

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

Christmas.—The church was a picture of beauty in its rich garnishings of evergreens. The carol service, on Christmas Eve, was very hearty and enjoyable.

Children's prizes.—The annual prizes, given as usual by Capt. Fenwick, were won by the following children—Champions: Percy Holmes and Nellie Wilson; Standard V, Clement Bothamley and Phyllis Thelwell; St. IV, Leonard Pawlett and Mary Hoyles; St. III, Janet Ash; St. II, Arthur Bothamley and Constance Bradshaw; St. I, Jack Wilson and Phyllis Sandall; Infants, Cecil Hind.

Gladys Mason, who recently competed in an essay competition on the subject of Forestry, has been adjudged the winner for the County, and is in the first six for all England. This is a very gratifying distinction, and we offer her our congratulations.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on Monday, 29th January, at 7 p.m., in the old school. We ask all parochial electors to attend, in order to elect the new Church Council for the year, and to pass the church accounts as from Easter last. In future the Council must be elected for the year from Jan. 1st. to Dec. 31st, instead of (as formerly) from Easter to Easter. The accounts must also be made up and balanced in January, instead of at Easter. Any whose names are not yet on the electoral Roll but who are otherwise qualified to vote, should at once take steps to become enrolled.

A Confirmation has now been arranged to be held at Little Bytham, on Monday, March 5th. If there are any candidates, this will be more convenient than the earlier Confirmation, at Braceborough, which we announced last month.

The accident to Allan Warr, Mr. and Mrs. Worthington's little grandson, greatly shocked and distressed us all at Christmas. At the time of writing the little fellow is progressing satisfactorily, but it will be many weeks before he can leave the Infirmary.

The coming Mission.—We are anxious that every parishioner should not only know of this important effort, but look forward and welcome it, for it is meant to apply to every soul in the parish. The Mission will commence on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14th. Below we print a further message from our Missioner, Captain Atkinson.

Dear friends,

My former letter to you was on the need of prayer. Perhaps you will ask "What or whom shall I pray for"? Pray for the *Missioner*, that he may hear God's message, take it and deliver it, that he may not only understand the message, but sympathetically know the hearers, Pray for your *Vicar*, that priest and people may be in sympathy one with another. Pray for the *Communicants*, that they may realize that they are fighting soldiers in an aggressive army, the army of Jesus Christ. Pray for the *conventional Christians*, that their love for their Saviour may be deepened. Pray for the *unconverted*, that they may experience the Gospel as the Power of God unto Salvation. Pray for *yourself* that you may be led to a more real communion with God.

J. ATKINSON (C. A. Missioner).

The sudden death of Mr. P. Louth, of Manthorpe, which occurred in so tragic a manner in the village, was a shock to us all. We deeply sympathize with the aged widow.

1923.—We offer all good wishes to our readers for a blessed and happy new year.

Burial.—5th December, Paul Louth, aged 74 years.

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About the Mission. From the Vicar.—My dear friends.—As our Parochial Mission will begin on the 14th of this month (Ash Wednesday), I am anxious that everyone should understand what it means, and why we are having it. We must look upon it as *a message to us from God*. It is He who has willed that I should invite the missionary to come among us. It is God's doing, not mine. And if we remember this we shall feel how solemn and serious a thing it is, and how great is the responsibility of us all. God is sending a messenger among us, and it is for us to listen to the message which he will bring, a message for each one of us, including myself. For during the twelve days that the Mission is being held, I shall be a learner too. I shall take no active part in it, further than to conduct the services in church, the message itself will be delivered by the Missioner alone. He will give each and every address, he will doubtless visit you in your homes, and seek opportunity of getting in touch with all. The Missioner, Captain Atkinson, is a layman, who has been a soldier, and underwent active service during the war. This in itself is an advantage, as he will be able to present the message from a different point of view than that of the clergyman, and speaking as a layman to lay people, may perhaps gain a more ready hearing. I ask you all to welcome him in God's name, and do all that in you lies to encourage him by your attendance and response, and in particular to attend the opening service in the church on Ash Wednesday evening, at 7 o'clock. All the meetings and services are announced on the leaflet which will be left at every house. And one thing further. I want our Wesleyan friends—if they will—to associate themselves also with us in this parochial Mission. They and we have the same object at heart, the winning of the world for Jesus Christ, and the bringing of souls to know and love Him. Will they come to our meetings, or if they should desire that the Missioner should speak to them in their own place of worship, I doubt not that he will readily and gladly do so. With every prayer that God will pour His blessing upon us, and make us love and serve him better.

I am, yours affectionately,
L. H. COOLEY.

The old school, now the Village Hall, was formally opened in its new capacity, by Mrs. Walter Fenwick, on Thursday, January 18th, when a large company was present to welcome her. From the proceeds of the evening, the sum of £4 was sent to the Butterfield Hospital.

The fancy-dress dance has been fully reported elsewhere. It only remains for us to thank the many friends, far too numerous to mention individually, for their unbounded kindness in contributing so liberally with gifts, both in kind and money. It is considered to have been one of the most successful affairs we have ever had. £7/5/0 was sent to the Nursing Association from the proceeds.

Sunday school.—The Vicar hopes to arrange a tea for the scholars at Shrove-tide, if all our little invalids are convalescent by then.

Allan Warr.—This little fellow's wonderful recovery, after his serious accident, is a cause of the greatest thankfulness, not only to his own family, but to all of us.

Baptism.—January 28th, Noel Jack, son of James Creasey and Lilian Watson.

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The Mission. A postponement.—After a struggle in the face of great difficulties, it was considered wisest to postpone the remainder of the Mission to a later date. The weather broke on our opening day, Ash Wednesday, and the Sunday following was one of continuous snow, rendering the roads and paths almost impassible for any but the robust. Then when the second snow-storm came the next Wednesday, the Vicar and the Missioner came to the reluctant conclusion that we could longer "carry on" with any real benefit to our widely-scattered parish.

The resumption.—The Mission will be resumed again (D.V.) in Holy Week, when Captain Atkinson will return to us, and will take up the work again, carrying it on over Easter Day. Meanwhile it behoves all of us whose hearts have been touched and whose consciences have been aroused by his earnest message, to look forward eagerly to this conclusion of his work among us, and to influence others in every way we can, so that those last final days may be abundantly blessed, not only ourselves individually, but to many others besides.

In some ways the enforced break between the commencement and conclusion of the Mission may even be advantageous. For it will give us time to *think*. The seed has been sown in many hearts, the interest has been awakened, and the intervening weeks of Lent may now be used—as of course they ways should be—as a precious time for repentance and prayer, as we quietly think out for ourselves the message which God has given us through the Missioner, so that when he comes to us again there may be in us a feeling of eager expectancy, which was not the case when the Mission commenced.

Next time.—Many, we know, could not come to the earlier meetings, but some who could, did not. If the reader is one of these, will he or she ask themselves *why*? For a refusal of the invitation means one of two things. Either we are so *satisfied* with our present religious standard, that we do not think that any improvement is necessary, or else that we do not *want* to serve God, and so we hear His Message, lest our conscience should convict us. We prefer our present sinful life, and so *dare* not come. To both such cases we earnestly say *come next time*, lest it be the last time, the last call that we ever hear.

The Manthorpe meeting.—With a kindness and courtesy which we greatly appreciate, the Trustees of the chapel placed the building at our disposal for a week-night meeting. And a very good meeting it was. We thank them heartily.

Some impressions.—All the addresses were marked by great earnestness, and transparent sincerity. There was also an entire absence of any false sentiment, anything "goody-goody." Captain Atkinson's appeal is for a *manly* religion, a strong wholesome Christianity, such as we might expect from a soldier who has seen much active service in the war. His message was breezy, unconventional and straightforward. If only we had had numbers (and we should have had, but for weather), overflowing meetings and crowded congregations, the effect of such addresses would have been inspiring indeed. We confidently hope that this may be the case during the concluding days, in Holy Week and at Easter.

Every Wednesday in Lent there will be a special devotional service, at 7 p.m. All the Sunday services will also be of a missionary character.

Marriage.—3rd February, William James Mitchell and Clara Holmes.

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The Vicar's reminiscences.—My dear friends, As I cannot write this month of the conclusion of our Mission, I am taking the opportunity of recording a few reminiscences of my incumbency here. For on Tuesday April the 3rd, I shall have completed the long period of 23 years residence at the Vicarage, where I arrived on another Tuesday, April the 3rd, in the year 1900, the following Sunday being, I recollect, Palm Sunday. But how different a Witham it was in those days. Since I first came, the place has been altered out of all knowledge, and as regards the people, out of the 95 houses in the parish to-day, only nine are still occupied by the same families who were living in them when I came. Nine other families still remain with us, but in other houses. Of the rest, all are later comers.

The great changes which have so transformed Witham during my time here, commenced with the purchase of the Estate by the late Mr. Fenwick in 1902. In the following year he came to reside with me at the Vicarage, and a close friendship then began between the late Squire and myself, which lasted unbroken until his death. Into all his interests I was privileged to enter, in fact he was kind enough to consult me on not a few matters concerning the re-modelling of the place. To take but one instance, the building of the "Six Bells" Inn was due largely to my advice and persuasion. Daily we used to go round together on a tour of inspection, and at night we would talk things over in detail, the rebuilding of the Hall, the repairs to farms, the erection of new cottages, or the demolition of old. Can you wonder therefore that I have an affection for the place, whose growth I have watched so closely, and in whose well-being I have taken such a part? And then there is the church. What improvements and adornments we have been enabled to effect during my incumbency only those who knew it at the beginning can realize. As I look back it seems wonderful. Of course much would have been impossible but for Mr. Fenwick's generous help. He wanted a model church as well as a model village, and he had even further schemes for its enrichment, which had he lived, would doubtless have been carried out. But even as it is, it is a church of which we should indeed be proud. Perhaps this is the particular mark which it was ordained that I should leave on the parish. Others may follow me who will be more faithful pastors than I have been, but none who will love the place more. Let me conclude with a few interesting statistics. During the 23 years of my incumbency, I have baptized 223 souls, have prepared 174 for Confirmation, have married 47 couples, and have laid to rest 113 people.

I am, Yours affectionately in Jesus Christ,

L. H. COOLEY.

Early celebrations of Holy Communion on Sundays, will, in future, be at 8 o'clock (not 8.30) during the next six months. Those coming from a distance can always obtain a cup of tea and light refreshment after the service, if they will call at the Vicarage.

The newly-confirmed all made their first Communion on Passion Sunday (March 18th). The Confirmation at Little Bytham was very impressive. Besides the candidates, there were quite a number of Witham people present.

April, always a month of change in our parish, will, this year, be marked by more than the usual number of "fittings." But we must write about these next month.

Our Sexton, Mr. Matt. Pell has been laid aside through illness for some six weeks. We are unfeignedly glad however to see him back in his old familiar place once more.

Percy Holmes we regret to say is now a patient in the Butterfield Hospital. One of our most regular choir lads, we sadly miss him, and trust that before long he will return quite restored to health.

Baptisms.—March 18th, Harold, son of Thomas and Olive Doreen Holmes.

„ 25th, Arthur Wallace, Louis John Joseph, Dorothy Ada Mary, Charles Walter Harry, and Norman Eric, children of Herbert and Mary Emily Bothamley.

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Easter was a very bright and happy Festival for us this year. The number of communicants was greater than usual, and all the services were exceptionally well attended. We beg to thank those who helped to make the church so beautiful with decorations.

Our Mission has come and gone. We believe that it has been much blessed to many, and though we must not look for immediate results, yet the seed has been sown in many hearts, words which were heard during the Mission will come back to many minds, and may prove the turning point in many lives. We were glad that the Missioner in his last address laid so much stress on the duty of Sunday *morning* worship, and specially that of the Lord's Service. "Never pass"—he said—"a Sunday morning without recognition of God." With a little extra trouble and effort, most of us could do this if we would.

Ascension Day.—This great Festival, known as Holy Thursday, falls this year on May 10th. It is one of the four chief Christian Festivals, equal in importance to Christmas, Easter and Whitsunday. Let us try and give it a fitting observance.

Picture of St. George. On the pillar beside the altar of S. George in the south transept, there has been placed a fine framed oil-painting of England's Patron Saint. It was purchased by the Vicar with the help of the Easter offerings, which the churchwardens kindly desired should be given to him for his own disposal. The picture is the work of Miss Erskine, of Stamford, an artist well-known for her church art work. It was happily completed in time for St. George's Day (April 23rd), and forms a handsome addition to our already beautiful church. The figure of St. George is shewn in armour, with sword and spear adorned with the pennon of the St. George's Cross, which is also depicted upon the tunic. Beneath his feet is the dragon. The picture is inscribed with the words "St. George for England." In every English church a representation of St. George ought to find a place, typifying the patriotism (i.e. love of country) which the true Christian will ever feel.

Cricket.—A general meeting was held on March 27th, to discuss the question of carrying on the club. It was resolved to form a cricket club again this season, but not to arrange fixtures with outside teams. It was found that Mr. T. Holmes, the secretary, was considerably out of pocket over last year's expenses, and it was decided that an effort be made to raise the money to repay him. The subscription for members was fixed at 1/6.

Tennis.—The Vicar will gladly permit players to use his lawn, by arrangement, and in lieu of subscriptions he desires that players provide their own balls.

The school will be closed for holidays during Whitsun week.

Week-day services.—It would be a great help to the Vicar if those who are able will endeavour to be present at the week-day celebration on Holy Days, so that he can be assured of the "two or three gathered together in Christ's Name," to welcome and worship the Sacred Presence. The service lasts for 25 minutes only. During May, week-day celebrations will be on the 1st, S.S. Philip and James; the 10th, Ascension Day; the 21st and 22nd, Whitsun Monday and Tuesday; and the 31st, Corpus Christi.

It is a pleasure to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Henry Rudkin back to the parish after an absence of many years. Their daughter, Edith Annie, was the first child that the Vicar baptized after his Institution in 1900.

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The Bishop of Lincoln will pay us a visit on Sunday, July 15th, and will preach at the 11 o'clock service. This visit of our chief Pastor on a Sunday is probably without precedent in the history of Witham church since its consecration in the remote past, and should be looked upon as a very special occasion indeed. In this great diocese the smaller parishes cannot often expect to see their busy Diocesan, although we have certainly been exceptionally favoured here as regards episcopal visits. The Vicar recalls seven such visits during his incumbency, namely, from Bishop King of Lincoln in 1904, and from Bishop Hicks of Lincoln in 1918. The late Bishop of Grantham came to us three times, and the present Bishop of Grantham has been twice. Of these visits, some were in order to dedicate some object; the Screen, the Rood, and the Memorial Cross in the churchyard were all episcopally dedicated on different occasions. Chiefly, however, the Bishop has come here to administer Confirmation, for which our church is so well adapted because of its spaciousness. All these visits however, were on week-days.

Parochial Church Council.—A meeting of the Council was held on May 18th, at which all but two of the members were present. Many subjects of interest were discussed, ranging from Prayer Book revision to the clearance of the churchyard! Mr. Metcalfe kindly consented to act as lay secretary to the Council in place of Mr. Wass, whom the Council elected for that post in January, and who has now left the parish. Mr. Wass was also for some years a very useful member of our choir, as well as Altar server and Cross-bearer. We shall greatly miss his help.

The Choir.—We are very pleased indeed to welcome new recruits for the choir. There is no way in which any one can better contribute to God's glory than this. We hope that the day is not far distant before we not only see a larger choir of men and boys, but also a revival of the ladies' choir, which helped so greatly to improve the rendering of the services a few years ago. Some of those who are now in the choir have been members for many years. The Vicar cannot sufficiently express his appreciation of this faithful service on their part, which has been a greater encouragement and joy to him than he can say. He takes this opportunity of saying how greatly he values their help and their loyalty.

There is one member of the choir where vacant place is a special source of grief to us all. On Ascension Day, Percy Holmes was removed from the Hospital to his home, where he still lies in great weakness. At the time of writing this, the Vicar has just returned from giving him his Whitsuntide Communion in the fresh open air of a bright spring morning, a fit setting to the Sacrament of healing and love. Let us remember him day by day in our prayers. We feel sure that his mother and family would desire us to record their deep appreciation of the unbounded kindness and sympathy which every one has shown. It has been a very great help. Capt. Fenwick very readily and kindly lent the open-air shelter, without which, Percy could not have been brought home, as he so greatly desired to be. Another very kind and thoughtful act was the arrangement of the benefit cricket match, by Mr. Todd, which resulted in so goodly a sum.

The Cricket club has made an excellent start. Both the matches which have been played so far against outside teams (Thurlby and Creeton) have been handsomely won.

Tennis.—Any players who provide themselves with balls (3 are enough), are welcome to use the Vicar's court.

Baptism.—May 13th, Norman, son of Cyril Joseph and Betsy Knipe.

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The Bishop's Visit.—As was announced last month, the Lord Bishop of Lincoln will preach in our church, on Sunday, July 15th, at the 11 o'clock Service. We trust that everyone will make a special endeavour to be present, so that we may show our appreciation of his Lordship's kindness in setting apart a Sunday morning, to visit our little parish in this remote corner of his great Diocese. As the Sunday he has chosen is the third in the month, the Service in accordance with our custom will be the office of Mattins, though we should have preferred that he should have been present at the Sung Eucharist, more especially as in his recent Visitation charge, he laid so great a stress on the due place of "the Lord's Service on the Lord's Day", to quote his own words.

In Memoriam.—It is with deep sorrow that we have to record the death of Percy Holmes, who passed away, on Wednesday, June 20th. His early death has made a deep impression on the parish, and has aroused universal sympathy with his mother and family. For Percy was a boy whom everybody loved, well-mannered, gentle and thoughtful, keen about all he did, whether it was work or play. He had not completed his school days, before the dread illness which ended fatally overtook him. On the 9th of March, he was taken under the doctor's orders, to the Butterfield Hospital, at Bourne, where in spite of every care he rapidly grew weaker, and was removed to his home on the 10th of May. Throughout the whole of his illness he was patient and cheerful to a remarkable degree, and the day that he died he was radiantly happy. So passed one who from his early years was one of our most regular choristers, and has left a fragrant memory behind him. His simple funeral was just as he would have wished it. His body was brought to the church over-night, borne by four of his mates. In the morning we commended his soul to God, in the solemn pleading of the all availing Sacrifice, and at the Burial Office the surpliced choir sang the hymn he loved, "Thy will be done," and the beautiful 23rd psalm. As the body rested in the church, the Figure of the Redeemer on the lofty Rood seemed to be gazing straight down upon it, with an expression of tender love. It was strangely noticeable. R.I.P.

A Social in the Vicarage garden.—On Saturday, July 7th, it has been arranged to hold a whist drive and dance in the Vicar's garden, or if wet, in the Village Hall. We ask for the patronage of all, as we want to raise some money for an outing for the members of the choir, and also for a treat to the Sunday Scholars, and our church funds are "in low water." We feel sure that both these objects will appeal to the goodwill of most of us. All are specially asked therefore either to come personally, or to give us a contribution.

Baptism.—June 24th.^o Ian Henry William, son of Robert William and Edith Charlotte Wakefield.

Burial.—June 23rd. Percy Holmes, aged 14 years.

Mrs. Kettle and family wish to thank *everyone* for such kindnesses and sympathy during Percy's long illness.

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The Bishop of Lincoln paid his long promised visit to us on Saint Swithun's Day, and preached at the 11 o'clock service. The large gathering of parishioners must have been gratifying to him, and he was obviously much impressed and pleased with everything that he saw in connection with our church. A most observant man, nothing escapes his eye, and his comment on everything was wholly favourable. "I hope to come here again" were his last words on leaving. The reference which he made in his sermon to the death of our late Squire was much appreciated, and passing from this he gave us a helpful and instructive address on the conditions of the life after death, taking for his text S. John xiv., 2, "In My Father's House are many mansions." The latter word indicates "stages of progress," suggesting a process of gradual advancement from the imperfect to the perfect state, as the soul is cleansed and purified from all earthly stains.

Mr. Matt. Pell, who has been sexton of the church for some 25 years, recently met with an accident. He slipped and fell, injuring his leg. We much miss him from his accustomed place in church, and sincerely trust that he may ere long be restored to health.

Garden whist drive.—We sincerely thank all the kind friends who helped in one way or another towards the whist drive and dance held in the Vicarage garden on the 7th of July. The total sum realized was £5/2/6. We are now arranging to spend this on a day's outing for the choir at Skegness on July 30th.

Another whist drive and dance is fixed for Wednesday, August 8th, also in the garden if the weather permits, if wet, in the village Hall. This time the funds will be devoted to the cricket club, and we again ask all our friends to support us. The welfare of the cricket club is of special interest to most of us, and the club cannot "carry on" without financial help. At a recent meeting, the following new officers were appointed: Stanley Harmston as captain, in place of A. Oxborough, who is leaving the village, and Mr. Todd as secretary, in place of Mr. T. Holmes.

Sunday school children's tea.—On Monday, July 9th, this took place in the Vicarage garden. The weather was ideal, hot and dry, it was the day before the big thunderstorm. Everybody was of opinion that it was one of the best and most enjoyable of children's treats, thanks to all the kind helpers, among whom special mention must be made of Miss Fisher, whose provision for the needs of all the little guests was a veritable triumph of catering.

Mr. and Mrs. Brudenell have at last gone to their new house in Bourne, and though happily, we still have them as neighbours, we are no longer able to count them as parishioners, and members of our congregation. We are quite sure however that they will never cease to take the same kindly interest in the welfare of Witham as they have always done. We venture to wish them every happiness in their charming new home which they have built on the West road.

Baptisms—July 8th, Evelyn Annie, daughter of Frederick and Rosetta Croft.

„ 15th, Beatrice Mary, daughter of Charles William and Eva Merillian Brewster.

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September.—With the coming of this month we feel that summer is nearing its end. The shortening days and cool evenings remind us that winter is on its way. This year, Summer Time ends a full three weeks earlier than formerly, so that on Sunday, September the 16th, we shall have to put back our clocks, and light up our lamps soon after 6 o'clock.

The Vicar was extremely glad to receive the assistance of the Rev. E. H. Smith, on Sunday, August the 12th. He celebrated at the sung Eucharist at 11, and preached at evensong. Mr. Smith, as all know, is a native of this parish, his boyhood was spent here, he was one of Mr. Metcalfe's scholars here, and after some years of work as a Wesleyan Minister, he joined the Church, and became a priest, and is now attached to the staff of clergy at Huddersfield parish church. Thus his first celebration at the altar, and his first sermon in the pulpit of the church in the parish where he was born, were two very notable events. Had the Vicar known earlier, he would have been glad to have availed himself of this opportunity of going away. He has not been absent from Witham for a single Sunday for two years, which is good neither for himself nor his flock. Still the partial help on this Sunday was very welcome. It is hoped that other clergy may give some help shortly. The Vicar's cousin, the Rev. G. H. Ridout will preach on September the 2nd, the Rev. J. C. H. How, a nephew of the late Vicar, on October the 21st, and we must try and obtain a special preacher for the Harvest Thanksgiving, which will probably be on October the 7th.

Mrs. Garner has decided to give up her home in the village, and to live with her daughter at Casewick. Since her widowhood last October she has lived alone, and though happily in good health, her advanced age makes it advisable that she should relinquish the duties of housekeeping, and seek the loving care of her relatives. We wish her a peaceful and happy "eventide." Her greatest regret of all in going from us is the separation from the church which she had learnt to love so well.

Our Communion.—In order to live aright, every Christian *must* be a regular Communicant, and our endeavour should be to receive the Bread of Life at least monthly. We would therefore urge upon those who have become careless about this great necessity, to start this helpful rule once more. Choose your "Communion Sunday," either the first Sunday in the month, or *preferably* the third Sunday in the month, and then allow nothing to prevent or hinder you. If we come thus month by month, with due and careful preparation, great will be the blessing and happiness that will come into our lives. Any who come from a distance are heartily invited to remain for breakfast at the Vicarage.

The Parochial Church Council will meet for business on Monday, 24th of September, in the Village Hall, at 7 p.m.

The Social evening in the Vicarage garden on August the 8th was very successful and enjoyable. The evening was warm and still, and with the aid of lanterns, the dancing was kept up until mid-night. The proceeds with the aid of an additional £3 in subscriptions, have materially helped the cricket club.

Burials.—Aug. 10th (at Newborough), Daniel Reedman, aged 62 years.

„ 17th, Annie Ellingworth, aged 48 years.

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Harvest Thanksgiving services will be held on Sunday, October 7th. Holy Communion will be at 8.30 (not 8); morning service at 11; and Evensong at 6.30. The sermon at the latter service will be preached by the Reverend C. W. E. Cleaver, Rector of Careby, and the collections at all the services will be in aid of the Stamford Infirmary. The thanksgiving for Harvest is not a "Festival" as it is sometimes wrongly called, but it is the chief occasion when we solemnly give thanks to God for "our daily bread," that is for all the needs of the body, from whatever source they may come. It is an annual "saying of grace" for our food, and is equally right and fitting in the town church as in the country, in the industrial parish as in the agricultural. It is not merely the local harvest for which we thank God, but for the "preservation" of us all through the year.

The earthquake in Japan.—Our offerings in church on Sunday, September 23rd, were given to this relief fund, and amounted to £1/4/6 (12/6 in the morning and 14/- in the evening).

The Parochial Church Council met on September 24th, when 8 members were present. Among the subjects dealt with were the position of the church finances, the lighting of the church, the appointment of a committee of management for the Village Hall, and the disposal of the Harvest Thanksgiving collections.

Special preacher.—On the evening of Sunday, October 21st, the sermon will be preached by the Reverend J. C. H. How, of Cambridge. Mr. How is no stranger to Witham, for as a boy he made his home here with the late Vicar, whose nephew he is.

A whist drive and dance will be held on October 10th, in order to replenish still further the cricket club exchequer. We hope that it will be well patronized.

The Vicarage Reading Room.—At a well-attended meeting on September 25th, arrangements were made for re-opening the room on October 1st. A committee of management was formed, and Alfred Rudkin kindly consented to act as Secretary. The subscription was fixed at 1/- per month.

Sunday and Friday are the two days of the week which the Book of Common Prayer sets apart by name for special observance, the one is to be kept as the weekly commemoration of the Saviour's death, the other as that of His Resurrection. In the Table of Feasts and Fasts (at the beginning of the Prayer Book) it is expressly laid down as follows: "All Sundays in the year are Feasts," and "all the Fridays in the year, except Christmas Day, are to be observed as days of fasting or abstinence." In the new Prayer Book the exceptions also include "the Epiphany, and the Fridays in the Octaves of Christmas, Easter and the Ascension." From this it is plain that Friday (with the above exceptions) is marked off by our Church from the other week-days as a day of special solemnity, and in obedience to this principal we should as far as possible avoid its choice for festivities. For it is the day that our Redeemer died. Holy Matrimony, for instance, being a Sacrament of gladness, is seldom or never solemnized on a Friday.

Mr. Monty Fenwick is to be married to Miss Peacock, late of Greatford Hall, on Wednesday, October 17th. We offer him our hearty congratulations.

Note.—Holy Communion on Sundays will be at 8.30 instead of 8 during the six winter months.

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

The Harvest Thanksgiving.—Very bright and hearty were our services of thanksgiving on October 7th; services which appeal to and attract even those who attend the House of God but seldom. Long may they continue to do so. The first promoters of these annual thanksgivings, and not least, the writers and composers of our ever-popular Harvest hymns, did a greater work for God than they knew. Witham church is renowned for the beauty of the decorations, and this year was no exception. Many were heard to remark "I have never seen the church look so pretty!"

The bye-election will be over before this Magazine is in print, but Mr. How gave us some wise advice in his sermon on October 21st. He did not tell us *how* to vote, but *in what spirit* we should exercise this solemn responsibility. We have been visited by both the candidates, but at neither meeting was the attendance as large as might have been expected. Perhaps it was not so much indifference as the inclemency of the weather which was the cause.

Mr. Fenwick's wedding gift.—Nothing could have given Mr. Monty Fenwick greater pleasure than this gift from his old Witham friends, together with the long list of subscribers. As he read the list which the Vicar delivered to him personally, he was greatly touched, and remarked that he prized this gift more highly than any other which he had received. We are much indebted to Mr. Metcalfe for kindly having copies made of the letter which Mr. Fenwick wrote, so that every donor could have one.

Armistice Day falls this year on Sunday. A request has been made by the Archbishop of Canterbury that the special service in every church should commence at 10.45, so that the solemn two minutes' silence may be observed in the course of the service. We therefore ask all to be in their places on Sunday, November 11th, at a quarter before eleven. The service will be similar to that which we have had on former Armistice Sundays, namely, a Requiem, and we specially bid all relatives and friends of the fallen to take part in it. The Roll of Honour will be read out.

Missionary Meeting.—A meeting in support of foreign missions will be held in the Village Hall, on Monday, Nov. 5th, at 7 p.m., when an address will be given by the Rev. C. Usher Wilson, Rector of Sutterton. Mr. Wilson has himself worked in the Mission field; and his address will be sure to be interesting and instructive. Will all who possibly can make a point of attending?

Impending departure.—We are deeply concerned to think that we are shortly to lose Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Pick from the parish. Mr. Pick who is a native of Witham, has lived here for the greater part of his life. For nearly 23 years he has acted as churchwarden, and in that capacity has been the Vicar's right hand, and his esteemed colleague and counsellor in all things connected with the welfare of the church. Fortunately, he is not going very far away, and we hope to have him among us again on many occasions in the future, but how we shall get on without him as churchwarden we frankly do not know!

Another leave-taking.—Before this magazine is issued Mrs. Warr with little Phyllis and "Sonny" will be on the high seas, *en route* for their home in America. Mrs. Warr has for so long been our most kind and helpful pianist that we shall miss her sadly at all our social functions. We are sure that we are echoing the feelings of all in wishing her and the little ones *bon voyage*, and every happiness and blessing in their distant home across the sea.

Confirmation.—Before long the Vicar hopes to prepare candidates for Confirmation by the Bishop, and asks parents and others for names of intending candidates.

Baptism.—Oct. 28th, Arthur Hubert, son of Charles Robert and Ada Eliza Pell.

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

The Parish Magazine.—This present number completes our twenty-first year of issue. The magazine was commenced in Jan., 1903, and has appeared month by month ever since. Even during the War, when many similar publications were compelled to close down, we carried on without a single break. It is a gratifying record. And what is more, there has been no change of editor, so that your present Vicar has had the pleasant duty of writing these parish notes for 252 months! It has always been his endeavour to make them as interesting to the parishioners as is possible in so restricted a space. Certainly he has been most well and kindly supported, and our circulation is a high one. He ventures to hope that not only all the old subscribers will continue to take in the magazine, but that we may even find a few new readers. A beautiful coloured calendar will be presented with the Jan. number. It is a great kindness and help if all subscribers will pay in January for the year, instead of monthly.

Christmas, the glorious Festival of the Incarnation is drawing near. Let us every one keep that holy Birthday in the best way of all, by making our Communion. Let us come in the early morning, before the distractions of the day commence, and thus make our Christmas day a happy one in the best and highest sense. The service will be at 8 o'clock. Then at 11 we shall have our glad service of worship, with all the well-loved Christmas hymns. There will be no service in the evening, for then we have our merry parties and family gatherings. We earnestly ask for many helpers to garnish the church, "*the fir tree, the pine tree and the box together, to beautify the place of My Sanctuary*" (from the 1st Lesson of Christmas Eve). Let not our own houses be decorated, and God's House neglected.

The Christmas charities will be distributed in church after the 11 o'clock service. The recipients should endeavour to attend personally, according to the old custom.

The Butterfield Hospital.—Some of our young friends are most kindly getting up a whist drive and dance for this worthy object. It takes place just as we are going to press. If the proceeds should be small we must endeavour to raise further funds. Without such a subscription no cases from our parish can be taken in apart from payment.

It looks as if we may have to give up our annual fancy dress dance, though we hope that this may not be the case. It is undoubtedly the most enjoyable social function of the year that we have here.

The Election.—Only last month we referred to the recent bye-election, and now we have another, a general election. Our member sat in Parliament for just three days! May we say that *every* elector should vote, and more, vote according to conscience, rather than self-interest only. To exercise the franchise is a great and solemn responsibility.

Foreign Missions.—We were pleased to see so good a muster for the missionary meeting held recently. The speaker held us interested and absorbed for over an hour, and some were heard to remark that they would have liked him to go on longer! The question of our duty towards missionary work abroad is one that we must face. Many of us fail to realize this duty. Next year our "Mission" Sunday will be the 2nd Sunday in Feb., when there will be a special preacher at the morning service.

Advent addresses.—On the four Sundays in Advent the Vicar will give a course of sermons in the morning on the "Four Last Things," Death, Judgment, Hell, Heaven. He asks all who can specially to attend.

Sunday morning worship should be our ideal. It is the best time, consecrating all the rest of the day to God. It is the best service, that which Jesus Christ Himself appointed and commanded. It might also be added, it is the best sermon, for then the preacher is freshest. Perhaps it is more difficult for some to come in the morning. Yes, but "where there is a will there is a way." "I will not offer to the Lord that which costeth me nothing," said King David.

Baptism.—18th Nov., Edith Ellen, daughter of George Edwin and Lilian Mary Lambert.