

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

The New Window.—The memorial window erected by the late Mrs. Moxon's family and friends is one more beautiful adornment to our already beautiful church. But a window should be more than a mere ornament, it should have a lesson to teach. And for this reason we rejoice that the subject of the Annunciation has been chosen, because it is one which sets before us the central Mystery of our Holy Faith, namely, the Incarnation of our Blessed Lord. Next to a representation of the Crucifixion, no scene from the Gospel is more suitable for teaching purposes than this. The window represents the Blessed Virgin, clothed in the traditional blue, as just having risen from her knees, where she has been meditating upon the Scriptures, her book open at the prophecy in Isaiah vii. 14. The angel Gabriel with a cloud under his feet, is robed in an alb with crossed stole, in his left hand he holds a sceptre, while his right is raised in salutation and blessing. The descending Dove represents the Holy Ghost (S. Luke i. 35), a pot of "Annunciation" lilies stands besides the prayer desk, and on the scroll are the words of the Angelic salutation (S. Luke i. 28). The whole scene is beautifully conceived and as beautifully executed. We thank the donors most heartily for this splendid and costly gift to our parish Church. The window will be dedicated on the Feast Sunday, as being an appropriate occasion, and the Sunday before Mrs. Moxon's birthday (November 2nd).

The Screen.—This is now in hand, and the work has been entrusted to Messrs. Thompson, of Peterborough. It is estimated that it will be completed by the end of January, but the date of its erection must depend upon circumstances. It is well that work of this kind should not be hurried. We are exceedingly sorry to hear from the Bishop of London that his numerous engagements make it impossible for him to spare time to come down for the dedication.

The Church Clock has recently been thoroughly cleaned, and will, we trust, now keep good time. The present clock was put in, in the year 1870, and is of very superior construction, being fitted with the "Grimthorpe" escapement. It is interesting to note the fact that our Church has had a clock for over 360 years, which is one of the earliest recorded instances of a church clock.

The Reading Room this year has a long list of members, and is very largely patronized every evening. The new bagatelle table is a great acquisition to the room, as also are the two new arm chairs. A whist-drive and dance in aid of the funds is, we hear, likely to come off before long. We sadly miss the energetic secretary, Mr. E. Jackson, and trust that he may shortly be restored to health, and be back among us.

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To our Readers.—The Vicar would esteem it a great favour if readers of the Magazine would pay one shilling in January to cover the whole year, instead of one penny at a time. No profit is made by the sale of this magazine, in fact it is sold at a loss, the deficit being made up out of the editor's pocket, therefore he feels that the above request will not be thought unreasonable. This number concludes the ninth year of publication.

Confirmation.—We are to have a Confirmation once again in Witham Church, which is fixed for the 29th February at 2-30 p.m., so that the Candidates will have the happy privilege of being Confirmed in their *own* Church. On the evening of the same day the Bishop of Grantham will (D.V.) dedicate the New Church Screen. The Vicar asks for the names of all Candidates for Confirmation to be given to him, at the latest, by the New Year.

Christmas Day falling on Monday, the Church decorations will be put up in the previous week. The old ugly temporary screen will be covered with greenery for the last time and will then disappear for ever, having well served the purpose for which it was made. There will be celebrations (for Communion) on Christmas Day at 7-30 a.m. and 8-30 a.m., with High Service at 11-15 a.m. The usual charities will be dispensed in Church after this service.

The Dedication Festival was this year a day to be remembered, if only on account of the helpful and notable sermon preached by the Rev. J. T. Halland. The singing too was worthy of the occasion, indeed the marked improvement of the choir was the subject of more than one comment. The undue length of the morning service, however, on such occasions puts a strain upon the celebrant, which thoughtful Communicants might avoid by making their Communion earlier in the day.

The Parish Tea receipts exceeded those of last year by 4/-, proving that it was the most largely attended Tea that we have ever had. These receipts amounted to £6 11s. 6d. We have, unfortunately, no space to give an account of the splendid Entertainment which followed. Suffice it to say that the Tea and Entertainment were quite the cheapest six-pennyworth that we have ever come across!

The School was closed for a week during last month in consequence of the illness of Mr. Metcalfe's elder daughter. Happily there was not much cause for serious anxiety, though we cannot but sympathize with Mr. and Mrs. Metcalfe in their trouble.

The Singing Class has come to an end through lack of support. And yet some complain that there is nothing to do in the evenings in the country!

The Vestry Pictures have been added to by Mrs. Halland, who has given us a framed photograph of the Choir taken 25 years ago. There have also been added portraits of the late Rev. W. H. Johnson and the late Rev. W. N. Leeson.

A Certificate of Merit has been awarded to the Witham Church School for our exhibit of "Nature Study Notes" in the recent Royal Agricultural Society's Show at Norwich this year. It is hung up in the School, a much prized treasure.

Baptism.—Nov. 12th. Ada, daughter of Albert and Harriet Ward.