

July 1916

EDWARD WHITMAN, Parish Clerk.

Wing Church and parish suffer a heavy loss by the death of our dear friend and Parish Clerk, Edward Whitman. How great the loss is to me personally, I cannot express and hardly like to think. We can only thank God for the many years of loyal and diligent service he has rendered to us all. A consistent and humble minded Christian, a regular communicant, most punctual and methodical in the discharge of his official duties, he was one on whom we had all learned to rely; he was always (so to speak) the same, the same quiet, courteous, capable man in all the works (and they were many) that he undertook, and at village festivities or gatherings of any kind his assistance was invaluable, and we were quite sure that where he was all would go smoothly and without a hitch. For upwards of 30 years he acted as Superintendent of the Boys' Sunday School, and was always to the fore in everything that was for the good and well-being of the parish. The Church with its seemly appointments and the reverence and order of the services (for which it is justly noted), owes much to his careful attention, for he spared no time or pains to make them as perfect as possible. He was an ardent member of the Freemasons' Lodge of S. Barnabas, Linslade, and never known to be absent from their meetings.

Edward Whitman was born at Linslade in 1846. He was for many years, first as a page, then footman, then butler, in the service of the late Francis Bassett, Esq., of The Heath. He came to Wing on his marriage in 1871, and took on Mr. Coles's business as grocer at his well-known shop in the High Street. By the death of Mrs. Whitman in 1909, he lost a devoted and affectionate helpmate, and though he was much helped by his son and daughter, he never quite recovered from the blow. However, it was not until last Christmas that his health broke down. We had hoped that he was slowly rallying, and, though unable to get about latterly, he carried on his work to the last. It was therefore a great shock to us all when he suddenly collapsed on the evening of June 16th. He was in his shop and alone at the time, the immediate cause of death being syncope, or heart failure. He was buried by his wife's side in our Churchyard. As might be expected, many friends and sincere mourners were present, for he was loved and respected by all who knew him. We shall not soon forget him nor the example of an earnest and dutiful life that he has left to us.

The race well run,
The work well done.
The crown well won,
And then comes rest.

THOMAS DIMMOCK.- On Thursday, the day before Mr. Whitman's death, Thomas Dimmock was taken from us by an equally sudden stroke whilst at work on the filter beds. He had been employed on the roads for many years under the District Council; he was an honest and industrious man, well known to us all, always hard at work, and yet with a pleasant word for each passer by.

WORK WOMEN CAN DO.- Except at Ascott, where several women and girls are employed in the garden and on the farm, and are doing excellent work, the employment of female labour has not "caught on" in our neighbourhood so much as we hoped it might. And as yet there have been very few applications for the elder boys from the school. Perhaps when the weather improves and the hay making begins in earnest, the need will be more felt. The County Education Committee are giving every facility for releasing such children as the farmers may apply for.

MISSIONARY FESTIVAL SERVICE.- A service for the parishes of the Deanery of Ivinghoe will be held at St. Barnabas Church, Linslade, on Thursday, July 13th, at 7.30 p.m., which it is hoped as many as possible from Wing will attend. The sermon will be preached by the Rev. W. L. Harnett, Vicar of St. George, Wolverton, and Rural Dean. The offertory will be given to the Universities' Mission in Central Africa – a most fitting object of our prayers and alms at this time. Many of our Mission Stations are in German territory, and our workers in those parts have been interned since the beginning of the war, and are known, so far as scanty news of them has come through, to be suffering great hardships, and now that active operations are taking place and the enemy is being hard pressed by General Smuts, the condition of our devoted countrymen causes greater anxiety than ever to their friends at home.

DIOCESAN MISSIONARY FESTIVAL.- The Festival will be held at Banbury on Tuesday, July 18th. If any from Wing wish to attend it, I will gladly give them every information, but Banbury is very difficult to get at from Wing, and this is partly the reason which has prompted the Rural Dean to arrange for the above service at Linslade on the 13th. The custom has been to take the three counties of the Diocese in turn. In 1914 the Festival was held at Reading, and last year Wycombe.

MOTHERS' UNION QUARTERLY MEETING.- The summer meeting will be held in the Vicarage garden towards the end of the month. The exact date depends on the convenience of the speaker. Notice of the day will be sent to the members later.

WING PROVIDENT DISPENSARY.- The annual collection for the Dispensary will be made in Church on Sunday, July 9th.

EXTRACTS FROM PARISH REGISTERS.

HOLY BAPTISM.

June 11th.- Elsie Beatrice, daughter of Frederick Forsyth, Gunner, R.F.A., and Emily, his wife, of Littleworth.

14th.- Arthur William, son of William John and Alice Page, of Wing.

MARRIAGE.

June 24th.- George Butcher, bachelor, of Leighton Buzzard, and Sarah Ann Smith, spinster, of Wing.

BURIALS.

June 12th.- Eva Mary Dudley, aged 15.

19th.- Thomas Dimmock, of Wing, aged 69.

20th.- Edward Whitman, Parish Clerk, aged 69.

OFFERTORY RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d.	
June 1 Ascension Day		6	5	Home Missions.
4 S. after Ascension	1	12	9	Sick and Needy.
11 Whit-Sunday	3	10	2	Church Expenses.
18 Trinity Sunday	5	19	4	Diocesan Fund.
25 S. after Trinity	1	14	0	Church Expenses.