We expected to find everything ready for dinner, but to our dismay there was no crockery or cutlery to be had at the Hotel. But by courageous foraging we managed to unearth sufficient plates and knives and forks to admit of dinner being got successfully through in two detachments. After dinner most of the party adjourned to a field close by where the Cottage Garden Show was being held and various sports. At the cocoanut shies such well directed shots showered upon them, particularly from the ladies of the party, that new baskets had to be brought to carry off the spoil. Tea was held in a tent on the field, and soon after the Ringers went off to ring a peal on the Church bells. As there was nothing more to be done, “Home” was the word, and about

10 o’clock saw the whole party safely back, having enjoyed themselves most thoroughly from start to finish.

At a meeting of the School Managers it was decided to give prizes for regular attendance in each Standard. The prizes for 1893 will be given to:

Standard v. F. Pickard 363. E. Thompson 352.

Standard iv. Jos. Bale 384. E. Champion 375.

Standard iii. Charles Tallin 387. Charles Slee 375.

Standard ii. AIf Tallin 387. A. Best 373.

Standard i. P. Cole 383. B. Slee 383.

Infants. T. Slee 385. B. Glover 378.

**(August 1894).**

BURIAL

August 22nd William Fulford aged 80 years.

On Thursday August 15th all the girls whose names are on the Sunday School Register had a picnic down on the beach under Cornborough Cliffs. A merry party assembled about three. Tea was under the supervision of Mrs Sealy, Mrs Nind, Miss Vidali, Miss Miles and Mrs Nutt. After, various games were indulged in, and a pleasant afternoon was only brought to an end by inexorable time.

**(September 1894).**

BAPTISM

September 2nd. Rachael Maria, daughter of Thomas and Maria Braund.

The Harvest Festival services were held on Sunday September 9th, an earlier

date than in many years, owing to the harvest having been a quick one. The Church has never before been so crowded, many having to go away in the evening, unable to find any sitting room at all, but the number of communicants, though up to the average at the early service, can scarcely be considered satisfactory at mid-day. In the morning the Vicar preached, inthe evening the Rev. Studley Vidal, the latter emphasising the need in these days, when the old ways are rapidly being lost, of cultivating to the utmost the feeling of mutual respect and friendliness between employer and employed. The collections were for the North Devon Infirmary and Bideford Dispensary, and amounted to £8. 2s 6d.

On Wednesday the Festival was continued, and again the weather was propitious. The usual Sports were held in the Vicarage Fields, and the

proceedings were enlivened by the Hungarian Band who played during the

afternoon. Two new features were introduced, the first being a Veterans

Race for men over 50 which after a gallant struggle was secured by John

Pennington. The second was a Quoit match between picked teams of Married and Single. While all this was going on, a very busy time was being experienced by the ladies who had kindly volunteered to pour out tea in the

schoolroom. The room was then cleared in time for the Concert at 7 o’clock. Miss Prior had kindly undertaken to bring over her children’s Orchestra. The Vicar’s two children made their debut on this occasion, little Miss Sealy playing a duet with Miss Prior with such gravity and precision, while her brother’s playing of a Serenata for the violin was well received. After the concert the room was cleared and dancing began, and was kept up merrily until the Vicar sounded “Lights Out” about 10.30.

On Friday September 21st at Parkham Harvest Festival a Bellringing

competition was held and our ringers entered. Ringing was not quite so

good and they took third place. The team was the same as last :- R. Yeo

(tenor), 5; Glover 4; J. Dannell 3; E. Woodcock 2; C. Pickard and R.W. Sealy(treble).

A Woodcarving Class will be held on alternate Tuesdays commencing on Tuesday October 9th at 7pm. The class will be taught by Mr Gillett. Any

who wish to join are requested to send their names to Mr C. Pickard Junr. and it is hoped that a good class may be formed and that no unfortunate mishap may lead to its discontinuance as was the case last year when both the Night School and Carving Class had to be abandoned owing to the Scarlet Fever.

**(October 1894).**

BAPTISMS.

October 17th. Sylvia Maud daughter of William Ernest and Alice Maud Dunsford.

October 21st. Charles Henry, son of Archibald Groves and Bessie Branton.

October 28th. Cecil, son of Reuben and Mary Ann Dark.

BURIAL.

October 9th William Hearn aged 18 months.

Subjoined is the Account of the Harvest Festival Receipts and Expenditure

for the year:

RECEIVED. £ s d

Subscriptions 5 19 6

Taken at Tea 4 1 3

Taken at Concert 1 8 6

Taken at Aunt Sally 0 1 3

11 10 6

EXPENSES

Prizes at Sports 2 15 6

Band 2 10 0

Expenses at Tea 4 15 10

Labourer etc. 0 5 0

10 6 2  
In Hand £1 4 4

**(November 1894)**

Before these lines are in print the first Parish Meeting for Abbotsham will have been held and another great step taken in the onward progress of country life. Parish Councils may be said to be the practical expression of

the feeling that men in the country parishes are really men now, able and

willing to take a more direct part in the management of the affairs of their own villages. A great deal of nonsense has been talked about the matter. Men, who have their own ends to serve, have gone up and down the breadth of the land declaring to the labourer that he must rejoice at being at last freed from the tyranny of the Squire and the Parson. But the labourer is not quite so foolish as some of his pretended friends think. And he knows quite well that, if there is any tyranny at all, which one may very much doubt, at least the tyrants are not the Squire and the Parson. It sounds very well on a political platform, but it isn’t true, and the labourer knows it, as well as, or better than anyone else. The plain English of it is, that up to quite recent years the labourers have not been able to manage the village affairs, simply because the great majority of them have had to go to work so early in life, that they may never have learned to read or write. And so the management of all the business matters naturally fell into the hands of those who were best able to do it.

And, if the honest truth were told, we believe that it may be said without fear of contradiction that, taken as a general rule, the Squires and the Clergy have been the best, and sometimes the only friends whom the poor have had, But now things have changed. Education has spread, all men rich and poor alike are able to read and write, and feel in themselves the power and the wish to manage their own business instead of having it done for them. And no one, who thinks at all, can wonder at it or blame them for it. From this time forward all parishioners will have a voice in their own village matters. They will be able to put forward their needs and grievances, and to try and get them put right. If they want to push themselves up, and get on a little, they will be able to try the experiment, without feeling that difficulties are being put in their way. For my own part I welcome the Parish Council not as a thing, which is going to work miracles, or make everyone rich or everyone happy, but as the natural result of the spread of Education and knowledge. I do know even that the work will be done better in the future than it has been in the past. There will be good men and bad men as long as the world lasts. But at least men will be able to say now, “I wanted to have a voice in managing my own affairs and I have got it”. Personally I feel rather like what we must fancy Samuel felt, when the people came to him and said they wanted a King. The change must come and has come. It is difficult to say one does regret it. Because after so many years amongst you all, as boy and man, any change seems at first a little uncomfortable. But I have no misgivings about it. I cannot claim to be such a man as Samuel was. But I am not afraid to say that during the fourteen years that God has allowed me to be Vicar of this Parish, I have tried to do my duty as Chairman of the Vestry as best I could. And as a member of the Parish Council, if I am elected upon it, I hope I shall not forfeit the respect or affection which I believe you have had for me in the past.

R. W. Sealy.

Rumours are flying about, especially among the children, that sometime about Christmas week a Christmas tree will be exhibited in the Schoolroom.

We hope the rumours may be true.

The Drawing Examination will be held on Friday 7th at 10.15am.

**(December 1894).**

**BIRTH.**

On June 14th at the Heart of Oak, Abbotsham, the wife of Edward Woodcock

of a daughter.

(June 19th 1894 BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A Parish Council meeting was held in Abbotsham on Saturday night, the Rev.

R.W. Sealy, Vicar, presiding, to hear the Parish Council Act explained by Mr Lawman of Torrington. Afterwards a representative committee of nine was

appointed to ascertain the wish of the parish on the Council question, and

arrange for the election of councillors at the Parish Meeting by a show of

hands if possible. Mr Lawman is in great demand just now, he being a specialist on this new and most perplexing Act.

(November 20th 1894 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

For the eight seats on the Parish Council, the following were nominated - J. Bale, A.H. Boyd, J. Brown, G. Cork, G. Heywood, J. Heysett, A.G. Hunt, Wm. Littlejohns, James Moase, John Pennington, Charles Henry Pickard Jnr, Rev. R.W. Sealy, J.C. Taylor, C.T. Turner, W.H. Turner, Colonel Winterscale and E. Woodcock.

(December 11th 1894 BG).

**GOOD FRIDAY AT THE BAPTIST CHAPEL.**

The weather being remarkably fine, the friends at Abbotsham had a very

successful gathering. Abbotsham Good Friday Teas have always been noted for being well attended, and last Good Friday proved no exception. From four till seven o’ clock the ladies were presiding over the tea tables, and

considerably over £9 was realised by the tea. A public meeting followed,

the Chapel being well filled. The Pastor, Rev. F. Durbin was in the chair,

and earnest addresses were given by Mr G. Ellis and Mr W.T. Goaman, and these were interspersed with solos and readings.

(April 16th 1895 BG).

**BIRTH.**

On the 21st inst at Abbotsham the wife of R.H. Yeo of a daughter.

(May 28th 1895 BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Yesterday morning at Abbotsham Churchyard the funeral of the late Mr

Thomas Henry Glover of Abbotsham Post Office was conducted by the Rev.

Frank Durbin, the Baptist Minister of Bideford. Mr Glover has been a

deacon of the Baptist Church at Abbotsham for many years, and it was the

wish of his relatives that Mr Durbin, as his pastor, should conduct the funeral. A short service was held in the Chapel, and concluded at the graveside. The Rev. R.W. Sealy, the Vicar, who readily gave every facility for the internment was present in the churchyard. The Vicar’s conduct was much appreciated, and compared very favourably with that of certain clergymen in other parts of the country on some recent occasions.

(June 11th 1895 BG).

**DEATH.**

On June 7th at the Post Office, Abbotsham - Thomas Henry Glover aged 66

years.

(June 11th 1895 BG).

**DEATH.**

On the 4th inst at Cornborough, Abbotsham - Alethea Eleanor Sealy, infant

child of Capt. W.S. Vidal, Royal Engineers, aged 6 months.

(July 9th 1895 BC).

**BIRTH.**

On July 21 st at Sea View, Abbotsham, the wife of H. Courtice of a daughter.

(July 23rd 1895 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM COTTAGE GARDEN SHOW**

The above Society is to be congratulated upon having held a show without

intermission for no less than fifty years, and on 31st ult its Jubilee Exhibition was held. This year part of the Exhibition was held in a tent in the Vicarage grounds, the school being the chief locale. There can be no two options about it that this year’s show, which brought many visitors to Abbotsham, was a champion event, the addition of poultry being a welcome attraction, so much that it may be permanently included in the future. There were 124 entries in this department. The Judges were - Poultry-Mr J.G. Dare; Cage birds and pigeons-Mr S.C. Betty; Rabbits-Mr J.H. Hicks; Special prizes were given by-Rev. R.W. Sealy, Mr R. Yeo, Mr W.H. Thornton, Mr S.C. Betty and Mr C.H. Pickard. Of the vegetables, there were 25 classes- one prize being given by the Abbotsham Parish Council. There were 9 classes for flowers, 4 for fruit, and 4 for honey.

(August 13th 1895 BG).

**DEATH**

On the 14th inst at Teneriffe, William Sealy Vidai, Captain Royal Engineers, late Chief Instructor Submarine Mining at Portsmouth, seventh son of the late Edward Urch Vidal of Cornborough, Abbotsham aged 35 years.

(January 21st 1896 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

News has been received of the death of Captain W. Sealy Vidal, Royal

Engineers, at Tenerife. Unfortunately influenza was followed by consumption, of which he died. He had gone to Teneriffe for his health.

He leaves a widow, but no family. He entered the service in 1879 and

became a Captain in 1889.

(January 21st 1896 BG).

**DEATH.**

On January 27th at Kenwith, Abbotsham, Maj. General Hickman Thomas

Molesworth aged 75 years.

(January 28th 1896 BG).

**FUNERAL**

The mortal remains of the late Maj. General Hickman Thomas Molesworth,

R.A. were laid to rest in the pretty little churchyard of the Parish on

Wednesday morning in the presence of a large number of gentlemen of the

district. The coffin was drawn from Kenwith House at noon. At the lych

gate the cortage was met by Rev. R.W. Sealy. The coffin of polished oak

with silver mountings bore a breast plate-”Maj. Gen. Hickman Thomas  
Molesworth, born 7th August 1820, died 22nd January 1896”.

(February 4th 1896 BG).

**DEATH.**

On February 15th at Abbotsham - Bessie Wade aged 39 years.

(February 1896 BG).

**BIRTH**

On April 5th at Hearts of Oak, Abbotsham, the wife of Edward Woodcock, of a

daughter

(April 14th 1896 BG).

**MARRIAGE**

On April 8th at Stoke, Hartland, T.F. Friendship of Abbotsham to E.A. Lewis

of Stoke.

(April 14th 1896 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

About 60 parishioners attended the Abbotsham Annual Parish Meeting last

evening for the election of a Council. Rev. R.W. Sealy presided, but finding that he was one of the ten gentlemen nominated, he vacated the chair, Mr Rickman taking his place. Mr A. Boyd offered to retire, but Mr Thornton insisted on doing so, and as Mr Charles T. Turner’s nomination was invalid, the seconder having made his cross without getting it witnessed, the eight remaining were declared elected - Rev. R.W. Sealy, Messrs A. Boyd, George Taylor, Moase, Woodcock, Bale, C. Pickard Jun. and W.H. Turner. The Council is therefore unchanged.

(March 10th 1896 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Mrs Fanny Dunn, a native of Abbotsham having been born at Cornwater Farm, 79 years ago, has died at Newport, Mon., and was buried there. She

has been a confirmed invalid for many years.

(May 5th 1896 BG).

**DEATH.**

On May 17th at the Infirmary, Bideford, F.J. Brent of Abbotsham aged 28

years.

(May 26th 1896 BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On 3rd inst at St. Mary’s Church, Bideford, Richard Cook of Bideford to

Isabella Sanders of Abbotsham.

(October 6th 1896 BG).

**MARRIAGE**

On October 21st at St. Mary’s, Bideford, William Shaddick of Bideford to

Edith Mary Bright of Abbotsham.

(October 27th 1896 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Abbotsham School took no less that twenty five prizes at a Competition of the Devon Plain Needlework Association, which is held every year. Of these

prizes, fifteen were gained in a two and a half hour competition, which is, of course, a real test. The remaining ten prizes were awarded for work done

during the year. Mrs Nutt, the mistress, is to be congratulated on the success of her School, which comes out far ahead of any other.

(November 17th 1896 BG).

**DEATH**

On January 25th at Abbotsham, Elizabeth Dark, aged 79 years.

(February 9th 1897 BG).

**BIRTH.**

On February 6th at Abbotsham the wife of T.F. Friendship of a son.

(February 16th 1897 BG).

**DEATH**

On February 7th at Westacott, Abbotsham, George Ellis aged 62.

(February 16th 1897 BG).

**THE GREAT GALE**

Not since the memorable blizzard has the West of England been ravaged by

a hurricane such as that which raged with cyclonic force on Tuesday night

and Wednesday morning. It was, and still is, pitiful to walk in the country, so many noble trees lie prostrate, pulled up by their roots. At Moreton Park there are several mighty trees lying with their trunks absolutely in line, and the general trend everywhere is from east to west.

(March 9th 1897 BG).

**DISTRICT AND PARISH COUNCILS**

Abbotsham - Elected, no contest.

James Brown, Pusehill; John Bale, Rickardsdown; James Moase, Claycott;

Charles H. Pickard Jun. Shamland; Robert Walpole Sealy, Vicarage; George

John Taylor, Abbotsham Court; William Henry Turner, Barton, Bideford;

Edward Woodcock, Rickardsdown.

(March 23rd 1897 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

At the first meeting of the Parish Council on Wednesday April 14th, there

were present:- Messrs Bale, Brown, Moase, Pickard, Taylor, W. Turner,

Sealy and Woodcock. The Rev. R.W. Sealy was elected Chairman for the ensuing year, and Mr G. Taylor, the Vice Chairman. Mr C. Pickard Jun. was

elected Clerk of the Council. Messrs J. Brown and J. Moase were appointed

Overseers for the year. The Clerk reported that the Lord of the Manor had

promised to appoint a Pound Keeper, and see that the Parish Pound was kept available for the Parish. The Chairman was asked to call a meeting to

discuss the best means of celebrating Her Majesty’s Diamond Jubilee.

(April 27th 1897 BG).

**BIRTH.**

On June 16th at Winsford Cottage, Abbotsham, the wife of John Gibbett of a

daughter.

(June 23rd 1897 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

The Parish Council was appointed to form a committee to arrange Jubilee

festivities at Abbotsham, and the members invited the following gentlemen to join them - Col. St Aubyn Molesworth, Messrs W.H. Thornton, C.R.C. Hibbert, W. Graily Hewitt and J. Phillips. A Ladies Committee of Mrs Sealy, Miss Turner, Miss Taylor and Miss Vidai was appointed to assist in the arranging of the tea, and a Sub Committee of Col Crosse, Messrs Maynard, W. Sealy Vidal and E. Woodcock arranged the Sports. Mr A.H. Boyd and the Hons. O and D. Scott undertaking the fireworks. The rejoicings commenced yesterday with a Service in the Parish Church at 11 o’ clock. The parishioners adjourned to Abbotsham Court, which Mr George Taylor had

generously placed at the disposal of the Committee. Here, all the men of

the parish were entertained to dinner at 1 o’ clock, Subsequently the

women and children were feasted. The afternoon was devoted to Sports

and in the evening a firework display. At 10 o’ clock a bonfire was lit at Boatlake Hill. Altogether June 22nd will be a red letter day in Abbotsham annals. On Sunday there was a special Jubilee Thanksgiving Service in the

Church, the authorised form for the day being used.

(June 23rd 1897 BG).

**MARRIAGE**

On June 26th at the Parish Church, Abbotsham by Rev. R.W. Sealy - Albert

Tallin to Lydia Sanders - both of Abbotsham.

(July 6th 1897 BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On July 8th at Roath, Cardiff (by licence) Edward Glover of Abbotsham to

Mary Harris Brooks of Axbridge.

(July 13th 1897 BG).

**BIRTH.**

On September 21st at Riccards Down, Abbotsham the wife of C.R.C. Hibbert

of a son.

(September 28th 1897 BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On October 9th at the Bible Christian Chapel, Bideford - James Lang of

Buckland Brewer to Miss Curtis of Greencliffe, Abbotsham.

(October 12th 1987 BG).

**DEATH.**

On October 13th George Curtis of Swimbridge (Formerly of Abbotsham) aged

62 years.

(October 19th 1987 BG).

**MARRIAGE**.

On October 21st at Abbotsham - Arthur Edward Coombe to Amy Beatrice,

younger daughter of the late R.W. Newman of Bideford.

(November 9th 1987 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

As Mr George Taylor of Abbotsham Court was returning home on Tuesday night he was thrown out of his carriage, which was completely overturned going around a sharp corner. He sustained several injuries, including broken ribs. With care and attention, his medical adviser says, he may be ble to get up in ten days.

(November 23rd 1987 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Annual Meeting of the Church Sunday Schools Teachers Association for

the Deaneries of Hartland and Torrington was held on Saturday week at Abbotsham. A service was held in the Parish Church at 3 o’ clock when a

large number of teachers and clergy from different parishes attended. After

tea a meeting was held in the Schoolroom, presided over by the Rural Dean

of Hartland.

(November 30th 1987 BG).

**DEATH**

On December 13th at Bowood, Abbotsham, Harriet Vidai, widow of the late

Edward Urch Vidali of Cornborough, aged 73 years.

(December 14th 1897 BG).

**BIRTH**

On January 11th at the Heart of Oak, Abbotsham, the wife of Edward

Woodcock of a daughter.

(January 25th 1898 BG)

**DEATH.**

On January 23rd at Riccards Down, Abbotsham, the wife of Robert Allan,

aged 41 years (late of Sutcombe).

(January 25th 1898 BG).

**BIRTH.**

On March 14th at Westacott, Abbotsham, the wife of William Squire, of a son

(still born).

(March 15th 1898 BG).

**VIDAL v BIDEFORD, WESTWARD HO, APPLEDORE R’WAY**

At Bideford Town Hall on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, the Under

Sheriff of Devon, Mr T.W. Windeatt of Totnes and a special jury sat to assess damages in the matter of land to be taken by the Bideford, Westward Ho and Appledore Railway from the estate of Mr Edward Wyndham Granville Eyre Sealy Vidai at Cornborough, Abbotsham. The claim was £1,000 and the

quantity of land proposed to be taken 5 acres, 3 roods and 4 perches. The

jury returned a verdict for the complainant thus - compensation for land £420; compensation for severance etc £580 - a total of £1,000.

(March 15th 1898 BG).

**PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS.**

Abbotsham - no contest. W.H. Turner, the Barton, Bideford; R.W. Sealy,

the Vicarage, Abbotsham; Charles H. Pickard, Shamland, Abbotsham; James

Moase, Ciaycott; Edward Woodcock, Rickards Down; E.W.E.S. Vidai, Combe

Cottage; Ceo. J. Taylor, Abbotsham Court; James Brown, Pusehill.

(March 22nd 1898 BG).

**THE ELECTION.**

Abbotsham - Mr J.L. Giddy was presiding officer for the Rural District Council Election yesterday - Mr Sealy Vidai was elected with 32 votes. Mr Turner 29 votes.

(April 5th 1898 BG).

**MARRIAGE**

On April 12th at the Parish Church, Meeth - Herbert James Heywood of Lake

Farm, Abbotsham to Annie Hurford of Meeth.

(April 26th 1898 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

Harvest Thanksgiving Services were held at Abbotsham Baptist Chapel on Sunday - sermons being preached by the Rev. F. Durbin in the afternoon and

Mr W.T. Goaman in the evening. A public tea and meeting followed yesterday.

(September 20th 1898 BG).

**MARRIAGE**

On September 20th at Northam Wesleyan Chapel - John Moore Metherall of

Upcott Farm, Bideford to Maria Heywood Brown, eldest daughter of James

Brown of Pusehill, Abbotsham.

(October 4th 1898 BG).

**MARRIAGE**

On 19th at the Parish Church Abbotsham by Rev. R.W. Sealy - Robert E.L.

Hookway of Bideford to Mary Brayley, daughter of Charles Pickard of Bowood, Abbotsham.

(October 25th 1898 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

At a special meeting last Tuesday morning Bideford Rural District Highway

Board decided that the road from Bowood Cross Abbotsham to the Upper Lodge, should immediately be made the necessary width, so that it might be taken over by the County Council. The Surveyor will carry out the work at a cost not extending £200.

(December 6th 1898 BG).

**BIRTH.**

On December 3rd at Winsford, Bideford, the wife of R. Dark, of a son.

(December 22nd 1898 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

On Monday 12th inst Mr C. Berry F.R.H.S. of Exeter, staff instructor under the Devon County Council, concluded a course of lectures on Fruit Culture,

including practical outdoor demonstrations ¡n various parts of the parish. At the close of the lantern lecture on Monday, the Vicar expressed the hearty thanks of those who had been privileged to attend the course.

(December 22nd 1898 BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Father Christmas has this year brought his usual generous gifts to the

children of the parish. On the Wednesday after Christmas Day all the

children were invited to tea at the Vicarage, and after tea they adjourned to the Schoolroom where a beautiful Xmas Tree was found, all lighted and

covered with presents. On New Years Eve the Choir and Ringers were entertained at supper by the Vicar and Mrs Sealy. After the supper the party indulged in dancing until it was time to ring the Old Year out. On Thursday afternoon the children attending Abbotsham School gave a performance of the operetta “The Silver Penny”. In the evening a second performance was given to a crowded and delighted audience. At Abbotsham Poultry Show last week, Mr A.J.C. Hunt won first and “special” for the best Hamburgh bronze medal for the best bird exhibited by a member of the Poultry Club, and “special” for the second best bird shown by a member of the BidefordFanciers Society.

(January 10th 1899 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Devon County Council wrote to Bideford Highway Authority saying that they

had made an order to main the road between Bowood, Abbotsham and Buckleigh Cross. The Surveyor said the widening had been completed and now it needed coating.

(January 17th 1899 BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On April 12th at Landcross - Richard Goad of Landcross to Elizabeth Caroline (Carrie) eldest daughter of Robert Allin of Abbotsham.  
(April 18th 1899 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A very successful sale of work has been held at the Baptist Chapel, Abbotsham to liquidate the debt of £70 which has been incurred by the

purchase of a piece of land adjoining the Chapel and the erection of

boundary walls and store house. Mr T. Goaman JP opened the sale. At

1 o’clock there was a public luncheon to which about 50 sat down, including

members of the Episcopalian and Free Churches. The sale was continued on Thursday afternoon followed by a tea. In the evening a sacred musical

service was given by the Bideford Baptist Choir. The proceeds amounted to

over £41.

(January 24th 1899 BG).

**PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS.**

At Abbotsham there were twelve candidates for eight seats - John Bale;

James Brown; George Heywood; Col. Molesworth; J. Moase; C.H. Pickard Jun; G.J. Taylor; C.C. Turner; C.T. Turner; W.H. Turner; E.W.E.G. Sealy VidaI; and E. Woodcock.

(March 14th 1899 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

There was a satisfactory attendance at Abbotsham on Thursday evening when Mr Soares, the Liberal candidate, gave an address, dealing principally

with the House of Lords. On the motion of Mr J.J. Lamerton, the meeting

pledged itself to support Mr Soares’ candidature.

(April 25th 1899 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

On Monday April 24th Mr Stallworthy of Exeter concluded a successful

course of lectures on Poultry Keeping held in the Schoolroom, the average

attendance being about forty.

(May 2nd 1899 BG).

**DEATH.**

On May 18th at Abbotsham - Thomas Chapple Holman aged 83.

(May 23rd 1899 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

“The Cornishman” of May 25th reference to the late Mr T.C. Holman of

Abbotsham, says, “The interest of Penzance in this venerable and much

respected man arises from the fact that he was the father of Miss Holman,

who has gained so much respect as assistant at the “Queens Hotel” and

manageress of the “Union Hotel”.

(May 30th 1899 - BG).

**BIRTH.**

On June 26th at Abbotsham the wife of W.H. Moore, of a son.

(June 27th 1899 BG).

**FUNERAL.**

The body of the late William Turner J.P. of the Barton, Bideford who died on Friday October 6th aged 71 years, was interred at the Abbotsham Churchyard on Wednesday morning. There was a long cortege. The Rev. Sealy read the burial service.

(October 17th 1899 BG).

**BIRTH.**

On the 20th inst at Riccards Down, Abbotsham, the wife of Charles R.C.

Hibbert, of a son.  
(October 24th 1899 BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On October 15th at the Registry Office, Bideford, Robert Alun to G.E.

Finnegan, both of Abbotsham.

(October 24th 1899 BG).

**DEATH.**

On January 26th at Abbotsham, William Glover aged 83 years.

(January 30th 1900 BG).

**DEATH.**

On January 31st at Bideford - Susannah widow of the late Thomas Pridham

of Abbotsham aged 83 years.

(February 6th 1900 BG).

**BURGLARY.**

At Devon Assizes on Tuesday, Thomas Gent, aged 38, labourer of Abbotsham, was charged with two burglaries at Fremington. He was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment with hard labour.

(February 13th 1900 BG).

**HEALTH OF BIDEFORD DISTRICT.**

The Medical Officer of Health for the District presented his annual report on Tuesday last. At Abbotsham there were eight deaths and fifteen births.  
(February 27th 1900 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Dr. Sinclair Thompson gave the first of a course of lectures on “Ambulance”

on Monday. There was a large attendance despite unfavourable weather. Among those present were the Rev. R.W. Sealy, Messrs Moase, Woodcock and Pickard - parish councillors, and a number of the gentler sex. The lecture and demonstration in bandaging were closely followed, and with practice there should be found in Abbotsham a body of people well able to render the greatest service in case of emergency.

(March 6th 1900 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Mr A.J.C. Heriz-Smith of Kenwith and Pembroke College, Cambridge, has

been recommended by the Vice Chancellor of Cambridge for a Commission

in the Royal Artillery.

(March 27th 1900 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

At the Parish Meeting, Mr Moase was elected Chairman.  
(April 24th 1900 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

On the evening of Good Friday in the Schoolroom the oratorio of Christ and

His Soldiers” was given in place of the magic lantern service which has been usual on this day. The room was packed.

(April 24th 1900 BC).

**BIRTH.**

On June 26th at Abbotsham, Vicarage, the wife of Rev R.W. Sealy of a daughter.

(July 3rd 1900 BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On November 8th at the Baptist Chapel, Bideford by the Rev. Durbin, Sidney

Richard Walter of Parkham, to Hetty, the 3rd daughter of the late T.H. Glover of Abbotsham.

(November 13th 1900 BG).

**AN ABBOTSHAM LAW CASE.**

In the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice on Wednesday, Mr

Justice Cozens Hardy had before him a summons taken out by the trustees of

a settlement under which Mr Vidal of Abbotsharn charged his estates with a

rent charge of £250 a year for the benefit of his mother. Mr Eve, Q.C. for

the trustees said when Mr Vidal came into the estates he was seriously

embarrassed financially. The rents were not sufficient to keep down the

interest on the mortgages and his mother brought an action in January 1895,

in which she claimed to be entitled to the rent-charge in priority to certain encumbrances. That action was dismissed with costs, and Mrs Vidal went into bankruptcy. The costs had not been paid, and the bankrupt had not

paid one penny of the dividend. In October 1899 the settlement was revoked - subject to the lien of the trustees in bankruptcy receiving £150. Mr Justice Cozens Hardy declared that the plaintiffs were entitled to a first

charge on the property of the settlement for the amount of their costs,

charges and expenses yearly incurred.

(August 7th 1900 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

In connection with the Torridge District Sunday School, a lecture on “Canada” (illustrated by lantern views) was given by Mr W. Clements in the Baptist Chapel on Wednesday evening. The lantern was manipulated by Mr G. Lang.

(November 27th 1900 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The second of a series of Penny Readings held during the winter months,

was given in the Schoolroom on Thursday December 13th before a large and

appreciative audience. The various items on the programme were well rendered and several encores were demanded. Special mention should be made of the violin solos by the young Misses Sealy which were rendered in

excellent style for which they were warmly applauded. The school girls

under the guidance of Mrs Hooper also did a tambourine drill and action song with excellent time and precision. The Rev. R.W. Sealy gave an interesting reading, and the choir sang a couple of glees. Mr Hooper caused muchamusement with the misfortune of “The Unlucky Farmer”. The singing of

“Rule Britannia” and “God Save the Queen” brought the gathering to a close.

(December 21st 1900 BG).

**DEATH.**

On 24th January at Chaltaborough, Abbotsham - Mary, the beloved wife of

Henry Venning aged 79.

(February 12th 1901 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The sad and mournful intelligence of the death of our beloved Queen was

known only to a few on the Tuesday evening, but the arrival of the mail on

Wednesday morning and the sight of the flag flying at half mast on the

Church tower conveyed to all that the news was only too true. On Sunday

special references were made by the Vicar. Both as a mother and a Queen

she had won the love of her subjects and had faithfully striven to do her duty in that position to which she had been called. Suitable hymns were sung and the organist as an opening voluntary played “O Rest in the Lord”. “The Dead March in Saul” was played at the conclusion of the service. Muffled peals were rung on the bells before and after the service.

(January 29th 1901 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Mr Vidal of Cornborough is to command the Devon Imperial Yeomanry now under orders for active service in South Africa.

(February 12th 1901 - BG).

**BIRTH.**

On February 4th at Riccards Down, Abbotsham, the wife of Charles R.C.  
Hibbert, of a daughter.  
(February 19th 1901 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**The annual Parish Meeting was held on Monday evening March 4th, the Vicar, Rev. R.W. Sealy in the chair. The Vicar was again nominated for a seat on the new Council. Mr C. Hibbert was elected to the Chair. Eleven nomination papers were handed in for the eight seats, and on a show of hands the following were declared to have received the greatest number of votes - Rev. R. Sealy; W.H. Turner; J. Brown; G. Heywood; J. Moase; J. Bale; C.T. Turner; and E. Woodcock - they will constitute the Parish Council for the

ensuing three years.

(March 12th 1901 - BG).

**BIDEFORD BOARD OF GUARDIANS.**

Abbotsham - W.H. Turner 40 votes; E.W. Sealy Vidal 10 Mr Sealy Vidalousted Mr Turner from his seat on the Council, the defeated candidate being afterwards elected Vice Chairman on the Board of Guardians. Mr Turner

therefore regains his seat.

(March 26th 1901 - BG).

**RETURN OF GENERAL BOYES**

Maj. General Boyes who has been invalided home from South Africa arrived at Cornborough, Abbotsham on Tuesday last. On Monday the news of the General’s home coming was made known to the villagers, and at a Parish Meeting that evening, committees were appointed to arrange a fitting reception. A large arch was erected across the Bideford road near Abbotsham Church bearing the inscription, “Welcome Home”, and strings of flags spanned the road at intervals. General Boyes accompanied by his wife and daughter reached Bideford shortly before 5 o’ clock and drove straight to Abbotsham. The ringers were pealing the Church bells, and as the carriage drew up at the old oak tree they were met by the school children and parishioners. The Rev. R.W. Sealy, Vicar, and Chairman of the Parish Council gave an address. The children sang, “See the Conquering Hero” and “For He’s a Jolly Good Fellow”. He then left for Cornborough, and at the lodge gates the horses were taken out, and the carriage was drawn by hand to the house. The huge bonfire erected on the lawn at Cornborough, surmounted by an effigy of Ex-President Kruger could be seen for many miles around.

(March 12th 1901 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The usual tea and meeting was held in the Abbotsham Baptist Chapel on

Good Friday.

(April 9th 1901 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On April 6th at the Registry Office, Bideford - William Champion of Bideford to Norah Sanders of Abbotsham.

(April 9th 1901 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

There were two celebrations of the Holy Communion at the Church, and an anthem was sung in the morning and evening on Easterday. The sacred

cantata “The Way of the Cross” was given in the National Schoolroom on

Good Friday evening.

(April 16th 1901 - BG).

**BIRTH**

On April 4th at Claycott, Abbotsham, the wife of W.H. Moore of a daughter.  
(April 16th 1901 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The annual Easter Concert will be given in the Schoolroom on Thursday next. The funds will go towards the choir summer outing.

Maj. General Boyes of Cornborough has been made a C.B. as a reward for

honourable services rendered in connection with the war is South Africa.

(April 23rd 1901 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

There was a large attendance at Abbotsham Baptist Chapel on Wednesdaynevening when a musical service was held to dedicate the new organ. Mr A. Bromley presided - being the chief mover in getting the new instrument, collections having been made to cover the cost.

(May 28th 1901 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On May 27th at the Wesleyan Chapel, Barnstaple - John E. Moase of

Abbotsham to Annie Harris of Barnstaple.  
(June 11th 1901 -BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Haying operations have commenced here. A course of lessons in Sheep Shearing are to be given in connection with the Technical Education Scheme by Mr Phillips of Littleham. Those desirable of entering are requested to give in their names at once to the local committee.

(June 18th 1901 - BG).

**SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY SERVICES.**

On Wednesday the Abbotsham Baptist Sunday School anniversary services were continued when a goodly number of friends and visitors were entertained to tea. After a pleasant time had been spent in games in a field kindly lent by Mr Moase, a meeting was held in the Chapel presided over by Mr Keysett, the superintendent of the school, and Miss Edith Glover presided at the organ.

(Jury 2nd 1901 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM CHILDREN’S OUTING.**

On Tuesday afternoon General and Mrs Boyes of Cornborough House gave a treat to the children. The children marched to the grounds waving banners

and singing patriotic songs, with the younger ones being conveyed to and

from in a brake. Sports were held. A splendid tea was provided. The Hungarian Band played a selection of music. A bag of sweets and a bun

were provided in addition to a dip in the bran pie for all those not successful in The sports.

(Juty 16th 1901 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On July 19th at the Village, Abbotsham, John Tallin aged 60.

(July 23rd 1901 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM COTTAGE GARDEN SHOW.**

On Wednesday the 5th the annual Cottage Garden Show was held at Abbotsham. The quality of the exhibits was up to the usual standard, but a fallng off in the number of exhibitors was seen. The Vicar, Rev. R.W. Sealy presented the prizes.

August 6th 1901 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A successful fete and sale of work was held in Abbotsham Vicarage grounds

on Wednesday in aid of Church funds. In the sale of work department the

stalls were tastefully decorated - presided over by Mr Molesworth; the Misses Turner of Coombe; Mrs Williams of Coombe while Miss Myles was in charge of the tableaux vivants. There were the usual humorous side shows,

including a humorous “art” exhibition, a miniature shooting gallery, and “three sticks a penny at Kruger”.

(September 3rd 1901 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A total of £60 was cleared as a result of the fete and bazaar. This, it is

estimated, will wipe off the debt and leave a small amount in hand.

The Diocesan Inspector has made his annual report on religious instruction in the school, and the following children will each receive a certificate of merit -

Fred Pope, John James, Frank Woodcock, Charles Parsons, Ernest Barnacott, Vernon C. Hooper, Mabel Slee, Mary Heysett, Annie James, Florrie Hooper, Elsie Woodcock and Georgina Downing.

(September 10th 1901 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Evening continuation classes in commercial arithmetic , drawing and commercial geography are being held.

At the National Schoolroom a course of well attended lectures on “Domestic

Economy” is being given on Friday evenings by Miss Gibson, staff

instructress under the Devon Technical Education Committee. About twenty five were present at the first lecture, and the following week the number was greatly increased.

(October 15th 1901 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

During 23 days of last month Mrs C. Hibbett registered at Abbotsham 4.35

inches of rain. The greatest fall in 24 hours occurred on 1st October when

0.72 inches was measured.

(November 12th 1901 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

In the “Western Times” of Friday appears the following -

“A RILL from the Town Pump (with apologies)

My joints are out of order

My face is knocked clean out

And if the frost should come again

You’ll get nothing from my spout”.

Perhaps the Parish Council or someone will take pity.

(November 26th 1901 - BC).

**HEALTH REPORT.**

Dr. Gooding, Medical Officer of Health for Bideford Borough presented his

annual report. The birth and death rate for Abbotsham was - Births 9 – a rate of 19.9 per 1000. Deaths 7 – a rate of 15.5 per 1000.

(February 11th 1902 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

On Thursday last being Ascension Day the bells of the Parish Church pealed

out soon after 6 o’ clock in the morning.

(May 13th 1902- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

There was a fair number of parishioners at the meeting held in the schoolroom to consider what steps should be taken to celebrate the Coronation. The Vicar, chairman of the Parish Council, occupied the chair,

and present were Messrs Hibbert, Heaven, Brown, Heywood, G.E. Pickard, C.

Hooper, W.H. Turner, J. Bale, C. Golver, F. Carter, C.T. Turner and E.

Woodcock. It was resolved to follow out as far as possible the order which

prevailed at.the late Queen’s Diamond Jubilee. Messrs Hooper and Woodcock were asked to undertake the canvassing of the parish for subscriptions.

(May 6th 1902 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Mrs J.H. Phillips of the Winsford Dairy is to be heartily congratulated at her success at the Bath and West of England Show held at Plymouth last week. In the various classes for Dairy Produce of Butter and Cream, she won a first and two second prizes, and also the special prize for best keeping butter.

(June 3rd 1902- BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

At St Helen’s Church, Abbotsham on June 9th by the Rev. R.W. Sealy - W.S.

Heywood to Jessie Abbot - both of Bideford.

(June 10th 1902- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Sunday was generally recognised as Thanksgiving Day (for Peace being declared in the war in South Africa). The Special Form of Service was used at the Parish Church, and both morning and evening services commenced with the National Anthem. The flag was flying on the Church tower, and the ringers rang joyous peals.

(June 10th 1902- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The official Coronation programme is as follows- 6am Peals on the Church Bells; 11am, Service in the Parish Church; 1.30pm, Free Dinner for Men and

Lads; 3.30, Sports; 4pm, Tea for Women and Children; 8.30pm, Fireworks, and 10pm, Bonfire. The festivities will be held at Abbotsham Court by kind permission of Mr George Taylor. Only those with tickets will be admitted.

Each school child will receive a Coronation mug, presented by Mrs Boyes of

Cornborough, and with children not yet old enough to attend school, will

receive a Coronation medal.

(June 24th 1902 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Mr Walpole E. Sealy, eldest son of Rev. R.W. Sealy, of Oriel College, Oxford, has, after competition, been awarded an Exhibition at that College, given by the Leathersellers Company.

(June 24th 1902- BG).

**B1RIH**

On June 16th at Westacott, Abbotsham, the wife of W. Squire of a son.

(July 1st 1902- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

On receipt of the news of the illness of the King, the Committee met and

decided that all the Coronation festivities be definitely postponed. All the perishable goods consisting of meat, cake, bread etc were brought to the Schoolroom on Wednesday evening at 7 o’ clock and there disposed of to the best advantage. Some loss has thus fallen upon general funds, but the

Committee hope at some future time to carry out the original programme. On Thursday a special Intercession Service was held in the Parish Church on behalf of his Gracious Majesty. Special lessons and prayers were read, and

the hymns, “O God Our Help in Ages Past” and “God Moves in a Mysterious

Way” were sung.

(July 1st 1902- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

On Thursday last the members of the Choir, to the number of about thirty,

journeyed to Exeter to take part in the Festival Service held at the Cathedral. In spite of the long and tiresome journey, a very enjoyable day was spent by one and all.

(July 22nd 1902 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

At a meeting of the Coronation Committee held on Friday evening last it was

decided to carry out the Coronation festivities as previously arranged. The

former invitation cards will still hold good, and as the grounds are private, only those holding invitations, with their families will be allowed to enter. The children of the National School under the superintendence of Mr Hooper during the past week, been soliciting help for Dr. Barnardo’s Homes, and when the boxes were opened £1.12.7d had been collected.

(July 22nd 1902- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The 57th Annual Meeting of the Abbotsham Cottage Garden Society was held on Wednesday last and brought together a very good lot of entries. The Show was open to the public at 2pm, and at 6pm the prizes were distributed by the Vicar, Rev. R.W. Sealy.

(August 5th 1902 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Abbotsham coronated on a grand scale, and a thoroughly enjoyable time was spent.

(August 12th 1902 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

In common with other parishes in the district, harvest operations have been

delayed owing to the showery weather, but given fine weather all the corn

crops will be cleared up.

(September 9th 1902 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On October 10th at Abbotsham, Moses Hopper.

(October 14th 1902 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

At Abbotsham Church on Sunday the prayers of the congregation were

requested on behalf of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

(December 16th 1902 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM SCHOOL CONCERT.**

On Friday afternoon in the Day School, Abbotsham, a very successful concert

was given by the scholars. Part 1 was the cantata “The White Garland” -

nervousness seemed to be unknown to the children. Part 2, - was miscellaneous - the infants sang “The Flower Girl”; the girls a dumb-bell drill, and an action song. Tea and coffee was provided during an interval, and for children whose homes were a good distance from the school, tea was

kindly provided by Mr and Mrs Sealy. Prizes for needlework were given, and Diocesan Certificates for Religious knowledge.

(December 23rd 1902 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Our new Organ has arrived and is being fixed in the Parish Church.  
(January 13th 1903 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The special Lenten week night services are being held on Thursdays. Last

week the preacher was Rev. E.J. Hall, Rector of Langtree, and next week the

Rev. E.J. Jeffery, Rector of Frithelstock will preach.

Following the usual custom, a sacred cantata will be rendered in the

Schoolroom on Good Friday. This year Sir John Stainer’s “Crucifixion” has

been chosen.

(March 10th 1903 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

On Friday afternoon last the Day School prizes were distributed by the Vicar and Mrs Sealy to those children who have attended best throughout the last year. Five of the children had not missed a single attendance throughout the whole year, having been present at School 413 times, and to these a medal was presented in addition to other prizes.  
(March 17th 1903- BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

On Good Friday the tea meeting which has become an annual event at the

Baptist Chapel was attended by about two hundred people.

(April 14th 1903- BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Service of Song “Harry’s Promise and How he Kept it” which was so well

rendered in the Bideford Baptist Church some little time since, was repeated at the Abbotsham Baptist Chapel on Wednesday evening by the members of the Bideford Band of Hope.

(April 21st 1903- BG)

**MARRIAGE**

On 29th April at St. Helen’s, Abbotsham by the Vicar, Rev. R.W. Sealy - Capt. Nigram Clifford D.S.O., second son of Maj. Gen. R.M. Clifford of Elton Park, Kingstown, Ireland - to Eva Charlotte Ormsby (Bay) Miles, youngest daughter of the late Maj. T.E. Miles of Keene, Abbotsham.  
(May 5th 1903- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Misses Miles, late of Keene, Abbotsham are on their way to Canada.

On Sunday last special prayers were offered at the Church on their behalf for a safe voyage, and the hymn, “Eternal Father” was sung.  
(June 23rd 1903 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The following Diocesan Report on the Religious Instruction taught in the

School has just been received from the Inspector who paid his annual visit

last week. “The teaching is thoroughly well given throughout. In the lower

group the repetition has been carefully explained, and the answers of the

little ones were really admirable. In the upper group I found a specially

sound knowledge of the test and matter of the Catechism. The Bible narratives are well known, and their moral lessons appear to have been

carefully explained. The work of the teachers is classed as excellent”.  
(July 14th 1903- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Friends and parishioners will be glad to hear that Master Edward Sealy,

second son of the esteemed Vicar has succeeded in winning an open

scholarship at Bradford College.

(August 11th 1903- BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On July 29th at Vancouver Island by Rev. Canon Smith - Stanley M. Dighton,

second son of Capt. Dighton of Nadland Coleford, Gloucester - to Bertha Amy

Listor Miles, third daughter of the late Maj. T.G. Miles of Keene, Abbotsham.  
(August 18th 1903 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

On Monday last the members of the Church Choir and Ringers with their

wives had their annual outing - Ilfracombe being their destination.  
(August 18th 1903- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The potato crop in the Abbotsham district is being injured by the wet weathermlately.  
(October 20th 1903 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Evening School is again in full swing, and the number of pupils in

attendance is fairly good. The subjects of instruction are drawing, arithmetic and business methods.  
(October 20th 1903 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**Miss Ridd gathered a bunch of primroses in Abbotsham last week.  
(October 27th 1903 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The floods did an immense amount of damage. The lowlands were inundated and the roads in several places made impassable. At Pitt Farm the water came through the house up to the bars of the fire grate, and pigs

had to be rescued from their sties. At Riccards Down things, if possible

were worse. Several houses were flooded owing to a portion of the wall and the bank of the stream giving away. Articles of furniture were floating about, and in one cottage the occupants of which, unfortunately happened to

be out for the day, the water attained to the height of nine feet, and the

chairs, sofa and table were floating about. Sitting serenely on the kitchen

table was a cat.

(November 3rd 1903 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The girls of the National School have been very successful at the annual

competition held under the management of the North Devon Schools

Needlework Association. The total number of prizes is 26.

(November 24th 1903 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A branch of a Friendly Society has been started in the Village.  
(January 12th 1904- BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Day School concert and prize distribution which were to have taken

place on Friday have had to be postponed until Easter.  
(February 16th 1904 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM DEATH.**  
On March 9th at Abbotsham - Rebecca Adams, the dearly loved wife of

Thomas Adams, after a lingering illness, aged 62.  
(March 15th 1904 - BC).

**DEATH.**

On April 13th at the Union Workhouse, Bideford, Thomasine Constance of  
Abbotsham, aged 87.

(April 19th 1904- BC).

**DEATH.**

On June 12th in Cardiff, Eliza, widow of the late R. Lee of Littleham, and third daughter of the late James Bird of Abbotsham.  
(June 21st 1904- BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The summer meeting of the Sunday School Teachers Association for the

Deaneries of Hartland and Torrington was held at Abbotsham and was

largely attended.

(July 19th 1904- BG).

**DEATH.**

On August 12th at Shamland, Abbotsham, Miss Elizabeth Ann Pickard aged  
81 years.

(August 16th 1904 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Harvest Festival services were held in the Parish Church on Sunday - the services were bright and hearty. The Festival was continued on Monday

with Sports - the Hungarian Band discoursed various selections through the

day. The Tea was well patronised, as was the Concert which followed in the

Schoolroom.

(September 20th 1904 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The remains of the late Mr J.E. Burnard of Bideford (who was a son of the

late Mr W.E. Burnard, solicitor, and member of an old and respected Bideford family) were interred in the Abbotsham Churchyard on Wednesday October 19th in a family vault.

(November 1st 1904 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Minstrel Concert given by the Abbotsham Band proved a great success.

The Schoolroom was well filled and the items appreciated. The proceeds after clearing expenses, will be devoted to providing for a social evening for the members of the National Deposit Friendly Society Club and their friends.

(January 31st 1905 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The members of the National Deposit Friendly Society held their annual meeting on Friday last - the Vicar, Rev. R.W. Sealy in the Chair. Good

progress was reported, and several new members have applied to join. After

the meeting a social evening was held with over eighty people present, and

dancing and songs helped to pass away a very pleasant evening.

(February 7th 1905 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Bishop of Crediton conducted a confirmation service at the Parish

Church on Sunday afternoon. There were fourteen candidates (four males

and ten females) from Abbotsham, Alwington and Bucks. Preb. Churchward

gave the opening exhortation and Bishop Trefusis delivered an addressbefore and after “The Laying of Hands’.

(March 14th 1905 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM PARISH MAGAZINE 1905 (Extracts)**

Christmas Day being on a Sunday and also fine, we were assured of a good

congregation, and there must be very few of us who are not moved in no 7 ordinary way by the Christmas Services. It is not the old hymns alone or

the glistening hollyberries, or the anthem, or the greetings we give and

receive round the old oak, but all these at once and much more. It is after

aIl the Joy of the Incarnation. “We Behold His Glory, the glory as of the

Only-Begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth”. It is the onsciousness of the presence of Christ amongst us as a Living Force. Innocence and Purity and Goodwill and Kindly Love cease to be mere phrases and become actual forces in and upon us, as we worship the Babe of Bethlehem, and the voices of the angels make themselves heard over the more imperious voices of this busy world while we “worship Christ the New Born King”.

As usual at Christmas time the children were not forgotten, and a glorious

Christmas Tree was provided for their amusement, which was fully as

delightful as a Christmas Tree ever is. Few except those behind the scenes

have any conception of the amount of labour and forethought involved in such an apparently simple entertainment. For months and months past Mrs

Sealy’s busy fingers have been employed in “making things”, and for the past fortnight at least, no drawer or cupboard in the Vicarage has not been filled to overflowing with the presents for the Tree. It is almost impossible to mention and thank all the kind helpers who contributed, but we may mention with much gratitude the help given by Mr Bell, Mr Cooke, Mr Wingate, Miss Vidal, The Misses Turner, Mr Heaven, Mrs Hibbert, Mrs Buchan, Mr Hooper, Mr Hall, Col. Molesworth, Mr G. Taylor, Mr Ridge and numerous others.

The Choir and Ringers met for their annual New Years Eve entertainment at

the Vicarage and saw the Old Year out and the New Year in after the happy

custom of many years. After dinner at the Vicarage the whole party adjourned to the Schoolroom where they looked at a Magic Lantern and were

photographed by flash light and danced and generally amused themselves

until the toiling of the knell of 1904 drew them into Church to offer to God their thanks to Him for His past mercies, and to ask for His continued

Presence with them during the years that are to come.

Offertories for December 1904;- £ s d

December 4th. 0 8 11

December 11th 1 0 0

December 18th 1 8 10

December 25th 4 0 3

Total 6 18 0  
**(January 1905).**

BAPTISM. January 22nd. Louisa, daughter of John and Eleanor Mounce.

After the various activities of Christmas there comes naturally a sort or calm which settles down upon us, when we return as it were to the ordinary routine of life, and little or nothing occurs which is worthy of special record. At such time our thoughts look forward rather than backward, and we begin to plan out more or less vaguely what we hope to carry out in the coming months. Immediately before us lie Lent and the Confirmation. The latter will this year be held in this Parish and upon a Sunday March 12th, and we trust that this opportunity given us will help us all to make a better use of the privileges which such a rite can give us. It can hardly fail to impress even the most thoughtless, if only for once he will try to think, that here in this Twentieth Century is to be carried out that rite of Confirmation which has continued in unbroken series from the very time of the Apostles themselves. Who shall say how many hundreds have been confirmed in Abbotsham Church?. Back in the old days when perhaps hardly any of the present building made up the house of God, which yet stood where it stands now. Before even our old tenor was born, before more than a very few could read and write, in the rough rude times of the 12th Century, still we had our Confirmations, and year by year fresh soldiers of Christ were called upon to bear witness to their faith.

The following excellent Report has just been received from H. M. School

Inspector: -

“The School is in a very satisfactory state. Discipline is good and older

scholars and infants continue to be thoroughly well taught”. Inspections

and reports have somehow ceased to create the excitement which was the

result of the annual Inspection Day of bygone years, when each child had to

be presented and passed in his three subjects, and when the Examination

Schedules with the names and the “oughts and crosses” were so eagerly

waited for. And there is a danger lest we should be tempted to forget how in the few lines quoted above there is the official recognition of what we know so well and perhaps take too much for granted, viz, that the excellence of the discipline and teaching is the result of the unflagging industry and enthusiasm of Mr and Mrs Hooper.  
(February 1905).

BAPTISM. February 26th. Joseph Henry, son of Thomas and Emily Easton.

On Tuesday evening March 14th the annual Missionary Meeting will be held at 7.30. The deputation this year will be the Rev. F. Bird the newly appointed Organising Secretary of the S.P.G. for this diocese. He will lecture upon Japan, a country interesting to everyone now because of the fierce struggle she is engaged in with Russia, and doubly so to us, as it is the scene of the work of our old chorister and friend, Mr Thomas Nind.

On Thursday evening March 9th the distribution of the Poor Land money will

be made by the Trustees at 6.30pm.

**(March 1905).**

Under the auspices of the Technical Education Committee a course of

lectures has been given during the past month by Mr Dutton, one of the

County Council experts, on the nature and use of the various Artificial

Manures which are now in such request. The lectures were very well attended, and it is hoped that a certain number at least, of those who came, will not be satisfied with merely listening to what was said, but will try to put into actual practise some of the many excellent hints which Mr Dutton gave.

BAPTISM. March 15th. Richard Holman aged 70 years.

We have to record with deep regret the passing from us of Mr James Moase, one of our best known inhabitants. Mr Moase had had one or two serious

attacks of illness which left him in so frail a condition that his family was warned that at any moment he might be taken from them. And so indeed it

was; for although apparently much better and able to get out of doors he was suddenly seized with an attack of the heart, and passed away, without pain, in his sleep. Mr Moase served many offices in the parish. He was

Overseer, Trustee of the Poor Land Charities, member of the Parish Council

and Manager of our Schools; and he gave his unremitting attention to the

work thus entailed upon him. Of kindly heart and gentle unassuming manners, he made many friends, and none of those, who gathered round the

grave to pay their last homage of respect, could fail to appreciate that, by his comparatively early death, the parish had lost an upright and honourable man, loved and respected by all who knew him.

Another very heavy loss has befallen us in the removal, happily not this time by death, of our old well tried and trusty friend, Mr George Heywood of Lake. For some seventy years the Heywood family have been connected with Lake, and during all those years have done more than their share of hard and useful work in the direction and management of parish matters. Unfortunately the changes which have occurred amongst us of late, have obliged Mr Heywood to leave his home, and take another farm elsewhere.

(April 1905).

On March 12th the Bishop of Crediton held a Confirmation in our Church.

Candidates from Bucks, Alwington and Wear Gifford joined with ours, and a

large congregation assembled to hear Bishop Trefusis’ helpful addresses,

and to encourage by their presence and sympathy, the little band of fresh

soldiers setting out to fight, by the help of God’s grace, their life’s battle for Christ. The candidates from Abbotsham were Florence James, Hilda Slee, Maud Hall and Gertrude Sylvia Sealy.

**(April 1905)**

BAPTISM. April 16th. Clara, daughter of John and Mary Jane Ley.

BURIAL. April 3rd. James Moase aged 59 years.

This year is memorable for an important step taken by the Churchwardens

which may have very far reaching results in the days to come. At the request of the Bishop, they circulated an appeal for Easter Offerings to be

handed over to the Vicar on Easter Day. A very generous response was made considering it was the first attempt, and the Vicar wishes to convey his

hearty thanks to all who so kindly helped to make the scheme a success. The custom of making Easter Offerings is a very old one, and it is most

unfortunate that it has been allowed to lapse in so many parishes. The whole question of the Church’s finances is a most serious one which will have to be faced very soon. Constantly diminishing income and constantly

increasing demands upon the incumbent of a parish has become the state of

things in every parish, and Easter offerings are most helpful, in that the

congregation are thereby enabled to take their part in some of the burden

which is thus laid upon the parish priest. It cannot be too widely known or

too often repeated that in the present day the Church in an enormous

proportion of parishes is being supported not by the funds of the past or by offerings of the present, but by the private means of the Clergy themselves.

At the Easter Vestry the accounts showed a balance in hand of a little over

£5. It is proposed to recolour the interior of the Church, and to carry out

some necessary repairs on the windows. Mr C. Pickard Junr. was re-elected Churchwarden for the Parish, and the Vicar nominated Mr C.R. Hibbert to be his Warden. Messrs J. Bale and Charles Glover were re-elected sidesmen.  
**(May 1905).**

BURIAL. May 6th. Grace Davolls aged 81 years.

The latest mail from Australia has brought about the death of Mr Harry Vidal. It would seem that he, in the best of health and spirits, was out in his stableyard doing something to a horse rug, when he suddenly fell dead.

Mrs Vidal was away from home at the time, but his sister in law found him

lying on the ground. Mr Vidal was buried at Liverpool, N.S.W. where one of

his children is buried. He leaves a widow and four children, and those of the parishioners who can remember him as a cheery, light hearted boy, will

extend their kindly sympathy to those who have been so suddenly bereaved.

By the kindness of Mrs Pine-Coffin a gigantic school treat is to take place at Kenwith on Thursday June 15th. All the school children from Alwington and Abbotsham, and a large number from Parkham also are invited, and only a

fine day is wanted to make this school festival one of those great days which live in the memory to the end of life.

An Annual Report of the National Deposit Society shows a most gratifying

increase ¡n the number of members belonging to the Abbotsham Branch.

We feel sure that the more this excellent Benefit Society is known the more

popular it will become.  
**(June 1905).**

BURIAL. June 26th. William Henry Turner aged 48.

The above brief announcement will call forth expressions of the deepest

regret from all who are acquainted with Abbotsham parish life. For there

must be a few men who have worked so zealously and actively as Mr Willie

Turner in almost every department of parochial business. He was Rural

District Councillor and Guardian for the Parish: a member of every Parish Council since Parish Councils have been in existence, and a Trustee of the

Parish Charities. He was a County Magistrate and member of most important Boards and Committees. We of Abbotsham shall miss him more than we can realise at first. We shall miss his cheery voice and the inspiration of his unselfish industry. The funeral as was to be expected was very largely attended by men from all parts of the district anxious to shew their respect to his memory. In the unavoidable absence of the Vicar the service was taken by Preb. Dimond-Churchward (so long a colleague on the Board of Guardians) and the Revs. H.M. Johnson and W.L1 Jenkins. The choir and ringers readily gave their services, and all was done that could be done to shew that Mr Turner’s life had not been lived in vain, but had earned the respect and affection of the people amongst whom he had lived and worked.  
**(July 1905).**

The entirely unwonted absence of the Editor from England this summer, has

resulted in the August issue of this Magazine appearing at the same time as

the September number. We throw ourselves therefore on the generosity of

our readers, trusting only that the intense delight of a three week trip to

Ireland (the first time for five and twenty years that the writer has been out of England) may be at once the apology and justification of this lapse from duty, and that all our readers may fall in with the opinion expressed by one of our most valued subscribers, that “it will be rather nice to be able to read two instalments of the serial stories at once”.

**(August 1905).**

During the holidays an alteration has been made in the Schoolroom, whereby increased light and improved ventilation will be given to the Infant’s Class Room.

Owing to the death of Mr W.H. Turner, a vacancy occurred in the Rural

District Council, and on Thursday August 15th an election was held to decide as to which of two candidates, Mr James Brown of Pusehill or the Rev. R.W. Sealy should be chosen to fill the office. The polling went decisively in favour of the Vicar, who received 41 votes to Mr Brown’s 11. The Vicar wishes to tender his grateful thanks to all who were good enough to give him their support.

**(September 1905).**

Not for several years have we had such a glorious Harvest Festival as this

year. Though later than usual, not being held to the 17th of September, the

weather was at its best, and the result was that we had overflowing

congregations, and services of the brightest and heartiest character. The

collections were as usual in aid of the Bideford Infirmary and amounted to

£5.16.0.

The Festival was continued on Monday 18th in lovely weather. A strong Committee with Mr Edward Sealy as Hon. Sec. got together a substantial sum

for prizes at the Sports, and Mr C. Bell very kindly provided a band. Many

and various races and competitions took place. A very great number attended the Tea in the Schoolroom, and in the evening a packed audience assembled to enjoy a Concert. Miss Marjorie King Beer and the Misses Sealy provided the instrumental part, and Mrs Bell, Miss Buchan, Mr G. Clarke and Mr Sidney Bell sang some delightful songs.

The whole village was en fete on September 12th on the occasion of the

marriage of Mr. B.H. Wedgwood with Miss Winifred Heriz-Smith. The Rev.

Canon Braithwaite, formerly Vicar of the parish, performed the ceremony, at

which the choir and ringers gave their assistance. In the evening Mr and

Mrs Heriz-Smith entertained all who had helped to supper at Slade, the

grounds being afterwards illuminated and a dance held upon the lawn to the

music of the Bideford Band.

Though held somewhat late in the year the Choir Outing to Woolacombe was

a gigantic success. Torrents of rain fell as the brakes started in the early morning, but the weather cleared before Woolacombe was reached, and a

delightful day was spent. The morning as usual was largely occupied in

donkey riding, while digging for shells at Barricane Bay was the chief

amusement in the afternoon, and great was the amusement when some of

the elders of the party finished up the day with a donkey ride, which has been immortalized by the Vicar’s camera.

**(October 1905).**

The lending library begins this month, the Magazine beginning their new

numbers in November of each year. This library has existed for many years

and has been much appreciated. But a considerable number of the old

subscribers have from one cause or another dropped off, and new subscribers to take their places are wanted if the library is to be continued. Miss Vidal will be glad to receive the names of any new subscribers. The annual subscription is 2/6.  
**(November 1905).**

Owing to the fact that Christmas Day and New Years Day fell this year upon a Monday, it ¡s necessary to make certain alterations in the customary services Of course the Church itself must be decorated on the Saturday. On

Christmas Eve we propose to give a performance of Tozer’s Sacred Cantata

“The Last Advent at 3 o’ clock in the Schoolroom, and there will be a Festal Evensong with Christmas psalms, hymns and anthem at 6.30. On Christmas Day there will be an early Communion Service at 8 o’ clock, and

Morning Prayer with Holy Communion at 11.

It will not be possible to have the usual supper for the Choir and Ringers on New Years Eve, but it is hoped that the Old Year may be rung out and the

New Year rung in as usual, and the Choir and Ringers are invited to supper

at the Vicarage on New Years Day. The children of the Parish are also invited to tea on the afternoon of the same day, and both in the afternoon and evening Professor Johns will give one of his amusing Entertainments of

Conjuring and Ventriloquism.  
**(December 1905).**

**DEATH**

On March 30th at Claycott, Abbotsham, James Moase aged 59.

(April 4th 1905 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

At Bideford on Tuesday the county justices issued a warrant against Eli Greig, Gypsy of Frome, for failing to answer to a summons for allowing three horses to stray on the highway at Abbotsham.

(July 4th 1905- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Rev. R. Sealy, Vicar of Abbotsham and Mr James Brown of Pusehill have been nominated for the vacancy on the Bideford District Council caused by the death of the late Mr. W.H. Turner.

(August 8th 1905- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Mr Sealy received 41 votes and has been duly elected to the Bideford District Council. Mr Brown received 11 votes. Mr Sealy’s election also gives him a seat on the Bideford Board of Guardians.

(August 29th 1905 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Rev. R.W. Sealy has consented to take the vacant seat on the Council of

the East Devon Association as a representative of the North Devon district.

Mr Sealy played for England in the first International match.

(September 26th 1905 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Messrs Blackford and Son (S. Molton and Barnstaple) were on Thursday last met by a representative gathering at Green Cliff when they offered by auction on behalf of the Executors of the late Mr. W.H. Turner J.P., the whole of the Prime Winter Keep, Mangold, Cabbage, Hay and Straw. Competition was very keen and every lot was sold at high prices.

(October 17th 1905- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Eighteen young men and lads have been admitted to the evening continuation school, and a very successful session is anticipated. Sixty and 65 lbs are the weight of two marrows cultivated by Mr. James Churchill (gardener to the Rev. R.W. Sealy) in the Vicarage garden. Mr. Joseph Bale has won a second prize of a guinea offered by a seed firm for the best sample of potatoes grown. Two pounds of potatoes produced 57 lbs.

(November 14th 1905 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On December 30th at Claycott Farm, Abbotsham - Betsy, widow of the late

James Moase, aged 69.

(January 2nd 1906 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Vicar and Mrs Sealy have quite recently been the recipients of a

handsome present made by the Churchwardens, Choir and Ringers. The present took the form of a Silver Tea Kettle (Queen Anne Design), and a pair of silver mounted vases. Mr. C.H. Pickard asked the Vicar and his wife to accept of the same as a token of esteem and affection and also as an

appreciation of their kindness to them for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Sealy

were quite taken by surprise and thanked the members assembled.

The Ringers journeyed to St. Giles in the Wood on Thursday last to compete

in a Competition. Out of eight teams entered they were placed fourth, and came away with one of the large framed certificates awarded as prizes.

(February 6th 1906 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM PARISH MAGAZINE.1906 (Extracts)**

The bells were silent this New Years Eve owing to the rather sudden death of Mrs. James Moase. Mrs. Moase was apparently in her usual health until two or three days after Christmas when she complained of a cold, but no serious results were apprehended until Friday, when she took a sudden turn for the worse and passed peacefully away in the presence of her children. Thus this last year has seen the departure of both Mr and Mrs James Moase from amongst us, and while we record the loss which the village has sustained, we must offer our sincere sympathy to their children who have been so suddenly bereaved.

The annual report of His Majesty’s Inspector of Schools has arrived and

speaks in the highest terms of the excellent instruction given to the children by Mr. and Mrs. Hooper.

**(January 1906).**

BURIAL. January 3rd. Betsy Moase aged 69 years.

BAPTISM**.** January 11th William, son of Joseph and Charlotte Sophia Staddon.

At present the following arrangements have been made for Friday evening

preachers:

March 9th Preb.. Wodehouse, Rector of Bratton Fleming.

March 16th Rev. E.J. Hall, Rector of Langtree.

March 23rd Rev. T. MacClelland, Rural Dean of Torrington.

March 30th Rev. H.H. Ensor, Rector of Huntshaw.

April 6th Rev. T. Newton Leeke, Rector of Bideford.

The box in which the children of the Sunday School place their contributions for the Church of England Waifs and Strays has just been opened and the sum of twelve shillings was found to have been collected and will be forwarded to the Society. We are glad to think that our children in their happy lives are mindful of those many other little ones who are found

wandering and homeless in some of our great towns.

At a meeting of the Parish Council, the Vicar and Messrs J. Brown and C.H.

Pickard Junr. were re-elected Trustees of the Poor Land Charities, and

Messrs C.R.C. Hibbert and John Moase were elected in the room of Messrs

W.H. Turner and J. Moase - both deceased. At the same meeting Mr Squire

was elected as Manager of the School in place of the late Mr. Jas. Moase.

**(February 1906).**

The list of preachers for the Friday evenings in Lent will be found in the

Kalendar for this month. Please do your best to come and make the congregation one that we need not be ashamed of.

Offertories for February 1906:-

£ s d

February 4th 1 4 6

February 11th 0 15 1

February 18th 1 10 6

February 25th 0 19 9

4 9 10

**(March 1906).**

BURIAL. March 15th Margaret Champion aged 21 years.

Very great sympathy will be felt for Mr. and Mrs. Champion in the sad loss of their youngest daughter, Maggie, who dies, after a very short illness, in St. Bartholomew’s Hospital, where she had been removed to undergo an

operation. She was however found to be too ill to be operated upon, and

within a few hours she passed away in the presence of her mother who had

arrived just in time to see her alive. Maggie Champion was born at High

Park, and baptized in Abbotsham Church. Here too she attended Sunday School and was prepared for Confirmation, making her first Communion in what she loved to call her own Church. Only last Summer, when walking home with her father from Church, she remarked to him that she had received all her training ¡n Abbotsham, and she hoped that when her time came she might be laid to rest there. And her wish has been granted, for she was brought home from London and laid to rest in the presence of a large and sympathising congregation, amongst the mourners being Mrs. Sealy and Miss Vidal, who had both been her teachers in the Sunday School.

**(April 1906).**

On Sunday April 22nd sermons were preached on behalf of the Society for

the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, by the Rev. A.F.R. Bird in the morning, and by our friend the Rev. Henry Brembridge in the evening. It

was a special pleasure to many of us to welcome Mr Brembridge again, and

particularly to the ringers, whom he joined in a peal both before and after the service.

**(May 1906).**

To at least one person in the parish Easter Day of 1906 will ever be a memorable day. And that person is the Vicar, who on that day completed the twenty fifth year of his ministry here. Twenty five years of happiness, not unclouded with sorrow, nor unmarked by disappointments many, and failures oft, but still, years during which have grown steadily and surely an affection between him and his people which will last on into the great Beyond. Many and many a time, as he looks down the Church, where rises up before his eyes a vision of that great company who have worshipped there with him and have passed on to share in the more perfect worship of the Temple not made with hands. And never more than on this Easter Day, when amongst the throng of worshippers there seemed to mingle the glad faces of friends and relations, who wait with the certainty of knowledge, for the promise of the Resurrection Day. Fitting surely was it that on this day should gather before God’s Altar a greater number of communicants than had ever been known in Abbotsham Church. May God in His mercy grant that in the last great day no one of their names be found absent from the Lamb’s Book of Life.

We feel sure that the parishioners generally will accord their congratulations to Miss Avice Sealy, who has succeeded, after a course of study at the Royal College of Music, in passing an examination which entitles her to add to her name the four important letters A.R.C.M. (Associate of the Royal College of Music). We hope that, for many years, it may be our privilege to hear her violin at the various concerts etc which we may have in the parish.

The Annual Vestry Meeting was held on Wednesday April 25th. The retiring Churchwardens, Messrs Hibbert and C.H. Pickard were re-elected, as were also the Sidesmen, Messrs J. Bale and C. Glover.

**(May 1906).**

BAPTISM. May 13th. Arthur Cecil, son of Arthur and Louisa Bailey.

BURIAL. May 16th. Jane Silke aged 71 years.

The death of Mrs Silke came as a great shock to those of her many friends

who know her best. Although a great sufferer from rheumatism, Mrs Silke had apparently been unusually well for some time, and on the very day of her

death was in excellent spirits, and had been out in the garden during the

morning and busy about her daily work. Suddenly, while standing before the fire in her kitchen, she fell down speechless, and when lifted up life was

found to be extinct. Very real sympathy is felt on all sides for Mr Silke, who has sustained the heavy loss of his wife and youngest son, when himself in a somewhat feeble state of health.

**(June 1906).**

Owing to an outbreak of German measles the school has been closed for the

upwards of a month. One of the results of this has been that the Choir practices have necessarily fallen through, and it has been found impossible

to get up the music for the coming Choral Festival at llfracombe. It has been decided therefore to abandon the idea of going to llfracombe, and to have the Choir outing later on in the summer.

The Offertory accounts for the 1905-6 which were presented at the Easter

Vestry were accidently omitted from last month’s Magazine, are therefore

inserted here:

RECEIPTS

By Offertories and Balance from 1905 £98 14s 6d

EXPENDITURE

Easter Offering 14 3 9

Bideford Infirmary 5 16 6

W. Blackmore - salary 20 0 0

J. Cory-salary 12 4 9

Visitation Expenses 0 16 10

Choir Outing 4 10 0

Japanese Blind Boy 2 0 0

S.P.G. 2 12 1

Clothing Club 2 12 0

G. Gilbert - Organ 1 0 0

Blower 2 0 0

Insurance 3 16 3

Glover’s Bill 0 17 4

Moase’s Bill 1 3 2  
Positive Organ 1 17 6  
Devon House of Mercy 2 17 0  
How’s Bill 3 12 0  
James’ Bill (prizes) 2 7 2

J. Churchill - lamp 0 10 0

Cleaning School 0 14 0

Meredith’s Bill 4 2 0

Sickand Needy 4 19 0

Washing 1 10 7

Lantern Slides 0 11 0

CandIes 0 18 0

Flowers 0 10 0

Curtains etc 0 5 0

Balance in hand 0 7 0

TOTAL 98 14 6

R.W. Sealy, Vicar. C.R.C. Hibbert, C.H. Pickard Jnr. Churchwardens.

April 25th 1906.

**(June 1906).**

BAPTISM. June 17th. Violet Annie, daughter of James and Bertha Churchill.

MARRIAGE June 3rd. William Thomas Skinner to Sarah Elizabeth Huxtable.

June 3rd. James Edward Hocking to Ellen Huxtable.

BURIAL June 15th. Frank Goodacre aged 41 years.

Most of our interest will be centred in the debates in Parliament upon the

Education Bill. It is hardly an exaggeration to say that when the provisions of the Bill were first made public they appeared so extravagantly unjust that the people could not realise that they were seriously intended. The handing over of all schools to one authority was, of course, expected. The abolition of Tests for head teachers was also to be expected. As there are no Tests for Teachers at present, and as it is absurd to suppose that Managers or Education Authorities will not be influenced in their selection of a Teacher by the faith, or want of faith, which he professes, practically this is merely a piece of clap-trap. It is as ridiculous to suppose that Roman Catholic Managers will appoint a Nonconformist, as is to suppose that a Nonconformist Board will appoint a Roman Catholic. But the real sting of the Bill as it stands lies in its treatment of the Religious Teaching of the Children. They are not to be taught any definite teaching such as the Catechism, and they are not to be obliged to come for the Scripture lesson at all. In country parishes the parents are not supposed to have any concern for their children’s education, and they may not have their faith taught them, even if they wish. So that in Schools like ours, built and maintained for nearly forty years by the generosity of religious minded Churchmen and Nonconformists the teaching which has been given, and given with the hearty approval of parents, will no longer be possible. Only the Bible will be allowed, and that to be used just as if it were a history or geography book. No catechism will be allowed, no Prayer Book, no prayers, no hymns, and the

children need not come unless they like, and we all know what that means.

We believe that all in this parish, who have the welfare of the souls of their children at heart, whether they be Churchmen or Nonconformists, will bitterly resent and fight against this most unrighteous attempt to cripple our School, while Roman Catholics and Jews are to be allowed to teach their religion as they wish.

Our Sunday School Teachers were present at the Annual Meeting of Sunday

School Teachers held this year at Alwington on June 27th. A very large

number of teachers were present, and had the privilege of listening to a very striking sermon by the Rev. H.M. Johnson of Bideford, and a capital address by the Rev. R. Callender of Exeter.

**(July 1906).**

BAPTISM July 26th. Constance Alice Lewis, daughter of Thomas Frederick and

Elizabeth Anne Friendship.

As is usually the case the past month has been one in which little has

occurred worthy of record. July is for some reason always an unexciting

month. The labours of hay-making being pretty well over there comes a

spell of slackness before the harvest, and everyone is either taking a holiday or thinking about it. During the past month the Vicar has been away from home, his place being kindly filled on Sundays by the Rev. C.A. Bowlker, and the chief interest would seem to lie in the future, wherein at no very distant date a place must be found for the Choir Outing, the Harvest Festival, and it is whispered, also for a School Treat, which has been promised by a generous parishioner.

**(August 1906).**

BAPTISMS. August 5th. Beatrice Emily, daughter of, Edwin Charles, son of, and Annie Joyce, daughter of John Edwin and Annie Moase.

August 12th Frances May, daughter of William George and Elizabeth Parsons

The chief event of the past month has been the outing of the Choir and

Ringers. The place chosen this year was lifracombe, and the day selected

was beautifully fine. Most of the party preferred to drive all the way, only a few of the less energetic choosing the easier method of “training” it. Ilfracombe was reached in time to allow a short stroll before dinner, and the afternoon was spent wandering by the shore, watching the steamer traffic from the pier, listening to the musical entertainments, and so on, tea time coming all too soon for many. After tea, the drive home and one more outing over, a pleasant happy day such as we love to look back on.

At a meeting of the School Managers, application was made to the County

Authorities for leave to open a night school as usual for the young men of the parish.

Much sympathy will be extended to our much respected Postmistress, Mrs

Glover on the death of her son Edward, who died very suddenly in his home

in Wales, leaving a widow and one young child.

**(September 1906).**

The Harvest Thanksgiving Services were held on Sunday September 9th and there can be little question that this year must stand out above its fellows, as specially blest by God’s bounty. The congregations seemed to be larger than in previous years, and the choir rendered the services with a reverent heartiness which was most inspiring. The Festival was continued on

Wednesday September 12th and again the weather was delightful. There were the usual Sports in the afternoon. After tea ¡n the Schoolroom a short

concert was given - the chief work being done by Mrs Bell and Messrs Hall

and Oerton as vocalists, and by Miss M. Beer and the Misses Sealy - violins, and a clever performance on the auto-harp and mandolin by Messrs Hill and Northcote, and upon a home made coffee-pot flute, which latter item was loudly encored. After the concert a dance was held, and the prizes gained in the Sports were presented during the evening.

The School Treat at Cornborough which had been so eagerly looked forward to, was held on Wednesday September 19th, when a gay procession of children with many flags started off from the old oak to march to Cornborough. The Vicar and Mrs Wingate had provided carts for the little ones to ride in, and a most imposing procession was thus formed. On the lawn at Cornborough the party was met by Mr and Mrs Wingate and their son, and the afternoon was spent in sports and games. At 4.30 a sumptuous tea was held in the coach house.

**(October 1906).**

BAPTISM October 21st. Cecil Henry, son. of William and Eliza Anne Tucker.

BURIAL October 8th. Mary Bale aged 75 years.

The above notice records the passing away of one of our oldest and most respected parishioners. Mrs Bale whose many children, born and reared in

Abbotsham have helped to make the closing years of her busy life happy and

contented, has by her quiet, unassuming ways not only won the affection of

those who knew her well, but has set an example not to be lightly forgotten. A regular Churchgoer and communicant, Sunday was to her a day of genuine spiritual refreshment; and rarely was her seat vacant, so long as she could “anyways get there” as she used to say. For the last few years she had suffered much from cataract and the fear of total blindness, but no murmur or complaint ever escaped her lips, and though the end came somewhat

suddenly, it was peaceful and to all appearance painless, the quiet passing

away of a gentle unassuming soul ¡nto the presence of the Lord whom she had faithfully served and waited for.

**(November 1906).**

With the approach of winter comes rumours and threats of sickness. The

neighbouring parishes to the west of us have been suffering from measles

and whooping cough, and gradually the approach has been towards us, and

at last we too have been attacked. As far as can be seen at present the

type of illness seems to be a mild one, but it may well be, perhaps, to issue a word of caution at the very outset. And our caution is that at the very first symptom of illness, the children shall be kept in the house, warm and dry, and if possible, be put to bed. Many and many a severe attack of measles and subsequent inflammation of the lungs would be avoided, if strict precautions were taken against cold being caught either in the early stages of the illness, or what is even more important, during the early stages of convalescence.

**(November 1906).**

The threatened outbreak of measles and whooping cough has fallen upon us

with such severity that few houses seem to have escaped, where there were

any children who were liable. The epidemic though severe, has not been of a bad type. Our Christmas festivities will, of course, be sadly interfered with. It will not be possible to have the Christmas Tree, but we must look

forward to better times later on.

The School having been closed for weeks and the majority of the Choir

having been laid up, things have been rather depressing of late. We must all look forward to a fine Christmas, and it has been arranged this year, as usual, to have a Celebration of Holy Communion on Christmas Day at 8am and 11am, in order that everyone may have the opportunity of coming.

A very instructive and helpful series of lectures on Poultry Keeping has been given by the County Council Instructor, Mr Stalworthy. A large number

attended every lecture, on most evenings more than 30 being present. This is the second time that this course of lectures has been given, and it seems that some practical results might really ensue. It is not altogether unwise to try and see whether by some alteration in our methods we can get our hens to lay eggs in November and December when they are 2d each, instead of eating their heads off then, and laying eggs like fury when it doesn’t pay to sell them. And then when the second lecture and course comes on there are more in the audience who come to try and learn, instead of scoff, and the result may, we trust, be profitable to all.

**(December 1906).**

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Lord Bishop of the Diocese preached in the Parish Church on Sunday morning.

(March 6th 1906 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

Much sympathy is felt in the parish with Mr and Mrs Champion of High Park

Lodge, who have lost their youngest daughter Maggie. She died in St.

Bartholomews Hospital, after a short illness. Her body was interred in

Abbotsham churchyard on Thursday last

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A beautiful stained glass window has been placed in the East end of the new

church by Mr and Mrs William Vicary in memory of their only son. The stone

framework and tracery, are very elegant in design, have been transferred

from the old Chapel of St. Mary’s, and the stained glass is representative of “The Sermon on the Mount”. The inscription at the foot reads - “Erected in Loving Memory of Richard Courtenay Vicary, son of William and Rose Vicary, who died August 31st 1902”. The windows on either side represent four Apostles (Mathew, Mark, Luke and John) and four Prophets (Isiah, Jeremiah, Ezekial and Daniel).

(July 3rd 1906 - BC).

**BIDEFORD RURAL COUNCIL.**

Bideford Rural District Council met last Tuesday, and it was confirmed the

Surveyors action in making an agreement entering upon certain covenants,

he was give sanction to open the road for the purpose of laying water mains

for the supply of houses at Buckleigh in the parish of Abbotsham. The Local

Government Board forwarded copies of an application from the Rev. R.W. Sealy that the auditors surcharge of 16/6d against Abbotsham Parish Council

for the repair of the village pump should be disallowed. In the course of

discussion it was stated that the cost of repairing the pump had not been

previously surcharged against the Parish Council, and that the District

Council had not taken over the pump which was originally kept in repair by

private subscription.

(July 24th 1906 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On August 18th in Newport. Mon., Edward, son of the late T.H. Glover of

Abbotsham, aged 37.

(August 28th 1906- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A collection on behalf of Dr. Barnardo’s Homes has been made throughout

the Parish by the following scholars of the Day School - Vernon Hooper,

Stanley Daniel, Charles Hamm, Minnie Squire, Ethel Brock and James Cole.  
Mr C. Hooper, the headmaster, has forwarded the sum of £2.1. 9d to the

Secretary of the Homes.

(August 7th 1906 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

At the Harvest Festival on Sunday the collections were on behalf of the

Bideford Infirmary. The Festival will be continued tomorrow with tea, sports and concert.

(September 11th 1906 - BG).

**BIRTH.**

On September 22nd at Saddlers Rest, Abbotsham, the wife of W.H. Tucker, of a son.

(September 25th 1906 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The children and teachers of the Day School have been kindly entertained at

Cornborough. The younger children under the charge of Mrs Hooper rode to the grounds, while the elder children under the command of Mr Hooper marched there with banners flying. On arrival they were welcomed by Mr

and Mrs Wingate and Master Alan Wingate. Sports were held and tea followed. All received gifts of sweets and apples.

(October 2nd 1906- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

The Vicar, Rev. R.W. Sealy preached at the evening service at Exeter

Cathedral on Sunday week.

(October 9th 1906- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Mrs Mary Bale, a very old and much respected inhabitant of the Parish has just passed away. She had suffered from failing health for some little time, but her death came as a surprise to many. The funeral took place in the parish churchyard.

(October 16th 1906 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

The Medical Officer of Health has visited the school , and advised that it be closed for a short time ¡n consequence of an outbreak of measles.  
(November 13th 1906 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Day School opened again on Monday after a closure of nearly a month.

There is still a lot of sickness, whooping cough being very prevalent.

(December 4th 1906 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Through the kindness of the Vicar and Mrs Sealy, the Choir and Ringers with

the Churchwardens met together on New Years Eve for their annual supper

at the Vicarage.

The third annual social evening held in connection with the Abbotsham District of the National Deposit Friendly Society was held on the 3rd Jan.

(January 8th 1907 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

At the Abbotsham Baptist Chapel last Thursday evening, a New Years Eve

entertainment, comprising of sacred items was given. Miss Glover presided

at the organ. Refreshments were handed round during the evening.

(January 15th 1907- BG).

**DEATH**

At Abbotsham on 29th ult, Salathiel John (Johnny) Bale aged 12.

(February 5th 1907 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Amidst universal tokens of grief and sympathy the interment took place in the parish churchyard on Friday last of Salathiel John Bale, youngest son of Mr and Mrs J. Bale. The poor little fellow, who was a general favourite with old and young alike, had been somewhat ailing of late, but a fatal change took place a week since, and the end was very rapid. The first part of the ceremony was held in the Baptist Chapel, and on reaching the Church gate, the procession was joined by the teachers and children of the Day School.

(February 5th 1907 - BG).

**DEATH OF MISS BURNARD.**The death has occurred at her residence, Faussett House, Bideford, of Miss

Ellen Burnard, the last surviving representative of a family that has been

connected with Bideford for many generations. Her grand father was a large  
ship owner and timber merchant of the town, and was at one time Mayor of the Borough. His son (Mr W.H.E. Burnard) Miss Burnard’s father, was a solicitor and practised in Bridgeland Street for many years. Miss Burnard  
who was seventy years of age, had taken an active interest in Church work,

being a district visitor. The funeral will take place today at Abbotsham

churchyard, the interment being in the family vault.  
(February 26th l907 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM UNIONISTS.**

A meeting was held on Tuesday in the Abbotsham Schoolroom, under the auspices of the Iddesleigh Habitation of the Primrose League. The chairman explaining the objects of the Primrose League, said its desire to maintain religion did not mean the maintenance of any particular section of the Christian Church, but that religious education should be given in all

elementary schools, and that every child should have the opportunity of\_ knowing something about his God.

(February 26th 1907 - BG).

**PARISH ELECTIONS.**

Abbotsham - members elected were, Messrs J. Bale, C.T. Bell, J. Brown,

C.R.C. Hibbert, S. de B. Heaven, J.E. Moase, W. Squires and E. Woodcock.

(March 12th 1907 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

First class, hand sewn boots and shoes of every description - J. Friendship

P.S. Rubbish, the likes of rivet and machine-sewn not kept. All repairing neatly executed.

(April 16th 1907 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The first meeting of the new Parish Council has been held during the last

week. The Rev. R.W. Sealy (District Councillor) was re-elected in the Chair, and Mr C.R. Hibbert was appointed Vice Chairman. The Clerk, Mr C.R.

Pickard was also re-elected, and Messrs Brown and Hibbert were appointed overseers.

(April 23rd 1907 - BG).

**DEATH**

On June 8th at The Barton, Abbotsham, Arabella, the beloved wife of Charles

Colwell Turner aged 73.

(June 11th 1907- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The members of the Girls Friendly Society accompanied by Mrs Sealy went to

Hartland for their annual outing.

(July 16th 1907 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**.

The Choir and Ringers visited Lynton and Lynmouth for their annual outing.

(August 6th 1907 - BG).

**GRAND FETE AT ABBOTSHAM**

If doing good were always so pleasant a task as attending the fete held in the Vicarage Grounds, Abbotsham on Wednesday afternoon and evening last, one would scarce need the further incentive of duty to be ever holding out a helping hand to the less fortunate children of our land - the waifs and strays of today. The Fete was a great success ¡n spreading a knowledge of the work of the Society (Church of England Waifs and Strays). The grounds

were thrown open at 2.30 - stalls were well laden, and in a large marquee.

There were two performances of theatricals and tableaux, a capital concert, a public tea, and field amusements. There were money making rifle ranges, cocoa nut shies and “Aunt Sally’. It is hoped the proceeds of the fete will

reach close upon £50.

(August 13th 1907 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

At the recent examination in connexion with the Incorporated Society of the

Royal Academy of Music, Vernon C. Hooper, passed successfully in the lower Division. He was prepared by Miss A. Williams L.R.A.M. of Kingsdown, Bideford.  
(September 10th 1907 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

It is proposed to form a Rifle Club for the Parish, and a public meeting is to be held in the Schoolroom this evening at 8pm in furtherance of the same. All interested are heartily invited to be present.  
(September 24th 1907 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Mr C. Turner, son of Mr C.C. Turner of The Barton, Abbotsham has recently

purchased Pillmouth Farm, Landcross, the property of Mr Williams.

(October 8th 1907 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Last month was the wettest October at Exeter for nine years, and North

Devon also had much more than its customary quantum of rain for that month. Records kept at Mr D.S. Wingate’s about 150 feet above sea level, in a five inch gauge, 12 inches above the ground, shewed a total for a month of 5.80 inches. Rain fell here on the 2nd and 3rd, and then on every day from the 6th to the end of the month, It is interesting to note that during the

last three weeks of September there was only one wet day at Abbotsham.  
(November 5th 1907 - BG).

ABBOTSHAM.

A very pleasant and friendly rifle match was shot by the Rifle Club on

Wednesday last against Northam, who won by 20 points. On Friday the 17th, Monkleigh rifle team visited Abbotsham for a return match, Abbotsham

winning by 3 points.

(January 1st 1908- BG).

**MARRIAGE**.

On March 18th at Abbotsham Parish Church - Sidney George Cox of Ilminster

to Emily Martin of Abbotsham.

(March 24th 1908 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The usual Tea at the Abbotsham Baptist Chapel was largely attended on Good Friday. A meeting in the evening was presided over by Alderman T.Goaman JP

(April 21st 1908- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The monthly shoot of the Rifle Club took place on Tuesday, when F. Daniel

won. Scores - F. Daniel 100; F. Barnacott 98; F. Woodcock 95; J. Bale 94;

and J. Hockin 93.

(May 12th 1908- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Friends and parishioners will be pleased to learn that Mr Walpole Sealy,

eldest son of the esteemed Vicar, has successfully passed his final

examination, and is to be ordained to Holy Orders on Trinity Sunday. Empire Day celebrations were kept up at the Church of England Day School on Friday last. After the scholars adjourned to a field adjacent to the playground, and the general salute was well rendered. The song “Flag of Britain” was also well rendered, and after there was Sports and refreshments.

(May 26th 1908 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A wedding has been solemnised in the Parish Church between Miss Walborg

Gertson and Mr Joseph Bale.  
(June 16th 1908- BG).

**DEATH.**

On July 30th at Cornborough, Abbotsham, suddenly, Florence, wife of D.C.

Wingate.

(August 4th 1908 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Dr D.J. Edwards gave an organ recital in the Barnstaple Parish Church on

Tuesday evening. Miss Sealy A.R.C.M. of Abbotsham proved herself a violinist of exceptional power in the Adante from Mendelssohns Concerto,

and in an Adagio by Tartini and a Berceuse by Mlynarsky.

(August 11th 1908 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Abbotsham Miniature Rifle Club shot a post match with Hartland and won

by 37 points. Mr W. James (99) won the souvenir spoon presented by the Society for the top scorer. The return match with Parkham was shot at

Abbotsham on Wednesday, and ended in a win for Abbotsham by 12 points.

(December 1st 1908 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The collections in the Parish Church last Sunday were on behalf of the  
Earthquake Fund and amounted to £4.13s.

Very great interest was taken in the meet of the Stevenstone Hounds on

Thursday last at “The Oak Tree”. Fifteen or sixteen years have passed

since the last meeting at the same spot, and on that self same day a young

oak was planted beside the old and picturesque trunk still standing.

(January 26th 1909 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Rifle Club held a Social at the Schoolroom, kindly lent by Mr Sealy

(Vicar) on Wednesday, about a hundred being present. Dancing, singing

and other amusements were indulged in. Mr Hooper, their Secretary, with

his usual ability, arranged the programme.

(February 23rd 1909 - BC).

**MARRIAGE.**

On the 2nd March at the Wesleyan Church, Barry - Mr James Harvey Evans,

master mariner - to Miss Emily Gertrude Moase, of Claycott Farm, Abbotsham.

(March 9th 1909 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A Confirmation Service was held in the Parish Church on Wednesday afternoon by the Lord Bishop of Crediton. There was an exceptionally large number of candidates from various parishes around. After the service the candidates were entertained to tea in the Schoolroom by the Vicar and Mrs Sealy. It was a great pleasure to welcome Dr Trefusis amongst us once more, he being so well known and beloved in North Devon.  
(March 9th 1909 - BG).

**FUNERAL AT ABBOTSHAM.**

We regret to announce the death which occurred last Wednesday night, the

7th April, of Mrs Anne Turner, widow of the late Mr William Turner of The

Barton, Bideford. She was 80 years of age, and was the mother of the late

Mr W.H. Turner of the same address, and four of her sons who survive her

are the present Vicar of Barnstaple; Mr Turner of The Barton, Instow, Mr

Turner of Molland, and one son, a banker in the Isle of Wight. The funeral

took place on Saturday, the remains being interred in the family vault in

Abbotsham Churchyard. (April 13th 1909 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On June 8th at Coombe, Abbotsham, Mary Brook Turner, eldest daughter of

the late John Turner. The funeral took place at Abbotsham on Friday last, the coffin being lowered into the family vault, which was beautifully lined with ferns and flowers. She was a member of an old North Devon family which has occupied Coombe for a long period of years. She was born on the 4th May 1837.

(June 15th 1909- BC).

**DEATH**

On July 16th at Westward Ho, Edward Windham Eyre Granville Sealy Vidal, elder son of the late Capt. S. Vidal (57th Regiment) of Cornborough, Abbotsham, aged 33. On Sunday morning the funeral of Mr E.W.E.G. Sealy Vidal, Lord of the Manor, and late of Cornborough, took place at Abbotsham. He had been in failing health for some time, and he died from heart failure. He was married in November 1904 to the only daughter of Maj. Gen. Boyes C.B. of Appledore, and leaves one child. Eight men of the village acted as pall bearers.

(July 20th 1909 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The funeral of the late Mrs Vesy Fitzgerald took place at Abbotsham churchyard yesterday amid signs of regret and sympathy.

(August 3rd 1909- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

What would have been a very serious accident was prevented at Abbotsham

by P.C. Barnacott. A horse and carriage were waiting outside Riccardsdown

House to take away Mrs Hibbert, when the horse bolted. P.C. Barnacott

who was standing in the garden rushed out and got hold of the reins. The

constable is not a feather weight, but the horse pulled him along quite 70

yards before it came to a standstill, no serious damage being done.

(August 17th 1909- BC).

**FETE AT ABBOTSHAM.**

The grand fete in aid of the Three Towns Church Extensions takes place at

Abbotsham tomorrow. Breaks are being run by Messrs R. Dymond & Son at a cheap return fare. Theatrical performances have been organised by Mr

Heriz-Smith, concerts by Miss Sealy, gymkhana by Miss Ewen, and a Miniature Bisley by Messrs Hibbert and Hooper, in addition to the usual attractions. There will be a public tea.

(August 24th 1909 - BC).

**MARRIAGE.**

On September 30th at the Parish Church, Abbotsham by the Rev. R.W.Sealy,

Mr John Brooks of Petrockstowe, to Miss Mary Ethel Phillips, younger daughter of Mr J.H. Phillips of Winsford.

(October 5th 1909 - BC).

**DEATH.**

On October 9th (suddenly) at the Post Office, Abbotsham, Jane the beloved

wife of the late Mr T.H. Glover, aged 78.

(October 12th 1909 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

At the Baptist Chapel on Sunday afternoon the Rev. F. Durbin preached the

Memorial Service to the late Mrs Jane Glover. She had been for 57 years a

consistent and honoured member of this Christian Church. She had taken a deep and loving interest in the work of this hallowed place.

(October 26th 1909 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The local school with 98.3 per cent heads the attendance list for the district.

(December 21st 1909 - 8G).

**DEATH.**

On December 7th in London - Elizabeth, the widow of the late George

Churchill of Dartford, and only surviving daughter of the late James Bird of Abbotsham, aged 73 years.

(December 21st 1909 - BC).

**DEATH OF CAPT. HERIZ-SMITH.**

We regret to record the death of Capt. Heriz-Smith, R.N. C.M.G., who died in Worthing. He entered the Royal Navy as a Cadet in June 1864.

(March 8th 1910 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

On Thursday evening last previous to the choir practice, members of the

choir, with the singers, churchwardens etc, met in the schoolroom, when a

presentation wàs made to Miss G.S. Sealy, in view of her approaching

marriage to Mr J.C. Nicholson. The presentation was a very pretty cakestand.

(March 15th 1910- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The teachers and children of the Day School have presented Miss G.S. Sealy

with a solid silver inkstand and pen holder as a wedding present. On Thursday evening the parishioners met in the Schoolroom, and a further presentation was made to Miss Sealy by Mr Hooper, taking the form of a solid marble clock.

(March 22nd 1910- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The funeral took place in Abbotsham churchyard on Friday last of Mr William

Hedgeland, the landlord of the New Inn in that village, who died after a short illness, leaving a widow and grown up family. He was a retired member of the Devon County Constabulary, and had been stationed at Marwood before

leaving the force some seven years ago. He was 60 years of age. It was his wish that he should be carried to the grave by members of the Police Force, and Constables Bastin, Barnacott, Rice, Wright, Hammacott and Flay acted as bearers.

(April 19th 1910- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

We are asked to state that the Memorial Service to the late King Edward VII

at Abbotsham Church on Friday next, will in accordance with the King’s

desire, be held at 1 o’clock, the hour at which the funeral of his late most gracious Majesty takes place at Windsor, and not at 2 o’clock as announced on Sunday.

(May 17th 1910 - BG).

**DEATH**

On June 25th at Bowood, Abbotsham - Charles Henry Pickard aged 81 years.

(June 28th 1910- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Parish Council at their last meeting elected the new Technical Education Committee for the parish, and in addition to the day school managers, the following were added - Mrs Hooper, Miss Vidal, and Messrs Andrews and Moase.

(August 2nd 1910 - BC).

ABBOTSHAM.

Harvest Festival services at Abbotsham Church on Sunday were largely

attended. At the evening service the church was crowded, and the Vicar,

Rev. R.W. Sealy in his address reminded the congregation how the character

of the harvest festival had since the time when we were almost entirely  
dependent upon the result of the harvest in our own country for our food

supply. Alteration of the law, progress of science and changed methods in

agriculture, had rendered the result of the home harvest of less vital

importance, but yet the harvest festival was one to which people still

delighted to take part.

(September 20th 1910 - BC)

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Some months ago “Tit Bits” asked the question, “Are there any of the old

church barrel organs in existence”?. The answer came, “There are two, one

at a village near Oxford, and the other at a village in North Devon”. The

North Devon barrel organ is in the possession of Rev. T. Edgar Jackson,

Wesleyan minister at Lynton. The interesting relic, which was formerly used

in Abbotsham Parish Church, has two separate musical barrels of tunes, the

one containing 10 hymn tunes, and the other 10 pieces of dance music. The

hymns only were of course, used for worship in the Parish Church, and the

dances were reserved for the various parochial social functions.

(October 10th 1910 - BC).

**SALE AT ABBOTSHAM**

A sale of considerable interest was held at Abbotsham Court for Mrs Taylor,

by Messrs Blackford & Son, auctioneers on Friday and Saturday. The catalogues contained articles of antique character, magnificent pieces of

furniture and a large number of oil paintings and water colours.

(November 8th 1910 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Heartiest congratulations have been extended during the last week to the

Vicar and Mrs Sealy on the advent of a son to Mrs Nicholson (formerly Miss

Sylvia Sealy).

Maj. and Mrs Thompson of Rixlade are leaving during the coming month for

Canada. They have taken great interest in all matters connected with the

Church and social life of the parish.

(February 28th 1911 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A meeting of the Coronation Committee has been held in the Schoolroom, the

Rev. R.W. Sealy presiding. The Treasurer, Mr C.R. Hibbert reported the

receipt of about £30 in contributions, and a programme was drawn up and a

Sub Committee appointed.

Empire Day celebrations at the School were not on such an elaborate scale

as in previous years in view of the near approach of the Coronation. The

children however sang the “National Anthem” both at the commencement and

close of school. An Address on the Empire and our duties as members and

citizens was given by Mr Hooper, the headmaster, and the flag was saluted

by the children as they marched past.

(June 6th 1911 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On June 15th at the Baptist Chapel, Bideford - Herbert W. Ford of Parkham

to Elizabeth J.S. Moase of Abbotsham.

(June 20th 1911 -BG).

**DEATH.** On the 23 inst at Coombe Cot, Abbotsham - Selina Fraces, wife of

De B. Spencer Heaven.

(June 27th 1911 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**  
At Bideford Town Hall yesterday afternoon, the North Devon Coroner and a

jury held the adjourned inquest on the remains of a female infant found nearKenwith Station on August 25th. Eventually the jury returned an open verdict with the particulars in accordance with medical evidence.

(September 12th 1911 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The festivities in connection with the Coronation passed off most successfully at Abbotsham. The ringers began the day with hearty peals on the bells, and the village was early astir, decorating so that eventually both cottages and highway were quite gay with flags etc. A service was held in the Parish Church at 2pm and was well attended. Competitors in the bolster fight both gave and took hard knocks. The obstacle race, bun race and cock fighting proved very exciting. The Rifle Club had the audacity to challenge the parish in tug of war, and to the surprise, won both pulls easily. At the conclusion of the Sports, the prizes were distributed by Mrs Sealy, and at 10 o’clock all adjourned to the sports field, and no less than fifteen different bonfires could be seen. A fine display of fireworks took place, after which “God Save the King” was sung. The children of the parish and others invited from other parishes received Coronation china mugs, provided by the Committee out of social funds

(June 27th 1911 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Coronation Committee after all accounts have been settled have a

balance in hand of about eleven guineas, It has been unanimously resolved

that the sum be paid to the Bells Restoration Fund as a permanent memorial

of the Coronation.

(August 8th 1911 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A successful jumble sale on behalf of the Society for Waifs and Strays was

held in the Schoolroom on Wednesday. Miss Sealy the local Secretary had

been most energetic in her efforts. The Vicar was unable to be present

owing to sickness.

(October 24th 1911 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**The Vicar, who is Rural Dean for the Hartland Deanery has invited all the

bands of ringers in the Deanery to the opening of the bells after re-hanging on November 24th. The Bishop of Crediton is coming down for the

occasion. A brass memorial will also be placed in the Vestry recording the

fact that the work has been carried out in commemoration of the Coronation.

(November 21st 1911 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On January 9th at the Royal Hospital, Putney, Ann, the third daughter of the late T.C. Holman of Abbotsham.

(January 6th 1912 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The funeral took place at Abbotsham of Frank Ellis Squire, aged 9 years who

died in Bideford Hospital from appendicitis. His schoolmates in the Old

Town School, Bideford sent a beautiful everlasting wreath, which was placed

on the grave by Mr F.A. Baxter B.A., the head master.

(April 2nd 1912- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The annual tea and public meeting were held at the Baptist Chapel on Good

Friday, and about 200 sat down to the tea.

(April 9th 1912 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A very pretty wedding took place at the Parish Church on Monday last

between Miss Florence Edwina James and Mr Wallace Downing of Northam.

The bride being well known and respected, has with her parents lived in the

parish all their lifetime. They leave for their new home in Canada early next month.

(April 16th 1912 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Messrs J. and J. Edmands (Liberal Unionist Council) gave an address in the

Schoolroom, illustrated by limelight views, on Friday last, the lectures dealing with the Home Rule question. There was a good attendance.

(May 2lst l9l2 - BG).

**SUDDEN DEATH.**

The Rev. Richard Turner, a well known clergyman through Devonshire, who

has been the Vicar of Barnstaple for five years, died on Friday after an illness of brief duration. He was 56 and a member of a highly esteemed North Devon family, having connections with Abbotsham and Bideford. His father was the late Mr William Turner of The Barton, Bideford.

(June 25th 1912- **BG).**

**ABBOTSHAM**

Mrs Brough of Keene, having offered school children a penny each for queen

wasps, they have collected no less than 366.

Vernon C. Hooper, son of Mr C. Hooper of Abbotsham Church School, and

who is a pupil at Bideford Grammar School, has passed the Preliminary

Certificate Examination under the Board of Education at the age of sixteen

and a half years.

(June 25th 1912 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

On Thursday evening Mr Charles Glover, aged 61, landlord of the New Inn,

Abbotsham, after playing a game of bagatelle, was seen to fall to the floor, and on being picked up he was found to be dead.

(July 9th 1912 - BG).

**MARRIAGE**

On September 11th at the Parish Church, Abbotsham by Rev. Sealy - James

Ellis of Diddywell, Northam to Bessie Slee of Abbotsham.

(September 17th 1912 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

On the 3rd inst the death took place at Abbotsham of Mr Tom Brock, one of

the oldest and most esteemed men in the village. He followed his usual

vocation as a labourer almost up to the time of his death, and he was in his 81st year. He was a constant attendant at the Abbotsham Baptist Chapel

where his cheery face will be greatly missed. He was a man of stirling

character and uprightness. The funeral took place at the village churchyard

on Friday last amidst raging elements.

(February 18th 1913- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Mr J. Braddick presided over a public meeting held in the Abbotsham

Schoolroom on Tuesday evening which was addressed by Mr H.A. Baker, the

Liberal candidate for the Division.

(March 4th 1913 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

The Medical Inspector visited the School last Friday, and after examining

over 20 children , expressed the opinion that the children were above the

average standard for the county and district for health, appearance and

cleanliness.

(May 27th 1913 - BG).

**GOLDEN WEDDING**

On May 23rd 1863 at the Wesleyan Chapel, Bideford, by the Rev. Samuel

Atkinson - Joshua Heywood, son of Mr Joseph Heywood of Lake Farm,

Abbotsham to Matilda, daughter of Mr Hallett of Langtree.

(May 27th 1913- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The gnarled old oak tree which has been a land mark and parish notice

posting station in the Square outside the Parish Church at Abbotsham for

centuries past, having at last been overtaken with decay at the roots was last week removed, Its successor is the sturdy young oak, planted near by in commemoration of Queen Victoria’s Jubilee.

(June 10th 1913- BG).

**MARRIAGE.** On June 9th at the Parish Church, Abbotsham by Rev. R.W. Sealy – Fred Avery of Kent to Mabel Slee of Abbotsham.

(June 17th 1913- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Great regret is felt at the continued illness of Mr William Blackmore, organist of the Parish Church for many years. His place is being taken on Sunday mornings by Mrs Sealy, and at the evening service by Mr Vernon Hooper.

(June 17th 1913 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On July 5th at Abbotsham Barton - Jane Andrew aged 48 years.

(July 8th 1913 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On August 11th at Abbotsham Church - Mr George Fuller of Sussex to Mary

Louise Pearse, grand daughter of the late Thomas C. Holman of Abbotsham.

(August 19th 1913- 8G).

**FETE AT ABBOTSHAM.**

The Fete on behalf of the Church Funds held in the Vicarage Grounds on

Wednesday last was a decided success. A public tea was held and full justice was done to the liberal fare provided. Hearty thanks are due to the

Chapel who kindly lent their tables and forms for the occasion. There was

bowling for a pig, kindly given by Mr H. Lomas of Cornborough. During the

afternoon the Bideford Professional Military Band played selections.

(August 26th 1913- BG).

**DEATH.**

At Coronation Terrace, Abbotsham - William Blackmore aged 68.

(December 23rd 1913 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The funeral of the late William Blackmore, for 42 years organist at

Abbotsham Parish Church, took place at Abbotsham on Wednesday last. Many friends accompanied the relatives to the graveside to pay a last token of respect to “William the blind Organist”. He was stricken with blindness

when about six years of age, and he then became an inmate at the Devon &

Exeter Institute for the Blind, where it was found that he possessed good

musical talent, and he was trained as an organist. While in this capacity at Abbotsham he composed several pieces, the chants being often sung to his

compositions, and he was engaged in composing a new harvest anthem when taken with his last serious illness.

(December 30th 1913- BG).

ABBOTSHAM

News has been received from El Paso, Texas, of the death on January 6th of

Mr Lewis Eyre Sealy Vidai, third son of the late Mr Edward Urch Vidal of

Cornborough. He was entering his house when he was shot, was taken to

hospital, where he died two days later, Mr Vidal was 63 years of age, and

leaves a widow and son.

(February 3rd 1914 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On February 15th at Homewood, Abbotsham - John Bale aged 59.

(February 17th 1914 - 8G).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The charity known as the Prior (sic) *Poor?*Lands money was distributed in the Schoolroom on Saturday evening last to those residents in the parish entitled to the same.

The Right Rev, the Lord Bishop of Exeter, held a Confirmation Service ¡n the Parish Church of St Helen’s on Wednesday last. There were 29 candidates

- nine from Abbotsham.

(March 10th 1914 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Abbotsham Baptist Sunday School has again won the Challenge Shield

for the Scripture Examination for the fourth time. . Great credit is given to Mr Barry (The Colporteur) and Mr C. Hooper, the Schoolmaster, for the excellent training of children. Eleven scholars sat and all have passed.

(April 7th 1914- BG). ,

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A vote of condolence with Mr Sealy in his illness was passed at the meeting

of clergy and teachers of the Sunday School at Buckland Brewer.

(July 21st 1914- BG).

**DEATH.**On August 19th at Abbotsham, Mary Witheridge aged 70 years.

(August 25th 1914 - BG). :

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Harvest Thanksgiving services in connection with the Parish Church were held on Sunday the 13th, but owing to the serious outbreak of war and so many being called to the front, the parish festivities usually held on the Monday following the Sunday services, consisting of tea, sports and concert have been omitted.

(September 22nd 1914 - BG)

**DEATH OF PREB. R.W. SEALY.**

News was received last week with very deep regret of the death of the Rev.

Prebendary Robert Walpole Sealy, M.A., Vicar of Abbotsham, and for many

years Rural Dean of Hartland. Mr Sealy has for many years thrown himself

heart and soul into public and church work, and his loss will be keenly felt in many directions. He was representative on the Bideford Rural District Council and Board of Guardians. Mr Sealy, who was 61 years of age and the eldest surviving son of the late Mr E.U. Vidal J.P. of Cornborough, had a breakdown of health some months ago. He passed peacefully away at Abbotsham Vicarage on Thursday afternoon. He belonged to an old

Somerset family, long seated at Bridgewater, and reverted to the former

family name in 1898, his father having assumed that of Vidal on succeeding

to the Cornborough estate.

He was Vice Chairman on the Bideford Board of Guardians, a member of the Bideford District Council, Chairman of the Abbotsham Parish Council, Commissioner for Income Tax, Past Patron of theB ideford Hospital, a convinced supporter of the National Service League, and was a member of the Committee of the North Devon Choral Union since 1893. A noted athlete in his day, Mr Sealy was a prominent International football player, playing for England while still a schoolboy at Westminster.

By his first marriage with a daughter of the late Mr T.F. Carter of Liverpool, Preb. Sealy leaves a son, The Rev. W.E. Sealy. By his second marriage with the elder daughter of the late Gen Molesworth R.A. of Kenwith, who survives him, he leaves a son, Lt. E.M.W. Sealy R.E., who recently left for the front, and three daughters. The funeral took place at Abbotsham yesterday, being conducted by the Bishop of Crediton, Archdeacon Trefusis and Rev. Canon Braithwaite of Winchester, brother in law of the deceased. The coffin was borne to the graveside by villagers.

(November 10th 1914 - BG).

**DEATH OF MAJ.GEN. J.E. BOYES.**

Maj. General J.E. Boyes who was a resident in this district for many years,

first at Cornborough, passed away at Menton on the 11th inst. He was 71

years old.

(January 19th 1915 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On January 28th at Geneva Place, Bideford, Samuel Davey of Abbotsham

aged 80, and on January 31st, Ann his widow, aged 83.

(February 2nd 1915 - BG).  
DEATH OF LT. W.J. KERR.

Lt. William John Kerr of the Cameronians, who died of wounds received at the front, was the eldest son of Capt. James Russell Kerr and Mrs Kerr of

Newnham, Gloucs., and grandson of Mrs Pine Coffin of Kenwith Castle. He

was 24. Mrs Pine Coffin’s three sons are all on active service.

(March 1915- BG).

**BIDEFORD AND TORRIDGE DISTRICT SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.**

The awards of the Scholars Scripture Examination have been received, and

the results include;  
Lower Junior Division - (8-10 yrs) - Annie J. Moase, Florence Jackman, Phyllis B. Moase.

Upper Junior Division - (10-12 yrs) - William Jackman, Edwin C. Moase.

Lower Middle Division - (12-14) - Beatrice Moase.

Upper Middle Division - (14-16 yrs) - William Squire, Frederick Jackman,

Frances Hearn.

All of Abbotsham Baptist Church.  
(April 6th 1915- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**A very interesting lecture on the life and mission work in the Melanesian

Islands was given by the Rev. H.J. Nind in the Schoolroom during the Easter

week.

All interested are cordially invited to a meeting of parishioners to be held in the Schoolroom on May 6th at 8pm to consider a proposal for raising a memorial to the late Vicar, Rev. Preb. R.W. Sealy

(April 27th 1915- BG).

**INDUCTION OF NEW VICAR.**

The induction service of the Rev. Canon Kempe as Vicar of the Parish of

Abbotsham took place on Friday evening, and was well attended. The

induction was carried out by the Archdeacon of Barnstaple.

(May 1915 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A wedding was celebrated on Saturday at St. Helen’s Church, Abbotsham,

between Miss Winifred Glover, daughter of Mrs Glover of the New Inn,

Abbotsham, and Mr Samuel R. Davis, son of Mr F. Davis of Bideford. The

Rev. Canon Kempe (Vicar) was the officiating clergyman. The bride was

given away by her brother, Mr A. Clover. The duties of best man were

carried out by Mr J. Davis, brother of the groom. There were two

bridesmaids - Miss S. Clover, sister of the bride, and Miss R. Davis, sister of the groom.

(May 11th 1915- BC).

**DEATH.**

On July 7th at Abbotsham - John Friendship aged 77 years.

(July 13th 1915- BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Private J. Hearn who is slightly wounded, is the only son of Mr and Mrs Hearn of Rixlade, Abbotsham.

(July 27th 1915- BC).

**BATHING FATALITY.**

At Abbotsham Court on Wednesday evening an inquest was held by the

Coroner on Harold Bernard Playfair Houghton, aged 15, eldest son of Mr

Bernard Houghton I.C.S. of Abbotsham Court, who was drowned while bathing at Abbotsham Cliffs. The Rev. Walpole M. Sealy, son of the late Vicar, who was on holiday, attempted to save the young life, but had to abandon his task, after having previously saved the deceased lad’s sister.

The jury returned a verdict of “Accidently drowned”.

(August 1915- BG).

**BIRTH.**

On September 16th 1915 to Mr and Mrs Frank Bale of “Carnbrae”,

Abbotsham, a daughter (stillborn).

(September 21st 1915 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The School Nurse has recently visited the School and reported very favourably on cleanliness and general appearance of the children. Every

girl was examined for signs of pediculosis, but not one single case to report.

The senior girls of the school arranged a little entertainment, the proceeds going to the School War Fund. The sum of £1.16.6d was raised, this being spent in purchasing wool for knitting socks and other comforts for our sailors and soldiers.

(November 16th 1915 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

In response to the appeal from the Overseas Club, the schoolchildren have

subscribed and collected £1. 2s. This money will be spent in purchasing

and sending extra Christmas Day gifts to the men at the front.

(November 30th 1915 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The news of the death of Private Joseph Bale was received here with much

sorrow and sympathy is expressed to his parents and his wife and dear little boy. The deceased had always lived in the Parish, and was a sub postman, which post he resigned to join the 9th Devons. He had not been at the front many weeks. It seemed he was on sentry duty in the first trench, and the officer going on his rounds stopped to speak to him, when a German rifle grenade pitched between them, seriously wounding the officer, and killing Bale almost instantaneously. His body was interred in the Military Cemetery just beyond the lines, at a spot well known by the soldiers as “Windy Corner”. Sgt Stephen Bale, brother of the late Private Bale is on active service with the Royal North Devon Hussars. Private Bale was 32 years old.

(November 30th 1915- BG).

**DEATH.**

On December 25th, Edward Molesworth Walpole Sealy, Captain R.E. son of the late Preb. and Mrs Sealy of Abbotsham, and beloved husband of Caroline (nee Baulkwill), aged 26 years, after a short illness from septic poisoning.

(December 29th 1915 - BG).

**THE FUNERAL OF CAPT. E.M.W. SEALY.**

The funeral of the late Captain E.M.W. Sealy, Royal Engineers, son of the

late Preb. R.W. Sealy and Mrs Sealy of Abbotsham, who died on Christmas Day after a brief illness, took place at Abbotsham Church on Thursday afternoon in the presence of a large attendance. Shortly before the outbreak of war Captain Sealy returned from Africa where he had been engaged for twelve months on the Anglo-Belgium Commission determining the frontier of Northern Rhodesia and the Congo Free State. He went to the front for three to four weeks, and being shot in the arm he was temporarily invalided. Just before Christmas he was laid up with influenza and pleurisy and other complications setting in, and he passed away from septic poisoning just six weeks from the date of his marriage to Miss Caroline Baulkwill. The funeral service was conducted by the Rev. Canon Kempe, Vicar of Abbotsham assisted by the Rev. Canon Braithwaite, an uncle of the deceased. The grave was lined with laurel and was adjoining that in which the deceased’s father Rev. Preb. R.W. Sealy - was laid to rest just thirteenmonths ago. The immediate mourners were, Mrs C. Sealy (widow); Mrs Sealy (mother); Mrs Nicholson; Miss Avice Sealy and Miss Inez Sealy (sisters); Rev. Walpole Sealy (brother); Miss Vidal (aunt); Mr Edwin Vidal (uncle); Mr C. Didham (uncle); Miss Baulkwill (sister in law); Mrs Eyre and Miss Thompson (Cornborough)

(January 4th 1916 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On February 28th at St. Helen’s, Abbotsham by Rev. Canon Kempe - Henry

Tucker to Sybil Mary Glover - both of Abbotsham.

(February 29th 1916- BG).

**DEATH**

Notification has been received from the Chaplain of the Devons of the death

while on sentry duty in the trenches of Private William Cloak *(Cloke?)* of Abbotsham. The deceased who was shot in the chest by a sniper, leaves a widow and two young children. Prior to joining up he was a farm labourer. He is the third man from Abbotsham to be killed on active service. He was aged 25 years and served in the 8th Devons, being killed in France on March 9th.

(March 21st 1916- BG).

**DEATH.**

Killed in action in Mesopotamia on March 8th - Ambrose Joseph Cocks Heriz

Smith, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Heriz-Smith of Slade, Bideford, aged 37

years. A memorial service will be held in Abbotsham Church.

(March 21st 1916 - BG).

**DEATH.**On the 23rd inst at Coombe Cottage, Abbotsham - Violet Dora Heaven -

youngest daughter of De B. Spencer Heaven and the late Mrs Heaven. She

was a talented artist and exhibited in the Royal Academy.

(March 28th 1916 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Information has reached the parish that Private William James of the

Coldstream Guards was wounded by a shell on March 22nd. He joined the

regiment in December 1914. His mother has received a letter from the

Chaplain saying, “I regret to inform you that your son Private James was

admitted to hospital with a shell wound in his right arm. He is one of the

pluckiest fellows I have met out here and I am pleased to tell you that he is doing well. You will probably very soon have him home, but I am afraid you must be prepared to greet him with only one arm”.  
(April 4th 1916- BG).

**DEATH.**

On April 29th at Bideford - William Hearn - husband of Selina, late of Rixlade, Abbotsham.

(May 2nd 1916- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Private William James having lost his right arm at Ypres is now proceeding to a convalescent home on the South Coast.

Corporal John Huxtable of the Royal Field Artillery who was seriously

wounded at Loos, and has since had a leg amputated, has now gone into a

military hospital, and hopes shortly to be fitted with an artificial limb.

(May 30th 1916- BG).

**DEATH.**On 19th inst at Enmore, The Quay, Bideford - Maria Elizabeth Glynn,

youngest daughter of the late Major John Edmond Glynn, of the 4th Madras

Native Infantry, aged 76 years. She was interred in the family vault at

Abbotsham.

(June 27th 1916 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

We regret to hear that Private Wallace Downing of the Canadian Mounted

Rifles is a prisoner in the hands of the Germans, and is confined in a camp in Westphalia. He was captured during severe fighting at Ypres.

Private William James convalescing at Brighton is having a very gay time.

He writes home most cheerfully and tells that he had the honour of taking tea with the Mayoress of Brighton.

(June 27th 1916 - BG).

**BIRTH.**

On July 9th at Coombe Walter, Abbotsham, to Mr and Mrs A.J. Harris – a daughter.  
(July 11th 1916 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On July 14th at Petrockstowe - Mary Jane - wife of George Heywood - late of

Lake Farm, Abbotsham, aged 67 years.  
(July 18th 1916 - BG).

**LT. R.C. BOYD.**

Second Lieutenant Robert Colin Boyd, Devonshire Regiment, killed in action

on July 14th (France’s Day), was the second son of Mr and Mrs A.H. Boyd of

— “Bellevue”, Westward Ho. He was with the Great Northern Railway when war broke out. He enlisted in the Public School Corps and received a commission in the Xlth Devons in November 1914. He was sent on a draft to the 2nd Hampshire Regiment in July 1915, he was in the “Royal Edward” and marvellously escaped with his life. Although severely injured he made a

good recovery and joined the 8th Devons in March last. He was leading his

Company when he fell. His Colonel writes, “He was loved by us all and by

all the men of the Battalion. Lt. Boyd was 23 years of age, and was a general favourite. The greatest sympathy is felt for the family in their great loss”.

(July 25th 1916- BG).

**THE LATE MRS GEORGE HEYWOOD.**The funeral of the late Mrs George Heywood took place at Abbotsham on

Wednesday. She died after a long illness at the age of 67.

(July 25th 1916- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

At St Helen’s Church, Abbotsham on Monday September 11th the wedding was celebrated of Mr John Huxtable, late Corporal in the Royal Field Artlillery, of Abbotsham, and Miss Eveline Gilbert of Fosketh Terrace,

Westward Ho. Great interest was taken in the event, the bridegroom having

done valiant service for his country, being wounded at Loos, and suffering

amputation of the left leg. In Mr William James, too, the best man, late of

the Coldstream Guards, was another of our gallant lads who lost his right arm at Ypres.

(September 19th 1916- BG).

**DEATH.**

On December 21 st at Coombe Cottage, Abbotsham, De B. Spencer Heaven Esq. aged 80.

(December 28th 1916- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The War Work Committee invited all the workers and helpers belonging to

the Parish to a meeting in the Schoolroom on Thursday afternoon December

28th, when Mrs Fanshaw, the Hon. Treasurer, read the report of the work

done during the past year. The number of garments made amounted to over

1,000, and the money collected for buying materials to nearly £40. In

addition the school children provided wool out of their own School War Box,

and knitted 27 pairs of mittens to send to the men from the parish who are

serving their country. Mrs Fanshawe mentioned that 27 members have received the Voluntary Workers badge for regular work. It is proposed to open a War Work Room for the Parish at Coombe Gate for three days in the week, to work for the troops at the front and for the War Hospitals, and many promised to attend.

(January 2nd 1917 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**The body of the late Miss Mary Blackmore was laid to rest in the parish

churchyard amid manifest tokens of sympathy and respect. Some years ago

she was a teacher in the Sunday Schools, and for a great number of years a

member of the church ladies choir. The bearers were members of the choir

and ringers.

(January 16th 1917 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On January 21st at Salonika - George, only son of Mr J. Whitten of Winsford

Farm, sadly missed by his sorrowing wife and children.

February 13th 1917 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On March 7th, suddenly, at Greencliff Farm, Abbotsham - the dearly beloved

wife of George Braunton, aged 67.

(March 13th 1917 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Church of St. Helen’s, Abbotsham, has recently been enriched by a

beautifully carved Litany Desk. It is of oak and the gift of Mrs Flower,

Glenmuir, Minister in Sheppy, Kent. The work is designed to be quite in

harmony with the 13th century type of architecture of the building. The front has a panel of crisply carved foliage. The sides are traceried and contain shields bearing the heraldic arms of the Seymour and Flower families. The inscriptions are in Latin. The work was designed and executed by Messrs Harry Hems & Sons, Ecclesiastical Sculptors, of Exeter.  
(July 7th 1917 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

On Wednesday afternoon last Mr C. Berry, F.R.H.S. of the Devon County Staff, visited the school gardens, and expressed his delight with the work of the boys. After, he gave a demonstration in potato spraying, the boys assisting to make the mixture.

(July 17th 1917- BG).

**DEATH.**

On August 6th at Youlstone, Abbotsham Road, Bideford - George Heywood,

late of Lake Farm, Abbotsham, aged 83.

(August 7th 1917 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On August 10th, Frances, daughter of the late Mr Hearn of Rixlade,

Abbotsham, and Mrs Hearn of 18 Bridge Street, Bideford, aged 17 years.

(August 14th 1917 - BG).

ABBOTSHAM.

The Abbotsham local branch of the County Association of War Workers, whose H.Q. is at Exeter, has just sent there, to the Mayoress, Mrs Fanshawe, another consignment of articles. The numbers sent now totals - 924 pairs of

socks, 261 mufflers, 408 mittens, 254 shirts, this makes a grand total of

3,119 articles since the commencement of war.

(August 28th 1917 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Mr and Mrs James of Rose Cottage, Abbotsham, have received word that their son Private Richard James has been wounded in recent fighting in France, and is now in a London Military Hospital. He was previously a member of the “B” Division in the Metropolitan Police, and last year enlisted in the Household Cavalry, and had been at the front about five months.

(October 30th 1917 - BG).

**DEATH.**

Gunner William Edwin Silke, R.C.A., grandson of the late William Balkwill

Silke of Abbotsham - killed in action in France on 31st July 1917 aged 25

years.

(November 20th 1917 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**On April 10th at East Grinstead - Walpole Eyre Sealy, elder son of the late

Rev. Preb. R.W. Sealy of Abbotsham - to Mary, the only daughter of Mr and

Mrs Ashton G. Radcliffe of East Grinstead.

(April 16th 1918- BG).

**DEATH**

On May 28th at Abbotsham, Constantine Brock, husband of Annie Brock, aged 44 yrs.

(June 4th 1918- BG).

**DEATH**

On September 2nd, killed in action, Private John Hearn, only son of the late

Mr Hearn of Rixlade, Abbotsham, and of Mrs Hearn of 18 Bridge Street,

Bideford, aged 28 years.

(September 17th 1918 - 6G).

**DEATH**

On October 21st at Winsford Cottage - Joseph Welch James son of the late

Martin James of Abbotsham, aged 63 years.

(October 29th 1918- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

Great interest was taken in the wedding on January 13th of Mr John Manning

of Manchester, and Miss Kathleen Louisa James, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Edwin James of Rose Cottage, Abbotsham. The ceremony took place at Sr. Helen’s. Mr Wallace Downing, brother in law of the bride, and belonging to the Canadian Mounted Rifles, who has only recently returned to England after being a prisoner in the hands of the Huns for two and half years, carried out the duties of best man. The bridegroom saw plenty of foreign service, and was awarded the Military Medal for gallantry.

(January 21st 1919 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

The Abbotsham Local Branch of the County Association of War Workers closed at the end of April. The Branch has sent regularly to Exeter since the

autumn of 1914, and the number of articles sent totalled 4,760. The ommittee decided to send the balance of money in hand (£18 3s 4d) to the

South Western Counties Branch of the Lord Roberts Memorial Workshops at

Plymouth.

(June 3rd 1919 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

On Saturday last at about 1.30am Mrs Elizabeth Easton, a widow of Abbotsham village, aged 74 years was found dead in bed. The facts of the case were communicated to the Coroner, who held an inquest the same evening. Death was due to natural causes.

(June 24th 1919 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On August 28th at Abbotsham Church by the Rev. Canon Kempe - Mr Gerald

Hutchings of Westward Ho to Ethel Brock of Abbotsham.

(September 2nd 1919 - BG).

**BIRTH**

On September 24th 1919 at Abbotsham - the wife of Joiner J.F.L. Friendship,

H.M.S. London, of a son.

(October 14th 1919 - BG).

**HARVEST HOME SUPPER.**

A very welcome revival of one of the customs of the good old times took place on Thursday last, when the farmers of the parish of Abbotsham invited their workmen with their wives and other helpers during the harvest, together with some friends, to a good old fashioned harvest home supper and evenings enjoyment. Mr J. F. Phillips of Winsford kindly lent his large barn, where many such festive gatherings had taken place in the past, and considerably over l00 met together. The walls had been suitably decorated with bunting and flowers, with strings of fairy lamps and Chinese lanterns, but even better still was the decoration of the long tables up and down the room, with real Devonshire home-cured hams, round of beef and home fed lamb, not frozen this time, but roasted with other nice things, including apple pie, junkets etc to follow. After grace had been said, ample justice was done to the excellent fare provided. At the conclusion of the repast, Mr Ashby, who had been the Chairman of the organising committee, gave the toast of “The King” which was drunk heartily. With dancing and singing the time passed all too quickly up to midnight, when further refreshments, such as tea and coffee, cake and buns, were partaken by all. Before breaking up “Auld Lang Syne” was heartily sung, and the National Anthem brought us to the end of a perfect evening.(September 30th 1919 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On October 6th at Abbotsham after many years of illness quietly and patiently borne, Elizabeth Ann, the wife of Thomas F. Friendship, aged 49.  
(October 1919- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Constable Blackmore of Abbotsham has retired from the Police Force after

serving nearly 30 years in the “M” Division, during which time he has won

many friends, who wish him a long life to enjoy his well-earned pension.

(November 4th 1919 - BG).

**DEATH.**

At Buckleigh House, Westward Ho on November 9th - Alexander Blakely

J Patterson, C.I.E. Bengal Civil Service (retired). The funeral will be held tomorrow at Abbotsham Church.

(November 11th 1919- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A successful entertainment was given at the Baptist Chapel, Abbotsham on

Wednesday evening last in aid of the Sunday School Funds. The programme included the hymn “Brightly Gleams our Banner”. Recitations were given by the Juniors - Phyllis Moase, Annie Ridd, Dorothy Moase, Joyce Moase, Hilda Ridd, Dorothy Ridd. Seniors - Miss Maggie Hill and Miss Moase. Dialogues by Misses Jackman, Joyce Moase and Rose Jones. Duet by Phyllis Moase and Lily Jones. The Rev. E. Trotman presided over a good attendance.

(December 2nd 1919 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

On December 1st at Torrington Police Station, Superintendent Shutler presented Constable Blackmore of Abbotsham with a silver mounted umbrella, inscribed, “Presented to Const. Blackmore by members of “M” Division on his retiring after 29 years service on October 21st 1919”. Mrs Blackmore was presented with a silver butter dish.

(December 9th 1919 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A very pleasant social gathering was held in the Baptist Chapel, Abbotsham

on Wednesday evening last. Recitations were given by Allan Moase, Willy

Moase, Eddie Hill, Harry Ridd, Anne Ridd, Dorothy Ridd, Hilda Ridd, Joyce

Moase and Dorothy Moase. Dialogues by Joyce Moase and Florry Jackman. A duet was sung by Joyce and Phyllis Moase, and hymns by the little ones. Mr J. Moase and Miss E. Glover were the organists.

(February 24th 1920 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On August 2nd at Bideford, Frank, the youngest son of the late Charles

Henry Pickard of Bowood, Abbotsham, to Dorothy May Tythcott, youngest

daughter of Mr and Mrs W. H. Tythcott of 21 Winbourne Terrace, Bideford.

(August 10th 1920 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Phyllis B. Moase, a pupil of Abbotsham School was successful at the

examination held in June last, and has been awarded a scholarship by the

Devon County Education authorities tenable at Edgehill College.

(August 24th 1920 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

The firm of Slee & Sons of Torrington conducted a highly successful sale of

live stock at Greencliff, Abbotsham - the property of Mr J.H. Turner, Dunster, who is quitting the farm. The following prices were obtained –breeding ewes £6.6s to £7.15s; Ewe lambs 80s - lOOs; Cows and calves £45.5s to £53.lOs; Ram lambs six to nine guineas; Sows in farrow £20; Slip pigs

£6.12.6d.

(September 14th 1920 - BG).

**MARRIAGE**

At Abbotsham Parish Church on September 20th - Thomas Henry Bale, second son of Mr and Mrs Bale of Bideford, and Miss Hilda Grace Slee, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Slee of Riccards Down.

(September 28th 1920 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On October 4th at Garston, Liverpool - William Goodwin Millward of Liverpool to Melia Florence Barnacott, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Barnacott of Abbotsham.

(October 12th 1920 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Miniature Rifle Club members have again started their winter season, and they welcome old and new members. Shooting nights are Tuesdays from

7-9pm.

(October 26th 1920 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM COURT SOLD.**

Abbotsham Court covering an area of 34A and 34P, including a spacious country house, outhouses etc, well wooded grounds and meadow land wasoffered for sale at Exeter. It was sold to Mr Saltmarsh of Stafford for £3,000.(December 7th 1920 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

On Thursday January 6th a very successful and well attended Dance was

held in Abbotsham Schoolroom in aid of the Parish Hall which is greatly

needed. It was arranged by members of Mrs Kempe’s sewing party. All the

refreshments were given by the ladies. There were various guessing

competitions and songs, and Mr Braddon played his accordion. The piano

was presided over by Mrs and Miss Sealy. the proceeds amounted to

£10.9.2d. There were no expenses.

(January 11th 1921 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Committee of the Rifle Club organised a successful social evening held

in the Schoolroom on Old Christmas Eve, and was largely attended. There

were songs, duets, dances and games. The skipping and pig drawing competitions were very keen. Many kind friends provided refreshments. Mr

and Mrs V.C. Hooper were responsible for the greater part of the music

(January 18th 1921 - BC).

**FUNERAL AT ABBOTSHAM.**

The funeral took place on Friday of Mr Josiah Witheridge, bootmaker of

Abbotsham who died after a short illness. He leaves a daughter (Mrs Cloke),

an only child and two grandchildren to mourn their loss. He was aged 79

years.

(March 22nd - 1921 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM WEDDING.**

By the wedding which took place at St. Helen’s, the brilliant weather on

Wednesday afternoon last, and amidst general congratulations and rejoicing  
of the villagers, two families were united which have been long known and

held in the highest esteem in the district. The bride was Miss Violet Inez

Sealy, third and youngest daughter of the late Rev. Preb. R.W. Sealy. The

bridegroom was the Rev Ernest Hampden Nind, was brought up by his brothers in the district, and was no stranger at the Vicarage from his boyhood days. He is a son of Colonel Nind R.A. and Mrs Nind, now of Parkstone, but formerly of “Rockydown”, Abbotsham. Col. Nind was at one time well known

as the Secretary of the United Services College, Westward Ho. Through the thoughtfulness of the Vicar, Rev. Canon Kempe, the Vicarage was placed

at the disposal of the family for the wedding, and the bride had therefore the felicity of being married from her old home. The village festivities in

connection with the wedding were held the previous day, and included a

public tea in the Schoolroom, which was prettily decorated. In a field kindly lent by Mr Andrew a well contested skittle match was held, and games for the children until 9 o’ clock

(July 5th 1921 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On 3rd July at Beltevue, Westward Ho - Gertrude, the beloved wife of

Archibald Henry Boyd aged 71 years. The funeral will be held at Abbotsham

today at 3pm.

(July 5th 1921 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM SERVICE CLAIM.**

On the claims for the parish of Abbotsham heard at the Revision Court before the Resolving Officer, defection was taken to the name of Major R.C.J. Pollock on the ground that he had not occupied the qualifying period. He wrote that he took the house furnished in May last. Mr Nuttall submitted that it was not necessary for a serving soldier to occupy the full period of six months - The Representation of the People Act 1918 provided that in the case of a naval or military voter one months qualification shall be substituted for six months. The Revising Officer allowed the vote.

(August 1921 - BC). .

**ABBOTSHAM v ALWINGTON.**

At Barton Park on Saturday this proved a very pleasant game. It was

Abbotsham’s opening match. Tucker scored in the first five minutes.

Alwington scored from a penalty. Prust put the home side ahead with a

penalty, and then further goals came from Prust and Smale.- Abbotsham

winning 4 - 1. Many thanks to Mr J. Andrews for lending the field.

(October 11th 1921 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The annual Harvest Home Supper was held in Winsford Barn by kind permission of Mr J.H. Phillips on November 9th when about 160 were present.

(November 15th 1921 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

On January 7th 1922 at Abbotsham - George Cork, aged 86 years. The

funeral will be held on 11th January at 2.30.

(January 10th 1922 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A very successful Social and Dance was held in the Schoolroom on Thursday

January 12th in aid of Lord Weardale’s “Save the Children Fund”. The event

was organised by several ladies of the parish. The musical programme was

provided by Messrs Prior, Dunn, Allen and Glover, and Misses Judd and Giddy, with Miss short at the piano. Messrs T. and C. Easton also played

the violin, and Miss Vicary gave a mandolin solo. Dancing was kept up until

12pm. The net proceeds were £9.7.6d which is to be divided between the

British and Russian children.  
(January 24th 1922 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Rifle Club Committee by kind permission of the School Managers held

Whist Drive and Dance in the Schoolroom on Wednesday evening last with

nearly 120 present.

(February 14th 1922 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

At St. Helen’s on February 25th - Miss Annie Bellew, second daughter of Mr

and Mrs Bellew of Pusehill, Westward Ho to Mr Ambrose Edward Fulford,  
youngest son of Mr and Mrs J.U. Fulford of Southcott, Bideford.

(February 28th 1922 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Abbotsham Football Club defeated Appledore at Abbotsham on Saturday by

3 goals (Cloutman and Moase, and one accidently scored by a visitor) to one. Mr Langdon refereed.

(March 7th 1922 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

In their last fifteen matches, Abbotsham Football Club has scored 43 goals

against only eight registered against them.

(April 18th 1922 - BG).

**BIRTH.**

On May 9th at Combe Walter, Abbotsham - to Mr and Mrs A.J. Harris, a son.

(May 16th 1922- BG).

**DEATH.**

On 31st May at 34 Myrtle Grove, Bideford - Robert Alun, late of Sutcombe

and Abbotsham, aged 80.

(June 13th 1922- BG).

**DEATH.**

On August 3rd 1922 at Westcott, Abbotsham - Elizabeth Ellis, aged 85 years.

(August 8th 1922 - BG).

ABBOTSHAM.

The annual Harvest Supper given by the farmers to their workmen, their

wives and various friends was held as usual by kind permission of Mr J.H.

Phillips in Winsford Barn, and was a great success. About 130 were present. We had good Devon beef, hams etc. and afterwards various “nick nacks” as our forefathers termed it, and these with plenty of “Demshur crame, went down most butiful”. In fact we had to cry “hold” before us cude sample it all. They say country folks take their pleasures somewhat sadly, but it was

not so on this occasion, for as soon as the tables had been cleared, dancing and music followed. The “Appy Eight” were present and gave various  
selections.

(October 24th 1922- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Lectures on Poultry Keeping are to be given by Devon County Council

lecturer at Abbotsham on three Wednesday evenings - 1st, 8th and 22nd

November. Admission will be free.

(October 31st 1922- BG).

ABBOTSHAM.

One of the most successful Variety entertainments ever given in Abbotsham

was held on Thursday evening last. It was arranged by Mrs Bernard Kempe

and Miss A.F. Turner. the first part of the programme consisted of songs

and choruses. The second part was a sketch “Mary’s Sister John”. This was followed by a Dance and other amusements such as bran pie, dips, cake

weighing and dolls, It closed at about 11.45pm, and it was the opinion of

one and all that it was one of the finest that had been held in Abbotsham.

(January 9th 1923 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Owing to the rapid spread of measles it has been found impossible to open

the day school since Christmas, but it is hoped to commence again on

Monday next the 5th February.

(January 30th 1923 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Rifle Club up to date has had a most successful run, and the number of

members has increased. A visitor some little while ago thought we were “hot

stuff’, especially when in a friendly match the average was just over 98.

(January 30th 1923 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Before a very full house a most successful concert was given by Mr W.J.  
Barry’s “Rainbow Party” on Thursday last. All the artiste deserve the

greatest praise for the manner in which the items were rendered.

(February 13th 1923 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The H.M. Inspector recently visited the day school and spent a very pleasant day with the teachers and children. When leaving he expressed his

pleasure with the work and tone of the school.

(May 22nd 1923 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM CLUB SOCIAL.**

To celebrate their success in winning the second Division of the Kingsley

District League at the first time of asking, the Abbotsham Football Club held a social gathering on Thursday last. A sumptuous party was provided in the Schoolroom.

(June 19th 1923 - BG).

**DEATH OF MR J. HEYWOOD J.P.**

Mr Joshua Heywood J.P. who passed away at “Hawthorn”, Abbotsham Road,

Bideford yesterday, was the son of Mr Joseph Heywood of Lake Farm, Abbotsham.  
(November 6th 1923 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

A very successful entertainment has been given in the Schoolroom on behalf

of the Parish Hall Fund, organised by Mrs Bernard Kempe.

(November 17th 1923 - BC).

**DEATH OF MR R.B. JAMES.**

We regret to record the death at Foxwold, Westward Ho on Tuesday last at the age of 73 years, of Mr Richard Boucher James, a gentleman long resident

in the district, and the head of a family, held in the highest esteem. He

studied for law, and was articled to the firm of solicitors, Messrs Rooker & Bazeley. He then went to the Colonies, sheepfarming in Australia, but

returned to settle down in his home district. Since living at Foxwold he had taken a great interest in everything in the parish of Abbotsham, and some years ago succeeded Gen. Fanshawe as one of the Churchwardens, which

office he held until his death. His wife who predeceased him was the daughter of the late Admiral Charlwood of Porthill, Northam. The funeral

took place at Abbotsham churchyard and by request there was no choir or

hymns, no muffled peal, and interment was in a plain earth grave.

**ABBOTSHAM BRANCH.**

On Thursday evening last at the New Inn, the Abbotsham Branch of the

British Legion held their first meeting since being reorganised.

(February 26th 1924 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

News was received with regret of the death of George Worth, the youngest

son of Mr and Mrs H. Worth of Moreton Lodge on the Hartland Road. He was only ill for a few days with influenza, and then meningitis set in. The

funeral took place at Abbotsham on Friday last. The deceased had been a

boy chorister, and was one of the younger band of ringers.

(February 26th 1924 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On February 28th 1924 at Bideford United Methodist Church - Daisy May

Fulford only daughter of Alderman J.U. Fulford and Mrs Fulford of Salterns to William John Bellew, the third son of Mr T. and Mrs Bellew of Pusehill,

Abbotsham.

(March 4th 1924- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The wedding took place at Abbotsham Church of Mr William Vaggers of

Littleham and Miss Elsie Andrew, daughter of Mr J. Andrew of the Barton,

Abbotsham.

(March 11th 1924-BG).

**DEATH.**

On the 10th inst at a Nursing Home in London, Lucy Constance - eldest

daughter of the late de Bonniot Spencer Heaven - funeral at Abbotsham

Church at 2pm on 16th inst.

(April 15th 1924 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On April 24th at Abbotsham Parish Church - Arthur Reginald Alun of

Alwington to Mary Bellew of Pusehill, Westward Ho,

(April 29th 1924 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On April 28th at Geneva Place, Bideford - Miss C. Holman, daughter of the

late T.C. Holman of Abbotsham - aged 75. Funeral on Wednesday at 3pm at

Abbotsham.

(April 29th 1924 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On June 1st at a Clifton Nursing Home - Alma Ellis Squire of Westacott,

Abbotsham - aged 51. Funeral at Abbotsham Thursday at 2.30.

(June 3rd 1924 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM BRITISH LEGION.**

At the invitation of Mrs Pine-Coffin, President, some fifty ladies drawn from all quarters of the far spreading Abbotsham parish, assembled on the tennis court at Kenwith on Monday to be present at the inauguration of a Women’s Section of the British Legion for the district. Forty or more members were enroled.

(July 1st 1924 - BG).

**OLD SOLDIERS DEATH.**

At the Vicarage, Abbotsham yesterday, the North Devon Coroner held an inquest upon Leonard Way Herring, aged 58, who was found in a dying condition in the road between Cornborough and Abbotsham on Friday last,

and expired before medical help could reach him. Mrs Laura Hall of Old

Stone, Abbotsham, said that on about the 1st of July she engaged the

deceased as house-parlourman through an advert in “The Times” newspaper.

He told her he was single, an ex soldier, and that his home address was

Cromer Cottage, Sussex Place, Hammersmith. Mrs Edith May Hadley of 1 High View Terrace, Westward Ho with whom the deceased had lodged said that he had recently been ill. The Vicar, Rev. Canon Kempe said that he thought it a disgraceful thing that the parish had no mortuary - the place which was normally used being the cokehouse adjoining the school premises. Representation on the matter will be made to the Rural District Council. It

was established that this death was a natural one, and this verdict was

accordingly given.

(September 16th 1924 - BG).

**PARISH HALL OPENED.**

Rev. Canon J.A. Kempe presided on Wednesday at the opening of the new

parish hall at Abbotsham. The hall has been erected at the cost of

approximately £1,100 on glebe land to the north of the Church, purchased

from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners and freed from all restrictions. It is vested under the Charity Commissioners in eight trustees, four of whom are Churchmen and four Nonconformists, with the Vicar as an ex officio member. It was provided by local subscriptions-all the money being raised except £400 which some residents have guaranteed or advanced a loan. Sports and tea were held in the afternoon, followed by a Concert in the evening. The proceeds of the day were for the internal fittings of the Hall. In 1919 the need of a Village Hall was ventilated.

(October 21st 1924 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The matter having been referred to them by the Rural District Council after

the receipt of a letter from the North Devon Coroner, Abbotsham Parish Council reported to Bideford Rural District Council that they were

unanimously of the opinion that a mortuary should be provided for the parish. The only suitable building for it was a coach house opposite the School whichcould no doubt be altered as necessary, if the owner Mr C.P. Turner would let or sell it. The Rural Council decided to defer the matter for the Alwington members to consider whether a position could be suggested probably in their parish, where a mortuary would be likely to be of more general service to the district.

(November 18th 1924 - BG).

ABBOTSHAM.

On December 17th at Abbotsham Church of England School an Open or

“Parents Day” was held in order to show and sell some of the chiidrens work. A large number attended. Mrs Beer the headmistress, explained that it was always a pleasure to welcome those interested in the school. Handwork,

although a new subject to these children, was the chief feature of this

exhibition.

(December 23rd 1924 - BG).  
**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Rifle Club have again had a most successful Christmas shoot for prizes

provided by the officers, committee and patrons of the club. By kind

permission of the officers of the Abbotsham British Legion all members of the Rifle Club were invited to the Parish Hall on December 22nd to pass a

pleasant evening in games etc..

(January 6th 1925 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**The “Babes in the Wood” pantomime and Concert kindly given free of expense by Mr and Mrs Bushell’s concert party from Clovelly in aid of the Abbotsham Parish Hall Building Fund on Wednesday drew an audience which is stated to have been the largest gathering ever held in Abbotsham. The takings amounted to over £17.

(January 14th 1925- BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The collection made for the National Lifeboat Institution in Abbotsham village amounted to the handsome total of £4.8.4d.

(January 20th 1925 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On February 7th - William Squire of Westacott Farm, Abbotsham aged 60

years.

(February 10th 1925- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A highly successful dramatic entertainment and dance was given on Monday

evening February 23rd, organised by Mrs Bernard Kempe, in aid of providing

fittings for the Parish Hall. Two short plays were performed. There were

refreshments and the net proceeds amounted to £8.18s.

(March 3rd 1925 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On March 7th at Abbotsham Parish Church - William Henry Darch of Bideford

to Lillian Mary Tallin, daughter of Mr and Mrs A. Tallin of Abbotsham.

(March 10th 1925 - BC).

**DEATH.**

On March 6th at Bideford Hospital - Penry Ley, youngest son of Mr and Mrs

J. Ley of Riccards Downs, Abbotsham, aged 13 years.

(March 17th 1925 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On May 19th at Abbotsham - Albert Tallin aged 55 years.

(May 26th 1925 - BG).

**BIDEFORD RACES.**

Ideal conditions prevailed for North Devon’s chief sporting engagement

yesterday, the opening meeting of the season of the Shebbertown Race Club.

There were 38 entries in five events. The attendance was about 2,000, and

only three bookmakers stands were occupied. Band music enlivened the

proceedings between the races. The next meeting at Shebbertown is on

Wednesday July 1st when the principal event will be the Tapely Park Cup of

80 sovereigns.

(June 2nd 1925- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM FAIR.**

Abbotsham was en fete on the occasion of the Fair held in aid of the Parish Hall Building Fund on Wednesday. The streets were decorated with flags, and a steady stream of people entered the fair field adjoining the Parish Hallduring the afternoon. There was skittling for a pig, bowling for fowls and ducks, aunt sally, hidden treasure, and “Zara” the celebrated clairvoyant was present. A Baby Show was organised by Mrs Beer of “Woodcote”, Abbotsham, and was held in the Parish Hall. The Mayor and Mayoress of Bideford - Dr Toye and Miss Keene, were the judges, and 103 babies were entered. There were three classes –

Under l2months - Reginald Taylor.

Over 1 year and under 2 years - Baby Kelly. O

Over 2 years and under 3 years Owen Mathews.

The Baby show was followed by a wireless concert.

There was Folk Dancing on the lawn, and a Concert. The Bideford Town

Band were present. The total receipts amounted to over £150.

(June 23rd 1925 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

About fifty of the school children and friends under the direction of Mrs Beer went to Woolacombe by a char-a-banc on Friday week for an outing. At the invitation of Captain & Mrs Dent of Keene, the children of the village were entertained to sports, games etc and tea on Monday. Mrs Day (Ruling  
Councillor of the Iddesleigh Habitation of the Primrose League) attended from Bideford to help with the formation of a Junior Branch of the Abbotsham Habitation of the League.  
(July 14th 1925 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The attendance at Abbotsham School has been excellent during the past

week. They have had 100 percent during the whole week. This has only

happened once before during the last 13 years.

(October 6th 1925 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM PARISH HALL.**

On Thursday the first anniversary of the opening of the Abbotsham Parish

Hall was marked by a Whist Drive and Dance to celebrate the event.

(October 20th 1925- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

On Sunday last week the men and women’s section of the British Legion

marched to the Parish Church. At the end of the service two buglers

sounded the “Last Post”. Wreaths were placed on the memorial cross by M

W. James and Mrs Sealy.

(November 17th 1925 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Committee of the Abbotsham Branch of the British Legion beg to tender

their appreciation of the trouble taken by Miss Luard and Mrs Beer in arranging for the sale of poppies in Buckleigh and Abbotsham - the total

raised being £9.16.ld.

(November 24th 1925 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On December 8th in Winchester - Emma Anne Sealy, wife of the Rev. Canon

Braithwaite, and eldest daughter of the late E.U. Vidal Esq of Cornborough,

Abbotsham - aged 80 years.

(December 15th 1925 - BG).

ABBOTSHAM.

Constable F.L. Barnacott, second son of ex Constable Barnacott of Abbotsham, who has been stationed at Topsham for the past three years, has

been promoted to the rank of Sergeant, and will take up his duties at Lifton.

(February 2nd 1926 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

On Monday a demonstration of Morris, Country and Sword Dancing arranged

by Mrs B. Kempe was held at the Abbotsham Parish Hall.

(February 9th 1926 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Mr Guy Dent having resigned the position as Chairman and President of the

Abbotsham Branch of the British Legion after 2 years in office, has been  
succeeded by Mr H.A. Lomas who has taken over his duties.

(March 2nd 1926 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Buds party, of the Primrose League, held in the Parish Hall on the 10th

inst was attended by 20 children who had an enjoyable time, and in the

evening there was a Whist Drive and Dance arranged by Miss Ridd, the

Warden of Abbotsham.

(March 16th 1926 - BG).

**BIRTH.**

On March 18th at the North Devon Maternity Hospital, Meddon Street,Bideford, to Mr and Mrs Hodges of Kenwith Castle, a son.

(March 23rd 1926 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The children of the Abbotsham Day School have had their annual summer outing accompanied by teachers and parents. The Junior children went to Bude, and the Seniors to Plymouth.

(July 6th 1926- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The funeral of the late Mrs A.D. Harris was preceded by a service at the

house conducted by Rev. W.T. Kershaw, the Baptist Minister of Bideford.

The burial service was conducted by Canon Kempe.

(July 13th 1926- BG).

**THE LATE MR F. GLOVER**.

It is with regret we have to record the death of Mr Frank Glover, the fourth son of the late Mr T.H. Glover of the Post Office, Abbotsham, which took place at his home in Roath, South Wales.

(July 27th 1926 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Mrs Florence Anne Eyre of Lyme Regis who died on April 25th last left an

estate of the gross value of £8,832.15.2d. Probate of the will has been

granted to Rev. G.F. Eyre of West Hill and Hugh Arthur Lomas of Cornborough. The testatrix left £50 each to the executors of the will, and

£100 each to her grandchildren, £600 to her two children desiring them touse the same for the benefit of Alathea Sealy VidaI of Langdon, Abbotsham.

(August 3rd 1926- BG).

**DEATH.**

On July 31st at Coronation Terrace, Abbotsham - Harriet, the wife of the late George Cork, late of Pusehill, Abbotsham - aged 88 years.

(August 3rd 1926 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

By the kindness of Mr & Mrs A. Lomas between 40-50 inmates of BidefordPoor Law Institution were conveyed by charabancs to Cornborough House on Tuesday. The weather was gloriously fine and the party derived much pleasure from exploring the beautiful grounds. A sumptuous tea was given, and when the time came round for the return journey, one and all voted it was the best outing they had had. The previous week Mrs H.N.G. Stucley had

entertained a party from the Infirmary at Bideford Poor Law Institution,

mustering about half a dozen.

(August 24th 1926 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On August 24th at Fair View House, Abbotsham - Mary Ann - beloved wife of

James Daniel, aged 83.

(August 31 st 1926 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Mr Roland Whittle, nephew of Mr and Mrs Hooper, late schoolmaster and

mistresss of Abbotsham Church School, has passed his final examination for

a B.A. degree.

(September 7th 1926 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On September 1 3th at Greencliff, Abbotsham - Anne Maria, beloved wife of

George Jackman, aged 54 years.

(September 14th 1926- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

Winners at the open winter session whist drive at the Parish Hall, were Misses Ackland, Barnacott and Alford, and Messrs Squire, Ridd and Tucker. A Dance followed. Proceeds to the reduction of the debt on the building fund.

(October 12th 1926 - BG).

**DEATH.**

The death occurred at 2 Buttgarden Street, Bideford on Tuesday of Mr James

Brown, formerly of Pusehill Farm, Abbotsham. He was 87 years of age, and

was at one time a well known cattle and sheep breeder.

(October 19th 1926 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Ringers of Abbotsham Parish Church had an enjoyable half days outing

to Sheepwash, Black Torrington and Shebbear.

(November 9th 1926 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The women’s section of Abbotsham Branch of the British Legion promoted a

Whist Drive and Dance in the Parish Hall. Mr Hooper, the Secretary and

Treasurer of the Men’s Section acted as M.C. for the Whist, and Mrs

Magniac, who acts in a similar capacity for the Women’s distributed the  
prizes. Mr R. Davies was M.C. for the Dance.

(November 9th 1926 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

We regret to announce the death of Mrs Grace Churchill which took place at  
“Carnbrae”, the residence of her daughter, on November 5th. She had been

a great invalid and confined to her bed for the last 25 years, but bore her

suffering with great cheerfulness and courage. She was 78 years of age.

(November 16th 1926 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A very successful concert organised by Mrs Frank Bale was given in the

Village Hall on Monday evening by local performers and friends from

Bideford. The proceeds amounted to £2.12s, and after paying expenses,  
£1.1 5s has been handed to the Bideford Rescue and Preventive Association.

(November 30th 1926 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Primrose League Celebration - A very successful social gathering was held at the Abbotsham Parish Hall on Wednesday last when following an afternoon

entertainment in the form of tea and games in which the “Buds” participated

in high glee, about 100 adults attended a well organised Whist Drive and

Dance. There were about 30 “Buds” at tea. Mrs Daw, Ruling Councillor, presided and was assisted by Mrs Stent, Dame Warden, and Miss Ridd,

Warden. The “Buds” asked Mrs Daw to present Miss Ridd with a cut glass sugar caster in appreciation of her great kindness to them during her

wardenship. (December 7th 1926 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

A very successful evening in aid of the Orthopaedic Hospital for Crippled

Children was organised by Mrs Beer, and a good sum was realised by the

assistance of Miss Ward’s “Day Dream” children. In the evening a Concert

by the Bideford Electrics gave great pleasure to a large assembly.

(December 21st 1926 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

Mrs Thurza Slee, wife of Mr William Slee of Tenby, and formerly of

“Trayattar”, Abbotsham, was engaged in her household duties on December

14th when she had a heart attack and immediately expired. She was 71

years of age. Much sympathy is felt for Mr Slee and his 6 children.

(December 29th 1926 - BG).

**CANON KEMPE.**

On Sunday evening Canon Kempe received an illuminated address which also contained the list of the names of all those who had subscribed to his

testimonial which amounted to £102.11.6d, and which had been handed to him previously by the Churchwardens of Abbotsham. The address which had been unavoidably delayed was as follows - “To the Rev. Canon Kempe M.A. We the undersigned, past and present parishioners of Abbotsham ask you to receive herewith this token of our esteem and affection on your retirement, after twelve years incumbency of the Vicarage of Abbotsham, in memory of your devoted and successful service”.  
(January 18th 1927- BG).

**NEW VICAR OF ABBOTSHAM.**

The living of Abbotsham which is in the gift of Mrs Sealy, widow of the late Preb. Walpole Sealy, has been offered to and accepted by the Rev. E.A. Du Cane M.A. Oxon, Vicar of Hatfield Heath, Essex. From 1895 - 1897 he was

Curate at Portsea, for the next two years Curate at Eastgate, Lincoln, from

1899 to 1902 Chaplain to H.M. Prison, Lincoln, Borstal Chaplain for five

years, then after service at Manchester and Armitage, the Rev, gentleman

was Domestic Chaplain to the Bishop of St. Albans from 1909 - 1915, since

which time he has been Vicar at Hatfield Heath. He hopes to commence  
duties at Abbotsham in February.

(January 25th 1927 - BG).

ABBOTSHAM.

The Abbotsham Branch of the English Folk Dancing Society held a Fancy

Dress Dance on Wednesday last in the Parish Hall. The prizewinners were

Girls. Edna Cork (Little Miss Muffet). 2. Winnie Henderson (Comic Papers).

Boys. 1. Fred Davis (Eastern Page) 2. Bertie Cloke (Footballer).

Ladies. 1. Mrs N. Bale (Duchess of Devonshire). 2. Mrs F. Bale (Picture Postcard Stand).

Gentlemen. 1. Mr C. Ackland (The Mayor of Abbotsham). 2. Mr H. lssac. (Toytown Soldier).

(February 8th 1927 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The annual meeting of the Women’s Section of the British Legion was held

on Thursday with Miss Vidai in the Chair. Mrs Pine Coffin (President) and

about forty members attended. Mrs Magniac (Hon.Sec.) read the report of

the years work. The Branch started with 45 members, 2 have resigned, and

there are now 73 *(sic).* All officers were re-elected with the addition of Mrs Byres (Kenwith) as Hon. Treasurer.

(February 22nd 1927 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

Arthur Jackson *(Jackman?)* of Greecliff Farm obtained a 1st Class Certificate at the Devon Music Competition held in Barnstaple on March 10th for elocution. He was trained by Mrs S.D. Beer, the school mistress.

(March 15th 1927 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

On Wednesday at the time of the arrival of the new Vicar, the Rev, du Cane,

the ringers gave him a cheerful peal of welcome which was much appreciated. The ringers had scarcely finished when the Vicar arrived at the belfry to thank them personally.

(March 22nd 1927 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Easter services at Abbotsham Parish Church were bright and hearty. The

communicants numbered 110 and the Easter offerings for the Vicar amounted

to £18.13.6d.

(April 26th 1927 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

At the opening of the ex-servicemens outdoor skittle alley some good scores

were made. For the two prizes given, the Secretary took first place with a

fine 71, and Mr B. Easton was second with 63. The Secretary gave his prize

back to be competed for again.

(May 10th 1927- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The funeral of the late Miss Elizabeth Hearn, eldest daughter of the late

William Hearn of Rixlade, Abbotsham took place at Abbotsham churchyard

on Wednesday.

(June 28th 1927 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

On Wednesday July 6th the Infants of Abbotsham Church of England School were taken by charabanc to Croyde Bay. After a long play on the sands they

were taken for a nice tea. On July 8th the Seniors were taken to Exeter and

Exmouth by charabanc.

(July 19th 1927 - BG).

**FUNERAL.**

It is with great regret that news was received of the death of Mr John Henry Bale on Thursday at the Bristol Infirmary, eldest son of the late John Bale and Mrs Bale of Homewood, Abbotsham. A gardener by profession, he had been in the employ of Mr and Mrs Brocklebank in Dorset. His death  
occurred at the early age of 48, and he is greatly mourned by his wife and

two children.

(August 2nd 1927 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

Much sympathy will be felt for Mr H.A. Lomas of Cornborough, who, whilst

playing tennis, slipped and fell, breaking his leg in two places.

(August 9th 1927 - BG).

**MARRIAGE**

On August 17th at Abbotsham Parish Church by the Rev. E.A. du Cane -

George Shepard of Kent to Elsie Bray, youngest daughter of Mr & Mrs Bray

of Abbotsham Court Lodge, Abbotsham.

(August 30th 1927 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

A branch of the County Library is to be formed at Abbotsham with Mr E. Beer

as Secretary. Books can be had on loan, free of charge.

(September 13th 1927 - BG).

DEATH OF **ABBOTSHAM POSTMISTRESS**

The death of Miss Mary J. Glover, postmistress of Abbotsham for the last 18

years on Monday of last week at the age of 72 years was learnt with great

regret by a large circle of friends. She succeeded her mother in the

management of the Post Office business at Abbotsham, and with the cooperation of another sister Miss Edith Glover, has carried on the work in a very efficient manner. The family has lived in the parish for several

generations. The funeral service was held in the Baptist Chapel, previous to interment in the parish burying ground.

(September 20th 1927 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM HARVEST FESIIVAL**

The Harvest Thanksgiving services were held in the Parish Church on

September 25th. The ringers following their usual custom opened the day

with merry peals within a minute or two of 6.30am. The festivities continued on Monday with a Public Tea in the Parish Hall, and Sports confined to the residents of Abbotsham. In the evening a Concert arranged by Miss C. Bellew was much enjoyed.

(October 4th 1927 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

Parishioners and friends will be very glad to hear that Miss Edith Glover has been appointed the new SubpostmistresS in succession to her sister, lately deceased.

(October 18th 1927 - BG).

**DEATH**

On October 21st at Abbotsham - John Tucker aged 65 years.

(October 25th 1927 - BG).

**DEATH**

On November 7th at Plymstock - James, husband of the late Mary Ann Daniel, late of “Fair View House”, Abbotsham, aged 84 years.

(November 15th 1927 - BG)

**ABBOTSHAM**

The Memorial Services held in the Parish Church on November 13th were largely attended. The members of the British Legion met at the Church gate, and led by the choir and clergy, marched in procession into the church.

Wreaths were laid at the War Memorial by Mr Lomas and Mrs Sealy. The

Last Post was sounded in memory of the Fallen. The collection was as

usual for Earl Haig’s Appeal and raised the sum of £6.1s. 1Od.

(November 29th 1927 - BG).

**EGG LAYING TRIALS AT ABBOTSHAM.**

The report for the second period (Nov.l2th-Dec.9th) on the Devon County

Egg Laying Trial being conducted at Abbotsham Cross, states that the site is somewhat exposed, and the soil is heavy loam. The competing birds are

divided into two sections, light breeds and heavy breeds. Each competing

pen consists of five birds. The number of birds in the trial has been 200 and the total number of eggs laid during the period was 2,232 against 2,385 in the first period.

(January 3rd 1928 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The sympathy of parishioners and friends will be extended to Mr and Mrs J.

Bale of Abbotsham who have received news that Olaf Bale, only son of their

youngest son Joseph (who was killed in the War), was killed on board ship off the coast of Norway, and his body taken to Bergen for burial.

(February 21st 1928 - BG).

**PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS.**

Abbotsham - Rev. E.A. du Cane presided. Elected - George Jackman, Percy

L. Squire, W. Squire, T.F. Friendship, C.H. Pickard, T. Braddon, John  
Hooper, John Andrew.

(March 20th 1928 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

At the Women’s Institute Exhibition held at Barnstaple, Mrs Sereta D. Beer,

who is a member of Parkham W.l. obtained first Prize for Basket Making; 1st

Prize for Artificial Flowers; 1st Prize for Swiss Roll; 1st Prize for Bottled Stone Fruit; 2nd Prize for Waste Paper Basket, and Highly Commended for Bottled Soft Fruit.

(March 27th 1928 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**A Primrose League whist drive and dance was held in the Parish Hall on April 18th, and was largely attended. Miss Ridd, Warden of Abbotsham, was

responsible for the arrangements.

(May 1st 1928- BG).

ABBOTSHAM FETE.

An original touch was given to the opening ceremony at Abbotsham Fete held

in the Glebe Field on Wednesday by Lady Stucley, who recited some specially composed verses for the event. The Fete was the culmination of efforts by parishioners to raise £200 estimated to be required for the repair and renovation of the interior of the Parish Church. Owing to the prevalence

of a measles epidemic in the village, it was thought at one stage to postpone, but it proved to be a great success. The Bideford Band supplied music throughout. There were numerous stalls and attractions. Tea was served, and in the evening a Concert was given. A well attended Dance was held in the Schoolroom, and supper was provided under the direction of Miss M. Turner. The sum raised was £135.12s.6d.  
(June26th 1928 – BG)

**ABBOTSHAM**

Abbotsham Church is old and grey

We all go there to sing and pray

Except the folk who stay away

They have no time (or so they say).

Years ago when the world was new

Churches were scarce or very few

But what should all of us do today

Without a Church where we can pray.

Babies we christen near yonder door

Young folks get married, both rich and poor

The dead we take to their last long sleep

The Abbotsham Church its watch doth keep.

In this old world of ours today

Buildings grow old and wear away

The wind blows round and the damp creeps in

To let all decay would be a sin

The folks of this parish all agree

They never will rest such a sight to see

To mend their church they will all work

With hearty zest, and none may shirk”.

(June 26th 1928 - BG).

**HAYFIELD ACCIDENT.**

A verdict of “accidental death” was returned by the District Coroner at an

Inquest at Eastington Farm, Lapford on Friday on Herbert Charles Cloke,

aged 15, who resided at the farm, and was employed there. The deceased’s mother was a widow who lived at Abbotsham with a younger son. The deceased had fallen off a haycart, and death was due to a broken neck.

His father was killed in the Great War. The funeral took place at the Parish Church, Abbotsham, and conspicuous among the mourners were eight boys of the village who were former companions of the deceased - Kenneth Shute, Alan Moase, Harold Withecombe, Fred Davis, Donald Tucker, Lovis Easton, Sidney Bray and Arthur Jackman, accompanied by their mistress Miss S.D.Beer. During the service they sang, “Loving Shepherd of Thy Sheep” with  
great feeling.

(July 3rd 1928 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

Leonard Withecombe, a scholar at Abbotsham Church of England School has

been successful in obtaining a scholarship for Bideford Grammar School for 6 years. He is the youngest son of Mr Withecombe of Cockington, and is only 10 years of age. He is the first boy to win a scholarship from this school.

(August 14th 1928 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On August 9th 1928 at Abbotsham Church by the Rev. Preb. Emlyn-Jones,

assisted by Rev, du Cane - John Herbert Turner of Kyambu, Kenya, son of

the late J.H. Turner of Molland - to Dorothea Mary, only daughter of the late Rev. Richard Turner, Vicar of Barnstaple.

(August 21st 1928 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On August 27th 1928 - John Henry Phillips at Londonderry (late Winsford)

aged 69. To be interred at Abbotsham Church tomorrow.

(August 21st 1928 - BG).

Concerning the death of John Henry Phillips - he was a well known and

respected agricultural and hunting person. He farmed at Winsford for

upwards of 30 years, and his son Harry took over 12 months ago. He was a

member of an old North Devon farming family, and as a young man he was in

the North Devon Hussars. He was originally of Tawstock. In 1882 with the

optimism and determination of youth he left for Australia, where for seven

years he and his wife roughed it in a way little imagined by the flourishing band of farmers who now cultivate the land where little short of half a century ago, he underwent all the trials, set backs and eventual success of the early pioneer. His first domicile was a grass hut. As a result when he returned to this country, Mr Phillips was the first successful cultivator of sugar beet in North Devon. He was a keen follower of the Stevenstone Hounds. He was a judge of dairy produce, and a staunch supporter of the Bideford & District Horse Show. The funeral will take place at Abbotsham Church tomorrow.

(August 21st 1928- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Miss Phyllis B. Moase, pupil of Abbotsham Elementary School, who won a

scholarship tenable at Edgehill Girls College, has been accepted at

Southlands Training College as a student for the teachers certificate.

(September 25th 1928 - BG).

**DEATH OF MR H. PHILLIPS.**

News of the death early on Friday morning of Mr Harry Phillips of Winsford

Farm came as a surprise and shock. About two weeks ago he sprained his  
knee, and complications set in. He was born just over 46 years ago, and

follows very closely on the death of his father.

(October 2nd 1928 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**.

The women’s section of the Abbotsham Branch of the British Legion will open

its bi-weekly sewing parties this week, and will make garments for the Efford Colony, Plymouth. Last season the proceeds of a Concert and Dance

realised over £11, and this was also sent.

(October 9th 1928 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Abbotsham Rifle Club annual meeting received the certificate of approval of

the new range, and it was decided to commence shooting forthwith. Mr H.A.

Lomas was elected President, and the Rev du Cane as the Vice President.

(October 30th 1928 - BC).

**LATE MR A.H. BOYD.**

Many fellow members of the Royal North Devon Golf Club attended the

funeral at Abbotsham Parish Church on Friday of Mr Archibald Henry Boyd

whose death at the age of 77 occurred at Belle Vue House, near Bideford.

(November 6th 1928 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM PARISH HALL.**

A Fancy Dress Dance was held in the Parish Hall on Wednesday ¡n aid of the Hall Fund, and was very well attended, there being a large number from

surrounding districts. There was quite 150 present. Various prizes were

given.

Juniors - 1. “Farmer Giles” - Master Donald Tucker; 2. “Brigand Chief” - Master Freddie Davies; 3. “Dutch Boy” - Master Kenneth Friendship.

Ladies - 1. “Safety First”, Miss G. Barnacott; 2. “Dutch Lady”, Miss Conway; 3. “Gipsy Girl”, Miss Prouse.

Gentlemen. 1. “Froth Blower”, Mr Pascoe; 2. “Artillery Officer”, (Mr A). Music was provided by the Bideford “Shake Your Feet” Orchestra. Mr Pigeon ably carried out the duties as M.C.

(February 12th 1929 - BG).

**MARRIAGE**.

On February 14th at St. Helen’s, Abbotsham - Thomas - son of Mr and Mrs T.

Bellew of Pusehill Farm, Abbotsham to Mollie Louise, daughter of the late

R.E.L. Hookway Esq of Westward Ho.

(Febwary 19th 1929 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On March 3rd at Coombe, Abbotsham, suddenly , Anne Frances Turner,

eldest daughter of the late William Turner of The Barton, Bideford.

(March 5th 1929 - BG).

**FUNERAL.**

The death of Mrs Louisa S.C. Ridge took place at Moreton Cottage,

Abbotsham on February 24th at the age of 86 years. Her late husband Mr

William Ridge had been a valued and trusted official on the Stucley Estate for a great number of years, and he died about eight years ago. She had been an invalid, and had kept to her bed for the last six years. The funeral took place at Abbotsham Church.

(March 5th 1929 - BG).

**FUNERAL.**

The funeral of Miss Anne Frances Turner rook place at Abbotsham Parish

Church on Wednesday. The grave situated between the graves of her two

brothers - the Rev. R. Turner and W.H. Turner, was beautifully lined with

moss and snowdrops by Mr R. Blackmore (gardener) and Mr A. Glover (sexton).

(March 12th 1929 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The funeral of Mr Frederick Thomas Hamlyn whose death occurred at the

Village, Abbotsham, at the age of 59 years on Monday of last week took

place at Abbotsham on Wednesday.

(April 9th 1929 - BG).

**LOCAL AUCTION.**

On Tuesday last Mr Cock offered at public auction at Friendship’s Hotel,

Bideford, two fields near Buckleigh Cross, Abbotsham. A field of just over 5 acres was sold to Mr Thomas Bellew for £280, and a field of just over 3 acres to Mr Ernest Taylor for £170.

(April 16th 1929 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

William Cork of Adjavin Farm, a scholar attending Abbotsham Church of

England School has obtained a scholarship for Bideford Grammar School.

The school mistress is to be congratulated.

(June 11th 1929- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM WEDDING.**

On Thursday the wedding was solemnised at Abbotsham Parish Church of Mr

William Harris and Miss Nora Bluett. Among the numerous beautiful

presents was a Queen Anne silver tea pot from the choir and ringers of

Abbotsham Parish Church; a handsome mahogany clock suitably inscribed

from the Post Master and Staff at Bideford Post Office; a set of carvers and spoons from the garden staff at Moreton, and an Old English cut glass set from the Bideford Exchange.

(June 18th 1929 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM BRITISH LEGION.**

Members of the women’s section of the British Legion at Abbotsham have

again opened their winter session of work, which the major part is for the

benefit of the Efford Colony at Plymouth. In order to augment the funds a

long night dance was held in the Parish Hall on October 16th. The “Blue  
Orpheus Band” from Bideford provided the music.

(November 5th 1929- BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On October 30th at Abbotsham Church - Charles, eldest son of Mr and Mrs

Thomas Bellew - to Annie, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Boon of Northam.

(November 12th 1929 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM PRESENTATION.**

A very pleasing little function took place in the Parish Hall, Abbotsham on

November 21st when Mrs Mary Bale, who has acted as a general nurse in the

parish in sick and maternity cases or over forty years, was presented with a leather wallet and new Treasury Notes as a token of gratitude from a large number of friends and parishioners. Mrs Sealy making the presentation.

(November 26th 1929 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

An Exhibition and Sale of Handicrafts has been held at Abbotsham under the

auspices of Sir Bors branch of the Order of the Knights of the Round Table of King Arthur. The children of Abbotsham School were responsible for much

of the work done. The sale was opened by Mr F.T. Glasscock of King Arthur’s Hall, Tintagel. The proceeds will be devoted to a fund for promoting health and happiness amongst the poor children.

(November 24th 1929 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On December 30th 1929 in Staines - Skidmore John Ashby, J.P. of Rixlade,

Abbotsham, elder son of the late John Ashby of Staines, aged 54 years.

(January 7th 1930 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

Mr and Mrs J. Slee of Abbotsham received many congratulations on celebrating their golden wedding.

(January 7th 1930 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On January 20th at Orchard, Abbotsham, Stella, only daughter of Mr and Mrs

McDermott, aged 9 years.

(January 28th 1930 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

We regret to record the death at Tavistock of Mrs Barnacott, wife of Police

Sergeant Barnacott, a native of Abbotsham, where he still has a sister living. She was 42 years of age.

(January 28th 1930 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A most successful long night dance was held at Abbotsham on January 29th

in aid of the Abbotsham and Littleham Nursing Association. The music was

provided by the Abbotsham Silver Moon Band. The gross takings were somewhat over £14.

(February 11th 1930- BG).

**DEATH.**

On March 4th at Kings Hill, Dursley - Margaret Sealy, widow of A.R. Poole

Q.C., Recorder of Bristol, and second daughter of the late Edward Urch and

Emma Harriet Vidal of Cornborough, Abbotsham, aged 83.

(March 11th 1930 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

We regret to announce the death of Mrs Caroline Stapleton, wife of Mr Thomas Stapleton of Abbotsham which took place on March 6th at the age of

90. Her husband who is still living, is a little older. For many years they

lived at Gammaton, but have lately been residing with their son at the Smithy, Abbotsham. They had been married for 66 years, and there are left, besides the father, 7 children, 22 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren.

(March 18th 1930 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On April 24th at Abbotsham Parish Church - Wilfred Joseph, only son of Mr

and Mrs Johns of Alverdiscott - to Carrie, the fifth daughter of Mr and Mrs T. Bellew of Pusehill, Abbotsham.

(April 29th 1930 - BG).

**FUNERAL.**The funeral took place at Abbotsham Parish Church on Friday of Colonel

Boucher Charlwood James, D.S.C.O. of Stevenstone, the popular master of

the Stevenstone Foxhounds whose widely regretted death occurred on

Wednesday at the age of 48 years. He was the eldest son of the late Mr

R.B. James of Foxwold, Abbotsham. He was buried in a grave adjoining that

of his father who died in 1923 at the age of 73 years.

(July 8th 1930- BG).

**BRITISH LEGION.**

The annual meeting of the Abbotsham Branch of the Women’s Section of the

British Legion was held at Moreton by kind permission of the President (Lady Stucley). It was mentioned that the Branch was growing, having started with 45 members there are now 93, including 7 members of the “Junior Branch” lately started.

(September 23rd 1930 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On the 21st Inst at Windsor, William Pettle, aged 78 years. Formerly of

Westacott, Abbotsham.

(September 30th 1930- BG).

**FUNERAL.**

The death took place at his residence in Hampshire of Rear Admiral G.H.

Hewitt who was in his 75 year. He was a son of the Rev. J. Hewett of

Babbacombe, Torquay. He formerly lived at South Moor, Buckleigh, Westward Ho. His wife died in 1914 and was buried at Abbotsham. The interment of the deceased admiral also took place at Abbotsham churchyard on Saturday afternoon.

(October 14th 1930 - BC).

**YOUNG FARMERS.**

At the Parish Hall at Abbotsham on Friday evening a meeting was held for the

purpose of inaugurating a Young Farmer Club. It was called under the auspices of the Bideford District Juvenile Advisory Committee. About forty

attended. Mr P.L. Squire proposed that a Club be formed for the Abbotsham

district, which was seconded by Mr Rattenbury. At the close nearly a dozen

members were enroled.

(November 18th 1930 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM CROSS RECORD**

The fifth of a series of egg laying trials promoted by the Devon Agricultural Committee and held at Abbotsham Cross during the 48 weeks ended September 14th 1930, has produced the highest yield that had been attained in the Devon trials which began in 1925-26.

(December 23rd 1930 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On January 21st in London - Mary Sabina Frederica (Freda), widow of

Windham Sealy Vidal Esq of Cornborough, Abbotsham - only daughter of the

late General Boyes of Marchwood, Northam.

(January 27th 1931 - BG).

**DEATH.**On January 30th at Londonderry - Mary Elizabeth Phillips, wife of the late

John Henry Phillips, aged 70. Funeral at Abbotsham on Wednesday.

(February 3rd 1931 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

At the Devon Music Competitions at Barnstaple this year, Abbotsham Church

of England School Choir won a 2nd Class Certificate; Lucy Cork won a 1st

Class, and Betty Bale, Florence Lee, Consie Prust won 2nd Class certificates for elocution. Mrs Beer trained the children and Mrs Rhys-Phillips accompanied.

(March 10th 1931 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**.

The death occurred at the General Hospital, Bristol on February 23rd of Mr

John Peak who was formerly engaged as a foreman on the Bideford/Westward Ho Railway, and left Abbotsham some 32 years ago. He leaves a widow, six sons and five daughters to mourn their loss.

(March 17th 1931 - BG).

**DEATH.**

Quite a gloom was cast over the village of Abbotsham on Friday June 12th

when it became known that Mrs Ethel Lewis (nee Huxtable) had passed away

in the Bideford Hospital from septic poisoning following a confinement. She

was the wife of Mr James Lewis of Westward Ho. Sympathy is extended to

her husband and six young children. The greater part of her earlier life was spent in Abbotsham village, after being educated at the village school she took service at the Vicarage. The funeral took place at Abbotsham on

Tuesday, and the coffin was borne to its last resting place by six half-brothers - Messrs Thomas and Charles Easton, James and Alfred Hockin, and Arthur Paddon and Harry Lewis.

(June 23rd 1931 - BG).

ABBOTSHAM.

The Harvest Tea at Abbotsham was taken advantage of as an opportunity for

presenting Miss Sealy Vidai, Chairman of the Women’s Section of the

Abbotsham Branch of the British Legion with a slight token of remembrance

of her work and kindness to all during the years she has worked for the

Branch. She was given a solid leather attache case, a gold brooch, a small

jewel case, with an enlarged group of officers and members of the Section,

kindly presented to her by the President, Lady Stucley. Regret was expressed that Miss Vidal is leaving the parish.

(September 22nd 1931 - BG).

DEATH.

On October 19th, very suddenly, at Hilden, Bideford - Hugh Lefroy - husband

of Helen Lefroy, only son of the late C.G. Lefroy of Leamington. The funeral is at Abbotsham Church on October 21st.

(October 20th 1931 - BG).

**FUNERAL.**

The funeral of the late Mrs Barnacott, wife of ex Police Constable Barnacott, who died last week at the age of 75, took place on Sunday the 18th inst at Abbotsham.  
(October 27th 1931 - BG).

**FUNERAL.**

One of the oldest and most loved and respected of parishioners at

Abbotsham has passed away in the person of Mrs Emily Glover at the age of

75. For some years in connection with her late husband Charles Glover, Mrs

Glover held the management of the New inn, and on Mr Glover’s death the

widow carried on the business relinquishing it subsequently to Mr Henry

Tucker, who had married her youngest daughter. It is noteworthy that the

deceased lady was born in the same house nearly 80 years ago, when her

father and mother held the licence of the premises, and it was a source of

gratification to her when she went back to the old house, hopefully to end her days there, which hope has been fulfilled. The funeral took place at

Abbotsham Church on Friday.

(November 10th 1931 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On November 16th at Langdon, Abbotsham - John Gooding aged 76.

(November 17th 1931 - BG).

**BIRTH.**

On January 4th at Westacott, Abbotsham to Mr and Mrs P.T. Trewin - a son.  
(January 5th 1932 - BG)

**DEATH.**

On January 2nd at Fair View, Abbotsham - Mabel Mary Walsh James aged  
46 years.

(January 5th 1932 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

A very successful Dance was held in the Parish Hall on January 27th - the

Misses Nellie and Winnie Henderson and Daisy Williams were responsible

for the arrangements. Music was provided by the Abbotsham Silver Moon

Band. After clearing the expenses £4.7.8d was raised towards the Parish

Hall Funds.

(February 9th 1932 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

At Bideford County Petty Sessions on Tuesday, Mr J. Beesley applied on

behalf of the executors of the will of the late Mrs Mary Phillips for possession of a dwelling house in Abbotsham. It was a weekly tenancy of 2/9d per week in the occupation of Mr F. Cloak (*Cloke?).* The Bench issued a warrant for ejectment, but gave the defendant a month in which to find a house.

(March 8th 1932 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

On Wednesday afternoon the children in the Poultry Class at Abbotsham

School accompanied by the County Lecturer and the Head Teacher, Mrs

Beer, proceeded to “Little Dene” Poultry Farm. There, the owner Miss

Wilmot Jenkins showed them around the farm.

(May 17th 1932 - BG).

**BANNER DEDICATION.**

The Vicar of Abbotsham, Rev. E.A. du Cane, on Sunday afternoon dedicated

the new standard of Abbotsham Branch of the British Legion. A large number witnessed the ceremony which was held around the War Memorial in the churchyard. Members of the Abbotsham and Bideford Branches joined in procession outside the Church, and walked to the memorial headed by the

Hon. Sec, Mr Ernest Taylor who carried the new standard, supported by

Messrs F. Littlejohns and J. Jewell. The Service was then conducted by the

Vicar of Abbotsham, and he laid his hands on the standard and dedicated it

on a table covered with a Union Jack, and taking it into Church. Mr R.H.

Bartlett presided at the harmonium. The address was given by Maj. Gen.

Nightingale (Chairman of the Abbotsham Branch).

(June 28th 1932 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

On July 1st the Seniors of Abbotsham School, together with parents and

friends, went on their annual outing - this year visiting Buckfast Abbey.

(July 26th 1932- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM AND DISTRICT NURSING ASSOCIATION.**

Over £47 was raised as the result of a sale of needlework and handicrafts

held at Abbotsham Parish Hall on Wednesday in aid of Abbotsham and

Littleham District Nursing Association. The event was to have been held at

the School Field, but owing to the unsettled weather it was held indoors.

Tea was served in the afternoon, and May Pole dancing was performed by

the Schoolchildren. An open air Whist Drive was held in the evening and

also a well attended Dance. Messrs R. Davis and E. Taylor were the M.C.’s.

Sea grass stools were made by Abbotsham schoolchildren.

(August 2nd 1932 - BG).

**WEDDING.**

Much local interest was taken in the wedding of Miss Beatrice Moase to Mr

Cuthbert Speight of Sheffield, which took place at the Parish Church,

Abbotsham on September 3rd. Miss Moase was a member of the teaching

profession, and had her early training at Abbotsham School. Her three

sisters - Joyce, Phyllis and Dorothy were her bridesmaids, and Mr E. C.

Moase, brother of the bride, played appropriate music before and during the

entrance of the bride, and the Wedding March after the ceremony.

(September 13th 1932 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On September 28th at Abbotsham Parish Church - Herbert, the third son of

Mr and Mrs T. Bellew, late of Pusehill Farm, Abbotsham - to Gertrude Mary,

second daughter of Mr C. Pickard of Bideford.

(October 4th 1932- BC).

**DEATH.**

On October 20th at Bath, following pneumonia, Francis Turner, of Riccards

Down, Abbotsham. He was aged 73 years and was the third son of Mr William Turner of The Barton, Bideford, and had been living at Riccards Down since 1921 on his retirement from the National Provincial Bank. At the time of his death he was the Vicar’s Churchwarden, Vice Chairman of the Parochial Church Council, a School Manager, and Treasurer of the Parish Hall. The body was brought from Bath to Abbotsham on Sunday, and rested at his residence until yesterday when the funeral took place.

(October 25th 1932 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM SERVICE.**

For the Memorial Service at the Abbotsham Parish Church on Sunday, the

legionaries, ex servicemen and the Women’s Branch of the Legion assembled at the War Memorial in the churchyard at 3.30pm. Wreaths were laid by Maj. Gen. Nightingale and Lady Stucley. The “Two Minutes Silence” was then observed during which the bugles from the service at Chudleigh Fort were plainly heard. They then moved into the Church which was filled to its utmost capacity.

(November 15th 1932 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Another of the series of winter dances on behalf of the Parish Hall funds were held in the hall, and was again a great success. Mrs Henderson was  
responsible for the arrangements.

(December 20th 1932 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

A Nativity Play was given by the children of the Church of England School on December 14th in the Parish Hall. There were two performances - one in the afternoon in aid of the League of Pity, and one in the evening in aid of the Managers Fund for the upkeep and repair of the buildings of the Church of England School. The lighting arrangements were arranged by Maj. Rawdon, and were carried out by means of electric lamps generously lent by Messrs Heard of Bideford. Each performance was opened and closed with a prayer by the Vicar, and the audience was asked to regard it as a religious service, and that there should be no applause.

(December 20th 1932 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On January 28th at Abbotsham - John Bale aged 82 years. He was of a most kindly disposition, very unassuming in manner, but well beloved and respected by all who came into contact with him. The sympathy of the whole  
parish will go out to his widow, so well known to everybody as Nurse Bale,

and the other members of the family. The funeral service was held in the

Baptist Chapel where he had been a most regular and devout worshipper,

followed by interment in the churchyard.

(January 31st 1933- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

On Tuesday evening Abbotsham Poor Lands Charity was distributed to

various residents of the parish qualified to receive it.

(March 28th 1933 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

A net profit of over £7 was raised by a Jumble Sale held in the Parish Hall on behalf of the nursing fund of the Abbotsham & Littleham Nursing Association.  
(March 28th 1933 - BG).

**MARRIAGE**

On April 15th at St. Helen’s Abbotsham - Walter J. Delamore of London to

Doris Isabel Bale, only daughter of Mrs and the late Mr J. H. Bale of

Abbotsham.

(April 25th 1933 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

Both the Good Friday and Easter Sunday congregations at Abbotsham Parish

Church were good, and the collection on Easter Day, which were presented

to the Vicar, amounted to something over £18.

(April 25th 1933 - BG).

**DEATH**

At Abbotsham on April 27th - Emma, beloved wife of the late John Friendship

aged 86 years. She occupied the cottage where she died for over 60 years.

(May 2nd 1933- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**We regret to announce the death of Miss May Jane Essery of Abbotsham

who died on May 10th. she would have been 90 years of age in a short time,

and her death followed quickly on that of her sister, Mrs Emma Friendship,

who was buried the previous week.

(May 16th 1933 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Constantine Brock, a pupil at the village school, has been informed he was successful in winning one of the Devon County day scholarships at the recent examinations.

(May 30th 1933 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Mr Frederick Stapleton, son of Ernest Stapleton, the village smith, was

successful at the Devon County Show at Honiton last week. In the shoeing

class for young men under 25 years of age there were 10 competitors, and he

was placed 4th, and so won one of the cash prizes.

(May 30th 1933- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

It was Constantine Charles Prust (not Brock, as stated last week) of the

Abbotsham C of E School who won a scholarship in the recent examination.  
(June 6th 1933 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM SANITATION.**

At Tuesday’s monthly meeting of the Bideford Rural District Council in regard to the decision of the Council to provide a new and larger septic tank to deal with the sewage of Abbotsham, a letter received from Mr W.H. Pickard, the owner of the field in which the present tank is situated, stating that he should not consent to any alterations being made to the tank, and that if the Council were not satisfied they could move it elsewhere, was read. Mr Bellew (councillor) did not consider there was really any nuisance to the inhabitants. It was simply one individual who had made a complaint. After discussion it was agreed that the Sanitary Inspector make enquiries as to the possibility of securing another site for the tank.

(July 18th 1933- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

On Wednesday night Mr Arthur Beer of Littleham was standing on the corner

outside the Institute at Buckland Brewer, when Mr George Moase, aged 36, a

farm labourer of Abbotsham, came round the bend on his motor cycle and

collided with him. Mr Beer was not hurt, but Moase received cuts to his head and face. He was attended by the District Nurse, and P.C. Moore, and

afterwards conveyed to his home by car.

(July 25th 1933 - BG).

**FORMER VICAR OF ABBOTSHAM.**

We regret to record the death which took place on Monday of last week in

Winchester of the Rev. Phillip Richard Pipon Braithwaite B.A. who was from

1901 until last year Canon Residentiary of Winchester Cathedral, having

been in Holy Orders for 60 years. The reverend gentleman was 84 years of

age, was a native of Bideford, and his first vicarage was at Abbotsham from

10th March 1876 until April 20th 1881, when on his resignation he was

succeeded by the late Rev. Robert Walpole Sealy Vidai M.A.. The Rev

Braithwaite was appointed Vicar of the parish on the death of the Rev.

Edward Dansey, the patron of the living then being Queen Victoria. During

the Rev. Braithwaite’s vicariate the patron was Mr Edward Urch Vidal. The

deceased gentleman was twice married - his first wife, Mrs Jessie Beatrice

Mackenzie Braithwaite passing away on 3rd July 1880 at the early age of 27

years. She was buried at Abbotsham churchyard, in whose grave the remains of her husband were laid on Friday morning. Some years later the Rev. Braithwaite remarried, his second wife, who also predeceased him being Miss Annie Vidal of Cornborough. Since leaving Abbotsham nearly 53 years ago, he held appointments at St. Luke’s, Jersey, and in Andover. While at Abbotsham he was also Chaplain in Bideford Union. (August 1st 1933- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Mr C.W. Davey, an ex serviceman and old member of the Royal North Devon

Hussars, who is undergoing treatment at the West of England Eye Infirmary,

wishes to be remembered to all his friends at Abbotsham.

(August 8th 1933 - 8G).

CARNIVAL DANCE QUEEN CONTEST.

Miss Winifred Henderson was the Abbotsham representative at this contest

held at Bideford’s spacious Market Hall on Wednesday night.

(September 26th 1933 - BG).

ABBOTSHAM.

Much regret and sympathy for the bereaved family was expressed at

Barnstaple when it transpired that Mr Archibald Braunton of Barnstaple had

passed away. He was born at Abbotsham, and was 66 years of age.

(October 3rd 1933 - BG).

**DEATH**

On October 29th 1933 - Arthur John Harris, husband of B.M. Harris of Coombe Walter, Abbotsham, aged 51 years. He was a farmer/dairyman, and had served on the Parish Council, and was a local School Manager.

(October 31st 1933 - BG).

ABBOTSHAM BRITISH LEGION.

Under the management of the Women’s Section of the Abbotsham British

Legion a Fancy Dress Dance (optional) was held on Wednesday in the

Parish Hall, and proved very successful. The results were :-

Ladies - Mrs H. Trickey Rainbow), Mrs S. Beer (Minnehaha).

Gents - Mr. H. Trickey (Dutchman).

Juveniles - Girls. Misses Rene Glover and Doris Taylor.

Boys. Masters C. Brock and A. Facey.

Mr W. Hearn won the prize for the most original (Scaramouch) and Mrs Facey

(A Very old Lady). The Golden Bay Orchestra provided the music.

(October 31st 1933 - BG).

DEATH OF MR T. STAPLETON

The death took place at Northam on Tuesday of one who must have been

one of its oldest inhabitants in the person of Thomas Stapleton, who was

nearly 95. For many years he was a blacksmith at Gammaton Moor, where

he commenced business as a young man. He also stayed for a time at

Abbotsham at the residence of his son Ernest Stapleton. The funeral took

place at Abbotsham Parish Church on Friday.

(October 31st 1933- BG).

**FUNERAL.**

The funeral has taken place at Abbotsham Church of Miss Grace Blackmore

who died on November 7th at the age of 78 years.

(November 21st 1933 - BG).

**ARMISTICE SUNDAY.**

A combined service for Church and Nonconformists was held at the Parish

Church on Sunday afternoon following Armistice Day. At 3.15pm a large

number assembled around the memorial and with the arrival of the Clergy

and choir, the Legion banner was lowered, and the names of the fallen

heroes read out. Wreathes were placed at the memorial by Maj. Gen.

Nightingale - Men’s Branch, and by Mrs Magniac - Women’s Section. The

Rev. W.T. Kershaw gave the address.

(November 23rd 1933 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On November 26th, suddenly, Thomas Henry Glover, youngest son of the late T.H. Glover, Post Office, Abbotsham aged 59 years. The death took place at the Post Office where he resided with his sister, the village postmistress.

(November 28th 1933 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On 29th November - Stephen Bale, husband of Frances Bale, and second

son of the late Mr John Bale and Mrs Bale of Putridge Cottage, Abbotsham.

(December 6th 1933 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A galleon built of driftwood picked up on Abbotsham Cliffs, and made by Mr

F. Jewell, an unemployed workman of Bideford, was on view at a recent

exhibition and sale of handicrafts at Abbotsham, organised by the local Sir

Bors Branch of the Order of the Knights of the Round Table.

(December 19th 1933 - BG).

**FUNERAL.**

We regret to have to record the death of Mrs Ackland who passed away ecently at her residence at Riccards Down, Abbotsham, at the age of 77 years.

(January 16th 1934 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On January 26th at the Village, Abbotsham, Emma Jane McLean, the wife of

Gilbert McLean, aged 57 years. She was a native of Abbotsham, formerly

being Miss Friendship. She lived with her husband in Surrey, but they

returned to Abbotsham in retirement.

(January 30th 1934 - BG).

**DEATH.**On February 25th 1934 at Coombe, Abbotsham - Grace Turner aged 94. She was born in 1840, and lived for practically all her life at Coombe, the old

Manor House she loved so well. She was the only surviving daughter of Mr

John Turner of Abbotsham. After the death of her father and sister, she

succeeded to the lands and property of Coombe. She was a constant attendant at the Parish Church. The Rev, du Cane officiated at the service on Thursday last.

(February 27th 1934 - BG).

**PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS.**

Abbotsham - Rev, du Cane presided and declared the following elected parish councillors:- C.H. Pickard (Shamland), John Hooper (Lendon), Thomas F. Friendship (The Village), Thomas Braddon (Langdon), Percy T. Trewin (Westacott), George Jackman (Lake Cottage), Wm. Madge Turner (The Barton), Percival H. Squire (Bowood).

(March 13th 1934- BG).

**RIFLE CLUB DANCE.**

The Dance recently organised by Abbotsham Rifle Club committee on behalf of the Club funds was most successful, and was held in the Parish Hall. The music was given by the Blue Orpheans Orchestra. Spot prizes were won by

Mr W. Churchill and Mrs J. Friendship.

(Maylstl934-BG).

**FETE AT CORNBOROUGH.**

Mrs B.G. Lampard-Vachell of Weare Gifford Hall on Wednesday opened a popular fete held at Cornborough, Abbotsham by permission of Mr and Mrs

H.A. Lomas in aid of Abbotsham Church repair fund and various local charities. Cornborough rests on a beautiful site on the highest point almost of the picturesque Abbotsham Cliffs, and commands some splendid

panoramic and scenic pictures of the Atlantic - swept coast and the

countryside for a long distance around. The tree shaded drive forming a

natural cool shelter led direct to the scene of the afternoons activities, and the large numbers who arrived continuously throughout the day found not

only plenty of side-shows and amusements to entertain them, but also

occupied much of their time in strolling over the well appointed grounds. The Rev, du Cane after opening with a prayer, said there were really four objects which they wanted to assist. First they wanted to pay off the debt which they had to face owing to the dry rot in the Church last year. Two years running they had had dry rot. The last time they paid off without any difficulty the £70 necessary, but this time of course, they had had some difficulty in raising the money, so they decided to hold that fete to pay off the debt of about £70. There were other parish objects for which they also desired to raise funds, and it had been decided after paying off the £70 church debt they should divide any surplus between three other parish objects - one the District Nursing Association funds, second the Church Schools. There, of course, was no endowment, and they were dependent entirely upon voluntary subscriptions and church collections to maintain the School, and there was a debt of £5 to £6 on its upkeep and building account. The third object was to pay off that long standing debt on the Parish Hall. There was still something like £250 owing on it and they wanted to do something towards liquidating at least part or it. Mrs Rawdon and Mrs E.A. Du Cane arranged for the fete during the winter months, and the side-shows were supervised by Maj. Rawdon and Maj. Newcombe. The gate stewards were Messrs F. Davis, D. Tucker, W. Ridd, W. Tucker, A. Harding, J. Lee, H. Trickey, J. Bluett, F. Ellis, J. Allin and G. Andrews. Mr & Mrs F. Davis were in charge of the dance in the evening.

(June 26th 1934 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM BEQUEST.**

Miss Grace Turner of Coombe, Abbotsham who died on February 25th last

left £8,558.13.lOd gross, with net personalty £8,452.7.6d.. The testatrix left £50 to her cousin George Lewis Churchill Turner, providing he claims it within one year, and authorised her trustees to advertise with a view to finding him. £50 to her maid Catherine Hamlyn White in recognition of her faithful service, if still in her service, and £50 to the Vicar and Churchwardens of Abbotsham Parish Church.

(July 3rd 1934 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On July 4th at St. Helen’s Church, Abbotsham - Stanley, the elder son of Mr

and Mrs Short of 19 Richmond Terrace, Meddon Street, Bideford, to Lily,

youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs S. James of Sea View, Abbotsham.

(July 10th 1934- BG).

**DEATH.**

On July 5th 1934 - Emma, widow of the late John Bale of Homewood,

Abbotsham, aged 81 years.

(July 10th 1934 - BG).

**BIRTH.**

On October 6th to Mr and Mrs C.W.M. Turner, Abbotsham Barton, a son.

(October 9th 1934 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On 9th October at Evesham - Alethea H.S. Vidal, the fifth daughter of the late Edward Urch Vidal of Cornborough. Throughout the whole of her life in

Abbotsham she had taken a great interest and active part in all Church and

social work in the parish. After leaving Cornborough she resided for many

years at Bowood, and later at Langdon, where she built a residence on the

property she had acquired there. For a great number of years she was the  
Superintendent of the Church Sunday School, a Day School Manager, one of

the first Trustees of the Parish Hall Management, and the first Chairman of

the Women’s Section of the British Legion. The funeral took place at

Abbotsham Parish Church on October 12th. The grave was beautifully lined

with evergreen and white flowers under the superintendence of Mr Andrews,

gardener at Cornborough.  
(October 16th 1934 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On October 12th at Abbotsham - Flotilla Frayne, youngest daughter of the

late John and Anne Frayne of Bideford aged 54.

(October 16th 1934 - BG).

**DEATH OF MAJ. GEN. STRICK**

We regret to record the death of Maj. Gen. John Arkwright Strick, C.B.,

D.S.C., which took place at his residence Abbotsham Court, Abbotsham on

Tuesday. He had been living in North Devon since his retirement from the

Army in 1926, and was closely associated with the British Legion. He was

64 years of age, and leaves a widow, two Sons and one daughter. The funeral took place at Abbotsham churchyard on Friday morning.

November 6th 1934 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM EXHIBITION.**

The future of the Order of the Knights of the Round Table of King Arthur was stated to be at stake at the annual exhibition and sale of handicrafts and gifts of the Sir Bors Branch at Abbotsham Parish Hall on Saturday afternoon, due to the death of Mr Glassock, as the £700 he provided personally for the maintenance of the Hall at Tintagel had to be found by some organisation.

(December 11th 1934 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM WEDDING.**

The wedding was solemnised at Abbotsham Church on Boxing Day of

Frederick W. Nichols and Miss Violet A. Churchill, eldest daughter of the late Mr J. Churchill and Mrs Frayne.

(January 1st 1935 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM/BARNSTAPLE WEDDING.**

At Barnstaple the wedding was solemnised of Mr William Hockin only son of

Mr and Mrs J. Hockin of Riccards Down, Abbotsham, and Miss Lillian

Smalidon of Barnstaple.

(June 18th 1935- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM FETE.**

In spite of many counter attractions Abbotsham Fete held on Wednesday

once more proved a great success. This year it was held right in the centre

of Abbotsham - in Butty Field, adjoining the Church. The Vicar said the

object of the Fete was to raise money to pay off the long standing debt on the Parish Hall. There was still something like £250 owing. Then there was

the upkeep of the Abbotsham Church Day School. They were absolutely dependent on voluntary gifts. The side-shows included Bunty pulls the Strings; Penny on the Mat; Penny in the Bucket; Kicking the Football; Balls in the Bucket and a Shooting Gallery.  
(July 30th 1935 - BG).

**DEATH OF MRS B. BALE.**

We regret to record the death on September 21st of Mrs Bessie Bale at

Torrington. She was a native of Abbotsham, and for some years she was a

teacher in the Abbotsham School, but gave up to keep house for her aged

mother. She was 65 years of age, and the funeral took place at Abbotsham

on Tuesday.

(October 1st 1935- BG).

**GOLDEN WEDDING**

On October 8th 1885 at Abbotsham Parish Church by the Rev. Walpole Sealy - John Shute of Littleham to Hannah H. Hoiman of Abbotsham. Their present address is 10, Geneva Place, Bideford.  
(October 15th 1935 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A Nativity Play entitled “The Coming of the Christ Child” was presented in the Abbotsham Parish Hall on Friday afternoon and evening by children of  
Abbotsham School. The play which was written and produced by Mrs Beer,  
the school mistress, was most reverently given and the children were  
correctly garbed. The part of “Madonna” was taken by Florence Lee - a  
former scholar, and other parts were Gabriel (Edith Blight), Inn Keepers Wife (Violet Jewell), Joseph (Bert Facey), Simeon (George Lee), Three Wise Men (George Facey, John Mitchell and Leonard Manning), Inn Keeper (V. Manning), Shepherds,(John and Arthur Blight, Percy Lee, John Cork, Joan

Mitchell and Arthur Blight). Angels, (Dorothy Facey, Doris Taylor, Dorothy

Lee, Gwen Frayne, Margaret Smale, Eilleen Prouse, Phyllis Jackman, Phyllis

Jeffery and Peter Tucker. A collection was taken to defray expenses, and in

aid of the children of the distressed areas of Durham.

(December 17th 1935 - BG).

WEDDING.

The marriage took place at St. Helen’s, Abbotsham on Saturday of Mr

Frederick Lloyd and Miss Geraldine May Barnacott, youngest daughter of the

late ex Police Constable and Mrs Barnacott of Abbotsham.

(1935- BG).

**MR. E.T. DRUMMOND.**

The funeral took place at Bideford Parish Church on Thursday, followed by

burial at Abbotsham, of Edmund Traherne Drummond who died at his residence “Whitehall”, Bideford on Monday of last week. He leaves a widow and two daughters - Mrs Du Cane, wife of the Rev. E.A. Du Cane, Vicar of Abbotsham, and Mrs Rawdon, wife of Major C.H. Rawdon of Abbotsham.

(January 7th 1936 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM FUNERAL.**

The Rev. Du Cane officiated at the funeral at Abbotsham on Friday of Mr G.

McLean whose death at the age of 73 occurred in a Sussex Hospital. He

was a native of Abbotsham, retiring back there about 7 years ago.

(May26th1936-BG).

**FUNERAL.**

The funeral of Mrs J.C.T. Heriz-Smith whose death occurred in Tunbridge

Wells in her 80th year, took place at Pembury. She was the fourth daughter

of Mr E.U. Vidal of Cornborough, where she lived until she was married on

April 27th 1887 at St. Helen’s, Abbotsham.

*( No date Given)*

**DEATH.**

At Watlington, Oxon. on 15th January 1937 - Edwin Drake Sealy Vidal, the

last surviving son of the late Edward Urch Vidal Esq. of Cornborough aged 78 years.

(January 19th 1937 - BG).

**DEATH**

Thomas Bellew, late of Pusehill, Abbotsham, passed away at Northam on

19th February aged 79 years. For over 40 years he had been a Guardian of

the Poor, and for many years he was a Councillor on the Bideford Rural

District Council representing Abbotsham.  
(February 23rd 1937 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On March 19th at “Trevanion”, Bideford - Frances Flora Kempe, widow of

Canon James Arthur Kempe, late Vicar of Abbotsham, aged 82 years.

(March 23rd 1937 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Coronation Day (King George 6th and Queen Elizabeth) will commence

early at Abbotsham where a service will be held in the Church at 8am.

School children will be presented with mugs in the morning, and at 2pm

Sports for Adults and Children will be held. At 4pm a football match will be played. A free tea is to be provided for all parishioners at 5pm, and half an hour later a skittles competition will take place. A Social in the Parish Hall commences at 7pm and at 10pm the huge bonfire will be lit and a display of fireworks will be given. Funds were raised by public subscription and amounted to about £15. Mr D. Grahame is Chairman and Hon. Treasurer of the Celebrations Committee. The Ladies Committee for the Tea and Social comprises Mesdames de Las Casas, Grahame, Bale, Stapleton, Facey, Jewell, Manning, Glover and J. Hockin.

(Mayl1th 1937- BG).

**MARRIAGE**

On May 7th 1937 at the Baptist Church, Bideford - John Thomas Peard of  
Horns Cross to Edith Glover, of the Post Office, Abbotsham.

(May 18th 1937 - BG).

DEATH.

On September 16th at Abbotsham, the dearly beloved husband of Maud Mary

Henderson, after a long illness patiently borne, aged 61.

(September 21st 1937 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On January 21st at Cornborough Lodge, Abbotsham - Henry Blight, the  
beloved husband of Jane, aged 75 years.

(January 25th 1938 - BG).

**WEDDING**

Two well known farming families were united in the wedding at St. Helen’s

Church, Abbotsham yesterday, of Mr Norman T. Westaway, only son of Mr and Mrs J.B. Westaway of Yeo Vale Farm, Littleham, and Miss Edna R. Cork,

eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs J.P. Cork of Adjavin Farm, Bideford.  
(February 22nd 1938 - BG).

**MEMBER OF ABBOTSHAM FAMILY.**

The funeral has taken place at Cardiff of Mr Frank Walton Glover, of Cardiff - he was the only son of the late Frank Clover of the Post Office, Abbotsham.  
(April 12th 1938 - BG).

**FUNERAL.**

The funeral took place at the Church Cemetery, East-the-Water, Bideford on

Wednesday of Mr Thomas Bale at the age of 82. He was a member of a well

known Abbotsham family, having worked at Winsford for 33 years, and retired

7 years ago. He leaves 2 sons and three daughters - his wife predeceased

him by five years.

(April 19th 1938- BG).

**HALT SIGN AT ABBOTSHAM.**

A “Halt Sign” at Abbotsham Road/Pump Street junction at Abbotsham raised

an interesting point at Bideford Petty Sessions on Tuesday when Wilfred

John Langbridge of 1, Elm Grove, Bideford, pleaded “Not Guilty” to observing the sign on March 30th. P.C. Pope said he saw the defendant drive a van from Pump Street into Abbotsham Road without halting. The magistrates

dismissed the case on payment of costs, the defendant having committed a

“technical offence”, saying that he stopped before the white line and not

actually on it, and this could not be disputed by P.C. Pope.

(April 26th 1937 - BG).

**REV. E.A. DU CANE.**The Rev. E.A. Du Cane who has been Vicar of Abbotsham from 1927 is

shortly to relinquish the living, but it is understood he will continue to reside in the district, namely Orchard Hill. He was ordained in 1895 at Winchester Cathedral. The Vicar’s resignation takes effect on Thursday, although he will be continuing to take duty at Abbotsham, except for two Sundays immediately after his resignation, until the new Vicar, the Rev. B.M. Challenor arrives at the end of July.  
(May3rd1938-BG).

**ABBOTSHAM W.I.**

The monthly meeting of the Abbotsham Women’s Institute was held in the

Parish Hall on Wednesday - Mrs Grahame presiding. Mrs Glover and Mrs Bale were again the tea hostesses. A short Whist Drive organised by Mrs Grahame and Mrs Turner was much enjoyed. The prize winners were Miss Elliott and Miss Pickard.

(May 24th 1938 -BG).

**ABBOTSHAM’S QUEEN.**

A Dance was held at Abbotsham on Friday, and Ray Amis and His Rhythm

— provided the music. There were seven candidates for the honour of being

elected the Abbotsham Queen, and the voting resulted in the election of Miss West of Springfield Cottage, Abbotsham. Mr E.J. Day, chairman of the

Committee, after presenting her with her certificate on behalf of the Carnival Committee, thanked all who had helped.  
(July 12th 1938 - BG).

**NEW VICAR OF ABBOTSHAM.**  
Before a large congregation the Bishop of Exeter, Dr. C. E. Curzon instituted the Rev. B.M. Challenor as Vicar of the parish of Abbotsham, on Tuesday evening. Peals were rung on the bells before and after the service. After the service, the patron Mrs G. Sealy, entertained to refreshments in the Parish Hall. July 19th 1938 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM CHURCH.**

Harvest Thanksgiving Services were held at Abbotsham Church on Sunday, the preacher being the Vicar. Mr H. Bartlett was at the organ. Many willing

helpers assisted with the decoration of the church, and the fruit and flowers were later sent to Bideford & District Hospital, and the collections were devoted to the Hospitals and the Lord Mayor’s Fund for refugees in Czechoslovakia. Festivities continued on Monday with Sports and a Tea in the afternoon, and a Harvest Supper and Social in the Parish Hall in the evening.

(October 11th 1938 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On December 7th 1938 at Watiington, Oxon. - Agnes Sealy, wife of Col. F.

Gosset, late Royal Engineers, and last surviving child of Edward Urch and

Emma Harriet Vidal of Cornborough, aged 87 years.

(December 13th 1938- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM W.I.**

The annual meeting of the Abbotsham W.I. took place in the Parish Hall on

Wednesday - Mrs Grahame presiding. The Hon. Sec. Miss Elliott read the

report of the year’s work, and the Hon. Treasurer, Miss Kerslake gave a

financial statement which showed a substantial balance in hand. Miss

Clemons was elected to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mrs de

Las Casas. Miss Kersiake won the button hole competition which followed.

At a Whist Drive arranged by Mrs Turner, the prize winner was Miss Ridd.

The tea hostesses were Mrs Light and Mrs McKirdy.

(November 22nd 1938 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On December 7th in London - Edith Douglas Georgina Magniac of Abbotsham, widow of the late Maj. Gen. Francis Lane Magniac, Madras Staff Corps, aged 84 years.

(December 13th 1938 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM WI**

A Fancy Dress Party arranged by the Committee and members of Abbotsham

W.I. took place in the Parish Hall on Wednesday. The Prize Winners were:

Miss I. Griffiths as “Recketts Blue”. Master Harold Manning as a

“Highlander”, Mrs McKirby as “Paper Bags”. Miss V. West as

“Advertisements”, Mr F. West as “Smelling Bottles”. A one act play “The

Village Shop” produced by Mrs Challoner was acted by members. the

judges for the Fancy Dress were Mrs Strick, Mrs Doe and Mrs Lomas.

(December 20th 1938 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On January 15th - Nellie Bale, wife of J.F. Bale of “Carnbrae”, Abbotsham,  
aged 54.

(January 17th 1939- BG).

**DEATH.**

On January 26th at Shebbertown, Abbotsham - Ann Hooper, beloved wife of  
John Hooper, aged 79.

(January 31st 1939 - BC).

**DEATH.**

On March 17th at Abbotsham - John Slee aged 89 years of Riccards Down. He was a native of Putford, but came to Abbotsham as a young man. In 1879 he married Fanny, the daughter of the late Mr Samuel Bale of Abbotsham who predeceased him about 6 years ago. A staunch churchman he was a regular worshipper at Abbotsham Church until prevented by ill-health.

(March 21st 1939 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On October 23rd at Sea View Cottage, Abbotsham - Mariana, widow of the

late Joseph Huxtable, in her 86th year.

(October 31st 1939 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**  
On December 14th at St. Helen’s Church, Abbotsham - Donald Henry only

son of Mr and Mrs H. Tucker of New Inn, Abbotsham to Millicent youngest

daughter of the late Mr J.T. Moore and Mrs Moore of Fairy Cross.

(December 19th 1939- BG).

**WEDDING.**The wedding took place at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Bideford, on Friday between Miss Therese de Las Casas, youngest daughter of the late

Capt. Manuel De Las Casas and Mrs De Las Casas, M.B.E. J.P. of Riccards

Down, Abbotsham and Mr Edward H.L. Richardson of Lagos, Nigeria.

(January 9th 1940 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On January 14th in Glamorgan - Pte. Louis Charles Easton the only son of Mr

and Mrs C. Easton of Abbotsham to Iris Maud Griffiths of Tonypandy.

(February 6th 1940 - BG).

**NATIVE OF ABBOTSHAM.**

At the great age of 95 years which gave her the title of one of the oldest  
residents, if not the oldest, in the village, Mrs Elizabeth H. Bucknell passed away on May 14th at her residence for several years past at Alcombe. She was a native of Abbotsham, being the second daughter of Mr Thomas  
Chappel Holman whose family had been established in the locality for many

generations.

(May 28th 1940 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

At St. Helen’s Church, Abbotsham on June 19th - Frederick Thomas, eldest

son of Mr and Mrs Stapleton of the Smithy, Abbotsham - to Beatrice Mary, the eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs A Glover of “Carnbrae”, Abbotsham.  
(June 25th 1940- BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On September 18th at Abbotsham Church - Albert Rudolph Brock of Fair View, Abbotsham to Annie Manan, only daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Fogaty of Bideford.

(September 24th 1940 - BG).

FUNERAL AT ABBOTSHAM

The funeral took place at Abbotsham recently of Mrs F.E. Bale of 11

Lamerton Place, Bideford.

(October 1st 1940- BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On September 30th at St. Helen’s, Abbotsham – L/Bdr. William J.W. Turner,

grandson of Mr and Mrs W. Westaway of Thistledown, Bideford - to Joyce

Mary Cork, the second daughter of Mr and Mrs J.P. Cork of Adjavin Farm,

Bideford.

(October 8th 1940 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM NONAGENARIAN**

The funeral has taken place at Abbotsham of Mrs Catherine Pickard, widow

of the late Mr Charles Henry Pickard of Bowood, Abbotsham at the age of 96

years.

(October 8th 1940 - BG).

**FUNERAL AT ABBOTSHAM.**

There was a large attendance at the funeral at St. Helen’s, Abbotsham of Mrs Florence Jane Brend, wife of Mr James Augustus Brend and eldest daughter of the late Mr and Mrs John Henry Phillips of Winsford, Bideford. She was 56 years of age.

(October 15th 1940 - BG).

**UNOBSCURED LIGHT AT ABBOTSHAM.**

For permitting a light to be visible while at the White House, Riccards Down, Abbotsham, Mrs Lillian Mosely was fined £2.2s by Bideford County Bench on Tuesday.

(October 22nd 1940 - BG).

ABBOTSHAM & CLOVELLY LEAD.

In the “Salvage” league table for parishes in the Bideford Rural District,

Abbotsham is at present in the lead with £29.12.5 d to its credit, the runner up being Clovelly with £25.12.10 d.

(February 25th 1941 - BG).

**FUNERAL.**

At the Abbotsham Baptist Chapel on Sunday the funeral took place of Mrs

Mary Jane Bale. The funeral arrangements were by Mr E.G. Moase.

(March 18th 1941 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM IN THE LEAD.**

Reporting on the progress of the Salvage Scheme it was announced that the

League Table was headed by Abbotsham at the moment.

(March 25th 1941 - BC).

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**ABBOTSHAM’S FIRST CONFIRMATION FOR 25 YEARS**.

Rev B.M. Challenor, Vicar of Abbotsham writing in the April issue of the

Hartland Deanery Magazine of the Confirmation Service held at St. Helen’s

Parish Church, Abbotsham on March 24th, says he understands it was fully a

quarter of a century since a Confirmation was held there, It was a lovely

service and they were grateful to the Bishop of Crediton for coming to them

this year. Through the generosity of many of our friends we were able to

invite our visitors that afternoon to have tea with us in the Vicarage Room

after the service, and what an excellent tea it was too, adds the Vicar. We

offer to Mrs Glover and her helpers our sincere thanks.

(April 8th 1941 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM FUNERAL.**

At Abbotsham on Sunday June 29th the funeral took place of William

Montague Pickard of Bowood, Abbotsham, whose death at the age of 63

years came as a great shock to a large circle of friends, although he had

been in ill health.

(July 8th 1941 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On November 8th at St. Helen’s, Abbotsham - Sgt. Constantine Charles Prust

(R.A.) only son of Mr and Mrs B.C. Prust of “Fair View House”, Abbotsham and Miss Martha Banks, the second daughter of Mr and Mrs A.C. Banks of

Yorkshire.

(November 18th 1941 - BG).

**DEATH.**

Roger, son of Mr and Mrs W.H. Light of Rixlade, Abbotsham - killed on flying service at Waterkloof, Pretoria, S.A.A.F. in November.

(November 25th 1941 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM HOME GUARD TRIBUTE.**

Members of Abbotsham Home Guard formed a Guard of Honour at the funeral of a colleague - Sydney Robert Cardew of Kenwith Barton who died at Bideford Hospital following an operation. He was 64 years of age, and was the third son of the late Col. G.M. Cardew. He was one of the first to join the Home Guard, and his regular attendance at drills and his keenness with training was an example to all. At the funeral at Abbotsham the coffin was covered with a Union Jack and the Last Post was sounded by Bandsman

Rendle.  
(December 9th 1941 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM PARTY.**

On Friday Mrs Strick of Abbotsham Court gave another of her Christmas Tree

parties to evacuees living in her house and in the immediate vicinity.

Captain Strick, who was on leave, made an excellent Father Christmas. All

those present, some 34, showed their appreciation by entering into the spirit of the party and the fireside carol singing.  
(December 23rd 1941 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM NOTES.**

A very successful and enjoyable entertainment was given in aid of the “Aid to Russia” Fund in Abbotsham Parish Hall on December 29th by the “Merry

Makers” Concert Party under the direction of Mr J. Roy Ellis and Mrs Doris

Shortridge. There were songs by Mrs Shortridge and Miss Irwin Lee, dances

by Miss Joan Jordan and her pupils, and “Sadie” (Mrs Lesslie) brought life to the piano which had been so comatose for some time. Versatile Roy Ellis

and Mr Gorrell sung humorous duets. In the interlude Mr J. Lee provided

paper tearing into various designs. A sum of over £10 was raised for the

Bideford and district for the Fund.

All Abbotsham children which included evacuees were the guests of Mr and

Mrs Paul Spurner in the Vicarage Room and Parish Hall on New Years Eve.

The children from 2 years old to five had their Christmas Tree, balloons and tea in the Vicarage Room. The older ones arrived later at the Parish Hall. There they quickly made short work of an almost pre-war tea, pulled crackers, and then they enjoyed a cinematograph show. Father Christmas distributed presents and then this ancient Peter Pan played riotous games with the happy youngsters.

(January 6th 1942 - BG).

**FUNERAL.**

Many friends attended the funeral at Abbotsham Church on Tuesday of Mr

Jack Boyle of Buckleigh, Westward Ho whose death took place at the age of

51, on February 14th. Employees of Buckleigh Laundry of which Mr Boyle

was the proprietor were bearers.

(February 24th 1942 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM PARENTS LOSS.**

Mr and Mrs J. Manning of Riccards Down, Abbotsham have received notification that their eldest son Able Seaman Kenrick Manning was killed

while serving with destroyers in the Mediterranean last month. He was an

old boy of Bideford Grammar School and joined the Royal Navy as a boy in

1937. He was 20 and his service included the evacuation of Dunkirk and Cherbourg. He was home on leave just after Dunkirk.

(April 14th 1942 - BG).

**FUNERAL.**

The funeral took place at Abbotsham Parish Church on Tuesday of Miss

Grace Peter Turner, daughter of the late Mr and Mrs William Turner, whose

death occurred at Coombe Gate, Abbotsham the previous Saturday.

(May 5th 1942- BG).

**DEATH.**

On December 12th at Bideford Hospital - Harry Fuller of Sea View,

Abbotsham aged 74.

(December 15th 1942 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM LOSS.**

Abbotsham Court, which for a number of years has been the home of Mrs

Strick, is mourning the loss of Miss Hales, the family nurse, who passed away on Tuesday last at the age of 69. She began service with the family when Mrs Stuck was herself a small child, and has continued through two

generations to serve the family staying with them for 48 years until her death. In accordance with what would have been her wish, Miss Hales’ body was taken to Derbyshire, and buried in her native town of Ashbourne on

Thursday.

(February 2nd 1943 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On February 7th at her residence of her niece Mrs Taylor, Matilda Ann

Eastman, late of Coombe Cott, Abbotsham aged 76. For over 50 years she

was attached to the Parkinson and Magniac family

(February 9th 1943- BG).

**DEATH.**

On March 5th - Ruth Hannah, the dearly loved wife of Charles Hooper of

Coronation Terrace, Abbotsham. Mr Hooper was headmaster and his wife

infants mistress at Abbotsham School for 24 years, retiring in 1924. For

many years she was a member of the Church ladies choir, and was a member

of the Parochial Church Council and the Women’s Section of the British

Legion until her health failed.

(March 9th 1943- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM REQUESTS.**

Mr E.E. Head of Bowood, Abbotsham left £40,417 gross. He left an annuity

of £750 and furniture to Florence M. Terry, companion, 100 guineas each to

the executors, Alistair Saunders and R. Oglethorpe, and the residue upon

trust for Bessie Head for life and then to his daughter Marjorie Saunders for life, with the remainder to her daughter Alison.

(May 25th 1943- BG).

**DEATH.**

On July 28th - Edith Annie, beloved wife of William R. Andrews of “Langdon”, Abbotsham, aged 58.

(August 3rd 1943 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

A successful dance organised by Mrs E. Grahame was held at Abbotsham

Parish Hall on August 11th in aid of the “Merchant Navy Comforts Fund”.

Music was supplied by the Manhattan Melody Makers Band. Messrs D.

Grahame and W. Ley were at the door. £18.2.9d was raised for the fund.

(August 24th 1943 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On September 3rd at Bideford Hospital - Harold William Manning, youngest

son of Mr and Mrs J. Manning, Riccardsdown, Abbotsham aged 16 years.

Six fellow Army Cadets were the bearers at the funeral at St. Helen’s Church. He had been in ill health for about two months. Prior to his illness he was a scholar at Bideford Grammar School. His eldest brother went down in 1942 on H.M.S. Jaguar.  
(September 7th 1943 - BG).

**BIRTH.**On October 12th at the Grenville Nursing Home, Bideford, to Molly (nee

Glover) wife of Frederick T. Stapleton of Coronation Terrace, Abbotsham -

the gift of a son.

(October 19th 1943- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM OFFICER’S PATROL.**

In the brilliant sunshine, but with the threatening rain clouds scudding over the mountain tops, an officer and three men set off on patrol to find out if the Boche still occupied a village beyond the next range of hills. For nearly five hours this little band of men had been probing the enemy’s lines. They eventually arrived back at their company’s position in the darkness, establishing the presence of the Boche in the village, and they had little rest then, for our artillery thoroughly enjoyed the task of pounding such a splendid target. It was Captain J.R. Strick who led the patrol - coming from Abbotsham Court near Bideford. He is the eldest son of Ma]. General J.A. Strick C.B., D.S.O. and Mrs Strick. Aged twenty five he joined the Territorials just before the outbreak of war when a University student. He has been twice wounded - once in Sicily and now in Italy. His father’s long military service included the Campaign in Italy during the last war.

(December 21st 1943 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A most successful dance was held in the Parish Hall on January 1st - the

proceeds being in aid of the funds of the local Nursing Association and £15

was realised. It was organised by Mrs Grahame with the aid of Mesdames

Jewell, Manning, Taylor, J. Hockin, and West. Another dance will be held

on January 19th, the proceeds of which will go towards badly-needed repairs

to the Hall.

(January 4th 1944 - BG).

**KILLED IN ACTION.**

Mrs J.A. Strick of Abbotsham Court has received notification of the death in action last month of her eldest son Captain John Richard Strick. He was a popular figure locally and his love of our countryside and his ability as a speaker, coupled with his keen interest in life and his fellow men, and the sincerity of his convictions, marked him as a young man with a very promising career in front of him.

(March 7th 1944- BG).

**DEATH.**

On March 4th at Shebberton, Abbotsham, John Hooper aged 82 years.

(March 7th 1944 - BG).

**DEATH.**

The death took place on March 29th of Mrs Alice Trewin, wife of Mr Thomas

Trewin of “Bay View”, Abbotsham. Before retiring to Abbotsham twelve

years ago they resided at High Park Farm, Bideford.

(April 11th 1944- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A verdict of death from accidental causes, and that no blame could be

attached to the driver of the motor van which was also involved was returned by the North Devon Coroner at an inquest at Bideford Town Hall on Friday evening on Alfred William Glover of “Carnbrae”, Abbotsham who was fatally injured on Thursday morning while cycling at Riccardsdown. He was 63 and a mason by trade, and was prominently identified with church work at

Abbotsham. The van was the property of Buckleigh Laundry. It might be

said that all his life Mr Glover was part of Abbotsham. In his youth he was a chorister in the Church, and later became a member of the band of ringers

and for over 30 years he had been Sexton and Verger of the Parish Church.

(July 11th 1944- BG).

**“THE MERRYMAKERS” AT ABBOTSHAM.**

On July 26th “The Merrymakers” again delighted a large audience at Abbotsham Parish Hall, giving a popular variety entertainment in aid of

Abbotsham’s effort for Bideford and District Hospital Week. Three guest

artists from H.M. Forces - Lance Corporal McGowan, Sapper Newcombe and

Corporal Horrell helped with the humour. The Vicar thanked the party at the

close. Mr J. Roy Ellis was the compere.

(August 8th 1944 -BG).

**FORMERLY OF ABBOTSHAM.**

The funeral took place at Bideford Church Cemetery on August 2nd of Mrs

Elsie Vaggers of George Nympton aged 43 years. She was the youngest  
daughter of Mr and Mrs John Andrew of Abbotsham.

(August 15th 1944- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM FETE.**

The Vicarage Garden, Abbotsham was the scene of a very happy and successful fete on Wednesday in aid of the British Red Cross Prisoners of War Fund, and £10 was raised. The opening ceremony was performed by Lady Orford, Commandant of a Red Cross Convalescent Hospital. There were many attractive stalls and side-shows. The lawn made a charming setting for a children’s entertainment - the children having been trained by Mrs A. Cotton, the headmistress. There was a Dutch auction and a skittle tournament.

(August 22nd 1944- BG).

**HOME GUARD SHOOT AT CORNBOROUGH.**

As a result of a challenge thrown out by Lt. Colonel D.C. Crombie, Officer

Commanding 5th (Bideford) Battalion of the Home Guard to Bideford born Lt.

Colonel G. Oerton, Officer Commanding 4th (Barnstaple) Battalion, over

1,000 Home Guards competed in a big all day shooting competition at

Cornborough on Sunday.

(September 19th 1944 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

In view of the augmenting of Northam water supply by pumping water from

the River Torridge at Kismeldon Bridge into Melbury reservoir, Bideford Rural District Council are to make representations to Northam Council that a supply should be made available to those residents in the parish of Abbotsham, where application had previously been refused.  
((September 26th 1944 - BG).

**BRIGADIER C.H.M. PETO.**

Brigadier Christopher Henry Maxwell Peto, who last summer purchased Kenwith Castle (now used for Red Cross purposes, but which will be given up for Brigadier and Mrs Peto’s occupation three months after the cessation of

hostilities with Germany) has accepted the invitation of the North West Devon Conservative Association to allow himself to be adopted a prospective  
Conservative candidate for the division at the next election.  
(December 28th 1944- BG).

**DEATH.**On March 22nd 1945 at Pusehill, Abbotsham - Thomas Bellew Hussell.

(March 27th 1945 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On May 28th at 14 Bull Hill, Bideford - Lydia Tallin (widow of Mr Albert Tallin) aged 73 years.

(May 29th 1945- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM NORTH DEVON.**

Small Freehold Detached Country House with four and a half acres for Sale

with Vacant Possession, situated in a residential district near Village Church and Post Office. R. Blackmore & Sons have received instructions from

Major C.H. Rawdon to sell by auction at Tantons Hotel, Bideford on Tuesday

2nd October 1945 at 3.30 all that Freehold Detached Country Residence

known as and being “KEENE”, Abbotsham.

(September 18th 1945 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM NORTH DEVON**

To Let as from 25th day of March 1946 all that excellent Farm and Lands

known as “GREENACLIFF” - comprising commodious convenient and well built Farm House and Outbuildings and approximately 155 acres of watered

meadow Pasture and Arable Land.

(September 18th 1945 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On September 26th at St. Helen’s Church, Abbotsham by Rev. Du Cane -

Harold Fulford Hedden, only son of Mr and Mrs H. Hedden of Hoopers Water,

Buckland Brewer to Lucy Elizabeth, third daughter of Mr and Mrs J.P. Cork of Adjavin Farm, Abbotsham.  
(October 2nd 1945- BG).

**BIRTH.**

On December 26th 1945 at Tonypandy to Mr and Mrs L.C. Easton (neo Iris

Griffiths) of Abbotsham - the gift of a son.

(January 15th 1946 - BG).

**SILVER WEDDING.**

On January 29th 1921 at St. Helen’s Church, Abbotsham by Rev. Canon

Kempe - Bertram Charles Prust of Bideford to Constance Mary Brock of

Abbotsham. Present address - Fairview House, Abbotsham.

(January 29th 1946 - BC).

**MARRIAGE**.

On February 16th at St. Helen’s Church, Abbotsham by Rev. B.M. Challenor -

Henry Gordon Cockerell of Houslow to Doris May Taylor, only child of Mr and

Mrs E.W. Taylor of Abbotsham.

(February 26th 1946 - BC).

**DEATH.**

On March 17th at Riccardsdown, Abbotsham - Adeline, wife of the late C.T.

Bell, formerly of Heale House, Bideford.

(March 19th 1946 - BC).

**FUNERAL.**

The funeral took place at Abbotsham on March 28th of Melita Florence

Millward, widow of Mr William Millward and eldest daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Bamacott of Abbotsham.

(April 19th 1946 - BG).

**THE “NEW INN”.**

Continuing in a short series of old photographic plates, one was recently discovered showing the neighbourhood of the New Inn, Abbotsham as it was

probably forty years ago. The scene has really changed but little since

then, the picturesque thatched roofs being still there. Presumably at one

L time the Inn was a “new” inn compared with older establishments which have not survived, but has now acquired the dignity of age which belies its name.

(July9th l946 -BG).

**DEATH.**

On October 2nd at the New Inn, Abbotsham after a long illness , Henry,

beloved husband of Sybil Mary Tucker, aged 53.

(October 29th 1946 - BG).

ABBOTSHAM GYMKHANA SUCCESS.

A special evening was held in the Parish Hall, Abbotsham on Saturday July

13th when the Trustees entertained all those who had helped to make the

recent gymkhana and fete such an unequalled success. The Chairman - Mrs

C.W.M. Turner thanked the helpers for their loyal support. The Hon.

Treasurer - Mr D. Grahame said that after all expenses had been paid the

takings were approximately £625 which would go towards repairs and to

paying off the outstanding amount on the Parish Hall. Mr H.A. Lomas

congratulated the Trustees on their years work.  
(July 23rd 1946- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM CEREMONY.**

On a cold but otherwise brilliant day, the Armistice Sunday service was held at the War Memorial and Field of Remembrance at Abbotsham. The British

Legion under Brig. C.H.M. Peto paraded with their Standard and Escort and

marched to the Memorial, former members of the Women’s Services also

taking part in the parade. The service was conducted by the Rev. H.P.D.

Pinhey of Northam, and at the conclusion of the two minutes silence Brig.

Peto laid the Legion’s wreath of poppies at the foot of the Memorial amid the crosses of scarlet poppies commemorating the dead of two Great Wars.

The “Legion of the Dead” were saluted. The collection was in aid of Earl  
Haig’s Fund.  
(November 19th 1946 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM FUNERAL.**

The funeral took place at Abbotsham Parish Church on November 23rd of Mr

Underwood Ronald Moseley, who was killed in an aeroplane accident on the

Schipol Aerodrome near Amsterdam on November 14th. He was the second

son of Mr L.H. Moseley of Cheshire and Mrs Moseley of Drummetts Lodge,

Torrington. Mr Moseley was a director of the British/Americal Tobacco Co.

Ltd of London, and he was on the first stage of his second visit to Java since the war finished, when he was killed.  
(December 3rd 1946 - BG).

**BRIGADIER PETO.**

Brigadier C.H.M. Peto, M.P. for North West Devon of Kenwith Castle, Abbotsham, has retired from Military Service as from November 26th having been found permanently unfit for General Service by a Medical Board. He

retires with the rank of Brigadier after 31 years service.

(December 3rd 1946 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM PARISH COUNCIL PROTEST.**

At a meeting of the Abbotsham Parish Council in the Parish Hall on January

10th careful examination was given to the North Devon Joint Planning

Committee’s proposals for reserving certain areas of Devon as National

Parks. The object in adopting such a scheme it was explained was the

desire to preserve such areas in their “natural aspects”. The Council

considered that these proposals in so far as they apply to the Abbotsham

area are undesirable for the following reasons.

1. This area is protected by the existence of a Planning Committee, and the

conversion into a National Park would turn the area into a tourist camp.

2. Adequate roads already exist for the conveyance of visitors.

3. To enlarge roads in the area would cause unjustified expense.

4. This area is extensively farmed, and to throw it open to public invasion

would be a source of aggravation to local farmers.

5. The Council is convinced that by turning this area into a National Park

much of its pristine beauty and present charm is likely to be menaced.

(January 21st 1947 - BG).

**BIRTH.**

On January 22nd at Shebberton, Abbotsham to George and Rosamund Winter - a son.

(January 28th 1947 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM SUPPLY.**The question of a water supply to Abbotsham has periodically been the

subject of approach and reply between Bideford Rural District Council and

Northam Council. Northam Council’s main from Melbury Reservoir passing

through Abbotsham, a parish in Bideford Rural Council’s area. Letters from

North Devon Water Board and the Ministry of Health pointing out that a

branch main to Abbotsham under the North Devon Water Board scheme had

been found to be impracticable, and in its place provision of a tank at

Abbotsham to be filled at night from the Northam main was suggested,

together with the establishment of a “booster station”. A further meeting is to be held when further discussions will take place.

(February 11th 1947- BG).

**DEATH.**

On February 16th at Lincoln - Ada Marion, wife of the late C.J. Grahame and

mother of Douglas Grahame of Coombe, Abbotsham.

(February 18th 1947 - BG).

**FLOWERS AND BELLS AT ABBOTSHAM.**

Spring flowers decorated St. Helen’s Church, Abbotsham, and the bells

pealed in the morning and evening of April 5th in honour of the wedding of Mr James Ellis, youngest son of the late Mr and Mrs Robert Ellis of Meddon  
Street, Bideford, to Miss Irene May Glover, youngest daughter of Mrs and the late Mr Alfred Glover of “Carnbrae”, Abbotsham. The ceremony was

conducted by Rev. W. Smith, Vicar of Abbotsham. After the ceremony some

120 guests were entertained at a reception in the Parish Hall, Abbotsham.

The wedding cake was made by Mrs West (Abbotsham).

(April 22nd 1947 - BG).

**MRS HELEN LEFROY.**

Her many friends learnt with regret of the death at “Hilden”, Bideford on

Tuesday of Mrs Helen Lefroy, widow of Mr Hugh Lefroy - her maiden name

being Harrington. Mrs Lefroy formerly lived at Kenwith Barton, and moved to

Hilden some 30 years ago. For many years she had been associated with

the Conservative cause in Bideford, and was the Dame President of the

Iddesleigh Habitation of the Primrose League. By her special request the

funeral which was held at Abbotsham Parish Church on Saturday was private.

(June 3rd 1947- BC).

**DEATH.**

On May 30th 1947 in Kent - Victor Manning, second son of Mr and Mrs John

Manning, late of Abbotsham, aged 23 years.

(June 3rd 1947- BC).

**ABBOTSHAM W.I.**

The July meeting was held on Friday in the gardens of “Keene”, by kind

permission of Major and Mrs Campbell. After the singing of “Jerusalem”

there was a short business meeting. It was arranged to have an outing in

July to the Torridge Vale Milk Factory. Refreshments included ice cream

and strawberries served on the lawn by Miss E. James and others. The

social half hour took the form of a short play and recitations arranged by Miss Farrow from Lee. The competition was an article costing not more than 2/6d to go on the stall at the gymkhana and fete - the winners being 1. Mrs Easton, 2. Mrs Cork, 3. Mrs G. Nicholls.

(June 24th 1947 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On June 28th at Abbotsham Parish Church - Frederick John, youngest son of

the late Samuel Williams and of Mrs Friendship of Cross House, Abbotsham,

to Inez Winifred, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs E. Nicholls of Bideford.

(July 8th 1947- BG).

**SUN SMILES AWAY ANXIETY.**

The downpour of rain the previous evening and a dull morning occasioned

anxiety for the success of Abbotsham Gymkhana and Fete at Bowood (by

kind permission of Mrs Channer) on Saturday. But there was bright

sunshine and a large crowd who enjoyed the events which were in aid of local charities.

(July 8th 1947 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM CEREMONY.**

“It has not been easy and what we have seen has been effected in the face of a great many difficulties, both from an administrative point of view and in the supply of materials”. This was one of the comments made by the Chairman of Bideford Rural District Council when on Saturday afternoon, with other members, he inspected three of the Council’s traditional built houses which are ready for occupation and which were officially handed over to the tenants yesterday. The houses are situated off the main Abbotsham/Abbotsham Cross road a few hundred yards above Abbotsham Church. There was a formal opening ceremony. The builder was Mr F.W. Hockin.  
(September 23rd 1947 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM REMEMBERS.**

With Legion standards unfurled, members of the Abbotsham Branch of the

British Legion paraded at morning service at Abbotsham Parish Church on

Remembrance Day led by Brigadier Peto.

(November 25th 1947 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On December 30th at Pump Lane, Abbotsham - Frederick Brock aged 61.

(January 6th 1948 - BG).

**“BROCKY”.**

**I**n Abbotsham has died recently a notable character, a survival from old

times, who made his living along the beaches and in the fields by such means as trapping, prawning and blackberrying. His deep insight into wild life was got at first hand; that is from his father and his famous grandfather, or from such as Wrecker Sanders and Jim Bale. With his gaunt frame and rugged features, Brocky could be seen on most days out on the reefs. Those thin legs of his carried him at a great rate over sharp ribs of rocks, through gullies and pools, and in every crevice beloved by prawns. None now knows the game as he did, the rest are amateurs. Certain brakes and covers in parishes half a days march from Abbotsham were familiar to him, but no human eye saw him there, and what he did there Brocky wouldn’t tell; for twas his delight on a shining night. Brock is the word in Old English for the Badger, and the name is not a bad one for one so fitted to his chosen life. He rarely worked for an employer, and he sold his goods through no middle man. Mr Fred Brock was not the last who will range the rocks of our bay, but I think it will be a long time before there is one who will spend so much of his life like that or do it with such knowledge and so sure a touch.

“Full well knew the sea-wasked raines of rocks

Haunts of the peregrine and the wild cliff fox

From Mermaid’s Pool to Gauter and the Gore

He roved, the true born freeman of the shore.

And lo, the tide that brought his wealth to hand

Has washed his last faint footprint from the sand”.

V.C.B.

(January 20th 1948 - BG).

**BIRTH**

On January 17th at Grenville Nursing Home, Bideford, to Lillian (nee

Andrews) wife of William T. Ross, Cornborough Lodge, Abbotsham - a

daughter Margaret Lillian.

(January 20th 1948 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On January 12th - Ethel May, beloved wife of Arthur Jeffery, The Cottage,

Abbotsham, aged 44 years.

(January 20th 1948 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM - LONDON WEDDING.**

At St. Helen’s Church, Abbotsham on Easter Monday the wedding took place

of Mr Colin Merville Rowsell, only son of the late Mr and Mrs Rowsell of

London - and Miss Margaret Ann Mary Richards, younger daughter of

Captain and Mrs R.A. Richards of Orchard, Puse Hill, Abbotsham.

(April 6th 1948 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On April 23rd at Molo, Major Trevor G. Chamberlain, Veterinary Dept., Sotik, only son of the late Rev. J.C. and Mrs Chamberlain of Eastbourne – to Eleanor Mary, only daughter of the late Mr W.H. Byers and Mrs Byers,

formerly of Kenwith Abbotsham. Now at Highlands Hotel, Molo.

(April 27th 1948 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On April 17th at Barnstaple - Edwin Thomas, youngest son of Mr F.W. Stone

of Barnstaple and Alice Maud, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Braund of

Abbotsham.

(April 27th 1948 - BG).

**W.l. GROUP MEETING AT ABBOTSHAM.**

About 300 members attended the annual Group Meeting of the Bideford

Group of Womens Institutes held in the Parish Hall, Abbotsham on April

22nd. Tea was served, after which members walked around the village or

visited the marquee where there was an exhibition. An entertainment

followed. Items were introduced and accompanied by Miss Keene,

consisting of songs, sketches and a charade, ending with a most amusing

play entitled “Aunt Matilda’s Collar”. Refreshments were arranged by Mrs

and Miss Phillips and Mrs Cork with their Committee consisting of Miss Grant, Miss A. James and Mrs Prust.

(May 4th 1948 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM S.S.M. IN KENYA.**

Bush whacking in Kenya is a far cry from life at Abbotsham, Devon - Staff

Sergeant Major Fred. E. Gough, R.E., whose home is at Riccards Down,

Abbotsham has finally ended up in Kenya, where he is helping to lay a 70

mile water pipe line.

(May 25th 1948- BG).

**DEATH**

On June 20th at 2 Barton Cottages, Abbotsham - John Hearn, husband of the

late Mrs E. Hearn, aged 86 years. The funeral service was held at

Abbotsham Baptist Chapel on June 23rd, followed by burial at Higher

Cemetery, Bideford. He was one of the founder members of the local

branch of the Municipal & General Workers Union, and for many years he

had also been a member of the Sino Tent of the Independent Order of

Rechabites. .

(June 22nd 1948- BG).

**ABOTSHAM WATER APPLICATIONS.**

Northam Council could if necessary supply the whole village of Abbotsham

with water, it was stated at the meeting of Northam Urban District Council on September 2nd. However) further tapping of the mains was undesirable,

and the Council decided to inform Bideford Rural District Council that no

further applications from Abbotsham for water would be entertained unless a

service tank was provided there, and the water taken in bulk.

(September 14th 1948- BG).

**FETE AIDS ABBOTSHAM CHURCH.**

Nearly 300 people paid for admission at the Fete in the Vicarage Grounds,

Abbotsham on Wednesday afternoon. It was the first fete held in connection

with the Church at Abbotsham for some years. There was something of interest to all with heavily laden stalls, a baby show, a human “Aunt Sally”, skittling, “fox and hounds”, bowling for a fowl, hoop la, and attractive teas. As a result, the Church Funds will benefit by about £70. Mrs B. Asquith of Clovelly Court declared the Fete open, and thanks to her were expressed by Mr H.A. Lomas - the People’s Warden. The prizewinners in the Baby Show were –

Under 9 months - 1. David Butler. 2. Raymond Lee. 3. Terrence Rostock. Special - Margaret Ross.

9 - 11 months - 1. Michael Stevens. 2. Patricia Lowry. 3. Roger Turner.

15 months to 2 years - 1. Rodney Wright. 2. Anthony Beer.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Fete was Lt. Col. J.C. Bassett - the Vicar’s Warden.

(July 20th 1948 - BG).

**MR ARTHUR FRAYNE.**

At Abbotsham Parish Church on November 12th the funeral took place of Mr

Arthur Frayne of “Glenlyn”, Abbotsham whose death occurred in Abbotsham

suddenly on November 9th at the age of 72. For many years he had been a

member of the Abbotsham branch of the British Legion.

(November 30th 1948 - BG).

**SOLDIER-POET.**

“As a soldier he completed his destiny; his destiny as a poet remained

unfulfilled”. Thus writes Harold Nicolson in a memoir of the late Captain

John Richard Strick whose poems have recently been published in a book.

Captain Strick was the eldest child of Mrs J.R. Strick of Abbotsham Court and of the late Major General J.R. Strick. He was only twenty six when he was — killed in action at Anzio during the recent war.

(December 21st 1948 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM FANCY DRESS DANCE.**

Organised by the Abbotsham branch of the British Legion, Women’s Institute,

and the Rifle and Skittle Clubs, a very successful fancy dress (optional)

dance was held in the Parish Hall on New Years Day. Some two hundred

dancers enjoyed an enjoyable evening. The music was provided by Alec

Blackmore and his Blue Rockets Dance Orchestra.

(January 11th 1949- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM AND HARTLAND COMPLAINTS.**

Complaints by tenants about Council Houses at Abbotsham and Hartland were reported at Tuesday’s meeting of Bideford Rural District Council. At the previous month’s meeting it was stated that tenants at Glebe Houses,

Abbotsham had complained of water seeping under the doors. The Surveyor

said he had visited the site with Mr C.W.M. Turner - Abbotsham Councillor

and thought that the best way out would be to erect a baffle wall outside No’s 1 and 6.

(January 11th 1949- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM WATER.**

At their General Purposes Committee meeting on Wednesday Northam Council decided to adhere strictly to their previous resolution not to entertain

any further applications for water to be supplied to houses at Abbotsham until a water tank was erected at Abbotsham Cross.

(January 11th 1949 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM W.I.**

The monthly meeting of Abbotsham W.I. was held in the Parish Hall with Mrs

Campbell (President) in the chair. The competition for the best string mat

was judged by Mrs Westaway, who awarded the prize to Mrs Cleverdon.

Refreshments followed - the hostesses being Mrs Beer and Mrs A. Beckley.

The social half hour took the form of a roll call on the subject “What is the most useful article in your home”.

(April 12th 1949 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM WEDDING.**

St. Helen’s Parish Church, Abbotsham had been beautifully decorated by the

members of Abbotsham W.I. for the wedding there on April 27th of Mr Arthur

J.A. May of Eastleigh Barton to Miss Edith Margaret Cork, youngest daughter

of Mr and Mrs J.P. Cork of End House, Weare Gifford, and formerly of

Adjavin Farm, Bideford. Over 100 guests were entertained at the reception

at Abbotsham Parish Hall.

(May 6th 1949- BG).

**DEATH.**

On May 18th at Chulmleigh - Edwin James, late of Abbotsham, aged 67

years.  
(May 20th 1949 - BG).

**MRS E. HOCKIN.**

Friends over a wide area heard with regret of the death on May 2nd at

Bideford Hospital of Mrs Ellen Hockin of Riccards Down, Abbotsham. The

funeral took place at St. Helen’s Church, Abbotsham - the Rev. W.T.

Gibbings officiating.

(May 20th 1949 - BG).

**OPENING OF PLAYING FIELD.**

Saturday June 11th was a red letter day for the children of Abbotsham. At

the invitation of the Parish Hall Trustees the children were entertained to

sports and a tea to mark the official opening of the Playing Field adjoining the Parish Hall. With a grant from the Gymkhana Committee, a generous donation from the St. Bors Branch of the Round Table, and subscriptions collected locally, a piece of ground has been fenced off and a sand pit, seesaw and swing provided. Punctually at 3pm the flag was broken by Maj. Campbell, and all joined in singing the National Anthem. Mrs Wilson of Stanhope, Bideford performed the opening ceremony. She was presented with a bouquet by Valerie Parkin. Brian Potter expressed the Abbotsham children’s gratitude to all who had helped in providing the playground.

(June 24th 1949 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

There was much sympathy in the death at the North Devon Infirmary on July

3rd of Mrs Lilian Ross aged 34 years, wife of Mr William T.C. Ross of

Cornborough Lodge, Abbotsham.

(July 15th 1949- BG).

**LATE MR T.F. FRIENDSHIP.**

Mr Thomas Frederick Friendship of Cross House, Abbotsham, whose death

occurred at the age of 76 had been a member of the choir at Abbotsham

Church and a bell ringer there for over 60 years. He was a member of the

Parochial Church Council and had been a verger for the past five years. The

funeral service took place at St. Helen’s, followed by cremation - the ashes being buried at Abbotsham.

(August 5th 1949- BG).

**BIDEFORD CARNIVAL QUEEN.**

At the Carnival Dance at Bideford Pannier Market on Wednesday evening

Miss Betty Wise of Bideford was elected “Miss Bideford”. Among those

competing was Miss Abbotsham - Miss Audrey Mitchell.

(August 19th 1949 - BG).

**DEATH.**

At Barnstaple on August 20th 1949 - John Andrew, late of The Barton,

Abbotsham, aged 80 years.

(August 26th 1949 - BG).

**MRS L.R. MARTIN.**

The funeral of Mrs L.R. Martin of “Coombe Walter”, Abbotsham who died on

August 22nd aged 55 years, took place at Lake Chapel, Shebbear on August

25th.

(September 2nd 1949 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On September 2nd 1949 at Coombe Gate, Abbotsham, Mary Turner. She had

lived for a great many years in the parish, in which she had been actively engaged in Church and social work.

(September 9th 1949- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM BRITISH LEGION.**

For the first time a secret ballot for the election of officers was taken at the annual meeting of the Abbotsham branch of the British Legion on November 30th. Elected were - President - Capt. S. Bell; Chairman - Lt. Col. J.C. Bassett; Vice Chairman - Mr W. Powell. General Committee - Capt. J.A. Meeks, Messrs W. Hockin, J. Jewell, B. Prust, G. Tallin, F. West, L. Easton, H.B. Ridd and S. Short. Appointed Vice Presidents were - Mr H.A. Lomas and Brig. C.H.M. Peto M.P.

(December 9th 1949 - BG).

**OLD DAYS AT ABBOTSHAM.**

A few weeks ago we published a request by Mr Jimmy Hill now of 4 Monica

Road, Leicester, who wished to hear from old friends at Abbotsham of sixty

years ago. He now informs us he has received replies, among them being

one from Mr John Dennis of Orford, Woodbridge, Suffolk. Mr Dennis who

was with Mr Pickard at Chaltaborough in 1887 still retains a vivid memory of the Abbotsham of years ago. He has a son at Northam.

(January 13th 1950- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM FARM**

On Tuesday at Mitchell’s Cafe, Bideford, Messrs Hannaford, Ward & Southcombe Ltd negotiated the sale of Pusehill Farm, Abbotsham for Mr L.

Bellew, the various lots selling for a total of £27,500. The six lots consisted of: -

Lot 1. Pusehill House, buildings and 80 acres of land. £10,600 to Mr A.P.

Tucker of Westward Ho.

Lot 2. Small holding comprising 17 acres - £3,800 to Mr William Beer of

Bideford.

Lot 3. 49 acres of freehold land known as “Gainsboroughs” - £3,250 to Mr

A.P. Tucker.

Lot 4. Two fields totalling 15 acres -2,750 to Mr A. Reed of Northam.

Lot 5. 22 acres of land - £3,750 to Mr E.G. Bean of Abbotsham.

Lot 6. 19 acres of meadow land - £3,350 to Mr A. Tucker.

(February 3rd 1950 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On February 12th at the home of her daughter in London, after much

suffering bravely borne - Louisa Bale (Beaky), for 15 years the beloved friend and housekeeper to Major and Mrs Rowdon. Cremation followed by burial at St. Helen’s, Abbotsham.

(February 17th 1950 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Although the attendance was not so large as last year, there was a happy

spirit at the annual dinner of the Abbotsham branch of the British Legion held at Mitchell’s Cafe, Bideford on Friday evening. The chairman of the branch, Lt. Col. J.C. Bassett presided, accompanied by the President, Captain S. Bell.

(March 3rd 1950 - BG).

**BRIGADIER PETO.**

Brigadier C.H.M. Peto won a Conservative victory in the North Devon

Division, polling 17,724 votes.

(March 3rd 1950 - BG).

**BIRTH.**

On March 1st at Crossways, Abbotsham to Evelyn and Dennis Harle, a son, a

brother for Martin.

(March 3rd 1950 - BG).

**BIRTH.**

On April 18th at Kenwith Cottage, Abbotsham, to Marion and Ernest Blight – a brother for Raymond, Grateful thanks to the Nurse.

(April 21st 1950- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM FETE.**

Some £80 gross was realised despite unfavourable weather conditions as a

result of the Fete at Abbotsham on Wednesday in aid of Church funds. The

stalls were transferred from the Vicarage gardens to the shelter of the School.

(June 23rd 1950 - BG).

**DEATH OF FORMER VICAR.**

Vicar of Abbotsham from 1927 to 1938, the Rev. Edmund Arthur Du Cane,

died at his home, Garden End, Orchard Hill, Bideford on Wednesday. The

funeral takes place at Abbotsham Parish Church today.

(July 3rd 1950 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On July 17th at Shamland, Abbotsham - Miss Louisa Ann Pickard, aged 78

years. She was the second daughter of the late Mr and Mrs C.H. Pickard.

(July 21st 1950 - BG).

**DEATH.**

The funeral took place on October 9th at Abbotsham Parish Church of Mr

Frank Jasper Pickard who died at Parkham aged 68 years. He was the youngest son of the Late Mr and Mrs C. H. Pickard, formerly of Abbotsham.

(October 20th 1950- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM CHRISTMAS FAIR.**

Miss Betty Stucley opened the annual Christmas Fair at Abbotsham on

Friday, in aid of the Parish Hall Fund and the Playing Field. Proposing a

vote of thanks to her, Mrs Norman Fulford mentioned the long associations of the Stucley family with Abbotsham. There were many stalls, and Father

Christmas was Mrs Ward. Door stewards were Messrs F. Cleverdon and

T.T. Trewin. The organiser was Mrs C.W.M. Turner, and Mr E. C. White was

treasurer. Proceeds totalled approximately £70.

(December 8th 1950 - BG).

**BIRTH**

On January 3rd at 1 Glebe Houses, Abbotsham, to Iris, wife of L.C. Easton -

a brother for Deryck (Malcom John).  
(January 12th 1951 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM W.I.**

The first meeting in the New Year of Abbotsham Women’s Institute was held

in the Parish Hall on Friday. Mrs G. Nicholls (President) was in the chair. A talk was given by Rev. A.S. Chandler - Rector of Clovelly, who was thanked by Miss D. Moase. A raffle for a basket of groceries realised over 7/-, and was won by Miss Ward. Mrs Ruby Beer and Mrs Dark were in charge of

refreshments.

(January 26th 1951 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A seven day licence for the sale of intoxicating liquor in place of the 6 day licence held, previously, was granted to Mrs Sybil Mary Tucker, licensee of the New Inn, Abbotsham by Bideford County Bench on Tuesday. Mrs

Tucker said she had lived in Abbotsham for over 40 years and had held the

licence with her husband for 25 years, the last four on her own. She said

there were a great many callers on Sundays, and she had to pull down the

blinds at meal times to give the impression that there was no one at home.

Messrs Edgar Charles White, John Henry Phillips, Peter Lake, Charles

Vernon Doe, Ernest Samuel Stapledon and Mrs Violet Peard supported the

application. The Clerk to the Magistrates read a letter from Abbotsham  
Parish Council stating - Having in view of the fact that there is no public

demand for Sunday opening in this village, and that the village does not

desire it, this Council wishes to strongly protest at the granting of the licence.

(February 9th 1951 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On March 31st at Coronation Terrace, Abbotsham - Annie, beloved wife of the late Alfred Glover of “Carnbrae”, and much loved mother of Molly and Rene, aged 72 years. She was a native of Abbotsham, and soon after school life took service in the Vicarage with the late Preb. and Mrs Sealy. Later, on the death of Mr John Cory, the sexton, Mr Glover was appointed, and Mrs Glover took over the duties of Church caretaker and cleaner, which

office she held for nearly 30 years without a break until her husband’s tragic death.  
(April 6th 1951 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On June 27th at Bideford & District Hospital - Constance Mary, beloved wife

of Bertram C. Prust, and dear mother of Consie, aged 48 years. She was a

native of Abbotsham, and daughter of the late Mr and Mrs C. Brock.

(June 29th 1951 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM CHURCH FETE.**

A pleasant summers day and the grounds of the Vicarage with its white walls

adding further brightness to the occasion formed a perfect setting for the

Abbotsham Church Fete on Wednesday of last week. Opening the fete was

Mr H.A. Lomas - Church warden. Total amounts raised by the effort which

was in aid of Church Funds was £90. There was an ankle competition

judged by Mr John Mills - 1. Mrs C. Stapleton. 2. Miss E. Smale.

Child portrait competition judged by Miss E. Stucley –

Under 2 years - 1. Jeremy Harle. 2. Barbara Gaskin.

Over 2 years - 1. lan Mitchell. 2. Janet Ward.

The fete was followed by a Social in the Parish Hall organised by Captain

J.A. Meeks.  
(July 6th 1951 - BG).

**BEARER DIED AT FUNERAL.**

Friends in Abbotsham and district were grieved to hear of the sudden death

of Mr Frederick Littlejohns of Rose Cottage, Abbotsham on Tuesday while one of the British Legion bearer party at the funeral at Abbotsham Church of

Lt. Col. J.C. Bassett. Mr Littlejohns was 67 and helped to carry the coffin from the church gate into the church, and collapsed during the service. He was removed from his seat, attended by Dr. C.Wilson who was in the

congregation, but died almost immediately. He had been employed by Mr

1 C.W.M. Turner of The Barton for nineteen years.

(August 3rd 1951 - BG).

**DEATH OF LT. COL. J.C. BASSETT.**

Lt. Colonel J.C. Bassett whose death occurred on Friday at his home

“Wayneflete”, Northam, was chairman of the Abbotsham Branch of the British

Legion. The funeral took place at Abbotsham Parish Church on Tuesday.

Mr S.J. Hearn was at the organ, and the Last Post and Reveille were

sounded by Mr D. Pope.

(August 3rd 1951 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM W.I.**

At a meeting of Abbotsham Womens Institute early in September Cadbury’s

Ltd gave some interesting demonstrations. On Wednesday September 26th a Whist Drive was given by members for W.l. funds which benefited by nearly

£4.

At the usual monthly meeting on the 28th Mrs Wiggins from Bideford Art

School showed an audience of about thirty how to make useful gifts for

Christmas. The hostesses were Mrs White, Mrs Hearn and Mrs W. Hockin.

(October 5th 1951 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On October 15th in a London Hospital - John, beloved husband of Mary Ethel

Brooks of Londonderry aged 74 years, where he had lived for the last 19 years. The funeral was at Abbotsham Church. He had been a County Councillor since 1931. Consecrated soil from that portion of Mr Brooks old farm at Petrockstowe which now forms part of the new burial ground there was scattered on the coffin by friends.

(October 19th 1951 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

The amount raised at Abbotsham for Earl Haig’s Fund was £58.8.ld. Church

collections amounted to £6.18.4d. Abbotsham British Legion under the

command of Brigadier C.H.M. Peto and headed by the Branch Standard

marched to St. Helen’s Church for a united service of remembrance.

(November 23rd 1951 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM**

“Look for the Silver Lining”, a new variety entertainment was presented on

November 14th by members of Abbotsham Womens Institute to a very full

house at the Parish Hall. Musical interludes were provided by Les Mitchell

on his xylophone and by Bob Mitchell with his piano accordion. The show

was well received by an appreciative audience.

(November 23rd 1951 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM W.I.**

The first meeting of the year was held on January 18th in the Parish Hall with Mrs W.H. Smith presiding. Four new members were welcomed. Mr Harle

gave a talk about “The British through the Ages”, and Mrs Dark proposed a

vote of thanks to him. The tea hostesses were Mrs Martin and Mrs Gutsell.

The competition of the largest number of different things to get into a

matchbox was won by Mrs Trewin with an astounding total of 175 articles.

(January 25th 1952 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM BURGLARY**.

Between 8.40pm and 7.45am the following morning No. I Coronation Terrace, Pump Lane, Abbotsham, the home of Mr Charles Hooper, aged 84, the retired schoolmaster, was broken into and a substantial sum of money was stolen.  
(February 15th 1952- BC).

**MARRIAGE**

On March 26th at St. Helen’s Church, Abbotsham, by the Rev. W.H. Smith -

Peter, youngest son of Mrs J. Brooks and the late Mr J. Brooks of

Londonderry - to Janet Catherine Mary, only daughter of Mr and Mrs J.

Bellew of Silford, Northam.

(March 28th 1952 - BC).

**PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION**

Abbotsham:- (eight members), Frederick Redvers Jackman; William Edgar

Powell; Bertram Charles Prust; Walter Henry Smith; Ernest Samuel

Stapleton; Percy Thomas Trewin; Charles William Madge Turner, and Evan

WIlliams.

(April 25th 1952 - BC).

**DEATH**

On May 23rd at Cornborough Lodge, Abbotsham - Lt. Colonel Bruce Lancelot

Lake, D.S.O., O.B.E., interred at Abbotsham.

(May 30th 1952- BC).

**REJOICING WITH ABBOTSHAM BAPTISTS.**

Baptists from a wide area assembled at Abbotsham last weekend to join in

the centenary celebrations of the Baptist Chapel there. To mark the occasion it is proposed to add a small vestry and conveniences to the

Chapel, and the Chapel itself has raised £150 towards this £500 appeal. As

a result of the weekend celebrations an additional £50 was raised. On

Saturday there was a public meeting held ¡n the Chapel, followed by a supper in the Parish Hall. There were two services on Sunday- an afternoon service in the Chapel, and in the evening a united service of Bideford & Abbotsham Baptists in the Parish Hall. Alderman T.A. Goaman, father of the Mayor and Mayoress recalled he had three links with the village. He had personally known the Rev. Benjamin Arthur from whose interest the Abbotsham Baptist cause had come into being: like his daughters he remembered vividly Good Friday teas in the village: and thirdly sixty two years ago he preached his first sermon there. Speaking on behalf of Abbotsham, Miss Phyllis Moase expressed her delight at seeing so many friends of Abbotsham present. A hundred years ago there had been no room for harmony in the village, she said, but the name of their Chapel “Rehoboth” had been in essence the history of their Chapel. - “The Lord hath made room for us” - and now the Anglicans and Baptists were together and had a covenant of peace. There had been few changes in the Chapel during the 100 years, she continued, although at one time there had been no pulpit. The old preachers chair was still possessed by her family, and she announced that it would be on view in the Parish Hall during the weekend. A congregation of two hundred attended the united service in the Parish Hall - the singing was led by the Bideford Baptist Church choir. The pianist was Mr Walter Darch. The organist on Saturday was Miss F. Jackman, and on Sunday afternoon it was Mrs H. Dark.

(June 13th 1952- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**  
Mr F. Bale of Abbotsham who has been a member of the Amalgamated

Woodworkers Society for fifty years was on Saturday presented with a medal

commemorating his service by Mr W.H. Chubb. Mr Bale was congratulated

on his faithful and loyal service.

(June 20th 1952 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On Tuesday July 8th - Miss Margery Jackman passed peacefully away at

Lake, Abbotsham.

(July 11th 1952- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A B.B.C. television camera team visited Abbotsham Church Fete and

Northam Flower Show on Wednesday taking extracts of each for a new T.V.

play “Jans Journal” or “Jan at the Blue Fox Inn”, written by Ronald Duncan.

At Abbotsham the camera-man took long shots and closeups of the village

children folk dancing, filmed the stalls, babies taking part in the Baby Show, groups of spectators in their summer dresses, skittling and other

amusements. The Fete was opened by Miss Betty Stucley - the money raised being for the Parish Church. She said she had seen a poster, “Show me Thy way O Lord and give me a plain path on which to tread”. She said that the Church had been giving them a plain path for many years, although life was so complicated. There were 33 entries in the Baby Show judged by

Dr. Stella Candler. Prizes –

Up to 9 months - 1. Sheila Saltern. 2. Michael Elston. 3. Charles Withycombe.

Up to 18 months - 1. Michael Southcombe. 2. Teresa Rippon. 3. Carolyn Potter.

Up to 2 and half years - 1. Susan Schiller. 2. Jeremy Harle. 3. Peter Parkin.

The children from Abbotsham School, trained by their teacher Mrs A.E. Cotton danced numerous folk dances

(July 18th 1952 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Many friends attended the funeral at Abbotsham Parish Church on August 7th

of Mrs Florence Emily White, who passed away suddenly at her home

“Roseland”, Abbotsham the previous Monday. She was the wife of the

former station master at Bideford, and was aged 67 years. She was a

member of the Womens Institute, and a regular attender at the Parish

Church.

(August 15th 1952 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM SKITTLERS.**

Abbotsham Skittles Club recently held its annual meeting - Mr E. Blight being in the chair. Selection of officers for the coming season were as follows:

President & Treasurer, Mr T. Moase; Secretary, Mr W. Hockin; Committee,

Messrs L. Easton, R. Violet, F. Cleverdon, L. Lee, G. Martin, and S Nicholls.

It was decided to run an “A” and “B” team in the Bideford and District League.

(August 29th 1952 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

For two years in succession the Abbotsham brothers, Raymond and Dennis

Trewin have been first and second respectively in the spar making

competition of the Torridge Group of Young Farmers Club. They are

members of Buckland Brewer YFC.

(October 31st 1952 - BG).

**BIRTH.**

On December 20th 1952 at Bay View, Abbotsham to Joanna and William

Portus - a daughter, Melanie, a sister for Geraldine and Ruth.

(January 9th 1953 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM W.I.**The annual visit to Moreton is always one of Abbotsham’s W.l. group’s most  
enjoyable meetings of the year, and last Fridays was no exception. A  
business meeting followed - the tea hostesses were Mrs Beer and Mrs Martin.  
Mrs Smith presided.  
(May 1st 1953- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

To mark last years centenary of Abbotsham Baptist Chapel a vestry and

cloakroom accommodation adjoining the church was opened on Saturday. It

stands on what was formerly a garden belonging to the church, and the

entrance section has been made up and can be used as a small car park.

The ceremony, preceded by a tea in the Village Hall, was followed by a

devotional meeting. Abbotsham Baptists have been working for two years to

help raise the money for this improvement - the cost of which is in the region of £550, and only a balance of £60 remains to be found. The opening  
ceremony of the new vestry was performed by Miss A.M. Goaman of Bideford. Valerie Dark presented her with a bouquet.

(May 22nd 1953- BG).

**CHILDREN’S DAY AT ABBOTSHAM.**

It will be essentially a children’s day at Abbotsham. As a special treat and to enable the new generation actually to see all the pomp and splendour of the Coronation, the Committee has arranged to have a television set which will be installed in the schoolroom. A tea in the Parish Hall for the whole parish will be given, and the children will be presented with their souvenir mugs, and later a Sports will be held in the Butty Field. A celebration of Holy Communion will be held in the Parish Church at 8am. The day concludes with a bonfire at Cornborough. None of the costs of Abbotsham’s celebrations will fall on the rates for just over £53 has been raised as a result of a house to house collection.  
(May29th 1953-BC).

**ABBOTSHAM CHURCH FETE.**

The Mayor of Bideford, Mr C.A. Grant opened Abbotsham’s annual Church

Fete in the grounds of the Vicarage on Wednesday. A cordial welcome had

earlier been extended to all visitors by the Vicar, Rev. W.H. Smith. A vote of thanks to the Mayor was given by Mr C.W.M. Turner - Vicar’s Warden. As a  
result of the fete approximately £80 was realised in aid of Church funds. Three quarters of the total raised will be devoted to the upkeep of the churchyard which has the reputation being one of the best kept in the Diocese.

7 (July 3rd 1953- BG).

**BRITISH LEGION BEARERS.**

The coffin was draped with the Union Jack and fellow members of the

Abbotsham branch of the British Legion were bearers at the funeral at Abbotsham Parish Church on August 20th of Mr William John Brown of Pump

Lane, Abbotsham. He was aged seventy eight.

(August 28th 1953 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

The funeral took place at Higher Cemetery, Bideford on August 25th of Mrs L. Cook of Cornborough Lodge, Abbotsham, and formerly of 3 Alexandra

Terrace, Bideford.

(September 11th 1953 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Rev. L. Woolacott who has been the Vicar of Buckland Brewer since 1947 has been offered and accepted the living of Abbotsham in succession to the Rev. W.H. Smith who is retiring at the end of the year. The Rev. Smith was a master mariner before taking Holy Orders, and has been Vicar of Abbotsham since 1946.

(October 9th 1953 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On October 7th at Abbotsham - Gertrude Sealy, widow of Preb. Robert

Walpole Sealy in her 92nd year. Muffled peals were rung and the church

flag flown at half mast at her funeral on Saturday. She was the Patron of the Living of Abbotsham, and was the elder daughter of the late General  
Molesworth R.A. of Kenwith.  
(October 9th 1953 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

At Bideford Baptist Church on October 14th the wedding took place of Mr

Cyril G. Westaway of Cheriton Fitzpaine and Miss Phyllis Ivy Jackman eldest

daughter of Mr and Mrs F.R. Jackman of Greencliff Farm, Abbotsham.

(October 30th 1953 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

Supreme Champion at Barnstaple’s first Dairy Show was a short horn cow

“Winton Charming 28th” owned by Mr Eric G. Bean of Coombe, Abbotsham.

(November 13th 1953- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The youngest member, (Miss Trewin), presented a bouquet and a founder member, (Mrs Jewell), a cut glass bowl to the retiring President, Mrs W.H. Smith, who is leaving the district at the annual meeting of the Abbotsham

Womens Institute at the Parish Hall on Friday.

(November 27th 1953- BG).

**DEATH.**

On December 29th 1953 peacefully at the residence of his son “Homewood”,

Abbotsham - James Edward Hockin, husband of the late Ellen Hockin of

Riccards Down, Abbotsham. Members of the Abbotsham branch of the

British Legion, of which he was a member, formed a guard of honour at his

funeral at Abbotsham Parish Church on the 1st January 1954. Mr Hockin

was aged 70 years.  
(January 1st 1954 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM USE OF WATER.**

Serious leaks and unauthorised connections for business purposes to the domestic supply had been disclosed by checks carried out in the Abbotsham

area of Bideford Rural District, stated a letter from the Clerk to Northam

Urban District Council. Northam Council, whose water main from the

reservoir at Melbury, runs through Bideford Rural District, have allowed a

number of connections to their main in the Abbotsham area. The figure of

80,000 gallons had been mentioned for water consumption in Abbotsham,

said Mr C.W.M. Turner, but part of Abbotsham was now in Northam. He

estimated that not more than 10,000 gallons of water were used in

Abbotsham parish itself. He said, “I think it is very unfair to say Abbotsham is using this immense quantity of water. I pay 4s.3d a thousand gallons”.

(January 8th 1954 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM W.I.**

Guests from Littleham and Alwington were welcomed by the President, Miss

Ward, at the February meeting at Abbotsham W.l. on Friday at the Parish

Hall. It was decided to propose Mrs Hemmell as Secretary. The tea

hostesses were Mrs Brooks, Mrs Nudds and Mrs Tallin. The bring and buy

stall was run by Mrs Beckley.

(February 26th 1954 - BG).

**FRIDAY NIGHT FUN AT ABBOTSHAM.**

For the second time in eight days Abbotsham Parish Hall was packed on

Friday last when the curtains rose on the repeat performance of “Tonights the Night”. From beginning to end the show went along with zest. The

curtains rose on the Abbotsham Belles - Ruby Beer, Barbara Jackman,

Florence Nudds, Iris Easton and Barbara Lee. This was followed by a

comedy act by Phillip Johnson. The compere was Norman Wiltshire.

Winifred Davis and Lillian Hockin were stage managers, Doris Hearn -wardrobe mistress, Jeanetta Mortimer - make up artist, Madge Chubb -

accompanist, and Eileen Smith - producer. Mr Richardson, chairman of

Abbotsham Parish Hall Trustees, for whose funds the concert was held,

proposed the vote of thanks. After refreshments were ably organised by Mrs

E. Grigg.

(March 19th 1954 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM FUNERAL.**

At St. Helen’s Church, Abbotsham on April 5th the funeral took place of Mr

Samuel Edward Bale of 40, Elm Grove, Bideford aged 74 years. He was the

son of the late Mr and Mrs John Bale of Abbotsham.

(April 15th 1954 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

To celebrate a successful season in the 3rd Division of the Bideford District Darts League, the New Inn, Abbotsham team, the two markers and a few friends, were entertained to an end of season dinner by the licensee of the New Inn, Mrs S.M. Tucker on Friday last. The captain of the team was Mr D. Tucker, and a toast to Mrs Tucker was proposed by Mr C.C. Prust.  
(April 30th 1954 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Over £200 was raised for the funds of Abbotsham Parish Church as a result

of a Fete held in the grounds of the Vicarage last week. The opening

ceremony was performed by the Vicar, Rev. Leonard Woolcott. Capt. Sidney

Bell following his custom gave ¡ce cream to all the children taking part.  
There was an entry of thirty in the Baby Show, arranged by Miss Joan Warde.

Teas were served in the Parish Hall. The gate stewards were Messrs G.N.

Thomas, W.E. Powell and C. Easton.

(July 9th 1954 - BG).

**NORTHAM “NO”.**

An application from a resident of Abbotsham to be connected to the Northam

water main which passes through the village, which was refused by Northam

Urban Council last week, was reported to have the unqualified support of

Abbotsham Parish Council.

(July 16th 1954 - BG).

**MRS W.G. JAMES**

The funeral took place at Abbotsham Parish Church on September 8th of Mrs

Tryphena James aged 72 years, wife of Mr W.G. James of Riccards Down,

Abbotsham. She had been an invalid for many years.  
(September 24th 1954 - BG).

**DEATH.**On October 11th at Penrose, Abbotsham - Richard, husband of the late

Elizabeth Braunton, aged 87 years.  
(October 15th 1954 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM ALLEY.**

By voluntary labour, members and supporters of Abbotsham Skittles Club

have constructed a brand new alley adjoining the Parish Hall, and tomorrow,

Saturday evening, it is to be formally opened in the presence of visiting

skittlers. There is to be a week long open tournament. Previously the club

played inside the hail on a wooden alley, but they wanted an alley of their

own. Abbotsham are already well up in Division One of the Bideford &

District League. Their “A” team headed the Division One at the end of last

season, and their “B” team were in 4th position.

On Saturday the first ball was thrown by Mr C.A. Grant, the Deputy Mayor of

Bideford. The total expenditure was about £400. After the opening of the

new alley, it was blessed by Mr Woolcott, Vicar of Abbotsham.

(November 19th 1954 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Highlights at Abbotsham W.I.’s annual party on Old Christmas Night were a

tea drinking competition for the ladies, and a mannequin parade in which the men paraded in feminine attire, costumes ranging from “a bridal head dress” to “scanty” panties. At the close of the evening Mrs Mills thanked Mr Phillips for organising the games and acting as M.C., and also Mrs Madge Chubb who played the piano.

(January 28th 1955 - BG).

**THE LATE MR C. GLOVER.**

Mr Charles Clover who was born at Abbotsham and resided in Newquay

since 1932 has died there on February 6th at the age of 76. He was a

frequent visitor to his native village. The funeral took place at St. Helen’s Parish Church, Abbotsham on February 9th.  
(February 18th 1955 - BG).

**RETURNING HOME TO ABBOTSHAM.**

After travelling 6,000 miles with the “Golden Hind” expedition, which is on a two and a half years tour of the world - Geraldine Portus, the twelve year old schoolgirl from Abbotsham is going to return home. Her parents are Mr and Mrs William Portus of Bay View, Abbotsham. Her uncle, Mr P. Delmer, an organiser of the expedition, has decided to leave it, and to make his way to Australia where he hopes to settle with his family. Miss Berenice Brooks, formerly of Londonderry Farm, a State Registered Nurse, is continuing with the expedition, which she joined as a nurse.

(March 11th 1955 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM W.I.**

At the monthly meeting of the Abbotsham W.l. held on April 15th at the Parish Hall, the President, Mrs Mills congratulated Miss Gutsell on being chosen to help model period dresses at the Group Meeting at Torrington.  
(April 22nd 1955 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On April 15th - Mary Ann Stoneman, wife of Sidney, of the Village,  
Abbotsham, aged 78 years.

(April 27th 1955 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On April 30th in Hampshire - Octavius Gelhard Kiernander of Rixlade  
Cottage, Abbotsham aged 72 years.

(May 6th 1955 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Appointed M.B.E. (Military Division) in the Queen’s Birthday Honours List,

Captain Charles Vernon Doe of Coombe Cott, Abbotsham, has served in the

Forces of the Crown over a period of 40 years. In 1936 on his retirement he

came to live in Abbotsham.  
(June 17th 1955 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM FETE.**“It’s absolutely wonderful, especially as its such a glorious day” was the

verdict of Miss Rosemary Stucley, daughter of the Mayor and Mayoress of

Bideford, Mr and the Hon. Mrs D.F.B. Stucley, on opening her first fete, a

duty she performed with great charm at Abbotsham Vicarage on Wednesday.

The Fete was the annual event organised by the Abbotsham Parish Church,

and the proceeds were in aid of annual parochial commitments and to form a

reserve fund, to which it was planned to add money each year, for church  
preservation work, and it realised over £270. A vote of thanks was proposed

by Mr H.A. Lomas, People’s Warden at the Parish Church. there were many

stalls, and nineteen entries in the Baby Show organised by Mrs D. Harle.  
(July 8th 1955 - BG).

**MARRIAGE**.

On July 19th at Dolton, Alun Raymond, eldest son of Mr and Mrs P.T. Trewin

of Westacott, Abbotsham - to Isabel Mary, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs

Heal of Dolton.

(July 22nd 1955 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM TRAGEDY.**

Her husband had seemed to find the hot weather and the late nights too

much for him at hay harvest, and again at corn harvest, the widow told the

North Devon Coroner at the inquest at Bideford on Monday on Mr Thomas

Veal Tallin of Rose Cottage, Abbotsham. He was found dead in a stable at

Cornborough, Abbotsham, with a shotgun nearby. He was 59 years of age.

A verdict of death by suicide was recorded.

(September 2nd 1955- BC).  
**ENGAGEMENT.**

The engagement is announced between Mr Nicholas Hollway of Berkshire,

son of the late Mr K.C. Hollway M.C. and the late Marchioness of Tavistock

and Margaret Jane, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Surtees of Bowood House,  
Abbotsham.

(November 11th 1955 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM**.

Confronted at their monthly meeting last week with a questionnaire on “Your

Village” that is being circulated to institutes throughout the country, members of Abbotsham W.l. were stimulated to thought of improvements in amenities they would like to see, and might help to bring about. The meeting was presided over by Mrs D. Harle - the vice president. The monthly competition for a Christmas dinner table centre was judged by the two Mrs Trapnell’s, and resulted in a tie between Mrs J. lnsley and Mrs B. Brooks, and second place by Mrs R. Beer.  
(December 16th 1955 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM CHURCH.**

A tender for clearing St. Helen’s Church, Abbotsham of death watch beetle

and woodworm has been accepted and the work will commence in the spring.

The Vicar, writing in the Hartland Deanery Magazine states the cost for 1956 will be £348, plus architects fees, and there will certainly be some

subsequent work in 1957 and possibly in 1958. He adds, “through the

careful husbandry of our finances we have a sum in hand to help meet this

expenditure. But while it is fitting to use our available resources in this way we simply must replenish the Church Fabric Fund in order to meet, from time to time, such emergencies as that with which we are faced at the present moment. It is a short sighted and unforgivable policy to possess so lovely a church as we, of Abbotsham possess, without a sufficiently strong Fabric Fund to keep it in perfect order and repair. And in these days when Church repairs (like everything else) are very expensive, I personally feel we ought to aim at building up a Fabric Fund of £1,000”.  
(December 30th 1955 - BC).

**MARRIAGE.**

On January 14th at Bideford Baptist Church - John Edward Hockin of

Littleham Mill - to Marjorie Betty Gutsell of Abbotsham Court.

(January 20th 1956 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM W.I.**

Four new members were welcomed by the President at Abbotsham’ W.I.’s

first meeting of the New Year. A film show was given by Brooke Bond Tea Ltd - a vote of thanks for an enjoyable evening and a free cup of tea was

proposed by Mrs Beckley. The Christmas Party held early in the New Year

was a great success due to the efforts of Mrs J. Paterson and Bill Hancock

and his Band. Mr J. Insley, husband of a member took a photograph of the

party, and has given copies to be sold for WI. funds.

(February 3rd 1956 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM DARTS.**

Abbotsham “A” strengthened their challenge in Section “A” of Appledore

Darts League last week with a 5-1 home win in the singles and a 2-O victory

in the threes over Royal Jewells.

(February 17th 1956 - BG).

WARMTH AT ABBOTSHAM.

A topical talk entitled “Warmth in the Home” was given by Miss K. Meyer at

the monthly meeting of Abbotsham W. I. The hostesses were Mrs Hearn and

Mrs Jewell.

(February 24th 1956 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On March 17th in a Bristol Hospital - Elna Letty, beloved only daughter of the late Arthur Harris and of Beatrice Harris of Coombe Walter, Abbotsham, aged 39 years.  
(March 23rd 1956 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

So large was the attendance attracted to the partner whist drive organised  
last week by Abbotsham W.I. and the Parish Hall Trustees, that extra tables  
and chairs and packs of cards had to be found. There were 27 tables and a  
profit of £24 was realised.  
(April 6th 1956 - BG).

**YOUTHFUL ENTERPRISE.**

The garden fete season has been given an early start by two young girls at

Abbotsham. Six year old Norma Prust and ten year old Jayne Davis who at

Christmas time put on a miniature concert with very happy results for the

People’s Dispensary for Sick Animals, decided that spring weather was just

the thing for a miniature garden fete. It proved to be a great success, with Mrs Woolcott presiding. Brisk business was done on the stalls and a total of £3.4s was raised for the same cause.  
(April 1st 1956- BG).

**DEATH**

On April 6th at Shamland, Abbotsham - Charles Henry, eldest son of the late

C.H. Pickard of Bowood, Abbotsham aged 87 years. He had served as

churchwarden, chorister and bell ringer at Abbotsham Parish Church, and

had at one time been clerk to Abbotsham Parish Council.

(April 13th 1956 - 8G).

ABBOTSHAM.

The New Inn, Abbotsham is certain to be the new home of the Knock-Out  
Championship Trophy of Appledore Darts League, but whether the “A” or “B”  
team will carry it off will not be known until tonight, when the teams meet at Appledore Hall on Finals Night.  
(April 27th 1956- BG).

**THE FINAL.**

The Abbotsham “A” team, consisting of T. Moore, T. Headon, G. Ellis, D.

Tucker, H. Smale, B. Prust and F. Bailey - in two straight legs beat the

Abbotsham “B” team consisting of R. Headon, C. Gist, S. Tucker, N.

Wooldridge, E. Wade, and C. Nicholls.

(May 4th 1956- BG).

**LETTER RE DEATH WATCH BEETLE AT ABBOTSHAM.**

Sir,

The beautiful Parish Church of Abbotsham is threatened by the Death

Watch Beetle, and work on the extermination of the pest and replacement of

affected woodwork will, according to the architects estimate, cost during

1956, £450. Many people living in the area in which your esteemed

newspaper circulates have association with our lovely church and I feel that they may be willing to join our parishioners in shouldering the heavy burden. We are holding a Gift Day on Wednesday May 16th when I shall (D.V.) be in the church between 10am - 1 2nn, 2pm - 4pm, 5pm - 6.30pm to receive gifts of money towards the sum. I am quite certain my parishioners will do their utmost to ensure the preservation of their Church, but I do appeal to all others, to bring or send me something on May 16th.

L. Woolcott. Vicar of Abbotsham.

(May 11th 1956- BG).

**GIFT DAY AT ABBOTSHAM.**

The death watch beetle came under heavy fire at Abbotsham when the Gift

Day was held, and a total of £240.9s was raised.

(May 18th 1956- BG).

**DEATH.**

On May 22nd at Bideford Hospital - Violet Frances Henrietta, beloved wife of John T. Peard of Pump Lane, Abbotsham, aged 66 years. For many years

she had been the Abbotsham agent of the Bideford & North Devon Gazette.

She was a regular worshipper at the Abbotsham Baptist Chapel, where the

funeral took place.

(May 25th 1956 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM GOLFER.**

For the second year running Major O.D. McCooey of Abbotsham won the

Gossett Gold Brooch open handicap competition in the Royal North Devon

Golf Club’s summer meeting at Whitsun.

(May 25th 1956 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On June 20th at his home 3, Glebe Houses, Abbotsham, Evan (Joe) Williams, dearly loved husband of Mary, and darling daddy of June. He was a native of Wales, and was aged 53. During the war he served with the Bideford Battalion of the Home Guard, and was a member of Abbotsham Parish Council. He played for Abbotsham “A” darts team, and kept wicket for Alwington Cricket Club.

(June 22nd 1956 - BG).

**WHAT IS ABBOTSHAM?**

Mr H.A. Lomas O.B.E. whose “History of Abbotsham” will be on sale as from

Monday next, has spent many interesting years checking up the historical

facts of his adopted parish. Altogether for 3/- excellent value to the local reader. Mr Lomas who bought Cornborough in 1912, first came to reside

there in 1921. Though he gave up hunting at 74 he still continues as Chairman of the Stevenstone Hunt, being a former joint master. He served

as a Justice of the Peace for many years, and is a past churchwarden of

Abbotsham Church, and has been prominently connected with the Scout movement.

(June 29th 1956- BG)

**ABBOTSHAM TRIUMPHS.**

Abbotsham Church Fete on Wednesday was a triumphant success, despite the rain and the depredations of the death watch beetle. The Rev. L. Woolcott stated that over £330 was raised as the result of the recent Gift Day Appeal, and with today’s effort we expect to raise £300, and so meet our

death watch commitment, plus the £150 for other parish expenses. Mrs Eric

Flint of Hembury Castle opened the Fete. Mrs Waring of Bideford who has

had twelve children, including triplets and two sets of twins, ran a close

second to Keith Bettiss with twins Brenda and Barbara, in the birth to nine

months group in the Baby Show. Teas were served in the Parish Hall, with a

skittling competition organised by Mr Jewell held there ¡n the evening,

followed by an excellent concert. Yesterday it was announced that the gross

takings on the day were £441.

(July 6th 1956- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM DISTINCTION.**

Congratulations to Capt. C.L. Henty-Dodd of Homewood Cottage, Abbotsham

who is the first Devon motorist to receive the certificate of the Institute of Advanced Motorists Ltd.  
(August 17th 1956- BG).

**DEATH.**

On September 27th at Bideford - Mary Grace (Aunt Poll), wife of the late

Frederick Littlejohns of Abbotsham aged 78 years. She spent many years at

Abbotsham, living in Pump Lane.

(September 28th 1956- BG).

**LATE MAJOR C.H. RAWDON.**

The funeral takes place at St. Helen’s, Abbotsham this morning of Major

Christopher Hamer Rawdon, formerly for many years of Abbotsham, whose

death occurred at Chiddingfold on Monday. Up to about two years ago he

resided at Keene, Abbotsham, and during the War he was a member of

Abbotsham Home Guard.

(November 9th 1956 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM**

Offertories amounting to £42 for the Hungarian Relief Appeal Fund at the

Parish Church the previous Sunday were described as magnificent for a

parish with a population of only 300, by the Vicar, Rev. L. Woolcott at a

Christmas Bazaar held in the Village Hall on Wednesday of last week.

(December 7th 1956 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM W.I.**

The three Women’s Institute notice boxes in Abbotsham are now resplendent

in new paint in the Institute colours of green and red, and thanks were

expressed to Mr Hockin for painting them. The President, Mrs Courtney

presided at the meeting, and welcomed a new member, Mrs J. Ridd,

introduced by Mrs Dark.

(February 1st 1957 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

At St. Helen’s Church, Abbotsham on February 9th - John Lenard, son of Mr and Mrs Stauber of London - to Patricia Mary, only daughter of Mr and Mrs

F.W. Hockin of Pump Lane, Abbotsham.

(February 15th 1957 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM MADE GATEWAYS.**

Typical of many ornamental iron gates which have been sent all over thecounty since production began at Abbotsham about six years ago are those

completed for Watermouth Castle. These gates are the work of Mr Frederick

Stapleton, who is the blacksmith at Abbotsham, having succeeded his father

Ernest Stapleton. Although he is 72, Mr Ernest Stapleton still lends a

helping hand. Smithying was a family tradition, because Ernest’s father and

uncle were blacksmiths, and he also has two brothers in the trade. He was a blacksmith at Abbotsham for over 30 years. Horse shoes made at Abbotsham go far afield even to Kuala Lumpur in Malaya. Ever since Mrs Slattery, who is the wife of a Royal Army Medical Corps officer, was a small girl and lived in Instow, shoes for her horse have been made at Abbotsham.

(March 1st 1957- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM LAST BALL WIN.**

In a grandstand finish backer up W. Hockin, left to get 19, skittled two

floorers, and then an eight with his last ball at Horwood to give Abbotsham an 8 pin victory and the Championship of Division I in the Bideford & District Skittle League.

(March 29th 1957 - BG).

**“IN MEMORY”.**

HOCKIN :- Treasured memories today and always of our dear mother, Ellen,

who died May 2nd 1949 - From her loving children and grand-children,

Riccardsdown and “Homewood”.

(May 3rd 1957- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM’S FIGHT.**

Abbotsham opened the second and third rounds of its three year fight against the death-watch beetle whose ravages threaten the Parish Church of St. Helen by setting a target of £300 for the annual Church Fete held on the lawns of the Vicarage on Wednesday. In fact over £400 was raised. The

church’s fine barrel roof - wooden beams four or five inches thick spaced

about nine inches apart - has made the fight to remove the destructive beetle particularly costly. Last year £530 was spent in the opening round, the work consisting of cleaning and scraping the roof, spraying to kill the live beetles, and putting in a new ceiling in the South Aisle. This year the fight continues with further work estimated to cost £250 and more spraying to kill beetles hatched from eggs laid last year. Final phase of the work will be tackled next year at a cost of another £200.

In addition to meeting the cost of this work, the Church has a long term aim of building up a fabric fund of £1,000. So much damage by death watch beetle has been revealed in Devon churches that each has now to have a fabric fund, and to be inspected by a diocesan architect every five years.

The fete was opened by Mrs E.M. Hickman of Moreton, who was introduced by the Vicar, the Rev. L. Woolcott as one who had been a constant and generous friend to the parish and many of its inhabitants and a very fine companion to himself and his wife. Mrs Hickman was presented with a bouquet by Sandra Poole of Alwington, and a box of chocolates by Malcolm Easton of Abbotsham, two pupils of Abbotsham’s Primary School. Each year is a special occasion for the children for it means a day’s holiday from school.

Over the sunlit lawns on Wednesday they tripped gaily in the steps of an

attractive programme of country dances, and then in accordance with a long

standing custom, were served with ice cream as guests of Capt. Sidney Bell.

One of the special features of the Fete was a Baby Show organised by Mrs

D. Harle and Mrs Stapleton, and the judges were Mrs E.R. Westwood and

Mrs J.M. Martin. the winners were;

6-9 months - 1. Martin Wills. 2. Teresa Wills,

9-18 months - 1. Amanda Joy. 2. Patrick Costello,

18 months - 3 years - 1. Camilla Palmer. 2. Sean Giddy.

Special prize to Barbara and Wendy Waring.

A fine two foot model of Sir Francis Drake’s “Golden Hind” in the making of

which Major G.N.G. Wilde of High Stacks, Raleigh spent some 200 hours,

was the subject of many admiring glances. Before the fete commenced this

model had been the means of raising nearly £40 towards the church’s £300

target.

Stall holders were :- Gate stewards, Messrs W.E. Powell, G.M. Thomas, F.

Fulford. Parlour putting, Mr C.W.M. Turner. Ping pong hoop-la - Mr S.J.

Hearn. Treasure hunt, Mr A. Hockin. Skittling for a Pig, Mr J. Jewell.

Competitions, Major G.N. Wilde, Mesdames Tucker, Brooks, Powell, Jewell.

Flower girls, Misses P and F. Moggridge. Cake stall, Mesdames Powell,

Middleton, Wilkinson and Miss Newberry. Needlework, Mesdames Woolcott,

Davies, Savage, Atkinson and Vousdon. Fancy, Mesdames Strick, Bayliss,

Kiernander. lce Cream, Miss M. Hockin, Mrs Johns. Teas, Mrs F. Grigg,

Mesdames Palmer, Winter, Easton, Hockin, Tallin, Jewell, Beckly, Hearn,

Phillips, Misses Fulford, E. Huxtable, A. and E. James.

A Social and Dance was held in the Parish Hall in the evening arranged by

Mr A. Vousden.

(July 12th 1957 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

The annual East Vestry meeting at Abbotsham re-appointed Mr H.A. Lomas

as Peoples Warden for the ensuing year, while the Vicar, who presided, re

appointed Mr C.W.M. Turner as his personal warden. During 1956

communicants numbered 971, attendances at services, other than Holy

Communion, 6,422, and church collections amounted to £540-I 3-4d.

(May 3rd 1957- BG).

**NINETY TWO YEARS OLD AND AN ACTIVE GARDENER.**

At the back of their homely cottage at Riccards Down, Abbotsham, which has

been their home for the past fifty years, there is a vegetable garden that any keen gardener may envy. ‘That’s all my own work”, proudly explained 92

years old John Ley. Him and his 83 year old wife were having their diamond

wedding anniversary on Wednesday. He was born at Buckland Brewer. Mrs Ley was the daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Richard Smale of Torrington.

(May 24th 1957 - BG).

**BIRTH.**

On June 19th at Clifden, Rickards Down, Abbotsham, to Margaret (nee

Gillard) and Leslie Dunn - the gift of a daughter Josephine Margaret, a sister for Stuart.  
(June 21st 1957 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM’S FIGHT.**

Abbotsham opened the second and third rounds of its three year fight against the death watch beetle whose ravages threaten St. Helen’s Church by setting a target of £300 for the annual Church Fete held at the Vicarage on  
Wednesday. In fact over £400 was raised. The fete was opened by Mrs  
E.M. Hickman of Moreton.  
(July 12th 1957 - BG).

**DEATH.**On October 1st at “Pedmore”, Abbotsham - Jonah Gordon Anderson, aged 69 years, dearly loved husband of Doris Ravina, and dear step-father of Zoe.  
(October 4th 1957 - BG).

**FORMER VICAR OF ABBOTSHAM.**

At Bideford Parish Church on Friday the funeral took place of the Rev. W.H.  
Smith of 60 Royston Road, Bideford who died at Bideford Hospital the  
previous Tuesday. Mr Smith who was 79 was the Vicar of Abbotsham from  
1946 to 1953.

(January 17th 1958- BG).

**DEATH.**

On January 14th at Kenwith Barton, Abbotsham - Nina Seton, widow of Sydney Robert Cardew. Funeral at Abbotsham Church tomorrow.

(January 17th 1958- BG).

**DEATH.**

On February 14th - Blanche Friendship passed peacefully away at Langdon, Abbotsham.

(February 21st 1958 - BG).

**CHAMPIONSHIP FOR ABBOTSHAM.**

For a second year running Abbotsham have to thank backer-up Bill Hockin

that they have collected a divisional championship in the Bideford & District Skittles League. At Alwington on Wednesday when Abbotsham met Monkleigh in the play off for the championship of Division 1, Bill, the last man to skittle was left to get a 16 spare to give them victory by a single pin. Bill cleared the diamond with his first two balls, and then floored the nine skittles with his last ball for an 18 spare. Abbotsham won by 304 -301.

(March 28th 1958 - BG).

**VISITOR’S FATAL COLLAPSE AT ABBOTSHAM.**

A visitor collapsed and died in a field at Rixlade Farm, Abbotsham at noon on Wednesday. He was David Laverton aged about 50, a master mariner. He was accompanied by Lt. Comm. G.L.C. Hardinge of Kenwith Castle, Abbotsham with whom he had been staying.

(Junel3th958-BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Plans for a mid-summer barbecue at Abbotsham on Wednesday evening to aid the Children’s Playing Field Fund, were fouled by the weather. But they

were able to enjoy a meal of sausage and mash, ham, tongue, beef and

salads, with various sweets. The reason that dancing cannot be held in the

Parish Hall is that an architect called in to examine the building has reported that the condition of the roof is such that any undue vibration in the body of the hail would be liable to bring it down. This is a double blow to the Trustees, as only a short while ago rot was found in the floor boards. About £250 is required to renew the roof, and about £130 for the repair of the floor.

(June 27th 1958 - BG).

**ART AT ABBOTSHAM.**

A talk on oil painting by Mr Reginald Lloyd, the Bideford artist and a drawing competition of a pet were features of the June meeting of Abbotsham W.I. presided over by Mrs Courtney.

The competition winners - 1. Mrs Lee. 2. Mrs Winter. 3. Mrs Courtney.  
(July 4th 1958 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM CHURCH FETE.**

Proceeds of Wednesday’s annual Church Fete at Abbotsham amounted to

£522.10.7d, with expenses in the vicinity of £12. The Fete was in aid of

funds to combat the death watch beetle in the Church, and it is planned now  
to carry on with the repairs to the organ and the tower, said the Vicar. The Fete was opened by Mrs Marjorie Richards. There was a Baby Show

organised by Mesdames J. Palmer and F. Stapleton. The results being :-

3 - 9 months - 1. Diane Evans. 2. Jill Dymond.

Special - Marilyn Tyrell.

9 – 18 months - 1. Brian Wrey. 2. Hazel Stockweil.

18 months to 3 years - 1. Michael Edwards. 2. Amanda Joy.

Special - Gordon Harrower.

The children gave a dancing display, and in the evening a competition for the worst dressed tramp was won by Mrs George Winter of Rixlade. Mr Donald  
Tucker won a pig for skittling.  
(July 11th 1958-BG).

**ABBOTSHAM TRIBUTE.**

The coffin was draped with the Union Jack and bore his medals at the funeral at Abbotsham Parish Church on Friday of Capt. Charles Vernon Doe of  
Coombe Cot, Abbotsham. Cremation followed at Plymouth, and his ashes  
were later interred in Abbotsham churchyard. He was aged 67. The Vicar  
of Abbotsharn, Rev. L. Woolcott officiated, and Mrs Woolcott was at the  
organ.  
(August 15th 1958 - BC).

**ANTS IN THEIR PANTS.**

A swarm of flying ants “invaded” Abbotsham village on Sunday evening.  
They settled on hedgerows and walls, but after rain during the night, there  
was no trace of them the following morning. The main area affected was the  
vicinity of Abbotsham Parish Church and Pump Lane.  
(September 5th 1958 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On September 10th suddenly, Wilfred George Tallin, beloved husband of

Ada, of Coronation Terrace, Abbotsham, aged 61 years. For many years he

was the standard bearer for Abbotsham British Legion, and he was an ex

Royal Marine. For two years 1951-1952 he won the North Devon (West)

Group standard bearer competition. For many years he worked as a County

Council roadman, and he was caretaker of the Abbotsham Parish Hall. The

funeral service was held at Abbotsham Baptist Chapel.

(September 12th 1958 - BG).

**MRS M.J. LEY.**

Many friends attended the funeral of Mrs Mary Jane Ley, wife of Mr John Ley, at St. Helen’s Church, Abbotsham. She was aged 85 and died at her

residence at Riccards Down, Abbotsham. The bearers were - Messrs R.

Davies, W. Palmer, S. Beckley and F. Stapleton.

(October 10th 1958 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**  
The organ of Abbotsham Parish Church is being dismantled and sent to  
Taunton for overhaul and repair at an estimated cost of £100. Upon its  
return writes the Vicar, Rev. L. Woolcott, “it will constitute one more  
substantial item in the general repair of the fabric and equipment of our lovely Parish Church”.

(October 10th 1958 - BG).

**FARMING PERSONALITY.**

There was a large attendance widely representative of the local agricultural community at the funeral at Abbotsham Parish Church on Wednesday of last week of Mr John Pickard Cork of The End House, Weare Gifford, formerly of Adjavin Farm, Bideford, whose death occurred at the age of 74. Mr S. Hearn was at the organ.  
(October 17th 1958 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM WARNING**.

Speaking at the official re-opening on Tuesday evening of Abbotsham Parish

Hall, after its renovation, the chairman of the Trustees, Mr R.B. Richardson gave a warning that if no more parishioners did not come to support the annual meeting due to be held next month, the Hall Trustees would consider resigning, which he said, would mean the shutting of the hall. Work on the hail, including a new ceiling has cost £520. The re-opening was celebrated with a Dance.  
(December 19th 1958 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Writing in the Hartland Deanery Magazine, the Vicar of Abbotsham, Rev. L.  
Woolcott, outlined the work carried out on the Church fabric equipment

during 1958 and the cost involved. The total cost of replacing all defective worm-eaten wood in the section of the Church east of the font was £506; overhauling the organ cost £100; completing the seating felt, 25 new hymn and prayer books and 112 kneelers accounted for another £70. In addition to this, repairs have been carried out on the Gateway arch and the stone work of the Church. Gifts of a new oak seat in the porch, a new organ

curtain, a lamp over the entrance gate, carpet and hassocks were also

acknowledged. The Vicar adds that he is “truly and deeply grateful for the

wonderful co-operation of the parishioners”.

(February 6th 1959 - BG).

**NIGHTINGALE AT ABBOTSHAM.**

According to several authorities nightingales are but rarely seen or heard in Devon and Cornwall, but it is believed that one has been singing on recent nights in trees near Abbotsham Court, which is about a quarter mile from the sea. Miss E. Frayne of Abbotsham Court says that she heard a bird singing at about 3.30am, and believes it to be a nightingale.  
(May 29th 1959- BG).

**LEGION PRESENTATION.**

At a meeting of Abbotsham branch of the British Legion held at Kenwith  
Castle last week, Commander G.L.C. Hardinge presented a National  
Certificate of Life Membership to Mr W.F. Glass, now of Westward Ho, in  
recognition of his great work for the branches in Carlisle. The Abbotsham  
Branch prides itself on 100 per cent membership of eligible personnel ¡n the parish. Among those welcomed was its senior member Mr C.H. Hooper,  
aged 92. He was the branch’s first Secretary, and until 1958 had not missed  
an Armistice Day parade for many years.  
(June 5th 1959- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Mr William Jackman of Lake, Abbotsham, whose death has occurred at the

age of 56, was a life long farmer in the parish, and member of Abbotsham

Baptist Church, where the funeral took place.

(October 16th 1959 - BG).

**WEED WINNERS AT ABBOTSHAM.**

“The greatest variety of weeds from one’s garden” was a novel competition at the monthly meeting of Abbotsham W.I. The winners were - 1. Miss F.  
Mogridge. 2. Mrs Bowyer. 3. Mrs Winter.  
(October 23rd 1959 - BG).

**HIS OLDEST EX PUPIL IS AGED 81.**

Fifty nine years ago last month Mr Charles Hooper and his wife took charge

of Abbotsham Church of England School at a joint salary of £80 a year, and

that began for him a happy association with the village that has lasted until the present day. After 24 years as headmaster he retired, but he continued to live in Abbotsham until about 6 years ago, since when he has lived with his son in Plymouth. But he still retained the old home at I Coronation Terrace, which the then Vicar, Rev. R.W. Sealy, had built for him 50 years ago. Mr Hooper will be 92 next month. His wife died 16 years ago. For 19 years Mr Hooper was a Sergeant in the Special Police, but in those days there was no uniform to add glamour to the job. He and Rev. Sealy started a lodge of the National Deposit Friendly Society, and Mr Hooper was secretary for more than 30 years. He help found the local branch of the British Legion. For nearly 20 years he was auditor for the Bideford Conservative Club. From 1901 to 1955 he was the correspondent of the Gazette. He played cricket for Northam and Westward Ho, and there were many times he had to run to catch the train at Mud Cot siding. He was born at St. Giles in the Wood.  
(October 23rd 1959 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Mrs Sybil Tucker who has lived at the New Inn, Abbotsham for the past 50  
years has retired, and is making her home in the adjoining cottage. The  
licence has been transferred to her son, Donald Henry Tucker.  
(October 30th 1959 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Because they considered it would not be economical Bideford Rural Council  
have rejected a request by Mrs Richards of Coombe, Abbotsham, that refuse  
should be collected monthly instead of bi-monthly.  
(November 6th 1959 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM FUNERAL.**

The funeral has taken place at Abbotsham Church of Miss Emily Elizabeth

Slee of Elm Grove, Bideford. She lived in Abbotsham for a great deal of her  
life, and was a popular personality.  
(November 20th 1959- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM W.I.**Four new members were welcomed by the President, Mrs Winter, at  
Abbotsham W.l. meetin. Four members, Mrs Shore, Mrs Violet, Mrs Ridd  
and Mrs Beckley volunteered to work W.I. monograms on a cloth presented  
to the Institute by Mrs Courtney on her retirement as President. The tea  
hostesses were Miss Gutsell and Miss Phillips.  
(February 12th 1960 - BG).

**DEATH.**

Mr Hugh Arthur Lomas, who died at his home, Cornborough, Abbotsham on

Saturday gave great service in many spheres to the locality in which he came to live in 1921. He was 83 years of age. His qualities were shown not only during his 51 years service as an active Justice of the Peace, but in his attitude to the general public after he had moved to Cornborough which he bought in 1912. As a former Commissioner he contributed a great deal to  
the Boy Scout movement locally. He was President of Bideford & District

Horse Show in 1933. He was joint Master of the Stevenstone Hunt. He was

a devout churchman, and he was still serving at Abbotsham as churchwarden. In World War I he served with the U.P. Light Horse, and in the Second World War as a lieutenant he commanded the Abbotsham section of the 5th (Bideford) Battalion Devon Home Guard. Mr Lomas leaves a widow, a son Major G.F.E. Lomas, who carries on the family estate, and a daughter Miss Joyce Lomas. So large was the congregation at the funeral held at Abbotsham Parish Church on Tuesday, that many were unable to gain admission.  
(May 6th 1960- BG).

**SILVER WEDDING.**

On June 8th 1935 at St. Mary’s Church, Pilton, Barnstaple - William Hockin to Lilian Emelein Smaldon - “Homewood”, Abbotsham.  
(June 10th 1960 - BG).

**DEATH OF VICAR.**

The Rev. L. Woolcott, Vicar of Abbotsham since 1953 died at the Vicarage

yesterday (Thursday) after a protracted illness that he had borne with great fortitude. He was 70 years of age. Reluctantly on medical advice he had decided that the summer fete could not be held this year, but even the day before his death he had been making arrangements for a Gift Day to

supercede it. He was a Devonian, and was ordained in 1914. The funeral

takes place at Abbotsham on Monday.

(June 17th 1960- BG).

**NEW VICAR.**

The Rev. Edward Geoffrey Bevan B.A., now of Hall Green, Birmingham has been appointed Vicar of Abbotsham. The living is the gift of Rev. W. Sealy.

Mr Bevan will not take up his duties until after Christmas. He is the youngest of six ordained brothers.

(September 16th 1960 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**Preliminary Notice: The Vicarage, Abbotsham.  
A.C. Hooper & Co have received instructions to sell by Public Auction on the Premises on Wednesday 19th October 1960 - a quantity of Household  
Furniture and effects.  
(September 30th 1960 - BG).

**NEW VICAR.**In the presence of a large congregation of parishioners and of neighbouring  
clergy and lay readers, the Rev. E.G. Bevan was on Saturday afternoon  
instituted and inducted Vicar of Abbotsham. He is a married man with three  
daughters. Peals on the bells greeted Saturday’s service at which the  
Bishop of Crediton, Rt. Rev. W. Westall officiated. Taking part in the  
presentation was the patron of the living, the Rev. Walpole Sealy of Sussex.  
After the service a parish tea was held in the Parish Hall.  
(January 20th 1961 - BC).

**DEATH.**

On January 20th 1961 - John Ley of Riccards Down, Abbotsham aged 95.

The funeral took place at Abbotsham Parish Church, he having died in the

Torridge Hospital.  
(January 27th 1961 - BG).

**TWO MORE MEMBERS.**  
At the February meeting of Abbotsham W.I. two new members were welcomed - Mrs Williams and Mrs Pridham. The tea hostesses were Mrs Lewis and Mrs Lamey.  
(March 10th 1961 - BG).

**DISQUIET AT ABBOTSHAM.**

Described as “highly controversial” at a committee meeting of Bideford Rural Council last week, the proposal that there should be formulated on a map for the guidance of the Rural District Council an area of Abbotsham in which it is considered housing development in the next 20 - 30 years should be largely confined, has aroused considerable disquiet in the parish. Particularly is this so in the village centre, the section most likely to be affected. The disquiet is based mainly on a fear of the possibility of comprehensive estate development which many in the village contend would radically alter the character of Abbotsham, almost doubling its population and making it a “suburb of Bideford”.

The N. Devon Planning Officer, Mr J.R. Sims said this week, “We hope in the  
course of any development to retain the village character as far as possible with modern conditions”. The “Bideford Gazette” understands that in recent years there has been a flow of applications to build on various plots or to develop sites in Abbotsham parish. For various reasons many of these have been unsuccessful. In order to ease the situation the planning authority, in conjunction with Bideford Rural Council, who in turn brought it to the notice of the Parish Council, is attempting to define an area in which applications to build could expect to receive more favourable consideration than if they were for plots outside the area.

The land involved is a roughly circular area that almost reaches the Bideford borough boundary and runs up through the village past the council houses, down Back Lane and Lower Back Lane, along Pump Lane down past the New Inn, down to Keene corner and down Keene Lane to the brook at the bottom. There is a feeling in the village that Bideford Rural Council naturally wish to increase or encourage the increase of rateable value of their district - which such a development would do, in the course of time, to a considerable extent and also to obtain substantial grant aid for the proposed new sewerage scheme.

At Monday’s meeting of Bideford Town Council it was reported that an outline planning application for the erection of bungalows at the junction of Abbotsham Road and Osborne (Scratchface) Lane had been refused.

Reasons were that the proposals would be sporadic development in the rural

belt between the town of Bideford and the village of Abbotsham; that the

proposed plot was too small for rural type development; that the proposal would appear to be the start of ribbon development; and that it would be likely to cause injury to the special visual character of that locality.  
(June 30th 1961 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM PARISH COUNCIL.**

On the village oak in the Square at Abbotsham on Monday morning there

mysteriously appeared a notice saying “Make Bert a Cert”, and in fact “Bert” (Mr B.C. Prust) was elected top of the poll in the first contested Parish Council election there for many years. Those elected were - Messrs B.C. Prust 132; G.J. Lomas 117; F. Stapleton 107; C.W.M. Turner 101;

E.G. Moase 100; F.R. Jackman 84; P.T. Trewin 77. Mr D.A. Hearn was  
unsuccessful.  
(May 12th 1961 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The funeral has taken place at Abbotsham Parish Church of Mrs Ivy Dorcas  
Friendship, formerly of Abbotsham, who died at Bath at the age of 64.  
(May 12th 1961 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Representations from Abbotsham Parish Council together with a copy of a  
letter Mr R.B. Richardson of “Keene” had sent to the North Devon Planning  
Officer concerning certain developments at Abbotsham were considered in  
private by Bideford Rural Council’s Health and Housing Committee on

Tuesday. The Gazette understands that there are some fears that the  
village may become a suburb of Bideford.

(June 23rd 1961 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM’S READY RESPONSE.**Modest in size though its annual fete may be, Abbotsham seems to have a

consistant flair for raising money for church funds. In 1957 over £400; in  
1958 nearly £520; in 1959 about £550, and on Wednesday week the total  
reached the £320 mark. Last year owing to the death of the Rev. Woolcott  
there was no fete, but a Gift Day raised £365. This fete was opened by Mrs  
Savage of Bideford - a member of Abbotsham Parish Church. An unusual

feature was an ankle competition - the judges being Maj. G. Lomas and Mr  
Bob Mitchell.  
(July 14th 1961 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**  
Nephews were bearers at the funeral at Abbotsham Parish Church of Mrs

Emily Easton of the Village, Abbotsham, who died at Bideford and District  
Hospital aged 78.

(July 28th 1961 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM BRIDE.**

At St. Helen’s Parish Church, Abbotsham, the wedding has taken place of Mr

R. Elworthy of Torrington and Miss Pamela Amelia Moggridge, youngest

daughter of Mr and Mrs W.J. Moggridge of Coombe Walter, Abbotsham.

(July 28th 1961 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A scheme for the erection of 42 to 50 chalets in two fields on the skyline at Gainsborough, Abbotsham has been submitted to Bideford Rural Council by  
Mr A.P. Tucker, but the application was refused.  
(August 18th 1961 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On October 15th - Mary Louisa, aged 78, at Northam, the widow of W.H.  
Byers, formerly of Kenwith, Abbotsham.  
(October 20th 1961 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM W.I.**  
At Abbotsham W.I. monthly meeting, Mrs Winter presiding, Mrs Lee gave her

report on the Autumn Council Meeting. The competition - a home made toy

or dressed doll for Broomhayes, resulted in - 1. Mrs Richards. 2. Miss

Huxtable. 3. Mrs Easton.

(November 24th 1961 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**  
Reports that there were likely to be 100 houses built at Abbotsham were

described as “misleading” by Bideford Rural Council Surveyor, Mr L.J. Dunn.

He said that the proposals had been misunderstood when it was reported that

a sewerage scheme for the parish would be able to serve an extra 100

houses. They were in fact considering the position at Abbotsham in years to

come.

(November 22nd 1961 - BC).

**“100 HOUSES AT ABBOTSHAM EXPLAINED”.**

Reports that there were likely to be 100 houses built in Abbotsham were

described as “misleading” by Bideford Rural Council’s Surveyor, Mr L.J. Dunn at a meeting of the Council on Tuesday. He said that the Council’s  
proposals had been misunderstood when it was reported that the sewerage  
scheme for the parish would be able to serve an extra 100 houses. In  
suggesting a scheme which would serve a large number of premises the  
Council was considering the position at Abbotsham in years to come, he said.

(December 22nd 1961 - BG).

**REPAYING DEBT OF HONOUR.**

Free holidays for disabled ex-Servicemen and their families. That is the aim of a scheme being sponsored by Abbotsham branch of the British Legion with the co-operation of member, Mr R. Mitchell of Westward Ho Holiday Centre. The number who can be entertained at the centre must depend on the  
outcome of an appeal for funds launched by the branch and in this respect it is hoped to gain the support of other branches and of holiday makers. In an appeal to members the chairman, Major G. Lomas points out that £10 will  
provide a holiday for a man and his family for a week, which means 28s. 6d  
for a day and Is for almost an hour. Enough support has been promised to  
permit the scheme to start and the first guest arrived on Saturday. He was  
seriously wounded in World War I and has been incapacitated ever since. It  
is hoped that branch members will be able to visit guests during their stay. All contributions of 28s.6d or more will be given the name of the family they are helping and the holiday date. Contributions are being received by Capt. C.C. Lowry of Buckleigh House, Westward Ho.  
(May 11th 1962- BG).

**NOT SO EASY.**

Abbotsham provides a point for social historians. Hitherto the income from

the 300 year old charity known as “Poor Lands Charity” has been distributed

¡n small sums to any who claimed it. Now the Charity Commissioners have

ruled that this must stop. The Vicar (the Rev. E.G. Bevan) tells me that the small income (less than £15) has been distributed for many years as a dole of about 8s. to about 20 claimants. Now the whole nature of the trust has changed to conform with changing conditions. Although farm workers’ basic wages remain comparatively low, some now own cars, he points out. In  
future the charity will be administered wholly at the discretion of the trustees and only those in need will benefit, If it is felt that no one ‘s in such need, the income will be allowed to accumulate. It is derived from various investments and from the rent of a piece of land at Coldridge Barton, between here and Exeter.  
(December 21st 1962- BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A pedigree large White gilt owned by Lt. Corn. G.L.C. Hardinge of Kenwith  
Castle, Abbotsham had a litter of twenty over the weekend. It was the gilt’s first litter which weighed over fifty and a half lbs. Two of the piglets were kept alive by being rushed into the house and put in the cool oven of a cooker.  
(January 26th 1962 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On March 8th at Torrington - Dennis P. Trewin son of Mr and Mrs P.T. Trewin  
of Westacott, Abbotsham to Eunice S. Hunkin daughter of Mr and Mrs H.J.  
Hunkin of Torrington.  
(March 16th 1962 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On March 3rd at Bishop Tawton Church - Mr Michael Charles Turner, only  
son of Mr and Mrs C.W.M. Turner of Abbotsham Barton to Miss Julia Lee  
Fowler, the second daughter of Mr and Mrs Cecil Lee Fowler of Mount  
Sandford, Barnstaple. (March 16th 1962 - BG). .

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Abbotsham was doubly fortunate, said Mrs Edith du Cane, widow of a former

Vicar of the Parish, when she opened the Church Fete there, which raised  
nearly £300. She said that Abbotsham was fortunate in having a parson of  
its own, without having to share one, and that makes all the difference. The Village was fortunate in another aspect too - it was still a village. Proceeds of the fete were in aid of the Parish Church funds including meeting expenditure of about £120 on the recently resurfaced car park. Results of the Comic Dog Show –

Best groomed - 1. Mrs D. Harle. 2. Mrs Moyse. 3. Mrs H.M. Richardson. Obedience - 1. Mrs E. du Cane. 2. Mrs G. Peace. 3. Mrs M. Richards.

Best Trick - 1. Mrs P. Coleby. 2. Rev. H. Willis.

(July 13th 1962-BG).

**DEATH.**

On July 14th at Looe - Beatrice Mary aged 77 years, beloved wife of the late Arthur Harris of Coombe Walter, Abbotsham. She had lived at Abbotsham for 47 years.

(July2Oth l962-BG).

**DEATH.**

On August 7th at Bideford Hospital - Mrs Doris Hearn of 2 Barton Cottages,

Abbotsham aged 59 years. She was a member of Abbotsham Womens

Institute and the local Skittles Club.  
(August 10th 1962 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM FARMER’S BROADCAST.**

There are some big developments in the production of home grown beef in

the West of England. One of these is centred in Devon where 60 farmers have joined a co-operative marketing association. Major G. (Jack) Lomas who farms at Cornborough, Abbotsham can be heard describing this new venture on “The Farmer’ on Wednesday next the 19th September in the B.B.C. Home Service. He is one of the founders and is a producer of quality beef on the intensive system, feeding rations composed largely of barley.

(September 14th 1962 - BG).

**ENGAGEMENT.**

Mr and Mrs R. Hocking of 34 Tomouth Road, Appledore have much pleasure

in announcing the engagement of their daughter Valerie, to Brian, son of Mr

and Mrs F.C. Cook of Cornborough Lodge, Abbotsham.  
(October 12th 1962 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On December 11th - Charles Sydney Nicholls passed away at Spring Cottage, Abbotsham, aged 61. His fellow bell-ringers rang a muffled peal in his tribute at the funeral which was held at Abbotsham Parish Church. He was a member of the church choir, and the local skittle club.  
(December 14th 1962 - BC).

**MEMORIAL SERVICE.**

Despite heavy falls of snow and hazardous conditions there was a widely

representative attendance of friends at the memorial service to Major Eric

Charles Montagu Flint D.S.O. held at St. Helen’s Church, Abbotsham on

Saturday. He had resided at Hembury Castle, Buckland Brewer.

(January 4th 1963 - BG).

**SKITTLERS.**

Abbotsham skittlers must possess one of the most consistent records in the

whole of the Bideford Skittles League. They are lying second in Division I at present with the knowledge that in 1956 they finished third, in 1957 and the two years following they were Division Champions, and in 1960, 1961 they occupied the runners up spot. The present team is - W. Churchill,

W. Hockin, L. Easton, J. Hockin, E. Blight and J. Hearn.  
(February 22nd 1963 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM PROTESTS**.

Application for permission to site a motel on land known as Gainsborough

has been discussed by Abbotsham Parish Council who passed the following

resolution - ‘The Parish Council is strongly opposed to the proposal to build a motel on Gainsborough, so near to the crest of the dominant headland, with its sewage effluent running down the side. It feels that Abbotsham Cliffs are worth preserving as an amenity of the district, and that this development, if allowed, would be the thin edge of the wedge for spoiling this amenity.

(March 1st 1963- BG).

**LIBERALS.**

At the invitation of the Abbotsham branch the annual general meeting of

Bideford Area Liberal Association was held at Abbotsham.

(March 22nd 1963 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

At the British Legion alley on Friday Abbotsham were defeated 277-269 in the play off for the League Championship by Littleham “A”.  
(April 5th 1963 - BG).

**LONDON WEDDING.**

At Wandsworth the wedding took place of Miss Patricia Bailey and Mr Anthony Francis Hockin, only son of Mr and Mrs F.W. Hockin of Abbotsham.

(April 11th 1963- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM EN FETE.**

In spite of the weather a most enjoyable time was spent on Whit Monday

when the gratifying sum of £48.4s.3d was raised for the new headquarters of

the Bideford St. Ambulance Brigade. Over 100 people sat down to a

Devonshire tea, and listened to tunes played by 25 members of the Hartland

Town Band. Bingo was played, believed for the first time in Abbotsham, and

proved popular. It was run by friends from Appledore.

(June 14th 1963 - BG).

**ALL ABBOTSHAM SINGLES FINAL.**

Two players from the New Inn, Abbotsham featured in the Appledore Darts

League singles final at the Beaver Inn, Appledore, when John Walter beat

Len Ebsworthy by two straight legs.

(July 5th 1963 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Abbotsham held a “half in half out” Fete last week when despite sodden

conditions £275 was raised towards the parish church’s oil heating fund,

which it is hoped would be fitted by the coming winter. More than half the

stalls were moved into the Vicarage. The fete was opened by Mrs Eric Flint

of Hembury Castle.

(July 12th 1963 - BG).

**KENWITH CASTLE.**

Through John Lewington & Co of Bideford, Mr Keith Keen has exchanged

contracts for the purchase of Kenwith Castle, Abbotsham, an historic

earthwork and modernised Georgian Castle, farmery and three cottages set

in some 26 acres. The main residence contains 10 bedrooms and 3

principal reception rooms, including a 40 feet lounge. A feature of the

property is a magnificent Grinhin Gibbon’s grate, overmantle and door. The

Castle has in recent years been the home of Lt. Col. G.L.C. Hardinge and his family. Mr Keen proposes developing the estate as a residential country  
club and market garden.  
(July 19th 1963 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On September 13th at South Close Bungalow, Rixlade, Abbotsham - Ellen

Ridd, beloved wife of Charles and beloved mother of her children, passed

away peacefully aged 84 years. The funeral will be at Abbotsham Baptist

Chapel.

(September 20th 1963 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On October 10th - Beatrice Mary (Molly), wife of Fred Stapledon of The  
Smithy, Abbotsham aged 53. She died in her sleep.  
(October 11th 1963- BG).

**DEATH.**

On October 24th - Humfrey Robertson Jordan of the White House,

Abbotsham - beloved husband of Margery and father of John. A private

funeral was held at Abbotsham. He was a well known author of novels of the

sea and ships. He was born in 1885, and had lived at Abbotsham for a

considerable period. It was in 1910 that he settled to writing as a career.

(October 25th 1963 - BG).

**PRESENTATION.**

At last weeks meeting of Bideford & District Chamber of Trade an inscribed

clock was presented to Mr C.C. Prust of Abbotsham in recognition of his five and a half years as Chamber Secretary, from which office he retired in  
September.  
(December 6th 1963 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM APPRECIATION.**

Mr Alfred Hockin who some time ago retired as caretaker of the Abbotsham

Parish Churchyard has received a gift of £6 from grateful parishioners who

have admired the way in which the churchyard has been kept.

(January 31st 1964- BG).

**ALWINGTON AND ABBOTSHAM.**

Alwington and Abbotsham Conservative Association held a qualifying whist  
drive at Alwington Village Hall. The M.C. was Mr L.G. Elston. A profit of  
£6.1.ld was made.

(March 20th 1964 - BG).

**POINT TO POINT.**

It was quite an Abbotsham occasion at the Stevenstone Hunt Point to Point at Horwood. Mrs G. Lomas of Cornborough presented a near neighbour Mr

W.E. Brooks of Pusehill with trophies for his win on his horse “Kipling Tors” in the Members, Subscribers & Farmers Race.

(March 20th 1964 - BG).

**DEATH.**On March 29th - Charlotte May Rogers, friend and companion of Mrs  
Humfrey Jordan of Riccardsdown, Abbotsham for 37 years.  
(April 3rd 1964 - BG).

**CHILDREN’S TARGET**

Abbotsham children are hoping to raise a target of £6 before May in aid of the Church Missionary Society. A special children’s service was held at

Abbotsham Parish Church with parents and friends invited.

(April 17th 1964- BG).

GOOD THINGS AT ABBOTSHAM.  
Appetizing smells pervaded the room early during the monthly meeting of  
Abbotsham W.I. Mouths were watering and pencils were busy getting down

some recipes for high teas demonstrated by a representative from the South  
West Gas Board. Mrs Violet voiced the members thanks. The competition  
for lemon curd resulted in - 1. Mrs Bevan. 2. Mrs Moase. 3. Mrs Ridd.  
(May 8th 1964- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A bid by Mr R.B. Richardson, newly elected representative of the parish, to

persuade Bideford Rural Council to oppose any further development in

Abbotsham was cold-shouldered on Tuesday. But they decided to recommend approval of an outline application for the building of ten houses in the parish.  
(June 5th 1964 - BG).

DEATH.  
On June 18th at Bideford & District Hospital - Wallace Wickett, beloved  
husband of Emily, of Bay View, Abbotsham, aged 68 years.  
(June 19th 1964- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Northern Divisional Planning Committee has decided not to allow the  
building of ten houses in a field at Abbotsham.  
(July 3rd 1964 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**Abbotsham Vicarage was the focal point for local people on Wednesday  
week, when, bathed in sunshine, it provided a delightful setting for the annual fete by which general Church funds - for churchyard, fabric and day school benefited by about £265. The fete was opened by Mrs A. Boxall of Instow who confessed that her roots were in Abbotsham - a great uncle of hers had once been Vicar there, and her grandmother and mother were both married in the Church, and at one time she had lived at Cornborough. All the usual stalls were there, and in the hall there were appetizing teas provided by Mesdames F. Grigg, J. Eastman, F. Winter, W. Palmer, W. Mogridge, J. Phillips, R. Arthur, J. Jeweil and Misses E. James, E. Huxtable and A. Hutchings. The gate steward was Mr W.E. Powell.  
(July 3rd 1964 - BG).

**ENGAGEMENT.**Mr and Mrs H. Dark, of the Post Office, Abbotsham have pleasure ¡n  
announcing the engagement of their youngest daughter Valerie to Johnny T.  
Hirst, elder son of Mr and Mrs L. Hirst of Banbury.  
(July 10th 1964- BG).

**WAS BLACKSMITH AT ABBOTSHAM.**

The funeral took place at Abbotsham on Friday of Mr Ernest Samuel

Stapleton whose death at the age of 79 occurred at the home of his daughter

Mrs F. West of 23 Milton Place, Bideford. He was born at Gammaton Moor,

he was a blacksmith, and on his marriage in 1908 went to Wales where he  
worked in the mines as a farrier. He returned to this locality in 1926. He  
lived at the Smithy, Abbotsham and was in business there until 1953, when  
he retired, and it was taken over by his eldest son Mr Fred Stapleton, who  
was recently forced to retire and close down the business through ill health.

(August28th 1964-BG).

**MILITARY GUARD OF HONOUR**.  
A guard of honour of sergeants of the 5th Royal lnniskilling Dragoon Guards  
in which the bridegroom is an officer was present at the wedding at St.  
Helen’s Church, Abbotsham on Saturday of Mr David Middleton Brook eldest  
son of Dr. and Mrs S.G. Brook of Barnstaple and Miss Virginia-Anne  
Pickering Richards, eider daughter of Col. J. Richards CBE R.M. (Retd) and  
Mrs M.L. Richards of Coombe, Abbotsham.  
(September 4th 1964 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM MOURNS.**

A well known personality at Abbotsham, Mr Alfred Hockin has died at his  
home at the age of 72. The funeral took place at Abbotsham Parish Church.  
He had been caretaker of the churchyard for some years. Mrs F. Woolcott,  
wife of the late Vicar, was at the organ.

(September 11th 1964- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM BRIDE.**

An Abbotsham bride of just over a week, and the first to be married at

Bideford’s new Baptist Chapel - Mrs Wendy Carol de Bank, the only daughter  
of Mr and Mrs F.G. Beer of 5 Glebe Houses, Abbotsham, was seriously  
injured last Friday in a car crash when returning after a touring honeymoon.  
(October 30th 1964 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**The funeral has taken place at St. Helen’s Parish Church, Abbotsham of Mr

Ernest James West, formerly of Hearts of Oak Cottage, Abbotsham, who died

at Bideford & District Hospital aged 87. He was formerly head gardener for

Col. Moulton Barrett at High Park, near Bideford, and later for the late Mr RA. Lomas of Cornborough. He retired at the age of 83. The coffin was borne  
by Mr West’s workmates - Messrs B. Prust, C. Blight, W. Churchill and L.  
Easton.  
(November 13th 1964 - BG).

**DEATH.**On December 15th - Constance E. Turrner, beloved wife of C.W.M. Turner

(late of The Barton, Abbotsham) at Sea Crest, Bay View Road, Northam.

She had been a staunch worker for Abbotsham Church, where her husband,

a former rural district councillor for Abbotsham, has been a sidesman for

many years. She was also a founder of the Abbotsham Playing Fields

Association, and a past member of Abbotsham WI. She was also a

governor of Abbotsham School.  
(December 18th 1964 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Children of Abbotsham Sunday School spent a happy time at their party and

prize giving held in the Parish Hall. Games were organised by Miss Warde

and Miss Ball, followed by a tea and film show. Mrs Bevan, the wife of the

Vicar, presented the prizes.

(January 29th 1965 - BG).

ABBOTSHAM’S FIGHT TO RETAIN ITS CHARACTER.  
Development round about Abbotsham, and the preparation of a sewerage  
scheme for the village, have renewed the fears of a number of residents that its unspoiled character is ¡n jeopardy. They feel that in the eyes of the speculator there can be few places more ripe for development and that  
provision of a drainage scheme is bound to bring in its wake a spate of  
planning applications. The Parish Council are wholly alive to the dangers of the situation and Bideford Rural Council are treading warily in their  
preparation of a village plan in conjunction with the sewerage scheme to  
ensure that the scheme will be adequate to cope with future needs.  
Major Jack Lomas, the Parish Council Chairman, said, “We must not have the  
village spoiled; we realise there may be limited building, but it must be in the right place and there must not be too much of it”. He stressed the need for a modern sewerage system, and said the main concern of the Parish Council was to get modern sanitary facilities in the school, now served by chemical closets.

The Rural Council are to be told that the Parish Council do not object to two sites, each for four houses, on the road from the Post Office to Greencliffe and just past the Baptist Chapel; neither do they object to a site, again for four houses, to the north of Pump Lane. They are however opposing a proposed site for 20 houses in a field known as Holloway and situated at the rear of the Vicarage.

The other two sites to which they are objecting are on either side of Keene

Lane. Reasons are that building here would constitute an “outward sprawl,

being ribbon development along one of the approach lanes”. They say that if further sites have to be found, Shepherd’s Meadow would be preferable to

one of those near the Baptist Chapel to which no objection is being raised.

The two things that the Parish Council wish to avoid said Major Lomas are

building sprawling along the roads, and also “skyline” development. Where

Pump Lane is concerned they are particularly anxious to prevent the erection of buildings that would look right into the bedroom windows of those already there.  
So far as the sewerage scheme is concerned, the Parish Council are telling  
the Rural Council that they feel it sets out to serve the right areas, but that instead of following Pump Lane it should be laid at the rear of the houses to the north side since all the existing drains for dwellings on either side of the lane run north. It is also suggested that at the south end of the line as planned would not connect with the council houses and new sites on the west of the main road, but that it should be allowed to do so. But, say the Parish Council, there is general approval for the main conception of the disposal arrangements, and they strongly urge that no building shall be allowed until they are in operation.  
(February 5th 1965 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**Development round about Abbotsham and the preparation of a sewerage  
scheme for the village, have renewed the fears of a number of residents that its unspoiled character is in jeopardy. Major Jack Lomas stressed the need for a modern sewerage system, and said the main concern of the Parish  
Council was to get a modern sanitary facilities in the school, now served by chemical closets. The Rural Council are to be told that the Parish Council do not object to two sites, each of four houses on the road from the Post Office to Greencliffe, and just past the Baptist Chapel, neither do they object to a site, again for four houses, to the north of Pump Lane. They are however opposing a proposed site for twenty houses in a field known as Holloway, situated at the rear of the Vicarage.  
(February 5th 1965 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM SKITTLERS.**Abbotsham romped to a 44 pin victory over Fairy Cross ¡n the Final of  
Bideford & District Skittles League Presidents Cup at the Conservative Club  
on Friday. Abbotsham’s team was - M. Easton, L. Easton, E. Blight, W.  
Churchill and W. Hockin.  
 (March 9th 1965- BG).

**DEATH.**

On March 25th at Sea View, Abbotsham - Annie, wife of the late John Edwin  
Moase, beloved by all her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.  
The funeral was at Abbotsham Church - the bearers being Messrs W.Churchill, L. Easton, F. Fulford and J. Ridd.

(April 2nd 1965 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM BELLS.**

It has been decided to have the bells of Abbotsham Parish Church re-hung  
on bearings at a cost of about £300. This will mean that the parish will be  
without bells for about 5 months.  
(June 18th 1965- BG).

**DEATH.**

On June 22nd suddenly at Taunton (en route to Frenchay, Bristol), Martha,  
dearest wife of Consie Prust of “Roseland”, Abbotsham, and devoted mother  
of Norma and Nicholas, aged 43 years. “God’s Will be Done”. She had  
been a member of the nursing staff of Bideford Hospital, and she served  
during the war years as a nurse at the Red Cross Convalescent Home at  
Kenwith Castle. Until this year when he joined the Exeter firm, Mr Prust was in charge of the commercial printing department of the Bideford Gazette Ltd. The family were planning to move to Exmouth in the near future.  
(June 25th 1965 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM RESTRICTION.**

A plan drawn up for the development of Abbotsham village has been

criticised by Bideford Rural Council produced by Devon’s Planning

Department reduces the area for a housing development from ten acres to

five. The two fields included in the plan are opposite Keene House and the

other between the Parish Church and the Playing Fields, were in the opinion

of the Council not suitable.  
(July 9th 1965- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

More trouble came from Abbotsham than any other parish, it was claimed at

Bideford Rural Council meeting. “Why should Abbotsham be different”, Mr.

W.T. Harris asked. “It would become a part of Bideford in the future

anyway”. The member for Abbotsham, Mr R.B. Richardson had complained

that a comment made by a councillor or anything important should not be put

in the Council’s records without the member having first had the opportunity of seeing it, and of seeing the minutes before they were put to the meeting.

(July 9th 1965- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM FETE.**Confronted by the task of raising £350 to re hang the ancient peal of bells in their parish church, the people of Abbotsham set about it with their customary determination. The church annual fete held in the Vicarage made a profit of £230. The Vicar, Rev. E.G. Bevan said that the church had some wonderful bells - one dating back to about 1400. Mrs S. Bayliss of Kent, formerly of Bowood, Abbotsham opened the fete. She was thanked by Major H. Lomas. The stalls and side-shows underwent something of a siege. Responsible for the noted “Abbotsham teas” were Mesdames S. Grigg, M. Hockin, J. Jewell, F. Arthur, R. Winter, F. Fulford, F. Palmer, Coombs, Quick, Easton and Misses A. Hutchin, E. James and A. Jones.  
(July 16th 1965- BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On October 5th at St. Helen’s, Abbotsham - Leno, eldest son of Mr G. and the late Mrs Lamanna of Calabria, Italy, and Anne Pooley, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Leon Moore, of Kenwith Castle, Abbotsham.  
(October 8th 1965- BG).

**DEATH.**

On October 1st at the Kingsley Hospital, Bideford - Samuel Richard (Dick)  
Davies of 4 Coronation Terrace, Abbotsham, the beloved husband of  
Winifred and father of Fred, aged 73 years. On his retirement after being a Postman for 37 years he was awarded the imperial Service Medal. He was a  
member of Abbotsham British Legion, and at one time he was captain of  
Abbotsham Church bell-ringers.  
(October 8th 1965- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM W.I.**  
A request by Abbotsham W.I. for the parish to have a fortnightly refuse  
collection all the year round, instead of, as at present, fortnightly in the summer and monthly in the winter, has been rejected by Bideford Rural  
Council.

(December 23rd 1965 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM SCHEME.**

Plans for the new sewerage scheme for Abbotsham have been submitted by  
Bideford Rural Council to the County Council and the Devon River Authority.  
The Rural District Council have agreed to pay £75 for a field site for the  
disposal works.  
(January 14th 1966 - BG).

**SCHOOL LAVATORIES.**

It was scandalous that in 1966 a village only two miles from a town of  
Bideford’s size should have a school whose only form of sanitation was a  
bucket lavatory, declared Mr Tony Lacey, prospective Liberal candidate for  
the Torrington Division at the annual meeting of Abbotsham Liberal  
Association.  
(February 11th 1966 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On February 21st at Sr, Helen’s Church, Abbotsham - C.W.M. Turner to

V.M.F. Macpherson

(February 25th 1966 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A start should be made on Abbotsham’s new sewerage scheme estimated to  
cost £22,483, within 12 months said Mr L.J. Dunn, Bideford R.C. surveyor. It would run down the line of the main road from “Pedmore” to “Keene”, with a branch extending the length of Pump Lane.  
(February 25th 1966 - BC).

**GOLDEN WEDDING.**

On March 4th 1916 at St Alban’s Cathedral, Toronto - James White to  
Elizabeth Thorne - present address 2 Riccardsdown, Abbotsham. They  
twice emigrated to Canada, but twice returned. James is now 76 years old  
and Elizabeth is 77.  
(March 4th 1966- BG).

**AFFECTIONATELY RECALLED AT ABBOTSHAM.**

For 24 years headmaster of Abbotsham School, and for over 60 years a  
leading personality in the village and associated with many activities - Mr  
Charles Hooper, formerly of 1, Coronation Terrace, Abbotsham, and more  
recently living at Yelverton, has died at the age of 98. The funeral was at  
Abbotsham Parish Church. Mr Derek Whittington was at the organ.  
(April 1st 1966 - BG).

**DEATH**On April 30th - Florence Beatrix died in her sleep at Cornborough - widow

and for forty nine years the devoted wife of the late Hugh Arthur Lomas OBE,JP, LCS.

(May 13th 1966- BG).

**MAJOR G. LOMAS.**Appointment of Major Giles John Eyre Lomas of Cornborough, Abbotsham as

Justice of the Peace for Devon, continues a family tradition of such service by his late father, Mr Hugh A. Lomas. He was a magistrate for 50 years and for many years was chairman of the County Bench at Bideford. Major “Jack” Lomas who is 51 read History at Oxford, obtaining his B.A. Then he joined the Royal Artillery in 1936 as a regular officer, retiring in 1958 when he began farming the estate at Cornborough. During the war he was with the Royal Horse Artillery throughout the campaign in the Western Desert and North Africa. He is chairman of Abbotsham Parish Council and of the Abbotsham branch of the British Legion, and is People’s Warden of St. Helen’s Church, Abbotsham. Major and Mrs Lomas have three schoolboy sons.  
(July 15th 1966 - BG).

**ENGAGEMENT.**

The engagement is announced between Beryl, daughter of Mrs L. Mills of 4  
Queen Annes, High Street, Bideford and the late Billy Mills of West  
Appledore, and Constantine Prust of “Roseland”, Abbotsham.  
(July 29th 1966 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM CHURCH FETE.**

Miss Elizabeth Sealy, patron of the living, specially travelled from Sussex to open Abbotsham Church Fete on Wednesday week. The living has been in  
the gift of the family since the time of her great great grandfather, and a  
relative Preb. Sealy was Vicar of Abbotsham until World War 1. The fete  
was held in the Vicarage, with proceeds being divided between church funds  
and the Day School. This year, said the Vicar, the School was facing three  
improvements. It was to be provided with a swimming bath. It was almost  
certain that the main drainage system would be installed ¡n the village this autumn, and the school would immediately be equipped with flush toilets. In addition an office and store room were to be created from the old belfry from which the bell had long since disappeared. It was estimated that the improvements would amount to £12,000 to £15.000, but grants would be obtainable for all three.  
(July 15th 1966- BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Abbotsham is calling for opposition to any plans to discharge Bideford  
sewage into the sea near Abbotsham Cliffs.  
(August 5th 1966 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Providing an unusual sight for North Devon in these days, mounted troops  
have been seen in Abbotsham and Westward Ho this week. A section of the  
Kings Troop of the Royal Horse Artillery comprising some thirty horses have  
been spending five days on a section camp at Cornborough by arrangement  
with Major G. Lomas.  
(September 9th 1966 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM SCHEME MUST WAIT.**

In reply to representations by Bideford Rural Council that the road widening on the road through Abbotsham should be extended as explained, the County Surveyor has replied that there is little chance of any money being available for the purpose in the coming financial year.  
(November 25th 1966 - BC).

**DEATH**

On January 3rd in hospital in Herts - Magdalen Elizabeth Faulkner aged 75  
years, of The Cottage, Abbotsham, beloved mother of Phyllis, Annie and  
Irene.  
(January 6th 1967 - BC).

**DEATH.**

On February 15th after a long illness, courageously borne, Marion, aged 43  
years, the beloved wife of Ernest Blight, and dear mother of Raymond and  
Alan, formerly of Abbotsham, where she was Secretary of the Baptist  
Church. She was a State Enrolled Nurse.  
(February 17th 1967 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM SCHEME.**

Only two tenders were received by Bideford Rural Council for the Abbotsham  
months ago. The Council did not accept either. The original estimate had  
been £22,000.  
(March 17th 1967- BG).

**RUBY WEDDING.**

Blight - Squire: On April 16th 1927 at St. Mary’s Church, Bideford. Present  
address - “Sunny View”, Abbotsham.  
(April 14th 1967 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM DEVELOPMENT.**

Move to limit the development of Abbotsham village to a scheme which would  
permit only 35 new houses, failed at a meeting of Bideford Rural Council  
Public Health and Housing Committee. An outline plan envisages in the  
region of 50 new houses.  
(April 1967 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On May 6th at a Nursing home - Florence Annie, of Northam, wife of the late  
Rev. L. Woolcott B.A., former Vicar of Abbotsham, aged 82.  
(May 12th 1967- BG).

**DEATH.**

On May 14th, Harry husband of Mrs A. Numms of Roseland, Abbotsham, and  
father of Phillip.  
(May 19th 1967- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The bell from “H.M.S. Abbotsham” an inshore mine-sweeper built at Bideford  
twelve years ago, is to be presented to Abbotsham Parish Council. The  
vessel now being scrapped was one of the biggest to be launched from  
Blackmore’s Yard above the bridge.  
(June 16th 1967 - BG). .

**DEATH.**

On June 12th at the North Devon Infirmary, Charlotte Dorothy Boone aged 70  
years of The Cottage, Riccardsdown, Abbotsham.  
(June 16th 1967 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM MAN.**

Mr John (Jack) Hearn of 2 Barton Cottages, Abbotsham, who had been a

postman in the Bideford area for many years has been awarded the Imperial

Service Medal, received from Bideford’s Head Postmaster, Mr R.D. Cooper.

Mr Hearn is 64 and began his G.P.O. service in 1933 as a part timer at

Abbotsham. He also carried on a shoe repair business.

(June 23rd 1967 - BG).

**SHIP’S BELL.**

The bell of H.M.S. Abbotsham was on Wednesday presented to the village of  
Abbotsham. The ceremony took place at Abbotsham parish fete. Present  
was Mr Harold Blackmore, Mayor of Bideford, because he was head of the  
firm who built the vessel. The presentation was made by Capt. G. Baldwin,  
Commanding Officer R.N.A.S. Yeovilton. The vessel was laid down in 1955  
and completed in 1957. In 1958 she was placed in reserve. It was a great  
thing that she had never been used. The bell was received on behalf of the  
parish by the chairman of the Parish Council, Major G. Lomas. He then  
passed the bell to Miss A. Ball head teacher of the village school, hoping it would be made use of and would remain an object lesson for the children.  
(July 7th 1967 - BG).

**MISS PHYLLIS MOASE.**

Miss Phyllis Moase of Sea View, Abbotsham, a teacher at the East-the-Water  
Primary School since 1944 retires at the end of the summer term this week.  
A member of a well known Abbotsham family she has a brother and sister  
teaching at Braunton and Bideford respectively. She formerly taught in  
London, and returned to Devon in 1942.  
(July 1967 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM W.I.**

The members of Abbotsham W.I. - the President, Mrs Violet, and the

Treasurer, Mrs Courtenay - have been appointed Voluntary County

Organisers by the National Federation.  
(September 22nd 1967 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On September 16th at St. Mary’s Church, Bideford – Mr Guy France of 25

North Street, Northam to Miss Sylvia Martin of Little Silver,

(September 29th 1967 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM HOUSE.**

Work carried out to “Shamland”, Abbotsham scheduled as a building of

architectural and historic interest, before planning permission had been

granted, had made the property virtually uninhabitable. This was reported to Bideford Rural Council by the Surveyor, Mr L.J. Dunn.  
(November 24th 1967 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On December 24th peacefully after a mercifully short illness - Major William Francis Glass MBE of Westward Ho. The funeral took place at St. Helen’s Church, Abbotsham.  
(December 27th 1967 - BG).

**BONANZA FOR SOME ROADS**

The Government’s windfall for local authorities in development areas has

meant the biggest bonanza roads in this part of North Devon ever have

known, and a new look has been given to a number of places. Something of

what is being done to turn the nightmare twists through Abbotsham almost

into a clearway. The Abbotsham scheme is a continuation of work done

about 18 months ago at a cost of £23,000. Cost of the existing scheme is

about £17,000 to which must be added £13,000 for a section to Moases

Linney, a corner between the church and the trunk road on which £6,000 was

spent last year. An improvement near Kenwith Castle is costing about

£13,000 and the work at Buckleigh about £5,000.

(January 12th 1968 - BG).

**BIRTH.**

On January 14th to Angela (nee Hartree) and Robin E.P. Gale of Abbotsham  
- a son.  
(January 19th 1968 - BG).

**FORMER CAPTAIN.**

Former Captain of Bideford Grammar School, twenty year old Stuart Dunn,

only son of Mr and Mrs L.J. Dunn of “Clifden”, Riccards Down, Abbotsham,

has set up what is believed to be a record for Nottingham University by

becoming the first first-year undergraduate to become hall president. At the University he is studying economics, law and accountancy. His father is  
Surveyor to Bideford Rural Council.  
(February 16th 1968 - BG).

**DOES ABBOTSHAM WANT STREET LIGHTS.**

Abbotsham was not in a position to pay for anything, and had never asked for street lighting throughout the parish, said Mr R.B. Richardson at Bideford Rural Council meeting. Before the Council was a question whether lighting should be provided on a new estate. Mr Richardson said that the road widening had made lighting totally unnecessary. Mr L. J. Dunn, the  
Surveyor, said that there were no street lights in the district at the moment, and he thought it would be a few years before they got any. In connection with the development of Abbotsham it was agreed that the Council consider the possible purchase of the Island Site for such development as they think fit. It was suggested that dwellings, including those for old people, be erected on the lower two plots, the higher plot being left as an open space if the Parish Council could purchase and maintain it.  
(March 15th 1968- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM BRIDE.**

At Bideford Baptist Church the wedding has taken place of Mr Adrian N.  
Comley of Paignton, and Miss Valerie Dark, the youngest daughter of Mr and  
Mrs H. Dark of the Post Office, Abbotsham.  
(March 29th 1968 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM LIMIT.**

At the request of Abbotsham Parish Council, Bideford Rural Council are  
applying for the imposition of a 40 m.p.h. limit through the village as far as Keene.

(May 10th 1968 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On May 27th at the Lakenham Convent, Northam - William James, the

beloved husband of the late Tryphena, of Abbotsham.

(May 31st 1968- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM FETE.**

About £200 was needed to pay off the amount outstanding on £1,000 spent

on recent improvements to the Church School said the Vicar of Abbotsham,

Rev. E.G. Bevan, at the opening of the Fete held in the Vicarage grounds last week. The takings amounted to £224 and this is to be added £35, the result of a jumble sale held previously, the Vicar of Alwington, the Rev. J.E. Lynn opened the fete, and spoke of the fact that more than half the pupils of Abbotsham School came from the parish of Alwington.  
(July 12th 1968- BG).

**NO SPEED LIMIT AT ABBOTSHAM.**

It would not be easy to get a 40m.p.h. speed limit imposed through

Abbotsham, as the police had inspected the route, which did not meet  
Ministry requirements.  
(August 2nd 1968 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On August 11th at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple - Charles aged 91  
years, beloved husband of the late Ellen Ridd, and formerly of Rixlade,  
Abbotsham.  
(August 16th 1968 - BG).

**ENGAGEMENT.**

The engagement is announced between Simon, only son of Mr and Mrs Giles  
of Yeovil, and Sally the only daughter of Mrs Doe and the late Captain  
Vernon Doe MBE of Coombe Cot, Abbotsham.  
(October 25th 1968 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Abbotsham is to get some streetlights even though the Parish Council and

the Parish meeting have said they do not want it, Bideford Rural Council

agreed. The Council were told that planning permission had been granted

for residential development, but the County Highways Department had said

they would not take over the estate road unless street lighting were provided by the developer.  
(January 20th 1969 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM PLAN.**

Planning application by Messrs B. Hall Tomkin & Heal to use part of the

“island site” at Abbotsham for housing was conditionally recommended for

approval by Bideford Rural Council after they had considered the matter in

committee. Conditions imposed were that part should be reserved for public conveniences, and that there should be low level density development. It  
was also agreed that the mid section of the site should be used for old  
peoples bungalows, and the north end for one or two private dwellings.  
(February 7th 1969- BG).

**WEDDING.**

Mr Phillip John Patt, eldest son of Mr L.J. Patt and the late Mrs O.R. Patt of Bideford, and Miss Janet Caroline Brown, the second daughter of Mr and Mrs T.G.R. Brown of Kenwith Cottage, Abbotsham, were married at Abbotsham  
Parish Church.  
(April 25th 1969 - BG).

**WELL RUNG.**

Abbotsham ladies’ handbell ringers and friends gave an enjoyable variety  
entertainment in the Parish Hall, Abbotsham, and raised over £22 for  
rheumatism and arthritis research.  
(May 23rd 1969 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Mr R.B. Richardson told Bideford Rural Council that he had had two  
comments about two proposed dwellings at Abbotsham. One was that they  
looked like toilets and the other that they looked like chicken coops. The  
Surveyor had reported that plans had been submitted for a three bedroom  
bungalow. He recommended that they should be refused on the grounds  
that it was desirable that the site, and that adjoining it, were at a considerable lower level than the remainder of the sites on the estate, should be developed with two storey houses with a roof pitch approximating to that of the bungalows. It was desirable to erect on the estate buildings somewhat similar in design to those in the rest of the village.  
(June 6th 1969- BG).

**CAMP SITE.**

Although Mr W.T. Harris told Bideford Rural Council that “all the rateable  
value is going to Northam” and the authorities clamped down on development  
in the rural district, members decided to refuse an application for a camping site that Mr W. Brooks wishes to establish at Pusehill Farm, Abbotsham.  
(August 8th 1969 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM NAVAL PILOT.**

Deep in the Malaysian jungle 21 years old Sub. Lieutenant Jack Lomas from  
Abbotsham, is a pilot serving with the Singapore based 847 Naval Air  
Squadron, and the Squadrons Wessex helicopters are flying Royal Marines  
and Sappers to remote aboriginal villages in the State of Perak to repair and build bridges across jungle rivers. His parents live at Cornborough, and he joined the Royal Navy three years ago.  
(November 14th 1969 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

For over forty years a member of Abbotsham Parochial Church Council - Mrs  
Winifred Anne Davies of 4 Coronation Terrace, Abbotsham - has died at the  
age of 80. She was the widow of Mr Samuel Richard Davies, and she died  
at the home of her son at 15 Branscombe Road, Stoke Bishop, Bristol.  
(November 21st 1969 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM W.I.**

At the annual meeting of Abbotsham W.I. the retiring President, Mrs Violet

presented the Institute with a rose bowl to be suitably inscribed and

presented annually to the member gaining the highest number of points in

competitions during the year.

(December 5th 1969 - BG).

**MR MICHAEL TURNER.**

Mr Michael Turner, the new chairman of the Bideford Branch of the National

Farmers Union, is a 35 years old member of a family associated with the

branch since its formation 60 years ago, and he farms Abbotsham Barton

where the family have lived since 1827.

(December 19th 1969 - BG).

**SGT. DAVID COOK.**

Sergeant David Cook, aged 29, has been presented with his “Wings” on

completing a nine months helicopter pilots course at the Army Aviation

Centre, Middle Wallop, Hampshire. His parents Mr and Mrs F.C. Cook live

at Cornborough Lodge, Abbotsham.

(February 13th 1970 - BG).

**FORMERLY OF ABBOTSHAM**

The funeral has taken place at Abbotsham Parish Church of Miss Elizabeth

Frayne who died at “The Chalet”, Westward Ho, and was formerly of

Abbotsham. She was 94 and died at the Bideford & District Hospital.

(April 17th 1970 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM COURT.**

Concern that planning approval was given to a proposal to change the use of  
Abbotsham Court from a private dwelling into a residential school for

maladjusted boys - “there could be danger from the boys wandering around

the lanes” said Mr R.B. Richardson at Bideford Rural Council meeting. The  
Council accepted a committee recommendation to approve the application

under the Town & Country Panning Acts.

(June 5th 1970 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The people of Abbotsham turned out in force to wish a happy retirement to

their sub postmistress for the past thirty years - Mrs Ida Jane Dark, on her last day as sub postmistress, on Friday, and to thank her for her services. She was presented with a bouquet and a cheque on behalf of the villagers by 78 years old Miss E. James. Mrs Dark who is 70 recalls how she and the two village postmen used to sort out all the mail by hand in the post office every morning and evening.  
(August 7th 1970 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Rev. Andrew Ford who has been appointed Vicar of Abbotsham in

succession to the Rev. E.G. Bevan, spent much of his life in South Africa

where he was born. For the past five years he has been Vicar of Christ Church, Warminster. The Rev. E.G. and Mrs Bevan now live in retirement

at Taunton - at Bideford he was an enthusiastic member of Victoria Park

Bowling Club.

(August 28th 1970 - BG).

**FORMERLY OF ABBOTSHAM.**

The funeral of Mr Henry George Surtees Bayliss of Ruckinge, Kent, has

taken place at St. Helen’s Church, Abbotsham. He was 67 and died on

holiday in France. He formerly lived at Bowood, Abbotsham.

(November 6th 1970 - BG).

**MR J. H. BREND.**

At Abbotsham Parish Church the funeral has taken place of Mr James

Augustus Brend of 8A Allhalland Street, Bideford. He was 84, and was a

son of Captain James Brend of Bideford, who was master of well known three

masted vessels. Mr Brend was a butcher in Trafalgar Place for many years.

(November 20th 1970 - BC).

**WEDDING.**

On Saturday the wedding took place at Torrington of Mr Stanley James

Hearn of Westward Ho and Miss Janet L. Windsor of Torrington. The

bridegroom is the organist and member of the Parochial Church Council of St. Helen’s Church, Abbotsham.  
(November 27th 1970 - BC).

**MAJOR LOMAS**.

A new scheme to deal with Bideford and Northam sewage has been submitted to Devon County Council by Major G. Lomas, members of Bideford Town Council General Purposes Committee were told on Monday. Major Lomas, chairman of Abbotsham Parish Council, is the owner of some of the land through which the sea outfall, now proposed by Bideford and Northam

Councils, would run.  
(December 11th 1970- BC).

**DEATH.**

On December 19th at her home “Glenlyn”, Abbotsham - Bertha Ann, aged 89  
years, the beloved wife of the late Arthur Frayne, and devoted mother to all her children.  
(December 24th 1970 - BG).

**NO PETROL STATION.**

In view of the existing facilities in the area there is no need for a repair garage and petrol filling station in a village the size of Abbotsham.

(January 15th 1971 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Planning permission having been refused for a garage and filling station on  
the southern part of the “island site” at Abbotsham, for which Bideford Rural Council have outline planning permission for the erection of public  
conveniences, Abbotsham Parish Council have asked that the whole question  
of its future should be considered.  
February 5th 1971 - BC).

**NONAGENARIANS DEATH.**

The death occurred in the Torridge Hospital, Bideford at the age of 97 of Mrs Martha Catherine Mountjoy of “Tealta”, Cornborough Road, Westward Ho.  
the funeral service took place at St. Helen’s, Abbotsham.  
(April 23rd 1971 - BG).

**FUNERAL.**

**T**he funeral of Mrs Isabel Hilda Rawdon of Holybourne, Hampshire, has taken place at St. Helen’s Church, Abbotsham. She was 77 and was the widow of Major C.H. Rawdon.  
May 14th 1971 - BG).

**W.I. JUNE FAYRE.**

After a year of planning and many hours of homework, Abbotsham W.I.

members organised a successful June Fayre in the Parish Hall. £100 was

raised.

(June 18th 1971 - BG).

**MORE BUSES.**A revised timetable for the bus route between Bideford and Hartland which is planned to come into effect early in September will mean that the village of Abbotsham will have half a dozen buses a day, with an extra bus during the summer months.  
(August 6th 1971 - BG).

**DEATH**

On August 18th at Bideford passed peacefully away - William Martin, aged 78  
years, loving father of Phyllis, George and Fred. Formerly of Coombe  
Walter, Abbotsham. Funeral at Lake Methodist Chapel, Shebbear.  
(August 20th 1971 - BG).

**DEATH**

On November 1st at Bideford & District Hospital - Annie, aged 87 years of  
Putridge Cottage, Pump Lane, Abbotsham, the beloved wife of the late  
Charles Easton, and mother of Louis. The funeral took place at Abbotsham  
Parish Church. Mrs Easton was a founder member of the Abbotsham W.I.,  
and devoted member of the Parish Church.  
(November 5th 1971 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM BUILDING LAND.**

When six acres of building land at Abbotsham were offered by public auction

on Tuesday by Messrs Kivell & Sons on behalf of a local family, the Turner  
Trustees, bidding in the crowded room opened at £20,000 rising to £36,500  
at which it was sold to Messrs S.L. Vanstone & Son, a firm of local builders and developers.

(November 19th 1971 - BG).

**SILVER JUBILEE.**

A very successful Silver Jubilee dinner and dance was held at the New Inn,

Bideford by members of Abbotsham W.I. The President, Mrs K. Vanstone

welcomed seventy members with their husbands. A celebration cake, made

by Mrs H. Graham and iced by Mrs E. Violet, was ceremonially cut by Miss

Annie James the oldest member.

(December 10th 1971 - BG).

**DEATH**

On December 19th, peacefully at his home 4 Barton Cottages, Abbotsham -  
Patrick John Jewell aged 73 years, the beloved husband of Kathleen, and  
devoted father of Violet and Dorothy.  
(December 24th 1971 - BG).

**A LOT IN A NAME.**

A proposal that a housing development behind the Vicarage at Abbotsham

should be named Holloways Meadow - the name by which the land is known

had brought an objection from the developers, Bideford Rural Council were

told. The Parish Council had now changed their minds and suggested that

St. Helen’s should be substituted. “Holloway has something to do with bars”

explained the Chairman, Mr S.A. Brimacombe. But the committee’s

recommendation was that it should be “Holloway Meadow”, not Holloway

Prison, The change was agreed.

(December 31st 1971 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Abbotsham would become “like Blackpool” if a proposed new estate of 25  
houses and bungalows were provided with street lighting to comply with  
County Council requirements, suggested Mr R.B. Richardson at Bideford  
Rural Council meeting. This concerned the development of land on each  
side of Pump Lane. The Council agreed to recommend for approval the  
layout plan as amended, and to ask that the lighting scheme be deferred until the whole village is dealt with.  
(December 31st 1971 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Fellow members of Abbotsham Skittles Club were bearers at the funeral at  
Abbotsham Parish Church of Mr Patrick John Jewell of 4 Barton Cottages,  
Abbotsham. He was 73, had served with the Devonshire Regiment ¡n the  
first World War, and was an A.R.P. Warden in the second World War. He  
was a member of the Royal British Legion and of the Church choir.  
(January 7th 1972 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM FIRE.**

Cause of a fire that destroyed around half an Abbotsham farmer’s winter  
stock of hay is not known. No one was working near a four-bay Dutch barn  
at Lower Winsford, farmed by Mr J.H. Phillips, when smoke was seen by a  
schoolboy on a cross country run. Mr Phillips is recovering from illness, and sold his dairy herd three days before the fire.  
(January 28th 1972 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On January 31st at the Bideford & District Hospital - John Henry Phillips aged 60 years, the beloved husband of Hilda, of Winsford, Abbotsham. The  
funeral was held at Sr. Helen’s Parish Church, Abbotsham on Thursday.  
(February 4th 1972 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On May 6th at Patrixbourne, near Canterbury - Richard William Turner, elder

son of Mr and Mrs W.J.W. Turner of Babbacombe Farm, Abbotsham to

Margaret, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs E.P. Greenwood of Patrixbourne.

(May 12th 1972 - BG).

**FETE.**

Part of the famous Sleights sword dance by boys of Abbotsham County Primary School was a highlight of the annual parish fete. The fete realised a profit of £245 for parish needs. the hall, the church, the school and chapel will benefit. Mrs R.O.H. Eppingstone, wife of the Rural Dean opened the fete.  
(July 14th 1972 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM CHURCH WORKER.**

A well known personality at Abbotsham and caretaker of the Parish Church  
for twenty years, Mrs Kathleen Jewell of 4 Barton Cottages, Abbotsham has  
died at the age of 69. She was the widow of Mr Patrick John Jewell, and was  
a member of Abbotsham Parochial Church Council, the handbell ringers and  
the Dancing Club.  
(August 25th 1972 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM W.I.**

Members of Abbotsham W.I. formally welcomed at a special wine and cheese  
party many of the new residents in the village. The hostess was Mrs Carol

Goss at whose home, Hurst Park, the party was held.

(October 27th 1972 - BC).

**DEATH.**

On October 31st - William Edgar Powell of Chaltaborough, Abbotsham, the

beloved husband of Jessie. the funeral was at Abbotsham Church. He was

76 and was President of Abbotsham Royal British Legion, a former Church

secretary, a church councillor, and parish clerk.

(November 3rd 1972 - BC).

**DEATH.**

Mr George Moyse, late of Abbotsham Court Lodge has died at the age of 79.  
(February 16th 1973 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM W.I.**

Abbotsham W.I. have supported the “Plant a Tree in 73” campaign by

planting five. The President, Mrs Vanstone planted a silver birch on the

grass verge by the signpost in the village, and in the churchyard the Vicar, Rev. R.A. Ford accepted from her a blue cedar that she planted with the aid of Major Giles Lomas, churchwarden. Later larch trees were planted beside the lay by near Riccardsdown.

(April 19th 1973 - BG).

**MAJOR LOMAS.**

Major Giles Lomas of Cornborough, Abbotsham has claimed costs totalling  
£4.564.9s for his opposition to the scheme of Bideford Town and Northam  
Urban Councils to site a sewage outfall on the cliffs there. When the project came before a Department of the Environment inspector at a public inquiry, Major Lomas conducted his own case, but called an expert witness. The scheme was turned down.  
(June 29th 1973- BG).

**EX FARMERS DEATH.**

The funeral of Mr Thomas Bellew of Westward Ho has taken place at St.  
Helen’s Church, Abbotsham. He was 65 and formerly lived at Silford Farm,  
Northam.  
(November 9th - 1973-8G).

**CHRISTMAS MEDLEY**

At the December meeting of Abbotsham W.I. Mrs B. Morton presided and

welcomed a new member, Mrs Hardy. Ald. Mrs E. Brown gave an entertaining “Christmas Medley” bringing warmth and laughter into the grim chill of the Village Hall. The choir under the direction of Mrs E. Swain entertained with songs and carols. Tea hostesses were Mesdames F. Arthur, R. Beer, G. Tremlett and J. Tyrie.

(December 28th 1973 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On January 24th suddenly - Reginald Arthur aged 66 years, the beloved  
husband of Florence of Butthay Cottage, Abbotsham.  
(February 1st 1974 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On April 10th at Kenwith Castle, Abbotsham - Alexander Gordon Haddow  
aged 64 years, formerly of Gosforth.  
(April 9th 1974 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM FETE**

Despite the rain Abbotsham Church Fete made £294 for parish and village

funds. One of the main attractions, dancing by the school children (normally on the Vicarage Lawn) had to be transferred to the schoolroom. Under the direction of the headmistress Miss A. Ball and Mrs J. Frost it was still a great success.  
(July 5th 1974 - BG).

MR J. NANKIVELL.

Mr J. Nankivell of Rixlade, Abbotsham has died in a London Hospital. He

was a partner of Kivell & Sons of Bideford. He leaves a widow and a grown

up son.

(August 23rd 1974 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On September 5th at the N.D.I. Barnstaple - Howard Richard Baden Gutsell

of Bideford, and formerly of Abbotsham, the beloved husband of May, and

father of Joyce, Arthur and Marjorie. For many years he was gardener for

the late Major Gen. Strick of Abbotsham Court.

(September 13th 1974 - BG).

**BIRTH.**

On October 3rd to Phillip and Adrienne Vanstone of 7 St. Helen’s, Abbotsham  
- a son Darren Wayne.

(October 11th 1974 - BG).

ABBOTSHAM SERVICE.

Sunday School children trained by Mrs G. Winter contributed handbell ringing to a well attended pre-Christmas service at Abbotsham Baptist Chapel. There was also carol singing, recorder playing and Bible readings. The organists were Mrs B. Dark and Miss D. Moase.  
(December 27th 1974 - BG).

**DEATH.**On May 21st - Alexander Douglas McKirdy aged 82 years of 1, Coronation  
Terrace, Abbotsham.  
(May 30th 1975 - BG).

**MAYFAYRE.**

Many holiday makers were among those who attended Abbotsham W.I.’s  
Mayfayre when part of the proceeds were for C.A.R.E. for the mentally  
handicapped.  
(June 6th 1975 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A conflict of views about whether a golf course at Abbotsham Court within the coastal preservation area, would be desirable amenity were revealed at a public inquiry at Bideford. Mr Gordon Davis has been running Abbotsham  
Court as a private hotel for about four years.  
(June 6th 1975 - BG).

**ANNIVERSARY AT ABBOTSHAM.**

Under the direction of the Misses P. and D. Moase, children presented “Little People and Little Things” and “Cheer Up” at the anniversary service at Abbotsham Baptist Sunday School.  
(June 27th 1975- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM SALE.**

A Red Cross sale of new and second hand clothes etc, organised by Mrs G.  
Winter, and held in Abbotsham Parish Hall raised £130 which will go towards  
holidays for the disabled, and the funds for the loan of medical equipment,  
and for international relief.  
(July 25th 1975 - BG).

**BIDEFORD BY-PASS.**

Cllr. Stan Brimacombe has helped persuade Devon County Council to reject

the recommendation of their Planning and Transportation Committee that part

of the Bideford proposed by-pass should run through Cornborough,

Abbotsham. Instead it was agreed to recommend to the Department of the

Environment that the Kenwith Valley route should be followed. This route would prevent Abbotsham being swallowed up by Bideford.  
(October 17th 1975 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM BRIDE.**

Mr Paul H. Jevons, second son of Mr and Mrs G. Jevons of Dudley has married Miss Elizabeth Ann Hore, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs A.S. Hore of

9 St. Helen’s, Abbotsham at Bideford Methodist Church.  
(November 7th 1975 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM SERVICE.**

Children contributed Bible readings, carols, recorder playing and recitations at a Christmas service conducted by the Rev. A. Fleetwood in Abbotsham Baptist Chapel. Those taking part were - Robert and Sandra Jackman, Jacqueline and Charles Moase, Graham, Garry, Greg and Sharon Smale, Vanessa Bence, Christopher and Rose Marie Hockin, Nicholas and Julie Ann Burnett. The organists were Mrs Dark and Miss D. Moase. Carols were  
played by the Abbotsham women handbell ringers.  
(January 2nd 1976 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On March 18th in Hospital, Margaret Alice Newbury of Racecourse  
Bungalow, Abbotsham - beloved sister of Lyn Kiernander.  
(March 26th 1976 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

WINTER - MITCHELL. On April 24th at Buckland Brewer, Mary Rose to  
George William, Rixiade, Abbotsham.  
(May 7th 1976- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM FETE.**

Over £350 was raised for parish funds at Abbotsham Church and Parish Fete  
held in the Vicarage grounds by the invitation of the Rev, and Mrs Ford. Mr  
Jarrett was the gate steward. Teas were served in the Parish Hall organised  
by Mrs W. Ley.

(July 30th 1976 - BG).

**SILVER WEDDING.**

ACKLAND - EDEN. On September 15th 1951 at St. Helen’s Parish Church,  
Abbotsham, Walter to Shirley.

(September 10th 1976 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM SUPPER.**

A harvest supper in Abbotsham Parish Hall was organised by Mr W. Ley and  
helpers, and entertainment was provided by Abbotsham hand bell ringers,  
Mrs Kimber and Mrs Shorter (folk singers) and Mrs D. Hill who read Jan  
Stewer stories.  
(October 29th 1976- BC).

**ABBOTSHAM W.I.**

Members of Abbotsham W.I. had their powers of observation tested when Mr  
C.W. Barfoot brought slides of plaques and motifs to be seen on buildings in Bideford, many of them dating back to Victorian times. Thanks were voiced by Mrs A. Hore. The President, Mrs D. Hill welcomed five new members.

(December 23rd 1976 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Many people “go to work on an egg” as the slogan points out, but few travel  
as far as Mr Michael Turner of The Barton, Abbotsham who is just embarking  
on his second year as Vice Chairman of the National Farmers Union London  
Headquarters Poultry Committee.  
(February 11th 1977- BG).

**REV. ANDREW FORD.**

Rev. Andrew Ford, Vicar of Abbotsham and Mrs Ford have had what they call  
a wonderful trip to South Africa. Both were born there. They travelled some  
3,000 miles visiting relatives.  
(February 18th 1977- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM SERVICE.**

A Mothering Sunday service was held at St. Helen’s Church, Abbotsham  
when children brought along flowers. The lessons were read by Richard  
Ford, Janet Lee, John Renny and Mrs Partington.  
(March 25th 1977 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On April 3rd at her home The Thatched House, Abbotsham, Millicent (Millie)  
aged 62 years, the beloved wife of the late Donald Tucker, and devoted  
mother of John.  
(April 7th 1977 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On April 1 3th at the Torridge Hospital, Bideford, Annie James aged 89 years of 5 Coronation Terrace, Pump Lane, Abbotsham, sister of Edie and aunt of Dennis. She was the oldest inhabitant in the village, and was a founder member of the W.l.  
(April 22nd 1977 - BG).

**WEDDING.**

The wedding took place at Bideford Baptist Church between Mr Terry William  
Dymond of 3 Church View, Weare Gifford and Miss Linda Susan Kitto, the  
elder daughter of Mr and Mrs D.F. Kitto of 3 Glebe Houses, Abbotsham.  
(April 22nd 1977 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On April 27th at Bideford Hospital - Mary Elizabeth Huxtable aged 79 years of Littlecombe, Riccards Down, Abbotsham. The funeral will be at St. Helen’s Church, Abbotsham.  
(April 29th 1977 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On May 26th at Lendon, Abbotsham - James Henry Dunn aged 91 years,  
formerly of Umberleigh.  
(June 3rd 1977 - BG).

**SILVER JUBILEE OF QUEEN ELIZABETH.**

At Abbotsham there was a bonfire on Monday night, and Sports and  
barbecue in the spots field on Tuesday afternoon.

(June 10th 1977- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM ANNIVERSARY.**

The Abbotsham Baptist Chapel’s Anniversary service has been held.

Sunday school prizes were presented by Mrs Fleetwood. The preacher was

Mr Eric Moore of Westward Ho, and the organists were Mrs B. Dark and Miss  
D. Moase.  
(June 17th 1977 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**.  
Abbotsham is one of the nine finalists in this year’s competition for the best kept village in Devon run by the Council for the Protection of Rural England. The final judging takes place in the autumn.  
(July 29th 1977 - BG).

**MARRiAGE.**

On July 30th in Luton - Thomas Michael, younger son of Mr and Mrs George  
Winter of Abbotsham, to Ann Patricia, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.A. Berry of  
Luton.  
(August 5th 1977 - BG).

**DONKEY DERBY.**

Mr Tony Speller, prospective Parliamentary candidate, was among a crowd of  
around 800 who attended the North Devon Conservatives annual donkey  
derby at Abbotsham. Around £400 profit was realised.  
(August 5th 1977 - BG).

**LONDONDERRY.**

A crowd of around two hundred trooped disconsolately from Bideford Town  
Hall on Monday night having finally lost the battle they had waged for years to prevent Federated Homes Ltd of Surrey being granted permission to go ahead with their £4 million plus development of Londonderry Farm.  
(November 18th 1977 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM W.I.**

At the annual meeting of Abbotsham W.I. Mrs D. Hill was re-elected

President, with Mrs M. White Secretary, and Mrs D. Turner Treasurer. Mrs

Courtney, the country side link member reported from the current national

bulletin. The hostesses were R. Beer, G. Tremlett and W. Moase.

(November 25th 1977 - BG).

**BLIZZARD.**

The whole of the Torridgeside area was paralysed by its worst blizzard. At  
the peak of the storm six and a half inches of snow were recorded in the  
Bideford area. The main problems were caused by strong winds which  
swept the snow into huge drifts, some more than twenty feet high, and which  
cut communications between many villages and towns.  
(February 24th 1978 - BC).

**DEATH.**

On March 4th at Bideford and District Hospital - Norah Grace Vanstone of 4  
Glebe Houses, Abbotsham aged 72 years.  
(March 10th 1978 - BC).

**WEDDING.**

A bell ringer at Abbotsham Church and a committee member of Westward Ho  
W.I. - Miss Julia Anne Daniel was married at Abbotsham to engineer,  
Stephen John Rowe.  
(June 16th 1978- BG).

**CHILDREN’S DAY AT ABBOTSHAM.**

Children played a large part in Abbotsham Baptist Sunday School anniversary service which was conducted by Rev. A.T. Fleetwood. The speaker was Mrs Slade, and Mrs I. Dark was the organist. The prizes were presented by Mrs Fleetwood.

(June 23rd 1978- BG).

COUNTY TITLE FOR ABBOTSHAM.  
Nicky Odell and Gill Anstis of Abbotsham W.I. on Saturday became the

Devon Women’s Institute tennis champions, and go on to represent the

County in the National Finals at Bournemouth next month.

(June 23rd 1978 - BG).

**FETE RAISES £540.**

A profit of about £540 made at Abbotsham Fete will be shared among various

village organisations. Stall holders included, Mesdames, Giles, Tyrie,

Mincham, Lomas, Dunn, Richford, Cook, J. Moase and Biduiph. Teas were

served by Mesdames, Jackman, Huxtable, Hopkins, P. Brooks, Knight, Ridd,

Brend, Cakes, Dark and Arthur. Mr W. Ley was door steward.

(July 14th 1978 - BG).

**NO ACTION ON ABBOTSHAM PLAN.**

The Land Committee of Torridge District Council have decided to take no

action over two and a half acres of land at Abbotsham on which a developer

wishes to build ten houses. The site was part of a larger field at the rear of the existing housing, but was outside the existing building area of the village.

(October 27th 1978 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM W.I.**

At the annual meeting of Abbotsham W.I. the retiring President, Mrs D. Hill

introduced Mrs V. Douet who addressed the meeting. Mrs Hill expressed  
regret at the imminent departure from the parish of Rev. R.A. and Mrs Ford,

and made a small presentation. Mrs B. Bissett was elected as President and

Mrs Y. Crawford as Secretary.

(November 24th 1978- BG).

**DEATH.**

On November 24th after a short illness - Margaret Emily, the widow of Capt.  
Vernon Doe of Abbotsham. The funeral to be at St. Helen’s Church, Abbotsham.  
(December 1st 1978 - BG).

**ENGAGEMENT.**

Mr and Mrs E. Bellew of Shamland, Abbotsham are pleased to announce the

engagement of their only daughter, Kim Anne, to Roderick D. Smythe of

Fremington.

(December 21st 1978 - BG).

**CAROLS AT ABBOTSHAM.**

The annual carol service held ¡n St. Helen’s Church, Abbotsham was

conducted by Rev. H.S Fussell. The choir was trained by Mrs Henson. The

lessons were read by Christopher Hockin, Miss L. Daniels, Mrs Brasington,

Mr Henson, Mr M. Jackman, Mr N. Rennie and Rev. C. Edwards. The organist was Mr J. Hearn.

(December 29th 1978 - BG).