

Rev Percival's Quarterly Statement February to May 1896

In 1896 the Rev Percival decided to publish a quarterly statement instead of his usual monthly letter to his parishioners.

All Saints', Merriott.

FEBRUARY, MARCH, APRIL, MAY, 1896.

The quarterly statement, which I promised in the February Magazine, has been delayed in coming out longer than I had intended, but I have thus been able to include a more complete set of accounts. It is printed in a form suitable for binding with the Magazines, if desired, or to be kept for reference independently. The present number contains very much of what would have been looked for in Magazine letters for March, April, May, and June.

STANLEY E. PERCIVAL, Vicar.

The Offerories from Easter, 1895, to Easter Eve, 1896.

	£	s.	d.
Easter Day. For S.P.G.....	3	15	0
For Central African Mission:—	£	s.	d.
Children's Offerings.....	1	3	2
Special Collection, Dec. 8th	1	4	0
From Alms Box.....	0	1	4
	2	8	6
Home Missions, A.C.S.....	2	3	0
Diocesan Societies	3	18	0
Crewkerne Hospital:—	£	s.	d.
July 28th.....	6	4	3
Nov. 17th, Afternoon	2	4	4
	8	8	7
S. Michael's Home Shepton.....	0	10	0
Sick and Needy Fund.....	18	9	1½
Church Expenses.....	50	4	1
Total.....	£89	16	3½

The Church Expenses were satisfactorily met by the Offerories. It is to be hoped that we shall continue to maintain the position thus gained. The balance in hand has enabled the Churchwardens to have the Clock thoroughly cleaned and repaired, and it seems to be now keeping very good time. The weights will be supported by steel wires, which are not liable to twist and stop the Clock as the old cords not infrequently did.

The following is a summary of the Balance Sheet:—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Balance from Easter, 1895.....	0	11	5	Scott & Co., renewing			
Total Offerories.....	50	4	1	hedge	1	3	9
Special Donation	0	2	6	Whitewashing and Clean-			
Balance from Churchyard				ing	4	9	6
Fund	1	12	11	Organist and Choir.....	13	9	10
Hire of Bier.....	0	2	6	Sexton and Washing.....	17	19	1
				Light and Firing.....	7	3	0
				Fire Assurance	2	2	6
				Organ Tuning.....	1	10	0
				Carpenter, and small bills	1	16	8½
				Balance.....	2	19	0½
	£52	13	5		£52	13	5
	£8	1	1		£8	12	3
	£7	14	7		£9	2	1½
	£8	12	3		£33	10	0½

Rev Percival's Quarterly Statement June to December 1896

All Saints', Merriott.

JUNE TO DECEMBER, 1896.

The idea of publishing a quarterly statement did not seem to meet with much approval. The object of the present paper is therefore to wind up for the year, putting together what may appear desirable for record and reference. I propose in January to revert to the old method of a monthly letter or record, but in order to try and make the Magazine more nearly self-supporting we shall exchange it for the *Dawn of Day*, and I think you will find it no less interesting and helpful than either of its predecessors.

Will those who wish to have the volume for 1896 bound be good enough to send their numbers in as soon as possible after the turn of the year. If 25 are sent we can have them bound as before at 1/1 each.

JULY 16TH. By the kind invitation of Mrs. Coles the Sunday School Teachers of the neighbourhood met in large numbers at Shepton. Tea was spread on the lawn, and the sight of some 400 teachers as the happy guests of our aged and most hospitable hostess was a thing to remember. The Bishop was there, and presided over the Conference which followed tea. The chief speakers were Mr. Coles, Prebendary Holmes, Mr. C. Bickersteth. A very pleasant and helpful afternoon was concluded by a Service in Church, which, needless to say, was crammed to its utmost capacity. The sermon was preached by the Bishop.

JULY 24TH. The Choir had a very enjoyable day at Portsmouth, and saw an immense deal of interest in the harbour and the dockyards. Some went across to the Isle of Wight; others spent the afternoon at Southsea.

AUG. 6TH. A Service of Song was given at the Mission Room, called "The Torn Bible."

SEPT. 17TH. We had our Harvest Festival. Fruit and vegetables were not quite so plentiful as in many years, but the Church was made very bright and pretty by those who were kind enough to undertake the decorations. A most interesting sermon was preached in the evening by the Rev. J. Hamlet, Vicar of Barrington, shewing how very much we have to be thankful for even in years not remarkable for plenty or favourable seasons. The offertory for Home Missions appears in the list.

SEPT. 27TH & 29TH. We had the Rev. W. H. Kisbey, one of the devoted Central African Missionaries from Kologwe. He preached in the afternoon to a good congregation of children and adults, and addressed a meeting in the Mission Room on the Tuesday.

The Sewing Meeting has commenced again, and is managed by Miss England at the Mission Room on Tuesdays

Nurse has her children's service at the same place a little earlier in the evening. The Boys have Mondays and Fridays there; and there is a Devotional Meeting for Women on Thursdays. Mr. Read's Class of Young Men, and Miss England's for Young Women, keep up their numbers well. The Schools have been rearranged from Advent, and we trust that God's blessing may rest on all the work done for Him in them or elsewhere. May this Advent season remind us all of the end, and act as a stimulus to greater effort and more faithfulness, and may its solemn voice of warning be heeded by those who do not often "consider their latter end."

The Parish Almanack for 1897 has a fine central picture, with a paragraph explaining it. Price 1d.

My best and warmest Christmas wishes to everyone.

STANLEY E. PERCIVAL, Vicar.