



Parish News

Oaksey

A Remarkable Dream

The body of William Burgess, a labourer, of Oaksey, Wilts, was found in a pond near his work on Monday. He left home on Sunday morning to feed some cattle, and never returned. About a fortnight ago, Burgess dreamt that he was struggling in the pond in question, and related the dream to his wife.

Western Gazette Friday 26 April 1901

Loss of a Horse

Mr S B Hobbs, confectioner, of Castle Street, sustained the loss of a horse from injuries by collision with a trap in Shoe Lane, near Oaksey.

Gloucester Chronicle Tuesday 6 August 1901

Accident in the Hunting Field

Mr Arthur Rich, of Oaksey, well known follower of the Duke of Beaufort's and other packs of hounds, met with a serious accident yesterday. He was present at the meet of the V W H (Earl Bathurst's) Hounds at Perrott's Brook, and as the field were moving off for the fixture, while riding up a hill close by, the horse in front of Mr Rich lashed out, and kicked him on the leg, causing a severe compound fracture. He was carried into the residence of General Sir F Carrington, close at hand, and attended by Dr Howard Marshall. Later in the day, he was driven home to Oaksey, being accompanied by Mr Fowler and Dr Marshall.

Western Daily Press Wednesday 19 March 1902

Cotswold Gleanings

There is very little to write about again this week, as so many events were postponed owing to the death of King Edward. In only one parish church (and that near Cirencester) was no memorial service held last Friday, the vicar's excuse being that if he held one nobody would attend. I think he misjudged his parishioners, for every church, whether Established or Free, in which a memorial service was held, was, from information gleaned, crowded, and in many instances crowded to suffocation.

At Cirencester, every bit of standing room was taken up, and people thronged the doorways and footpaths, and quite 500 people failed to gain admission to either the Parish Church or Congregational Church.

One woman walked from Oaksey to Cirencester, a distance of seven miles, in order to be present at the Parish Church service, but she arrived just too late. Not many would have liked such an experience and such a disappointment.

Cheltenham Chronicle Saturday 28 May 1910

Cotswold Gleanings

Two years ago, and before the installation of the telephone in Oaksey Post-Office, I took the opportunity to congratulate the postal authorities on the smart way they dealt with telegraphic reports of the Oaksey Races for the "Gloucester Echo." Good as it was then, it was even better last Saturday, thanks to those in charge of the telephone at Oaksey and Malmesbury. Those who know the position of the Oaksey racecourse, the distance from the course to the post-office, will readily agree that it was indeed a creditable performance when I state that the result of the three o'clock race and betting were received in Cheltenham at 3.30, or three minutes after the call was given at Oaksey Post-Office. The four o'clock race and betting reached Cheltenham at 4.430, and the 4.30 race, which started somewhat late, at 5.15. To the post-office and telephone staffs at Oaksey and Malmesbury I tender grateful thanks for their courtesy and promptitude on Saturday last.

Cheltenham Chronicle Saturday 26 April 1913

Aeroplane Down

Considerable interest was aroused here on Tuesday evening by the descent of an aeroplane in Oaksey Park. The pilot hailed from Swindon, and in attempting to turn found himself at too low an altitude to clear the large trees of the Park, with one of which he collided. He escaped unhurt, and the Rev W J H Faithfull entertained him for the night.

On Wednesday, a party from the Flying School at Rendcombe fetched the machine away.

Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle Friday 17 August 1917

Cottage Hospital

The proceeds of the annual church parade organised by the "Malmesbury Lodge" of the RAOB, held on Sunday last, and attended by nearly 1,000 members of the Order, amounted to £20, this sum being devoted to the Cottage Hospital. Mr R C Warner, JP, of Oaksey, has given £100 to the hospital building fund. Unless a more adequate income is forthcoming, the Committee will be reluctantly compelled either to reduce the number of the nursing staff from nine to five, or to reduce the number of inmates received.

Western Daily Press Friday 29 May 1925

Cross Roads Smash

The Rev F W Nicklin (rector of Oaksey), and Mrs Nicklin, riding in a car, were involved in a collision which occurred with another car, on the cross roads at Garsdon, but although their car was damaged, they escaped with a severe shaking.

Western Daily Press Thursday 10 May 1928

Oaksey Outing

Bristol and Weston-super-mare provided an educational experience for a party of about eighty, which joined in the Primitive Methodist Sunday School outing. To many of the children it was their first ride in a motor vehicle, and they and several adults were astonished when introduced to the streets of Bristol, thronged with people, and gazed upon the sea at Weston.

Western Daily Press Thursday 26 July 1928

Oaksey Sports and Fete

The annual sports and fete, held in ideal weather, provided a very pleasant entertainment for the large gathering present. F Handy won the 100 yards and quarter mile events, and the team from Poole Keynes won the quarter mile relay race. The events for children were well filled.

Western Daily Press Thursday 11 September 1928

Rev W H Taylor

The Rev William H Taylor has taken up residence at Oaksey Rectory, where he succeeded the Rev F W Nicklin. Mr Taylor, who is a bachelor, has many years' experience with the church in India and has held a chaplaincy for ten years in Nagpur.

Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle Monday 6 January 1930

Rev W H Taylor's Short Stay as Rector of Oaksey

The Rector of Oaksey, the Rev W H Taylor, is leaving the parish next week, and is shortly sailing for India. He left England soon after his ordination, and before going to Oaksey last year, served the Church of India for nine years. He was ordained by the Bishop of London in St Paul's Cathedral, and after a short period at Canterbury, went abroad in 1920.

He was appointed Vice-Principal of St Paul's High School Ranchi, and was warden of the boys' hostel. In 1921, he accepted Chaplaincies, and was also assistant Priest at Ranchi Cathedral.

After serving as the railway chaplain at Adra, he became chaplain at Jamshedpur, which is in the diocese of the Bishop of Chota Nagpur, the Right Rev K W S Kennedy.

The Rector of Oaksey is sailing at the end of November for Lahore, where he will be the chaplain of the Europeans and Anglo-Indians.

During his service in India, Mr Taylor met with various adventures. His duties entailed perilous journeys and for some visits to the mining camps, he had to cross a treacherous river in hollowed trunks of trees.

While in Jamshedpur, Mr Taylor was in charge of a large native school, and he used to be assisted in his duties by native priests and workers.

Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle Thursday 23 October 1930

New Vicar of Oaksey

The Rev J C Field, who since January last has been curate at Corsham Parish Church, has accepted the living at Oaksey, near Malmesbury, and will be taking up his duties there in January next. Mr and Mrs Field, who came from South Africa for health's sake, have taken an active interest in work amongst the young in the Scout movement. Mr Field was also the chairman of the League of Nations Committee.

Western Daily Press Saturday 25 October 1930

Oaksey Epidemic

An epidemic of chicken-pox has broken out at Oaksey, and the schools have been closed. Last week there were ten new cases in the parish.

Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle Monday 17 November 1930

Lecture to the Oaksey Women's Institute

The annual meeting of the Oaksey Women's Institute was held in the village hall. The Hon Mrs Geoffrey Lawrence, president, was in the chair, and thanked the officers of the committee for their help during the year.

The committee's report was read by Mrs Eagle, the secretary. A satisfactory balance in hand was proved. Mrs Field, of Oaksey, gave a lecture on South Africa, where she had lived. She told of her experiences with the natives, and the manner in which they live.

The officers elected for the coming year were The Hon Mrs G Lawrence, president, Miss Buckland, Miss Chambers, Mrs S Cook, Mrs Eagles, Miss Eden, Mrs Fields, Mrs Gay, Miss M Hislop, Mrs Jarrett, Mrs Murray, Mrs Farah, Mrs J Sparrow, and Mrs Stevens.

During the tea interval, a duet was rendered by the Misses M Biggs and D Sherwood.

Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle Thursday 17 December 1931

Exhibition of Pictures

Miss Alice C Butler, of Gloucester Road, Malmesbury, is holding an exhibition of her water colours in the YMCA boys' room. They include "St John's Bridge and Arch," which was accepted by the Royal West of England Academy, and also the miniature "Nune Dimittis," which was accepted for the Royal Academy. One of the exhibits is a water colour of "The Holy Child and His Mother," painted for the children's corner in Oaksey church.

Western Daily Press Saturday 30 September 1933

The Rev John Charles Field

The Rev John Charles Field (rector of Oaksey for the last four years) has accepted an invitation to return to South Africa, and will sail early in March for Cape Town, where he will be priest-in-charge.

Western Daily Press Saturday 12 January 1935

Famous Wiltshire Oaks

Oaksey, an ancient parish in North Wilts, comes into the news just now through the Bishop of Bristol having appointed as Rector a curate from St Luke's Church, Brislington. The parish, which is in the North Wilts archdeaconry, near Swindon, has a population of just over 300 and the church of All Saints is a very handsome building. A writer in "Truth" states that Oaksey, as befits its name, was long famous for some of the finest oaks in the county. "It is a very ancient village," he says, "known as Wochisie in the Domesday

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Book, and here the Bohuns had a mighty castellated house which passed by marriage to the Duchy of Lancaster. The great house stood to the south of the church, but not one stone remains. The church itself is of various styles and was restored and added to in the 15th century. It is fortunate, however in still possessing numerous fragments of beautiful old glass dating back to the 14th century and part of a fine old rood screen." It is not difficult to imagine that in the illiterate days when the Domesday Book was compiled the word Oaksey was pronounced in a way that caused it to be spelt Wochisie.

Western Daily Press Saturday 23 March 1935

New Rector of Oaksey

The Bishop of Malmesbury performed the office of induction of the new rector of Oaksey, the Rev T J W Williams. The Bishop was accompanied by the rural dean the Rev H Milner-Walker. The congregation included about 40 of the rector's late parishioners from Bedminster. The clergy present were the Rev E Packer (Hankerton), the Rev F Hudson (Charlton), the Rev J L Redfern (Ashley), and Canon Worters (rural dean of Bedminster). Sir Geoffrey Lawrence and Mr S H Westlake (churchwardens) were in the procession. Tea was provided in the Village Hall by Lady Lawrence, which afforded an opportunity for the new rector to meet his new parishioners.

Western Daily Press Friday 17 May 1935

Parishioner's Memorial at Oaksey

The Rural Dean (Rev H Milnes-Walker) has dedicated gifts to Oaksey Church. They comprise a table and a chair as a memorial of the late Rev F W Nicklin (vicar of Abbots Leigh), many years Rector of Oaksey. The gifts are from the parishioners in memory of the happy period in which the Rev and Mrs Nicklin resided amongst them. Mrs Nicklin is a daughter of the rural dean.

Western Daily Press Wednesday 24 July 1935

Oaksey Fete

A fete in aid of the Scouts and children's outing to Avonmouth and the Clifton Zoo was held at Oaksey when dances by the children and displays by the Scouts formed part of the programme. Mrs Joyce (schoolmistress) was the organiser and the helpers included Lady Lawrence, Miss H Eden, Mr S Westlake, Mr Higgs, Mr J C Murray and Mr G Bartlett.

Western Daily Press Wednesday 24 July 1935

Oaksey Family Party Who Lost Dad at Paignton

I think one of the most exciting holidays I have spent was a day at Paignton, Devon. A family party of six went, and we enjoyed ourselves very much until the time for returning home, when to our dismay we found our train had gone, and we couldn't find dad anywhere.

We searched for him, but as he thought we had all gone on he took a short way to the station and missed us.

When we did arrive at the station we were told that we should have to wait 2½ hours for the midnight mail train, and so we went to the sea front again and there we saw the searchlight display from the battleships, which was well worth watching.

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Anyway, we arrived home about 9 o'clock next morning after a good deal of changing and waiting at stations, all very tired and excited, and it amused our neighbours very much when they heard of our adventures.

Sent in by Miss B Hitchings, Court Farm, Oaksey, Swindon, who will duly receive half-a-crown.

Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle Tuesday 13 August 1935

Farmer Too Young?

One hears so much these days of men being too old at 35 that it comes as a refresher to hear a man express the opinion that he is too young to occupy a position, and that it would be an advantage to the organisation concerned if a person of more mature age were selected to displace him. Mr S Westlake, of Oaksey Park Farm, was nominated to again fill the vice-chair of the Malmesbury branch of the National Farmers' Union at Saturday night's meeting at Malmesbury, but before the proposal was put to the vote he attempted to decline the honour conferred upon him by putting forward the above contention. Evidently members of the branch are all in favour of young blood, for Mr Westlake was unanimously elected.

Swindon and North Wilts Chronicle Monday 2 December 1935