

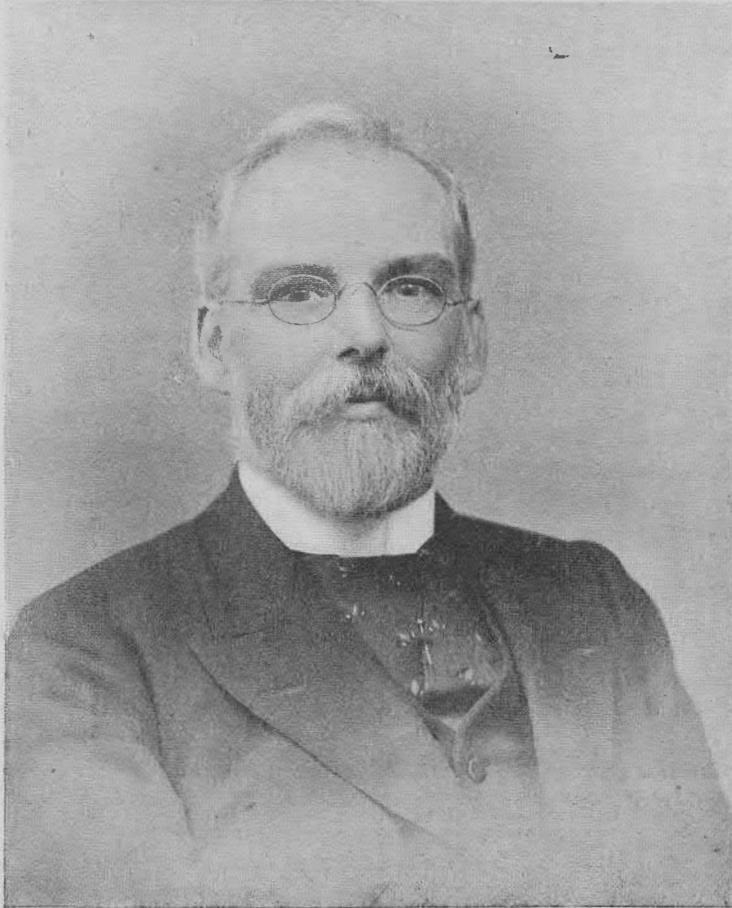
PRICE THREEPENCE.

No. 19—DECEMBER, 1927.

ALL SAINTS', HARTLEY,
Parish Magazine.

(Published Quarterly.)

EDITED BY J. WELLS THATCHER.



MR. JOHN WELLS THATCHER IN 1897.

Rector's Letter.

MY DEAR PARISHIONERS,

We were told in our last issue that this little journal travels, not only to distant parts of the British Isles, but to France, India, China and Australia. It goes also to Canada, South America, and to East, West and South Africa.

It is not surprising then that some such

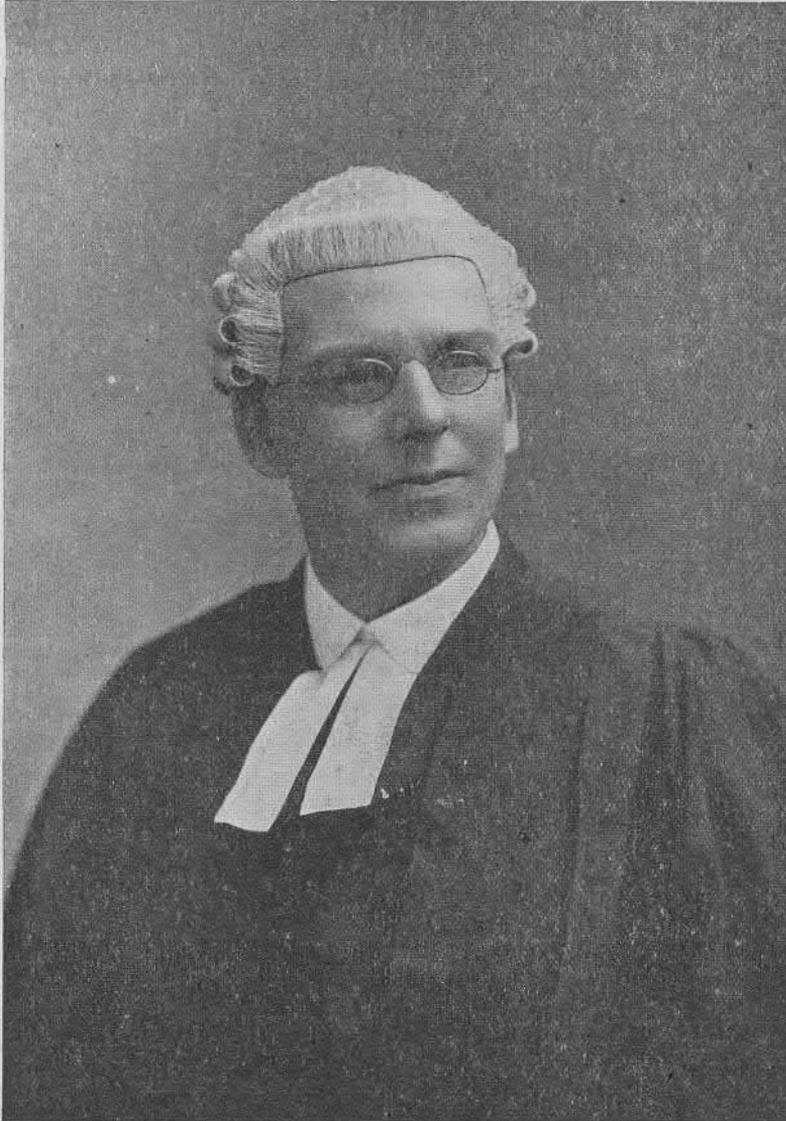
queries reach me as the following, "Who is the Editor? Of course we know he must be a very remarkable man, but we want to know all about him."

To satisfy this very natural curiosity I lately bearded the great man in his den at the Gun Hut, for I felt that something in the nature of an illustrated interview was what we really wanted.

Having explained the purport of my visit, I said "Will you please, Mr. Editor, favour me with a few portraits, at different stages of your career, commencing, if possible, in the perambulator days."

him at this stage, and will recognise, if nothing else, the twinkle in the eyes with which we are all familiar.

It was taken by the London Stereoscopic Company about thirty years ago.



IN 1917.

But the earliest portrait available represents Mr. John Wells Thatcher already arrived at years of discretion, as you will see by the picture on the first page.

You will all, I think, be interested to see

And next we have a picture at a later date. He is here shown in his wig and gown, for it was taken after he had been called to the Bar in the beautiful Hall of the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple.

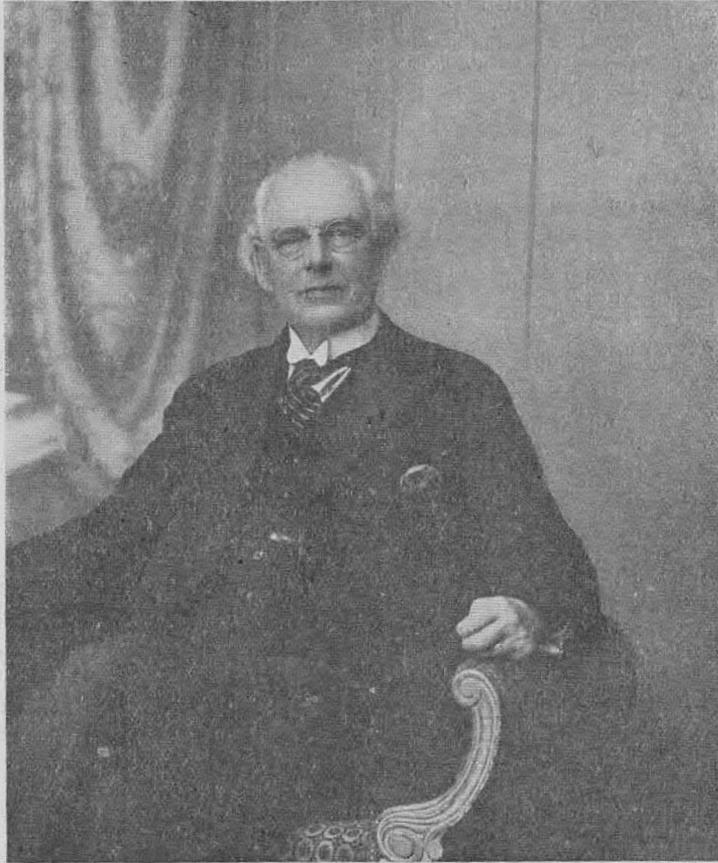
I was minded, at this stage, with one eye on the wig, to ask "Is it not a fact, Mr. Editor, that you relinquished a princely income at the Bar, and the prospect of preferment to the Judicial Bench, in order to come down here and make yourself useful?"

"Well hardly that."

"At any rate you *are* making yourself use-

labours, by permission of the General Council of the Bar, give free legal advice, on appointed days, to poor persons in Plaistow and the neighbourhood?"

What would these poor persons, what would the Given Wilson Institute, and what should *we* do if you spent your days piling up riches in the Courts of Law?



PRESENT DAY.

ful. You are churchwarden, clericus scholasticus, preacher, editor, honorary legal adviser to all the parish, and much more besides.

And the surprising thing is that you are making yourself equally useful at Plaistow in the East end of London. Are you not, in you capacity of administrator, director, organiser and financier, simply indispensable. And do you not, in addition to all your other

"Here," said our Editor, adroitly changing the subject, and handing me another photograph, "you have me at the present day,—and so that is the end of the tale."

"Well, not quite," I said "This picture will portray to distant friends the face and form we know so well, but it will not tell them what you are. Are you not author, dramatist, poet, classical scholar of no mean attainment,

a master of oratory, and may I not add, the greatest story-teller in the parish?"

"Well hardly *that*."

But I said "Yes, not only on the public platform, but in private life, your inexhaustible repertoire of funny stories is a real asset to the parish."

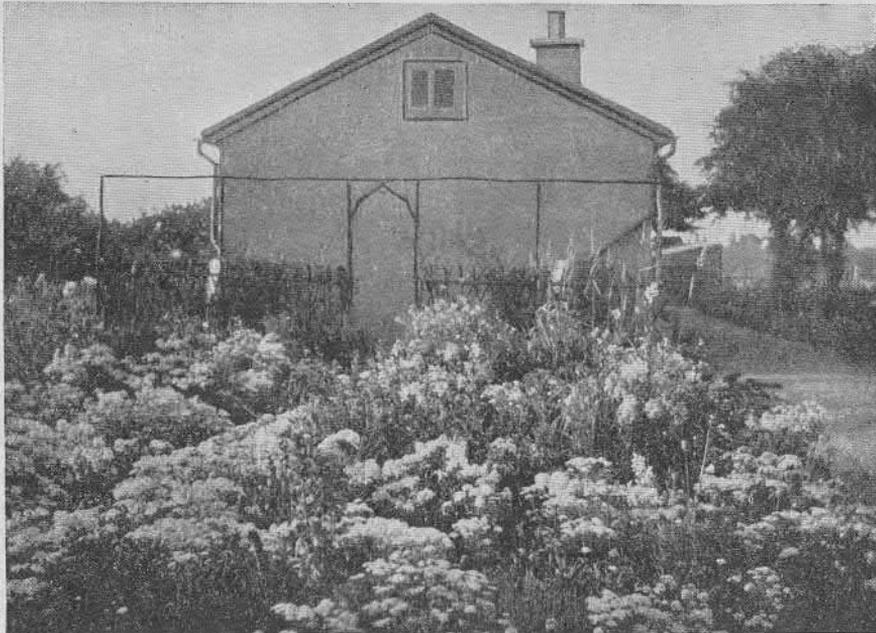
"And then," I continued, "I must tell these people about your hobbies, and favourite recreations. May I not say that horticulture and carpentry, are dear to your heart,

one-time hut, but at any rate, we see in the picture, some of the flowers you love so well."

Here the interview came to an end.

* * * *

As I beat a retreat from the Gun Hut my thoughts sped back to the days when the Hartley air-craft gun stood in the adjoining meadow. And I called to mind that upon two occasions Hartley had the chance of covering herself with glory. Twice did



THE GUN HUT.

that you find solace and delight in the poems of Horace, in your briar pipe, and last but not least, an endless joy in "helping lame dogs over styles?"

And I have a final request—a picture of your Hartley home, the old army hut which you are modestly pleased to describe as "a very suitable residence for a poor scholar."

"Well this, it is true, is but a gable end. It does not reveal the range of cosy apartments into which you have converted the

German aircraft hover over this spot well within gun range.

The first time it was a zeppelin that came in the night. The men were there, ready and waiting, but the gun had not arrived. When a Fokker appeared one July afternoon the gun was on its stand, and bristling for the fray, but the men were on leave, playing in a cricket match at Tunbridge Wells.

Perhaps it was just as well, for I was assured by the officer in charge, that if the

gun had, on any occasion, been fired, every pane of glass in the church would have been shattered,—and the men might have missed the aircraft after all.

We have, for long, lamented the loss of a bell which hung in our steeple in the 16th century.

It was there in 1552, for it is included in the inventory, made by the commissioners of Edward VI in that year. We know nothing more about it except that it has since mysteriously disappeared.

But I am inclined to think that it has never been lost. I believe that it has been in the belfry all the time.

It is no unusual thing to re-cast bells if they are damaged, and I have now reason to believe that our bell which bears the date 1771 is really our old bell re-cast.

I have found the account of the founder's bill paid in that year, and the amount is suggestive of this latter alternative rather than the purchase of a new bell.

Here is an interesting bit of news about our Church. A well known Kentish antiquary writes to me as follows "I consulted my original copy of Symonson's map of Kent dated 1576 and found that your church is represented as then having a *square tower at the west end, surmounted by a spire*. Symonson is so accurate in his delineation of churches that I cannot help wondering if any foundations remain to confirm his picture."

This is very interesting. But what can have become of our tower and spire?

We know that the Parliamentary troops did some damage to the churches in this neighbourhood in 1648. General Fairfax was at Meopham in that year, and may he not have battered our tower on his way to Darenth, where bullet holes in the north door

testify to his assault on that church?

Our West front has certainly been rebuilt, and although no visible trace of the tower remains, the foundations may still exist beneath the soil.

Perhaps it was when the tower walls fell in that damage happened to our ancient bell.

Yours very truly,

GERARD W. BANCKS.

Church Information.

Rector—Rev. CHARLES GERARD WINSTANLEY BANCKS, M.A., appointed 1902.

Churchwardens—Mr. A. L. Farrow and Mr. J. Wells Thatcher.

CHURCH SERVICES.

Matins, 11 a.m. Evensong, 6.30 p.m.

Holy Communion, 8 a.m., on the 2nd and 4th Sundays in each month; at 12 noon on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays in the month.

Parochial Church Council (elected under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure, 1921).—Council for 1927-8: The Rector (who is Chairman by virtue of his office), Miss Bancks, Mrs. Oldrey, Mrs. F. W. Tate, Miss Fiddis, Miss Sale, Mrs. Wells Thatcher, Miss Green, Hon. Secretary; Mr. A. Blackwell, Mr. A. Cox, Mr. D. T. R. Gray, Mr. W. Nash, Mr. F. W. Tate, Mr. W. H. Chisholm, Miss Newcomb, Mrs. Gray, Mr. Eric Green (Hon. Treasurer), Mr. Alexander, with the Churchwardens by virtue of their offices.

Committees—Standing Committee: The Chairman and the Churchwardens. Finance Committee: The Churchwardens, the Treasurer and Miss Green.

Sidesmen—Mr. A. Blackwell, Mr. A. Cox, Mr. W. Nash, Mr. J. Green and Mr. Alexander.

Organists—Mr. W. H. Chisholm and Mrs. Oldrey.

Choirmaster—Mr. W. H. Chisholm.

Choirwarden—Mr. D. T. R. Gray.

Members of the Choir.—Mrs. Balchin, Miss L. Bancks, Mrs. Chisholm, Mrs. T. J. Clark, Mr. C. E. Cuff, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Gray, Miss E. Green, Mrs. Keen, Miss M. Marrington, Miss Newcomb, Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Oldrey, Miss Parkin, Mrs. Symons, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Tate, Mr. Frank Tate, junr., Mr. G. G. Marrington.

Choir Boys.—Frederick Crouch, David H. Gray, John Rose, Ronald Maggs.

Licensed Lay Reader.—Mr. J. Wells Thatcher.

Sunday School.—Miss Sale, Superintendent. Teachers: 1st Class, Miss Sale; 2nd Class, Mrs. Gray; 3rd Class, Miss Parkin. Time: 3 p.m. to 3.45 p.m.

Church Parochial School.—Miss Fiddis, Headmistress; Mrs. Nickalls, Infant School Mistress.

School Managers.—The Rector, Mr. J. Green, Capt. Copus, Mr. J. Stuart, Miss Rodwell and Miss Harry.

Bell Ringer and Organ Blower.—Mr. A. Rogers.

Churchyard Keeper.—Mr. A. Rogers.

Church Cleaner.—Mrs. Hoadley.

Sexton & Grave Digger.—Mr. J. Crouch.

WORK OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL.

"It shall be the primary duty of the Council of every parish to co-operate with the Incumbent in the initiation, conduct and development of Church work both within the parish and outside."—(Section 2 of the Measure.)

Altar Flowers.

January—Mrs. Walker.

February—Miss Bancks.

March—Mrs. Boulger.

April—Mrs. Isaacs.

May—Mrs. T. J. Clark.

June—Miss Green.

July—Mrs. Elliott.

August—Mrs. Andrus.

September—Mrs. Chisholm.

October—Miss Robertson.

November—Mrs. Ralph Day.

December—Miss Harry.

Baptisms.

Oct. 16.—[REDACTED] of Richard and Grace Oxenbury.

" [REDACTED] of George and Elsie Webb.

" [REDACTED] of George and Elsie Webb.

" [REDACTED] of Wm. Horace and Lilian Pursell.

" [REDACTED] of Frank James and Gladys Rose Emma Crouch.

Nov. 6.—[REDACTED] of Wm. Stanes and Amy Grace Luly.

Burials.

Oct. 18.—Rebecca Day, aged 82.

" 24.—Horace Glidewell, aged 23.

Editors' Notes.

I have added the names of the Churchwardens to the list of Church officers. They have been taken for granted somehow. I will slate the Editor.

* * * *

The last meeting of the Church Parochial Council was most useful. Mr. Eric Green's report on the progress of the Free Will Offering was quite encouraging.

| January. | February. | March. |
|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1st—Circumcision of our Lord. 1st Sunday after Christmas. | 2nd—Purification of the B.V.M. | 4th—2nd Sunday in Lent. |
| 6th—Epiphany of our Lord. | 5th—Septuagesima. | 11th—3rd Sunday in Lent. |
| 8th—1st Sunday after Epiphany. | 12th—Sexagesima. | 18th—4th Sunday in Lent. |
| 15th—2nd Sunday after Epiphany. | 19th—Quinquagesima. | 25th—5th Sunday in Lent. |
| 22nd—3rd Sunday after Epiphany. | 22nd—Ash Wednesday. | 26th—Annunciation of the B.V.M. |
| 25th—Conversion of St. Paul. | 24th—St. Matthias, Apostle & Martyr. | ✠ ✠ |
| 29th—4th Sunday after Epiphany. | 26th—1st Sunday in Lent. | |

Many residents are looking forward to the Confirmation sacrament which is to be held in our parish. Several of our young people desire to be duly admitted to Church membership.

* * * *

The Sunday School treat was a delightful function. I would not have missed it for anything. A short report of it appears in another page of this number.

* * * *

Our Harvest Festival was a beautiful service of thanksgiving. The Choir did their very best; so did the congregation. Mr. Roy Chisholm was at the organ for one service and Mr. Black gave him the benefit of his strong right arm.

* * * *

Many more parents are bringing their children to be baptized. It delighted me on one Sunday to see one aisle of the Church nearly filled with parents, sponsors, and children.

* * * *

Armistice Day was observed at our Memorial. In the absence of the Rector through

indisposition the service was taken by the Lay Reader. The Schoolchildren and Girl Guides with their teachers, Miss Fiddis and Mrs. Nickalls were of great help in the singing. Captain Webster read out the names of our glorious dead.

* * * *

On the following Sunday afternoon there was a united parish meeting at the same hallowed spot. Such a large body of worshippers! Such a touching service! A report of it appears on another page.

* * * *

Here let me say how much every dweller in Hartley is indebted to Captain Webster for his devoted service to his dead comrades in arms. No memorial could be better tended than ours. The skill, the patience and the great labour which Captain Webster showed in making our memorial speak its noble message in flowers are beyond all praise.

* * * *

I must congratulate Mr. Delf upon his successful labours with the Boy Scouts, and the

ladies who look after our Girl Guides. They all did their part on the Sunday of Remembrance. My friend, Mr. T. F. Tate, was there, too, with his admirable band, so was his brother, Mr. F. W. Tate, the capable, wise and modest chairman of the Parish Meeting.

* * * *

After the Remembrance service Captain Webster made an impromptu collection for Earl Haig's Fund. Result, £3 4s. 3½d. Splendid!

* * * *

The idea of the united memorial service originated with Mr. T. F. Tate, I think. He, and Mr. Delf and Mr. D. T. R. Gray worked like Trojans to make it the success that it was.

* * * *

The Last Post and the Reveille were sounded both at the Memorial in the afternoon and at the Parish Church in the evening by an old soldier, Mr. Dyer, of Dartford. This gallant man fought with the 5th Battalion, Royal West Kent Regiment in Mesopotamia and on the Indian Frontier.

* * * *

Mr. Dyer held the Silver Challenge Bugle for two or three years. He has been on his back for a long time as a result of the War, and has not the strength of wind and limb which he had in wartime days, when he sang with his comrades: "It's a long way to Tipperary."

* * * *

Allusion was made in the pulpit of our ancient Church to the passing away of Mrs. Day, an old and respected resident. The dear old lady loved the Church and the churchyard. She lived a life of toil, but, in point of long descent, she was the aristocrat of our village. Many of her name and blood came to our evening service after her funeral.

H. T. PARRETT

Dairyman,

"HOTHFIELD." HARTLEY.



Fresh Milk :: Cream
— Butter —

AND

New aid Eggs.

FOR BEST REPORTS

of

ALL LOCAL NEWS

read

**"The Gravesend and
Dartford Reporter."**

CHURCH PAROCHIAL COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hartley Parochial Church Council was held in the Schoolroom on Monday, October 3rd, 1927.

PRESENT: Rev. G. W. Bancks, M.A., Rector, Mrs. Oldrey, Mrs. F. W. Tate, Miss Bancks, Miss Newcomb, Miss Sale, Mr. Chisholm, Mr. Gray, Mr. Eric Green, Treasurer, Mr. A. L. Farrow, Churchwarden, Mr. J. Wells Thatcher, Churchwarden and Miss Green, Hon. Secretary.

PRAYER was said by the Rector.

CHAIRMAN. The Rector requested Mr. Wells Thatcher to take the chair. The Chairman reported that the Rector had met with a bicycle accident and was rather shaken.

MINUTES. The Hon. Secretary read the minutes of last meeting which were confirmed.

FREE WILL OFFERING.—Mr. Eric Green reported on the progress of the Free Will Offering and gave the following figures:—

In 1925 the total collections had only amounted to £49 18s. 9d. and that for 1926 they amounted to £80 8s. 1d. of which £26 13s. 7d. were Free Will Offerings, whereas for the first 9 months of this year the total amount was £102 19s. 11d. of which £59 6s. 2d. were Free Will Offerings.

The first year of Free Will Offerings was practically concluded and the amount collected by this method was up to date £85 19s. 9d. which was considered most satisfactory.

The Council congratulated the Treasurer upon the satisfactory nature of his first report.

PRINTED NOTICE IN PEWS AT HARVEST THANKSGIVING.—Mr. Eric Green suggested that a printed notice be put in the Church pews at morning and evening service on

Miss Bonsall
gives lessons in
Elocution & English Subjects
to Adults and Children.

Pupils prepared for Examinations.
Daily Classes for Children.

Term Commences Thursday, 19th January.
Elocution Class for Children, held on Wednesday Afternoons at 3.30

BONSALL'S, HARTLEY HILL.

R. C. WHITMORE

GOSSEY CROFT,

HARTLEY HILL,

Nr. Longfield, Kent.

Phone: Longfield 68.

TAXI PROPRIETOR.

TRAINS MET BY APPOINTMENT.

LONG OR SHORT JOURNEYS.

DISTANCE NO OBJECT

FAIRBY STORES,

HARTLEY.

The test of value:

QUALITY and SERVICE

CONFECTIONERY.
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Little Downs,
Hartley, Nr. Longfield,
KENT.

Tel: LONGFIELD 54.

Taxi Proprietor. Trains met by appointment.
Owners' Cars Cleaned & Greased. Driving Lessons Given.

October 9th next. Such notice to ask for more subscribers to the Free Will Offering. Mr. Chisholm kindly assisted Mr. Eric Green to draw up a suitable notice.

The Rector promised to call attention to the notice at each service.

ROCHESTER CENTRAL DIOCESAN FUND.—The Hon. Secretary read a letter from the Secretary.

The Council agreed to pay £14, less the sum which has been already paid.

CONFIRMATION IN HARTLEY.—Miss Green asked when we were to have a confirmation in Hartley as she knew of several candidates. The Rector stated that he had received a notice from the Bishop announcing that it was the turn of Hartley and that a Confirmation would be held at a date to be fixed by the Bishop. Due notice would be given to the parish.

SUNDAY SCHOOL.—Miss Sale desired to be relieved of her duties as superintendent, but the Council urged her to continue her valuable labours.

THANKS TO MISS SALE.—Mrs. Oldrey moved that a hearty vote of thanks be tendered to Miss Sale for her invaluable service at the Sunday School.

The Hon. Secretary seconded. Carried unanimously.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TREAT.—It was agreed that there should be a Sunday School treat on a date to be arranged.

HARTLEY PARISH MAGAZINE.—In answer to Mr. Farrow the Chairman stated that the Magazine accounts had been audited by Mr. Chisholm. The figures as given in a recent Magazine were quoted.

The Chairman promised to send Mr. Farrow a statement showing the financial position of the Magazine to date.

COLLECTION AT HARVEST THANKSGIVING.—Mr. Gray initiated a discussion upon the collection to be taken on this occasion. The Rector had announced that the collection would go towards the upkeep of the Churchyard.

Mr. Chisholm pointed out that when the Free Will Offering was approved by the Council, it was understood that collections would not be taken for any specified object but that all grants to any object should be made out of the funds arising from the Free Will Offering.

It was understood that there might be some exceptional circumstance which would warrant a special collection to be made.

QUARTERLY MEETINGS.—Mr. Gray urged that the quarterly meetings of the Council should be regularly held as near to quarter day as possible as set forth in the minutes of an earlier Council.

This completed the business. The Rector having closed with prayer, the Council adjourned.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13th.

There was a wonderful gathering of people at the Hartley War Memorial on the afternoon of the above date, when a short united service was held to commemorate those brave men who died for us in the Great War. The service was conducted by the Lay Reader in the absence of the Rector through indisposition.

The following took part: the Hartley and District Band conducted by Mr. T. F. Tate, the Hartley (All Saints) Church Choir, the Hartley Musical Society under the conduct of Mr. W. H. Chisholm, the Hartley Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, the boys under the direction of Scout Master Delf, who was sup-

ported by a fine troop with many officers from Gravesend and Deputy District Commissioner Bond. Miss Clarke led the Girl Guides.

The programme is printed here for reference next year, as it is hoped that this service, in which all can take part irrespective of creed, may become an annual duty.

Before the service began Brigadier General Andrus, C.M.G., who wore several medals and the ribbon and badge of the Imperial Order of St. Anne of Russia, publicly thanked Captain Webster for the wonderful way in which he keeps the Hartley Memorial which is a credit to the County of Kent.

Here follows the programme: March by

the Band; National Anthem, 1 verse; Hymn, "O God, our Help in ages past"; reading of psalm 23 by Mr. S. H. Ellerby; Introductory sentences and prayers from the special service paper; Anthem, "Call to Remembrance"; Hymn, "O valiant hearts"; Address; Hymn, "Fight the Good Fight"; Blessing; Last Post and Reveille by Bugler Dyer, of Dartford; March by the Band.

At the proper moment Captain Webster was called upon to read out the names of the brave men of Hartley who died for us.

The conductor of the service was supported by General Andrus and by many old soldiers and other old servants of the State all wearing their medals.

Accumulators
Charged
and Repaired.

H. MYERS,
Church Road,
HARTLEY.

SAWS SET
and
SHARPENED.

FOR ACCURATELY MACHINED FITTINGS OR PARTS.

Electrical, General Engineering, Turning, Boring, Screw-Cutting.

TELEPHONES AND LOUD SPEAKERS REPAIRED.

Wireless Components, Accumulators, etc. supplied. Radio Receivers built to order.

THE BEST IS ALWAYS AT . . .

Phones :

48 LONGFIELD.
343 DARTFORD.
7 MEOPHAM.

WALTON & HOLMES,
Pork and Beef Butchers,
LONGFIELD.

ALSO DARTFORD
33/35/37, High Street.
16, Spital Street.
30, Lowfield Street.
84, St. Alban's Road.
And Meopham Green.

THE PORK SEASON IS NOW HERE. TRY A JOINT.

ALSO TRY OUR PORK SAUSAGES—MADE FROM PRIME ENGLISH PORK.

Delightfully Seasoned—They Satisfy The Most Exacting Taste.

LET US DEMONSTRATE OUR ABILITY TO PLEASE YOU.

DELIVERIES DAILY THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT.

HARTLEY SUNDAY SCHOOL TREAT.

This delightful function was held in the Women's Institute on Saturday afternoon, October 22nd. The little guests sat at separate tables each seating about four. You could not have seen better mannered children. Mrs. Frank Tate and Miss Sale gave devoted service. Later on they were joined by the Rector and Miss Bancks and by Miss Parkin.

The lump sugar for the tea was put in little paper baskets—most artistic—the property of the Institute. There was a tub to dip for prizes. Every child had a prize. These were selected and arranged by the Rector and his daughter. All sorts of suitable games were played after tea. Then there was a lantern show. Mrs. Tate explained and Willie Sale showed. The following in addition to those already named, contributed delightful home-made cakes and other provisions, or gave money or fruit: Mrs. Gray, Mrs. Oldrey, Mrs. F. Crouch, Mrs. Holman, Mrs. Robson, Mrs. Chuter, Mrs. Copus, Mrs. Bassano, Mrs. Cordell, Mrs. Parrett and Mrs. Newcomb. Please, teacher, will you invite me next year?

OUR DIOCESE :**WHAT IT WANTS YOU TO DO.**

Our esteemed rural dean, the Rev. F. J. Everett, has sent us a leaflet. It is too long to print in full, but I will make a useful summary. Every church man, woman and child in the Rochester diocese must do something. Our work for the Church is not done when we have properly looked after our own parish.

Here is the work to be done: Help for 9 candidates to become clergymen; help to train women workers; help to pay assistant clergy in crowded parishes where the parson is worked to death; help towards the stipends of poor rectors and vicars—scholars and gentlemen,—living at the wage of a road sweeper!

Help for women's work of rescue; help for old clergymen who are past work. You can turn out your old mare to grass for the rest of her life, but you must turn down your old clergymen. Help for widows and orphans of clergymen. Help to build new churches in new districts, a house for the parson, for parish halls and to keep our ancient and beautiful churches in repair.

Help for our Church Day Schools and Sunday Schools.

Help for the Church Assembly which manages all the affairs of the Church of England. This body wants to support candidates for ordination, training teachers in Church colleges and a pension scheme for the clergy.

You ask me, "What can I do?" Listen, if you are a child and poor, give a penny; if you are a rich child, give as much as ever you can. If you are a poor man or woman do your bit. If you are a rich man or woman build a church where it is wanted or a village hall and, above all, see that your own church, if ancient and full of history, is properly repaired. Now, take your choice out of all the things that are crying HELP.

POPPY DAY IN HARTLEY.

This was a great success. The sum collected was £12 18s. 7½. All the ladies mentioned below are to be congratulated on the result of a hard day's work selling poppies: Mrs. Riley, Miss Elphick, Miss Nellie Gray, Miss Phyllis Tubb, Miss Norah Newcomb and Miss Bancks.

For Special Value in Smith & Kaye's
Choice Blended Tea, Coffee and Cocoa,
go to the Agent:

C. F. PATTENDEN,
Church Road, Hartley.

Also Newsagent for Hartley.

A TRIAL SOLICITED.

SUPPORT LOCAL TRADE.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Lall Bagh,
Church Road,
Hartley.
20th November, 1927

DEAR EDITOR,

Will you, through the columns of the Parish Magazine, thank the Girl Guides, Boy Scouts and others who kindly helped to make our little Memorial a place of note on Armistice Day, with the gift of flowers, etc., not forgetting the school children who we hope will live long (after we have shipped to other shores) to keep up Remembrance Day, and recollect that these men died for them and their liberty.

Yours faithfully,
J. W. WEBSTER.

HARVEST FESTIVAL.

Everyone was uplifted by our Harvest Festival. Ladies had excelled themselves in the decoration of our ancient church. Many friends sent fruit, vegetables, eggs and flowers. All these good gifts of God were taken to Livingstone Hospital, Dartford, by Mrs. Andrus in due course.

At the evening service, the splendid old Harvest Anthem, "Ye shall dwell in the land," was well rendered by the choir, in which Mr. Gray and Mrs. Clark, as soloists, excelled and gave much pleasure to all.

Mr. Roy Chisholm officiated at the organ and the familiar Harvest hymns were heartily and with obvious enjoyment sung by the large congregation.

OUR CHURCH MUSIC.

Remembrance Sunday was observed in Hartley on November 13th, and special music was sung by the Choir at Evensong. Farrant's three hundred-year-old anthem "Call to Remembrance" was beautifully rendered as an Introit, and for anthem Mendelssohn's "Hear my Prayer" was sung. The soloist was Mrs. Clark and the organist Mr. Roy Chisholm, who, with Mr. Black's kind assistance as blower, gave adequate and sympathetic support to the Choir. Mrs. Clark's singing of the familiar solo was much enjoyed.

It was a pleasure to note a statement in our last issue that once on a time folk came from afar to enjoy the singing in Hartley Church, and it is justifiable to remark that at the present time courageous souls in search of similar refreshment would not be altogether disappointed.

The nights are not darker than they were in the last century, and there is safety in numbers.

HARTLEY MUSICAL SOCIETY.

An interesting development has resulted from the Annual Meeting of the Society held in October. In place of the weekly choral rehearsals, fortnightly meetings are held in the Women's Institute Hall, and the present session is devoted to the study and practice of Elizabethan part songs and madrigals, and their counterparts by modern composers. By this simple and homely method it is sought to revive in our day the love of our 16th century forebears for part singing, and if possible to re-acquire their proficiency in that delightful and sociable past-time.

The meetings are on alternate Mondays at 8 p.m. and new members will be heartily welcomed. If you can't sing in parts, come and learn and thus participate in one of the big things of this century, the revival of genuine community singing.

The meetings in the New Year will commence on January 9th, and continue fortnightly thereafter.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.

The chief item of interest in the work of the Institute recently was the very successful Sale of Work on November 26th, which was opened by Mrs. Percy Baker, Vice-Chairman of the West Kent Federation of Women's Institutes. The nett result of the sale was £42, which it is suggested may be used to still further improve the Hall. The Rector's interesting lecture on Chairs and Tables, illustrated by pictures of the various periods, was much appreciated, and it is hoped that a continuance of the lecture may be enjoyed in the near future.

A cake icing demonstration in December attracted a large audience.

Community singing is quite a feature at the meeting as is also the Trading Stall, to

which members bring anything that they wish to sell. Any woman who wishes to join the Institute will be heartily welcomed on Thursday, January 5th at 3 when Miss Nora Green will give a literary talk.

GIRL GUIDES.

The Girl Guides held their first birthday tea on November 24th. They meet every Friday, at 5.30, at the Institute, and Miss Clarke, the Captain of the troop, will be glad to see any girls of ten and over, who would like to join.

BOY SCOUTS.

Members of the 1st Hartley Patrol are meeting on Friday and Saturday evenings in the Hut, which has been kindly lent to them by Mr. Ellerby. Scoutmaster O. Delf expresses great satisfaction at the progress made by the boys, and would like to get a few more to join the troop, which has been inspected and approved by the District Sub-Commissioner.

Mr. P. Wright, B.A., an experienced scout master, has joined the troop to assist Mr. Delf.

PARISH MEETING.

More than 30 parishioners attended the September meeting, Mr. F. W. Tate being in the chair. Various matters were discussed, the first being the proposed testimonial to Postman William Crouch on his retirement, after thirty years' service, owing to ill-health. The Chairman's action in opening a fund was approved, and the meeting decided that the amount raised should be handed to Mr. Crouch, together with a letter of sympathy from the parish.

Fire risks formed the next subject. Messrs. Gray, Green and Oldrey, who were appointed by the June meeting to go into the question, presented a particularly useful report on their inquiries and made a number of recommendations as to the provision of further means of dealing with fires in the parish. After full discussion the meeting adopted the report and agreed to apply to the Rural District Council for four additional hydrants (two each in Ash and Church Roads), and also for three chemical fire extinguishers to be placed in the parish, accessible at any time.

A warm expression of thanks was accorded to the Committee for their services.

Other business done, includes a brief statement by Mr. A. H. Edward on Hartley affairs at the Rural District Council and Board of Guardians.

HARTLEY AND DISTRICT BAND.

The fourth annual general meeting was held on December 1st, 1927, at the Women's Institute Hall, the President, Brig.-Gen. T. A. Andrus, C.M.G., in the chair. The Committee's report stated that the number of playing members is 18, as compared with 23 at the end of last year. Additional members will be heartily welcomed and helped to become efficient players.

The attendance at the practices has much improved, with one or two exceptions, and all members are reminded of the importance of regular attendance in order to ensure the continued progress of the Band.

The debt on the Band instruments has been further reduced by £25 during the past year, the balance now outstanding being £35. When it is remembered that the new instruments were only purchased in March, 1925, at a cost of over £160, it will be realised that it is no mean achievement to have raised all but £35 in such a comparatively short time. Further efforts will be made during the ensuing year to pay off the remainder of the debt.

As in previous years the Band played carols in various parts of the district during the Christmas season, and as a result collected £12 12s. 7d., all of which was put to the Band funds.

Performances given by the Band during the year include a service at Hartley Church in December, 1926; a football match at Kingdown in April; a drumhead service at Southfleet in August and memorial services at Longfield and Hartley in November.

Additional music of an interesting character has been purchased from time to time, and the Band now has a large selection of good class music in practice.

The financial statement which follows is a most encouraging statement.

The President and Vice-President were unanimously re-elected, and several other well-known residents nominated to serve as Vice-Presidents. The Hon. Secretary and Conductor, Mr. T. F. Tate, and the Hon.

Treasurer, Mr. F. Tate, junr., were re-elected, and the voting for the Committee resulted as follows:—Messrs. Bevan, Parkhurst, Pepper, Pentland, Redman, Rose and Shambrook.

Financial Statement for year ended 5th November, 1927.

Income: Balance in hand, £4 os. 2d.; Members' subscriptions, £20 13s. 9d.; Hon. Members' subscriptions, £1 3s.; Donation, £11 12s.; Collections, £14 16s. 2d.; Engagement fees, £2. Total, £54 5s. 1.

Expenses: Music, £1 15s. 5d.; Rent, £13 2s.; Printing, £2 4s.; Mr. G. H. Baker, special tuition, £4; Miscellaneous expenses, £3 10 7d.; Repayment of loan, £25; Interest, £2 11s. 8d.; Balance in hand, £2 1s. 5d. Total, £54 5s. 1d.

LOAN ACCOUNT.

Amount owing, £60; Interest, £2 11s. 8d.; Total, £62 11s. 8d.

Repayment, £25; Interest paid, £2 11s. 8d.; Balance owing, £35. Total, £62 11s. 8d.

A Happy Christmas to All!



THE HARTLEY AGRICULTURAL CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY, LTD.,

Are stocking all Winter Requirements of the Farmer,

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FRUIT TREE WASHES, SPRAYING MACHINES,
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WHITE WYANDOTTES and

BUFF PLYMOUTH ROCKS.

MRS. GORRINGE'S NECKLACE

Was brilliant both as a necklace and as represented by the Hartley Players in the Constitutional hall during three nights in this December. As this Magazine is restive at delay, and as its printers are burning with zeal to get on with it, this notice will be brief but not insipid.

Taking the characters in their order, I begin: J. A. O'Brien, as Captain Mowbray, played this fine role admirably; he was sincere, earnest, natural, rather quick in uttering his lines, but a fine performance. Hugh S. Beadles, as Colonel Jardine, did justice to his part and showed pardonable irritation when crossed by his folk—"a parcel of women." Robt. Hale, as Lieut. David Cavin, played a weak, tragic, but loveable character with force and realism. Eric Green, as Detective Inspector Jernigan, represented the stolid, mask-like appearance of his character; Frank Gable, as Charles, a footman, was admirable; Blanche Curwen, as Mrs. Jardine, was a most apt choice of the producer. This lady suited her part and her part suited her—an excellent fit! Lulu Bancks, as Mrs. Jardine's daughter, Isabel Kirke, proved herself to be the versatile actress that she is. Here she was sincere, though restrained in difficult situations, natural, and convincing; Edith Evans was Vicky, another daughter. Her part was a light one but well done and her imitation of the mincing voice and walk of Mrs. Goringe was warmly approved by a large and discerning audience. Henrietta Darling was Miss Potts, she had not much to do but it was nicely done. May Symons was Mrs. Goringe. Her work was finely rounded off. The silly, ogling, giggling manners of her part were rendered perfectly all through the performance. This lady contributed much to the success of the representation.

I must speak in the highest terms of the scenery made by the stage manager, John Corri Boulger, of the hard work of the Hon. Secretary, Frank Gable and of the intelligent

and devoted service of Hedley Symons, the business manager, and Treasurer. The prompter, Miss Harry, must be remembered as well as the large number of ladies and gentlemen who acted as programme sellers, and stewards.

The producer must have a paragraph to himself. Mr. Ernest Harry is a strong character and an able master who is readily obeyed. His knowledge of stagecraft is extensive and practical. He made a capital little speech at the end of the last performance and emphasized the high ideal which the players have in view.

I congratulate him upon his restoration to health and upon the return of much of his ancient vigour and incisive speech.

LATE NOTE.

A collection was made to present a testimonial to Captain J. W. Webster for the fine service he renders. It will be accompanied by a suitable expression of warm appreciation. Just as we are going to press the following information comes to hand:—Hartley War Memorial Presentation to Captain J. W. Webster was made at the Hartley School on Saturday, 17th December, a variety concert followed.

The Editor has for Sale a
ONE VALVE
WIRELESS SET,
 all complete in perfect condition.

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 Apply to Mr. H. Myers.

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FRUIT TREES: Apples, Pears, Plums or Cherry, 12/- per Dozen.

Ornamental Trees and Shrubs, Silver Birch, Acacia, Ash, Beech, Chestnut, Norway Spruce, Cupressus Lawsonia, Lilac, Rhododendron and Laburnum, Sycamore, Quince Laurels, Poplars, Ribes, Lavender, Rosemary, Cherry, Maple, Vinca, Snowberry, Larch, Golden Privet, &c., all above 4/- per Dozen, 30/- per 100.

Peat Moss, 2 cwt. Bales, 6/6, Digging Forks, Spades, Picks, Hammers, Saws, Hinges, Screws, Nails, Bolts, Roofing Felt, Padlocks, Rim Locks, Night Latches, Cabinet Handles, Garden Hoes, Rakes, Shears, Scythes, Barb Wire, Plain Wire, Wire Strainers, Galvanized Staples, Wire Staples, Sash Line, Sash Lifts, Cross Garnetts, Emery Cloth, Emery Paper, Pincers, Pliers, Cutting Nippers, Pipe Pliers, Vulcanized Pliers, Sheep Shears, Paper Shears, Tinman's Shears, &c., &c.

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