

January 1908

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

A Happy New Year to all our readers.

The Magazine.—We are pleased to think that our Parish Magazine is so popular. Our circulation increases year by year. This year it has reached 95 copies !

Confirmation.—The Lord Bishop of Lincoln will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation in Little Bytham Church on Wednesday, 26th of February. The Vicar requests the names of candidates *as soon as possible*.

Christmas.—The Church looked extremely beautiful in its festal garb, and was lavishly decorated with evergreens. Miss Lee, Miss Seymour, and Mr. Jackson deserve all praise for their kind and untiring efforts. But where were our other helpers ? And the ringers ? Where too were many of our communicants ? Can it be that some of us were so busy keeping Christ's Birthday that we forgot about Christ Himself.

Christmas Gifts.—Mr. and Mrs. Fenwick again remembered all the tenants and employees with their usual overflowing generosity. Presents of meat, groceries and clothing were made to all. We venture to suggest that a general expression of thanks be sent to them as last year, signed by all who received their kind gifts. In consequence of the prevalence of measles among the children, there will be no Xmas Tree this year, but we hear that the children will still have their presents.

The Bishop of Lincoln on the use of Vestments.—The Vicar has repeatedly made it clear that everything which is done in Witham Church is done with the full knowledge and approval of the Bishop, and that in particular the vestments are worn at the Holy Eucharist in accordance with lawful authority. If any should still doubt this fact, he wishes to call their attention to the following statement made by His Lordship, printed at the end of his recent charge to the clergy and churchwardens of the Diocese. "It is beyond question that the Eucharistic Service is the greatest act of Christian Worship. It is fitting and reasonable that the minister at that service should use some special vestments. The ornaments Rubric would seem to mean that the same ornaments as were used under the 1st Prayer Book of Edward VI. may still be used. Believing this to be the right interpretation of the Rubric, for many years before I became a Bishop I used the vestments from time to time, and when I was made a Bishop I did not see any reason for changing my views of the Rubric, and consequently for 20 years I have worn them."

"I have allowed the use of the Eucharistic Vestments." (in the Diocese).

(Signed) E. LINCOLN.

It may be of interest to know that the Vestments have been used in Witham Church at every Celebration for upwards of 22 years, that the Bishop himself has worn them when celebrating here, that all the Vestments we use are gifts, and that one set was subscribed for by the communicants of the parish.

Offer of Copying Machine.—One of our readers, Mrs. Hailstone, of Toilethorpe, has very kindly written to offer a cyclostyle copying machine, in response to our notice last month. We are greatly obliged to her. It would seem to be a good plan to make our wants known from time to time in the Magazine.

Request.—Can anyone spare a copy of the Magazine for August, 1906 and 1907 ?

February 1908.

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

Confirmation.—The candidates will be presented at Morton Church on Monday, 30th March. The instruction classes will be held in the Church on Sunday evenings, immediately after evensong. The Vicar hopes that others besides the candidates will stay for these instructions.

The New Seats.—It is now found to be impossible to complete the church before the middle of March, as the seats are not yet all made. In consequence of this vexing delay the dedication service which the Bishop of Grantham has promised us must be postponed, and will now have to take place in Lent, probably about the 19th of March. The improvement in the church caused by moving the organ is very marked, and has the effect of making it appear much more spacious. The west-end vestry is also a great improvement on the old one, both as regards size and convenience. With our present large choir we found the space behind the organ very limited. The handsome red curtains which Mr. Fenwick chose for us quite brighten the end of the church.

New Sanctuary Carpet.—This, too, Mr. Fenwick very kindly chose, and not only that, but made a further donation of £3 10s. od. to the £5 given by the ladies' committee, the price being £8 10s. od. The carpet is an "Axminster," very soft and thick, and richly furnishes the Sanctuary.

The Bells.—A new team of ringers has been formed, and we hope that this year we may once again enjoy the music of our beautiful peal, produced as it is meant to be, not only by chiming, but by *ringing*. On New Year's Eve the bells were rung for the first time for many months, and so pleased was the Squire at hearing them, that he went over at once to the steeple and invited the ringers to the Hall, where an informal meeting was held, to see what could be done to revive the ringing. He then made the generous offer of a further £6 in addition to that given out of the church funds, on condition that the bells were rung every Sunday morning. He also undertook to provide a new set of ropes. Mr. George Hudson was nominated as captain. We feel sure that this kind interest from the Squire will encourage the new team, and that we shall not again—as for some years past—have to chronicle another collapse of the ringing!

Cricket Club Dance.—The Secretary, Mr. Geo. Hudson, wishes to thank, through the Magazine, all who were kind enough to help and contribute to the success of the above. We understand that the Club has now about £3 10s. od. in hand.

Whist Drive.—The first of these pleasant gatherings was held on the 20th of January, and proved so enjoyable, that the committee have arranged for another on the 17th of February. Admission 1s.

The Nursing Association.—In consequence of Mrs. Fenwick's serious indisposition, the subscriptions were collected on her behalf by Mrs. Grummitt and the Vicar. We feel sure that if this excellent institution were better known there would be many more subscribers. There are at present 24 who subscribe.

March 1908

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

Lent.—*Welcome dear Fast of Lent!*

Who loves not thee,

He loves not temperance and sobriety,

But is a child of passion.

So wrote the old English Poet George Herbert, in the 17th century. Let us welcome the coming of this solemn season, and try and use the special help which it offers us. Here are some suggestions for Lent. (i.) More regular attendance at church, particularly at the Holy Eucharist. (ii.) More frequent reception of the Holy Communion. (iii.) Special care as regards our private prayers and self-examination. (iv.) The practice of some kind of self-denial, and fasting. As to the last matter, let us consider what John Wesley (the founder of the Wesleyan body) said, "the man who never fasts is no more in the way of Heaven than the man who never prays, and without fasting it is impossible to grow in grace."

The Confirmation.—The Bishop of Grantham has with great kindness consented to hold a special Confirmation in our church on Friday, the 20th of March, in the afternoon. The Vicar represented that application had been made for a Confirmation at Witham this year, but owing probably to error, Little Bytham was chosen instead, also that there would be some risk in taking the candidates to Morton on account of the prevalence of diphtheria in that village. Under these circumstances the Bishop agreed to come to us, and we highly appreciate his kindness.

The dedication of the New Seats will take place at a special service in the evening of the same day as the Confirmation, the Bishop of Grantham officiating. We hope that all will note the day (20th March) and not fail to attend. Already some of the seats are in their places, and we can judge of their effect. They are made after the designs of Mr. A. N. Prentice, Architect, and to the writer's mind are extremely effective. If we must have "pews" in churches, they should be as simple and unobtrusive as possible, and at the same time comfortable for sitting and convenient for kneeling. Such are ours. The low square ends give them a solid and severe appearance, and the carved panel gives all the required decoration. They are to be fumed down to the same colour as the older oak work of the pulpit and chancel stalls.

Coming events.—On the day of going to press a dance has been arranged by the committee of the dancing class, to conclude the session. The members highly appreciate Mr. Glenn's kindness in playing his violin for the dancing on several occasions.

A Shrove-tide Concert and Entertainment is to be given on Shrove Tuesday evening by the Glee Class, under the conductorship of Mr. Metcalfe. We can promise a most entertaining programme, and hope to see an overflowing audience.

Burials.—A most unusual length of time has elapsed without a single death having taken place in the parish. The last burial here was on the 19th Feb., 1907, so that over a year has gone by since, and this, too, during a period of great prevalence of sickness and epidemics. We think this fact of sufficient interest to record, as 5 or 6 is the usual average of deaths. It makes us reflect who will be the next to be called. Who knows? Perhaps one the least expected. Ought we not all to try and be ready?

Baptism.—23rd Feb., Phyllis Maud, daughter of Charles Robert and Ada Eliza Pell.

WITHAM-ON-THE-HILL.

THE CHURCH.—Extensive alterations and repairs have recently been made, including the underpinning of one of the Norman pillars on the south side, relaying the whole of the wood floor of the nave with blocks, and installing oak seats in place of the chairs hitherto in use. The work has been carried out by Mr. S. F. Halliday, of Stamford, from the designs of Mr. A. N. Prentice, architect, of London. The whole of the seats are of solid oak, with a carved panel upon each of the bevel ends. Across the west end of the Church, oak panelling is carried up to the height of some seven feet, and is surmounted by a rich canopy, the object of which is to intercept the down draught from the great west window. This panelling, with its canopy, gives an ornate finish to the west end of the Church. The cost

of the work has been in the main met by the generosity of the Squire, Walter L. Fenwick, Esq., of Witham Hall. On Friday, the 20th inst., the Bishop of Grantham, after administering Confirmation at 3 p.m., will hold a special dedication service at seven o'clock, at which he will preach, and dedicate the new seats.

SHROVE-TIDE CONCERT.—On Shrove Tuesday, a most successful and enjoyable entertainment was given in the School by the members of the Glee Class, under the able management of Mr. Metcalfe, the instructor of the Class. The proceeds, which were considerably over £3, are to be devoted to the purchase of music and all the expenses connected with the Bourne musical competitions next month, in which the Class is competing. The Vicar opened the proceedings with piano-forte solos, rendered by means of a "piano-player."

April 1908.

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

Easter Day.—Again we remind our readers that on this highest and greatest Festival of the whole year the Church requires all to receive the Holy Communion. There will be Celebrations for this purpose at 7.30 and 9. The high Celebration will be at 11.15. There will be a special service of preparation for Easter Communion on the Wednesday previous, at 7.30. The Vicar hopes to see many there who have not kept up their Communion regularly of late.

Good Friday is a very solemn "Holy-day," not a "holiday." Some of us need to remember this.

The Confirmation on 20th March was a very bright and beautiful service, and was impressively conducted by the Lord Bishop of Grantham. There were in all 54 candidates, 23 of our own, 10 from Edenham, 9 from Bourne, 7 from Barholm, and 5 from Greatford and Wilsthorpe.

The Dedication Service in the evening for the blessing of the new seats was one which we shall long remember. It marked indeed a "red-letter" day in the annals of our parish. The singing could not have been better or heartier, and the whole service was rendered with a brightness and beauty worthily befitting the occasion. The choir was present in full strength at both the services, and great credit is due to them, particularly in the rendering of the hymn sung during the Procession, in which the men alone sang the verses, with an effect which was most impressive. Mr. Halland the late Vicar read the lessons, this being the first occasion when his voice has been heard in the church since he left eight years ago. The Bishop preached a powerful and helpful sermon from the words "*To what purpose is this waste?*"—Matt. xxvi. 8, declaring that costly and beautiful gifts to God's House were pleasing to Almighty God, and that nothing could be too magnificent which was employed in His Worship. He rejoiced that the old unreasoning suspicion against such adjuncts of the service as the use of a processional cross, or lights upon the altar was happily giving place to a more enlightened idea to the way in which God was pleased to be worshipped. A good number of the neighbouring clergy were present at one or other of the services.

The bells rang out at intervals during the afternoon and evening, when some of the Bourne ringers kindly came to assist our own. The collection at the evening service, amounting to £2 3s. 1d., will be devoted to the cost of re-covering the kneelers.

Influenza has made its appearance among us, and the school has had to be closed, as half the children were away in addition to Mr. Metcalfe himself.

The Shrove-tide Concert. We have no space to report this most successful and enjoyable evening. Suffice it to say that it was fully as good as last year.

The Musical Competitions at Bourne take place on April 28th and 29th. We hope to come off with flying colours.

The Cricket Club.—The officers appointed for this year are:—R. Hearne, captain; E. Jackson, vice-captain; and G. Hudson, secretary. The finances show a substantial balance in hand of over £4.

With the exception of these and the glees admirably sung by the Class, the items were, for the most part, of the humorous order, and in almost every instance evoked enthusiastic encores. Mr. F. Elyes sang "Left a Bit Behind" and "Tired"; Mrs. Metcalfe "Eileen Alannah" and "The Curanto and the Maiden"; Grace Brudenell "The Fisherman's Song"; Rose and Annie Worthington sang a duet, "Ye Banks and Braes," in the chorus of which four other girls joined; the Vicar gave "The Three Maids of Lee," personated by Grace Brudenell, Rose Worthington, and Nellie Rogers; Miss Langley contributed two songs, Mr. H. Cole gave the "Lass of Killiecrankie," and Mr. George Hudson two humorous songs, "Put Me Among the Girls" and "Along with Father." All the singers did so excellently, that it would be invidious to apportion special praise to any. The programme concluded with two amusing character sketches, imitatively rendered, the first by Miss Lee and Miss Sayinbur, and the second—a nigger sketch—in which the parts were taken by Messrs. George Hudson, H. Cole, E. Cole, and W. Brittain.

WITHAM-ON-THE-HILL.

CRICKET CLUB.—A meeting was held in the School on Monday evening last, the Vicar (the Rev. L. H. Cooley) presiding. The Secretary (G. Hudson) presented the accounts for the past year, which showed a balance in hand of over £4. The following officers were elected for this year:—Captain, R. Hearne, in place of F. Elyes (resigned); vice-captain, E. Jackson, in place of J. Davis (left); and G. Hudson was re-elected secretary and treasurer. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the officers for their services last season. Of the matches played last year, 5 were won, 7 lost, and 5 drawn.

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May 1908.

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

Easter.—This the greatest of all the Festivals, was kept with every token of joy. The Church was richly decorated and the services heartily rendered. We are pleased to be able to state that there was a greater number of Communicants than in previous years, and all except fourteen came to one of the early morning services. The ringers contributed to the brightness of this glorious Festival by giving us a peal which lasted from 6.30 to the first Eucharist at 7.30.

The Easter Vestry Meeting was held on the following Thursday morning. The Vicar presented a statement of the cost of the new seats and the other work connected with their installation. The cost of the seating and reflooring came to £468 2s. 0d.; underpinning the pillar £24 18s. 6d.; the removal of the organ and construction of new vestry, £15 6s. 0d.; making in all £508 6s. 6d. Towards this the Squire has generously subscribed the sum of over £350. A hearty vote of thanks was proposed to him for his munificent gift. The Vicar next submitted the current Church accounts for the year, which shewed a balance in hand of £9 17s. 1d. It is much to be wished that the parishioners would shew by their attendance at the Vestry meeting year by year their interest in the affairs of the Church, and offer advice or criticism upon the administration of the Church and Charity Accounts.

Wants.—We still require one or two things connected with the Church. It was proposed at the Vestry Meeting that a further portion of the Churchyard be levelled next winter, also that tidy cupboards and drawers be provided in the vestry, and the ringers, too, are asking for curtains over the belfry doors. Perhaps the proceeds of some entertainment might be devoted towards one or other of these objects.

"Oncers."—This word was, we believe, invented by the late Mr. Gladstone to describe those people who never attend more than one service on Sunday. It would appear to be almost a matter of principle with some people, that no matter how many services there may be, or how much leisure they may have, they must never on any consideration be present more than once on the same Sunday. These remarks are suggested by the absence of so many from the great thanksgiving service on Easter morning, some because they came to Holy Communion early in the day, others because they wished to come in the evening instead. But why not both? Because of that unworthy notion that once at church is sufficient for one Sunday. Let us get rid of this notion, and regard the worship of GOD as a happy privilege not as a grudging duty to be done as seldom as possible. In short, let us give up being "oncers," and become "twicers!"

The Church Seats.—If those who prefer any special seat will come in good time and occupy that seat regularly, we shall know and respect their wishes, and regard that as their special place in Church. We would also suggest that people leave their books in their accustomed places.

Cricket Fixtures.—2nd May, v. Grimsthorpe, away.

9th May, v. Holywell, home.

23rd May, v. Bourne, away.

30th May, v. Greatford, away.

Baptism.—26th April, William, son of William and Ellen Elizabeth Bonnett.

Marriages.—20th April, John William Francis and Gertrude Jeffries.

20th April, William Harold Birch and Ella Hannah Watts.

June 1908.

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

Children's Easter Treat.—Through inadvertency, the mention of this was omitted last month. The treat took place on Easter Monday, and consisted of an entertainment of conjuring and ventriloquism in the school, followed by a sumptuous tea at the Hall. After tea each child received a present, and a prize was awarded to the top boy and girl in each standard. Before breaking up, hearty cheers were given to Mr. and Mrs. Fenwick for their great kindness.

The Bourne Musical Competition.—It was a great satisfaction to all concerned that Witham gained two first prizes, and will be an encouragement for us to try again next year, and perhaps for others to join the class. Great credit is due to Mr. Metcalfe, whose efforts have been untiring, and we are all the more pleased at the success with which they have been rewarded. The prize picture now hangs in the school, together with the framed certificates, for future generations to see, and on which the names of all the members of the class are immortalized!

A Whist Drive and Dance has been arranged for in the Vicarage garden on Monday, 15th June, in order to raise funds for defraying the outstanding expenses of our day in Bourne on the occasion of the musical competition. If the weather is fine and warm, we ought to make this a very enjoyable gathering, and hope that large numbers will be present. The Whist Drive will probably commence at 7 p.m. and the dancing at 9, but full particulars will be given later.

Stamford Infirmary.—A house-to-house collection has been made recently for this deserving object, Miss Lee kindly collecting in Witham, and Miss Pick in Toft and Lound. The Witham collection amounted to the very good sum of £3 6s. 6d., and Toft and Lound gave 12s. 6d., making in all £3 19s. 0d. The Manthorpe contributions have not yet been collected, but we hope to record them next month.

The Club Feast takes place on Monday, 8th June, and will be memorable as being the first occasion when dinner is served in the new inn, where Mr. Fenwick has provided a large and commodious club room. The club service will be held as usual at 12 o'clock, and it is hoped that the address will be given by the Rev. R. E. P. Gorringe, Vicar of Maxey.

Whitsun Day, a reminder. Let us all aim at keeping this great Festival in the best and highest way, namely by our presence at the Altar. May the large attendance of Communicants at Easter be repeated at Whitsuntide.

Cricket Fixtures.—6th June, v. Baston, home.

13th June, v. Wothorpe, away.

20th June, v. Marquess of Exeter's XI., away.

27th June, v. Tallington, away.

Baptism.—24th May, Mary Knife, daughter of Frank William and Lavinia Kate Harris.

CONFIRMATION.—On Friday afternoon, the 20th inst., the Bishop of Grantham held a special Confirmation in this Church, at which there were 54 candidates, the numbers from each parish being as follows:—Witham-on-the-Hill 23, Edenham 10, Bourne 9, Barholm 7, and Greatford 5. In addition to the Bishop and his chaplain (Rev. G. B. Cooley), there were also present—the Revs. J. T. Halland (Blyborough), G. J. Cartwright (Greatford), R. S. Lawies (Barholm), H. F. Pattison (Bourne), and the Vicar of Witham (the Rev. L. E. Cooley), with the full surpliced choir of the Church. The Bishop gave two earnest and helpful addresses to the candidates. At the conclusion of the service, a tea was provided by the Vicar, in the School, for the visiting candidates and friends from a distance.

DEDICATION OF NEW SEATS.—A festival service followed the Confirmation on Friday, March 20th, at 7 p.m., as an act of thanksgiving for the completion of the Church, and at which the Bishop of Grantham dedicated the new oak seats recently installed in the nave. The service consisted of evensong, sermon, and procession, followed by a special office of dedication. The proper psalms, 84, 100, and 122, were sung to plaintive tones. The lessons were read by the Rev. J. J.

Halland, formerly Vicar of Witham. There were no flowers or decorations, owing to the service being held in Lent. The Bishop, who preached, based a powerful and instructive sermon on the words, "To what purpose is this waste?" Matt. xxvii., 8. Immediately after the sermon followed the procession, when the ancient processional hymn for the dedication of a Church, "Hail! Festival Day," was sung to Baden-Powell's stately music, the verses being taken by the men's voices only, and the chorons by the full choir. This, in which choristers and clergy to the number of about thirty took part, with processional cross and banner, and followed by the Bishop vested in a handsome cope and mitre, formed a striking and impressive feature of the service. The choir having returned to the chancel, the Bishop, standing at the chancel step, said the special office of dedication, after which two hymns were sung during the collection, and the episcopal blessing concluded a service which will long be memorable in the annals of this little country parish. Peals were rung upon the bells both before and after each of the services. After the evening service, all the clergy were hospitably entertained to dinner by Walter Fenwick, Esq., of Witham Hall, with whom the Bishop was staying.

July 1908

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

The Flower Show will be held on Wednesday, 29th of July. This popular annual event has acquired quite a wide-spread reputation, which will doubtless be maintained again this year. Mr. Fenwick's beautiful grounds have been still further enlarged since last year, and will constitute the chief attraction of the show. Other attractions will be a first-class band, maypole dancing, a cricket match, and illuminations in the evening, with dancing. In order to prevent any disappointment we would remind exhibitors that all entries close on Saturday, 25th. No exceptions can be made.

The Whist Drive and Dance held in the Vicarage garden proved most enjoyable, though fewer came than were expected. However the proceeds amply met the expenses of the musical competition. The Vicar hopes that another such event may be arranged this summer.

New Photographs of the Church, shewing the oak seats, can now be obtained at the Post Office.

Draining of the Churchyard.—The new portion of the Churchyard, owing to the clayey nature of the soil, has always been more or less water holding. It is hoped that this will be remedied by the system of drainage just carried out. The pipes are laid below the level of the graves, and along the line of the old boundary wall. These, by kind permission of the Squire, are connected up with a drain newly made across the field opposite the smithy, and discharging into the stream below. The cost has been borne by the Church Estate.

The Pan-Anglican Thankoffering.—The collections on Whitsun Day were devoted to this fund, and the sum of £2 12s. 9d. was sent up to be presented on the Altar of S. Paul's Cathedral. The sum collected was disappointing, and far below what we as a parish ought to have contributed. As regards the great Christian duty of almsgiving, how few of us there are who carry out the Scriptural precept, and give "as God hath prospered us."

The Church Estate.—Under the new scheme recently established by the Charity Commissioners, three Trustees are to be appointed every three years by the Parish Meeting of Witham-on-the-Hill. Those who have been thus appointed are Mr. Browett, Mr. Brudenell, and Mr. Plaskett. Including these, there are now twelve trustees.

Stamford Infirmary Collections.—The contributions from Manthorpe, kindly collected by Mrs. Henry Wells, amounted to £1 os. 9d., the highest sum hitherto contributed in this village. This makes £4 19s. 9d. from the whole parish.

Choir Excursion.—Will the members of the congregation once more kindly contribute towards the above? If funds are forthcoming, the boys will be taken for the day to the seaside.

Cricket Fixtures.—4th July, v. Grimsthorpe, home.

11th July, v. Stamford Conservatives, home.

18th July, v. Holywell, away.

25th July, v. Stamford Conservatives, away.

Baptism.—21st June, Ellen, daughter of Edward and Susan Dickinson.

Marriage.—8th June, John Thomas Sentence and Emily Hill.

August 1908.

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

The Flower Show.—As this takes place just as the Magazine is in the press, we must reserve our notes on the subject until next month. Meanwhile we can only hope for fine weather on this eventful occasion.

Many thanks to all who have so kindly contributed to the choir excursion fund. The sum of £2 9s. 10d. has so far been collected, £1 being from the Squire, and the remainder from some 40 contributors. The boys have expressed a wish to visit Mablethorpe this year.

Local Scholarship.—We are very pleased to announce that the Kesteven County Council minor scholarship offered to candidates in the Thurlby and Bytham division has been won this year by Leslie Metcalfe, who is the first pupil from our school to gain such a distinction. This will enable him to proceed to Stamford Grammar School, where we hope he will pass to further successes, and perhaps—who knows—to the University! We heartily congratulate him and shall watch his future career with interest.

The Choir.—The Choirmaster and the Vicar are both of opinion that if the ordinary choir were augmented and helped by ladies' voices, the singing in church would be greatly improved. Our recent success in the musical competitions proves that we possess plenty of talent in singing, what could be more right and fitting than to train and use that talent in the service of God? Perhaps the members of the singing class and others will help to form a ladies' choir, and make Witham church a model for beauty in its musical services, as it is at present in its outward adornment. Will those who desire such a result think over this proposal, and echo the words of the Psalmist who said not only "I will sing" but also "I will give praise with the best member that I have."

The Bishop of Grantham.—Excellent post-card photographs of the Bishop vested in cope and mitre are now published at 2d. Possibly the candidates at the recent Confirmation and others who took part in the Dedication service last March would like copies. Apply through the Vicar.

The 4th Bell.—This bell which was re-cast in 1887 has a curious and interesting inscription upon it, which has not been hitherto published. It is what is called a "chronogram," i.e., a sentence in which all the letters standing for numerals (such as X, C, V, &c.) when added, give the number of the year.

The inscription which is in Latin, runs as follows. EGO RENOVATA IN ANNO IVBILÆI BONÆ REGINÆ VICTORIÆ IN TVA ECCLESIA GLORIAS REGNI TVI IN LÆTO CONCENTV SONO SVAVITER O REX VNICE IESV ET NVNTIO HORAS OPERVM.

Count up all the following letters (M.C.L.X.V.I.) which occur in the inscription, and you will get 1887. Of course in Latin I and J are the same letter, as also are U and V.

1 M—1000, 6 C's—600, 4 L's—200, 1 X—10, 12 V's—60, and 17 I's—17. Total, 1887.

The translation of the Latin into English is:—"I, renewed in the year of the Jubilee of Queen Victoria the Good, sweetly sound in joyful melody the glories of Thy Kingdom in Thy Church, Jesus our only King, also I announce the hours of work."

Cricket Fixtures.—1st August, v. Tallington, home.

8th August, v. Greatford, home.

15th August, v. Grimsthorpe, away.

22nd August, v. Bourne, home.

should read VNICE

September 1908

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

The Flower Show is now a matter of ancient history, and was fully reported in the local press. The weather was absolutely perfect, the attendance larger than ever, and the only subject for regret was the diminished number of entries. This will never do. If we want the show to flourish and to continue to be the enjoyable feature it is in our village life, we must all help. Let us remember that the Squire's main object in inaugurating the show was the benefit and well-being of the parish, and the very least we can do to show our appreciation of his kindness is to support it by becoming exhibitors. Unless we all do what we can, the end must be disaster.

Old-Age Pensions. In order to make it quite clear to all whom it concerns, we wish to state that all old people over 70 years of age (of both sexes) who are not already in possession of an income of 10s. a week, and who have not during the previous year been in receipt of any parish relief, will be entitled next January, to the full pension of 5s. per week. For those with incomes slightly in excess of 10s., a sliding scale is provided. On this matter, as well as on how to apply for the pension, the Vicar will gladly furnish all information. We need hardly add how pleased and gratified we are to know that the aged and deserving poor can now look forward to this assistance as a matter of right, and not of charity, in the evening of their years.

The Rev. J. C. H. How whom many remember from his boyhood and who is a nephew of Mr. Halland's, will take the Vicar's place for a fortnight, and will conduct the services on two Sundays, the 20th and 27th of September. We hope that there will be large and appreciative congregations. The Vicar will thus be enabled to have what he has not had for four or five years, a Sunday away from home.

The Sunday Services. There are still a few, it seems, who think that the 10.15 service is only for children. May we state that this service is for *all*, and that those whose household duties prevent them from coming to the later service are earnestly asked to attend this one. The *Address* at the 10.15 service is certainly for the children, and consists of their usual Sunday instruction, 10.15 always having been the children's hour. But this is no reason why adults should not attend the service, indeed many people benefit largely from the simple teaching which is given to the little ones of Christ's flock.

To those who are equally able to be present at either of the two morning services we would say why not attend both? The two combined do not occupy two hours. Or if a choice is to be made, let that one be chosen which has been ordained of God and not of man, we refer of course to the Holy Eucharist, the Lord's Service. A religion which does not regard this great Ordinance as the highest act of Christian worship is a religion which is not in accordance with the Mind of Christ.

Baptisms. 26th July, Frank, Harold and John, sons of William and Annie Brown.
16th Aug., Walter, son of Walter and Rose Fanny Warnes.

October 1908

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

Evening Classes.—The Music Class will re-open on Thursday, 15th October. The Woodwork Class will also be continued if a sufficient number of students will join. This number must not be less than twelve, in accordance with the regulations of the County Education Committee. The opening date of this class will be announced later. Half the fee of 2s. will be returned when three-fourths of the possible attendances have been made in either class.

The Vicar's Absence.—Occasional change is good both for priest and people, and we are grateful to Mr. How for so kindly offering his services on the two Sundays just gone by. We feel sure that his reverent conduct of the services and his able and eloquent sermons will have been helpful to many, the mere fact of a new voice and a new way of expressing old truths arrest the attention. The Vicar on his side has had the opportunity of worshipping in other churches than his own, and has been inexpressibly cheered and encouraged by taking part in reverent and beautiful services, attended by large and devout congregations. His first Sunday was spent at S. Matthias, Earl's Court, the church attended by our late beloved Squire, Mr. Johnson, and the second at Christ Church, S. Leonard's, where his old friend and colleague is Rector. It is quite wonderful to see the love and devotion shewn in both these churches, and in particular at the Holy Eucharist. In both churches this great Service is regarded of course as the chief act of Sunday worship, at which all attend, and the numbers at the High Celebration very largely exceed those present at Morning Prayer, which bears out what we said on this subject in last month's magazine. Most manifestly does God's Blessing rest upon the congregation and church where the "Memorial of the Lord's Death" is rightly observed and honoured.

Old Age Pensions.—In any case when a claimant for a pension requires a certificate of baptism in proof of their age, the Vicar will gladly supply the certificate free of all fee and charge.

The Dedication Festival falls this year on Sunday, 1st November, which is also All Saints' Day. The annual thanksgiving for the Harvest will be observed on the same Sunday, unless it is found convenient to fix on some earlier Sunday. The Vicar will give due notice of this on his return.

The Parish Tea will it is hoped take place in the Feast Week. Of this also will notice be given.

New Tables.—The Dancing Class Committee have decided to expend the balance which they have in hand upon new tables to be used for teas in the school. The tables will have folding legs, so as to be easily stored away in a small space.

Baptism.—13th Sept., Florence Mabel, daughter of James and Sarah Ann Haddon.
20th Sept., Vida, daughter of Walter and Lydia Mace.

WITHAM-ON-THE-HILL.

THE PARISH FEAST.—The annual dedication festival was observed at the Church on Sunday last, when the services were of a festive character. The Vicar preached both at the sung Eucharist and at evensong, and in the morning took as his subject, "The condition of the faithful departed," the text being Wisdom iii., "The souls of the righteous are in the Hand of God." The recently-augmented choir rendered the services in an admirable manner, and the Eucharist was sung partly to Adlam in F, with the *Benedictus* and *Agnus Dei* from Woodward's service in E flat. The parish tea took place on Monday for adults, and on Tuesday for children. There was a very large attendance, those present on the first night numbering 160, and on the children's night 90. The arrangements were admirably organised by a Ladies' Committee, consisting of Mrs. Benton, Mrs. Grummitt, Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. Williamson, Mrs. Worthington, Miss Lee, and Miss Seymour, and the tea-tables were presided over by Mrs. Bradshaw, Mrs. Brudenell, Mrs. Grummitt, Mrs. Metcalfe, Mrs. Moxon, and Mrs. Pick. (Mrs. Fenwick was unfortunately prevented from coming by illness). After a substantial tea, the tables were removed, and a varied entertainment was given, lasting over two hours. The programme included a pianoforte duet by Grace and Ida Brudenell, vocal duet by Bess and Annie Worth-

ington, and songs by Mrs. Metcalfe, and Messrs. Moxon, Andrew, Cole, and Hudson. In addition to the local performers, Mr. Bart Keeton, from Bourne, convulsed the audience with comic songs, in character, kindly singing again and again in response to insistent applause. Mr. Brown, who accompanied him, also favoured the company with several songs, and, later in the evening, gave an amusing rendering of the "Cake Walk." The programme closed with an exceedingly clever dialogue, by Mr. B. Cole and Mr. G. Hudson, which called forth the utmost merriment. Dancing was then indulged in until midnight, when the most successful and enjoyable parish gathering ever held in the Feast week was brought to a conclusion.

7-11-08

November 1908

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

The Harvest Thanksgiving was held on Sunday, 18th Oct. (S. Luke's day). Our grateful thanks are due to the many kind helpers who so beautifully decorated the church. The wreathing of the pillars was quite a new feature, and was much admired. The Rector of Swinstead preached at Evensong.

The Singing Class has made a good start, and is already beginning on some of the music for the Bourne Competition next April. We trust that if there is still anyone else who would like to join, they will not wait to be asked, but come forward at once. These classes are public, and are open to anyone in the parish.

Orchestral Class.—A class for violins and violoncello has also been formed, and although small in numbers, yet promises to be highly successful. Anyone who possesses a violin, however rudimentary their knowledge of playing, is invited to join. There is nothing more delightful than string music rendered by several combined instruments, with piano or organ accompaniment. So fascinating have been the practices so far, that we don't know when to stop!

The Choir.—All this newly awakened zeal for music has led us to try and improve our music in church, where of course it should find its highest expression. Mr. Metcalfe has very kindly consented to take the choir in hand, and try to obtain better results than in the past. He has enlisted the help of several ladies and girls, who will form a supplementary choir, in addition to the existing male choristers. Choir practises will be held every week during the winter, and we appeal to all the members of the choir to encourage our choirmaster, and back up his efforts by regular attendance at the services and practises. We venture to thank those ladies who so willingly joined, and also to invite others to do the same.

The Feast.—The Dedication Festival Sunday falls this year on the latest possible date, 1st Nov. (All Saints' Day). The parish tea and entertainment is fixed for the Monday, and the children's evening on Tuesday. The ladies' committee are working with a will, and we hope for another success.

The New Tables are made, six of them, and will come in very useful for the parish tea. The next object to which to devote our funds is a lamp for the school yard. The proceeds of the tea (if any), will be devoted towards this.

A New Tea Urn of large dimensions has been purchased by the Whist Drive Committee. A most useful addition to our parish stock.

The Clubs.—Now is the time to join the Clothing Club. The Coal will be delivered early in December, and the amount allotted to each member will be announced on the December club day. Any member who may be dissatisfied can have their payments returned if they prefer.

Obituary.—We regret to record the death of Mrs. Samuel Newham, one of our oldest parishioners, and one who was widely known and respected. During her last illness she suffered very severely, but with exemplary courage and patience, and the end came at last as a merciful and happy release. She was buried on the 27th Oct. beside the grave of her husband, who died nearly five years before her. R.I.P.

It is a fact worthy of record that there has been no burial here previous to that of Mrs. Newham for more than 20 months; Mr. Watts of Toft, who died last spring being buried at Bourne.

Burial.—27th Oct., Frances Newham, aged 79 years.

December 1908.

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

Christmas Day.—Holy Communion at 7.30 and 8.30, Mattins at 10.15, Choral Eucharist at 11.15. It is earnestly hoped that all communicants will make their communion on this great Festival, and also that they will do so if possible at one of the early celebrations. The late service is designed as an act of worship, and ought not to be unduly prolonged. Instructed Church-people will of course observe the Church's rule which requires the Blessed Sacrament to be received fasting, and most of all on Christmas Day morning with all its distractions in the shape of letters and greetings, is it impossible to come to our communion devoutly prepared and with a recollected mind, unless we come the first thing in the morning.

The Parish Tea was undoubtedly one of the most successful and enjoyable ever held. Although the price was only 6d. for adults and 2d. for school children, there remains a clear profit of £1 16s. 8d., which speaks for itself. With this we are buying a lamp for the school yard. Our best thanks to all the kind helpers.

The Children.—With Advent a new year of Sunday attendance commences. We trust that parents will encourage their children in this all-important matter. We cannot forget how it says in the Gospel that Jesus was "much displeased" with those who would keep the children from Him, and how sternly He blamed them, saying "*Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not.*" Let us not incur ourselves that terrible blame.

The New Education Bill.—Just as we go to press this Bill has been brought in by the Government. Among other proposals, the Church Schools are apparently to be confiscated, and in them undenominational teaching (the very teaching they were built to exclude) is to be the rule, and Christian teaching as we believe it, the exception. This may be given on two mornings a week, but we must pay extra for it. Is this justice? Besides, what is to prevent some future Government taking from us even these two mornings of Church teaching? We shall then have lost everything, schools and all.

Baptism Certificates.—These are needed by many just now in order to prove their age in applying for an Old Age Pension. The legal fee for these Certificates is 3s. 7d. We mention this because it is thought by some that the clergy are obliged to give them for nothing. As an instance to the contrary, the Vicar applied to another Parish Priest for one on behalf of a parishioner, and was charged the above fee. The Vicar has remitted the fee to all who have applied to him (some twenty) as a free gift, and not as a matter of right.

"Thank You."—It used to be the custom for the members of the Clubs to attend in person at least one club day in the year, to express their thanks for the help given them. Nowadays many not only never come themselves, but do not even send a message of thanks through their children. Yet not only is there the trouble of collecting and banking the small monthly contributions, but there is the substantial grant made every year to add to those contributions, and this must come from somewhere, so there is surely room for a "thank you." The time is drawing near now when kind friends will once more (unless we are much mistaken) remember many of us—both old and young—with welcome and substantial Christmas gifts. It is not alone the value of these gifts, but also the care and thought with which they all are chosen, each individual recipient being thought of separately, that makes these gifts so acceptable. May we venture to say that these same kind friends would be pleased with a "thank you" in return. These little courtesies cost nothing, or at the most half a sheet of note-paper, but at the same time they are much valued and appreciated. Our readers must please forgive us for dropping this hint, which is entirely between them and ourselves.

Baptism.—1st November, Charles, son of John Henry and Ada Mary Shield.