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THE PARISH PAPER

Puttenham & Long Marston with Wilstone

It's a race as to whether this will be in print first or whether the start on the School building will be first. Through July and August each morning I have been full of expectancy followed almost by despair on getting my letters. Finally on August 30th came the Ministry of Education's consent to the estimate accepted by the School Managers. And a week later, with complications through two Ministries being concerned, permission for an immediate start was obtained instead of waiting till the building date assigned to us, which was November 1st. All that remains to be done is the signing of the building contract, and this is being prepared with all speed.

What a year locally this has been for bridegrooms! Messrs. T. Chapman, D. Spencer, D. Ives, Cyril Edmonds, J. Rush, K. Bignell, R. Winfield, F. Orchard. And I have read banns of only two local ladies. Perhaps 1952 is to see a crop of Long Marston, Wilstone and Puttenham brides.

We are once again in debt to Mr. Dick Gregory for cutting the grass in Long Marston Churchyard, and with our thanks go our wishes for a speedy return to full health. For the Churchyard fencing we have the sale and whist drive on October 16th. The outside work on Long Marston and Wilstone churches is all but finished in both cases. In 1946 the clapper fell from the bell at S. Cross while Bernard Double was ringing it, and I can still see his look of surprise as it clattered down the roof. The bell rings again. In the early spring we shall hope out of the normal collections to paint the porch and gates. Still speaking of paint grateful thanks to Mrs. Percy Chapman and Miss E. Chapman for their little sale in August which produced £10 4s. 7d. for paint for Puttenham Parish Room.

In an August of so much rain we were fortunate indeed in our weather for the children's outing. Mr. Owen Gregory's balance sheet on the Porch board shows a balance of 15s. Grateful thanks to the following who most kindly gave donations:—Miss E. Chapman, Mrs. Paxton, Mrs. C. Proctor (Sen.), Mr. R. K. Stevens, Mrs. J. M. Gregory, Mrs. Winfield, Mr.

J Bethell, Anon, Mrs. Skelton, Miss H. Rodwell, Mr. and Mrs. J. Gregory, Mrs. L. Dean, Mrs. P. Chapman, Mrs. C. Chandler, Mr. and Mrs. F. O. Gregory, Mrs. Allard.

Little interest it seems is being taken in the meetings that have to be held throughout the country in connection with the Public Footpaths maps. The Wilstone-Marston meeting is due I think any time now. To obtain corrections at a later stage will be more difficult, sometimes expensive and sometimes impossible. It is in the interests of the public, and even more so of the farmers, to get a correct record made now. Locally I think uncertain points are most likely to be connected with ploughing rights. Where rights to plough paths existed previous to the 1949 Act farmers should see that they are indicated in the Schedule attached to the Map. A public that values its paths should see that none are wrongly claimed. A case has just been heard at Basingstoke where the magistrates convicted a farmer under the 1949 Act for unlawful ploughing of paths imposing fines totalling £5 and £12 costs.

Marriages

Wilstone—

June 30.—Raymond Ivor Bonham and Daphne Eileen Bone.

Puttenham—

Sep. 8.—Frederick William John Orchard and Ada Florence Caroline Ireland.

Received with thanks. Churchyard fencing. Mrs. Gower and Mrs. Winfield (formerly Misses Daniels), 10s.

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