

November 1968

The harvest festivals were held in both parishes on 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> October. We are grateful to all in both parishes who gave of their time, substance and money to make these festivals the success that they indeed turned out to be. The ladies who decorated are to be commended for their efforts and the children, especially at Twywell for their manifold of gifts; the services were on the whole well attended though the number of communicants at Woodford showed a considerable decrease. There are many, alas, who seem to have forgotten the importance of a regular communion and over the past year the decline has been very noticeable. This is to be regretted as it leads inevitably to an attitude of indifference to the spiritual life and a lapse into secularism the abiding heresy of the age in which we live – that is to say the attitude of mind which ignores self discipline and becomes enmeshed in the web of worldly pursuits and creaturely comforts. There is no substitute for a regular communion. No amount of attendances at other services can make up for the lack of devout communion Sunday by Sunday. It is our spiritual mainstay and shield.

The collections in the Church were as follows.

Woodford £65.13.6 and at Twywell £10.13.10. The sales of produce realised Woodford £21.2.1 and Twywell £15.1.2 (including money realised as the result of a draw run by Mrs Cockayne)

Our gratitude to Mr Southam and Mr Stapleton the auctioneers at Woodford and Twywell respectively and to all who helped to clear up, convey and sort the produce for the sale in both parishes.

Heating installation

The flooding of the Boiler House constitutes a problem for the experts. No solution have yet been discovered. However the engineers have found a leak in the Boiler caused either by a crack or a hole in one of the sections. This will necessitate the dismantling of the whole of the boiler to locate the trouble. It appears therefore that we shall be without heat for some time.

Obituary

Sir Edward Geoffrey de Capell Brooke. Bart., CBE, MA

The death of Sir Edward on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October though not expected least of all by himself came as a great shock to his friends and relatives. "Bear" Brooke as he was affectionately known by his intimates was born on 31<sup>st</sup> January 1880 and would have been 89 next January. He had hoped to live to be 90, thus establishing a record for long life in the annals of his family, but it was not to be. He was educated at Radley from whence he won a scholarship to Merton College in Oxford and graduated with a second class in "Greats" (Litterae Humaniores), one of the stiffest courses intellectually in the world. He subsequently in his more affluent and later years returned the amount of his scholarship to Merton, an act typical of him but one which I imagine few men would ever dream of doing. As a result of the onset of TB he went to Switzerland seeking, if not a cure, at least some alleviation from the disease but he always suffered subsequently and managed in a very remarkable way to survive to the age of 88 on approximately 1 ½ or less lungs. Returning from Switzerland he went to Guernsey in order to learn to grow Tomatoes with the idea, probably, that an open air life was the best life for him under the

circumstance. Subsequently he started the growing of tomatoes at Brushford in Somerset. During the First World War he became Private Secretary to Field Marshall Sir Henry Wilson, the CIGS and was a witness of the latter's assassination, being awarded, for his services the CBE. Sir Henry was a fervent Ulsterman and took a prominent part in the Irish troubles of those years. He was in consequence public enemy number one to the Sinn Fein of Southern Ireland. Sir Winston Churchill, a personal friend of Sir Henry's had this to say of the incident. "We should be thankful that the future is veiled. I was to be present at another scene in this room (the Cabinet Room). There was no Henry Wilson. The Prime Minister and I faced each other and on the table between us lay the pistols which an hour before had taken this man's life".

On the death of his brother Lord Brooke he succeeded to Oakley and the Baronety and enjoyed the income of the estate for his life – the estate being entailed. He gave up the growing of tomatoes in Somerset and came to live at Hill House with his sister, then in poor health, and continued to live there until his death. He was a man of intense spirituality and deep devotion and led a very austere life. He had a great love for the church and nothing was wont to upset him more than some of the public pronouncements of the more advanced Bishops. No good cause ever appealed to him in vain and always his response was overwhelmingly generous. When Lord Bletso wished to sell the right of patronage at Woodford he bought it for £800 and presented it to the Diocesan Boards of Patronage. At his own expense he reroofed the Church at Oakley, rewired it and had it decorated and limewashed. He subscribed £400 to the cost of the new heating installation in the Church here and was always a generous contributor to any of the money raising events which from time to time we have to organise. Always his weekly contribution appeared in the church plate – whether he was there or not, and in the last year of his life, even toward the end he did not forget to subscribe £50 to the fete, £50 to the Harvest Festival and £50 to the USPG on behalf of the parish. He always provided flowers for the altars regarding this as his privilege and by a codicil to his Will left £1000 to the Rector and Churchwardens. He was a man conscious of the responsibility of wealth and, a man to whom religion was not just a matter of a periodic attendance and Church but a part and parcel of his entire life. He was a great gentleman and the very best of his type, a type alas which is now rarely to be seen. He received the viaticum on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. I went to see him the following Saturday and he took my hand and held it against his cheek – seeking perhaps from this contact the strength to face the great crisis which he knew was upon him. He died the following morning. May God grant him a place of refreshment light and peace.

L E P de Casabianca

Twywell

The following extract from "Oundle Reminiscences" by Arthur Howitt may be of interest.

In my young days I often spent my summer holidays at Twywell, where my Uncle, Alfred Gray, was the schoolmaster and organist. The Rev Horace Waller was the Rector and two of his great friends were Dr Livingstone and General Gordon. The latter used to spend his holidays there and I remember he used to roll his own cigarettes. He once brought some stones from Mount Calvary and they were placed on the Communion Table. After a time I believe they were built into one of the pillars of the church.

## The Schools

The PTA met last month and from the fifty parents who attended a large working committee was elected. Plans were made for the annual Christmas party to be held on Friday December 13<sup>th</sup>, when Father Christmas will be present. More details about this will be published next month.

Attendances have been good and the normal lessons have been enlivened by a visit from representatives of the County Dental services who gave demonstrations at both schools.

As a result of damage to the roof and toilets at the infant school during evenings the area will be closed to all, after school hours. A notice to this effect will be placed on the building and police have been instructed to take proceedings against any unauthorised person

## The Scouts

Winter training has now started and although the headquarters are modern and efficient they are very cold. Our next effort is to install heating at the earliest opportunity. The Group Committee are still organising the monthly whist drive, but appeal for more support. Six tables is not an economic proposition for a whist drive and from a village the size of Woodford is a very small number when one reads of villages much smaller than ours having up to twenty tables. Come on Woodford, you'll have an enjoyable evening, good refreshments and a chance to win prizes.