**A**

**Social History**

**Of The**

**Village of Abbotsham**

**1860-1978**

***Section 3 1900- 1913***

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.**

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 Abbotsham 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).