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

The School children's entertainment was the social event of last month. The largest audience that we remember seeing at Witham for many years crowded the Hall garage, despite the rain, and were well rewarded by an entertainment as delightful as it was surprising. For three hours the school children, from the infants upwards, without any outside help, charmed us with their singing and acting, of which we showed our appreciation with almost continuous laughter and applause. We congratulate Mr Stoddart and his able assistants, Miss Darnes and Miss Marsh, on the triumphant success of their efforts. The special dresses were almost entirely the work of the lady teachers, and of Mrs. Stoddart, sen., who made the steeple-crowned hats and red costumes for the Welsh dance, which were among the most charming of them all. The net proceeds came to over £6.

Mr. Metcalfe, who spent a week-end with us just before Christmas, has generously presented us with two beautiful pictures, one for the church and one for the Village Hall. The former is a hand-coloured copy of Holman Hunt's masterpiece "the Light of the World," and the other is a large and handsome photograph of Lincoln Cathedral, the mother church of our Diocese. We shall value them both, not only for their beauty, but as mementos of a very old friend. Perhaps others may in time follow his example. We should welcome good and suitable pictures both in the church and in the Village Hall.

The approaching Confirmation.—Twenty of our young people, an unusually large number, are being prepared and instructed for confirmation next month. We ask for your prayers on their behalf.

Christmas at church.—The church was lavishly garnished with evergreens for the great Festival, and looked very beautiful. The ringers ushered in the day with a joyous peal. The heavy fall of snow somewhat interfered with our carol singing in the evening, but in spite of weather conditions, there was quite a nice little muster, and the carols were sung most heartily.

The Christmas charities this year provided nine good coats for men, and 25/- each for nine widows. We do not know any other parish quite so favoured as ours in this particular matter.

Children's Christmas treat.—Thanks to the generosity of Mrs. Fenwick, we hope to have a jolly tea and social evening for the school children in the near future.

Mrs. Allam celebrated her 97th birthday on Dec. 27th. We offer her our best wishes for a peaceful and happy "eventide" of life.

The annual Church Meeting will be held (D.V.) on Wednesday, Feb. the 1st, in the Village Hall, at 7 p.m. We ask all our Church people to regard this as a meeting of great importance, and to come if possible, so that they may take their rightful part in electing the Church Council for the year, and in passing the Church accounts, and seeing how the money which they contribute in their weekly offerings is spent. Please show your interest in your church's affairs by coming to this meeting.

The Vicar wishes all his people a very happy new year, whatever changes it may bring. He begs each subscriber to accept a copy of a calendar with this January number of the magazine.

Burial.—Nov. 30th, Robert William Carr, aged 73 years.

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

The Confirmation on Monday, February 20th, will be at 2.30. We hope that many will come, for it is an occasion which cannot but be helpful to all of us. We particularly ask for the attendance of the parents and god-parents of the candidates.

The church.—The picture recently given by Mr. Metcalfe is now hung before a dorsal of green brocade, and surmounted by a canopy. The needlework was kindly done by Miss Burton. This arrangement throws the picture into much greater prominence. We are also re-furnishing the Altar in the Lady Chapel, and providing hangings of blue. The cost of these improvements is met out of the special fund which was raised by the garden fete last summer.

The Church Collections.—We gratefully record a large increase in the church Sunday offerings. For the year just ended they have averaged £1 a Sunday. Considering that we have the help of no well-to-do people, and that the money given is chiefly made up of the small gifts of working folk, this is a gratifying and note-worthy result. Not since the year 1913 have the collections been so large as they were last year. Out of the money thus given we have to pay our parish dues to the Diocese (nearly £12), also the sexton, cleaner, organ-blower, and the cost of lighting and heating the church. Last year our bill for coke alone was £9/15/0. There are many other necessary payments besides, so that we need generous and regular help in money from the congregation in order to pay our way.

Missionary Meeting.—On Monday, February 13th (the day following our annual Foreign Mission Sunday) there will be a meeting in the Village Hall, at 7 p.m., to hear an address by the Rev. F. Jones, from China, on work in that country. Please note the date! We want a large audience, as we had last year.

Missionary boxes should be brought in on Sunday, February 12th, when the collections will be given to foreign missionary work (S.P.G.)

Cricket club Dance.—Another dance in aid of the cricket club will take place on Shrove Tuesday, February 21st. It will be preceded by a Whist Drive.

Stamford Infirmary whist drive.—A qualifying drive will be held on Monday, February 6th (see the notices). Please support this for the sake of the cause.

The Fancy Dress Dance on January 10th made a nett profit of £4/11/7 for the hospitals.

Bridge drives.—To our other social activities we are now adding occasional Bridge drives, a delightful form of amusement for those who play this best of all card games. The next will be on Saturday, February 11th, at the Vicarage.

Lent.—Let us all try and make good use of this precious and helpful season. The Vicar proposes to give courses of consecutive addresses, both morning and evening, on Sundays. So for one thing let our attendance be regular. Make a special point of Sunday *mornings*. Don't be content with giving to God only the end of His day. To come in the morning may be more difficult, but surely it is more worth while.

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

The Confirmation.—Everything contributed to make this impressive Service a memorable one in the annals of the parish. The beautiful Spring day, the thronged church, the bells, the music. We are told that the singing could plainly be heard down the village, so hearty was it! Many of those who were present spoke of it as one of the inspiring Services they ever remembered. Thirty-three candidates, of whom nineteen were our own, received Confirmation. The Bishop afterwards expressed his great gratification, and spoke of the pleasure it gave him in visiting what was to his mind one of the most beautiful village churches in the Diocese. Our grateful thanks are due to one and all who contributed their services. Half-past two on a week-day is a difficult time, yet our churchwardens, our choir men, our ringers and church officials all managed to be with us. We also wish to thank most heartily the ladies who prepared the subsequent tea, and last, but not least, Mrs. Pell, who had spent many hours in rendering the church spotlessly clean and tidy.

The dancing classes.—The winter series of dancing classes concluded with a "free evening" on Feb. 15th. On this occasion votes of thanks were accorded to the members of the Committee, the pianists and the drummer. The last named, Mr. R. Harmston, was presented with a silver chain and matchbox, which had been subscribed for by the members, as a token of their high appreciation of his services.

The School.—A piano has now been acquired for the school. This supplies a long-felt want, and will be of great assistance in the singing, in which Mr. Stoddart is so keenly interested.

The whist drive and dance, held on Shrove Tuesday, in aid of the Cricket Club, was splendidly patronized, and the proceeds will be a very substantial help to the funds of the club. The prizes and refreshments were the gifts of many friends.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held in the Village Hall, at 7 p.m., on Friday, March 9th. It is open to all parishioners who are on the Roll, and we ask for a large attendance. All Church-people are now given a voice in the management of the affairs of their church, it is theirs to elect the Church Council for the year, to pass accounts, and to interest themselves generally in all that affects the well-being of the Church in the parish.

Lantern Service.—The Vicar has invited the Rev. P. Berryman, assistant priest of Bourne, to conduct a lantern service in the church on Maunday Thursday, April 5th. The subject taken will be "The Seven Words from the Cross." Such a service is entirely new in Witham, but is quite an established form of devotion in many parishes. A lantern service, if conducted with reverence, may be exceedingly impressive and helpful. We feel sure that ours will be. Note the date, the day before Good Friday.

Foreign Missions (S.P.G.)—We had a very nice gathering at the Missionary meeting on Feb. 13th. Amounts sent up last month:—Collections £1/7/10; Contents of 6 Missionary boxes £2/2/11; Total £3/10/9. We hope that others will ask for a Missionary box.

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

Easter.—This greatest of Festivals is the day when all Christian people are bidden to come to the Holy Communion. It is a rule of the Church. You will find it in the Prayer Book at the end of the Communion service.

Easter Day Services.—Holy Communion at 7.30 and 9 o'clock, Sung Eucharist (without sermon) at 11, Festal Evensong and Address at 6.30.

The Easter Decorations.—Of all seasons, Easter should be the one above all for garnishing the Church with flowers, for flowers are emblems of the Resurrection. Will you let us have all you can? Graves, too, should have their garlands of flowers on Easter Day, for the same symbolic reason.

The Lantern Service will be on Thursday, April 5th, at 7.30 p.m.

Good Friday is the most sacred day in the whole year. On this day our Redeemer died to save us. Keep it reverently, and not as a day for thoughtless amusement. Services on Good Friday will be at 11.0 and 7.0.

Summer Time begins this year on Sunday, April 22nd, the latest possible date for the change. Put your clock one hour *forward* the previous evening.

Two Dances are to be held after Easter. The first, on Easter Monday, is in aid of Funds, and the second, on Wednesday, April 18th, on behalf of St. Dunstan's Host for blinded soldiers.

The Annual Church Meeting was held on March 9th. The Church accounts for 1927 showed a deficit of £6 4s. 1d. This was an unpleasant surprise, but it is partly to be accounted for by the high cost of fuel in the early part of the year, due to the coal strike. The bill for during the year amounted to the unprecedented figure of £13 14s. 9d., about £6 above the average. The two Churchwardens, Mr. Bradshaw and Mr. Wilcox, were re-appointed as from Easter, and the Church Council, consisting of the two wardens and the following other members, was elected:—Mrs. Ash, Miss Burton, Mrs. Bradshaw, Miss Fisher, Mrs. Thelwell, Mrs. Wilcox, Messrs. R. Ash, R. Curtis, Redshaw, Stoddart, Story, Thelwell and Warnes. The revised Electoral Roll contains 162 names, an increase of 12 on the previous year.

The Choir.—We have at the present time a larger Choir than we ever recollect. There are no fewer than 18 in surplices, the men outnumbering the boys, and in addition we have the newly-formed ladies' choir. The Vicar appreciates and values their help more than he can say.

The Chimes.—A correspondent recently pointed out that our chimes offer up a prayer for the parish every hour. These are the words that they seem to say:

"O God above
Be thou our guide,
Safe in Thy Love
May we abide.

In Memoriam.—By Mr. Burton's death we lose one of our most devoted and consistent Churchmen. During the three years that he lived at Toft he attached himself to the Church very closely, and his unflinching attendance every Sunday morning was an inspiration to us all. Even when weather conditions affected our numbers, he was usually in his place, despite his 73 years. For two years he acted as sidesman, and frequently took his turn in collecting the alms. He was ever a constant and devout Communicant, and it was the Vicar's privilege to administer to him the last Sacrament the day before he died. He outlived his wife just a year, and it was this great loss which marked the beginning of his own failing strength. "Such as are gentle, them shall He learn His way."—Ps. xxv. 8. We offer our deep sympathy to his family in their great bereavement. R.I.P.

Burlal.—17th March, William Burton, aged 73 years.

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

Easter.—The great Festival was well and fittingly kept. The number of those who made their Easter Communion was the highest that we remember. The church, which had been decorated with flowers by many kind helpers, looked most beautiful. The Easter offerings were not given to the vicar this year, but were allocated to Church expenses, to meet the deficit to which we alluded last month.

Easter weather.—Once again we enjoyed the perfect spring weather which always seems to favour us at Easter, whether the Festival falls early or late. If those who favour the proposal of a fixed Easter had had their way, Easter Day would have been kept on April 15th, a day as cold and bleak as any we have had this year, with snow and icy gales!

The Lantern service.—Those who attended this service in Holy Week will have been grateful to the Rev. P. Berryman for the impressive and devotional manner in which he conducted it. Many of the pictures of the Passion shown on the screen were very beautiful.

Lawn Tennis.—By the beginning of May we hope to have the tennis club in full swing again. If the summer it a fine one we look forward to a very successful season for the club. We want a large membership of players who are really keen on the game, so that in addition to tournaments among ourselves, we may be able to challenge other clubs.

Cricket.—The failure to form a team this year is very regrettable. Witham has always been renowned as a cricketing village, and our past record stands very high. Still it may be possible to arrange a few friendly games, even though we have to cancel all match fixtures this season, and hope for better success next year.

Easter dances.—The dance on Easter Monday, in aid of the Village Hall funds, was not very largely patronized, owing to many other fixtures in the neighbourhood falling on the same evening. Still we managed to make about £1/10/0. The dance the following week was a very different affair, and there was a crowded attendance. This was organized by some of our younger friends for St. Dunstan's Hostel for blinded soldiers. We congratulate them on the success of their efforts, which resulted in a net profit of £3/16/0 after meeting all expenses.

The church.—The new furnishings for the altar in the Lady Chapel are now in place, the gilded rods and sconces and the blue curtains are very effective and pleasing. We must now consider what to do next in further enriching our beautiful church. It is a good plan always to have something to work for.

We offer our deep sympathy to Mrs. Walpole, of Manthorpe, in the death of her husband. Mr. Walpole had been an invalid for some years, and his wife had ministered to him with the greatest devotion. The funeral took place at Bourne.

Baptism.—April 22nd, John, son of Thomas William and Florence Annie Newton.

Note.—Two very important Festivals fall within this month. Ascension Day on May 17th and Whitsun Day on the 27th.

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

THE WITHAM ESTATE.—The news that the estate is, after all, not destined to pass out of the family who have held it for the last twenty-six years will be thankfully welcomed by all who revere the memory of the late Mr. Walter Fenwick. His younger son will now become our Squire, and in doing so we heartily wish him a long and happy life. We are sure that he will receive a warm and affectionate welcome from all the tenants and parishioners. We understand that for the present he does not propose to take up his residence at the Hall, but we trust that this will be only a question of time.

SUNDAY, JUNE 10TH.—On this Sunday the Vicar will be away from the parish, and he has arranged with Mr. Reade, who will conduct the 11 o'clock service for him. For once there will be no evening service, so that he ventures to ask all to make a special endeavour to attend in the morning. Some years ago Mr. Reade was kind enough to take a service here, when the address that he gave was greatly appreciated, and is remembered to-day. The Vicar has obtained the sanction of the Bishop of Lincoln to this arrangement.

A LINK WITH THE PAST.—On May 14th the death occurred of Mrs. Richard Tryon, the eldest of the three surviving daughters of the late General Johnson, of Witham Hall, and sister of the late Mr. A. C. Johnson, who was Squire of Witham for so many years. General Johnson was born 151 years ago, and the remarkable fact that three of his children were living still was recently commented on in a London newspaper, as a case which was surely unique. A few years ago we published a paragraph in this Magazine about the famous General, but a note on his military career may be of interest. He joined the Army in 1793, obtained his commission as Lieutenant in January 1794, Captain in 1795 and Major in 1803. He fought in the Peninsular War, and was present at the Battle of Corunna in 1809, and for his gallantry in that engagement he received the War medal and three clasps. He became Lieut.-Colonel in 1810, Colonel in 1819, Major-General in 1830, and a Lieut.-General in 1841. In the year 1814 he inherited the Witham Estate from his uncle, where he lived until his death here in 1863.

CHILDREN'S CONCERT.—Empire Day was marked by a concert and entertainment given in the Village Hall by the school children. The Hall was packed to its utmost capacity, and the large audience thoroughly enjoyed a very charming and delightful programme of songs, sketches and dances. Some of the items from the concert last December were repeated by special request. We congratulate both the teachers and children upon the success of their efforts, and hope that they may give us another next winter. The proceeds will be devoted towards completing the cost of the 3-valve wireless installation provided in the school, the educational value of which is becoming increasingly realised.

CHILDREN'S ATTENDANCE AT CHURCH.—We earnestly ask that parents will instil into their children the habit of Sunday worship, by encouraging them to attend the morning service Sunday by Sunday. The spiritual welfare of the children is a matter of the greatest concern to the Vicar, and he asks the parents to help him. He would also greatly value the assistance of one or two ladies who would undertake a short Sunday afternoon class, and would interest themselves in their little pupils. We want to teach the children to love their Church.

BAPTISM.—May 6th, John Albert, son of Edgar and Marjorie May Pick.

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

The Witham Estate.—Last month the Vicar made an announcement regarding the future ownership of the Estate, which unfortunately he has now obliged to contradict. The statement that the Squire had made it over to his brother was communicated to him by members of the family, who at the same time authorized its publication, not only in this magazine, but in the public press. Since then, however, the plan has fallen through, and the Estate is after all to pass from the family into other hands, and our disappointment and regret will be shared by all. As for the Vicar himself, he was here when the late Mr. Walter Fenwick first purchased the property in 1902, little thinking that during his incumbency he should see it change hands for a second time. As a close personal friend of the late Squire, who for five months, actually lived with him in the Vicarage during the re-building of the Hall, the Vicar has watched all the improvements and alterations which, bit by bit, made Witham into a model village, and it is sad indeed to him, as it must be to other old parishioners, to think that, but for a grave in the churchyard, the name of Fenwick is to pass so quickly from the place, whose late owner loved it so intensely.

Measles.—It is a long time since we experienced so sweeping an epidemic here as the outbreak last month proved. Hardly a child in Witham escaped. Fortunately however, the complaint was in almost every case a mild one, and most of the little patients are now up and about again. The school is closed for a month, and is to re-open on Monday, July 16th.

The choir trip.—It is hoped to arrange the annual choir outing during the second week in July, and we shall probably meet the wishes of the majority if we decide upon Skegness. The lady members will of course be included, but as there seems some doubt as to those who still consider themselves members, we venture to ask them to give in their names. Our once flourishing ladies' choir seems to have become sadly depleted of late!

Mr. J. Reade who kindly officiated on the Sunday that the Vicar was away, gave us a very interesting and helpful address. The Vicar spent that Sunday in a little village high up in the hills of West Somerset, when he took part in the service of its tiny country church.

On Sunday, July 1st the preacher at the morning service will be the Rev. A. G. D. Capel, Vicar of St. Winnow, Cornwall, who will be spending his holiday here.

The Prayer Book.—The Vicar gave his reasons recently in the course of a sermon for his satisfaction at the rejection of the proposed new Prayer Book, which cannot be stated here owing to lack of space. For what is to happen in the future we must now await the direction of the Bishop. The work of revision will still go on, and we look forward to the future with confidence and hope.

Baptism.—June 24th, Graham Charles, son of Charles and Mary Jane Hibbins.

We venture to ask any of our readers who have not yet paid their subscription for the current year, to be kind enough to do so.

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

The annual choir excursion proved to be a very enjoyable outing. Weather conditions were ideal, and the journey to Skegness in the comfortable buses supplied by the Green Bus service, was expeditiously. The party arrived at the seaside at 10 a.m., and left for home at 7 p.m. At 1 o'clock the choir party numbering about 25, assembled at the Pavilion Refreshment Room, where an excellent hot dinner was provided. The cost of the outing was for the most part defrayed by the proceeds of the dancing classes last winter.

The school will close on August 3rd, for a four weeks' summer holiday.

The church clock quarter chimes have been "on strike" lately, and have been causing some confusion to those who rely on them. The cause of the trouble is difficult to trace, but we hope shortly to have them put right by a clock-maker. These chimes were added to the clock by the Vicar and Churchwardens in 1913. The present clock was made in 1870, and is as good to-day as when it was new. It is interesting to note that there has been a church clock here for some 400 years, for is referred to in our old church account book, in the year 1548. An expert, commenting recently on this curious fact, wrote "Witham-on-the-Hill must have been a place where important people lived. In those days a church clock was an extreme rarity, for the pendulum had not then been invented." This invention we owe to Galileo, the great Italian astronomer, and was first applied to clocks about fifty years later.

Lawn Tennis.—Our club is having an unusually enjoyable season, and the court is in use every day. True, we have not had any very great success in our matches against other clubs, but this should only serve to urge us to greater efforts, and more systematic practise.

During the summer a very large number of people on their way through the village, stop to visit the church, but the Vicar seldom sees them to ascertain their impression. The other day however, he ran up against a stranger, who on learning who he was, said that he had recently visited Witham church, which to his mind was quite the most beautiful village church that he had seen in Lincolnshire. For a long time he sat entranced, admiring its proportions and furnishings, all—so he said—in exquisite taste and harmony. It is good for us, who perhaps see nothing unusual in our church, to know what visitors think of it.

The tragic death of Mrs. Hall, occurring as it did so soon after she and her family had left the parish, came as a terrible shock to the many friends who knew her here, and to whom she had endeared herself by her kindness of disposition. She was deeply attached to her home at Manthorpe, and felt the strain of leaving it most acutely. The Vicar prepared Mrs. Hall for Confirmation and first communion some twelve years ago, and can speak of her as a well-known and valued friend. Let us remember her bereaved husband and children, to whom we offer our deep sympathy in their terrible trouble. R.I.P.

Baptisms.—July 15th, Betty Mary, daughter of Arthur Harold and Gladys Mary Baker.

July 22nd, Mary, daughter of John and Winifred Audrey Holmes.

„ „ Adelaide Elizabeth, daughter of Charles Robert and Ada Eliza Pell.

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

The school will re-open after the holidays, on Monday, Sept. 10th.

Harvest Thanksgiving Services will be held on the first Sunday in October, together with a week-day evening Service on the previous Thursday. Meanwhile the Vicar will endeavour to obtain special preachers, as is our usual custom.

The church.—The addition of four blue mats in the Sanctuary will be noticed, two long ones on the communion kneelers, and two square ones on the altar steps. These mats have an interesting history. They are hand-made with wool worked on canvas, and were worked by the ladies of the parish at the time when the church was restored over 54 years ago. Having become shabby and faded through lapse of years, they have been disused and stored away for a long time. It occurred to the Vicar that articles made with such loving care for the House of God should be re-used, so that he has had them dyed a rich blue to harmonize with the altar hangings, and they are once more in their old places. The cost of dyeing them has been defrayed by Mrs. Martin-Atkins, one of the ladies who originally helped to make them. She is a daughter of the late General Johnson, at one time Squire of Witham.

Cleaning.—The church has undergone a thorough scrubbing and cob-webbing at the hands of Mrs. Cyril Pell, who takes the greatest pride in keeping it spotlessly clean.

A visitor's appreciation.—The Vicar has received a letter signed "A visitor," which is unfortunately too long to quote in full. Here is a short extract:—"A few weeks ago when staying in Lincolnshire, I paid a visit to Witham-on-the-Hill church. I had heard nothing about its history, but I was quite unprepared for what I found. There was what I may call a sanctified atmosphere which seemed to surround me the moment that I entered the door. The religious symbolism so beautifully expressed therein brought to me a clearer view of spiritual things. It must be a great joy to worship in such a church."

Twenty-six years ago.—In view of the sale of the Witham Estate by Captain Fenwick, the following newspaper paragraph cut from the *Grantham Journal* of Jan. 25th, 1902, and reporting his late father's purchase of it, will be of interest to many:—"This week, the Hon. Mr. Justice Lawrance and Lady Lawrance are leaving Witham Hall, where they have resided for the past nine years. Their loss will be very keenly felt and regretted in the neighbourhood, and more especially in Witham, where their kindness to all has rendered them much esteemed. His Lordship is leaving Witham in consequence of the sale of the Estate of Mr. A. C. Johnson, the Lord of the Manor, to Mr. Walter Fenwick, who is purchasing the entire property. Mr. Fenwick will come into possession next month, and will at once proceed to re-model and enlarge the house, and lay out the grounds on an extensive scale. We understand that he proposes making very considerable changes and improvements on the property."

It is earnestly to be hoped that the house and grounds, which are the expression of our late Squire's creative genius, may be preserved in all their beauty and charm by succeeding owners.

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

The Harvest Thanksgiving Services.—We shall hold these on Friday, October 4th, (not Thursday, owing to the Synod at Lincoln that day), and on the following Sunday, Oct. 7th. Service on Friday at 7.30 p.m., when the Rev. S. N. Dudley, Rector of West Deeping, will preach. On the Sunday evening, the preacher will be the Rev. P. Berryman, of Bourne, and the Vicar will preach in the morning. The collections will be in aid of the Hospitals.

The Sale of the Witham Estate.—As we have to go to press before the 27th, the day fixed for the Sale, we cannot say much about this at the moment of writing. However, before these words are in print, we shall all know the result. The printers will doubtless allow us to add a brief postscript about it before finally printing. The Vicar himself fully shares the anxiety and distress which the villagers are feeling, especially the older inhabitants, who—as he does—remember Witham in the old days before the War. It was then a model village, where all were secure and happy, and everything was done to make it a little paradise of contentment and beauty. It is useless however to wish for past conditions to return. They are gone for ever, here as elsewhere.

P.S. (1st Oct.)—The Sale has left things, as far as the villagers are concerned, very much where they were before. We are still in the dark as to the future, except for the fact that we now know alas! that the Estate will eventually be broken up. This is deeply regrettable, but we fear inevitable.

The coming winter.—With October we leave the Summer behind, and begin to think of the winter social activities. Whatever happens, let us make the most of this winter, while we are still all together. We hope that we may have our little weekly gatherings, which bring us together, and dispel the monotony of the winter months. Let us have the reading-room open again, with occasional whist parties, and a weekly evening for bridge, and another for dancing. And why not theatricals and concerts? In days gone by, these were a great feature at Witham.

Sunday evenings.—For these too, we make an appeal. Many of our once regular evening church-goers are not as regular as they were. Will you start again, now that a walk during Service time is no longer possible, and make our evening Service as bright and hearty as is that in the morning. Just an hour of every Sunday evening, with all the blessing that it may bring us. We ask you, include this too in our winter programme.

Summer Time ends on Sunday, Oct. 7th. Put your clocks back on Saturday evening.

Feast Sunday falls this year on Oct. 28th. It is our Thanksgiving Day for the blessings of our holy Christian Religion.

Baptism.—Sept. 2nd, Leslie Bernard, son of Charles William and Eva Merillian Brewster.

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

Armistice Day falls this year on Sunday, and in response to a request issued by the Archbishop of Canterbury, our special Service of Remembrance will commence at 10.45, so that the solemn two minutes' silence may be observed during its course. Before the silence, a brief address will be given, so as to help us to concentrate our thoughts. At its close, thirteen strokes will be tolled upon the tenor bell, and then will follow the Memorial Service of the Lord's appointment, in which we shall remember by name our glorious dead. Our offerings on Armistice Day will be given to Lord Haig's Fund for those disabled in the War, commonly known as the "Poppy Day" fund.

The Witham Estate.—As we write, the fate of the property is still unknown. During the past few weeks all sorts of rumours have succeeded one another with bewildering frequency, and each in their turn have proved to be unfounded. Names of prospective purchasers have been passed from mouth to mouth, from the Duke of York downwards! One rumour in particular would have given great gratification had it been confirmed, and that was in regard to Captain Johnson coming to Witham. But alas! in this case also rumour has proved the "lying jade" that she so often is.

Meanwhile the suspense is hard to bear for many, who are anxious and distressed about the future. That some good and tried friends will be having us before very long is unfortunately only too true, but it will be time to refer to such losses when they actually take place.

The Bells.—A considerable amount of repair has been necessary to put our beautiful peal of bells into perfect ringing order once more, and the ringers will appreciate the improved ease in handling them. Change ringing is one of the oldest and most delightful of the arts, and we look forward to a great stimulus of interest in it here now that the bells have been re-hung.

Mr. Bradshaw's illness.—We all deeply regret the illness of our esteemed church-warden, Mr. Alfred Bradshaw, whom we sadly miss from his accustomed place in church, and we earnestly wish him a speedy return to health.

"Twenty-five years ago."—Following the example of the newspapers, we propose to quote extracts from time to time from our Parish Magazine of a quarter of a century back. It was first issued in 1903. Here are a few quotations from that year (necessarily abbreviated).—

March.—The Litany desk presented to the church by two of Squire Johnson's sisters, in memory of their mother.

July.—Re-building of the Hall. Mr. Fenwick has moved from the Vicarage into the East wing of the Hall, which is the first completed portion of the Mansion. The remainder of the house will, it is expected, be ready for occupation in a few months.

August.—The telegraph office opened. Mr. and Mrs. S. Newham give up the Post Office.

September.—Fifty new kneelers provided for the church.

October.—Presentation of two oak hymn boards by Miss Knipe, in memory of her mother.

November.—New heating apparatus installed. Lamp fixed over church gate.

Baptisms.—14th Oct., Anthony, son of William and May Brocklesby.

21st " John Frazer, son of Harold and Kate Lilian Stoddart.

21st " Phyllis Jane, daughter of William Samuel and Doris Gertrude Sharp.

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

Christmas Day.—Holy Communion will be at 8 (not 8.30), and followed by the Christmas Eucharist at 11, with Sermon. No Evensong. There will be a carol service on the following Sunday evening.

The Christmas Charities will be dispensed by the Vicar and churchwardens on Christmas Day, at the conclusion of the morning service, 12 noon. It is asked that the recipients of the gifts attend in person, unless prevented by infirmity.

Poppy Day Fund.—The total amount collected in the parish was £3/17/4 (sale of poppies £2/7/11, church collection £1/9/5), as against £3/19/6 last year. The church collection showed a slight increase, and the sale of poppies a slight decrease.

Our congratulations to Mr. Stoddart on the great success which he has achieved as Conductor and Musical Director of the Bourne Operatic Society, when they rendered "The Dancing Mistress" under his able conductorship last month. At the close of the last performance, a well-deserved and enthusiastic tribute was paid to him by the entire company.

Forthcoming Concert.—Some of the members of the Bourne Operatic Society, have kindly promised to give a concert at Witham, on Saturday, December the 15th, to which we shall all look eagerly forward, particularly those of us who saw the operetta at Bourne.

The new school library.—Mr. Stoddart has succeeded in his application to the Kesteven Education Committee to institute a County Rural Library at Witham, which is sure to be greatly appreciated. The books are not intended only for children, there is also a section for adults, who on payment of one penny per annum, can make use of the Library. Books can be taken out and exchanged on Friday evenings at the school.

Damage to church windows.—During the recent heavy gales, a large portion of the great West window was blown in, and one of the clerestory windows on the north side seriously damaged. They are now boarded up, pending restoration. The force of the wind must have been terrific. Such a disaster has not happened to the church for nearly 200 years. It is reported however that a storm in the 18th century partially destroyed the west window.

Mr. James Holmes' death has severed another link with the past, for his family had resided in Witham for generations. One of a large family himself, he had eleven children, nine of whom survive to mourn his loss. To these and to his widow, we offer our sincerest sympathy. The Vicar has had the unusual experience of baptising his two youngest children, marrying all his seven daughters, and preparing all but the two eldest of his children for confirmation. R.I.P.

The Magazine, is it worth the cost? Some people say no, and compare it to the present day newspaper of 20 pages or so, which they say gives them more for their money! But is this quite a fair comparison? For the magazine and the newspaper serve wholly different purposes. The one cannot supply the place of the other. We read our newspaper, to keep us informed on matters of general interest, but we also need our parish magazine as well, because of that individual and personal interest which everyone should have in the particular community of which they are members. This interest the magazine can supply, while the newspaper cannot. And then as to the cost. The price of any publication is regulated by its circulation, the newspaper is sold by the million, while the magazine is sold by the hundred. When this is taken into consideration its price is modest indeed! At a theatre you perhaps have been asked to pay as much as 6d. for a programme, which is only a fraction of the size of the Magazine. But you purchase it because it serves a particular purpose, and for the same reason you buy your parish magazine. It too serves a particular purpose which nothing else can. So we venture to say to all parishioners and friends "Support your magazine."

Burials.—November 8th, James Holmes, aged 71 years,

„ 13th, Thomas Frederick Bull, aged 82 years.