

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

Will you help? An appeal.—My dear friends, A new year is a fitting time for new beginnings. Now all is not well with our parish. Both spiritually and morally, things are not what they were—say even a year ago. Many have become careless and indifferent, and the church life of the parish is suffering. And so I appeal to all those who *care* (and there must be many who do care) to help and support me in a fresh effort. Let us try and raise both the spiritual and the moral tone of our dear parish to a higher level. I ask each one, by his or her example to do what they can to bring this about. For instance, let us take care that we observe with renewed faithfulness, the Christian duty of Sunday worship. To pass even one Sunday without attendance at the House of God, should be looked upon as something very serious indeed, for this is one of the first principles of our religion. Then too there is the equally important matter of private prayer. Do not let a day pass without this. Let us also take a higher view of our social life; and 'banish' from it all that is evil, impure, and unworthy of a Christian. In short, aim at a higher standard both in our practice and our principles. With all good wishes and prayer for God's blessing upon us, every one of us, during the coming year, I am,

Yours affectionately in Christ,

L. H. COOLEY.

Mrs. Allam.—All will unite in fervent congratulations to our old friend, Mrs. Allam, who entered upon her 99th year on Dec. 27th last. It is wonderful to think that at her great age she is able to live alone, and do the work of her home.

Christmas Day at the church.—Our beautiful church looked very lovely in its rich garnishings of evergreens, with white flowers on the altars. Our thanks to all who helped to make it so. The number of communicants was slightly higher than last year.

The Christmas charities.—This year nine coats were given out, and the Quarles charity money was divided among twelve widows, the highest number on record.

Concert.—A most enjoyable entertainment was given here, on Saturday, Dec. 15th by members of the Bourne Operatic Society, who came over to give their services in recognition of their gratitude to Mr. Stoddart for acting as their conductor at Bourne. The proceeds of the concert were in aid of a Christmas treat to the school children, which is to take place on Saturday, Dec. 29th.

School gardens.—A portion of the Village green has been set apart for a school garden site, in place of that on the "sands," which was not only inconveniently distant from the school, but also at the mercy of game and rabbits, which destroyed the crops systematically. The new site will overcome both these disadvantages.

The stocks.—The ornamental roof, which is such a feature of our village stocks, was in immanent danger of collapse through decay of the oak pillars. These have now been strengthened, and made safe with struts. Captain Fenwick is also providing stone steps for the adjacent footpath, where it drops to the road.

The New Prayer-Book.—Copies of the new book can now be obtained in different sizes and bindings, from 1/6 to 14/-. All who are needing a prayer-book should get the "new" book, which contains the whole of the old book, together with the additional changes. We hope to say something about these next month.

There will be no fancy dress dance this winter, owing to the unsettled state of the parish, and impending changes.

Baptism.—Dec. 9th. Mary Ethnie Lilian Rutherford, daughter of Thomas and Agnes Smith.

During the past year there have been eleven baptisms, no marriages, and three burials.

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Lent falls early this year, and Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, is on February 13th. It is earnestly to be hoped that this sacred and helpful season may be used by many as a time of renewed devotion, of penitence and sorrow for past failures, and of solemn resolve to serve God better in the future.

The children and Lent.—The Vicar asks all parents to let their children come to church at 10.15 on Sundays (as in the past), when a short children's Service will be held. Attendances will be marked, and prizes will be awarded for regular attendance.

The annual Parochial church meeting which we usually have in January, will not be held this year until after Easter. This is in consequence of the impending changes in the parish. This meeting may be held by Statute on any day between Jan. 1st and the second Sunday after Easter.

For the Hospitals.—Our annual effort for the Hospitals will be a whist drive and dance on Jan. 31st. Already the house-to-house collectors, Mrs. Wilcox and Mrs. Ash, have met with a kind and gratifying response. In addition to money gifts, some have promised prizes and refreshments for the social evening. Mr. Stoddart has formed a special orchestra to play for the dancing, a kindness which will be greatly appreciated.

The weekly dancing class has come to an end from lack of support. These pleasant little gatherings have now been held for four consecutive winters, and until the present season have been very largely patronized. Our grateful thanks to all who have helped, and in particular to Mr. Wilcox, who has throughout been the chief organiser.

The King.—We cannot let this month pass without a reference to his Majesty's long and wasting illness which at one time all but proved fatal. We hope that our devout thankfulness for his recovery may ere long take the form of a special thanksgiving Service.

The British Legion dance held on Jan. 22nd, was in every way a success. The net proceeds amounted to about £1/10/0.

A letter to the Vicar.—The following are extracts from a letter recently received from one who formerly lived here. The writer is referring to the changes which are at present so deeply affecting our parish.

"I hate to think how 'the old order changeth.' Still we must hope that the future may bring even happier times than the past. It does one a world of good, to come back to quiet old Witham and think. It gives one—as it were—a truer perspective. I could not help but think during an hour or so that I spent in the church one afternoon, how, it (the church) goes on and on in spite of all the change and turbulence of the outside world, and I feel sure, sir, that there you will find great consolation when many old friends are removed from round about you. I have been in many churches up and down the country, but in none have I met with the same inspiration and beauty, that Witham church gives."

The above letter is typical of others which parishioners sometimes write after they have left us. It is helpful to know, that the dear old church, with all its privileges, is still a fragrant memory with many who are no longer with us.

Burial.—1st Jan. Annie Elizabeth Lowth, aged 55 years.

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Our parish.—It is difficult to write with any degree of happiness this month, for February has brought its full toll of sadness to nearly all of us. Illness has been widespread and serious, death has visited us three times within the month, there has been the bitter winter weather, so trying to many, and in addition, the vacating of homes, the break-up of the village life, the severance of old connections, and anxiety with regard to the future. The Hall now stands empty and deserted, a mute protest, and sorrowful reminder to us of one who was a friend of all, a kind and generous landlord, whose chief ambition it was to make the Witham Estate the envy and the admiration of the country-side. And how well he succeeded, the olden parishioners know. Could the late squire have foreseen the fate which was to overtake the place which he loved, as the apple of his eye, his heart would surely have been broken.

Influenza.—The recent epidemic has been so widespread, that few houses altogether escaped. Owing to illness among the children, it was found necessary to close the school, while our church attendances have been smaller than we ever remember.

We beg to offer a very hearty welcome to Mr. and Mrs. Burges, who have come into residence in the village. We feel sure that we shall find in them kind and ready helpers, both in the church and social life of the parish.

Departures.—Of those who have left us, mention must first be made of Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox. We are quite at loss to know what we shall do without their constant and willing help in everything that concerns the place. Mr. Wilcox has served as people churchwarden for the last 8 years, and his devotion to the church has been unflinching, while Mrs. Wilcox has looked after the altar flowers, week by week, for a still longer period. No social function has ever been held without their assistance and organization, the dancing class in particular could hardly have existed without them, indeed we owe them a very great debt of gratitude, which their absence will bring home to us all the more as time goes on. It is hard indeed to lose helpers such as they. In Mr. and Mrs. Redshaw also, we have lost two good and tried friends, who were ever ready to lend a helping hand in every good cause. We can assure them how very deeply they will be missed from our midst. Space alone prevents us from saying more, except to wish them every happiness in their new home at Caythorpe.

The Hospitals.—The net result from our effort for the Hospitals last month, was the splendid total of £8. Of this, Stamford Infirmary received £5, and the Butterfield Hospital £3.

Easter Day Services.—Holy Communion at 7.30, 9 and 11. Let none forget the duty which is laid upon us all, of receiving the Holy Sacrament at Easter.

Death has taken its toll of our little community, by calling three souls to rest last month. We would express our deep sympathy with the bereaved.

A school trophy.—Captain Fenwick has generously presented a beautiful silver cup to the school, on which is to be inscribed the name of the 'champion' scholar for each year. In addition the scholar selected will receive a personal award of the value of £1/1/0.

Burials.—February 11th, Emma Kettle, aged 85 years.
 " 25th, Elizabeth Sentance, aged 80 years.
 " 27th, Alice Curtis, aged 50 years.

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Unprecedented changes.—It is improbable that in the whole history of our parish, there have been so many changes within a short time as is the case now. The Vicar has been making a calculation of the number of houses whose occupants will have left them between the beginning of the year and the 6th of April, and he can count no fewer than 30, which is roughly one-third of the number in the parish. Witham of course, is the most affected, and Toft the least, where there will be one change only, that of Mr. and Mrs. Goodland, who are removing to Somersetshire. From Witham we are losing Mr. and Mrs. Ash, who have been parishioners for many years. Mr. Ash was our representative on the Bourne R. D. Council and Board of Guardians, and Mrs. Ash has ever been an invaluable helper in both the church and social life of the parish. Mr. Rowland Ash was one of our sidesmen. Also we must say farewell to Mr. and Mrs. Thelwell, Mr. and Mrs. Watson, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Watson, and others. To all who are leaving we offer our best wishes for their future happiness in their new homes.

The Parish Magazine.—The printers have found it necessary to increase the price of the magazine, which they have for some time been printing at a loss to themselves. So that in future the Vicar will have to pay 2½d. per copy, instead of 1½d.

He will not ask the subscribers to pay more for their copies than in the past, but will endeavour to meet the deficit in other ways. In a full year the loss will be as much as £3/12/0. He will be very grateful to any readers who value this useful little Parish record, and who would be willing to give a small subscription towards its maintenance beyond their usual contribution. After over 25 years of continuous publication, it would be a disaster if we had to bring it to an end. This must be avoided at all costs. It is now therefore more necessary than ever to ask subscribers not to be behindhand with their payments. There are still some who have not yet paid.

To parents.—The Vicar earnestly begs for the attendance of children on Sunday mornings. It is of vital importance to the young that they should early learn the paramount duty of Sunday worship, and mark the day by attendance at the House of God. There is a great truth in the old text engraved upon the Village Hall, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."

Annual Church Meeting.—This will be on Friday, April the 12th, at 7 p.m. Will you all try and attend it, and help to elect the new churchwardens and church council. You will also see how the money you give in the collections is spent.

Church-finance.—The unsettlement in the parish has had its effect upon our collections. We appeal for more generous offerings, particularly from those who are not regular worshippers. The buttresses outside the church support it as well as the pillars inside. If you are not a "pillar" at least be a "buttress"!

Summer Time begins on Sunday, April the 21st.

Burial.—2nd March. Jane Blackburn, aged 91 years.

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The late Colonel Acland-Hood-Reynardson, who died at Holywell on the 24th of April, was one of the Five Trustees, in whom the patronage of this benefice was vested some two or three years ago. By his death, the Vicar loses an old and valued friend. The funeral service at Careby, on Saturday, the 27th of April, is the fifth in the Reynardson family which the Vicar has either conducted or assisted to conduct.

Election of Church Officials—The annual Church meeting was a larger one than we remember for some years. We hope that this is a happy augury for a revival of interest in the religious welfare of the parish. For the sixth year in succession, Mr. Bradshaw kindly undertook the post of Vicar's churchwarden, and Mr. Wallis was elected as the people's warden. We are unfeignedly pleased to welcome him back to office. The new sidesmen appointed, are Messrs. W. Sharp, T. E. Butcher and R. Curtis. The following is a list of those who were elected to serve on the Council, in addition to those already mentioned: Miss Blackburn, Mrs. Bradshaw, Mrs. Burges, Miss Burton, Mrs. Eriksson, Miss Fisher, Mrs. T. Holmes, Mrs. Stubley, Miss Todd; Messrs. R. Brudenell, H. Burges, J. Holmes, H. Stoddart and C. Story. The financial statement produced at the meeting showed that the church collections during 1928 totalled £43/9/5, and that there was a balance in hand of £4/12/10.

Sunday School.—We are grateful indeed to Miss Blackburn for so kindly undertaking to conduct a class on Sunday afternoons, and we appeal to all Church parents to allow their children to attend it. The class meets at 2.30, in the church. Marks are given, there will be prizes later on, and of course a treat in the Summer.

Egg collection.—Last month, Mr. Stoddart organized in the School, a collection of eggs for the Butterfield Hospital. No fewer than 360 were collected and sent, a truly magnificent response.

The tennis club.—A start has already been made for the season. At a recent meeting, the subscription for the year was fixed at 2/6, and a committee of management was appointed, consisting of Mr. Stoddart (hon. sec.), Miss M. Wallis, Miss Todd, Mr. J. Wallis, Mr. T. E. Butcher. New members will be welcomed.

New school gardens.—These are already taking shape, and will form a pleasing and picturesque feature in the village.

This month will be an eventful one for Witham, for it will determine what is to be the ultimate destiny of the Hall, with its beautiful surroundings. It is also the month of the general election, so we shall witness much unwonted activity in our midst, as the Village Hall is a polling station.

The altar flowers.—Three lady members of the church council, Mrs. Burges, Miss Blackburn and Mrs. Eriksson, have kindly undertaken to arrange the church flowers, in consecutive months.

Baptism remembrance cards.—The Vicar will gladly supply these for any child whom he has baptized here, on application.

Baptism.—14th April, Geoffrey, son of Cecil and Alice Beatrice Harmston.

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The Hall.—At the time of writing, we are still in the dark as to the future of the house, but there is a widespread belief that it will find a purchaser, and that we shall be spared the mortification of seeing it demolished. The Vicar is furnishing the local press with particulars of its past history, and with an old view of the house in its original form, which will be interesting to many. The original house was erected in 1752, by the Rev. Woolsey Johnson, Lord of the Manor, the great-grandfather of the late Mr. A. C. Johnson, who sold the estate to Mr. Walter Fenwick in 1902.

The Sale last month filled our quiet little village with strangers, and the motor traffic exceeded anything ever witnessed here before.

Purchased for the church.—The Vicar obtained at the sale a very beautiful old pair of carved and gilded altar candlesticks. They are now on the Lady altar, and are worth close inspection. He also bought for the parish a large quantity of flags, which will be very useful for fetes and ceremonial occasions.

Thanksgiving for the King's recovery.—Sunday, June the 16th, has been fixed as a day of thanksgiving to Almighty GOD for the recovery of His Majesty from his recent grave illness. The day will be observed throughout the Empire. We hope that every parishioner will attend the special thanksgiving services, which will be held on this day at 8, 11 and 6.30.

Sunday and Public Worship.—With the coming of summer, a walk on Sunday is a very popular and excellent tradition. But *must* we chose the very hour of public worship? Cannot we spare just that hour each week for God, especially now that the long days offer so ample a choice to us? The morning service at Witham has always been the tradition here. It is hearty and well attended, but to those who by custom attend only in the evening, we do earnestly appeal to them to save at least this hour of the Lord's own day for Him and His worship. "*Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day.*"

Foreign Missions.—Last month we sent to the S.P.G., the sum of £3/10/5 of which £2/10/0 was the contents of 7 Missionary boxes. Three new boxes have since been applied for. Will you, reader, take a box? if so, ask the Vicar for one. Even a few coppers is worth having a box for. No work for God is more greatly blessed than this.

The Tennis Club is having a very enjoyable season this year. The court is in excellent order, and the Vicar has purchased a splendid pair of new posts at the Hall sale. The old ones are now available for disposal. Our first match, against Thurlby, was a defeat for the home team, but we hope to record many victories before the season is over.

We welcome Mr. and Mrs. Richard Pick as parishioners, who removed from Thurlby to Witham last month. Mr. Pick is a native of the parish, and is brother to Mr. Thos. Pick, our late churchwarden.

Obituary.—We regret to record the death of Mr. A. M. Bent, our esteemed and popular publican, who passed away after only two or three days illness. Mr. Bent had resided in the parish for many years, having previously been proprietor of the "Butchers' Arms" at Toft, before coming to the "Six Bells." His wife died just 18 years ago. We have also to announce the death of Mr. Henry Wells, who passed away in his sleep on Whitsun-day, in the caravan at Manthorpe, in which for some years he had resided. He was born in the house where his sister Mrs. Walpole resides. He was never married.

Proposed garden fete.—We hope shortly to arrange a garden fete in the Vicarage grounds.

Burial.—7th May, Alfred Miles Bent, aged 79 years.

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

Magazine distributors.—Mrs. Pick has kindly consented to take the magazine, month by month, to subscribers in Witham, and Mrs. Sharp in Manthorpe, while Miss Burton has for a long time been distributor in Toft. so our organization is now complete. Our thanks are due to a few of our readers who have given subscriptions towards the extra cost of printing. Perhaps there are some others who will also do so.

Sunday, July 14th.—For this one Sunday in the year, the Vicar will be away from home. Mr. John Reade, of Bourne, has again most kindly promised to take a service and give an address at 11 a.m., and for once Evensong will be omitted. We ask those who usually attend only in the evening to endeavour to come on this Sunday to the morning service instead. They will—we venture to say—be well repaid for doing so, as Mr. Reade always has a helpful and inspiring message for his hearers.

Services of Thanksgiving for the King's Recovery will be held on Sunday, July 7th, in every church in the Kingdom. The thank-offerings in our church will be given to the Hospitals, in accordance with His Majesty's specially expressed desire. The address at Evensong will be given by the Rev. C. W. E. Cleaver, Rector of Careby.

The church collections.—In April last, we appealed for increased gifts towards the expenses of the church, and referred to our smaller collections. It is gratifying therefore to state that during the last two months the collections have more than doubled, and what is still more encouraging, our regular worshippers have increased in numbers.

The Fete.—If only we are fortunate enough to have a fine day on July 6th, we are likely to have 'record' fete. The Vicar is more grateful than he can say, to the large and enthusiastic band of helpers, who under the able organization of Mrs. Pick, have the arrangements well in hand. There will be plenty of fun and amusement for all, and a capital band has been secured from Peterborough. In the evening the grounds will be illuminated, and dancing will take place on the lawn. Mrs. Harold Burges has kindly consented to open the proceedings at 3.30. For further particulars see the bills.

During this month it is intended to arrange for an outing to the seaside for the choir, and for treat to the Sunday School scholars. Dates will be selected shortly.

The tennis club.—Last month two matches were played. That against Ryhall resulted in a tie (56 points each) and against Greatford, Witham was successful by 68 points to 44. The Ryhall match was reported in a newspaper as a win for Ryhall by one point. This was due to an error in counting the scores. Our club has this year a larger membership list than ever.

Witham Hall.—There is no news at present as to the Hall being occupied, as we all wish to see it, but the possibility of its being pulled down is now happily remote.

Scholarship.—The Trustees have offered the vacant parish scholarship to Cyril Sandall, who recently sat at Bourne for the County Examination, and whose work has been favourably reported on by the County Education Officer.

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Sunday, July 7th was a day of national thanksgiving for the happy recovery of the King. Our church was hung with flags for the occasion, the effect of which was very striking. There is no decoration to compare with that of flags, the most eloquent of all emblems. We have often wished for a flag-staff upon the church, for use on great occasions either of joy or mourning. The collections on Thanksgiving Sunday, amounting to £1/3/8 have been sent to Stamford Infirmary.

The Fete.—The success of our garden fete exceeded all our expectations, for in view of the threatening weather there were many misgivings. However, we were favoured after all with a fine day, and we can only call it a wonderful success. Our gross takings were £42/5/4, and the net result was £34/6/5. This sum is more than double what we made at either of our last two fetes (in 1925 and 1927). A large and willing band of helpers, aided by efficient organization, achieved this happy result. We have not sufficient space at our disposal to mention by name all those who assisted, or all who gave, but we take this opportunity of thanking each and all. The committee did wisely in asking Mrs. Pick to act as chief supervisor. Mrs. Pick came among us with the reputation of having a genius for organization, which we find now to be entirely justified! Indeed, but for her initiative and inspiration we should hardly have ventured to have had a fete this year at all. We thank her very much indeed. We also thank Mrs. Burges for opening the fete, and for her very kind and generous help.

The Proceeds are in aid of the special church fund, and will be allotted as the Church Council may decide. Among the objects for which we need money are, the provision of rug-seating in the pews, the re-covering of the kneelers, the decoration of the organ-case, a cupboard in which to keep the hand-bells, besides a small sum towards the choir outing fund, and another towards the cost of the Magazine.

The Sunday School treat was held on July 16th, in ideal weather. The Vicar was away, so that he cannot say much about it, except that he has been told what a delightful time the children had and how thoroughly they enjoyed it. Miss Blackburn who kindly organised it was assisted by several friends. We beg to thank most sincerely all who helped.

Baptisms.—7th July, Edward Brodie and Barbara Coates, twin son and daughter of Samuel Maddison and Allivena Augusta Nugus.

Late News.—We have just heard with great regret, that Mr. Stoddart will be leaving us shortly. He has accepted the offer of the headmastership of a much larger school in Oxfordshire. It is a high testimony to his ability and powers that he should have been selected for this important post.

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Mr. Stoddart.—The brief notice in last month's Magazine of Mr. Stoddart's departure, was all that we had time for. This month we venture to add a few further particulars. Our head-master will have been with us just over two years, but in that short time he has done much in many ways for the school and scholars. It has always been his endeavour to make the school a centre of interest for the children, to mention only his introduction of wireless, and the school library. The new gardens on the village green are due to his initiative, and their wonderful neatness and variety of produce, do Mr. Stoddart the greatest credit. We are grateful to him for his skilled and beautiful organ playing in church, and for the time and interest he took in his efforts to train the choir. The tennis club and Reading Room will respectively lose an able and energetic secretary. It will be a difficult task for the School Managers to find a successor to take up the threads which Mr. Stoddart is relinquishing.

The County Education Committee have sanctioned the appointment of another Master. For over 100 years the school at Witham has always been in charge of a master, and it is satisfactory to know that, in spite of our diminished numbers, the tradition is still to be continued.

The Widows' Charity.—The Vicar and Churchwardens have recently re-let the land at Whaplode belonging to this charity, with the prospect that after this year the allowances to each widow will be somewhat increased. This charity was founded in 1708, by Dr. Quarles, a former Vicar of Witham, and has always been administered by the Vicar and Wardens. In his will, the founder desired that the distribution of the money should be made at Candlemas, but for many years it has been the custom to give it, as is done now, on Christmas Day.

A "Windfall."—The Vicar and Churchwardens recently experienced a pleasant surprise in the totally unexpected receipt of £12/14/0, the existence of which was entirely unknown. It appears that some 46 years ago, a sum of about £4 was placed in the old Bourne Savings Bank. This was a sum collected from visitors to the church, and was intended to form the nucleus of a fund for inserting a stained-glass window, to be called the "Visitors' Window." However, no further sums were ever collected or paid in to the Bank, and in course of time, the Bank itself came to an end, and the whole thing was forgotten. But the chance discovery, a few weeks ago, of the old pass book among some stray papers, in the possession of the last Vicar, led to inquiries being made, and it now appears that in 1904 the accounts of the old Bourne Bank were absorbed into the Post Office Savings Bank, and lo! the original £4 has grown to £12/14/0! We fear that this will not purchase a window! But the money will be used for some definite object of adornment for the church.

Harvest Thanksgiving Services will be held on Thursday, September 19th, and on the Sunday following. The special preacher on the Thursday evening, at 7.30, will be the Rev. Canon Bolam, Rector of Greatford, and on the Sunday evening, the Rev. T. C. Clarkson, Vicar of Castle Bytham.

A further gift.—Miss Smith, of Toft, has just brought in to the Vicar the sum of £1/4/6, to be added to the fund raised by the recent fete. This money represents the proceeds of many articles sold privately, most of them made by Miss Smith herself in preparation for the fete. We beg to thank her most heartily.

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Our Harvest Thanksgiving Services were notable this year, first, for the very large and hearty congregations which filled the church, in particular, the Thursday evening service was better attended than we ever remember. And secondly, our thank-offerings far exceeded the sum ever given on any previous occasion. These amounted to the gratifying total of £8/4/6, which has been divided between the Stamford Infirmary and the Butterfield Hospital, Bourne. The church was most beautifully decorated by many willing helpers, though we missed the faces of those, now no longer with us, who for many years past had so faithfully and unfailingly performed this work of love.

Our recent changes.—The Vicar has been correcting the list of inhabitants for the local Directory. Last year's list contained the names of 46 house-holders in the parish of Witham. No fewer than 21 of these names have had to be altered. We wonder if this could be matched anywhere else in the short space of one year.

The drought.—The driest year since 1788 (140 years ago) still sees the Bywells Spring running, though but slowly. We are told that it has never been known to fail, and we trust that it may sustain its reputation. We, on our hill, are far better supplied than many low-lying districts.

New schoolmaster.—The managers have appointed Mr. H. M. Mansell, of Stockport, as headmaster of our school, in place of Mr. Stoddart. Mr. Mansell comes to us on 15th October, and we hope that he and his wife will receive a warm welcome from the parishioners. At first he may find a country village somewhat quiet in contrast to a large industrial town. He has most kindly consented to act as our organist, Mr. Mansell served in the Army throughout the war, we believe as a gunner (R.F.A.)

Mr. and Mrs. Stoddart will carry with them into Oxfordshire our best wishes for their happiness in their new home. We shall also greatly miss Mrs. Stoddart, sen., who in the short time that she has been here, has won the friendship and esteem of us all. We thank her for many kindnesses.

The chimes.—After a long interval of silence, we are glad to hear the chimes ringing out once more from the church tower. Some may notice that they have a way of striking slightly unevenly. If this could be rectified it would be a great improvement. We are consulting the clock-makers.

Proposed Working Party.—Mrs. Pick has kindly undertaken to organise a working party, to be held on one fixed afternoon every week during the winter. The meetings will be of a social character, and tea will be provided. Such little gatherings should be very enjoyable, and we hope that many will welcome them. All who are interested in the proposal are asked to attend a meeting at the Vicarage, on Tuesday, October the 8th, at 6.30 p.m., when the scheme will be explained and discussed.

A Whist Drive and Dance is being arranged for Friday, October 11th. Miss Tiptaft is enlisting the help of several friends, who are anxious to make it a successful and enjoyable affair. We hope that it will be largely patronised.

Mrs. Waddington who is now undergoing treatment in the Butterfield Hospital, has, we grieve to say, been very seriously ill for a long time. It is our earnest hope that with time and careful nursing she may recover her health, and get about again once more.

The Mothers' Union.—We have always desired to have a branch of this splendid organization at Witham, and hope that Mrs. Burges who is an active member of the Union, will shortly see her way to forming one.

Baptism.—29th September, Betty, daughter of George Henry and Margaret May Creasey.

Marriage.—16th September, Tom Ranson and Emily Coates.

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

Armistice Sunday, November 10th.—Our solemn service of Remembrance will be held as usual at 11 a.m. The roll of honour will be read out. It should be the aim of everyone to be present at this service, and to make it a truly representative commemoration of those who laid down their lives in the Great War. The Vicar hopes that members of the British Legion and all ex-service men in the parish will endeavour to attend. The offerings both in the morning and evening will be given to Earl Haig's British Legion Appeal Fund.

A field of remembrance.—A miniature "field" will be placed in the churchyard in front of the War Memorial. When you purchase your Flanders poppies on Poppy Day, will you buy two this year, one to wear yourself, and the other to place in this little green enclosure beneath the Memorial Cross.

Mrs. Allam.—This wonderful old lady, who has been a life-long resident in the parish, and who will complete her 99th year next month, has been obliged to give up her little home in the village, as it is considered unwise for her any longer to live alone, so she has gone to her daughter, near Spalding. Mrs. Allam is in excellent health, is able to get up and down stairs unaided, and to do everything for herself. Though no longer with us here, we shall not forget her in her new home, any more than she is likely to forget us.

A farewell gift from the children was presented to Mr. Stoddart on the day that he left, in the shape of a handsome oval wall mirror. We feel sure that the kindness which prompted this gift was deeply appreciated by the recipient.

The rug seating now placed in the pews, not only adds greatly to the comfort, but also to the beauty of the church. The rugs are of a rich blue colour, and of a soft thick pile. Each rug was specially made to measure, as the seats are of different lengths and widths. The total cost was £17/13/9. We have also purchased from Thurlby Church, two dozen blue kneelers to match, at £2/10/0, and we hope to re-cover the old and worn red kneelers with blue felt. The cost of these improvements has come out of the money raised at the garden fete last summer.

Working party meetings.—These will be held on Wednesdays throughout the winter. A charge of 3d. will be made for tea. They will be held for the most part in the Vicarage Reading Room, which is warm and cosy. A new stove has been inserted, and the room is being re-decorated and cleaned for the purpose. It is suggested that an occasional meeting may be held at Toft and Manthorpe. The main object of these meetings is to provide pleasant social gatherings, where friends may meet together, and break the monotony of the winter. It will be a real kindness if all who favour them will support them by their presence. Sometimes whist and music will take the place of sewing.

Litter.—May we appeal to all to do what they can, by precept and example, to save our parish from unsightly litter. The village green, for instance, is strewn with paper, some of it we fear, brought by visitors. We should instil into our children that it is little short of a crime to disfigure the countryside with untidy rubbish; and wherever it is seen, to bury or destroy it.

Mr. and Mrs. Mansell, together with Mrs. Mansell, Sen., have taken up their residence at the school-house. We offer them a very hearty welcome, and wish them every happiness here.

Mr. and Mrs. John Waddington have left Bowthorpe for Ingoldsby. We shall miss them from their accustomed places in church, where they were regular worshippers, distant though their home was.

Mrs. David Pell.—As we write for the press, Mrs. Pell is lying at the point of death. She has suffered the affliction of a distressing and painful illness, borne with a wonderful resignation and patience. We feel most deeply for all her family in the anxious strain which they have to bear, and particularly for her devoted daughters who keep watch with her ceaselessly.

Invalids.—All Miss Fisher's friends, and they are many, will earnestly wish her a speedy and complete recovery to health. We must also record our thankfulness that Miss Sentance, after her critical illness, is once more about again. Mrs. Waddington is making a slow but good recovery, and Mrs. Brewitt, after a recent grave attack, is slowly improving.

Baptism.—20th October, Betty, daughter of Richard and Hannah Mary Sharman.

Marriage.—26th October, Leslie James Kemp and Phyllis Maude Pell.

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

Christmas Day.—There will be Holy Communion at 8 (not 8.30), in addition to the Choral Eucharist at 11. There will be no Evensong.

The Christmas charities will be dispensed by the Vicar and Churchwardens after the Morning Service. The recipients are asked to attend in person.

Christmas decorations.—We earnestly ask for many helpers. The decorations will be put up on Monday, Dec. 23rd.

Confirmation.—The Vicar asks for names of intending candidates for Confirmation, to be given to him in the near future.

In memoriam, Mrs. D. Pell.—Mrs. Pell's grave illness, to which reference was made last month, resulted in her death on Sunday, Oct. 27th. We deeply regret the passing of one so deeply loved, and who will be so greatly missed in the village. Some few years ago she sustained a serious fall, from the effects of which she never completely recovered. The end when at last it came, brought merciful release to suffering borne with great courage and resignation. Kind and helpful, everyone turned to Mrs. Pell in trouble or difficulty, and always found in her the true friend. She had a keen sense of humour, and cheered all with whom she came in contact. She lived the whole of her life in Witham. Here she was baptized and married at the age of 18, and here she has been laid to rest beside her husband, whom she outlived for just four and a half years. She is survived by four sons and four daughters. R.I.P.

In memoriam, Miss Fisher.—On Tuesday, Nov. 5th, Sarah Fisher passed to her eternal rest. She had undergone a severe operation, and seemed to be making a good recovery, when five days later, her death took place with tragic suddenness. It is hardly necessary to record at length what manner of life hers was, for it was known to all, the life of a very faithful and humble servant of God. To the church she was most deeply devoted, to her it was the supremest joy to worship in it and work for it. During her last Sunday on earth, all she longed for was to have been in Witham church, though except for that she was happy and content. She passed away without knowing that she could never fully recover, mercifully that was hidden from her. Had she lived, we now know that she would have had severe and ever-increasing suffering to bear, and although this does not make our loss any less great, it makes it possible for us to say "Thank God," that through His mercy she was spared this. For she was not unready, indeed she tried "to live each day as if the last." Her sister-in-law, in London, had the words: "Faithful unto death" inscribed on her coffin. No words could have been more fitting and true. R.I.P.

A memorial.—There is a picture in the Vicarage which Miss Fisher ever loved more than all, it is a fine copy of the celebrated "Virgin and Child," by Raphael, which is perhaps the most familiar and treasured picture in the world. This the Vicar proposes to place in the church as a memorial to her.

A calendar will be given to all subscribers of the magazine next month. By a happy co-incidence these calendars have a charming reproduction in colours of the very picture mentioned above. This "round Madonna," as it is sometimes called, was painted by Raphael, about the year 1505, in Florence, Italy, where it is still to be seen. It is said that he painted it on the bottom of a tub, having no canvas at the time.

Sunday school.—Stamp albums will be given to the scholars on Advent Sunday. The Vicar will give prizes at the end of the year for all good collections made.

Earl Haig's Fund.—Church collections (Armistice Sunday) £1/17/0; Sale of Poppies £2/13/2. Total £4/10/2.

Marriage.—Nov. 9th, Herbert Holland and Amy Susannah Chamberlain.

Burials.—Oct. 30th, Elizabeth Ann Pell, aged 70 years.

Nov. 8th, Sarah Fisher, aged 61 years.