

January. 04

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

The Bishop of Lincoln will administer Confirmation in our Church on Feb. 29th. The Vicar would be glad to have the names of intending candidates as soon as possible. A visit from our Bishop will be quite an event for us, and for the candidates it will mean a happy privilege which is not often possible, namely that they will be Confirmed in their *own* Church.

The Vicar has the pleasure of presenting to every house in the parish the *Witham-on-the-Hill Almanack*. Will our readers find a place for it on their walls, and read carefully the Vicar's New Year letter?

The Children have been fortunate indeed this Christmas! On Saturday, December 26th, Mr. and Mrs. Fenwick provided a Christmas Tree in the school, to which all who attended school were invited. To the best boy and girl in each standard was given a prize, and the best boy and girl in the whole school each received a *champion* prize. Besides these, every child—from the oldest to the youngest—had a beautiful present, not to mention apples and oranges and other good things besides. After distributing the presents and prizes, Mr. and Mrs. Fenwick were greeted with rounds of hearty cheers, as an acknowledgment of their great kindness and generosity.

A wish has been widely expressed that some mention should be made here of the many generous Christmas gifts which have been received from the Squire, and that we should assure him of the deep gratitude of all the numerous recipients for his thoughtful kindness and liberality.

Christmas Day passed off brightly and happily. The number of communicants and the large congregation at the morning service were most encouraging. There were ten widows who received the Quarles charity money, amounting to 25/- each, and nine recipients of coats among the men.

Since our last issue Mr. Samuel Newham has been taken from us, and we extend our deepest sympathy with his widow. He was for years a regular member of our choir, and the funeral would have been a choral one except that the relatives expressed a wish to the contrary. A muffled peal was rung on the following Sunday, out of respect to his memory, R.I.P.

Baptisms.—Dec. 13th, Herbert Stanley, son of Walter and Rose Fanny Warnes.

Dec. 20th, Sarah Irene, daughter of Walter and Jane Ardin.

Burial.—Dec. 17th, Samuel Newham, aged 73 years.

February 04.

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

The circulation of the Magazine has now reached 75 copies. As there are only 81 inhabited houses in the entire parish, we are gratified to feel that it is so well appreciated.

At the time of writing, there are 29 Witham candidates for the approaching Confirmation, including three who will be prepared away from home, but who hope to come to their own Church to be confirmed. Should there still be others wishing to be prepared, but whom the Vicar has not personally asked, will they send their names to him without delay, and he will gladly prepare them separately.

The Entertainment on January 7th was a success in every way, and our grateful thanks are due to all the kind friends who helped in one way and another to make it so. The gross takings came to £5 4s. 0d., half of which sum will be taken up with expenses, the remainder being available for the church heating apparatus fund. About £9 is now required to clear off this debt.

We have ordered two dozen new chairs for the Church. We find that rush-bottomed chairs do not last for ever, and crippled veterans have from time to time to be removed from the ranks! In any case we shall need additional seating for the Confirmation, as several neighbouring parishes will be sending candidates on the 29th.

To parents.—Mr. Fenwick has stated that he considers the attendance of children on Sunday is not as large or as regular as it ought to be, and wishes us to make it known that next Christmas his treat to the school children will depend upon their improved attendance at Sunday School, and that prizes will only be given to those who attend, and attend regularly, on Sundays. We rejoice that he has given this encouragement to a better observance of Sunday by the children, and ask all the parents to let their children come punctually and regularly to the School every Sunday by 10-15 sharp. A register of attendances is kept.

Lent.—"Once more the solemn season calls the holy fast to keep." Let us all try, when it comes, to make use of this helpful season of penitence, with its many opportunities; and make some definite resolution beforehand as to how we can keep it with more profit to ourselves; *e.g.*, as to prayer, self-denial, Church attendance, &c.

The Church Windows have been repaired where needed, so that there ought not to be any more draughts now in Church.

Total of Church Collections since last Easter till Jan. 24th, £44 10s. 6d.

Baptism.—January 17th, Winifred Sarah, daughter of James and Sarah Ann Haddon.

March, 04.

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

The Confirmation.—By the time that this is in the hands of our readers, the long looked for visit of our Bishop will have taken place. Such a visit from our beloved Father in God cannot fail to leave a lasting impression upon us. Wherever he goes, up and down his great Diocese, he leaves behind him an abiding sense of that gentle, loving influence of his, which makes itself felt upon all, high or low alike, Churchpeople and dissenters alike, with whom he comes in contact. At the time of going to press, we hear of 75 candidates to be confirmed at Witham, 30 being our own. Let us remember them in our prayers before the Throne of Grace, "that they may daily increase in God's Holy Spirit more and more, till they come to His everlasting Kingdom."

The Grimsthorpe Nursing Association has taken a new lease of life in the parish under the able and energetic management of Mrs. Fenwick, who has been appointed Committee Lady for Witham: Last year there were only six subscribers now we have twenty-two. We cannot too highly recommend this excellent institution, which provides trained and experienced nurses whenever needed at a merely nominal charge. For instance a labourer's wife by paying 2/- a year, can get her nurse for the small sum of 2/- a week, whenever she or any of her family fall ill.

Easter Notices will be published in next month's issue. Meanwhile, five weeks of Lent remain. May they be blessed to us, and may we "use such abstinence, that our flesh being subdued to the spirit, we may ever obey our Blessed Lord in righteousness and true holiness."—(Collect for 1st Sunday in Lent.)

The Ringers are practising with a will this winter. If it may encourage them we will add that we all rejoice to hear our fine bells rung once more. A peal of 5040 changes was rung on Saturday afternoon, Feb. 13th, in 2 hours and 49 minutes, by the following—C. Neaverson (treble); A. J. Holmes (2), N. Moxon (3), T. Bainbridge (4), C. Newham (5), Th. Murray (tenor).

A Lantern Lecture will be given in the School, on Wednesday, March 9th, by Rev. G. H. Trist, on behalf of the Universities' Mission to Central Africa. All are cordially invited. There will be a collection afterwards for the Mission.

The proceeds of the dance, on Feb. 3rd, came to £4 9s. 10d., a substantial help towards the Heating Apparatus Fund.

Burial.—Feb. 3rd, Florence Cousins, aged 7 months.

March 5. 1904

WITHAM-ON-THE-HILL.

CONFIRMATION.—On Monday, February 29th, the Bishop of Lincoln administered Confirmation in St. Andrew's Church, to seventy-four candidates, twenty-seven of whom were presented from Witham-on-the-Hill, and the remainder from the surrounding villages. The afternoon, though cold, was beautifully fine, and the choir and clergy vested at the Vicarage, whence, headed by the processional cross, they walked to the Church. At the Church gates, they were met by the Bishop and his chaplain, who had driven direct from the Hall, his Lordship being vested in cope and mitre. On entering the Church, the hymn, "Soldiers of Christ, arise," was sung. Two earnest and impressive addresses were delivered by the Bishop, one before and one following the imposition of hands. In addition to the Bishop of Lincoln and his chaplain, the Rev. G. F. Wilgress, the following clergy were present in their robes:—The Rev. L. H. Cooley (Vicar of Witham-on-the-Hill), the Revs. H. M. Mansfield and H. B. Paine (Bourne), G. B. Vessey (Edenham), F. H. Lane (Barholm), H. W. Layng (Creeton), R. G. Pearse (Careby), M. O. A. Baines (Carlby), J. S. Pettifer (Thurlby), J. Fagan (Swayfield), H. C. Smith (Castle Bytham), and D. F. Allen (Little Bytham). After the service, a tea was provided in the School for the candidates, when the following ladies kindly presided at trays:—Mrs. Andrews, Mrs. Bradshaw, Miss Knipe, Mrs. Pick, Mrs. Metcalfe, and Mrs. Moxou. A reception was afterwards held by Mrs. Fenwick, at the Hall, at which the Bishop and clergy were present, his Lordship staying at Witham as the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Fenwick. At intervals before and after service, and also in the evening, touches were rung upon the bells by the Witham ringers.

April 16. 1904

WITHAM-ON-THE-HILL.

PARISH MEETING.—The annual parish meeting was held in the School on Thursday, March 31st. The Rev. L. H. Cooley was re-elected chairman for the ensuing year. Messrs. Wm. K. L. Andrew and Nathaniel Moxon were appointed overseers, and Mr. Wm. E. Metcalfe assistant-overseer.

AT THE EASTER VESTRY MEETING, held last week, the Vicar presided. The collections during the year amounted to £53 odd, and there was a balance in hand of £9 10s. Mr. Thos. Pick and Mr. C. Bradshaw were re-appointed churchwardens; Mr. Moxon and Mr. Browett sidesmen. On the motion of W. L. Fenwick, Esq., it was resolved to clean and level the south portion of the churchyard, with a view to keeping it closely mown and ornamented with flower-beds. In addition to the ordinary expenses of the Church, a new warming-apparatus was provided last autumn at a total cost of £58 4s. 3d., the whole of which has been defrayed.

LADY-DAY CHANGES.—Mr. Chas. Armstrong has succeeded Mr. Geo. Almey as landlord of the Black Dog Inn. Mr. Armstrong has been for over twelve years in the service of W. L. Fenwick, Esq., of Witham Hall, as butler, and enters upon his new duties with the hearty good wishes of the village. Mr. Wm. Brackenbury, of Ling's Farm, has removed to Lyndon. He enjoyed the distinction of being the "oldest" tenant upon the estate, and in that capacity read an address of welcome to Mr. and Mrs. Fenwick on the occasion of their coming to Witham two years ago. Mr. and Mrs. Brackenbury will be widely missed by their numerous friends at Witham.

April, 04.

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

The Confirmation will not be quickly forgotten by those whose privilege it was to be present at that solemn and impressive service. Our beautiful and spacious Church lends itself particularly well to such a ceremony, and never, in our opinion, did it look better than on this occasion. As many who were present said, "it was BEAUTIFUL." The Bishop in particular was greatly pleased and gratified, and remarked on the reverent manner in which the service was conducted. Besides our own, there were candidates from the following places:—Bourne, Castle Bytham, Little Bytham, Barholm, Careby, Carlby, Creeton, Edenham, Thurlby, and Swayfield. Twelve clergy were present, in addition to the Bishop and his chaplain. The procession of clergy and choir left the Vicarage at 2-30 in bright sunshine, headed by the processional cross, and met the Bishop, who drove direct from the Hall, at the churchyard gate. His lordship was vested in cope and mitre, and his episcopal crozier was carried before him. Two earnest addresses were given by the Bishop to the candidates, before and after the imposition of hands. Our thanks are due to the choir, who never sang better or more heartily, also to the ringers for their kind services. We also beg to thank most heartily those ladies who kindly managed the tea for the candidates in the school after the service. Nor must we omit our excellent churchwardens, who so ably arranged the seating and marshalling of the candidates, that there was not the slightest hitch or confusion from beginning to end. We must thank too, Mr. Measures, for the kind loan of two lengths of matting, which effectually prevented any noise of footsteps during the presentation of the candidates.

Easter Day. Celebrations at 7-30, 8-30 and 11. Will all as far as possible communicate at one of the *early* services. Will the parents, sponsors and friends of the newly-confirmed endeavour to come with them on this the occasion of their first communion.

The Easter Vestry meeting will be held in the new school on Easter Monday, April 4th, at 7 p.m. At this meeting the churchwardens will be appointed, and the accounts of the Parish Charities and Church Expenses submitted. A scheme for improving the churchyard will also be discussed. The vicar earnestly asks for the encouragement of a large attendance.

Help in the Easter decorations is requested.

Baptism.—March 27th, Frederick Joseph, son of Joseph and Sarah Olive Healey.

May. 04.

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

Easter Day.—Never do we remember seeing the Church look so well at Easter before. The decorations were both profuse and beautiful, and our thanks are due to all the kind helpers, not forgetting the children, who worked with a will in getting such quantities of primroses and moss. The number of communicants was considerably larger than in previous years, and all the newly confirmed made their first communion on the great Festival.

Ascension Day, commonly called "Holy Thursday," falls on May 12th. This day on which we commemorate the final act in our Blessed Lord's great work of Redemption for us, is regarded by the Church as equal in importance with Christmas Day, Easter Day, or Whitsun Day. Unfortunately it is not, as it should be, a general holiday, still all Christian people should try to make some observance of a day which means so much to them. There will be sung service at nine with an address, and evensong and sermon at eight p.m.

The Easter Vestry Meeting was well attended. The Church accounts showed a balance in hand of £9 10s. 0d., which will be spent upon improving the south-east portion of the Churchyard. The retiring wardens and sidesmen were re-elected. The year's collections showed an increase over last year of £30.

Stamford Infirmary.—It is hoped that a house-to-house collection will be made for this object throughout the parish during May.

The Vicarage garden.—The Vicar begs to renew his invitation to all parishioners and friends to make use of the lawns on Wednesday evenings during the summer months. Bowls can be played by those who desire to do so.

Baptism.—April 3rd, Edward Harold, son of George Morris and Harriet Cooper.

Received into the Church, after private baptism—April 4th, Jessie, daughter of Arthur George and Sarah Sharman Ayto.

June. 04.

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

The Club Feast will take place on Monday, June 13th. The Vicar will be glad if members of the congregation will attend our short bright little service at 12 noon, and thereby help to make it the heartier. The Vicarage garden will be open to all throughout the evening.

The School.—It is perhaps not very generally known that our new school buildings are not yet out of debt. Up till quite recently this debt amounted to about £145. Towards this the late managers have voted from funds at their disposal the amount of £90, so that now only £55 remains still to be paid off. We hope that the Church Estate Trustees will be able to defray the whole of this by the end of the present year.

Cricket Fixtures for June.—4th, Castle Bytham, away | 18th, Holywell, home
11th, Greatford, away | 25th, Bourne, away

Will our readers look again at their Parish Almanack, and read over again the "letter from the Vicar," on the subject of attendance at church, particularly in the morning. On the Sundays when the 11 o'clock service is that of the Holy Eucharist, the attendance is certainly better than on the other Sundays, but, even then is very far short of what it should be. The Eucharist is the highest and most important of all services, and the Church designs that all should attend it, not only those who come to receive communion, but all, old and young alike. It is the *one* service in the Prayer Book at which the sermon is ordered to be preached, the notices proclaimed, the banns of marriage published, and the alms collected. Why? Because all the parishioners are supposed then to be present. Let us bear this in mind, and while attending more regularly at other times, always make a point of being present at this, the highest act of worship that man is privileged to offer to God.

A meeting of the Cricket Club was held at the Hall, on May 2nd. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Squire for the kind interest that he has shown in the club, and for the fine ground that he has provided and maintains, such as few villages can boast of. It is hoped that more may be induced to join, and play as often as possible. The subscription has been fixed at 1/- per annum.

Baptisms.—May 1st, May, daughter of Robert and Sarah Ellen Dalby. May 22nd, Mary Jane, daughter of Ernest Henry and Mary Jane Baldwin.

July. 04.

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

Once again has God's angel of death visited our little parish and called one away from among us, and on Monday last all that was mortal of William Inglis was laid to rest in the churchyard of Little Bytham. It was gratifying to see so many parishioners who came to pay their last tribute of respect, and our deep sympathy goes out to the bereaved mourners in their loss. May this solemn and sudden summons recall to our minds that other day—perhaps so soon coming—when the passing bell shall toll out for ourselves, and when we shall have to give an account of that stewardship which God has entrusted to us.

The Passing Bell.—It is well that we should understand the meaning and reason of this ancient custom. By the Church's Canon Law (Canon 67) it is ordered as follows:—"When any is passing out of this life, a bell shall be tolled." Hence the name "passing bell." And why is this? It is in order that all who hear it may at once offer their prayers for the departing soul at that supreme and awful moment when it goes up for judgment before its maker. Let us bear this in mind and whenever we hear the death bell rung, let us not be so uncharitable as to refuse to send up a prayer for mercy to Him who is a GOD of mercy as well as justice. Hence the great importance of ringing the passing bell immediately, at whatever time of the day or night death may take place.

Many thanks to all our kind friends who have contributed so readily to the fund for the choir trip. Our Subscription list contains so many names that we have not sufficient space to print it, but nevertheless we are deeply grateful to all. We hope to have a thoroughly enjoyable day at the seaside early in July.

Mr. Johnson who for years past has been kind enough to provide the candles for the sanctuary, has recently sent us a further supply.—The Club Feast, held on June 13th, was in every way successful. The day was beautifully fine, indeed we seem always to be favoured with fine weather on this occasion. The service in Church was well attended and heartily rendered. The excellent dinner, served by Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong, would be hard to beat, and ample justice was done to it.—By the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Fenwick, the Hall gardens were thrown open to the members and their friends, and dancing took place both there and at the Vicarage. In the evening a peal was rung upon the Church bells.

Cricket Fixtures for July.—9th, v. Swinstead, away; 16th, v. Grimsthorpe, home; 23rd, not arranged; 30th, Castle Bytham, home.

Burial.—June 27th, at Little Bytham, William Inglis, aged 47 years.

Aug. 04.

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

The School.—The Diocesan Inspector visited the School on June 30th, to examine the children in Religious Knowledge. We have received the following Report from him:—"The tone and discipline of this School are very good. The children answered intelligently in all subjects. The written work was well done." (Signed) D. S. DAVIES, Rector of North Witham.

The Choir Trip took place on Thursday, July 14th. Although the Vicar was away from home, he thought it better not to defer this outing until his return, but that advantage should be taken of the warm fine days while they lasted, so Mr. Metcalfe very kindly undertook the management of the trip, which proved a great success. Skegness was again our destination, and the choir boys were accompanied by several other parishioners. Mr. Andrew was kind enough to send a waggon to Little Bytham Station to convey the tired members of the party home on their return. All who so kindly subscribed towards the expense of this pleasant outing will be gratified to know how thoroughly it was enjoyed by all.

The Vicar, at the time of writing, is spending part of his holiday with his old colleague, the Rector of Christ Church, St. Leonard's-on-Sea. To worship for a Sunday in such a Church is refreshing indeed; and to see the immense and reverent congregations which throng the Church throughout the day is a cheering encouragement, when one is only too accustomed to, and apt to be disheartened by, the small numbers of our own parish congregation. At Christ Church the Catholic Faith is plainly taught; and what is the result? The average attendance on a Sunday exceeds 3,000, nearly two-thirds being attenders in the *morning*, at the Holy Eucharist. The collection every Sunday is hardly ever less than £60, and the churchwardens allege that every week-day the worshippers number, on an average, 400. These wonderful figures speak for themselves.

Cricket Fixtures.—Aug. 6, Witham v. Corby, home. | Aug. 20
" 13, Witham v. Bourne, home. | Aug. 27, Witham v. Grimsthorpe, away

September. 04.

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

The School will re-assemble on Monday, September 19th.

To Parents.—The Education Committee of the Kesteven County Council have issued their new Bye-laws dealing with the attendance of children at school. We would direct the attention of parents to the following points:—

(a.) A child over 12 may leave, if it has reached the 6th Standard, and has received a "labour certificate" from one of His Majesty's Inspectors.

(b.) A child over 13, not having reached the 6th Standard, may leave providing that, since it was 5 years of age, it has made 350 attendances a year for five years, and can be shewn to the satisfaction of the Local Authority to be *beneficially employed*. Otherwise it must attend school up to the age of 14.

(c.) **Partial Attendance**, (for children employed in Agriculture.) The parent of any child over 11, who has passed the 5th Standard, may give notice to the Local Authority that such child is to be employed in Agriculture; and the child shall then only be required to make 250 attendances in the year, beginning on the 15th of October. When the required number of attendances are made, the child need not attend again till the following 15th of October. In such cases the child cannot be *completely* exempt from attendance till the age of 13.

Administration of Holy Baptism.—The Prayer Book directs that the proper time for the public baptism of infants is upon some Sunday or Holy Day, immediately after the 2nd Lesson at Morning or Evening Prayer. Parents are therefore requested to bring their children to Holy Baptism as far as possible at these times, and not to perpetuate the undesirable custom of administering this Sacrament in an empty church, with none present except the parents and sponsors.

We regret the advent of scarlet fever into the parish, and it behoves all to take the utmost precautions against the spread of this dangerous complaint. At the time of writing, all the little patients are progressing favourably.

Harvest Thanksgiving Services will be held (D.V.) on Sunday, October 2nd.

Cricket Fixtures.—September 3rd, Swinstead, away: September 10th, Corby, home

October, 04.

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

The Baptism of Infants.—In our note on this subject last month we omitted to point out the fact that the Church requires infants to be brought to Holy Baptism "*not later than the first or second Sunday next after their birth, or other Holy Day falling in between,*" (see the rubric.) In many cases Baptism is deferred a great deal too long.

The Dedication Festival falls this year on Sunday, October 30th. There will be no Parish Tea during the Feast week, as this time-honoured gathering seems to have fallen out of favour in the parish. Last year, although many parishioners declared themselves in favour of it and promised to attend, the number of those who fulfilled this promise was miserably small, and the tea was pronounced a failure. So we have decided to drop it, at all events this year.

Several enquiries have been made as to where the massive and beautiful prayer desk, which now stands near the organ, came from. As a matter of fact it has stood for many years unseen and unnoticed on the north side of the sanctuary, close to the altar. The Vicar had it moved down to use on the Sundays when he played the organ. It looks so well in its present position, that it has been decided to leave it there.

The house-to-house collections for the Stamford Infirmary have been very kindly undertaken by Mrs. Fenwick (Witham), Miss Knipe (Manthorpe), and Miss Taylor (Toft and Lound). Amounts collected:—Witham £3 9s. 9d., Manthorpe £0 14s. 9d., Toft (not completed). A list of subscribers will be given next month. We thank them all for their generous response.

The sudden death of Mr. Robert Smith of Toft came as a great shock and loss to us all. Although not a churchman he enjoyed the respect and esteem of the church people in the parish in a very high degree, and his consistent Christian life was a bright example to all among whom he lived. Our deep sympathies go out to his bereaved widow and sons in their great loss.

Woodwork and Wood Carving Classes will commence in October, the former on Tuesday evenings, at 7 p.m., the latter on Thursdays, at 6-30. First Carving Class on the 6th. First Woodwork Class on the 11th. All who desire to join these will be welcome.

We have decided to record month by month the amount of the Sunday church collections. The following are those of last month—September 4th, 18/9; 11th, 16/10; 18th, 19/9; 25th, 8/7.

Baptisms.—September 1st, Charles Kynaston, son of John William and Marion Lloyd.

Burial.—September 23rd, Robert Smith, aged 55 years.

November, 04.

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

The Harvest Thanksgiving Services on October 2nd, were well attended and heartily rendered, and the church looked more beautiful than ever, decorated as it was with the utmost good taste and moderation, a quality sometimes lacking in harvest decorations. We are most grateful to all our kind helpers, who included Mrs. Andrew, Mrs. Bridge, Miss Creighton, Miss Knipe, Miss Lee, Mrs. Metcalfe, Miss Trowse, and the Misses Watts.

When the writer was a child the fact was impressed upon him that one ought never to "pass the bag" in church. An excellent principle, and one which if taught by parents to children would in after years encourage the practice of systematic almsgiving, which is so important a Christian duty. We would urge that parents provide their children more often with some small contribution to give God in church, at the collection. Even at the Harvest Thanksgiving, many of the little ones had nothing wherewith to make their little thankoffering, one quite as pleasing to God as the large contributions of the wealthy. And God says that we are "not to appear before Him empty."

At early Services, when a collection is not always made during the Service, the offerings can be placed in the "poor box."

The Stamford Infirmary house-to-house collections have totalled £5 13s. 0d. A printed list of subscribers is being distributed throughout the parish.

The Dedication Festival suggests to us that the Magazine ought to include from time to time short paragraphs dealing with the history and antiquity of the parish church. Such information would surely prove interesting to all. We are all of course justly proud of our grand old church, older a great deal than any other building in the whole parish. In design it is almost unique, and has architectural features of exceptional interest. But all architects agree that it has one serious disfigurement, namely the four unsightly urns perched upon the corners of the tower. These are totally out of keeping with the rest of the structure, even with the steeple upon which they stand, which is by far the most modern feature of the church. We have often hoped that it might one day be possible to see their removal.

During November the church bids us think more particularly of dear ones gone before us, "who have departed this life in God's faith and fear." There will be the usual commemorative celebrations on All Souls' Day (November 2nd), and on each Monday in the month. Many who have lost friends and relatives cannot attend these Services, will they therefore give in to the Vicar the names of all whom they wish to be remembered at the altar?

Collections.—October 2nd, £1 11 0 | October 16th, £0 19 0 | October 30th, £1 7 8
" 9th, 1 10 2 | " 23rd, 0 4 6

Marriage.—October 25th, Richard Stevenson Bennington and Emma Louisa Green.

Burials.—October 17th, Mary Green, aged 68 years; October 31st, Percy Holmes, aged 21 years.

December, 04.

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

Christmas Day falling this year on a Sunday, the Services will be as follows.—8 a.m., Holy Communion; 11 a.m., Mattins and High Celebration; 6-30 p.m., Festal Evensong and Sermon. The customary Charities will be distributed by the Vicar and Churchwardens immediately after the Morning Service.

We again ask all our kind decorators for their help in the Christmas decorations, so that on the great Festival our old Church may look more beautiful than ever.

The Clothing Club.—We hope that new members will join this year. One shilling a month secures an order for sixteen shillings worth of goods at the end of the year, that is 4/- added to the 12/-. The goods may be purchased of any local tradesman. Will those who wish to join apply to the Vicar early in December? Order tickets will be given out on the first Monday in October, 1905.

The present number completes the second year of our Parish Magazine. Will all present subscribers please support us during the coming year. It is also very much more convenient if all who can manage to do so will pay the year's subscription (1/-) in one sum.

The yew trees which stand at the west end of the Churchyard have become so large that they entirely hide any view of the Church from that side, besides tending to spoil each other by growing too closely together. Three of them, therefore, will shortly be removed, allowing the four remaining ones space to grow into really fine trees, as well as affording a glimpse of the beautiful West window of the Church from the road.

Mrs. Fenwick proposes to get up a Dance, in the School, on the Tuesday after Christmas, the proceeds to go to the Bourne and District Nursing Fund. We feel sure that all our friends will patronize so well-known and deserving a cause by coming in large numbers.

The date of Mr. and Mrs. Fenwick's treat to the children is not yet fixed: it will probably be in Christmas week.

We have sent the sum of £1 0s. 1d. to Foreign Missions (S.P.G.) this month, 17.8 being collected in Church on November 20th, and one missionary box (Mr. Bridge's) 2/5. If any others should be willing to take a missionary box, the Vicar will most gladly supply them.

Collections. —November 6th,	£0 18 9	November 20th,	£0 17 8
" 13th,	1 5 9	" 27th,	1 5 1