

January 1909

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

**A Happy New Year to all our readers.**

**The Editor** of this section must take the blame for the lateness of this month's issue, owing to the pressure of work at Christmas. He promises not to transgress in future !

**The Christmas Services.**—There was a very good attendance at all the services on Christmas Day, notably at the High Celebration, when the Church was filled. This is just as it should be, and we record our gratification. The collections at the three Eucharists amounted to £3 13s. 11d., which was given to the Bishop of Lincoln's Birthday Fund. This fund is intended as a token of the esteem and affection of the diocese for our dearly loved Bishop, who now enters upon his 80th year. It is to be spent upon church-extension work at Grimsby, a scheme which lies very near his heart.

As to the music, never before have we had brighter services, thanks to the efforts of the choir, and in particular, to the assistance of the members of the violin class, who accompanied the singing on Christmas Day morning, and at the Carol Service on the following Sunday evening. The effect was most impressive and grand. At the latter service the Vicar briefly explained the meaning and use of carols, and also justified the employment of stringed instruments in church music, as being the noblest and at the same time the most Scriptural form of instrumental music used in the worship of God.

**The Christmas Charities** were distributed as usual immediately after Divine Service on Christmas Day morning. At one time it seemed likely that the widows' money would not be forthcoming this year, owing to the failure of the tenant of the land at Whaplode, whence this fund is derived. Happily, however, the long and troublesome negotiations over the matter have resulted satisfactorily, thanks in the main to our two excellent churchwardens, who as trustees of the charity have spared neither pains nor trouble in their efforts on behalf of the widows.

**Marriage Festivities.**—Mr. Robert Moxon very kindly entertained all the householders in Witham to tea on the 26th ult., in celebration of his recent marriage. The invited guests numbered some 80 or 90. After a sumptuous tea, the rest of the evening was spent in a convivial manner with speeches, songs, and dances. During the course of the evening the Vicar, on behalf of the company, presented Mr. and Mrs. Moxon with a silver-mounted 'tantalus' spirit stand, subscribed for by all the guests.

**Children's Tea and Entertainment.**—Through the kindness of the Squire a tea and magic lantern entertainment has been provided for the youngsters on the 28th (Holy Innocent's Day). Further particulars of this and the Squire's other generous gifts must be held over till next month.

**Mrs. Fenwick.**—One and all will have heard with deep regret of Mrs. Fenwick's recent illness, and her consequent inability to be among us at Witham at Christmas. However we are pleased indeed to know that she has made a good recovery, and will probably be able to be moved home very shortly.

**Twelfth-Night.**—This time honoured festival will be fittingly observed by the Cricket Club Dance, which is arranged for that evening (6th Jan.) We hope for a large attendance.

**The New Lamp** in the Schoolyard is proving itself to be a "long-felt want," which we all appreciate on these dark evenings.

**Burials.**—17th Dec., John Baker, aged 85 years.

26th Dec., John Robert Baxter Clarke, aged 60 years.

### WITHAM-ON-THE-HILL.

**CHILDREN'S TEA.**—On Monday, all the School children were entertained to a sumptuous tea at the Hall, by Mr. Fenwick, which was followed by a magic-lantern entertainment in the School.

**CHRISTMAS-TIDE.**—The great festival was ushered in by a merry peal from the bells in the early morning, before the first service of Holy Communion, which took place at 7.30. A second celebration followed at 8.30, matins at 10.15, and the 'high' celebration at 11.15, when a large congregation assembled. At this service, the members of the violin class accompanied the hymns and other choral parts, with grand effect. The music used was that of Adam's service in F. The collections at the three Eucharists amounted to £3 13s. 11d., which was given to the Bishop of Lincoln's Birthday Fund. On the following Sunday evening, a carol service was held, when the violins were again brought into use. There was no sermon, but the Vicar made a brief statement on the subject of carol singing, and the use of string music in Church. After tracing the origin and purpose of Christmas carols, he pointed out how eminently fitting and seemly it was to employ stringed instruments in the worship of God, as being not only the most ancient and Biblical form of religious music, but also the most perfect. From a musical point of view, this Christmas will long be remembered by those who were privileged to take part in these services, which were inspiring to a degree. On Christmas-day evening, the choir and violinists repaired to the Hall, where carols and suitable songs were rendered.

**WEDDING CELEBRATION.**—To celebrate the marriage of Mr. Robert Moxon to Miss Matilda A. Kember, of Kingston, Surrey, the parishioners of Witham were kindly entertained to tea in the School-room on Saturday last. Mr. Moxon is the third son of Mrs. Moxon and the late Mr. Thomas Moxon. The family, having resided for more than half-a-century at the Palace Farm, have a wide circle of friends, and considerable interest was evinced in the wedding, which took place on the 19th ult., at the Church of St. Michael and All Angels, Bedford Park. On the arrival of the happy couple at Witham, merry peals were rung upon the Church bells. A bountiful tea was provided at Saturday's gathering, and, to mark their appreciation of Mr. Moxon's generosity, the Rev. L. H. Cooley, on behalf of about fifty subscribers, presented a liquor-stand to the bride and bridegroom. In the course of a most appropriate address, the Vicar referred in felicitous terms to the happy relations which existed between Mrs. Moxon's family and the parish generally. Mr. Moxon very ably and feelingly thanked the parishioners for the handsome and unexpected gift. Mr. T. Pick congratulated Mr. Moxon on his marriage, and, in a racy speech, delighted the company with his reminiscent remarks about the bridegroom's family, and especially his greatly-esteemed mother. Miss Brudenell, Miss May Moxon, Mrs. Jee, and the Vicar in turn played for singing and dancing, which were enthusiastically kept up until the singing of the National Anthem brought a very happy and pleasant evening to a close.

2.1.09

### WITHAM-ON-THE-HILL.

MUCH SYMPATHY is felt for Mrs. Fenwick in consequence of the death of her mother, Lady Robert Montague, which took place in London on the 28th ult. The funeral was on Friday week, the first portion of the service being in St. Peter's, Cranley-gardens, and the interment at Kensal Green.

**CRICKET CLUB DANCE.**—This annual fixture took place on the 6th inst., and was very largely patronised. The music was supplied by the Vicar's piano-player. This must be recorded as one of the most successful and enjoyable dances held in Witham for some years, and the funds of the Cricket Club will be largely benefited.

**THE TENANTS AND EMPLOYEES ON THE ESTATE** desire to express their grateful thanks to Mr. Fenwick for his munificent Christmas gifts. In addition to presents of beef and groceries, he distributed blankets, sheets, and clothing to each householder on Tuesday last. On the following day, the children received their gifts, each scholar being given a charming present.

**CHURCH WORKERS' PARTY.**—On New Year's-eve, the Vicar invited all the Church workers and other friends to a social evening in the School. The company present numbered over sixty. The proceedings commenced with a whist drive, and the remainder of the evening was spent in songs and dancing. At twelve o'clock, all the company sang "Auld Lang Syne," and the ringers repaired to the steeple to usher in the new year with a short peal on the bells. In the course of a few remarks towards the close of the evening, the Vicar appealed for more Church workers, as the parish which had many united workers was always the happiest. The parson did not want to be left to himself, but was inexpressibly cheered and encouraged by the help and co-operation of the people. He was pleased to be able to say that the past year was one of distinct encouragement, as was proved by the unfailing index of the number of communicants, which showed a considerable increase. He paid a warm tribute to the churchwardens, who were ever ready to co-operate in every good work for the welfare of the parish, to the organist and choir for the excellent way in which the music was practised and rendered, and the violinists, for so kindly playing in Church at the Christmas festival, to the ringers for their untiring efforts during the past year, and to one and all of the large band of workers in and about the Church.

9.1.09

February 1909

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

**The Vicar's Church Workers' Party** on 31st Dec., proved to be a very enjoyable gathering. He hopes to make it an annual function.

**The Cricket Club Dance** on the 6th Jan. may also be called a complete success, and by far the best that we have had of recent years.

**Shrove-tide Concert.**—This is our next important social event, and will be held either on Monday or Tuesday before Ash Wednesday (22nd or 23rd inst.) We venture to ask all our readers to come, as this concert is to provide funds for the expenses of the singing class at the forthcoming musical competition at Bourne.

**The Squire's Christmas Gifts.**—Though somewhat late we would express the grateful thanks all the recipients to Mr. Fenwick for his kind and generous gifts. The presents of beef and groceries were made before Christmas, those of clothing, &c., on the 5th of Jan., and the children's presents and prizes on the 6th, the distribution taking place at the Hall.

**The Ringers** will also, we feel sure, wish us to express their thanks to the Squire for his gift to each of a sovereign, in addition to the gratuity made them at Christmas by the Vicar and Churchwardens. We might add that Mr. Benton expressed a hope at the church workers' party that new learners would come forward, so as to be able to take their place in the team in the event of any of the present ringers retiring or leaving. The captain, George Hudson, or the Vicar would be glad to hear of any such.

**The Choir.**—We want more singers as well as ringers. The choirmaster and the Vicar heartily invite new members to join the choir, whether treble, alto, tenor or bass, and also plead for regular and systematic attendance not only at the services but at the weekly choir practice. With one or two extra voices we should be able to compete in the Musical Competition as a choir, and perhaps carry off another "first" for the anthem!

**Exhibition at Castle Bytham.**—A schedule of the various classes and entries is posted up in the church porch, to which we would call everyone's attention. We hope some competitors may be forthcoming from this parish.

**Our Violet Altar Frontal**, which has become very shabby and dirty, is being renovated and redyed, and will it is hoped be ready for use on Septuagesima Sunday.

**Lent.**—This solemn season, perhaps the most blessed time in the whole year, is once more at hand. Let us not miss this year the great opportunity which it affords us of drawing nearer to God. We all need to try and keep Lent better, and why should not we all try. Just a little extra effort, and how great the blessing that may follow. Perhaps our eternal salvation may depend on this very Lent. At all events let us make better use of our Christian opportunities during Lent, try and come more often to Holy Communion, attend more regularly the services in church, particularly the "Lord's Service,"—nothing can take the place of that—and be more careful and earnest in our prayers. The special week-night services will be on *Tuesday* evenings, as the Vicar has engaged to preach at Spilsby every Wednesday.

**Baptism.**—24th Jan., Thomas William, son of Thomas William and Mary Goodacre.

**Marriage** (at Bourne),—13th Jan., Cyril Harry Mills Baxter and Mabel Watts.

March 1909.

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

**The Shrove-tide Concert.**—This has now become quite an established annual fixture. This year the concert was in our opinion better than ever, and the only falling off was in the number of the audience. Though the room seemed full, yet the proceeds were considerably less than last year. Great credit is due to Mr. Metcalfe for the splendid way in which the songs and glees were rendered, and he deserves the cordial thanks of us all for his zealous labours in the cause of music in the village. It would be invidious to single out for special mention any of the various items of the programme when all were so excellent, and those who did not come missed a treat. Two amusing dialogues completed the lengthy programme. The parts in the first of these were taken by Miss Seymour, Miss Sturgess, Rose Worthington and Annie Holmes. The second piece was a "Nigger" sketch in which the parts were allotted to Messrs. George Hudson, Bert Cole, Edward Newham and William Weldon.

**The beginning of Lent.**—Once again we would remind all our readers of the importance of this solemn season. Many of us are very remiss and careless in our Christian duties, as the large number who were missed from God's House on Ash Wednesday only too sadly proves. Is our neglect of God's worship due to ignorance or to indifference? Are we like the servant in the gospel who *knew* his Lord's will and did it not, or like the one who did *not* know? Surely we cannot plead ignorance as our excuse. Then let us try and shake off this deadly indifference, which is choking the spiritual life of so many of us, and start afresh with our Christian duties this very Lent.

**Changes.**—The news that Mr. and Mrs. Grummitt are going to leave us will be received by very many with unfeigned regret. During their residence in Witham they have made many friends, and we shall all sorely miss their unfailing kindness and readiness to help in every good work for the benefit of the parish. More than this we must not say while they still remain with us, but we may add that our best wishes will follow them wherever they go, and we are truly grieved to lose them from Witham.

**Mr. and Mrs. Fenwick** will, by the time this Magazine is in the hands of our readers, almost have reached Ceylon. We hope that they will enjoy their trip, and that Mrs. Fenwick may, on her return, be quite restored to health.

**Baptisms.**—6th Feb., Walter, son of George and Hannah Ogden.

7th Feb., Gladys Maud, daughter of Herbert and Maria Harmston.



April 1909.

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

**Easter Day.**—This great Festival—the greatest in the whole Christian year—is at hand. The Church rules that all the faithful shall make their Communion at Easter. This rule is as old as Christianity itself, and is observed not only in England but throughout the Catholic Church all over the world. At Easter then all Christians living in grace make a great corporate act of Communion, for which every other Communion throughout the year is as it were a personal preparation. Is not this an inspiring thought for us. When we kneel at the Altar on Easter morning we are joining in one great act in which millions of our fellow Christians all over the world are taking part. And this is only possible on this one yearly occasion. Who would willingly excommunicate himself from so wonderful a fellowship, and remain outside this great world-wide bond of union?

In case of need the Easter Communion can be made on any day within the Octave of Easter. The Celebrations on Easter Day will be at 7.30 and 9 o'clock, in addition to the sung Eucharist at 11.15. The music at the latter service will be accompanied by the violins.

**Lent Observance.**—The Vicar notes with pleasure the increasing numbers at our week-day services. Every one who makes such an effort benefits not only himself but also helps others by example, and incidentally encourages his parish priest, who like everyone else needs encouragement at times. We trust all will resolve to spend Good Friday in a Christian way. We should remember that it is a day of cessation from ordinary work only because it is one of great solemnity and mourning, so that all may have the opportunity of keeping it in a religious way. It is not a holiday of enjoyment and pleasure, and to keep it so is almost a sacrilege. Service at 11 and 7.30.

**The Easter Vestry Meeting** will be held on Easter Tuesday, at 7.30 p.m. The parish charities and Church Accounts for the year will be presented to the meeting. Two lay representatives besides the Churchwardens will be elected at the same time to attend the rural-decanal Conference. (See notice in Church porch).

**Lent Self-denial Boxes.**—Those who have these boxes are requested to bring them at Easter to the Church or Vicarage to be opened. The amounts collected will be published on the notice-board, and remitted to the "Waifs and Strays" Society as soon as possible. It has been suggested that you never can tell if money given in this way ever "get's there!" If anyone really has such doubts, they should watch the notice-board, where receipts for money sent are always posted up, also they should attend the Vestry Meeting, and hear how all the Church Collections and other funds are spent.

**The Church Stamps.**—This wonderful system is becoming more popular as time goes on, and as its charm and usefulness is increasingly appreciated. The stamps are not intended to be looked upon in any sense as rewards, but as records of Christian duty done. The *Eldermote Review* is a monthly magazine dealing with this system and its work, and is published at 1d. It may be had of all booksellers, and is well worth taking in. It rightly points out how much depends on the parents, and how important it is to get them to take an interest in their children's collections. They should ask to be shown the stamp each Sunday, and in other ways encourage their children in the matter. They might even do worse than start a collection themselves. We have heard of many parents who do.

**Dance.**—On Wednesday, 14th April, a dance will take place in the School to provide funds for the expenses of the singing class at the Bourne Competition the following week.

**Baptism.**—28th February, Percy, son of John Henry and Louisa Holmes.

**Burial.**—10th March, Thomas William Goodacre, aged 2 months.

May 1904.

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

**Obituary.**—It is with unfeigned regret that we have to record the passing away of two of our most faithful and respected parishioners, both during the great Festival of Easter, Mrs. Moxon on the Wednesday in Easter-week, and Mr. Henry Wells on Low Sunday. Mrs. Moxon who has resided at the Palace Farm for upwards of 60 years has reached the great age of 81, but active and vigorous to a remarkable degree for one of her years. She was able to attend church as recently as Palm Sunday, and was only confined to her bed for a few days before her death. On the day before the end she received the last Sacrament, and passed away most peacefully and happily in the presence of many of her children. She was laid to rest in the same grave as her late husband Mr. Thos. Moxon. Many of the choir attended the funeral, and two hymns were sung, also the Nunc Dimittis. Afterwards the ringers rang a muffled peal as a token of respect and sympathy with the bereaved relatives.

Mr. Henry Wells, too, was privileged to receive the Blessed Sacrament on the day previous to his death. Of late years a great sufferer, he was nevertheless of a happy and cheerful disposition, and always had a smile and a kindly word for all. His suffering was borne with exemplary patience and resignation, and the summons of death for which he ever strove to prepare himself, came as a merciful and happy release.—R.I.P.

**Easter.**—The great Festival of the Resurrection was kept with every token of gladness and joy. For the first time the Choral Eucharist was sung throughout, and the effect was greatly enhanced by the violinists, who accompanied the service as on Christmas Day. Of the three celebrations by far the greater number of communicants attended the first at 7.30. Some we grieve to say were missed altogether from the altar at Easter. Why is it that, when on all sides we hear of increased numbers of Easter Communicants, yet in our own parish there has been no increase, but many who have fallen back? If any of these read this, we beg of them to reflect, and make a new start, as the Easter Epistle exhorts us "*Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.*"

**The Easter Vestry Meeting** was held on Tuesday, 20th April. The proceedings were somewhat hurried owing to a practice being fixed on the same evening. The church collections for the year amounted to £46 12s. 8d. The collections for special objects totalled £10 18s. 11d., and the others were devoted to Church expenses. There is a balance in hand of £7 12s. 4d. The outgoing churchwardens were re-appointed, and Messrs. N. Moxon and F. Browett were appointed as sidesmen, as well as lay representatives of the parish on the ruri-decanal Conference.

**The Lent Savings** collected in the purses for the Waifs and Strays Society amounted to £2 8s. 0d., which sum was forwarded to the Secretary. We were surprised and pleased at so large an amount having been collected.

**The Stamford Infirmary** house-to-house collections came to £3 11s. 5d., Witham £1 16s. 0d., Manthorpe 17s. 9d., Toft and Lound 17s. 8d. The respective collectors were Miss Lee, Mrs. Henry Wells, and Miss Alford.

**The Bourne Musical Competitions.**—Witham has secured three first prizes this year, two of these having been won by the children, who did most extraordinarily well. The adult class was not quite so successful as last year, owing to the greater number of entries, and the necessity of competing with much larger villages, not that the class was inferior to last year, on the contrary the improvement was most marked.

**Burials.**—17th April, Louisa Moxon, aged 81 years.

20th April, Henry Wells, aged 68 years.

June 1909.

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

**The Address to the Squire and Mrs. Fenwick.**—Long before this Magazine is in the hands of our readers we shall have celebrated the return of Mr. and Mrs. Fenwick to Witham. Owing to Mrs. Fenwick's recent severe illness, and to the fact that their voyage to Ceylon was undertaken in order to complete her recovery, it was thought by many that a special welcome should be accorded to them on their return. Accordingly a handsome illuminated address was subscribed for and signed by all the householders in Witham and all the tenants and employees on the Estate, to be presented to them as a token of esteem and pleasure at their safe return home. For the benefit of those who have not had an opportunity of examining the gift closely, we give a brief description. The address itself is on vellum, handsomely illuminated in gold and colours, and bears Mr. Fenwick's crest at the top. It is contained in a cover or binding of black morocco leather, lined with scarlet watered silk. The wording of the address is as follows :—

"To Walter L. Fenwick, Esq., and Mrs. Fenwick.

"Dear Sir, and Madam,

"We, whose names are affixed hereto, desire to offer you a most cordial welcome on your return home, after your prolonged absence, and to express our great gratification that you, Madam, have been restored to health, and we trust that your recovery may be complete and permanent. We pray that you may both be spared to live among us for many years in health and happiness."

Witham-on-the-Hill, 1909.

Following the Address are 65 signatures. We must leave the account of the actual presentation (which has not yet taken place) to our next issue.

**Dates to bear in mind.**—Monday, 14th June, the Club Feast; Wednesday, 28th July, the Flower Show. On the Club Feast day, the usual service will be held at 12 noon. All are invited.

**Ascension Day.**—Once again we have to record our great regret and disappointment that a day as great and important as Christmas or Easter Day should be ignored by so many of our people. The hours of the services are specially arranged at times most convenient to the greatest number, and yet we have to deplore the absence of many. We wonder why it is.

**The Sunday Services.**—May we again point out that the 10.15 service is *not* specially a children's service, but is meant for the convenience of those who cannot leave home during the later morning service. The two services *together* only occupy two hours, surely not too long a time to give to God once a week, two out of one hundred and sixty-eight hours. The 11.15 service is purposely shortened, and if the lessons are long or the Litany is said, the sermon is omitted. Is then attendance at this one short service alone a sufficient fulfilment of our duty towards God on His own Day?

**The South Aisle.**—The interior walls of this aisle have been re-plastered. The damp which at one time penetrated the Church at this spot had rendered the walls very unsightly, they were much stained and the plaster in many places had fallen off. The new plastering has effected a great improvement in the appearance of the aisle.

**Cricket Fixtures.**—5th June, *v.* Eversley House School, away.

12th June, *v.* Tallington, home,

19th June, *v.* Bourne, away.

26th June, *v.* Grimsthorpe, home.

**Baptism.**—23rd May, Arthur Leonard, son of Bartholomew and Lucy Ellen Flagg.

**Burial.**—6th May, Charlotte Plant, aged 85 years.

July 1909

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

**Mr. and Mrs. Fenwick's welcome home.**—There is no need for us to give any description of this pleasing little incident, as it was fully reported in the local papers. Suffice it to say that we know that the Squire and Mrs. Fenwick were exceedingly gratified and touched with their reception home, and as for the illuminated address, it has called forth their unstinted admiration, and will be most highly valued and treasured by them.

**The Church.**—It has become imperatively necessary once again to have a thorough and complete cleaning of the Church, which has not been done for some years. We are often quite ashamed of the comments which visitors make on the accumulation of cobwebs and dust, and overhear such remarks as the following :—" a beautiful old Church, but so dirty ! "

**The Club Feast** seems always to be favoured with a fine day, and this year proved no exception to the rule. The bright little service, which happily still forms part of the day's programme, was admirably rendered, thanks to the large number who were present. The Rector of Braceborough—the Rev. R. B. Paine—gave a short and excellent address. The Vicar has been asked why he so seldom gives the address himself at this service. The reason is that it is one of the very few occasions when it is possible for another priest to come to us, and as the Vicar himself preaches every week in the year, he is glad to afford people an opportunity of hearing a different voice in Church than his own.

**The Church Pageant.**—During the past month there has been held in the Grounds of the Bishop of London's Palace a great Pageant, or presentation in character of past scenes in the history of the Church of England. The writer who was present only wished that he could have transported all the people of Witham to London to see this wonderful and impressive sight. The object of the Pageant was entirely a religious one, and commenced with a solemn Celebration of the Holy Eucharist at S. Etheldreda's Church, Fulham, hard by the Pageant ground. The performers, who numbered over 4000, were entirely voluntary, and it may interest some of us to know that two of Mr. Johnson's—our late Squire's—daughters took part. There can be no doubt that this Pageant will have the effect of teaching many thousands who witnessed it a great deal that they did not know before of the wonderful and Divinely-guided history of our ancient Church, and that the Church of England in the 20th century is identical with that of the 15th, or of the 5th. We hope that it will have shewn how erroneous is the idea held by some mis-informed people that King Henry VIII. destroyed the old Church and set up a brand-new one in its place ! If it does only this, the Pageant will not have been held in vain.

**Obituary.**—Another link with the past has been severed by the death of Mrs. Edward Pell, who passed away on the 21st June, at the ripe age of 85. There are all too few remaining now of the older generation of Witham people, and as they leave us it seems like the closing of a chapter of the history of the parish. Mrs. Pell lived all her married life in Witham, and leaves a large family of children and grandchildren to mourn her loss.

**Religious Inspector's Report.**—The School was inspected in Religious Knowledge on 25th ult. by the Rev. H. Cotton-Smith. The following is his Report :—

" The Infants answered well, some especially so. Repetition of hymns and texts very good.  
" The Senior Scholars :—Written Work, Acts of the Apostles, very good. Catechism good. In O. and N. Testament, the work showed knowledge and understanding. Repetition very good.  
" Discipline and tone excellent."

**Cricket Fixtures for July.**—3rd July, v. Uffington, away.  
10th July, v. Tallington, away.  
17th July, v. Bourne, home.  
24th July, v. Baston, away.  
31st July, v. Wothorpe, home.

**Burial.**—24th June, Elizabeth Pell, aged 85 years.

August 1909

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

**Alteration of Services, Notice.**—On the 2nd and 3rd Sundays in August, there will be no Holy Eucharist or Mattins, but Evensong and Sermon will be held at 6.30 on the 8th August, and at 3 o'clock on the 15th. The Vicar hopes that the congregation will bear with him in dropping the morning services on these two Sundays while he is abroad, and will unite in attending Evensong at the times mentioned. More especially, as for over six years the full Sunday services have been carried on without a break. Year after year the Vicar has denied himself the luxury of a Sunday holiday, in order that none of the services might ever be dropped or altered, or regular churchgoers put to any inconvenience, but as time goes on it becomes apparent that there are very few indeed among us who seem to value these privileges, or who look upon the regular worship of GOD on the Lord's Day as a duty that must come before all others, never to be interfered with. The Vicar therefore feels that in arranging for one full service only on the two Sundays mentioned he can occasion no hardship or grievance to anyone. Had the services been attended as they ought, he would not have thought of leaving home, or dropping one single service, but unfortunately this is not the case. He has tried his best to get a priest for the whole Sunday in each case, but having failed to do so, is obliged to make the arrangements above mentioned, when the local clergy will be kind enough to take the services as stated. On each of the Sundays there will be a children's service at 10.15 a.m., kindly conducted by Mr. Metcalfe.

**The Flower Show.**—Our good fortune in the matter of weather is little short of marvellous. After the torrential rain of Tuesday we hardly dared hope for fine weather on the day of the Show, and yet Wednesday turned out to be absolutely perfect, bright, warm and still, far surpassing our utmost hopes. So for the fifth year in succession we have been favoured with fine weather for this important annual event. Suffice it to say that everything went off splendidly, the attendance was larger than ever, and no hitch of any kind occurred to spoil the complete success of the Show. The Maypole Dance was again a great feature, and many were the praises bestowed upon the faultless way in which the youngsters went through their graceful performances. New features in the Show were the decorated bicycles, skittle competition, and pig-catching competition, all of which proved very popular. The illuminations were, if possible, better than last year, and the increased beauty of the Hall gardens called forth universal admiration. The number of entries compared very favourably with last year.

**Cricket Fixtures.**—7th Aug., v. Holywell, home.  
14th Aug., v. Greatford, home.  
21st Aug., v. The Marquess of Exeter's XI., away.  
28th Aug., v. Mr. Benton's XI., home.  
4th Sept., v. Wothorpe, away.

**Baptisms.**—11th July, Margaret Helen, daughter of William Kyneston Lloyd and Helen Cartwright Andrew.  
25th July, Francis John, son of Arthur Albert and Amy Charlotte Cutting.



September 1909

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

**Tea Party.**—On the 31st July, Mr. and Mrs. Fenwick kindly entertained the subscribers to their recent testimonial to a substantial tea at the Hall. Unfortunately the weather, after its usual manner this summer, was most unpropitious, and instead of spending the rest of the evening in the grounds, the party was obliged to break up soon after tea was over, after a selection of music had been given upon the gramophone. We feel sure that all the invited guests wish to record their hearty thanks to the Squire and Mrs. Fenwick for their kindness.

**Harvest Thanksgiving Services** will be held (D.V.) on Sunday, the 3rd Oct. We ask as many friends as can do so to give their help in decorating the Church, and we hope that the violinists will give their services on this occasion.

**The Chancel Roof.**—The Squire, who as Lay Rector, keeps the fabric of the Chancel in repair, has just had the roof pointed and repaired. We hope, therefore, that we shall no longer feel the draught which used to blow down so strongly from the Chancel whenever the wind was in the North-east, to the saving of the Altar Candles, and increased comfort of the Choir.

**Rural Deanery Re-arrangement.**—Our parish is shortly to be transferred from the Deanery of Beltisloe into that of Ness. This wholly unnecessary change has been decided upon by a Commission sitting in Lincoln, and we must submit to it, although a very strong protest has been made by the Vicar both to the Rural Dean and to the Bishop himself. For upwards of a thousand years the parish of Witham-on-the-Hill has been contained in the Wapentake of Beltisloe, and now this ancient tie is to be severed, the only reason given being that the deanery boundaries will be more compact and rounded off. We may have more to say about this matter on another occasion.

**Evening Classes.**—The Technical Instruction Committee have selected the following subjects for the forthcoming winter classes at Witham :—Woodwork, Vocal Music, Ambulance Instruction, and "Hedging." The first two will commence early in October.

**Cricket Pavilion.**—The picturesque structure which Mr. Fenwick has erected on the cricket field not only supplies a "long-felt want" in the shape of a cricket pavilion, but is an exceedingly ornamental addition to our village. It is in reality a complete cottage, which would make a very comfortable and cosy little home, if built for that purpose.

**Obituary.**—We offer our deep sympathies to Mr. Brighton, of Toft, and his family in their recent bereavement. Mrs. Brighton had been a great sufferer for a long time, though a most patient and resigned one. Last year it was hoped that a prolonged course of open-air treatment at Bournemouth might have the effect of checking her malady. However, the result was only temporary, and after a fresh chill caught this Spring she took to her bed, never to leave it until her death on the 12th of last month. The funeral, which took place on the 16th, was conducted by the Rector of Little Bytham, in the absence of the Vicar.—R.I.P.

**Baptism.**—22nd Aug., Mildred Olive, daughter of Joseph and Sarah Olive Healey.

**Burial.**—16th Aug., Elizabeth Brighton, aged 44 years.

October 1909

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

**The Parish Feast.**—The Dedication Festival—popularly known as the Feast Sunday—falls this year on the 31st October. It is the occasion when we thank GOD for *spiritual* blessings as given to us in and through our Parish Church, just as at the Harvest Festival we thank Him for *temporal* blessings. At the one we give thanks for the needs of the *body*, at the other for the needs of the *soul*. If therefore we regard the Harvest Festival as important, we ought to keep the Dedication Festival as a still more great and joyous day.

**Parish Tea.**—We hope that the Parish Tea may take place once again, if a sufficient number of willing helpers will undertake the management of it. We must also see about the Entertainment to follow, when we trust to the kindness of all those who sing or act to help us. The tea for the elders will probably be on the Monday evening, that for the children on the Tuesday.

**The School.**—Owing to the lateness of the harvest the managers decided to extend the holidays an extra week, so that this year the School has been closed for the summer holidays for six weeks instead of the usual five. During the two Sundays that Mr. Metcalfe was away, his place at the organ was kindly taken by Rose Worthington.

**The Bells.**—Since Mr. Geo. Hudson, the ringing captain, has left the parish, we have greatly missed hearing the bells rung up on Sundays. We hope that his place may shortly be filled, and a complete team formed once more. The Vicar would be very glad to know of anyone who would become a ringer. There is no six-bell peal in all the neighbourhood to compare with ours, and we might say none *better* than ours in the country, so that it is a grievous pity not to make the most of them. We wish, at the same time, that someone could tell us how to clear the pigeons out of the steeple, where of late they have established themselves. Only recently the Vicar had all the windows wired with the exception of the small apertures at the top of the spire, but the birds now use these, so the only thing to do will be to wire them as well, high up though they be, as the dirt and mess in the belfry is becoming serious nuisance.

**Baptisms.**—5th Sept., John William and Stella Margaret, twin son and daughter of George William and Stella Wallis.

19th Sept., Leonard George, son of John William and Florence Walker.

19th Sept., Mary Kathleen, daughter of John Robert and Eliza Cooper.

November 1909

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

**The Harvest Thanksgiving.**—Our sincere thanks are due to those who supplied such an abundance of beautiful flowers for the decorations, also to the many kind helpers who garnished the Church for our annual Thanksgiving for the fruits of the earth. The best kind of Harvest decoration however, is a large and thankful congregation, but this, owing to the inclement weather, was, at all events in the morning, unhappily absent. We trust that the feeling of thankfulness was not absent also. True, the season has been one of grievous disappointment, it is said that the past summer has been the wettest ever recorded, still an all wise GOD orders all things, and He is at the same time our loving Heavenly Father, but for whose Bounty and Providence we should perish. The collection amounted to £4 4s. 6d., which sum less £1 (given for another object) was sent to the Stamford Farmers Benevolent Society.

**The Feast.**—As we go to press the arrangements for the Parish Tea and Entertainment are being completed. We are assured of a good muster, and we hope the weather may be fine for the occasion.

**Wood-work Class.**—This class has commenced most auspiciously, with a full number of pupils.

**Singing Class.**—This will begin on Tuesday, 9th November, and meet each succeeding Tuesday. We hope we shall have as large a number of members as last year, and meet with the same success in the Musical Competitions at Bourne next April.

**Ambulance Lectures.**—A course of six lectures, illustrating how to render first aid in cases of injury, will be given by Dr. Galletly, on Monday evenings at 7.30, beginning on Monday, 8th November. These lectures are for men only. We can think of no subject of instruction of greater value and importance than ambulance work, a knowledge of which, gained in lectures such as these, has even been the means of saving life. We hope for a large attendance. A nominal fee of 6d. for the course will be charged.

**Clothing Club.**—The Vicar will be pleased to admit any new members who apply during the month of November.

**Ploughing Match.**—The Bourne and District Ploughing Society have decided to hold the Annual Competition at Witham, on the 17th Nov., on the invitation of Mr. Fenwick, who is President for the year.

**"Ye shall reverence My Sanctuary."**—Unseemly behaviour in church is happily so unusual at Witham that we have quite a reputation for the general reverence of our congregation. There seems, however, of late, to have been a certain amount of behaviour unbecoming in God's House, confined to but two or three, but sufficient to distress certain members of the congregation. May we appeal to these few young people to be more thoughtful and careful in their behaviour during Divine Service, not only for their own sakes, but for those of others around them, and above all to remember the dishonour done to Almighty God by such behaviour in His Holy House.

**Also those** who cannot make up their minds to come inside but who remain outside, we ask them to refrain from loud talking, which is sometimes plainly heard within, to the pain and distraction of the worshippers. But best of all, why not come in, but failing this, it would be better not to come to Church at all, than to come to the very door, only to stay outside.

**Baptism.**—10th October, Florence Laura, daughter of Walter and Rose Fanny Warnes.

December 1909

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

**The Parish Tea** was voted by one and all a great success. The tea itself was one of the best ever served on this occasion, and the succeeding entertainment, which lasted over two hours, one of the most enjoyable. After many songs there followed two humorous plays: one, entitled "the black doctor," was given by Messrs. Cole, Weldon and Jackson; and the second, entitled "the Suffragettes," was admirably rendered by Miss Lee, Miss Seymour, and Miss Annie Holmes. Our best thanks are due to the Ladies' Committee, who spared neither pains nor trouble, and we are glad that their kind efforts resulted in so gratifying a success. The following evening the Children's Tea took place, and merry games were indulged in afterwards. We were pleased to have our old friends, the Misses Creighton, with us again for this occasion. During their residence at the Vicarage they were always ready to help forward any social scheme for the benefit of the parish, and we cannot forget that it was largely through their efforts and initiation that we were enabled to purchase our parish piano. The Parish Tea, though not run with a view to making any profit, yet yielded a balance of £1 9s. 2d., which will be spent on crockery, &c., for parochial use.

**Christmas Day** falls this year on a Saturday. There will be two early Celebrations of Holy Communion at 7.30 and 8.30, Mattins at 10.15, Sung Eucharist and Sermon at 11.15. We ask for many helpers to decorate the church, and also beg that all will endeavour to keep this high and holy Day in a Christian manner. Think first of all what the day is,—the Birthday of Christ.

**The Christmas Charities** will be dispensed by the Vicar and Wardens in church immediately after the Divine Service. The Quarles Charity, owing to legal and other expenses, has this year a considerably diminished income, but it will be possible to give the sum of eighteen shillings and sixpence to nine poor widows.

**The Coal Club.** The Vicar will once again endeavour to obtain for the members the utmost amount of coal possible. Any member, however, who prefers to receive his or her contributions money can do so in place of their share of coal, though of course they would not get their benefit from the bonus which is added to each member's own payments, and amounts to about 4s. a head.

**The Cricket Club Dance** was held in the School on the 24th ult., and was only moderately attended. However the receipts amounted to over £4 with the sale of refreshments. We begin to suspect that the popularity of our village dances is on the wane. Another time it would be as well to ascertain the names of all who will attend, before arranging the date. It is the same with whist drives, we suppose these things have had their day.

**Newspaper Reports.** The Editor of the "*Grantham Journal*" expressed his regret to the Vicar at the inaccuracy of sundry recent accounts of our doings which have appeared in that paper, and asked if there was any one willing to undertake the work of acting as local correspondent. Particulars will be furnished on application.

**The School Yard** is shortly to be railed in by the Church Estate Trustees. Some day, we hope, the ground in front of the Parish Room and the Schoolmaster's House may be converted into an ornamental garden, which will much improve the appearance of the village.

**Obituary.** We offer our deep sympathy with the family of the late Mr. Eldred Knipe in their bereavement. After prolonged suffering he passed away at the residence of his son-in-law, Mr. Harris, of Ingthorpe, where he had been staying for some months. The body was removed to Witham church on the evening before the funeral, and the following morning there was a Requiem Celebration. At the funeral the Committal Prayers were said by the Rev. Canon Ragg, Rector of Tickencote, who ministered to him in his last illness. R.I.P.

**Burial.** 18th November. Eldred Knipe, aged 79 years.