

Days of Humiliation

A day of humiliation or fasting was a day of fasting and prayer proclaimed in response to a disastrous event. People were expected to repent in order to appease God.

Two Days of Humiliation were proclaimed in the 1850s. The first in April 1854 was in connection with the Crimean War, which was observed in the parish "with great solemnity".

There were two full services in the parish church, with sermons preached by the Vicar, the Rev. Brogden,¹ two services at Clifton with sermons preached by the Rev. W.C. Risley, as well as a service at Hempton. Collections were made for the wives and families of those serving in the war.

The subsequent Day of Humiliation, or national fast, was in October 1857 in connection with the Indian Mutiny. All the shops in Deddington were closed the whole day. There were services at Deddington, Clifton and Hempton. The Curate, the Rev. J.H. Burgess, preached at Deddington in the morning, and the Rev. W.C. Risley at the Clifton services. £16 11s. 7½d. was collected for the Indian Mutiny Relief Fund.

A sermon on '*The Duty of enquiring after God*' preached by the Rev. Brogden at Deddington on the day of solemn humiliation on 26 September 1849 "on account of the existing pestilence" was printed by J.S. Hiron.²

¹ Brogden's sermon on '*Christian Warfare*' was printed by J.S. Hiron.

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=yale.39002088679080&view=1up&seq=3&skin=2021>

² <http://dbooks.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/books/PDFs/590121111.pdf>