

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

The New Year. As we enter upon 1913, our wish is that it may be a year of happiness for all our readers. The year that is gone has been one of changes for many of us, bringing joy to some and deep sadness for others. And so no doubt it will be again, but if we trust in GOD He will lead us through the shadows, and hold us up "when the deep waters run over our soul."

Christmas Day. The number of Communicants was considerably larger than last year, though there were some who either had not the time or the inclination to greet our Saviour on His Sacred Birthday. Surely their Christmas was not quite so happy as it might have been. The Church certainly did not look so "Christmassy" as in previous years, we missed the profusion of evergreens upon the screen, and we were sadly hampered too by lack of flowers. If there is any Festival when it is impossible to have too much decoration it is Christmas.

Christmas Gifts. We feel sure that all the tenantry will wish us to record their deep gratification and thanks to the Squire for his kind and generous presents, distributed to every house on the Estate. It is acts such as these which tend to keep alive the best spirit of this beautiful season,—goodwill among men.

The Christmas Tree, which represented Mr. and Mrs. Fenwick's liberality towards the children, was held at the Hall on the afternoon of Christmas Day. The huge tree, laden with toys and gifts, was set up in the coach house, and after the singing of a carol, the prizes were distributed to the top boy and girl of each standard. Then followed presents for all, and the happy youngsters departed with sparkling eyes and laden arms.

Lent falls so early this year (5th of February) that it is as well to give an intimation of the fact this month. We must endeavour to get our remaining social fixtures into the first five weeks of the year.

Advent Prizes for Sunday attendance were distributed by the Vicar last month. Elsie Holmes again broke the record with a complete collection of stamps for the year.

The Dance on New Year's Eve promises to surpass in numbers any that we have ever had. All the world and his wife seem to be coming (weather permitting !) The Countess of Lindsey has kindly consented to judge the fancy dresses.

Congratulation to Mr. Frank Eyles on his marriage. Many of his old Witham friends combined to present him with a wedding gift, consisting of a clock and a tea service. On the same day (S. Stephen's Day) Mr. Wm. Cooper was married here: we offer him also our very hearty good wishes.

Marriage. December 26th. John William Pacey Cooper and Mary Ann Archer

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Lent.—There will be special Services, with short addresses, on Wednesday evenings, at 7 o'clock, commencing on Ash Wednesday, on which day also there will be a celebration with address at 10 a.m. The Vicar earnestly appeals to all to endeavour to use and profit by this holy and helpful season, by self-denial and prayer, and more frequent attendance at the Services in church.

The Anniversary of Ernest Jackson's death—the 23rd of January—was marked by a memorial celebration of the Holy Eucharist, and by several beautiful floral tributes upon the grave. The Vicar is deeply touched to find that his memory is still cherished by so many friends, who cannot fail to understand what this year has been to himself. He asks for their prayers to enable him to face the work of the parish in the future with fresh earnestness and zeal.

Carol Service.—On the Sunday following Christmas Day we had once again our delightful Service of carols, which were even more pleasingly rendered than last year. The violinists acquitted themselves most admirably. Surely such a service is a very acceptable act of worship to our Incarnate Lord on His Sacred Birthday.

The Fancy Dress Dance on New Year's Eve more than fulfilled our expectations. Indeed, it was, in every way, by far the most successful and enjoyable dance we ever remember here. So numerous and excellent were the fancy costumes that the work of awarding the eight prizes was by no means an easy one. We understand that a sum of over £7 will be available for the Nursing Association.

A Concert and Dance, in aid of the Cricket Club, is arranged for the 29th of January, and a Shrove-tide Social Evening on the 3rd of February will bring our winter series of festivities to a close.

A Bagatelle Handicap among all the members of the Reading Room has been played off during last month. Forty competitors entered the lists, and the prizes were finally won by T. Smith (1st), and A. Hamling (2nd). The handicap proved so interesting and enjoyable that it is proposed to have another.

The late Sir John C. Lawrance.—We omitted last month to chronicle the death of the late Mr. Justice Lawrance, which took place on the 5th of December. Sir John Lawrance, who for nine years resided at the Hall, ever took the greatest interest in all that concerned the welfare of the village, and won the esteem and regard of all. There are still many left in the parish who gratefully remember his kindness, and to whom the news of his death came as a sad shock.

Baptism. January 26 Joseph Henry son of Alfred and Maud Mabel Bottomley (privately)

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Easter Day falls this year upon March 23rd, being the earliest day but one upon which it is possible for it to occur. The last occasion upon which it fell as early was in the year 1856, or fifty-seven years ago.

Easter Communion.—Once again we would remind our readers of the duty which is laid upon all the faithful of making their Communion at Easter. It is one of those rules of the Church which, if we owe any obedience to our religion at all, we are obliged to keep. The early Celebrations will be at 7.30 and 8.30.

Good Friday.—We should endeavour to keep this most sacred day in the year in a befitting and religious way. It is the day our Saviour died, "God's Friday," and none but the utterly hardened and indifferent could spend it in mere selfish pleasure or amusement.

Shrove-tide "Social."—The invitation whist drive and dance on February 3rd proved a great success, and formed an agreeable wind up to the parish festivities of the winter.

Forthcoming Event.—It is hoped that a whist drive may be arranged in Easter week for both pleasure and profit, as more funds are wanted for the Cricket Club.

Flower Show.—As we go to press, the fate of this much looked-for annual event hangs in the balance, owing to the difficulty of finding a Secretary.

Resignation.—We much regret to announce the forthcoming departure of Miss Trowse, who has been assistant mistress in the school for nearly nine years. She will carry with her the good wishes of very many Witham friends.

Another Departure.—We are genuinely sorry to lose from the village Gerard Stubbs, who was a ready and willing helper in all that went on. In Church, too, we shall miss him from the Choir.

Obituary.—The deep sympathy of us all is with Mr. and Mrs. John Holmes and family in their bereavement. Miss Kate Holmes was a general favourite, and her early death is a great sorrow to many. It was hoped that after the operation which she underwent in December, she might gradually recover health and strength, but after a few weeks a relapse set in, from which she never rallied. R. I. P.

Mr. and Mrs. Holmes desire to express their heartfelt thanks for all the sympathy shown to them and their family in their great sorrow.

Burial.—February 18, Kate Holmes, aged 24 years.

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Easter.—The Church never looked better than it did this year, despite the scarcity of primroses. All thanks to the many kind helpers, as well as to those who sent us such bountiful supplies of daffodils. The music at the Choral Eucharist was Woodward's Service in F, which was rendered for the first time, and was sung extremely well. The collections, amounting in all to £2 3s. 10d., were given to the Queen Victoria Clergy Fund.

Lent Savings.—The sum of £2 11s. 5d. has been brought in at the time of writing from about thirty contributors, and will be forwarded in due course to the Waifs and Strays Society. We feel sure it is want of thought, rather than want of heart, which prevents many more from taking their part in this excellent scheme of Lenten self-denial. Some of the contributions from the children are quite wonderful.

Presentation.—On the 20th of March, Miss Trowse was presented with a travelling clock from the children and managers of the school. The Vicar, in making the presentation, alluded to the great regret of all in losing Miss Trowse from the school, and expressed their good wishes for her future happiness. We are glad to know that she will continue to reside in the parish.

Bourne Musical Competitions.—Mr. Metcalfe has entered a team for the children's competition April 8th. We wish them all success. Unfortunately, we have recently lost one or two of our best singers from the school, so we must not be too sanguine.

Cricket Club.—The club is in need of still further funds, and for this object a whist drive and dance has been arranged for Thursday, April 3rd, which we hope will be well patronized.

Tennis Club.—The Vicar would be glad to know of any who would like to join a club for lawn tennis this summer. If there are any such, will they please let him know, and arrangements will be made to start playing as soon as the court is dry enough. He will be very pleased to lend the Vicarage tennis lawn at all reasonable times for play and practice.

At the Holy Eucharist.—During a plain (or low) Celebration it is customary for the people to remain kneeling throughout, except during the Gospel and the Creed, while at a Choral Celebration they may sit for the Epistle and stand for the Gloria in Excelsis. We add this note in order that there may be a uniformity in gesture among the congregation.

Flower Show.—At a committee meeting held on the 27th March, it was finally decided that Flower Show should not take place this year.

Baptisms.—March 14. John, son of John Henry and Louisa Dobney (privately).

March 14. Ruth Norah, daughter of John Robert and Eliza Cooper (privately).

March 23. Constance Millicent Veness, daughter of Amos Alfred and Eliza Suter Bradshaw.

Burial.—March 17 John Dobney

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Easter Vestry Meeting.—This was held on April 1st. The outgoing Churchwardens and Sidesmen were re-appointed. The statement of accounts for the year showed that the Church collections amounted to **£41 9s. 7d.**, as against **£63 12s. 4d.** in the previous year, a drop of £22. Fortunately we had no extra expenses during the year, and a balance of **£10 14s. 1d.** remains. We must confess that the bulk of our Church-goers give liberally according to their means, which should be the standard for *all* of us in giving.

Whitsunday.—Once more we call attention to the great importance and significance of this great Christian Festival—the Church's Birthday. It is the day when we specially think of God the Holy Spirit, His Person and His Work.

China's Call to Prayer.—The Vicar alluded recently to the wonderful request of the new Chinese government to the Christians within that vast country to set apart a day of prayer for the nation, a request, as the Archbishop of Canterbury has said, of enormous significance. Shall we not at Whitsuntide specially pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the great awakening nation?

Whist Drive and Dance.—On April 3rd a Whist Drive and Dance was arranged on behalf of the Cricket Club. Unfortunately the attendance was far smaller than was expected, many of our usual supporters failing to put in an appearance. Possibly they were apprehensive of sundry pains and penalties for breach of the gaming act! At all events it was the only public whist drive that had been arranged in the village this season, and it was hoped that it would have been well and gratefully patronized. The proceeds amounted to **£1 3s. 7d.**

The Cricket Club opens the season with a match against Grimsthorpe on May 3rd, at Witham. Our best wishes go out to them for a successful season. The Secretary would be grateful for a few further subscriptions, as the funds are in anything but a flourishing condition, owing to the diminished receipts from the concert and whist drive.

Cricket Fixtures for May.—May 3rd, *v.* Grimsthorpe (home); May 10th, *v.* Holywell (away); May 17th, *v.* Rippingale (home); May 24th, *v.* Irnham (home); May 31st, *v.* Clipsham (home).

School Manager.—At a meeting last month of the representatives appointed by the Parish Meetings of Witham, Manthorpe, and Toft-cum-Lound, Mr. F. Browett was re-elected as Parish School Manager for a term of three years.

Burial.—March 31st Susan Hudson, aged 64 years

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Off to Canada.—By a regrettable oversight we omitted last month to record our best wishes to those three young friends who sailed for Canada on the 9th May. May they have a happy and prosperous future in their new life across the sea. Both Walter Carr and Alfred Pick are literally natives

Witham, for they were both born here, were baptized in this Church, and have lived among us all their lives. On the morning before they left home, a special farewell Celebration was held at 7.30 a.m., which both they and their parents and friends were present. This little Service, which was deeply impressive, cannot fail to be long remembered by the lads in their distant home, possibly far beyond the sound of Church bells.

Another Departure.—Following their example, another of our young friends goes out this month to try his fortune in the New World. Tom Smith, who has been with the Vicar for upwards of 14 months, hopes to sail for New York on the 11th inst. With him also go our very sincere good wishes, and our prayers for God's blessing and guidance in his future life. We shall miss him in the Choir and in many other ways. We are grateful to him for consenting, though unwillingly, to captain our Cricket Club, when no one else could be found to accept the responsibility, and we are bound to say that he has filled the post with very considerable success.

An Old Parishioner.—While speaking of a loss to the Choir, we are reminded that Mr. Robert Williamson, who left us last month to reside at North Witham, has been a member of the Choir for the long period of thirty years. This long and faithful service calls, we think, for some recognition. We cannot prophesy, but we hope that some day perhaps we may see him back again in his old place.

Obituary.—On the 14th May, Mr. Joseph Sentance passed away after a long illness. His death severs yet one more of the few remaining links with the past of the village, for his whole life was spent here, where he was born, in 1842. We desire to express our deep sympathy with his widow and children.

The Cricket Club has begun the season in a highly satisfactory manner, and we hope that many more successes may follow. Of the four matches played up to date—all on the home ground—the first, against Grimsthorpe, was won by 25 runs. The next, against Holywell, resulted in a "draw," due to the weather, which caused a delay in starting. The following week we beat Rippingale by the magnificent total of 6 wickets and 140 runs, while in the fourth match we suffered our first defeat at the hands of Irnham by 25 runs. A meeting will shortly be held to elect a new captain in place of Tom Smith, who, as stated above, is unfortunately leaving us this month.

Fixtures for June.—7th, v. Rippingale (away); 14th, v. Bourne (away); 21st, v. Grimsthorpe (away); 28th, v. Greatford (away).

Presentation.—Since writing the paragraph relative to Mr. Williamson's departure, we understand that several members of the Choir and the Church Officials are subscribing towards a little testimonial to mark his long service in the Choir. Particulars will be given next month.

Baptisms.—May 25. John Robert, son of Ernest and Violet Golden.

Mary Ann, daughter of Herbert and Rose Ellen Thacker.

Burial.—May 19. Joseph Sentance, aged 70 years.

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Death of our Oldest Parishioner. On the 5th of June Miss Ann Osborn, of Manthorpe, was called to her rest, within a few days of her 88th birthday. Miss Osborn had been in failing health for many years, and for the last five or six years had never even left her bedroom, so that there are only a few who had the privilege of knowing her personally. She was born in 1825 in a house which stood on the site of the present school-master's house, and for the greater part of her life she lived with her brother James at the keeper's lodge. On his death in 1886 she removed to the cottage in Manthorpe where she died. She was ever a devout and consistent churchwoman and communicant, though of late years age and infirmity prevented her from attendance at church. It was her often expressed wish to be buried beside her brother, to whom she was greatly devoted, in a space reserved for that purpose, a wish which the Vicar and Churchwardens were gladly able to respect. Our deep sympathy goes out to her niece, Miss Emma Osborn, who for many years has been her aunt's constant and devoted companion, and who ministered to her in her declining years with unfailing care and loving attention. R.I.P.

Stamford Infirmary. The house-to-house collections which were made and sent in last month realized the following amounts: Witham, £2 6s. 1d.; Toft with Lound, 14s. 9d.; Manthorpe, 4s. All except Manthorpe show an increase upon last year's collections. Some former subscribers pleaded the Insurance Act as a reason for no longer contributing. What if we all did!

Presentation to Mr. R. Williamson. As noted last month, several subscribers have contributed towards a gift to mark Mr. Williamson's long service in the choir. The gift takes the form of a handsome and massive marble striking clock, on which is fixed a brass plate bearing the following inscription: "Presented to Mr. R. Williamson in commemoration of thirty years' membership of the choir at Witham-on-the-Hill church, by a few friends." Among the subscribers are the Squire, the Vicar, the two churchwardens, the two sidesmen, and Messrs. Metcalfe (organist), J. Lambourne, C. Newham, W. Wells, and T. Smith. Possibly a few other friends may wish to help, as a small balance remains on the cost of the clock.

The Lord's Day. The Vicar earnestly pleads with those who of late have become irregular their attendance at Divine worship on Sunday. Every Sunday passed without this is a Sunday misspent. Surely, too, more of us could find time for more than the bare attendance at one service only. Why should we be content to give to God the barest minimum of that which is His due? The Vicar particularly invites more worshippers at the 10.15 service. Many would find this possible who cannot well be present at the later one. Besides, it is the "Lord's Service," the one which He Himself instituted. We hope to say more on this important subject next month.

The Cricket Club. The Vicar has presented to the Club two framed photos of cricket groups, be hung in the pavilion. Such records are always interesting. The fixtures for the month are: uly 5th, v. Holywell (away); 12th, v. Bourne (home); 19th, v. Irnham (away); 26th, v. Clipsham away).

Baptism. June 6th. Arthur Cecil, son of John William and Mary Ann Bedford.

Burial. June 9th. Grace Ann Osborn, aged 87 years.

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Coming-of-age.—We offer our heartiest congratulations to Lieut. K. R. G. Fenwick, who attains his majority on the 13th of this month. As befits the occasion, there will be great doings in the village, and we understand that Mr. and Mrs. Fenwick propose to mark the happy event by entertaining all the tenants upon the estate. The school children are to have a special treat, which will take the form of a day in London and a visit to the "Zoo." We hope that the weather may be fine, so that nothing may mar our enjoyment of the festivities on this great and important occasion.

No Flower Show.—As announced in our April issue, the Flower Show has been abandoned this year. This is partly owing to Mr. Keld Fenwick's Coming-of-age Festivities falling so near the date when it would have been held, partly also to the difficulty of finding a Secretary. We trust that next year we shall keep it again with renewed interest.

School Holidays.—The school will close for the summer holidays on the 8th August. Miss Bristow will then leave us. The Managers have secured the services of Miss L. Darnes—late of All Saints' School, Stamford—in her place.

Gift to the Church.—The Vicar has received from the Guild of All Souls a set of six wooden mortuary candlesticks, to be used on occasions when a Body rests in the Church previous to burial. The ancient and beautiful custom of bringing the Body to Church on the previous day, and the next morning having a memorial celebration, is one which we should endeavour to follow in the case of all deceased communicants. It is a privilege, however, which is allowed ONLY to those who have been communicants. It may be remembered that some years ago the Guild of All Souls gave us our black vestments for use at Requiem Celebrations

Our Friends Abroad.—We hear good reports of our young friends who recently left us for America. Alfred Pick is with his brother in Alberta, Canada; Walter Carr is at Toronto, in the same country; and Tom Smith is with a family near New York, U.S.A. If this magazine ever reaches them, we assure them that they are often in our thoughts, and we wish them "good luck in the Name of the Lord."

Cricket Fixtures for August.—2nd, v. Ryhall (home); 9th, v. Greatford (home); 16th, v. Ryhall (away).

Marriage.—July 10. Herbert Hamling and Annie Sarah Seymour.

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

• **Lieut. K. R. G. Fenwick's Coming-of-age Celebrations.**—The important events of the 13th of August were so well and fully reported in the newspapers that it is unnecessary to describe all the festivities of that auspicious day, even if we had sufficient space at our disposal. Suffice it to say that the feasting, the presentation of the cup, the speeches, the sports, the band, the illuminations and the fireworks all contributed to make one of the most memorable and happiest days which any of us have ever spent. The unbounded kindness and generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Fenwick, who spared no efforts to minister to the enjoyments of their many guests, was deeply appreciated by one and all, and we offer them our most grateful thanks. In wishing Lieut. Fenwick every happiness through life we heartily endorse the hope which he expressed in his speech, namely, that the kindly feelings which were so plainly manifested on that occasion, might not only never be diminished, but might increase as the years go on.

The Children's Treat.—Those children who were on the lists of day and Sunday Schools, and who were fortunate enough to have passed out of the 1st standard, were taken to London on the 11th at Mr. Fenwick's sole expense, and a right memorable day they had. A drive through some of the principal streets, a glimpse at many famous buildings, a thorough inspection of Westminster Abbey, and a visit to the Zoo, were included in the programme. Happy children!

The Servers' Trip.—On the 25th August the servers went for the day to Hunstanton. The weather was perfect, and a most enjoyable time was spent at this delightful seaside resort.

Clerical Changes.—Our neighbour, Mr. Cotton Smith, has been appointed by the Lord Chancellor to the vacant benefice of Bourne, and the Bishop has nominated the late Vicar of Bourne to Castle Bytham. As the two places are at equal distance from us on either side, the change only affects us in one way, and that is, we shall miss the interesting and pithy "notes" with which the first page of the Magazine is enlivened month by month, and to which many of our readers turn, we are told, even before they read our own notes!

Harvest Thanksgiving Services will be held (D.V.) on Sunday, October 5th.

Presentation to Mr. Williamson.—The Vicar has received a letter from Mr. Williamson, from which the following is an extract: "I take this opportunity to express my most grateful thanks to all who so kindly contributed towards the beautiful present which you have so kindly sent me. The handsome clock will always remind me of the kind friends at Witham. I feel so grateful to you all for your kindness."

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The Church Clock has been taken down in order to add a chiming apparatus, so that the quarters may be struck upon the bells, the system employed being the beautiful and melodious "Cambridge chimes." We hope to have it re-fixed early during the present month. The Vicar has discovered the following interesting particulars relating to the clock and its predecessors. As long ago as 1548 there was a clock in the steeple, which is one of the earliest known instances of a church clock in the kingdom. In 1736 the tower fell, the clock being, of course, destroyed. In 1775 a new clock was supplied by one William Bird, at a cost of **£29 9s.** (It must have been rather a poor affair!) In 1862 a fresh clock, made to strike the "ding-dong" quarters, was inserted by Joseph Farrin, for which he was paid **£141 6s. 9d.** For some reason or other this proved unsatisfactory, and in 1870 the present clock, made by Messrs. G. and F. Cope, of Nottingham, was put in its place at a cost of **£55,** and the old clock taken in exchange. Messrs. Cope are now adding the new quarter chimes, at cost of **£45.**

The Feast. The Dedication Festival will be observed with special festal Services on Sunday, October 26th. We think we can guarantee the Parish Tea as usual, and the Entertainment, if possible, even *better* than usual!

The Reading Room at the Vicarage re-opens for the six winter months. Subscription, 6d. per month, or 2s. 6d. for the season.

Welsh Disestablishment. A meeting of protest will be held in the School on Thursday, Oct. 23rd, at 7 p.m., when a lecture on the subject will be given by Miss Hughes Price. For particulars see bills. All cordially invited.

"Why and Wherefore."—Candles. We use lighted candles upon the Holy Table in Divine Service simply and solely to the glory of God. Lights and flowers upon the Altar are symbolical of the joyful reverence with which we greet Jesus Christ, "the Light of the World," who comes to us there in the sacred mystery of his most Holy Sacrament. The use of Altar Lights at the Eucharist of remote antiquity, and can be traced back to Apostolic times. Their use is enjoined in the ornaments Rubric of the Prayer Book, and the late Archbishop Benson, in giving his judgment in the "Lincoln" case, in 1890, expressly declared their legality. But—it is sometimes objected—they are not required for the purpose of giving light. No, neither are the seven lamps of fire which in the midst of the glorious noonday of Heaven ever burn before the Throne of GOD, in that perfect worship of which our worship on earth is a counterpart.

Baptisms. Aug. 31. Florence Mary, daughter of Thomas William and Miriam Cousins.
Sept. 18. Doris Muriel, daughter of George William and Stella Wallis.

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The Parish Tea.—Once again we had a very successful and well-attended gathering. The entertainment was quite as excellent as ever, and the concluding farce was one of the best that we have ever seen at Witham, and that is saying a good deal. Very great praise is due to all the performers, and the heartiest thanks to the Committee and other helpers who contributed to such an enjoyable evening.

A Fancy Dress Dance, in aid of the Nursing Fund, is fixed for Wednesday, December 31st. We are asked to give this long notice, so that no other engagements may be made for that evening.

The Church Clock.—As we write, the clock, with its new chiming mechanism, is being refixed. We shall appreciate it all the more after having been without it for so many weeks.

Obituary—Mr. C. W. Johnson.—It is with great sorrow that we record the death of Mr. Charles Johnson, the eldest son of the late Squire. According to the facts which have reached us, met with a serious carriage accident in Vancouver Island, where he resided, on the 29th of August. He was driving a new horse, which bolted, throwing him out. He was taken to the Hospital at Duncan, suffering from severe cuts on the head and face. In spite of every care, he passed away on Saturday, the 6th of October, in the presence of his wife and three of his sisters. Our deep sympathy goes out to the members of his family in their bereavement. R. I. P.

Welsh Church Meeting.—A very good number attended the meeting on September 23rd, to hear Miss Pryce on the subject of the Disestablishment of the Church in Wales. Mr. Thos. Pick presided. The speaker, who herself is a Welsh woman, gave a very able and instructive address, which was listened to with marked interest.

Ploughing Match.—The Bourne and District Ploughing Society, of which Mr. Fenwick is President, has arranged to hold its annual Ploughing Match once again at Witham, on Wednesday, November 12th, after which the usual dinner will take place at the "Six Bells."

The Month of November is set apart for special commemoration of the Faithful departed. There will be requiem Celebrations on All Souls' Day (November 3rd) and other days in the month. Names of departed friends and relatives should be given to the Vicar for special remembrance.

Baptisms.—The following baptism was inadvertently omitted from the Magazine at the time :

June 29. Ernest Arthur, son of Ernest and Alice Maud Battram.

Also the following :

Oct. 5. Norman Cecil, son of John and Ruth Collins.

Oct. 5. Kathleen Nora and Phyllis May, daughters of Charles Wilfred and Florence Ada Hallett.

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This number of the Magazine completes our tenth year of issue, in partnership with our three neighbours, Castle Bytham, Swinstead, and Swayfield. It is highly gratifying that the Magazine continues to be so well supported and appreciated, for it forms a bond of union between us, and means of keeping us in touch with Church affairs and other local matters of interest. We shall esteem it a great favour if all our readers will again pay one shilling for the year in January, which saves great trouble in distribution.

Christmas Day.—There will be two early Celebrations (for Communion) at 7.30 and 8.30, and the High Celebration at 11.15. No Evensong.

On the Sunday after Christmas we hope to have a carol Service as usual, with orchestra accompaniment.

Confirmation.—The Bishop of Lincoln will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation at Greatford Church, on Wednesday, March 4th, to which the Witham candidates will be taken.

The Chimes were first set going on All Saints' Day. On all sides we hear nothing but expressions of gratification at the new chimes, of which we may very justly feel proud. Such chimes are unusual except in a cathedral or town church. It is eminently fitting that our beautiful bells should be put to constant use, and that their sweet tones should be heard continually, instead of being reserved—as formerly—only for Sunday Services. The chimes can be heard—we are told—in every part of the parish, and even as far away as Little Bytham, when the wind is favourable. Thus the Church clock will provide an accurate guide of the time for all the parishioners. Great care will be taken to keep it correct. On Sundays, too, since all our Services commence at the quarter or half-hour, we shall tend to become more punctual, and we trust that the congregations will bear this in mind.

Choral Class.—It has been suggested that we might form a class again this winter, in connection with the Bourne musical competitions—not to compete with other classes, but to prepare short cantata—Stainer's "Crucifixion"—to be rendered in the Church during Holy Week. If this is possible, we have the promise of assistance from the Bourne Choral Society. Mr. Metcalfe kindly willing to coach us if we can get a sufficient number of voices.

Social Events.—The whist drive and dance on November 19th proved very successful and enjoyable: our thanks to Mr. Benton and others who organized it. We long for a parish hall, where such social gatherings could be held without all the disturbance to the school and the labour involved clearing the room. We now look forward to the fancy-dress dance on New Year's Eve, which hope many will patronize, and come in other characters than their own!

Baptism.—Nov 9. Thomas Herbert, son of Thomas William and Florence Annie Newton.