

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

A year ago.—In the Magazine for January, 1918, we wrote the following words: "In all probability there are even greater sacrifices and anxieties in store for us than any we have yet experienced. Still, the darkest hour is that which comes before the dawn, and it is our belief and hope that this is to be the year of victory and peace." Those words of ours have come strangely and wonderfully true. There was first of all the terrible set-back in the spring, the blackest and most anxious period of the whole war, and then the glimmering of the dawn in July, growing ever brighter until the glorious noon-day of victory was reached in November. For the year that is coming, now that the clouds which have oppressed us for long are lifted, we wish every happiness to all our readers.

In Memoriam, Gertrude Augusta Johnson.—The death of Mrs. Johnson severs a link with the past. It is a good many years since she resided at the Hall, and there are now but few Witham people who remember her. Thus "the old order changeth, giving place to the new," and the home to which she came as a bride nearly fifty years ago has passed to other hands. Still like her late husband Squire Johnson, she ever retained affectionate memories of Witham, and like him cherished a devoted attachment to the church, which they both enriched with many gifts. At her express request she was laid to rest here, in the same grave as her husband. Mrs. Johnson has left in her will a generous legacy to the church for the erection of the Rood and accompanying Figures upon the Screen in memory of her late husband. On the Sunday following the funeral the Vicar spoke of the tragic nature of her widowhood, which she passed in weakness, suffering and loneliness, and from which we must be thankful that she has at last been released. R.I.P.

Christmas Day—The church was embowered in greenery for the great Festival, and with the white altar flowers (a gift from Nurse Collison), looked its best. By far the largest number of communicants were present at the first service at 7.30, before which the bells rang out joyously. The Charities were dispensed by the Vicar and Churchwardens after the 11 o'clock service. In the afternoon the children assembled at the Hall for the Christmas tree, the first we have had for five years. Before distributing the prizes and presents Captain Fenwick addressed the children, and in a humorous way apologized for the absence of Father Christmas himself, but told them that he had been commissioned to act as his deputy, and had to obey orders. He hoped that all of them would always remember to obey the dictates of conscience, and to do what it told them. If they did, they would never go very far wrong. Each child then received a present from the tree.

Prize-winners.—The following children won the prizes kindly given by the Squire and Mrs. Fenwick: William Bent, Eva Warnes, Effield Warnes, Millicent Harmston, Vera Wilcox, Mary Wallis, Bertie Wand, Margaret Wallis, Edith Panter, Greta Stublely and Reginald Harmston.

Confirmation will be administered in Thurlby church on Thursday, February 27th. The Vicar asks for the names of any who desire to be prepared, early in January.

Collections in December.		1st	8th	15th	22nd	25th	29th
Morning	6/9	7/-	4/3	4/-	£1/5/2	10/3	
Evening	4/-	4/4	4/3	4/1	—	5/3	

Baptism.—December 22nd, Ernest Victor, son of William and Mary Elizabeth Holland.

Burial.—December 11th, Gertrude Augusta Johnson, aged 70 years.

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

Letters of Thanks have been received from all the boys to whom the Committee sent the Christmas gift of a sovereign. We quote a few extracts from these letters. "It is very nice to know that we are not forgotten by our old friends at Witham." "I cannot tell you how much I appreciate your kindness." "Thank you very much for such a handsome gift to the lads who represent the dear little parish." "I have been in several parishes, and I don't think I have found any to beat Witham for patriotism, and for what they have done for the benefit and welfare of the boys who went and did their little bit to help to bring the war to such a glorious end." And this from our W.A.A.C.: "There is little need to explain how it helps one along to know our friends are thinking of us at home. It is the greatest compliment you could pay me when you treat me in the same way as the boys who have done such splendid work to bring us such fine victory." The above quotations are typical of all the letters received.

Proposed Memorial to the fallen.—A public meeting will be held in the school on Tuesday, February 11th, at 7.30, to consider this subject, and to decide what form the memorial should take. We hope that all who are interested will attend.

The Church Windows are now divested of their screening, and the church once more resumes its old appearance. This and the striking of the chimes throughout the night bring home to us as much as anything else the glorious truth of the end of the war. In reference to the latter, we quote a few lines from *Punch* which exactly express our feelings. They are called "Peace in the Village":—

The old church clock, long silent in its tower,
Awakes to tell the time,
And cheer us at the quarter and the hour
With its melodious chime.

Gone are the days when only sleep could break
War's grim and tyrannous spells;
Now it is rest and joy to lie awake
And listen to the bells!

Children's Party.—A very happy and successful party was held on January 16th at the Vicarage for the children who attend on Sunday afternoons. Thanks to the many helpers, and in particular to Miss Fisher, who was the prime mover in the matter, all went merrily. After a substantial and most unwarlike tea, there followed games and competitions for which Nurse Collison kindly awarded prizes. An interval for fireworks created a diversion. It is hoped to have another in the summer.

Miss Lee has handed to the Vicar the sum of 8/- from the sale of lavender bags last year. As the Red Cross Fund is now closed, she kindly wishes it to be devoted to the Memorial Fund.

Coal.—At the time of writing, the serious difficulty with regard to fuel has been somewhat eased by the thoughtful generosity of Capt. Fenwick, who, after enquiring in the village as to who was out of coal, has supplied the deficiency from his own allowance. His action is deserving of our thanks, and if all of us endeavour in the same spirit to help one another, we trust that we shall weather the crisis without individual hardship.

Impending Changes.—It is now public knowledge that many portions of our parish are shortly to change ownership. However much we may regret it, it is only in conformity with the spirit of the times that the land should be in a greater number of hands than in the past, and that the cultivator of the soil should be also the owner.

A Village Hall.—This scheme is also by now made public. The Squire hopes to make the village of Witham a model one in every respect, and one of his earliest plans will be to give us a village green, on which shall stand a fine and commodious hall and "Institute." We hope to describe this in greater detail in another issue.

Collections in January.	5th	12th	19th	26th
Morning	6/9	8/-	6/-	4/5
Evening	4/3	5/7	5/7	6/-

Burial.—January 27th, (At Clipsham) Harriet Hibbitt, aged 82 years.

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

Lent.—Once again this sacred season is upon us. How precious it may be to us if we try to use it. A new start, a fresh effort, who is there who does not need this, who is there who is satisfied with his or her religious state? Dear reader, whoever you may be, *resolve, determine* to come back to God this Lent; this is His call, will you not need it?

Proposed Memorial.—The Public Meeting called to consider this, was held on February 11th, at the Hall, by kind invitation of Capt. Fenwick, as there was no fuel at the school. There was a good attendance, and all parts of the parish were represented. It was unanimously decided to erect a tall cross in some conspicuous position, preferably in the churchyard, between the church porch and the road. A design for the cross will be prepared in the near future by Mr. A. N. Prentice, who designed the church pews. Capt. Fenwick has offered the ancient stone which stands at present in the Park, as a base for the cross, if it can be utilized. This old stone, on which a portion of the shaft is still in position, is said to have been brought from Lound many years ago, where it once formed the village cross, standing beside the ancient chapel, demolished in the reign of Henry VIII. It would thus be restored to its original sacred use. The farmers' committee have kindly offered the whole of their remaining funds (some £29) for the purpose, and the Vicar has in hand about £5, while the balance would be met by subscriptions.

The School was perforce closed last month for over a week, owing to lack of fuel. As this enforced holiday just coincided with the frost, there was no protest from the scholars!

Flower Show.—It is hoped once again to revive our village show, and to hold it this year on the last Wednesday in July. The last flower show was in 1912, when the day was hopelessly wet.

Mrs. Johnson's bequest.—The sum of £220 left to the Vicar by the will of the late Mrs. Johnson is to be expended as follows:—£20 for a memorial tablet in the chancel, and the remainder for the erection of the rood and figures on the screen. A handsome design for the latter has been submitted by the eminent architect Mr. C. G. Hare, and the work will be put in hand shortly. All who have seen the drawing are greatly pleased with it, and it is open to inspection in the church.

Social Evening.—On February 21st, a Whist Drive and Dance was held in aid of the Soldiers' and Sailors' help Society (the King's Fund). In spite of the most inclement weather the affair was a great success, and was very largely patronized. Our congratulations and thanks are due to Mrs. Creasey and Mrs. Gourley who were the chief organizers, assisted by other willing helpers. The proceeds amounted to over £10, a splendid result. Mrs. Fenwick kindly presented the prizes.

The Toft Room—This ugly and useless little building should be put to better purposes. Subject to the approval and help of the Church Estate Trustees, we are hoping to restore and enlarge it, and to render it available both for secular and religious uses. Mr. Wilfred Bond, the well-known architect, is preparing plans for submission to the Trustees, and it is hoped that something may come of the scheme. At present we cannot say anything more definite.

Proposed public conveyance to Bourne.—It is in prospect that the Squire, with his usual thoughtfulness, will organize a motor conveyance to run from Witham to Bourne and back on Thursdays, for the convenience of the parishioners. If he is able to carry it out, it is a concession which will be greatly valued and appreciated.

A fuller description of the proposed village Hall must be held over till next month from lack of space.

Losses.—We miss two parishioners of the older generation recently gone from our midst, the one by removal, the other by death. We have hope, however, that Mr. Smart may return to Witham later on. To leave his home at so advanced an age is a terrible wrench. Mr. Henry Sentence has survived his wife for not quite 11 months. In his case too, there was the tragic uprooting from the old home where he had lived all his life. You cannot transplant old trees whose roots have struck deeply.

On Sunday, 30th March, and during the continuance of Summer time, Evensong will be at 7 o'clock.

Collections in February.		2nd	9th	16th	23rd
	Morning	5/-	7/6	4/6	7/2
	Evening	6/-	5/6	4/6	5/4

Burial.—11th February, Henry Sentence, aged 79 years.

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

Easter.—"Every parishioner shall communicate at least three times in the year, *of which Easter is to be one.*" (See Book of Common Prayer). There will be two early celebrations for Communion on Easter Day, at 7.30 and 9, and Choral Eucharist at 11. Let us celebrate with glad and thankful hearts the first Easter of peace.

Good Friday (God's Friday)—on this most Sacred day our Saviour died for us. We surely cannot be so thoughtless as to keep it as a day of pleasure, and forget Him. There will be Services both morning and evening.

The Memorial.—Mr. Prentice has designed a Cross of unusual dignity and beauty, to commemorate those who have fallen in the War, and the Committee have decided that it shall stand on the village green, at the bend of the road between the Church and the old stocks. No more commanding position could possibly have been chosen, for there it will arrest the attention of every passer-by. [Note.—Since writing the above, the site has been modified, Ed.] The ancient base to which we referred last month will be mounted on three steps, and will support a graceful and slender shaft terminating in a hooded cross. It is an almost exact copy of the famous cross at Somersby. The total height will be 16½ feet. The cost is estimated at something over £100, and every parishioner will be offered the opportunity and privilege of contributing.

The village green.—Captain Fenwick proposes to present the field lying to the West of the churchyard, to the parish for a public green. It is a truly munificent gift in itself, quite apart from the village Hall which is also to be a gift, and which when built will stand upon it. A green adds almost more than anything else to the charm and amenities of a village. The ground will be opened almost at once, and the wall removed. A pathway will run across it from the churchyard corner to Bywells, which will form a convenient short cut for pedestrians.

The village Hall which is to follow will be a commodious and well arranged building, containing a reading room, billiard room, gymnasium and workshop, with a large central room for social gatherings and meetings, about one third larger than our school. There will also be a buffet for sale of refreshments, and the building will be sufficiently endowed to provide for a caretaker. The whole will be heated in winter by hot water circulation. This Hall and the green will form the Squire's memorial to his father. We only hope that the parishioners will duly value and appreciate this splendid and generous gift, which will make our village the envy and admiration of less fortunate parishes.

The public conveyance.—We hardly ventured to think, when writing on this last month, that a start would be made so quickly. The Squire nominated a committee to help him in the management of the scheme, consisting of Mrs. Sutton, the Vicar, Mr. Cooper, Mr. Metcalfe and Mr. Wilcox. Alas! after one successful run to Bourne on Thursday, March 20th, the car met with a mishap, and it may be some considerable time before it is in running order again. But it will be repaired and available for use at the earliest possible date. It will run to Bourne on Thursdays and Saturdays, and if desired, also to Stamford on Fridays. In addition, it can be hired privately. For terms, apply to any of the Committee.

Collections in March.—2nd		9th	16th	23rd	30th
Morning	6/3	3/11	4/10	5/3	5/1
*Afternoon	—	2/6½	3/7½	5/11½	4/10
Evening	5/2	2/10	3/4	3/10	2/-

*Lent offerings for the Waifs and Strays.

Marriage.—March 19th, Richard Percy Douglas Bent and Gertrude Holmes.

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

Easter.—The church never looked more beautiful in its array of Easter flowers, and our grateful thanks are due to all the kind and willing helpers. As for the services they were most inspiring and hearty. For the music of the choral Eucharist we had Merbecke's setting once again, of which, unlike the modern music, it is impossible ever to tire. This wonderful setting was written by John Merbecke for the first English Prayer Book in the year 1550, and has been in continuous use ever since.

The Annual Vestry Meeting was held on Easter Tuesday. The Church accounts which were presented showed that a total sum of £42/2/9 had been given at the services during the year, which is an increase of £8 on last year, and of nearly £18 on the year before. The accounts of the charities were also submitted to the meeting. There then followed an earnest and helpful discussion on the spiritual condition of the parish, which was acknowledged to be far from satisfactory, and it was resolved that an effort should be made to raise it. The Vicar begged for a greater measure of support and encouragement from the laity, and this the meeting pledged itself to give. We believe that this Easter is going to be a turning-point for our church and parish, and that in answer to prayer, God is sending down upon us His Holy Spirit, that according to the prophecy of old, "these dry bones may live." We look forward to the future with renewed confidence and hope.

The Memorial.—Since writing last month the Committee's plans for the site have undergone a change. This is in consequence of the decision of the Church Estate Trustees to sanction the demolition of the old school, in order that the stone and other materials of the building may be used in the construction of the village Hall. It was then unanimously agreed that the site of the school would be an ideal one for the Memorial Cross, close to the road and to the church, and standing on consecrated ground, as this corner was at one time actually part of the churchyard. A grass-plot and flower beds will complete the picture, making a little beauty spot in the heart of the village.

The old School.—As for this building, endeared to us by old associations, it will but re-appear in new guise upon the green as the village Hall, while its familiar bell cot and windows will go to Toft, to be used there in re-modelling the Mission Room. Incidentally its removal will open up a fine view of the church from the South-east.

Sports Club.—At a well-attended meeting called by the Squire, at the Hall, on the 17th of April, this club was formed, to combine the three games of cricket, lawn-tennis and bowls. A strong committee was formed, with Mr. Redshaw as secretary and Mr. Lawley as treasurer, and captains and vice-captains were chosen for each of the games. We hope that members will enrol in large numbers. The subscriptions are 2/6 for those over 18, and 1/- for those below. New beginners at each game will be specially welcomed. The bowling green is in the Hall garden, and the tennis court that at the Vicarage. This club opens out an alluring prospect of enjoyment for all during the coming summer.

Flower Show.—A general meeting was held at the Hall on the 23rd of April, at which it was decided to hold the Show on Wednesday, July 30th, this year for the parish only. An executive committee of 16 members was formed, with the Squire as chairman, the Vicar as vice-chairman, Mr. Lawley as secretary, and Mr. Metcalfe as treasurer.

Lent Offerings.—These offerings, made in the main at the children's service on the Sunday afternoons in Lent, amount to £2/0/5, which sum has been sent to the Waifs and Strays Society.

Mrs. W. Pick has sustained a fracture of the thigh in consequence of a fall. She was removed to Stamford Infirmary in the Bourne ambulance, but at her advanced age we much fear that the injury will be permanent. We sympathize deeply both with her and her husband.

Collections in April.—6th		13th	20th	27th
Morning	7/10	5/5	£17/6	7/11
Afternoon	3/4	9/7	10/6	—
Evening	6/5	4/-	9/1	2/11

Marriage.—April 12th, Joseph Kettle and Louisa Holmes..

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

Whitsun Day has been called the birthday of the Church. On this great and holy festival we commemorate the descent of the Holy Spirit, who came to dwell in the Holy Catholic Church to give it life, and abide in it for ever. The colour used in the church on this day is red (the colour of fire), because of the tongues of fire by which the Holy Spirit's presence was first manifested.

Our services.—Already we are able to notice a marked improvement in our services on Sundays, they are brighter and more hearty than formerly, and we feel confident that this will increase. Greater attention is being given to the singing, we are seeking the help of more singers, both men and ladies, popular hymns will be more frequently used, and the method of chanting the psalms is to be changed, so that all can take their part. The Vicar, churchwardens and sidesmen all have this matter deeply at heart, and ask that many others will support and encourage them. Given a full church of hearty worshippers, and the services cannot fail to be both enjoyable and uplifting. We earnestly invite any who may have been chilled in the past by a dull service to come once more, and see for themselves, and encourage us yet more by their regular presence. As to the sermons, the Vicar will endeavour to make them both helpful and instructive, and if possible even shorter than formerly, as there appears to be a desire for a short address only. He would gladly welcome requests for any special subject for the sermon. On the last Sunday in May, although the morning was wet, the services were never more beautiful, both morning and evening. Many were the comments of approval which reached us, and even the Squire listened, thrilled by the music, which he heard distinctly from his garden.

The Font.—When the Bishop visited the church last summer, he recommended the provision of a cover for the font. An opportunity has now been given us of complying with his request. The Vicar and churchwardens of Edenham have offered us the singularly handsome canopied cover from their church. With some alterations to the base it can be well adapted for our font. This canopy, which is eleven feet in height, was made by the village carpenter at Edenham about 65 years ago, and is a triumph of local skill. The whole structure is of oak, delicately carved, and resembles in design the ancient canopies of the 15th century, which were so largely destroyed in the past. The object of such a cover is to give equal dignity to the font as to the altar, as the places of the ministration of the two great Sacraments.

The Sports Club is proving even more popular than we ventured to hope. Our cricketers have covered themselves with success by winning the first three matches of the season, a splendid and encouraging start. The tennis court is largely patronized every evening and the club have already arranged contests against Bourne and Castle Bytham. Bowling too has distinctly "caught on" and is creating no little enthusiasm. Before long we hope to be in a position to challenge other teams. These daily meetings for games are proving an immense good in bringing us together as a united parish, and providing opportunities for social intercourse.

The Vicarage Garden.—The Vicar wishes once more to state that all are welcome to use his garden whenever they care to do so. Because he happens to be the possessor of a garden of singular charm as regards shady nooks and corners, he is all the more anxious that others should enjoy it also.

Mrs. Glenn has passed away at length after receiving the last rites of the Church, and we cannot but feel thankful that after her years of weakness and suffering she is now at rest. We venture to offer our deepest sympathy to the bereaved family.

We also sympathize most heartily with Mr. William Pick, in the loss of his devoted wife, who eventually succumbed to the shock of her recent accident. Mrs. Pick will be greatly missed by many among us.

Cricket fixtures for June.—7th——14th, v Casterton, away; 21st v. Rutland Engineering Works, home; 28th——

Collections in May.		11th	18th	26th
Morning	10/6	8/10	7/3	8/10
Evening	5/4	5/6	6/2	6/-

Burial.—9th May, Eliza Pick, aged 78 years.

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

A Coal supply for the Parish.—Captain Fenwick has very thoughtfully and kindly proposed to institute an arrangement to enable householders to obtain coal at much reduced prices, and has requested us to publish the following particulars of the scheme. He will obtain coal from the pit-head at lowest summer prices, which will be stored free of charge in a *dépôt* to be established at the Home Farm. Those who wish to participate in the scheme must register their names with the Vicar by *July 14th at the latest*, stating at the same time the quantity of coal which they are likely to require for the year. The *dépôt* will be open on a stated day in each week, when the members will be able to obtain supplies as needed, every member to fetch his own coal and to pay on delivery. The scheme will be managed by a committee, and is open to all parishioners. No member can be supplied with more coal than the amount for which he registers, but is not obliged to accept the whole of the amount if he finds he does not need it. The scheme will however depend upon the consent of the local coal authority. It is obvious how greatly this scheme will benefit all, and particularly those who can only purchase coal in small quantities, for they will be able to buy it from the *dépôt* at pit prices, all cost of cartage and all middle-men's profits being eliminated.

The "Motor-bus" is running again. This is good news. No one has regretted its breakdown more than the Squire himself, who had this scheme for the welfare of the village so much at heart.

Our Bishop.—The illness and consequent resignation of the Bishop of Lincoln will be deeply regretted. Certainly the Vicar and churchwardens will ever cherish the happiest memories of his kindness and sympathy when he visited the church last summer. We had hoped to have him with us for the dedication of the Rood and the War memorial, but now this cannot be. The Vicar who recently wrote him a letter of sympathy, has received a most kind and affectionate message from his lordship, who is overjoyed to hear of our improvements and our awakening spiritual life. With regard to this, we believe that we can trace much to the Bishop's fatherly counsel and prayers with us on that afternoon last July.

Mr. Simpson who spent a Sunday with the Vicar last month, was so charmed and delighted with our beautiful church and its equally beautiful services, that he wants to return for a stay of some weeks, if he finds it possible. His striking sermon at evensong was much appreciated.

The Font canopy.—The more we look at this, the more do we realize how fortunate we are to have acquired so really beautiful as treasure for our church. In the whole county of Lincoln only two ancient canopies have survived, these are at Frieston and Fosdyke, both in the neighbourhood of Boston. We had suspected that ours was in all probability a copy of one of these, and we now find that the Frieston canopy was taken as the model. Probably the maker was a native of that district. We quote the following extract from Mr. Francis Bond's scholarly book on font covers. "Next to the great Rood with Mary and John above the lofted screen, the most conspicuous feature of the Gothic churches of England was the high-platformed font, with the open traceries of the font-cover soaring aloft to the roof. This cover was in all cases richly painted and gilded." Our canopy will of course require some alteration to fit it to our font, and possibly we may be able to have it coloured and gilded. But for this we shall consult an expert.

A Whist Drive and Dance is being arranged in the Vicarage garden (weather permitting) on Wednesday, July 9th, by the ladies of the choir and others. The proceeds will be devoted to the church, for renewing surplices, &c.

The Flower Show (July 30th). Various sports and attractions have been arranged by the Committee. The band of the Royal Horse Guards will, however, be a sufficient attraction in itself. Given a fine day we hope for a record attendance.

Sports.—The triumphant successes of the cricket club are most gratifying and encouraging. In all the 6 matches played up to date we have been victorious. We heartily congratulate the team on this great achievement. A bowling match against a Stratford team has been held, and the tennis club are playing Castle Bytham and Lound (return) this month.

Cricket Fixtures for July.—5th, v. Casterton, home; 12th, v. Ryhall, away; 19th, v. Holywell, away; 26th, v. Rutland Engineering Works, away.

Collections in June.	1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th
Morning	11/7	15/11	7/9	9/3	
Evening	6/8	8/9	10/4	12/3	

Baptism.—1st June, Elsie, daughter of Charles Robert and Ada Eliza Pell.

Burial.—31st May, Emily Glenn, aged 58 years.

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

The coal scheme, which at the request of Captain Fenwick we explained in the magazine last month, must after all be abandoned for the time being. The serious shortage of coal owing to industrial troubles, and the uncertain outlook for the future renders any such arrangement impossible. No one is more disappointed than the Squire himself, who had this scheme for the benefit of the parish greatly at heart, but he hopes that by next year it may be possible to establish it.

Thanksgiving for Peace. In accordance with the Royal Proclamation, Sunday, July, 6th, was solemnly observed as the Nation's day of thanksgiving to Almighty God for Peace, and our own services were beautiful and inspiring, though it is difficult to account for the frame of mind which could keep anyone from the House of God on this historic day.

Peace rejoicings.—The secular rejoicings took place on Saturday, July, 19th. A sumptuous meat tea for all our soldiers, old people and children was provided at the expense of the committee, and ably managed by many willing and kind helpers. After tea came the rain, which however proved quite unavailing to damp our enjoyment, and the Squire opened the music room at the Hall for dancing during the showers. Sports followed, and the programme concluded with a fine display of fireworks and a gigantic bonfire, which must have been plainly visible even from distant Peterborough, and almost as conspicuous as our recent searchlight, which used to flash skywards from the same spot.

The garden fete held on July 9th, at the Vicarage, was a great success in every way. The idea of holding it arose quite a short time ago with the members of the choir, who lost no time and spared no trouble in carrying it out. Our list of kind friends who gave either prizes or refreshments amounts to over 50 names, and these as well as the actual helpers and organizers we beg most heartily to thank. The committee have now decided to spend the proceeds (or at least a portion of them) on the fount cover. £20 is therefore banked for that object. There is even talk of getting up another fete before the close of the summer.

In Memoriam, John R. Lound.—The sad intelligence of the death of Private John Lound, came as a great shock to us all. Little did we think that we should have to mourn the death of still another of our soldier boys, now that the war is over. It appears that in crossing a recent battlefield in France he was instantaneously killed by the bursting of a live shell which lay on the ground. Although his home was at Caythorpe, we have looked upon John Lound quite as one of our own boys ever since he came to live with Mr. Wilcox as his assistant more than 4 years ago. He attached himself from the very first to the church, where he was an ardent and devoted ringer. Here he was confirmed in 1916, and here he has ever since been a regular worshipper and communicant. Since he was called up for military service, the Vicar used to hear from him continually, his last letter came only a few days before his death. In every letter he expressed his intense longing to be back at the Witham, and exhorted us to "carry on" with the bells until his return. On the Sunday following, the Vicar spoke of his death and the sorrow and sympathy which it had called forth, and a muffled peal was rung in his memory. His parents have now lost three sons through this cruel war. R.I.P.

Choir Practice.—By the expressed desire of members of the choir, a practice is to be held every Friday evening. We hope that all members will endeavour to attend, and that parents of the choir boys will arrange as far as possible for them to come. In this way only can we obtain the best results in the singing on Sundays.

Cricket Fixtures for August.—2nd, v. Burghley Park, home; 9th, ———; 16th, ———; 23rd, v. Holywell, away; 30th, v. Ryhall, home.

Collections in July.—6th

Morning 15/3

Evening 14/6

13th

7/10

10/7

20th

6/2

5/9

27th

6/8

8/6

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

The flower show.—It was quite like old times to have our flower show once again, after an interval of 7 years, also to have been favoured with such a glorious day. The attendance was fully as large as we have ever had, and thanks to Mr. Lawley and his energetic and hard-working committee, the show was an unqualified success. The splendid band of the Royal Horse Guards contributed much to the enjoyment of the afternoon. With funds now in hand we hope to arrange a still more attractive programme next year.

Bowls.—The finals of the bowling competition were played off on the flower show day, the winner being Mr. G. Davison. Captain Fenwick has kindly presented the club with a most handsome silver challenge cup, to be played for each year, and on which each winner's name will be inscribed. The cup will become the property of the member who wins it three years in succession.

Death of the Bishop.—On Thursday, August 14th, the Bishop of Lincoln passed to his rest, after a rule of only 9 years. He visited us here on July 22nd of last year, when he inspected the church, and met the vicar and churchwardens. A zealous and ardent worker, he never spared himself, and wore himself out in the service of his great diocese. He will chiefly be remembered as a sturdy advocate of temperance reform, and a fearless champion of labour. In politics he was an advanced Liberal, and his religious standpoint was that of a "High" Churchman, in complete sympathy with his revered pre-decessor, Bishop King. When here, he expressed a wish that every village church, both in its appointment and its services, might be more after the pattern of ours. Following on his visit, he invited the vicar to stay with him at Lincoln, and his kindness and geniality on that occasion will ever be a cherished memory. R.I.P.

In Memoriam, Graham Holmes.—We offer our deepest sympathy to Mr. & Mrs. James Holmes in the tragic loss of their eldest son. Mr. Graham Holmes, recently demobilized, came home for a visit on Saturday, August 2nd, to meet his two brothers, and was taken ill on the following day. On the Monday, the doctor advised his removal to the Butterfield Hospital, where he died on the Friday. His death was undoubtedly hastened by the effects of gas-poisoning, which he had experienced whilst on foreign service. When a boy, Graham Holmes was a most valued member of the choir, and also a server at the Altar. It was therefore eminently fitting that his body should rest in the church where he had so often ministered, and that the burial office should be choral. R.I.P.

Mr. and Mrs. Holmes beg to thank all the many friends who have shown such kindness and sympathy with them in their sad bereavement.

Harvest Thanksgiving services will (D.V.) be held on Thursday evening, September 25th, and the following Sunday. Our Rural Dean, Dean Ashby, of Market Deeping, will preach on the Thursday, and Mr. Simpson on the Sunday. Mr. Simpson, who was here in July, hopes to make a stay of some weeks at Witham, and will help in the services during his visit.

The Vicar has been elected by the clergy of the Rural Deanery as their representative for three years on the Lincoln Diocesan Conference. The Conference meets at Lincoln, in October.

The Rood.—The vicar is informed that the Rood and Figures for the screen will be completed by the end of October. The Bishop of Lincoln would, it was hoped, have come for the ceremony of dedication, but owing to his death, the assistant Bishop, Dr. Hine, has kindly consented to take his place, and has fixed to come for the purpose on Friday evening, October 31st, the Eve of All Saint's Day (the Friday in the Feast week).

Collections in August—3rd		10th	17th	24th	31st
Morning	9/-	—	7/-	7/4	7/8
Evening	12/4	7/-	5/6	7/2	12/-

Burial.—12th August, Graham Holmes, aged 32 years.

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

The dedication of the Rood will take place on Friday, October 31st, at 7 p.m., when the Right Rev. Dr. Hine, assistant Bishop of Lincoln, will perform the ceremony and preach. As our readers know, this handsome addition to our beautiful church has been provided out of a legacy left by Mrs. Johnson, for the purpose of thus completing the screen erected in memory of her husband, the late Squire Johnson. The architect has strongly advised that the cross and figures should be treated with gilding and subdued colouring, so as to show up the better against the dark background of the chancel roof.

The Rood is the old English name for the Cross of Jesus Christ (the "Holy Rood"), and in particular it is used to describe the great cross which anciently stood in every church over the entrance to the choir. Sometimes it was suspended by chains from the roof, but more usually it stood upon a wooden gallery stretching across the chancel arch over the screen, called the "Rood-loft." On either side of the crucified Saviour were the figures of His Blessed Mother and the beloved disciple, who stood together beneath the Cross when He died. During the stormy times of the Reformation the Roods were mostly removed. Queen Elizabeth however forbade their further destruction, and ordered that they should be replaced. Her order to Archbishop Sandys is worth quoting:—"The Queen's Majesty considereth it not contrary to the Word of God, but rather for the advantage of the Church, that the Image of Christ crucified, together with Mary and John, should be placed as heretofore in some conspicuous part of the church, where they may be the more readily seen by all the people." The great Rood undoubtedly gives an atmosphere of solemnity and devotion to a church almost more than anything else, whilst it puts ever before our eyes the Sacrifice of the death of Christ, which we commemorate week by week before God at the Altar.

The appeal to the eye.—Our forefathers, when they filled their churches with painted pictures and carved statuary, did so not only to make them beautiful, but also for the purpose of *teaching*. Windows, screen and walls alike glowed with coloured representations of scriptural subjects, for they knew well how precious in teaching is the appeal to the eye. The whole church was in fact an illustrated Bible. Then came the days of destruction. The painted windows were smashed, the frescoed walls were white-washed, the delicate carving hacked to pieces. And the loss has been immeasurable through the neglect of the eye in the teaching of the Christian Faith. Our educational reformers have now long recognized the great importance of teaching by object lesson, and we are realizing once more that religion too makes a far more vivid appeal through the eye by figure and picture than merely through the ear and the printed page.

Bats.—For many years there have been bats in the church, and last month an effort was made to destroy them by fumigation. This involved the heavy labour of completely dismantling the church, and then thoroughly washing it out, but many kind helpers lent a hand, for which we sincerely thank them. All but one (or possibly two) of the bats are now gone, and we hope to deal with these next year. Meanwhile the church has benefitted greatly from the much needed cleaning.

Harvest Thanksgiving.—These services were among the most inspiring and beautiful that we ever remember at Witham, thanks to the members of the choir, who rendered the music in a manner seldom heard in a village church. The anthem in particular calls for special praise. We are more grateful than we can say both to choirmaster and choir. We would wish also to thank those ladies who helped with the decoration of the church, which looked very beautiful in its garnishing of flowers and corn. Unfortunately the Rev. A. H. Simpson who was to have preached on the Sunday, was unable to be with us owing to illness. His absence was a great disappointment. As soon, however, as he is well enough to travel he hopes to come, and will be with us for some weeks.

Sunday, October 26th is our Dedication Festival, or "Feast Sunday," when we thank God for supplying the needs of our souls, as we have thanked Him for our bodily needs at the Harvest Festival.

Our War Memorial.—The reason for the long delay is that this Memorial is to stand on the site of the old school, which in its turn cannot be removed till the village hall scheme is put in hand. Had another site been chosen we might have had it finished and erected by this time.

Collections in September.	7th	14th	21st	25th	28th
Morning	8/9	6/-	5/4	—	£1/4/4
Evening	5/8	7/1	7/-	£1/1/3	£1/3/8

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

A Whist Drive and Dance will be held on Friday, November 7th, in the school (see bills). Friday is chosen for the reason that it is the most convenient day for using the school, as it enables the work of putting the room straight to be done on the following day. The proceeds will be devoted towards the cost of iron gates to the screen in the church. These will be of a simple yet handsome design, and will give a completeness to the structure.

Additions to the church.—We always seem to be adding something to make our glorious old church more beautiful. Within the last ten or twelve years considerably over £1,000 has been expended upon fittings and decorations. It may be interesting to call to mind something of what we have done. The church has been refloored with block paving, and seated throughout with handsome oak benches. A new stained-glass window in the north aisle has been given. Then came the beautiful screen, which has now at length been enriched with the Rood and Figures above. The wonderful font canopy may be said to be a "windfall," for we got it for nothing! Six years ago the melodious chimes were added to the clock. We must also include the furnishings of the vestry, the litany desk, frontal case, credence tables, sanctuary carpets, standard candlesticks, altar frontals, vestments, and many other smaller things, too numerous to mention, yet all contributing to the completeness and interest of the House of God. This month the chancel gates mentioned above will be fixed, and the Vicar has received the promise of another window, in memory of the late Mr. Fenwick, to be given by his brother and sisters. This last announcement will be specially welcomed by us all, for it was felt that there ought to be some memorial of him in the church for which he did so much. The above is surely a gratifying and wonderful record. Our parish church which has always been one of unusual interest on account of its architectural features, is now in the richness and beauty of its appointments second to none in the district. It is to be hoped that our natural pride in possessing so worthy and beautiful a church may inspire us to love and value and use it the more.

Our services. The increased heartiness of the services is after all more gratifying still than the increased beauty of the church. The Vicar has not words in which to express his gratitude to the new members of the choir who have helped so greatly to bring about this change.

Our church collections.—In this matter unfortunately a comparison with our neighbours is not so satisfactory. We have before us a list of the weekly collections in the church of a neighbouring parish containing some 170 souls and no wealthy parishioners. The average offering per Sunday is £1/4/0, while our own average for the same period (19 weeks) is but 16/3. A week-night Harvest collection in another country parish far smaller than ours was £5/10/0, our own from fully as large a congregation was £1/1/3. These figures speak for themselves. In these times of increased expenses we ought surely to aim at making our offerings up to at least an average of £1 a Sunday. This could easily be done if we all endeavoured to increase our gift more according to our means. Let us remember the Apostolic injunction. "*On the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him.*"

The Clothing Club is to be discontinued. The membership, which was at one time over 40, has dropped to 11, and the same need happily does not now exist for this particular means of assistance to poor families.

Collections in October—5th		12th	19th	26th
Morning	7/10	7/-	5/10	5/9
Evening	6/9	6/4	9/10	7/9

Baptisms.—October 12th, Kathleen Lilian, daughter of James Horace and Edith Annie Boddy.
October 12th, Marjorie Nancy Vera, daughter of James Frederick and Margaret Frances Katharine Jackson.

Marriage.—October 22nd, Alfred Thompson and Gertrude Holmes.

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

The late Colonel Birch-Reynardson. whose death is such an irreparable loss to the whole neighbourhood, was a splendid example of a typical English gentleman, generous and kind and courteous to all, without an enemy in the world, universally beloved and honoured. He will be greatly missed here, for he was ever deeply interested in Witham, and in his little Norwegian cart, was a familiar figure to us all. The Vicar can cherish the memory of many years of valued friendship and innumerable acts of kindness, not the least of which was a warm invitation to him to accept the benefice of Careby and Holywell, when it was vacant some time ago. By Mrs. Reynardson's special desire, he and Mr. Metcalfe and some of the choir were privileged to take part in the funeral service at Careby church, on November 18th.—R.I.P.

The Blessing of the Rood.—The service on All-Hallows' Eve was a memorable one in every way, and the Bishop we hear, afterwards expressed himself to the Rural Dean as pleased beyond words with our reverent service and beautiful church. As a consequence he has offered to re-visit us in March, and hold a special Confirmation here on March 29th. This was entirely his own proposal, which the Vicar has gratefully accepted. We must now see to it that the war memorial is completed by that date, so that he may dedicate it on the same day.

Mr. Halland.—It was a great pleasure to have the former Vicar with us for the occasion, and more so in that he was able to stay over the Sunday, and preach to us twice, with all his wonted vigour. Indeed we all said that he did not look a day older than when he left over 19 years ago!

The Memorial. A request.—A list of the fallen hangs in the church, near the font. Should there be any omission or error, we ask the relatives to notify to the Vicar *before the new year*, as the names will shortly be cast in bronze for fixing to the memorial, and it is most important that the list should be absolutely correct.

Church fund.—The recent social evening, on November 7th, for this fund, brought in a net profit of £5/3/3, so that we now have £25 to spend upon the font cover, chancel gates and other church improvements. The Vicar has sent away the centre Figure on the Rood to be altered. The expression and attitude of the figure was not satisfactory, and he feels that nothing of a permanent nature must be placed in the church which is not really beautiful and devotional.

An anonymous gift of two white silk alms bags, richly embroidered, has recently been received. We beg heartily to thank the kind and unknown donor for this tribute of love to the church.

The sports club are arranging a whist drive and dance on December 5th. We hope that it will be largely patronized, as the club is in need of funds. A football club has been formed for the first time in the history of the parish. We heartily wish it all success.

On Christmas Day there will be two Celebrations of the Holy Communion, at 7-30 and 9. The usual 11 o'clock sung Eucharist will be on the Sunday following, the reason for which the Vicar will explain from the pulpit. No evening service on Christmas Day.

Next year we shall carry on the Magazine as usual, although at a loss. But it is so useful and so greatly appreciated that we cannot think of dropping it. A few subscriptions over and above the 1/6, from those who can spare them will be very acceptable.

The children, we hear, are to have a tea and entertainment at Christmas, instead of a tree. Happy kiddies!

Obituary.—By request we chronicle the death of Mr. William Brown, an old Witham resident, who had a butcher's shop at Bywells corner, close to the present post office. He died at Faringdon, Berks, on the 21st of October.

Collections in November.		2nd	9th	16th	23rd	30th
Morning	10/1	4/8	8/-	6/4		
Evening	9/6	5/5	5/4	6/-		

Baptism.—November 23rd, Harry, son of Walter and Rose Fanny Warnes.