

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

The new window which was unveiled at the choral Eucharist, on Christmas Day, is one which we shall prize not alone for its beauty, but also for its association with the revered memory of the late Squire. We are deeply grateful to his family for this generous gift to the church which he loved, and wherein he worshipped. The Artists, Messrs. Burlison and Grylls, of London, have treated their subject with great success, and state that it is one of the most original windows which they have ever designed. The more one looks at it, the more is one impressed with the beauty of line and colouring. It speaks to us eloquently of "Christmas Day," as it shows to us the worship of the Holy Child, both by angels and men. The "Mass picture" showing the Christmas Eucharist, reproduces our own altar, so that we are able to recognise it at once. The subject was chosen because of the late Mr. Fenwick's special love for the Christmas Festival, and his marked kindness to us all at that festive season. It was also a happy circumstance that it was possible to have it unveiled and dedicated on Christmas Day itself. We greatly appreciate Mrs. Walter Fenwick's kindness in coming over to perform the ceremony of unveiling. As she drew aside the curtain, she spoke as follows: "To the glory of God, and in memory of Walter Lionel Fenwick, I unveil this window; in the Name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

The Memorial tablet containing the names of the fallen, will be ready for erection about the end of this month. The firm in London who are making it, in apologising for the delay, state that owing to numerous orders they could not execute ours sooner.

Carol Service.—We had a delightful service of carols on the Sunday evening following Christmas Day, which can truly be described as a rich musical treat. The string music of the accompaniment was charming, and our thanks are due both to singers and players. It was a wonderful rendering for a small village church.

Children's treat.—Through the kindness of Captain and Mrs. Fenwick, the children had a very enjoyable treat, on the Saturday before Christmas. A conjurer, from London, gave them a capital entertainment, after which, prizes were awarded to those who were top of their respective standards. Tea was then provided, to which ample justice was done.

Our Day.—Miss Ida Brudenell recently made a collection for this fund, the results of which were: Witham, £19/8; Manthorpe, 9/-; and Toft, 8/1. Total £26/9.

Carol singers.—A few members of the choir made a round of the parish at Christmas-time, singing carols, in order to raise contributions for the St. Dunstan's blinded soldiers fund. We understand that they collected on their rounds nearly £7. A splendid and gratifying result.

A calendar will be presented by the Vicar to all readers of the magazine, with his heartiest good wishes for the New year. He hopes that the explanatory notes printed upon it will be found helpful, particularly those under the heading of "the Lord's own service." Many of us still need the reminder that no other service on Sunday can take the place of this, at which all Christian people should be present every Lord's Day. That is our "bounden duty," as the Prayer Book says.

Collections in December. —5th	12th	19th	25th	26th
Morning 5/-	4/3	4/9	£1/5/0	9/-
Evening 7/6	—	4/10	—	18/-

Baptisms.—December 26th, Thomas Charles, son of Charles and Louisa Phillips.

" " Percy David, son of Percy Cyril and Lillie Pell.

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Lent.—*My dear parishioners and friends.*—This precious and helpful season is now close upon us. make a special appeal to all our readers to try and keep it more carefully and faithfully than in the past. It must be evident to many of us that we are drifting back. We seem largely to have lost our sense of responsibility towards God, and of our higher duties as Christians. Pleasure and worldiness have so taken hold of us, that there is little room in our lives for God, and the joyousness of His service. I suggest that we all try and start afresh this Lent, both priest and people, both young and old. The past is gone, but the future is ours. I am ready to help you, and you can help me, if you will. What shall we do? First, begin to be more faithful in our prayers, then more regular in our attendance at public worship on the Sundays, morning as well as evening, come also more often and with better preparation to the Holy Communion, and finally make a definite repentance for the past, and resolution for the future. I hope this Lent to restore our mid-week service on Wednesday evenings, and earnestly invite you all to be present. It will be short, and I hope helpful. Do not pass this appeal by, but think it well over, and let us all see what we can do this Lent to win much blessing to ourselves and others—Your faithful friend and pastor, L. H. COOLEY.

The Fancy Dress Dance in Christmas week was once again a great success in every way. It was a great pleasure to have Mrs. Walter Fenwick among us once more, and we are very grateful to her for her kindness in coping. The net proceeds (for the Grimsthorpe Nursing Association) amounted to £9/2/3.

Concert and Dance.—On January 21st, owing to the kind and praiseworthy efforts of Mrs. Warr and Miss Worthington, a splendid concert was given in the school, the proceeds of which were in aid of the St. Dunstan's Homes for the Blind. Our space will not permit of a detailed account, suffice it to say, that nearly all the songs were enthusiastically applauded by a crowded audience, and the greatest credit is due both to the singers and players, and to those who worked so hard in getting it up. After the concert, the room was cleared for dancing. The net receipts, when added to the money collected at Christmas by the carol singers, amounted to the splendid total of £18, which has been handed to the Vicar for transmission to Sir Arthur Pearson.

The Bronze Tablet is now fixed in the church porch, an enduring record of our valiant dead.

The Reading Room.—A second "long evening" was held on January 24th, when tea and coffee, sandwiches, and cake, were kindly provided by Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox, at the modest charge of 2d. per head. On the former occasion our host and hostess were Mr. and Mrs. Redshaw. We are very grateful to them for their kindness, and can assure them that it is most highly appreciated by all the members.

The Testimonials to those men of the Parish who served in the War will, it is hoped, be ready for distribution at Easter, when we suggest that they be publicly presented at a social gathering. They are handsomely framed in oak, and record the gratitude and esteem of the parishioners. An opportunity will be given to all to subscribe to the cost of the testimonials, as we feel sure that everyone will desire to associate themselves with the gift.

The Parochial Church Council will meet (D.V.) on Monday, February 14th, at 7 p.m., in the School. It is hoped that all the members will endeavour to be present.

Collections in January.—

	2nd	9th	16th	23rd	30th
Morning	6/8	8/2	6/-	5/4	4/6
Evening	4/9	6/1	4/-	8/4	6/1

We venture to appeal for larger contributions in Lent, to avoid a serious deficit at Easter.

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Lent.—We earnestly ask all our people to make increased use of the special Lent services, more particularly those of the week-night evenings. Everything is done to make them attractive and helpful, and thanks to the choir, the musical part of these services is such as is seldom heard in a village church. We are more than grateful. We have been privileged to hear an anthem beautifully rendered every Wednesday and Sunday.

Holy Week.—On the Tuesday evening, all communicants and intending communicants are invited to a service of preparation for Easter communion. On *Good Friday*, the most sacred and holy of all days in the year, Divine Service will be at 11 and 7. On this day the Son of God died in agony that we might live. It is "God's Friday," to be spent with Him.

Easter Day.—Holy Communion at 8; Sung Eucharist at 11. Note, "Every parishioner shall communicate at Easter." This is one of the rules of the Church.

Easter meetings.—The Vestry meeting for the election of Churchwardens, and the annual parochial meeting for electing the Church Council will be held shortly after Easter, and due notice of the dates of these will be given. We plead for large and representative attendances on the part of the parishioners, particularly at the latter. Meanwhile the Electoral Roll will be revised (see notice in church porch) and qualified electors should ascertain that their names are included.

The testimonials to demobilized soldiers.—A general meeting was called on February 22nd, to discuss how and when to present these, but the attendance was so small that the meeting had to be abandoned. As the gift is "from the parishioners," we hope that everyone will give a small donation.

In Memoriam, Emma King.—The first burial which has taken place here for the long interval of eighteen months was that of one, who, though resident in Duddington for the greater part of her life, was yet born at Witham, and never lost her love for her native place, desiring that she should be buried here. When Mrs. Goddard-Jackson, who was a daughter of General Johnson, went away as a bride of 21, in 1864, she took with her to Duddington Miss King, who was also 21, as her maid, and there she remained for the rest of her life. It was a striking and touching tribute to the affection and esteem in which she was held, that no less than four out of the five surviving children of her devoted mistress were present at her funeral to pay their respect to her memory. R.I.P.

In Memoriam, Edwin Glenn.—It came to us all as a profound shock to hear that Mr. Glenn had passed away in the early hours of Sunday morning, February 13th, his, by a strange and sad coincidence, being the first death in the parish since that of his wife nearly 21 months ago. For some considerable time his health had been failing, but he was at work up to just over a week before he died. Mr. Glenn was a member of our choir, and music was his chief relaxation and delight. His skill as a violinist was also well-known, and he gave valued help at our occasional orchestral Services. His last attendance at church was at the recent carol service, when he played his violin. At the Burial Office, at which the surpliced choir was present, there was a large number of mourners, and a Requiem Service was held on the following Sunday morning, when special hymns were sung, and the Vicar paid a tribute to his memory. A muffled peal was rung on the same occasion, (Mr. Glenn was a keen ringer before he began to fail in health). One felt that it was all just as he would have wished.

Easter Socials.—On Easter Monday a whist drive and dance will be held in aid of the funds of the sports club, and on the Wednesday, Miss Tiptaft is most kindly arranging a parish tea, chiefly for the benefit of the older folks.

Note.—Summer Time this year does not commence until Sunday, April 3rd.

Collections in February. —	6th	13th	20th	27th
Morning	6/9	7/3	11/2	
Evening	4/3	6/10	8/10	

Baptism.—Feb. 13th, Millicent Rose, daughter of Charles Robert and Ada Eliza Pell.

Burials.—Feb. 5th, Emma King, aged 78 years. Feb. 16th, Edwin Glenn, aged 60 years.

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Lent.—A retrospect.—Never before have the simple services of this holy season been more viting and inspiring than during the past Leut. Beautiful music, and special addresses, both have been the subject of much care. The weather was for the most part ideal, there was every inducement for all to make the most of this helpful season. If we have not done so, where does the fault lie? And whose is the responsibility? These are questions which all who have been absent from the Lenten Services should answer each for themselves.

Easter.—The services of this glorious Festival were all that could be wished. Thanks too to the efforts of our choir the music was an inspiration. One member of our cohgregation afterwards stated that the church at the solemn Eucharist was "like Heaven"! Surely that is what our church in all its beauty of adornment and worship should ever be to us, a Heaven on earth. As we sang in the Introit, "This is none other but the House of God, and this is the gate of heaven." Special mention must be made of Miss Worthington's charming solos at both services. In particular her rendering of the air, "I know that my Redeemer liveth," at Evensong, was a rich musical treat, for which we were most deeply grateful to her. In fact we would take this opportunity of expressing our thanks to all the members of the choir, and particularly to Mr. Metcalfe, for the beauty of the musical portions of the services throughout Lent, and at Easter. It has been most greatly appreciated.

A musical co-incidence, worthy of record, took place during Miss Worthington's solo, mentioned above. The composer of the chimes which are struck every quarter of an hour by our clock, took his theme, as is well-known, from this wonderful air of Handel's. The first chime—mi, re, do, sol—is an exact reproduction of four notes in the accompaniment. Strangely enough, those four notes had hardly been played on the organ, when the echo of them reached our ears from the steeple—mi, re, do, sol—as the clock was chiming a quarter past 7!

The Easter offerings amounted to £4/5/4, which by special desire of the churchwardens, are be given to the Vicar, in accordance with an old, and once universal custom. The Vicar wishes to express his gratitude, and his deep appreciation of his people's gift. Incidentally he may take this opportunity of stating that the benefice of Witham-on-the-Hill is the smallest but one in endowment of all in the Deanery, and that it would be next to impossible for a priest with family ties and without other sources of income to live here. In face of the present widespread destitution of many of the clergy, it is a good thing that the old custom of giving the Easter offerings to the incumbent should be made a general one, and for this reason the Vicar has accepted the kind proposal of the Churchwardens.

Eclipse of the sun.—All should look out for this wonderful phenomenon on Friday, April 8th. The eclipse which is "annular," that is, ring-shaped, will be visible at 10.5 a.m. (summer time), and will be the most remarkable one to be seen in England for many years. For a few moments it will be almost dark; as the moon shuts off the sun's rays. A piece of glass lightly smoked over a candle, will enable one to look at the sun without being dazzled. practice.

Cricket.—An alternative ground has been offered. Further particulars next month.

Tennis.—We hope if the weather is favourable, to begin play during the present month. We want, however more players. Other clubs in the neighbourhood complain of *too many* members, we have not enough!

Old superstitions are always interesting, especially when by some co-incidence they happen to come true. Here is one, much quoted of late. "Toll for she, toll for three." Another, a couplet from Mother Shipton's Prophecies, "is of interest this year, when Good Friday fell on Lady Day, a very exceptional occurence. "When our Lord shall fall in our Lady's lap, England shall suffer a great mis-hap." We hope, however, that it may prove as false as the old lady's forecast that the world would end in 1881!

Burial.—19th March, Edward Seymour, aged 76 years.

Collections in March.—		6th	13th	20th	27th
Morning	7/6	7/-	8/8	£3/3/3	
Evening	7/11	4/8	5/3	£1/2/1	

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Ascension Day (May 5th).—This great and important Holy Day should be kept as far as possible with all solemnity. Holy Communion at 8, Morning Service at 11, Evening Service at 8 (with sermon), when an anthem will be rendered by the choir.

Easter Socials.—Following on Easter we had quite a run of social gatherings. Two dances, a Parish tea, and two concerts, all in quick succession, constitute almost a record for Witham! All were thoroughly enjoyable, and the Bourn "Grotesques" in Easter week, and the Stamford "Black and Whites" in the week following, both gave capital performances. Our thanks are due to the organizers of each and all. Unfortunately our limited space does not allow of detailed reports, but as there were good accounts in the local press, it is not necessary to describe them here.

A Garden Fete is now to be held on Wednesday, June 1st. We ask all our readers to take note of the date, and to give their best support to those who are organizing it. A large and representative committee has been formed, and it is hoped to make it a big success, if only we are favoured with fine weather. The proceeds are for a two-fold object. First to make up the required sum for the children's summer outing, which Mrs. Warr and Miss Worthington have so much at heart, and to which they gave the proceeds of the recent concert (£5/18/6), and the balance, if any, is to go to the church improvement fund. There will be a long list of attractions, including concerts by the "Black and Whites," a jazz band and many "side shows." A rummage sale and fancy stall will be held, and we ask for contributions to these, and for gifts of prizes for the different competitions. For further details see the printed posters.

The Easter Vestry Meeting was held on March 31st. The church accounts showed the total of collections during the year to be £48/13/9. We began the year with a balance of £22/15/0, and finished with one of £7/5/0, which means that—in spite of the most rigid economy—we are not paying our way, and unless our congregations are considerably more generous, we shall have an adverse balance by next Easter. We appeal therefore for larger gifts in the collections, particularly at the evening services, when the sum given is seldom as much as in the morning, whereas, according to numbers, it ought generally to be more. What we should do is to set aside *every week* a certain fixed sum for God, whether we are present in church or not. Almsgiving is an elementary Christian duty incumbent upon us all. A study of the weekly collections given each month in the magazine ought to fill some of us with shame.

Church Officials.—The elected churchwardens are Mr. Thomas Pick and Mr. Wilcox. We all deeply deplore the resignation of Mr. Browett, owing to his sad illness. The following were elected as members of the Church Council:—Mrs. Ash, Mrs. Bradshaw, Mrs. Wilcox, Miss Fisher, Messrs. Brudenell, Hall, Metcalfe, Redshaw, Wallis and Wass.

From a letter.—"The services are very beautiful here, but they are not up to those at Witham. How I wish I were there again." This is from a letter recently received by the Vicar, who often bears similar testimony from those who are gone from us. Moral: Value your privileges while you have them!

Cricket.—We are deeply grateful to Mr. Callis Bell for his recent kind permission to use the field.

The late Mrs. Acland Hood will be grievously missed from this neighbourhood, where, had she lived, she would so worthily have filled the place of her revered father, the late Colonel Birch-Reynardson, at Holywell. Our deepest sympathies go out to her family, and in particular to Mrs. Birch-Reynardson, who is now bereaved of grandson, husband and daughter. R.I.P.

The late Mr. James Wells.—We deeply sympathize with Miss Wells and her brothers and sisters in their father's death, which removes from us one of our oldest parishioners, who was born, married and buried here. R.I.P.

Collections in April.—

	3rd	10th	17th	24th
Morning	8/8	10/6	4/10	5/4
Evening	8/4	4/3	4/3	5/2

Cricket fixtures for May.—7th, v. Easton, away; 16th, v. Ryhall, home; 21st, v. Uffington, [away.

Baptism.—10th April, Cyril Francis, son of Cyril Joseph and Betsy Knipe.

Burial.—6th April, James Wells, aged 79 years.

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The garden fete.—By the time that this month's magazine is in the hands of our readers, the fete will have taken place. Everyone is busy at the moment with the preparations, and our only anxiety is the weather, which unfortunately we cannot arrange beforehand! We are very grateful to Capt. Fenwick for allowing us the use of his beautiful grounds, also to Mr. Callis Bell for the use of the park field. Further, we beg to thank the parishioners generally for their many generous gifts and contributions towards the various stalls, which have been so widely and willingly made. Mrs. Walter Fenwick has been kind enough to promise to come and open the fete.

Tennis.—This is going strong this year, and we are glad to record an increase of players. The Vicar is always pleased to see all who wish to do so making use of his garden, whether tennis players or not.

Bowls.—Captain Fenwick requests us to say that he is very sorry not to see the bowling yet resumed, and hopes that players will continue to make use of the ground which he put at their disposal.

Cricket.—We have had the misfortune to lose two or three very useful playing members, who on hearing that there was to be no Witham club this year, owing to the ground difficulty, at once joined other clubs. So we are at a serious disadvantage. We have the use of the ground, owing to Mr. Bell's kindness, but we have lost our men, when, now that we have joined the Stamford League, we could least afford to do so. Unless therefore the club can be strengthened, our prospects for the season are not particularly bright. However, we are sure that Witham will put up a good fight, even in adverse circumstances. It is encouraging to see some very promising material among our boys, who we understand, are going to play one or two matches against outside teams on their own account.

Church expenses.—To revert to this subject which we mentioned last month, every church ought to be self-supporting. The expenses which as a congregation we have to meet include heating, lighting, cleaning, insurance, organ-blowing, and the tending of the churchyard, with small incidental expenses. Last year these items cost £51/16/3, or roughly £1 per week. All these are defrayed—or should be—by the weekly collections. Beyond these, there are contributions for special funds including £6 annually to the Diocesan Fund, and occasional collections for charitable objects or Missions. So our total liabilities in all may be put at about £70 a-year. We are favoured in not having to provide payment for an organist, or having either to insure or keep in repair the fabric of the church. This is met by the Church Estate Trustees, who in addition contribute £7 besides towards the general expenses. It is well that all should know these facts, and realize how important it is that the weekly collections in church should be as large as possible, and that our contributions should be regularly maintained, and that if prevented from giving on one Sunday, we should make good the omission on the Sunday following, having previously decided what our weekly contribution shall be. Unfortunately everything costs more now, and we cannot make both ends meet without increased liberality in our gifts to the service of God.

Collections in May	—	1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th
	Morning	17/6	4/4	17/11	6/-	7 4
	Evening	11/-	5/10	9/3	5/6	11-

Cricket fixtures for June.—4th, v. Empingham, away; 11th, v. Uffington, home; 18th, v. Barnack, away; 25th, v. Easton, home.

Late note (June 1st).—The weather promises a fine day, and we are all hopeful of a very successful fete. A report of the results will be given next month.

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Last month's magazine was issued so late that an explanation is due to our readers. It was through no fault either of printers or editors, but solely because the inside portions were lost in transit on the railway, and a second consignment had to be ordered. Care is taken that—as a rule—the magazine should be ready for distribution at the commencement of every month, and so long a delay has never taken place before.

The Fete.—We have every reason for gratification at the success of the garden fete held on June 1st. The following are the exact figures. Gross takings £87/12/6; expenses £19/13/2. The chief source of gratification was the splendid manner in which everybody helped. From almost every house there came gifts and contributions, and we beg most heartily to thank all in the name of the Committee. A children's outing is now assured, and the Committee will shortly meet again to consider how and when to carry this out. Funds will also be available we hope, for further improvements in the church.

Miss Fenwick, the sister of our late Squire, recently came to inspect the memorial window, which she was chiefly instrumental in providing, and in deciding upon the subjects and the design. She expressed her great pleasure with the window, except in regard to the centre lower panel, the angel holding the inscription. We agree that it is the weakest part of the whole design, and it is possible that this may be altered, substituting instead an armorial shield. If this were done it would be a great improvement.

The Rood.—We wonder how many, whose attention was not called to it at the time, noticed that the Figure of our Saviour on the Cross has been again altered. The Arms have been re-carved, and made quite straight, and the Hands are now represented as clenched, with the result that the Figure appears now to be hanging, as of course it should, whereas before it seemed as if it were standing, with hands outstretched in blessing. The improvement is very marked, as all will agree who study it closely. In the case of permanent additions to a church, such as the Rood or the window, we have a duty to posterity, and we have no right to place such fixtures therein unless they are as beautiful and artistic as it is possible to make them. Many churches have been permanently disfigured both within and without by ugly and in-artistic additions, which once erected cannot be removed. (Witness the hideous urns on our Tower!)

The Flower Show will not be held this year.

The Tennis Club won a decisive victory over Creeton last month. We have also received a challenge from Castle Bytham.

Sisters' scholastic successes.—Millicent Harmston has passed both parts of the examination for pupil teachers, and her sister Gladys has succeeded in winning a County Council junior scholarship. Both girls will therefore proceed to the Bourne Secondary School next term.

The parish crockery store has been replenished. In future, all users will be required to replace any articles which may be broken or lost.

Collections in June	—	5th	12th	19th	26th
Morning	6/-	5/10	3/8	5/8	
Evening	7/6	4/10	7/6	5/9	

Cricket fixtures for July.—9th, v. Empingham, home; 23rd, v. Collyweston, home.

Marriage.—20th June, Ernest William Forryan and Jessie Holmes.

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Death of Mr. Browett.—After a long and trying illness, which he bore with a truly remarkable courage and patience, Frederick Browett passed to his rest in the closing hours of Tuesday, the 19th of July. His untimely death has deeply stirred the parish, where he was esteemed and respected in the highest degree by one and all. Mr. Browett came to Witham from Easton-on-the-hill over thirty years ago, when he took over the business of baker and grocer in the village, which he carried on until his death. In his business relationship with the parish he was ever the soul of courtesy and kindness, and it is a noteworthy fact that never in all these years has he ever taken out a summons against a defaulter. Every interest of the place Mr. Browett made his own, and he identified himself closely with all the affairs of the parish. No committee was complete without him, no scheme was launched without his help and support. He threw himself whole-heartedly into everything. If difficulties arose, he acted the part of the peace-maker, on important occasions he was our chosen parish spokesman. We all went to him for advice, and never went in vain. For he was one of the most helpful of men. As regards the church, he was ever a most faithful supporter and helper, both as sidesman and churchwarden. He was intensely proud of our parish church, of the beauty of its appointments, and its reverent and orderly services. His last visit there was in the quiet of a week-day morning, not long ago, when, already in much pain and suffering he came up to make his communion, the last within its walls. R.I.P.

The funeral.—All the arrangements were carried out in accordance with the expressed wishes of Mrs. Browett, even to the selection of the hymns, and the choice of the grave, which was to be near that of Ernest Jackson. The Body was brought to rest in the church overnight, and a requiem celebration took place at 8 the next morning. The funeral took place at 3, in the presence of a large and representative congregation. The children attended, for the reason that he was a Manager of the school. We desire most heartily to thank the members of the choir, and all others who helped to make the service so impressive and beautiful, exactly as he would have wished it to be. In conclusion we respectfully ask Mrs. Browett to accept our deep sympathy, on behalf of the whole parish.

Parochial Church Council.—A meeting of the council will be held (D.V.) on Thursday, August 11th, in the school, at 8 p.m. It is hoped that all the members will be able to attend.

The alms box in the church is cleared at frequent intervals, and the contents added to the collections on the Sunday following. Those who place offerings in this box—and lately this has been more frequently done—may wish to know this. The worshippers at the early and week-day services, when no collection is made, are requested to make use of the box.

Toft Sunday class.—To our great regret Mrs. Bradshaw finds that the tax upon her strength on Sunday afternoons is too great, and that she must give up her work in connection with this class. We are more grateful than we can say to her for the interest she has taken in the class for so long, and the Vicar deeply appreciates her kindness in carrying it on so well and so regularly, in face of much discouragement. A little more co-operation on the part of parents would have made a very great difference. We cannot forget how kind Mrs. Bradshaw was last summer in organizing so splendid a treat for all the children, and their promise to her to be regular in their future attendance, a promise alas! forgotten by some. Will someone come forward & carry on Mrs. Bradshaw's good work?

Collections in July.		3rd	10th	17th	24th	31st
Morning	8/2	6/9	3/-	14/3		
Evening	8/8	4/-	7/-	6/6		

Cricket fixtures in August.—1st, v. Ryhall, away; 6th, v. Toilethorpe, home; 20th, v. Collyweston, away; 26th, v. Wittering, away.

Baptism.—17th July, Herbert, son of Walter and Rose Fanny Warnes.

Burial.—22nd July, Frederick Browett, aged 57 years.

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The Harvest Thanksgiving.—Services of thanksgiving will be held on Thursday, the 29th of September, and on the following Sunday, the 2nd of October. The Vicar hopes to be able to secure a special preacher on one or both days.

Parochial Church Council.—The meeting of the Council, postponed from August, on account of the absence of several members from home, will be held (D.V.) on Friday, the 23rd of September.

Holidays.—It is good for everyone to have a change from time to time. They return to their work refreshed and strengthened. For a priest, it is needful that the really beneficial holiday should include a Sunday, when he may attend another church, and listen—for once—to another preacher. Certainly no one need complain that the Vicar is overmuch away! He has been away from Witham for two Sundays only in six years, and so this month he asks the kind indulgence of the congregation for his absence on the first and (probably) second Sundays in September. He regrets that this will mean no morning service, but the Rector of Careby has kindly promised to take Evensong, on September 4th, at 6.30, and on the following week (if the Vicar is still away), at 3 p.m. During Mr. Metcalfe's absence for two Sundays in August, his place at the organ was most kindly and ably filled by Mrs. Warr, for which we gratefully thank her.

Children's seaside trip.—We write on the eve of this long looked-for event, and heartily wish all our young friends—some few of whom have never yet seen the sea—a very happy day at Skegness. Mr. Metcalfe has been kind enough to undertake the supervision of the children, in the absence of the Vicar.

Sunday scholar's party.—There was a very merry and enjoyable gathering in the Vicarage garden, on August the 18th, when the children who attended the Sunday classes were entertained to tea. Games and various amusements followed, and the party broke up at dusk. We only wish that the number of our little visitors had been larger.

Sunday morning Services.—Acting on the suggestion of a few parishioners at the Easter annual Parochial meeting, the Vicar has, since Easter, substituted the Office of Morning Prayer for the sung Eucharist, at 11 o'clock on the 3rd Sunday of every month. The result, however, has been a keen disappointment to him, and has led to a marked diminution on that Sunday, both of worshippers and offerings. However the arrangement will continue for the present, and it is hoped that those who were in favour of the change will specially endeavour to come on that Sunday. Morning Prayer is a choir office," almost exactly similar in construction to Evening Prayer, and is intended as a prelude to the Eucharist. It is always said at 10.15 here on Sundays.

A visit to Witham was made last month by the junior members of the choir of S. Mary's, Stamford. Before leaving, they sang Evensong in the church, the office being taken by the Rector of S. Mary's, who was assisted by his servers and acolytes.

Cricket fixtures in September.—3rd, Barnack, home; 10th, Toilethorpe, away; 17th, Blackstone's, away.

Collections in August.		7th	14th	21st	28th.
Morning	12/2		12/9	5/3	10/6
Evening	2/3		7/10	4/10	5/9

Baptism.—August 14th, Charles Kenneth, son of Arthur and Annie Francis.

Marriage.—August 1st, Thomas Potter and Frances Mary Wells.

Burial.—August 23rd, Millicent Rose Pell, aged 7 months.

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

The Skegness Trip.—All who went are unanimous in saying that the excursion was a great success, and that all—old and young alike—most thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The weather was ideal, warm, sunny and still, whereas Skegness *can* be a very disagreeable place indeed on a chilly day with rain and wind. We are most grateful to all who helped in one way or another to look after our young people, also to Mr. Wallis, Mr. Ash and Mr. Butcher, for the loan of conveyances to and from the station.

The Vicar's absence.—Mr. Callender who kindly took the services on the two Sundays, when the Vicar was away, states how pleased and gratified he was at the numbers present, particularly at the afternoon service. As one knows that Evensong at this hour is a rare exception here, the Vicar wishes most heartily to thank those who attended, perhaps at some inconvenience, in order that he might have his extended holiday. It was very kind and considerate. His two Sundays away were spent respectively in a tiny village, on the coast of Cornwall, and in a large sea-side town in Somerset. In each place the Parish church afforded delightful services, the sung Eucharist being the chief morning service in both. In the little village church, Merbecke's setting was heartily sung by a mixed choir at the west end, to the accompaniment of a harmonium, while in the large town church, the service was rendered with elaborate music and impressive ceremonial.

Our Harvest Thanksgiving Services were announced last month. On the Thursday evening, the preacher will be the Rev. J. Comyn Jones, formerly Congregational Minister, at Bourne, and now Vicar of Edenham. Owing to our reduced choir, it will not be possible to render an Anthem.

What can I do for God? Let every one of us ask ourselves this question. It is a great joy and privilege to have some definite thing to *do* as Christians and Churchpeople, some definite part to take in ministering to God's Glory. Some will offer perhaps to take their place in the choir, others will volunteer their help in ringing the bells for service, others in teaching the children on Sunday, others in tending the church, keeping the linen, or arranging the flowers. There are so many ways in which we can help. And surely we ought to help, if we are Christians in any real sense.

The Rector of Little Bytham.—Our old friend and neighbour, Mr. Williams, is shortly resigning his benefice, owing to increasing infirmity and advancing years. Our very best wishes go with him for a peaceful and happy evening of life in his retirement. With his departure we shall lose two of our most regular and devoted church attenders; Miss Hill and Miss Woodhouse, who have worshipped in our church for the last nine years, and latterly have been members of our choir. The example of regular and unflinching attendance which they have given us has been a real inspiration to us all.

A picture.—Miss Hill has given to the church a coloured picture, which is hung over the altar in the Lady Chapel. We are very grateful for this kind gift. More sacred pictures would be a very welcome addition to the bare church walls.

The Reading Room will be re-opened on the first week in October. We hope that we shall have as successful a season as last year.

Burial.—3rd September, William Ward, aged 73 years.

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

November—anciently known as “the month of the dead”—has from time immemorial been set apart by the Church for special commemoration of the faithful departed, particularly at the altar. And now that Armistice Day, the real end of the great war, falls in this month, our thoughts are all the more directed towards that great company “within the veil,” in which are included so many for whom we mourn, who died fighting for King and country. Let all of us who have loved ones gone before, attend the Holy Eucharist specially during this month, to remember them and their needs before God in His own appointed way. On All Souls’ Day (November 2nd), the observance of which is now fully sanctioned by authority, and provided for in the new Prayer Book, there will be the usual requiem celebration, at 8.30.

The Toft Sunday school is now closed, we hope only temporarily. Both to Mrs. Bradshaw and Miss Lee are due our grateful thanks for their kindness in carrying on the class for so long, and also for their kind parting gifts to the scholars, in the shape of a book for each. We must now seek to strengthen the children’s Sunday afternoon service at Witham. There was a time when quite a number of older people came too, and thoroughly enjoyed it. More than one has said to the Vicar that they learnt more at that service than they ever knew before! We therefore heartily invite older people, as well as children, to our service at 3 o’clock on Sundays.

The Vicar recently went to preach at Blyborough, a beautifully appointed little church in north Lincolnshire, of which our late Vicar, Mr. Halland, is Rector. He was charged with affectionate messages of greeting to all old Witham friends of Mr. & Mrs. Halland, who will also be glad to hear of Mrs. Halland’s greatly improved health and strength.

The choir.—We most gladly welcome the addition of new members, and hope that there may be still more recruits willing to join us. As a choir, we have great traditions to keep up, small though our parish is.

The bells.—Mr. Arthur Francis has most kindly promised to coach new ringers this winter, and we hope soon to have a band of younger ringers. The Witham tradition for ringing is even greater than for singing, and our beautiful bells are known far and wide. It may not be known to all that the sign of the “six bells” was that of the old village inn, which in olden times stood opposite the church.

The Vicarage Reading Room is most smart and comfortable, now that it has been newly painted and colour-washed. It is patronised most evenings to its utmost capacity. We understand from the secretary, that funds are low and that honorary subscriptions would be very acceptable. The hist drive and dance, recently held in aid of the funds, was not so successful financially as was hoped.

Water.—During the present acute shortage, the people of Witham have been fortunate indeed. Bywells—except for a brief period—has provided a steady supply, and most of the wells are full. It is the lower lying districts where the shortage is most serious, notably near the rivers, while on our lofty hill there is abundance.

The Harvest Thanksgiving services were excellent and hearty. From our collections we were able to send £2 to the Butterfield Hospital, and £2/10/0 to the Stamford Infirmary.

The Parish Feast.—We are glad that the old custom of the parish tea, on Feast Monday, is to be revived, after a lapse of eight years. It is to be hoped that the kindly efforts of the committee will be well rewarded.

Subscriptions.—Will those members of the tennis club who have not yet paid, please send their subscriptions at once to Mr. Lawley, also subscriptions to the Magazine, still owing for this year, should be sent to the Vicar during this month.

Collections in October.		2nd	9th	16th	23rd	30th
Morning	£1/0/6	11/1	6/-	7/11	7/6	
Evening	£1/11/6	10/1	11/7	11/1	6/-	

Also Thursday September 29th, £1/17/10.

Baptism.—Oct. 30th, Audrey Violet, daughter of George Edwin and Lilian Mary Lambert.

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

Christmas Day falls on Sunday this year, and so, in addition to the morning services, we shall have Festal Evensong at 6.30, when carols will be sung. Let us all however *begin* this great and joyous day at the Altar, and there pay our homage to our Saviour on His Birthday, and receive His Blessing.

The Requiem for the fallen, on Armistice Sunday, was most solemn and touching, but have some of us so quickly forgotten in that we cared not thus to honour our glorious dead? This service will, we hope, be held annually in perpetuity.

A Confirmation will be held by the Bishop, in Bourne church, on the evening of March 7th. This will be the nearest centre for candidates from our parish.

A new gift.—A "Sanctus bell" has been presented to the church. The revived use of this ancient custom is now very general. It is rung at the solemn moment of the Consecration, in order to summon us to attention, so as to join with the priest in the offering of the sacrifice, and to worship our Lord Jesus Christ now present in His Holy Sacrament. It is again rung later, at the time when the priest makes his communion, as a signal for other intending communicants to "draw near."

The Magazine.—We hope that all our readers will continue their support next year, as the more copies we can circulate, the more space are we entitled to for our parish notes.

Fancy dress dance.—This annual enjoyable event is to be held on Wednesday after Christmas (December 28th). We hope for a large attendance, for the proceeds, either in whole or in part, will be given to the Nursing Fund.

Other social events this month will be a whist drive and dance, in aid of the Sports club, on December 2nd, and a fine concert by the "Stamford Bohemians" on the 9th.

Hand-bells.—Captain Fenwick has kindly presented to the church, a fine new set of hand-bells, great improvement in every way on our old set. We hope to use them at Christmas, in aid of funds for "St. Dunstan's."

Preaching or worship—which?—The following extract is taken from a recent article in the *Spalding Free Press*: "A church is a place wherein to worship God, not a lecture-hall in which to listen comfortably to moral discourses. The acts of adoration and prayer cannot be performed properly in a sitting position. The man who really feels he is on sacred ground cannot adopt any but a reverent pose, and would no more sit in God's House than he would in the presence of an earthly King." This is excellently said. We have got to dispel that old mistaken idea that the object of going to church is to hear a sermon. It is not. We go to fulfil a duty to God, which is to "fall down and worship and kneel before the Lord our Maker." It is the bounden duty of every Christian to be present in God's House every Lord's Day, but not to get, but to *give*; in other words not to listen to a sermon, but to worship God. The altar, not the pulpit, is our objective when we go to church. The church is a place of worship, not a preaching house. When we come to grasp this fundamental truth, it will make all the difference to our Sundays, and we shall perhaps not be so ready with our criticisms and comments on the sermon, as if the sermon were everything!

Collections in November.		6th	13th	20th	27th
Morning	6/2		10/11	8/1	6/11
Evening	3/9		5/6	2/9	3/11

Baptisms.—November 6th, Victor George, and Brenda, son and daughter of Richard Thomas and Elizabeth Beatrice Garley.

Marriage.—30th November, James Arthur Langley to Mary Louisa Lee.