

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

A new year's message.—My dear friends.—The beginning of another year provides us with a suitable opportunity for reviewing the past, and making resolutions for the future. Last year was by no means an uneventful one as regards our church. It has been greatly enriched by beautiful gifts, we have to chronicle a visit from the Bishop and several other clergy who have come to preach to us, but more than all, during the year that is gone there has been a very marked revival of interest and earnestness, shewn, in larger congregations, heartier services, and greatly improved singing. It is my most earnest hope and prayer that this improved state of things may not only continue but increase. And it will do so if we all try and do our bit in helping forward the spiritual welfare of the parish. Our example counts for much, particularly in a small place such as this where we all are known to one another. I ask therefore for more helpers and more active supporters. It is fatally easy to stand aloof and criticise, but it does not advance the kingdom of God, and that alone is what we all should aim at. There is great work to be done for God in this little parish, united we can do it, divided we cannot. By all means let us criticise, but let us help first. Personally I am only too conscious (and who is not?) of many failings and shortcomings, but my one object is after all to serve you and help you, the well-being of our church and parish is dearer to me than anything else in the world. You can encourage me, as I have been encouraged during the past year, or you have it in your power to dishearten me, and a disheartened priest cannot give of his best. I ask therefore for your support, dear people, for you to "stay up my hands," so that I may be the better able to help you, and to lead you to higher things.

Believe me, your affectionate friend and pastor,
LEONARD H. COOLEY.

The magazine.—This month we begin our 18th year of publication, in other words this is our 205th issue. Many have taken it from the beginning without a break, and we are grateful to them, and also to our more recent subscribers. Every additional copy taken is a gain, as the larger our sale, the more space we can have for these local notes.

Confirmation.—Please note the date, March 29th. And in our own church, a privilege which may not come again perhaps for many years. The Vicar would like to know the names of intending candidates.

A calendar is presented by the Vicar to each subscriber, with his best wishes for the new year.

Children's entertainment.—The children had a very happy time on December 23rd, when Capt. Fenwick invited them all to tea at the Hall. A conjurer came down from London, who gave a most amusing entertainment of tricks, songs and ventriloquism. After tea the Captain presented prizes to the best children in each standard. The following were the fortunate winners:—Millic Harmston, Elsie Ogden, Gladys Harmston, Edith Panter, Dorothy Haddon; Rowland Ash, Ronald Holmes, Jack Cross, Jack Davison, Reggie Harmston and Frank Warnes.

Christmas.—As we write on Christmas Eve the church looks very beautiful indeed in its profuse garnishing of evergreens, and we are most grateful to all the kind workers who made it so. We are to have a new anthem for Christmas, and an evening of carol-singing. On the last Sunday in Advent the anthem "It is high time to awake out of sleep" was charmingly rendered as a quartetto by Miss Worthington, Miss Metcalfe, Mr. Wass and Mr. Harmston.

The new Bishop of Lincoln will be consecrated in Westminster Abbey, on January 6th (the Feast of the Epiphany.) The Vicar hopes to be present. He will be enthroned, at Lincoln, on January 8th.

The Rood.—The improvement in the Figure of the Christ is very noticeable. It is now to our mind quite satisfactory.

Obituary.—We venture to express our very deep sympathy with Mrs. Maiscy, in the tragic bereavement she has sustained through the death of her husband, just one year after their marriage.

Collections in December.	7th	14th	21st	25th	28th
Morning	5/1	17/6	5/6	£14/5	9/10
Evening	7/2	4/7	4/6		9/8

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The Enabling Act.—This measure which has just been placed upon the Statute Book, is an Act of great and far-reaching importance to the Church, and ought to be thoroughly understood by all. In effect, it gives to the Church the power of self-government. She is to have a Parliament of her own, called the National Assembly, to which is given statutory powers to frame measures of Church reform. Below this National Assembly come the Diocesan Assembly or Conference, the Conference of the Rural Deanery, and finally the Parochial Council which is to be formed in every parish. The members of all these bodies are elected by popular vote, so that every churchman and churchwoman has a direct voice in the government of the Church in this Realm. Thus it will be readily seen how great will be the consequences of this Act on the future and well-being of the Church of England. Powers ranging from alterations of the Prayer Book to the removal of unfit priests from their parishes are now placed in the hands of the laity, who by the exercise of their vote can secure the passage of measures of reform. Too long have the people complained that they have no power or voice in the Church's management, and that "the Parsons do what they like." That complaint is now removed. Every voice will now be heard, and every vote will tell. The Enabling Act is a real "Charter of the laity."

How to become a voter under the Act.—Every man and woman of the age of 18 and over, who is baptized and who is a member of the Church of England and not of any other religious body, may be enrolled as an elector, provided that he or she signs a declaration to that effect. The duty of preparing the electoral roll of voters in each parish devolves primarily upon the Vicar and Churchwardens, and the roll must be completed and posted upon the church door before Easter. Due notice will be given as to how and where to obtain the forms for signature, and it is to be hoped that no one who is eligible will neglect this duty of enrolling himself or herself as an elector. The first Parochial Meeting for electing members of the Parochial Council and the higher Assemblies must be held according to the Act, within 14 days after Easter.

The Magazine.—Many of our subscribers have this year paid 2/- and in one case 3/- for the magazine, for which we are very grateful.

The coming of Lent.—Shall we not one and all try to turn this solemn season to the best advantage? Let us make a few wise and helpful resolutions about the three great Christian duties, prayer, almsgiving and fasting. Give more of our time to God both in public and private prayer, give more of our money to God, and thirdly, practice some kind of self-denial.

The Rev. A. H. Simpson.—Mr. Simpson writes: "How good of the people of Witham to "remember me. My last real happy Sunday was spent there. I think I just about hold my own at "present, but it is hard to tell."

The Confirmation.—The preparation of candidates will commence this month. Any further names should be given to the Vicar without delay.

The Rev. E. H. Smith who was ordained Deacon by the Bishop of Wakefield on St. Thomas' Day, was born and brought up at Toft. Educated at Owen's Collège, Manchester, he subsequently became a Wesleyan minister, and served as C.F. during the war. The Vicar who knew him as a boy, feels sure that a useful and distinguished career is in store for him in the Ministry of the Church.

The fancy dress dance on New Year's Eve was one of the most successful gatherings that we ever remember here. The dresses were judged by the Countess of Ancaster, who was kind enough to come over for the purpose, and confessed that she had a difficult task, as all were so excellent. The substantial sum of £9 was handed over to the Nursing Association as the result.

Collections in January.—

	4th	11th	18th	25th
Morning	6/7	4/6	6/1	6/4
Evening	12/5	5/3	12/-	7/6

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The Memorial Cross.—As it was found that some considerable time must elapse before the old school can be removed, the Memorial Committee recently met and decided that the erection of the Cross must not be any longer delayed, and a new site must therefore be chosen. The place finally agreed upon was the churchyard, where it will stand at all events for the time being. In this position it will be a conspicuous object to all passers-by, for the total height from the level of the ground to the summit of the soldiers' Cross of Sacrifice will be over sixteen feet, or some twenty feet above the roadway. Upon the base of the monument will be placed the following inscription:—"In glorious memory of the men of this parish who fought and died in the Great War, 1914—1919." A bronze tablet bearing the name, regiment, and the place and date of death of each soldier, will be placed on the east wall of the porch, as it has been found that there is not sufficient space for this upon the Cross itself.

The dedication of the Memorial by the Bishop will take place on Monday, March 29th, at 3 p.m. It is hoped that all who can will make a point of being present at this solemn ceremony, and will bring a wreath or bunch of flowers to place beside it as a tribute to the memory of the gallant dead.

The cost including erection will be about £135. Towards this sum the people of Witham have given £30, Toft-with-Lound £14/6/0, and Manthorpe is expected to give about £8. The Farmers' Committee have kindly given the balance of their soldiers' gifts fund amounting to over £27, Captain Fenwick, Mrs. Walter Fenwick and Mr. Monty Fenwick £40; church collection £4/17/4; other contributions £3/11/0. Total £127/14/4. The bronze tablet is likely to cost a further thirty or forty pounds, and just as we write the Trustees of the Church Estate have most kindly voted a grant of £40, wherewith to provide this.

The Confirmation will be held the same day at 7.30 p.m. (summer time). There will be no candidates besides our own, so that it will be pre-eminently a *parish* confirmation. We have never before had a confirmation here in the evening, and it will enable some to be present who could not be with us at an earlier hour. We hope that all parents and sponsors will attend, and in addition we earnestly ask for the prayers of all on behalf of the candidates in this solemn event in their young lives.

Choir Supper.—On Wednesday, February 4th, the Vicar entertained all the adult members of the choir to supper, to the number of 18. After supper an enjoyable evening of music and whist was spent. It is hoped that by another year this pleasant social gathering may be even yet larger.

Choir-boys' Tea.—The turn of the younger members of the choir and the young ringers came on the following Saturday. A festive evening of games followed after tea, and judging from what we have heard since, all appear to have thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Of all the games, charades appear to have been first favourite.

The Enabling Act.—A public meeting will be held in the school on Thursday, March 4th, at 7.15, at which Major Bell will explain the Act. All are earnestly invited. Meanwhile, people will be asked to sign the simple declaration that they are baptized and members of the Church of England. We feel sure that they will readily do so. In this way they qualify as electors, and have a voice in the election of members of the Parochial Council shortly to be formed.

A "welcome" to our Soldiers.—It is proposed after Easter to give a supper to all the men from the parish who served in the forces during the war. We feel sure that this will be readily supported by all, and we will all be asked to contribute either in money or in kind towards it. A committee will be formed to make the necessary arrangements.

Note.—Summertime commences on Palm Sunday. Evensong therefore at 7.

Collections in February.—It is satisfactory to notice that of late the evening collections have been greater, and now are more often than not larger than those in the morning, which have remained about the same.

	1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th
Morning	6/5	5/10	8/5	7/5	
Evening	8/7	7/3	7/-	9/3	

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Good Friday.—Divine service will be held at 11 a.m. and 7-30 p.m. This is the most sacred day in the whole year, and to *Christians* the most precious.

Easter Day.—Holy Communion at 8. Sung Eucharist with short sermon at 11. Evensong at 7. The usual second celebration will this year be omitted. **NOTE.**—"Every parishioner shall communicate at least three times in the year, of which *Easter is to be one.*" (See Prayer Book).

The Easter Day Offerings will be devoted towards the payment of the parish levy to the Diocese. As this is now increased to £6 per annum, generous contributions are asked for.

Decorations.—Will all who can, come and help us in the church on Easter Eve? We also ask for offerings of flowers.

Lady-Day changes.—We shall be losing more than our accustomed number of parishioners this year at Lady-Day. We hope however that they will not forget us, and that they will sometimes think of the old home, and the old church. The Vicar has heard not infrequently from people who have left the parish, to say that more than all else they miss the church. We trust that some who are leaving us now may feel the same.

The Parochial Roll of Electors has now been drawn up, and is posted in the church porch. It is one of which we may well be proud, containing as it does the names of over 90% of the eligible persons in the parish.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 15th, at 7-30 p.m., in the school. At this meeting the members of the Parochial Council will be elected, and the number decided on. Three members of the Ruri-decanal Conference will also be elected. The church accounts formerly submitted to the Vestry meeting, will be presented to this meeting instead. It is to be noted that all who are elected to serve on the Parochial Council or the Rural Deanery Conference must, by the express terms of the Enabling Act, be actual communicants, that is, they must have fulfilled the rule quoted above (under "Easter Day.")

The Easter Vestry Meeting will be held on Easter Tuesday, April 6th, at 8 p.m., for the election of Church-wardens, and for the passing of the accounts of the parish charities. This meeting is no longer concerned as formerly, with the Church accounts or general Church matters. If however, the wardens chosen by the rate-payers are communicants, they then become *ex-officio* members of the Parochial Council.

The War Memorial.—As we write the Cross is in course of erection, and promises to be very striking and beautiful. We hope to describe the ceremony of consecration next month. The hour was altered to 7 o'clock, to enable a larger number of parishioners to attend.

Easter Social.—A social evening is to be held in the near future with the object of giving a public welcome to our returned soldiers, and to present them with some suitable memento.

The Sports Club.—A meeting was held on March 12th, when it was decided to continue the arrangement for combining cricket, bowls and lawn tennis under one management. Mr. Thos. Holmes was elected Captain of the cricket club, Mr. A. Pick, Vice-Captain and Mr. A. H. Lawley, Secretary. For bowls, Mr. Browett was appointed Captain, and Mr. Wilcox, Vice-Captain.

Flower Show.—A meeting held on March 16th, decided that the flower show should take place on the last Wednesday in July, and should be opened again, as formerly, to villages within a 4 mile radius of Witham.

The Rev. J. C. H. How, a nephew of the late Vicar, and known to many here when a boy, has received the offer of the Bishopric of Pretoria, South Africa.

Collections in March.	7th	14th	21st	28th
Morning	6/10	5/2	5/6	
Evening	6/2	4/-	8/2	

Baptism.—March 14th—Hilda Gertrude, daughter of Frederick and Edith Reynolds.

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Bishop Hine's Visit.—March 29th, was a memorable day for us, with the Confirmation in the afternoon and the dedication of the War Memorial in the evening. Both ceremonies were very reverently and solemnly rendered, and our thanks are due to the choir who so largely helped to make them so.

The Memorial Cross is even more effective and striking than we had dared to hope. Its elevated position helps to make it conspicuous, as any such Memorial should be. We are more than ever convinced that we have been happy in our choice, for we have erected a memorial which all can see, a thing of exquisite beauty in itself, and above all, one which is simply and solely a tribute of our love to our gallant dead and an emblem of their self-sacrifice. It is surely not right to exploit, as is sometimes done, the memory of the dead in order to serve the purposes of the living. And further, the funds have been freely given, and not "raised."

The Ancient Base.—There are possibly some who think that the old weather-beaten base detracts from the beauty of the new work. But in a few years time, the new will tone down to the old, and in utilizing this 500 year old stone, we are restoring it once more to its original use. We would direct attention to the small "consecration cross" plainly to be seen on the western side, which marks the place where the Bishop blessed it over 500 years ago.

The Figures on either side are those usually to be found on crosses of this type, and they symbolize respectively the two great Mysteries of the Incarnation and the Atonement.

Easter.—The Easter services were well attended, and the number of communicants above the average. The church has never been more beautifully decorated.

The Annual Parochial Meeting was held on the 15th of April, in order to elect the Parochial Council, &c. It was decided that this Council should be composed of 10, and as there were three ex-officio members, 7 had to be elected. Fifteen names were then proposed and seconded, and on a ballot being taken, the following were declared to be elected:—Messrs. Bradshaw, Hall, Lawley, Metcalfe and Wilcox, Mrs. Bradshaw and Mrs. Metcalfe. These with the two churchwardens (Mr. T. Pick and Mr. Browett) and Mr. Brudenell (elected to the R. D. Conference) will compose the Council. The Vicar welcomes the formation of such a Council, and hopes that with their help, much good work may be done in the parish. We must see to it that our Council does not become merely a debating society, but a real source of spiritual activity, and a body of zealous and earnest Church workers.

The Church Accounts were submitted to the meeting. These showed that the collections through the year amounted to £43/6/6, or an average of about 17/9 per Sunday. We earnestly ask for increased offerings, for we cannot meet our liabilities unless we can average at least £1 per Sunday.

Two Festivals of great importance fall in May, Ascension Day, or Holy Thursday, and Whitsunday. It is the first of these which is most in danger of being neglected.

Bourne Arts and Industrial Exhibition.—We wish to bring to the notice of our readers this Exhibition to be held in October, and we hope that there will be many entries from the parish. Needlework, drawing, cookery, woodwork and other accomplishments are included. The Vicar can provide a schedule on application.

Cricket fixtures for May.—May 8th, v. Bourne, *home*. May 15th, v. Clipsham, *home*.

Collections in April. —4th	11th	18th	25th
Morning £1/15/11	5/3	5/3	6/8

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Ascension Day.—It was a keen disappointment to the Vicar to be obliged to abandon all services on this great and glorious Festival, owing to his recent indisposition. For the same reason, Sunday Services have had to be curtailed, and he has been prevented from visiting in the parish for the greater part of May. He hopes that new-comers in particular will understand why he has not hitherto given them a call of welcome.

Whitsun Day.—The services were exceptionally bright and enjoyable. The flaming poppies on the Altar added their touch of red to tell us of the "tongues of fire" by which the coming of the Holy Spirit was first manifested. The anthem at Evensong, "O for a closer walk with God," was beautifully rendered, the solos being taken by Miss Worthington and Mr. Wass. The copies of this anthem were most kindly given by Mr. Wass, whom we beg to thank very sincerely. Mr. Metcalfe has also been kind enough to defray the cost of several other anthems. We venture to hope that perhaps other members of the congregation will see their way to make a similar gift in future.

The Parochial Church Council met for the first time on the 17th of May. Having power under the Enabling Act of co-opting one additional member, Mrs. Wilcox was unanimously elected. Several important subjects were discussed, beginning with the *Church finances*, and the need of increased gifts. It was decided to have the *churchyard grass* mown at once, and next winter to level the ground on the north side of the church. The Council was of opinion that it should be mown three times a year, in order to keep it from becoming unsightly. It was next decided that a reform of the *Sunday School* was necessary. A Sunday afternoon meeting at Toft for the children of the hamlets was suggested, and the Vicar earnestly asked for helpers to assist him. By next month it will be possible to state more definitely what may be done in this most important matter. The next meeting of the Council will be held (D.V.) on Tuesday, 15th June.

Evensong on Sundays will henceforth be at 6.30 instead of 7, by resolution of the P.C. Council.

Death of the Rev. Arthur Simpson.—Mr. Simpson passed to his rest on May 6th. There are many here who remember his visit to us last June, and his kind and eager promise to come again. Mr. Simpson who was one of the Vicar's oldest and closest friends, was a man of quite exceptional powers, and had an extraordinary gift of attracting and winning all with whom he came in contact. He made friends with everybody, and would stop and talk to total strangers, from sheer love of his fellow-men. It can well be imagined what a power for good such a man must have been, and that his death has deprived the Church of one of her most brilliant and able priests. In Sussex, where most of his work was done, and where his name is a household word, the news of his death was received with consternation. He was not well when he was here, but he hoped that a long rest in this quiet place would set him up again. However, increasing weakness made it impossible for him to come so far again, to our own great loss. In the very last letter the Vicar had from him, he said that his Sunday at Witham was the last really happy Sunday of his life.—R.I.P.

The Testimonial cards suitably framed, for presentation to our returned soldiers, are nearly ready, and will shortly be distributed.

The Vicarage Garden.—The Vicar invites all parishioners freely to use his garden, whether tennis players or not. By the bye, we hope to see more new players this season.

The Cricket Club has begun the season brilliantly, winning the first three matches against Bourne, Clipsham and Castle Bytham with triumphant majorities. Cricket fixtures for June.—5th, v. Holywell, away; 12th, v. Gosherton, home; 19th, v. Bourne, away.

Collections in May.	2nd	9th	16th	23rd	30th
Morning	5/7	—	6/1	15/10	5/4
Evening	7/2	15/-	9/3	11/-	7/10

Marriage.—15th May, Thomas Michelson and Ethel Elizabeth Lunn.

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The Flower Show.—After some uncertainty it has been decided that the Show shall be held as usual, on Wednesday, July 28th. It will be thrown open again to exhibitors resident in parishes within a four mile radius of Witham, as was the case before the War. The Schedules are now printed, and can be obtained from Mr. Lawley, the Hon. Secretary.

Toft.—The Sunday afternoon children's service is now held in the Toft room instead of in the church, and the attendance is very encouraging. Mrs. Bradshaw, Mrs. Cooper and Miss Lee have most kindly undertaken to assist the Vicar in conducting the Sunday school, while Mrs. Wilcox and Miss Fisher bring down the children from Witham. On wet Sundays arrangements will be made for a special class to be held for these at Witham.

The Toft Room.—The Architect, Mr. Wilfrid Bond, of Grantham, has recently been over to take further measurements, with a view to enlarging this building, and will shortly submit another plan for a considerable addition to the length of the room. We hope some day to see it converted into a really beautiful little chapel, which by screening off the sanctuary may also be used for secular purposes.

Wanted.—A small harmonium is urgently needed for the room. If any of our readers know of a suitable instrument which could be purchased at a small cost, or better still, given, we should be grateful. At present, we have to borrow the one from the church. We also want a few pictures to brighten the bare walls, and further seating accommodation, chairs or forms.

The Church Council met again on June 15th, when all but three members were present. A variety of subjects was dealt with, including the choir, bell-ringers, and the proposed memorial tablet. It was decided that this should record the rank, regiment and date of death of each soldier. The weekly choir practice is to be discontinued until the autumn. An effort is to be made to re-organize the ringers, and to find someone willing to act as captain.

The Louth disaster.—Special collections for the relief fund will be made in church, on Sunday, July 11th. We ask for liberal offerings, and also that any who may not be present at either service will give their donation to the Vicar or the Churchwardens.

The Stamford Infirmary.—We make a special appeal also for this. A house-to-house collection will be made in the near future. The urgent needs of the Infirmary are well known to us all.

To Communicants.—There is an early celebration of Holy Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of every month at 8 o'clock. The Vicar has always recommended to the Communicants the rule of *monthly* Communion, and that at an *early* service. Surely we should not be content with less, if we are seeking to live in grace. In this vital matter we must ever guard against the danger of laxity and carelessness. Let us also be careful to make a devout and earnest preparation, beginning some days before. Our special Communicants' manuals will help us, and we should use them also at the service itself.

The Cricket Club.—We sustained our first defeat on June 19th, at the hands of Bourne. Unfortunately, we had not our wicket-keeper (Mr. Hall) or our vice-captain (Mr. A. Pick). Our greatest triumph was the defeat of Gosberton, a team with a great reputation. For this, we are indebted to C. Armstrong, who batting last wicket, knocked up a score of 26.

Cricket Fixtures for July.—3rd, v. Clipsham, away; 17th, v. Holywell, home; 31st, v. Burghley Park, home.

Collections in June. —6th	13th	20th	27th
Morning 9/6	5/9	4/-	7/8
Evening 9/3	11/-	5/4	6/10

Marriage.—June 26th, Thomas Holmes and Olive Doreen Knipe.

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The Louth Disaster. The special collections made in church for the Relief Fund on Sunday, July 11th, amounted to the goodly sum of £4 1s. 4d. The Mayor of Louth, in acknowledging the receipt of the money, expresses his deep gratitude for our "generous help and kind sympathy."

The Motor Conveyance. The Committee met recently, and decided to hand over the management and goodwill of the "bus" to Mr. Worthington. Orders for its use should, therefore, now be placed with him direct. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to Captain Fenwick for having provided the village with this most acceptable scheme, which has proved such a boon to us all.

The Flower Show.—As we write, on the eve of this important annual fixture, the weather is giving some anxiety. In the event of a fine day however, the Show promises to be a great success, and entries are coming in well. The tennis tournament is a new feature, which is likely to prove attractive.

The Tennis Club.—During the last month our club has played matches against Creeton and Castle Bytham, winning in each case, in the former by 15 sets to 1, and the latter by 10 to 6. The return match against Creeton could not be concluded, owing to rain.

The Toft Room.—In response to our appeal last month, Mr. Hall has very kindly given us a beautiful coloured picture for the room, entitled "the King of kings." We shall be truly grateful for further gifts. The Sunday class continues to flourish, and before the end of the summer we hope to provide a tea for the regular scholars. Parents are asked to encourage their children to learn the collect week by week.

August is the month of months for most of us. In the country it is the busiest of all, while for those whose work is not in the harvest fields it is usually regarded as the holiday month. Consisting originally of 30 days, it was lengthened to 31 by the Emperor Augustus Caesar, after whom it was named, so that his month should not be shorter than that of his predecessor, Julius Caesar (July). Thus by his vanity he upset the regular order of the calendar, in which the months were alternately 31 and 30 days in length, and we have to repeat the troublesome rhyme every time we want to know the length of the month!

The Altar Flowers.—We shall be grateful for gifts of flowers week by week with which to decorate the altars, preferably white or yellow, as darker colours do not show to such effect.

The Anglo-Catholic Congress, which was held in London last month, was by far the greatest, as it is also the most significant, religious gathering of modern times. The Congress, which numbered over 15,000 members, including many Bishops, clergy and distinguished laymen, emphasised the claim of the English Church that she and not the Roman Church is the true ancient Catholic Church of this land. This claim, of course, the Church of England has always made, it is clearly laid down in the Prayer Book and Canons (we pray for "the good estate of the Catholic Church," and we declare our belief in "the one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.") But in spite of this many people still persist in calling the Church of England by the term Protestant, a name which she has never accepted, but has always repudiated. The term is not to be found either in the Prayer Book or in any Canons or documents of the Church.

A Movement for the advancement of religion is shortly to be inaugurated, called "The Recruiting Campaign for the Kingdom of God." The Vicar of Spalding has kindly promised to come and address us on the subject on September 27th. We hope to write more fully on the question next month.

Cricket Fixtures for August.—7th, v. Irnham, home; 16th, v. Gosberton, away; 28th, v. Irnham, away.

Collections in July.—4th	11th	18th	25th
Morning 9/2	10/8	5/7	5/2
Evening 14/3	£8/13/8	9/8	3/2

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Harvest Thanksgiving Services.—We propose (D.V.) to have our services of thanksgiving for the Harvest, on Wednesday, 29th of September (Michaelmas Day) and the following Sunday. The Rev. Canon Layug, Rector of Rippingale, will preach on the Wednesday evening. Gifts of corn and flowers for garnishing the church are asked for.

A new window.—The family of the late Mr. Fenwick, propose (as we announced some months ago) to place a stained-glass window in the church to his memory, the plans for which have now been approved, and were recently submitted to the Vicar. The window selected is the one in the South aisle, between the organ and the door. We are glad that the original proposal for staining the great West window is not to be carried out, as it would have darkened the church too much, and deprived us of the beautiful effect of the setting sun lighting up the whole chancel in the evening. Many churches are rendered far too dark by stained glass, but so long as we have our glorious West window uncoloured, the church will always be light, even if all the others were stained.

The subject of the window is to be the Nativity, for the reason that the late Squire always had a special love for the Christmas Festival. Beneath the main picture which shews the Holy Child in the manger, with Our Lady and St. Joseph and the Shepherds, there will be smaller panels, one representing the celebration of the Eucharist (the "Christ Mass"), and another, a choir of singers in the snow, singing carols on the "Holy Night." The window will therefore be a singularly appropriate memorial to him who ever loved the Festival of "peace and good-will," and never failed to remember us all at this happy season.

Toft Sunday School.—Through the kindness of Mrs. Bradshaw and the other teachers, a treat was arranged for the Sunday school children, at Toft, on the 18th of August. Unfortunately rain interfered with the out-of-door part of the programme, so that the sports and games had to be held on the following day. A bountiful tea was provided in the schoolroom by many kind and willing friends, followed by indoor games. The next day the children re-assembled in a field kindly lent by Mr. Wallis, and a programme of sports and races was carried out, for which prizes were awarded. Much amusement was caused by a sack race for adults, in which all the grown-ups competed. On all hands the treat was voted a great success, and our heartiest thanks is accorded to all the kind helpers.

Stamford Infirmary Collections.—These collections were made last month in Witham and Manthorpe respectively, by Mrs. Wilcox and Miss Wells, and resulted in the sum of £2/12/9 from Witham, and £1/2/6 from Manthorpe. A receipt for £3/15/3 from the Treasurer, the Marquis of Exeter, is affixed to the church notice-board. A collection in Toft was kindly made by Mr. Wallis, earlier in the year.

Cricket.—The season closes very creditably, for our team has only twice suffered defeat (by Bourne and Burghley Park). In the return match against the redoubtable Gosberton XI, we were again victorious. Our heartiest congratulations to the team. One more match only remains to be played, against Burghley Park, on September 4th.

The Organ.—On the two Sundays when Mr. Metcalfe was away from home, his place was kindly taken on two evenings and one morning by Mr. Barnet, of Little Bytham, and on the remaining morning by a visitor who was attending the service, and very kindly offered to play at a moment's notice.

Collections in August.—1st		8th	15th	22nd	29th
Morning	18/7	14/4	6/3	7/10	
Evening	15/2	8/6	9/3	8/3	

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

The Harvest Thanksgiving.—The preacher on Sunday evening, Oct. 3rd, will be the Rev. R. Callender, Rector of Careby.

The Choir.—Now that the summer is over, the weekly practice on Thursday evenings will be held again as usual, and it is hoped that all the members will endeavour to attend, so that our services may be the best that we can make them. Since the formation of the present choir in the spring of last year, we have unfortunately lost the help of several members through removal, and we should be exceedingly grateful for a few more volunteers. Who will join us?

An appreciation.—The following is an extract from a letter which the Vicar recently received from a summer visitor to Witham. "How proud the people of Witham should be of their most beautiful church. It was a great privilege to have had the opportunity of worshipping there for two Sundays. It is seldom that one finds in the depths of the country such beauty in building, together with services conducted with such reverence. I think too that your War Memorial is perfect." It is gratifying to receive such testimony from outside, and it is good for us to be reminded sometimes of our privileges. It may perhaps lead us to value them the more.

Religious Inspection of the School.—The religious Inspector who visited the school in the summer, reports the religious Education as "very good," and adds that "the discipline and tone of the school is excellent."

Changes.—There has never been a year we suppose in which there have been more changes in the parish than the present one. The recent sale of a large portion of the Witham Estate meant many changes in the spring, and at Michaelmas again we have to say good-bye to more of our friends, whose places will be taken by new-comers. To all those who are leaving us we venture to express our best wishes to them in their new homes, and trust that they will carry with them happy recollections of Witham.

The winter is coming on, and we begin to think once again of social gatherings wherein to brighten the long evenings. Unfortunately we have not our hoped for village hall, and in order to use the school, a great deal of hard work is necessary, more perhaps than those who would like to have constant whist drives and dances quite realize! The Vicar proposes to re-open his reading room again this winter, if a responsible committee of management is formed. We would welcome any suggestions with regard to plans for bringing us more together, which is so good for us all.

The Feast Sunday (the ancient Dedication Festival of the Parish Church) falls on October 31st. It is a day of thanksgiving for Spiritual gifts, as the Harvest Festival is for material gifts.

The Flower Show.—From inadvertence we omitted all mention of this last month. As all our readers know, it was unfortunately a wet day, though in spite of this, the Show was by no means altogether a failure. The proceeds practically covered the expenses, which is more than we dared to hope at the time.

The Font canopy.—Miss Emily Sharpe, of Edenham, has very kindly carved three new terminals to replace those which were missing from the canopy. These are now fixed, and add considerably to the appearance of this beautiful structure.

Parochial Church Council.—The next meeting of the Council will be held D.V., on Monday, October 25th, at 7 o'clock, when the Vicar will explain the meaning and objects of the "Recruiting Campaign," about which the Vicar of Spalding has promised to come and speak to us in November.

Church Collections in September.		5th	12th	19th	26th	29th
Morning	—	—	6/8	6/7	7/5	—
Evening	10/1	7/1	8/8	9/1	£17/3	

Also on August 29th—Morning 9/7; Evening 9/2.

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

A characteristic letter.—The Vicar has just received from his predecessor, the Rev. J. T. Halland, a letter of greeting on the occasion of the Dedication Festival, part of which, by permission, he ventures to print. Mr. Halland's unfailing interest and affection for his old parish is well known to all the older parishioners (alas! now but few in number) who were here when he was Vicar. "The Feast of the Dedication of Witham church never comes round without fond thoughts of remembrance. What changes have occurred since 1885 when I was instituted as Vicar! Changes marked—thank God—by progress. The Puritan spirit had put down the religious festival, but it could not kill it as a secular feast, and so the Feast week was kept merely as one for cakes and ale, merry-go-rounds and dancing. About 1886 the religious meaning of the Feast began to be emphasized, special services were held on the Sunday and during the Octave, and various social meetings held in the school-room, including a dance, transferred with its fiddler from the "Black Dog," by the cordial help of the then Inn-keeper, Mr. Smith. Progress in the beautifying of the church is markedly shewn, a progress, I am rejoiced to believe, symbolical of the growth of the more important spiritual building. Progress too in the musical rendering of the services, and in the strength and ability of the choir, under the able conductorship of my old friend and helper, Mr. Metcalfe. In regard to one matter only, on my happy visit last November, did I heave a sigh for the "good old days," and that was in regard to the chanting of the Psalms and Canticles. For nearly 35 years these have been sung to the ancient melodies, but alas! these strong and beautiful congregational tones had given place to modern sugary inventions Thoughts of remembrance must include thoughts of those who have "gone before." Not necessarily sad thoughts , for we believe that theirs is a state of spiritual progress, and we pray for it, as they pray for ours. In the midst of your Festival you will on November 2nd, make remembrance of them at the Altar, as we shall do here, with special thought of those who gave their lives that we might live."

The Harvest Thanksgiving services were particularly bright and hearty, and the Anthem (twice rendered) was most beautifully sung. Our thanks to the two soloists, Miss Worthington and Mr. Fox. Both our visiting preachers were greatly impressed, and both stated how thoroughly they enjoyed such a musical treat. By the way, it is interesting to record that Canon Layng's last occasion of preaching in this church was 50-years ago, when he took the service for Mr. Johnson in the year 1870! It was then filled with high box pews and galleries, and was in a ruinous condition of disrepair. It was difficult for him to recognize it now as the same building.

Two pictures have recently been placed in the church, near the south door, which are well worth close study. They are water-colour sketches of the interior of the church, one done in 1874 and the other in 1920. The former was painted by Mrs. Johnson, wife of the then Vicar, and the latter by Mr. Harmston. They form a striking and instructive contrast. The earlier picture was painted immediately after the restoration of the church, before even the choir stalls were fixed. No picture seems to exist of the church as it was before restoration, when the chancel was divided off by a wall. If any such picture is known, the Vicar would be indeed glad to hear of it.

A meeting is fixed for Monday, November 22nd, in the school, when an address on the "recruiting campaign for the Kingdom of God" will be given by the Rev. B. G. Nicholas, Vicar of Spalding. Mr. Nicholas is one of the ablest speakers in the diocese, and we are fortunate indeed in having secured him. It is hoped that all who possibly can will shew their appreciation of his kindness in coming to us, by attending the meeting.

The Parochial Church Council met on October 25th. Unfortunately only 5 out of the 11 members were able to be present. It was agreed to accept the kind offer of the Vicar of Spalding to speak here in November; that the north side of the churchyard be mown for the 3rd and last time this year; that a donation be given towards the restoration fund of Pickworth church. Other church questions were also discussed.

Church Collections in October. —3rd		10th	17th	24th	31st.
Morning	£1/3/3	5/6	4/10	5/4	
Evening	£1/6/0	6/-	5/9	6/4	

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

Christmas.—There will be a celebration of Holy Communion on Christmas Day at 8 o'clock, and the Sung Eucharist with short address at 11. No evening Service.

On the Sunday following, we hope to have a Carol Service again at 6.30, with string Orchestra, and shall welcome the help of all violinists. We venture also to ask for as many helpers as possible to assist in decorating the church. The Christmas decorations are the most symbolical and beautiful of all. They can never be overdone, and further, they remain according to ancient custom until the Octave of the Epiphany, i.e., for the three Sundays after Christmas Day.

To all Communicants the Vicar extends an earnest invitation to come to their Communion on Christmas Day. That is the best and truest way of keeping the glorious Festival. Let nothing therefore prevent us.

The Memorial.—A balance sheet with a list of the subscriptions has been printed, and will be distributed with the present issue of the magazine, so that all the subscribers can see how the money has been raised and expended. Capt. Fenwick, in addition to his subscription, has also very generously paid the Architect's (Mr. A. R. Prentice's) fee (about 10 guineas), and further relieved the fund of considerable additional cost by providing the haulage of the stone, also tackle, and some of the labour.

The bronze Tablet will very shortly be ready for erection. It will be remembered that the War Memorial Committee decided that, instead of fixing this on the Cross, the steps of which are too narrow to give the space required for it, it should be placed in the porch, where it will be in a most conspicuous position, and in close proximity to the Cross. It was then agreed that the present inscription should be cut on the steps, which sufficiently indicates the object of the Memorial. This plan has been adopted in many cases of churchyard memorials, when the names are perpetuated upon the more enduring metal tablet, for it is thus protected from the weather, whereas, if fixed to the stone out-of-doors, it stains the stone and renders it unsightly.

A Rural Deanery Conference was held at Greatford, on Wednesday, Nov. 24th, in order to discuss the important question whether or no this Deanery should be transferred from the Diocese of Lincoln to that of Peterborough. The Vicar and two of our lay members attended, and urged that no such proposal should be entertained. On the whole, the feeling of the meeting was against the scheme, and it is hoped that we shall hear no more of it. In the event of it being ultimately carried through, we, of Witham, will first demand that this parish be restored to its ancient Deanery of Beltisloe, from which it was taken and put into that of Ness some few years ago, in opposition to the expressed wish of the parishioners. In that case we should then remain in Lincoln Diocese, even if the Ness Deanery voted itself out.

Collections in November. —7th		14th	21st.	28th
Morning	6/3	5/2	6/6	—
Evening	8/-	6/-	5/9	—

Baptisms.—Oct. 31st, Ada and Beatrice, twin daughters of James and Rose Ellen Francis.

Nov. 21st, Gilbert Townsend, son of William Townsend and Eva Martha Hall.

Nov. 28th, Herbert Walter, son of Thomas William and Florence Annie Newton.

There has been no burial for 16 months.

Next Year.—We ask for the continued support of the magazine from all our readers. With the January issue, the Vicar will give to each subscriber an illustrated Calendar.