

Although we were out in the country we had paraffin lamp street lighting before the 1914-18 war. Before my time, but I can still remember seeing the lamp-posts and I also remember seeing the lamps stored in a shed. I don't know what happened to them but they were obviously 'ditched'. We were without street lights until electricity came years later. You found your way around the village by the light of people's houses as of course the blackout was lifted. It is surprising how one found the way around the country, it was very rarely pitch-black.

Light was by oil lamp and candle, and heating and cooking by a Bodeley stove which burnt either wood or coal. The flues had to be cleaned out once a week and the stove black-leaded,

Rubber hot water bottles were not heard of then although I think there were stone ones. We used to put a building brick in the oven to warm up and then wrap it in a cloth to take to bed.

Sundays were very strictly observed with Sunday School and Church in the morning, Sunday school in the afternoon and Church in the evening. We weren't allowed to play with toys, but were able to read a book. Each Christmas Father Christmas came of course, with an orange in the toe of our stocking, some sweets perhaps, maybe a small toy or a puzzle or a handkerchief. I always remember the carol singers on Christmas Eve, They used to come and stand under our bedroom window and sing.

Our Sunday School treat was something we all looked forward to. We had as our treat a tea where our parents were invited, and then prize giving for school attendance and a Christmas present from the Rector followed by some kind of entertainment, I sat in the Church Choir for a number of years and whilst going to Sunday School we had half a penny old money, for each attendance. We collected this also at our Sunday School treat. Most of the men came to church on Sunday about 20 to 30 of them.

In my early days no sport of any kind was played in school as there was no sports equipment but later on we played football and cricket and the girls played netball. No one had a bicycle in those days whilst at school, although sometimes a boy would find an old bicycle frame and a pair of wheels -without tyres- and make up a 'bone shaker' on which most of us learnt to ride.

Our drinking water came from the village pump and had to be fetched in pitchers or buckets. During a dry summer the pumps were locked by day, allowing two pitchers morning and evenings.

There were no flush toilets or bathrooms, we bathed in front of the fire in a tin bath, and the toilet was the bucket type in the garden, which was emptied on to the garden and covered with ashes from the fire.

Motoring was in its infancy, there were only two cars in the Parish, Doctor Good's Fiat and Mr Aitken's Nazzaro.

I remember going to Bideford on some special occasion by train (having walked 2.5 miles to the station) with the school, and then being collected from the station in the evening by this gentleman's car, nine of us, we thought it would never make the hill.