



Bee visitation at Bishopstone Church 1897

Bees in Church

A colony of bees that inhabit the tower of Bishopstone Church, caused the congregation which assembled there on Sunday evening last to have an experience, unique, and such that they will not desire any repetition. The Church being warm and well lighted, was probably the cause of the bees attending evensong. Some of them were crawling about before service began, but nothing serious was expected to occur. However, as the service progressed, certain worshippers found it expedient to change their seats, others wisely went home. By the time the Psalms were reached, the Church was like "swarming time", and four lamp glasses were broken by the clustering bees stopping the ventilation. The vicar struggled on bravely until the sermon. The bees had no respect for him, but stung him, and rendered a retreat from the pulpit a matter of necessity. They also singled out the churchwardens and above twenty of the congregation. The service had to be brought to an abrupt conclusion. The tower has been visited since Sunday, and no repetition of the curious visit is anticipated.

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