

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

1932.—May happiness and prosperity attend all our readers during this new year.

The Stamford Infirmary Pound Day.—The contributions from our parish amounted to 38 lbs., kindly collected and delivered by Mrs. Crichton-Maitland.

Toys.—A large package of toys was recently sent by our School children to those in an East London slum parish. This kindly act was greatly appreciated and gratefully acknowledged.

Choral Society's Dance.—The spacious billiard room at the Hall formed a delightful ball room last month, when a dance in aid of the Society's funds was held. The takings totalled just over £9, and it was universally agreed that it was one of the most enjoyable village dances which have ever been held in the parish.

The Mothers' Union Social on Dec. 16th was a new venture, though a very successful one. The Village Hall was crowded, and before the end everything was sold out, including all the articles on the stalls, and all the refreshments. The proceeds came to about £5. The organisers will, we hope, be encouraged to hold a similar one next winter. The next meeting is on Wednesday, Jan. 6th (Feast of the Epiphany). There will be a short service in church, at 3 o'clock, followed by tea in the Reading Room.

Mrs. Selina Barbara Maria Goddard-Jackson, who died at Tinwell on Dec 1st, at the advanced age of 89, was the third of the six daughters of General Johnson, Squire of Witham. She was born at the Hall in 1842, was baptized in the church, and married here at the age of 21. Since the famous General was himself born in 1777, the lives of father and daughter have spanned a period of no less than a hundred and fifty-four years! Mrs. Goddard-Jackson often used to speak to the Vicar of her early life at Witham, and of the old church, as it was in her girlhood, with its high box pews and "three-decker" pulpit. She recalled distinctly how she was taken by her nurse to witness the laying of the foundation stone of the new school building in the churchyard (now the Village Hall) in 1847, under which she remembered seeing them place a sealed bottle containing coins and records! The Vicar went over to see her very shortly before her death, and found her as alert as ever, and keenly interested in the latest news of her old home.

Plough Monday.—The "plough boys" are busy practising the old play, which from time immemorial has been performed on the Monday following the Feast of the Epiphany, or "Twelfth Day."

"Bourne and District."—This is the title of an excellent little book just published by Messrs. Warners. It contains much interesting information about the old Town and the adjacent parishes, and there is in particular a full and detailed account of Witham-on-the-Hill. We strongly advise our readers to procure a copy, and read all about their own parish and its past history. It contains illustrations of Witham Church, and the great oak at Bowthorpe. The price is 6d.

Christmas gifts to the church.—We have received the following gifts, two glass Cruets, two glass Trays, and six new purificators, for use at the altar.

In Memoriam.—It is with very great regret that we have this month to chronicle three deaths, in each case that of a regular worshipper in our church. Mabel Holmes, who died on 13th of December at the early age of 21, was taken ill last August, and then rapidly became weaker. She bore her long illness with a wonderful courage and patience, and was happy and cheerful to the end. Mabel was a universal favourite, and her early death is mourned by many. Only two days later Mrs. Ellen Francis, of Manthorpe, passed away after a brief illness, surviving her husband by just two months. Thus her family have had to suffer a double bereavement. The Vicar had prepared both Mrs. Francis and Mabel Holmes for Confirmation, the former in later life, and the latter at the age of 13. Both have ever since been devout and regular Communicants. Then, lastly, came the tragic news that Ethel Garfield (as we all knew her) had died at Whittlesey on the 21st of December after a brief illness, just seven weeks after her marriage here on October 31st. To the relatives in each case, we extend our deep sympathy. R.I.P.

Baptism.—Dec. 6th, Doreen Lilian, daughter of John William and Christiana Simpson.

Burials.—Dec. 16th, Mabel Holmes, aged 21 years; 19th, Ellen Francis, aged 69 years; 24th, Ethel Caroline Jones, aged 41 years.

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Our Magazine keeps up its wide circulation. It is now 29 years since it was started, and it has been issued without a break each month ever since, even throughout the war, when so many other magazines were suspended, owing to prohibitive cost. One gratifying feature is the large number of those, who, having left the parish, still have it sent to them by post. There is one reader, for instance, who left us 27 years ago, but who has contributed to it ever since! No profit whatever is made by its sale, indeed it is run at a very considerable loss. So will those few, who still owe for last year, please remit their subscriptions as soon as possible.

Lent.—During this solemn season there will be a special service, each Wednesday evening, at 7 o'clock, beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 10th (the first day of Lent). The address at each of these services will be given by the Rev. C. A. Peacock, M.A., Vicar of All Saints' church, Stamford. Last year these services were very well-attended, and we hope that they may be still more so this year, so that we may show our appreciation to Mr. Peacock for his kindness in coming to us. It will be remembered that he preached at the Harvest Thanksgiving last October.

Baptisms.—The baptismal register which was commenced in 1858, was completed last month. This means that in 73 years the number of baptisms solemnized here was 800, an average of almost 11 per year. We have obtained a new register. Whose, we wonder, will be the first name to appear in it?

The Choral Society.—Last month Sir Walford Davies most kindly took us through a practice, during the time that he was staying in Witham. His advice and criticism was greatly appreciated, and has already borne fruit in a marked degree. It is hoped that every member will be able to attend the combined rehearsal at Oakham, on Wednesday evening, March 2nd, which will be conducted by Dr. Malcolm Sargeant. This will be a great experience, and it is expected that about 300 singers will be present. The festival itself, in which we shall compete with the other choirs, and which will conclude with a great combined performance, accompanied by a full orchestra, is on Thursday, April 7th. Will all our singers please note both these dates, and keep them free.

S.P.G.—Sunday, February 14th, is our annual Foreign Mission Sunday. The sermon at Evensong will be preached by the Rev. L. F. Pigott, Rector of Market Deeping. Will holders of Missionary boxes kindly bring them in on this Sunday or the following day?

Many Social Festivities have taken place since our last issue, but lack of space prevents us from reporting them. There were, for instance, the Fancy Dress Dance, on December 29th; the delightful children's party, with the conjuring entertainment, at the Hall, on January 1st; the choir and ringers' supper, on the 6th; the Infirmary whist drive, on the 21st, &c. All these events were fully reported in the local press, which most of our readers see. So too with the Christmas services, and the carol service, on December 27th.

In Memoriam.—The sudden and unexpected death of Mrs. Annie Mary Pick, at Essendine, on January 8th, was a great shock to those of us here who had known her so well during the many years that she had lived in this parish, where her husband had been our churchwarden from 1901 to 1923. By her kindly and gentle disposition, she had won the affectionate esteem of all who knew her. Mrs. Pick was a staunch churchwoman, and even when living at the Elderwood, she would accompany her husband to church every Sunday morning. She had her full share of anxiety and trouble, for both her sons served with the colours almost from the out-break of the war, and in 1917, her elder son, Mr. Edgar Pick, was reported to be "dangerously wounded." All will recollect what such a message then usually foreshadowed. In addition to this, there was her husband's long illness, dating from nearly 15 years ago, throughout which, she had been his constant and untiring nurse. Our deep sympathy goes out to her husband, sons and daughter, in their loss of so devoted and faithful a wife and mother. R.I.P.

Baptisms.—January 10th, Montague Samuel Nugus, and Joyce Maureen Harmston.

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Easter.—It is 11 years since Easter fell so early as it does this year. Our notice of the great Festival must therefore be given in this month's magazine. Holy Communion on Easter Day will be at 7 and 8 a.m., with the Parish Eucharist at 11. With regard to Easter Communion, the rule of the church is most explicit. Every parishioner *shall* communicate at Easter, so says the Prayer Book. It is greatly to be desired, that all who can, will make their Communion at one of the early services, or if need be, during the octave.

The Annual Church Meeting will be held on the Wednesday after Easter, March 30th, at 7 p.m. All, whose names are on the Electoral Roll, are entitled to attend. At this Meeting the Churchwardens and Sidesmen are appointed, and the new Church Council elected, the Church Budget is passed, and the year's work is reviewed. It is therefore an occasion when all who are interested in their Parish church should endeavour to be present, and if they will, exercise their vote, to which they have a statutory right. They should also come to see that the offerings, to which they contribute so generously Sunday by Sunday, are wisely and properly administered. During the past year, these reached the splendid total of £74/10/7, a sum never hitherto attained in any previous year.

Lent.—The week-night services have so far been very well attended, and we are grateful to Mr. Peacock for coming over from Stamford to conduct them, and for his most helpful addresses, on "Old Testament types of Christ."

New Village Signs.—At the request of the Vicar, the Automobile Association has provided two of their familiar round discs, bearing the name of the village, and its distance from Bourne, Stamford and London! Though the latter may not possibly be of very great service, it is certainly useful to know the distance of our two nearest shopping towns. These distances have been carefully verified from the Ordnance Survey. The signs are prominently displayed at each entrance to the village, and are separated from each other by half a mile.

S.P.G.—On Sunday, Feb. 14th, the offerings were given to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. These amounted to no less than £3/6/8, while the contents of 8 Missionary boxes came to £2/8/0, making a total sum of £5/14/8, as against £2/7/6 the previous year. The Vicar would be glad to know of others, who desire to have a Missionary box. It is such a simple and excellent plan of helping the great work to which our Lord bids us.

Easter Dance.—On Friday, in Easter week (April 1st), Commander and Mrs. Crichton-Maitland are again most kindly lending the large room at the Hall for a dance, this time a "fancy dress" one, in aid of the funds of the Choral Society. We feel sure that it will be widely patronised. The "four ace" band will again play for dancing.

Concert.—The Choral Society hope also to give a grand concert, on Saturday, April 9th, when they will have the kind assistance of several talented artists. Details of this will be given next month.

The Musical Festival will take place at Uppingham, on Thursday, April 7th. Good luck to our choir!

Memories of Witham church.—The other day a stranger accosted the Vicar with the remark, I met some old parishioners of yours recently. They were very comfortable, but oh! how they missed Witham church. There will never be any other like it to them." Here too is an extract from a Christmas letter:—"Wherever I am I always have such happy memories of the dear old church in the dim light of the early morning on Christmas Day, and I am always there mentally even if far away."

Burial.—Feb. 10th, Sarah Ann Boyer, aged 70 years.

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The late Vicar's golden wedding.—On the 29th of this month, the Rev. J. T. Halland and Mrs. Halland will (D.V.) celebrate their golden wedding. We would offer them both our most cordial good wishes on this great occasion. Although they left Witham over 32 years ago, their interest in the parish and its welfare remains undiminished, and they still read our Magazine month by month. They will therefore see this expression of good wishes from their old parish.

Mr. Halland's work at Witham.—There will be few to-day who will be able to realize all that Mr. Halland did here in those early days of his ministry in the "eighties." For he was indeed a pioneer. The prevailing type of worship was then very far from what we are now accustomed to, and he at once proceeded to establish a more devotional and reverent rendering of the services. By diligent teaching he accustomed his people to accept and value the Holy Eucharist as the highest act of Christian worship. He took great interest too in the music, and introduced a surpliced choir in the chancel, getting the ladies of the congregation to make the surplices. (And so well did they do it, that some of those surplices, made nearly half a century ago, are still in use to-day!) In the vestry may be seen an old photograph of this first choir, with Mr. Halland, in stole and biretta, seated among his choristers. Of these choristers all are now long since dispersed and gone, with the single exception of our old friend, Mr. Charles Newham. Mr. Halland was, we believe, the first parish priest in South Lincolnshire to adopt the liturgical vestments, together with many other accessories of Catholic worship, strange and novel in those days, though familiar enough everywhere now. Naturally there was opposition, though not in the parish (for he carried his people with him), but outside it. He was bitterly attacked in the local press, and Witham church became notorious. How strange it all seems now-a-days, that our little village church should have led the way in this district all those years ago in the great Movement which has since transformed the whole Church of England. To Mr. Halland then, we owe a great debt of gratitude for his faithful work here, the fruits of which are in evidence to-day, and it seems a fitting time to acknowledge it on the occasion of his golden wedding.

Three Vicars living.—Mr. Halland's predecessor, the Rev. C. E. Danby, resides in retirement in Cornwall. So there are three Vicars of Witham alive to-day!

The Mothers' Union.—The annual Festival will be held on Tuesday, April 5th, Lady Day (transferred from March 25th). The members will, it is hoped, communicate together at the celebration of Holy Communion at 8.30, and at 2.30 there will be a special Service, when the address will be given by the Rev. D. S. Rowlands, the Vicar of Edenham. Others besides the members, are cordially invited.

The choral Society is making good progress with the music for the competition at the Rutland Festival at Uppingham on April 7th. The attendance at the practices has been excellent, and there is a keenness and enthusiasm among the singers which is quite delightful. The competition day will be one full of interest and excitement for us all.

At our concert which is on Saturday April 9th, the choral Society will render all the music which they will have sung at Uppingham, and in addition, we shall have the privilege of hearing the following talented musicians: Miss Sybil Eaton (violin), Mme Korchinska (harp), Miss Dilys Jones (soprano), and Mr. Norman Greenwood (piano). It will be one of the most famous concerts ever given in our parish. We advise those who do not book a seat beforehand to come early, as the accommodation is very limited. The concert will be given in the Billiard room at the Hall, by the kind permission of Commander and Mrs. Orichton-Maitland.

Our Easter news must stand over until next month.

Baptisms.—March 13th, George Edward, son of Herbert and Amy Susannah Holland.

„ 20th, Teddy, son of George Henry and Margaret May Creasey.

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Our Triumph at Uppingham.—The Witham Choral Society, after its notable successes in the Rutland Musical Festival last month, is indeed to be congratulated. To have won two firsts and two seconds out of the four classes in which it was entered, is in itself a remarkable feat, but to have gained in addition the "blue ribbon" of the whole competition, the coveted challenge medallion, is a splendid triumph for us. It is all the more praiseworthy, when it is remembered that our choir is a new one, and that few of its members had ever done part singing in harmony before. Our success of course is wholly due to our indefatigable and talented trainer, Miss Jean Crichton-Maitland, and we are all most deeply grateful to her for the time and trouble that she spent on training us, and for her untiring work during the winter months. She richly deserved the ovation which she received at Uppingham, when as conductor of the winning choir, she was presented with the "Mary Wakefield" Challenge Medallion. Truly—as the poet says—"it was a famous victory!"

The Presentation of the little gift to the conductor by the members of the Choral Society a few days before the Festival, was a very happy idea. The gift itself, though small in value (subscriptions were strictly limited), served to assure Miss Maitland of the feelings of gratitude to her which were shared by them all.

Famous Musicians at Witham.—The splendid concert on April 9th, and the music recital in church on the following evening, afforded us all the great privilege of hearing three musicians of national reputation in our own village. Surely a unique experience. The newspapers reported these events so fully that we need not comment further upon them. We shall not readily forget Miss Sybil Eaton's exquisite violin playing, nor Miss Dilys Jones' songs, nor Mr. Norman Greenwood's execution upon the piano at the concert, and in church, his magnificent organ playing.

Mr. Halland.—Last month we expressed our congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Halland who were celebrating their golden wedding in April. The Vicar has since received a kind letter of gratitude from him, in the course of which he writes as follows: "To us both it is a joy to have such good wishes from our dear old parish, which has ever been, in spite of long years, without rival in our affections. So much happened during our 15 years at Witham, that they still seem the greater part of my clerical life. As to anything that I was enabled by God's grace to do there, it has been a continual happiness ever since to know that the work has been carried on . . . The church, the school, the parish are full of memories of happy work and lasting friendships. And of the many—so many—of our friends who have been called before us I can happily recall Keble's lines:—

'Tis sweet, as year by year we lose
Friends out of sight, in faith to muse
How grows in Paradise our store.'

Again our deep appreciation of such good wishes, and affectionate thanks, and remembrances to all who remember us."

Eggs for the Hospital.—Last month a collection of eggs for the Butterfield Hospital was organized by Mrs. Peart, and the number sent was 444, about a hundred more than last year. Our thanks are due to all the kind donors, and to Mrs. Peart and her scholars for collecting and dispatching the eggs.

The Mothers' Union.—Our parish branch brought the winter season to an end by a meeting at the Hall, on April 19th, where Mrs. Crichton-Maitland kindly entertained all the members to tea. The branch may be said to be well established now, and looks back on a season of complete success. Meetings have been held every fortnight throughout the winter, and the interest has been well sustained throughout. The Festival on Lady Day consisted of a corporate Communion at 8.30, and then a bright and hearty Service at 2.30, when the Vicar of Edenham gave an excellent address. Both Services were extremely well attended.

Easter news.—This was crowded out last month through lack of space, and this month also we have no room left except for the briefest summary. Suffice it to say that the great Festival was very well observed, and at the annual Easter Church Meeting the past year's work was reviewed and the progress made appeared to be most satisfactory. Larger numbers, and larger support, while the collections reached the unparalleled figure of £74/10/7

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The church's year.—We have now completed the first half of the Christian year, in which have occurred all the great and important Seasons and Festivals:—Advent, Christmas, Lent, Eastertide, Ascension-tide, Whitsun-tide and terminating with Trinity Sunday. There now lie before us six months of "ordinary" Sundays, the 26 Sundays after Trinity, known as the non-festal half of the year. How helpful is this arrangement. During the first half of the Christian year we pass from Festival to Festival in orderly succession, so that these mighty commemorations may keep us in mind of all that God has done for us through Christ, and then there come the six months of quiet routine, in which to base our lives upon the great mysteries which we have commemorated one by one.

Fetes.—All around us these popular summer events are being arranged once more, though we ourselves are not to have one this year. Thanks to the generosity of our people we are fortunate enough to have no pressing financial need for a fete every year. We do however, earnestly appeal for special support of one in particular, namely, that at Carlby, on July 2nd, which is in aid of the restoration of Carlby church. Only those who have seen for themselves the truly sad condition of this ancient building, can realize how great is the need for help. Let us encourage our neighbours at Carlby who are making a great endeavour to raise funds for this object. In point of distance Carlby church is nearer to us than any other, and we should interest ourselves in its needs.

Recovery of an interesting relic.—Through the kindness of Miss Tiptaft, an ancient stone bowl has been placed in the porch of the church. This bowl is almost certainly the original holy-water stoup which once stood beside the South door. (The one by the North door, though defaced, is still in place). The bowl is of the same date as the Norman South doorway. It is circular in shape, and has four chamfered 'beaks' on its outer side. It obviously once stood on a low pedestal. It is cut out of Barnack rag, the stone of which much of the ancient part of the church is built. As the quarries at Barnack have been exhausted for some 400 years, this alone proves its antiquity. The record of its removal is still preserved. The two churchwardens, Richard Walpull and John Ashewell in the year 1559, recorded that they sold a "holliwater stocke of stone" to John Gylbert, of Witham, "which was put to profane use." Probably it was taken across the road, and has been there ever since. It is gratifying to know that after nearly 400 years it is once more restored to the church.

Empire Day was fittingly observed by the school children, when Commander and Mrs. Crichton-Maitland came to present medals to the scholars. The medals complete with ribbon and bar, are strikingly handsome, and the fortunate recipients will no doubt treasure them carefully. Before making the presentation the Commander addressed the scholars on the significance of the day. There then followed several patriotic songs, and a display of step-dancing by the children, who afterwards marched up to the church to salute the flag. Commander Maitland has very kindly promised to make this presentation annually.

The Mothers' Union summer Festival is to be held at Toletorpe in July. The beautiful grounds of Toletorpe Hall will be thrown open to them.

The Cricket Club.—We heartily welcome the return of the club to its old ground at Witham once again, made possible by the kindness of Mr. Grant in lending the field, and Mr. Todd in allowing the use of the pavilion. To Mr. Sharp a great debt of gratitude is due for coming to the rescue and keeping the club going at Mantorpe during the last few years, but he will be the first to rejoice with us in reviving the game in its old headquarters.

The school.—The Religious Inspector's report has just been received. It is marked "very good," and states that "the juniors gave a very good account of the work done during the year. The older children exhibited a very considerable and very creditable knowledge."

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A great Centenary.—In just a year's time from now, the hundredth anniversary of the Oxford Movement will be celebrated far and wide. For, on the 14th of July, 1833, the famous Assize Sermon, which marks its commencement, was preached in St. Mary's church, Oxford. The preacher was a country clergyman, curate of a little village in Gloucestershire, but that sermon was the spark which first kindled the great fire of devotion and renewal which has since transformed the whole Church of England, and the results of which have been so vast and far-reaching. The preacher's name was the Rev. John Keble, afterwards Vicar of Hursley, Hants. We shall hear much about him and his fellow pioneers during the next few months, as the time draws nearer to the celebration of the Centenary of the famous Movement which they originated. It is no exaggeration to say that this great awakening, under God, saved the Church of England, in the darkest hour of her long history. The Oxford Movement is often called the "Tractarian" Movement, from the fact that its principles were at first disseminated by means of tracts.

Alexandra Rose Day collections.—The result of the collection made in the parish last month was gratifying in the extreme. Our little parish, by sending the magnificent total of £4/6/2, easily headed the list of all the villages in the district. Last year we sent £2/9/6, and were second on the list, but we have done far better this year, thanks to the truly wonderful generosity of the parishioners. Miss Jean Crichton-Maitland who organized the sale, was kindly assisted by Miss M. Wallis and Miss O. Peart.

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.—The Vicar usually preaches on this subject each 4th Sunday after Trinity. This year the collection at the morning Service was devoted to this object. It amounted to £1/7/10.

On Sunday, July 10th, when the Vicar expects to be away from home, Divine Service will be at 11 a.m. only, and Evensong will be suspended. Will everyone kindly endeavour to come in the morning that day. The service will be taken by the Rev. Canon Standen, Warden of Browne's Hospital, Stamford.

An Outing for the choir and ringers is being arranged during the 3rd week in July. This year the objective will be Skegness. Any friends who would like to join the party must please give in their names in good time before hand, so as to secure sufficient accommodation in the Motor conveyance.

Lawn Tennis.—Any members of our congregation who would care to use the Vicarage lawn are cordially invited to do so. They are asked to make arrangements with Mr. J. Vout.

The Mothers' Union Summer Festival will be held on Tuesday, July 12th, in the grounds of Toilethorpe Hall, and there will be a Service in Little Casterton church.

Subscriptions.—Will those few who are in arrears with their payments for the Magazine please send them in this month, so that we can square up the half-year's accounts.

The Choral Society recently voted a sum of £2/10/0 towards the Rutland Musical Festival funds. In acknowledging the gift, Lady Katharine Howard, the Hon. Secretary, writes:—"I beg to tender you our most grateful thanks for Witham's generous contribution. We appreciate it all the more because it is the first time that any village has ever offered to help with the expenses of the central fund. And that this should come from the youngest and almost the smallest village sets a fine example which we hope may be freely followed by the others. Will you please convey our gratitude to your Society, and wish them every success in the venture they have begun so well."

The School.—Owing to the prevalence of chicken-pox, the County Authorities have ordered the School to be closed. It will re-assemble on Monday, July 10th.

The Cricket Club.—At the time of writing the club has played 12 matches, winning 6 and losing 6. The fixtures for July are as follows:—2nd, Greatford, home; 9th, Castle Bytham, away; 16th, Little Bytham, home; 23rd, Bourne Eastgate, home; 30th, Castle Bytham, home.

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"The old order changeth."—The uprooting of an old family is always a tragic thing, and there are few who will not deeply regret to see Mr. Woolley and his niece leave the old home of their ancestors, the home where they both were born, and had lived all their lives. In the days when Mr. alter Fenwick was Squire, this was the only property in Witham, except for the church and Vicarage, which was not in his possession. For money could not buy it. But now at last it has passed out of the hands of the family to which it belonged for so many generations. Your Vicar has during his incumbency now witnessed every acre of the parish, with the exception of the church lands, change hands, in many cases two or three times over. It is an almost a unique experience, though it is sad one.

A telephone exchange at Witham is our latest local development. In 1903 a telegraph office was first established here, and later on a telephone service, though for some years this was only available for local calls. Previous to this, it was necessary to send a messenger by road to Bourne in case of emergency, such-as illness or fire. There were no 'buses in those days, nor even a carrier's cart! The village shop prospered exceedingly, for most of those who wished to do their marketing in town had walk there. The Vicar remembers old ladies of three score and ten who thought nothing of a weekly trudge to Bourne, and carrying their purchases home! Who would do it now?

A credence table, beautifully made in oak, and hitherto in use in St. Mary's church, Stamford, has been offered to us. The one which we have used for many years is a common deal dressing-table, such as we should scorn to have in our sitting-room, and which is totally unworthy of a place in the sanctuary of the House of God. We are grateful to the Rector and Churchwardens of St. Mary's for making this kind offer to us.

The Vicar spent his holiday in the South of England under ideal weather conditions. Among the many places he visited were Salisbury and Winchester, with their stately Cathedrals, richly appointed, and alive with an atmosphere of devotion. He spent St. Swithun's Day at Winchester, where they were keeping the Patronal Festival of the Cathedral, and where the Archbishop of Canterbury preached. A visit was also made to Hursley near-by, where the saintly John Keble is buried, to whose grave many thousands will make a pilgrimage during the forthcoming centenary of the Oxford Movement.

Mrs. Pick has felt obliged to discontinue her distribution of the Magazine in the village, owing to ill-health. We deeply regret her decision, and the necessity for it, and beg to thank her for her most valued help during the last three years. Two kind friends, Mrs. Gedge and Mrs. Green, have consented take her place.

The cricket club.—Up to date 22 matches have been played, of which 10 were won, 11 lost and drawn. Even in those matches which were lost, the home team put up a very good defence in every case. It is a most creditable record. One very interesting match was that on July 14th, in which Miss ean Orichton-Maitland's XI. played the village club. Though an evening match, and on a wet wicket, the scores were, visitors 113 and the club 103! The batting must have been fast and furious indeed.

Cricket fixtures.—Aug. 6th, v. Tallington, home; 13th, v. Little Bytham, away; 20th, v. Swinstead, home.

The Football Club held their annual meeting on July 20th. The Secretary reports that it was decided to enter for the Castle Bytham and District League and the Bytham Charity Cup, also the Deeping League, Division 2, and the Deeping Town Cup, as in those leagues it is considered that we shall be meeting teams of our own class. The club will start the season with a small balance in hand. has decided to give to the Cricket Club half the cost of reuovating the Pavilion.

Baptism.—July 17th, Irene June, daughter of George and Mary Jane Pell.

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Outings.—On July 28th, the members of the choir with the ringers spent a happy day at Skegness. They were accompanied by several friends, so that the party filled two 'buses. We were favoured with a fine day as usual, though the wind was cool. On Aug. 11th, the children of the Sunday School had an outing to Wicksteed Park. This happened to be one of the very hottest days with which this summer has so liberally favoured us. Miss Blackburn, who kindly organised this excursion, accompanied the children, and saw to it that they had a splendid *al fresco* tea. One and all thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and arrived home, tired but happy, about 10.

A familiar landmark removed.—Last month the old toll-bar cottage at the foot of our hill was demolished, and its disappearance has robbed the cross-roads of a familiar and picturesque feature. This little house was built about a hundred years ago for the toll-keeper, who collected the tolls from vehicles which used the road through Manthorpe. In the past, when each parish was responsible for the maintenance of its own roads, it was entitled by law to levy tolls to help to defray the cost of upkeep. There are people still living who remember paying toll at this gate. These toll roads were also called "turn-pike" roads, from the spiked barrier which was turned across them to hold up vehicles. Turn-pikes were finally abolished in 1878.

The toll-bar cottage was seriously damaged about 40 years ago. A heavy load of timber, when descending the hill, got out of control. The horses took the corner at a gallop, but the timber crashed with the force of a battering ram into the house, and went right through the wall, and over the shoulder of old Mrs. Reddish, who lived here, and was sitting in the chimney corner. She probably owed her life to the fact that the little house was sturdily built.

The toll-gate jumped!—The following story is vouched for as a fact. Mrs. Worsley, of Thurlby Vicarage, was returning from a dinner party at Witham in her carriage, when the horses took fright and bolted down the hill. The toll-bar was of course closed, and a terrible accident seemed to be inevitable. The old lady, fully expecting to be killed, shouted to the coachman "Never mind John, tell them it wasn't your fault." The driver however, gave his racing steeds their heads, and over they went, carriage and all! This story takes some swallowing, especially as the gate was said to have been undamaged!

The Harvest Thanksgiving will (D.V.) be held on the second Sunday in October as is our usual custom. We generally succeed in obtaining special preachers on this occasion, and hope to announce their names next month. It is good for us all to have an occasional change of voice.

The Church Council is asked to meet on Friday, Sept. 9th, to settle this and other matters.

Swimming.—Seldom has our bathing pool been more popular than this year. Many years ago, the Vicar had the pier and diving-board erected, and the pool fenced from cattle, by the kindness of the late Squire. Here he regularly taught the lads to swim, as many who read this will remember. Now it is the turn of the girls, whom Mrs. Peart has coached almost daily. We hear that many of our little girls can now swim like ducks!

Baptism.—July 21st, Kenneth George, son of Archibald and Abigail Alice Caunt.

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

Harvest Thanksgiving Services will be held on Friday, October 14th, and the following Sunday. On the Friday evening, at 7 p.m., the sermon will be preached by the Rev. W. A. Rees Jones, Rector of St. George's, Stamford, and on Sunday evening the preacher will be the Rev. I. C. Jones, Vicar of Ryhall. The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated on the Sunday, at 11. We urge that all will endeavour to make this service their special act of thanksgiving. The thank-offerings at all the services will be divided, as in the past, between the Stamford Infirmary and the Bourne Butterfield Hospital.

The Dedication Festival will be held on Sunday, October 30th. We are to have a special preacher at the morning service, the Rev. F. F. Burrows, of Lincoln. This is also known as the "Feast Sunday." It commemorates the building and consecration of the Parish church in the remote past, and is a yearly festival of thanksgiving to God for all our spiritual blessings. Just as we thank Him at the Harvest Festival for our bodily food, so on this day we give thanks for still more precious food, the food of the soul.

The Mothers' Union.—A preliminary meeting of the members was held on Tuesday, September 20th, to make arrangements for the winter. Mrs. Crichton-Maitland presided. It was decided to have meetings on the first Wednesday in each month, beginning on October 5th, when a service will be held in church, with an address at 2.30. We should welcome new members. They should give their names in Mrs. Ericksson, the Secretary, as soon as possible.

On Sunday September 11th, we made our Eucharist a special act of intercession for fair weather. Those who were present will not readily forget what happened. The service began in pouring rain, it ended in sunshine, and many days' of fine weather followed. May we not believe that God was thus teaching us the great truth that He does hear and answer prayer, especially at the offering of the eternal Sacrifice of Christ's death, according to the Divine Command. As St. Augustine truly said, "How shall we not prevail with God when this great Sacrifice lies displayed."

The Bishop of Lincoln next month will lay down the charge of this great diocese, which he has ruled for twelve years. There will be a weekly intercession in church that a fit and worthy bishop may be chosen to succeed him. For the Bishop of the Diocese is the "Father-in-God" of us all, he is our chief Pastor, and each parish priest acts only as his representative. The unit is the diocese, not the parish.

The Choral Society.—Practices are now beginning again. Many of us are looking forward eagerly to these enjoyable weekly singing classes, affording us as they do the opportunity for sustained interest throughout the winter, and of meeting together in a friendly way. Miss Jean Maitland would be glad to hear of any new recruits to our ranks.

We shall miss two of our choir members, Ernest Stringer who has gone to Surfleet, and John Holmes, who is leaving the district. Mr. Holmes has been a chorister since he was a boy, and for some years was also an Altar Server. Our best wishes go with them both.

A young prize-winner.—Ethel Day has been successful in securing a second prize for an essay, a competition organized for the junior school children of Kesteven by the Church of England Temperance Society. We heartily congratulate her.

The church was thoroughly cleaned and swept last month by Mrs. Pell, who is evidently anxious that it shall maintain its reputation for cleanliness. Visitors invariably remark on the fact that they have seldom seen so clean and well-kept a church. After all, as the old saying goes, "Cleanliness is next to godliness!"

Dance.—The cricket and football clubs held a dance on September 23rd, in the billiard-room of the Hall, through the kind courtesy of Commander and Mrs. Crichton-Maitland. The gross takings amounted to about £9.

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

Harvest Services.—Our services of thanksgiving were particularly bright and hearty, and were attended by very large congregations, notably on the Friday evening. In addition to the visiting preacher, it was a pleasure to have with us the Rev. E. H. Smith, who read the Lessons. Mr. Smith, who is a native of this parish, is now Vicar of Ripponden, Yorks., and a Proctor in Convocation for the Diocese of Wakefield. The church was beautifully adorned for the festival. Offerings of eggs, grapes and apples were taken on the Monday morning to the Butterfield Hospital.

The Collections at the Harvest Thanksgiving Services amounted to the splendid sum of £6 12s., almost the same as last year. This sum has been divided between the Stamford Infirmary and the Bourne Hospital.

Next Year we propose to ask for more gifts in kind, so that the hospitals may benefit even more from our thank-offerings than they do at present.

Our Choral Society goes from strength to strength, so far as numbers are concerned. We now have a choir of 42 voices. Surely this is unique for a parish of our size. This year, in addition to a short chorus from Wagner's *Tannhauser*, we are learning Mozart's famous *Requiem Mass*, which Sir Walford Davies well describes as a "Master-work." It will be a tremendous musical education for us all. In addition, we are to sing it in the original Latin, a language which, with its open vowels, lends itself specially to singing.

An Explanation.—Since many of our singers read these notes, it may be helpful to explain what a "Requiem Mass" is. It is a celebration of the Holy Eucharist in commemoration of the Faithful Departed. In such a service the familiar *Credo* and *Gloria in excelsis* are omitted, and a long hymn called a "Sequence" is sung between the reading of the Epistle and the Gospel. This is the *Dies Irae* ("Day of wrath,") an ancient Latin hymn, which has been used in the Church's worship for over 700 years. There is a beautiful translation of the whole of this solemn hymn in our Hymn-book. It is No. 398. We would advise our singers to read it.

The Mothers' Union monthly meeting will be held at the Hall on Wednesday, Nov. 2nd, where Mrs. Crichton-Maitland has kindly invited all the members to tea.

Armistice Day (Friday, Nov. 11th).—There will be a short service in church at 10.45, when we shall keep the Two Minutes' Silence, and listen by wireless to the solemn ceremony, broadcast from the Cenotaph in London. The Sunday following will be Armistice Sunday. A commemoration of the Fallen will be made as usual at the 11 o'clock Eucharist.

Carlby Church.—The estimate for the complete restoration of this dilapidated church is now prepared, and is fixed at the sum of £2000, while for more immediate and urgent repairs, £1000 will be needed. **A Plant Sale** for the above object is being organized by Lady Kesteven and Mrs. Crichton-Maitland. The sale will be held in Stamford on Nov. 8th and 9th. It will consist chiefly of herbaceous plants, rock plants and shrubs, together with other objects, e.g., baskets, etc. We hope that all who can will back up this kind endeavour by attending the sale and making purchases, or by giving contributions. Further particulars can be seen on the printed bills.

A Gift of 12 packs of playing cards has most kindly been made by Mr. C. Whittle to the Village Hall.

The football club.—At the time of writing three matches have been played this season, viz: v. Bourne Reserves (a draw, 2 goals each), Swayfield (lost, 2 to 5) and Kirkby Underwood (won, 3 to 0). These were all Bourne League matches. The following are the fixtures for November: 5th, v. Colsterworth (Ancaster Cup) away; 12th, v. Kirkby Underwood (Bourne L.) home; 19th, v. Colsterworth (Bytham Charity Cup) home; 26th, v. Morton (Bourne L.) away.

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

"Poppy Day."—The sale of poppies in the parish resulted in the sum of £5 14s. 9d., and the collection for the same Fund in church on Armistice Sunday was £1 9s., making in all £7 3s. 9d., which is very little short of last year's contribution. Below we give the sums collected by the various helpers:—Miss Crichton-Maitland (organizer) £1 16s. 4½d. and Miss Hughes (in Witham) £2 2s. 6d., Miss Wallis (in Toft and Lound) £1 3s. 10d., Miss Peart (in Manthorpe) 12s. 0½d.

New Bishop of Lincoln.—The prayers of the Diocese that a faithful Bishop might be chosen to fill the vacant See have been answered. For the choice has fallen on one who is renowned for his learning, his remarkable ability, and above all, for his kindness of heart. Dr. Hicks will receive a warm welcome from all sections of Churchpeople when he comes to rule this great diocese from the chair of St. Hugh.

The Restored Cathedral.—More than ten years of incessant labour on the restoration of our mighty and glorious Cathedral church were crowned with a great thanksgiving service last month. It would have been a calamity indeed if this great building in its overwhelming majesty and beauty had been allowed to perish. The world would have been the poorer. The other day the Dean of Lincoln wrote the following striking words:—"It may be that somewhere in this world there is a more beautiful building than the Cathedral Church of Blessed Mary of Lincoln—I do not know. But when in my own garden I watch the light of the setting sun turning its yellow stones to gold, I am more than half persuaded that I am looking upon the fairest thing on earth."

The Mothers' Union.—The monthly meeting will be held on Monday, Dec. 5th, when the Office will be said in church at 2.30, and the Rector of Greatford (the Rev. H. W. Snape) will give a short address.

Mothers' Union Sale.—The members have again arranged to hold a sale and social as they did last year. It will be on the afternoon of Wednesday, December 14th, in the Billiard Room, at the Hall, by kind permission of Mrs. Crichton-Maitland. Please patronise it, and buy your Christmas presents!

The Vicar hopes to present an illustrated church Kalendar to all the readers of the Magazine, to convey his good wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Cariby church Restoration Fund has benefitted by over £36 from the plant sale initiated last month by Mrs. Crichton-Maitland.

Sermons.—The Vicar is giving another course of addresses on "Hymns" on the Sunday mornings in Advent, which is the Church's solemn time of preparation for the great Festival of Christmas.

Christmas Day.—Holy Communion at 8.0, Sung Eucharist (with very short sermon) at 11.0, Carol Service at 6.30.

To our Readers.—We are anxious to keep up our splendid circulation of the Magazine. Please continue to support us, and endeavour to obtain further subscribers. For 30 years our monthly issue has gone on without a single break, even throughout the war years, when the difficulties of publication became at one time almost insuperable, and in hundreds of parishes had to be abandoned. But we managed to carry on! The Vicar has preserved the local notes from the beginning. These are bound in book form, and now constitute a valuable parish record. Any one who may be interested can consult them on application.

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.—Mrs. Ericksson is our parish collector for this splendid Society. Last year she obtained £17/10½ in subscriptions.

Football Fixtures for December.—3rd, Swayfield (away) a; 10th, Dyke (home) b; 17th, South Witham (away) a; 24th, Baston (home) b; 26th, Baston (away) b; 31st, Colsterworth (away) a.
(a) Castle Bytham League. (b) Bourne League.