

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

Christmas Service. We wonder how any Christian can resist the charm and beauty of the Church's worship on the great Feast of the Incarnation, when that stupendous Mystery is unfolded to us in the appealing story of Bethlehem, the story which makes Christmas what it is, with all its happiness and joy. Yet some there were who, perhaps, like Martha in the Gospel, were so engrossed with other things that they forgot the "one thing needful." Christmas morning is generally a sad one for the Vicar, as he misses now one and now another from "Christe's Masse," the Divine Service of the day, from which it derives its name.

Carol Service. Any who missed this service on Christmas Eve missed the greatest musical treat that we ever remember hearing in our Church. The beautiful old carols which most of us know were sung with a heartiness and "go" which did one good to hear, and the band of eight violins which accompanied the singing lent a richness and charm to the music which was irresistible. Besides our own players we had the very kind help of Mrs. Acland-Hood from Holywell, Mrs. A. Bradshaw from Little Bytham, and Mr. Fromant from Stamford. As one listened it brought into one's mind that lovely picture of the Nativity, where wondering angels play violin and 'cello before the Holy Child as He sits on His Mother's knee.

Confirmation Candidates are asked to take notice that preparation classes will begin after the 14th January.

Ambulance Lectures will be given by Dr. Turner, of Castle Bytham, this month, if possible. Due notice will be given.

Coal Club. We regret the delay in distribution of the coal last month, but it was not the fault of the Vicar, who gave the order in good time, as usual.

Sunday Attendance Prizes were given to the children on Advent Sunday, in the shape of pictures. The Vicar does his best to instil into the little ones an abiding love for the Church and its services, but would remind parents that it is **THEIR** influence and example which alone is really effective. Will they—for the children's sake—take, say, an interest in the stamp albums, which are, after all, simply attendance registers with a little lesson to teach every Sunday?

Baptisms. December 17th, George Henry, son of John Thomas and Emily Sentence.

December 24th, Willie, son of Alfred and Maud Mabel Bottomley.

Marriages. December 26th, William Barsby and Mabel Bent.

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January has been a sad month indeed for our little parish. Four times has the passing bell told us of a soul called to its rest. We can only record our deepest sympathy with the bereaved mourners, and assure them in the oft-repeated but literally true words, that "our loss is their gain." May they rest in peace!

In Memoriam, Ernest Jackson.—On Tuesday afternoon, the 23rd January, he was taken to his rest, and the parish loses in him one of the most faithful servants of GOD, the Vicar one of the truest and dearest of friends. But Ernest—as we all loved to call him—was everybody's friend, and his death will be felt and mourned far beyond his own family or the Vicarage, which he always spoke of as "home." The readers of the magazine will sadly miss his cheery greeting as he went on his round of distribution month by month; in Church we shall miss his voice in the responses and the singing, he will be missed from the belfry, the reading-room, the Cricket Club. For his was a life of usefulness. Ever ready to help in any good work, yet his chief delight was to minister in every way he could to the Glory of GOD. As was said of him at a Meeting recently, "if we only follow in his footsteps we cannot go far wrong." Surely a tribute worth living for! And now this simple-hearted, kindly young life, in GOD's inscrutable Wisdom, is taken from us. But not in vain, if only it serves us as a reminder and a lesson. May we all strive to follow him, and to be the better for the good and pure short life of Ernest Jackson. On the 2nd March, 1901, he was confirmed. From that day forward he never looked back, but "daily increased in GOD's Holy Spirit more and more, until he has come to his everlasting Kingdom." "Well done, good and faithful servant. Thou has been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things. Enter thou into the Joy of thy Lord."

At the requiem Eucharist on the morning of the funeral a large number found time to come and remember him before GOD, and at the funeral Service at 2.30 the Church was crowded. Few who knew him at all were absent, and many eyes were wet with tears. So with solemn hymns and the beautiful comforting words of the Burial Office we laid him to rest just as he would have wished. The Vicar is deeply touched by the innumerable expressions of sympathy which have reached him from one and all, helping him to bear the loss which he feels so keenly. He hopes to write a letter to the parishioners conveying that which he feels he cannot trust himself to say from the pulpit.

The Bishop of Grantham will (D.V.) come to Witham on Thursday, the 29th inst., and will administer Confirmation in the afternoon, and dedicate the Memorial Screen in the evening. We hope that many will be present at both Services, and from now onward will remember the Confirmation candidates in their prayers.

Lent.—We have no further space except just to remind one and all of this approaching precious and helpful season of grace, and to ask them to use it as if it were to be—as it may be—their last Lent on earth. Resolve to be more often in GOD's House, more regular and serious in all our Christian duties.

Baptism.—December 31st. Louis, son of William and Ellen, Elizabeth Bonnett.

Burials.—January 11th. Mary Ann Hamling, aged 47 years.

January 13th. William John Frisby, aged 78 years.

January 23rd. Harriet Archer aged 57 years.

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The Memorial Screen.—A report of the Dedication must await our next issue. On going to press, however, the erection is almost completed, and we are able to judge of the beauty and dignity of the structure. The old mediaeval screen which once stood in this Church was destroyed long years ago by the vandals, "who brake down all the carved work with axes and hammers" (Psalm lxxiv. 7), and it has been left to our more reverent times to restore it again. For this we may well thank God, Who wills us to worship Him, not in a bare barn, but "in the beauty of holiness." The design carried out is that which was left us by the noted architect, the late Mr. G. Gilbert-Scott, who designed the noble chancel arch, the choir stalls and the pulpit, and planned the screen as the completion of his scheme, which was incomplete so long as it was not added. Further, the whole scheme (screen included) was expressly approved and sanctioned by the late Squire, in whose memory we have erected it. It would therefore have been impossible to have chosen a more suitable subject for his Memorial. Of the beauty of the work we can now all judge for ourselves. The contractors—Messrs. Thompson and Co., of Peterborough—have carried it out with a skill and thoroughness which is beyond praise. A balance sheet and list of subscribers will shortly be published, so that if any still wish to add a contribution in memory of the late Mr. Johnson, the Vicar would be glad to know at once.

Lent Services.—The Vicar fears that one or two of the Services during Lent may have to be given up, as, for reasons of health, he has been strongly advised to go away from home for a short change. He much regrets this necessity and asks the indulgence of the congregation. On the one Sunday (March 10th) that he expects to be away, the usual Services will, if possible, be kindly taken by friends, but those on weekdays will have to be cancelled.

Obituary.—Mrs. Henry Wells, of Manthorpe, passed away on the 22nd February, in Lancashire, where she had been taken in the hope that a change might benefit her. She has survived her husband not quite three years, years, we fear, of anguished loneliness and silent grief, truly the hardest and saddest cross which God can lay upon any soul. We can but be thankful that now He has called her to follow and join him whom she loved so devotedly. R.I.P.

Ernest Jackson, a Suggestion.—It has been asked by many who loved and respected him, whether an opportunity will be given them of helping towards a permanent memorial. The Vicar himself desires to have the privilege of erecting a stone cross at the grave, but at the same time would suggest that if friends were disposed to help towards a special memorial, we might place a suitable brass tablet within the Church, bearing a record of our esteem to him who won it so widely. If many friends contributed small sums this could easily be done. Even the little ones should be allowed to give their pennies, as we know they would so gladly wish to do. The Vicar puts this out as a suggestion, not as an appeal, but were it possible to carry it out, he would, of course, be deeply gratified.

Baptism.—February 11th. Reginald, son of Herbert and Maria Harmston.

Burial.—February 26th. Frances Wells, aged 64 years.

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Easter.—There will be early Celebrations for Communion at 7.30 and 8.30, which we trust will be found convenient for all communicants. It is well to bear in mind that the Easter Communion obligatory on ALL by the law of GOD'S Church, though anyone who is at all in earnest about themselves will not need to consider it in this light, but rather as a most blessed privilege. The requirement of Easter Communion can be fulfilled on any day in Easter-tide, if Easter Day itself is found to be impossible.

The Dedication of the Screen.—This was reported fully in the *Grantham Journal*. The Bishop's impressive words and his touching references to the faithful departed were deeply appreciated. The Screen harmonizes well with the older oak work of the pulpit and Choir stalls, and adds immensely to the dignity of our beautiful church. It now only wants the surmounting cross and figures to be complete as in the past.

The Choir.—The Choirmaster and Vicar would gratefully welcome still more men's voices, and earnestly suggest that all members of the Choir would endeavour to be present at the short weekly practice on Friday evenings. No one can give of his best in singing without practice, and thus we should have quality as well as quantity in the vocal portions of the Service.

Proposed Meetings for Sewing.—The time has come when we imperatively need some new surplices. The Vicar would suggest that a monthly or fortnightly meeting of ladies at the Vicarage might be arranged, for those who would be kind enough to help, and asks that all in favour of this scheme would come on Wednesday, 24th April, at 3 o'clock.

Obituary.—We record with deep regret the death of Mr. H. Chaderton Johnson, of Boston, on the 17th March, after a severe and serious illness. Mr. Johnson, who was born at the Vicarage, was the only son of the Rev. W. H. Johnson, Vicar of this Parish, and cousin of the late Squire. He ever took an interest in his old home, and used to come over from time to time. He contributed generously towards the Screen, as well as to the late Mrs. Moxon's memorial window. He recently presented a photograph of his father for the vestry. The deepest sympathy is felt for his widow.

Cricket Club.—The annual meeting was held on the 22nd March. The Club has lost its capable Secretary and Treasurer in the lamented death of E. Jackson, and its captain by the removal of F. Eyles, whose loss will be widely regretted. His place has been filled by the election of Thomas Holmes; A. Pick was elected as vice-Captain, and H. Cole as Treasurer and Secretary. We heartily wish the Club a successful and prosperous season. The funds, which are somewhat low, are to be augmented by a whist drive and dance after Easter.

The Easter Vestry Meeting will be held on Easter Tuesday evening. A good attendance is desired.

Subscribers to the Memorial Tablet for the late E. Jackson will be asked to meet shortly after Easter to decide on the wording of the Memorial.

The Vicar earnestly desires to apologize to the congregation for the inevitable dislocation of the Services during Lent.

Burial.—March 9th. Catherine Halford, aged 75 years.

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Easter.—The decoration of the Church was—if possible—more beautifully carried out than ever, with a refinement and taste that reflected the greatest credit upon the decorators. The number

Easter communicants was the highest for many years, although we regretfully missed a certain number who failed to “keep the Feast” according to our Blessed Lord’s command.

Ascension Day.—We appeal for the due observance of this most holy day, which ranks in importance equally with Christmas, Easter, and Whitsun-days, which together make up four great Christian Festivals.

The Services on Ascension Day will be :—

Holy Eucharist (Choral), with address, at 10.

Evensong and address at 7.30.

On Whit-Sunday the Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at 8 and 11.15 (the latter Service being fully Choral).

The Easter Vestry Meeting was held on Easter Tuesday evening. The Church accounts for the year showed that the collections at the Services amounted to £63 12s. 4d., the highest sum ever reached.

The Lent Savings, given to the Waifs and Strays Society, amounted to £2 8s. 0d., collected chiefly by the children. Besides this object, nearly all of them gave a portion of their Lent Savings to the Jackson Memorial Fund, so that the total saved this year was very much larger than usual.

The Memorial.—We might well call it “our” Memorial, since it has been raised by almost the entire parish, and nearly every house has given a subscription. The brass tablet will measure ft. by 13 inches, and will be let into a slab of stone, the whole surmounted by a carved cornice, feet in length. It will be placed upon the north wall of the Church, a little to the left of the new window. The design is copied from the old Elizabethan brass near the Altar. We hope it will be completed and fixed before Whitsuntide. The wonderful readiness of everyone to help in thus providing a tribute to the memory of Ernest Jackson has touched the Vicar more than he can say, and he begs to thank the many helpers for their kindness and generosity. Over £13 has already been subscribed.

Forthcoming Concert.—Mr. Benton and Mr. Metcalfe have very kindly arranged for a concert on Monday, May 6th, in aid of the fund for the sufferers from the wreck of the “Titanic.” We feel sure that so good a cause will be supported by all. The following have most kindly offered their services. The Bourne Pierrot Troupe of seven or eight performers, Mr. A. W. Parker, humorist, from Stamford, Mr. B. Dorrington, tenor, from Stamford, and Mr. H. Anstee, pianist, from West Deeping. Reserved seats, 1s. 6d. and 1s., admission 6d. The concert will commence at 8 o’clock. Please note the date and do not fail to come.

Church Notice Boards.—We should like to suggest that people, on passing in or out of Church, should make a point of looking at the notice boards, where notices and other matters of interest are from time to time posted up. Important notices, such as those of the Easter Vestry and the Annual Parish Meeting are always placed there, but are unfortunately overlooked by many people, who afterwards say that they never heard of the meeting. The Church door is the legally appointed place for all parish notices, and should therefore be frequently inspected.

Cricket Fixtures for May.—4th, v. Holywell, away; 11th, v. Bourne, home; 18th, v. Greatford, home.

Marriages.—April 22.—Albert Walpole and Sarah Wells.

April 25.—Percy Charles Cosham and Mary Holmes.

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The "Titanic" Fund Concert last month was, from a musical point of view, one of the most successful concerts we ever remember in Witham, and those who failed to come missed a very real evening's enjoyment. The Bourne Pierrot Troupe alone gave a performance which it would be hard to beat anywhere, and when to these were added the inimitable drolleries of Mr. A. F. Parker, the capital tenor songs of Mr. Dorrington, the charming singing and playing of Mr. Anstee, and last, but not least, the remarkably clever recitals of Mr. Sharpe, the evening's entertainment was one which could not fail to delight even the most fastidious. We regret that the audience was not so large as it might have been, especially when the object of the concert was one so worthy. The total takings, including donations, amounted to **£5 0s. 5d.**, out of which **£2 6s. 2d.** was paid for expenses, and the balance, **£2 14s. 3d.**, was sent to the Lord Mayor of London's "Titanic" Disaster Relief Fund. At least Witham has done its share in responding to his appeal.

The Churchyard. If everyone who has friends or relatives buried in the new part of the Churchyard were to trim their graves from time to time, the whole ground might be kept tidy. Some quite recent graves are in a deplorable state of neglect. The Vicar has tried to set an example in keeping the grass mown around the grave of his late servant. He ventures, too, to hope that no more artificial wreaths and glass shades will be introduced into the Churchyard. The symbolism of flowers on a grave is destroyed unless they are *real* flowers.

Mumps and Measles have been very prevalent among the children recently, and even adults have, in a few cases, caught one or other of these complaints. We hope that no further closing of the school will be necessary.

The Cricket Club has begun well by scoring two such brilliant victories as those against Holywell and Greatford. Let us hope that it is an augury for a successful season. We notice that our defeat (at the hands of Bourne) was fully reported in the press, but not our victories. Might not these find a place?

The Stamford Infirmary. The house-to-house collection in Witham was kindly undertaken by Mrs. Dolby; and in Manthorpe, Toft and Lound by Miss Lee. The amounts were: Witham, **£3 6s. 0d.**; Manthorpe, **7s. 10d.**; Toft-cum-Lound, **10s. 9d.**; total for the Parish, **£4 4s. 7d.** For our small population this is extremely favourable, and shows much generosity on the part of the parishioners.

April Changes have been more numerous this year than usual, about 12 new families have come into the parish. We heartily welcome Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Bradshaw back again.

Cricket Fixtures. June 1st, *v.* Market Deeping (away); June 8th, *v.* Rippingale (home); June 22nd, *v.* Grimsthorpe (home); June 29th, *v.* Clipsham (away).

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The Handsome Brass Tablet erected to the memory of Ernest Jackson will, we trust, give complete satisfaction to all the subscribers. In size and quality it is far superior to that which was at first contemplated, owing to the large sum of money subscribed, though at the same time it is not too obtrusive, and does not in any way, we think, disfigure our beautiful church. The stone and its cornice might almost have been there for a hundred years, so completely do they harmonize with their surroundings. The words of the inscription need not be quoted here, but they were chosen with great care, in order to express the two-fold idea of service to God and service to his fellow men, which was the secret of Ernest's lovable character. The two emblems of the Cross and the Crown need no explanation.

"Bright shall the crown of glory be
When we have borne the cross."

Before leaving this subject the Vicar desires once more to thank the many subscribers for this beautiful and worthy tribute to the memory of his dear friend and servant, and for all the sympathy which has so helped him in the loss of one who was his right hand in all church and parish affairs. He trusts that the "faithful devotion" with which Ernest Jackson ministered to the Glory of God may become an example and an inspiration to all others engaged in similar ministrations, and that choristers and ringers and all who work for God's Glory may follow the example which he set. This would be his best memorial, in our hearts and lives.

The Insurance Act, which, at the time of writing, is fixed to come into operation on the 15th of this month, is doubtless occupying our careful attention. One word of advice we would urge upon insured persons. And that is, do not be in too great a hurry to join an "approved" Society. There is plenty of time (quite three months) in which to make a selection, which should be done only after careful inquiry into the relative benefits offered by each. Country people should join a country society, for the simple reason that agricultural workers are more healthy and longer-lived than those in towns, which means enhanced benefits to the members of such a society. We rejoice to know that our own united Friendly Society is to become an "approved" Society under the Act. Why not join it?

The Welsh Church Disestablishment Bill.—The Vicar has hitherto refrained from referring to this Bill in church, as he feels that politics in the pulpit are out of place. But he does not mean it to be implied that he approves of this proposal, for to confiscate money given to the Church and religion is nothing less than robbing God, in whatever way we look upon it. A great petition against the Bill is being signed throughout the country, and if any will volunteer to collect signatures in this parish, the Vicar would be grateful. Or a meeting might be organized, if speakers could be procured.

The Clothing Club.—It is possible that the bonus given in October may be considerably reduced this year, owing to the loss of several subscribers. It is best to give warning in good time. For the same reason (the loss of subscribers) the Medical Club will probably come to an end in December next. This is unfortunately the direct result of the Insurance Act.

The Flower Show will be held on Wednesday, the 31st inst. We hope there will be many entries in all classes, a large attendance, and our usual fine weather.

Marriage. June 11th. John Thomas Gadsby and Amy Pell.

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The Flower Show takes place just as this Magazine is in the press ; we must therefore reserve our notes on this subject until next month.

Our Village will soon become renowned as a " model " village. The recently erected widows' houses and the covering over the old stocks add greatly to its beauty and charm, which must delight everyone who has an eye for the picturesque. The stocks themselves were partially destroyed about twelve years ago, though are now restored, and will remain, we hope, for many years as an interesting curiosity of bygone times. They were used in olden days for the punishing of vagrants and disorderly persons (of both sexes), and were a harmless and cheap method of dealing with such people, exposing them to the publicity of the village in general, and the ridicule of the juvenile section in particular ! Occasionally the stocks were placed actually in the Churchyard.

School Gardening Class. Mr. Salt, Government Inspector of Schools, who visited this class on the 25th ult., has expressed to the Vicar his high appreciation of the class and of the excellent work done by it. Such commendation as this from an Inspector is unusual, and should be highly gratifying to Mr. Benton and his pupils.

The School Frontage has been fenced off from the road. In time it is hoped that the ground in front of the old school and master's house may be converted into a lawn and flower garden, thereby adding to the beauty of the village. Drivers of stock will appreciate the new fence, as animals not infrequently made their way down the school yard, when driven through the village.

Why and Wherefore. The reason why a figure of our Blessed Lord on the Cross is placed over the pulpit. When a speaker is addressing a meeting one may often see some device or banner hung up near him, which shows at a glance the subject upon which he is speaking. Supposing the subject is women's suffrage, then a banner inscribed " Votes for Women " will be held aloft, and we shall know—even without listening to the lecturer—what he (or she) is talking about. Another banner might bear the words " the right to work," or a big picture representing a destitute home, would show us at a glance that the speaker was dealing with the subject of unemployment. Similarly over the platform of the Christian preacher is displayed the sacred emblem of our salvation, to show that that alone is the main subject of his discourse, and to remind both preacher and congregation that " we preach Christ crucified," and nothing else.

Cricket Fixtures. August 10th, v. Grimsthorpe, away ; August 17th, v. Bourne, away ; August 24th, v. Market Deeping, home.

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The Flower Show.—Owing to the weather, our annual Show, so important a day to us all, was nothing but a disastrous failure. Apart from the keen disappointment, there remains the financial difficulty of meeting the heavy expenses with the meagre proceeds of the money taken on the Show day. Fortunately in the past having always been favoured with a fine day, the Committee have funds in hand, but these will be mainly if not entirely used up in meeting the expenses of this year's Show. The rain was all the more deplorable as the entries in all classes were more numerous than before, and had the weather been fine, the Show would probably have been a record one.

Water Supply.—We omitted last month in describing the recent village improvements to mention the new supply of water to the lower part of the village. Those who live in the "bottom street" will be deeply grateful to the Squire for this great boon, which obviates the necessity of going up the hill for their drinking water. The arrangement by which we now have two Bywells springs as well as a supply within the widows' cottages, is a marvel of ingenuity.

The Weather of this disastrous summer is, we believe, unparalleled within living memory, and the outlook for the future is grave indeed. The ruined crops, in particular hay, potatoes and oats, represent an incalculable loss, while the difficulty of harvesting the corn renders the situation for farmers well-nigh heart-breaking. While our sympathy goes out to the many sufferers, we must not forget that such visitations come from the hand of a God Who is all-wise as well as all-loving, and that all things are ordered for our ultimate good. If this year of disaster and trouble bring us as a nation on our knees before God, it will not be in vain.

It is impossible at the time of writing to fix a Sunday for Harvest Thanksgiving. All must depend on the weather. Alas! it does not look at present as if the harvest would soon be completed. When it is we will hold our Thanksgiving, though very likely a sad and chastened one.

Baptisms. July 28. Nathaniel Thomas, son of Nathaniel and Florence Louisa Moxon.
August 11. Henry James, son of John Henry and Louisa Dobney.

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Thanksgivings for the Harvest will be held (D.V.) on the Feast Sunday, 27th October, thus combining into one our thanksgiving for the needs both of the body and the soul. This plan has been followed in other years when the harvest has been late. Gifts of corn and flowers (if any remain) will be acceptable for garnishing the Church, and the help of all who will give it in arranging the decorations is earnestly asked for.

Parish Tea.—This enjoyable annual event will, it is hoped, take place on Feast Monday. We ask for an overflowing attendance. Tickets, 6d. each, will be sold during the previous week, and admission without a ticket will be 8d., therefore please all buy tickets!

An Entertainment will be given after tea. As this is quite an informal social evening, we all prefer to hear our own people sing and amuse us. The Vicar hopes that many will look up their songs and help us. An amusing character sketch will be given at the conclusion of the programme.

The Reading Room at the Vicarage has been opened again for the season, and is well patronized. Any others who would like to join will be welcomed. The following have been elected on the Committee this year: E. Holmes (secretary and treasurer), C. Kettleborough, J. Jordan, J. Redshaw, T. Smith and H. Wand.

The Woodwork Class will recommence on Tuesday, 8th October, at 7 p.m. The advantages of joining this class are too well known to need any recommendation.

Weather Note.—Occasionally it happens, and it has happened more than once quite recently, that people have been tempted to venture to Church in fine weather without any provision for wet, and at the close of the Service have had to go home in the rain. The Vicar earnestly hopes that in such a case any who come from a distance will come to the Vicarage for shelter, and he will gladly lend umbrellas, coats, or wraps as far as possible.

Insurance Act.—We would venture to warn all who are contributors under this Act to join some approved Society without further delay. Those who neglect to do this may find themselves in the disadvantageous position of becoming "post-office contributors," and in case of prolonged sickness all the sum that stands to their credit would be speedily exhausted, while a member of an approved Society would fall back upon the Society's accumulated funds, to tide him or her over the whole period of their illness. If you don't know of a Society suitable to your particular circumstances, seek advice. But don't put it off.

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The "Feast" occurs just as this month's magazine is in the press. We can therefore only predict that it promises to be quite as great a success as in the past, speaking from the social point of view. A great number of tickets for the Parish tea have been sold, and a most excellent programme for the entertainment is in preparation, almost wholly rendered by our own people. We trust that the religious side of the Festival will be as heartily observed.

Forthcoming Social Events. When the "Feast" is over, we shall look forward to several social events during the winter. The Reading Room and the Cricket Club are both, we hear, to give a Whist Drive and Dance for the benefit of their funds. Mrs. Fenwick, too, wants a dance in aid of the nursing fund. How we envy some of our neighbours who possess a Parish Hall! As we are obliged to use the School every time, each social function requires endless labour and trouble in clearing the room. We sometimes wonder whether those who ask for numerous evening amusements quite realize the great amount of preparation involved.

November has been anciently known as the month of the dead, because it is in this month that Church specially turns our thoughts towards those who have passed within the veil. At the opening of the month stands the beautiful Festival of All Saints, which seems to shed its lustre through all the dark days of November. All Saints' Day commemorates the redeemed in Heaven, "the great multitude which no man can number" around the Throne, which we call the Church Triumphant. While on the day following, called All Souls' Day, we are bidden to think of those in the Church Expectant, the waiting souls, among whom are our own dear ones, and to remember them before GOD in our prayers, and particularly at the altar. All Souls' Day, too, should be a day for loving care of graves, the flowers or sprigs which we lay there are our tributes of remembrance, and are like little prayers to God that He will grant to them refreshment, light and peace.

Vestry Cupboard. The old doors and panels which used to form the vestry, when it was behind the organ, have been utilized to make a very useful cupboard for the men's cassocks and surplices, which keeps them from the dust and makes the vestry much tidier. We now want a similar cupboard for the boys' surplices, also a chest for the vestments. But for these we must wait.

Church Decorations. At the time of writing the church is being garnished for the Festival by many kind helpers, whom we desire heartily to thank. Also they have a respect for our beautiful woodwork, which unhappily is not the case everywhere. In a church not a hundred miles away one saw with sadness that the carved oak pulpit was studded with tin-tacks, and the whole surface split and indented with years of similar treatment.

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The Parish Tea was once again a triumph of success. The proceeds, after paying all expenses, amounted to £2 19s. 2d., by far the largest ever made. Out of this the Committee have bought another trestle table, and have kindly paid for the new vestry cupboard. The entertainment was one of the most enjoyable we ever remember, and the general comment was that it gets better and better every year, some even went so far as to say that they would like a Parish Tea every week! All thanks to our splendid band of workers.

Two Dances have been held in November, one on the 13th under the auspices of the Primrose League, and another on the 25th, in aid of the Reading Room. Both were highly successful. The latter resulted in a profit for the Reading Room of about £2 10s. 0d.

The next Dance fixed is on New Year's Eve, to be held by request of Mrs. Fenwick, in aid of the Nursing Institution. At midnight we will sing "Auld Lang Syne," in the traditional style.

Christmas Day. We appeal to all who value this great and Holy Festival to keep our Saviour's Birthday as Christians. There will be celebrations (for Communion) at 7.30 a.m., and 8.30 a.m., and the High Service at 11.15 a.m. No Evensong. The widows and the men who receive coats are requested to meet the Vicar and Churchwardens immediately after the Morning Service.

Carols will be sung after Evensong on the Sunday following.

Our best wishes go with Mr. H. Cole on his leaving the village. We shall miss him in many ways, not the least at our entertainments, where his inimitable acting and humorous songs were always in request. His loss will also be keenly felt in the Cricket Club, of which he was Secretary, and for some seven years a useful player.

The Cricket Club. Mr. H. Cole has left the accounts in the Vicar's hands, pending the appointment of a new Secretary. There is a balance in hand of £1 8s. 10½d. A Dance will probably be held next month to augment the funds.

The Medical Club will be continued for one more quarter, after which such members as desire, and who do not come within the scope of the Insurance Act, will be received into a new Medical Service, to be organized by the Doctors of the district. The Club will then be dissolved. We recommend therefore that present members, except as above stated, continue in our Club for this last quarter. The scale of charges made by the new Kesteven Public Medical Service will probably not exceed those now in force.

Church Stamps. New albums will be given on Advent Sunday, and prizes for complete collections during the past year will be awarded. Parents are urged to take an interest in the regular attendance of their children on Sundays, and also on Holy Days.

Next Year. We earnestly beg all our readers to pay for the Magazine in one sum of one shilling for the year, which saves much trouble in distributing.

Baptism. November 10th. Edna Mary, daughter of George Thomas and Mary Jane Pell.