

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

**1917.**—The opening year will, in all probability, be the most momentous in the world's history. May it bring the long looked-for peace, that is the one burning hope of us all. It certainly will bring further calls to sacrifice beyond all that have gone before, as the nation braces itself for the supreme effort which, under God, will bring us victory. Meanwhile there will be further suffering and sorrow for many. Let us face it bravely and resolutely. But we can only do this with the help of God. And so for ourselves, let us begin afresh to draw nearer to Him, to come Sunday by Sunday, and remember our dear ones in peril as we offer our solemn intercession before Him. "How shall we not prevail with God when this awful Sacrifice lies displayed," said St. Augustine, in speaking of prayer at the Holy Eucharist. Our great sailors set us a noble example. Ever since the beginning of the war Admiral Jellicoe has had a daily celebration of the Holy Eucharist on board his Flagship the *Iron Duke*, and Admiral Beatty, his successor in command of the Fleet, has stated that "when England looks out with humbler eyes and prayer on her lips then she can begin to count the days towards the end."

**Christmas Presents to our Soldiers.**—Miss Tiptaft has kindly furnished us with a list of all the men to whom she has sent parcels for Christmas, and as it forms a guide to the names of those who have gone from the parish (with a few exceptions) we print it below.

|                             |                              |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| *Pte. G. Appleyard          | ... 20th Notts. & Derbys     |
| * " T. W. Archer            | ... A.S.C., M.T.             |
| * " Walter Archer           | ... 13th Leicesters          |
| *Signaller W. Birch         | ... 7th Lincolns             |
| *Sergt. C. Birch            | ... Northumberland Fusiliers |
| *Pte. R. C. Bent            | ... 5th Leicesters           |
| * " J. H. Bent              | ... 9th Leicesters           |
| *Lce.-Cpl. J. C. Breathwick | ... M.G.C.                   |
| *Pte. H. G. Cooper          | ... Loyal North Lancs.       |
| Cpl. Cross                  | ... Norfolk Yeomanry         |
| *Sergt. A. Francis          | ... R.A.M.C.                 |
| Pte. H. A. Harmston         | ... 18th Hussars             |
| * " A. Head                 | ... 1st Lincolns             |
| * " J. Haddon               | ... Sherwood Foresters       |
| * " A. L. Holmes            | ... R.N.A.S.                 |
| " E. Holmes                 | ... 4th Yorks. & Lancs.      |
| * " F. Holmes               | ... A.S.C., M.T.             |

|                          |                              |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Pte. H. Holmes           | ... A.S.C.                   |
| * " W. Holmes            | ... Northumberland Fusiliers |
| " J. Kettle              | ... 13th West Yorks.         |
| Lce.-Cpl. L. W. Metcalfe | ... 7th West Yorks.          |
| * " E. Newham            | ... 3rd Lincolns.            |
| Driver C. Pell           | ... R.F.A.                   |
| Pte. J. Panter           | ... A.S.C.                   |
| *Gunner A. Pick          | ... R.F.A.                   |
| *Trooper E. Pick         | ... Staffs. Yeomanry         |
| *Pte. C. Ramm            | ... M.G.C.                   |
| " Smith                  | ... A.S.C.                   |
| " W. Warnes              | ... A.S.C.                   |
| * " A. Weldon            | ... 4th Lincolns             |
| * " C. E. Wells          | ... 8th North Staffords      |
| Lce.-Cpl. C. Woolmer     | ... 10th Lincolns            |
| *Cpl. Horace Woolmer     | ... Sherwood Foresters       |
| " Howard Woolmer         | ... 1st Lincolns             |

\* Those marked thus are on Foreign Service.

**New "inside" for Magazine.**—Our readers will notice that we have changed the publication which is bound up with the Magazine, from *The Sign* to *The Symbol*. We hope that the latter may prove more readable and generally interesting.

**Children's Prizes.**—These were awarded on the second Sunday in Advent to those who had earned them by regular attendance. Nurse Collison very kindly gave two most beautiful and costly books, which were given to the most regular children—Robert Rawlins and Vera Wilcox. The other prize-winners were (boys) C. Birch, A. Collins, R. Cooper, F. Glenn, C. Harmston, P. Harmston, R. Lambert, G. Wand, W. Warnes; (girls) M. Appleyard, E. Collins, M. Dalby, V. Redshaw, A. Wand, E. Warnes.

**Request to Subscribers.**—We earnestly ask that all our readers will pay for the Magazine for the year in one sum of 1/-, if possible, during January. The cost to the Vicar is 1/6 per copy. He does it if offered.

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

**The Magazine.**—We are exceedingly pleased to state that none of our old subscribers have failed us this year, that the circulation is more than maintained, and that all except three seem to have paid for the year in advance, and what is kinder still, a very great majority have voluntarily given 1/6 instead of 1/-, to meet the increased expense. We thank them most sincerely.

**Mrs. Fenwick.**—After 14 years residence among us Mrs. Fenwick has left the Hall, to reside in future at Tixover Grange, near Stamford. In turning up past records we find in the Magazine for July, 1903, the following paragraph:—"On June 25th Mr. and Mrs. Fenwick transferred their quarters from the Vicarage to the east wing of the Hall, which is the first completed portion of the mansion"

It is needless to say how sorry we are to lose her, and we can readily understand how she must feel the wrench of leaving a home of so many happy associations. She has expressly wished us to state that it was her desire to give a farewell tea to us all before leaving, but lack of time prevented it. She hopes that it may be arranged in the summer instead, when she can come over and meet all the old friends at Witham once again.

**The School Children's Gifts.**—The children in the School have not been backward in their generosity. Through Mr. Metcalfe they recently subscribed and sent £1/3/6 to the Over-seas Club for Christmas Gifts to Sailors and Soldiers. This makes a total of £3/8/6 subscribed by the children to the funds of this Club. In addition, they have sent £1 to the "Jack Cornwall" Memorial Ward in the "Star and Garter" Hospital.

**School Prizes.**—Mr. Fenwick has very kindly given prizes again for proficiency in the School. The following are the winners: Special prize, Stanley Harmston and Winnie Haddon; Standard V., Robert Rawlins, Tom Bainbridge and May Dalby; St. IV., Rowland Ash and Nellie Bonnett; St. III., George Haddon and Lizzie Dennis; St. II., Bertie Appleyard and Vera Wilcox; St. I., Walter Warnes and Gladys Harmston; Infants, Bertie Wand and Margaret Wallis.

**For Soldiers' Comforts.**—On the 11th January another very successful Whist Drive and Dance was organized by Miss Tiptaft. Though the night was most inclement, there were a large number of patrons, and a thoroughly enjoyable evening was spent. The result was a substantial addition to the above-named deserving cause.

**Netley Hut.**—The local subscriptions to this most necessitous fund have fallen to 12/- a month, given by 16 subscribers. We make an earnest appeal for further contributors, who will be willing to give, say, 6d. per month during the continuation of the War.

**Lent** begins on the 21st of this month. Let us endeavour to make the best use of this precious season of grace, particularly in this anxious and unsettling time, when we need all the spiritual help we can obtain to make us "strong and of a good courage."

**Burial.**—January 24th, Abel Camm, aged 68 years.

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

**Lent.**—Never before has it been more difficult to keep this sacred season in the way which the Christian Church intends. Owing to the lighting restrictions we are deprived of the use of the church both on Sunday as well as week-day evenings, which is the only time when some are free to come. Then there is the absence of all those who are called to the colours, involving as it does, additional toil on those who remain. The recent bitter weather too, is the cause of much sickness and depression, while over all is the ever-present shadow of the war, rendering us all anxious and pre-occupied, and taking us entirely out of the ordinary routine of our lives. And yet on the other hand, never did we need more the help and comfort and strength which the season of Lent, rightly used, can give us. We earnestly suggest that we all try and carry out the following simple rules during Lent:—

1. Make a *real* repentance for the past.
2. Say our daily prayers with greater care and devotion.
3. Attend public worship without fail every Lord's Day, giving preference where possible to the Intercession Service at 11 o'clock.
4. After careful preparation, make our Communion at least once in Lent.
5. Practise some definite act of self-denial.

The Prime Minister recently referred to this sacred season by bidding us keep a "National Lent." "The nation," he said, "will be better for it, and stronger mentally, morally and physically. It will strengthen its fibre, it will ennoble its spirit."

**The Waifs and Strays Society.**—We are asked once again as for years past in Lent, to help this noble and deserving cause by our alms. The Society's Lenten appeal is enclosed with this Magazine. Boxes for Lent savings may be had in the church or from the Vicar. Will all please help by obtaining a box and giving what they can, even if only a few pence.

**The Squire** and Mrs. Fenwick have come into residence at the Hall, though we shall see but little of him at present as he is shortly going out again to the Front, this time as an airman, where he will be engaged in the hazardous task of night-flying. We shall fervently wish him a safe return home, and shall feel for Mrs. Fenwick during the anxious time of his absence.

**A Tea Party on the Ice.**—We consider that so rare an event should be recorded. On the 7th February, through the kindness of the Squire, tea was served on the fish-pond to all who cared to avail themselves of so novel an experience as that of having tea on the ice. Many years have passed since there was such a long spell of severe frost, and it may be many years again before it becomes possible to sit down to a tea table above 18 feet of water! It is something at least to be able to say that one has done it.

**Shrove-tide Party.**—On Shrove Tuesday another very successful Whist-Drive and Dance took place in the school in aid of the local soldiers' comforts fund. The affair was promoted and managed by Miss Tiptaft. A great number of visitors were present in spite of the weather, and the proceeds will result in a very substantial sum.

**Gunner A. Pick** has recently been home on leave after about 18 months' service abroad with the R.F.A. Needless to say he received the heartiest of welcomes from all his friends, who were much gratified to see him looking so fit and well.

**National Service.**—The Vicar has signified to the Bishop his willingness to undertake either ministerial work elsewhere or manual work of a national character. Whether or no this will affect the usual services at our own church will depend upon the Bishop's decision.

**Our Visitors.**—We are pleased to welcome the newcomers among us, and hope to make as good friends with them as we did with our late visitors. Our readers will readily understand to whom we are referring.

**Baptism.**—February 11th, Jean Ulissa, daughter of Harry and Annie Lizzie Wand.

**Burial.**—February 14th, Morris Hudson, aged 72 years.

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

**Easter.**—This Festival is the greatest and most important in the whole year. The rule of the Church is that all the faithful shall make their Communion at Easter. This rule is as old as Christianity itself, and is observed not only in England, but all over the world. Is not this an inspiring thought for us? When we kneel at the Altar on Easter morning we are joining in one great act in which millions upon millions of our fellow Christians all over the world are taking part. How then can we excommunicate ourselves from so wonderful a fellowship, and remain outside this great world-wide bond of union?

The Easter Communion brings therefore a *special* blessing. For we come both in obedience to our Lord's Command ("Do this in remembrance of Me"), and also in obedience to the rule of His Church ("Every parishioner shall communicate at Easter.") and obedience always brings its own blessing.

**Easter Services.**—Holy Communion at 7.30 and again at 9, Matins at 10.15, Choral Eucharist at 11, Evensong at 6.30. On Easter Monday and Tuesday there will be a Celebration at 9 o'clock, and on the following Sunday at 8.30. The Easter Communion can be made in case of need on any of these days. Easter collections will be given to the Diocesan Funds, to which this parish must contribute £4.

**Summer Time.**—The Government have decided that the re-introduction of Summer Time this year shall commence with Easter Day. It should be noted therefore that the hours of the services on this day will be in accordance with the new reckoning. The church clock will be advanced one hour during the previous night.

**Good Friday** means "God's Friday." (Compare the expression "good-bye," which means "God be with ye"). This sacred and awful day was never intended to be a mere holiday, and no right-minded Christian can keep it as such. There will be service at 10 (for children), 11 and 6 (owing to light).

**Easter Decorations.**—We ask for gifts of spring flowers and for the kind help of willing hands on Easter Eve to garnish the church for the Festival.

**Churchwarden for 27 years.**—Mr. Bradshaw's approaching departure from the parish reminds us that he has occupied the office of people's churchwarden for this long period. We regret his loss more than we can say, and shall sadly miss his kindly and valuable help in conducting the affairs of the church, and in the administration of the charities. The Vicar feels sure that he echoes the feeling of the whole parish when he begs Mr. Bradshaw to accept our heartiest gratitude for his long and conscientious service, and fervently wishes both himself and Mrs. Bradshaw many years of happiness in their new home at Bourne.

**The Easter Vestry Meeting** will be held on Thursday in Easter week at 8 p.m. We ask for good attendance, as the nomination of a new churchwarden in Mr. Bradshaw's place will have to be considered. The church and charities accounts will be presented.

**Easter Social.**—On Easter Monday a Whist Drive and Dance is being arranged by a committee of ladies. The proceeds are in aid of the British Red Cross Society.

**The late Mr. John Holmes.**—We much regret to record the death of Mr. Holmes on March 20th, which leaves another gap among our older parishioners. He and Mrs. Holmes were married in this church in 1881, and have lived in the parish all their married life. We desire to express our deep sympathy with Mrs. Holmes and their family in their bereavement.

**Obituary.**—We are asked to record the death of Mrs. Sarah Cole, at Faringdon, Berks., on March 7th, at the age of 84. She was the daughter of Mr. William Brown, butcher, of Witham, whose house and premises stood on the site of the present post office. Mrs. Cole became lady's maid to the late Mrs. Martin-Atkins, second daughter of General Johnson, and sister of the late Squire Johnson, in whose family she lived until her marriage.

**Eggs for the Wounded.**—It is hoped to resume the weekly collection after Easter. Will all who keep fowls kindly give what they can, for the need is urgent.

**Baptism.**—26th February, Leslie, son of William and Ellen Elizabeth Bonnett (privately).

**Burial.**—23rd March, John Holmes, aged 76 years.



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

**Easter.**—An Easter without any spring flowers is almost unprecedented, yet the church looked bright and festive with the altar flowers kindly given by Nurse Collison, and the fine pots of arums sent by Mrs. Feuwick. We regret to record a decrease in the number of communicants. Though slight, it is significant of a growing carelessness, which is of serious import in this year of our country's greatest need of God.

**The Vestry Meeting** disclosed also a deficit upon the usual weekly collections, from which we fear the same conclusion may be drawn. The churchwardens appointed for the year are Mr. Thos. Pick and Mr. G. W. Wallis. The latter takes the place of Mr. Bradshaw, to whom the meeting tendered its grateful appreciation of his long and faithful tenure of office. The sidesmen are Mr. F. Browett and Mr. J. W. Redshaw.

**A Testimonial to Mr. Bradshaw.**—By the time that the Magazine is in the hands of our readers Mr. Bradshaw will have received our gift, so that we shall not disclose our well-kept secret in referring to it here. The gift will consist of a handsome clock and accompanying ornaments, chosen by the churchwardens. The clock bears the following inscription: "Presented to Mr. Charles Bradshaw by the parishioners of Witham-on-the-Hill, to commemorate his 27 years' service as parish churchwarden, April, 1917." A framed list of the names of the donors will accompany the gift. We hope that it will serve to remind him constantly in years to come of the many friends in Witham who regret his departure and who have taken this means of expressing the esteem in which they hold him.

**Lieut. M. J. Fenwick.**—We were greatly distressed at hearing that Mr. Monty Fenwick had met with another and even more serious flying accident. Engaged in "ferrying" aeroplanes from England to France he was caught in a snow-storm and obliged to descend. In doing so his machine came in contact with a tree and overturned. He now lies in hospital with compound fractures of the thigh and leg, and other serious injuries, though hopes are entertained of a complete recovery. We most earnestly hope that this may be the case.

**The Easter Social** held on Easter Monday was a great success in every way. The receipts reached the handsome total of £6/18/6, and the committee decided to devote the balance to the Lincolnshire fund of the "Lord Roberts Memorial," which consists of training disabled soldiers and sailors in special workshops. An appeal for this most deserving fund was recently issued to all the villages in the Bourne district, and this will be our contribution.

**Later Sunday evening service.**—It was decided at the Vestry Meeting to have Evensong on Sundays at 7 instead of 6.30, during the continuation of summer time. The change was made chiefly in the interests of those who live at a distance from the church, and we hear that it is likely to prove popular with nearly all. Meanwhile we ask for a larger attendance in the afternoons, not only of the children, but of their parents. The presence of the older ones is a great help and encouragement to us.

**Waifs and Strays.**—The sum of £1 was collected in Lent savings, and forwarded to the Society

**Eggs.**—The first week that the collections were resumed we sent 35, and the second 50. Many thanks to kind donors.

**Two great Festivals** fall this month, Ascension Day and Whitsun Day, which with Christmas and Easter make up the four greatest Christian Festivals.

**St. George's Day.**—For some years the Vicar has appealed for observance of the day of our National Patron on April the 23rd. The Lord Mayor of London presiding at a meeting of the Royal Society of St. George last month said: "We hear a good deal about St. Andrew, St. Patrick and St. David, we ought to hear more about St. George. The time has come when St. George's day should be proclaimed a national holiday, with special celebrations in all schools throughout England for the encouragement of patriotism."

**Burials.**—April 13th, John Harrison, aged 84 years.

„ 30th, Robert Bird, aged 49 years.

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

**Our Roll of Honour.**—To our list of those who have laid down their lives for King and Country there is now added another name, that of Signaller J. W. Birch, who died of wounds in France on April 29th. William Birch was among the very first of our men to volunteer for service at the outbreak of the war, and enlisted in the Lincolnshire Regt. in September, 1914. He had seen active service since July, 1915, and had been previously wounded. A memorial service was held in the church on Sunday, May 13th, which was largely attended by friends and sympathizers. In his address the Vicar alluded to the fact that he was among the first candidates for Confirmation whom he has prepared here, and that, boy and man, he had sung in the choir. He was a good cricketer and took part in several amateur theatricals, and was widely popular in the parish. Our deep sympathies go out to his parents, his young widow, and his family. R.I.P.

**A Memorial to the Fallen.**—When the war is over, the memory of our heroes must be perpetuated by some enduring memorial, to tell to all future generations the story of their sacrifice. A great Cross—the symbol of sacrifice—standing where all can see it, is the suggestion we venture to make. A beautiful memorial of this nature has recently been erected at Barholm in memory of the late Capt. Lord Kesteven, at the dedication of which the Vicar was present. Such a memorial we should like to see here, to proclaim to our children's children the glorious story of our heroes.

**In Memoriam, E. W. C.**—The Vicar's brother, Mr. Ernest W. Cooley, died at Bath on Wednesday, May 16th. On the morning of that day he underwent a sudden collapse, and passed peacefully away in a condition of unconsciousness. For upwards of ten years he had been gradually losing strength, and the long and bitter winter undoubtedly hastened the end. Although Mr. Cooley had lived part of each year at Witham for the last seven years he was but little known, as his weak and failing health condemned him to a life of seclusion. The last time that he ever went outside the Vicarage grounds before he finally left, was to go to church on Christmas Day, 1915. Before his strength failed completely, he was a constant and unfailing worshipper among us Sunday by Sunday. Those alone who knew him intimately knew the charm of his character, his kindly, gentle disposition, his generosity, his unfailing fund of good spirits and cheerfulness. The patience with which he (formerly used to an active and roving life) bore his long a terrible illness is indeed a lesson and a reproof to us all. No one ever heard him complain. He was ever full of thoughtfulness for others, and never forgot his friends. It is typical of his disposition that one of his last acts, when in great suffering and weakness, was to send his nurse for a pipe and a tin of tobacco to send off as a present to one of our old parishioners. When the pipe was brought, it was not the right kind, and he insisted on sending for another. He was buried at Bath on Saturday, May 19th. R.I.P.

**Stamford Infirmary.**—The usual house-to-house collection will be made in June.

**Eggs.**—During the month of May Miss Hill has collected and despatched exactly 200 eggs for the hospitals, a splendid record.

**Social Evening.**—We have no space to report this very successful affair on May 7th, except to say that from the proceeds £5 was given to the Red Cross Society and £1,18/4 to the Netley Hut.

**Lieut. M. J. Fenwick.**—When in London recently the Vicar went to see Mr. Monty Fenwick in hospital, and found him wonderfully bright and cheerful, but it is feared that a further operation will be necessary on the fractures in the leg.

**The Vicarage Garden** is at the disposal of all who care to use it. We have now quite a strong lawn tennis club.

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

**Letter from Mr. Bradshaw.**—The following letter, addressed to the subscribers towards Mr. Bradshaw Testimonial, has been sent to us for publication:—

"Dear Friends—I wish to thank you all for your kindness in subscribing to the beautiful clock which you have presented to me. I assure you that it will be greatly prized by myself and my family, and when I look at it I shall ever think of you all, and your kindness. I shall call the clock 'St. Andrew's,' after your Patron Saint. Believe me, yours faithfully, CHARLES BRADSHAW."

**Stamford Infirmary Collection.**—The result of the house-to-house collection in June for the Infirmary was gratifying in the extreme, and we beg to thank most heartily all who subscribed, as well as the ladies who so kindly collected. The sums are as follows: Witham (collector Mrs. Wilcox) £4/5/9; Manthorpe (collector Mrs. Ash) 14/-; Toft-cum-Lound (collector Miss Lee) 12/3—total £5/12/0. (This is in excess of last year's collection, and in all probability we shall keep our reputation of sending the largest amount of any parish in proportion to the population. Considering the numerous calls upon us of late, we are doubly grateful for the generous response to this deserving appeal.

**The Netley Hut.**—Some of our monthly subscribers are somewhat behind with their contributions. May we venture to ask them to continue their regular help of this most necessary fund. Also we earnestly beg for further subscribers who will contribute either 1/- or 6d. monthly. Our district by this means maintains ten beds at Netley (see balance sheet of the Red Cross Society, on the church notice board).

**Trooper E. Pick.**—Everyone will rejoice to know the re-assuring news that Trooper Edgar Pick is now going on satisfactorily. After receiving a telegram from Cairo stating that he was "dangerously wounded," his parents passed through a period of acute anxiety, which was fully shared by his many friends, but which, we are thankful to say, is now at an end. We earnestly trust that the satisfactory progress he is making will be sustained.

**Eggs for the Wounded.**—The number collected and despatched in June was 146.

**Children's Service.**—During the summer we have arranged in accordance with the wishes of the majority to have the children's lesson at the 10 o'clock service. We appeal therefore to all the parents to secure their regular attendance at that hour. We should also value the presence of older people at the same time, when the service of Mattins is said. It should be a convenient time for those for whom the 11 o'clock service is too late.

**What the Lord's Service really is.**—It is by the offering of His Body and Blood upon the Cross that our Lord redeemed the world; and it is by the offering of the same Body and Blood, verily and indeed present under the form of bread and wine in the Lord's Supper, that we show forth the Lord's death till He come, and perpetuate in our midst the offering made upon the Cross. Thus the Lord's Supper is the great Christian "prayer-meeting," at which it is our bounden duty to be present on the Lord's Day. Every time we come we should have an "intention," that is, a special object for which to pray. To such prayer we are assured of an answer. "Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in My Name, He will give it you." Have not many of our intercessions at the Holy Eucharist been answered in the most wonderful way?

**The early Eucharists on Sundays** will be at 8 instead of 8.30. We have been asked by several to make this change.

**Baptism.**—3rd June, Florence Ida, daughter of James Horace and Edith Annie Boddy.

**Burial.**—30th May, Mary Cousins, aged 83 years.

## SWAYFIELD.

**The War.**—We enter on the fourth year of the War this month, and it is intended to keep Sunday, August 5th, as a day of special thanksgiving and intercession on behalf of our sailors, soldiers and air-men, and of those of our Allies. Let us all, as far as possible, take part in this anniversary by coming to the services.

"Did you tackle that trouble that came in your way  
With a resolute heart and cheerful?  
Or hide your face from the light of day,  
With a craven heart and fearful?  
Oh! a trouble's a ton, or a trouble's an ounce,  
Or a trouble is just what you make it;  
And it isn't the fact that you're hurt that counts,  
But only *how did you take it?*"

You are beaten to earth, well, well, what's that!  
Come up with a smiling face;  
It's nothing against you to fall down flat,  
But to lie there—that's a disgrace.  
The harder you're thrown, why, the higher you bounce,  
Be proud of your blackened eye;  
It isn't the fact that you're licked that counts,  
Its *how did you fight—and why?*

And though you are done to the death, what then?  
If you battled the best you could,  
If you played your part in the world of men,  
Why the critics call it good.  
Death comes with a crawl, or he comes with a pounce,  
But whether he's slow or spry,  
It isn't the fact that you're dead that counts,  
But only *how did you die?*"

**Baptism.**—July 1st, Kathleen Annie, daughter of Stephen and Mary Elizabeth Boyfield.

**Burial.**—July 7th, Kathleen Annie Boyfield, aged 3 weeks.

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

**Three Years of War.**—The 4th of August will be the third anniversary of the outbreak of war. Sunday, the 5th of August, is to be observed throughout the Kingdom as a day of National prayer and intercession. At all our services the special forms of prayer, issued by authority, will be used. The Vicar appeals for the presence of all in church on this solemn and momentous occasion.

**War Weariness.**—We are all longing with ever-increasing intensity for the end, but meanwhile we must guard against the danger of "war weariness" in regard to our intercessions. It is a sad and significant fact that many of us have long since become weary and careless as regards these. Our place in God's House is empty week after week. Some of us have never been present at our Intercession service since the War began. In God's Name let us put this right, and strive to make a new beginning now that the third anniversary of this frightful struggle for right has come. God is waiting for our prayers, come and ask Him. Here is His Promise: "*Ask and ye shall have.*"

**"Missing."**—Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Weldon, who has received official notice that her son, Pte. Alfred Weldon has been posted as missing since the assault on Messines Ridge in May. We fervently hope that news may yet be heard of him, though the Chaplain who has been communicated with is unable to trace him.

**On Leave.**—We were pleased to see Pte. William Archer (A.S.C. Motor Transport) who was recently home again on leave looking so fit and well. He has now returned to the Front, taking with him the good wishes of us all.

**Pure Bread for the Holy Communion.**—In issuing their regulations as to flour ingredients, the Government have rightly taken into account the requirements of the Church, and licences for the supply of pure wheaten flour for the Eucharist are issued by the Ministry of Food. The wafer bread used in this church is made wholly of this pure flour, and we notice it stated that similar wafer bread is used almost universally by Army Chaplains. Ordinary bread, at all times unsuitable, is now totally unfitted for this sacred use.

**Careby Church.**—The Vicar has been asked to take over the spiritual charge of Careby during the vacancy of the living. In consequence, it will be necessary during August to have our own evening service a quarter of an hour later, namely at 7.15, on Sundays.

**A Parish Poet.**—We have come across an old book of poems published in 1834 by the school-master of Witham, Mr. C. W. Friend. Some of his poems are of considerable merit. One, entitled "An Ode to Witham-on-the-Hill" is specially interesting to us. Of its twenty-one verses we only have space to quote the following:

Witham, my much-loved dwelling place, for thee  
With willing hand I touch the tuneful string;  
I should unworthy of thy kindness be,  
Could I refrain thy honest worth to sing.  
For thou hast blest me with a peaceful home,  
And more content than I had known before;  
Here would I stay;—one transient wish to roam  
Shall break through my tranquility no more.  
Thy praise, lov'd spot, shall, till my latest breath,  
Inspire my heart, and dwell upon my tongue;  
And in my humble song, be—after death—  
By my succeeding generations sung!

There's not a soul, from high to low, whose lot  
Fortune hath cast upon thy tow'ring height,  
Whether in splendid home or lowly cot,  
Who hath not cause to view thee with delight.  
Though it is sweet to breathe the genial air  
That flows so pure o'er thy majestic head,  
Yet num'rous blessings, equally as dear,  
From day to day o'er thee their influence shed.  
Surely it is not difficult to tell  
The cause from whence thy happiness doth rise;  
The place where grasping tyranny doth dwell,  
Seldom much real happiness supplies.

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

**Three Years of War.**—The 4th of August will be the third anniversary of the outbreak of war. Sunday, the 5th of August, is to be observed throughout the Kingdom as a day of National prayer and intercession. At all our services the special forms of prayer, issued by authority, will be used. The Vicar appeals for the presence of all in church on this solemn and momentous occasion.

**War Weariness.**—We are all longing with ever-increasing intensity for the end, but meanwhile we must guard against the danger of "war weariness" in regard to our intercessions. It is a sad and significant fact that many of us have long since become weary and careless as regards these. Our place in God's House is empty week after week. Some of us have never been present at our Intercession service since the War began. In God's Name let us put this right, and strive to make a new beginning now that the third anniversary of this frightful struggle for right has come. God is waiting for our prayers, come and ask Him. Here is His Promise: "*Ask and ye shall have.*"

**"Missing."**—Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Weldon, who has received official notice that her son, Pte. Alfred Weldon has been posted as missing since the assault on Messines Ridge in May. We fervently hope that news may yet be heard of him, though the Chaplain who has been communicated with is unable to trace him.

**On Leave.**—We were pleased to see Pte. William Archer (A.S.C. Motor Transport) who was recently home again on leave looking so fit and well. He has now returned to the Front, taking with him the good wishes of us all.

**Pure Bread for the Holy Communion.**—In issuing their regulations as to flour ingredients, the Government have rightly taken into account the requirements of the Church, and licences for the supply of pure wheaten flour for the Eucharist are issued by the Ministry of Food. The wafer bread used in this church is made wholly of this pure flour, and we notice it stated that similar wafer bread is used almost universally by Army Chaplains. Ordinary bread, at all times unsuitable, is now totally unfitted for this sacred use.

**Careby Church.**—The Vicar has been asked to take over the spiritual charge of Careby during the vacancy of the living. In consequence, it will be necessary during August to have our own evening service a quarter of an hour later, namely at 7.15, on Sundays.

**A Parish Poet.**—We have come across an old book of poems published in 1834 by the school-master of Witham, Mr. C. W. Friend. Some of his poems are of considerable merit. One, entitled "An Ode to Witham-on-the-Hill" is specially interesting to us. Of its twenty-one verses we only have space to quote the following:

Witham, my much-loved dwelling place, for thee  
With willing hand I touch the tuneful string;  
I should unworthy of thy kindness be,  
Could I refrain thy honest worth to sing.

For thou hast blest me with a peaceful home,  
And more content than I had known before;  
Here would I stay;—one transient wish to roam  
Shall break through my tranquillity no more.

Thy praise, lov'd spot, shall, till my latest breath,  
Inspire my heart, and dwell upon my tongue;  
And in my humble song, be—after death—  
By my succeeding generations sung!

There's not a soul, from high to low, whose lot  
Fortune hath cast upon thy tow'ring height,  
Whether in splendid home or lowly cot,  
Who hath not cause to view thee with delight.

Though it is sweet to breathe the genial air  
That flows so pure o'er thy majestic head,  
Yet num'rous blessings, equally as dear,  
From day to day o'er thee their influence shed.

Surely it is not difficult to tell  
The cause from whence thy happiness doth rise;  
The place where grasping tyranny doth dwell.  
Seldom much real happiness supplies.



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

**Sunday, August 5th**, was kept by us, in common with the whole of the country, as a solemn commemoration of the completion of three years of war. At the early Eucharist we remembered by name those who have laid down their lives, at all the Services we used the special forms of prayer authorized for the occasion. Though our numbers were larger than usual, we were grieved that many failed to make use of this great opportunity for united intercession. In this fourth year of war let us consecrate ourselves afresh to the duty of prayer. Let us call to mind once more what Admiral Beatty said last year in reference to this duty—"When England looks out with humbler eyes *and prayer upon her lips*, then she can begin to count the days towards the end." Or we might remember the well-known words of that great and far-seeing soldier, Lord Roberts, who said: "that for her salvation England must become a nation on its knees."

**We all sympathize** with Mr. Pick in his illness and we earnestly hope that he may shortly be restored to health. We miss him sadly on all sides, and not least as churchwarden from his accustomed place in church.

**Harvest Thanksgiving Services** will (D.V.) be held on Sunday, September the 16th, the Services being at 8, 10, 11, and 6.30. This day should have a new meaning for us in these times of growing anxiety as to the provision of "our daily bread." On one other Sunday in the month (not yet fixed) similar services will be held at Careby, when the usual morning service here at 11 will have to be suspended, in order that the Vicar may conduct a morning service there.

**Summer Time** comes to an end on the night of Sunday, the 16th, when the clock will be put back one hour, to begin 'mean' time on the Monday.

**Darkening the Church.**—The vicar and churchwardens are anxious, if possible, to continue evening service throughout the winter, if the lights can be sufficiently screened to satisfy the legal requirements. Though the scheme may be somewhat costly and difficult owing to the number and size of the church windows, yet they are of opinion that it should be attempted, rather than face a third winter with no evening service, with the consequent serious spiritual loss of our people.

**The New Standard Candlesticks** in the sanctuary are a gift from the Squire to the Vicar for use in the church, and are an exceedingly handsome enrichment to the chancel. They take the place of the plain wooden pair made by Mr. Holland, the late Vicar, which, though in use for some 25 years, were only intended to be of a temporary character. The new pair stand over five feet in height, and are made of wood, carved and gilded. They came we believe from Italy.

**Improvements** of various kinds are needed in the church. To visitors we fear it gives an impression of untidiness and neglect. We hope to clear out first of all the litter in the corner near the organ. Then the shabby curtains and hangings of the altar and the worn-out carpet in the Lady Chapel need renewing.

**The inside portion** of our Magazine has become so attenuated that another year we must try and find some other publication which contains more reading matter, if that is, our friends in the other parishes agree. It is not the quality that we complain of, that is excellent, but the quality.

**Baptism.**—August 5th, Frederick Harold, son of James and Beatrice Panter.

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

**Fete at the Hall.**—Through the great kindness of the Squire and Mrs. Fenwick a Garden Fête was organised in the Hall grounds on Saturday, September 22nd, in order to raise funds for "Our Day," the Red Cross Society's annual effort in October. For the last two years we have appealed for this cause through a house-to-house collection and the offerings at the Harvest Festival but this year the Fête relieves us of this necessity. At the time of writing the exact proceeds are not yet known, but they are expected to exceed £20. The splendid band of the R.N.A.S. was alone worth going to hear, and various competitions and amusements were organized, which all found ready patrons. It is four years ago since, on the occasion of the present squire's coming-of-age, the beautiful grounds of the Hall were last thrown open, and five years since our last flower-show, the memorable wet day.

**Screening the Church Windows.**—This difficult matter has, we hope, been successfully done, so that we shall be able to have evening services throughout the winter. The task proved one of considerable difficulty, owing to the great size and number of the windows. Some are coated with dark distemper, and others have been provided with curtains. The subdued light in the daytime reveals our beautiful church under quite a new aspect, and incidentally throws into relief architectural features previously unnoticed. The effect is very striking and not at all displeasing. In speaking of the church windows, attention may be called to the very strange contrast afforded by the two in the west end. We have an incomparably grand Perpendicular window of some ten feet in breadth, and more than twice that in height, while by its side there in the tiny Early English window of 5 inches! What is the reason for this extraordinary disparity in size? Simply this, that the one was erected before, and the other after the invention of glass. The date of the small window is about 200 years earlier than the large one.

**A Promised Gift.**—Our notes last month have elicited a most generous offer from one of our readers of a new carpet for the Lady Chapel, for which we are most grateful. It is to be a Christmas gift to the church.

**The Coal Club.**—We take this opportunity of informing the members of this Club that it is found impossible to provide the coal this year. Instead of this, an order form will be issued to the members, as in the case of the Clothing Club, so that they may make their own arrangements for purchasing.

**A Witham Lieutenant.**—Mr. Leslie W. Metcalfe has obtained his Commission, and has been gazetted Second-Lieut. in his old regiment, the W. Yorks. He enlisted in the 7th Batt. (the Leeds Rifles) in 1914, and has gone through many months fighting in Flanders, being one of the few survivors of his original Company. The offer of a commission came quite unsought, and is therefore all the more gratifying. We wish him our heartiest congratulations and best wishes.

**Trooper Edgar Pick** is safely back in England, in hospital at Birkenhead. It is hoped that before long he will be allowed to return home. We are glad to know that he is well and cheerful.

**The Sick.**—Mr. Thos. Pick is, we are thankful to think, making progress. We need not assure him how earnestly we hope and pray for his recovery. Mr. John Holmes is likewise progressing favourably, and all his friends have noticed a marked change for the better. We regret to hear that Mr. Monty Fenwick has had to return to hospital to have his leg re-set.

**Chestnuts.**—The children are busily engaged in collecting chestnuts, in accordance with the Government's request. Though not used for human food, they replace for essential purposes material which can otherwise be utilized for food. Each pound of chestnuts collected is said to save one pound of food-stuffs for the nation.

**Home on Leave.**—Pte. John J. Haddon (M.G.C.) has arrived home on leave after 15 months service. We were exceedingly pleased to welcome him, and to see him looking so fit and well.

**Attention is called** to the enclosed leaflet, "What we are fighting for."

**P.S.**—The net receipts of the Fête on the 22nd ult. were £29/6/4.

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

**"Our Day" Result.**—A sum of over £31 is the contribution from our parish this year, made up as follows: £29 from the Hall Garden Fête, £1/17/8 collected in church, and about 15/- from the sale of lavender by Miss Lee, for which we beg to thank her most heartily. It is a most satisfactory result as compared with the two previous years, which were £13 odd in 1915 and £9 in 1916.

**The Harvest Thanksgiving** services were bright and hearty, and the church was decorated by many willing hands. In the evening the Rev. E. Canham, Curate of Worthing, gave us a very helpful address.

**Departure.**—We are all sorry to lose Mr. and Mrs. Collins from the village. They will be missed in many ways, and their departure is a matter of general regret. Not least do we miss the children from our school. Our hearty good wishes go with them in their new home at Market Deeping.

**The Darkened Church.**—In addition to screening the windows we have now shaded all the lights, so that no rays fall upon any of the windows. We wish to remind the congregation of the step in the porch, also of the iron door stop in the centre, and to exercise caution in entering the church. These will be whitened for greater safety. The church is four steps below the level of the ground, one of which is *outside* the door, and three *inside*. The reason for this curious feature is interesting. The floor was lowered some three feet in the thirteenth century, to give sufficient interior height when the Early English north aisle was added. The result is that the great square bases of the older Norman pillars on the south side, once level with the floor, now stand high above it.

**No Bells** may be rung after dark, so we must rely on our own clocks and watches to be in time for the evening service. The organist will commence to play a few minutes before the service begins, as a guide to those outside.

**The Chancel** cannot conveniently be used in the evening, so that the choir sit in the nave for this service. The two candles on the altar alone connect us with the sanctuary. The reason why these are extinguished before the sermon is that the service proper is then ended, and the sermon (except at the Holy Eucharist) forms no part of the liturgical office. In order to emphasize this, it was once the custom for the minister to take off his surplice after the prayers, and before entering the pulpit to put on a black gown. This custom still survives in some churches.

**Wounded.**—We deeply regret to hear of several casualties to our lads during the past month. Pte. J. W. Haddon (Sherwood Foresters) has received a shrapnel wound in the left shoulder, and is now in hospital in England. Mercifully no bones are broken, and he is going on well. Pte. Walter Archer has been slightly wounded again, in the face, but not badly enough to "get a Blighty." There is a report too that Pte. Harold Holmes (attached to the "R. Fusiliers") is wounded, but at the time of writing his parents have received no official intimation. Enquiries are being made, and we earnestly hope that reassuring news may soon arrive of his whereabouts and condition. Mr. Tony Fenwick has recently also been slightly wounded in the left leg, from a shell which exploded only two yards from him. The wet condition of the ground undoubtedly saved his life, we hear. Had the ground been less water-logged, he must have been killed. As for Mr. Monty, he is to continue in splints for another month, and then to be put into plaster. Except for his leg, he is well and cheery. We all sympathize with him in his long and wearisome detention in hospital.

**Captain W. D. Johnson**, only surviving son of the late Squire Johnson, who was wounded and taken prisoner in 1915, has now been released and is in England. About a year ago he was fortunate enough to be sent to Switzerland from Germany, where he was interned at Murren as a prisoner of war, and now under the arrangement made with the German Government for mutual exchange of prisoners he has obtained his release. He writes to say that he is well but thin, and hopes to pay us a visit ere long.

**The Toft Room** will soon be used for a children's Sunday morning class in connection with the church. Mrs. Harry Smith, now staying at Toft, has been kind enough to promise to conduct it for us. The class will meet at 9.30, so as not to interfere with the children's attendance at church at 11.

**The Church Hassocks** are in need of repair. Will some of our friends be kind enough to help us?

**Subscribers** who receive the Magazine by post are particularly asked to send word to the Vicar as to whether they wish to have it sent next year, so that we may know the exact number of copies to order.

**Baptism.**—26th October, Nora Eileen, daughter of George William and Stella Wallis.

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

**Christmas Day.**—Holy Communion at 7.30 and 9 o'clock. Sung Eucharist at 11, Evensong and address at 3. This great and happy day is the birthday of our Blessed Saviour, let us keep it with Him and pray for the speedy fulfilment of the angels' message: "Peace on earth."

**The Christmas Charities** will be distributed in church after the 11 o'clock service.

**Sunday, January 6th**, being the first Sunday in the new year, is to be kept throughout the country as a day of solemn united intercession for the Divine blessing on our arms, in accordance with the King's Proclamation.

**A Confirmation** will be held by the Bishop of Lincoln on the 5th of March, at Market Deeping, which is, unfortunately the nearest church to which we can take candidates this year. The Vicar asks for the names of those who are to be prepared, in the near future.

**Paraffin.**—We have to contend with many difficulties in these sad and anxious times, and to others is now added a threatened famine in oil. That this will seriously affect our evening services is obvious, but we hope that with great care and economy in lights we shall be able to carry on through the winter, even if we are obliged to reduce the lighting of the church to the barest minimum. In that case we must content ourselves with well-known hymns, in which we can join, if need be, without the books.

**The Social Evening.**—On Wednesday, November 21st, a whist drive and dance was arranged to raise money for Christmas presents to our soldier boys. The event can only be described as a magnificent success. Never has there been a larger gathering at any similar function, in fact we were literally crowded out. During the evening many gifts were sold by auction, some of the articles being sold again and again. The proceeds of the evening amounted to over £34, and it is proposed that every one of the lads serving with the colours from this parish shall receive a gift of not less than £1. For the kind thought which prompted this splendid effort we are chiefly indebted to Mr. Wallis, Mr. and Mrs. Parkin, Mr. and Mrs. Brudenell, Mr. and Mrs. Creasey, and Mr. and Mrs. Gourley. The result will be gratifying to them in the extreme.

**The death of Harold Holmes.**—It is with great sorrow that we have to record the death of still another of our soldier lads, Pte. Harold Holmes, of the Royal Fusiliers, who was killed in France on September 22nd, through the bursting of a shell behind the lines, while returning to billets with a night working party. His platoon officer, in a letter to the Vicar, asking him to convey to his parents the very sincere condolences of the officers of his company, states that his loss is very keenly felt. It is the same with us here at home, for Harold Holmes was a favourite with everybody. For a very long time he was a member of our choir, and latterly also a ringer. Had it been possible to ring the bells, the ringers had wished to ring a muffled peal in his memory. On Sunday, November 11th, a special memorial service was held, at which his relatives and many friends were present. We wish to express our deepest sympathy with his parents and family in the sacrifice of his young life (he was but 24) so full of hope and promise. R.I.P.

**The Magazine for 1918.**—Owing to the cost and difficulty of production many parishes have abandoned their magazine, but since ours is so widely supported and appreciated, we hope to continue it as before. The cost is somewhat heavy, and it would be a great kindness if those who can see their way to doing so will contribute an extra sixpence beyond the usual shilling for the year. Last year the great majority of our readers very kindly did this. Will they repeat that kindness? For the inside pages we propose to return to our old friend *The Sign*, which seems to be one of the best of those now published. We have given up *The Symbol* owing to its small size.

**To all subscribers** in the parish the Vicar will present, with the January number, a copy of the *Sign Calendar*, which is one of the most beautiful we have recently seen. It contains a reproduction of the famous picture by Leonardo da Vinci, "The Last Supper," and much interesting and useful reading matter, including a table of the moon's phases, and an almanack shewing all days in the year.

**A Christmas Social Evening.**—The members of the Reading room propose to organize a whist drive and dance on Thursday in Christmas week (December 27th), the proceeds to be divided between the Netley Hospital Fund and the expenses of the Reading room.