

January 1907.

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

The Vicar has a Parish Almanack for each reader of the Magazine, which he hopes they will accept with his sincere wishes for a Happy New Year.

Christmas Day proved bright and frosty, and an ideal day for getting about, so that there was nothing to prevent Christian people from keeping the great Festival in a Christian manner. Still we looked in vain for some who surely might have remembered their first duty on their Saviour's Birthday. After the morning services the Vicar and Churchwardens gave out the widows' money, 25/- to 8 widows, and overcoats to 10 men, in accordance with the ancient benefactions.

Mr. and Mrs. Fenwick again made generous gifts to their tenantry, consisting of clothing, meat and groceries to every house where such good Cheer would be welcome. All the recipients we feel sure will wish us to thank them most heartily and sincerely. Happy indeed are the people at Christmas-tide who have so kind-hearted and thoughtful a Squire as ours, and hearty were the voices of the choir and members of the singing class who mustered at the Hall in the evening to serenade him and his family with glees and carols.

The Children's Christmas Treat.—"On the Feast of Stephen" we looked out as good King Wenceslas did, to find the snow lying round about, certainly "deep," fairly "crisp," but very far from "even," and many must have been the fore-bodings lest the children should be disappointed of their looked-for treat. However, they struggled through it, and turned up in good force. First came a tea in the School, after which we wended our way through the snow to the Hall coach-house, where a magnificent Christmas-tree had been erected. Every child in the day and Sunday School received beautiful presents from Mr. and Mrs. Fenwick, after which they gave away prizes to the top boy and girl of each standard, and two champion prizes to those who gained the highest marks in the whole School. Ringing cheers for their kind benefactors brought the evening to a close.

Choir Men's Supper.—The Vicar entertained the men of the choir to supper on the following evening. A pleasant evening was passed with a whist match, games and music.

The Singing Class hope to get up a concert at Shrove-tide. Please remember this, and give us your hearty support.

February 1907.

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

Lent.—The Vicar hopes to issue a separate letter to all the parishioners on the subject of the observance of Lent, for which there is not sufficient space in the Magazine. Meanwhile let us try and realize the priceless value of this holy season to all who at all desire to live a consistent Christian life, and let us *at once* make some definite resolution as to how we are going to spend this coming Lent. Let our resolution include what we intend to do with regard to our prayers, our attendance at Church, our Communion, our repentance and our self-denial.

Sunday Observance.—A great national movement is being organised to arouse the people of England on this important subject, and not a moment too soon. The increasing disregard of Sunday as a day of worship and rest is beginning to constitute a danger of the utmost gravity to the well-being of the Nation. An urgent public appeal has been published in all the leading newspapers, signed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster and the President of the "Free Church Council," calling on all to help in securing a better observance of the Lord's Day. As suggested, this subject will be dealt with in some of the sermons in Church during Lent.

New Frontal Case.—A handsome oak case for holding the Altar frontals has been placed in the Church. So that now we shall be able to keep our magnificent white one clean and free from dust and dirt. We understand that the members of Mr. Johnson's family desire to defray the cost of the case, which has been made by Mr. Booker of Stamford.

The Flower Show.—The date of this show has been fixed for Wednesday the 31st of July. The schedules will be issued as soon as possible.

The Concert to be given by Mr. Metcalfe's Singing Class will be held on Shrove Tuesday, Feb. the 12th. The programme will be varied and amusing, and will include a character sketch and other attractions. We hope to see a large audience.

The Sale of Work.—A large number of articles are being made for this sale, as there is to be a fancy and needle work stall besides the "rummage." The ladies' committee will be glad of orders for garments, &c., to make. All articles will be priced at low figures.

The Squire's Christmas Gifts.—Most of the children wrote letters of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Fenwick for their presents and treat, and now the adult recipients have done likewise, and have sent them a joint letter bearing something like one hundred signatures. We have the best reasons for knowing that Mr. Fenwick was highly pleased to receive this token of their gratitude.

Burial.—2nd January, Mary Jane Holmes, aged 23 years.

Mr. and Mrs. John Holmes desire to thank all for the help and sympathy offered to them in their recent bereavement.

March 1907.

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

Easter falls this year on the last day of this Month. On Easter Day there will be three Celebrations of the Holy Eucharist, so that all may have the opportunity of making their Easter Communion, as is required by the law of the Church.

Good Friday.—Let nothing interfere with the devout observance of this, the most sacred day in the year; "God's Friday" as its name means, the day when the Son of GOD died to save us.

The Shrove-tide Concert.—There was only one thing in the arrangements of this concert that might have been better, and that was the weather. Everything else was as good as it possibly could be, and all who came enjoyed a real treat. The members of the singing class under the able conductorship of Mr. Metcalfe rendered a selection of glees and part songs in the most approved style. The humorous element was well supplied by F. Eyles, F. Popple and G. Hudson, whose comic songs in character were deservedly encored. An amusing farce called "Over the garden wall" was given at the end, the characters in which were "Charley Busiboy" (G. Hudson), "Harry Burch" (E. Carr) and "Jeff," the nigger servant, (F. Popple). We had no idea that we had so much talent—both histrionic and vocal—in the parish. We must certainly have another entertainment after Easter.

The Sale will provide a good opportunity for this. It has been suggested that we might make rather more of this event by having an afternoon sale, followed by tea, and to conclude with an entertainment.

The Evening Classes have been visited by His Majesty's Inspector, Mr. Lovett, who expressed himself as highly pleased with the work done both in the mensuration and singing classes. His commendation will be an encouragement both to teacher and pupils.

Obituary.—With the death of Mr. Woolley, one of the few remaining links with the past in the parish has been severed. In his long life he had seen many changes in the village, and having lived here the whole of his life—for he was born in the house in which he died—was an authority on village questions which we shall sadly miss. He was baptized and married in the same church to which his body was brought on Feb. 8th last. We have also to record the death of Edgar Matsell during the past month, fourth son of our police constable.

Much sympathy was felt and shewn for his parents in their sad and sudden loss. The service at the funeral was rendered the more touching and beautiful by the presence of his school-mates, who sang a psalm (The Lord is my Shepherd) and hymn (Safely, safely gathered in) as the body rested in the church.

Burials.—8th Feb. Edward Woolley, aged 80 years.

19th Feb. Edgar Oscar Matsell, aged 13 years.

April 1907

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

The Sale is fixed for Monday April the 8th, to open at 5 p.m. We hope everybody will come, and bring their friends with them. Many useful and fancy articles are being made, and will be marked at the lowest possible prices. There will also be some "rummage," the sale of which will start at 7 p.m. sharp. Tea and refreshments will be provided in the room. The sale will conclude with a social evening. Entrance 2d., school children 1d. The object of the sale—as all our readers know—is to provide a parish piano. We may add that the idea of having this sale originated at the first with the Misses Creighton, who have devoted the whole of their spare time for many weeks past in working for it. They have organized working parties both for elders and children, and have enlisted help from their friends far and near. We appreciate their kind efforts all the more for being entirely disinterested, as unfortunately they are leaving Witham soon after the sale is over.

The Stamp system promises to be a great success. The children have taken it up with zeal, and as their collections increase, so undoubtedly will their keenness. One advantage of the system is that each child becomes the keeper of his or her own register, as each attendance made is shewn by the stamp for that particular Sunday, "postmarked," with the name of the church and the date. Stamps are also issued for every Holy Day in the Prayer Book Calendar, and these may be gained by attendance at one service on any such day. Though these are not necessary for winning an attendance prize, still they make the collection complete. This collecting of stamps is intended for others besides children only. The delightful hobby of postage stamp collecting is never outgrown, (for instance the Prince of Wales is an ardent collector). So we hope that none will consider themselves too old to collect church stamps. For these, a different album is issued. Any who would like one please apply to the Vicar. The only condition is to attend the Lord's Service on the Lord's Day.

New Seats for the Church.—It is proposed to instal oak seats in the church, in place of the chairs. The Trustees of the Church Estate are making a considerable grant towards this scheme, and Mr Fenwick has kindly met this with a promise of a most generous subscription. A beginning therefore will be made very shortly. Whatever is done ought to be well done. Nothing but the very best work is worthy of a place in our glorious old church.

Lent.—The attendance at the week-day services in Lent this year has been very much larger than in previous years. For this and every other sign of increased devotion in the parish we must render thanks to GOD.

May 1907

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

Easter Day was all the brighter for the glorious summer-like weather. In spite of the scarcity of primroses, the church was beautifully decorated, though we missed some of our helpers. However, what was more serious, we missed some whom we hoped to have seen at their Easter Communion. Why will some people persist in excommunicating themselves, and placing themselves outside the pale of membership of Christ's Church? Is it from indifference, or is it from mis-understanding? If so, why not ask your parish priest for explanation and help.

The late Miss Cooper.—It is less than a year since Miss Cooper completed her labour of love for our church, we allude to the handsome white altar frontal which occupied her for so many years, and now she is called to her rest. But her name will always be remembered among us in connection with her beautiful gift. R.I.P.

The Sale must be pronounced a decided success. £12 8s. 8d. was the sum realized, which is quite wonderful considering that it was confined entirely to the parishioners. A few articles still remain, which Mrs. Francis is kind enough to take charge of, with a view to selling at the Post Office.

The Easter Vestry Meeting was held on Wednesday in Easter week. The outgoing churchwardens and overseers were re-appointed. The church collections for the year amounted to £55 10s. 11d., the highest sum ever reached in any single year. Part of the balance which remains will be devoted towards the cost of the new seats in the church.

The Cricket Club.—At the meeting held on April 11th, Mr. F. Eyles was elected captain, Mr. G. Hudson secretary and treasurer, and Mr. Davis vice-captain.

Cricket Fixtures for May :—

May 11th, v. Holywell, home.

May 18th, v. Grimsthorpe, home.

May 25th, v. Ryhall, away.

Baptism.—March 31st, May Dorothy Georgina, daughter of Nathaniel and Florence Louisa Moxon.

June 1907

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

The Club Feast will, it is expected, take place as usual on the second Monday in June (the 10th). The Vicar cordially invites not only the members but all others to come and join in the short service, which will be held in the Church at 12 noon. His custom for some years past has been to ask a neighbouring priest to give the address. However, this year he hopes to give it himself.

The Flower Show.—We trust that all our readers are growing numerous exhibits for the Show. If any one still wants a schedule, apply at once to the Hon. Sec., Mr. Benton. The magnificent gardens of the Hall, having been greatly extended and improved since last year, will form, of course, the great attraction, though there will be plenty of others besides.

The Vicarage Garden is at the disposal of all who care to use it on week-day evenings during the summer. It will give great pleasure to the Vicar to see any of the parishioners and their friends who like, enjoying the pleasure of a garden which is all too large for him alone. Bowls can be played on the lawn.

The new Church Seats.—Plans for these have been drawn by Mr. Prentice, the able architect who built the Hall, and were submitted by Mr. Fenwick to the Committee recently. The designs met with unanimous approval, and it was decided to proceed with the work as soon as possible. The cost—exclusive of the "Hall pew" at the west end of the Church—is roughly estimated at somewhat over £300, towards which the Squire has generously promised £100. The Church Estate Trustees are prepared to contribute most of the remainder.

Ascension Day—commonly called Holy Thursday—is one of the four greatest Festivals in the Christian year. If we deserve the name of Churchpeople let us try and keep this great day better another year. The remarkable way in which its observance has increased almost everywhere makes our own neglect the more noticeable.

Holy Days in June—11th, S. Barnabas, A.M.
24th, Nativity of S. John Baptist.
29th, S. Peter, A.M.

Cricket Fixtures for June—1st. v. Greatford, home.
8th, Married v. Single.
15th, v. Grimsthorpe Estate, away.
22nd, v. Burghley House, away.
29th, v. Stamford Conservatives, home.

Baptisms.—April 28th, Arthur, son of William David and Jane Wright.
May 5th, Gladys Annie, daughter of Frederick Skeath and Harriet Annie Pick.
May 12th, Walter, son of George Tebb and Caroline Elizabeth Lee.

Marriage.—May 21st, Robert Henry Hammerton and Mary Elizabeth Clarke.

July 1907

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

Obituary.—It is with great regret that we announce the death of Mr. George W. Johnson, J.P., who died at Stamford on the 23rd of June. Mr. Johnson was a son of the late General Johnson of Witham Hall, and only brother of our late respected Squire. He was a Trustee and Secretary of the Witham Church Estate, in which he took the very greatest interest, and for the welfare of which he worked assiduously.—R.I.P.

New Piano.—With the funds raised by means of the recent Sale of Work and various Entertainments last winter we have purchased a piano for parish purposes. The instrument is a full trichord upright grand with iron frame, of excellent tone and quality, and ought to last us for many years. The piano, a second-hand one, was acquired privately from Boothby Rectory, whither Mr. Metcalfe and the Vicar went over to inspect it, and agreed that it was a bargain at the price asked, which was £12. So that we still have a nice little balance left in the bank to spend upon whatever the piano committee decide. In order to safe-guard the piano from possible claim by the County Council (since it stands in the school) it has been suggested that it should be technically "the property of the Vicar and Churchwardens," and that a notice to this effect be put upon it.

Holy Baptism.—During the last two months seven infants have been baptised in the Church, which is worthy of comment, considering that seven is the average number of baptisms for a whole year! All these children received Holy Baptism during Divine Service on Sunday, after the 2nd lesson, as is ordered in the Prayer Book, and the Vicar hopes that in future this rule may always be adhered to. "Public Baptism" means Baptism in *public*, that is in the presence of a congregation, and it is quite contrary to the intention of the Church to baptize at other times, except in cases of emergency.

The May Pole.—Mr. and Mrs. Metcalfe are hard at work coaching the children for this charming entertainment which is to be given at the flower show. The intricacies of the various steps and movements, and the resulting plaiting and interlacing of the coloured ribbons demand much practice and drudgery, for one mistake throws the whole wrong. However, under Mr. and Mrs. Metcalfe's indefatigable care great improvement has already become apparent, and by the time of the flower show all will we hope be perfect.

Cricket Fixtures for the Month.

July 6th, v. Grimsthorpe, away.
" 13th, v. Castle Bytham, away.
" 20th, v. Bourne, home.
" 27th, v. Greatford, away.

Baptisms.—June 9th, Ivor William, son of Charles Thomas and Agnes Woolmer.

" " Daisy, daughter of Edward and Susan Dickinson.

" " Millicent May, daughter of Herbert and Maria Harmston.

" 16th, Effield, son of Walter and Rose Fanny Warner.

Marriage.—June 10th, John Henry Holmes and Louisa Holmes.

August 1907

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

A faculty has been granted to the Vicar and Churchwardens by the Chancellor of the Diocese authorizing them to instal the oak seats in the Church, as planned by Mr. A. N. Prentice, architect. As however the Trustees of the Church Estate are able only to make a grant of £100, it will not be possible at present to seat the church throughout, but a beginning will be made at the west end, and the scheme carried forward as far as funds will allow. This will bring the "pews" up to about the middle of the nave block, and the rest of the space will be provided with chairs. The organ is to be moved back into the south transept, and a fresh vestry constructed in the north-west corner of the church, opposite to the font.

The Old Church Plate which is no longer used, was to have been sold, and had this been done, it might probably have realized nearly £50 towards the cost of the pews, but the Chancellor has refused to grant a faculty for the sale, so we are deprived of this assistance. The plate in question consists of a silver chalice and flagon of no great interest or antiquity, and never used since the handsome set was presented to the church by members of Mr. Johnson's family in 1893.

Antiquities.—In an interesting address on "Church Chests and their contents," delivered recently by the Rector of North Witham, allusion was made to the fine old chest in our church, and to the fact that at Witham-on-the-Hill there existed the oldest Church Account Book in this neighbourhood, dating from "the year of our Lord GOD 1548." The Vicar therefore placed this interesting old book in Mr. Davies' hands, who has made a careful examination of it, and deciphered many of its almost illegible pages. It throws much light on bygone parish matters, and in particular upon our ancient Church Estate, which is of special importance just now, as a scheme is on foot to rob the Church of a great portion of this endowment (upon which subject we hope to have more to say next month). We shall from time to time give extracts from the old account book in the Magazine, but space forbids any further mention of it this month. One thing this book makes clear, and that is the correct spelling of the name "Witham," which throughout the book is spelt with an "i," and not with a "y."

Cricket Fixtures.—Aug. 3rd, *v.* Holywell, away.

Aug. 10th, *v.* Castle Bytham, home.

Aug. 17th, *v.* Ryhall, home.

Aug. 24th, *v.* Grimsthorpe Estate, home.

September 1907

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

The Flower Show.—It was too late to chronicle in last month's magazine the gratifying success which attended our show this year. We were fortunate in this wet and cheerless summer to have been favoured with so fine a day, and the result was a most successful show, and an unprecedentedly large attendance. At a meeting of the Committee held on the 23rd of August, Mr. Benton submitted a statement of accounts shewing a balance in hand of £17 11s. 9d., which Mr. Fenwick generously offered to increase to £20. Hearty votes of thanks were given to the Squire for the use of his grounds and his active promotion of the show, also to Mr. Benton, the energetic and hard-working Secretary, on whose shoulders the bulk of the work fell, as well as to Mr. Metcalfe, both for his painstaking trouble in coaching the children for the Maypole dance, and for the admirable manner in which he carried out his duties as Hon. Treasurer.

The Choir-boys' trip to Skegness was rendered possible by the Subscriptions of many kind friends, collected by the boys themselves, amounting to £2 3s. 4d. We beg to thank most heartily all those who subscribed. In the absence from home of the Vicar, Mr. Metcalfe kindly took charge of the party.

Evening Classes in singing, wood-work and mensuration will be held again this winter, and will commence early in October. All who wish to join are asked to give in their names to Mr. Metcalfe or the Vicar during the present month. The actual dates of opening will be announced next month.

The Church Seats.—Last month we stated that only a portion of the new seating could be installed owing to insufficient funds. Now, Mr. Fenwick has informed the Vicar that he will undertake the cost of finishing the whole scheme, which means that in addition to his previous subscriptions he will give a further sum of about £130, as he wishes to see the Church completely seated, and not done piecemeal. It is impossible to express in words our appreciation of so magnificent a gift, which shows an attachment to our beautiful old Church which should serve as an example for us all.

Harvest Thanksgiving.—Owing to the lateness of the Harvest this year, we propose once again to follow the old plan of holding Harvest Thanksgiving Services at the Dedication Festival (Sunday October 27th) thereby combining our thanksgiving for bodily needs with that for what is of greater importance still, the needs of our souls.

Cricket Fixtures.—Sept. 7th, v Bourne.

October 1907

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

The Dedication and Harvest Festival will be held (D.V.) on Sunday, October 27th. Gifts of corn and other decoration for the Church will be most acceptable, and also the help of as many as can give it for decorating. On that day the usual order of Sunday services will be reversed. Mattins will be at 10.15, and the Holy Eucharist with sermon at 11.15, the instruction to children as usual at the earlier service. We would remind all our people that a Christian's Harvest Thanksgiving should be nothing less than the one great act of thanksgiving which Christ has appointed. Nothing can take its place, or should be allowed to do so. Let us aim then at being present at "this our Sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving" on our thanksgiving day. Whether we receive the Holy Communion or not can make no difference to the fact that it is our "bounden duty" to be present at that service. There will in addition be an early celebration at 8.30.

Shall we have a Parish Tea in the Feast week? The answer to this question rests with the ladies. We hope that they will be kind enough as last year to organize this pleasant social gathering, and that if they do, that everybody will rise to the occasion and patronize it, so that we may have as great success as last year.

The Clubs.—As some of the members are irregular in their payments, it might be as well to state that by the rules of the Clothing Club, payments must not be more than two months in arrears. The same applies to the Coal Club. The penalty is loss of the bonus. Orders for coal will be given out in December. Members can either have the quantity they are entitled to delivered at one time or smaller quantities.

Bats in Churches.—A local paper recently reported that two bats were to be seen inside a certain church in this neighbourhood. That reporter was probably hard up for news! We could fill columns about our own bats (at a penny a line!), still we should prefer them *outside* the Church. Before the new seats are put in we must endeavour to banish them.

The Evening Classes announced last month will commence as follows:—Tuesday, October 8th, to 8, Arithmetic and Mensuration; 8 to 9, Vocal Music. Thursday, October 10th, 7 to 9, Woodwork. is most important that all intending members should attend the first class.

The New Village Inn now being erected, is to have for its sign "the Six Bells," which was the name of the old hostelry before the days of "The Black Dog." We are glad the old sign is to be restored, why it was ever altered to such a name at the Black Dog it is difficult to say. The new inn promises when finished to be an exceedingly fine building, and with its forecourt and the beautiful old tree fronting it will form a picturesque addition to the village.

Baptism.—Sept. 8th, Marjorie Alice, daughter of Thomas William and Mary Goodacre.

November 1907

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

The Church Army Mission Van.—This Van, being at present in the neighbourhood, has been invited by the Vicar to come into this parish towards the end of this month, when a fortnight's Mission—extending over the first two Sundays in Advent—will be conducted by two of the Church Army Missioners, and we hope they will be welcomed, and their efforts appreciated by all our people.

How sadly we need arousing to a higher sense of our religious duties must be realised by us all, and we trust that there may be no one, like the Self righteous Pharisee in the parable, who considers that he is an exception. The Missioners are Church laymen, licenced by the Bishop of the Diocese, they therefore come to us with due authority. The Vicar will explain the objects and method of this forthcoming Mission in fuller detail on Sunday evening November 24th, and hopes for a large attendance at Church on that day.

The Feast.—The Church was beautifully decorated for the Dedication Festival, many giving their help for this work of love. The Services were of a bright and hearty character, particularly the choral celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 11.15. The congregation at this service was good, but we should have liked to see an even larger one. We wish too that our younger communicants would bear in mind that this service is primarily for *worship*, and if they would make their communion at an early celebration and not at this late one, it would prevent the service from becoming unduly prolonged.

The collections at the Festival were in aid of the Stamford Infirmary, and amounted to £6 18s. od.

The Parish Tea was again a splendid success, all honour the "working committee," who *did* work, and no mistake! We owe them all a debt of gratitude for their indefatigable labours. As a consequence everything was admirably managed, a sumptuous tea was provided, and there was no hitch of any kind. We were all gratified to have Mr. and Mrs. Fenwick with us, Mrs. Fenwick being so kind as to preside at one of the tables. After tea an enjoyable entertainment was given by some friends from Bourne, including the play of "Box and Cox," in which our old friend, Mrs. Berry figured as an inimitable landlady.

The Church Stamps.—New Albums will be given out on Advent Sunday (Dec. 1st). These will be more strongly bound than those of this year, and will better resist the constant wear and tear of a year's use. An entirely different series of stamps will be issued. Will all parents encourage their young people to become diligent collectors. Prizes will be given at Advent to those who have made the most complete collections during the present year.

Clothing Club.—New members may join during November, but applications made later cannot be entertained, except under special circumstances.

WITHAM-ON-THE-HILL.

DEDICATION FESTIVAL.—This festival was kept at the Parish Church on Sunday last, combined with thanksgiving for the harvest. The fine old Church was tastefully decorated for the occasion, and the services were of a festive character, including a choral celebration of the Holy Eucharist as the chief morning service. The collections, amounting to £6 18s., were given to the Stamford Infirmary. On the following (Monday) evening, a parish tea and entertainment took place in the School, which was crowded to its utmost capacity. The tea-tables were presided over by Mrs. Walter Fenwick, Mrs. Bradshaw, Mrs. Brudenell, Mrs. Metcalfe, Mrs. Moxon, and Miss Taylor. After tea, a mixed entertainment of a very enjoyable character was given by several friends, including Miss Bell (Bourne), Miss Edith Bell (Thurlby), Messrs. E. Brassington and A. Kingsford (Bourne), and concluding with the amusing farce entitled "Box and Cox," admirably rendered by Mrs. Berry, Messrs. E. Brassington and A. Kingsford. The rest of the evening was devoted to dancing. On the next (Tuesday) evening, a second tea was provided for the children,

followed by various games and amusements. Great credit is due to the working Committee who so ably managed the arrangements for both evenings, and successfully catered for the numerous company. It is estimated that at the adults' tea there were about 150, and at the children's, 90. The Working Committee included Mrs. Benton, Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. Williamson, Mrs. Worthington, Miss Lee, and Miss Seymour. The Wednesday evening of the Feast week was devoted to the Cricket Club dance.

2-11-07

December 1907

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

The Church Army Mission.—It is not possible to say anything about the results of the Mission in this Month's Magazine, as it has only commenced as we are going to press. Unfortunately rough and wintry weather set in, which may prevent some from attending the services and meetings.

Earnest Addresses were given by Capt. Hill on the opening Sunday, who also gave us a most interesting lecture on the work of the Church Army on Monday in the School, illustrated by magic lantern views. We hope that the work of the Missioners may be abundantly blessed, and many souls may be helped.

The Church.—At last the work of re-seating is to be commenced. There is a good deal to be done, and we shall be fortunate if we have the church quite finished by Christmas. The pillar near the south door having recently shown signs of subsidence is to be underpinned, which will necessitate considerable excavation and consequent litter in the Church. Then the organ will be moved, and the whole of the floor now boarded will be laid with wood blocks, and after this is finished the new oak benches will be fixed.

We hope that it will not be necessary to close the Church entirely on any Sunday, though we may be put to sundry shifts perhaps for a Sunday or two. Still we can always use the Church and Lady Chapel, so that a Sunday Celebration will be possible, and that, after all, is of most importance.

Another Improvement.—The Committee who worked so hard last winter to provide funds for the purchase of a piano have stated to the Vicar that they would like the balance of the fund to be spent towards the cost of a new carpet for the sanctuary.

Other Wants.

- 1.—A magic lantern, for evening classes, lectures, and entertainments, cost about £4.
- 2.—A copying machine (Cyclostyle), for making copies of bills, leaflets, notices, &c., for distribution, cost about £2.

The Church Estate.—In the August number we stated that this ancient endowment was in danger of being alienated from its original purpose, but we are now happy to say that this danger has been averted. The Trustees met the proposals of the Charity Commissioners with so vigorous a protest, that they have now abandoned the unjust claims which they made, and consented to the alternate proposals put forth by the Trustees. A new and more moderate scheme for the administration of the Estate has now been drawn up, leaving a fair and just proportion of the income for the benefit of the Church. In securing this happy concession, Lord Willoughby de Eresby and Mr. A. C. Johnson, two of the Trustees, deserve our special gratitude for interviewing the Commissioners in London, and giving other invaluable help.

Baptism.—Nov. 17th, James Ronald, son of John Henry and Louisa Holmes.