

Witham-on-the-Hill, Manthorpe, Toft and Lound.

The Vicar's New Year's Message.—My dear friends,—Once more we begin another year together, priest and people. For far more than the greater part of my life I have had the spiritual charge of this parish, to serve it in the way in which at my ordination I solemnly promised, namely, by "ministering the Doctrine and the Sacraments of the Church of God." That it the priest's two-fold work, and I have humbly tried to carry it out. Sunday by Sunday, without fail, has the Holy Sacrament of the Altar been celebrated, the Perpetual Memorial which is our "bounden duty and service." Sunday by Sunday, too, have I striven to give you of my best, so that by "teaching and exhortation" I may help you to a clearer knowledge of God and of His Holy Will. And I do ask you for a more faithful response. I cannot tell you how greatly I long for your encouragement. The clergy are only human after all, and they *must* have the co-operation and good-will of their people if they are not to lose heart. Will you, therefore, give me yours in fuller measure in this coming year? And believe me, that my duty and privilege—so long as I am here—is to *serve* you, for that is the meaning of the word "minister," namely, a *servant*. All that I live for is to promote the Glory of God in this parish, and you can help me. I ask it in God's Name of all who read these words.—Your faithful and affectionate Vicar, L. H. COOLEY.

In Memoriam.—EMMA OSBORN.—On December 9th, Emma Osborn was called to her rest, at the age of 79. Her brother writes: "For upwards of 60 years she devoted her life to looking after the comforts of relatives." This is indeed true. From a child she had lived with her aunt, Miss Ann Osborn, at Manthorpe, to serve whom she gave up her life, to the exclusion of her own prospects of happiness, and possibly marriage. During the old lady's last illness, for some years of which she was bed-ridden, Miss Emma Osborn waited on her with assiduous and unflinching devotion. After her aunt's death in 1913, she went to live with a brother in Sussex, to minister in turn to him. Thus there has passed one of the most unselfish and self-sacrificing of Christian women whom we have ever known. Her brother says that she always looked forward with the greatest eagerness to getting this Parish Magazine month by month. So it is clear that her heart and interests were still here, in the old home that she loved, and in the old church where she was so unflinching a worshipper. Sunday by Sunday, whatever the weather, she walked from Manthorpe to church, a shining example to all. R.I.P.

The Choral Society's Dance last month was one of the most successful ever held. There was a very large attendance, and the net proceeds, after all expenses had been deducted, was £9/17/4. The next practice of the society is fixed for Tuesday, January 18th.

The next popular science lecture is to be on Wednesday, January 12th. The attendance at these most fascinating lectures by Dr. Vaughan has not been very encouraging, in spite of the often-expressed desire for something to fill in the winter evenings!

Christmas at the church.—How beautiful it looked in its lavish adornment, with the decorated Christmas tree nearly 18 feet high! and the charming Crib. Our offerings of £3/5/8 were given to the Waifs and Strays Society.

Confirmation.—All names of those to be confirmed are asked for now. The Confirmation will be at Greatford Church on Wednesday, 30th March.

Collections in December.—5th, £1/1/7; 12th, £1/1/3; 19th, £1/2/9; 25th, £3/5/8; 26th, £1/3/2.

The Vicar has edited this Magazine for the past 35 years! So, following the custom of many newspapers, there will appear month by month a paragraph entitled "Thirty-five years ago."

Witham-on-the-Hill, Manthorpe, Toft and Lound.

The Parish Magazine.—We wish to express our very great thanks to all our subscribers for their most kind and undiminished support of this magazine. While most of the other parishes who join with us, report a decline in circulation, ours maintains its high level, and has even increased this year. Thanks too to the distributors who so kindly deliver it throughout the parish, and we should also like to add our thanks to the printers who produce it so well, and whose unfailing courtesy and good-will to the Editor makes his task so much easier.

Foreign Missions Sunday.—For many years we have set apart the second Sunday in February as one for special prayer and offerings on behalf of the Mission field, and in particular, the great "Society for the Propagation of the Gospel," usually known as "S.P.G." Will the holders of missionary boxes kindly bring them in on or before Sunday, Feb. 13th. With regard to these, quite a large proportion of our offerings come from that most excellent institution—the Missionary Box, without which no Christian home should be complete. It is by far the best and most satisfactory way of supporting this great work. A Mission Sunday is but annual in its appeal, but a Missionary Box upon the mantel-shelf is a *daily* reminder to us of our duty to help on this great Cause, so close to the heart of our Blessed Lord. Further, if we should miss the weekly offering in church on the "First Day of the week," which God demands of us all, "according as He hath prospered us," the missionary box is there to receive it.

The new Church Safe, to which reference was made a short time ago, is now purchased, and stands in the vestry. It holds all our precious documents and valuables most conveniently, and above all, in absolute security both from fire and theft. The suggestion for getting it came from our old friend, the Rev. J. T. Halland, the former Vicar, who knew well how greatly it was needed here. We are grateful to him.

Tree-felling.—We feel sure that many villagers are sharing the grief and distress of your Vicar as our beautiful trees are—one by one—being levelled to the ground. What was once known as one of the most picturesque villages of the neighborhood is being denuded of its timber, and thereby much of its beauty. It is a tragedy, but we suppose an inevitable one.

The children's Christmas Party last month was so fully reported in the press that we need only refer to it here in order to thank the ladies of the Church Council and the other helpers for their kind and splendid organisation, as well as generous gifts.

Miss Atkinson.—Very widespread sympathy has been expressed at the temporary break-down in health of our head teacher, at the beginning of the term. We all most sincerely hope for her speedy recovery and full restoration to health.

Miss Blackburn also will receive the sympathy of all in her distressing accident. There is always one bright feature in these troubles when they happen, and that is the extraordinary kindness and sympathy which they evoke.

A glimpse of the past—36 years ago, Jan., 1902.—"*This week the Hon. Mr. Justice Lawrance and Lady Lawrance are leaving Witham Hall, where they have resided for the past nine years. His Lordship is leaving Witham in consequence of the sale of the Estate by Mr. A. C. Johnson, Lord of the Manor, to Mr. Walter Fenwick, who is purchasing the entire property. Mr. Fenwick will come into residence next month, and will at once proceed to remodel and enlarge the house, and lay out the grounds on an extensive scale. We understand that he proposes making very considerable changes and improvements on the property. Mr. Fenwick is married to a daughter of Lord Robert Montagu, and has three young sons.*"

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Lent.—Our Wednesday evening services in Lent have in the past been remarkable for the large numbers who attended them and valued them. The Vicar most earnestly asks all of you who read these words to make a special point, each Wednesday evening, of coming to this short and helpful little service. It begins at 7 o'clock and will be over before 8. On two, and possibly more, of the evenings we shall have our old friend, the Rev. C. A. Peacock with us, who will give the address on March 9th and 16th.

The Bishop's Appeal.—In this month's Magazine you will find a leaflet about the Appeal, and how to keep it in Lent. Will you read it carefully and see what you can do? Every parish in the Diocese is making a special effort to respond to the Bishop's urgent call for help, and we must not be behind-hand at Witham-on-the-Hill. Under these circumstances we suggest that our self-denial offerings through Lent be devoted to this fund. Boxes or envelopes may be had from the Vicar, and a special box will be in the church during Lent to receive our gifts. The school children have set us a splendid example. They have already raised over £1/1/0 by means of their puzzle pictures, and hope to do more. Well done, children!

Tuesday, March 8th, is the anniversary of the death of that great and dearly loved Bishop of Lincoln, Edward King, who died 28 years ago. Year by year he is commemorated throughout the diocese on this day, and special services are authorised for use in every parish church. Here we shall have a celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 11.30, which will be attended by all the clergy of the Deanery. We shall also have with us Canon Wilgress, Bishop King's nephew, who lived with him for many years as his domestic chaplain. The address will be given by the Bishop of Grantham. All who revere the memory of the saintly Bishop King will surely wish to be present at this service of commemoration.

Lady Day.—The Vicar's first statutory sermon in the Cathedral as Canon of Lincoln will be preached on Friday, March 25th, the Festival of the Annunciation of Our Lady, and the Patronal Festival of the Cathedral church. The service is that of the Choral Eucharist, which is celebrated in the Cathedral on all Sundays and Holy Days. In his absence the celebration here will be taken by one of the clergy from Bourne.

Confirmation.—This will be in Greatford church on Wednesday, March 30th, at 2.30, and will be administered by the Bishop of Lincoln. We hope to present six candidates.

S.P.G.—The sum of £4/18/7 has been sent as the result of our Mission Sunday last month. Of this sum no less than £3/8/0 was in the 13 missionary boxes, an increase on last year.

35 years ago, March 1903.—*"Rapid progress is being made with the enlargement of the Hall. Externally it is approaching completion and the south wing only remains to be slated. Mr. Fenwick, who has been residing temporarily at Hanthorpe House, has now taken up his residence at the Vicarage until the completion of the Hall."*

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(By comparing the above extract with that which we quoted last month it will be seen how great a task the reconstruction of the Hall was. It took over a year to do, and an army of work-people were quartered in the village for many months. Those were indeed prosperous times for the local trades-people, and the village shop in particular reaped a golden harvest, for there were no buses to take shoppers to the town, and few means of getting there except by bicycle or on foot !)

Church collections in January.—Total £6/18/8.

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Easter.—The great Festival of Our Lord's Resurrection will soon again be with us, preluded by the solemn Holy Week, in which comes the most sacred day in the year, Good Friday. How dramatic is the swift passing from the one to the other, and how immensely it helps us, if we really enter into the spirit of them both. The joy of Easter Day is far more real if we have first watched with our Master in His Sacred Passion. Note the times of Holy Communion on Easter Day: 7, 8 and 11.

The Commemoration of Bishop King.—Seldom do we remember a more moving and inspiring service here than that which we had on March 8th, when we gave thanks to God for the saintly life and devoted episcopate of Edward King, Bishop of Lincoln. Thanks to the kindness of our Rural Dean, it was possible to have with us nearly all the clergy of the Deanery. Present too, was Canon Wilgress, Bishop King's nephew, who afterwards expressed his great joy at taking part in what he described as a service, simple and yet solemn, every detail of which would have gratified and delighted his uncle, whose presence with them in spirit that morning, he said, he could almost feel. The Bishop of Grantham's sermon was a touching tribute to the life and work of the great Bishop, who won all hearts by the sheer force of his love. His notable address, at the special request of the Bishop of Lincoln, is to be printed in the next month's issue of the Diocesan Magazine.

The Uppingham Musical Festival takes place on Thursday, April 7th. It will be a great day for our Choral Society, who are competing in three events. We wish them every success, and hope that they will worthily uphold the fine tradition established in the past by Witham-on-the-Hill. Our conductor, Mr. Crossthwaite, has throughout the winter been most assiduous and painstaking in bringing us up to the scratch, and deserves our warmest gratitude.

The Annual Vestry and Church Meeting will be held (D.V.) on Easter Tuesday, April 19th, at 7 p.m., in the Village Hall. Then we shall elect our churchwardens, sidesmen and new Church Council, and the financial statement for last year will be submitted. We earnestly hope that a large number will show by their attendance their interest in the affairs of their Parish church, even should they be "buttresses" rather than "pillars" of it!

This Easter will be the 38th that your Vicar has been spared to minister to you here. During this long period he has striven to serve this church and parish to the best of his powers, a friend to all, and an enemy to none. All he asks for is your trust and support, until the time comes when another shall take his place.

Thirty-five years ago: April, 1903.—*"In accordance with the requirements of the new Education Act, a body of six school managers has been appointed, which consist of the Vicar, the two Churchwardens, the Squire, Mr. F. Browett and Mr. W. Inglis. They will commence their duties on May 1st, the day when the Act comes into operation."*

Note on the above.—The Education Act mentioned here brought great changes to the elementary schools of the country. Previous to this, our school was managed by the Vicar and churchwardens, and, we venture to think, managed efficiently, as our old friend Mr. Metcalfe will be the first to bear witness. As he is still one of our regular readers, perhaps he may have a word to say on the subject for next month's issue!

Church Collections in February.—£4/16/4.

" " " **March.**—£6/16/10.

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Easter.—The church was, as always, most beautifully decorated for the great Festival, at which there were encouraging numbers, particularly at the 11 o'clock service, our Easter "Sacrifice of Praise and Thanksgiving." The signing of the Anglo-Italian agreement on the previous day contributed in no small measure towards the greater happiness of the Festival. The Vicar wishes to thank his people most sincerely for their generous offerings on Easter Day.

Visitors.—There were with us at Evensong on Easter Day some old friends, in the shape of Mr. and Mrs. Nat. Moxon, looking well and happy. It was delightful to see them after the lapse of so many years. They left the Palace Farm (where Mr. Moxon was born in 1861, and had previously spent the whole of his life), nearly 24 years ago.

The Annual Easter Vestry Meeting was duly held on Easter Tuesday. One item on the agenda was the presentation of the church accounts for the past year. These disclosed the fact that the church collections for all purposes amounted to the sum of £93/6/8, the highest figure ever reached in any previous year. One point must be made clear. The amount paid for washing was only 3/-, but in reading out the items the Vicar apparently read this as £3, through a slip of the tongue. As Mrs. Pell is kind enough to do much of our washing quite gratuitously, we owe her an apology for this mistake.

A Garden Fete.—It is hoped that a fete may be held in the early summer for various parochial objects. Commander and Mrs. Crichton-Maitland have very kindly offered the use of the Hall grounds for this purpose.

The Choral Society are indeed to be congratulated on the success of their efforts in the Competitive Festival at Uppingham last month. It was no small triumph to have tied for the highest place, nor to have gained the top score in any single event in the whole competition, as we did with our 88 marks for the "Music Makers"! Many of us were puzzled that, in spite of this, none of the awards came our way, but, as in cricket, we must not dispute the umpire's decisions, so we are sure that the adjudicator had his good and sufficient reasons for conferring the trophies as he did.

The Bishop's Appeal.—The offerings at the week-day services during Lent were allocated to this object, and the goodly sum of £3/14/6 was thus collected. and has been sent to the Treasurer, Canon Cook.

Mr. W. E. Metcalfe has written to the Vicar with reference specially to our paragraph about the school in last month's Magazine. After offering sincere congratulations to the Choral Society on our success at Uppingham, which was "all the more meritorious when one considered the "restricted choice of suitable voices in so small a parish," he recalled the competitions of 1910-1914, in which our children did so well, winning outright the Challenge Shield (which, by the bye, still hangs in the school.) As to the school itself (of which Mr. Metcalfe was headmaster for nearly 36 years,) he writes:—"one looks back with pleasure and gratitude to the practical support ever "given (by the managers) to the teacher. In the days of your immediate predecessor, the Rev. "J. T. Halland, who was a "Live Wire" in matters of schools and education, the personal touch "was always available. Witham School has indeed been fortunate during the past half century in "the choice of its managers, between whom and its teachers, the happiest relations existed."

The Vicar is perforce obliged to be off duty for a few weeks. During his absence some of the services may have to be omitted, but he feels sure that his people will understand. He hopes—D.V.—to be back among them before the end of the month.

Baptism.—17th, April (Easter Day) Philip William, son of William and Phyllis Oldman.

Witham-on-the-Hill, Manthorpe, Toft and Lound.

My dear friends,

Although I should have preferred to let this magazine go to press without a personal reference myself, I feel that my absence from among you during the greater part of May, needs a word of explanation. In the first place it has constituted a "record," for never before has illness kept me away from a single Sunday service in the past. Thirty-eight years of practically unbroken health something very wonderful indeed, and for which I can never be sufficiently thankful. And then when the break came at last, it was only for a very short time, thanks to the skill of the doctor and the unremitting care of the nurses in the hospital, so that I can now look forward to a real renewal of health and strength, to serve you the better in the future. for so long as God may permit me to stay here as your priest and pastor. During the three weeks which I spent actually in bed, I was inexpressibly touched by the very great kindness shown to me, the flowers and the little offerings, and the constant visitors, and the innumerable messages, it was almost worth being ill

be thus assured that I had such friends! I am grateful to the clergy who took the services during my absence, Canon Wilgress, Mr. Smith of Careby and Mr. Hopkins of Edenham, who also ministered to me personally, and during each week celebrated the Holy Communion in my sick-room.

With my grateful thanks for all these many expressions of kindness, and not the least to the ringers, for their welcome peal.—I am, your affectionate friend and Vicar,

L. H. Cooley.

The death of Lady Lawrance.—After a long and wearisome illness, Lady Lawrance passed away at her home in London on May 25th, at the great age of 97. Thus she has survived her husband, the Rt. Hon. Mr. Justice Lawrance, by over 25 years. She and the Judge resided at Witham Hall for some nine years, previous to the sale of the estate in 1902. There can be very few parishioners now who knew her, but those who do will remember the active interest which she ever took in the village and parish. To the Vicar she has always remained the kindest of friends. It was her specially expressed wish that he should officiate at her funeral, which is to be at Dunsby the 28th, in the same grave as that of the Judge. R.I.P.

Ascension Day.—The Sisters of St. Mary's Home, Ketton, accompanied by all their charges, will once again spend the afternoon of this great Festival at Witham. This visit now seems almost annual event. Commander and Mrs. Crichton-Maitland are entertaining them at the Hall with their accustomed kindness, and then will follow the beautiful Festal Service in church, conducted by the Vicar of Ketton, while the address is by the Rector of St. John's, Stamford, the Rev. J. P. Hoskins.

In Memoriam.—We deeply regret to have to chronicle the death of Mr. J. A. Skarratt, of Toft, who passed away somewhat suddenly on 7th May. During the five years that he had resided the little toll-bar cottage, he had made many friends, and he will be greatly missed. By his gentle and courteous disposition he endeared himself to all who knew him. R.I.P.

N.B.—THE GARDEN FETE is fixed for Saturday, July 16th.

Church Collections in May (first four Sundays): £4/15/9.

Baptisms.—30th April—Anthony John, son of Lawrence and Doris Challand. 1st May—Terence William, son of John William Ernest and Violet Velma Vout.

Burials.—10th May, John Alfred Skarratt, aged 75 years. 16th May, Reginald Alan Edward Brothwell, aged 2 months.

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The Magazine, which is usually issued so punctually, will be late this month, through the loss of copy in the post. The Vicar posted his manuscript to the printers on June 20th, but did not discover that it had failed to reach them until the 29th, when they notified him by telephone that it had never arrived. Consequently he has had to write these notes afresh.

The proposed Fete has been indefinitely postponed. When it was found that the date which we had fixed, July 16th, was the day of the Hospital Carnival at Bourne, there was no alternative but to cancel it. Fortunately our financial needs are not just now extremely urgent. We have our Church endowment on which to rely for repairs to the fabric, and our weekly offerings remain so good that we can pay our way without difficulty. Never once this year have these been below £1 a Sunday. Still, apart from money considerations, a village fete is always an enjoyable thing, and in many villages the annual fete is keenly looked forward to.

The Vicar's recent indisposition necessitated his absence last month from the Archdeacon's Visitation, and both the Diocesan and the Rural Deanery Conferences, though the latter was attended by six parish representatives. It also was responsible for the meeting of the South Lincs. Clergy Federation being held at Holbeach, instead of at Witham as originally arranged. We had invited the Dean of Peterborough as speaker, and there would have been an attendance of between thirty and forty clergy. However, the September meeting is to be held here instead, and this time we have asked Canon John How, Vicar of Brighton, to preach at the morning service, and address the afternoon meeting. Canon How, who is a nephew of Mr. Halland, spent much of his boyhood here, and is keenly looking forward to coming to Witham once more.

Rose Day Collections.—These resulted as follows:—Witham £1/19/8, Manthorpe 4/10, Toft with Lound 14/-. Total, £2/18/6. Last year the figure was £3/12/8.

Mothers' Union.—The Deanery annual Festival was held at Greatford on June 1st. The members of our branch who attended were conveyed in the Vicar's and Miss Atkinson's cars.

The death of an old Witham native, Mr. Robert John Williamson, took place last month at Loughborough, where he was living with his son Amos. For no less than 30 years he was a devoted and constant member of the choir here, and appears in photographs of the choir groups in the vestry, one dated 1887 and another 1908. On his leaving the parish in 1913 he was presented with a handsome clock, in recognition of his long and faithful service. "Bob" Williamson was quite a character in his way, a gentle and genial soul, popular with everyone. He was 77 when he died. R.I.P.

Thirty-five years ago. (From the *Parish Magazine* for July, 1903).

"The members of the Cricket Club desire to record their hearty thanks to Mr. Fenwick for his generosity in providing the excellent ground which we now possess, and which he has levelled at his own expense. Few villages of the size of Witham can boast of such a wicket."

The above quotation will remind some of us of those good old days when the Witham Cricket Club was among the most redoubtable in the neighbourhood, and one of which as a parish we were deservedly proud. And now it has gone. With it, too, our once flourishing bowls club, and lawn tennis club. As regards the latter, the Vicarage court is still available, and the Vicar would rejoice to see it used again.

Church Collections in June.—£5/5/4.

Burial.—June 23rd, William Hare, aged 77 years.

Witham-on-the-Hill, Manthorpe, Toft and Lound.

Sunday, August 8th.—On this Sunday the Vicar expects to be absent from home. And, as on the Sundays in May during his illness, so again on this Sunday, there will be no evening service. The Holy Communion will be celebrated at 9 o'clock (not at 8) by the Vicar of Edenham, and Mattins with sermon will be at 11 a.m. conducted by the Rector of Careby. The Vicar is deeply indebted to these two friends for their great kindness in coming to Witham, and thus enabling him to enjoy the rest and change of a Sunday spent in Devonshire.

Closing of the School Library.—In spite of protests and remonstrances, the library has been closed, the reason given being that of the need for increased "economy"! This plea however seems somewhat difficult to reconcile with our ever-mounting rates! We sympathise with those, and they are a large number, who valued the privilege which the library offered, and who are now deprived of their weekly stock of literature. As we are remote from any other library centre, the decision hits us particularly hard.

"Toc H."—On the 14th of July there was much unwonted activity in our quiet little village. Scores of cars were arriving, and many wondered what was afoot. It was the Peterborough branch of Toc H, which brought here for their annual outing large numbers of crippled, maimed and ailing people from the city, to spend the afternoon among the ideal surroundings of the Hall grounds. *What is Toc H?* In order to answer this question fully we should need a far larger space in this magazine than is allowed to us! Very briefly, it is a great organised movement or brotherhood, the members of which are pledged to the service of their fellow-men. It had its origin during the War, in a house behind the trenches in the Ypres Salient, a little place where both officers and men could find rest, refreshment and fellowship. Here, too, was a tiny chapel, where the Holy Communion was celebrated day by day. They called it Talbot House, after Gilbert Talbot, a son of the Bishop of Winchester, who had been killed in action in 1915. In signallers' language it got to be known as "Toc H," hence the strange name. After the war Toc H was re-formed, and it is now a huge organisation spread throughout the length and breadth of the British Empire. All its members are pledged to do all in their power to brighten the lives of those around them, and help wherever help is needed. Happy is the place wherein there is a branch or a group of Toc H.

The Rev. J. T. Halland has for some time been in failing health, which we earnestly hope may prove only temporary. All his friends here desire to send him their affectionate greetings, and their best wishes for his recovery.

Thirty-five years ago.—The *Parish Magazine* for August, 1903, records the opening of the Telegraph Office in the village. This was owing to Mr. Walter Fenwick, who guaranteed it against loss. It also records a choir trip to Skegness, and thanks to Mr. Thos. Pick for sending a waggon to the Station to convey us home! Now-a-days we do the trip by road, and in greater comfort!

Church Collections in July.—(First 4 Sundays) £6/13/4.

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The School.—It is now generally known that Miss Atkinson has decided, to our great regret, to terminate her duties as Head Mistress in the near future. She generously states that her sole reason is for the good of the School. We appreciate her unselfish motive, and still venture to hope that such a step is not irrevocable. We cannot say at this early date, what, when she goes, the future of the School may be, but the Managers hope to secure the services of another certificated Head Mistress. Failing this, the School would be reduced to a "junior" status, and the older scholars would attend elsewhere. This will eventually happen in any case, but for as long as possible we hope to retain all our scholars in our own Church School, at least until the school-leaving age is raised to 15.

An important event.—On Thursday, September 22nd, there will be a large gathering of clergy here, when the Vicar has invited the members of the South Lincolnshire Federation to meet at Witham. The Holy Eucharist will be sung at 11-15, and the special preacher will be the Vicar of Brighton, the Rev. Canon John How. It is hoped that many parishioners will attend.

Canon How is a nephew of the Rev. J. T. Halland, the previous Vicar here. As a boy he lived with his uncle at the Vicarage, and retains his early love for Witham. He has had an unusually distinguished career, first at Cambridge, where he was Principal of the Oratory House, then later, Rector of Liverpool, and subsequently appointed to the important Vicarage of Brighton, where our own Bishop formerly was. Twice has he received the offer of a bishopric. It will be a great privilege and pleasure to have him with us here, and one which, for the sake of old associations, he will himself keenly appreciate.

Our Harvest Thanksgiving has usually been held on the second Sunday in October, and we propose, subject to the consent of the Church Council, to keep to this arrangement again this year. There will also be a week-day service on the Friday before. This makes it possible to ask some neighbouring priest to come and preach.

The Choir and Ringers' Outing to Skegness took place on July 25th, in ideal summer weather. The Sunday School Outing to Wicksteed Park was on August 5th. Many friends accompanied both parties.

The Bishop and Mrs. Hicks are throwing open their beautiful grounds at Lincoln on the 28th and 29th September for a great Diocesan gathering (see the bill on the notice board). All will be welcome. It may be possible to charter a bus, if a sufficient number desire to go from here. Any who wish to do so are asked to give their names to the Vicar as early as possible.

The Parish Quota.—The first Sunday in each quarter is, as most of us know, set apart for offerings in support of the payment which this parish is pledged to make to headquarters in Lincoln. Everyone, whether they attend the church or no, should consider it their duty to contribute to this fund. Some do send in their quarterly gifts, but many do not. May we appeal to others who at present do not subscribe, to remit some small sum to the Vicar, to be added to the church collection, thus taking their part in a duty incumbent on all who "profess and call themselves Christians."

Thirty-five years ago.—The only item of interest in the Magazine for September, 1903, is the note that "*the Sunday collections for the 19 Sundays since Easter, amounted to £21/13/10.*" Thus we see that even in those early years our collections amounted to over £1 per Sunday. There were larger numbers then, however, to give.

Church Collections for August.—£5/1/5.

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The European Crisis.—At the moment of writing these notes (24th September), the International outlook is grave and disquieting, what the future may have in store for us is known only to God. Then it is to Him that we must go. We must *pray*, pray for peace and justice. Our church is His audience-chamber, use it more as a place where we can specially meet Him, particularly in the great Intercession Service of His own appointing. Christians in all the world are united in praying "Give peace in our time O God." Let us in our little village swell this great stream of Intercession.

The School.—We cannot yet say for certain what is to be the future of our school. As we wrote last month, the Managers are still endeavouring to obtain the services of a mistress to take Miss Atkinson's place at the end of this month. Should they fail, it will next year become a "junior" school, our scholars over the age of eleven will attend at Bourne, and a special 'bus will be provided to take them daily.

Canon John How, who was the special preacher at our service for the Fellowship of Lincolnshire Clergy on September 22nd, is to be consecrated as Bishop of Glasgow in St. Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow, on November 16th, and will be enthroned the same evening. He asks for our prayers. Several friends, who knew him as a boy, had the pleasure of a talk with him after the service. Among these was Mr. Metcalfe, who with Mrs. Metcalfe came from Lincoln specially to see him, and hear him preach in the old church. As to the service itself, many of the clergy present expressed their deep appreciation at taking part in an act of worship so solemn and beautiful, a pattern, as one said, for every village church.

The Archdeacon of Lincoln, who was present at the afternoon meeting, afterwards paid his first official visit to the church. He was evidently deeply impressed, for his first words as he entered it were, "O! how beautiful."

Harvest Thanksgiving Services will be held on Friday, October 7th, at 7 p.m., and on Sunday, October 9th. The special preachers will be the Rev. J. P. Hoskins, Rector of St. John's, Stamford, on the Friday, and the Rev. A. C. P. Payne, assistant priest of Bourne, on the Sunday evening, who will exchange with the Vicar, who is preaching at Bourne.

Gifts and offerings are specially asked for. Once again the tables will be set up in the church. Will you all bring some gift with you, groceries, provisions of every kind, vegetables, fruit, eggs, &c. These are afterwards taken to the Hospital, where they are received with the utmost gratitude.

Difficulty of hearing in the church.—The Vicar has just realised how difficult it is to hear the words of a sermon at the back of the church, where he sat the other day while Canon How was preaching. He himself always endeavours to speak loudly and clearly when in the pulpit, and is anxious to know whether those at the back of the church can hear or not. Our pulpit, handsome as it is, is too high above the heads of the worshippers. To lower it would spoil its proportions. What we really need in our lofty church is a sounding-board.

In Memoriam.—We wish to express our sincere sympathy with the family of the late Mr. Whittle, who passed away after a long illness, last month. Some eight years ago he came here from Market Overton. Here he had the great sorrow in the loss of his wife about four years ago, a sorrow which he never quite got over. During the many months of his last illness he showed a patience and resignation which was quite remarkable. Always happy and cheerful, he seldom if ever complained. His body was laid to rest beside that of his wife, and many friends and parishioners showed by their presence how widely respected he was. R.I.P.

Collections during September.—£6/11/0.

Burial.—19th September—Ernest William Whittle, aged 74 years.

Witham-on-the-Hill, Manthorpe, Toft and Lound.

Thanksgiving.—Our first note this month must be one of deep and most heartfelt gratitude to Almighty God. At the eleventh hour He heard and answered the unceasing intercessions of His people, and saved the world from the awful and unspeakable horrors of war. Those who have doubted the power and reality of prayer can now doubt no more. That swift and almost un hoped-for deliverance was God's clear answer to our *prayers*, and those of millions besides. This miracle, which He has wrought before our eyes, should help more than anything else to recall us to His Service, and bring us back once more in love and thankfulness to His allegiance.

Our Harvest Thanksgiving Services last month were hearty and well attended. The money offerings amounted to £5/2/0, which sum was divided equally between the Stamford Infirmary & the Butterfield Hospital. To the latter we sent our gifts of provisions and foodstuffs. The Matron has written to the Vicar as follows: "Will you please convey to your good people how greatly I appreciate their very generous gifts of groceries, fruit & vegetables. Perhaps they would be interested to know that they weighed 207 pounds!"

Our Quota exceeded.—On the first Sunday in October (the fourth and last of our Quota Sundays) the offerings came to £3/16/7. This was also the Sunday of Thanksgiving for peace, a possible reason for the larger amounts given. We have thus exceeded our Parish apportionment by 13/3. The Secretary writes: "I am most grateful. The additional contribution is very greatly appreciated, and is a splendid example to some of your neighbouring parishes."

Waifs and Strays Society.—A "sunflower day" for this Society was held in the village on Sept. 30th. It was organised by Miss Atkinson and her sister. The proceeds came to £1/1/2.

Apples.—It was such a joy to the Vicar to be able to supply so many households with apples and pears from his super-abundant crop this year. They were distributed to all who expressed a wish to have any. Thus several hundred-weights found their way to those who had none!

The Choral Society has commenced its new session, under Mr. L. Crosthwaite. New members will be welcomed.

Armistice Sunday will be observed on November 13th. On Armistice Day the Two-minutes' Silence will be kept in church, as in former years.

Golden Wedding.—Our old friends Mr. and Mrs. James Haddon completed 50 years of married life on October 28th. We all would wish them every happiness for the future. It is surely unique that one who has been a wife for 50 years should still have her mother living. Yet such is the case with Mrs. Haddon, whose mother, Mrs. Cooper, is now residing with her.

Our oldest parishioner, Mrs. Ellen Pickering, passed away peacefully at Toft on October 21st, within a month of her 90th birthday. The end came somewhat suddenly, only about 2 hours after the Vicar was with her, when she appeared in her usual health. She was buried in Lancashire beside her husband. R.I.P.

The Infirmary Linen League.—46 articles and £1/1/0 in subscriptions have been sent to the League from this parish.

Thirty-five years ago (from the Parish Magazine, October, 1903).—"Miss Knipe has generously given two oak hymn-boards in memory of her mother." Mrs. Harris (as she is now) is still a regular reader of this Magazine, and will be gratified to know how useful these have been.

Witham-on-the-Hill, Manthorpe, Toft and Lound.

Christmas Day.—The Holy Communion will be celebrated at 7, 8 and 11 a.m. On this great and holy Festival let us not fail to meet our blessed Lord in the way He Himself has commanded. To keep His Birthday and forget Him is surely unworthy of any professing Christian. As Christmas Day falls on a Sunday there will be a short festal evening service at 6-30, with hymns and carols. Offerings on Christmas Day will be given to the Waifs' and Strays' Society.

Wedding.—As these notes go to press before Miss Margaret Wallis's marriage, we desire to offer her our heartiest good wishes for many years of happiness. She was baptized here by the present Vicar, who now has the happiness and privilege of marrying her. For many years she has distributed this Magazine month by month in Toft and Lound, a kindness which has been very much appreciated.

The Jumble Sale last month, organized by the members of the Mothers' Union, was quite an outstanding success. Therewere quantities of bargains, prices were extremely low, and purchasers numerous, so that the entire stock was sold. Counting subscriptions, total proceeds came to £3/6/0.

The School.—We were fortunate to have secured the services of Mr. Wells as temporary head-master, who took over at the beginning of November. He has brought a happy atmosphere with him, and is much liked by his pupils. We hope that it may be possible for him to stay with us for some months at the least. The new County Director of Education, Mr. R. Y. Logan, is very anxious that no change in status of this School may be made until the new Central School at Bourne is built. So that we hope that we may keep our senior children here for some considerable time yet.

Poppy Day.—The proceeds of the sale of poppies in the parish on Armistice Day amounted to £4/17/7. To this must be added the collection in church on Armistice Sunday of 19/-. The total therefore is £5/16/7. Last year we sent in £6/12/4.

New Pavements.—The village of Witham is becoming quite urbanised with its new asphalt foot-paths and curb-stones. While the work was in progress, the Vicar asked the Surveyor to lay the path to the Village Hall, and send the bill in to him. He is glad to make this small contribution towards a better approach to the entrance, which before was paved with rough cobbles, between which the weeds grew, so that it always looked neglected and untidy.

During the gale on November 23rd one of the clerestory windows in the church was blown in, but fortunately this time the great West window stood the terrific strain, although more than once during the Vicar's time this has given way. We hope that no other buildings suffered so severely as the Vicarage, where the damage done was very considerable.

The Bishop's Appeal Fund.—On the Sunday before Advent (20th November) we once again devoted our offerings, as did the churches throughout the Diocese, to this fund, and £2/7/9 was given. But for the fact that the day was extremely wet, the amount would doubtless have been larger.

Thirty-five years ago.—In December, 1903, Mr. Samuel Newham died, at the age of 73. He was the father of Mr. Charles Newham, who died nearly two years ago. Mr. Newham, senior, who lived in Mr. Miller's house, was postmaster for many years, and was by trade a tailor, and a very good tailor too. He always made the Christmas coats. For many years he was in the choir, and before the days of the church organ, took his part in the village orchestra. A fine old character.

Baptisms.—30th Oct. Frederick Robert, son of Arthur Hilton & Freda Fanny Metheringham.
27th Nov. John William, son of Frank and Bessie Alice Grant.

Marriage.—November 26th. Lionel Atkinson and Stella Margaret Wallis.