

MOTTO FOR 1942:

"Let us not be weary in well doing."—Gal. vi 9.

St. John = in = Bedwardine

Worcester,

New Series, No. 205. **JANUARY, 1942.** Price Twopence

Vicar: THE REV. C. T. POWELL, M.A., The Vicarage.

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The Prayers of the Church.

Persons desiring the Prayers of the Church either for themselves or for others are asked to communicate with the Clergy.

Pastoral Visitation.

Parishioners are most earnestly requested to inform the Clergy of cases of illness, and also to tell them of any cases where a pastoral visit would be specially appreciated.

Private Celebrations of the Holy Communion

Will be gladly arranged for those who are too ill to come to Church.

Parochial and Diocesan Finance.

All parishioners and members of St. John's congregation are earnestly asked to become subscribers either to the Central Fund (annual or quarterly payments), or the Free-Will Offering Scheme (weekly payments). The Hon. Sec. of the Central Fund is MR. T. E. HUGHES, Helston House, 49, Comer Road. The Hon. Sec. of the Free-Will Offering Scheme is MRS. O. H. LAFLIN, 8, Homefield Road, Bromwich Road.

CHURCH COLLECTIONS.

" God loveth a cheerful giver."

| | | | | | | | |
|------|--------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|
| Nov. | 11-16.—Parochial Fund | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| | 16.—Church Expenses | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 7 | 3 |
| ,, | 19-21.—Parochial Fund | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 1 | |
| ,, | 23.—Day School Fund | ... | ... | ... | 18 | 18 | 8 |
| ,, | 26-30.—Parochial Fund | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 8 | 40 |
| ,, | 29.—Parochial Missionary Association | ... | ... | ... | | 7 | 6 |
| ,, | 30.—Church Expenses | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 19 | 8 |
| Dec. | 3-7.—Parochial Fund | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 11 |
| ,, | 7.—Church Expenses | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 7 | 0 |
| ,, | 7.—S.P.G. | ... | ... | ... | | 7 | 11 |
| ,, | 10-14.—Parochial Fund | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 5 | 11 |
| ,, | 14.—Church Expenses | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 14 | 10 |

ST. JOHN'S FREEWILL OFFERING SCHEME.

The contributions for the month ending December 14th amount to £4 4s. 3d., as follows:—

| No | £ | s. | d. | No. | s. | d. | No. | s. | d. |
|----|---|----|----|-----|----|----|-----|----|----|
| 2 | | 2 | 6 | 18 | 2 | 0 | 38 | 1 | 0 |
| 3 | | 10 | 0 | 19 | 2 | 0 | 39 | 11 | 4 |
| 4 | | 5 | 0 | 20 | 2 | 0 | 43 | 3 | 0 |
| 6 | | | 6 | 22 | 1 | 0 | 49 | 1 | 6 |
| 8 | | | 6 | 23 | 1 | 6 | 54 | 1 | 0 |
| 11 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 25 | | 6 | 55 | 1 | 0 |
| 12 | | 3 | 0 | 28 | 3 | 0 | 58 | 6 | 0 |
| 13 | | | 10 | 30 | 1 | 3 | 59 | | 10 |
| 17 | | 2 | 0 | 37 | 1 | 0 | | | |

Hon. Secretary: MRS. O. H. LAFLIN,
8, Homefield Road, Bromwich Road.

HOLY DAYS THIS MONTH.

(1) **Thursday, January 1st, Feast of the Circumcision of our Lord.**—7.30 a.m., Holy Communion; 10 a.m., Mattins; 10.30 a.m., Holy Communion; 5 p.m., Evensong.

(2) **Tuesday, January 6th, Feast of the Epiphany of our Lord.**—7.30 a.m., Holy Communion; 10 a.m., Mattins; 10.30 a.m., Holy Communion; 5 p.m., Evensong. (The alms at the Holy Communion will be given to the Oxford Mission to Calcutta.)

(3) **January 25th, Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul** falls on a Sunday this year.

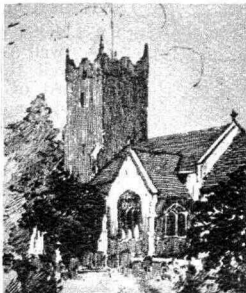
HOME WORDS

"NEW YEAR CHALLENGE."

By the Rev. CANON SALTER, M.A.

WE shall prevail against the Germans (says the Bishop of Chichester) if we give the Christian religion, rooted in faith in the divinity of Christ and in worship, the same place in our lives and in our political and social system as they give the Nazi religion in theirs. It has not got that place, nor anything like it, in England as yet. To secure that place is not the task of ministers of religion, either chiefly or alone. It is a challenge to statesmen and men of affairs, to men in business and industry, to laymen of all communities and in every kind of calling.

THESE words stirred me deeply when I paused and thought about them, especially as I read them at the same time as I received this quotation of Robert Sherwood from one of my readers: "We are not hearing the death-rattle of civilization but the last desperate struggle of the dying brute in man." I myself have always believed that our present agony is not the agony of death but the agony of life. We are passing through the birth pangs of a new age. The Christ of history, the Hope of the world, the Saviour of mankind, is issuing a challenge to all who believe in Him to battle against the evil forces within and without our souls. This is no time for selfish ease nor for slack morals. We must make up our minds whom we serve and where we stand. It is the echo of the voice of old saying to men once again: "Choose ye this day on which side ye will serve."



The King's Church,
Sandringham.

WE must be on our guard against the besetting sin of thinking we can "muddle through" to victory and ultimate peace. Just as the German nation is too clever and too efficient to be treated lightly, so the spiritual foes of God possess such a devilish cleverness that we can never afford to live our lives carelessly or thoughtlessly. Let us never forget that we wrestle not with flesh and blood, but against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Our

only hope of permanent peace, our only hope for a better world, is to return to the Lord of all good life, to seek the wisdom and power and courage of the Christ to see us through our present perplexities and problems. Our present emergencies are a challenge to us all to return to the God of our fathers—to recapture their sense of loyalty to the Highest, their habits of

worship and prayer and practical religion. Let us know where we stand in regard to our own personal loyalty to Jesus Christ and His Church. With the writer of Myer's "Saint Paul" let us declare, and act upon our declaration:

Who has felt the Spirit of the
Highest

Cannot confound nor doubt Him
nor deny:

Yea with one voice, O world, tho'
thou deniest,

Stand thou on that side, for on this
stand I.

If you know of any Church News which would interest our readers send it to the Art Editor, 11, Ludgate Square, London, E.C.4, during January. Six five-shilling prizes are awarded monthly. Photographs are especially welcome.



Sir Rattlebones.

Sir Rattlebones.

SHERSTON Church, in N. Wilts, has a remarkable figure in the porch. Round it has gathered a legend of a knight named Rattlebones who fought valiantly under Edmund Ironsides against the Danes in 1016. The figure really represents an archbishop—possibly St. Aldhelm.—Miss M. WIGHT.

Silver Sunday.

THERE is something to be said for one Silver Sunday a year. It was first tried, I believe, in Dawdon Parish Church, and the response was most generous from the colliery congregation. The total received was four times the usual collection.—J. D.

Airmen's Church.

ALMOST every one has heard of Cranwell Aerodrome. In the church at Cranwell there is a unique font constructed of aeroplane parts: it is intended for the christening of children whose fathers are in the R.A.F.—L. HOWARD.

Learnt to Read at 74.

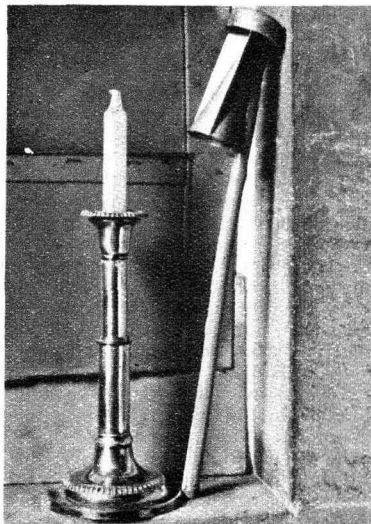
ON a gravestone at St. John's, Wednesbury, is recorded that Hannah Jinks, who died in 1852, learned to read at the age of 74, when she became one of the first Sunday school teachers connected with this church.

For Nagging Wives.

AT All Saints, Claverley, Shropshire, there is a pew for one. It is a seat in a niche cut in a pillar, and the occupant is invisible from most parts of the church. But nobody sits there now! It was intended as a seat of penance for nagging wives, and was in use as recently as seventy years ago.—Mrs. RACLE.

An Incendiary Bomb.

FROM a Gloucestershire correspondent we have this note: "We have had three lots of incendiaries on this parish, and a snuffer has been made from the head of one of these, mounted on a bamboo rod. The metal is silvered and the wood enamelled royal blue."



Bomb to Snuffer.

CHURCH NEWS.



Centenarian Canon.

The Rev. Canon Wylde.

Evacuated !

THERE is still being used in Kilkhampton (North Cornwall) Church a "Father Smith" organ. It is 250 years old and was brought to Kilkhampton from Westminster Abbey 80 years ago. It was originally built for Purcell's practice, and it is interesting to note that Handel played on this ancient organ. The two manuals have black keyboards.—S. SOUTHGATE.

Nursery Rhyme in Church.

IN Fawsley Church, near Daventry, there is carved on a pew door the old nursery rhyme about "The Cat and the Fiddle." Is there any other example known to our readers ?

Lent to Russians.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S, a twelfth-century leper chapel belonging to Oriel College, Oxford, is now used for worship by the Russian Orthodox Church for the Russian colony in the University city.—F. F. SMITH.

Two Centenarians.

THE Rev. Arthur Sewell and the Rev. Canon Wylde have both reached the age of one hundred years. The former still writes a beautiful hand; the latter reached his century on Easter Day—F. E. SMITH.

Church by Wireless.

WIRELESS is a boon to those living in England, but to exiles in Kenya it is a positive God-send. Many people live so far from a town that they may only get to church once a month. Nowadays they can "listen in" to Nairobi Cathedral. I heard a service broadcast the other day, and though I was 150 miles away the whole service could be followed perfectly, even down to the shuffling of feet after the sermon.—S. R. CLELAND SCOTT.

A Versatile Clerk.

ONE John Briggs, parish clerk of Hurley for 48 years, is thus described in a notice posted on the wall of his house :

"John Briggs, Parish Clerk Draws all Sorts of teeth in humour plays the violin shaves and cuts hair grinds razors scissors and Penknives Takes anything out of Eyes measures land and cures the itch out of hand and many other articles too tedious to mention. N.B. likewise Makes Womans shoes and Boots and High Shoes and Mens shoes and Translator 1783."

Translators transformed old boots into new !



Lent to Russians.



The Wise Men Follow the Star.

A Wall Painting in the Parish Church of St. Mary, Clymping.

ARE WE ON THE GOLD STANDARD?

By the Rev. L. B. ASHBY, M.A.

THE story of the Wise Men's worship of the little King at the first Epiphany has its appeal to every one who is fighting for truth, purity and kindness in the World War.

They brought gold to Christ. We talk of "the gold standard"; and gold suggests to us at once the test of solid worth. What we need to-day is an increase in the people of sterling character—people who are honest in all their dealings, whose simple word can be absolutely trusted. That is the gift (of priceless value in time of war) which we can offer to Christ.

They brought frankincense. We know what incense stands for. St. Paul says that the lives of Christians ought to be like "the sacrifice of a sweet-smelling savour unto God." And that suggests people who are helping to keep life and manners sweet and pure. What a gift to-day would be clean thoughts, clean speech and clean conduct! These might

not only win the war but keep the peace that is to be.

They brought myrrh. Myrrh has always been thought to stand for sympathy. But this is no virtue in the eyes of Nazi worshippers of ruthlessness. Let us fight that evil thing by our kindness, and we shall be offering the greatest of gifts to our little Lord.

To offer these is our worship of the highest—we could offer no less than our best. And He blesses our gift, illuminates it with the radiance of His approval, and gives it back to us to use for Him. He is the Light of the world; to worship Him is to accept Him as the Master-Light of all our seeing, and He bids us shine forth as lights lit by Him in a dark world.

The Gentle, the Compassionate,
the Wise,

Wiping earth's tears away, stilling
her strife,

Calling, "My path is peace, My
way is Life."

PICTURES IN CHURCH. *By HORACE KEAST*

THE most popular pictorial Bible in olden times was that which was painted on the walls of our parish churches, for in those days scenes from the Scriptures were painted on the interior walls of nearly every church and cathedral in the country. This practice began as early as the year 674, when Wilfrid, Archbishop of York, ordered the walls of his Minster to be decorated with pictures illustrating the Scriptures.

In recent years there has been a revival of this form of church decoration, although the modern pictures are seldom executed direct on the actual walls, in the manner of the old paintings, for modern artists prefer the method of painting their pictures on canvases, which are afterwards affixed to the church walls. Among the finest of these present-day wall pictures are those of the

tiny village church of St. Mary, Clymping, near Littlehampton.

These pictures, which consist of a series of eight paintings, are the work of the late Mr. Heywood Hardy, the noted painter, who died a few years ago. Noticing that the walls of this village church looked bare, he offered to paint a series of Biblical pictures to decorate the walls, and the parochial authorities accepted this offer with much gratitude. Within a few years a magnificent series of paintings were affixed to the walls of the church, illustrating some of the principal events in the Gospel story. The last picture, which was an imaginative study entitled "Lo, I am with you always," was finished shortly before the artist celebrated his eightieth birthday. Hundreds of visitors each year are attracted to this little Sussex village church in order to see this very successful modern experiment in church decoration.



The Flight into Egypt.

Wall Painting in the Parish Church of St. Mary, Clymping.



Photo by]

[Mrs. Joan Salt

Daddy's Picture.

Washing.

WHEN your tin of talcum powder is finished, fill it with water and use it for sprinkling clothes preparatory to ironing.—Miss HARDING.

Much time is saved on washing day if instead of blueing all the small clothes, you add blue to your hot starch. It means only one wringing and shaking out.—Miss BERESFORD.

A child's sixpenny cricket bat, well padded, makes an excellent sleeve board for ironing.—Mrs. STOCKBRIDGE.

When washing white clothes add a drop or two of paraffin to the washing and rinse water and they will not require boiling. This is a useful hint when washing cannot be hung out of doors.—Mrs. OLDMAN.

Iron lace curtains quite dry on a dress board and they will keep their shape.—Miss M. MOORE.

To prevent shrinking of wool stockings and socks, after a good wash in rain water, if available, have ready some good-size pebbles, quite hot. Place one in each, and hang up in a warm room. Heat pebbles in oven.—Miss R. BROWN.

WEEKDAY PAGES FOR Women with Homes.

Wartime Hints and Economies.

Sewing.

WHEN knitting socks I always knit in No. 10, 16 or 20 sewing cotton in heels and whole of feet. This quadruples the wear, and when eventually a hole appears there will be left a mesh of cotton which forms a network on which to darn.—Miss M. CRESSWELL.

It is really annoying to find the finger-tips of gloves worn out while the rest of the glove is sound. Before wearing your next pair, turn them inside out and attach small slips of adhesive tape inside at the top of each finger.—Miss REEVES.

When starting to knit a garment leave a length of wool about three-quarters of a yard long, and it will be in readiness for sewing the seams.

To give a tidy edge, always work the first and last stitch of a purl row knitwise and the first and last stitch of a knit row purlwise.—Miss J. HARRIS.

Nursing.

MEDICINE and other bottles can be freed of the smell of their former contents by half-filling them with cold water to which has been added a teaspoonful of mustard. Shake well and leave standing for a few hours, then rinse in cold water.—Mrs. DICK.

If you suffer from a lack of vitamin C, eat plenty of greens and remember that parsley is rich in this vitamin. Add it to soups and sauces liberally.—Mrs. WHEAL.

Instead of turning down the bed-clothes in the usual way, turn the blankets and quilt underways instead of on top and then turn the sheet over all as usual. I have tried this for a very restless invalid and have found the clothes as compact in the morning as when the patient went to bed.—B. E. A.

Cooking.

HERE is an easy way to cook rice. Put a little (not too much, as it swells) in a thermos flask and let it stand for two or three hours with boiling water poured on it.—Miss A. RAWLEYS.

To avoid the bursting of sausages when being fried. Flour them well, leave them in a string while cooking, and when cooked separate each sausage in the usual way before serving.—R. CRUFT.

When your butter ration is slightly rancid, try putting it in cold water for an hour or two to which you have added a good pinch of bicarbonate of soda. Finally wash in clean cold water.—Mrs. E. MOYNE.

When next making sandwiches spread the butter on one of the slices of bread only and on the other slice spread the sandwich mixture. Press the buttered slice on to the other.

—Miss M. TAGG.

To cook shin of beef in half the usual time, put salt into the water *after* it has boiled a few minutes and add a quarter of a teaspoonful of bicarbonate of soda. This will be found most effective.

—Mrs. M. HUBBLE.

Household.

A HANDY and useful candlestick can be made from empty Quick-grip tins. Place the candle firmly in the brush container. Surplus wax will not drip where it is not wanted.—Miss M. SLATFORD.

The dampened end of an ordinary match will remove inkstains from fingers.—Mrs. BOTTOM.

Damp weather causes steps and window-sills to go green. To clear this, wash over, and while still wet sprinkle with chloride of lime. Leave overnight, then put a handful of washing soda in a bucket of hot water, swill, and brush with broom or scrubbing-brush. Clean with cold water.—Mrs. STOCKBRIDGE.

During the black-out, when small electric bulbs are in use, try silver paper pasted inside the parchment shade as a lining. It will brighten a room considerably.—Mrs. MCPHEIL.

Here is a waterproof ink for writing posters:— Buy a bottle of any coloured ink and one of gum. Mix equal quantities in an egg-cup, and use an ordinary pencil brush for writing. I have used this for large church posters for 15 years.—A. E. WELLINGS.



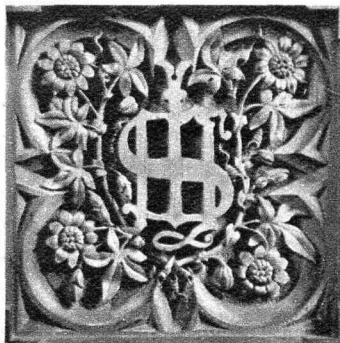
Though winter be chilly
With rationed good fare,
Just keep up your pecker
And all your crumbs share.

Children.

DROP an ordinary cotton reel inside sock needing mending. Use it to hold under hole or weak place. This will not stretch the sock as would the hand put in or a stocking darning.—Mrs. DUNNE.

The best way to stick on tyres of perambulators is to buy some oak varnish at an oil shop and rub a little of it round the rim and press on tyres. Do this at night so that it has time to harden by morning. Here is another wrinkle worth knowing: When tyres are worn down to the rim, if gently eased out with handle of a spoon, *reversed*, and put on again, they wear for a good long time, thus saving money, which is very essential at any time.—Mrs. C. TRAYLOR.

PRIZE PUZZLE PAGE.



The Sacred Monogram.

Photo by S. H. Parker.

THIS corner is for all who love puzzles and competitions. If you are young, try the easy ones; if you are grown up, tackle the others. I think you will know when you succeed, but, if not, you will find the answers in the February Number.

Eodsoigvl. Llwfmeco. Sjptewsuc.
Veolryuomiseene.

Hidden Birds of the Bible.

He is rather a venturesome boy.

The fruit was bitter, not fit to eat.

It will do very nicely for a first attempt.

I love a glee sung by the children.

It is the song of a lark I tell you.

How long will you wait for James?

What birds have I hidden in these lines?

Old Testament Books.

In each of the following sentences the blanks can be filled with words formed from the letters in the title of one of the Books of the Old Testament. Here is an example: Move your chair an (4) (6) to me. The missing words are inch and closer, and from those letters CHRONICLES is formed. Now try:—

ABIDE WITH US: A Motto for 1942.

By Beatrice Gibbs

Abide with those I love who go their way
To meet the joys and duties of the day,
In every danger they may have to meet
Abide with them, O Lord, and guide
their feet.

Abide with those I love, that as they go
The folk with whom they walk and talk
may know

A lovelier day for being at their side,
In love and joy, O Lord, with them
abide.

Abide with those I love, that when they
see

Another's load of tears and agony
Their hearts may ache for pity and
distress,

Abide with them, O Lord, in tenderness.

Abide with me, that those I love may
find

At home, true peace of body and of mind,
Courage and love to help them play their
part—

Abide with us, O Lord, and fill each
heart.

The little (4) boy can only watch (2) play.
One of the (3) (4) his head frequently.
Did you (3) the (4) at the corner
I hope (2) will get a good (4) to-night.

Cross-Text Puzzle.

Now for a more difficult puzzle, in doing which old and young can combine:

Write the words CHRIST JESUS and OUR REDEEMER in upright parallel columns and see if you can find eleven texts to link them; the first text beginning with a C and ending with O, the second beginning with H and ending with U, and so on. For the best texts, short, and when possible in keeping with the parallel words, we offer a prize of half a guinea. Address: The Puzzle Editor, 11 Ludgate Square, E.C.4, before the end of the month.

Now for something for all who are clever with pen, pencil or paint brush. Copy as best you can the lovely sacred monogram I.H.S. which forms the heading to our page, and send your effort in January to the address already given. We offer a prize of half a guinea for the best sent in.

Riddle-me-re.

Lastly, an easy puzzle:

My first is in Jack but not in sprat,
My second is in bonnet but not in

hat.

My third is in rose but not in stem,

My fourth is in tuck but not in hem,

My fifth is in sun but not in moon,

My sixth is in plate but not in spoon,

My seventh is in yellow but not in
pink,

My eighth is in paper but not in
ink,

My ninth is in mussel but not in
sand,

My whole is a town in the Holy Land.

LETTER FROM THE VICAR.

18th December, 1941.

My dear Friends,

A New Year.

I wish you all a very happy New Year. May the war be over by our complete victory during 1942, and may we be starting therein on building up such a new world as may display the love of God and the love of man (including our present enemies) in action. It is an enormous responsibility to be a British statesman in time of war. And it will mean a greater responsibility still when warfare is over. Our prayers should be most earnest on behalf of "those who take counsel for the nations of the earth." We must continue to pray fervently also for our fighting services, who in 1942 may be called upon for efforts and for trials that may tell heavily upon them. We must go on praying as well for all the allied nations who are with us in this righteous struggle. Our enemies have a thoroughly bad case, and therefore we must pray for them that God would forgive them, and turn their hearts completely and entirely unto Him, as we pray that He also will forgive us all our national sins, especially our sins of neglect of Him, His Honour, His Kingdom, His Will, His House, His Book, His Day, and turn us, one and all, to Himself.

Prayer must be persevering. We must go on, and on, and on, whatever happens. You know what Job said, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him." And if Job could utter such a magnificent declaration of trust, how much more should we, who through Jesus Christ have such a fuller knowledge of God and of His Love than Job could possibly possess.

And, hand-in-hand with persevering prayer, must go persevering action and work. We must struggle, and go on struggling, for the carrying into effect the ideals of the Christian religion. This will entail sacrifice. Self-interest is a besetting sin for all of us. We must be prepared to back up those leaders in Church and State who, by their experience and knowledge, are trying to work out the new world of unselfishness which God, our loving Heavenly Father, desires to be brought into being. Our economic system, for example, may have to be radically altered. We must be prepared for this, and for many other changes, which at first sight may seem unwelcome. But this is because our lower self perceives it first, our self-interest. When we realise by our spiritual perception that it is not a case of what we want, but of what God wants, then we shall be ready to co-operate wholeheartedly.

God and man, here as always, must work together. We are human beings, not machines. Therefore, as we know that God's Will is an overmastering desire for our real and truest happiness, the object of all our prayers must be (1) to find out what God's Will and Purpose is, and (2) to ask for strength to do it. God wants to work through us. He will not do it all by Himself. Therefore we must place ourselves at His disposal.

So this is the sort of happiness I mean when I wish you all a very happy New Year. I mean the deep, true, abiding, satisfying happiness which comes to those who put **God First** in all that they think, and say, and do; who seek **first** His Kingdom and His Righteousness. This happiness the world cannot give. This happiness the world cannot take away.

New Year's Party.

Owing to the "black-out" it is impossible to hold this Party. Realising this, one kind friend on her own account has sent me five shillings, being the amount she would have spent on a prize and a ticket.

The profit on the New Year's Party starts off the Central Fund on its career. In 1942 this start will be missed. I wonder if other kind friends would like to follow the excellent example above, so that the Central Fund may not lose everything.

Preparation Classes for First Communion.

At the Confirmation held at All Saints' Church on Sunday, December 14th, we presented 22 candidates, 2 males and 20 females.

All these are under an obligation of honour to attend the six classes of preparation for Holy Communion. These classes start on Sunday, January 4th, and will be held on the same days and at the same times as the Confirmation classes.

The First Communions will be made on Sunday, February 15th.

United Service,

In connection with the Week of United Prayer a service for all Christian people, of whatever denomination, will be held in St. John's Church on Thursday, January 8th, at 3 p.m. You are all asked to make a special effort to attend this united service, if at all possible to you. It will be conducted by the Rev. W. J. Ashford.

Annual Missionary Sunday.

Our annual Missionary Sunday is fixed for the fourth Sunday in January, that means January 25th this year. Alms at all services will be on behalf of the missionary work of the Church, the first five guineas to S.P.C.K., and the rest to S.P.G.

Hours of Services.

In January weekday Evensong will be said at 5 p.m. Baptisms will be taken at 2.45 p.m. on Sundays, and at 4.30 p.m. on Fridays.

Sunday Evensong still at 3.30 p.m.

St. John's Sidesmen.

(1) Since I wrote last month we have lost, and that suddenly, a very faithful Sidesman in Mr. George Walker. God grant him rest and peace.

(2) The Sidesmen on duty in January are Messrs. Tyler, Webb, Wilson, and A. W. J. Raker.

Thanks.

(1) Congratulations and thanks to our King's Messengers, who, under the direction of Deaconess, have sent £11 for Missions, £6 for their Mission Scholar, and £5 for the (General Fund of S.P.G. Other gifts for "The World Call" (S.P.G.) are £5, 5/-, 5/-, 2/6. (2) Best thanks also for £3 3s. for our Assistant Clergy Fund, and for St. John's Central Fund 2/-, £1, £1 1s., £2, and a special gift of £1 in lieu of the usual M.U. Sale of Work.

St. John's Central Fund and Freewill Offering Scheme.

A good New Year's resolution is here and now suggested to a large number of my readers. And that is that you should become subscribers either to the Central Fund (annual or quarterly payments), or to the Freewill Offering Scheme (weekly payments by means of envelopes). We are urgently in need of more financial help in carrying out the work of the Church in our parish. So please join up. If you select the Central Fund, please drop a line to Mr. T. E. Hughes, Helston House, 49, Comer Road. If you prefer the Freewill Offering Scheme, please drop a line to Mrs. O. H. Laflin, 8, Homefield Road, Bromwich Road,,

Missionary Boxes.

The results for the second half of 1941 are as follows :—
Two S.P.G. (only) personal boxes, 18/6; King's Messengers, 1/-; total, 19/6. Medical Missions, one personal box, 2/10. 103 Joint Missionary boxes (personal), £26 3s. 1d. ; 3 Sunday: School boxes, £3 2s. 7d. ; total, £29 5s. 8d. Total of all boxes for the half-year, £30 8s.

The total received from Missionary boxes for the whole of 1941 was £59 16s. 1d. This sum is allocated as follows : Medical Missions, 6/7; S.P.G. General Fund, £26 11s. 10d. ; and £8 4s. 5d. each to (1) Moral Welfare Work in Worcester City and Rural Deanery, representing Missionary Work in our own town and district; (2) Diocesan Church Extension, representing Missionary Work in our own Diocese; (3) the Church Assembly Fund; and (4) the Additional Curates' Society (A.C.S.), the last two representing Missionary Work in our own country as a whole.

Past Events.

(1) Beautiful weather again favoured our Day School Festival on Sunday, November 23rd. Again I thank our Day School teachers and scholars for their kind interest in this great annual event. Also I thank all those members of the congregation who have been good enough to express commendation of our efforts. (2) St. John's again took its part at the annual S.P.G. Sale of Work. Through the praiseworthy work of Mrs. H. M. Stone and her supporters we made £16 15s. 8d.

S.P.G. Sale of Work.

St. George, £63; Claines, £24 3s. 6d. ; St. Andrew and All Saints, £18 8s. 9d. ; St. John, £16 15s. 8d.; St. Martin, £16 1s. 8d.; St. Clement, £12 12s. ; Norton, £7 5s.; St. Peter, £7 1s. 4d. ; St. Stephen, £1 12s. 6d. ; Concert and Sundries, £14 5s. 8d. Total, £181 6s. 1d. Expenses, £4 16s. 6d. Nett proceeds, £176 9s. 7d. (Last year's nett proceeds were £163 4s. 5d.)

With every good wish to you all,

I am, yours sincerely,

CHARLES T. POWELL.