

"THE BOUNDING BOY SKIPPED ABOUT IN FRONT OF THE CAPTIVE"

Deerslayer

OR

THE FIRST WAR-PATH

A Tale

BY

J. FENIMORE COOPER

Author of "The Last of the Mohicans", &c.



John Mole
Xmas 1909

From a wall

Steeple Barton Sunday School.



A DESPERATE STRUGGLE.

THE LITTLE FOLKS ADVENTURE BOOK

BY

S. H. HAMER

Author of "The Ten Travellers," "Peter Piper's Peepshow," etc. etc.

*Gordon Mole,
from A. W. Hall*

*Sunday School prize
February 3rd 1916.*



ILLUSTRATED

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1946

THE STRANGE CASE OF THE IRAQI COUNTRY PARSON

HAD TO REGISTER WITH POLICE

The administration of the estate of a former Vicar of Steeple Barton, who had a reputation for being "secretive" and a recluse, whose nationality was Iraqi and who had been a Roman Catholic priest before becoming a Protestant, gave rise to a legal problem in the Chancery Division on Friday. He was the Rev. Simon Stephen, who was born in Mosul, Iraq, and the administrator of his estate, Mr. Kenneth Mose Castle, builder, of Middle Barton, asked the judge to decide whether Mr. Stephen's £1,500 estate should be distributed according to English or Iraqi law.

Six relatives living in Mosul claimed to be beneficially interested in the estate.

Giving judgment, Mr. Justice Harman said that Mr. Stephen died intestate. There was no one to administer his affairs until Mr. Castle, a creditor, obtained a grant of administration.

He found a strange set of circumstances confronting him.

Mr. Stephen, as it turned out, was born Shimoun Stephan Isko. He was baptised in 1865 at Mosul, then in the Turkish empire and now part of Iraq.

In his youth he went to Paris and attended the Sorbonne.

He was ordained a priest in the Roman Catholic Church in 1888, but some years later he came to England and became a Protestant.

He was ordained in the Church of England in 1901 and in 1904 he became Vicar of Steeple Barton, where he remained until he died in 1946.

Mr. Stephen was something of a collector of odds and ends.

He was very secretive about his affairs and lived more or less as a recluse, although there was no suggestion that he did not carry out his parochial duties properly.

He remained an alien throughout his life and registered with the police periodically, a remarkable situation for a man who was the parson of a rural parish in England for so long.

Mr. Stephen never spoke of going back to Iraq, and, so far as was known, never communicated with his relatives there.

His lordship said that on the whole he thought Mr. Stephen had acquired a domicile of choice.

He was here for so long and performed particularly English functions. He felt he must be regarded at the date of his death as a domiciled Englishman and his estate must be distributed according to English law.

With CAMERA and PEN

● Impressions by DAVID PETERS



THE first thing that caught my eye as I walked into the Rectory at Islip was a fine mounted and framed brass rubbing on the wall. There were several others around the house, and it transpired that they were part of a collection of more than 800 that the Rector, the Rev. Arthur W. Blanchett, has made over the past 35 years or so.

This relatively unusual hobby has taken him to churches all over the British Isles, and introduced him to many people he might otherwise never have met, one or two of whom have become personal friends.

His interest in brass-rubbing began when he was a schoolboy at the Oxford High School for Boys, at the time when the famous A. W. ("Tubby") Cave was headmaster. One of the staff of those days was a Mr. E. H. Binney, who had a talent for inspiring his pupils with a deep interest in archaeology, church architecture and kindred subjects. The young Arthur Blanchett, himself the son of a local headmaster, responded warmly to Mr. Binney's enthusiasm, and frequently went with him and a small party of like-minded boys on expeditions into the country-side, visiting churches and taking brass-rubbings.

His interest in this method of recording the brass memorials of the past has never waned, and in my picture you see him with a "six-footer" as he described it, on which only a few weeks ago in Blickling Church, Norfolk, he spent five hours or so with the tools of his trade—decorator's lining-paper, and cobbler's black "heel-ball" wax. For some years he was a member of the Monumental Brass-Rubbing Society, has done a good deal of lecturing about his hobby, and hopes that one day his fine collection, providing as it does a wonderful record of costume changes, famous families and heraldic history from the 13th to the 17th centuries, will find a home in a good museum.

No doubt his great interest in churches influenced his vocation. On leaving school he went on to Keble, and from there to Lichfield Theological Training College, spending a year in Ireland (and incidentally preaching his first sermon in Dean Swift's old church in Laracor, County Meath) before coming back to his first curacy at Headington Quarry under the Rev. T. E. Bleiben. He was in fact the first full-time curate at Holy Trinity, the appointment being endowed by Lord Nuffield, who had early associations with Headington Quarry.

It was in this period that he came under the second great influence of his life, that of the late Bishop T. B. Strong.

It was last of the Oxford Bishops to live at Cuddesdon Palace. The Bishop took a deep personal interest in a small group, of which Mr. Blanchett was a member, and he recalls many happy occasions at the Palace listening to the Bishop discoursing or playing the piano. Over one period of six weeks or so he had the privilege of a private weekly meeting with Bishop Strong, he translating Plato's "Phaedo" and the Bishop commenting—and correcting his translation.

Mr. Blanchett reminisced a good deal about people he has known in and around Oxford. He remembers the sonorous voice of John Drinkwater as he read his own poems aloud in the Hall at the High School; he knew Dr. Danwell Stone, Principal of Pusey House and a great theologian who was reputed never to have been seen out of his cassock; and more recently, through the medium of the Anglican Society, whose magazine, *The English Catholic*, Mr. Blanchett edited for 21 years, he came to know and admire Bishop Walter Carey, of Bloemfontein, the well-known missionary bishop.

In addition to editing *The English Catholic* for so long, Mr. Blanchett is now editor of *Top Oxon*, the twice-yearly gazette of the Oxfordshire Archaeological Society and the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, and I must not forget to mention of another interest. Mr. Blanchett has been a Scouter for a long period of his life, was responsible for founding the Iffley and Ickford troops, and gave a good deal of help to the Carsington troop in its early days.

In June of this year Mr. Blanchett and his wife Geraldine celebrated their silver wedding. Mrs. Blanchett was the daughter of the Rev. W. H. Elkington, who was Vicar of Elsfield for 40 years. They came to Islip in 1951, after five happy years in the village of Steeple Barton, and before that, another five happy years at Chadlington, where Mr. Blanchett was priest-in-charge under the Rev. T. J. Wood, of Charlbury. Their only daughter, Jocelyn, is at a teacher training college, studying English, music and art.

Islip is a very old village indeed. It was the birthplace of Edward the Confessor, who gave it into the care of Westminster Abbey, which he founded 900 years ago next year. Preparations to celebrate the historic event at Westminster are already under way and, as the village has such close ties with the great saint, Mr. Blanchett and many of his parishioners hope to share in several of the great occasions.

Candles, right by - ~~sting~~ fresh.
 Wms (plate, or bag if collector absent).

Choir Duties

NAME.	ADDRESS.	£	s.	d.
Appleby J	October 29 1950			
Appleby T	November 5			
Cattle	" 12			
Cox	" 19			
French	" 26			
Hazell B	December 3			
Hazell M	" 10			
Jarvis	" 17			
Appleby J	" 24			
Appleby T	" 31			
Cattle	January 7 1951			
Cox	" 14			
French	" 21			
Hazell B	" 28			
Hazell M	February 4			
Jarvis	" 11			
Cattle	" 18			
Cox	" 25			
French	March 4			
Hazell B	" 11			
Hazell M	" 18			
Jarvis	" 25			
Cattle	April 1			
Cox	" 8			
French	" 15			
Hazell M	" 22			
Jarvis Hazell	" 29			
Jarvis	May 6			
Cattle	" 13			
Cox	" 20			
French	" 27			
Jarvis Hazell	June 3			
Cattle	" 10			
Cox	" 17			
French	" 24			
Jarvis	July 1			
Cattle	" 8			
Cox	" 15			
French	" 22			
Jarvis	" 29			
Cattle	August 5			
Cox	" 12			

AT CHURCH

By LAYMAN

Finding peace at Steeple Barton

THERE are almost as many Bartons as Baldons—the guide books and directories list four—Westcote, Steeple, Sesswell and Middle (the last two are hamlets) but they are indicated simply on the signposts as “The Bartons,” and so they are generally known in Oxfordshire.

To find them, the traveller, harassed by endless streams of traffic in both directions, turns thankfully off either of the two main roads which lead northwards from Oxford into one of the most charming and unspoilt corners of the county.

It is traversed by narrow and winding by-ways, lined by tall hedgerows and ancient trees, which intertwine their branches to form leafy archways and cool tunnels, particularly attractive on this Sunday evening—the Third after Trinity—when hardly a breath of air is stirring.

Evensong is at St. Mary's, Steeple Barton, for Mattins was at neighbouring Westcote Barton, and the pleasant cul de sac which forms the approach to the ancient church is a blessed haven of peace and loveliness.

Gentle stroll

Apart from the ringers, whose valiant efforts can be heard far out across the fields, most of the dozen or so who comprise the congregation take a gentle stroll along the old paths between the crumbling head stones, to drink in the beauty of the scene which is familiar enough to them, but

which to the visitor is really awe-inspiring, before seeking their seats in the dim coolness of the church.

The service is of that simplicity and dignity which shows the true glory of the English Church and its Prayer Book, and though the number of those who occupy the pews is small, the heartiness of their singing would serve as a splendid example to many a larger body of worshippers.

Short address

Equally simple is the short address of the Vicar, the Rev. J. Wilmot Griffiths, graduate of three universities — London, Wales and Oxford, who came from an Australian theological college to minister to the twin parishes just over a year ago. He takes as his text the words of St. John which have formed part of the second Lesson: “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me.”

Peace of mind, he points out is one of the greatest blessings of Heaven, yet one of the most difficult to be attained. Yet it can be achieved, with reliance on God as the bed-rock of its attainment.

Doing something instead of wallowing in misery and self-pity, and facing the cause of anxiety fairly and squarely, was the commonsense approach which, with the knowledge that one could leave all anxiety too, on God's loving care was the only way of getting “that peace which the world cannot give.”

1967

ST MARY

STEEPLE BARTON.

ALTAR FLOWERS.

January 1st Christmas i —
 January 8th Epiphany i —
 January 15th Epiphany ii —
 January 22nd Epiphany iii —
 January 29th Epiphany iv —

February 5th Quinquagesima — *Wm. Kitchener*

Lent: February 9th to March 25th —

NO FLOWERS —

March 26th EASTER DAY —

April 2nd Easter i —
 April 9th Easter ii —
 April 16th Easter iii —
 April 23rd Easter iv —
 April 30th Easter v —

May 7th Sunday Ascension —
 May 14th WHITSUNDAY —
 May 21st TRINITY SUNDAY —
 May 28th Trinity i —

June 4th Trinity ii —
 June 11th Trinity iii —
 June 18th Trinity iv —
 June 25th Trinity v —

W. Kitchener

W. Kitchener

W. Kitchener

W. Kitchener

W. Kitchener

W. Kitchener

W. Kitchener

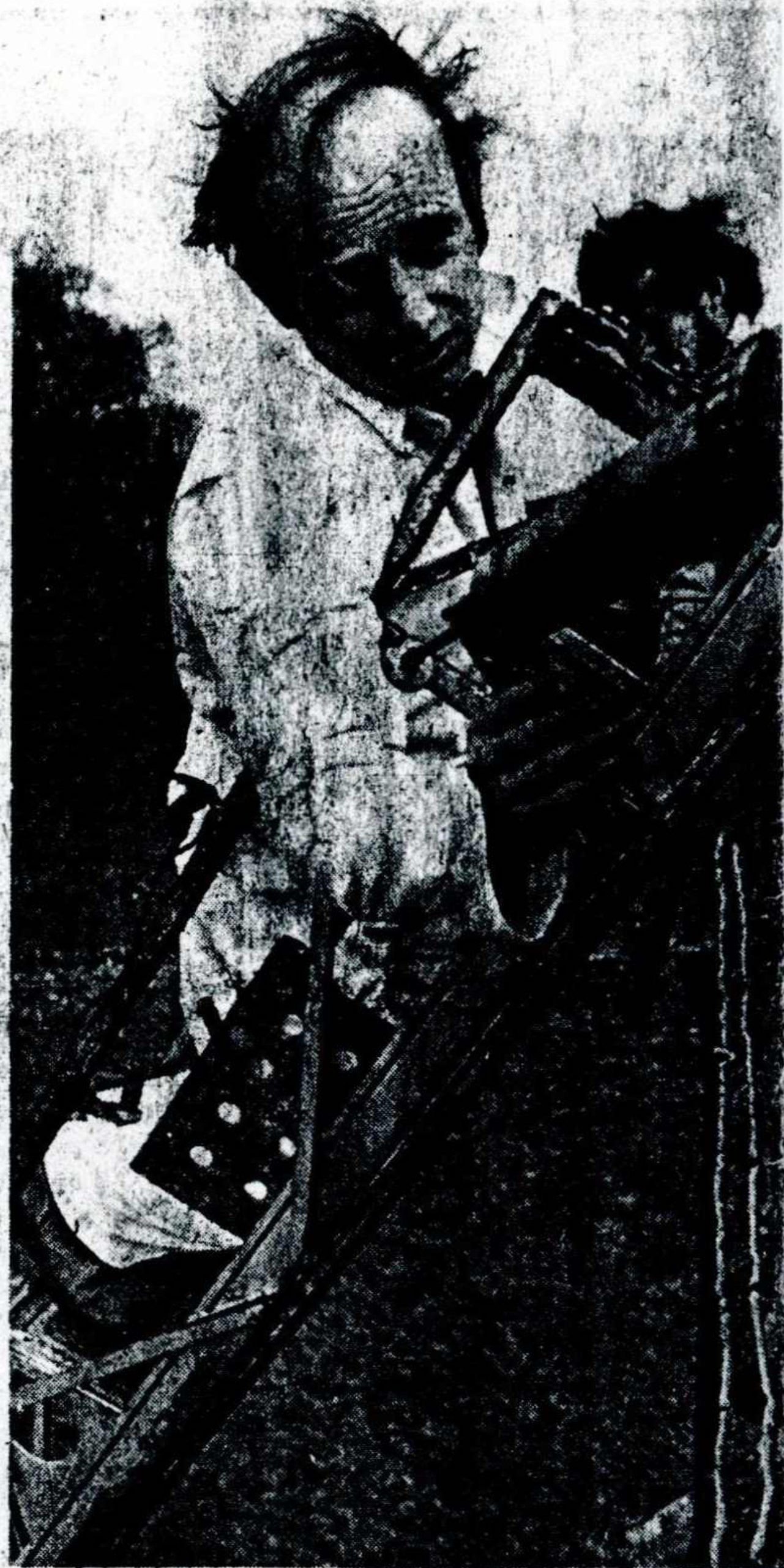
W. Kitchener

W. Kitchener

Steeple Barton Church.



TAKE AIM . . . Mr Christopher Voice, area surveyor for Rentokil, sprays the church tower with his jelly gun. ● Picture: PETER FLOYD



FIRE . . . Mr Voice lays a jelly trail at the tower

Jelly — eno

PIGEONS WILL get an uneasy welcome when they fly down to perch on the ledges of St Mary's Church at Steeple Barton in future.

Instead of getting a firm, comfortable land, they will find their feet standing on a jelly-type substance.

And hopefully, the uneasy feeling this will generate, will cause the pigeons to fly off and



the top of
NOW THE LEDGES . . . Mr Bill Lester, on the ladder, and Mr David Bailey, on the roof, apply jelly to the church roof and tower.

ough to give pigeons the wobbles

By PETER BARRINGTON

find somewhere more conducive to roost.

Yesterday, the ingenious jelly repellent was squirted on to the upper ledges of the church and along the apex of the roofs by men from Rentokil.

The harmless jelly repellent has been successfully applied to many buildings in London and other cities and to reach those out of

the way ledges, the firm invested in an old London fire brigade turntable ladder.

Mr Peter Watts, secretary of Steeple Barton parochial church council, explained that it was hoped the jelly would be the most satisfactory repellent and it had the advantage of not killing the birds.

"Pigeons have been a shocking problem," he said: "We have spent about £10,000 on the church and have had new roofs put on. But there are two roofs and pigeon droppings collected in the central gully and prevented water running away. So the water went into the church. Droppings also covered the whole roof and much of the walls. There are hundreds of pigeons around."

date?

Villagers rally to save their church

Five years ago the vicar of Steeple Barton thought his church would have to be abandoned — the whole roof was in a very bad condition and the lighting ineffective.

But in the last three years the church of St Mary's has been completely re-roofed, a surface water drainage system installed, windows re-leaded and re-glazed and a new lighting system installed.

And apart from a grant of £500 the entire cost of nearly £10,000 has been met by villagers — and the adult population is still only 1,000.

Vicar of Steeple Barton, the Rev N. D. J. Carne, said: "My first thought was that the church would have to be abandoned but after a lot of thought and prayer the PCC decided to have a go at repairing the building."

And on Sunday the

Venerable C. Whitton-Davies, Archdeacon of Oxford, led a special service for the restoration of the church and the new lighting scheme.

DEDICATED

A memorial tablet was also dedicated to the late Major Phillip Fleming, churchwarden and benefactor of the church and village.

Mr Carne said the restoration was a "magnificent achievement" by the parishioners. "The church is now weatherproof and clear of all debt."

"With normal maintenance it should last another 200 years without major external repair."

When Mr Carne came to the parish in 1968 the church was in a very bad state of repair.

There was a hole in the



north slope of the nave roof, about one yard square, and the whole roof of nave and aisle was in a very poor state. The church dates back to about 1250 AD.

Above: Mr Carne, vicar of Steeple Barton, outside the village church.

Minister increases size of his flock

Like ministers in the Bicester Deanery the Rev. Peter Dance, in the Barton villages, is increasing the size of his flock.

When he came to this area two years ago he was simply priest-in-charge of Westcott Barton and Steeple Barton which also means Middle Barton, though in some terms that name does not really exist, the parish really being Steeple Barton!

About the turn of the year Mr Dance had neighbouring Sandford St Martin added to his responsibilities and this week he takes on Duns Tew.

yesterday he was instituted at Duns Tew church as vicar of Duns Tew, Steeple Barton and Sandford St Martin and rector of Westcott Barton.

As with the Bicester and Islip Deanery, reorganisation of manpower in the Woodstock Deanery has led to this form of amalgamation

However, he will not be alone. For while he now has to conduct about four services every Sunday, besides baptisms, he will have the help of Canon Wardle Harper.

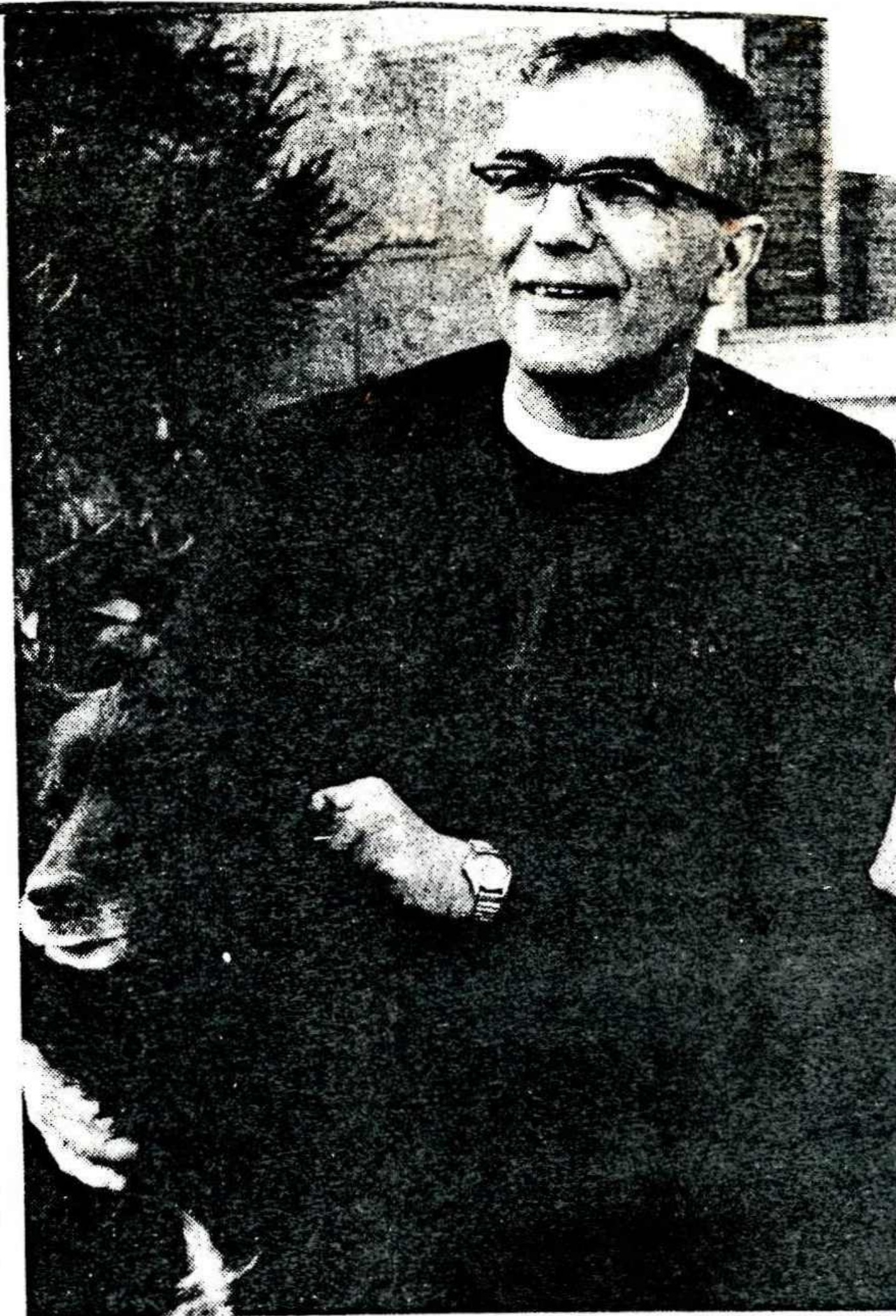
Canon Harper, a retired minister, lives at Charlbury, and is going to take services at Duns Tew to relieve the pressure on Mr Dance.

Canon Harper, who will travel from Charlbury, regards himself, I understand, as the unofficial "curate" of Duns Tew.

Mr Dance and his family came to the Bartons from two mining parishes in Staffordshire.

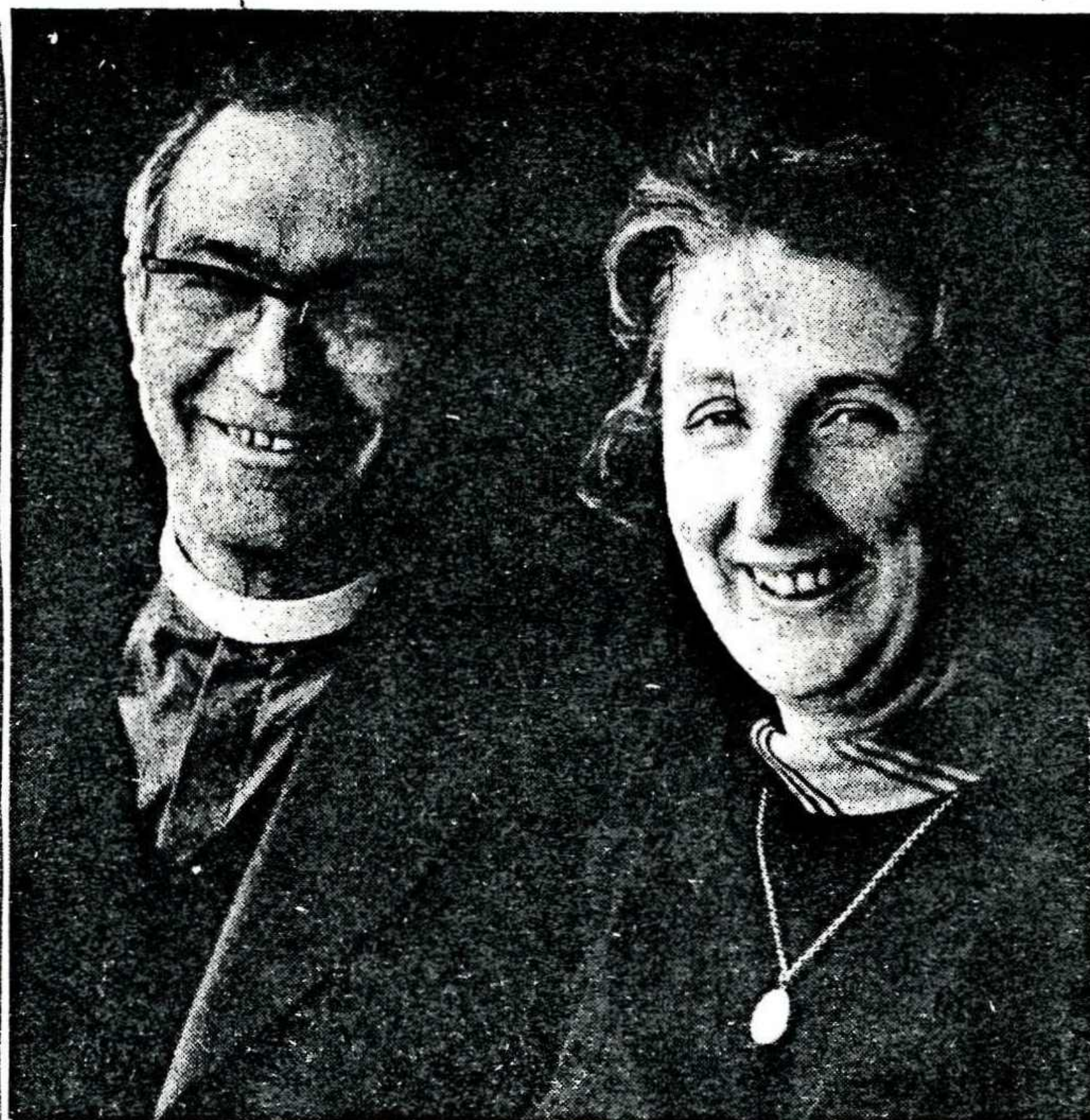
His arrival in the district marked his return to the area as he was born at Adderbury and was for some years with a branch of Twyford Seeds in Lincolnshire.

Mr Dance and his family emigrated 14 years ago to Canada where he worked in the agricultural seed trade and later took theological training. He was ordained an Anglican minister in Canada.



Above: the Rev.

Vicar inducted



The Rev Peter Dance who was inducted as vicar of Duns Tew, Steeple Barton, Sandford St Martin and Westcote Barton, with his wife, Grace.

He was inducted by the Bishop of Dorchester and the ceremony marked the end of a long legal process which started two years ago.

Parliamentary approval had to be sought to get the four parishes separated from North Aston.

A former Banbury Grammar School boy, Mr Dance studied at the University of Saskatchewan, Canada. Since his return to England after ordination, he has worked in Pembrokeshire and Staffordshire.

An induction ceremony has been held in each of the four parishes, and he will be helped by Canon Noel Wardle-Harpur.

St. Mary's, Steeple Barton
ROTA OF SUNDAY SERVICES

SUNDAY IN
THE MONTH

First Sunday	8 a.m. 6 p.m.	Holy Communion Evensong
Second Sunday	11 a.m.	Mattins and Holy Communion
Third Sunday	8 a.m. 6 p.m.	Holy Communion Evensong
Fourth Sunday	11 a.m. 12 noon	Mattins Holy Communion
Fifth Sunday	8 a.m.	Holy Communion
First, third and fifth, "Fifth Sundays" in the year: 4 p.m. Evensong and Baptism		

St. Edward's, Westcote Barton
ROTA OF SUNDAY SERVICES

SUNDAY IN
THE MONTH

First Sunday	10 a.m.	Family Communion (including Sunday School)
Second Sunday	8 a.m. 6 p.m.	Holy Communion Evensong
Third Sunday	11 a.m. 12 noon	Mattins Holy Communion
Fourth Sunday	8 a.m. 6 p.m.	Holy Communion Evensong
Fifth Sunday	11 a.m.	Mattins
Second and fourth, "Fifth Sundays" in the year: 4 p.m. Evensong and Baptism		

Children's Sunday Club meets in the Mission Hall
at 10 a.m. on the second, third, fourth and fifth Sundays.

Barton Magna.

Steeple Barton.

Giles Bythed d.

Jacobus Potiarde m. 11 July 1551. r.

William Stardwick m. 14 May 1555. d.

Hugh Stapley 15 Mar 1556. r. 30 Sept 1557.

Thomas Bromet 12 Mar 1557. r.

John Bredan m. 12 Mar 1558. r.

Lewis Broughen d.

signs Bowen 1634. Oxon b.m. fol 113.

John Couch m. 20 July 1639.

Edward Cookson, Cookson, ^(m. 1661) 1661. d. [vacant by death. Oxon d.m. fol. 142]

Charles Young 26 July 1712. c.

John Hyde m. 10 Oct 1722. d.

Pierpoint Taylor 28 Mar 1729. r. 18 Feb. 1735

John Burre [Signs transcript in 1738]. ^{Publ. d.} 15 Oct 1741. [inst 1736. Oxon d.m. fol. 142]

Anthony Luffery m. 19 Dec 1741. c.

Thos Gregory cur 1762. Oxon c. 51. fol. 25.

Edward Walker m. 16 Nov 1772. d.

George Bourne m. 22 May 1807. d.

Robert Wright 3 Nov 1808. d.

Arthur Hercules Pakenham m. 5 July 1850. r.

William Green m. 10 May 1855. r. 1 May 1876.

Frederick Parry Burnett m. 1 Aug 1876. c.

William George Southwell m. 4 Nov 1885. c.

William James B. Newman m. 13 Apr 1889. c.

George Duncan 21 June 1895. r. 10 Dec 1897.

Spencer Henry Harrison 15 Apr 1898. c.

Simon Stephen 22 Apr 1904.

CURATES.

Robert Buswell, curate 1718, MS. Arch. pps. Oxon. e. 4. fol. 18.

Henry Perkins, curate 1720, MS. Arch. pps. Oxon. e. 4. fol. 22.

Richard Dalby, curate 1733, MS. Arch. pps. Oxon. c. 128, fol. 77.

Edward Marshall, curate 1801, MS. Arch. pps. c. 2212. no. 26
curate 1814, MS. Arch. pps. c. 2212. no. 107

William Gordon, curate 1828, MS. Arch. pps. c. 2214 no. 59

Organ needs £15,000 repair

A WORRIED vicar has launched a £15,000 appeal to restore his church's 160 year-old organ which needs urgent repairs.

Rev Tony Davies says the money is desperately needed to pay for the work on the organ in St Mary's Church at Steeple Barton.

He said: "What we want to do is have the organ totally cleaned and overhauled as near as possible to its original state.

"We don't know the exact date when it was built, but the team of specialists who have looked after the organ said it was probably around 1860 by a man called William Hill."

He added: "Everything will have to be taken out, like the pipework, and anything that they find needs repairing or replacing will be done."

But Mr Davies, 63, said his parishioners would still be able to hear music while their own organ was being restored.

He said: "We will try



**HOPING
TO HIT
HIGH
NOTES:**
Rev Tony
Davies
with the
church
organ

By NOEL MILLER

to get some form of music, which may well be an electrical organ or something.

"Our organ may not be of national importance but we would like to restore it. We're not too sure what fund-raising events we will be holding in the future because it's early days yet."

Anyone who can help in any way should write to Mr Davies at The Rectory, Westcote Barton, Oxon, OX7 7AA.