

WITHAM ON THE HILL, MANTHORPE, TOFT AND LOUND.

My dear friends and parishioners,

The beginning of a new year seems a fitting time for me to write a short personal letter, instead of the usual monthly notes. And first a word about myself. I have served as Vicar of this parish now for close upon 33 years, years so eventful and full of change (especially as regards the parish itself), that few other clergy can have had a similar experience. Out of the 380 residents who were here when I came, fewer than 20 now remain. Many have died (there have been 155 burials in my time), while many more have gone to live elsewhere, though with quite a number of these I still keep in friendly touch. And as I look back over all these years, I am deeply conscious of much happiness, and of many blessings. I am mindful of the loyal support and kindness which has ever been shown me, and of the many friends who, in one way or another, have helped me to carry on both in the parish, and in the services of the church. For example, our choir has never failed, year in, year out, I have had the valued support of a band of singers, men and boys. Our lovely bells too, have almost always had a willing team to ring them, and for these kind services of generations of ringers and singers I am more grateful than I can say.

Yes, on the whole, we have been a happy and harmonious parish. Of course there have been little differences, and occasionally small misunderstandings. We should not be human if we could altogether avoid these! I like to recall the old joke in *Punch*, of the man who would no longer go to church, because parson wouldn't lend him his wheel-barrow! It is so true to nature! I don't think that any of our troubles have really been much more serious than that! And now as to the future. So long as I continue in office here as Vicar, I am anxious to serve you all to the best of my power. That is what I am here for, that is my job. If I can help you in any sort of way, come and ask me. Possibly you have some religious difficulty, or would like an explanation of why certain things are done in church, or what some passage in the Bible means. Ask me. Let me know what you would like me to preach about, if you will. At all events, show an increased interest in your church, and you will greatly cheer and encourage me. One more thing that I am always glad to do, is, as you know, to send my car for the conveyance of any who find a difficulty, owing to distance, in coming to church or to the Holy Communion on a Sunday morning. There was a time when I did this almost every Sunday. Wishing you all every happiness in the coming year. I am

Your affectionate friend and Vicar,
L. H. COOLEY.

The Mothers' Union Sale and Social, on Dec. 14th, was a great success in every way. The members wish to express their thanks to Mrs. Crichton-Maitland for her kindness in allowing them to hold it at the Hall.

Confirmation.—The Vicar asks for names of candidates for preparation, this month.

Concert at Ryhall.—Sir Walford Davies and Miss Sybil Eaton are kindly helping at a Concert in Ryhall, on Monday, Jan. 9th, in aid of the funds for the newly formed village Choral Society there. Don't miss this musical treat!

Football Fixtures.—Jan. 7th, v. Colsterworth; 21st, v. Morton; 28th, v. South Witham. All 'home' matches. On the 14th the second round for the Ancaster Cup will be played.

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

Our thanks to all the subscribers for their continued support of the Magazine. Our circulation goes on increasing.

Lighting the church.—In consequence of a very kind suggestion from Commander Crichton-Maitland, it may be possible to have the church lit by electricity by next winter! The initial cost of wiring the building and running a cable from the Hall will be very heavy, but if this can be raised, he is willing to supply us with current. The Church Council already has some £30 in hand towards this object, most of which was raised by a garden fete in 1931, but we shall need a very much larger sum. It is hoped that the Church Estate Trustees may make a grant towards this object, and another Summer fete might be practicable.

The Mothers' Union held a most enjoyable social evening on Jan. 12th, when every member brought a friend. The entire cost was defrayed by the members, who gave all the prizes and refreshments themselves. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, Feb. 8th, in the Reading Room, at 2.30. Mrs. A. Wherry, of Bourne, has kindly promised to come and give the address. We hope that all the members will show their appreciation by attending.

Evensong on Sundays has been altered, by the unanimous decision of the Church Council, from 6.30 to 6 o'clock. This change seems to suit everybody, particularly those who live at a distance from the church.

In Memoriam.—The Rev. J. T. Halland and Mrs. Halland have suffered a tragic bereavement in the death on Jan. 12th of their younger daughter, Miss Irene Halland. She was about 15 when her parents left the Vicarage here, where she lived the earlier part of her life, well-known and beloved by all in the parish. As a copy of this magazine goes every month to Blyborough Rectory, we would like to express the deep and heartfelt sympathy of all here who knew her with her bereaved parents in their great sorrow. R.I.P.

"God's Acre."—The unsightly north side of the churchyard is being tidied, and cleared of much accumulated rubbish. This was agreed to recently by the Church Council, and is a work long overdue. Piles of stones, brick-bats and cinders are being removed, while elder bushes and brambles are being grubbed up, and the whole restored to neatness and order, as this consecrated ground should be.

Mr. and Mrs. Wallace.—Our old friend, Mr. Thos. Wallace, after a long and dangerous illness, is still with us, and there is just a hope now that he may recover sufficiently to return home. As long ago as Sept. 1st, he was taken to the Infirmary to undergo a serious operation. Over two months later he was brought home, when it was deemed advisable to attempt a further operation, and for this he was taken to the Butterfield Hospital on Dec. 1st, where he still lies. Last month he was so critically ill that his relatives were hastily sent for, but once again he has rallied, and is slowly regaining strength. Meanwhile however, his aged wife (for long an invalid herself), worn out with anxiety and suspense, now lies in extreme weakness, and at the time of writing (Jan. 24th), there are little hopes of her recovery. It is a double tragedy which must awaken the sympathy of every one in the parish. Mr. and Mrs. Wallace came here from Exton some 16 years ago, to live with their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. George Lambert, who was Estate mason under the late Mr. Fenwick.

Confirmation classes will commence during the first week in February. There is still time for the Vicar to receive any further names of candidates.

Lent begins on March 1st. Special Services and courses of addresses will be arranged. Let us make our resolutions in good time, to use this precious season of grace as best we can. May we suggest that for one thing we endeavour to keep the primitive Christian principle of attending the Lord's Service every Lord's Day. "A perpetual Memory of Christ's Precious Death" cannot surely mean less than this.

Our Foreign Missionary Sunday is Feb. 12th. Boxes should be brought in by that date.

Late Note.—Mrs. Wallace died on January 27th and her husband the following day. They were buried together, at Exton, on the 30th. He was 74 and she was 73. R.I.P.

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

Lent Services.—The Rev. C. A. Peacock, Vicar of All Saints', Stamford, has kindly promised to give us another course of addresses on week-day evenings through Lent. After Ash Wednesday, the services in the weeks following will be on Thursdays, at 7 p.m., which is the more convenient evening to Mr. Peacock. Special addresses will be given by the Vicar on Sundays.

The "Lenten Array."—Mrs. Gedge has most kindly made a set of altar furnishings for Lent, consisting of dorsal and riddels, (i.e. back and side curtains), with frontal and super-frontal. These are all made of toned white linen, according to the ancient custom, when all colour and ornament in the church was obliterated throughout the season of Lent. There is a simple solemnity about this arrangement which is most arresting. It is well-known that we learn more through the eye than through the ear, hence the value of the Lenten veils, which plainly remind us of the solemn season through which we are passing. We are deeply indebted to Mrs. Gedge for this real labour of love. This leads us to say that some of our altar frontals and vestments are sadly in need of repair and even renewal. Why should we not have—as in some parishes—an "embroiderers' guild," ever doing something for the adornment of the House of God?

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on Friday, March 24th. Please attend, everyone who is interested in the church and its well-being. The new Church Council will be elected at this meeting, also the Churchwardens, sidesmen and other representatives. The meeting will be held in the Village Hall, at 7 p.m.

"Near-by is St. Andrew's Church, a fine example of Norman and Early English architecture." So ran the bald statement in the recent sale catalogue of the Witham Estate. While there was a long and alluring account of the beauties of the scenery, and the attractiveness of the neighbourhood, this was the only mention of the existence of any sort of place of worship! Those who have had property to sell in this village have been strangely lacking in business acumen! Why have they never realised that a church such as ours, with all its privileges of worship and its beauty, constitutes a very real attraction to many prospective buyers of homes in which to retire? For great numbers of people this is the first consideration when selecting their home. It has been so with our friend Mr. Peart. We happen to know that it was entirely on account of his love for the church that he has decided to make his permanent home in the village, and has purchased the house close beside it. In a quiet and unobtrusive way Mr. Peart has, for over two years, been a constant and unfailing help to the Vicar in everything connected with the church, and it is very gratifying to know that his valuable services will not be lost to us when Mrs. Peart relinquishes her post in the School.

The Mothers' Union.—The monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 15th, at 2.30, when the address will be given by Mrs. Galletly, of Bourne.

Mothering Sunday is the 4th Sunday in Lent (March 26th). We all know its significance, let us remember to observe it.

Confirmation.—Our candidates will be confirmed in Greatford church, on Friday, March 31st, at 2.30 p.m.

In Memoriam.—Although four parishioners have died during this present year, in each case they have been buried elsewhere. There has been no burial in our churchyard for over a year. The last to pass away was Mr. Henry Housman, of Manthorpe, who died on Feb. 16th, after an illness of several weeks, at the age of 77. Mr. Housman was a native of Lincolnshire, and some years ago came to live in retirement in Manthorpe. Of a genial and kindly disposition, he was beloved and respected by all. We offer our deep sympathy to his bereaved widow. We would also express our sympathy with Mrs. Dennis and Mrs. Sandall, in the loss of their mother, Mrs. Dobuey, who passed away, at Manthorpe, on Feb. 7th, aged 78. R.I.P.

Foreign Missions.—Nine missionary boxes were brought in last month, their contents amounted to £2/18/10. The special collections on Sunday, Feb. 12th, were £1/7/2. Total £4/6/0 (see receipt in the porch).

Football Fixtures.—March 4th, v. Market Overton, home; 25th, v. Greatham, home.

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

Easter.—At this high and glorious Festival all Christian people are bidden by the Church to the Altar, to make their Communion as one great family. "Every parishioner *shall* communicate at Easter," is therefore the order as set forth in the Prayer-book. Let us all strive to obey it. There will be celebrations at 7 and 8, in addition to the sung Eucharist at 11.

Good Friday.—The due observance of this most solemn day is the best possible preparation that we can have for keeping Easter as we should. There will be Services at 11 and 7.30, with an address at each.

Easter decorations.—We ask all who will, to be kind enough to help us to adorn the church on Easter Eve, also to contribute flowers.

The Choral Society.—We have purposely refrained for some months from any reference to the doings of our Choral Society, but as all the members know it has been busily engaged, week by week, through the winter, in rehearsing for the Rutland Musical Festival, which will be held at Uppingham, on the Thursday in Easter Week. The chief work which we have concentrated on is Mozart's famous *Requiem Mass*, which will be rendered at the Festival by the combined choirs. It is arranged too, that our choir will sing it in the church, on the evening of the following Sunday, at 6 o'clock, so that all in the parish who wish to hear it may be given an opportunity of doing so. Several well-known artists have promised to assist us on this occasion. There will be a special collection for the expenses of the Society, which are necessarily somewhat heavy.

The School.—The annual Diocesan Inspection of the school was held on March 17th. The Inspector in his subsequent Report, places our school in the highest category of all, namely, "Excellent." He writes:—"It was quite a pleasure to inspect this school. The answering of the children in both 'groups showed careful teaching. There was also unmistakable interest and keenness on the part of the children, and an atmosphere about the school which showed that their knowledge was not merely 'theoretical. This school is a good example of what *education* as distinct from mere *instruction* can 'effect.' This is high testimony indeed, and we congratulate our teachers.

Summer Time begins on Palm Sunday, April 9th, this year. It is the earliest day on which the change can occur. This is owing to the fact that Easter Day follows the 3rd Saturday in the month, and consequently the change of time is made on the previous Sunday.

April is usually the month of changes in the parish. We are deeply sorry to lose Mrs. Weldon, a native of the village, who has lived here all her life. Mr. J. Weldon will be greatly missed from the choir and the ringers. Mr. and Mrs. Stringer, too, with their family, are, we are much distressed to think, likely to leave us. Happily, Mr. and Mrs. King, though leaving Witham, are only removing to Manthorpe, so will remain parishioners.

The Annual Vestry and Church Meeting, held on March 24th, was better attended than usual, though instead of 19, one would have liked to see 119 present! After all, the Electoral Roll contains nearly 160 names. The Churchwardens this year will be Commander Crichton-Maitland and Mr. Wallis, who take office at Easter. A new member of our Church Council is Mrs. Crichton-Maitland, whom we very heartily welcome. The church accounts, which showed a small balance in hand, were passed at the meeting.

In Memoriam.—We offer our deep sympathy to Mrs. King, and all the members of her family, in the loss of her mother, Mrs. Whittle, who died on March 13th. She was of a serene, kindly and gentle disposition, and was greatly beloved by all who knew her. R.I.P.

Burial.—16th March, Elizabeth Whittle, aged 73 years.

Late Note.—Mr. and Mrs. Stringer, after all, are not going to leave us. This is good news. They will be living at the Racer Farm.

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

The Easter Festival.—The attendance at all the services was most encouraging, not only on Easter Day, but also, it is satisfactory to record, on Good Friday. This solemn day has never been better observed. Many kind helpers adorned the church for Easter, which looked beautiful in its lavish display of spring flowers. Mention must also be made of the ringers, who mustered for a joyous peal in the early morning, and rang at intervals throughout the day.

The Choral Society had their great day at Uppingham, on April 20th. There was no competition this year, so perhaps it was not quite so thrilling as last year, when Witham won the coveted Challenge Shield. But to take part in a choir of 400 voices, accompanied by a full orchestra, is a joy and delight which only those who have experienced it can realise.

Mozart's Requiem Mass.—This glorious work, which was rendered at Uppingham, was sung in the church on the following Sunday evening (April 23rd) by our Choral Society. It was a musical treat which was richly enjoyed by all who heard it. Many were the expressions of astonishment that a small parish such as ours could produce a band of singers able to tackle so difficult a work. That they did so is due entirely to the skill and competence of our talented conductor, Miss Jean Crichton-Maitland. We were fortunate too, in having with us Mr. Norman Greenwood, who acted as accompanist, also Miss Sybil Eaton the renowned violinist, and Mrs. Bateson, all of whom rendered solos. We have never seen our church so full, and visitors from far and near helped to swell the numbers. The collection taken at the door amounted to £5/5/6, which was given towards the expenses of the Society.

"But why in Church?" some may ask. We answer, because there we can put our talents to their highest use, namely, the Glory of God. Sacred music rendered in church differs entirely from that in a concert hall, it becomes an offering of our best to God. In church there can be no applause, no buzz of talking, all is silent and restrained. The very atmosphere of the sacred building uplifts us. Our service of song was in a true sense an act of worship.

Eggs for the Hospital.—Last month Mrs. Peart organised a collection of Eggs by the children for the Butterfield Hospital. The number sent in was 426, a splendid total. Our best thanks to all the donors for their kindness.

Death of the Rev. C. E. Danby.—On April 2nd, Mr. Danby died in Cornwall at the age of 80. He was Vicar of Witham-on-the-Hill from 1881 to 1885, when he was succeeded by the Rev. J. T. Halland. There are a few parishioners who still remember him. It was Mr. Danby who built the very commodious stable buildings at the Vicarage for his hunters, and it is reported that he was anxious to add considerably to the house itself, but the late Mr. Johnson, the Patron of the living would not consent, on the grounds that the benefice was so poorly endowed. He therefore resigned it, and removed to Weston-by-Welland, where he lived until 1912, since when he resided at Fowey, Cornwall. Mr. and Mrs. Danby have both visited Witham during the present Vicar's incumbency.

Dance.—The Choral Society are arranging for a dance on May 5th, which, by kind permission of Commander and Mrs. Crichton-Maitland, will be held in the billiard room at the Hall. We hope that, unlike the last two dances held in the village, it will be largely patronized. It is certain to be a very enjoyable one.

This Month.—24th, Empire Day. 25th, Ascension Day, (or Holy Thursday), one of the four greatest Christian Festivals.

Important notice.—Evensong from May until October will be at 6.30 on Sundays, instead of 6. Many busy people find the latter hour during the summer too early, and have pleaded for the change. We feel that we must meet their wishes.

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

Clerical changes.—We are losing our Archdeacon (Bishop Hine) and our Rural Dean (Mr. Fisher Taylor) at the same time. Bishop Hine, who has been Archdeacon of Lincoln for some eight years, was always a good friend to us here, and a great admirer of our beautiful church. His career has been a notable one, originally studying for medicine he took the degree of Doctor of Medicine, before his ordination. He has been three times a Diocesan Bishop, and later, became Bishop Suffragan of Grantham, a post which he resigned three years ago, in order to make way for an additional assistant Bishop in this great Diocese. The Vicar called to see him in Lincoln recently, and was gratified to find him considerably better, but far too frail to attempt his usual work. The whole Diocese owes him a great debt of gratitude, and extends to him its deep sympathy in his weakness.

The Rev. F. Fisher Taylor, the Vicar of Baston, has been our Rural Dean for some eleven years, and his resignation will be received with very general regret. Mr. Taylor came to Baston in 1900, and, like your own Vicar, has remained at his post for 33 years. We shall lose in him a capable administrator, a wise counsellor, and a kind friend. All his clergy, we feel sure, will wish him, when freed from the cares of office, a long and happy evening of life.

The Rev. C. A. Payne, the late esteemed Vicar of Barholm, who resigned last month, will be greatly missed both there and throughout the Deanery, where he set us all a high ideal of what a parish priest should be. Faithful and conscientious, his first and last thought was ever his pastoral responsibility to his people. One instance alone will suffice. Although he had removed into Derbyshire, some 75 miles distant, he returned to Barholm on the day before Ascension Day, solely in order that the little church there might have its Eucharist on that great Festival.

The church porch.—We have had the old dilapidated wire doors repainted and re-hung, so that it is no longer possible for birds to enter and nest in the porch, as they have done for years past. The South door can now safely be left open for ventilation.

The flag-staff has been painted, and now looks very imposing in its coat of white. It was finished just in time to hoist the Union Jack, on Empire Day.

The lawn tennis club has commenced the season with quite a number of members. It meets in the Vicarage garden on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. Mr. H. L. Miller is Secretary. Intending members should apply to him.

Ascension Day.—The church was richly decorated for this great Festival, which, year by year we try to keep with fitting solemnity. This year we had the pleasure of welcoming the Sisters and inmates of S. Mary's Home, Ketton, who had spent the afternoon as the guests of Commander and Mrs. Crichton-Maitland. They all attended our evening service, and notably swelled our numbers at one of the most delightful and inspiring services that we remember.

Empire Day, was marked once more by a suitable celebration at the School. After the singing of patriotic songs by the scholars, and a display of country dances, Commander Maitland briefly addressed the children, and presented medals to those who have joined since last Empire Day, and bars to those who received medals last year. The children then marched to the church to salute the flag.

Cricket fixtures.—June 5th, Castle Bytham (H); 10th, Bourne 2nd eleven (H); 17th, Greatford (A); 24th, Irnham (H); July 1st, Morton (A).

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

Important notice.—On Sunday July 9th, the Vicar will be away from home. In order that the church may not be without its Sunday Eucharist, which is the one Service of obligation, Mr. Cleaver, the Rector of Careby, has most kindly promised to celebrate at 9-30, the earliest hour that he can manage, as he has his own Services at 7-30 and 8-30, at Careby and Holywell respectively. At 11 o'clock, Morning Prayer will be taken by Mr. J. Reade, commissioned Lay Reader for this Diocese, who will also give an address. Mr. Reade is no stranger to us at Witham, and his admirable and arresting addresses will be remembered. As there will be no evening Service on this Sunday, it is hoped that all will make a special endeavour to attend in the morning.

The Centenary of the Oxford Movement is being observed this month throughout the Anglican Communion in every part of the world. The Diocesan Commemoration at Lincoln will take place on Tuesday, July 11th, consisting of Choral Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Procession, in the Cathedral church, at 11-30, followed by a Solemn Te Deum and Procession at 3. The Bishop will preach. The clergy and laity of the Diocese are invited to attend this great central Thanksgiving, as far as possible. We propose to have our Parish Commemoration on Sunday July 23rd.

Carlby church.—The restoration of this dilapidated little church is proceeding apace. We recommend our people to go and see for themselves what is being done. The people of Carlby are holding a fête there, on July 7th, to obtain further funds, let us do all we can to encourage and support them.

The Mothers' Union.—Most of our members journeyed to Lincoln, on May 30th, to take part in the great Diocesan Festival of the Union, which is held every three years in the Cathedral. We read that it was the largest gathering of women that the City has ever witnessed. We can well believe it, for the attendance of members numbered between four and five thousand. Such a Festival is an impressive reminder of the strength and solidarity of this great Union. Never will our members forget this occasion. In his address, the Bishop of Lincoln reminded them, that, as mothers, they held in their hands the destinies of their country and their Church. In a special sense, he added, they were the trustees of the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony. It was they who could save marriage from the attacks that threatened its sacredness.

Mrs. Eriksson, as most of us know, is leaving the parish to live at Peterborough. She will be greatly missed, for she has been an active and ready worker for the church. She has served on the Church Council for some years, has been one of our band of church decorators, and has been distributor of the Magazine for Toft and Lound. But chiefly as regards her work for the Mothers' Union her place will be hard to fill. She has acted as its capable and energetic Secretary ever since our branch was formed, and we could not have had a better one. At the last meeting of the Union, Mrs. Crichton-Maitland, the enrolling member, presented her with a parting gift, which had been subscribed for by all the members. We heartily wish her, together with her husband and daughter, every happiness in their new home.

Bats in the church.—For many years we have been troubled with the presence of bats in the church. About 14 years ago we tried the expedient of exterminating them by a thorough fumigation of the church. The result was only a partial success. Some of them survived the gassing. Now however the unwelcome little visitors seem to have left us of their own accord.

Alexandra Rose Day proceeds amounted to £3/0/1, as against £4/6/2 last year.

Cricket fixtures.—July 1st, Morton (A); 8th, Miss Crichton-Maitland's XI. (H); 15th, Bourne Sports (A); 22nd, Morton (H); 29th, Edenham (H)

Burials.—June 26th, Thomas Flanders, aged 56 years.

„ 29th, Henry George Cole, aged 69 years.

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

Our "Garden Party."—Held in the beautiful surroundings of the Hall grounds, and on a perfect summer day, no wonder that this was a triumphant success. The music was excellent. There were plenty of amusements, and if there was anyone among the many visitors who did not enjoy themselves, they must indeed be hard to please! The affair had been splendidly organised by the members of the Choral Society, and we feel sure that they felt that their efforts were richly rewarded. The takings on the day itself were all devoted to the church electric lighting fund. We understand that the net proceeds exceed £27. Besides this, the money raised by the rug kindly made by Mrs. Crichton-Maitland, was given to extinguish the debt on the Manthorpe chapel heating apparatus, a courteous action of which we feel sure all will heartily approve.

Why not a "fête?"—We avoided this familiar title for once. The word "fête" is a French word. If we insist on using it, let us not only pronounce it properly, but spell it properly, too! Unfortunately there seems to be no word in our English language which quite describes these popular money-raising festivities, as this French word does. Can anyone suggest an English alternative?

The winner of the rug was Master Jack Collins, of 22, Kilburn Road, Belper, Derbs., and the winning ticket was sold by Mrs. Saxby.

"The Witham-on-the-Hill Choral Society must now look to its laurels," says a local paper, since the two Oakham Societies have now joined forces. With thanks for the hint, we will!

Bath chair.—It is desirable that everyone should know of the existence of this wheeled chair. It is kept at the Vicarage, and may be borrowed in case of need. The Vicar purchased it many years ago, for use in the parish.

Our worn-out altar frontals.—At a recent meeting of the Church Council, the Vicar called attention to the torn and shabby condition of some of our altar hangings, and appealed to the ladies for help in repairing them. After all, when one remembers that all our frontals, except the white one, were "cast-offs" acquired from a London church, by Squire Johnson, over thirty-five years ago, and that they have done duty here ever since, it is a wonder that there is anything left of them at all! They are now definitely a disgrace to the church. Mrs. Crichton-Maitland has most kindly offered to make a new red one, and the Vicar will obtain materials for a new green one, if kind helpers will make it up. That will be a good beginning at all events.

Death of Mr. T. Birch.—We regret to record Mr. Birch's death, at Manthorpe, on the 14th of July, after being in failing health for some time. He had lived in the parish for some 40 years, first at Lound and later at Witham, whence he removed 19 years ago to Manthorpe. He has outlived his late employer, the late Mr. Walter Fenwick, for 19 years, for Mr. Fenwick died on 15th July, 1914. We venture to express our deep sympathy with his widow and children. R.I.P.

Recent Deaths in Manthorpe.—It is somewhat remarkable that of the nine deaths which have taken place in the parish within the last two years, no fewer than six have been in this little hamlet.

For Carlby church.—Mrs. Maitland hopes to raise funds on an Axminster carpet, and asks all friends for their kind assistance once again, in selling tickets.

Cricket fixtures for August.—5th, Swayfield (A); 12th, Little Bytham (H); 19th, Bourne Sports (H); 26th, Edenham (A).

Burial.—19th July, Thomas Birch, aged 80 years.

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

The Harvest Thanksgiving will be held on Thursday, Sept. 14th, and the Sunday following. On the Thursday evening, it will be our privilege to have with us Canon Walter Hicks, of Lincoln, who has kindly promised to preach the sermon. Canon Hicks is well-known as one of the ablest and most popular preachers in the Diocese.

Offerings asked for.—It has been our custom in the past only to ask for corn and flowers for the decoration of the church, but this year it has been suggested that gifts of a more material nature be brought, such as groceries and provisions of all kinds, in fact, a sort of "pound day." A table will be placed in the church, and you are all asked to contribute something to the store. All the gifts will afterwards be taken to the Butterfield Hospital, which has done so much for patients from this parish. The collections will again be divided between this hospital and the Stamford Infirmary.

The recent fête.—The net results were even more than what we announced last month. The gross receipts were over £40, and the net amount devoted to the church electric lighting fund was £29/10/7.

Church lighting.—The total sum now available for lighting the church by electricity amounts to over £80, and the work would have been put in hand at once, but for the fact that the Mid-Lincolnshire electric supply Co. after practically guaranteeing the current before October, has now informed us that they will probably not be able to supply it to Witham this year. Under these circumstances, Commander Crichton-Maitland has renewed his kind offer to provide current from the Hall, if we do not find the cost of running cables to the church too great. We are at the moment awaiting a report on this matter.

Trip to Skegness.—The choir and ringers, accompanied by a number of friends, had their annual outing on the 31st of July. It happened to be one of the few days in this glorious summer on which the temperature failed to soar to the "80" s., it was cool and windy, but none the less enjoyable for all that.

Children's outing.—We are now arranging to take the children of the Sunday class to Wicksteed Park, a perfect paradise for youngsters. We wish that our numbers were larger. We would appeal to all parents to see that their children attend on Sunday afternoons, and so teach them a love for their church. We would refer them to the wise advice carved on the Village Hall.

The Sunday collections.—The offerings given in church Sunday by Sunday are, considering the size of our parish, most wonderfully satisfactory, and we are grateful to our regular congregation for such generous support. Of the 34 Sundays since the beginning of the year, there have been only 7 on which the collection at the 2 services failed to exceed £1, for the most part it is considerably above this figure each Sunday, and has been so for a long time past. But this comes only from church-goers, are there not others who feel some responsibility towards the upkeep and support of their parish church?

Colonel Halland.—Witham is proud of the new honour bestowed upon Lieut-Col. Gordon Halland, the distinguished son of the late Vicar, who was born at the Vicarage. After an all-too short stay in Lincolnshire as Chief Constable, he has been selected as Head of the new Metropolitan Police College in London, a post of the very greatest responsibility, and he leaves us for this new appointment early next year. We congratulate him on this signal testimony to his ability. We were afraid that Lincolnshire would not keep him long!

In Hospital.—Our good friend Mrs. Gedge, is, we regret to say, in the Butterfield Hospital, but is, we trust, making good progress. So also is Mr. Markham, who had to be operated on without delay for that serious trouble which may lay any of us low without warning, namely appendicitis. Fortunately, all has gone well, and he too is, we hope, on the road to recovery. We shall be very glad to see them both home again.

Marriage.—21st August. Walter Oram and Beatrice Pitt.

Burial.—28th August. Effie Sarah Ann Dawson, aged 38 years.

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

Our Harvest Thanksgiving Services were specially note-worthy this year. We were privileged to have with us Canon Walter Hicks, D.D., of Lincoln, a preacher of great originality and eloquence, who was kind enough to give all the addresses, both on the Thursday and the Sunday. He also spoke to the children, at their afternoon service. We shall not soon forget his inspiring lessons, may they bear fruit in the lives of many of us. The thank-offerings which were divided between the Stamford Infirmary and the Butterfield Hospital, amounted to the splendid sum of £7/18/0. Many helpers had lavishly adorned the church, but the most striking object was the long table, crowded with commodities of every kind. We are more grateful than we can say for the kind and generous response to the request we made in the last Magazine. It was magnificent, and far beyond our expectations. The Butterfield Hospital authorities have deeply appreciated this replenishment of their store-cupboard, and desire to convey their hearty thanks to all the donors.

New altar frontal.—This was dedicated at the early service on the Thanksgiving day. It is made of handsome red silk brocade, edged with a narrow gold fringe, and is strikingly beautiful. It is not stretched on a frame like the others, but hangs loosely on a rod. We hope in time to get rid of all the frames, which give the frontals so stiff an appearance.

No dust-sheets.—We have never followed the horrible custom, seen in some churches, of swathing the altar, &c., in dust-sheets throughout the week. The House of God is intended to be used daily, and to cover everything up the moment the Sunday service is finished, is almost as bad as locking-up the church altogether. Both imply that we have no use for it except on Sunday.

Our new Rural Dean.—The Bishop has offered the post of Rural Dean, vacant through the resignation of the Vicar of Baston, to the Rev. H. P. Talbot, of Braceborough, who has accepted it. Mr. Talbot, though not robust physically, is a keen and zealous priest, whose appointment will be heartily welcomed in the Deanery. The clergy are making a presentation to the retiring Rural Dean, in recognition of his valued services during the past eleven years.

The Mothers' Union.—The members of our parish branch have appointed Mrs. Stubbley, of Toft, as Secretary, in place of Mrs. Eriksson. We heartily invite others to become members of this world-wide Society, which is such a power for good in the national life. The first meeting of the session will be marked by a service in church, on Wednesday, October 11th, at 2-30. All are welcome.

The Choral Society.—Practices will commence about the middle of October, of which due notice will be given. We hope for as enjoyable and successful a season as we had during the last two winters. Miss Crichton-Maitland will be very glad to welcome additional members.

A Marriage was celebrated here last month at the early hour of 8.30, and was immediately followed by the Holy Communion, at which the newly-married persons alone with the priest received the Blessed Sacrament. Thus it was possible for once to carry out the directions of the Prayer Book, which directs that, "the new-married persons should receive the Holy Communion at the time of their marriage." That this was once the universal custom is made clear by the meal which followed being known as the wedding "breakfast," at which the bride and bridegroom "broke their fast" after their Communion. The "Nuptial Mass," as it was called, ought to be the accompaniment of every marriage in church.

We sympathize deeply with the Rev. E. H. Smith, with his aged mother, and with his two daughters, in the death of Mrs. Smith last month. She was a frequent visitor to Toft, and when there, always attended our church. Shortly before, we had asked Mr. Smith to preach at our Harvest Thanksgiving, but he stated that he was unable to leave his parish.

Marriage.—September 6th, Matthew John Potts and Mary Ann Lloyd.

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

November begins with the beautiful Festival of All Saints, followed by All Souls' Day, when our thoughts turn more especially to those who are at rest. We remember them on this solemn day at the altar, with the ancient prayer, "Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them." (*Requiem eternam dona eis Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis*). And then the month ends with St. Andrew the Apostle, our own Patron Saint, and therefore a Festival of special significance for us.

On Armistice Day (Nov. 11th) we shall keep the two minutes' silence at 11 a.m. There will be a brief service commencing at 10.45, and the ceremony at the cenotaph will be broadcast in church.

The sale of poppies will take place throughout the parish on Armistice Day, and the collections in church on the next day (Armistice Sunday) will be given to the fund. Let us all do our best to make it a record figure this year. Last year the sale of poppies in the parish came to £5/14/9 and the church collections to £1/9/0. The sale is organised by Miss Jean Crichton-Maitland.

The Rev. J. T. Halland, formerly Vicar here, has, as we all know, a brilliant and distinguished son. He has also a nephew of remarkable ability. He is Canon John How, Rector of Liverpool. Last month Canon How was chosen for no less a post than the Archbishopric of Brisbane. Owing to personal reasons, he has, we regret to say, declined it, but the receipt of such an offer is in itself a testimony to his worth and merits. Canon How spent much of his boyhood with his uncle here at the Vicarage.

Mrs. Peart will relinquish her duties as Headmistress of our School at the end of the month. She is the first woman head teacher that this School has ever had, for it has always been a tradition that a master has been in charge here. This fact alone made her task no easy one, but in view of the excellent reports on the School during her three years of office, she has well maintained its standards. Happily on this occasion there will be no farewells, as she is remaining as a resident in our village. We rejoice to know that she will continue as organist at the church, where her skilful playing is much appreciated. Our organ is not at all an easy instrument to do justice to, but Mrs. Peart succeeds in making the most of it. **The Choral Society** has made a good start, and there are some 40 members this season. The chief work to be practiced is Vaughan Williams' "In Windsor Forest," a complete contrast to Mozart's soul-stirring Mass which we sang last year, and one which we shall thoroughly enjoy. The music is vigorous and robust, though by no means easy.

"The compleat Parson!"—The Lincolnshire parish of Fosdyke recently became notorious, because three clergy in succession had declined the vacant benefice. So the "Daily Mail" sent its special correspondent down, who elicited this priceless opinion from a villager. "We want somebody who will let us use the Schoolroom for whist drives, and organise a summer outing. We do not ask much beyond that!" This can be matched from nearer home. When the living of Carlby first became vacant, your Vicar had occasion to call at one of the cottages, and expressed a hope that they might soon have a Rector who would shepherd them up a bit. The reply he got was:—"Lor bless you, Sir, we don't want no shepherding up, what we want is a nice young man who will get up whist drives & dances!"

Death of our Member.—People of all shades of political opinion honoured and respected the late Mr. Neville Smith-Oarington, whose unexpected death last month so shocked his constituents. He was an upright and conscientious man, fair and courteous to all alike.

The late Mr. Edwin Todd.—We offer our sincere sympathy to the children of Mr. Todd, in the loss of their father, who died on October 6th, after a lingering illness, in his 80th year. He was laid to rest at Ketton, where his wife, who died 5 years ago, was buried. R.I.P.

Baptism.—8th Oct., Muriel Ellen, daughter of Arthur Hilton and Freda Fanny Metheringham.

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

Appointment of School Teacher.—The Managers have recently been engaged in the responsible task of selecting a new head teacher for our Church School. On their right choice much depends, for the influence of our children's teachers is of incalculable importance in the moral and spiritual well-being of the parish. The Foundation Stone of our school building bears the inscription, "*To the glory of God,*" and this well expresses its true purpose. For real and complete education must ever embrace definite Christian teaching, without which the mind may be fed, while the soul is starved.

The Managers have done their utmost to obtain permission to appoint a Master, and have had long and protracted negotiations with the County Education Authority on the subject. A petition which bore the signatures of practically every parent and householder in the parish, was prepared and presented, but it has been refused on the grounds of the smallness of our numbers. It was owing to these negotiations that the appointment has been delayed so long.

The School.—The present school building was erected in 1897, by the Rev. J. T. Halland, who ever took the keenest interest in education. The cost of the building was about £640, which was raised by local effort. It was built to accommodate some 90 children, which was about the average attendance in those days. To-day, alas! there are not more than half that number in the parish.

The Bath Chair.—The Vicar has had this completely renovated, and the whole of the wicker body renewed. At present our little friend Eldred Quick is finding it very useful. We earnestly hope that it will not be long now before he is quite well and strong again.

Poppy Day.—The sale of poppies in the parish realised £5/1/6. To this was added the collection in church on Armistice Sunday, amounting to £1/17/7, making in all £6/19/1 for the Lord Haig Fund.

Christmas Day falling on a Monday, affords a specially helpful opportunity for us to make due preparation for our Christmas Communion. The evening service of Christmas Eve, will, of course, be a festal one, and we venture to hope that members of the Choral Society may take their part in it, and make it a really joyous service of song. The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated on Christmas morning at 8 and at 11. There will be no evening service. We should much like to give, subject to the approval of the Church Council, our Christmas Day offerings to the Waifs' and Strays' Society. No day could be more suitable for thinking of Christ's little ones than the day when He was born as a little Child for us.

Confirmation.—The Vicar desires to have the names of those who desire preparation for Confirmation, not only children, but also those older ones who have not yet sought the great spiritual blessing which comes through this sacred ordinance. We have not yet received the Bishop's list of Confirmation fixtures. But if we were to have a sufficient number of candidates, it is possible that he might be induced to come to Witham, and confirm in our own church.

The Magazine.—Will those who distribute the monthly copies endeavour to obtain still more subscribers? The larger our circulation, the greater the space we feel justified in taking up for these local notes. As it is, we are seldom able to write as fully as we should like to.

The Vicar hopes to give an illuminated calendar to all the subscribers, to convey his affectionate greetings to them for Christmas and the New Year.

Invalids.—We offer our hearty good wishes to Mrs. Gedge and Mrs. Miller on their return home, and trust that they both may soon be completely restored to health. Constance Stringer is happily much benefited by her stay at the sea-side, and Mr. Ward is back from the hospital in good health.

Mothers' Union.—Next meeting, Wednesday, Dec. 13th, at 2-30.

A Whist Drive, given by the Mothers' Union, was held on Nov. 24th. We congratulate the members on the happy idea of getting this up, in order to raise funds for a children's Christmas party. The affair was splendidly organised, and all helped willingly. Their efforts were well rewarded, for it proved one of the most enjoyable and successful gatherings of its kind that we have had for a long time. The total proceeds amounted to £3/10/0.