

**CHAPTER 21.**  
**REGISTER OF SERVICES.**

What do you think the Vicar does after he has shaken hands with the last of the congregation and disappeared into the vestry? Well, it is possible that he is going for a cup of tea - but it is also possible that he is going to attend to the paperwork generated by the service just finished!

The Vicar is required to enter into the Register of Services, details of each service held in the Church - and not just brief details. The column headings are: Date: Day: Hour: Type of Service: Celebrant and/or Preacher: Text or Subject: No. of Communicants: Amount of Offering: Remarks.

Now the Vicar may feel that all this is a job he could do without but it makes fascinating reading when it is perused many years later.

Here in Essington we have details, faithfully recorded, of ALL services held in our Church since the first one on December 10th 1933 which was a 7.30am Holy Communion Service presided over by the Bishop of Lichfield. There were 50 communicants and the offertory amounted to £1.1.0. (£1.05 in modern money!) All the services are there from the great occasions such as the induction of a new Vicar down to early morning mid-week services when only two or three were present.

Indeed, on three occasions when there was deep snow, a 7am mid-week communion service had the comment "no congregation!" On another occasion (Feb. 8th 1968) we read that a 7am Communion had to be held with candles and torches as there was a power cut in the village.

During the war years the Rev. Spencer recorded that on April 22nd 1943 the government ban on the ringing of Church bells was lifted (though there is evidence to suggest that Essington's Church bell was rung on November 15th 1942 for the first time since 1940).

The same Vicar had a busy time recording in the Remarks column, the weather of the notorious winter of 1947. "Jan. 1: Snow" "Jan. 25: Heavy Snow" "Jan. 28: still more snow" "Feb. 25: still more snow" "Feb. 25: conditions arctic" "March 2: worst blizzard of the winter" "March 9: snow again" "March 16: snow" "April 4: snowing heavily".

Some years later, in December 1954, Rev. Spencer noted that he moved into the new vicarage - in a blizzard! On the same subject Rev. Fox remarked laconically on 18th March 1979 "Summertime started last night, with three inches of snow!"

There is also plenty of warmth in the registers too with details of distribution of daffodils on Mothering Sundays, of "Church full to overflowing", of Dedications, of Sunday School Festivals, of Confirmations and much more.

Hats off to all the Vicars for contributing to such a fascinating history book.



Deep snow at Hayward's Corner  
in the 1947 winter.