



The Minster Fête

Glorious weather at Annual Event.

The picturesque grounds of the Vicarage formed a delightful venue for the annual fête organised in connection with the Minster and held in glorious weather Wednesday afternoon. The event was largely attended and brisk business was done at the many heavily-laden stalls, the attractive sideshows also being well patronised. The opening ceremony was performed by Mrs. Bertram Philipps, a daughter-in-law of the late Sir James Philipps, who was for many years Vicar of Warminster and who did so much for the religious life of the district, reference being made by the vicar (the Rev. A. B. Cellars) to the objects for which money was needed - the Organ Fund and the Minster Junior Extensions Fund. The Vicar said it was a great pleasure to ask one of a family whose name was greatly honoured in the town to open the fête. Mrs. Bertram Philipps' husband was son of the late Sir James Philipps, who was so well-known in the town as having been Vicar for a long time and as having been the founder of many institutions which were flourishing at the present time. He was responsible for the restoration of the Minster, the building of St John's Church, and the founding of St. Boniface College, St. Denys College, and the Orphanage. In fact, he (the Vicar) would make bold to say that had it not been for the labours of Sir James Philipps in the town Warminster would have been a much smaller and less flourishing place. The Church life of Warminster was something of which they were proud, and the building up of that Church life was largely due to the faithful work of Sir James Philipps for so many years.

They welcomed Mrs. Philipps among them and were sorry that Mr. Philipps was prevented from being present. He had been most generous in sending a donation towards the proceeds of the fête, for which they were grateful. The Vicar went on to extend thanks to all who had worked so hard towards the success of the fête, and said the proceeds were to be divided between the fund for the extension of the Minster Junior School and the Organ Fund. The Organ Fund was to defray the cost of installing an electric blowing apparatus; cleaning, repairing, and improving the instrument. The Minster organ was a very old and valuable instrument, having been built in 1782, and they were proud of it. They were also proud of their choir and the music they had in the Minster and they thought it only right that they should provide them with the best instrument that could be provided and keep it up to date. They required a sum of £170 for that purpose, having already a similar amount in hand. The minster School Extension fund meant that they were to be called upon very soon to add another classroom to the Minster Junior School, which was so flourishing that they now had more than 220 children. They had scarcely room for them, and if they were going to expand much further they must provide another classroom. The present teachers were working faithfully and efficiently but it was difficult and very hard for five teachers to deal

with 220 children - it meant they had to have large classes. The least they could do, therefore, was to provide the teachers with the best possible material and with further accommodation. They had done a great deal for the Senior School at Sambourne and the Junior School must now be kept efficient or else they would not be able to do their duty to the senior school.. Mrs. Philipps, declaring the fête open, said it was the first occasion upon which she had been there, but she had heard a lot about Warminster from her husband, whose youth seemed to be bound up with that Vicarage, the garden and surroundings. She had heard of the really wonderful work that Sir James Philipps had done, although she had never met him. They rejoiced in the excellent weather with which they were favoured and she hoped that the great work that had been done in preparation for the event would be rewarded. In these days everybody felt that to raise extra money even for the ordinary upkeep of the Church was a terribly difficult thing, but when it came to raising extra money as they hoped to, for the organ and school extensions, it was a far greater task, and she sincerely hoped they would be very successful. (applause)



The produce stall with Mrs. Randall, Miss Pitman, Mrs. Fatt and Miss Chambers.

The Helpers

Little Mary Bellars presented a bouquet of pink carnations to Mrs. Philipps, after which the business of the stalls, etc., commenced. Those in charge of the various stalls and sideshows were:

Sweets - Mrs. Welsh, Mrs. A. Cole, Mrs. John Taylor, and Mrs. E. G. Simmonds.

Baskets and novelties - Mrs. W. L. Bogan, Miss MacEwen and Miss V. Wills.

China and glass - Mrs. B. L. Blackley, Miss Nepean, Miss Oliver and Mrs. W. E. Marshall.

Needlework - Mrs. B. J. Day, Mrs. Wilkinson, Mrs. S. Smith, Mrs. Wiltshire, Miss Alcock and Miss Bunt.

Books - Miss Bellamy, Miss Dredge, Miss Pickford, and Miss Bone Lansley.

Soap and Samples - Mrs. E. E. Shore, Mrs. A. H. Harraway, Mrs. Alexander, and Miss Shore.

Cakes - Mrs. Box, Mrs. T. E. Vinall, Miss Burton and Mrs. G. H. Viney.

Produce - Mrs. Randall, Mrs. Weston, Mrs. Fatt, Miss Lockyer, Miss Pitman and Miss Chambers.

Ice-cream - Misses Bill.

Teas - Mrs. Ewart, Payne. Mrs. F. Baker, Mrs. J. Baker, Mrs. Keech, Mrs. T. V. Bunt, Mrs. James, Miss Francis, Misses Bishop, Miss Sheppard.

Beads - Miss B. Webster and Miss Merrilies.

Household stall - Mrs. H. P. Curtis, Mrs. W. Vallis and Miss Richens.

Arts and Crafts - Mrs. B. Williams, Miss Bailly and Mrs. W. H. Payne.

Toys and Dolls - Mrs. B. Siminson, Miss Forester, Miss Collier, Miss Evans, Miss D. Rowe, and Misses M. and P. Siminson.

Fancy and stationery - Miss Bertha Clarke, Misses Partridge, Mrs. Brook-Clarke and Miss Brooke Clarke.

Coconuts - Messrs. E. Turner and J. W. Penn.

Obstacle Golf - Messrs. H. G. Day, Les Whitmarsh, S. Day, Snr., and S. Day, Jnr.

Darts - Messrs. M. Pearce, D. Pitcher, and Dossett.

Skittling - Messrs. Bishop.

Beating the Goalkeeper - Messrs. A. Burgess and N. Cooper.

Rifle Range - Messrs. H. Green, H. Foreman, B. G. Chambers, and L. Miles.

Wiltshire Times, Saturday, 10 June 1933