

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

The Parish Magazine.—Through the kind co-operation of our ever-obliging printers, the space reserved for local notes is once again its original size. I am very grateful to them. The whole difficulty is, of course, the serious shortage of paper, which affects all publications in just the same way. Your daily paper, for instance, which not so long ago, consisted of 20 or more pages, has now probably only 4! So it is with the Magazine. Indeed I think we are fortunate to be able to carry it on at all, in these difficult days.

An interesting reference to our Magazine appeared recently in the local Press, which most of you probably saw. Its long life of 39 years was mentioned, and the reason was given as to why the parishes which support it are so wide apart. During all these years I have personally written the Witham notes, and tried to instil into them as much interest as I could. I feel too, that I cannot altogether have failed, judging by our very large circulation.

When paying for the Magazines, it would greatly assist those kind ladies who take them round each month, if all who can do so were to pay *in advance*, either for the whole year, or for months. This was at one time the general custom, and it saved the distributors a great deal of trouble and time. I greatly hope that more will again adopt this simple course.

The sacred season of Lent will soon be here again. It is a call to us all to try and do better than we are doing with our lives, and remember once again our duty to God, to love Him, obey Him and worship Him. There are some who seem to have forgotten these great duties, and who "forsake the assembling of themselves together" in His Holy House. I miss so many who at one time were always with us on Sundays, and now their places are empty. I often ask myself, is it my fault? Have I failed my people? If so, then let us together try to make a new start. You can help me, and if you do, I feel that I can help you still more. The only alternative seems for me to make way for a younger and more active priest, even as in another sphere our great Archbishop is now about to do.

During Lent, I hope to have the simple week-night services in the Village Hall, which proved so acceptable last year. To these I most earnestly invite you all. The first will be on Ash Wednesday, February 18th, at 7 o'clock.

Our first Quota Sunday, on January 18th, though cold and wintry, brought in the goodly sum of £47/10. Some who were unable to be with us in church, gave their contributions afterwards.

"Witham Palace."—Four months ago I referred to the old Tudor house in the village, all that remains of a once far greater one. I now have an old wood-cut showing the house as it was in former days. It was indeed a stately and beautiful mansion, surrounded by large pleasure grounds. I shall be delighted to show it to any one who is interested. Sir Everard Duncombe, whose forbears once lived there, recently sent me this old engraving.

The Social Club is proving an ever increasing attraction for our young people. There are no fewer than 54 members already! It is open on three evenings each week, and is always well attended. Recently a billiards table has been purchased, to add to the many interests provided. I should like, on behalf of us all, to express our grateful thanks to the Committee, on whose excellent organization the success of the club has entirely depended.

Mr. John Ellingworth, who died on January 15th, came here about 34 years ago from Barleythorpe, to make his home with his sister, Mrs. Robinson. Our deep sympathy goes out to her. R.I.P.

Missionary boxes should be brought in this month.

Confirmation.—Names of candidates are asked for early this month.

Burial.—January 17th. John Wade Ellingworth, aged 82 years.

L. H. C.