

Extracts from 'The Rambler in Worcestershire' or 'Stray Notes on Churches and Congregations' by John Noake (1850).

"A walk of two hours through a country rich in pasture, hops, garden ground, tillage crops and timber, brought me to the pleasant little village of Martley, situated nearly eight miles north of Worcester. The villagers were hastening churchward in obedience to the summons then issuing from the tower; and the schoolchildren, in their neat Sunday attire, were pouring down from their new school house (1846) winding round the parsonage garden, (?) and the foremost of them reaching the old wooden porch of their old parish church. How pleasing the sight, unknown to our forefathers! And how hopeful the prospect arising from these institutions! The reverend gentleman who performed the services, was, as I understood, the Rev Mr Thomas, curate of Shelsley. (Details of preaching omitted. ALB)
The choir, consisting of rustic voices and instruments, did their part pretty smoothly in a variety of tunes which I cannot but fancy are indigenous to and have never escaped beyond this parish (! ALB) The custom prevails here, as in some other primitive places, to chalk on a slate the psalms to be sung, and hang it over the gallery for the information of the flock below. This is a very convenient custom for Martley, where no one can hear the clerk."
(There follows a description of the church. ALB)

Compiled by Alan L. Boon

<http://openlibrary.org/b/OL7083522M/rambler-in-Worcestershire%3B-or%2C-Stray-notes-on-churches-and-congregations>

http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=wboHAAAAQAAJ&dq=The+Rambler+in+Worcestershire+%E2%80%99+or+%E2%80%98Stray+Notes+on+Churches+and+Congregations%E2%80%99+by+John+Noake&printsec=frontcover&source=bl&ots=mg3YIDH1QI&sig=_x3hczFzxiArbnAPcjZgOToep2U&hl=en&ei=V44FSp35J8a5jAeS1cT3Bw&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1#PPP1,M1

<http://www.flipkart.com/rambler-worcestershire-john-noake-stray/1437328725-vox3fv5cne>

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