



Parish Church News

St Peter's Blackland

Extracts from the Blackland Parish Church Book 1869 - 1949

At a Vestry held on April 1st 1872

A Harmonium having been presented by H Brown to the Church a vote of thanks was proposed by the other Churchwarden (Abel Dew) to Mr Brown for his acceptable gift. Carried unanimously. At the same time it was unanimously agreed to present the Bass Viol to Mr John Dew's son John out of respect to the memory of his father.

At a Meeting held on October 14th 1874

At a meeting held in the Vestry room after due notice given, the undermentioned layman was unanimously chosen to represent the parish in the Ruri-Decanal meeting for the Election of Lay Synodsmen.

Henry Browne, Blackland Park, Calne (Gentleman)

Easter Tuesday, April 16th 1879

The Churchwardens (Henry Ward & Henry Brown) laid before the Vestry a paper of recommendations from the Rural Dean as to certain repairs of the Church, which they promised to take into consideration.

At a Vestry Meeting held on April 18th 1881

Mr (John) Rawlings proposed and Mr (John) Hicks seconded that the Churchwardens ensure the building of the Church (exclusive of Chancel) against fire for a sum not exceeding £500, such insurance to be effected in the same office as the Chancel.

At a Vestry Meeting held on April 10th 1882

It was resolved that the Churchwardens ensure the building of the Church (exclusive of Chancel) for £300 in the Sun Office.

At a Vestry Meeting held on Easter Sunday, March 27th 1894

Mr John Hicks tendered his resignation as Parish Clerk owing to his inability to continue to perform the duties of the office. The Vestry having received his resignation desired to put on record their great

appreciation of the way in which, for the long period of years, he had faithfully and carefully performed his duties. The Vestry then proceeded to appoint Caleb Green as Sexton and Caretaker of the Church at the same salary viz. £4: 10: -

(Note: John Hicks is recorded as 'Clerk of the Parish Church Office' in the 1881 Census. Born in 1814, he was 80 when he retired).

At a Vestry Meeting held on Easter Tuesday, April 20th 1897

Mr (Henry) Brown desired the Vestry to accept his resignation of the Office of Churchwarden as he felt himself unable to continue to discharge the duties of the Office. The Vestry received Mr Brown's resignation very reluctantly, and on the motion of Mr Ward seconded by Mr Pound a resolution was carried to the effect that the Vestry desired to place on record their deep sense of the obligation the Parish was under to Mr Brown for the attention and trouble he had taken for the more than 30 years he had been Churchwarden, and the great regret with which the Vestry had received his resignation.

At a Vestry Meeting held on Easter Tuesday, April 12th 1898

it was resolved to purchase a new door mat, and some planks were obtained from Mr Bowsher for the purpose of strengthening the sides of the graves after wet weather; it was also resolved to ascertain the price of some new webs for funerals.

At a Vestry Meeting held on Easter Tuesday, 1903

A discussion then took place as to alterations in the Chancel – it was decided to proceed with the work & to ask Mr Bowsher to give an estimate of the cost – the work to include the lowering & setting back of the pews in the Chancel & the lowering of the pulpit. To meet the cost it was decided to open a Church Improvement Fund to which subscriptions should be asked & for which occasional collections should be made at the afternoon service.

At a Vestry Meeting held on Easter Tuesday, April 5th 1904

Mention was made of the alterations already carried out including the lowering & setting back of the pews in the Chancel & the lowering of the pulpit & of the general approval with which these alterations had met...

A discussion took place as to the next step to be taken & it was unanimously agreed in view of the bad state of the present Holy Table to take steps to provide a new one.

At a Vestry Meeting held on Easter Tuesday, April 25th 1905

The improvements carried out in the church during the year include the provision of an oak lectern, of a purple frontal & alterations to an oak altar presented to the Church by the Vicar of Shaw Church...

The Rector expressed his gratitude to the Churchwardens for their services during the past year & his great regret that owing to ill health Mr Ward, after so many years of faithful service, was compelled to resign his office as Rector's Warden. In view of the small attendance it was resolved to postpone the election of Churchwardens to a further meeting of the Vestry to be held on May 8th.

At a Vestry Meeting held on May 8th 1905

The Rector nominated Mr Pound as his Warden. The election of Mr J Barnes as People's Warden was proposed by Mr C Green and seconded by Mr Amos Green & unanimously carried.

The following resolution was also passed unanimously – This meeting of the Vestry desires to record its deep sense of the debt of gratitude due to Mr (Henry) Ward from the Congregation of Blackland Church for the faithful and exemplary way in which he has for nearly forty years discharged the duties of Church Warden, & to assure him of its sympathy with him in his illness.

At a Vestry Meeting held on Easter Tuesday 1906

The improvements carried out in the Church during the past year include the provision of an oak font cover & of a white altar frontal.

At a Vestry Meeting held on Easter Tuesday, 2nd April 1907

The improvements carried out in the Church during the past year include the provision of an embroidered white satin altar frontal & pulpit hanging & the panelling of the Sanctuary in oak to correspond with the oak reredos given by the family of the late Mr & Mrs Ward of Blackland in memory of their parents.

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The Rector then introduced the subject of the Restoration of the Church: he laid before the meeting the plans prepared by Mr Ponting & the estimate for carrying out the work prepared by Mr W Webb of Bromham. The following is a list of the proposed work:

1. To expose to view the ancient roof of the nave, now covered by a ceiling.
2. To roof the entire Church with stone tiles, instead of the present slates.
3. To reseat the Church in oak.
4. To provide a new pulpit & new altar rails of oak.
5. To erect an oak chancel screen to support the roof between nave and chancel.
6. To provide a new organ in place of the present worn out harmonium.
7. To remove the present decayed floor & lay a floor of wood blocks on concrete.
8. To drain the Church properly on the outside.
9. To erect a new stained glass window, to be the gift of W.B Treacher Esq. J.P. of Blackland House in place of the existing one.
10. To rearrange the gallery seating & carry out such other repairs as are found necessary.

After some discussion it was unanimously agreed & on the proposition of Mr Treacher, seconded by Mr (William) Ward, to carry out the above works & accordingly to apply for a Faculty.

At a Vestry Meeting held on Easter Tuesday 1909

Mr Pound was asked to kindly pursue an estimate for a coal shed of wood.

It was also decided that the stone work of the boundary wall of the churchyard should be repaired.

Reference was made to the complete discharge of liabilities in connection with the Church Restoration & it was decided to transfer the small balance of 13/- of the Restoration Fund to the Church Improvement Fund which it was agreed should be revived.

At a Vestry Meeting held on Easter Tuesday 1910

The Rector and Churchwardens also expressed their thanks to Mrs Murray Rumsey for so kindly planting the Churchyard with flowers etc and keeping it in such excellent order. (Similar thanks expressed 1911-1913)

It was also agreed that 10/- should be given to Mrs Hood for kindly lighting the stoves in the Church on Saints and other days.

it was decided to procure and fix a lamp near the lych gate and another near the bridge.

Mr Pound was asked to kindly secure estimates for asphaltting the Church path between the Lych and end gates.

At a Vestry Meeting held on Tuesday 25th March 1913

Mr Pound presented a statement of the Church Expenses account & Church Improvement A/c which had been kindly audited by Mr Treacher previously. The former shows a balance in hand of £9 – 18 – 0½ & the latter a balance in hand of £14 – 12 – 5. Both were considered most satisfactory & passed with expressions of gratitude to Mr Pound for keeping the accounts so well & to Mr Treacher for kindly auditing them.

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The Rector thanked the retiring Churchwardens very heartily for their services during the past year & expressed his great sorrow that Mr E. Pound had intimated his wish not to be re-appointed. His resignation was received by the Vestry with very great regret & all felt that they were under a great obligation to him for the careful way in which he had kept the Church accounts and the exemplary manner in which he had fulfilled the duties of his office.

At a Vestry Meeting held on Easter Monday 1st April 1918

A vote of thanks was passed to the Choir for their kind help, to Mrs J Barnes & Mrs G Brown for kindly cleaning the Communion Plate & Altar vases & Candlesticks & to Miss W Brown for keeping the flower beds & paths in the Churchyard in order. Amos Green was appointed Sexton at a salary of £6: 0: 0 per annum in the place of his father. It was decided to resume the Sunday Evening Services dropped in November on account of the bad weather, darkness, great cost of lighting etc, bad condition of the paths through the park etc in May.

At a Vestry Meeting held on Easter Monday 21st April 1919

A vote of thanks was passed to the voluntary members of the Choir for their kind help, to Mrs J Barnes & Mrs G Brown for cleaning the Communion Plate, Altar Vases & Candlesticks, to Miss W Brown for keeping the flower beds & paths in the Churchyard in order & to Mrs J Pound for flowers provided for the Altar. The Chairman (Revd. A.F.J. Danneman) mentioned that he had made a temporary arrangement for the Church to be cleaned & dusted and the bell to be rung till someone could be appointed in the place of Amos Green resigned.

1920 - 1921

Votes of thanks to Mrs J Barnes, Mrs & the Misses Brown for cleaning the Communion Plate, Altar Vases & Candlesticks & keeping the flower beds & paths in the Churchyard in order & to Mrs J Pound for flowers provided for the Altar.

1921

Parochial Church Meeting and Parochial Church Council

According to the constitution adopted by the Representative Church Council in February 1919 & empowered by the National Assembly of the Church of England (Powers) Act in December 1919.

Parochial Church Meeting

A. Preparatory to the meeting.

It is the duty of the Minister and Churchwardens (if any)

- i. To prepare the Electoral Roll of those qualified to vote at the Parochial Church Meeting.
Qualified Electors are:
 - a. Resident Laymen and women, 18 years of age & over who
 - i. Are baptised

- ii. Have signed the required declaration
- iii. Are not entered as non-resident electors on the electoral roll of another parish in the same diocese under these rules
- b. Non-resident laymen & women who, though not living in the parish, are qualified under (a) (i) to (iii) and also
 - i. Have habitually attended the Church for a year previous to the date of application
 - ii. Have forwarded a signed application
- ii. To allow or disallow the claims of the intending voters
- iii. To publish the Roll
- iv. To send notice of all non-resident voters

B. Convening of the Meeting

It is the duty of the Minister to convene the Parochial Church Meeting, which must be held once a year, on any date before the second Sunday after Easter.

The date, place and hour are to be fixed by the Parochial Church Meeting or Parochial Church Council or, in the absence of any direction from them, by the Minister.

C. Procedure at the Meeting

Chairman. The Convenor, or (in his absence) a chairman chosen by & from among the electors present.

Business

1. Elections. (The Chairman, if clerical, has only a casting vote in the election of parochial lay representatives.)
 - i. The meeting is to decide the number of lay representatives to be elected to the Parochial Church Council.
 - ii. The Chairman should ascertain whether all candidates have been nominated by one Elector and seconded by another one.
 - iii. The meeting elects Parochial lay representatives etc
 - a. To the Parochial Church Council
 - b. To the Rurudecanal Conference
 - c. To the Diocesan Conference etc
 - iv. Method of election etc.
 - v. Result of Election
 - a. To be announced by the Presiding Officer
 - b. To be also announced by being fixed on the Church door.
 - c. To be reported in writing to the Rural dean of, if there is no Rural Dean, to the Archdeacon
2. To receive from the Parochial Church Council a copy of the electoral roll and an annual report on its proceedings & on the financial affairs of the parish etc.

At a Joint Parochial Church & Vestry Meeting held on Thursday 15th April 1926

The appeal for eggs from the Secretary of the Bath Hospital was read and the Chairman (AFJD) announced that he had taken 766 eggs to the hospital yesterday as a result of the Egg Service at Calstone last Sunday.

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Mr W Sterry spoke of the bad state of the road running from the Bridle track to the Church Gate & the Chairman promised to seize an early opportunity to speak to Mrs Wingfield-Digby about it.

At a Joint Vestry & Parochial Church Meeting held on Friday 29th April 1927

After some remarks were made on the condition of the road from the Bridle track to the Church, Messers Brown, Vines, Bowsher & W Sterry were chosen to approach Mrs Wingfield-Digby on the matter.

At a Joint Vestry & Parochial Church Meeting held on Friday 13th April 1928

Arising out of the minutes of the last meeting it was reported that nothing had been done regarding the Blackland track & it was decided to leave the matter in the hands of the Rector.

At a meeting of the Church Council August 23rd 1928

It being stated by Mr W Sterry that his father could no longer attend the meetings of the council his resignation was accepted with regret and thanks for his past services. It was proposed that Mr W.G. Phillips be co-opted in Mr J Sterry's place. Passed.

At a Joint Vestry & Church Meeting held on 3rd April 1929

The Electoral Roll was read & Mr Brown was directed to forward the Roll Certificate showing Calstone 39, Blackland 45, a total of 84 names for both parishes.

At a meeting of the Church Council February 21st 1929

The Rector & Churchwardens were given power to co-opt Mr Phillips & to install a new heating stove which Mr Phillips promised to get at cost price.

The report on the organ was gone into & it was decided to have the work done by Giffen? & Strand? & to have it done by June 29th & to have a recital on that day. These items to be paid out of Fete funds.

At a Joint Vestry & Church Meeting held on April 22nd 1930

The Rector then gave his report on the fabric. The Church roof had been stripped of its coat of moss & he had received the gift of a lawnmower for use in the Churchyard – the gift of Mr Blackford (of Messers Blackford, Calne).

At a Joint Vestry & Church Meeting held on April 7th 1932

The resignation of Mr G Brown was accepted with regret & with thanks for his past services. He was elected Sidesman.

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it was resolved to send a cordial vote of thanks to Miss B Green for the gift of a ewer to Blackland Church.

Press cutting within the Parish Book, from 'The Times', Late London Edition, May 1933 (exact publication date not shown)

DEATHS

MARSHALL-HALL.- On May 5th 1933, at London, ALGERNON MARSHALL-HALL, last survivor of family, once owners Blacklands Park, Calne, Wilts; buried from residence of late brother John, 7, Court Road, Ickenham, Middlesex. (French and South African papers, please copy.)

At the Annual Vestry & Church Meeting held on April 5th 1934

The rector re-appointed Mr C Turner as his Warden & there was no proposal for another Warden & it was decided to carry on as at present.

At a meeting of the P.C.C. April 4th 1935

It was proposed & seconded that this Council place on record the fact of Mr Edwin Pound's death & in view of his having been a Warden here for 16 years a letter of sympathy be sent to Miss Pound. The Rector said he would mark the passing of Mr Pound in the services on next Sunday.

At the Annual Vestry & Church Meeting held on 21st April 1938

Owing to Foot and Mouth disease the Ministry of Agriculture had ordered the closing of all approaches to the Church & for a month no services could be held in the Church.

At a meeting of the P.C.C. March 23rd 1939

The Rector has lent his own ladders for cleaning eaves and gutters. Perhaps a 12 rung ladder ought to be purchased for Blackland Church.

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it is hoped to have a permanent board fixed on the London Road so that people could see the times of services held in the Parish Church of S. Peter, Blackland.

At the Annual Vestry & Church Meeting held on 13th April 1939

The Rector pointed out that the Calstone Church Meeting had asked the Rector to move in the matter of A.R.P. he was arranging for a special speaker to come & he hoped to see some lectures given to all who would attend.

At the Annual Vestry & Church Meeting held on 29th March 1940

It was decided to thank Mr H Blackford for the gift of £2 (half the cost of testing the roofs of the Church).

The Bill of £17, cost of repairs after the fire, had been paid by the Insce. Coy.

It was decided to spend not more than £5 on internal decorations i.e. to carry on from what was done by the Insce. Office after the above fire.

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it is hoped to have a picnic in the summer & Mrs Matthews promised to hold a rummage sale.

After referring to world events & the witness of the Church in 1940, the meeting closed with the Blessing.

At a meeting of the P.C.C. March 26th 1941

The Rector reviewed various matters, Sunday School work, condition of the organ, state of the frontals which had passed through the Blackland House fire, & the fabric of the Church.

There is water for use with a stirrup pump & perhaps sand could be purchased for A.R.P.

After general discussion, the 'Alert' having sounded, the meeting closed with prayer.

At the Annual Vestry & Church Meeting held on 16th April 1941

Mr Turner is now Sexton at another church and is very busy. The Rector would like to thank him for past help.

The question of fire watchers was discussed and the Wardens were asked to prepare a list of names for this. Already watching was going on. This Church has sand and water at hand.

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No progress had been made with the erection of a notice board but there were war-time restrictions as to place names being used in public.

At a meeting of the P.C.C. March 25th 1942

The Sunday School merited a special word of praise. The change to Double Summer Time would enable the old times of service to be followed.

A word of thanks must be said that the Church was unharmed and Divine Service is held regularly in it.

At the Annual Church Meeting & Vestry held on 9th April 1947

When all the usual business had been completed the Rector said he must say a word on the faithful and constant work of the Organist Miss I Billett the devoted work of Miss Ethel Cox, the constant support of the two Churchwardens (Charles Weston & George Amor) & the Sidesman Mr G (Gough) McFaull.

At a Meeting after 6pm Service, 17th August 1947

The Rector invited all worshippers to wait for a business meeting after Service & nearly all did so.

At a later service 107 people were at service in this Church built for 100 worshippers when the Rector of Paris preached. This shows the democratic rule of this church when all worshippers are invited.

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Sidesman Mr Wm. Oliver & his helpers have done a real job of work on the fabric: cleaning, brushing & painting.

Sidesman Mr G. (Gough) McFaull offered to bring a qualified Clerk of the Works to survey the East End of the Church. Mr McFaull would report to the Rector.

Verger Miss Cox has the Church at all times ready for Divine Worship & is a real treasure.

At a Meeting after 3pm Service, 17th March 1948, Blackland Church

The Rector has arranged a meeting of S.Sch Teachers in his Deanery & would see that 3 from the Rectory, 5 of the Parish staff, 2 learners and 2 past teachers, ^{^12 in all} would attend so as to encourage other parishes to teach the faith.

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