

Parish Magazine, 1903. Local news.

January, 03.

WITHAM-ON-THE-HILL.

TO THE PARISHIONERS. MY DEAR FRIENDS,—

We have been invited to join with two or three parishes in the production of a monthly parish magazine, and after much thought I have decided to accept the invitation, and try the experiment. And I now venture to appeal to you to help me to make the experiment a success by each house taking in month by month a copy of the magazine.

The space in which this letter is now printed will be occupied by local news, and matters of parochial interest, including a record of all baptisms, marriages and burials in the parish. I sincerely hope that our effort will be generally welcomed, and feel sure that to those who take in the magazine it will prove an interest and a help. The "inside" part consists of the popular magazine entitled "Goodwill," which is always fresh, bright and up-to-date, and by far the most interesting Church monthly magazine with which I am acquainted. Wishing you all joy and happiness during the coming year.

I am, dear friends,

Your faithful friend and pastor,

LEONARD H. COOLEY.

MARRIAGE.—December 4th, 1902. John Edwin Greaves and Elizabeth Carr.

BURIAL.—December 17th, 1902. Lucy Ellen Benton, aged 14 years.

February, 03.

WITHAM-ON-THE-HILL, MANTHORPE, TOFT, & LOUND

We record with satisfaction that the Magazine has been extremely well received in the parish, the number of copies sold being nearly 50.

Christmas-tide. The Christmas festival this year was as bright as music and decoration and bell-ringing could make it, though the number of communicants was—alas!—smaller than last year. Indeed, the attendance at Church was very far from being satisfactory on so great and special a day.

On the first Sunday in the New Year the Vicar made an appeal for more regular attendance at Church, especially in the morning. This is stated for the benefit of those who were not present. Will all who read these words endeavour to do better this year than last? Every house in the parish ought to be represented in God's House on His Day of Worship.

The Stoves which Mr. Fenwick has so kindly given proved hardly sufficient during the late severe weather to make the Church as warm as we should like it. They are after all only temporary, until such time as the Vicar and Churchwardens are in a position to erect a new heating apparatus. We must therefore ask the congregation to be as forbearing as possible, and comfort themselves with the thoughts of warmer days to come!

The Ringers have begun the New Year well. Practices are held twice a week, and the bells are also raised on Sundays. We all rejoice to hear our beautiful bells again, and are much gratified at the prospect of possessing a zealous team to ring them. The Vicar would welcome not only new "ringers" but new "singers." Though our choir is strong in numbers, we are badly in need of men's voices. Who will offer their services?

On the 10th, the Vicar entertained the choir-boys to tea at the Vicarage, to the number of 16. Two more were unfortunately absent through illness. A pleasant evening of games, &c., was spent.

The Horticultural Lectures given by Mr. Pyke, on Monday evenings (6-30), are much appreciated. We would advise our readers, for their own sake, to attend the remaining Lectures.

Will those who may wish to join the **Clothing Club** give in their names to the Vicar within the next few days? Applications made later cannot be received. Last year the bonus given was as much as 5/- each adult member.

BURIAL.—December 24th, 1902, Charlotte Louisa Alford, aged 72 years.

BAPTISM.—January 25th, 1903, Catherine Fanny, daughter of Joseph and Sarah Olive Healey.

Jan. 3. 1903

WITHAM-ON-THE-HILL.

CHRISTMAS-TIDE.—The festival was ushered in by a merry peal from the Church steeple. The Holy Eucharist was celebrated at 8, 9, and 11, the latter fully choral, with sermon. The Church was well and tastefully decorated. After the high celebration, the Vicar and Churchwardens dispensed the Quails and Moulton Charities. Under the former, twelve poor widows received the sum of £1 ls. 6d. each, and under the latter charity ten men received coats.

SEASONABLE GIFTS.—The Estate servants and householders in the parish have been the recipients of either a pair of blankets or a joint of beef; whilst the unmarried workmen on the Estate have each received a very serviceable Cardigan jacket; as Christmas gifts from W. L. Fenwick, Esq. The parishioners generally desire to express their sincerest thanks for the generous manner in which they have been treated during the festive season, and also for gifts of game which they have received from time to time from Mr. Fenwick.

DANCE.—On Tuesday evening, a very successful dance was held in the School-room, which was effectively decorated for the occasion by Mrs. Metcalfe, Misses Brackenbury and Tiptaft, the Vicar, and Mr. E. Jackson. There was a large company present, and dancing was kept up until the "small hours." The Vicar, who had kindly offered his services as accompanist, was relieved for a time by Mr. Berry, of Bourne. Mr. Black, of Witham, also accompanied on the violin. Messrs. Andrew and Metcalfe acted as M.C.'s. The Ladies' Committee, who gratuitously provided the refreshments, consisted of Mrs. Moxon, Mrs. Andrew, Mrs. Brackenbury, Mrs. Pick, Mrs. Bradshaw, Mrs. Metcalfe, Mrs. Black, Mrs. Browett, and Miss Knipe.

THE SCHOOL.—The closing of School for the Christmas vacation was an occasion of special interest to the children. Mr. and Mrs. Fenwick and the Vicar were present. In the Vicar's introductory remarks to the children, he alluded to the practical interest which Mr. and Mrs. Fenwick are taking in the School, and hoped the children would be encouraged to greater regularity in attendance and diligence in studies. Mrs. Fenwick then presented each child with a useful gift: to the youngest children she gave toys, and to the elder ones books, needlework-cases, or boxes of tools. In addition to these presents, Mr. Fenwick had offered prizes to the best boy and girl in each class for diligence and punctuality; and to the best boy and girl in the whole School special prizes were offered for diligence, regular attendance, and good conduct. The children have taken great interest in the competition for those prizes, and, after a careful examination by the teachers, assisted by the Vicar, the results were announced as follows:—Special prizes—Won by Horace Woolmer and Eleanor Wells. Class prize-winners—Tom Francis, Fred Wells, Russell Hamling, Willie Pell, Alfred Pick, Thomas Croft, Emma Wilkinson, Amelia Wilkinson, Ethel Woolmer, Eva Knipe, Elsie Holmes, and Ella D. Metcalfe. The Vicar thanked Mr. and Mrs. Fenwick for the valuable presents and prizes, and the children showed their appreciation by vociferous cheering.

April 25. 1903.

WITHAM-ON-THE-HILL.

VESTRY MEETING.—At the annual Vestry meeting, the acting churchwardens, Mr. Thomas Pick and Mr. Charles Bradshaw, were re-appointed for the ensuing year. The Church accounts showed a substantial balance in hand, which it was decided to spend upon the purchase of kneelers and hymn-books.

March 14. 1903

WITHAM-ON-THE-HILL.

THE HALL.—Rapid progress is being made with the enlargement of the building. Externally, the edifice is approaching completion, and the south wing only remains to be slated. Mr. Fenwick, who since last May has resided temporarily at Hanthorpe House, has now taken up his residence at the Vicarage until the completion of the Hall.

SHROVE-TIDE DANCE.—A very enjoyable "Cinderella" dance was held on Shrove Tuesday, from 7 to 12 p.m. The music was provided by Mr. W. H. Berry. During the course of the evening, Mr. Thos. Pick, on behalf of the members of the Dancing Class, presented the Vicar with a handsome tobacco jar, and Mr. Black with a silver-mounted briar pipe in case, to mark their appreciation of their services as pianist and violinist during the season. Both the recipients, who were equally surprised as they were gratified at this kind token of appreciation, made suitable replies.

CONCERT.—A most successful concert was held on Thursday, the 19th, in aid of the Church expenses. The performers included Mrs. A. Wherry, Miss Bell, the Misses Everard, Miss Pope, Mr. Bell, and Mr. E. Wherry. There was a crowded attendance, and the proceeds realised £3. On all sides the concert was pronounced to be a great success. The Entertainments Committee had a concluding meeting on Wednesday; to dispose of the profits of the concert and dances, £3 was voted to the churchwardens for Church expenses, the remainder of the money in hand to be spent on erecting a span-supported lantern over the south entrance gate of the churchyard.

April 4. 1903

WITHAM-ON-THE-HILL.

STAMFORD INFIRMARY.—A house-to-house collection will be made throughout the parish, during the next few days, in aid of the Infirmary.

APPOINTMENT OF SCHOOL MANAGERS.—In accordance with the requirements of the Education Act, a body of six managers has been appointed as follows:—By the old School managers, Mr. W. L. Fenwick, the Rev. L. H. Cooley, Mr. Thos. Pick, and Mr. Chas. Bradshaw; by the united parishes of Witham, Manthorpe, and Toft-cum-Lound, Mr. F. Browett; and by the County Council, Mr. W. Inglis.

PARISH MEETING.—The annual parish meeting was held on April 1st. The Vicar (the Rev. L. H. Cooley) was re-elected chairman for the ensuing year. Messrs. W. K. L. Andrew and W. Brackenbury were appointed overseers of the poor, and Mr. W. E. Metcalfe was elected assistant-overseer in place of Mr. N. Moxon, resigned. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the retiring overseers, Messrs. F. Browett and W. Brackenbury.

UNIVERSITIES' MISSION TO CENTRAL AFRICA.—A lantern lecture on the work of the above Mission was given last Tuesday, in the School-room, by the Rev. H. Cotton Smith, Organising Secretary for the Diocese of Lincoln. Tracing the introduction of the pioneers into Africa by Dr. Livingstone in 1861, the lecture and the pictures showed how the work which began in failure, and was then transferred to Zanzibar, has now spread back again into the very district where it first started. Views of the Churches, hospitals, workmen's shops, Schools, around Lake Nyasa were shown; also portraits of the great explorer and Bishops Mackenzie, Hornby (who was lately in this district administering Confirmation), Maples, and Trower (present Bishop of Likema). There was a good attendance, and a vote of thanks was proposed by the Vicar, the Rev. L. H. Cooley, who reminded the audience that mission work was our bounden duty, not something we might choose or reject at pleasure.

March, 03.

WITHAM-ON-THE-HILL, MANTHORPE, TOFT, & LOUND.

Lent. "The Scriptures bid us fast, the Church says, Now." *Geo. Herbert.* By the time this Magazine is in our hands, the solemn season of Lent will have begun. Let us make some definite resolutions about how to spend it, so that it may help us to draw nearer to God. The special means of course, by which we may make our Lent a holy one, are Repentance, Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. *All* must be practised, not one or the other as it may happen to suit us. Some people leave out Repentance and Fasting, but if we are followers of Jesus Christ, we must not dare to. There must be the mark of the Cross upon our lives, if we would wear the Crown hereafter. Regular attendance at the Lent services, and especially weekly attendance at the Holy Sacrifice of the Eucharist, are invaluable aids during Lent. Let us all do what we can, as we value our salvation.

A Litany Desk has been presented to the church by Mrs. Henniker and Mrs. Martin-Atkins, sisters of our late squire, which was used for the first time on Sunday, February 8th. A brass plate is fixed to the desk, bearing the following inscription:—"To the glory of God, and in memory of Lucy Johnson, died February 9th, 1890. From her daughters Etheldred and Margaret." This is another testimony to the interest and affection which Mr. Johnson's family continue to feel in and towards our church even though their connection with the parish has been severed by the sale of the estate. The Vicar has received a promise from Mr. Johnson that he will continue to supply the candles for the sanctuary as he has done in the past, and sundry other offerings have been made to the church by Mr. and Mrs. Johnson since the estate passed out of their hands, including—at Christmas—a Thurible, "for sweetening the church."

Our new Squire, Mr. Fenwick, has now come among us, and has taken up his quarters at the Vicarage until the completion of the Hall. We can express no happier wish for him than that he may be as universally esteemed and respected as was Mr. Johnson.

Baptism.—February 15th, Alexander, son of Charles Thomas and Agnes Woolmer.

Burial.—February 4th, Sarah Smeaton, aged 74 years.

April, 03.

WITHAM-ON-THE-HILL, MANTHORPE, TOFT AND LOUND.

Holy Week. All the days of this solemn week should be spent as far as possible in devout contemplation of the sufferings of our Saviour. Above all, let us keep Good Friday as a Holy Day rather than a holiday. Let us all come to God's House on this most solemn and awful day, to hear again the "old, old Story of Jesus and His love." The Services on Good Friday will be as follows: Children's Service at 10. Mattins and Ante-communion Service at 11. Evensong at 7-30. The other Holy Week Services will be announced in church.

Easter Day, the great Feast of our Lord's Resurrection, is the day on which all church people are *obliged* to communicate, by the law of the church, (see 8th rubric at the end of the Communion Service in the Prayer Book). Let us all remember it is not only our privilege, but it is also our duty to approach the Altar at Easter. Early celebrations on Easter Day will be at 7-30 and 8-30, also High celebration at 11. All except the infirm are requested as far as possible to communicate at one of the early services.

Gifts of Flowers for the Easter decorations will be gratefully accepted and the Vicar requests help from those who can give it in decorating the church.

The New School Managers appointed under the recent Education Act consist of the following: The Vicar, the two churchwardens and the Squire (appointed by the late managers); Mr. Browett (elected by the parish); and Mr. W. Inglis (appointed by the County Council.) They will commence their duties on May 1st, the day when the Act comes into operation.

The church clock face has been painted and gilded. The editor has been requested not to mention to whom we are indebted for this kindness, but we none the less appreciate it.

We hope soon to have a new **Churchyard Lantern** suspended over the entrance. The concert and dancing committee have kindly undertaken to provide this. The same committee have also voted £3 to the churchwardens for church expenses.

The Easter Vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 14th, at 7-30 p.m. At this meeting the churchwardens will be appointed, and church and charity accounts submitted. Will all who take an interest in church and parish matters endeavour to be present?

Baptism.—March 6th, Alice Olive May, daughter of Thomas Ingham & Annie Matilda Guttridge.

Burials.—Mar. 4, Hannah Lake, 46 years (at Bourne). Mar. 6, Thomas William Daff, 8 months.

May, 03.

WITHAM-ON-THE-HILL, MANTHORPE, TOFT, & LOUND.

Easter Day. Thanks to the many willing helpers, the church was bright with flowers for the great Festival. The Altars were richly decorated with a profusion of Arums, the gift of Mr. Fenwick, who in addition personally arranged them. The collections throughout the day—given to the Queen Victoria Clergy Fund—amounted to £2 2s. 7d.

The annual Vestry meeting was held on Easter Tuesday. Mr. Thos. Pick and Mr. Bradshaw were re-appointed churchwardens, and Mr. Browett and Mr. Moxon sidesmen. The church accounts showed a balance in hand of £3 12s. 7d., which together with the contents of the Lent Self-denial box—10s. 6d.—will be spent upon some new hymn books and kneelers. The Moulton and Quarles Charity accounts were presented and passed. The former, after supplying ten coats at Christmas has a balance of £3 13s. 9d., and of the latter Charity, payments being made to as many as twelve widows last year, a balance remains of one penny.

Our heartfelt sympathy is expressed with Mr. E. Knipe and family in their sad bereavement. Mr. and Mrs. Knipe celebrated their Golden Wedding on Easter Sunday, on which occasion all their Sons and Daughters with one exception were assembled for the event. It was a great disappointment that Mrs. Knipe was unable through ill-health to come to church on the happy day, ever since which she gradually sank, until she passed away peacefully on Monday, April 27th. R.I.P.

The Infirmary Collection, made by Miss Taylor, in Toft and Lound, realized the sum of £1 1s.

June, 03.

WITHAM-ON-THE-HILL, MANTHORPE, TOFT, & LOUND

The School. The first meeting of the newly-appointed School Managers was held on May 6th. The Vicar was elected as chairman and correspondent. The managers expressed their regret at losing Miss Cripps, and agreed to request her to re-consider her resignation, a request which, we are sorry to say, was ineffectual. During the two years that Miss Cripps has taught in the School, she has won the esteem all with whom she has been connected and not least that of her scholars and fellow teachers, who presented her on leaving with a set of silver button hooks and shoe horn, enclosed in a morocco case. We heartily wish her happiness and success in her future work.

The Vicar cordially invites all parishioners and friends to make use of the lawns at the Vicarage on Wednesday evenings, during the summer months. If any desire he will provide opportunities for bowls and quoits. Children at school admitted only with their parents.

The Toft Club Feast was held on May 18th, the weather—for once—being fine and warm. This year there was neither band nor service. We can understand that the former was omitted on grounds economy, a reason that could hardly be urged for the abandonment of the latter! The Witham club feast will take place on June 8th. May we have our usual good fortune as to weather!

The Cricket Club. The Members desire to record their hearty thanks to Mr. Fenwick for his kindness and generosity in providing the excellent ground which we now possess, and which he has had extended and levelled at his sole expense. Few villages of the size of Witham can boast of such a wicket.

Matches played. May 9th, v. Holywell, won by 31 runs; 16th, v. Stamford Conservatives, lost by 60 runs; 23rd, v. Bourne, won by 5 runs.

Fixtures for June.—6th, v. Swayfield, away. | 20th, not arranged.
13th, v. Greatford, home. | 27th, Swinstead, away.

Baptisms.—May 17th, Elizabeth Carr, daughter of John Edwin and Elizabeth Greaves.

Burials.—May 2nd, Mary Knipe, aged 76 years.
May 14th, Elizabeth Greaves, aged 22 years.

July 03.

WITHAM-ON-THE-HILL, MANTHORPE, TOFT, & LOUND.

On June 25th Mr. and Mrs. Fenwick transferred their quarters from the Vicarage to the east wing of the Hall, which is the first completed portion of the Mansion. Our heartiest good wishes accompany them. The remainder of the House will, it is expected, be ready for occupation in about two months.

We venture to thank all who so kindly subscribed to the fund for the Choir Boys' trip, for without their help it would have been an impossibility. All we want now is a fine day on the 8th.

Some of the old Choir Cassocks having become almost unfit for further use, the Vicar has been obliged to purchase about a dozen new ones, a heavy outlay from our slender resources. We also need some new kneelers, another expensive item. We appeal therefore for increased Church collections, out of which all the Church expenses have to be met.

Some new Hymn Books have been purchased for the Church, not before they were needed! We ask that those who use them will replace them upon the shelf after service.

The Vicar and Churchwardens propose—with the kind help of the Squire—to level the South portion of the churchyard, so that it may be possible to keep the grass between the church and the road mown and trimmed and insert a few flower beds. The present condition of the yard is most unsightly, with its rank grass and weeds and uneven surface. No gravestones will be touched, but mounds over graves will only be left in cases where a request to do so is made.

A new Heating Appartus will be fixed in the church before the winter. The estimated cost is about £64, towards which the Church Estate Trustees have promised £30 and Mr. Fenwick, £10, in addition to the stoves which he has already given.

Cricket Fixtures.—July 4th, v. Holywell, away.

„ 11th, v. Stamford Conservatives, home.

„ 18th, v. Bourne, away.

July 25th, v. Grimsthorpe, home.

August 1st, v. Bourne, home.

August, 03.

WITHAM-ON-THE-HILL, MANTHORPE, TOFT & LOUND.

The Choir Boys' Trip to Skegness on the 8th was a great success. Fortunately the weather was fine and warm, and all the party thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The sum kindly subscribed, amounting to £2 10s. 0d., was just sufficient to cover our expenses, leaving a balance in hand of one half-penny! Our thanks are due to Mr. Pick, who very kindly sent a waggon to convey us home, footsore and weary, from the station.

Who would have said, two years ago, that we should be sending telegrams from Witham-on-the-Hill! Yet before this is in the hands of our readers the telegraph office will be open. We could have wished to see our old friends Mr. and Mrs. Newham still at the helm, but the extra work entailed by the telegrams is, we regret to say, the cause of their giving up the Post Office, which they have conducted so long and so well. They will carry with them, we feel sure, the heartiest good wishes of all, and may they be long spared to enjoyed a well-earned rest in the evening of their years.

We regret that so few old friends came to pay a tribute of respect to the memory of Mr. Henry Baldwin, on Tuesday last. It does not cost us much time to attend a funeral, but our presence at such a time means a great deal. Are we growing more forgetful of old ties and associations?

Cricket Fixtures.—August 8th, v. Swinstead, home.

„ 15th, v. Grimsthorpe, away.

August 22nd, v. Swayfield, home.

„ 29th, v. Corby, home.

Baptisms.—July 19th, Laurence, son of Harry and Lizzie Pell; July 19th, Florence, daughter of Samuel and Susan Cousins.

Burial.—July 28th, Henry Baldwin, aged 61 years.

September, 03.

WITHAM-ON-THE-HILL, MANTHORPE, TOFT, & LOUND.

"Cleanliness is next to Godliness," so we are told. We hope, therefore, now that our old church is so clean and sweet, after its scouring out, the next thing will follow, and that it may be filled—morning and evening alike—with worshippers. Floors, walls, ceilings, even the chairs have had their scrubbing, and the kneelers thoroughly beaten and brushed, so that the old objection to using them, on account of their dusty condition, will no longer hold good.

Fifty new kneelers have been purchased, and now, in every place in the church, it is possible for us to pray as our Prayer Book instructs us, namely, "meekly kneeling upon our *knees*."

Two or three kind friends lately spent an afternoon in oiling the oak work, thereby enriching the colouring, and helping to preserve it. To our mind the pulpit and choir stalls are by far the finest of their kind in the neighbourhood, and we ought, indeed, to be proud of them.

Manthorpe has contributed 15/- to the Stamford Infirmary, kindly collected by Miss Knipe. The Witham collection alone now remains to be sent in.

The Sunday collections in church, for the 19 Sundays since Easter, amount to the sum of £21 13s. 10d., an increase which we are most thankful to record.

Cricket. An all-day match will be played here, v. Stapleford, Notts., on September 12th.

Burial. August 5th, Elizabeth Sewell, aged 49 years.

October, 03.

WITHAM-ON-THE-HILL, MANTHORPE, TOFT, & LOUND.

Harvest Thanksgiving Services will be held on Sunday, October 11th. The monthly High Celebration of the Holy Eucharist will take place on this Sunday instead of the 4th. All should endeavour to be present at this great Service, and shew the reality of their gratitude by offering to God the "Sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving" as He has appointed. Come twice if you can, but if you can only come once, let it be in the *morning*. Gifts of corn, flowers, and decorative material are asked for, also the kind assistance of helpers to decorate the church.

The custom of neglecting Sunday morning worship, and coming only in the evening, is becoming so general that it is surely time we, as a parish, took the matter seriously to heart. We know there are difficulties—there usually are when our duty is concerned. But are these difficulties sufficiently great to justify us in habitually robbing God, Sunday after Sunday, of that which is due to Him from us? Example counts for much in this matter. We know of cases where new-comers accustomed before to go to church in the morning have given it up at Witham, for the sole reason that so few others attend the morning service. Will not the more faithful among us make a united effort to check this unhappily growing custom, by setting an example of regular Sunday morning church-going.

Can our readers give us the rule which determines the Feast Sunday? A local almanac says it is the 2nd Sunday after October 11th. This is certainly wrong, as it is often *three* Sundays later. Whichever Sunday it proves to be, we hope to persuade our old friend Mr. Halland to come and preach, on the occasion of the Dedication Festival.

Miss Knipe has generously given two oak hymn boards for the Church, in memory of her mother. We have wanted these for a long time, and feel sure they will be much appreciated, especially by those who sit at the back of the church.

Mr. Metcalfe's wood-work class will shortly re-commence. Intending members should apply to him at once. It is hoped, too, that a class for wood-carving may be held by Miss Sharp.

Marriage. September 22nd, John Thomas Cunningham and Mary Ann Green.

November, 03.

WITHAM-ON-THE-HILL, MANTHORPE, TOFT, & LOUND.

✕ **In Answer to our Query** of last month several old parishioners have furnished us with the rule governing the Feast Sunday. It always falls on the 3rd Sunday after old Michaelmas Day (Oct. 11th.)

The Parish Tea will be held on Monday November 2nd. Before deciding upon this we asked the parishioners to state whether or no they wished the tea to take place. Twenty seven houses were in favour of it, and five replied in the negative. There seems therefore to be a general desire that this pleasant annual gathering should continue. May we have a fine evening and a large muster of friends.

"The rain it raineth every day", and unfortunately our Harvest Thanksgiving Sunday (October 11th) proved the very wettest of all the wet Sundays we had. Considering the weather however, there were surprisingly good congregations, larger than we had dared to hope for. The collections amounting to nearly £2 will go towards defraying the cost of the new heating apparatus. The decorations were just what they should be, effective and not as is sometimes the case in churches at the Harvest—overdone. Our thanks are specially due to Miss Knipe, Mrs. Andrew, Mrs. Metcalfe, the Misses Watts, and some of our younger friends for their kind help.

The new heating apparatus is now inserted, and gave us an example of what it could do last Sunday. In the morning we were almost overpowered, and were obliged to let the fire out, otherwise there would not have been much left of us by the end of Evensong! Fortunately the heat can be regulated, and we hope to be very warm and comfortable again in church this winter.

The new lamp over the church gate appears to give every satisfaction.

Two of the powerful oil stoves which the Squire kindly gave us last winter are still for sale, the proceeds to be devoted to the new heater. When new they cost £2 apiece, who will give us 30 shillings? They are the very best kind of oil stove made, no glass to break, and absolutely devoid of smell. The stoves are practically new, and can be seen at the Vicarage.

We find that, as we rather expected, there is no demand for the Reading Room this winter, so that it will not be opened.

The month of November is set apart by ancient custom for special commemoration of the blessed dead. There will be celebrations for this object on All Souls' Day (Nov. 2nd) and each Monday in the month.

December, '03.

WITHAM-ON-THE-HILL, MANTHORPE, TOFT, & LOUND.

With this number we complete a year's issue of our parish magazine. It has been so well received and kindly supported that we intend to continue it through the coming year; and hope that not only all our old subscribers will take it in, but that every house in the parish will want a copy. The cost—one penny a month, or one shilling a year—puts it within the reach of all. It will save much trouble of collecting pennies and also insure the prompt delivery of the numbers, if as many as can do so will pay the shilling in one sum.

We regret to say that the Parish Tea was not the success that we hoped for. In spite of so many parishioners having expressed their desire to have the tea, they did not attend, the result being that it was not—as it was meant to be—a representative gathering of the adult parishioners. The proceeds of the tea fell short of last year by nearly one pound, which speaks for itself. It is rather discouraging to all those who took such considerable trouble to make the many preparations, to find that their efforts are unappreciated.

Christmas Day falls this year on a Friday, and when this occurs that particular Friday is not of course kept as a day of Abstinence. (See the Table of days of Fasting or Abstinence at the beginning of the Prayer Book.) May all our readers enjoy a right merry Christmas, and not forget that this great day is simply and solely a *Christian* Festival, and keep it as such by coming to church to worship our Saviour on His Sacred Birthday. There will be celebrations of the Holy Eucharist at 8 and 11. Christmas Day is a day when *every* communicant should come to God's Altar. The Vicar and Churchwardens hope to distribute the coat and widows' charities immediately after Divine Service on Christmas morning, as usual.

A debt of something like £14 remains upon the new church heating apparatus. The cost of renewing the furnace was £54 0s. 0d. to which must be added the cost of fixing and brickwork. At present we have £44 10s. 0d., made up of £30 0s. 0d. from the Church Estate, £10 0s. 0d. from Mr. Fenwick and £4 10s. 0d. from the sale of the old stoves. We hope soon to find some means of meeting the deficit either by a rummage sale, concert, or special appeal, or perhaps even the Trustees of the Church Estate may spare us a further small grant.

Our thanks are due to Miss Knipe for her kind offer to arrange the flowers in the Altar vases, which she has so tastefully done now for some weeks. Except during Advent and Lent, the Altar should be decorated with flowers.

The Witham house-to-house collection for the Infirmary, kindly undertaken by Mr. Charles Needham, has realized £1 6s. 9d.

New members of the clothing club will be welcomed. Bonus 4/- or 5/- a year, according to the state of the funds. Apply to the Vicar on or before Monday, December 7th.

Jan. 16. 1904

WITHAM-ON-THE-HILL.

ENTERTAINMENT.—A most successful entertainment was given in the School-room, on Thursday evening, Jan. 7th, in aid of the Church heating apparatus fund. The first part consisted of a concert, in which the following performers took part:—Mrs. Holmes (Castle Bytham), the Misses Denning (Stamford), Miss J. Flint (Belmistorpe), Mr. Fannell, Mr. Lowe, and Mr. Woolhouse (Ryhall), and Mr. W. Andrew (Witham). The second part was a comic drama, entitled "My Wife's Mother," the characters being taken as follows:—Mrs. Quickfidget, Miss Nicholson; Mrs. Budd, Mrs. Holmes; Mrs. Fitz-osborne, Miss J. Flint; Uncle Foozle, Mr. C. Lowe; Mr. Budd, Mr. P. Woolhouse; Ned Waverley, Mr. T. P. Fannell; Footman, Mr. H. Flint. Mr. Lowe, as "Uncle Foozle," was inimitable, and Miss Nicholson rendered the part of the mischief-making mother-in-law with marked success. At the conclusion, the performers received hearty rounds of applause, expressing how highly their acting was appreciated. There was a crowded audience, and the takings amounted to £5 4s. All the performers were afterwards hospitably entertained to supper by Mrs. Andrew and Mr. William Andrew.

Feb. 13. 1904

WITHAM-ON-THE-HILL.

DANCE.—On Wednesday, Feb. 3rd, a dance took place in the School, which proved to be one of the most successful ever held at Witham. In spite of the inclement weather, there was a capital attendance, including parties from Bourne, Cawthorpe, Witham Hall, and Holywell Hall. The Vicar acted as accompanist. The liberal supplies which loaded the refreshment stall, consisting of ices, sandwiches, pies, and cakes of all descriptions, were given by the following friends:—Mrs. Fenwick, Mrs. Andrew, Mrs. Benton, Mrs. Brackenbury, Mrs. Bradshaw, Mr. Browett, Mrs. Holmes, Miss Knipe, Mrs. Metcalfe, Mrs. Moxon, Mrs. Pick, Mrs. Seymour, and the Vicar. Altogether, about £4 9s. was realised, which will go towards the debt on the Church heating apparatus.

Dec. 24. 1903

WITHAM-ON-THE-HILL.

DEATH OF MR. S. NEWHAM.—Last week there passed away, at the age of seventy-three, an old and widely-respected inhabitant of Witham, in Mr. Samuel Newham, tailor and late postmaster. Mr. Newham had been in failing health for the last two or three years, and resigned the management of the Post-office in the summer, after having held it for a considerable number of years. For many years he was a regular member of the Church choir, and is said at one time to have taken his part in the orchestra, which, in the days before the organ was erected, used to lead the musical portion of the services. The funeral took place at Witham on Thursday at 2.30. There was no choir or music, in accordance with the expressed wish of the relatives. On Sunday morning, the Vicar (the Rev. L. H. Cooley) alluded to the loss which the parish had sustained through Mr. Newham's death, and special memorial hymns were sung. In the evening, the Dead March in *Saul* was played after the service, and a muffled peal was rung as a tribute of respect to the memory of the deceased.

WITHAM-ON-THE-HILL.

