

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

1922.—As we enter upon the new year, knowing nothing of what it may have in store for us, happiness or sorrow, "weal or woe," let us turn to God now, and ask for His Blessing and His guidance. Many have noticeably fallen back since last year, let us then determine to make a fresh start—*now, at once*. We dare not wait, for "we know not what a day may bring forth."

Christmas Day.—Though the day opened in heavy rain, yet there was a large number at the early service. But we missed many from the next, the glorious act of worship which is so bound up with the day that it gives to it its very name. "Christmas" means *Christ's Mass*, the word "mass" being the ancient English title for the Holy Eucharist, the highest act of Christian worship.

The Christmas charities were distributed, as usual, after morning service, four excellent coats, and 30/- to each of the seven widows resident in the parish. A gift of coal was also made to three large families. Both the coal and the widows' money are the result of the munificence of a former good Vicar of Witham, Dr. William Quarles, who was Vicar here from 1691 to 1708, and left money to be thus expended every year. The coats are provided under the will of one, Edmund Moulton, in 1723, who bequeathed certain land for the provision of "four coats for four poor men against Christmas yearly for ever." What his connection with the parish was is uncertain.

Mrs. Allam's 90th birthday.—The best wishes of us all will go out to our old and respected neighbour, Mrs. Thos. Allam, who completed her 90th year, on St. John's Day (December 27th). As an act of thanksgiving, the Holy Communion was celebrated in her house on that morning. That she may be spared to enjoy a peaceful and happy evening of her life and continuance of her present vigour is the fervent wish of us all.

Miss Lee's Marriage.—We venture to ask Mrs. James Langley, to accept our heartiest good wishes on the occasion of her marriage on St. Andrew's Day (30th Nov.) It is gratifying to know though, although she is no longer a parishioner, she is a near neighbour, and we hope often to see her at Witham. Her work both for the church and in connection with the Toft Sunday class will be long and gratefully remembered.

A gift to the children.—On the last day of the school term, there arrived for distribution to the children a case of oranges, the thoughtful and generous gift of Mrs. Browett. It is putting it mildly to say that so great a kindness was appreciated to the full by the delighted recipients, whose share was 5 oranges apiece!

The death of Mrs. Carr.—We sympathize most deeply with Mr. Carr and his family in their great loss, more especially as the blow fell with such unexpected suddenness. Except for the last few years, Mrs. Carr had lived the whole of her married life in the village, where her twelve children were all born and baptized. It was fitting therefore that she should be laid to rest here, beside the graves of the three children who pre-deceased her.

Confirmation.—The Vicar asks for the names of all intending candidates for Confirmation early in January.

Payment for Magazine.—It will be a great kindness if all our readers will during the present month make one payment for the year, if possible.

Collections in December.		4th	11th	18th	25th
Morning	8/8	11/1	5/3	£1/10/4	
Evening	6/11	11/-	7/-	—	

Baptism.—Dec. 18th, Edith Mary, daughter of Charles William and Laura Pearson.

Burials.—Dec. 8th, Jane Judith Carr, aged 65 years.

„ 9th, Olive May Pell, aged 5 years.

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The fancy-dress Dance.—The success of this popular event in Christmas week exceeded all our expectations, in fact the numbers present constituted a record for Witham. The gratifying sum of £10 has been handed over to the Nursing Association.

The Vicarage Reading Room.—A feature of this season is a monthly whist drive in the room. We have already had two, and in each case nine tables have been filled, that is 36 players, the utmost that this small-room will accommodate. These little parties seem to be much enjoyed, and we hope to continue them. All whist players in the parish are welcome to come, provided that they give their names in beforehand, as the space is strictly limited. At present Bridge is much in vogue with the members, and a bridge drive is in contemplation. The first bagatelle tournament has been won by Percy Holmes, and a second is now in course of being played off.

The Sports Club.—A meeting was held on Jan. 12th, to deal with two serious and disquieting subjects, one the resignation of the Treasurer and Secretary, Mr. Lawley, and the other a debt of over £4. With regard to the latter, it was found that a number of subscriptions were still unpaid, amounting to nearly £2. It was agreed to apply for these at once, and to arrange for a whist drive and dance in February (probably the 10th) to wipe off the balance. The following were appointed secretaries:—Mr. T. Holmes, cricket; Mr. Metcalfe, bowls; and the Vicar, tennis. Mr. Lawley then kindly undertook to act again as treasurer. The subscription for the coming season is to be 3/- for each branch of sport, and is to be paid at the commencement of the season to the respective secretaries. Meanwhile we appeal to those who still owe their last year's subscriptions to pay them without delay.

The death of Mrs. Benton.—Many of us will have heard with great regret and sorrow of Mrs. Benton's death last month, after a short illness. During the time that she lived here—nearly 20 years—she was held in the highest esteem by all, as a kind neighbour and helpful worker in every good cause. Her interest in Witham never abated, and since leaving the parish she always continued to take our magazine and liked to know of all that went on here. Her associations with Witham were however tinged with sorrow, for here she lost a little son in 1897, and again five years later, her only daughter. R.I.P.

The village green.—Captain Fenwick, finding that he is not able to present this ground as a free gift to the public, as was his intention, has recently approached the Parish Meeting with the offer of the loan of it on certain specified conditions, the chief being that he is not to be held liable for any accident happening thereon, that no litter of paper or other rubbish be left upon it, that it is closed once a year, and shall be given up if he or his representatives may ever feel obliged to withdraw the privilege. The Parish Meeting has signified its agreement of these proposals, and gratefully accepts the loan of the ground on these terms. It should also be known that the fruit of the apple trees which stand in the field is not public property, but is reserved for the use of the tenants of the "widows' cottages."

Sunday, January 15th will stand out as the roughest Sunday in the whole of our recollection. In spite however of the "blizzard" we managed to muster 12—all told—at Evensong!

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Lent, "the deepest season of grace in the whole year," has now commenced. Throughout Lent, we must seek to keep a stricter watch over ourselves, and strive to follow our Saviour more closely. He will mark every effort we make, and will bless us accordingly. Let us remember for one thing His wonderful promise, "*where two or three are gathered together in My Name, there am I in the midst of them.*" These words refer as you know, to public worship. Let us come together therefore, and seek that Divine Presence more frequently than we have done. Come to church *twice* on Sunday, if hitherto our custom has been only to come once, and come also to the brief devotional services on each Wednesday evening, at 7.30. These services will be very short, only half-an-hour or so, but they will it is hoped, be made specially helpful.

Confirmation.—The candidates from our parish, seven lads and two girls, will (D.V.) be confirmed in Bourne Abbey Church, on Tuesday, March 7th, at 7.30 p.m. We earnestly ask for your prayers for God's abundant blessing upon them in this the most solemn turning-point of their lives. The Confirmation register shows the interesting fact that during the Vicar's incumbency he has presented 167 candidates for Confirmation, of whom 89 were male candidates, and 78 female.

The Parochial Church Council met on February 22nd. Several important subjects were discussed in the course of a most interesting meeting. Great satisfaction was expressed at the revived interest taken in ringing, and it was agreed to encourage in every way the recently-formed band of young ringers. The financial state of the church accounts disclosed a serious situation, and a big deficit next Easter is feared, unless offerings are on a far more liberal scale than at present. The revision of the Electoral Roll will shortly be taken in hand, and parishioners are asked to ensure that their names are included upon it.

Mothering Sunday is the 4th Sunday in Lent (March 26th). Most of us know the beautiful significance associated with this day. "A man's best friend is his mother." Let us bear this in mind on Mothering Sunday, and shew in some way our love for our mother.

St. Dunstan's.—The concert got up last month, in aid of this noble object, resulted in the sum of £5 being sent, by Miss Worthington, to headquarters.

The Royal Marriage.—Seldom has a public event aroused such amazing interest as has the marriage of the King's only daughter. It is deeply significant of the hold which the Throne has upon the affections of the people, but even beyond that there is the personal element, the irresistible charm of one who is in a peculiar degree a type of all that is best and noblest in English girlhood. Happily is she named Mary, as she herself remarked on a recent occasion, that she regarded it as a happy privilege that she "bore the name of Our Lady." * We are marking the wedding-day here by a whole holiday for the children, and a tea and entertainment kindly provided for them by the Squire.

The 3rd Sunday in the month.—As the 8.30 celebration is the only Eucharist on this particular Sunday, we propose if possible to sing one or two hymns, and we suggest that all who can should mark the "Church's great Service" by their presence. We hope that on the 3rd Sunday in March, the newly confirmed will make their first Communion.

Baptism.—19th February, Thomas, son of Thomas and Olive Doreen Holmes.

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Princess Mary.—How she spent the first Sunday after her marriage is told in the following article from a Church newspaper, which the Vicar recently read and commented on in the pulpit :—
“At the little village church of St. Andrew's, Weston-under-Lyziard, on Sunday March 5th, the three ancient bells rang out their weekly call to the parish Mass. In the quiet of the early morning our Princess Mary and her husband knelt side by side in quiet devotion to make their first Communion, which is ever the duty and obligation of the newly married. The service was conducted by the Rector, who wore the prescribed vestments, and with two lights on the altar the order was the usual service of the day. At 11 a.m. there followed the sung Eucharist and sermon. The Princess and her husband were again present at this service. The good example of our youngest Princess, so unaffectedly and devotionally set forth on the first Sunday of her married life, is a matter for all sincerely religious people to rejoice in.”

Our “new” window. The placing of the stained glass in the south transept window has greatly added to the enrichment and beauty of the church. The rich and glowing colours of this glass are beautiful in the extreme, and completely blot out the inartistic tracery of the ugly window frame, besides giving adornment to this bare corner. The cost of the work (£30) has been defrayed out of the Church Improvement Fund, towards which a portion of the proceeds of the garden fete last summer was generously devoted. We thank the committee most heartily. Later on we hope to cover the wall beneath the window, and possibly place there a small altar.

Early celebrations on Sundays will, during the summer months be at 8, instead of 8.30. Thus we hope to meet the wishes both of those who prefer the earlier hour, and those also who like the later. In October we shall revert to 8.30.

The book cupboard.—The little black cupboard by the South door is expressly provided for those who like to leave their books in the church. It might be more generally used, and if so, will be kept securely locked during the week.

Lad's class.—A class for lads will be held on Palm Sunday in the church at 2.15. We earnestly ask that all who were recently confirmed will come, together with others. If desired, this class will be held once every month. There will also be a similar class for girls, of which notice will be given.

Lent.—Up to the present the attendance at the Week-day services has been most encouraging, though on Sundays many are missing. Why keep the week-day and not the Sunday? Is it merely that the former are a novelty? We can think of no other reason.

Our wants.—Funds to provide a summer outing for the Sunday School children, also a gratuity for our excellent ringers. As regards further Church improvements, we want to furnish and adorn the South transept, and to provide rug seating in the pews.

Tennis.—Play will commence this month if weather permits. Players are asked to pay their subscription of 3/- in advance to the Vicar.

Holy Week.—The special services will be duly announced. We earnestly appeal to all to remember that Good Friday is *the most sacred day in the year*, not one of amusement, but of deepest Christian devotion.

Easter is the day when *every* communicant is bidden to the Altar. Let none neglect this “bounden duty.” Obedience ever brings its special blessing, and disobedience its penalty. We appeal for many helpers to garnish the church for the great Easter festival, also for flowers.

The Children's Service.—It would be a very great encouragement both to the Vicar and the children if older people will attend the short afternoon service on Sundays. We want to make it bright and hearty, as in the old days, when many adults came, and thoroughly enjoyed it.

Baptism.—12th March, Madeline Marjorie, daughter of Charles Robert and Ada Eliza Pell.

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Easter.—The great Festival of the Resurrection was well and joyously kept. The church was beautiful to a degree. During Easter week, the Vicar visited a great number of churches while away from home. In none did he see such a profusion of flowers as in our own. We are deeply grateful to all who so kindly helped with the decorations. We also greatly appreciate the work which Miss Fisher did, in washing the whole of the church linen single-handed, surplices, altar linen and priest's vestments. Thanks to her, not a penny of our church funds has had to be spent in laundry bills.

The Easter meetings.—The annual Vestry meeting and Parochial Church meeting were held together on April 24th. The church accounts were passed, the churchwardens elected, and the new Church Council chosen. A word or two upon each.

The church accounts.—The ordinary collections for the year amounted to £42/18/6, nearly £6 less than during the previous year, and very considerably less than they would be if each of us carried out the Apostolic injunction, "upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him." That means that if we are hindered from attending worship on any occasion, God's Treasury does not suffer, for we "lay it by" to give another time. However by dint of rigid economy, we finished the year with a balance in hand, thanks to the Church Estate Trustees taking over the upkeep of the churchyard, which last year cost £13/5/0. It is a great help to be relieved of this large annual expenditure.

The churchwardens.—It is a matter for great rejoicing to us all that Mr. Thos. Pick, who has acted as Vicar's warden for 21 successive years, should be so far recovering from his long and serious illness. Under the circumstances, the Vicar would not hear of his standing aside, even though he is not yet strong enough to fulfil his duties. We shall however have to get on as best we can without his active help, until the time comes, which we all trust may be soon, that he is once again fully restored to health. The other warden, upon whom for a time a double duty will devolve, is Mr. Wilcox, who was again unanimously elected by the meeting.

The new Church Council consists of the two churchwardens, and the following ladies and gentlemen, Mrs. Ash, Mrs. Bradshaw, Mrs. Brudenell, Mrs. Wilcox, Miss Fisher; Messrs. A. Bradshaw, W. Brudenell, W. E. Metcalfe, J. W. Redshaw and E. Thelwell. Twelve members in all. On the Rural Deanery Conference we shall be represented by Mr. Wilcox, Mr. Bradshaw and Mr. Brudenell. We wish the Church Council a happy and successful year of office. It has been arranged to hold the first meeting on Monday, May 8th.

Ascension Day (May 25th).—We venture to remind all of the approach of this great and significant Festival. Holy Thursday (as it is called in the Prayer Book) ranks with Christmas, Easter and Whitsunday as one of the "great four" Christian Holy Days, which stand alone in importance above all others.

Sports.—Tennis has commenced, and we hope that a cricket team will shortly be formed, and a list of fixtures be arranged for the season.

The church tower shorn of its ivy mantle, looks strange and bare, but it was impossible to trim the ivy owing to great height to which it had grown, and there was nothing for it but to strip it off, as much damage was being done to the fabric, particularly by the blocking of the spouting and gutters.

Marriage.—April 17th, Josiah Wade and Elsie Holmes.

Burial.—April 25th, James Holmes, aged 69 years.

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The Parochial Church Council met on Monday May 8th. Their first business was to co-opt two new members, Mrs. Thelwell and Mr. Wass, and for deputy chairman, Mr. Thos. Pick was unanimously elected. Several matters came up for discussion, and among other things it was resolved that the church should have a good "clean" this summer. It certainly needs it.

Dirt in the church is chiefly caused by the mud which is brought in on boots, for there is no open fire and no smoke as in a dwelling house. The mud difficulty cannot of course altogether be helped, but it could be lessened greatly if people would refrain from placing their feet on the kneelers. These are provided for kneeling on only, and not for footstools.

Empire Day (May 24th) was duly observed in the school. After prayers and a hymn, the Vicar addressed the children on the meaning of patriotism, and their duty as citizens of the Empire. They then marched out into the play-ground and saluted the flag, around which the National Anthem was afterwards sung. In order to impress the lesson of the day more deeply, a half-holiday was given.

Ascension Day.—The contrast between the services on this great Festival this year and last was a sad one. Last year we had hearty singing, a beautiful anthem and a good congregation. This year there was neither. One cannot but ask, are we becoming totally indifferent? Are we Christians only in name?

Appeals.—The lay people probably hardly realize how constant and numerous are the appeals for help which the clergy receive. There are two in particular however which just now are specially urgent, and have a claim on us all, the repair of Lincoln Cathedral, and the upkeep of the Stamford Infirmary. As a parish we must make an effort to support both these objects.

Lincoln Cathedral.—This magnificent cathedral of ours, the pride and glory of our county and diocese, is in immanent danger, and in order to save portions of it from ruin, a great sum of many thousands of pounds is urgently required. The Dean and Chapter are appealing in the first instance to Lincolnshire people, and all the parishes within the diocese are asked to help. Who that knows Lincoln can refuse? It is a building so exquisite and wonderful, both in point of size and beauty, that it is hard to realize that it was built by human hands. Lincoln is rightly acknowledged to be the finest cathedral in England, and possibly in the world. Mr. Ruskin, the great authority on art, wrote of Lincoln cathedral that it was "out and out the most precious piece of architecture in the kingdom, and worth any two other cathedrals we have got."

The Stamford Infirmary is too well known and valued to need any words of recommendation. Its financial condition is critical, and a strong appeal for increased support has been sent out to all the parishes in the district which it serves.

The church.—By the middle of June we hope to complete the furnishing of the south east corner. There will be a small altar, with rich red frontal and hangings, and the whole effect should be very beautiful. Several of the furnishings, including the altar itself, are gifts, and Mrs. Worthington is most kindly making the curtains and hangings. We want a small rug for the floor, and a set of oak ornaments. Perhaps some friend will present these.

The cricket club has a list of fixtures arranged for the season, and there will be a match on most Saturday afternoons. Those for June are as follows:—3rd, Creeton, away; 10th, Ryhall, away; 15th, Essendine, home.

Baptisms.—21st May, Kathleen Grace, daughter of Joseph and Louisa Kettle.

28th May, John Henry Alphonzo, son of Charles and Louisa Phillips.

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The Flower Show.—It has been decided to hold the show this year on Wednesday, July 19th, and we feel sure that it will be well patronized—at all events—by the parishioners, for whose benefit it is mainly held. This show was first instituted by our late revered Squire, Mr. Walter Fenwick, in order to encourage the cultivation of the cottage gardens in the parish. Its success will best be insured if we all endeavour to support it, not merely by our attendance, but by sending as many exhibits as we possibly can. This will be the 3rd show since the war, the others being held in 1919 and 1920. Now that garden fetes are so numerous and popular everywhere, we cannot hope for the same numbers as in the days when our flower show was almost the only attraction of the kind in the district, although the presence of the Band of the Royal Horse Guards, one of the most renowned military bands in the country, should in itself draw large numbers. We hope that it will.

Children's Tea.—The children of the day school had a very enjoyable treat on June 23rd, in the Vicarage garden, provided through the kindness of a committee of ladies. It was voted by all to be one of the most successful children's parties we have ever had, and certainly one of the most sumptuous of teas! Mr. and Mrs. Metcalfe and Miss Darnes organized and carried out a capital programme of games. Our best thanks are due to them and to all who provided the tea and waited on the small guests, or who most kindly gave contributions towards it.

A whist drive and social will ere long, be arranged in the Vicarage garden, mainly to obtain funds for a later outing for the children of the Sunday class. The date is not yet fixed.

Parochial Church Council.—The next meeting will be held on Monday, July 10th, at 7.30 p.m.

The ringers had a day's outing to Skegness on June 28th. We beg most heartily to thank those who so generously subscribed towards the expense.

Church-going.—Our church-goers may be divided roughly into three classes; first, those who come both morning and evening, secondly, those who attend only in the morning, and thirdly, those who come in the evening only. The last is of course the lowest standard, while of the three, the first is the highest. But it is a serious and disquieting symptom that of those who come twice to public worship, the number has recently grown less. Certainly our morning congregation is more numerous, and for the last month or two has actually been larger than the evening, an unusual feature in a country parish. But we must endeavour to increase the number of those who come both morning and evening, and not rest content with the fallacy of those whom Mr. Gladstone termed "oucers." For the sake of our example, let us try. In the great duty of worship, as in other duties, our question should be, not, "how little need I do?" but rather, "how much can I do?" The Lord's Day is for the Christian a day of worship, not merely a day of rest, while even of the Jewish Sabbath it was ordered "Remember that thou *keep holy* the Sabbath Day." However we are Christians, not Jews, and as we have greater privileges, so have we greater responsibilities.

The church will be cleaned during the first week in July. Books should be removed for the occasion.

Baptism.—5th June, Raymond, son of Alfred and Gertrude Thompson.

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The Flower Show.—We were fortunate indeed in our weather, for it was the first perfect summer day that we have had for many weeks, and visitors taking advantage of it, flocked to Witham. The number of entries too was above the average, so that we can truly say that the Show was an unqualified success.

Church cleaning.—During last month, the church has undergone a more thorough cleaning than it has had for some years, and certainly looks the better for it. The walls look several shades whiter than they did. The hangings and curtains of the altars have all been washed, which has considerably improved their appearance. The latter work was very kindly undertaken by Miss Fisher.

The South chapel.—This small chapel in the south transept with its beautiful window and handsome little altar, will be known as the chapel of St. George the Martyr, who is the Patron Saint of England. It will be used very seldom, owing to its restricted size, but the Holy Mysteries will be celebrated here on St. George's Day, and on National anniversaries such as Armistice Day. It will also serve as an altar of Remembrance for our fallen soldiers. Our church records show that there were originally two side chapels in the church, one of which was the Lady chapel, but the dedication of the other is unknown.

Visitors from Little Bytham.—On Thursday, August 3rd, we are to have a very special service in the church at 7.30 p.m., when the large newly-formed choir from Little Bytham will come and render the service for us. The sermon will be preached by the Rev. G. E. Mahon, Rector of Colsterworth. It is hoped that we shall give our visitors a very hearty welcome, and show our appreciation of their kindness by attending this unique service. There will be a collection in aid of the Lincoln Cathedral Restoration Fund. The choir will robe at the Vicarage, and go thence in procession to the church.

Removals.—There will be few who will not deeply regret the departure from the village of Mr. Armstrong's family, and of Mr. Lawley. In all our social activities, Mr. Lawley ever took such a leading part that it is difficult to think how we shall get on without him. In particular we shall miss his valuable help and interest in the Reading Room. We shall miss too, one of our regular ringers, and one who was a member of our choir, who by his unfailing attendance—particularly in the mornings—was so good an example to the rest. We venture to wish them all "God's speed" in their new home in Derbyshire.

A Mission.—After much earnest thought and prayer, the Vicar has resolved to have a special Mission in the parish early next year. It must be evident to us all that the religious standard among us is very far from what it should be. We are drifting away from God, our hearts are becoming cold and dead, we are getting more careless and more worldly. Some of the causes for this are not far to seek, though others are more difficult to explain. Still the fact remains, we are becoming a "lukewarm" people. There is a growing indifference, which is deadly and fatal in its results, unless it is checked and arrested. Let us remember that it is the duty of every Christian to bear witness to Christ. We are one and all pledged "never to be ashamed to confess the Faith of Christ crucified, but manfully to fight under His banner against sin, the world and the devil." And so, in order to bring these great truths home to us all, we shall (D.V.) have a Parish Mission next year. The meaning of a Mission will be more fully explained later. Meanwhile let us all pray for God's blessing on this effort of ours, and each do what we can, by word or example, to help and encourage those around us.

Baptism.—2nd July, Charles Warren, son of Thomas and Frances Mary Potter.

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The Festal service on Aug. 3rd, when our friends from Little Bytham visited us and gave us such a musical treat, will not be quickly forgotten. The imposing procession of over forty robed choristers with cross and two banners, wending its way from the Vicarage to the church, was a sight not often witnessed in the village. The thoughtful address, by the Rector of Colsterworth, was most interesting and helpful. It was a pleasure too to have with us a priest who was born and brought up in our parish, the Rev. E. H. Smith, who took part in a service here for the first time. We hope that some day he may be able to come and preach to us on a Sunday. As this magazine circulates in Little Bytham, we take this opportunity of thanking all our friends there, and we hope that they enjoyed their outing as much as we enjoyed the pleasure of having them.

Harvest Thanksgiving services will be held on Sunday, October 8th. The Rector of Little Bytham will preach at Evensong.

Another gift.—A handsome rug has been presented to the church for the foot-pace of the new south altar, which greatly adds to its beauty. This new altar was used for the first time and consecrated at the celebration of Holy Communion on St. Bartholomew's Day (August 24th).

The summer is passing, and with it the hopes of organizing an out-door whist drive and dance to which we alluded recently. It may however still be possible after harvest, if an improvement in the weather should set in. Up to the present, it has been about the most disappointing and disastrous summer that can well be imagined.

The church tower and spire.—Visitors often note with surprise that the steeple is so utterly out of harmony with the rest of the church. The following facts may prove of interest to our readers. The old tower fell down in the year 1736, demolishing in its fall a portion of the church itself. On November 1st, in the same year, the work of clearing the rubbish began and continued for six weeks, though where it was taken is not stated. This work was done by local labour, sometimes as many as 68 men were at work at once. On April 3rd, 1738, the new tower was begun, the architect being a Stamford man, whose total remuneration was £5/5/0. It is a pity that he did not follow the ancient design, instead of launching out on lines of his own. But perhaps he could not help himself, for his original plan did not prove acceptable, and he had to draw several designs before meeting the approval of the churchwardens. The structure was completed the same year, including the portion of the church which was demolished. The date and names of the Vicar and churchwardens appear on the face of the tower above the clock (The Rev. Mr. Robt. Alanson, A.M., Vicar, J. Hidson & R. Weathers, C.W., 1738). The old clock perished in the fall, but the bells apparently escaped injury, for they were rung in the following year. The builders, Mr. Jackson and Mr. Chaplin, were Bourne men. The stone was chiefly obtained from Ketton, Bytham pits and Clipsham, the lime from Whitwell and Easton, the lead from Kirby Bellairs, and the wood from Lobthorp. The Clipsham stone was used for the south front of the tower, hence this side is whiter than the others. The total cost (including clearance of rubbish) amounted to the sum of £365/16/8³, which was defrayed by the Church Estate Trustees, who borrowed £200 on the security of the Estate for the purpose. It is interesting to note that the steeple at Deeping S. James was erected at the same date as ours, and is probably by the same architect. When space permits we hope to publish other notes of by-gone days and events in the parish.

Marriage.—Aug. 28th, Percy James Vickers and Mary Elizabeth Haddon.

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Harvest Thanksgiving services will be held on Sunday, October 8th, as follows:—Holy Communion at 8; sung Eucharist at 11; children's service at 3; Evensong at 6.30. The sermon at Evensong will be preached by the Rector of Little Bytham. The thank-offerings will be given to the Hospitals. Let us all come on this thanksgiving day, and give as God has prospered us. In addition we ask for help in decorating the church, and gifts of corn and flowers for the adornment of God's House.

Children's outing.—We were fortunate in having a delightful summer's day for our Sunday school outing on September 20th, which took the form of a picnic in Careby warren, an ideal spot for the purpose. We were conveyed in two loads by motor-bus. A camp fire was lit, and kettles were boiled in proper picnic fashion. The "grown-ups" who accompanied the party all confessed to having thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and there is little doubt that the children did likewise!

Junior football.—Our boys, in conjunction with Careby, have joined the Bytham junior League, which is limited to players under 15. Mr. Todd is very kindly acting as instructor and referee, and Mr. Metcalfe as secretary. Our thanks are due to all kind subscribers to the funds. Jerseys of the club colours (blue and amber) will be provided, and Mr. Thelwell has generously granted the club the use of a field for matches, while the village green serves excellently for practise. An accident to Hubert Oxborough, unfortunately marred the opening of the season. We deeply sympathize with him, but are glad to learn that the fractured arm is going on well.

The Reading Room.—A meeting will shortly be called to appoint new officers for the winter season, and we hope that the room will soon be re-opened. As it is not self-supporting, we ask for subscriptions towards its maintenance.

How old is the church? This question is frequently asked by visitors and others, and erroneous answers are often given. The present church is not the first to be built here. There was older one before it, of which no traces now remain. This previous church stood on the same site, and is mentioned in "Doomsday Book," which was compiled in the reign of William the Conqueror. Probably it was small and mean, but almost certainly built of stone in this stone district. The present building was commenced about the year 1150, so that parts of it are nearly 800 years old. The oldest portion consists of the south aisle with porch, which is in the style called Transitional Norman. The porch itself has been re-built, though the same stones were used. To see the original work therefore, must look at the inner door-way facing the road, then going inside, observe the massive circular pillars with the round arches above them, and we see the work which was done in 1150. The font is older still, and must therefore have stood in the previous church. The next stage to be built was the north aisle (about eighty years later), but we will describe this next month.

The Dedication Festival, commonly known as the Feast Sunday, falls on October 29th. This Festival which has been kept in Witham for hundreds of years, commemorates the dedication or consecration of the church, and is a day of thanksgiving to God for the blessings of our religion, given through our ancient parish church.

Baptisms.—September 10th, Garrick David, son of James Frederick and Margaret Frances Catherine Jackson.

September 24th, Margaret Hilda Mary, daughter of George Eric and Ida Murdoch.

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

The General Election.—This month will be one of excitement and political turmoil, owing to the fact of the forth-coming general election, which is fixed for Wednesday, the 15th inst. Is it out of place here to remind our readers who have votes, especially the women, that to record that vote is a sacred and patriotic duty, an obligation on us all as British citizens? To abstain from the poll is simply to shirk our responsibility.

Obituary.—Our old friend Mr. Frederick Garner, passed peacefully away on S. Luke's Day (Oct. 18th), after a long and painful illness of four months. He will be greatly missed, particularly from his accustomed place in church, from which he was seldom absent. When he lived at Manthorpe, it was by no means unusual for him to walk up twice on a Sunday, even when long over 70. In this and in other ways he has left us a happy example of devotion to duty. We greatly sympathize with his aged widow in her bereavement, after 58 years of happy married life. R.I.P.

The Parochial Mission will be held (D.V.) at beginning of Lent next year. It will commence on Ash Wednesday, and be continued until after the second Sunday in Lent. It will be conducted by Captain J. Atkinson of the "Church Army," who served in the late War as a gunner. Below we print a letter from him.

TO THE PARISHIONERS,

I have accepted an invitation to conduct a Mission next Lent. This is a privilege and responsibility which I appreciate. A Mission is not a one man effort, but an attempt by the corporate action of all Christians in a parish to make the consciousness of God a reality to all living in the parish. We must first live in this consciousness ourselves. This is experienced and maintained by Prayer. Therefore my suggestion is that we all *pray*. Pray for the Mission both in private and in public. Pray for it in the Church's great "prayer-meeting," the Service of the Holy Eucharist. If we pray, then the God that answers by Fire will answer, and the Mission will begin and continue in the Fire of the Holy Spirit.

J. ATKINSON,

CHURCH ARMY PIONEER MISSIONER.

Armistice Sunday, Nov. 12th.—On the *morning* of this Sunday, as in past years, we shall have our solemn memorial of those who died in the War. It is hoped that there will be a large attendance, and those who have suffered bereavement are specially and earnestly invited. The service will be at 11 a.m.

The Harvest thanksgiving services were very well attended, and the offerings which went to the Stamford Infirmary amounted to £3/18/10. Why should we not make *every* Sunday equally thanksgiving Sunday, as it ought to be? If we did, we should enjoy each Sunday as much as we do the one specially devoted to the Harvest Festival. Would it not be worth it?

The Church stove.—This has recently been repaired, with the result that the church should be really warm this winter. Have we ever noticed how the heating is obtained, and how skilfully the furnace is hidden away? We have no ugly radiators or pipes to disfigure the church, and even the chimney is completely hidden both from within and without. We know of no other church where this is the case. Visitors have occasionally asked whether we have any heating apparatus at all, so entirely is it concealed from view!

Our congratulations to Mrs. David Pell on her recovery from her serious fall. We are very glad to see her home again after an absence of fifteen weeks.

Parochial Church Council.—It is a long time since we have had a meeting of the Council, and we therefore venture to summon one on Monday, 27th Nov., at 7 p.m. We ask all members to endeavour to attend, as there are several matters of importance and interest to deal with. One in particular is the re-arrangement of the financial year, which now ends on Dec. 31st, instead of—as formerly—at Easter. The annual Parochial Meeting will be held in January instead of Easter week.

The Early celebrations of Holy Communion on Sundays will normally be at 8.30 instead of throughout the winter months.

The Reading Room has re-opened, and is well patronized. Mr. Francis Glenn has kindly undertaken the Secretaryship. There will be monthly whist drives as last year. The committee ask support from all who are interested in maintaining this useful organization.

Marriage.—Oct 14th, Arthur James Barnett and Annie Worthington.

Burial.—Oct. 21st, Frederick Garner, aged 80 years.

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

Christmas Day is the greatest of all birthdays, the Birth-day of Jesus. Let us keep it therefore *with* Him, and not apart from Him. The beautiful old name for the day—"Christmas"—tells us how. For this name means "Christ's Mass," and this surely suggests that the Christian's place on this sacred day is at the Altar, for the service of the "Mass," or the Holy Communion. There will be celebration at 8 (not 8.30), and the choral celebration at 11. On Christmas Eve, the Evening service will be festal.

The Magazine.—We ask all our readers to continue their support next year. There is no profit made on our sales, rather the reverse. But the more subscribers we have, the greater is the space to which we are entitled for parish notes.

A handsome calendar will be given to each subscriber next month.

The old school is being adapted to the purposes of a village Hall, and will shortly be ready for use. It will be permanently available for gatherings of all kinds; parties, concerts, plays, lectures, meetings, whist drives, dances, and should prove a most valuable social centre for the parish. After its renovation, those who knew it in its old state will hardly recognize it. It has one great advantage, in being lofty and well ventilated. This room was built in 1847, and there are friends still living who were present when the foundation stone was laid.

The fancy-dress dance.—This annual important event will be held on the Friday in Christmas week (Dec. 29th). We can only hope that it will be as great a success as in former years. The proceeds (in whole or in part) are for the Nursing Institution. The Countess of Ancaster has most kindly promised to be present, and to judge the dresses.

The Reading Room dance.—We are very grateful to all the friends who helped us on this occasion. The whole of the refreshments were given, and Mrs. Warr most kindly gave her services as pianist gratuitously, with the result that a very substantial sum was raised for the Reading Room.

Other objects for our help are the Cricket Club and the Butterfield Hospital, for both of which we hope to raise funds this winter. The formal opening of the old school will, it has been suggested, provide an opportunity for assisting the latter.

A Confirmation will be held at Braceborough, on Feb. 23rd, this will be during the time of our Mission. The only other centre within reach is Corby, on March 26th. Any desiring to be prepared for Confirmation, must let the Vicar have their names by the New Year.

In memoriam, Henrietta Julia Caroline Hailstone.—"A kinder heart never beat." Such was a remark made by a friend to the Vicar, after Mrs. Hailstone's funeral, at Barnack, on Nov. 13th. And it is true, as her many friends could abundantly testify. By her death, we in particular have lost a good friend. For she was deeply attached to this place, the home of her forbears for generations, and where she herself was born and baptized. She was the daughter of General Johnson, of Witham Hall, and sister to our late greatly-respected Squire. Though the Estate passed from her family some 20 years ago, she never lost touch with Witham, but took a constant interest in the place, and was a diligent reader of our Magazine, and a frequent visitor here. Notable among her gifts to the church is our beautiful jewelled chalice, a memorial to her mother. As she was not laid to rest here, it is to be hoped that some memorial of her may find a place in the church which she loved so well, and where both her parents are buried. R.I.P.

Baptism.—5th Nov., Joyce Mary, daughter of Edward Blankley and Ann Sardeson.

Burials.—3rd Nov., Emma Green, aged 67 years.

7th Nov., Sarah Ann Chamberlain, aged 54 years.