

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

MY DEAR FRIENDS.

The beginning of another year is always a suitable time for good resolves, and in wishing you a happy new year I should like to suggest one or two matters in which we might endeavour to begin afresh and do better than we have in the past. In the matter of Divine Worship for instance, some of us have of late grown careless and remiss. Some who formerly were regular in Sunday worship are now noticeably irregular. It is to these that I would appeal. Sunday is the Lord's Day, and to pass it by in neglect of public Worship is a more serious matter than it may at first sight seem to us. For apart altogether from the effect it gradually produces upon our own spiritual lives, there remains the harm that is done by our example to others, the extent of which may be very grievous indeed. Children follow the example of parents, men are influenced by the example of masters and employers, and so the careless father or mother, the careless master or mistress may well have to answer for others as well as themselves. The ideal I have always endeavoured to set before you is attendance at the Lord's Service on the Lord's Day, and this could be possible to very many if only they will realize the supreme importance of the highest act of Christian worship. The "way" can generally be found if we only have the "will." Then again I would urge more frequent communions, with more careful preparation, a regular attendance when possible at Evensong in addition to the morning Eucharistic worship, more time spent in prayer, and last but not least, more devout and reverent behaviour in the House of God. For instructed Christian people to misbehave in church is a contemptible thing, and is an insult to the Majesty of Almighty God, in the place where His Honour dwelleth. Praying that God will abundantly bless us all during the coming year.

I remain, Your affectionate Friend and Pastor,

LEONARD H. COOLEY.

Confirmation.—The Vicar asks for the names of candidates *early* in January.

Gifts to the church.—A friend who desires to remain anonymous has generously defrayed about half the cost of the new oak press in the Vestry. The press has five long drawers, in which are kept all the vestments, hangings and altar linen. Another friend has given to the church a silver box for holding the Sacramental Bread. A quantity of white flowers were given at Christmas for the altar decorations.

Children's Christmas gifts.—Mr. and Mrs. Fenwick again gave prizes and presents to all the school children, on 26th December, in the school, and in addition provided a conjurer, who charmed and delighted the large juvenile audience.

Prizes for Sunday attendance were awarded by the Vicar to the children on Advent Sunday. There were 30 prize-winners. 52 new stamp albums are issued, and we appeal to the parents to encourage the regular attendance of their children, and interest themselves in their albums.

Postal Changes.—We understand that we are to have a second delivery of letters, together with a second despatch. This long-needed concession is to come into force in the new year.

Baptism.—Lilian Ellen, daughter of Thomas and Florence Mary Francis.

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The Magazine.—Our circulation this year has reached the high figure of 93 copies, and all the subscribers except five have been kind enough to pay for the year in advance, for which we heartily thank them. Perhaps even the remaining five will see their way to do so during the present month.

The Fancy Dress Dance, on New Year's Eve, proved thoroughly successful and enjoyable, though there was a noticeable falling off in numbers. The Countess of Ancaster, who very kindly acted as judge, had a difficult task in selecting the prize winners, among so many really excellent costumes, but we trust that her awards met with general satisfaction.

The Carol Service on the Sunday within the Christmas Octave was beautifully rendered, and we highly appreciate the great kindness of the visitors who came over to help us: Mrs. Acland-Hood, Mrs. Crichton-Maitland and Mr. Sharpe. The Hallelujah Chorus, at the conclusion, was a fitting climax to the service. Handel, the composer of this inspired and magnificent piece of music, once said that during its composition he had a vision, "I thought" he said, "that I saw all Heaven before me, and the great God Himself upon His Throne."

The Rector of Careby.—On the 31st of January, the Rev. J. Birch-Reynardson, the esteemed and venerated Rector of Careby, completed his ninety-eighth year, having been at Careby for, we believe, the unparalleled time of seventy-three years, and during all these years he has won the love and affection of generations of parishioners. We respectfully trust that the evening of his long and useful life may close in peace.

The Bells.—At a ringers' meeting held last month, at the Hall, Mr. T. Bembridge was unanimously elected captain, and kindly undertook to do his best towards encouraging the art of change-ringing, and form an efficient team of ringers. Two or three learners have already volunteered their services. This is good news to all who love to hear our beautiful bells skilfully rung.

The Reading Room.—For some reason or other the room has not been patronized so well this winter, and unless more members join, it is feared that it will have to be closed. This is the fourth season that the present room has been used as a reading room, and up till now there have always been a large number of members. We much regret that it is no longer appreciated.

Agricultural Lectures.—A course of three lectures was given during January, by Mr. F. Wakerley, on the subject of agriculture. The attendance was very fair, and the lectures proved deeply interesting to those who attended the course.

Gift to the Choir Boys.—A lady member of the congregation was so much impressed by the reverent behaviour and hearty singing of the boys, on the occasion of the carol service, that she has most kindly presented them with a football. It is a great pleasure to think that our children should have earned this good opinion by their reverence in church, but it would be better still if parents and elders would come with them and help them by their example. The church was never intended to be a nursery where children can be sent merely to be out of the way.

Prize-winners.—The following are the winners of the school prizes, given at Christmas, by Mr. & Mrs. Fenwick. Champions:—Amy Chamberlain and Jack Carr; Stan. 6, Jack Harmston; Stan. 5, Gordon Woolmer and Lily Hamling; Stan. 4, Willie Collins and Catherine Healey; Stan. 3, Cecil Harmston and Winnie Haddon; Stan. 2, Stanley Harmston and Vera Redshaw; Stan. 1, Harold Ash and Harriet Kettleborough; Infants, Florence Bottomley.

Lent.—This solemn season of fasting and penitence begins on Ash Wednesday, February 25th. And why have a special time? Because "any time means no time," because as the Bible tells us there is "for everything a season and time," and this is the "time to mourn." Let us make a few good resolves for Lent, and having made them keep them. Make resolutions with regard to more regular attendance at church, particularly at the Holy Eucharist; more regular daily prayer, and some form of self-denial.

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Diocesan Church Funds.—A new finance scheme for the diocese of Lincoln, was started at the beginning of the present year. Formerly each parish gave what it liked (and some did not give at all) to the diocesan funds. Now under this new scheme every parish is assessed at a certain amount, according to its population and means: a rich town parish must give more, while a poor county parish is required only to give a little. Our own parish has been assessed at *four pounds*, which we consider a very fair and reasonable sum. Henceforth therefore, we shall have to find four pounds each year for the fund, and for the present we propose to devote the collections on Easter Day and Whitsun Day to this purpose (with the consent of the churchwardens). We hope then that all will give what they can afford on these two days; or failing this send their contribution direct to the Vicar. Many of our more well-to-do church-people are very far from giving "as GOD hath prospered them," and would be heartily ashamed if they could realize how small are their gifts in comparison with many of their poorer brethren. This ought not to be. Each of us should give according to our ability. We would add that the diocesan funds are in aid of several objects, the chief of which are the building and repair of churches, the religious education of our children and the supply of additional clergy in populous districts.

Confirmation.—Fifteen candidates (nine males and six females) are to be confirmed by the Bishop of Lincoln, on March 4th. We hope that parents and godparents will endeavour to be present at the ceremony; in Greatford church, at 2-30.

Children's Shrove-tide Tea.—On Monday, February 23rd, all the children who are regular in attendance on Sunday mornings, were entertained to tea by Nurse Collison, whose great kindness is highly appreciated. She asked to be allowed to give this treat as a reward to the children for their reverence and general good behaviour in church. On behalf of all the children we beg most heartily to thank her.

The Choir.—We miss Mr. J. Lambourne and Mr. A. Crowson from the choir on their departure from the parish, and earnestly ask that others will come forward to take their place.

Mothering Sunday.—Such is the old name for the 4th Sunday in Lent, and on this Sunday it was formerly customary for children who have left home to re-visit their absent mother, and keep the day in her honour. A widespread movement is on foot to revive this beautiful old custom.

Some Suggestions for Lent.—

- (1.) *To those of our readers who have become irregular at Public Worship:*—Come to one Service at least every Sunday.
- (2.) *To those who come only in the evening:*—Come in the morning instead, or in addition.
- (3.) *To those who come only to Mattins:*—Come to the Lord's Service instead.
- (4.) *To all:*—Come to the week-night Lent Services, which are as follows:—

Tuesday, March 3rd.
Tuesday, March 10th.
Tuesday, March 17th.

Wednesday, March 25th.
Wednesday, April 1st.

Burial.—February 27, William Rudkin, aged 78 years.

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Fourteen years at Witham. On the 3rd of April the Vicar will have completed fourteen years charge of the parish, during which time he has seen more changes than usually fall to the lot of a small village in so comparatively short a time. So numerous have been the alterations and improvements here during these few years that anyone returning now after an absence of fourteen years would find it hard to recognize as the same place. New houses built, old houses and buildings restored, and our grand old church enriched and beautified almost beyond recognition. He would miss, too, many old and familiar faces, and see many new ones in their place. Coming to the Hall and its surroundings he would be absolutely bewildered to see the vast alterations and improvements which have there been carried out, and would wonder if this could be the Witham that he knew, or if some magician's wand had not cast a spell over him! The Vicar during his incumbency has baptized 150 children, has presented 118 candidates for Confirmation, has buried 70 persons, and married 26 couples. The following table will shew the particulars.

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Baptisms	69	81	150
Confirmations ..	57	61	118
Burials	34	36	70

Many of the children baptized here have come from other places, which explains the large number of Baptisms.

We might add that the Vicar has outstayed all the other clergy of the neighbourhood within many miles who were here when he came, with the sole exceptions of the Rectors of Careby and Carlby.

The cricket club. The large attendance at the general meeting on the 9th March augurs well for the coming season. The following officers were elected. Captain, Mr. G. Lambert; Vice-captain, Mr. F. Parkin; Secretary, Mr. J. Redshaw; Treasurer, Mr. G. Eaton. In addition to the above, Messrs. Benton, T. Holmes and A. Sanders were appointed to serve on the selection Committee. A whist drive and dance in aid of the funds will be given on Wednesday in Easter week (April 15).

Stainer's "Crucifixion" will be rendered in the church on Tuesday in Holy week (7th April) at 7-30 p.m. Our own choir will be largely assisted by singers from Bourne, a number of whom have most kindly promised their help, both in the chorus parts and in rendering the solos. We hope that none of our people will miss this opportunity of hearing this beautiful and devotional cantata.

Good Friday. We appeal for the due recognition of this most solemn of all days in the year. As has been so often stated, it is a Holy day in the real sense, and not merely a holiday.

Easter Day. Communicants are reminded once more of the obligation which our holy religion lays upon us all, that all shall make their communion at Easter. The celebrations for communion will be at 7 and 8-30. The 11-15 service is primarily intended as the central Act of Worship for us all on the High Feast of our Blessed Lord's Resurrection.

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Holy Week and Easter.—This solemn time which forms, as it were, the climax of the Christian year, has come and gone once more. The number of Easter Communicants was the highest on record, which is a matter for devout thankfulness. On the other hand Holy week, and in particular Good Friday, was neglected by all too many. That the most sacred day of the whole year should be ignored or spent as a holiday is a matter which calls for deep searchings of heart by Christian men and women.

"The Crucifixion."—On Tuesday in Holy Week, this sacred cantata was sung in the church. It was agreed on all sides that the rendering was singularly beautiful, and the choruses in particular were most impressively sung. We have never heard such part singing before in our church. Although we had the kind assistance of several vocalists from Bourne, it was felt that with the aid of a few more of our own singers, and more especially tenors and basses, we could have well rendered the music without the aid of outside help. We hope this may be possible another year.

Easter Vestry Meeting.—The annual meeting was held on Easter Tuesday evening. The meeting is always called in the evening to enable the parishioners generally to attend. This year, however, the attendance was even smaller than usual. We wish that more interest might be shewn in the affairs of the church, and in the manner in which the church and charity accounts are administered. It is, of course, gratifying to the Vicar and Churchwardens to know that they have the confidence of the parishioners in the way the money is spent, but friendly criticism is always welcome. The collections for the year amounted to £54/8/10, and a balance remains in hand of £7/9/8. The coat charity shews a balance of £1/17/10, and the widows' charity of £1/7/0.

Lent Savings.—The self-denial offerings for the Church of England Waifs and Strays' Society amounted to £2/13/4. Although there were fewer donors, the total is slightly in excess of last year. Some of the children's contributions were quite wonderful.

The Postponed Marriage.—No one could have regretted the unhappy necessity of deferring this marriage more than the Vicar himself, who gave every assistance he could to the disappointed couple. Had he proceeded with the ceremony under the circumstances, the marriage would have been void, and he himself guilty of felony. When at last the legal ceremony was performed at Bourne, the couple rightly proceeded at once to the church for the nuptial blessing. Incidentally it may serve as a warning in future, so that due care may always be taken to comply with the necessary legal formalities.

Ascension Day or Holy Thursday falls on the 21st inst. Let us endeavour to commemorate it as a great Christian Holy Day. It is one of the four highest Festivals of the Church, ranking in importance with Christmas, Easter and Whitsun Days. The latter Festival falls on the last day of the month.

The Cricket Club.—The recent whist drive and dance resulted in the sum of £1/13/0 for the benefit of the funds.

Fixtures for May.—May 9, Holywell, away: May 23, Irnham, away: May 30, Bourne, home.

Baptisms.—April 12, Frank, son of Walter and Rose Fanny Warnes.

April 12, Daphne Mahala, daughter of Harry and Annie Lizzie Wand.

April 12, John, son of William and Ellen Elizabeth Bonnett.

Marriage.—April 23, Thomas William Kirby and Alice Maud Green.

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Sunday Services.—On Sundays the 14th, 21st and 28th of June, the Vicar proposes to be away. On these three Sundays Mr. Metcalfe has kindly promised to conduct a service for children, at 10-15, and there will be Evensong and Sermon as usual at 6-30. It is two years since the Vicar was absent from home on a Sunday, and he feels that a change may be good both for himself and the people. During his absence, any case of sickness or other urgent matter should be reported at once to his brother, at the vicarage, who will secure the help of a neighbouring priest.

New Danger Signals.—The two warnings, just erected in the village, were kindly supplied by the Lincolnshire Automobile Club, at the Vicar's request. The road through the village is a particularly dangerous one, containing as it does four right-angled corners, two of which—those at Mr. Pick's house and by the Post Office—being "blind" corners. The school constitutes an additional danger. With the ever increasing motor traffic, warnings to drivers became an absolute necessity. Children should be carefully instructed never to play in the centre of the road near a concealed turn, nor to run across the road without looking in both directions.

Collections for Stamford Infirmary.—The house-to-house collections, kindly made by Miss A. Holmes, Miss Lee and Miss Redshaw, amounted this year to £3/2/0, made up as follows, Witham £2/4/1, Manthorpe 4/6, and Toft-cum-Lound 13/5. Compared with last year, Witham has given 2/- less, Toft and Lound 1/4 less, and Manthorpe 6d. more.

Death of the Rector of Careby.—Just as we go to press has come the news of the passing of the aged and beloved Rector of Careby, the Rev. John Birch-Reynardson, at the patriarchal age of 98. As we wrote in the February Magazine, he had been at Careby for seventy-three years as Incumbent, a life-time in itself. His connection with Witham was ever a close and kindly one. He took the deepest interest in all that concerned the place, and particularly in our flower show, which he attended every year except the last. To the Vicar he was always the very kindest of friends, and the memory of that marked and unvarying kindness and genial friendship which he was privileged to receive from Mr. Reynardson will ever be cherished. R.I.P.

Ascension Day has come and gone once more. This beautiful Festival should surely be more to us than it is. The bright and hearty services of this day only needed a larger number of worshippers to make them—what they should be—among the most beautiful services of the year. All thanks to the ringers for the joyous peal on Ascension Day evening.

Cricket Fixtures.—June 13, v. Olipsham, away.

June 20, v. Ryhall, home.

June 27, v. Greatford, home.

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The Vicar hopes (D.V.) to be back on Saturday, 4th of July, and the services on Sunday, the 5th, will be Holy Eucharist at 8-30, sung celebration at 11-15, Mattins at 10-15 and Evensong at 6-30.

The Rural Dean formally visited the Church on the 3rd of June, where he met the Vicar and Churchwardens. The object of this visitation—which is to be an annual one in future—is to inspect the fabric of the Church, to see that it is in good repair, that it is clean and properly appointed for Divine service, and that the Churchyard is tidy and neat. By direction of the Bishop, an inventory or list of all moveable articles belonging to the Church has been made by the Vicar and Churchwardens. This list includes such things as plate, registers, vestments, altar ornaments &c., which the Rural Dean will require to see every year, so that nothing may be lost or alienated from the Church. Especially is this necessary in the case of the ancient registers, which in many parishes in the past have been lost or destroyed through carelessness. We hope that this may now be impossible. The Rural Dean earnestly advised that a fire-proof safe be provided for the registers, the cost of which would be about £3. He praised our orderly and beautiful Church in the highest terms, and was particularly pleased with the tidy appearance of the Churchyard.

The Chancel Windows in the Church have been treated with rose-coloured distemper. The glare through these windows in the summer time is intense, and is injurious to the altar hangings and sanctuary carpet. The subdued and tinted light now secured is very effective and pleasing. The Vicar borrowed the idea from Navenby Church, near Lincoln, where however the windows are permanently painted.

Lawn Tennis. The Vicar hopes that all tennis players will again make use of his lawn this summer. This capital game is—we read—more popular than ever this year, let us not be behindhand in Witham, when every place—small and great—seems now to have its tennis club.

Open Windows.—When the medical officer (Dr. Lowe) visited the school last month he asked if the Managers could possibly put in a word for the practise of sleeping with open windows, and stated how vital to health this was. If our children are to grow up strong and sturdy, they must have fresh air, and above all in the room where they sleep. Those who have hitherto slept with windows closed, let them commence this good and health-giving practise now during the warm nights, and we feel sure they will continue it, and never wish to return to the stuffy and ill-ventilated bedroom, so injurious to health.

Cricket Fixtures.—July 4, v. Rippingale, home.
July 11, v. Holywell, home.
July 18, v. Clipsham, home.
July 25, v. Rippingale, away.

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

In Memoriam, Walter Lionel Fenwick.—"When the day comes that I shall have to leave you." Who of us who heard these words from his lips on the 13th of August last year, could have foreseen how soon that sad day was to come, that he should have been taken from us within a year, the very first of us all to be called. All through those terrible days of suspense during his brief illness we hoped against hope, we prayed that the precious life might be spared, but GOD has willed otherwise, and we must submit. "The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the Name of the Lord." The first news of the Squire's death was received by the people who loved him, with almost incredulous consternation and grief. For all in this stricken parish, and hundreds besides, feel that they have lost a personal friend, one who had a place in his heart for every man, woman and child on the Estate. How we shall miss his active familiar figure as he went his accustomed rounds day by day, with his cheery whistle, his kindly greetings, and his pleasant word for all. Everyone who really knew him, instinctively trusted him and respected him. For he was a *man*—every inch of him, and yet he had one of the tenderest hearts in the world, a man of intrepid physical courage, and transparent nobility of character. To the Vicar personally he was the closest and most loyal of friends. On his first coming to Witham he took up his residence at the Vicarage for some six months, and thus began an intimacy which lasted unbroken to his death. In the church he ever took the keenest interest, and contributed with the utmost liberality both to church expenses and special objects.

It is vain now to think what might have happened under other circumstances, if he had not run down from London for the hasty "look round" on the Friday, if he had not contracted the chill on that evening, preventing his return the next day, if only he had taken more care of himself, for he never spared himself, never knew when he was tired, constantly overworked himself, and by his ceaseless activity of mind and body sorely overtaxed his powers. Such questions are not for us now, they are known only to the All-wise God. All that remains for us now is to offer our deepest and most heartfelt sympathy to his bereaved ones, and to remember him in our prayers, that God of His mercy may grant unto him refreshment, light and peace. The place where we laid him to rest was in conformity with his expressed wishes, as were the other details of his funeral. The Body was reverently carried to church on the day before the funeral, where it rested throughout the night, covered with the pall, and surrounded by the mortuary tapers. At the requiem Eucharist the next morning very many were present, and at the Burial office the whole of the tenantry came to pay their last tribute of loyal and heartfelt respect to his loved and honoured memory. By his special desire the funeral was of the simplest possible character, with the exception of the two hymns, but one felt he would have wished these, for he ever delighted in the church music, and then at the conclusion, the bells which he loved rung out a muffled peal. He asked for no flowers at his funeral, and if any should be sent that they should be distributed among the "old people." This touching request was carried out.

R. I. P.

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

The War.—During the last month there has broken out the great European war, a war long foreseen and dreaded, and in which our own country has been involved. It is impossible at the present time to foresee how long this great and terrible conflict may last, but it behoves us all to be prepared for a gigantic and protracted struggle, in which the utmost might of England must be put forth in defence of our very existence as a nation. Never has this country fought with a clearer conscience, or drawn her sword for a juster cause than she has now, and it behoves us all to do everything that lies in our power, and give the utmost help that we can in this hour of our country's need. We must everyone of us be true patriots.

How we can help.—All of us can help in our several ways. Surely in the first place there are some young men among us who will hear and respond to the call which has gone out for MEN, who will join the colours and submit themselves to military training. As we write, a meeting has been arranged to call for recruits, and we trust that, for the honour of the manhood of our parish, that call will not be in vain. Next, we can help by our gifts to the **Prince of Wales' Relief Fund**, for the relief of the terrible distress which will arise in the country in consequence of the war. A noble response was made to the Vicar's appeal, in church, on Sunday, August 16th, when the sum of £5/5/7 was collected for this fund. To those who did not then give, a further opportunity for subscribing will be offered in the parish collection which is now being made. Another means of helping will be found in the **Red Cross Society**, whose work consists in the care of our wounded sailors and soldiers. We hope to enlist the help of ladies in the parish to make garments for the troops, and possibly to arrange for instruction in ambulance and first-aid work. Hospitals are being equipped by this society all over the country, and every preparation made for all emergencies in case of invasion. Last but not least, we must help by our PRAYERS. There must be a constant stream of intercession to Almighty God to give us the victory. We know our cause is just, therefore we must pray for that cause. Acting on the suggestion of the Archbishop of Canterbury we shall have a celebration of the Holy Eucharist every Sunday during the war, at 11-15, as a solemn parochial act of intercession, and each day a bell will be tolled at noon, calling for the prayers of all who hear it on behalf of our sailors and soldiers. The church will, of course, be open all day for private prayer, as it always is.

Harvest Thanksgiving Services will be held D.V. on Sunday, 20th of September. If ever we needed to thank God for the harvest we need to do so now, in that He has abundantly blessed our crops in this year of sorest need. The collections at the thanksgiving will not be given to the Farmers' Benevolent Society, who have notified that they will not ask for them this year. Instead we shall probably have to devote them to church expenses.

Church Expenses.—Owing to the loss of the late Squire's generous help, the expenses of the church will be hard to meet in future. We appeal to all for increased gifts, otherwise we shall not be able to pay our way. The Vicar and Churchwardens will be obliged to consider in what direction the present expenses can be reduced.

Marriage.—13th August, Frank Drake and Fanny Maria Collins.

Burial.—18th August, George Walter Earl, aged 7 years.

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

The War.—The progress of our allied forces is slow though we trust sure. It is quite possible that a very long time may elapse before the cessation of hostilities and the final victory is won. Meanwhile we must not slacken our intercessions. Let everyone of us make a resolve to pray daily during the war for our brave sailors and soldiers, and the success of our arms. Twelve o'clock is the time suggested by the authorities for such intercessions, at which hour the "Peace Bell" is tolled, to remind us of this duty. Further, every Sunday the service at 11-15 is set apart as the special weekly act of intercession: let all who can attend it in preference to any other, and make it a reality.

The Red Cross Society.—Our parish has given most valuable help to this society's work by providing and equipping twelve kit-bags for the troops at the front. Each bag contains a shirt, pair of slippers, two pairs of socks, towel, handkerchiefs, comb, laces, boracic ointment, writing materials, pipe, tobacco and cigarettes. The last three items are the gift of Lady Ancaster. The following are the donors of the bags—Mrs. Bradshaw, Mrs. Brudenell, Mrs. Carr, Miss Christie, Mr. E. W. Cooley, Miss Lee, Miss Metcalfe, Mrs. Parkin, Mrs. Pick, Mrs. Redshaw, Mrs. Wallis and the Vicar. Shirts have been given by Mrs. Battram, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Lambert, Mrs. Pick, Mrs. Fenwick 4, and the Vicar 4; the last eight being made by Miss Brudenell, Miss Christie, Mrs. Glenn, Mrs. Garner, Mrs. Holmes, Miss Osborn, Mrs. M. Pell and Mrs. Redshaw. Our grateful thanks to all.

The Dedication Festival.—The Feast Sunday falls this year on the 1st of November. Let us keep it as a day of thanksgiving for our spiritual blessings. We feel that in this year of trouble and anxiety the usual Parish Tea and Entertainment had better not be held.

The Rifle Range.—We trust that by the time this magazine is published shooting may be recommenced at the miniature range, in the sand pits. We desire to thank Mr. Fenwick for providing this excellent opportunity for rifle practise, and feel sure that many will avail themselves of it.

The Prince of Wales' Fund.—In addition to the large collection made in church, which we recorded last month, a house-to-house collection in the civil parish of Witham—kindly undertaken by Miss A. Holmes—has resulted in a further sum of £3/18/0. Collections are to be made—so far as we know—in Manthorpe and Toft-cum-Lound.

The Palace Farm.—There is no one who will not deeply regret the approaching departure of Mr. Moxon, whose family have lived at the Palace Farm for the long space of 65 years. Mr. Moxon's parents were among the most esteemed and respected of the inhabitants of the village, and lived their long married life in the beautiful old house, which is one of our chief architectural glories, and formed part of the ancient Manor House of Witham. The severance of so long a connection will be keenly felt by us all, and not least by Mr. Moxon and his family. Our sincerest good wishes will accompany Mr. and Mrs. Moxon in their new sphere.

Baptisms.—30th August, Amelia, daughter of James and Beatrice Panter.

13th September, James Edward, son of James Edward and Ethel Annie Clarke.

27th September, Emily Mary, daughter of John William Pacey and Mary Ann Cooper.

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The Fallen.—November—the month consecrated by ancient custom to the remembrance of the blessed dead—should this year have a special message for us. Prayer for those who have passed away is a universal Christian practice, and happily it finds its place in the intercessions ordered for use by the bishops in this time of war. The least we can do for those brave fellows who lay down their lives for us and perish to purchase our peace is to pray for them, and ask GOD to receive their souls in peace and grant them His eternal rest. Let us then include them in our intercessions at the Holy Eucharist Sunday by Sunday. There will also be a Requiem Celebration each Monday in November, at 8-30.

With the Colours.—We give below the names of those who have gone forth from our own parish and are now serving with the forces—

Walter Archer, Lincolnshire Regiment

William Birch, "

Lieut. K. R. G. Fenwick, Royal "Horse Guards

Lieut. A. L. Fenwick, Lincolnshire Regiment

Arthur Hamling, "

William Holmes, Northumberland Fusiliers

Leslie W. Metcalfe, West Yorks. Regt. Leeds Rfls.

Frank Morris, Lincolnshire Regiment

Herbert Pell, "

Edgar Pick, Staffordshire Yeomanry "

Albert Saunders, Lincolnshire Regiment

H. Thacker, East Yorkshire Regiment

Cecil Woolmer, Lincolnshire Regiment

Howard Woolmer, " "

To all these we shall give a special place in our thoughts and prayers, and wish them a safe and happy return at the conclusion of the war.

Red Cross Work.—Many of the elder girls in school have not only made useful knitted articles for the troops, but have purchased the wool themselves. Their work is all the more welcome as it is entirely voluntary. May it be an incentive to others. Lady Ancaster appeals for cuffs, mittens, mufflers, and body-belts, which are urgently required at the Front at once. Who will help? Meanwhile Mrs. Metcalfe will gladly receive any small contributions in money to procure more wool for the girls in school to continue to make these articles.

The Lincolnshire Hut at Netley Hospital.—This contains 20 beds, and is entirely supported by this county. The Vicar asks for monthly subscriptions of sixpence a month towards its maintenance. Thus—say—20 subscribers would enable us to send ten shillings a month as our share.

The Chimes.—On November 1st, All Saints' Day, we shall have had our beautiful chimes just a year. And now they seem to us indispensable.

The late Squire's Cross.—The gravestone cross which has just been erected is fashioned, in accordance with his written instructions, out of stone from Colonel Birch-Reynardson's pits, at Holywell. It is a copy of the cross over the grave of the late Mr. Johnson, which was designed by the Squire himself, and is of strikingly beautiful proportions.

Obituary.—The death of Mr. John Lloyd will be keenly felt by many of the older parishioners. For he was a native of Witham, and lived here the greater part of his life. For a number of years he served as Vicar's Churchwarden. We offer our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Lloyd and his bereaved family.
R. I. P.

Baptisms.—October 18th, Walter, son of Fred and Anna Pawlett.

October 25th, Violet Winifred, daughter of George Peter and Agnes Elizabeth Eaton.

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

Christmas this year will be overshadowed by anxiety and trouble, still for the Christian nothing can destroy the joy and comfort of this most sacred Festival. Let us try and keep it in the right spirit.

Plum Puddings for the Soldiers.—Mr. M. Fenwick wishes to thank all who have so kindly promised these for despatch to the troops at the front. Nearly a hundred have been offered.

Prince of Wales' Fund.—Miss Lee has made 5/- for the Fund by sale of penny bags of lavender.

Princess Mary's Fund.—Two of our lads—George Neale and Jack Weldon, made a collection in the village on Guy Fawkes' day for this Fund towards sending Christmas presents to the troops abroad. It was a kindly and thoughtful act, and they were able to send 10/- to her Royal Highness, and duly received a grateful acknowledgement from Buckingham Palace.

Lincolnshire Hut.—Many have kindly responded to the appeal for monthly subscriptions during the war towards the working expenses of this Hospital. Over 10/- a month has been promised. Further monthly contributions will be gratefully accepted.

Knitting.—Our young people have done well. Many busy fingers have been at work, and articles are still being made. Mrs. Metcalfe has received several subscriptions (one of a pound from a generous friend) for purchasing wool. The following articles have already been made and despatched—23 body belts, 10 pairs of cuffs, 8 pairs of mittens.

On Service.—To the fourteen names given last month of those from this parish who are serving with the forces we must add Ernest Chapman, Northants. Regt., Harold Gordon Cooper, Lancs. Regt. (Kings' Own), Harold Cox, Lincolnshire Regt., Arthur Kempe, Royal Navy..

The Clubs.—The 17 Members of the Clothing Club have received a bonus of 3/- on their contributions. The Members of the Coal Club, also 17, have a bonus of 4/6, and will receive 16½ hundredweight of Coal. Last year 5/- bonus was given. These figures shew that there ought to be no ground for dissatisfaction.

Horticultural Lectures.—Early in the new year a course of lectures on gardening will be given by Mr. J. W. Benton, which will no doubt be widely appreciated. Notice of lectures given later.

S.P.G. Sunday.—On Sunday, November 22nd, the collections in aid of Foreign Missionary work amounted to £1/10/0. This great and urgent Christian work ought to be supported more generously in our parish. Are there not some who will take a Missionary Box? The Vicar will gladly provide them.

The Choir Surplices.—The parents of some of the choir boys have very kindly washed their surplices. May we venture to ask if they will continue to do this from time to time? The church washing bills are heavy, and we are now unhappily obliged to practise the utmost economy in our church expenses.

Suggestions have been made by several people that something might be done by us here in the parish to perpetuate the memory of our late Squire. At this time of the year his unfailing kindness and thoughtfulness for us all will come more deeply home to our minds. If there is any widespread desire to provide a Memorial, effect will be given to carry it out. The Vicar has been asked to insert this proposal, and will be glad to know what is the general feeling about the subject, also if anything is done, what form of memorial would be generally acceptable.

The Magazine.—Will all our readers continue their kind support next year, and also as before, pay 1/- for the year. We particularly request this which saves so much trouble in keeping the accounts.

Obituary.—We respectfully offer our sympathy with the family of the late Mrs. J. Wells in their great bereavement.

Burial.—11th November, Mary Ann Wells, aged 64 years.