

MOTTO FOR 1946:

"Ye are the light of the world. Let your light shine."—
St. Matt. v., 14 & 16.

St. John = in = Bedwardine

Worcester.

New Series No. 264

DECEMBER, 1946

Price Twopence

Vicar: CANON C. T. POWELL, M.A., The Vicarage.

Assistant Curate: THE REV. O. J. T. ROBERTS, M.A.,
115, Laugherne Road.

Official Woman Worker:

DEACONESS C. M. SYKES, M.A.,
73, Winchester Avenue, Malvern Road.

Churchwardens:

MR. ROBERT SMITH, 7, St. John's.

MR. A. P. HIGGINS, 2, Albany Terrace, Britannia Square.

Hon. Secretary of Parochial Church Council:

MR. O. H. LAFLIN, 8, Homefield Road, Bromwich Road.

Organist and Choir Master:

MR. H. G. BISHOP, 78, St. Dunstan's Crescent.

Clerk: MR. W. H. THOMAS, 17, Bromyard Road.

Sexton:

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 requested 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. R. V. BAKER, 40, St. John's. The Hon. Sec. of the Free-Will Offering Scheme is MRS. O. H. LAFLIN, 8, Homefield Road, Bromwich Road.

George Williams & Berrows, Ltd., The Trinity, Worcester.

CHURCH SERVICES

First Sunday in the Month

8 a.m., Holy Communion; 10 a.m., Holy Communion (Choral); 11 a.m., Mattins and Sermon; 12.15 p.m., Holy Communion; 3 p.m., Children's Service; 4 p.m., Baptisms; 6.30 p.m., Evensong and Sermon.

Third Sunday in the Month

8 a.m., Holy Communion; 10.15 a.m., Mattins (Plain); 11 a.m., Choral Celebration of the Holy Communion with Sermon; 3 p.m., Children's Service; 4 p.m., Baptisms; 6.30 p.m., Evensong and Sermon.

Other Sundays

8 a.m., Holy Communion; 10 a.m., Holy Communion (Choral); 11 a.m., Mattins and Sermon; 3 p.m., Children's Service; 4 p.m., Baptisms; 6.30 p.m., Evensong and Sermon.

Week Days

Mattins daily at 10 a.m.; Evensong daily at 6.30 p.m.; Intercessions at Evensong on Wednesdays; Holy Communion on Wednesdays and Fridays at 7.30 a.m.; Holy Communion on Saints' Days at 7.30 a.m., and also at 10.30 a.m.

Holy Baptism

Sundays 4 p.m., and Fridays 6 p.m., or by special arrangement with the Vicar. Two days' notice at least is required. (Forms should previously be obtained from the Sexton.)

Churchings

Before any Week-day Service, but notice should first be given to the Clergy or Sexton.

Sunday Schools (10 a.m. and 2.45 p.m.)

Boys: In Boys' School; Superintendent, THE REV. O. J. T. ROBERTS.—Girls: In Boys' School; Superintendent, MISS H. M. DAVIS.—Middle School: In Jubilee Room (Infants' School); Superintendent, MISS C. WILLSHAW.—Kindergarten: In the Infants' School; Superintendent, MRS. POWELL.

Parochial Missionary Association

Corporate Communion, fourth Sunday in the month. Meetings held according to notice. Hon. Secretary: MISS G. D. STOCKALL, 81, Comer Road.

Church of England Men's Society

Corporate Communion, first Sunday in the month. Meetings held according to notice. Hon. Secretary: MR. A. P. HIGGINS, 2, Albany Terrace, Britannia Square.

Mothers' Union

Enrolling Member: MRS. POWELL, The Vicarage. Corporate Communion, second Sunday in the month. Meetings held according to notice.

King's Messengers

Parish Room, Mondays, 5.30 p.m.

Girl Guides

St. John's Church Company meets under the direction of MRS. ANNIS, "Oaklands," 79, Bransford Road.

HOLY BAPTISM

"Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not."

- Oct. 19.—Rebecca Hunter, 9, Buck Street.
 „ 20.—Christine Violet Shuard, 22, Warboys Road.
 „ 20.—Judith Ethel Lester, 9, Laugherne Road.
 „ 20.—Glenys Evelyn Ravensdale, 70, Windsor Avenue.
 „ 27.—Patrick Augustus John Gibson, Claverham House.
 „ 27.—Terrence Henry Allsop, 48, Boughton Avenue.
 Nov. 3.—Angela Joan Evans, 83, Bransford Road.
 „ 3.—Eric David Thornton Hodges, 3, Kingsbury Road.
 „ 10.—Audrey Stone, 44, Bransford Road.
 „ 10.—Diana Patricia Beechey, 50, Bloomfield Road.

HOLY MATRIMONY

"Those whom God hath joined together let no man put asunder."

- Oct. 17.—Harold Victor Baddeley and Evelyn Joyce Pearce.
 Nov. 2.—Ronald Frank Harris and Dorothy Amelia Woodward.

CHRISTIAN BURIAL

"I am the Resurrection and the Life."

- Oct. 20.—Ada Elizabeth Hunt, 68 years; 10, Coventry Ave.
 „ 21.—Alice Maud Currey, 64 years; 3, Arrowsmith Ave.
 „ 28.—Frederick James Jones, 63 years; 36, Lambert Rd.
 „ 29.—Frank Masters, 75 years; 11, McIntyre Road.

§IN MEMORIAM

"Make them to be numbered with Thy Saints in Glory everlasting."

- Dec. 1, 1942.—In loving memory of Emma Harris, aged 83.
 „ 3, 1917.—Harriet Drew, aged 86 years.
 „ 3, 1939.—In loving memory of Albert Edward Gough.
 „ 7, 1930.—Arthur Winwood. At Rest.
 „ 12, 1934.—Sarah Ellen Harrison, Narrow Walk.
 „ 23, 1939.—Alice Heath.

CHURCH COLLECTIONS

"God loveth a cheerful giver."

				£	s.	d.
Oct.	16-20.—Parochial Fund	...	...	1	8	9
„	18.—Medical Missions	...	...		18	0
„	20.—Church Expenses	...	...	3	11	5
„	23-27.—Parochial Fund	...	...	1	17	4
„	27.—Hospital Sunday Fund	...	...	6	10	4

§Insertions in the "In Memoriam" Column are made at the rate of one shilling per line. Particulars should be sent to the Vicar before the 15th of the month.

				£	s.	d.
Oct. 28.—	Cambridge Mission to Delhi	...	...	1	1	0
„ 30-Nov. 3.—	Parochial Fund	...	...	1	15	10
Nov. 3.—	Church Expenses	...	...	4	6	3
Nov. 3.—	S.P.G.	...	...		6	4
„ 3-8.—	Parochial Fund	...	...		15	0
„ 9-13.—	Parochial Fund	...	...	2	4	3
„ 10.—	Church Expenses	...	...	6	0	1

ST. JOHN'S FREE-WILL OFFERING SCHEME

THE contributions for the four weeks ending November 10th amount to £1 16s. 10d., as follows:—

No.	s.	d.	No.	s.	d.	No.	s.	d.	No.	s.	d.
1	1	0	19	8	0	32	2	6	43	2	0
13		8	21		8	37	1	0	55	1	0
16		8	23	3	0	39	8	2	57	1	0
18	2	0	27	2	6	40		8	59	2	0

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

HOLY DAYS THIS MONTH

(1) *Saturday, December 21st, Feast of St. Thomas, Apostle.*
—7.30 a.m., Holy Communion; 10 a.m., Mattins; 10.30 a.m., Holy Communion; 6.30 p.m., Evensong.

(2) *Wednesday, December 25th, CHRISTMAS DAY.*

7 a.m.—Holy Communion.

8 a.m.—Holy Communion.

10 a.m.—Holy Communion (Choral).

11 a.m.—Choral Mattins, with Sermon.

12.15 p.m.—Holy Communion.

6.30 p.m.—Evensong.

(3) *Thursday, December 26th, Feast of St. Stephen, the First Martyr.*—7.30 a.m., Holy Communion; 10 a.m., Mattins; 10.30 a.m., Holy Communion; 6.30 p.m., Evensong.

(4) *Friday, December 27th, Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist.*—7.30 a.m., Holy Communion; 10 a.m., Mattins and Litany; 10.30 a.m., Holy Communion; 6.30 p.m., Evensong.

(5) *Saturday, December 28th, Feast of the Holy Innocents.*
—7.30 a.m., Holy Communion; 10 a.m., Mattins; 10.30 a.m., Holy Communion; 6.30 p.m., Evensong.



Christmas Simplicity

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



IMPLICIT and greatness go hand in hand. The best example of this truth is the Gospel story itself, which has been so great a power in the world

just because it is so very simple. The Christian way of life results from believing that because, at Bethlehem, the Son of God was made man, we are called to live in fellowship with God. In the Incarnation God has shown his good will towards us and His desire to have fellowship with us and Christian living is a response to that invitation.

To live in fellowship with God is to share His outlook and to be in agreement with Him. When we propose to do anything in which we are aware that we cannot ask Him to share, we know directly that there is something wrong about it. If we cannot ask His blessing on it in our prayers it means that we are atwist in our relations with Him.

The Charm of Christmas.

The charm of Christmas is its simplicity, its child-heartedness. Christ Himself told us that we are nearest to the kingdom of heaven when we become as little children, and that it is the pure in heart—that is, simple-hearted people—who see God; which is an obvious truth, since we know well enough that the plainer a surface is the better it will reflect the light. The simpler our hearts and lives, the more aware do we become of God's Presence and find our happiness in that.

“Let us therefore now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing

which is come to pass which the Lord hath made known unto us.”

In truth, how much happier should we be if we were only content to be more simple and to have child-like hearts. In days when fewer and fewer people seem able to draw upon their own resources and rely instead increasingly on having their pleasures provided for them by others, happy are those who can still find contentment in the simple things of life—in daily work well done, in home and garden, in books and music, in friendship and neighbourly service, and in all the manifold delights of the countryside, who live thankful for all the good gifts of God and for what is sufficient for their modest needs, envying no man.

The Single Eye.

Happy too, are those who have what our Lord calls “the single eye” and that “honest and good heart” which cherishes integrity above all things, sits lightly to money and knows nothing of cunning or scheming or astuteness—those who keep innocence and are trusted by all men for their simple straightforwardness, living with untroubled conscience in the peace of God.

Christ claims for God the life of business, of politics, of social intercourse, the life in the workshop and in the family. It means that we must live religiously every day and all day—not just on Sundays or when we are saying our prayers; and to live religiously means that there shall be nothing that we do or say from which God is excluded—nothing in which He is denied a part.

CHURCH NEWS

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 December. Six five-shilling prizes are awarded monthly. Photographs are especially welcome



The Ox and the Ass.

A Christmas Window.

IN the lovely church at Nulcott, Bucks, there is a window showing a realistic study of an ass and a cow within reach of a bundle of corn. In the background near the cow's ear is a lizard climbing up the wall and another at the top. This is the only window I have come across with reptiles depicted. Lovers of "Wuthering Heights" will be interested to know that it was in this church that a rector, William Morgan, married Patrick Brontë to the Cornishwoman; their children, Charlotte, Anne and Emily Brontë, became world famous.—Mrs. MANFIELD.

St. Christopher Sign.

SHALFORD, near Guildford, possesses a village sign of St. Christopher, the patron saint of travellers. Part of the Pilgrims' Way runs through the village, and the saint is supposed to have helped them over the river on their way to Canterbury. The legend tells how one stormy night a child pleaded to be carried across, and the saint remarked how heavy he was. "That is because I carry the sorrows of the whole world upon my shoulders," the child replied. When the

child vanished on the farther side the Saint realised that he had carried Christ.—R. HEASMAN.

The Oldest Rectory?

WHETHER it is the oldest rectory or not, Old Chesil Rectory, Chesil Street, Winchester is the oldest house in the city, dating from about 1450. It is said that the house at the Reformation became a rectory house to St. Peter's, Cheeshill, derived from Chessol or Chesil (compare Chesil Bank, Portland). The bank of the River Itchen is only a few yards away.—P. H. LOVELL.

Brick Holy Table.

THIS is in the chapel at R.A.F. Station, Gianacis, Egypt, and is of modern construction. The chapel also possesses a bell in the belfry, but it is temporarily disabled following the too enthusiastic ringing by a member of the congregation! Enthusiasm seems to be the hall-mark of this Church, as the aforesaid members started a Bible Study Class and Fellowship on their own before a regular padre came to the Station and were, moreover, prepared to conduct the Sunday services whenever the visiting chaplain was absent.—F/Sgt. J. GEORGE.



St. Christopher Village Sign.

That Fly.

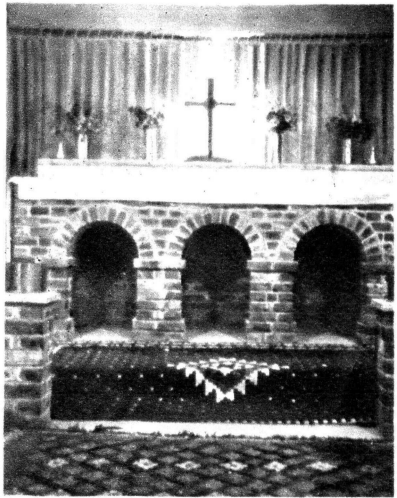
THE Church at Bucklebury, Berks, has among its interesting features a fly, painted on the chancel window, the body being painted on one side of the glass and the legs on the other, which seems to add to the realism of the insect. In this Church there is a strong, iron-bound chest that has nine locks.—M. A. EASON.

The Glastonbury Thorn.

THERE is an offshoot of the Holy thorn of Glastonbury in Charlton Adam Churchyard, Taunton. It was planted at the foot of Samuel Sweet's grave, who died in 1882, and it is now a fine tree. It comes into bud on Christmas Day and into bloom on Old Christmas Eve. All the earliest traditions of Glastonbury circle round St. Joseph of Arimathea, who planted his staff on the hill top. From this sprang the famous thorn which seems to be a Levantine thorn, which flowers profusely in May, but also at Christmas-tide and especially on Old Christmas Day.

Canterbury's Glass.

LOVERS of Canterbury Cathedral will be glad to know that the lovely stained glass in the windows of the Cathedral has been put back, after having been removed for safety during the war. The memorial window to the Rev. Dick Shepherd is also back in its accustomed place. One more item of news gathered on a recent visit to the city is that shields bearing the Royal Arms of the King, Queen, Queen Mary, and the two Princesses have been painted, and set among those already in the ceilings of the cloisters.—I.M.S.



Holy Table of Brick.

From Zoo to Church.

THE Zoological Gardens in Brighton were closed on Saturday, February 16th, 1833, and the organ which had been in use there was transferred to the Leyton Parish Church, where it has been constantly used for 113 years. The only alteration to the organ is that made recently, when an electric blower took the place of the hand blowing. It has a lovely tone and whether it is used for the ordinary Church services, for solo work or for accompaniment it still gives infinite pleasure to the congregations of the Church.—ARTHUR FANNIN.



The Oldest Rectory (?)

74 Years in the Choir.

WE have in our Church at West Peckham, Maidstone, a choirman who has served 74 years. He has recently received a presentation in appreciation of his loyal service. Is this a record for service in one parish? —Mrs. BAKER.

THE STORY OF THE PARISH

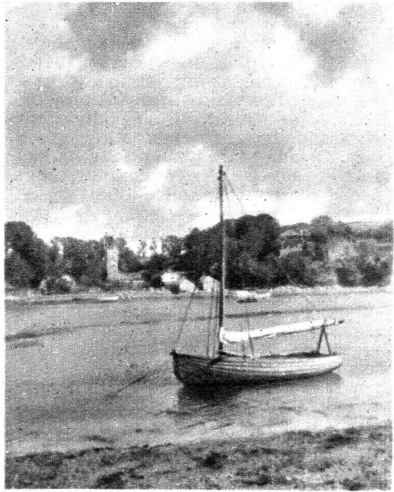
By the Rev. G. H. D. GRIMES
(Rector of Newton Ferrers)



N explanation of how our present parish grew up is to be found in the origin of the word parish. This comes from a Greek word meaning "around the house". The house in this case was the manor house.

The parish system is said to date back to the 7th century and to be the work of Archbishop Theodore of Canterbury. At that time England was divided up into large manors and each lord of the manor built a church near to his house which served as a chapel for the house and a church for the workers on his estate. It was then the custom for the great to attend service daily before beginning the day's work so that it was essential to have a church near by if there was not a room in the house set apart for that purpose. After the Norman Conquest many of the new land-owners built churches on their estates partly as an act of thanksgiving for the land they had acquired and partly, perhaps, as an atonement for the blood they had shed in acquiring it. As England grew more populated and the land better cultivated more manors were carved out and more churches built, till by the 14th century the parishes were much as we now find them. It is necessary to remember this to understand the many anomalies which exist in our parish boundaries to-day.

For instance, quite often a church is situated in a most unsuitable spot in the parish, far away from the centre of population. The next two parishes to mine have their parish churches situated in a lonely spot on the sea coast with only one or two houses near. The villagers explain this by saying that the original village was swept away by



The Parish near the Sea.

the incursions of the sea—a very plausible story seeing the sea is gaining ground on this coast. It will not, however, bear examination for the rocks here are of such hardness, and it is a rocky coast, that it would take many centuries for the sea to gain a few yards.

No, the answer is quite otherwise—though I have constantly to refute this plausible theory. If we study the old records we see that in many cases the manor house was quite near to the sea and further we note that a little stream often ran past the site of the old manor house and found its outlet in the sea just where the church stands. This stream is more important than most people imagine, for there are few ancient churches which have not a stream large or small flowing near them; and here is the reason.

Each manor house had its own home farm alongside, very much as the big house has to-day, but the home farm needed water for the cattle, so that this stream was useful, and further would serve to turn the wheel of the lord of the manor's mill, at which all tenants had to have their corn ground and pay the lord for this privilege.

THE STORY OF THE PARISH

It may have been also in the mind of the lord of the manor when he built this church on the edge of the sea that those of his tenants who were employed in fishing would at least be able to see their parish church and gain some comfort from it and perhaps even some guidance in storm or gathering darkness when they saw their church in the distance.

Round the manor house there usually collected a crowd of workers, carpenters, blacksmiths, etc., and these formed the nucleus of the village, but with changing times the manor house not seldom changed; the old manor was deserted and fell into ruins and a new manor house sprang up and the old village then too was deserted and a new village sprang up—but the church was a much more solid building than the manor and certainly than the homes of the villagers and it could not move, so there it remained quite apart from the new centre of village life.

But there were other forces at work in settling parish boundaries. I have before me an extract from an old document of the 14th century in which the parishioners of another seaside village, which was served by a church which was once a chapel of ease to an inland larger parish, petition the bishop that he would allow them to have a cemetery of their own. Up to now, they say, they had been forced to take their dead to their parish church, some 4 miles away and to go there they had to cross two arms of the sea and a dangerous river and so in winter they often had to keep the dead in their homes for 2 or 3 weeks and when they

did undertake the journey it might take them 3 or 4 days going and coming and that while so many able-bodied men were away on this sad task they were afraid that the king's enemies might land and do much harm to his kingdom, by burning, pillaging and killing. The petition was granted on condition that they paid half a crown yearly to the rector of their parish church and kept up a certain portion of his churchyard.

This reveals two things—first, that rectors were slow to part with any portion of their parish even though it could be perfectly served by a more convenient arrangement, either by making the daughter church a

separate parish, as did later happen in this case or as might have been done here by handing this part over to a nearer parish.

The second thing it shows is the shocking state of the roads and bridges in the country in early times. What is there called a dangerous river is ordinarily a little stream, though heavy rains may cause it to rise considerably. But in our parish records, for the

bridge over the stream lies partly in this parish, we find constant references to the church-wardens spending money on the upkeep of this bridge. We can thus understand how for centuries a part of this parish of mine which is only 5 minutes' walk from the next parish church and about an hour and a half's walk from this should still remain in this parish because the inhabitants feared to cross that dangerous stream. They would rather face the long distances by road, bad though the roads were, especially in winter when mud and snow were dangerous enemies to churchgoing.



The Way to Church for 400 years.

Photo by J. A. Carpenter.



Wishing you a Happy Christmas.

Photo by H. G. Grainger, F.R.P.S.

Weekday Pages for Women with Homes

MONTHLY PRIZE COMPETITION

☛ If you know of a useful hint for these pages, send it to the Editor, 11, Ludgate Square, E.C.4, during December. We offer six 5s. prizes.

Monday's Washing.

Children's Socks will shrink, and little feet will grow, but by adopting the following method, after washing carefully, socks will last very much longer. When dry, press the feet with a hot iron, and a damp cloth. This will open the feet out to the original size, and also make them soft and more comfortable to wear.—Mrs. HODGES.

Before washing.—When unpicking an old garment tie a piece of white cotton to the end of the skein before washing. No difficulty then to find the end when the time comes to wind it.—Miss WINTER.

Tuesday's Sewing.

Saves time.—When wishing to do ruching, or gathering, use the sewing machine. Put the long stitch and loosen the tension; this allows the under thread to be drawn up at the end of each row and securely fastened. Always use "Sylko" on the top and No. 36 or 40 cotton underneath. Cotton is stronger for the back as you do not pull the top thread, only the end drawn through. I have found this to be a very good method, as although I have a gatherer to attach it does not seem practicable when one requires only to gather round the sleeves or the top of a small girl's dress to fix on yoke or bodice, etc.—Mrs. R. HEATHCOTE-HARDINGE.

Lint.— $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of white lint, 36 inches wide, will make a roller towel, if machined at the side, hemming in the rough edge. Cost 2/4. I have two in use and they wear well. Lint can also be used for nappies, face flannels and pillow slips.—Mrs. CANE.

Wednesday's Nursing.

To allay pain.—Put about a handful of Epsom salt into a quart of very hot water. Wring out a flannel or any other suitable material and place it on the region of the pain, and on it put a rubber bottle filled with nearly boiling water. The heat of the bottle will keep the flannel very hot. Keep on for 20 minutes only. In an hour's time repeat the process if necessary. The relief gained is wonderful.—Mrs. SHAW.

When ice is needed for a sick person and cannot be obtained, take equal quantities of milk and spirits of wine. Soak a cloth in this and apply. This is the coldest lotion you can have.—Mrs. BURGOYNE.

Thursday's Cooking.

Fried egg.—I cover an egg with a saucepan lid when frying. It is done very quickly and needs no basting and scarcely any fat at all.—Mrs. LAZENBY.

When using Macaroni as a substitute for rice in curries, etc., break it into smaller pieces by placing in a

WEEKDAY PAGES FOR WOMEN WITH HOMES

washed cotton flour-bag and crushing with a rolling pin.—Miss BAKER.

Fish with no fat.—Cook slowly under the grill with just a small piece of margarine and pepper and salt until golden brown. This makes it very tasty. Fish like fresh herrings, mackerel, sprats, kippers, etc., need no fat at all done the same way. Housewives should be delighted at this hint, fish being so much more plentiful now, but with still the same old fat problem.—Mrs. A. LLOYD.

Semolina.—If you use one tablespoon of semolina to every four of flour when making pastry you need only half the quantity of fat, which is a great help now that we have so little.—Mrs. BLOXHAM.

Sweet Pickle.—Buy piccaililli (mustard pickle) which is plentiful. A jar of this, put through a mincer, together with two tablespoons of dried fruit, mix well in two tablespoons of Worcester sauce, one tablespoon of sugar and one tablespoon of golden syrup and this will make a really good sweet pickle.—Mrs. G. BUCK.

Friday's Household.

Broken glass.—We all know how dangerous it is to leave splinters of a broken glass or jar on the floor, and how difficult it is to pick up the bits without cutting oneself. If you moisten a piece of cotton wool, it will be found that the smallest piece of glass will adhere to it, enabling it to be picked up easily and safely.—W. PUGH.

Tarnished chromium plate can be

cleaned very easily by using dry steel wool and a little oil. Rub gently but firmly until the discoloration goes.—Mrs. WARKUP.

Cracked tiles.—After washing, sprinkle tiles with dry whitening and rub well into cracks using soft brush or cloth. Sweep surplus powder up as this can be used again. Finish with clean duster.

This method is most successful when applied to light coloured tiles as it improves their appearance when they become badly cracked.—Mrs. KING.

Piano stool.—An old revolving



The Sunshine Girl.

Photo by D. E. Tyler

piano stool with the top covered with oil-cloth and the remainder enamelled to match your colour scheme becomes a handy kitchen seat easily adjustable to height required.—Miss D. BLOZE.

Saturday's Children.

For baby boys.—Cut up a good nappie and sew (or tack roughly) inside knitted trousers. This will not only preserve the wool but also save washing. The small piece of nappie can easily be removed and rinsed through.—Mrs. ROBINSON.

Second use.—For a second or third baby where the Turkish towelling nappies from the predecessor are too thin and worn to be of much value I fold them into a pad and put one inside a muslin nappie (coupon free) placed in the usual way, taking care the pad is under the buttocks and not too much between the legs to cause bulky discomfort which might lead to bandy legs.—Mrs. BUCKLAND.

Our Programme for 1947

By the EDITOR

FOR three quarters of a century "Home Words," "that cheerful magazine," as it has been called so often, has linked Home with Church in life-long affection. It has never been more sure of a welcome than it is to-day—and that welcome now extends to the far corners of the globe. We thank our readers for their praise of our pocket war-time pages, and hope they will rejoice with us that at long last in 1947 we are able to double their number in the octavo pocket size, and as an alternative offer a quarto edition in our pre-war size, which suits many local printers.

In whichever form it circulates the contents will be the same, and the photogravure process will make it possible to do justice to the many fine photographs which illustrate the magazine. Some of these have gained the high honour of being exhibited at the Royal Photographic Society's Exhibition.

Again we are able to announce a series of short sermons by the Bishop of Lichfield and the Rev. L. B. Ashby, with occasional contributions from other well-known writers.

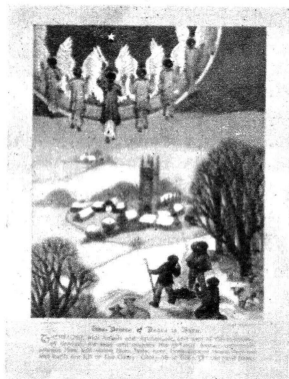
The January number will contain an important article by Adrian Bell, author of many notable books, and another by H. T. Ingram on evangelism by pictures. We also announce a serial, "Secret Service" by V. M. Methley, which will go a long way to prove that first-class fiction can witness for religion. There will be a corner for children with some new features, and, of course, those friendly pages of household hints which are due to the accumulated wisdom of thousands of housewives who are content to exchange their experiences month by month.

More space will be devoted to the unique Church News Competitions which continue to attract photographs and notes of exceptional interest.

Lastly, we have some new ideas which have been on the secret list until paper or card became available. These include Parish Notepaper, with pen and ink drawing of the Parish Church and times of services, Welcome Cards to the youngest of Churchmen—the new baby and Birth Announcement Cards, which are delightfully illustrated.

And we believe that we have in our Fireside Almanack for 1947 a call to the Church to renew her youth, to regain the spirit of adventure, to become as little

children in faith and love of Christ, the Light of the World. The central picture expresses the aim of "Home Words" during its long life to be a light-bearer on the road to the City of God.



Christmas and New Year Cards.

THE war prevented the publication of two cards for Christmas and the New Year, which were ready for sale. They are printed in all the colours of the originals on art card that is now unobtainable. While our supply lasts they are available at three shillings per dozen. In the shops they would now be sold at sixpence each. Please notify us at once if you wish to take advantage of this offer.

MORAL WELFARE WORK

HOUSE-TO-HOUSE COLLECTION RESULTS

Second List of Returns

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Bromyard Road:—						
Miss S. Willshaw	2	2	6			
Miss H. M. Davis	5	13	3			
Mrs. Lowe	2	5	0			
	<hr/>			10	0	9
Malvern Road:—						
Mrs. Pegram	3	13	9			
Mrs. Smith	1	16	0			
	<hr/>			5	9	9
Laugherne Road (Mrs. Bennett)	2	8	0			
McIntyre Road (Mrs. Peart)	1	10	0			
Windsor Avenue, Blenheim Road, Woodstock Road (Mrs. Ansell)	3	1	3			
Church Terrace, Church Close, Coucher's Cottages, Graham Road, Blakefield Gardens (Miss Gwynn)	1	1	0			
Nelson Road, Grosvenor Walk (Mrs. Groves)	1	10	0			
Worboys Road, Catherine Road, Bloomfield Road (Mrs. Norman)	1	1	6			
School Road, Skinner Road, Skinner Street (Miss Bloodworth)	1	12	6			
Foley Road, Vernon Park Road (Mrs. Turton)	2	5	0			
Kingsbury Road (Mrs. Phipps)	1	2	7			
Hanbury Park Estate (Mrs. Easton)	5	12	0			
Bull Ring, St. John's Township, Powell's Row (Miss C. Willshaw)	1	19	6			
Little Boughton Street, Barn Close, Nursery Road and Walk, Swinton Lane, Boughton Park (Mrs. Lancey)	2	15	0			
Georgina Avenue, Jubilee Road (Mrs. Keen)	1	0	8			
Extra-parochial and sundries (The Vicar)		16	6			
	<hr/>					
Second Total	43	6	0			
First List	50	5	7			
	<hr/>					
Final Total	£93	11	7			
	<hr/>					

I am very thankful that we have again done so well. The Moral Welfare Committee for our City and Rural Deanery will be much encouraged.

Will all collectors and all contributors please accept my hearty thanks?
C.T.P.

DEACONESS SYKES

The Vicar's appreciation of Deaconess in the September Parish Magazine very naturally expressed his own sense of personal obligation.

We feel that we, too, have a tribute to make.

For twelve years we have had the devoted services of a lady who is an accomplished scholar, a good organiser, and a tireless worker.

"In quietness and confidence shall be your strength" said Isaiah, and, knowing this, Deaconess accomplished her best work where it was least spectacular—amongst women and girls, amongst the sick and suffering and with the aged and bereaved.

Sometimes this work was of a delicate nature, where the "smoking flax" and "the bruised reed" called for womanly sympathy and understanding.

In the grim war years, despite the blackout, Deaconess kept up all her activities. Again and again we have been told how much her visits were appreciated, how often she brought hope and comfort to homes of despair and grief.

We congratulate Deaconess on her appointment and extend to her our best wishes.

We feel that we should like Deaconess to take with her some token of our esteem, and to this end the Vicar has started a fund to which all are invited to contribute.

Subscriptions may be sent to any of the undersigned.

ROBERT SMITH, 7, St. John's.

ARTHUR P. HIGGINS,

2, Albany Terrace, Britannia Square.

O. H. LAFLIN, 8, Homefield Road.

MISS H. M. DAVIS, 5b, St. John's.

LETTER FROM THE VICAR

13th November, 1946.

My dear Friends,

ST. JOHN'S SIDESMEN

The Sidesmen on duty in December are Messrs. Tyler, Webb, Wilson, A. W. J. Baker, and R. V. Baker.

PAST EVENTS

(1) On Friday, September 13th, after Choir Practice, I had the honour of handing a presentation of money to our old friend Mr. Mark Willshaw from the senior members of the Choir and other well-wishers.

(2) On Sunday, September 29th, there were no fewer than ten baptisms.

(3) From October 1st the charge of the Tower and Church Clock has been placed in the hands of Mr. W. H. Lewis by the

request of Mr. W. H. Thomas. Mr. Thomas will be resigning his other Church appointments on December 31st.

(4) On Thursday, October 24th, Mr. P. B. Chatwin and Mr. B. Davis held a consultation in Church with regard to the memorial to Miss Worster and also in the matter of attention to the Church Porch.

(5) My attack of neuritis has now lasted about fourteen weeks. It is improving, but still prevents my full participation in parochial work.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The address of the Rev. O. J. T. Roberts is now 115, Laugherne Road.

THANKS

(1) Best thanks to two kind friends, who have been good enough to wash and mend the Church flags; (2) also for £1 for the Victory Thanksgiving Fund, £1 10s. for the Deaconess Fund, and 2/- for the Sick and Poor Fund. (3) With regard to National Savings for the Church, 70 certificates of 15/- each have so far been purchased, and 14/7 is in hand towards the next.

MRS. JEFFERIES

Mrs. Jefferies will be finishing her teaching career in St. John's Boys' School on December 31st, and I eagerly take this opportunity of thanking her most warmly for all the excellent work she has done in this connection, with a special word of appreciation for her management of the Boys' Clothing Club.

MISSIONARY BOXES

Missionary Boxes will be opened in the Church Vestry on Saturday, December 7th, between 2.30 and 4.30 in the afternoon. The Secretary will be grateful if all box-holders will very kindly bring or send their boxes at the time appointed. But, if this is not convenient, boxes may be left either at the Vicarage, or at 81, Comer Road, any time *before* the above date.

ST. JOHN'S KING'S MESSENGERS

The King's Messengers will hold their Sale of Christmas Presents on Saturday, December 7th, at 3 p.m., in the Parish Room. Deaconess Favell, formerly of the Cambridge Mission to Delhi, will give a short talk on India, and the K.M. hope to present a short recitation in costume.

THE CONFIRMATION

This extremely important event is fixed for Saturday, December 14th, at 3 p.m., in our own Church.

PRAYERS FOR THOSE ABOUT TO BE CONFIRMED

(1) O God, Who through the teaching of Thy Son Jesus Christ didst prepare the disciples for the coming of the Com-

forter: Make ready, we beseech Thee, the hearts and minds of Thy servants who at this time are seeking the Gift of the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands, that, drawing near with penitent and faithful hearts, they may be filled with the power of His Divine Indwelling; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

(2) Almighty and Everlasting God, Who hast been pleased to receive us in Baptism as Thine own children, and to incorporate us into Thy Holy Church, we make our humble supplications unto Thee at this time for all those who from this Parish shall openly confess Thy Name and seek Thy Grace in the solemn service of Confirmation. Grant them, O Lord, the true preparation of the heart that they may witness a good confession. Let Thy Fatherly hand ever be over them, let Thy Holy Spirit ever be with them, and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of Thy Word, that they may give themselves to Thy service, and in the end they may obtain everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

CHRISTMAS COMMUNION

I beg to urge all confirmed persons in our parish to make a careful preparation and come to Christmas Communion. Please to remember Whose Birthday we are celebrating. Christmas without Christ is not a real Christmas at all. The times of services on Christmas Day and the following days will be found on page 4.

Wishing you all a truly happy Christmas,

I am, yours sincerely,

CHARLES T. POWELL.

THE WORLD-WIDE CHURCH NOTES AND NEWS FROM THE S.P.G.

News from China

News is coming very slowly from the "occupied" parts of China owing to unsettled conditions and civil war. Bishop Wellington, of Shantung Diocese, was not able to get into his Cathedral city, Taian, until May of this year. On June 15th he reported that Taian had been captured by the Communists after a week-end of fighting. The cathedral and other church buildings were damaged, but not destroyed. The new authorities urged him to re-open the schools and continue the work of the Church, and promised religious toleration. Bishop Scott, of North China Diocese, is now in this country. He had been back in Peiping for some months. In both dioceses the Chinese clergy and people had carried on as best they could throughout the Occupation, and the Church is facing the problems of reconstruction with good hope and determination.