

## THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL.

The approach of the School Festival was heralded by the announcement of Sermons on Sunday School work and collections for the expenses of the Festival on Sunday, May 9th. The Sermon in the morning to Teachers was preached by the Vicar who took for his text Matthew xviii. 5. "Whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth Me." The Rev. J. G. Deed, Curate in charge of Blakedown, preached in the evening to parents, showing how Sunday School Teachers did not wish to take the place that belonged properly to them in the education of their children, but only to aid and supplement their efforts, and saying how much the success of Sunday School work depended on the parents of the children doing their part to ensure regularity and punctuality. The appeal made to the congregation was liberally and readily responded to and the sum of £20 16s. 1d. was collected. The Teachers both in the Day and Sunday Schools return their best thanks to all who helped by their contributions.

The Festival was held on Monday in Whitsun Week as usual. The weather was everything that could be desired. The children mustered at their various Schools at 2 o'clock. The scholars from Worcester Cross School joining those at St. George's about-half-past and then all marching together, preceded by the Sunday School Drum and Fife Band and the new Banner, to the Church, where a short Service was held and an Address given by the Vicar. The Church looked very gay with the flags and banners, The behaviour was admirable, and the singing of the hymns most hearty and impressive. The galleries were filled to overflowing and there was a good number of parents and friends in the body of the Church. The Offertory amounted to £2 15s. 6d. making a total of £23 11s. 6d. given to the expenses of the Festival. Tea was ready at the schools immediately after Service, and 1012 scholars partook of it. There were 522 Boys and 490 Girls; of these 243 Boys and 241 Girls are Sunday School Scholars, not being in the Day Schools. The rest are in Sunday and Day Schools, or in Day Schools only. 60 Infants belonging to Worcester Cross Infant School had Tea on the following day, and 149 Infants belonging to St. George's on Wednesday, so that the total number of children was 1222. So large a number is not provided for without very considerable trouble and expense. The Teachers and other friends were indefatigable in their exertions, and thanks to them the children were thoroughly well taken care of. After Tea a procession was formed to go to the field: the Band preceding and playing lively music. A great feature in the procession was the new Banner, which was much admired and formed an additional attraction. It was made by Mr. Elam of London expressly for the Festival and cost £12 15s. More than £8 of this sum has already been collected by the Teachers and Scholars. It has a picture of St. George's Church on one side, with appropriate motto, and the name of the Schools and the date of their foundation on the other. It is a pity that it will not oftener be seen. Arrived at the field so kindly lent us again by Mr. Austin—whom with Mrs. Austin we have also to thank for hospitality to Teachers and for much needed supplies of milk—a circle was formed on the side of the hill with the Band in the centre, and "God bless the Prince of Wales" and "Rule Britannia" were sung. The effect was pleasing and pretty. The evening was spent in various games, racing for toys and other prizes kindly given by friends who came to look on, and of whom we were very glad to see a large number. Kites were flown, balloons sent up, sweetmeats and oranges distributed, and the time passed gaily till 8.30, when the Band, who had bravely done their part in the day's programme gave the signal to return home by playing "God save the Queen."

**Statement of Accounts of Children's Festival,  
May 17th, 1875.**

RECEIPTS.	£. s. d.	EXPENDITURE.	£. s. d.
Offertories May 9 <sup>th</sup> ...	20 16 1	650 lbs. Cake ...	10 16 10
Offertory May 17 <sup>th</sup> ...		Bread, Butter, Tea, Sweets	4 3 8
at Children's Service ...	2 15 6	Nuts and Oranges ...	1 10 0
Balance overdrawn ...	11 9	Milk. ...	13 4
		Toys and Balloons ...	2 17 8
		Hire of Crockery ...	1 14 7
		Tables and Chairs ...	1 4 6
		Printing ...	9 6
		Various ...	13 3
	<u>£24 3 4</u>		<u>£24 3 4</u>

**Notes added March 2018:** Bob Millward

In the preceding May issue of the Parish Magazine the following information was provided: "In this year the field was in the NEW ROAD, Mr. Austin's field. An offer of Mr. Radford's field at Greenhill was politely rejected because numbers were expected to be too high."

Mr. Austin was a farmer at Aggborough Farm so the NEW ROAD would have what later became Worcester Road and the field would have been in the vicinity of where Cobham Road is now situated. Cobham Road lies on the line of a cart way that once led to Aggborough farm from 'Worcester Road' [source: various historic maps and a drawing by Cuthbert Bede (Edward Bradley) dated September 1846.]

In 1875 Whit Monday lay on the 17<sup>th</sup> May.