

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

The New Year.—Will it bring peace? Has it further sorrows in store for us? Who knows least we can wish our readers a *happier* year than the one that is gone.

The Day of Intercession.—Once again the first Sunday in the New Year is to be consecrated prayer. It is to be a national day of intercession. If the magazine reaches our readers in time we earnestly urge that every one will make the fullest use of this solemn day by attending the special services. Let none be wanting in this great effort. God knows our country needs the prayers of us all in this time of great national peril. The authorities have also asked that, where possible, Friday (New Year's Eve) shall be spent in solemn intercession and penitence. The Vicar earnestly hopes that many more may be led to attend our weekly solemn act of intercession *every* Sunday morning at 11, to offer the one all-availing Sacrifice for our country's needs, in the way God has commanded us. The weekly addresses on the war hitherto given only at this service, will for the future be alternately in the morning and evening.

Confirmation.—Owing to our distance from the nearest centre for Confirmation, the Vicar ventured ask for a special Confirmation at Witham this year, and is pleased to say that the Bishop of Grantham as most kindly promised to come to us specially on the 14th of April, to confirm our candidates. Thus those who are to be prepared this year will have the unusual privilege and happiness of being confirmed their own church.

Candidates for Confirmation.—The Vicar would like to know the names of all intending candidates for Confirmation not later than the end of January.

Our Roll of Honour.—This roll, containing the names of all parishioners who are serving in the Forces, will be placed (and kept permanently) in the church. If any name is accidentally omitted, it will be added at once if relatives will notify the omission.

Miss Osborn, who has recently left Manthorpe to make her home with a brother in Sussex, will carry with her the regrets and good wishes of us all. Deeply sorry as we are to say good-bye to her, and such as she must feel leaving her old home, we are sure that she has acted wisely in deciding no longer to live alone, as she has done for the last two and a half years, since the death of her aunt.

New Vestry Cupboard.—Now that we have obtained at last a cupboard for the boys' surplices and cassocks, the vestry is a model of tidiness and order. We hope soon to effect a similar improvement in the unsightly corner beyond the organ.

Christmas Day.—The great Festival was celebrated in the manner befitting its importance, though we sadly missed the customary early morning peal. The number of communicants was the same as last year. In the afternoon Evensong was sung at 3 o'clock with carols and a short address. The church was richly garnished with evergreens, and the altars were resplendent with masses of white flowers.

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Evensong at 3 o'clock.—The new Lighting Regulations were published too late to enable us to give notice in last month's Magazine of the discontinuance of the Evening Service. Hence the Vicar circulated his printed letter on the subject throughout the Parish, explaining the necessity of the change, and hoping that none would on any account permit it to affect their customary rule of worship.

The attendance at the Afternoon Service has, so far, been extremely satisfactory, and the Vicar would like to express his thanks to all who have attended Evensong at the altered hour, possibly at some inconvenience. As soon as the evenings are light enough to enable us to have evening Service without lamps, we shall revert to our old arrangement.

The first Evening Service.—Less than 40 years ago, service in the evening was almost unknown in the country. The first time it was held here was in the year 1880, on the occasion of the Harvest Thanksgiving, when the church was illuminated with candles. The lamps were installed shortly afterwards.

The Whist Drive and Dance held on December 30th, proved one of the most successful gatherings ever held in the village. The object which appealed to all was to raise funds for gifts to be sent to all the men in the parish who are on Service. The total amount raised (after paying all expenses) was £8/5/3. Parcels to the value of 5/- have been, or will be sent to each, whether on Active Service abroad or at home. The task of obtaining, packing and despatching the articles has been very kindly undertaken by Miss Sybil Tiptaft, who in addition has made enquiries at every home as to what articles each man would probably prefer. We hear that the Committee are anxious to organize another Social evening for the same object, probably on Shrove Tuesday (March 7th.)

Another Whist Drive.—It has been arranged to hold a Whist Drive and Dance in aid of the Nursing Association (by desire of Mrs. Fenwick), on Thursday, the 10th of February. Will all our readers note the date, and support this deserving cause.

Children's Gifts.—The school children recently subscribed among themselves the sum of £1/3/6, which was sent to the Over-Seas Club for providing gifts of tobacco and cigarettes for the troops abroad. No less than fourteen postcards of thanks have been received in acknowledgment, all from men in the Royal Engineers.

The School Prizes.—On Friday, January 7th, Lieut. Fenwick very kindly distributed Prizes to the best children in each standard. The following were the recipients:—

INFANTS:—Percy Holmes and Gladys Harmston.

St. I.—Willie Bonnett and Frances Panter.

St. IV.—Harold Ash and Vera Redshaw.

„ II.—Clarence Birch and Millie Harmston.

„ V.—Stanley Warnes and Winnie Haddon.

„ III.—Rowland Ash and Nellie Bonnett.

„ VI.—Alex. Woolmer and Lily Hamling.

Mentioned for Distinguished Service.—In Gen. Sir Ian Hamilton's Despatch in connection with the operations in Gallipoli, we are pleased and proud to see the name of Second-Lieut. A. L. Fenwick, of the 6th Lincolns.

Baptism.—2nd January, Eva Ellen, daughter of Percy Cyril and Lillie Pell.

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Lent.—The Special Week-night Services which we have always previously held in Lent, will, this year, be impossible. These services we believe were a real help to many. Failing these however, we must try and make an increased use of the Sunday services in this holy season, which calls us with the voice of God to repentance and renewal of our Spiritual life.

Ash Wednesday.—Divine Service will be held at 10-30.

Confirmation.—The Bishop has altered the date of the Confirmation here, to Wednesday, the 19th of April, which is the Wednesday in Holy Week.

Preparation for Confirmation will commence the second week in March. Due notice of the classes will be given to all. If there should be any who would prefer to be prepared privately, the Vicar will be only too pleased to do so.

The Waifs and Strays Society.—We have for many years given our Lenten self-denial offerings to this splendid and deserving cause. An illustrated leaflet published by the Society will be found inserted in this issue of the Magazine, to which we direct your particular attention. Special purses can be had in church or from the Vicar. We should like every house to have one. The smallest offerings will be valued and gratefully accepted.

A gratifying success.—The recent Whist Drive and Dance on the 10th of February for the Nursing Institution proved the largest gathering of the kind that we ever remember in Witham. The net proceeds amounted to £6/16/8, which was handed to Mrs. Fenwick for the above-named cause.

Eggs for the Wounded.—Miss Hill has very kindly undertaken the collection of eggs for the hospitals, and obtained no fewer than 70 the very first week. We are exceedingly grateful to the donors for this liberal response, and venture to appeal for a continuance of their kindness.

Welcome home.—A warm and hearty greeting was accorded to Mr. Tony Fenwick on his return home on February 23rd. In spite of the inclement weather, the villagers and schoolchildren turned out to give him a cheer, and a merry peal was rung on the bells. As we recorded last month he has been mentioned in despatches "for gallantry."

"When the men come home."—Under this heading the Bishop of Birmingham has recently written a most interesting and suggestive letter to the press, from which we quote the following remark:—There must be in our churches a recognition of the one great central Service, which should be the rule as it is on the Continent. The Holy Eucharist must replace Matins and Evensong as the central offering to God of each day in church. Our soldiers have learnt that in France, the Service instituted by the Lord Himself takes precedence over anything else, however admirable."

The Netley Hut.—This hospital is still being maintained from contributions of Lincolnshire people. The Vicar sends about 15/- monthly from Witham. We appeal for continued help.

The sudden death of Mr. J. H. Holmes was a shock to us all. We deeply sympathize with his widow and relatives. R.I.P.

Baptism.—13th February, Hilda May, daughter of James Horace and Edith Annie Boddy.

Marriage.—14th February, Ernest Smart and Sarah Jane Head.

Burial.—15th February, John Henry Holmes, aged 32 years.

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Lent.—This solemn and helpful season is still running its course, shortly to culminate in the solemnities of Passion-tide and Easter. Let us, one and all, endeavour to use this precious and golden opportunity to the utmost. If we have begun Lent badly, at least let us try and end it well. Come and watch with Christ, as He suffers for us, and learn to love Him more. What is Christianity? It is *union with Christ*. That, and that alone. And the means by which that union with Christ is maintained are Faith, Prayer, and above all, the Holy Sacrament. Dear reader, delay no longer to become a Christian in fact, and not only in name.

Holy Week Services.—On Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, at 8.30 and 6.

Good Friday.—Service at 10.15 (for children). 11 and 3 o'clock. This is the most Sacred day of the whole year. Let us keep it as such.

Easter Day.—Holy Communion at 7, 8.30 and 11 (choral with address) Mattins at 10.15. Children's Service at 3 Evensong at 6 o'clock (not 6.30.)

Confirmation.—The Bishop of Grantham will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation on Wednesday, April 19th (in Holy Week), at 2.30. Nineteen candidates from our own Parish (13 males and 6 females) are to be presented. We ask for the prayers of all on their behalf, in this most solemn turning point in their lives. We hope too that their parents and sponsors will be present at the ceremony.

An insurance against damage from air-craft has been effected upon the Church, and as an additional precaution the chimes are silenced at night.

The National Egg Collection.—Miss Hill has collected and despatched the following numbers of eggs for the Hospitals during March:—March 3rd, 100 (2 weeks); 10th, 45; 17th, 45; 24th, 48. We again thank all the generous donors. Mr. Woolley very kindly conveys the eggs to Stamford every Friday.

Shrove-tide Social Evening.—This was the second Whist Drive and Dance organized by Miss Sybil Tiptaft, to provide gifts for our local soldiers on service. Thanks to the untiring efforts of her and a most hard-working Committee, it was every bit as successful as the former occasion. In fact the number of those present was even larger. The prizes for whist which were all given, were presented by Mr. Tony Fenwick, who by the bye has received his second "star," and is now promoted to Lieutenant, on which we all heartily congratulate him.

An Easter Dance.—Mrs. Fenwick is anxious to arrange a Whist Drive and Dance after Easter, in order to provide funds for purchasing material for soldiers' comforts, in particular for making socks, vests and shirts for her monthly parcel sent to the 6th Lincolns. No date however has yet been fixed.

Sickness.—Never do we remember such an epidemic of sickness, chiefly influenza, as that which has recently overtaken the parish. Happily it is now passing away. In particular are we thankful for Mrs. Glenn's recovery from her serious illness, and also that of Mrs. Garner, in each of which cases the value of the help of a trained nurse was abundantly proved. It should be an incentive to others to join the Nursing Association.

Baptisms.—6th February, Olive Hilda, daughter of Thomas William and Florence Annie Newton.
(The above was inadvertently omitted last month.)

26th March, Mary Dorothy daughter of Amos Alfred and Eliza Suter Bradsha

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Easter.—The beautiful Festival of the Resurrection has never had so great a message for us as i this time of world-wide trouble. We record with thankfulness a large increase in the number of the Communicants on Easter Day. On the other hand the solemn season of Lent, which is intended to lead us p to Easter, has been neglected even more than in past years. True, there were fewer opportunities for helpful Lent, but those we had were not used as they might have been.

A National Mission.—A great call has gone out to the Church in this land to prepare for and to make in the Autumn of this year a mighty spiritual effort, an effort which will reach and influence every parish in the land. It is to be called "The National Mission of Repentance and Hope." It has been found that, generally speaking, so far from the war having brought us nearer to God it has had the exactly opposite result, and this Mission is an effort to arouse the national conscience, and to bring ou beloved country back to God and His holy religion. It is a great spiritual adventure, mighty in possibilities, and we shall be preparing for it during the coming months. An apostate country cannot expect the Divine blessing France has turned to God in her trouble, Russia has done so even more, and please God we shall ere long do so too.

The Confirmation.—How well our beautiful and spacious church lends itself for a solemn ceremony such as this. There were 40 candidates, of whom 19 were our own. The Apostolic ordinance was ad ministered by the Bishop of Grantham, who addressed the Candidates in words of great earnestness, which we trust they will remember and act upon all their lives. This is now the third occasion on which the Bishop of Grantham has confirmed at Witham.

Lent Savings.—Over £3 has been collected during Lent for the Waifs and Strays Society, for which we express our grateful thanks.

Eggs.—Last month's consignments sent from this parish for the wounded in Hospital were: 31st March, 45; 7th April, 75; 14th, 67; 21st, 65; 28th, 45.

An Easter Gift.—The handsome piece of lace now upon the high Altar is the generous gift of Miss Hill, who worked it for use in time for the Confirmation. It was originally made for the side Altar, and since lengthened. We are deeply grateful for this kind gift to our already beautiful church.

The Vicarage Garden.—The Vicar hopes that all who wish will come and use it when they like. The tennis court will be ready shortly. There can surely be no impropriety in playing a game of tennis in war time for exercise and recreation. Even in the middle of the recent Cabinet crisis we read that Ministers sought relaxation in a game of lawn tennis!

A Meeting for Communicants was held on Maundy Thursday. The Vicar hopes to arrange for similar meetings at intervals during the year, and earnestly asks for a ready response from the Communicants. The next will be (D.V.) in the week before Whitsunday.

Easter Vestry Meeting.—The report is held over until next month.

Marriage.—24th April, Horace William Bullivant and Elizabeth Holland.

Burial.—22nd April, Edward Alford, aged 87 years.

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The Easter Vestry Meeting was held on the 27th of April. The church accounts for the year showed a balance of nearly £14 in hand. This very gratifying state of things is due to the generous help which the Vicar and Churchwardens received from the Squire last Michaelmas, and which we mentioned in the Magazine last October. The Widows' Charity shews a balance of £17/1, and the Coat Charity of 3/6.

Festivals.—Within this month fall the two great festivals of Ascension Day (or Holy Thursday) on the 1st, and Whitsunday on the 11th, two days of supreme importance in the Christian Church.

Daylight Saving.—The Summer Time Act came into force on Sunday, May 21st. Last year it got no further than the second reading and failed to reach the Statute Book, this year, however, it has been passed without a division, receiving the support of all parties in Parliament. The object of the measure is two-fold;—National economy, saving some millions of pounds on fuel and lighting, and national health, enabling the people to enjoy an additional hour of daylight after the day's work is done. Unfortunately those engaged in agriculture are unable to take full advantage of the Act owing to the early morning dew, and those of us who are thus affected must console ourselves for the trouble and confusion of the altered time by thinking of the immense boon which it renders to the toiling millions of the industrial population.

The Social Evening in Easter Week, held for sending comforts to the 6th Lincoln, realized £4/15/0. Mrs. Fenwick desires us to state that she has despatched the following articles:—300 cakes of Wright's Coal Tar Soap, £4/11/8; $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. of Sweets, £1/10/0; and Beef Tea, £1/4/0.

The Stamford Infirmary.—We are asked once more to have a house-to-house collection for this deserving cause. The collection will be made during June. We appeal for liberal support.

Netley Hospital Subscriptions.—The Vicar would be greatly obliged if the subscribers will let him have their monthly contributions with regularity. This most necessary fund must be continued until the conclusion of the war.

The Egg Collection has suffered during May from Miss Hill's serious illness. The following are the numbers sent to date:—May 5th, 65; 19th, 37; 26th, 59.

The Lincoln Convention which was held from May 15th to 18th, was an inspiring preparation for the forthcoming National Mission. Nothing could have been more helpful to the clergy than those solemn devotional gatherings in the glorious mother-church of the Diocese. On the Vicar, for one, they made the deepest of impressions.

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The Stamford Infirmary Collection will be made during the present month, as it was found impracticable to arrange it in June, as had been announced.

The Archdeacon's Visitation was duly attended, at Bourne, on June 16th, by the Vicar and Churchwardens. The Archdeacon has been called "the Bishop's eye," and it is his duty to enquire into the affairs of each parish within his Archdeaconry, and to report to the Bishop any case of negligence or breach of law on the part of the parish priest or churchwardens. For this purpose he issues a series of searching questions which have to be answered annually by the churchwardens.

The Naval Battle, on Ascension Day, will ever live in history as one of the proudest achievements of our glorious British Navy, though, unhappily, it was a triumph won at a terrible cost. We respectfully wish to record our deep sympathy with Colonel and Mrs. Birch-Reynardson in the loss of their gallant young grandson, Midshipman Charles Acland-Hood of the "Invincible," who, had he lived, was destined to succeed to the Holywell Estates. Both his grandparents and his mother are such old and close friends of Witham that their loss and sorrow we feel to be ours. We also record with sincere regret the death of Seaman Arthur Kempe, who went down in the "Queen Mary," and who was not unknown to many of us. R I P.

The late Lord Kitchener.—Nothing, perhaps, has stirred the Country to its depths so much as the tragic death of this great soldier-statesman. Every one of us felt almost a sense of personal bereavement. He seems to have met that appalling death as nobly as he lived. A national monument is to be raised to his memory, though it requires no monument to keep green the memory of the man who by his personality and great name drew all England's youth to arms. Under God he was the saviour of England. R I P.

Sunday, 30th of July.—The Vicar expects to be away on this Sunday, which he hopes to spend at Ranworth, Major and Mrs. Acland-Hood's Norfolk home, in accordance with a very kind and pressing request. There will therefore be no morning service on that day, but children's service at 3, and Evensong with sermon at 6.30, conducted by the Rev. A. E. Ayre, Rector of Careby.

Success.—We should like to record our most hearty congratulations to Miss Ella Metcalfe, who has successfully passed the second part of the Preliminary Certificate Examination, under the Board of Education. This examination now qualifies her for entrance to a training college. We understand that she will go into residence at the Home and Colonial Training College at Wood Green, in September.

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Casualties.—The recent British advance in Picardy, glorious as it is, has not been achieved without very serious and saddening losses. Pte. William Holmes, who received a bullet wound in the thigh on the 9th of July, is, we are thankful to know, progressing well in hospital. In a letter to the Vicar he writes:—"I was lucky, as it just missed the spine. I was hit at 9 o'clock, and had to lie in a shell hole till 8 o'clock at night, until it became dark. It was raining most of the time. I crawled to the dressing station on hands and knees, and landed there about 12 o'clock." Considerable anxiety is felt for Pte. Harold Pell, although no official news has yet been received about him. We sympathize deeply with his parents in their terrible suspense, and trust that ere long they may hear of his safety.

Church Parade.—The Bourne Volunteer Corps visited us on Sunday, 23rd July. On arrival, they sat down to a substantial tea served by Mr. and Mrs. Collins, in the Vicarage garden, and afterwards attended Evensong at the church. Their smart bearing and equipment were most noticeable. The collection on this occasion, amounting to £1/3/3, was given to the Lincolnshire "Star and Garter" fund, fund for endowing a County Ward in this famous Hospital at Richmond.

Eggs for the wounded, collected by Miss Hill.—During the month of June, the number sent was 197 (omitted last month.) For July: the 7th, 34; 14th, 47; 21st, 38.

Stamford Infirmary Collection.—The amount given in Witham (collected by Miss Hill) is £4/3/6, an increase on last year of over £1, and in Toft and Lound (collected by Miss Lee) 16/2, as against 5/9 last year. The Manthorpe collection is not yet complete, the amount will be stated next month. This increased generosity is particularly gratifying when one considers the many additional calls made upon us all in consequence of the War.

Children's Treat at the Vicarage.—The unsettled weather obliged us to postpone this, but it hoped to arrange it after the 1st Sunday in August.

Religious Inspection.—The School was examined in religious knowledge on June 22nd by the Rev J. H. Boldero, Vicar of Morton. In his Report he estimates the School in regard to religious education as "very good."

Lecture to the School Children.—On July 7th, a most interesting and instructive Lecture was given to the children on the important subject of Health and Temperance, by Mr. J. Barnett, under the auspices of the U. K. Band of Hope Union. In particular, the injurious effects of alcohol upon the physical and mental powers were simply and clearly explained. The children were asked to write an account of the lesson, and certificates are to be awarded for the best attempts.

The Bishop of Lincoln has appealed to the Vicar to see his way, if possible, towards giving help to the parish of Bourne. Mr. Henderson, assistant Priest, of Bourne, has been accepted as a Military Chaplain, and in consequence the Vicar of Bourne is single-handed. The Bishop writes:—"I beg of you come to his assistance. I think it would be possible for you to persuade your people—as a War sacrifice—to alter the hours of your services, so as to enable you to relieve Mr. Cotton Smith on Sundays and week-days. I appeal to your patriotism and sympathy." Such an appeal is hard to resist, and the Vicar feels that he must consult with the Churchwardens and see what can be done.

Congratulations to Vera Redshaw, who has won a free place Scholarship at the Kesteven Girls' School, Grantham. She was one of 12 successful candidates out of 56.

Baptism.—23rd July, Olive May, daughter of Charles Robert and Ada Eliza Pell.

Burial. 26th July James Warren Wells, aged 37

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Killed in Action.—We deeply regret that Pte. Harold Pell (Suffolk Regt.) fell in action on the 1st of July. After some weeks of acute anxiety his parents have now received definite information of his death from the War Office, enclosing an expression of sympathy from their Majesties the King and Queen. A letter has also been received from his Company Quartermaster-Sergeant who writes: "he was killed while taking part in the great advance. He was a good soldier and loved by everyone, and much valued by his officers. His loss is greatly felt in the Company. I had known him personally since he first joined. He was very keen on his work, especially as a machine gunner, which he was lately, and was fighting until the end. He died a British soldier's death in harness. Please accept my deepest sympathy in your great bereavement, also that of the dear old boy's officers and mates. We miss him much, poor lad."

Louis Harold was 25 years of age, and was the youngest of the six sons of Mr and Mrs David Pell. We would assure his parents and relatives that they have the deep sympathy of us all. R I P.

Pte. Herbert Pell.—It is now over eleven months since Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Pell have had any news of their son, and we greatly fear after this length of time that he may have fallen in the Battle of Loos, last September, in which his Battalion (8th Lincoln's) was engaged, and suffered heavy casualties. Should this be the case, then it is a strange and sad coincidence that two of the same name and living next door to one another should be the first in our parish to give their lives in the great cause. Our sympathy with Mr. and Mrs. Pell is all the deeper on account of their anxious strain during all these months of silence as regards their only son.

Harvest Thanksgiving Services will (D.V.) be held on Sunday, 24th September, which is the last Sunday before the time is once more altered, and the evenings will be too dark to allow of service at 6.30.

A Contemptible Act.—On Thursday, 17th of August, an evilly-disposed person committed an act in the church as mean as it was wicked. The handsome lace upon the Lady Altar and the adjoining credence table was deliberately hacked and destroyed with scissors. This lace was made for the church some years ago as a thank-offering by a member of the congregation, a pure act of love, and it is intolerable to think that such a gift should be destroyed out of sheer spite, for such, undoubtedly, was the motive. This is now the second time that this lace has been cut. We would remind the perpetrator of these outrages upon God's Altar—should this meet her eye—of the possible consequences of such folly, for sacrilege is a very serious offence, and we trust that she may be led to regret and feel ashamed of conduct so ill-natured.

Notice.—Private parcels to men in the Lincolnshire Regiments can now be sent *free* through Queen Alexandra's Field Force Fund. For particulars apply to Mrs. Fenwick or the Vicar.

Eggs for the Wounded.—Collected last month: July 28th, 26; August 11th, 56; 18th, 33.

Baptism.—20th August, Eveline Olive, daughter of Horace and Elizabeth Olive Cousins.

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The Marriage of the Squire to Miss Gladys Nelson will take place in London on Monday, October 2nd. The bride is the fourth daughter of Sir William Nelson, Bart. We offer him our heartiest congratulations, and wish both bride and bridegroom many years of happiness.

Harvest Thanksgiving Services were held on Sunday, September 24th. The sermon at Evensong was preached by the Rev. A. E. Ayre, Rector of Careby. At the same service Pte. H. Hobson (Royal Scots Regt.) gave us a very beautiful rendering of the solo "It is enough" from the "Elijah." The collections, which amounted to £2/8/10, were given to the British Red Cross Society.

Evensong.—During the winter months it becomes necessary once again to have Evensong on Sundays at 3 p.m. Owing to the alteration of the time on October 1st, the light evenings come abruptly to an end. Our church windows are too large and numerous to allow of any system of screening the light, in accordance with the requirements, and the Vicar is obliged sadly to bow to the inevitable, and alter the hour of service from the evening to the afternoon. We must not of course, under any circumstances, allow the altered hour to affect our customary rule of Divine worship.

The great Sacrifice.—Another of our Soldiers has given his life in the great cause. Pte. James Jordan, who died on September 5th. He was seriously injured by a fall of trench on the 4th, and died the next day without recovering consciousness. Last month we alluded to the strange coincidence of the first two of our boys to fall coming from next door houses, and now it is the *third* house of the same row which is bereaved. We feel deeply for Mrs. Sentence, to whom Pte. Jordan was practically a son in everything but name. A memorial service will be held in his memory on Sunday morning, October, 1st.

Feast Sunday.—The last Sunday in October is our Dedication Festival, the day on which we thank God for supplying our *spiritual* needs, just as we have thanked Him at the harvest festival for the needs of the *body*.

Early Celebrations of Holy Communion will be on Sundays the 1st, 15th, and 29th (Feast Sunday).

The National Mission.—Some time ago the Vicar asked for a visit from the Bishop's Messengers to come and give us in Witham the message of this great Mission. Owing however to some unfortunate mistake they are unable to visit us, and we must do what we can by ourselves. In the first place we ask everyone in the parish to read carefully the Bishop's letter, a copy of which is left herewith at every house. In addition the Vicar will try and explain the meaning of the Mission to all, and he asks you in God's Name to come and hear the message. God is speaking to His people in this great Mission, let us not fail to hear His Voice.

Eggs for the Wounded.—Collected last month: August 25th, 33; September 1st, 36; 8th, 22; 15th, 22. There will be no further collection made for the present.

Gift to the Church—Miss Hill, who made the beautiful piece of lace on the high altar, has now made another piece for the altar in the side chapel, to replace that which was recently destroyed. It is of a most effective and handsome design, and we are most grateful to her for her kind and generous gift.

Baptisms.—September 3rd, Sidney Thomas, son of Thomas and Florence Mary Francis.

 " " Joan Townsend, daughter of William Townsend and Eva Murtha Hall.

 " 24th, Leslie Daniel, son of Ernest and Elizabeth Mary Smith.

Burial.—September 1st, Robert Clement Smith, aged 60 years.

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The Squire's marriage festivities.—The Squire and Mrs. Keld Fenwick spent their brief honeymoon at the Hall. On their arrival from London after the wedding, they were met at the entrance to the village by a large number of the tenantry, who gave them a rousing welcome, and drew their car to the Hall, while the bells were rung in honour of the occasion. On the following day (October 3rd), the whole of the tenantry were hospitably entertained, by kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Fenwick. Over 200 sat down to dinner at one o'clock, and the children had tea at 4 o'clock. After dinner a presentation was made by Mr. Thos. Pick on behalf of the tenantry, of a handsome silver salver, suitably inscribed, a gift which was subscribed for by practically every house in the parish. Altogether it was a never-to-be-forgotten occasion, and one which we hope will be followed by many years of mutual esteem and good-will between the Squire and his tenants.

"Our Day."—A collection was made throughout the parish, resulting in the sum of £6/11/9 being raised, as follows:—Witham (collector, Miss Hill) £4/16/0, Manthorpe (collector, Mrs. Ash) 15/3, Toftcum-Lound (collector, Miss Lee) £1/0/6. To this was added the Harvest Thanksgiving collection in church, of £2/8/10, making the whole amount given the satisfactory sum of £9/0/7. Last year it was £13/12/3.

A Whist Drive and Dance will be held on Wednesday, November 8th, in the Hall garage (by kind permission of Mrs. Fenwick) to raise further funds for Christmas presents to the soldiers who are serving from this parish. Miss Tiptaft is kindly organizing this second effort. The net proceeds of the last whist drive on September 26th, were £4/5/10.

Our deepest sympathies go out to Mr. and Mrs. Ash in the loss of their little son Harold, who died on the morning of Michaelmas Day, after a long and trying illness, borne with wonderful patience and cheerfulness. He was a peculiarly bright and loveable little lad, who endeared himself to all, and will be sadly missed in school and in the choir, where he set an example of reverence and joyful service which will be a fragrant memory to us all. His body was borne to the church on October 2nd, where the first part of the Burial Service was held, and subsequently was taken to Bourne to rest beside the little sister who died five years ago. R.I.P.

Obituary.—It is also with sincere regret that we have to record the death of Miss Lydia Francis, postmistress of Witham for 13 years. She was seized with the illness which afterwards proved fatal while on a visit to her sister in Stamford, and was removed to the Butterfield Hospital at Bourne, where her condition was soon seen to be hopeless. The body was brought to the church on the evening before the funeral, and on the following morning a requiem Celebration was held at 7 o'clock. As postmistress, Miss Francis was both eminently capable and obliging, and we shall all miss her sadly from her accustomed place. R.I.P.

Pte. F. Wells.—Mr. Jas. Wells has received news of the death of his son, Pte. Frank Wells, of the Durham Light Infantry, who was killed in action in October. To all the family we venture to offer our most sincere and respectful sympathy.

Sec-Lieut. M. J. Fenwick, R.F.C.—It will be a grief to us all to hear of Mr. Monty Fenwick's flying accident in France, and we sincerely hope that he will shortly recover from his injuries.

Burials.—October 2nd, (at Bourne) Harold Ash, aged 11 years.

„ 14th, Lydia Francis, aged 48 years.

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

Christmas.—For the third, and we fervently hope the last time, the joys of the great Festival will be overshadowed for us by the sorrows and suffering of war, though, for that very reason, its message may bring to us the greater comfort. May it be in the truest sense a “happy” Christmas. There will be early Celebrations of the Holy Communion at 7.30 and 9 o'clock, sung Service with Sermon at 11, and Children's Service, to which others are also invited, at 3. Festal Christmas Evensong will be sung on Christmas Eve (Sunday) at 3.

The Christmas Charities will be distributed in church immediately after the 11 o'clock Service.

The Coal Club.—At the time of writing, the Vicar is not able to guarantee the supply of coal to the members. He is doing his best to obtain it, but should he fail to do so, he will repay to the members their subscriptions, together with a bonus of 5/- each.

The Parish Magazine.—The cost of printing the Magazine has increased by exactly one-half. The Vicar, however, does not propose to ask more for it than before, viz., one penny a copy, or one shilling for the year. But this will only be possible if *all* the subscribers will continue to take it in as formerly including those who receive it by post. Perhaps also some of our kind readers will be willing to give a subscription, however small, towards the heavy additional expense of publishing.

The Whist Drive and Dance, on November 8th, in the Hall garage proved a record both in numbers and proceeds. The affair was most admirably managed by Miss Tiptaft and her hard-working committee, and was much enjoyed. The proceeds amounted to £10/10/0, which sum, with the addition of the proceeds of the preceding whist drive in September, will be spent upon Christmas parcels, to be sent to all who are serving from the parish in H.M. Forces.

War Savings Association.—The attention of our readers is directed to the leaflet enclosed in this number of the Magazine. It is hoped to form one or more associations at Witham, and to arrange for a meeting at which the scheme may be explained.

The Children.—Prizes will be given during Advent to those children who have been regular in attendance on Sundays. It is earnestly hoped that all parents will encourage their children to attend with regularity during the coming year, and best of all, by *coming with them*. We are directly responsible to God for the souls of the little ones whom He has committed to our care.

The Eucharist.—In this great Mystery Christ comes to us, and we offer the Sacrifice of His precious Death to our Father in Heaven. Thus it is the highest and most perfect act of worship which it is possible for us to make before the Heavenly Throne. Thank God, we are learning its wonderful meaning more and more, especially in these dark times of trouble and sorrow. “The Lord's Service” on the Lord's Day is the Lord's Command. Nothing can replace it. But we also plead for increased attendance at this service on the occasional Holy days when they occur during the week. There are some, surely, who can spare the short half-hour on these mornings, when the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist is definitely ordered, and plead the Sacrifice for all our many needs.

The Wood-work Class has again a good list of members. We are glad that this most useful class continues to flourish.