

January 1906.

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

A Happy New Year to all our readers, and may God's Blessing rest abundantly during the coming year upon our parish and ourselves, may those of us who are careless and lukewarm and indifferent be aroused. Alas! how many such there are among us. Let the New Year find us resolved to "turn over a new leaf," and begin once again to lead the "godly, righteous and sober life," from which we have so sadly fallen away.

Make the following resolutions as the barest minimum of what every professing Christian ought to do, and keep them by God's help through the coming year.

- (1) To pray to God, and read some portion of His Holy Word *every day*.
- (2) To be present in Church to worship Him *every Sunday*.
- (3) To receive the Holy Communion once every month *at the least*.

Confirmation.—The Lord Bishop of Lincoln will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation in Bourne Church on Monday, April 2nd. The Vicar will be glad shortly to receive the names of candidates for preparation.

The Bells have recently been thoroughly examined by Mr. Taylor of the famous Loughborough bell foundry, who recast our 4th bell in 1887. His Report is very far from being satisfactory. The framework requires extensive repair, here and there the beams, through age and weather, have become very unsound and loose, and he advises, as the most satisfactory plan, that the whole peal be re-hung in iron frames. But the gravest news of all is that our grand 5th bell has developed a crack in the crown, which slowly but surely will extend until the whole bell is split. At present it does not perceptibly affect the sound, and the bell may last for years as it is, but sooner or later it is doomed. As to the 3rd and tenor, Mr. Taylor found no crack, but states that there is "something peculiar" about them, and that there may be a slight invisible crack in the middle of the crown. The report will be laid before the Church Estate Trustees at their next meeting, to decide what is best to be done about the matter.

Remarkable Longevity.—During the year 1905, there have been only four burials in our churchyard, the ages of the deceased being 85, 83, 85, and 94 years respectively. The average age therefore of those buried during the year is 87. Surely this is unprecedented.

Rutland Archæological and Natural History Society.

An Excursion to Bourne and Witham-on-the-Hill has been arranged for Tuesday, August 22nd, 1905. Members to meet at Bourne Church at 2-30.

Train from Stamford arrives 2-23.

Train from Saxby arrives 2-14.

Both Churches will be described by MR. H. F. TRAYLEN.

The REV. L. H. COOLEY has kindly offered to provide Tea at Witham-on-the-Hill.

Train leaves Bourne for Stamford, 6-20.

Train leaves Bourne for Saxby, 5-30.

All Members wishing to join the Excursion must send in their names to the Deputy Secretary.

Conveyances will meet the Party at Bourne at 3. Seats can only be guaranteed to those who notify their desire not later than Saturday, August 19th.

Market Overton,
Oakham.

W. H. WING, F.S.A.,
Deputy Secretary.

WITHAM-ON-THE-HILL.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS.—Mr. and Mrs. Fenwick, of Witham Hall, with their usual kindness and generosity, have again remembered all the tenants on the estate, and seasonable gifts have been made to one and all. Every cottage tenant received a joint of meat and groceries, in addition to an acceptable present of blankets or warm clothing. Nor were the children forgotten. On Christmas afternoon, they entertained all the children of the parish, when a Christmas tree was provided, and each child was the recipient of a present, in addition to some article from the laden branches of the tree. Besides these, they awarded prizes to each best boy and girl in the various standards. The thanks of all are due to Mr. and Mrs. Fenwick for their thoughtful kindness, which gladdened young and old alike at the festive season.

G. J. Jan. 6. 06

WITHAM-ON-THE-HILL.

CRICKET CLUB DANCE.—This annual event was held last week, and proved a great success. A large company was present, and the gross takings amounted to close upon £5.

THE RIGHT HON. A. F. JEFFREYS, late Upionist M.P. for Basingstoke, who died on Wednesday last, was a brother-in-law of Mr. Walter Fenwick, having married his eldest sister. Mr. Jeffreys' only son, Captain Geo. Jeffreys, who now succeeds to the Hampshire estates of his father, was married last year to the Viscountess Cantelupe.

MR. AND MRS. WALTER FENWICK left the Hall on Friday week, for Italy, where they propose making a prolonged stay. Meanwhile, extensive alterations will be carried out in the interior of the house. The new Hall stables are approaching completion, and, standing as they do close to the road, form a striking and handsome addition to the village. The grounds of the Hall are also undergoing very considerable alterations, being much enlarged and laid out in a formal plan of lawns and terraces.

G. J. Feb. 17. 06

February 1906.

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

Christmas.—Our last month's news went to press too early to include any account of Christmas Day. The great Festival was, on the whole, well observed, though alas! we missed some who perchance were too much engrossed with the season's festivities to remember the Birthday of their Saviour. We only regret that they should lose so much of the real joy of that holy and beautiful day. The Church, swathed as it was in evergreens, never looked better, even though our new white Altar frontal failed to come as we hoped. Perhaps it will be ready by Easter.

The Midnight Celebration was appreciated far beyond our expectations. The one danger of course of such a service is lest any should communicate without due preparation. It is better perhaps that it should be used by most as a service of worship rather than an opportunity of communion.

The Charities were distributed as usual after the Morning Service, and the Collections at the 8 and 11 o'clock Celebrations amounted to £3 5s. 6d.

On Christmas Afternoon Mr. and Mrs. Fenwick gave a Christmas Tree to all the children of the parish. Every child received a charming present, and the School prizes were then awarded to the best boy and girl in each standard. Surely few children are more fortunate than ours.

Christmas Cheer.—Nothing can have exceeded the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Fenwick to all their tenants this Christmas. Every house on the Estate received generous presents of beef, groceries, and blankets or warm clothing. We beg here to tender them the grateful thanks of all the recipients of their kind gifts.

Confirmation.—The Bishop of Lincoln has arranged to hold a Confirmation Service in Thurlby Church on Friday, April 6th, and desires that the candidates from Witham shall be presented there. The Vicar asks for names of intending candidates as soon now as possible.

Lent.—The solemn yearly season of penitence commences on the last day of this month. May we all make the best possible use of it! We shall have more to say on this subject in the next issue of the Magazine

Baptism.—December 30th, Ernest Thomas Green, son of James and Mary Elizabeth Keefe, (privately).

Collections. Dec. 30th, £1 6s. 4d.; Jan. 7th, £1 6s. 2d.; Jan. 14th, 19s. 0d.; Jan. 21st, 4s. 8d.

March 1906.

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

Lent.—"Lent is nothing to me," perhaps you will say. Then is Christ nothing to you, dear reader. "who left us an example, that we should follow in His steps" ? (see 1 Peter ii., 21). Why did He who was Perfect Man, and had no need of human discipline for himself, pass those forty days of self-denial in the wilderness ? In order that we might follow His Example in this as in all things.

Shall not we Thy sorrow share,
And from earthly joys abstain,
Fasting with unceasing prayer,
Glad with Thee to suffer pain ?

Christ has given us this great help of Lent, for us to use in drawing closer to Him. Begin again then **now**. Resolve to conquer the besetting sin, to spend more time on your knees, to come more frequently to God's House for the help which He gives us there.

Besides the extra Sunday Services already announced, there will be daily service at 8 a.m. and 7 p.m., with an address on Wednesday evenings.

The Vicar's Letter.—This will already be in the hands of all the Parishioners, and nothing further need be said here about the change in the Sunday Services, except that the new plan will be commenced on the 1st Sunday in Lent, March 4th. Please read that letter with the same care and attention as that with which it was written. If you always come to Church on Sunday **evening**, by all means continue to do so, but do not rest content with that, do not get into the habit of thinking that one attendance a Sunday is all that is necessary.

The Woodwork and Evening Classes.—The members of these classes were most kindly and hospitably entertained by Mr. Metcalfe on Saturday evening, Feb. 10th. After a substantial supper the rest of the evening was spent in games. All the guests, to the number of 12, thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and at the conclusion gave hearty cheers for their kind and generous entertainer. We cannot help thinking that the more fitting plan would be for the members of the class to entertain Mr. Metcalfe, in recognition of his painstaking and devoted services at these classes. What do the members themselves think ?

The Cricket Club Dance on Wednesday, Jan. 31st, under the able management of our captain, Mr. Benton proved an unqualified success. Nearly £5 we believe was taken, and the expenses were not heavy. Many gifts from kind friends helped to furnish the refreshment table, which was under the management of Mrs. Benton and Mrs. Worthington, with an ample supply of good things.

Mr. W. Andrew, of Lound, has been appointed by the County Council to the post of manager of the School, in place of the late Mr. W. Inglis.

Choir Practice.—During Lent, this will be held on Wednesday evenings after church. Parents of Choir boys are asked to encourage regular attendance at the practice, as only in this way can the Choir render the singing as it should be in the Church, namely our **best**.

Baptism.—Feb. 11th, Joseph William, son of Joseph Marshall and Florrie Holmes.

Marriage.—Feb. 19th, George Hern Goodley and Eleanor Carr.

April 1906

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

Easter Day.—"Every parishioner shall communicate at Easter." So orders the Church. There will be Celebrations at 7.30, 8.30, and 10.15. Will all please try to make their Communion at one of the two early services, so that the Choral Celebration, which is intended principally for worship, may not be unduly prolonged. The Easter Communion can be made, if necessary, on the following Sunday, or indeed at any time during Easter-tide, though all who can will naturally wish to fulfil this duty on the great Festival itself.

Good Friday, which means "God's Friday," is the day "our Brother died" for us. How can we spend that day in selfish pleasure if we once think what it means? Service at 11 and 7.30.

The Bells.—The bell frame has been thoroughly over-hauled, all weak and rotten timbers replaced with good sound oak, and the bells put into thorough ringing order; and we hope that no further repairs will now be needed for many years to come. The "crack" in the 5th bell is so slight that experts believe it to have existed in the bell since it was cast in 1831. Hence it need not cause us any immediate anxiety.

The School.—The Annual Report of His Majesty's Inspector has been received, and runs as follows:—"Efficiency is very well maintained. Additional reading books are needed, and should be promptly supplied." The Report is certainly brief, but entirely satisfactory. Inspectors are usually so chary of praise, and appear to frame their Report in the fewest possible words, that the use of the adverb "very" (very well maintained) may be taken as implying exceptional satisfaction with the School, the credit for which we must give to our excellent teachers.

The Toft Schoolroom.—The Vicar has often wondered whether this building—useless and wasted as it is—could not be converted into a little Mission Chapel, where occasional services might be held for the benefit of the people of Toft and Lound. It would need some alteration, a small chancel would have to be built at the East end, which could be shut off by doors so as to allow the room being used when required for secular purposes, while a bell turret with bell, at the West end, would give a Church-like appearance to the building. A harmonium would be required, and some outlay on several fittings. All this would cost some money, but if the scheme were agreed upon, we feel sure that many friends would help, and that it could be done.

The Confirmation at Thurlby, to which our candidates will be taken, will be on Friday, April 6th, at 2.15 p.m.

The house-to-house collection for the Stamford Infirmary, will be made in the parish early in April. We have only to think of the unremitting care and nursing which Thomas Walpole received there until his death, to give liberally and willingly to this excellent Institution.

Burial.—March 8th, Thomas Walpole, aged 66 years. (Died at Stamford Infirmary. R.I.P.)

May 1906.

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

Easter.—The great Festival of the Resurrection was kept with every token of brightness and joy. The Choral Celebration was at 10.15 instead of 11. following the new plan introduced during Lent, a plan which seems to be generally approved, and will therefore be continued Sunday by Sunday. Our hearty thanks are due to all who kindly helped with the decorations, including the children, who brought such abundance of primroses, in fact we hardly knew what we should have done without their help.

The new Altar Frontal has been fully described elsewhere, and all will allow that it is magnificently beautiful. We understand that the design which Miss Cooper has so effectively carried out, was largely planned by Miss Ingram, sister of the late Dean of Peterborough, and Secretary of the Church Embroiderers' Guild in that Diocese. The Frontal will be valued and treasured, not alone for its own sake, but in memory of the late Mrs. Johnson, who was so universally beloved in the parish. Mrs. Hailstone's gifts of white hangings for lectern and pulpit were also used on Easter Day for the first time, and were much admired. It was Mrs. Hailstone who in 1893 gave the beautiful jewelled chalice.

The Vestry Meeting was held on Easter Tuesday. The outgoing Churchwardens and sidesmen were re-appointed. The Collections throughout the year amounted to £45 17s. 0d., and a balance remains in hand of £9 2s. 9d., though this will be further reduced when the expenses of tuning and repairing the organ are met.

Lady Day changes.—Mr. and Mrs. Inglis left us with the hearty good-will of many friends, some 50 of whom subscribed to parting testimonials. We extend a warm welcome to Mr. and Mrs. Grummitt who have taken their place, Mr. and Mrs. Plascot at Ling's Farm, and the other new-comers.

The Education Bill.—It is high time that all Church people became aware of the gross injustice of this measure, lately introduced into Parliament, which, if passed, would confiscate every Church School in the land and forbid the religious teaching of the Church of England to be given to her own children in the Schools which she has built for that very purpose. It is nothing short of unblushing robbery. The storm of indignation which this Bill has aroused, grows day by day, and will not be quelled until this tyrannous measure be either amended or withdrawn. We in Witham are doubtless prepared to unite with our fellowchurchmen all over the country, to resist this injustice, and insist that our children continue to receive the teaching of the Church to which we belong.

Baptisms.—March 26th, Ethel Mary, Hilda and Ida, daughters of Thomas and Mary Jane Birch.

Marriage.—April 9th. Ernest George Tibbles and Sarah Ann Francis.

June 1906.

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

Flower Show.—We would remind all our readers that this Show is fixed to take place on Wednesday, July 18th. A copy of the Schedule and list of prizes may be had from the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Benton, on application. We hope that this year our own parish will be well represented, and that exhibits will be sent from as many of us as have gardens. Every one who sends an exhibit helps to make the show a greater success. Mr. Fenwick most kindly inaugurated this annual show chiefly for the benefit of our own parishioners, let us show our appreciation of his kindness by competing in the various classes as largely as possible, and not be content to allow our more energetic neighbours from other parishes to carry off most of the prizes, as was the case last year.

Apathy is Indifference.—The truly shocking neglect of Divine Worship by many of us has become so grave and serious a matter that it calls for our most earnest consideration. Dear reader, whoever you are, do you realize that an account will have to be given by you for *every* wasted Sunday, do you realize that Sunday spent without the worship of GOD is not spent in a Christian way? And further, this worship should be that which He has commanded, namely the offering of the Holy Eucharist. Of the two morning services provided, choose the one which is appointed for us and enjoined upon us by our Blessed Lord. Attend "the Lord's Service on the Lord's Day," so shall our Sunday worship be most in accordance with the revealed Will of God. There are few who cannot come, if they have a *will* to come, at a quarter past ten.

Mr. Fenwick.—Everyone will be rejoiced to hear of the Squire's recovery from his recent severe illness, and will hope that he will shortly again recover his strength, though we fear that his eye which was injured by an accident abroad may be permanently affected.

The Vicar of S. Matthias, Earl's Court, London, has through Mr. Johnson, sent us one of their Church banners, which they no longer require. Though it has weathered the London smoke of 35 years, it is still very handsome and in good condition. Banners are both emblematic and decorative, for instance what would the Club Feast procession be if short of its banner.

The Cricket Club has made a good start this year, winning easily both against Grimsthorpe and Ryhall. We hope this is a good augury for the season. Mr. Metcalfe has been elected Captain, Mr. Popple Vice-captain, and Mr. Benton hon. secretary.

The matches for June are as follows:—

9th v. Burghley House, away.

23rd v. Ryhall, away.

30th v. Holywell, home.

Baptisms.—April 29th, Percy, son of Herbert and Maria Harmston.

May 6th, Ena Lucy, daughter of Walter and Rose Fanny Warnes.

July 1906

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

The Witham Benefit Society seem to be always fortunate in the weather for the Club Feast. At the special service the Rev. R. S. Lavies, the newly-appointed Vicar of Barholm, was kind enough to preach the sermon. The old custom of attending a service of thanksgiving on the Feast-day is quite as it should be; "GOD first" was the idea of those who in the past instituted this most fitting beginning of the day, though we regret that some members of the club seem to have forgotten this.

The Flower Show.—Mr. Fenwick has been good enough to defray personally the cost of the band, and has secured the same first-class band from Stapleford which was so appreciated last year. There will be a programme of sports and a cricket match to add to the attractions of the Show. The committee are busy collecting subscriptions, so that we hope the balance will be on the right side this year.

The Cricket Club achieved a brilliant victory against Ryhall on June 23rd, winning by 90 runs to 11. So far we have only suffered one defeat, at Burghley Park, when several of our regular players were unable to go.

Fixtures for July :

- 7th. v. Greatford, away.
- 14th. v. Grimsthorpe, home.
- 21st. v. Greatford, home.

The Choir Trip will we hope take place this month. As this special expense is rather a heavy drain on our Church Funds, we are going to ask the members of the congregation to be kind enough once again to give us some small subscriptions towards this object.

Church Tracts.—A number of tracts on various subjects have been placed in the Church. These tracts contain simple information on many points of Church teaching, which are not always clearly understood by people. We hope that they will be widely made use of, and ask that those who take them will place one halfpenny in the box to cover expenses. The object of these tracts is to explain the "why and wherefore" of various matters connected with Church doctrine and practice, and guide us to a "right faith," and an intelligent worship.

Baptism.—May 27th, George Pope, son of James and Sarah Ann Haddon.

August 1906.

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

The Flower Show.—On all hands our second annual show was voted a magnificent success, and a great advance in every way upon that of last year. We were pleased to see so many entries from our own parishioners, for whose benefit of course the show was primarily arranged. Still a little friendly competition from outside neighbours is a good stimulus to ourselves. A very good and full report of the show appeared in the *Grantham Journal*, so that a further description here is unnecessary. Our best thanks are due to Mr. Fenwick for his kindness in lending his grounds and for all his help and support. He of course has been the prime mover in the undertaking. Our thanks too must be given to all the numerous subscribers, through whose kind help the balance will be on the *right* side this year. Mr. Fenwick wishes it to be known that in the future the show will (D.V.) take place on the first Wednesday in August. Our date this year was a little too early.

Old Friends.—We were very glad to see Miss Halland again at Witham during the Flower Show week. Many of the parishioners have known her from infancy, as well as her cousin Mr. How, who though only ordained priest last Trinity, preached us two sermons of much power and eloquence, on Sunday, July 22nd.

The Choir.—We are all pleased to see new members in the Choir. We could still do with two or three more men, if any will be willing to join us. Let us remember what Mr. How told us in his evening sermon, that the talents *i.e.*, gifts—which God has given us are meant to be *used*, and used to His Glory. Will “ringers” as well as “singers” remember this?

The Choir Trip.—At the time of writing the Choir are off to Yarmouth for their annual outing. Will all those members of the congregation who have so kindly subscribed towards the expenses accept our best thanks?

Careby Feast Sunday.—On Sunday afternoon Aug. 19th, the esteemed Rector of Careby will again open the Rectory Grounds to the public. Will those of us who may be going bear in mind the fact that Sunday cannot be spent in a Christian way without attendance at Divine Service, and therefore make a special point of attending one of the *morning* services on that Sunday, or else the afternoon service at Careby Church at 3 p.m., which will be conducted by the Vicar of Witham.

Cricket Fixtures for August.—Aug. 11th, *v.* Bourne, home.

Aug. 25th, *v.* Bourne, away.

Baptisms.—July 15th. Ellen, daughter of William and Ellen Elizabeth Bonnett.

„ Eva Ellen, daughter of Frederick and Mary Jane Winters.

September 1906

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

Evening Classes.—Throughout the winter months classes for the following subjects will be held by Mr. Metcalfe. Tuesdays :—Arithmetic and Mensuration, 7 to 8 ; Vocal Music 8 to 9 ; Thursdays : Woodwork, 7 to 9. The Classes are open to all, and it is hoped that they will be much appreciated. Perhaps the Singing Classes will attract some of the ladies, in which case it might be the means of our forming a village Choral Society, and so afford us much pleasure during the long winter evenings. Those who wish to join any of the Classes are requested to give their names to Mr. Metcalfe or to the Vicar during the month of September. The Classes will commence in the first week of October.

Harvest Thanksgiving Services will be held (D.V.) on Sunday, September 23rd. Remember the chief act of Thanksgiving is "The Lord's Service." Endeavour to be present then rather than merely at Morning or Evening Prayer.

What is the harm of Suicide ? The Vicar hopes to deal with this question on Sunday evening, September 9th.

A Communicants' Class. By the special request of the Bishop the Vicar hopes to hold a monthly Communicants' Class, and invites every communicant, old or young, to join it. The value of such a class is very great in every way. It unites the Communicants of the parish more closely together, it tends to keep us all, so to speak, spiritually more "up to the mark," and it affords an opportunity of going into difficulties and dealing with questions and subjects which cannot well be explained in the pulpit. The first class will be held (D.V.) on Monday evening, October 8th.

The Children of the Sunday School are having a tea and treat in the Vicarage garden just as we are going to press. Again it is the Misses Creighton who are most kindly providing and organising everything. We wish that every child in the parish was coming. And why should they not ? Why should there be any parents at all who keep their children away on Sunday ? Assuredly they will have much to answer for. If any such parents read this, then let them turn to our Blessed Lord's awful words on this subject in the 18th chapter of S. Matthew's Gospel and the 6th verse, and ponder well what they mean.

The Cricket Season has been quite a successful one for the Witham Club, more matches having been won than lost, a reversal of last year's state of things. We should like to see a little more encouragement given to our players ; encouragement helps us all, even if we do not play ourselves we can show our interest at least by our occasional presence on the field at a match.

Mr. Armstrong—who is staying at the Hall—has very kindly again presided at the organ for two Sundays during Mr. Metcalfe's absence from home.

Burials.—Aug. 6th, Sarah Ann Slade, aged 61 years.

Aug. 16th, Ann Rudkin, aged 70 years.

October 1906.

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

The Harvest Thanksgiving Services on Sept. 23rd were fairly well attended and heartily rendered, and the Sermon at Evensong was preached by the Rev. S. S. C. Tickell, Rector of S. Mary's Stamford. It was a great joy to the Vicar to see so many giving their help in decorating the Church, and to notice the many kindly gifts of flowers and corn for this purpose. Such acts are surely among those which are particularly pleasing and acceptable to our Heavenly Father, and bring with them their own reward. Among those who assisted in the decorations were Miss Lee, Mrs. Metcalfe, Mrs. N. Moxon, Miss Seymour, Miss Trowse, Mrs. Umfreville, the Misses Watts, Mrs. Worthington and others. During the day the sum of £2 5s. 10d. was collected at the various services for the "Stamford Farmers' Benevolent Society."

When did you go to Communion last? This would be a hard question, we fear, for some of our readers to answer. Will those who cannot answer it take one of the Tracts placed in the Church with the above title, which will tell them what an *awful* thing it is not to be a communicant. A matter of life and death is surely one which deserves *some* attention and trouble.

The Feast Sunday, *i.e.*, the ancient Dedication Festival of our Parish Church, falls on Sunday, Oct. 28th. On this Feast, we thank GOD for His Spiritual blessings, in the same way as at the Harvest Festival we thanked him for our bodily sustenance.

The Winter Classes.—These classes conducted by Mr. Metcalfe will have commenced by the time that this magazine is issued, for particulars of these, vocal music, mensuration and woodwork, see last month's news. The classes will be held in the School.

All Communicants are particularly invited to attend the first monthly communicants' class, to be held in the School on Monday evening, Oct. 8th, at 7.30 p.m., and by so doing encourage both the Vicar and one another.

The Reading Room will not be opened this winter unless a special desire for it is expressed. Last season, in spite of a good number of members and other subscriptions, the Vicar was considerably out of pocket when all the expenses were paid. This year there will not be so many in the village to use the room, and the loss would be correspondingly greater. Still, if there is a real desire from a fair number to have the room opened, the Vicar will contrive to provide it.

Baptism.—Sept. 18th, John, son of Frank William and Lavinia Kate Harris.

November 1906

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

Parish Tea.—In consequence of the enterprise of some of the ladies, we are to have a Parish Tea at the Feast after all. At the time of writing, so many tickets have already been sold that it looks as if it will be a great success, and probably "beat the record," as far as numbers are concerned. The Vicar has secured the kind services of several ladies and gentlemen for the subsequent concert,, and given a fine evening we ought all to enjoy ourselves thoroughly.

The Evening Classes.—Mr. Metcalfe's classes, which commenced during the second week in October have a gratifying number of students on the registers; the woodwork and mensuration classes are considerably larger than they were last year. The vocal music class was of course an experiment, but it has proved most popular, and its success for the season is assured. This is just as it should be. What more delightful recreation is there than music? And one object of this class is to teach the reading of music at sight from the staff notation, as well as voice production. Are there not still more who will be persuaded to join so useful a class?

The Clothing Club.—New members can join this club in November. One shilling a month is deposited, and in the following October a bonus of four shillings or more will be added, forming a nice little sum for the purchase of winter clothing. Apply to the Vicar.

A Coal Club.—Mr. Fenwick has thoughtfully suggested that such a club might prove helpful to many, worked on similar lines to the Clothing Club. Will all who would like to join a Coal Club give their names to the Vicar *at once*, so that he may make the necessary arrangements.

The Communicants' Class.—The first monthly meeting was held on Oct. 8th, when a very fair number attended, and the Vicar has since received expressions from several members of how much they appreciated the class. He earnestly hopes that still more will come to the next meeting, on Monday, November 5th, at 7.30, in the School.

December 1906.

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

The Parish Tea.—With a fine moonlight evening, this pleasant institution proved a success beyond our utmost hopes. There appeared to be a record gathering of parishioners, and what was more surprising, though the charge made was but 6d., and 2d. for the children, there remained the large balance in hand of £2 5s. 11d. The ladies' Committee worked indefatigably, as did everybody who gave their help, and the result was a heartily enjoyable gathering. It proved a good plan, and one appreciated both by the children and their elders. To devote a second evening to the youngsters by themselves, indeed had they come on the same night, there would hardly have been standing room. May we have many more such parish gatherings!

The New Piano Scheme.—The Parish tea committee voted £2 from their profits towards the purchase of a piano, and a jumble sale, and small sale of work will be held shortly to raise further funds for this object. Weekly sewing meetings have commenced at the Vicarage on Wednesday evenings, from 6 to 9 o'clock, with this object in view. All who can and will help please come. Mr. Fenwick has generously promised a donation of £5, so that we hope to possess a piano for parish purposes by the end of this winter.

The Coal Club.—In response to the Vicar's request last month, eight names have been given in for the Coal Club. The subscription will be 1/- per month. Others may of course join, though in the matter of bonus, those who have applied will receive the first consideration.

Next Communicants' Meeting will be held in the School on Monday, December 17th, at 7 p.m. All earnestly invited.

Evening Meetings at Manthorpe.—The Vicar proposes to hold week-night services from time to time in the hamlet of Manthorpe, during the winter, to which he invites all adult inhabitants of the village. These of course are not intended to take the place of Church worship, but are offered as special opportunities for those who value their holy religion, and also for the elderly and infirm. By the courtesy of Mr. Henry Wells, the first meeting will be held at his house on Wednesday, December 12th, at 7 p.m.

The Education Bill.—A petition in favour of religious instruction in the Schools is being sent to the House of Commons from the County of Lincoln. This petition has been signed by every householder in Witham, and the hamlets will it is hoped show the same result.

Dancing Class.—Mrs. Berry will hold another class for instruction in dancing, fortnightly on Mondays. For particulars apply to Mr. G. Hudson, who is acting as Secretary. The old saying that "if a thing is worth doing at all it is worth doing well," surely applies even to the art of dancing.

Burial.—Nov. 3rd, Clara Goodwin, aged 46 years;