

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

My dear friends,

Once again I begin the New Year with a personal greeting, to convey to all of you my affectionate good wishes for the year that is coming. I am writing just before Christmas, when one is usually in a reminiscent mood, and my thoughts go back over the many years of my ministry here. When I came as Vicar in 1900, the parish contained 379 souls, to-day only fourteen of these remain. All the rest have been taken from us either by removal or death. Few parishes can have undergone so complete a change during one incumbency as I have witnessed here. Throughout all these years I have striven, however imperfectly, to lead my people first of all to love and serve God, and to try and teach them to regard their parish church as the very "gate of Heaven," the dearest thing on earth which God has given them, bringing to those who use it aright, happiness and health both for body and soul. I have tried too, to render it more beautiful and worthy, and am justly proud of the result. Little by little we have transformed it, until to-day we have a church lovely and inspiring, lifting our thoughts by its very beauty to higher things.

And now to look back to the social side of the parish in those past times. How long ago it seems to those far-off days when I made it my endeavour to brighten the village life by bringing people together as often as possible for all sorts of gatherings. We had our wonderful parish teas, and huge affairs they were, our concerts, our theatricals, our dances. The old country dances, now alas! quite forgotten, were then popular, until our dancing classes introduced the quadrilles, lancers, barn dance, &c., now in their turn superseded! But what fun we used to have. Your Vicar was the sole and only "band," thumping out dance music for hours on end on an old piano which we purchased for £8! That was long before the vogue of the whist drive. That came later. And then latterly we even ran a bridge club, which met weekly through the winter. There was too, the Reading Room, thronged night after night. In those days there was no wireless, no buses, no "pictures." Now it is different, and the need not so great for constant village socials, such as we had in those old days.

In reading over the above, I am afraid it all sounds somewhat egotistical, so let me hasten to add that all this was possible only because everybody helped. We all worked together in complete and happy harmony. Few parish priests can look back over a happier time than mine has been here, and for whatever longer or shorter time I may be permitted to be with you, I shall continue to try and serve you to the best of my power, and in return, ask for your continued loyal support, goodwill, and last, but not least, much forbearance.

Your affectionate friend and Vicar,

L. H. COOLEY.

Two events of outstanding success must be mentioned in this issue, about each of which the word "record" may truly be used. The first was the extraordinarily successful and enjoyable dance given by the Choral Society on the 14th, at the Hall. This was attended by guests from far and near, and the takings amounted to nearly £16! The other event was the school-children's entertainment. It was a sumptuous treat from beginning to end. The little plays and action songs in particular were altogether delightful. Miss Bird and Miss Darnes both deserve the very greatest praise for producing so excellent and finished a performance.

The Mothers' Union.—Our branch went by invitation to Bourne on the 12th, where they were entertained to tea by the Bourne members. They all much appreciated the outing, and the kindness extended to them.

Confirmation.—The names of all candidates are now asked for.

Marriage.—31st December, Walter Leonard Kettle and Ethel Beatrice Haddon.

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The **Parish Magazine** has this year greatly increased its circle of readers, by including the parishes of Greatford, Barholm, Braceborough and Carlby. This will make it the more interesting to many of our own people who may have friends in these parishes. Thus its long life starts afresh. It began 32 years ago, and we have carried it on without a single break ever since. Even during the war, when many parishes were obliged to drop their monthly magazines, we managed to keep ours going, and what is more, maintain our high level of subscribers, which to-day is not far short of the total number of houses in the parish!

The Christmas Festival was well kept, and the church looked particularly beautiful with its lavish decorations. Our offerings at the morning services were given to the Waifs and Strays' Society, and amounted to £3/16/10

Service of the Nine Lessons.—On the Sunday after Christmas, we had once again this beautiful and impressive service, which is designed to bring home to us the great Mystery of the Incarnation, as revealed in the Sacred Scriptures. The nine readers were as follows:—(1) the youngest choir-boy, (E. Quick); (2) an older choir-boy, (A. Maile); (3) a choir-man, (Mr. T. Peart); (4) an altar server, (Mr. J. Peart); (5) a bell-ringer, (Mr. R. Hodgkin); (6) a church councillor, (Mr. C. Green); (7) a sidesman, (Mr. S. C. Skellett); (8) a Churchwarden, (Commander C. M. Crichton-Maitland, R.N.); (9) the Parish Priest.

Prizes were awarded to the children of the Sunday class on the Sunday after Christmas, for regular attendance in the morning and afternoon. We should like here to express our deep gratitude to Mrs. Edwards and Miss Bird for their devoted help in connection with this class.

Choir and ringers' supper.—This was held in Bourne on Jan. 21st, instead of the usual Vicarage party, which was not possible owing to the regretted illness of Miss Harding. After a bountiful supper most excellently served by Mrs. Brighton, the party numbering 15, went to the cinema for the remainder of the evening. A special 'bus was chartered to convey the party to and from Bourne.

"Kneeling is the attitude of prayer, and we ought to make it easy for the suppliant, when praying, to forget his body completely. Our souls may be above pews, but our bodies are not!" So writes an Oxford Professor in a recent article entitled "Beauty in Worship." He is pleading for everything in church to be beautiful, but at the same time there must be reasonable comfort for the worshippers. We venture to think that he would find what he wants in our church. The pews are comfortable, and very different from many that we have experienced elsewhere. But they are at the same time beautiful, and quite often, the first thing that visitors to the church admire is the seating! It is good, without being obtrusive, and the carved panels on the bench-ends furnish just the right amount of ornamentation, while the wide aisles lend an air of spaciousness to the church. When we installed them 27 years ago, we took the greatest care to provide ample room for kneeling, and by giving just the right slope to the backs as well as to the seats, the congregation can sit with comfort, be the sermon never so long! The raised seat at the west end, with its panelling and canopy, which, incidentally was the Vicar's own suggestion, was designed principally to give a finish to the whole scheme, and to clothe what was before a bare and unsightly wall. The total cost of pewing the church was over £500, and it was rendered possible only by the very generous help given by the late Mr. Walter Fenwick. To-day, the cost would be nearly twice that amount.

The Mothers' Union.—At the service on Jan. 9th, a very helpful address was given by the Vicar of Thurlby. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 5th, when the speaker is Miss Donaldson, of Ketton. We trust that all the members will make a special effort to attend, as this is the only day that Miss Donaldson can come to us.

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Lent.—Almost as soon as we get this number of the Magazine, the precious weeks of Lent will have begun. May it be that we shall try—in some way or another—to use them to our spiritual profit. Let us make some special rule for ourselves, a rule not so severe as to make its observance a serious difficulty, and yet not so easy that there is in it no kind of real self-denial or effort. It might well include a weekly early Communion, as well as a more faithful attendance generally at public worship, at times when we otherwise have not been in the habit of coming. For instance, the week-night services, which in past Lents have been so wonderfully well attended. We trust that they will be so again.

On Sunday evenings you will have a course of sermons from the Rev. C. A. Peacock, Vicar of All Saints', Stamford, who is no stranger to us. Many will remember his helpful addresses in two previous Lents.

The Confirmation.—This is on Tuesday, April 2nd, at 2.30. We are looking forward with great happiness to this visit of our deeply-respected Bishop, and we hope that every one connected with the church will come if they possibly can, and extend a warm welcome to him on this his first official visit to Witham. The Vicar expects to present 18 candidates for Confirmation. Will you all remember him and them in your prayers?

The Mothers' Union.—At the February monthly meeting, the special speaker was Miss Donaldson, the sister of the Vicar of Ketton. Her address was exceptionally helpful and able, and so greatly impressed the members that she was asked to come and speak again ere long. The annual Festival of this great world-wide organisation is Lady Day, and our own branch will no doubt fittingly observe it. Lady Day (March 25th) falls this year on a Monday. It is suggested that all the members make their act of Corporate Communion on the Sunday before, (the 3rd Sunday in Lent).

The Choral Society.—The members are hoping to go to Leicester on Thursday, March 7th, in order to attend the great concert there, where the combined choirs of Leicester, Melton and Stamford, will be conducted by Dr. Malcolm Sargent. Among other works, they are rendering "the Music Makers," by Elgar, and as our own Society is engaged on this same work for the Uppingham Festival in April, it will be particularly interesting for us to hear it as sung by this great choir, with full orchestra.

The Screen.—Last month we described the installation of the oak seats; this month, we are giving a few notes on the next big undertaking on which we embarked in adorning the church. This was the erection of the Rood Screen. This stands as a memorial to the late Squire Johnson, whose name is inscribed upon it. The architect was Mr. George Gilbert Scott, who designed the noble chancel arch, the pulpit, choir stalls, &c, and planned the screen as the completion of his scheme. It was Mr. Johnson's generous intention to erect it himself, but as he had already spent £1000 on the chancel, he had to forego the screen for the time being. At his death therefore, its erection was obviously the most fitting Memorial that we could choose, for it carried out his known wishes. For this reason too, we felt ourselves bound to follow Mr. Gilbert Scott's original design, although an alternative design was submitted by another architect, in some ways more pleasing. The Vicar and Churchwardens then launched an appeal for subscriptions, the response to which was so generous that the whole cost was quickly raised. The Screen was dedicated by the Bishop of Grantham, on the 29th Feb., 1912. A few years later it was completed by the erection of the Rood and Figures, the cost of which was provided out of a legacy left for that purpose by the late Mrs. A. C. Johnson. Of these we will write on a later occasion.

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His Majesty's Silver Jubilee.—A public meeting will be held on Friday, April 5th, in the Village Hall, to consider in what manner we of this parish shall celebrate this great occasion, the 25th anniversary of the King's Accession. Notices of the meeting have been sent to each house, and it is hoped that many will come prepared with suggestions. The Vicar's memory goes back to the festivities held here at the coronations both of the late King Edward VII. in 1902, and of our present King in 1911. These were on a very elaborate scale, which it would not be possible to attempt on the present occasion. For one thing, every man, woman and child in the whole ecclesiastical parish was provided with a sumptuous dinner. The cost even then was prodigious, to-day it would be prohibitive! We had a big bon-fire of course on each occasion, and trees were planted. The latter idea might well be carried out again, for a tree forms an abiding memento.

The children's trees.—These, which were planted last year, have with very few exceptions, rooted well, and now that they are at last coming into leaf, should be a source of renewed interest to their young planters.

The Uppingham Musical Festival, on Thursday, April 11th, comes as the climax of a full and delightful winter of music for all the members of our choral Society. The weekly rehearsals have filled the last six months with interest for us all, not to speak of the wonderful concert at Leicester, which we were all privileged to attend. And then the next day, Friday, April 12th, will be the children's turn, and they too will go to Uppingham for the juniors' Musical Festival. Neither of the Festivals is competitive this year, so that there will not be quite the same thrill as there was last year, nevertheless it will be an intense pleasure to all, both seniors and juniors, to take their part in the massed choirs.

On Palm Sunday afternoon, the Choral Society, with the assistance of a special soloist, and a few additional voices, will give a rendering of the music in the church, at 3 o'clock, as was done last year, so that all the parishioners who wish to do so, may hear it. Summer Time begins, let us remember, on Palm Sunday.

Holy Week.—The special services on the days of this sacred week will be as in previous years, i.e., daily, morning and evening, with Holy Communion on Tuesday and Maundy Thursday at 9. On Good Friday, a devotional Litany will be said at 9 a.m., Morning service with sermon at 11, and Evensong with address at 7.30, with a broadcast service at 6.30. By ancient custom, the Holy Eucharist is not celebrated either on Good Friday or Holy Saturday.

Easter Day.—Holy Communion will be 7 a.m. and 8 a.m., followed by the Parish Eucharist at 11. We shall be grateful if all who can will bring flowers for the decoration of the church, and also help us to adorn it for the Great Festival.

The church.—A new mat for the porch has been provided. The old one, on which generations of worshippers have wiped their feet on entering, is now only fit for the scrap-heap! Also, the lock and catch on the South door has been repaired, so that it can now be opened with perfect ease. The locksmith reported that it was one of the best locks that he had ever examined. No longer now will visitors complain (as many have done), that they were unable to get into the church, and blame the Vicar for keeping it locked!

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Easter.—Seldom has the church looked more beautiful than it did with its rich adornment of Easter flowers, the banks of pink blossom flanking the high altar were particularly lovely. An early peal by the ringers heralded the first service of the great Festival. The Vicar would like to thank all who gave so liberally to the offerings, which by old custom are handed to the incumbent. It was a friendly and courteous gesture, which he greatly appreciates. He hopes to use the gift in some further furnishings for the church, probably rails and kneelers for the Lady chapel.

Ascension Day.—This is the next great Festival. Holy Thursday (as it is called) is the fortieth day after Easter, and falls this year on May 30th. Once again we have invited the Sisters and inmates of S. Mary's Home, at Ketton, to come and spend the afternoon and evening with us. We hope to have a bright and happy evening service before they leave, and the Vicar of Ketton has kindly promised to come with them, and give the address at Evensong.

Commemoration of Bishop King.—Tuesday, May 21st, has been set apart as a Solemn Day of Thanksgiving and Remembrance for the coming of Bishop Edward King to this Diocese fifty years ago. On this day, a Solemn Eucharist will be sung in Lincoln Cathedral at 11.30, to be followed at 3 p.m. with a Sermon, Procession and Te Deum, when the Archbishop of Canterbury will preach. The present Bishop expresses a hope that every parish will unite in this commemoration, and speaks of what the Diocese owes to Bishop King, and of our reason to thank God for him. "The power of a Saint's life continues, and we all feel it in his case. There has been no life quite like his in modern times. I pray that through this great Festival and its worship, we may all be given a fuller measure of the Spirit that was his."

The King's Silver Jubilee.—Arrangements are well in hand for our local celebrations of the twenty-fifth year of the King's reign, on Monday, May 6th. The great thanksgiving service at S. Paul's Cathedral will be broadcast in the church at 11.30 a.m. In the afternoon, it is hoped that all will assemble in the church at 3 o'clock, for the national anthem, prayers and a hymn. There will then be sports, and the ceremonial planting of a tree, followed by a tea for all the children, and afterwards for the adults. In the evening, it is proposed to arrange a social in the school, while doubtless the ringers will do their part during the day. We look forward to a happy and enjoyable re-union of old and young alike on this historic occasion, one that should live in our minds throughout our lives.

The church Budget.—The church accounts, to be presented at the annual Vestry and Parochial Church Meeting, disclose the fact that during the year 1934, no less a sum than £85/3/1 was contributed to the collections, including those for special objects. This is over £5 in advance of last year, and is the highest figure ever reached. Of course money is not everything, but it does give some indication of the devotion and faithfulness of those who worship in our church.

Mr. J. Yout's numerous friends are unfeignedly pleased to see him among them once more, and back at his old job, completely restored to health.

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The King's Silver Jubilee.—Two outstanding factors, first, ideal summer weather, and secondly, splendid organization, made this day one which we shall remember all our lives. We all owe a great debt of gratitude to the many helpers who worked together so wonderfully to contribute to our enjoyment on this memorable day. First to the ladies' committee with Mrs. Burges at its head, who provided unstinted and bountiful meals for us all, and then to the men's committee, under Mr. Wallis, carrying through an ambitious and continuous programme of sports and amusements, while at their back was the most efficient of secretaries, in the person of Mr. Miller. The result was a day of sustained enjoyment, from the time when we met together as one parish for our thanksgiving service at 3 o'clock, until the small hours of the following day.

King George's Jubilee Trust.—On the Sunday following, when our thanksgiving services were continued, collections were made for this object, and totalled £3/5/9, the receipt for which was acknowledged by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales.

The Confirmation.—One of our readers has taken us to task for omitting all reference to this in last month's Magazine. It was due to "pressure of space" alone. The occasion was a great and notable one, and ought not to have passed unrecorded, particularly as it was the Bishop of Lincoln's first official visit to us, and that he brought with him as his Chaplain no less a person than the Superior of the Community of the Resurrection, Father Edward Talbot, C.R. A huge tea-party of over 200 followed the ceremony, which was most kindly organised by the lady members of the Church Council. The candidates numbered 48, and the church was so crowded that many extra chairs had hastily to be brought in.

The Mothers' Union.—On May 22nd, the members of our branch invited all the Bourne branch to tea, some 50 or 60. There was a hearty and beautiful service at 3 o'clock, followed by tea in the Village Hall, after which a pleasant time was spent in the Hall and Vicarage gardens.

Miss Jean Crichton-Maitland's engagement.—Now that this has been publicly announced, we beg, on behalf of us all, to offer to her our very real and sincere good wishes. Her marriage to Flight-Lieut. J. Silvester, R.A.F., will take place in this church on Wednesday, September 18th, and the ceremony will be performed by the Bishop of Peterborough, an old friend, while a still older friend, Sir Walford Davies, Master of the King's Musick, will act as organist. Miss Maitland's special wish is that the members of the choral Society, which has won so many laurels under her able conductorship, shall render the music at her wedding.

The Choral Society was most hospitably entertained at the Hall on May 21st, by Commander and Mrs. Crichton-Maitland. After posing for a photograph, supper was served, to which about 35 sat down. The rest of the evening was devoted to games. The party broke up about 12.15

New altar rails.—The Vicar has presented a pair of oak communicants' kneelers to the church, for use in the Lady chapel. As mentioned last month, he has used the Easter offerings towards this gift. Perhaps later on, some kind friends will make kneeling mats in blue to fit them.

Proposed garden fete.—We hope to arrange a fête in the Vicarage garden on or about the 29th of June. The idea is to start a fund for under-ceiling the Village Hall, as well as to defray the expenses of the choir trip in the summer.

Sports.—The lawn tennis club is starting play again on the Vicarage court, and the bowls club has already begun, this year the upper lawn at the Hall has kindly been placed at their disposal. Cricket too has commenced. The June matches are as follows: 1st, Swinstead away; 5th, Northorpe home; 8th, Swayfield home; 10th, Irnham away; 15th, Greatford home; 22nd, Little Bytham away.

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Ascension Day.—It was a pleasure to welcome once again the large party from St. Mary's Home, Ketton, who came to us on this day, in charge of the Sisters. The Rev. L. R. L. Donaldson, Vicar of Ketton, and Chaplain to the Home, also came, and was kind enough to give the address at Evensong, at which all the visitors were present. The service was bright and hearty, thanks to the choir and many of our regular worshippers. Tea was served in the Village Hall by the lady members of the Church Council.

Alexandra Rose Day collection.—This year, the sum raised was as follows:—Witham, £2 11/4; Toft-with-Lound, 8/9; Manthorpe, 6/4; making a total of £3 6/5 for the parish. Thus our parish easily heads the list of all the villages. Last year we sent in £3 5/5.

The School.—The following is an extract from the Report of the Diocesan Inspector (The Rev. Cary Cooper), who visited the school last month. He places it in the class "Very good," and writes: "The whole tone and atmosphere of this school are right, the discipline exemplary, and the answering of the children in both departments eager and good." Such a report must be gratifying to the teachers, and serves further to prove to the parents how well and carefully their children are taught in our Church school.

Our garden fete.—We are writing a week before the event, but already everyone is busy in preparation. There are a great many willing volunteers, who will do all in their power to make it a success. The only thing now needed is a fine day.

Trip.—It is hoped to arrange an outing for the choir and ringers, on or about July 25th. There will doubtless be a certain number of friends who will wish to go with them. Will they please notify the Vicar as soon as possible, so that bus accommodation may be provided.

Cricket fixtures for July.—4th, Castle Bytham, h.; 6th, Greatford, a.; 10th, Northorpe, a.; 13th, C. Bytham, a.; 20th, Miss Maitland's XI, h.; 27th, Bourne 2nd XI, h.

In Memoriam.—It is in very deep sorrow that we have to record the terrible tragedy of Whitsunday, which resulted in the death of Harold Albert Maile. Everyone loved this lad, and specially his late school-mates. Albert was a boy of singular promise, and fine character. He and his twin brother Edward were among those who were confirmed in this church last April, and on him his Confirmation made a deep impression. On the very day of his death he had made his communion, so pathetically to be his last. As a chorister he was one of the most regular attenders, coming the long distance from his home twice each Sunday without fail, while his reverent behaviour set a splendid example to the others. The whole parish offers its heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved family. R.I.P.

Harold Albert Maile. A tribute from his teacher.—It is with infinite regret and a deep sense of loss that I realise the passing of Harold Albert Maile. He was a boy of whom the school was intensely proud. Loyal to his friends, honourable always, he afforded a fine example of clean healthy-minded boyhood. His was a quiet disposition, but in quietness lay his strength—in him was placed the greatest of trust, a trust of which he proved himself at all times to be worthy. He had an influence for good over the boys, for although he was a keen sportsman, he never forgot the greatest Captain of all, and no fear of ridicule could turn him from what he believed to be right. He did indeed try to follow in the steps of the Master, and his many kindly actions, his clean sense of humour, his eagerness to help, and his constant striving to "play the game," must have gladdened his heart. May Christ bless his family, and bring them comfort and peace.—MARGARET C. BIRD.

Burial.—June 13th, Harold Albert Maile, aged 14 years.

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The Garden Fete held at the Vicarage on the 29th June, was favoured with brilliant weather, which seemed to affect us all, for it was a very jolly and delightful affair, at which everybody thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Many kind helpers worked very hard, and the net proceeds reached the satisfactory total of £22/1/2. The bulk of this sum will be used in under-ceiling the Village Hall, an alteration which is urgently needed, if it is to be made warm and comfortable for winter use. The Vicar has also received a very kind donation of £3 towards the same object.

Outings.—As we write, the choir, ringers and friends are spending a day at the sea-side. Judging from the weather, they are likely to return several shades browner! The children of the Sunday School are to have their day out on the 2nd August, and are re-visiting Wicksteed Park.

The School holidays are fixed from the 5th August, to the 2nd September, inclusive.

The children visit "air-pageant."—Miss Bird took over the whole school to witness the recent display of flying at Morton last month, where Sir Alan Cobham was giving a demonstration. The object was partly instructive, so as to let the children see for themselves something of this wonderful new means of transit. A portion of the proceeds of the children's concert was utilised to pay expenses.

The Parish Quota, what is it?—Our parish, alike with every other parish, is bound to support the work of the Church outside its borders, and for this purpose is called upon to pay a certain annual fixed sum to the Diocesan authorities at Lincoln. This sum is called the Parochial Apportionment, or Quota. Some parishes raise their quota by means of a special free-will offering fund, others include it among their ordinary church expenses. The latter method is unsatisfactory, for the reason that it does not bring home to each Church member his or her responsibility to support the needs of the Church outside the parish as well as within it. The Church Council therefore decided at their meeting in June to set apart four Sundays in the year to be called Quota Sundays, on which all the offerings in church will be devoted towards this fund. So that each individual member of the congregation, having decided how much he or she can give towards the quota, may give or send in their offerings on these four special days. They will usually be the first Sunday in January, April, July and October, respectively. Our quota is £11/2/4. Our aim should be to send *more* than our due, and we can, if only we will.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, speaking at Leicester last month on the duty of public Worship, said, "Remember that the centre of our worship is the Holy Eucharist. There we enter into the Holy of Holies, and there we celebrate the great Memorial of that Sacrifice, by which the world is redeemed." Thus he put in other words the great duty which the late Bishop of Lincoln urged, when he used to say that "the Lord's Service on the Lord's Day" should ever be the guiding principle of our worship.

The East window.—We wonder how many will have noticed the subtle change that has taken place in the window above the altar. Gone are its harsh and vivid hues, its crude and jarring colours, and it has become really beautiful and pleasing. Have a good look at it, and see whether you do not think it a vast improvement.

In Memoriam, William Ward.—Last month there passed to his rest, one who ever since he came to live among us some five years ago, was one of the most faithful and regular of worshippers. He was hardly ever absent from his accustomed place in church, Sunday after Sunday, and we shall miss him sorely. Mr. Ward was a typical example of a fine old Christian gentleman, upright, honourable and universally esteemed, and he leaves to us a bright example of faithful and devoted service to God. Our deep sympathy goes out to his bereaved widow and family. R.I.P.

Cricket fixtures in August.—3rd, Edenham, A.; 17th, Little Bytham, H.; 24th, Swinstead, H.; 31st, Edenham, H.

Baptism.—July 21st, June Mary, daughter of John William and Annie Louth.

Burials.—July 8th, William Ward, aged 80 years. July 23rd, Susan Elizabeth Kilbon, aged 12 years.

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Harvest Thanksgiving Services will be held on Thursday, Sept. 26th, and will be continued on Sunday the 29th (Michaelmas Day). Our offerings will be given as usual to the Hospitals, and gifts in kind, including fruit and vegetables, are again specially asked for. We hope that everyone will make a contribution to the gift tables in the church. Last year, two long tables were necessary to hold all the packages and parcels brought. Let us try and fill them again. The sermon on the Thursday evening will be preached by the Rev. P. L. Hooson, Rector of Tinwell.

Miss Jean Crichton-Maitland, who is to be married in our church at 12 noon on Wednesday, Sept. 18th, asks us to say how pleased she will be to show the wedding presents to all parishioners who care to come to the Hall on Saturday, Sept. 14th, from 5.30 to 7 p.m. A number of seats in the church will be allotted at the marriage ceremony to friends from the parish, but as space is limited, it is advisable to come early.

The church.—The appearance of the chancel has been greatly improved by the treatment of the East window, and the tinting of the two South windows, which now throw a mellow light upon the altar and sanctuary. In addition, the tall standard candlesticks have been re-gilded, and look extremely beautiful.

Mrs. Edwards, who, ever since she came to live here about three years ago, has been an indefatigable helper in Church and village life, has, we grieve to say, left us. Her place will be hard to fill. We shall miss her in so many ways, chiefly perhaps in regard to the Sunday school. In the Mothers' Union too, she took a particular interest. Further, Mrs. Edwards did much needlework for the church, and among other things, made one of our new altar frontals. We wish Mr. and Mrs. Edwards every happiness in their new home at Healing.

Church kneelers.—The kneelers recently given to the church for use in the Lady Chapel have been upholstered in blue to match the furnishings of the chapel. Mr. and Mrs. Skellett have been kind enough to make this gift to the church.

Lawn tennis tournament.—This, which was most kindly organised by Miss Wallis, in aid of the Choral Society, took place on Aug. 10th. Three courts were in use, those at the Hall and Vicarage, and Mr. Burges's. Tea was served in the billiard room at the Hall. Over £3 was given to the Society as the result of this enjoyable afternoon.

The Choral Society.—It is Miss Maitland's particular wish that the Society shall not suffer from her ceasing to conduct it, and she has secured Mr. Reginald Shield, F.R.C.O., the assistant organist of Peterborough Cathedral, to take over the conductorship. Under his capable leadership, we hope that the choir will repeat its successes of the past, and that all the present members will rally round him. New members will be heartily welcomed. The practices will be, as before, on Tuesdays, beginning in October. The music chosen is much less difficult this year.

The Village Hall is to have its new ceiling, and the work will be done after the middle of Sept.

Electric light.—Commander Orichton-Maitland has renewed his kind offer to supply current to the church from the Hall, and the Church Council are most anxious to instal it, if the necessary additional funds can be obtained. We hope to have something definite to say about this next month.

Quota Sunday.—Special collections for the quota will be made on Sunday, Oct. 6th. Please contribute liberally on this day, and send your gift, if unable to be present.

Mr. Alfred Bradshaw, at the time of writing, is maintaining his strength, and though still gravely ill and weak, is certainly better than he was. The prayers of the Church have been asked for him ever since he was first taken ill.

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

Miss Jean Maitland's marriage was so fully reported in the local press that little remains for us to say as regards the ceremony. It seemed to be generally agreed by everyone that it was quite the most solemn and beautiful marriage service that they had ever witnessed. The setting was perfect. Our "lovely church," as the Bishop of Peterborough called it in his address, never looked better, richly adorned as it was with banks of exquisite flowers, and with the sun streaming in on our beautiful altar with its cloth-of-gold frontal. And then the music! With the "Master of the King's Musick," Sir Walford Davies, himself conducting, and subsequently playing, we had a musical treat such as is seldom heard in a village church. Needless to say, that, as befitted so great and auspicious an occasion, the church was crowded to its utmost capacity, and many were unable to get in. It was all a wonderful tribute of affection to the bride, who with her husband will have the very heartiest good wishes of us all for a long and happy married life.

Married from the Hall.—It is over 71 years since a bride from Witham Hall was last married here, when General Johnson's fourth daughter, Selena Barbara Maria, was wedded to William Goddard-Jackson, of Duddington, at the age of 21.

The "tiny" church!—It was amusing to read this description of our church in one of the local papers last week. Either the reporter had no sense of proportion, or else he had never seen it! For it happens to be the largest *village* church in the district; and is far more spacious than many town churches.

The organ.—In preparation for the wedding, a thorough overhaul was made of the organ, when it was discovered that urgent repairs will shortly be needed, which are likely to prove somewhat costly. After all, the instrument has been in use for many years, and it has had but little done to it beyond occasional tuning. The present organ dates from about 1874, but the Vicar can find no record of its cost or installation. In those days a two-manual organ in a village church was something of a rarity. Though old-fashioned in construction, our organ is wonderfully efficient for its size, and is capable of a great range and sweetness of tone, from the softest echo to a volume of sound sufficient to fill a cathedral. Those who heard Sir Walford Davies playing it the other day will have realised this.

The bells.—Here again we are faced with urgent repairs. The bell-frame is loose to a very serious extent, and will have to be strengthened with the least possible delay. We hope that the Church Estate may be able to undertake this, as it clearly comes under the heading of "necessary reparations and amendments of the church."

Electric light.—At the time of writing, the committee appointed to deal with this question has not yet met. But the facts are these. Provided that we can see our way to a further £30 or so, we shall proceed at once with the installation. This ought not to prove an impossible sum to raise.

The Mothers' Union.—The winter session will commence with a service in church during the third week in October. We earnestly appeal for more supporters, either members or associates.

The Rev. C. W. E. Cleaver.—Your Vicar feels almost a sense of personal loss in the resignation of Mr. Cleaver from Careby, for he was not only a most kind and helpful neighbour, but a close personal friend. Careby has been greatly privileged to have had for the last 12 years a parish priest of deep spirituality, a true shepherd of souls, with a specially warm place in his heart for the children. Such a ministry as his cannot fail to leave a deep and lasting impression on the parish, where, we are sure, he will be remembered with gratitude and affection for many years. We wish Mr. and Mrs. Cleaver every happiness in their new home in Devonshire.

Marriage.—Sept. 18th, James Silvester and Jean Makgill-Crichton-Maitland.

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

Temporary alteration of services.—The Vicar has been asked to take certain services at Holywell, until the new Rector of Careby comes. They quite rightly ask for the service of Holy Communion rather than an afternoon service. In order therefore to meet these wishes, our own 8 o'clock service will be suspended on the 2nd and 4th Sundays in the month, during November, and possibly also December. We shall still have a Eucharist each Sunday, and those whose right and proper principle it is to attend the Lord's Service on the Lord's Day will not be deprived of the opportunity of doing so.

Electric light.—At the time of writing, the work of wiring the church is in full progress, and soon after this magazine is printed, it should be completed. There must be many who desire to associate themselves with the scheme by making some contribution to its cost. We still need about £16 more. A subscription list will be found in the church. Please add your name, and the amount that you can promise, however small it may be.

The church roof.—The electricians who are engaged upon wiring the church have made a thorough examination of the roof, and report that the timbers are in excellent condition, and that there is no trace of that dreaded enemy, the "death-watch" beetle. This is indeed a welcome piece of news. Up and down the country, in recent times, ancient churches and cathedrals have everywhere been put to colossal expense in renewing roofs attacked by this pest, and we confess that we have occasionally had some misgivings as to our own. Close inspection was only possible by getting through the tiny trap-door above the chancel arch, and your Vicar has always lacked the requisite nerve to make the ascent! Our immunity from roof trouble is really due to the fact that our renovations were tackled some 125 years ago, instead of waiting to the present day, as so many others have done. It may be of interest to record what the old Churchwardens' account books reveal about this work.

In May, 1818, the work was commenced.—It consisted of removing the whole roof, and re-placing it with a new one. The total cost came to the sum of £736/17/2½, in addition to the old lead and timbers. We have arrived at this figure by adding up the various payments made to the contractors during that and the following years. Messrs. Smith, Dale and Sandy were the joiners, and the lead work was done by John Waters, of Bourne, who supplied new lead in exchange for the old, in the proportion of 112 cwt. for 120 cwt. The joiners further erected the plaster ceiling below the roof. This apparently did not exist before. Incongruous as it appears to visitors, we are sometimes grateful to it for helping to render the church both lighter and warmer. But it *does* want a new coat of white-wash! Few of us probably have ever seen the lead roof, and can only do so either by ascending to the top of the church or going up in an aeroplane! It is however a wonderful piece of work. The new roof was due to the initiative of General W. A. Johnson, who advanced a large part of the cost. It all seems so long ago, and yet his daughter, Mrs. Martin-Atkins is still living, and wrote to the Vicar only last week!

Armistice Day.—The Cenotaph Service will be broadcast in church on Nov. 11th, beginning at 10.45; where, as in past years, we shall keep the Two minutes' Silence. The Sunday following will be observed as Remembrance Sunday, and the offerings given to the "Lord Haigh" Fund.

Girl guides.—Miss Bird has formed a Company of Guides. We are grateful to her for the interest which she takes in the welfare of the children, of which this is one more instance.

Miss Bird writes as follows:—"Much to our joy we have been able to form a Company of Guides. A country village such as ours is an ideal place for Guiding, and the enthusiasm of the girls who have formed the Company promises well for the future. We hope to spend many happy hours together, and we invite any girl between the ages of 10 and 16 to join our fellowship."

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

The lighting of the church.—At last, after many delays and disappointments, our church has its electric light. For this our grateful thanks are due to Commander and Mrs. Maitland, for so generously providing us with current from their private plant. The installation has been most well and skilfully carried out. Hardly a wire is to be seen beyond the six inconspicuous pendants which light the nave. The chancel lighting, produced by concealed reflectors, is most arresting and beautiful, as too is the illumination of the Rood. We think that all will agree how entirely satisfying the whole scheme is. The work was dedicated by the Vicar before Evensong on Sunday, Nov. 3rd, at which service the electric light was first used.

The lamp brackets—The very fine wrought iron chandeliers, which held the oil lamps, have found a new home in the Village Hall, where they show to better advantage than they did in the church. Their removal has had the effect of making the church appear altogether wider and more spacious.

Old Bible restored.—The old and much dilapidated great Bible, which was literally falling to pieces, has been skilfully re-bound and repaired, and once again finds a place on the lectern. This huge volume, which weighs over a stone, bears upon its cover the inscription: "Witham-on-the-Hill Church, 1841," together with the names of the Vicar, the Rev. W. H. Johnson, and the churchwardens, D. Nicholls and T. C. Hubbard. It was actually printed in 1823. It is gratifying to think that we have been able to restore this old Book to its sacred use once again.

The Village Hall.—Everyone is delighted with the transformation of the Hall. The new ceiling has had the effect of making it thoroughly warm and comfortable, while the attractive scheme of decoration greatly adds to the effect. The absorbent surfacing will prevent the condensation from running down the walls, so that there will be no dampness while the temperature will no longer call for any protests, unless it be that it is too *warm*! But this can soon be remedied by means of the roof ventilators. The room was formally declared open on Thursday, Nov. 21st, by Mrs. Burges, who was heartily thanked for her kindness. The Vicar has presented twenty-four new chairs to the room, which unfortunately did not arrive in time for the opening.

The school.—A very gratifying Report has recently been received from His Majesty's Inspector, following his visit, and Miss Bird has since had the warm congratulations of the County authorities on its satisfactory nature. The Report is too long to quote here, and short extracts might only be misleading, but we must mention the reference made to the supplementary teacher, "who has for many years given valued service here." Miss Darnes has been with us for over 22 years, beloved by all her pupils, deeply respected by their parents. We all owe to her a very great debt of gratitude for her faithful and devoted service.

Christmas Day services.—Holy Communion at 7.30 and 8.30, followed by the Christmas Eucharist (the "Christ Mass") at 11. After this service, the Parish Charities will be dispensed in the church. The offerings will be given as usual to the Waifs and Strays' Society.

The Mothers' Union members hope again to organise a Christmas treat for the children. The monthly meeting of our branch will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 10th, at 2.30, when Mrs. Wherry, of Bourne, will give the address.

The Vicar will give to all Magazine subscribers an illustrated Calendar, to convey his affectionate good wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Poppy day parish contribution.—The total amount came to £6/9/2, sale of poppies on Armistice Day £4/18/9, and the collection in church on the previous Sunday £1/10/5.

A Church Army Van in charge of two C.A. Sisters, proposes to pay us a brief visit from Dec. 13th to 20th. We hope that all at whose houses they call will extend to them a hearty welcome, and that their meetings, held for the most part in the Village Hall, may be well attended. (See the yellow leaflet in this Magazine)