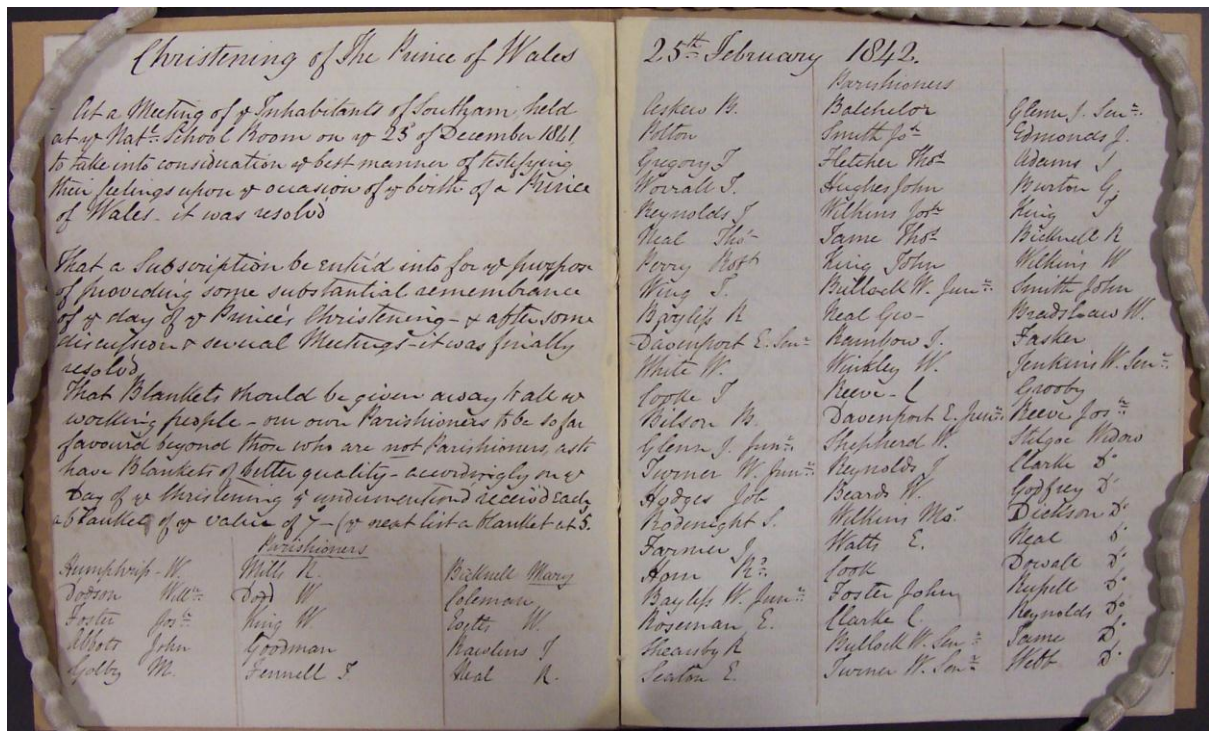


Christening of the Prince of Wales (King Edward VII), 1842

[DR0852/60](#)



Transcription

Christening of the Prince of Wales

At a meeting of the Inhabitants of Southam, held at the [National] School Room on the 23d of December 1841, to take into consideration the best manner of testifying their feelings upon the occasion of the birth of a Prince of Wales, it was resolv'd

That a Subscription be enter'd into for the purpose of providing some substantial remembrance of the day of the Prince's Christening – and after some discussion and several meetings – it was finally resolv'd

That blankets should be given away to all the working people – our own Parishioners to be so far favour'd beyond those who are not Parishioners, as to have Blankets of better quality – accordingly on the day of the Christening undermentioned receiv'd each a blanket of value of 7-[shillings] / the next list a blanket at 5

Royal Christenings

Last month, Prince George of Cambridge was christened in a replica of a first used for a royal baby 172 years ago. One of these babies was Prince Albert Edward, later to become King Edward VII. Prince Albert Edward, the eldest son of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, was christened at St. George's Chapel at Windsor on 25th January 1842. In the four years prior, Britain had witnessed the coronation of a new Queen, a royal wedding and the birth of the Prince's older sister, Princess Victoria. Despite these occasions not being as accessible to the public as they are today, a small parish in Warwickshire marked the christening in its own way.

Commemorations in Southam

In 1841, a meeting took place at the National School Room in Southam to "take into consideration the best manner of testifying their feelings upon the occasion of the birth of a Prince of Wales". This wasn't the first time that the parish had commemorated a royal event. Four years prior, they had marked Queen Victoria's coronation by giving dinner to the working people and in 1831, subscriptions were spent on food for the poor for the coronation of William IV.

For the Prince's christening, it was decided that blankets should be given to the "working people" of Southam. Eighty-one subscriptions were made amounting to £60 17s 6d (approximately £2,700 in today's money). Although it is unclear what the blankets were made from, or by whom, the document states that they were worth between 5 and 7 shillings each.

The Document

This notebook from St. James' Parish Church in Southam contains lists of subscriptions from 1831 to 1847. These include the raising of funds to commemorate royal events, as well as donations for a clock for the Girls Sunday School and the 'Shoe Club'. The document comprises of three lists, one for parishioners who received a blanket worth 7 shillings and one for non-parishioners, who received one worth 5 shillings. The document states that parishioners were to be favoured, receiving blankets "of better quality".

Lastly it notes the names of the subscribers and how much they donated, ranging from £41 to 6 shillings. There were 181 blankets given in total, 117 worth 7 shillings and 64 worth 5 shillings.

Comparisons

Event	Date	Amount received	Spent on
Coronation of King William IV	8 September 1831	£42 5s	Food for the poor including beef and fennel
Coronation of Queen Victoria	28 June 1838	£82 50s	Dinner for the “working people”, including beer, rolls and music
Christening of the Prince of Wales	25 January 1842	£60 17s 6d	Blankets

This comparison shows that the subscriptions raised averaged between the two coronations. It is unclear why, on this occasion, the inhabitants of Southam chose blankets rather than food to mark the occasion. However we can speculate that the winter month may have played a part in the decision.