|  |
| --- |
| **Transcription of the Abbotsham Parochial Diary** **1916-1960 part 2** **1937 onwards** |
| **Choir & Ringers** | On January 19th 1937 the Vicar and Churchwardens invited the Choir and Ringers to an evening party in the Parish Hall – an entertainment was provided by Mr Bartlett and supper refreshments served. |
| **School Party & Scouts Party** | On Friday January 22nd Mrs Du Cane and Mrs Rawdon organised a party for the School children and the Scouts joined in and invited guests – tea and refreshments were served and games played. |
| **Mrs Beer’s Party** | On Wednesday February 3rd 1937 Mrs Beer, assisted by Mrs Glover and Mrs Bale, organised a party for the Village which was attended by practically everyone, there was tea and refreshments and a number of games during the evening. The Vicar presented Mrs Beer, who was leaving the School, with the sum of £5.0.0 odd which had been collected as a testimonial from everyone and as a small remembrance of all she had done for the Village during her time as Headmistress of the School. |
| **School** | Mrs Beer who had been Headmistress for many years gave up her duties on Friday Feb 5th 1937 and her successor took over on Monday 8th. |
| **Coronation Festivities** | In order to make arrangements for Coronation day, a Public Meeting was called by the Parish Council on Monday March 15th at 7.30. Mr D Graham of Coombe was in the chair and it was decided to hold sports and a football match (organised by the Scouts) followed by tea in the afternoon and in the evening a Social Evening with a bonfire (also arranged by the Scouts). Various sub-committees were formed for each event. |
| **Easter Vestry & Annual Parochial Church Meeting** | This was held on Tuesday March 23rd and there was only a very small attendance, the Vicar being ill, Mr Lomas (Lay Vice Chairman) took the chair & the various accounts were passed and other routine matters dealt with, a full report appears in the Minute book. |
| **Easter Day** | Owing to the illness of the Vicar there was only one Early Celebration at 8AM which, together with the 11o’clock Morning Prayer followed by Communion, was taken by Revd T B Dimond Hogg (Late Rector of Fremington), there were 56 communicants at 8 and 28 at 11. Evening Prayers and Sermon by Revd W H Benson Brown – the congregation at 11 were 69 and at 6.30 48. The total Easter Offering amounted to £19=7=10. The “Hawk” (Abbotsham) Patrol Boy Scouts attended the 11 o’clock service as a Patrol. |
| **Rural Dean’s Visitation** | On 7th April 1937 he made an entry in the Rural Dean’s book. |
| **Archdeacon’s Visitations** | On Thursday April 15th the Churchwardens ( The Vicar being at Bath recuperating from an illness) attended the Visitation in Bideford and made their presentments, the Parish were congratulated by the Archdeacon in that they had carried out his request as to the insurances and safe for custody of Registers. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Harvest Festival** | This was held on Sunday Sept 12th 1937. There were 36 communicants & the congregation at 11.30 was 66 and Evensong 92, the latter was conducted by Revd T J Somers Cocks of Clovelly (lessons Isiah 40, Luke 8 to v21). The Collections amounted to £6.10.2 and, as last year, were divide between Bideford Hospital (sic). The festivities were continued on the following day when the usual sports (at which the entries and attendance was very poor) concert and dance were held. |
| **Diocesan Service of Offering** | Held at Exeter Cathedral on Saturday October 2nd in connection with the Diocesan Quota Scheme at which representatives from each Parish in the Diocese were invited to attend and present a token payment (part of their quota) Col Bassett was appointed to represent our Parish and duly attended and made an offering. (See Order of Service and Deanery Newsletter in Appendix) |
| **Sunday Oct 10th** | The Revd E A Du Cane was on holiday and Revd M A Bere who was taking temporary duty was taken ill at the last moment, then as there was no one to take the 8AM &11 AM Services, the Churchwardens had therefore to inform the congregation that they must be abandoned – they were however successful in obtaining the help of Mr Chambers Senior Curate of Bideford for the evening service. |
| **Remembrance Sunday** | The usual United Service was held at 3.15 pm Nov 14th 1937 – the attendance was not as good as usual (Legion 4, & colour party & 2 in the choir & 1 with general public) Women’s Branch and Scouts also attended and 3 wreaths were laid by men, women and scouts. The Congregation in Church numbered 75. The address was given by Revd F Hobbs Baptist Minister who had himself served as a Sgt. The total collection for the day for Earl Haig’s Fund was £4.10.9 a big drop from previous years – plus 7/- on Armistice Day (See Deanery Newsletter in Appendix) |
| **Church Electric Lights** | 16th November 1937 On this day a Faculty was obtained to permit the installation of Electric Lights in the Church, the cost whereof is to be borne by Mr & Mrs H A Lomas in memory of Mrs F J Eyre who lived for many years in this Parish and of Mrs John Lomas. And at the 8AM Celebration on Xmas Day the light was dedicated by Revd E A Du Cane everything being completed. It was actually first used on Sunday Dec 19th 1937 |
| **Easter Day 1938** | The Vicar was assisted by Revd C T Langley Hall throughout the day, there were 3 Celebrations of Holy Communion at 7, 8 and after Morning Prayer: there were 87 Communicants (an increase of 31 but nearly 50% were non-parishioners) the congregation at 11 AM numbered 76 and at 6.30 47. The Vicar’s Easter Offering amounted to £18-3-0. The Church was as usual beautifully decorated.  |
| **Sequestration** | The Vicar having sent in his resignation to date from 5th May 1938 took his last Sunday duty as Vicar on April 24th; on May 1st he was laid up with laryngitis and was unable to go out of doors, the services were therefore taken by Revd J Neale. The Siquis Notice was received on 6th May 1938 and was dated 5th May – it was fixed on the Notice Board of the Parish Church on the 8th May following. The Sequestration bears date 5th May 1938. (See Press Cutting in Appendix) |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Bishop’s Gift Day 10/5/38**  | In response to the Bishop’s appeal (particulars in the Appendix) Col Bassett (Vicar’s Warden) attended at Bideford Church and presented a number of envelopes on behalf of Parishioners |
| **Archdeacon’s Visitation 1938** | This was held at Torrington on May 13th, both Churchwardens attended and made their presentments and also attended the subsequent lunch – no material point was made by the Archdeacon in his address other than the advantages of a proper fireproof safe, which he referred to two years ago and which Abbotsham had long since obtained; he also referred to the increasing sale of glebe land at ridiculously low prices, this it appears he desires to put an end to by vesting all such property in the Ecclesiastical Commission for the purposes of management at any rate (sic)  |
| **Mr Du Cane** | *A copy of the Vicar’s letter from the Deanery Magazine of June 1938 is attached in the Appendix* |
| **Sequestration** | During this period Revd. E. A. Du Cane took all the services ending on Sunday July 10th when at Morning and Evening Services he referred to his leaving the Parish in his sermons. |
| **Institution & Induction** | On Tuesday 12th July at 6pm the Bishop of Exeter instituted and the Rural Dean, on behalf of the Archdeacon, inducted Revd Basil Montfort Challenor to the living, there was a congregation of 135. The Bishop gave an address pointing out that the Parish should all work together. There were 8 robed clergy present in addition to the Bishop and Rural Dean who represented the Archdeacon and Mrs Sealy in her duties as Patron. After the service Mrs Sealy gave a tea in the Parish Hall at which a large number of friends of both the Church and Chapel were present to meet the Bishop and Mr&Mrs Challenor. The Bells were rung before and after the service as they had been the evening before when Mr Challenor arrived in the Parish. (the form of service is in the Appendix) |
| **Harvest Festival** | October 9th 1938 – Everyone remarked how beautifully the Church was decorated, there seemed more helpers than usual. Communicants 39 – (two celebrations 7.15 & 8 AM.) Congregations 11AM 70 – 6.30 pm 150. Collection amounted to £8-9-3 which was divided between Bideford Hospital and the Lord Mayor’s fund for Checkoslovakia (sic) instead of Church Expenses as had been decided by the P.C.C. There was no special preacher, the Vicar preaching at both services. The Harvest Home was held on the following day. There were the usual children’s sports in the afternoon and tea at 4.30, no adult sports – meat tea for all at 6.30 followed by social evening. – The Parish Hall was crowded for all the functions and the evening was apparently very much enjoyed. |
| **Remembrance Sunday** | Held on 13th November 1938 – The usual united Service was held at the War Memorial and in Church at 3.00 pm. The congregation numbered 87 in all and there was the Legion Colour Party and members, the Scouts, the Women’s Institute and General Public. The address was given by Revd F. W. Hobbs Baptist Minister – The collection for Earl Haig’s Fund during the day amounted to £5-11-3. At the United Service the Last Post and Reveille was sounded by Mr J. E. Lomas R.A. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Revised Lectionary** | This was introduced by Revd B. M. Challenor on Advent Sunday 1938 |
| **Communion Linen etc.** | In March 1939 the embroidery on the Red Burse was transferred to a new one and that on the white veil to a new one both the old ones being badly worn – this was done by Wippell & Co at a cost of £5-13-0 |
| **Chancel Roof** | In the same month the Chancel roof was repainted white, the wood mouldings pickled & the Bosses touched up at a cost of £11-12-6 which was paid for by Miss M.M.K. Braithwaite of Stoke Charity Winchester and her brother. |
| **Harvest Festival 1939** | Held Sunday Oct 8th – preacher in the morning Revd Hancox from Westward Ho! Two celebrations in morning 7 & 8 & also after Morning prayer – 40 Communicants 11AM 50 3pm (war time evening service) 51. Collections for Bideford Hospital £5-19-11. Note a large number of schoolboys who have gone to Morton for the War filled up the whole back of the Church at 11AM. Owing to the War no Harvest Home was held this year. |
| **Remembrance Sunday** | Owing to the indisposition of the Vicar, the services were conducted by Revd E.A. Du Cane who we were glad to welcome back again. The usual United Service was held at 3 pm and the Congregation numbered, The Legion Colour Party attended but there was no general parade. The address was given by Revd J. W. Hobbs, Baptist Minister. The Collections for Earl Haig’s Fund amounted to £6:2:2. The form of service having been altered there was no portion of it held by the War Memorial. |
| **1940 Lent** | Owing to “Blackout” conditions the Lenten weekday services could not be held in the Church. Lantern services were therefore held in the Parish Hall. |
| **Easter Day** | The Vicar being ill the 8AM and Evening Prayer were taken by Revd E.A. Du Cane & the 7AM and Morning Prayer by Revd A.M. Johnson – there were 85 Communicants – 60 at M.P. & 36 at E.P. Vicar’s Easter offering £12.12.0. |
| **1940 May 26th** | National day of Prayer 51 Communicants & congregation of 60 MP 80 EP. Collections for British Red Cross and St Johns Ambulance £5-17-0 Services taken by the Vicar |
| **Sept 15th Harvest Festival** | 66 Communicants 80 at MP 109 at EP. Preacher at 11.00 am Revd H.P.D. Pinkey & at 6.30 Revd D.F. Andrews C.F. Collections for Bideford Hospital £7-14-7 |
| **Nov 10th Armistice Sunday** | All services taken by Vicar 63 at 11AM 27 at 3 pm Collections for Earl Haig’s Fund £5-0-10 |
| **1941 Lent** | Lantern services again held in Parish Hall – money for the slides, heating etc was collected by Vicar’s Warden & hire of the Hall paid from the Churchwarden’s a/c because it was their duty to provide accommodation for services when the Church could not be used. |
| **1941 Easter Day** | 90 Communicants 88 at 11 AM 53 at 6.30 pm – Vicar’s offering was £16-16-4 and this sum was, at his request, passed to the Clergy W & O Fund not to count towards quota. |
| **Harvest Festival** | Sunday Sept 21st 24 Communicants – Preachers 11 AM Revd M Rycroft curate Northam & at 6.30 pm Revd Prebendary W H Manning. Collections for Bideford Hospital £6.18.10 Congregation of 100 in evening |
| **Table of Fees** | The Parochial Church Council having decided to adopt the Table of Fees issued by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, the Instrument creating such was prepared and the attested copy dated 18 Sept 1941 was received on 2nd October 1941 – the original is deposited in the Diocesan Registry [Ecclesiastical Commission File No 12794] |
| **1941 Nov 9th** | Remembrance Sunday – As last year & owing to the war there was no service at the Church Memorial – no parades were held but the Home Guard attended in uniform individually, the service set out in the Legion Handbook was used omitting the placing of the Legion Wreath et seq & substituting the hymn “Eternal Father” (A&M No 370) for the last hymn as printed. The address was given by Revd F. W. Hobbs, Baptist Minister and the collection for the day (£6.15.5) was given to Earl Haig’s Fund. The congregation at the afternoon service, above described, numbered 80 |
| **Larceny at The Church** | Between after Evening Service (at 3 pm) on Sunday 9th November 1941 and the afternoon of Wednesday 12th, the Church was entered by some person or persons at present unknown and the box inside the door, also the tract case box were broken open, there was no money in the former except a halfpenny (not taken) & only a few coppers in the latter which were taken - the JWO box was untouched – the police were informed & Const Pope of Westward Ho! took a statement from the Vicar. No claim for the money could, in any case, have been made upon the Insurance Company, since money is not covered – but the damage to the tract case could be the subject of a claim. |
| **December 14th**  | The Bideford Section of “A” Coy 1st Cadet Battn. “The Queen’s” Royal Rgt held a Church Parade at Abbotsham and mustered with 14 Air Force Cadets 55 and were under the command of Lt J. L. Whiteley (who had been acting as our Organist since Mr Hearn joined the RAF)At 3pm on the same day there was a Carol Service, at the Organ, the blind Organist from Merton School : collection for St Dunstans. |
| **Lent 1942** | Lantern Services were again held in the Parish Hall, the money as provided last year. |
| **Easter Day** | There were 91 Communicants – Congregation of 86 at 11 and 47 at Evening Prayer. Total Collection for Easter Offering £18.8.9. The Church was, as usual, very nicely decorated. The Vicar (Revd B. H. Challenor) conducted all services. |
| **Rogation Prayers 1942** | On Monday May 11th (the day after Rogation Sunday) prayers were offered on the allotments at 7pm – 19 were present, this was the second occasion on which this has been done, the first, the same time last year when a similar number were present. |
| **New Guinea Mission** | On Sunday August 9th 1942, The Organising Secretary of the New Guinea Mission gave an address at the Evening Service. The Collection at H.C. & other donations came to £2.0.6. |
| **National Day of Prayer** | Thursday September 3rd – Special form of service was used Congregations 7am H.C. 23, 8am H.C. 17. Special Service at 7pm 57. Collections for Soldiers & Sailors Families Association £2.19.1. |
| **1942 Harvest Festival** | Held on Sunday Sept 27th Communicants 25 Congregation Morning 91 Evening 79. Preacher Evening Revd H. D. P. Pinkey (Vicar of Northam) Morning Revd R. A. B. Chambers (Senior Curate of Bideford) Collections for Bideford Hospital £7.13.10. Harvest Home was held the following Wednesday & took the form of supper, games etc in the Parish Hall; there were a very large number of people present. |
| **Remembrance Sunday** | Sunday November 8th 1942 Special Service at 3.15 pm Preacher Revd F. H. Hobbs (Congregational Minister) Congregation 85 – Collections for Earl Haig’s Fund all day £5.13.5. |
| **1942 Civil Defence Sun Nov. 15th** | By permission of H.M. the King Bells were rung in all churches this day: to commemorate our success in Lybia (sic). We managed to get a team of ringers: there was no parade as there are so few C.D. men in the Village & beyond some special prayers, the services were as usual. The Collection was for R.A.F. Benevolent Fund and produced £30-6-11. |
| **1943 National Day of Prayer**  | Special Service 7.00 pm Congregation very poor 30. Collection £2.9.5 to “Their Day” form of service herewith. (see order of services in Appendix) |
| **Harvest Festival** | Sunday September 12th Communicants (7 & 8 am) 26. Morning Prayer preacher Revd M. Rycroft Asst Curate of Northam Congregation 85 Evening Prayer Preacher Revd T. Young C.F. Congregation 69. Collections for Bideford Hospital totalled £7.10.9. The Church was, as usual, beautifully decorated & peals were rung for both services and also after evening prayer. The Harvest Supper at which were some 125 people was held in the Parish Hall at 7.00pm on Wednesday October 13th songs and play by children followed and the gathering broke up about 11pm. |
| **Armistice Sunday** | Held on Sunday Nov 7th. Collection for Earl Haig’s Fund amounted to £4.19.0 Morning Prayer followed by Holy Communion Evening Prayer at 3.15 preacher Rev F. Hobbs (Baptist). There was no British Legion Parade. |
| **Death of Verger & Sexton** | On Thursday July 6th at about 8.30 AM Mr Alfred Glover met with a fatal accident at Riccards Down having collided with a Buckleigh Laundry Van when he was cycling to work: He was buried in the Churchyard at 3.00 pm on Saturday July 8th. A large congregation was present & the service was conducted by the Vicar Revd B. M. Challenor and the Revd E. A. Du Cane - former Vicar – The Parish and Church have lost a valued friend & faithful steward. A testimonial realized £16-10-0 (see notes x 3 in Appendix) |
| **1944 July 13/27**  | The Church Army Van and two Sisters visited the parish between these dates The Van was parked outside the Church, services were held and the Sisters each preached at Evensong on the two Sundays. The collections on July 23rd were given to the Church Army Van department. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Verger & Sexton** | Owing to the death of Alfred Glover, it was necessary to appoint a new Verger, Sexton and Church cleaner. Mr T. Friendship very kindly undertook the posts for the duration and, pending a meeting of the Parochial Church Council, he was appointed by the Vicar and Churchwardens to the combined posts as from Monday July 16th – Salary £15 per annum. |
| **Church Key**  | At about 8.45 pm on Monday August 8th (Bank Holiday) 1944 when Mr Friendship went to lock up the Church he found the door key missing – This key he had, when opening the Church at about 8.30 am the same morning, placed in the lock inside the door which he had fastened by hook to the pew to keep it open. The Vicar had entered the Church at about 6.30 pm but had noticed nothing. He would not have seen the key unless he had looked behind the door – possibly taken by a “souvenir hunter”. |
| **National Day of Prayer** | Sunday September 3rd 1944 on entering the fifth year of the war – Congregation morning H C 51 Evening 28 Collection for “Their Day” £6.5.6 |
| **Harvest Festival** | Sunday Sept 10th 1944 Preacher in morning Revd A. P. D Pinkey late Vicar of Northam and in Evening Archdeacon E. A. Newton. Congregation H. C. 37 Morning 81 Evening 63 Collection for Bideford hospital £9.7.7. – The church was as usual beautifully decorated but the evening congregation was again not what it used to be.  |
| **Blackout** | Abbotsham not being among the places in which free blackout restrictions had been replaced by a “dim out” Evensong on Sundays had to be held at 3.15 commencing 1st October 1944 |
| **Harvest Home** | Held Thursday October 12th in the Parish Hall and attended by approximately 100. Songs by children and games followed the supper.  |
| **1944 Remembrance Sunday** | Held at 3.15pm Sunday Nov 12th – a very poor attendance only 40. The British Legion Branch do not even attend this church nor do many ex service men. It was a wet day but this need not have kept people away. Preacher Revd F. Hobbs Baptist Minister. Church Collection throughout day £5.5.0. the Legion form of service omitting the laying of wreath etc was used.  |
| **1944 Sunday Dec 17th** | Evensong (said) 2.30. At 3.15 there was a carol service (details as on slip) – a portion of the Bideford Grammar School choir came also 4 instrumentalists from Mr Peters’ (of Bideford) orchestra – some of the Church Infants School and the Congregation. Mr Grant (Lay Reader) assisted the Vicar. Congregation (all included) 94 Collection for St Dunstans. Collection amounted to £3.6.1. |
| **Memorial to the Late Mr Alfred Glover** | 1945 January 24th. A meeting of Subscribers to this fund was held in the Parish Hall – owing possibly to the heavy snow, the attendance was very poor, it was announced that £15-10-0 had been collected by Mrs Taylor and Mr Hockin. It was decided that, subject to the approval of Mrs Glover, this amount should be expended in part payment of any Headstone and lettering also curbing that Mrs Glover might decide to erect on his grave.  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** | The 1945 meeting was this year held in the Parish Hall, and, by way of an effort to get more interest and a better attendance, invitations were issued to all on the Electoral Roll and the meeting was followed by refreshments and an entertainment, the former arranged by the Ladies of the P.C.C. and the latter by Mrs Challenor – 33 attended out of the Electoral Roll of 103.  |
| **1945 Archdeacon’s Visitation Court** | Held at Bideford Wednesday April 25th. The Vicar (Revd B.M. Challenor) was away and was excused. Mr Lomas (People’s Warden) was also away but the Vicar’s Warden (Col Bassett) attended. The Church, ornaments etc were reported in good order except the roof and the Archdeacon remarked that everything was kept in beautiful condition. The Archdeacon announced that he (Revd Edgar Hay M A) was resigning at the age of 82 and that this would be his last visitation.  |
| **Amended Lectionary** | The Amended Revised Lectionary compiled by the joint Committee of the Convocation of Canterbury which the Bishop of Exeter had urged Incumbents to introduce was used for the first time at Evening Service on Sunday 29th April (4th after Easter) |
| **Easter Day** | The Vicar was not well but took the 8AM Communion and the 12 o’clock there were 51 Communicants. Mr W. H. Arlett took Morning Service and Mr H. C. Sanders the Evening Service Congregation 42 at 11 20 in the evening (6.30pm for the first time this year owing to double summer time) Easter offering £18.18.6. |
| **Thanksgiving for Victory** | Sunday May 13th 1945 – There were about 200 at Morning Prayer including some 60 from St Peter’s Court School (now at Moreton after having been burnt out at Crediton) order of Service attached. Evening Service 29 Collection came to £6.10.9 and were given to the Fund for Christian Reconstruction of Europe. This sum included the collection taken on V.E. Day. Sunday August 19th 1945 – V.J. Days were the previous Wednesday and Thursday and the thanksgiving service was held this Sunday – the same form being used as before – at the 11 o’clock service and 6.30 Evensong. The Congregation were H.C. 31. M.P. 72 E.P.95 (including some 55 scouts)The Collection on this day and in the preceding Thursday were for the Church’s fund for Rehabilitation of Europe and amounted in all to £10.12.9. |
| **1945 Harvest Festival** | Held Sunday 16th September – Morning Preacher Revd A. Chandler Vicar of Clovelly Congregation 66 Evening Mr Arlett Congregation 62 – There were 19 Communicants. The Church as usual was beautifully decorated but much more system is necessary as no sooner is one mess cleaned up then someone else comes in and makes another – there is no central control – one person does a window in the morning and in the afternoon someone comes along and alters it.  |
| **1945 Harvest Home** | On Thursday October 25th, the usual Harvest Home was held in the Parish Hall – some 140 of all ages sat down to supper which was followed by games for children, songs and music and finally dancing – a very enjoyable gathering.  |
| **1946 Lent** | There being no longer any “black out”, Lentern Services were held at 7pm on Friday evenings. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Easter Day** | The Vicar was unfortunately suffering from an attach of laryngitis, there was no 7AM Communion but one at 8 at which the Vicar’s Warden read the epistle to save the Vicar’s voice and one after Mattins (*matins?)*. Mattins was taken by the Lay Reader Mr A.C. Sanders there were 74 Communicants. The Vicar was able to take evensong – morning Congregation 68 Evening 35 – the smallness was undoubtedly due to the uncertainty as to whether or not a service could be held and a number went to Bideford and Northam. Collection for Easter offering up to the evening amounted to £18.0.8. |
| **Electric Organ Blower** | On Sunday Sept 1st before Morning Prayer a short service of Dedication was held for the Electric Organ Blower presented by Mrs Moseley in memory of her son “Tim” who had died on active service – the blower was supplied by Messrs Vowles ? Ltd – Regent Terrace, St James Square, Bristol 2. (see newspaper article in Appendix) |
| **Harvest Festival** | Held on Sunday October 6th 1946 – Collection for Bideford Hospital £8-8-3. Preacher at Morning Prayer Revd L. E. Mallett Vicar of Bucks Mills and at Evensong Revd E. B. Bridges Vicar of Northam Communicants 25 Congregation in Morning 70 in Evening 60. Owing to Bread and other rationing regulations no Harvest Home was held this year.  |
| **Church Roof** | The Parochial Church Council having decided that it was absolutely necessary that the whole of the roof should be re-nailed and various affiliated repairs carried out – the work was entrusted to Messrs Dudley Coles of Honiton on the “cost plus” basis – the work commences on October 19th 1946 |
| **1946 Oct 30th** | The Revd B.M. Challenor formally resigned the living (as) on this day and left the parish and arrangements were made by the Sequestrators that services should be taken by Revd H.D. Pinkey (formerly Vicar of Northam) who is on the list of the Bishop’s Special Clergy.  |
| **Box for Wafers** | Some time in Sept 1946 the then Vicar (Revd B.M. Challenor) instituted the use of wafers and a lovely silver box was presented by Mrs Moseley and her family in further remembrance of her son “Tim” who died in active service.  |
| **Private Communion Set** | In November 1946 Mrs Sealy - Patron of the living presented to the Church a silver Private Communion set chalice and paten screwing together and a bottle of wine to fit and also a small silver font – these were given for the use of the Incumbent for the time being but were to remain the property of the Church.  |
| **Remembrance Sunday** | On Sunday Nov 10th Remembrance Services were held for those who died in both wars. At 11AM the service took the form of Matins to end of Third Collect followed by the Special Service form A. At 3pm the British Legion Service was held partly by the Memorial Cross and partly in the Church about 25 members of the Legion and other ex soldiers men and women paraded and the whole congregation totalled 96. The Collections throughout the day were for Earl Haig’s Fund and came to £6.19.0. Brigadier Peto D.S.O. (MP) laid the Legion Wreath and the services were conducted by Revd H. D. P. Pinkey.  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **New Vicar** | On Thursday 14th Nov the new Vicar Designate the Revd Walter H. Smith arrived at the Vicarage to take up residence prior to induction and was welcomed by a peal of bells at 8pm. (see paper cutting in Appendix)On Wednesday Nov 27th Revd Walter Henry Smith was instituted by the Bishop of Exeter assisted by the Archdeacon of Barnstaple at Barnstaple Parish Church at 4pmOn Wednesday Dec 4th the Induction Ceremony was held at Abbotsham by the Archdeacon in the presence of a congregation of 86 – the clergy of the Deanery were well represented – the service was at 6.30pm the collection was £3.9.3 for the Archdeacons CW&O fund.  |
| **Easter 1947** | Sunday April 6th – as usual the Church was beautifully decorated and attendances were better than last year. Communicants 77 – morning service 77 – Evensong 75. East offering £14-7-0 (for purposes of taxation) |
| **Flag** | In June 1947 Brigadier Peto and another member of the congregation presented a White Ensign to hang in the church with the Union Jack already there. This flag was hung behind the pulpit and at the base of the staff the words “1939-1945 Lest we forget again” |
| **Special Service** | On Sunday July 6th in compliance with the wish of His Majesty the King, a special service was, in common with other churches throughout the land, held in the morning. The congregation was not as good as would been expected for a National Day of Prayer and numbered a ??? 45 |
| **Church Roof** | In March 1947 the re-nailing of the whole of the roof was completed – the work was done by Messrs Dudley Coles of Honiton at a cost of £338.17.11 of which £170 was raised by subscriptions £10 grant from Diocesan funds £11 from box in the Church and the remainder from share of profits of Gymkhana held at Bowood.  |
| **Harvest Festival 1947** | Held on Sunday September 14th – As usual the decorations were very nice. There were 20 Communicants at the 8AM service (the early one) 73 at Morning Service and 104 at the Evening Service The collection for the Hospital came to £9.19.10. The Preacher at both services was the Vicar.  |
| **Day of Prayer** | Sunday 6th July a good congregation attended the Special Service of Dedication called for the His Majesty the King. |
| **Remembrance Sunday** | November 9th At Morning Service the special form was used in Remembrance of those who died in both wars and in the afternoon (3pm) the British Legion Service was used at this service there were 121 present including 26 members of the Branch and their Colours – Brigadier Peto MP laid the wreath and spoke the words and the Chairman of the Branch (Col Bassett) read the lesson. The collection for Earl Haig’s Fund realised over £10. For Evensong some 45 members of the Congregation went to Weare Gifford as part of the joint services instituted by the Rural Dean to encourage small congregations – the R.D. preached.  |
| **Easter 1948** | Easter Day March 28th the Church was admired by several strangers and the services went well as is usual – the decorations were beautiful without being heavy – 87 communicants, at 11AM 88 at Evensong only 52 the latter is accounted for by the fact that there was a local Chapel baptism held in Bideford in the evening at which there was a large attendance. The Easter offering as entered in the register was £17.11.7.  |
| **1948 May** | The church was ?re- ?? washed except for the roof at a cost of £45 by Mr F. W. Hockin of Abbotsham.  |
| **1948 July** | A new church gate was made by Messrs Ellis & Son of Bideford, the cost was £56, much more than was anticipated but the work had to be done as the old gate was a disgrace to the church; at the same time the stone in the middle was ?levered as this had often proved a nuisance at funerals and other occasions when both gates were opened.  |
| **Harvest Festival** | Held on Sunday 10th November only 17 Communicants in the early morning – at 11Am there were 101 and the preacher was Revd L. C. Mallett Vicar of Bucks Mills and Rural Dean etc In the evening 136 when the Vicar preached – the collection for Industrial Christian Fellowship amounted to £11-5-0. This was a wonderful service especially in the evening, I have never known the Church look better and everyone joined in – there were people from Northam and Bideford C of E and non-conformists and all were delighted – the bells were rung at both services and also after evensong.   |
| **Fête 1948** | A fête was held in the Vicarage grounds on Wednesday July 14th and was a great success including a Baby Show, everyone worked well particularly the man who cleaned up everything the same night. The proceeds came to £88-18-10 of which £50 went to the CWO £35 -0-0 to Churchyard Fund and the balance to Bishop’s Post War Needs Fund.  |
| **Remembrance Sunday 1948** | The Annual Remembrance Service was held in the Church and before the war memorial, the Congregation at that service held at 3.15pm was 95 of which the Legion Branch numbered 25: the preacher was Revd E. F. Knight B.D. Baptist Minister and the Collections during the whole day for Earl Haig’s Fund was £9-2-5. The Flag Day Collection was £25-12-4 |
| **Easter Day 1949** | The decorations were again very nice Mrs Cork? brought some lovely double stocks which all admired; the congregations were disappointing possibly because it was such a lovely warm day suitable for the beach only 67 Communicants 87 at 11AM and 48 only in the evening – the East offering as shown in the register was only £12-5-11 |
| **Vicar’s Illness** | On Wednesday March 8th in the very early morning Mr Smith had to be taken to hospital with a duodenal ulcer and was at once operated upon, he was only in hospital for about 3 weeks but, of course, could not take duty till April 3rd, during the interval Revd W. T. Gibbings took the duty –  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1949 Fête** | The Church Fête was held this year on Wednesday June 29th, again in the Vicarage Gardens and was blessed with a lovely day – it was even more, financially and otherwise, successful than last year and showed a profit of just over £100 |
| **Hartland Deanery Bell Ringers Guild** | The competition was this year held at Abbotsham and Saturday July 16th and was attended by some 8 teams – Abbotsham was adjudged the winners for the first time – there was tea in the Parish Hall and a short service at 7.30 of which a record was taken by the Bideford Radio Service, there were about 60 in Church and the collection of £1-11-8 was handed over to the ?? of the Guild – after the service Mrs Smith (the Vicar’s wife) distributed the shield and certificates – a most successful day – Mr C. S. Nicholls was captain of our team and to him was due the success won - (see newspaper article and order of service in Appendix) |
| **Verger**  | On July 29th 1949 Mr T. Friendship, who had been appointed Verger on July 16th 1944 died owing to ill health, he had relinquished the post as from 1st July but only survived 29 days – he was a great loss to the parish and Church to which he was a faithful servant having been a chorister for some 60 years and a bell ringer only a year less, a testimonial was arranged prior to his death but had not been handed to him, it realised some £20 – A Testimonial raised £22-12-6 which was handed to his widow. (see newspaper article in Appendix) |
| **New Cleaner** | Following the retirement of Mr Friendship it was found necessary to divide the duties of Verger and Mrs Jewell undertook the duties of Church Cleaner at 10/- a week - the duties relating to the heating system would be arranged when fires became necessary.  |
| **Harvest Thanksgiving**  | Held on Sunday September 25th the Church was as usual beautifully decorated and particular reference should be made of a model ?? made by Mr Beckley – The congregation, particularly the morning one, was somewhat reduced owing to several other neighbouring parishes holding their services on the same day – there were 21 Communicants, 54 at 11o’clock and 12 in the evening – both sermons were preached by the Vicar (Revd W. H. Smith) and the collections for Industrial Christian Fellowship amounted to £8.5.8 a party of 12 came from Weare Gifford under the auspices of Mr J. G. Cork.  |
| **Vicar’s Illness** | The Vicar (Revd W. H. Smith) was unfortunately taken ill again – shortly after the Harvest Festival with internal haemorrhage and was taken to hospital, most of the services up to October 23rd were taken by Revd W. T. Gibbings. |
| **Remembrance Sunday** | Conducted by Revd S. H. Hemsley, the Preacher being Revd E. F. Knight Baptist Minister, it was unfortunately a wet day but cleared for the short service at the memorial in the afternoon – HC at 8 – Matins with the 2 minutes of silence at 11 and Legion Parade Service at 3 when Revd E. F. Knight preached, at this latter service there were 94 of whom 19 were Legionnaires – Collections throughout the day were for Earl Haig’s Fund and amounted to £8-2-6. The Flag Day Collection was £27-3-7 – the wreath at Legion Service was laid by Capt. S. Bell M.C who also spoke the words.  |
| **Vicar’s Illness** | After being taken ill on Sept 27th, the Vicar was unable to undertake any duty until Dec 4th when he took 8 o’clock H.C only - this did not appear to have any ill effect and he resumed full duty on Sunday December 18th 1949.  |
| **1950 Easter Day** | The Church, as always, was beautifully decorated – there were 72 Communicants and at 11am the congregation numbered 105 and at 6.30pm 60. The Vicar took all services – the Easter offering amounted to, according to the register, £14.13.4 |
| **Rural Dean’s Visitation** | The Rural Dean visited and inspected the Church on Thursday April 20th 1950 and was met by the vicar and both church Wardens, he wrote his report in the R.D’s book: the appropriate fee of 5/- was duly paid |
| **1950 July 5** | Revd E. A. Du Cane for eleven years Vicar of this Parish died on this day and was buried at Abbotsham on Friday July 7th – about 60 people attended and some of his old parishioners formed the choir and the service was conducted by the Vicar (Revd W. H. Smith) and Revd W. T. Gibbings, the latter took the internment. (see newspaper articles in Appendix) |
| **Bishop’s Visit 1950** | On Sunday July 23rd the Rt Revd Dr Mortimer Bishop of Exeter preached and read the second lesson at Evensong. The congregation was 137 and at that service the Collection for the Bishop’s Post War Fund was £5.2.9. |
| **Harvest Thanksgiving 1950** | Unfortunately this year was a very poor harvest owing to incessant rain and the first verse of Hymn 382 was therefore omitted also no 389 was sung. The Vicar preached at both services the morning service had 75 but Evensong was poorly attended, there being only 81 possibly partly due to a Chapel Harvest Festival in Bideford. Collections were for the Industrial Christian Fellowship - the decorations were well up to standard being very beautiful – the weather on this day was also against us being very rough and wet.  |
| **Remembrance Sunday 1950** | Sunday November 12th Special Service 3pm taken by Revd E. .F Knight B. A. Baptist Minister preacher the Vicar (Revd W. H. Smith) congregation 92 – Legion parade and laying of wreath – collections throughout the day for Earl Haig’s Fund £8-13-1 (see newspaper article in appendix) |
| **New Vicar 1953** | Upon the resignation of the Revd W. H. Smith, the Revd Leonard Woolcott B.A, L. Th. Was nominated by Mrs Sealy to fill the vacancy.  |
| **Mrs Sealy’s Death 1953** | Mrs Sealey passed away in Oct 1953 at the age of 91. The following obituary notice, written by Mrs H.A. Lomas appeared in the November issue of the Hartland Deanery Magazine. (see Appendix) |
| **1954 Institution and Induction** | The Revd L. Woolcott, late Vicar of Buckland Brewer, was Instituted to the Living of Abbotsham by the Lord Bishop of Exeter on Thursday February 11th at 6.30pm and was afterwards Inducted by the Ven. the Archdeacon of Barnstaple. There was a large Congregation, which included many from Buckland Brewer. The Bishop, clergy and congregation were afterwards entertained by the P.C.C with light refreshments at the Parish Hall.  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Fete**  | Abbotsham Church Warden Fete held at The Vicarage Garden on Wednesday 30th June 1954Income £201-13-3Expenses 11 -3-3Balance £190-10-0 |
| **Remembrance Sunday** | Remembrance Sunday was observed on Nov 7th. There were large congregations. The British Legion paraded at a Memorial Service in the afternoon, which the Vicar conducted and at which the Rev. E..F. Knight (Baptist) preached. Offertories £13-16-10.  |
| **Bideford Gazette 15/4/55** | Annual Meeting of the Abbotsham Church members (see newspaper cutting in appendix)  |
| **Jumble Sale 25/5/55**  | *Abbotsham Jumble Sale - the successful “mannequin” was Mrs Davies – Pump Lane.* (see newspaper article and photo in Appendix)  |
| **Abbotsham Annual Church Fete 6/7/55** | Total Income £272 -12-1Total Expenses 10 - 8-0Nett Result £262 - 4-1(see newspaper article in appendix) |
| **1954** | Church heating apparatus repaired. New Chancel carpet (red) provided.  |
| **1955** | All guttering and down pipes of church cleaned and repainted. Oak door and Churchyard gate – scraped and treated with linseed oil. Two large brass altar candlesticks given by Mrs Glover (Newquay) in memory of her husband Charles Henry Glover (late of Abbotsham)Dedicated 4 Sept: New Roll of vicars given by Mrs Du Cane in memory of her husband Edmund Arthur De Cane (Priest) late Vicar of Abbotsham. |
| **18 Sept** | Dedicated Fair Linen Altar Cloth worked and given by Mrs Rawdon in memory of her mother – Mrs Drummond |
| **11 Dec** | New seating and felt provided for all the seats in the nave, from money collected by Mrs Woolcott (Dec) |
| **1956** | 1st Jan: Dedicated another Fair Linen altar Cloth worked and given by Mrs Rawdon in memory of her mother. 18 Mar? 25 new hymn books (A&M) provided for congregation by P.C.C.  |
| **13th April 1956** | *Bideford Gazette Article heading “Church attendances up in Abbotsham”* (see Appendix) |
| **1956 15th April** | Dedicated two Sanctuary brasses vases, given by her children in memory of (Mrs) Gertrude Sealy (1862-1953). Also dedicated teak seat for Churchyard, given by her 9 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren in memory of (Mrs) Gertrude Sealy.  |
| **27 Apr 56** | *Bideford Gazette article heading “Abbotsham Stalwart, Mr C. H. Pickard* (see Appendix) |
| **11 May 1956**  | *Bideford Gazette article heading “Death Watch Beetle at Abbotsham”.* (see Appendix)The amount offered was £267-7-6Plus received later 50-0-0 £317-7-6Plus received later 5-0-0 Total £322-7-6 |
| **8th July 1956** | Seven large type hymn books presented to the church for use of congregation by the Henry Hoare Bible Trust (c/o Messrs Hoare and sons, Bankers, Fleet Street, London) |
| **10 July** | Vase in form of jug – depicting 4 saints (in duplicate) presented anonymously for use on table near font.  |
| **Western Morning News July 6th 1956** | *Article headed “Abbotsham Church People Thanked”. “Determined effort to combat the death-watch beetle”.* (see Appendix) £ s dGross Receipts 443-5-6Expenses 11-3-0Nett Result 432-2-6 |
| **Sept 1st** | New Alter cover with *chrochet* lace front and new Credence Table Cloth given by Mrs Rawdon.  |
| **Bideford Gazette 7 Sept 1956** | Announcement of closure of Alwington School and transfer of children to Abbotsham Church of England School. *Article headed “Alwington School closure Agreed”.* (see newspaper article in Appendix) |
| **30th Sept (see 1/9/56)** | Dedicated Altar Cover and two Credence Table Cloths made and given by Mrs Rawdon in memory of her mother (Mrs Drummond) |
| **Oct** | Set of large reinforced plaster painted figures for Christmas Crib – given by Messrs J Baker & Sons, Bideford |
| **11 Nov** | Remembrance Sunday observed. Congregations: at 8am H.C 30: at 11am *Mattins* 78; at 3pm Remembrance Service and British Legion Parade 153. Offertories for British Legion Fund £20-0-0.  |
| **Bideford Gazette 16/11/56** | *Article headed “Remembrance at Abbotsham”.* (see Appendix) *Note alterations made to amounts raised – Abbotsham Poppy Day raised £56-8-2 and Church collections £20-0-0.*  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Bideford Gazette 15/3/57** | *Article headed “Abbotsham now has belles of bells”.* (see picture in Appendix). *Note: names have been hand written under picture in Parochial Diary as follows from left to right: Mr F Fulford, Frances Moggeridge, Mr S Nicholls, Peggy Moggeridge, Mr C W M Turner, Mr W Brocks, Mr S Beckley, David Stapleton.*  |
| **Bideford Gazette 24/5/57** | *3 line article about church jumble sale on 22/5/57 raising £60* |
| **Bideford Gazette 12/7/57** | *Article headed “Rain-freshed Gardens”.* Mr & Mrs Wilkinson are parishioners of Abbotsham and regularly attend our services, the garden is really lovely, (*initialled)* L.W.  |
| **Bideford Gazette 24/5/57** | Article headed “92 years old and an active Gardener”, “Abbotsham Diamond Wedding”. *Regarding Mr & Mrs John Ley.* (see Appendix) |
| **June 1957** | New large mat provided for main (North) door. Ordered from Hayward & Cook, Grenville St, Bideford at a cost of …… |
| **Bideford Gazette 5/7/57** | *Article headed “Chorister for 50 years” “Flowers he had grown at Abbotsham funeral”.* *Regarding funeral of Charles Easton of Puttridge Cottage.* (see Appendix) |
| **Bideford Gazette 12/7/57** | *Article headed “Abbotsham’s Fight”, “Church Fete Raises Over £400”.* *Regarding raising funds to combat the death-watch beetle in the church.* (see Appendix)Final FiguresIncome £432-9-8Expenses 10-9-6Balance £422-0-2 |
| **Express and Echo 11/7/57 and Western Morning News 12/7/57** | *Article with photos.* *Regarding prize winning babies, 2 named as Amanda Joy of Northam and Camilla Palmer of Bideford pictured with Revd L Woolcott* (see Appendix) |
| **18 Aug 1957** | New oak framed notice board given to the Church for use in the porch (?? Mr Cole and Mr E Moase) |
| **20 Aug** | 12 “Cathedrals Psalters” given for use of the choir by Mrs Woolcott (1 book by Mrs Hearn) |
| **28 Sept** | A teak garden seat – presented to the churchyard by Mr&Mrs Eric Bean of Coombe, bearing a metal disc, of which the following is a rubbing (picture of *actual rubbing)* Inscription is “Timber Ex HMS Arethusa, Launched 1849 Odessa, Broken Up 1933 Sebastopol. The last ship to sail into action. Castles Shipbreaking Co. Ltd 160 Millbank, London”  |
| **Aug Sept** | New cassocks and surplices for boys and new cassocks for men provided out of Churchwardens’ a/c at cost of approx.. £50.  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1958 January Bideford and North Devon Gazette** | *Article headed “Former Vicar of Abbotsham”,* “Funeral of Revd. W. H. Smith” (see Appendix) |
| **Feb 6th** | Mrs Rawdon send 4 white offertory bags and a white pulpit antependium which she had most beautifully refurbished. |
| **Jan to March** | The Nave (E. of the font) and the South Transept cleared of all defective worm eaten wood. New flooring, joists, sills, panelling etc laid on a new sub floor a cost of £506.  |
| **Mch 31st** | New carpet and 4 hassocks given anonymously for the “Lectern Corner”.  |
| **Apl 3rd** | Handsome new curtain in red and gold silk brocade given by girls of St Michael’s School, Petworth for organ. |
| **Apl 4** | Handsome oak seat for porch given by Mrs Kiernander – made by Mr W Palmer Shebberton.  |
| **Bideford Gazette 11/7/58** | *Article headed “Over £500 raised at Church Fete at Abbotsham”, “Reply to death watch beetle menace”.* (see Appendix) |
| **Bideford Gazette 18/7/58** | *Article headed “Abbotsham Fete Net Total £513”.* (see Appendix) |
| **Ripon Gazette 31/7/58** | *Article headed “Married in Devon”.* (see Appendix) *Marriage of Miss Zoe Ravina Ayton and Mr Hughes Elder at Abbotsham Church.*  |
| **1958**  | *Two photos.* 1. Photo by Mr C C Prust of Abbotsham, Church exterior from South. 2. Photo by Mr W J Moase of Barnstaple. Centre panel reredos. The above two blocks are presented to the Church by Rev L Woolcott – who has used them for Xmas cards etc. They are in the careful custody of the Bideford Gazette. (see Appendix) |
| **June 1958** | 25 new Hymn and Prayer books (combined) provided from Ch. Expenses a/c (£25) |
| **Aug 1958** | New lamp for church gateway presented by a good and kind friend of Abbotsham church. Gateway and Church stonework “pointed”! |
| **October** | 112 new red kneelers provided at a cost of £33-7-0 paid for out of Ch. Expenses a/c.  |
| **Oct and November**  | Organ dismantled and thoroughly repaired by Osmonds & Co Ltd, Taunton at cost of £100.  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1956-58** | Summary of Payments to contractors etc in respect of work carried out in the Church, repairing the ravages of the Death-Watch Beetle.To J. Dawson & Sons, Clifton, Bristol 1956 £381-3-0 and 1957 £119-14-0. Oliver and Dyer, Barnstaple 1956 £30-0-0 and 1958 £12-10-0. 1958 Moase: £376-13-0 1958 W. Hockin £117-0-0Total £1037-2-0 + £98 (Osmond) Organ |
| **29th April 1958** | *Typed letter to Vicar from Ministry of Housing and Local Government stating that Abbotsham Church has been included in the list of Buildings of Special Architectural and Historic Interest.* (see Appendix) |
| **May 1959** | 25 new Prayer and Hymn books provided by P.C.C. at cost of £25.  |
| **July 8** | Parish Annual Fete produced £560-6-6 (A record). Expenses were £10-18-0. |
| **June to July**  | Expensive repairs to Tower – including a new roof. Contractors Mopps Ltd (Bideford) a/c Moase & Son (Abbotsham) a/c Architects Oliver and Dyer (Barnstaple) a/cAll woodwork throughout the church, sprayed with powerful insecticide by Dawson & Sons, Clifton, Bristol. a/c/ £184-10-0.  |
| **1959 23 Oct Bideford and North Devon Gazette** | *Article headed “His Oldest ex-Pupil is aged 81!”, “Former Abbotsham Headmaster is still going strong”.* (see Appendix) *Regarding Mr. Charles Hooper Headmaster of Abbotsham church of England School.*  |
| **1960 Apr 17th** | The gift of 6 Offertory Bags (oak frames) by Mrs Hilda Phillips in memory of her mother and sister – colours violet, white and red.  |
| **Apr 17th** | The gift of 4 Offertory Bags – one of each liturgical colours. We now have a complete set of new offertory bags, three of each colour. These last bags were bought out of a gift of £10 by Mrs Daubeny ?? |
| **30th April 1960** | *Newspaper article about death of Mr. H. A Lomas. Heading “Gave Much to the Area of his Adoption”* (see Appendix) |
| **16 June 1960** | *2 newspaper articles about the death / funeral of Revd. L Woolcott.* (see Appendix)  |