

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

1915.—Our wish to all our readers on this occasion shall be for a *happier* New Year. The year that is gone has been the one of the saddest in the annals of our parish, and the Christmas Festival has only served to remind us afresh of our loss. For Christmas was ever a season particularly dear to our late Squire, and which he loved to mark by thoughtful acts of kindness to us all. His irreparable loss and the added gloom and anxiety of war have combined to make 1914 a year of sorrow which we shall never forget.

Christmas.—The joy of this sacred season—which nothing on earth can ever quite destroy—has been a subdued joy. We had our bright festive services as usual, and the church looked beautiful with its customary decorations. But apart from the religious observance of the great Festival there is little to chronicle. Our usual social gatherings have not been held. For these we must wait for happier times.

The Christmas Gifts.—After Divine Service on Christmas Day the Vicar and Churchwardens dispensed the ancient charities, when eight widows received 25/- apiece, and ten men received a coat.

Gifts to the Tenantry.—The recipients of the kind and generous presents from the Squire and Mrs. Fenwick will, we feel sure, desire to record their special gratitude this year, for such gifts we know were largely unexpected, and they value highly the kind thoughtfulness which prompted them.

The Children's Prizes.—Although no Christmas Tree was given this year for reasons which will be readily understood by all the children, yet the Squire most kindly gave the usual prizes to the heads of each standard, which he himself distributed in the school to the delighted and gratified winners.

Day of Intercession.—Sunday the 3rd of January, has by request of the King, been set apart as a day of solemn intercession for Divine guidance in the hour of national crisis. The day will be observed by every religious body in the kingdom, and we trust that all the parishioners will take part in one or other of the special services in church, which will be held at 8-30, 11-15 and 6-30. Forms of service will be provided and special hymns will be used.

Baptism.—27th December, Mabel Lily, daughter of Herbert and Rose Ellen Thacker.

Burial.—(At Rauceby), 15th December, Fanny Moxon, aged 56 years

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

Lent, a call from God—Year after year this precious season of grace comes to us and we pass it by. This year however, which is likely to prove the most momentous in our lives, the call of Lent is one to which we must listen. We must try and put away our indifference and our apathy, and turn to God, who alone can help us in this hour of our country's peril. Many of us seem to have lapsed into indifference, which in a small scattered community like ours is the most deadly enemy which we have to fight. There has been a sad falling away lately of several who once were regular worshippers, regular communicants. Since the outbreak of war there have actually been more empty places in the House of God than before. Well then, let us all begin afresh this Lent. Let every reader of these words ask himself or herself: "how can I best answer God's call this Lent?" Make a resolution to pray daily, to come to church with regularity, to begin afresh to be a frequent communicant, to put our duty to God before our own convenience and inclination, and thus to help ourselves and others to serve God better.

Services in Lent.—On Wednesday evenings a short devotional Service, with address by a special preacher. On Sundays, an afternoon Service at 3 o'clock for the children, to which also older people are earnestly invited. On Sunday morning Divine Service will be at 11 instead of 11-15. This may enable more to attend, as it will be over soon after 12, and this, be it remembered, is our special weekly act of intercession during the war.

Two further Recruits.—Alfred Pick and Richard Carr, Royal Field Artillery.

The Magazine.—Our circulation keeps up. We desire to thank all those readers who have so kindly paid for the year. Perhaps the few remaining ones will endeavour to do the same.

The Day of Intercession last month was unfortunately very wet, preventing the attendance of many from a distance. Our offerings of £1 4s. 6d. were given to the Red Cross Society.

Our Church Collections of late have shown a decrease. If we are absent on Sunday we should not withhold our weekly gift to GOD, but make an additional offering on the following Sunday. Thus we can fulfil the command "on the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as GOD hath prospered him." (I Cor. xvi. 2).

New-laid eggs for the wounded. Several friends have kindly promised a few eggs weekly for the wounded sailors and soldiers in hospital. We hope later on that others will be able to spare some also. They will be sent to the receiving house at Stamford every Friday, and should arrive at the Vicarage by Thursday. 200,000 are needed every week. Many hundreds have been already promised in the district.

WITHAM ON THE HILL, MANTHORPE, TOFT AND LOUND.

Special Preachers in Lent.—Ash Wednesday, the Rev. C. Hunton, Edenham; 24th February, the Rev. J. J. Crathorne, Creeton; 3rd March, the Rev. H. Cotton Smith, Bourne; 10th March, the Rev. A. Early-Ayre, Careby; 18th March, the Rev. H. D. Henderson, Bourne; 24th March, the Rev. A. J. Williams, Little Bytham. Also on Good Friday morning the service will be taken and the address given by the Vicar of Bourne, as the Vicar has undertaken to conduct the Three Hours Service in Bourne Church.

Volunteer Training Corps.—A well attended meeting in support of this movement was held in the school, on the 15th. February, and the first drill took place on the following Saturday. About 24 men signified their willingness to join. When the movement is better understood and appreciated, we hope that further numbers will come forward. It has certainly "taken on" in the country, and already numbers something approaching a million men. Volunteers must be outside the age for regular military service, that is under 19 or over 38, except in the case of those who have good and sufficient reasons for not joining the colours. The question of uniform and equipment need not deter any from joining, as the provision of these will be considered later. The main thing is for the greatest possible number of men to learn the rudiments of drill and musketry, so as to be able to be of some service in the defence of their homes and country in the event of invasion by the enemy, and not to suffer the ignominy of being sent to a place of safety with the women and children as helpless non-combatants. The movement should also serve as a powerful incentive to recruiting, for the veriest "shirker" must feel some compunction as he sees the "old guard" turning out to "do their bit" while he stands idly by.

V.T.C. Uniform.—The War Office has sanctioned a special uniform for the corps of green-grey rainproof drill, light and inexpensive, loose enough to be worn over civilian clothing, with a broad brassard or armlet.

With the Colours.—The following names must be added to our parish list of men on service—Harold Pell, Suffolk Regiment, Amos Buswell, Lincoln Regiment, William Archer, Motor Transport, Arthur Francis, R.A.M.C.

Eggs for the Wounded.—In four weeks we have been enabled to send over 130 eggs for the use of our wounded soldiers in hospital. Now that they are becoming less scarce, perhaps other poultry keepers will send a few each Thursday to the Vicarage for this object. All eggs sent will be gratefully acknowledged.

Lent.—On the 1st Sunday in Lent the Bishop's Pastoral Letter was read. It certainly contained subjects for much reflection, and was specially marked by vigorous advice on the question of Lenten self-denial. The ecclesiastical rule of abstinence from flesh meat however has been relaxed this Lent, owing to the war. We would especially plead for the support of the "Waifs and Strays" Society, whose needs owing to the war are more than usually urgent. Will you, dear reader, take a self-denial box or give a donation, however small, in support of this most deserving charity?

Baptisms.—31st January, George William Raymoud, son of James Horace and Edith Annie Boddy.
14th February, Ethel Eliza, daughter of Herbert and Annie Sarah Hamling.

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

Easter Day.—There will be three celebrations of the Holy Eucharist, at 7, 8-30 and 11. At this great Festival the Church bids all the faithful to make their communion. Let none fail to win the blessing which is promised to obedience. It is our Blessed Lord's command, and our Church's rule, could any duty therefore be plainer?

Lent Savings.—Will those who have self-denial boxes kindly bring or send them to the church on Easter Sunday afternoon, when the contents will be counted after the 3 o'clock service.

The Easter Vestry Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 8th, at 7-30. The attendance is requested of all who are interested in the Church's welfare. The problem of a diminished income and how to effect economy will have to be dealt with.

April is usually a month of changes in our little community, and this year is no exception. This April we shall bid farewell to some of our very oldest parishioners. For instance Mr. and Mrs. Carr are about to leave us, though happily they are not going very far away. Their connection with Witham is a long and intimate one, and their twelve children—from the eldest in 1879 to the youngest in 1902—were all born and baptized here. Such a connection is not lightly severed. The same may be said of Mrs. Healey, who was both baptized and married in this church, and goes this month to her new home near Lincoln. Mr. Moxon too, has hitherto known no other home but Witham. To all these we wish to say how genuinely sorry we are to lose them, and that we wish them every happiness in their new homes. To the newcomers too this month, we venture to offer a hearty welcome.

Affection for the Old Church.—These changes prompt us to speak of the feeling which those who have gone nearly always express about Witham church. There is some indefinable charm about our church (we cannot express it otherwise) which gradually influences those who worship here, but which is often not realized by people until they have gone away. While they are here they may criticize perhaps the services or the singing or the sermons, but once they have left the parish, then no other church ever seems quite what the old Church was, they never feel "at home" in the way they felt in this church. This is no mere fancy. Again and again has the Vicar heard from those who have gone how greatly they miss the Witham services, and wish they were back at them again. Whatever it is about our old church, whether it be the atmosphere of reverence or the beauty of its appointments, which is thus so helpful, we may well thank God for it, and would suggest to those who are still with us that they use and value the privileges which they have, and not wait until they are gone before they realize how helpful those privileges were.

Archdeacon's Visit—The Archdeacon of Lincoln paid a visit of inspection to the church on the 24th March, and expressed his great pleasure both at the appointments of the interior and at the condition of the churchyard. He considered that it should serve as a model of what a village church ought to be.

Golden Wedding.—By inadvertence we omitted to record the golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Garner, of Manthorpe, on the 6th February. They were the recipients of several gifts on the auspicious occasion, including one from the Squire and Mrs. Fenwick.

V.T.C.—Now that the evening for drill has been altered from Saturday to Friday, we look forward to a considerably increased attendance.

Baptism.—March 28th, John, son of John William and Jane Wilson.

Burial.—March 6th, Thomas Green, aged 63 years.

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

Easter was kept as befitting this glorious festival. A new service (Adlam in G) was rendered at the Choral Eucharist. The music is easy, tuneful, and not too high, and therefore well suited for congregational singing. In spite of the total lack of primroses, the church never looked better in its floral decoration.

The Easter Vestry Meeting was held on Thursday in Easter week, when there was a fairly good attendance. Mr. Thos. Pick kindly consented to stand as Vicar's Churchwarden (for the 15th year in succession), and Mr. Bradshaw as Parish Warden (which makes his 25th year of office). Messrs. F. Browett and G. W. Wallis were appointed as sidesmen.

The Church Accounts unfortunately showed an excess of expenditure over income of £8, in spite of a year of most rigid economy. This is the first time since the Vicar came that we have had an adverse balance at the Vestry Meeting. The Sunday collections have been more than maintained, and the cause is due to the loss of the late Squire's support, who contributed about £30 a year to the church expenses. We can only appeal to the congregation for increased support, and for *regular* contributions, either weekly or monthly. It is difficult to know where to economise any further, and it would be disastrous to have to give up such a work, for instance, as the mowing of the churchyard, which was so dear to the heart of the late Squire, who loved neatness and order.

Two Festivals of great importance fall within this month: Ascension Day or Holy Thursday on the 13th, and Whitsun Day on the 23rd. We plead for the due observance of the former particularly, as, although it is one of the four great Feasts of the year, it falls upon a working day, and its importance is apt to be overlooked.

Stamford Infirmary.—The usual house-to-house collection will be made during May. We have many calls upon us at the present time, we know, but we must endeavour not to allow this most deserving cause to suffer.

Our Roll of Honour.—We hope soon to have a list of the names of those from this parish who are serving with the forces, to be hung up in the church, so that we may remember them individually in our intercessions, and those who are on active service will be commemorated by name at our weekly service of intercession every Sunday morning. Once again we remind our readers that this service is at 11 o'clock, and that it is the great Act of Intercession which our Lord Jesus Christ has expressly commanded.

Eggs for the Wounded.—We now send between 40 and 50 every week. Are there not still others who can spare a few? They should be sent to the Vicarage not later than each Thursday evening.

The Vicarage Garden.—The Vicar will be most pleased if any who care to do so will use his garden during the summer evenings. For those who wish to play tennis the court will be ready the first week in May.

Burial.—19th April, George William Raymond Boddy, aged 3 months.

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

Our School Roll of Honour.—Mr. Metcalfe has supplied the following list of old scholars now serving with his Majesty's Forces.

Walter Archer, Lincs. Regiment
*William Archer, Motor Transport
William Birch, Lincs. Regiment
Leslie Brighton, Lincs. Regiment
Richard, Carr, R.F.A.
William Carr, Army Remounts
Arthur Francis, R.A.M.C.
Arthur Hamling, Lincs. Regiment
William Holmes, Northumberland Fusiliers
Cyril Keefe, Lincs. Regiment
Lancelot Lloyd, Lincs. Yeomanry
Raymond Lloyd, Lincs. Yeomanry

*Leslie Metcalfe, Leeds Rifles, West Yorks. Regiment
Harold Pell, Suffolk Regiment
Herbert Pell, Lincs. Regiment
Alfred Pick, R.F.A.
Edgar Pick, Staffs. Yeomanry
Alfred Weldon, Lincs. Regiment
Harry Wilkinson, 5th Dragoon Guards.
Jabez Wilkinson, K.O.Y.L.I.
*Walter Wilkinson, R. Navy, H.M.S. "Sentinel"
Cecil Woolmer, Lincs. Regiment
Horace Woolmer, Sherwood Foresters
*Howard Woolmer, 1st Lincolns

*On Active Service.

Gifts for the Wounded.—We have been asked by Mrs. Fenwick to publish the following appeal: Vegetables, poultry, fruit and provisions will be gratefully received for wounded at Stamford Infirmary and other Hospitals. The smallest gifts are welcome. Any one who desires to help is asked to communicate with Mrs. Fenwick. The gifts will be sent to Stamford weekly, on Fridays.

Sunday Afternoons.—We should be glad to see more older people at this delightful little service on Sunday afternoons at 3 o'clock. Their presence would render the service more hearty, and encourage the children. Do we quite realize how much our absence from church may influence the children for evil? Children are quick to notice things, and when they see that older people do not value the services, and are absent Sunday after Sunday, they are led to undervalue the importance of public worship, and themselves stay away when school-days are over. Do we older ones and those who are parents realize our great responsibility in the matter of *example*? The most awful words of warning which our Blessed Lord ever uttered were directed against those who caused the little ones to stumble. These same remarks might also apply to the occasional week-day services at which our children are present. There are some who might, if they wished, come to these.

Baptisms.—9th May, Winifred Louisa Dale, daughter of Sylvester Dale and Annie Elizabeth Lefevre.
23rd May, Louis Harold, son of George Thomas and Mary Jane Pell.

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

July the 15th is the anniversary or year's-mind of the death of the late Squire. There will be a memorial celebration at 8 o'clock.

Collections for the Stamford Infirmary.—The house-to-house collections were very kindly made by Miss Hill in Witham and Manthorpe, and by Miss Lee in Toft and Lound. The amounts are:—Witham £3/4/0, Manthorpe 11/4, Toft-cum-Lound 15/9. Total for the parish £4/11/7, which is an increase of 30/- upon last year's amount. We beg to thank the subscribers most heartily for their increased support of this deserving cause, especially this year when the calls upon us all are so numerous.

Stamford Red Cross Motor Abulance.—A house-to-house collection in aid of the above has been made in Witham, and the handsome sum of £8/16/4 has been realized, and has been sent by Mrs. Fenwick to the Mayoress of Stamford.

The Lincolnshire Hut at Netley.—This hospital is entirely supported by the monthly contributions from Lincolnshire villages. We collect here about 14/- per month. A few additional monthly subscribers of 6d. or 1/- would be most welcome. Lady Ancaster appeals also this month for towels and socks as the articles most required at present at the Front.

Overseas Club Penny Fund.—A sum of 19/- has recently been collected and given by the school children towards this fund, which despatches gifts and comforts to the troops abroad. Postcards are enclosed in the parcels, to enable the recipients to send their thanks to the donors.

Religious Inspection of the School.—On the 3rd of June, the Vicar of Morton inspected the school and examined the children in religious knowledge. The result of his inspection is a most gratifying one. He estimates the religious instruction given as "*very good*," and adds in his Report:—"The religious instruction is carefully attended to. Good answers were given to the questions on the Catechism, and the Christian Seasons have been thoroughly taught. The written work was well and neatly done."

Baptism.—20th June, Audrey Ruth, daughter of Frank and Fanny Maria Drake.

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

A Year of War.—August the 4th will be the anniversary of the declaration of war with Germany a whole year, and the end is not yet. A year ago we wrote in the Magazine the following words, and events have fully justified their truth. "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 every one of us be true patriots."

What are we doing to help?—Three great duties lie before us, prayer, service, sacrifice. As to *prayer*, we have grown slack and neglectful in our intercessions. Let us make a fresh start with the new year of the war. "Prayer moves the Hand which moves the World." As to *service*, what is our bit? Are we doing it? All honour to our brave fellows from Witham, Toft and Manthorpe who have answered the call to arms. They are a goodly number, and we are proud of them. But are we doing our best? Are they to make the great sacrifice, while we stand idly by? It is a question we all ought to face, and the National Register which is to be made this month will help us to face it. Lastly, *sacrifice*, a voluntary giving up of all which is not necessary, a strict economy in our expenditure, no waste of any kind in our households. The nation has got to save £1,000,000,000 a year to pay for the war, and we must all help.

Red Cross Fete at Grimsthorpe.—On Monday, August the 2nd, a Fête is to be held in Grimsthorpe Park, in aid of the British Red Cross Society. We trust that all who possibly can will go and support this good and noble cause. Tickets (6d. each) can be had of the Vicar.

Wanted, a copy of this Magazine for April, 1914. The Vicar would be very grateful to any one who can spare it for inclusion in the parish memoirs.

Obituary.—Just as we are writing for the press comes the sad news of the death of Mr. Ernest Carr, fourth son of Mr. R. W. Carr, late of Witham, and now living at Fletland Mill. He had recently joined the Motor Transport Service, was expecting to go to the front in the course of a few days, when he was taken ill in Hertfordshire where he was stationed, and died in Hospital at St. Albans, on July the 24th. Ernest Carr was for years a member of our choir and also a ringer. His genial and kindly nature won him many friends, and his early death will come as a great shock to us all. We venture to express our deepest sympathy with his stricken parents and family. He and Ernest Jackson were always the closest of friends, and now he has followed him to rest, only one year later in life, for he was 26 years of age.

R.I.P.

Children's Treat.—On Tuesday, 27th of July, the children who attend the Sunday afternoon service were invited to tea by the Vicar. Thanks to Miss Hill and other kind helpers they had a most delightful and enjoyable time.

Burial.—27th July Ernest Carr, aged 26 years.

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

Sunday, August 15th will ever be memorable as the date when the National Register was taken. In the event of compulsory service, which in the opinion of many is not far distant, the register will prove an inestimable help to the Government. The remarkable point about this vast undertaking is that the whole of the work is being done voluntarily, and tens of thousands have willingly given their services in distributing and collecting the papers, and in tabulating the results.

The school broke up for the summer holidays on Friday, August 13th, and according to present arrangements will re-assemble on Monday, September 20th.

Harvest Thanksgiving.—It is proposed to hold the services of thanksgiving for the Harvest on Sunday, September 19th. Due notice will be given nearer the time, and the object to which our offerings will be devoted will be announced.

Our Intercession Services.—We most earnestly appeal to those who seldom or never attend the special intercession service on Sunday mornings, to re-consider the matter, and make an effort to use and value this solemn service during the time of war. A heavy responsibility lies on those of us who are not using the power of prayer to the utmost for our beloved country in this time of peril and trouble. "But why have it in the morning?" some may ask. Because that is the time when we may offer to GOD the Intercession which He has *commanded*, by shewing forth before Him the Sacrifice of the death of Christ. That is the highest form of prayer, and avails beyond all other forms of intercession. Sunday after Sunday, with hardly an exception since the war began, the Vicar has been at great pains to prepare and deliver a suitable address on some subject connected with the war, and so to centre and focus our thoughts during that one service on the one all-absorbing topic. He has thus studiously refrained from dealing with the subject again at the evening service, in conformity with the expressed desire of the Bishop, who has requested the clergy not to preach on war topics too frequently.

Early Celebrations of the Holy Communion are held—as all must know—on the first and third Sundays of each month. These precious opportunities should be used by many of us far more frequently. Surely a monthly communion should be our rule if we are at all striving to lead obedient Christian lives. May we suggest that after this service communicants should not hurry away the moment the service is over, but remain on their knees in prayer and meditation, and say their thanksgiving before leaving the church. It is an immensely helpful practice.

Request.—The Vicar has been asked by Mrs. Carr if he can let her have several copies of last month's Magazine. As the issue is out of print, he ventures to ask those readers who do not care to keep their copies if they will be kind enough to return them to him.

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

The Harvest Thanksgiving was held on Sunday, 19th of September. The church was beautifully adorned with corn and flowers and we heartily thank those who so kindly helped to make it so, as well as those who sent gifts of decorations. The congregations were perhaps less in point of numbers than in former years, but this is a very general experience due to the war. The restlessness and suspense of this terrible time has had two opposite effects as regards religion, those who before were practising Christians have become more definitely religious, while on the other hand the careless and neglectful have become more neglectful still. This latter is a strange and sad result of our trouble, but one which has been very generally noticed everywhere.

The offerings at the Harvest Thanksgiving were in aid of the British Red Cross Society, and amounted to £2/6/9, a goodly sum in these days of increased expenses. Indeed, all the collections for many months have shown a very marked increase, and particularly is this the case with the morning collections.

A generous offer.—Lieut. Fenwick has very kindly undertaken to contribute annually towards the church expenses. Knowing the liberal support which his father always gave to the church, and realizing how serious the loss of his help must be, he has made this most generous offer to the Vicar and Churchwardens. Needless to say, his great kindness has lifted a load of anxiety from their minds, as the adequate maintenance of the church without the late Squire's help had become a very serious problem.

Woodwork Class.—This class will, it is hoped, be held as usual this year, provided that the number of students required by the County Education authority is forthcoming. The class will commence on Tuesday, October 12th, and will meet each Tuesday evening in the winter months from 7 to 9. Mr Metcalfe will be glad to know the names of all who wish to join, and we hope that it will be once more as appreciated as in past years. It is now many years since this class was first started, and it would be calamitous if so useful and enjoyable an institution were to fall through.

2nd Lieut. A. L. Fenwick has been invalided home from the Dardanelles, and is at the time of writing in hospital in London. He has been through a very "hot" time at the Front with the 6th Lincoln, and was recently transferred to the Borderers who were short of officers. We all most earnestly wish him speedy recovery.

The Dedication Festival.—The "Feast Sunday" i.e., the Sunday within the week or Octave of the ancient Dedication Festival, falls this year on the 31st of October. What does it mean? It is the anniversary of the consecration of the church, and is meant to be kept as a day of Thanksgiving for the blessings of our holy religion, the day when we thank GOD for supplying the needs of our souls, just as the Harvest Festival we thank Him for the needs of our bodies. Once we understand its meaning it becomes one of the most beautiful and helpful festivals in the whole year. Usually we mark it by social gatherings as well as by religious rejoicing, but this year again the customary Parish Tea must be abandoned, owing to the shadow of the great war.

Baptism—12th September, Clara, daughter of Walter and Rose Fanny Warnes.

Burial.—5th September Bruce Edgar Carr aged 3

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

"Our Day."—The special appeal for the Red Cross Society has met with a generous and splendid response in the parish. No less a sum than £11/5/6 has been given. Almost every house in the parish contributed, and contributed generously. The amount was made up as follows:—Witham, £8/15/0, collected by Miss Hill and Miss Redshaw; Manthorpe, £1/8/3, collected by Miss Osborn; Toft and Lound, £1/0/3, collected by Miss Lee, who also contributed 2/- from the sale of lavender. When to the above we add the recent church collection of £2/6/9 for the same object, the total amount subscribed by the parish is £13/12/3. Well done; Witham!

Lincolnshire Hut at Netley.—We appeal to the monthly subscribers to continue their support of the above, and will greatly welcome any further subscriptions of 1/- or 6d. per month.

In Memoriam.—The news of the death of Arthur John Carr, the youngest child of Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Carr, came as a shock to us all, following as it did so closely upon that of his brother Ernest. For Jack Carr was a general favourite, with his genial smile and loveable character. Last year he won a scholarship, by which he proceeded to Stamford Grammar School, and gave every promise of a successful and useful career. His body was laid to rest in our churchyard beside his brother's grave, when there were many expressions of sorrow and sympathy and a number of beautiful floral tributes. As he was a member of our choir, the funeral was a choral one, two hymns were sung in church and the 23rd Psalm at the graveside. The lesson was read by the Rev. J. D. Day, Headmaster of Stamford Grammar School. We offer our deepest and heartfelt sympathy with his stricken parents, who have thus been bereaved of two sons and a grandson within three months. R.I.P.

Captain W. I. Johnson (4th Lincolns), who was killed in action last month, was the only son of the late Mr. George W. Johnson, J.P., and nephew of the late Squire. He was closely connected with Witham, as since his father's death in 1907 he had acted as Secretary to the Witham Church Estate Trustees. R.I.P.

Captain W. D. Johnson (8th Buffs), the only surviving son of the late Squire, A. C. Johnson, Esq., is a prisoner in Germany. For some weeks he was reported missing, until at last the anxious suspense of his relatives was relieved by the news that he was in a German Hospital, wounded, but skilfully treated and well cared for. His eldest sister, Miss Johnson, has been out since the beginning of the war engaged in the perilous and arduous work of nursing in Serbia and Montenegro. The last report from her states that she is well and happy.

Two Gifts.—Our kind friend, Mrs. Hailstone, has sent the Vicar a bed-rest and bed-table for lending to the sick. They will be of great use, and we are very grateful to the kind donor.

Woodwork Class.—Two more members are needed to make up the required number of students. Who will come forward to save this useful class from falling through?

Burial.—16th October, Arthur John Carr, aged 13 years.

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

Christmas.—For the second time the great Festival comes amid the sufferings and horrors of war. It cannot be a day of light-hearted merriment—that is impossible, but it can be one of unspeakable joy and comfort if we come and learn its sacred message aright and keep it as what it is, the Birthday of our Redeemer. On Christmas day there will be Celebrations at 7-30 and 9, Choral Eucharist at 11, short evening service and address at 3.

Comforts for the Troops.—Mrs. Fenwick is collecting gifts for the 6th Lincolns (now in the Dardanelles) and asks us to insert an appeal in the Magazine to all in the parish who will help her, by making socks, mufflers, shirts, &c. She will be glad to know the names of any who will contribute articles. They will be collected and despatched monthly, at the commencement of each month.

Day of Intercession.—The first Sunday in the new year (January 2nd) is again to be observed throughout the kingdom as a day of solemn intercession. Particulars will be announced later.

The Coal Club.—The Vicar has added a bonus of 5/- to each member's contributions, and has arranged for 12 cwt. of coal to be delivered to every member. The price of coal is very high, and it is impossible to obtain larger amounts. Any member who prefers may of course have their subscriptions returned, if application is made at once.

The Clothing Club.—The bonus given in this club was 3/6, and the order tickets were issued in October.

The Christmas Charities will be distributed according to custom in church on Christmas Day morning, by the Vicar and Churchwardens, immediately after Divine Service.

"The Great Sacrifice."—The Vicar has procured a copy of this famous picture, and has presented it to the church, where it will hang as a memorial of the great European War. It is a picture which has stirred the feelings of English people almost more than any other picture of the war, and is one of consummate pathos and beauty. The young soldier is represented as lying at the feet of the Crucified Saviour, who with bowed head and loving glance accepts the great sacrifice, a sacrifice like unto His own. To appreciate the picture and read its inner meaning, it should be studied closely and leisurely, and in a good light.

Confirmation.—The Vicar hopes to prepare candidates for Confirmation early next year, and gives this early notice, so that he may ask next month for the names of those to be prepared.

Missing.—At the time of writing Mr. and Mrs. Matt. Pell are still without news of their son Private H. Pell of the 8th Lincolns. We need hardly assure them that they have the deepest sympathy of us all in their long and anxious suspense, and we fervently hope that ere long they may have tidings of his safety.

The Magazine.—Subscribers to the Magazine are asked very kindly to pay for the year (1916) in one sum, which saves much trouble in distribution.

Burial.—17th November, Thomas William Stubbley, aged 82 years.