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BROUGHTON'S RECTORS

Some Interesting Past Events Recalled

Church Records of 1080

St. Mary's Church, Broughton, is one of the oldest in Hampshire, and if its mellowed walls could only talk what a wealth of interesting tales they could tell! Records going back as far as 1080 show that Thomas, Archbishop of York, held the living at Broughton at the time, and as the result of a chance encounter with Mr. Harry Robinson, the venerable churchwarden, I learnt many other interesting facts relative to the village's history hundreds of years ago (writes an *Advertiser* representative).

This week I happened to look inside the church to see the progress of the alterations which were commenced some time ago, and by good chance I saw Mr. Robinson there. Now Mr. Robinson, who is 71, joined the church choir when he was a lad of seven, and has been associated with the church ever since. Such a long period of service should furnish any person with all he wants to know about that church, and truly Mr. Robinson is an interesting gentleman to converse with on the history of St. Mary's, Broughton. Actually his father was churchwarden before him, and he took over the duties in 1915 after his father's death.

One of the first things he pointed out to me was the list of Rectors of Broughton since the erection of the church. This list was compiled by the Rev. Archer G. H. Gurney, Rector of Broughton from 1920-1929, with the assistance of Mr. Robinson, and now hangs on the wall of the church just inside the south door.

Burnt Down

History tells us that the church was burnt down in 1638, but was rebuilt with what was left of the stonework and fresh woodwork. Holes in the stone pillars, caused by the flames, bear evidence of how bad the fire must have been. Of the original parts of the building that remain is the piscina in the chancel, which is almost a thousand years old.

Looking around, my eyes fell upon the east window in the chancel, and this I was informed had been designed by that great English artist Kemys in 1904, when Alfred Woodin was the parish rector.

As I was moving towards the exit of the church I chanced to see a shiny brass plate upon the wall, and upon closer scrutiny saw that it bore testimony to the fact that the present church organ had been subscribed for by 600 of his friends to commemorate the life of Dr. Edward Loyd Harries Fox, M.D., a local doctor, who had died at the early age of 30.

This young man would go around helping his father, Dr. Luther Owen Fox, M.D., who for many years held a practice in the Broughton area. The erection of the south window of the church commemorates the death of Dr. Fox, senior, who with his son were great workers for St. Mary's Church.

BROUGHTON

Bright Hour Social.—On Thursday evening members of the Women's Bright Hour held their annual social. Members were privileged to bring a friend with them and a very happy time was spent. Mr. Horner, of Winterslow, entertained with humorous recitations and some conjuring tricks, at which he is adept. Mr. Annetts contributed the songs, "The Trumpeter," "The Monastery Garden" and "The Lost Chord." A coffee supper was provided at the close and the Rev. H. Wardle thanked all who had so kindly arranged such an enjoyable time, particularly mentioning Mr. Horner, and Mrs. F. Davis replied on behalf of the members.

Episcopal Visit.—On Sunday Dr. Cyril Garrett, the Lord Bishop of Winchester, was the preacher at St. Mary's Church. A special plea was made on behalf of the crowded new districts in the diocese, at Moordown, Bournemouth and the outskirts of Southampton. Clearance schemes had placed numbers of working-class people farther afield where there was no place of worship; the Bishop pleaded especially for that district which he had visited where a site had been promised, but the people's means were inadequate to build a church. Members of the Church at Bossington attended the service. The offerings for the day were taken on behalf of the cause and a good response was made. The bells were pealed in honour of the Bishop's visit. The very large congregation must have been impressed by the very beautiful change which has been made in the east end of the church. Thanks to the munificent generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Sale the island steps in the chancel have been extended to its entire width; the altar has been placed against the east wall; the heavy and rather cumbersome triptych which partly concealed the east window has been removed and its place taken by beautifully carved riddle-posts, supporting between them a rich, deep blue brocade, which picks up the tints of the superb Persian carpet stretching from the altar rails to the altar. The centre part of the triptych has been hung over the south choir

Notable Names

It is quite probable that some of the clergymen in this list, of which I took a copy, never resided at Broughton at all, but had a curate living in the parish to conduct the affairs. The list is: 1080, Thomas, Archbishop of York; 1328, John de Eston; 1361, Richard de Branketre; 1502, John Leviare and Henry Aynesworth; 1535, Roger Ellis; 1547, Edward Redford; 1552, Michael Reniger; 1558, John Nicholas; 1559, Robert Reniger; 1598, John Bridges; 1618, William Leonard; 1629, Matthew Nicholas; 1630, Giles Dowse; 1687, Henry Gray; 1719, Abraham Franks; 1722, Samuel Eyre; 1743, Thomas Durnford; 1774, Richard Thistlewhite; 1767, Robert Bathurst; 1781, Alfred Thistlewhite; 1802, Marmaduke Sealy; 1827, George Darby St. Quentin; 1842, Stanlake Lee; 1896, Alfred Woodin; 1917, S. Shepley Smith; 1920, Archer G. H. Gurney; 1929, J. W. Wardle.

The last one is not actually on the board yet, but will be added in due course. The present Rector is the Rev. E. S. Daubeney, who came in 1932.

Of course there are one or two rectors missing from the list, but to get as many as there are is really quite creditable.

Marmaduke Sealy, Rector in 1802, is a relative of a well-known personality in the Broughton district, Capt. Longman, the French Master at King Edward School, Southampton, who recently had the initials "M.S. 1802" carved upon one of the stones in the chancel floor, in memory of his predecessor.

Stanlake Lee, rector of Broughton in 1842, held the position for a period of over 50 years, and can still be remembered by some of the older inhabitants of Broughton, including Mr. Harry Robinson. It was Stanlake Lee, who in 1886 had the chancel restored when that part of the church was almost falling to bits. A new roof, made of pitch pine was put up, the work having been carried out by Mr. Christopher Robinson (father of the present Mr. Robinson), who was an accomplished carpenter.

Mr. Christopher Robinson also erected the present choir seats in the church which had been presented by William Steele Tompkins, another gentleman of close association with the church. The seats are made of locally grown oak.

Giles Dowse, another of the rectors from our list was probably related to the late Thomas Dowse, a very much respected person among Broughton residents, who founded a charity school in 1601. A stone slab to his memory caught my eye, the reading of which was most interesting. It read, "Here lieth ye bodyes of Thomas Dowse, Esq. and Blanch Covert, of Slaughtam, in ye county of Sussex, ye only wife of Thomas Dowse, hee dyed in ano 1602 and Blanch in Ano 1608, this monument in memory of them both was made at ye proper cost of Dr. Edmond Dowse, K.H., their fourth sonne. Performed in Ano 1625. Qui Nescit Caetera Quaerit."

stalls, and the side portions at the west end of the church. The interesting old memorial stones which were covered by the altar in its old position, have been laid in the east end of the nave; and the whole of the modern flooring in this part of the church has been replaced by other old memorial stones and tiling. Mr. and Mrs. Sale have shouldered the entire cost of these improvements, and Broughton may indeed congratulate itself on having such generous benefactors in these latter days.

The Late Mr. Evans.—Deepest sympathy has been extended to Mrs. Evans, Salisbury Road, in the loss of her husband, Mr. William Evans. Mr. Evans was a native of Pembrokeshire, coming to Broughton some years ago on his retirement, he having held an official position in the railway service. Until lately he was a regular attendant at the Methodist Church. The funeral service was held on Wednesday week, the Rev. A. Clarke, Circuit Minister, Salisbury, conducting, assisted by the Rev. H. Wardle (Broughton Baptist Minister). The hymns sung were "From Greenland's Icy Mountains," and one of Mr. Evans' favourites, "Shall we Gather at the River," which he sang a few days before he died. The chief mourners were: Mrs. Evans (widow), Mrs. Evans (sister-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. Smith (father-in-law and mother-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. Matthews (brother and sister-in-law), Mrs. Longman (sister-in-law), Miss Matthews (niece), Mr. Richards (Bournemouth), Mr. Stoneman (Harrow), Mr. and Mrs. Morris (Wanstead Park), Mr. and Mrs. Edmonds (Ringwood), Mr. W. Butler (Calne), Mr. H. Britten and Mrs. C. Gunstone, friends. Others who attended were Mr. C. King, Mr. A. Carter, Mr. W. Ray, Miss C. Hinwood, Mr. F. Hinwood and the Rector (the Rev. E. S. Daubeney). Floral tributes were sent by: His sorrowing wife; Mr. D. E. Evans (nephew); Mrs. Evans (sister-in-law); Mr. Richards (Bournemouth); Mr. and Mrs. Smith (father-in-law and mother-in-law); Mr. and Mrs. Matthews and Vera; Mr. and Mrs. C. Longman; Mr. Arthur Longman; Miss Jean Longman; Mr. and Mrs. Morris; Mr. and Mrs. Edmonds; Mr. and Mrs. Stoneman and family; Mr. and Mrs. Bartlett and family (Dorchester); Mrs. Turner (aunt), Hove; Mr. and Mrs. Redshaw and family; Miss Arnold and Mr. Crook; Mr. and Mrs. Carter and family; Mr. and Mrs. Rogers and Joan; Mr. and Mrs. Curtis and family; Nursing Association; Methodist Church and Sewing Class; David Wardle; Mr. and Mrs. Lansley and Marjorie; Mr. and Mrs. Dumper and family; Mr. and Mrs. C. Gunstone and Edwin; Mr. and Mrs. E. Gunstone and family; Mr. and Miss Gunstone and Mr. A. Gunstone; Mrs. and Miss Leigh; Mrs. Lewington and Sylvia.