



Christmas 1914 - Bradford-on-Avon

The Christmas of 1914 will be chiefly remembered for its quiet and uneventful character. It was more than ever this year a home celebration, and there is nothing, or, at any rate, very little to record concerning it.

At the places of worship the festival was observed in much the customary fashion. The Parish Church and Christ Church were made bright with seasonable decorations, and at the early and other celebrations of Holy Communities, which took place during the day there were many communicants, though the number was not up to the standard of some previous years. The music was in keeping with the festival, and at Matins and Evensong appropriate addresses were given by the respective Vicars. The offertories at Christ Church were for the schools. A portion of the amount thus raised is usually divided to providing a tea and entertainment for the scholars, but in the circumstances the young folks have patriotically agreed to forego this, and their money will be given to the Belgian Relief Fund.

At the workhouse extra fare was provided. A number of presents were also received, and nothing was left undone by those in office to make the festival as happy and agreeable as possible for those whose circumstances compel to seek the shelter of the institution at Avoncliff.

There was, as is invariably the case, considerable pressure at the Post Office, but the staff responded cheerfully and willingly to the extra call made upon their energies, and did their utmost to despatch and deliver the large quantities of letters, cards, and parcels sent through the post, with the least possible delay.

At the railway station there were many incoming and outgoing passengers, with a large passed traffic, and here also the staff experienced a busy time.

Christmas is always associated with the pealing of bells, and the ringers of the Parish Church were as usual at their stations, and gladdened the hearts of many who heard them with their tuneful message.

A party of singers from the Countess of Hungerford's Chapel at Bearfield also afforded much pleasure for their sweet carolling, in return for which contributions were asked for the Red Cross Society. The result has been that a cheque for £7 16s 6d. has been sent to the Society

Wiltshire Times, 2nd January 1915