

January 9

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

Christmas. This great Festival was observed with every token of joy, and we were pleased to notice the large congregations, notably at the High Celebration, when the Service was rendered with the help of the violinists. Our fine old Church looked festive and seasonable with a lavish profusion of evergreens, while white chrysanthemums decorated the altars. The Sunday evening Carol Service was most hearty and inspiring, and at this again the singing was assisted by the violins.

Children's Christmas Treat. In the afternoon of Christmas Day the children were entertained to tea and a Christmas tree by Mr. and Mrs. Fenwick. Every child in the school received a beautiful present, and those at the top of the various classes received prizes.

Christmas Gifts. Mr. and Mrs. Fenwick, with their customary generosity, once again remembered all their tenants and employees at Christmas. Gifts of clothing, beef, and groceries went to every house, and we feel sure that the recipients would wish us to record their thanks and great appreciation for the kindness shewed them.

General Election. During this present month the Country will be once again in the throes of a general election. May we say at once that no political sermons will be preached in Church. The House of God is not the place in which to introduce questions of party politics, and in any place of worship where the pulpit is used in this way, true religion is certain to suffer. We would only add that a vote, from a Christian point of view, is a sacred trust to be used "to the advancement of God's glory, the good of His Church, the safety, honour and welfare of our Sovereign and his dominions," and in order that "peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety may be established among us for all generations."

Confirmation. The Lord Bishop of Lincoln will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation at Greatford Church, on Monday, 7th March. The Vicar asks for the names of those who wish to be confirmed, as early as possible in January.

Whist Drive. The great success of the whist drive held last month was very gratifying, and we gladly take back what we said in last month's Magazine as to their being no longer popular. The Committee desire us to state that they have arranged to hold another whist drive on Wednesday, 19th January, entrance 6d., and that in all eight superior prizes will be given, four to ladies and four to men. The balance of 17s. 6d. from the last drive will be used towards providing the extra prizes. The additional prizes will be what are called surprise prizes, given to those whose score is nearest to a number previously selected.

Baptism.—26th December, Mabel Ellen, daughter of Frederick and Harriet Annie Pick.

WITHAM-ON-THE-HILL.

CHRISTMAS CHEER.—The Squire and Mrs. Fenwick again remembered all their tenants and employees with their customary generosity.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES.—The great festival was ushered in by a peal from the Church bells. There were celebrations of the Holy Eucharist at 7.30 and 8.30, followed by the High Celebration, with sermon, at 11.15, when Adam's service in F was rendered, the choir and organ being augmented by violins. The Rev. L. H. Cooley (Vicar) officiated. On Sunday evening, carols were sung after evensong, and there was no sermon.

CHILDREN'S TREAT.—On the afternoon of Christmas-day, Mr. and Mrs. Fenwick entertained all the children to tea, served in the School-room. Afterwards, the little guests repaired to the Hall, where a Christmas tree was arranged for them, and presents were distributed all round by Mrs. Fenwick. After some carol-singing, Mrs. Fenwick gave further and more valuable prizes to the best boy and girl in each class. At the conclusion, the children gave hearty cheers for their kind benefactors, and dispersed literally laden with good things.

February 1910

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

Lent. A Letter to the Parishioners.

My dear Friends,

The great Fast of the Church, the forty days of Lent, will begin on Ash Wednesday, the 9th February. And I invite you all to try and keep this solemn season more earnestly than in former years. What if it does mean a little extra effort and trouble, is it not worth while for the sake of the rich blessing which this holy season brings to earnest souls who use it aright? The call to keep Lent comes to us through the Church, and the voice of the Church is the voice of our Lord Jesus Christ, speaking to us through His Holy Spirit. And so if we really love Him we shall gladly obey His call. What then must we do? At the very beginning we must make *resolutions* which we solemnly purpose to keep from now on till Easter. It is a good plan to write them down. There should be a resolution made about our attendance at Church, about our private prayers, about our self-denial and almsgiving, about our besetting sin. And first as regards Church going. Many of us are content with a very low standard in this matter, as if we only want to do the very least possible of our duty towards God. Many of us only begin to keep God's Holy Day when that day is practically over. Will you then resolve to break through the unsatisfactory custom of considering one attendance at Church on the Lord's Day sufficient? Will those who only come at night resolve to come also in the morning, and those who come to the service of Morning Prayer go a step forward and attend the Lord's Service, either in place of Morning Prayer or in addition to it. Let there be a resolution also made to attend the special Lent Services on Wednesdays. Then as to our prayers, resolve to spend more time on our knees; and as to self-denial, give up something that you will really miss so as to discipline the body. And above all resolve to overcome at least one besetting sin this Lent. I offer these suggestions to help you, but each one should make the resolutions which may seem to be most helpful.

With a fervent prayer that Lent may be a season of profit and blessing to every soul committed to my charge,

I remain,

Your faithful friend and pastor,

LEONARD H. COOLEY.

The Dance in aid of the Nursing Fund, promoted by Mrs. Fenwick, on 4th January, was the most successful in point of numbers ever held at Witham. Close upon a hundred people were present, and the gratifying sum of £5 1s. od. was realized for the Fund.

Whist Drive. This event, held on the 18th January, proved even more successful than the last one. These gatherings, which bring us all together in a friendly spirit, have a great social value in a small Parish such as ours.

Shrove Tuesday. As we go to press, the fate of the Concert hangs in the balance. Should it unfortunately fall through, we hope that a Whist Drive may be arranged in its place.

The Bells. A fresh team of ringers has been formed, with Mr. Newham as captain. This is welcome news to all who love to hear our beautiful bells.

March 1910

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

Lent Notes. The increased attendance at the week-day Services is a matter of much thankfulness, although there are still many whose absence is noted with sorrow. It has been objected that 7.30 p.m. is too late an hour for some, but the reason for fixing this time is that towards the end of Lent it is not dark until after 7, and those who make use of light evenings out-of-doors find the later hour more convenient for the Service. May we point out that the Service is over only about half-an-hour later than on a Sunday evening, not a very serious difference. Lent affords a very fair index to the religious condition of individual souls. If it reveals those who have grown careless (and we grieve to notice a few such since last Lent,) it also shows those who are really striving to do better, a not inconsiderable number of our little flock. For this we thank God and take courage.

Lent Self-denial boxes. Some 40 of these have been taken. May we ask that they may all be brought back to the Vicar on Easter Day or during Easter week, however small a sum they may contain. "Every little helps."

Confirmation. We ask you to remember in your prayers our 10 Candidates, who hope to be Confirmed at Greatford, on Monday, 7th March.

Holy Week. The Services will be as in past years, and due notice will be given. On the Wednesday evening there will be an Address, in addition to Good Friday.

Easter. Will all Communicants remember the obligation of the Easter Communion, celebration at 7.30 and 8.30. a.m.

The Concert deferred from Shrove-Tide, will, all being well, take place in Easter week. Please attend and encourage not only the singing class but also its indefatigable instructor.

The whist drive which took the place of the Concert on Shrove Tuesday proved a record as regards numbers.

The burial of the dead. It is a good and pious custom for all who possibly can to attend the funeral rites of those who have been at all known to them in life. All in the church should stand during the Psalm, and make their proper responses, both here and at the grave side. A pall should always cover the coffin when carried to the church or resting in the church. This is a very ancient and seemly custom, and has only been given up through undertakers wishing to display their hideous polished wood and brass fittings. The Witham Benefit Club, by the way, possess a handsome pall, which we understand they are always willing to lend. The old custom of the funeral party attending Divine Service together on the following Sunday morning is a very beautiful and important one, as they are supposed to come to offer their prayers for the departed soul, but the bad plan of sitting down all through the service is not only meaningless but positively irreverent, and should never be followed. If the deceased is happily a communicant, there should always be a Requiem Eucharist on the day of the burial, at which the mourners should endeavour to be present. Under present circumstances in which burials usually take place in the afternoon, the Celebration should be in the early morning, and if possible therefore the body should be brought to the church the day before.

(Note. We hope from time to time as space permits to give notes on various other matters connected with the church's services and customs.)

Burial. February 9th. William Cooper, aged 72 years.

April 1910.

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

The late Bishop of Lincoln. To the great grief and irreparable loss of the whole church, our greatly beloved and honoured Bishop passed to his rest on the 8th March. For 25 years he has faithfully and wisely ruled over this great diocese, an ideal Father in God, his discipline always tempered with the tenderest sympathy and affection towards all his flock. From every side and from men of every denomination has come the unanimous testimony, "he was one of GOD'S Saints, and his holy example has enriched the Spiritual life, not alone of the diocese but of the whole country." R. I. P.

Easter. The church looked very bright and beautiful for the great Festival, in spite of the earliness of the season and the general scarcity of flowers. Many thanks to those who so kindly supplied us with flowers, and those again who helped to arrange the decorations. Our number of Communicants goes slowly up, we are glad to record, though unhappily there are some defections. At Evensong the Choral class very kindly rendered the Anthem, "They have taken away my Lord" by *Stainer*, and we are grateful to them for thus enriching the Service. It was a striking testimony of the talent we have in our little parish capable of being used to God's Glory.

Stamford Infirmary. We hope to make the annual House-to-house collection for this useful object during the present month of April.

Lent Savings. The number of those who have brought in their Lent savings for the Church of England Waifs and Strays Society is very gratifying, and the total already received is something approaching £3. This, which is chiefly composed of pence and half-pence represents a very real and genuine act of love. We wish to thank all the kind collectors most heartily.

Wedding. On Easter Monday, Miss Veness was married to Mr. Alfred Bradshaw, in the presence of a large gathering of friends and well-wishers. The wedding was an exceedingly pretty one, and the musical portions of the service were heartily sung. The bride who has been with Mrs. Fenwick for some twelve years was married from the Hall, and among the congregation we were pleased to see Mrs. Fenwick, who afterwards signed the register. After the ceremony the wedding party returned to the Hall for the wedding breakfast, at which some 30 guests sat down. Our heartiest congratulations and good wishes go with the happy couple, who we hope will often revisit us at Witham.

Baptism. March 13th. Milly, daughter of William and Ellen Elizabeth Bonnett.

Marriages. March 28th. Amos Alfred Bradshaw and Eliza Suter Veness.

" " (At Edenham), William Ernest Brinkley and Emily Louie Sentence.

WITHAM-ON-THE-HILL.

EASTER.—The great festival was kept with all the customary tokens of joy, and, in spite of the scarcity of flowers, the Church was beautifully decorated. A peal was rung on the bells for nearly an hour before the first celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 7.30. A second celebration followed at 8.30, and the high celebration with sermon at 11.15. At evensong, the Choral Class rendered *Stainer's* "They have taken away my Lord," as an anthem, and this was much appreciated by the congregation. The number of communicants exceeded that of past years. The collections at all the services were given to the Queen Victoria Clergy Fund.

LOCAL WEDDING.—A marriage which aroused great local interest was solemnised in the Parish Church, on Easter Monday, between Mr. Alfred Bradshaw, only son of Mr. C. Bradshaw, of Toft, and Miss E. S. Veness, who has been with Mrs. Walter Fenwick, of Witham Hall, as lady's-maid, for some twelve years. The ceremony was timed for one o'clock, by which hour the Church was completely filled with friends and well-wishers. Among the congregation was Mrs. Walter Fenwick, who afterwards signed the register. Mr. Fenwick was unfortunately prevented from being present, owing to his attendance at the late Mr. Hubert Eaton's funeral at the same hour. The ceremony, which was performed by the Vicar, was fully choral, and included the two hymns, "The Voice that Breathed o'er Eden" and "Lead us, Heavenly

Father." The bride, who was given away by her uncle, Mr. Frederick Suter, of Beacham, Norfolk, was charmingly dressed in pale blue satin, and was attended by two little bridesmaids, Ella and Winifred Metcalfe, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Metcalfe, of the School-house, Witham-on-the-Hill, who are old friends of the bride. The bridesmaids wore frocks of white silk, and carried handsome bouquets. Immediately after the service, Mr. Metcalfe played the "Wedding March" upon the organ, and the bells rang out a merry peal. The party afterwards repaired to the Hall, where the wedding breakfast took place, to which some thirty guests sat down to enjoy the kind hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Fenwick. Among the company present were Mr. and Mrs. Suter (uncle and aunt of the bride), Mr. and Mrs. Bradshaw (father and mother of the bridegroom), Mr. and Mrs. Crick (brother-in-law and sister of the bridegroom), Mr. and Mrs. Metcalfe, Mr. and Mrs. Moxon, Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Pick, Mr. and Mrs. Brudenell, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Fenter, Mr. and Mrs. Benton, Mrs. Rawlings (housekeeper), the Vicar (the Rev. L. H. Cooley), Mrs. Lomonaco, Messrs. W. Brown and E. Jackson, and Lealie, Ella, and Winifred Metcalfe. On the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Fenwick, the health of the bride and bridegroom was heartily drunk, and the bride cut the wedding-cake. The happy couple afterwards left for London for the honeymoon. On their return, they will reside at Little Bytham.

May 1910

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

Musical Competitions. We offer our heartiest congratulations to Mr. Metcalfe for the successes obtained by our parish, under his training, in the singing competitions, at Bourne last month. On the first day the children succeeded in carrying off two first prizes, and we hope soon to see the School walls adorned with two trophies to represent these victories, the one a handsome painted shield, executed by Miss Bell, and the other a picture specially given to Witham by Mr. J. Lovett, H.M. Inspector of Schools, so pleased was he to hear our children—alone of all the competitors—read from the staff notation. The other noteworthy success was that in the trio for female voices, our class coming out a very good second (only 3 marks behind the first), although our little parish had to compete with Bourne, Billingborough, and other much larger places.

The Concert, held in Easter week to provide funds for the expenses of the competition, was a complete success in every respect but that of profits, in fact it was hardly patronized as well as we hoped. Considering the great labour and time spent in producing a Concert such as ours, the response was just a little disappointing. All thanks to those who did support us. The net profits amounted to about two guineas.

Vestry Meeting. The Annual Easter Vestry Meeting was held on Friday, 8th April, when there was a fair attendance. Our two excellent Churchwardens were re-appointed, Mr. Bradshaw for the twentieth year in succession. The Church collections for the year were shewn to have amounted to £57 14s. 5d., the highest total ever reached, and the Lent self-denial offerings to £3 8s. 8d.

Ascension Day. We plead for a due observance of this great and important Holy day, which falls this year on the 5th May. Holy Thursday ranks with Christmas, Easter and Whit Sunday, as one of our greatest Festivals of the Christian year. There will be a sung Eucharist with address at 9 o'clock, and Evensong and Sermon at 7.30. Many people will, we hope, attend both.

Our new Bishop of Lincoln is to be Canon Edward Hicks, of Manchester, the news of whose selection has given widespread satisfaction. There is every hope that he will prove a worthy successor to the beloved and honoured bishop whom we have lost.

The death of the Rev. H. J. Cheales, late Vicar of Friskney, recalls the fact that his father was at one time Vicar of Witham, where he was born and baptised. The Rev. John Cheales was Vicar here from 1826 to 1834, when he was succeeded by the Rev. W. H. Johnson, who held the living until his death in 1877, a period of 43 years. The next Vicar was the Rev. W. Leeson, who resigned in 1881, and who died last year at Hove. Following him came the Rev. C. Danby, now Vicar of Weston-by-Welland, Northants., then in 1885 the Rev. J. T. Halland, now Rector of Blyborough, Lincs., and finally the present Vicar, appointed in 1900.

Empire Day falls on Tuesday, 24th May. Can we fittingly observe it?

Baptism. 3rd April. Sydney, son of William and Annie Brown.

Cricket Fixtures for May. 7th, v. Grimsthorpe, home. 28th, v. Morton, away.

WITHAM-ON-THE-HILL.

THE FLOWER SHOW.—A meeting of the Committee of the Horticultural Society was held in the School on Monday evening, the Rev. L. H. Cooley in the chair. Arrangements for the forthcoming show were discussed, and several new features were added. It was decided to offer prizes for foals, trotting-in-harness, butter and eggs, and honey. All the indications point to a record exhibition this year.

EASTER VESTRY MEETING.—The annual Vestry meeting was held on Friday evening week, when there were present—the Rev. L. H. Cooley, Vicar (in the chair), Messrs. Benton, Browett, Brudeuall, Bradshaw, Hamling, Jackson, Metcalfe, Moxon, Thos. Pick, and G. Wallis. The Vicar re-nominated Mr. Thos. Pick as his warden, and Mr. Bradshaw was re-elected parish warden, for the twentieth year in succession. The Church accounts showed that the collections since last Easter amounted to £57 14s. 5d., the highest total ever reached. To this must be added the offerings given during Lent, of £3 8s. 8d., for the Waifs and Strays Society. Messrs. F. Browett and N. Moxon were subsequently elected as lay representatives of the parish on the Beltisloe Ruri-Decanal Conference.

WITHAM-ON-THE-HILL.

SUCCESSES AT THE MUSICAL COMPETITIONS.—In the junior classes, two first prizes were secured, for a couple of two-part songs by children over ten, and for sight-singing. In the latter instance, Witham obtained the same marks as Morton, viz., 95 out of a possible 100. It so happened that for the winner in this particular class, Miss Bell had kindly offered a handsome shield, executed by herself, as a special reward. As it was impossible to follow the judgment of the wise King of old and divide it, the shield was drawn for, and was secured by Morton; at the same time, Miss Bell very kindly undertook to duplicate the shield, so that an exact replica might be in the possession of both parishes. A further special prize was kindly given to Witham by Mr. J. Lovett, H.M. Inspector of Schools, in consideration of the fact that this was the only parish which read at sight from the staff notation, all the others using the sol-fa system. In the senior competitions, Witham secured the distinction of winning the second prize in the part-song for female voices, being only three marks behind the winners of the first

June 1910

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

King Edward VII.—No words are needed here to emphasize our terrible National loss. The spontaneous grief which has been so touchingly shewn by one and all is a sufficient proof that the late King was universally revered and esteemed. We shall not quickly forget the solemn Memorial Service held at the time of the Funeral, when a larger congregation has seldom, if ever, assembled in the church. So remarkable was the attendance that the few who were not with us were prominent by their very absence. But doubtless, if it could be known, a sufficient reason prevented these few in every case, and that reason was certainly not disloyalty to the Throne, or to the memory of the best and wisest of rulers.

A sad co-incidence.—Within a space of two months we have lost the most honoured and beloved of bishops, "Edward King," and the most esteemed and ablest of Sovereigns, "King Edward. R.I.P.

A "prophecy" fulfilled.—There is a curious couplet among the strange old folk-lore known as "Mother Shipton's prophecies," which runs as follows:—

*"When our Lord shall fall in our Lady's lap,
England shall suffer a great mishap."*

The words refer to the rare occasions when Good Friday falls upon Lady Day (25th March). The last occasion when this happened was in 1864. We very nearly quoted this rhyme, in jest, in the March issue of the Magazine, but decided that it was really too foolish for publication. Now, however the words have acquired a significance which borders on the uncanny, so terrible and real has been the fulfilment. Of course this again is mere co-incidence, but so strange a co-incidence that it is worth recording as such.

Still another death is to be recorded this month, that of our Rural Dean, Canon Warner, Rector of Stoke. The deanery has lost in him a wise and kindly counsellor, and a strong and loyal Churchman. Such men can ill be spared. *Requiescat in Pace.*

At the time of writing these words the Vicar has been called away by the death of his father and therefore, any omissions in this month's notes must be kindly excused by our readers.

Cricket Fixtures for June.—June 4th, v. Greatford, away.

June 11th, v. Tallington, home.

June 18th, v. Grimsthorpe, away.

June 25th, v. Mortom, home.

Baptisms.—May 15th. Florence Lily, Bertha May, Harriet Elizabeth, Florrie Matilda, and Ernest Reginald, daughters and son of John William and Florence Walker.

" 15th. Marjorie, daughter of Matthew Bartholomew and Mary Ann Cooke.

" 21st. Dorothea Rosemary, daughter of Robert William and Ethel Carr.

prize. When it is considered that the whole of the Witham voices were drawn from a parish of less than two hundred inhabitants, and that this class was one of those which attracted the largest number of competitors, the victory is all the more gratifying.

July 1910

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

Religious Inspection of School.—The School was examined in Religious knowledge on 23rd June, by the honorary Inspector of the rural deanery, the Vicar of Castle Bytham. The following is his Report:—

"*Infants.* Bright intelligent answering. Passed a very good examination.

"*Seniors.* Very good over a wide range. Intelligent enunciation in the repetition very commendable. Especially proficient in Prayer-book work, and the Christian seasons. School as a whole shows painstaking preparation.

"(Signed) H. COTTON SMITH.

"P.S.—The singing struck me as quite the best I have heard. Written work very good. H.C.S."

Such a Report is highly gratifying, and shows that the purpose for which our School was founded and built, and which is recorded upon the foundation stone—"To the Glory of God"—is duly carried out, and that our little ones are trained and taught in the holy religion of Christ's Church every bit as carefully as in secular knowledge.

The Club Feast was favoured as usual with beautiful weather. The usual Service went very heartily, and was well attended. This year the Vicar being unable to secure a neighbouring priest to give the address, gave it himself.

The Flower Show on the 27th of this month is our next important village event, and we must hope for our usual good fortune in the matter of the weather. This year several new features are to be introduced, including classes for foals, yearlings and two-year-olds, also horses and ponies driven in harness, which will doubtless add to the popularity of the show.

Boy Scouts.—Mr. Fenwick has generously promised if we raise a patrol of Scouts to equip the entire patrol. The Boy Scout movement is one of the best, as it is one of the most popular of recent times, tending to make our boys manly and self-reliant, God-fearing, patriotic, and honourable, encouraging unselfishness and respect for others, making them kind, thoughtful, and generally conducive towards the health both of mind and body. General Baden-Powell, the founder of the movement, is inimitable in his sound advice for Scouts. We wish we could quote many pages of his handbook on "Scouting for boys," but we must confine ourselves to one paragraph, taken at random. It runs as follows:—"A Scout does not smoke. Any boy can smoke, it is not such a very wonderful thing to do. But a Scout will not do it because he is not such a fool. No boy ever began smoking because he liked it, but generally because he thought that by smoking he would look like great man—when all the time he only looks like a little ass!"

The age for Boy Scouts is from 10 to 18.

To the recently confirmed.—The Service of obligation on Sunday is not Mattins or Evensong, but the Holy Eucharist. Our duty is to be present at that without fail, whether or no we attend any other. As the one Service of Divine appointment we have no right to be absent from it. "The Lord's Day without attendance at the Lord's Service is not spent according to the Divine Intention."

Choir practice.—An excursion will be arranged as promised for those who have attended practice regularly. Date to be fixed later.

Cricket Fixtures.—July 2nd, v. Wothorpe, away.

July 9th, v. Holywell, home.

July 16th, v. Tallington, away.

July 23rd, v. Clipsham, away.

July 30th, v. Uffington, away.

Baptism.—26th June. Charlotte Mary Elizabeth, daughter of John Joseph and Charlotte Rosanna Smith.

August 1910

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

The Flower Show.—Our good fortune as regards weather is becoming quite proverbial. In spite of the unpromising looking morning, everybody made up their minds that it was going to be fine, remarking that it never rained on the flower show day, and fine it was! The Show this year was a greater success than ever, both as regards attendance and exhibits, and we cannot but express our gratitude to Mr. Benton, and his untiring helpers for the splendid manner in which everything was carried out. If it be allowable for us to make one comment, we should like another year to see some other attraction in place of the rabbit-catching competition, for reasons which must be obvious to all humane minded people.

The decision of the Committee to include a horse and foal show in the attractions was abundantly justified, and there were a number of entries. Other new features of the programme were Classes for butter, eggs, and honey, in all of which there was a considerable competition, notably so in that for butter.

The Band of the Lincolnshire Imperial Yeomanry played during the afternoon and evening, and fully sustained their high reputation. Of all our visitors perhaps we were most pleased to see Mr. Wm. Andrew, of Lound, who was sufficiently recovered from his illness to attend the show for short time, and the venerable Rector of Careby, the Rev. J. Birch-Reynardson, who although not many years short of his centenary, has never failed to visit us, and to support us in every way, and his beautiful exhibits always form a specially interesting feature of the show.

The Morris Dancers call for special mention. This year Mr. and Mrs. Metcalfe considered that these quaint old English dances would be an interesting change from the maypole, and accordingly trained a band of twelve girls to execute several of them. This they did in faultless style, and great credit is due both to them and their kind instructors.

Our best wishes go with Mr. Worthington and his family who have left us last month, and we wish them every success and happiness in their new home. More especially shall we miss Rose and Annie Worthington in church, where they always gave such invaluable help in the musical parts of the Service, the former, in fact, was practically our sub-organist.

We have more comments to make, but our space is exhausted. We must keep them for next month.

Cricket Fixtures for August.—August 6th, v. Wothorpe, away.

August 13th, v. Greatford, home.

August 20th, v. Uffington, home.

August 27th, v. Bourne, away.

Baptism.—July 9th. (Privately), Ada May Stead.

„ 17th. George William, son of George and Emily Hall.

Burial.—July 13th. Ada May Stead, aged one month.

september 1910

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

The Harvest.—At the time of writing the weather is most unfavourable to the ingathering. We cannot therefore definitely fix the date of our Thanksgiving, but in all probability it will be held as usual on the first Sunday in next month, October 2nd.

The death of Mrs. Seymour, which it is our sad duty to chronicle this month, leaves another gap in the diminishing number of the older inhabitants of our parish. She was to the fullest extent one of us. Born at Manthorpe in 1848, she was baptized in Witham Church by the Rev. W. H. Johnson. In 1874 she was married in the same church by the same priest, she has resided in the parish all her life, and now is laid to rest under the shadow of the same grey old walls within which she worshipped throughout her life. She leaves us an example of a quiet consistent life, lived in the fear of God, and a regular attender at church until prevented by increasing weakness. Within half-an-hour of her death she received for the last time the Blessed Sacrament, with that devotion which is only possible to those who, like her, have been regular and faithful Communicants through life. R.I.P.

Church Stamps.—Any child who has over 70 stamps in his or her present album, on bringing the same to the Vicar, will hear (as the advertisements say) something to their advantage.

"Why and Wherefore."—Under this heading will appear from time to time notes on the church and certain Christian customs, the reason of which is not always clear. (1.) Why are churches always built with the Chancel facing towards the East? Because we worship Him who is called the "Light of the World" and the "Sun of Righteousness," and just as the day-light comes to us from the East, so we believe that at Christ's second coming "in the clouds of Heaven" He will appear from the East (see also Matt. xxiv., 27). For the same reason also the Christian dead are always buried with their feet towards the East, that on the last day they may rise with their faces turned to meet their Lord at His Coming.

Cricket Fixtures.—September 3rd not arranged.

September 10th, v. Bourne, home.

September 17th, not arranged.

Baptisms.—July 31st. Mabel, daughter of John Henry and Louisa Holmes.

August 21st. Evelyn May, daughter of Alfred and Louisa Emily Handley.

Burial.—August 25th. Eliza Seymour, aged 62 years.

October 1910

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

Church cleaning.—Last month the church underwent a very complete and thorough cleaning, such as it has not had for some years. We hope that this will now wipe away the reproach of the church looking so dirty, which has been a frequent comment of visitors. Under the process of brushing, the walls have completely changed colour, and look almost as fresh as if they had been newly white-washed. The only part which could not be reached was the ceiling of the nave, which, owing to its great height, would have necessitated scaffolding, and this would have very greatly added to the expense. In addition to the cleaning, the oak doors and gates have been oiled, the window bars, churchyard gates, and lamp brackets painted, also the dial of the clock, the hands and figures of which have been re-gilt.

Dedication Festival.—The Feast Sunday, on which we commemorate the Dedication of the church, and thank Almighty God for the blessings of our holy religion, falls on the 30th of October. There will be Celebrations of the Holy Eucharist at 8.30, and (choral) at 11.15, as on other Festivals.

Harvest Thanksgiving Services will take place on Sunday, the 2nd of October, and the sermon at Evensong will be preached by the Rev. H. K. Norton, Assistant Priest of Little Bytham.

Evening Classes.—This winter the two special classes will be for Woodwork and Singing. Due notice will be given of their commencement. We hope that they will be appreciated and well attended.

The Vicar hopes before long to be able to compile a short History of the church and parish, and will be glad to know if anyone possesses any old papers, documents, or books, such as old Overseers' account books, and rate books, which might contain any interesting information bearing on the past. Frequently such books and papers, which should of course be in the parish chests, have come into the hands of individuals, with the result that many are lost, but some possibly survive.

The Cricket Club.—Of the 17 matches played this season, 6 have been won, 8 lost, 1 tied, and 2 drawn. Considering the strength and resources of some of the teams against which we have played, this is very fairly satisfactory.

Why and Wherefore.—(2). Why is the church built in the several portions called the chancel, nave, aisles and transepts, instead of in one continuous length? Because all these various portions have special symbolical meanings. The chancel corresponds to the Holy of holies, and contains the altar, so that it is as it were the special Presence-chamber of God. The nave, which means "ship," symbolizes the "ark of Christ's church," the aisles or "alleys" are for processions round the building, and the transperts are added on either side so that the ground plan may form the shape of a cross.

December 1910.

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

The Parish Tea. The success of this gathering this year was undoubted. The large sum of £5 8s. 2d. was taken in payment for entrance, representing an attendance of over 200. One hundred and seventy six tickets were sold before the day. It was far and away the best attended Parish Tea we have ever had. The same may be said of the entertainment that followed, which was heartily appreciated by one and all. Our grateful thanks to all the kind helpers who contributed to provide such an enjoyable evening. The Ladies' Committee are indeed to be congratulated. A portion of the balance in hand is to be spent upon a cupboard for the safe keeping of the parish crockery.

Advent, though not a season of fasting like Lent, is one of great solemnity, and is of a penitential character. It should be kept by earnest Christian people as a time of spiritual preparation for Christmas, and as one of greater religious earnestness.

Christmas Day.—Holy Eucharist 7.30 a.m., 8.30 a.m., and 11.15 a.m. (choral, with sermon); Mattins 10.15; Evensong, with Carols (no sermon), 6.30.

The charities will be distributed by the Vicar and Churchwardens immediately after the morning Service. In order that this Service may not be unduly prolonged, the Vicar requests the Communicants, as far as possible, to make their Communion at one of the early Services.

The Boy Scouts.—The Vicar takes the sole responsibility of disbanding the Troop. He is unfeignedly sorry to have taken this step, but did so out of regard for the interests of the Boy Scout movement, as any Troop or Patrol which is not working under perfect discipline only tends to bring discredit on the whole movement, which promises to be of such priceless value to our English lads. Every Scout should remember that Scouting is not a mere pastime, but a serious business. We have nothing but praise for the Scoutmaster, who kindly undertook this somewhat thankless post at the Vicar's special request. He has willingly given up his time and leisure for the sake of the boys, in a manner which few would be ready to do, and has himself raised considerable amount towards the expenses. In proof of his success with the troop, Dr. Cragg, of Billingborough, in describing the Scout Rally there, said "the Witham Patrol were especially remarked upon, they marched well, and though placed in the rear (the Troops were in alphabetical order), they made it a place of distinction." In order that all subscriptions may be repaid the Scoutmaster will devote the whole of the receipts of his dancing class towards this object.

Next Year's Magazine.—Will all our readers who can do so kindly pay one shilling in advance in place of a penny monthly, as this saves much trouble in distributing the magazine.

Baptism.—Nov. 20th. Frank, son of Thomas William and Mary Goodacre.

FUNERAL OF THE LATE MR. A. C. JOHNSON.

With impressive solemnity the funeral of Mr. A. C. Johnson, whose death we recorded last week, took place at Witham-on-the-Hill, on Friday afternoon week. The body was conveyed, on Thursday afternoon, from Earl's Court-square, London, to Essendine station by train, and was taken into the Church, where it rested during the night at the entrance to the chancel, surrounded by six tall mortuary tapers. On Friday morning, a Requiem Eucharist was celebrated at half-past eight o'clock, and the funeral took place at half-past one. The altar was vested in black, and numerous floral tributes were massed near the coffin. The principal mourners present were:—Mr. and Mrs. William D. Johnson (son and daughter-in-law), Miss Johnson (eldest daughter), Mrs. Hailstone (sister), Mr. William I. Johnson and Miss Johnson (nephew and niece), Mr. H. Chaderton Johnson (cousin), Mr. Frank Goddard-Jackson and Mr. Gay. Goddard-Jackson (nephews), Mr. Charles Henniker (nephew), Mr. Tryon (nephew), Mr. William Higgins (brother-in-law), Mr. William H. Wing and Mr. John S. Wing (cousins), and Mr. Alex. Muntz. The inclement weather

prevented many who hoped to have been present from coming, but the following were among the congregation:—Mr. W. J. Fenwick (Witham Hall), Lord Kesteven (Casewick), Col. Birch-Reynardson (Holywell Hall), Mr. R. Heathcote (Manton), Mr. H. R. Finch (Manton), the Rev. H. W. McKenzie, M.A. (Head-Master of Uppingham School), Mr. W. L. Sargent, M.A. (Head-master of Oakham School), Mr. Chas. Peacock (Greatford), besides a large number of old parishioners and tenants. The service, which was fully choral, was conducted by the Vicar of Witham (the Rev. L. H. Cooley), with the exception of the lesson, which was read by the Vicar of Oakham (the Rev. J. H. Charles). The following hymns, which were chosen by the widow, were impressively sung:—"Peace, Perfect Peace," "They Whose course on Earth is o'er," and "Now the Labourer's task is o'er." At the conclusion of the service in Church, the choir, headed by the cross-bearer, led the way towards the grave, which is situated at the south-east corner of the churchyard, not far from that of the deceased's mother. The coffin was borne to the grave by some of the old tenantry. Upon the coffin was a large brass cross, and the following inscription:—"Augustus Charles Johnson, born 25th January, 1837; died 24th October, 1910. Jesu, mercy."

Muffled peals were rung upon the arrival of the body on Thursday evening, and also at intervals on Friday after the funeral. Simultaneously with the services at Witham, there took place in the Church of St. Matthias, Earl's Court-square, a solemn requiem celebration in the morning, and a memorial service in the afternoon. The floral tributes sent were very numerous and beautiful. The widow sent two great crosses of white flowers, one of which accompanied the coffin from London, and was inscribed, "In loving memory of my dear Gus, from his sorrowing wife," and the other bore the inscription, "True love to my dear Gus. R.I.P." The largest wreath of all came from "The Boys of Uppingham School." Other tributes were inscribed as follows:—R.I.P., from Willie and Edith; In loving memory from Mabel and Hilda; R.I.P., from Charles, Violet, and Evie; In loving memory of my dear brother, from Mrs. Hailstone (sister); With true love to her much-loved brother, Barbara Goddard-Jackson (sister); With loving remembrance, from the Hon. Mrs. Higgins (mother-in-law); With fondest love, from Willie and Maud; From Margaret Martin-Atkins (sister); With most affectionate love and remembrance, from Mrs. Tryon (sister) and the Misses Tryon; In loving remembrance, from Augustus Higgins; With deepest sympathy, from Lucy, Willie, and Judith Johnson; From his affectionate cousin, Mr. W. H. Wing; From Dr. and Mrs. Clapham, Wimbledon; With our love, from Muriel, Cathbert, and Wilfred; A token of deepest and last respect, from the Servants at Earl's Court-square; With deepest sympathy, from the Senior Bible Class, St. Matthias' Church, Earl's Court-square; With deepest sympathy, from Nora; With sincere sympathy, from Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Fenwick; With sincere sympathy, from Colonel and Mrs. Birch-Reynardson; From an old friend, from the Rev. J. Birch-Reynardson; In affectionate remembrance, from the Head-Master and Members of Oakham School; With affectionate thoughts, from Mr. and Mrs. McKenzie, Uppingham; With deepest sympathy, from J. C. Gray, Uppingham; With deepest sympathy, from Mrs. Selby-Bigge, Oakham; With deepest sympathy, from Mrs. Allam, Witham; In fond remembrance, from Mrs. Arthur Prother, London; With very deepest regret, from Robert and Edith Heathcote, Manton; With deepest sympathy, from Dr. and Mrs. Montagu Smith; With deepest sympathy, from Col. Bell and Family; In affectionate remembrance, from Mrs. Peter Godfrey Chapman; With sympathy, Mr., Mrs., and Miss Arthur Cunningham; With sympathy, Mrs. Watts and Family, Toft.

On Sunday morning, preaching at the Choral Eucharist, the Vicar alluded to the sad event, which had cast such a gloom over the parish. Many of them, he said, were present at a very different scene on Friday, when they laid to rest the body of him whom to know was to honour and respect, the late esteemed owner of that estate and impropiator of that Church. He thought it a particularly happy coincidence that the day of their dedication festival, on which they were thanking God for their beautiful Parish Church, should be the day when they thought of him to whom—under God—that Church owed so much. All who knew Mr. Johnson at all knew what he thought of that Church, how he loved every stone of it, not alone from sentimental reasons, as the place where his ancestors were laid to rest, but because it stood for him as the presence chamber of the God Whom he loved and served so faithfully. Some thirty-six years ago, a costly scheme of restoration was carried out, which was inaugurated and inspired by Mr. Johnson, who himself contributed a sum of something like £1,000. It was a disappointment to him that the chancel screen, which formed part of the original scheme agreed upon, and for which plans were prepared, could not be erected for lack of funds,

Was it too much to hope that some day it might stand there as his memorial? He could tell them of many other tokens of his love for the Church. Gifts, many and various, from him and his family were there; the candelabra in the sanctuary, the altar ornaments, processional cross, the handsome and costly altar plate, among others. Also he claimed the privilege of providing the altar candles so long as he lived. No less great, too, was his care for the spiritual welfare of the people. Four times did the responsibility devolve upon him, as patron, of choosing a priest to serve that Church and parish, and he (the Vicar) knew from his own case with what care and deliberation those appointments were made. Another proof of his deep affection for that Church was shown in the desire he had expressed to be buried there, and, if possible, on the south side, near the grave of his mother, a desire which all who loved him were grateful that a way was found to carry out. In proceeding to speak of his life and character, the Vicar said that he hesitated to say too much, lest, in the stress of his feelings, he should unconsciously use empty and flattering phrases, but he felt constrained to say that a kinder, straighter, more typical "gentleman," in the truest sense of that word, it had not been his fortune to meet; one whose unflinching courtesy towards rich and poor alike—for he made no difference—won the respect and friendship of all who knew him. In regard to his churchmanship, Mr. Johnson held very strong and definite convictions, but he ever held those convictions in all charity, without the least trace of intolerance towards those who differed from him, or who had an imperfect perception of the truths of the Catholic faith, which he himself believed so clearly. Religion was with him the first thing always, as he (the preacher) knew from his own personal observation, and in that fact they might read the secret of his character. In conclusion, he begged them to extend their special sympathy to all the family, and in particular to the bereaved widow, praying God to sustain and comfort her in her overwhelming loss.

G. J. 5.11.10