

ALL SAINTS', HARTLEY,  
**Parish Magazine.**

(Published Quarterly.)

EDITED BY J. WELLS THATCHER.



KINGSDOWN CHURCH.

THE RECTOR'S LETTER.

MY DEAR PARISHIONERS,

I have had, from time to time, so much to say in these pages, about the past history and traditions of our own parish that I feel sure you will welcome the idea of going a little further afield and hearing something about the churches and parishes in our immediate neighbourhood.

The scheme has been suggested to some of our neighbours who have very kindly consented to fall in with it.

The Rector of Kingsdown is first in the

field with a most interesting account of the past history of the church, and has supplied the picture which you see on this page.

This is a good beginning and we have promises of contributions to follow from the Vicar of Darenth and the Rector of Southfleet.

I think you will agree with me that our Editor is to be congratulated upon deciding on this new and promising feature of our magazine.

Yours very truly,

GERARD W. BANCKS.

## KINGSDOWN CHURCH.

BY THE REV. F. W. WARLAND, M.A., R.D.

The Church of St. Edmund the King, Kingsdown, is probably one of the oldest and certainly one of the most beautifully situated in this neighbourhood. Surrounded by a wood of 77 acres few Churches have so beautiful and peaceful a site.

Very little is known of its early history. It is not mentioned in Domesday Book although the ruined Church of Maplescombe is noticed therein.

Henry 1st granted Kingsdown with tithes in corn and cattle and pannage and mills to the Priory of St. Andrew, Rochester. Bishop Gundolph allotted it to the monks of Rochester. Bishop Richard de Glanvill in the reign of Richard II decreed it should be at the disposal of the Bishop in all matters.

Bishop Benedict confirmed the grant of Kingsdown to the Church of St. Andrew, Rochester, saving a vicarage for a Vicar who should have all alterages, obventions and land belonging to the church except the chief messuage and its appurtenances as the same were then parted by a ditch which was to remain to the almoner of the Priory. The said almoner was to pay yearly before Xmas two seams of corn, one of wheat and one of barley to the Vicar who should sustain all the burdens of right belonging to the church except 16s. for the use of the dormitory and 12d. yearly to the cellarer both which pensions the almoner should pay.

Bishop Brown, 1436, finding the income insufficient re-endowed the church with all tithes real and personal and all profits and enrolments saving 6s. 8d. to be paid to the Prior and Convent of St. Andrew out of the fruits and profits of the Vicarage.

At the dissolution of the Priory in the reign of Henry VIII the church was surrendered to the King who, two years later, granted it to the newly elected Dean and Chapter of Rochester. Thus it has been closely connected with the Cathedral of Rochester from the days of Henry I. Of its history before that time nothing seems to be known.

The structure of the Church is a plain aisleless nave built of flint rubble. The south wall as far as the west side of the tower is in fairly regular courses, similar in character to the work in the ruined church at Maplescombe. As in this wall there is a small circular window of very early date it is quite probable that this south wall is all that remains of a church much earlier than the rest of the building.

The Tower is unusual in position and material. It is placed on the south side at the junction of the nave and chancel instead of on the north side which is the most usual site and it is built entirely of undressed flint without any brick or stone in the quoins. Canon Livett says he remembers no other tower in England of similar construction. Its date is probably 13th century.

At one time there must have been an enlargement of the Church on the south as in this wall are four arches, two in the nave and one on the south chancel wall as well as one on the east side of the tower. There are two theories as to their meaning. Some authorities think there was a south aisle ending at the east in an apse. Others look upon them as indicating three side-chapels of the 14th century. It is difficult to form an opinion as to which is the correct view.

The windows in the nave are very interesting. The two on the north are 14th century and contain beautiful specimens of 14th

century glass the eastern especially lovely, the Virgin and Holy Child. This is figured in Winston's book upon old English Glass. The western one is our Lord in Glory exhibiting the marks of His Passion. High up in the south wall is a small window of Tudor brickwork near to which is the very early window previously mentioned. This latter was discovered about 20 years ago when the plaster was stripped off the outside of the church. The blocking of the interior splay was carefully removed bringing to light an ancient wall painting on the reveals. It depicts the story of Cain and Abel the left hand representing the rival offerings whilst on the right hand Cain is murdering his brother. The date of this interesting painting has been placed about 1050. Cain is using a jaw-bone as a weapon. Shakespeare in "Hamlet," Act V Scene I, makes Hamlet say: "That skull had a tongue in it and could sing once; how the knave jowls it to the ground as if it were Cain's jaw-bone that did the first murder." It is interesting to reflect that in these ancient wall paintings, several of which have been discovered in the churches of Kent, we have the beginning of English Art.

Whilst repairs were being done to the church a silver penny of King John and also two silver pennies of Edward II were found. The King John coin is in mint condition. This little church is well worth a visit by all who take any interest in ancient buildings and the work of our old Saxon forefathers.

#### EDITOR'S NOTES.

We all congratulate our esteemed friend, Mr. W. H. Chisholm, on his important promotion. He is now European Traffic Manager of the Illinois Central System of Railways. We wish him many happy and successful years.

I am so much obliged to our distributors who deliver the *Rochester Diocesan Notes* in the months when this magazine does not appear.

\* \* \*

You will read with interest the various criticisms on "The Man from Toronto," which was presented by the Hartley Players.

\* \* \*

I applaud Mrs. Oldrey for her successful efforts on behalf of the Church Army of which she is the Hon. Local Secretary. A short paragraph will be found in another place.

\* \* \*

The school children attended Church on Ascension Day. The Rector conducted the short service and the Diocesan Lay Reader addressed the children. His remarks were founded on the words on the signal box at Fawkham Station: "Stop, Look, and Listen." Miss Fiddis, Mrs. Nickalls and Miss Vera Emmott were in charge of the children. Miss Fiddis was not well but, by a brave effort of will, she played the organ.

\* \* \*

I was specially struck by the way in which the children recited the responses and by their singing. A little girl who was next to me sang splendidly and a smaller boy opposite has got his eye on Rochester Cathedral choir I am quite sure.

\* \* \*

Our services at Eastertide were well attended and our ancient church of All Saints was adorned with Easter blossoms. On Good Friday we all sang "the Story of the Cross." There were 57 communicants on Easter Sunday.

\* \* \*

Whit Sunday services were good. The Rector preached an admirable sermon. I asked him to publish it in this electrifying organ of public opinion, but he seems rather shy!

On the day following the Annual Meeting of the Parochial Church Council, the Rector's Warden and Mr. Wakeford, the newly elected People's Warden, went to Rochester and were duly admitted to their offices by the Venerable the Archdeacon of Rochester.

The leaflet inserted in this number entitled "Hartley through the Ages," is admirably printed. The criticisms of the book should be a source of much satisfaction to the learned author.

\* \* \*

My friend, Mrs. Gibbens, of Green-Street-Green, has allowed me to see a learned work done by a relative, W. L. Cuttle. It is entitled "Report on Excavations at the Toumba and Tables of Vardaroftsa, Macedonia, 1925-1926." Reprinted from the Annual of the British School of Athens. The drawings of the pottery and other ancient "finds" have been done with great care.

\* \* \*

It is with much regret that I have to report that my friend David—Mr. D. T. R. Gray—has found it necessary to give up his work in our venerable Church after many years of regular and valuable service. We shall miss his powerful voice in the choir. I trust it may be agreeable to my fellow Church members to give Mr. Gray a small token of appreciation. An illuminated address in album form is a good sort of token. I have found it to give much pleasure in other work with which I am associated.

\* \* \*

Many subscribers have desired to see a picture of the Editor. By the generosity of Lafayette, Ltd., of 160, New Bond Street, the distinguished photographers, this can be done. Lafayette recently asked the subject of the picture to give them a sitting for public

use as his name appears in "Whos Who." The firm have kindly given the picture to the Institute free of cost! From the *Given Wilson Institute Record*, Plaistow.

#### BAPTISMS.

April 28th.—Alan Henry, son of Ernest Ridhard and Henrietta Lilian Hoadley.

„ „ —John Arthur, son of Sidney Herbert and Beatrice Millicent Buffery.

May 19th.—[REDACTED] of Christopher Fred and Marion Serena Pattenden.

„ „ —John Patrick, son of Frank and Daisy May Day.

#### BURIAL.

April 13th.—Betty Elsie Webb, aged 8 years.

#### Church Information.

*The Lord Bishop*—THE RIGHT REV. JOHN REGINALD HARMER, D.D.

*Archdeacons*—THE VEN. DONALD TAIT, M.A. Archdeacon of Rochester.

THE VEN. LEONARD SAVILL, M.A., Archdeacon of Tonbridge.

*Dean of the Cathedral*—THE VERY REV. REGINALD THOMAS TALBOT, D.D.

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

*Churchwardens*—Mr. T. R. A. Wakeford and Mr. J. Wells Thatcher.

#### CHURCH SERVICES.

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

**Holy Communion**, 9 a.m., on the 2nd Sunday in each month; at 12 noon on other Sundays which will be duly announced.

July.	August.	September.
7th—6th Sunday after Trinity.	4th—10th Sunday after Trinity.	1st—14th Sunday after Trinity.
14th—7th Sunday after Trinity.	6th—Transfiguration of Our Lord.	8th—15th Sunday after Trinity.
15th—St. Swithens.	11th—11th Sunday after Trinity.	15th—16th Sunday after Trinity.
21st—8th Sunday after Trinity.	18th—12th Sunday after Trinity.	21st—St. Matthew, A. E. & M.
25th.—St. James, A. & M.	24th—St. Bartholomew, A. & M.	22nd—17th Sunday after Trinity.
28th—9th Sunday after Trinity.	25th—13th Sunday after Trinity.	29th—St. Michael & all Angels.
		18th Sunday after Trinity.

ance Committee: The Churchwardens, the Treasurer and Miss Green.

*Sidesmen*—Mr. A. Blackwell, Mr. J. Green, Mr. B. Alexander, Mr. R. Adams.

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

*Choirmaster*—Mr. W. H. Chisholm.

*Members of the Choir*.—Mrs. Balchin, Mrs. Eric Green, Miss Boorman, Mrs. Chisholm, Mrs. T. J. Clark, Miss Gray, Miss E. Green, Mrs. Keen, Miss M. Marrington, Miss Newcomb, Mr. G. F. Oldrey, Miss Parkin, Mrs. Symons, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Tate, Mr. Frank Tate, junr., Mr. G. G. Marrington, Mr. and Mrs. Wakeford and Harold R. Wakeford.

*Diocesan Lay Reader*.—Mr. J. Wells Thatcher.

*Sunday School* at the Church Parochial School.—Teachers: Mrs. Gray, Mrs. Adams and Miss Alexander. Time 3 p.m. to 3.45 p.m.

*Church Parochial School*.—Miss Fiddis, Headmistress; Mrs. Nickalls, Infant School Mistress; Miss Vera W. Emmott, Assistant 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*—Mrs. Eric Green.

*March*—Mrs. Boulger.

*April*—Mrs. Isaacs.

*Parochial Church Council* (elected under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure, 1921).—Council for 1928-9: The Rector (who is Chairman by virtue of his

Mr. W. H. Chisholm, Miss Newcomb, Mrs. Balchin, Mrs. Keen, Mr. Eric Green (Hon. Treasurer), Mr. B. Alexander, Mrs. Gray, Mrs. Chisholm, Mr. and Mrs. Ball,



THE EDITOR.

[Lafayette].

office), Mrs. Eric Green, Mrs. Oldrey, Mrs. F. W. Tate, Mrs. Adams, Miss Sale, Mr. R. Adams, Miss Green (Hon. Secretary), Miss Rodwell, Mrs. Alexander, Mr. F. W. Tate,

Mrs. Wakeford, Mr. Marrington, with the Churchwardens by virtue of their offices.

*Committees*—Standing Committee: The Chairman and the Churchwardens. Fin-

*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.

*December*—Mrs. Newton.

#### PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL AND EASTER VESTRY.

This was held at the School house on Monday evening, April 22nd last. Mr. Wells Thatcher presided in the absence of the Rector. After prayer Miss Green, Hon. Secretary, read the Minutes of the last Annual Meeting. Mr. Eric Green, Hon. Treasurer, presented his report. The Rector named Mr. Wells Thatcher as his Warden and the People's Warden was Mr. T. R. A. Wakeford, elected unanimously on the motion of Mr. Eric Green supported by the Chairman and Mr. F. W. Tate.

Mr. A. L. Farrow said farewell to his friends on resigning the office of People's Warden. A high tribute was paid to Mr. Farrow by the meeting for his invaluable service to the Church and its Rector.

The present members of the Council were re-elected with the addition of Mrs. Gray, Mrs. Chisholm, Mr. and Mrs. Ball, Mrs. Wakeford and Mr. Marrington. The Committees, Sidesmen, Lay representatives, Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary were re-elected. A warm expression of thanks was voiced to the two officers last named. Votes of thanks were passed to the lady workers, to Mr. Chisholm and to Mrs. Oldrey.

The accounts for the past year, as submitted by the Hon. Treasurer, appeared in the last issue.

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

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## THE HARTLEY PLAYERS

Present "*The Man From Toronto.*"

And the presentation was admirable. It took place at the Hartley Constitutional Hall, on April 12th and 13th last. In my view the comedy was of just the right kind for our village. Sympathetic and spontaneous laughter from a discerning audience greeted the passage of the play from start to finish.

The witty dialogue and the amusing situations created by the author, Douglas Murray, indicated the fine art of the playwright.

Now for the characters as they appeared on the programme:

As Fergus Wimbush, Robert Hale, a Canadian on his first visit to England sustained a difficult part. Nothing was overdone, the character was well balanced and in one place reached a high level of excellence. Blanche Curwen as Ruth Wimbush, a stern and masterful sister suited her part; it was a perfect fit. (May I say, in brackets, that the actress in private life is a delightful friend and companion.)

Mary Beadles as the younger sister of Wimbush was charming. The radiancy of youth, the breeziness of the Colonial girl and a natural enjoyment of her role quite reached my heart. May Symons was Mrs. Calthorpe, a widow young, fascinating and mistress of all the seductive arts by which men are beguiled. This performance was a fine bit of work all through and when Mrs. Calthorpe took the part of her own parlourmaid she was superb. If I had such a parlourmaid I should begin to regret my advancing years.

Charles Bignell took the role of Mr. Priestley, guardian, trustee, uncle by marriage and legal adviser to Mrs. Calthorpe. The acting of this gentleman calls for the highest praise. It was without a flaw. Oliver

H. T. PARRETT

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Beadles was Robert Gilmour, cousin of the young widow. He was a little stiff at first but the modesty, shyness and youthful simplicity of the character were well rendered.

Joyce Roper was Martha. The description of Martha on the programme as the smart little cook-general of Mrs. Calthorpe, was exactly realised. Betty Cockell represented Mrs. Hubbard, the ugliest woman ever. It was a small part effectively sustained and her make-up caused much merriment. Mary Beadles appeared in another role as Minnie Hubbard, daughter of the plain lady. Her giggles and her falsetto voice were most infectious. Mary is a distinct addition to the Hartley Players.

The play was admirably produced by Hugh S. Beadles. The scenery was done by J. C. and H. A. Boulger. Both deserving of high praise for the artistic effect of their work and the labour involved. Mrs. Oldrey was at the piano and did not spare herself to entertain the company in the waits between the acts. Hedley Symons as business manager had much work to do beforehand and at the play itself. This was a labour of love to him, especially as his talented wife was upholding the honours of his name.

The stewards and the programme sellers all strove for the comfort of the visitors. On my way home after the play I came to the conclusion that the village of Hartley is a pleasant place to live in, and that the Hartley Players draw to it many distinguished visitors from neighbouring villages.

THE EDITOR.

#### SECOND CRITICISM.

The first night of "The Man From Toronto" fell upon one of the few wet days of this Spring, but all those who faced the inclement weather must have been glad they

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did so, for the Hartley Players provided an extremely pleasant and well-finished performance. The setting on the stage had exactly the same qualities: the yellow walls were sunshining and there was a feeling of space which is not easy to obtain on the small stage.

Mrs. Symons again showed undeniable ability: she acted with restraint and self-possession and showed her sureness as much by the play of her hands as of face and voice. Capt. Bignall too seemed natural in a part that showed various moods as his testiness thawed to affection or stiffened to dignity. Capt. Hale conveyed very well the breeziness and cheerfulness of the Canadian who, despite an outward appearance of unconventional brusquerie is romantic and simple-hearted, for a part of experienced cheerfulness on the whole suits him best. Miss Beadles and Mrs. Curwen were his sisters: the younger looked fresh, upstanding as she was meant to do and for the elder, Mrs. Curwen has probably never been more happily cast. Mr. Beadles' youth qualified him for Bob Gilmour, but, though he possessed spontaneity, his acting needed more finish, his voice tended to repeat the same cadence and was not always quite convincingly right. There was, too, some uncertainty about accent and character in Miss Roper's "Martha," whose Devonshire tongue sometimes reverted to normal. "The ugliest woman on earth" and her daughter undoubtedly set off the poise of "Mrs. Calthorpe" by their gaucherie, but perhaps they could have achieved this without so much exaggeration.

It is, however, virtual quibbling to pick any holes in so thoroughly enjoyable a performance. The whole was of very high standard, and the producer, stage manager and cast all deserve congratulations.

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## THIRD CRITICISM.

A good play, well produced, well staged, well cast, well acted, and, in spite of uncertain weather, well attended. This describes "The Man From Toronto," produced by the Hartley Players at the Hartley Constitutional Hall on April 12th and 13th. An excellent example of what amateurs can do when they are all happy in their chosen parts. The word duels between Mrs. Calthorpe (May Symons) and her "Guardian, Trustee, Uncle by marriage and Legal Adviser," Mr. Priestley (Charles Bignell), the sincerity of Fergus Wimbush (Robert Hale), the contrast between the sisters Ruth and Ada Wimbush (Blanche Curwen and Mary Beadles), the rather harassed youthfulness of Robert Gilmour (Oliver Beadles), the belated indignation of Martha the Cook-General (Joyce Roper), the wonderful ugliness of Mrs. Hubbard (Betty Cockell) and her daughter Minnie's (Mary Beadles) falsetto laughter—it was all just right. Congratulations to the producer, Dr. Beadles, and his excellent cast.

## FOURTH CRITICISM.

After an experience extending over a period of twenty years on the professional stage I should like to express my hearty appreciation of the successful efforts of The Hartley Players in their delightful delineation of "The Man From Toronto."

Mrs. May Symons gave a very sweet and charming portrayal of "Mrs. Calthorpe." She undoubtedly has natural aptitude, and in a long and trying part she never failed to strike the right note.

Buoyant and breezy was Mr. Robert Hale's characterisation of Fergus Wimbush. His comedy was very effective and was never forced or unnatural. Mr. Charles Bignell is to be congratulated for his outstanding per-

formance of Mr. Priestley"—a clever and exceedingly fine presentation.

Special mention should be made of Miss Joyce Roper's "Martha," but all the small parts were particularly well played.

The whole performance was given with sufficient fire and spirit to prevent it from ever becoming monotonous and must have been most gratifying to the producer. With the restricted space at his disposal Mr. H. A. Boulger achieved wonders as regards the scenery and general effects. I suspect it was a case of "the labour we delight in physics pain."

Might I close my remarks with the tentative suggestion that on some occasions it struck me that it would be advisable for members of the company to speak up a little more for the benefit of those sitting at the back of the hall? My general impression is that the acoustic properties are anything but good.

My final word is one of warning. If this should meet the eye of anybody imbued with the desire to enter this profession with any idea of obtaining a livelihood from it, I will only say that unless they have the constitution of an ox, the hide of a rhinoceros, the digestion of an ostrich, or great influence and a big banking account, they should leave it severely alone.

WILFRED MANSFIELD.



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**HARTLEY MUSICAL SOCIETY.**

This Society gave one of its inspiring entertainments on March 14th last. The Women's Institute was not as well filled as I should like or as the Society deserves. The principal work chosen was the "Ancient Mariner." Sopranos: Mrs. Bishop and Mrs. Shepperson; Contralto: Miss Gwen Hawkins; Tenor: Mr. J. B. Vernon; Bass: Mr. Cecil Cope. Mr. Cyril Worsley conducted in the absence abroad of Mr. W. H. Chisholm.

In the song recital, Miss Gwen Hawkins, and Mr. Cecil Cope took part.

Part songs concluded the programme. They were: "Cargoes," "Hoyda, jolly rutterkin," and "Early one morning." The accompanists were Mrs. Oldrey and Mr. Roy Chisholm.

The choir, the soloists, Mr. Worsley, and the accompanists deserve all the praise that mere words can carry.

A little incident at the finish pleased me very much. Mrs. Keen stepped forward to Mrs. Oldrey and gave her a charming bunch of flowers. Very pretty! Very pretty ending!

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### CHURCH ARMY.

A whist drive was given in the Hartley Women's Institute, on Saturday, the 6th April, with great success, in aid of the Church Army, the nett proceeds amounting to £5.

Kind friends contributed numerous good prizes and also refreshments. The Hon. Local Secretary takes this opportunity of thanking all who so kindly helped to make the evening a success.

### 1ST HARTLEY BOY SCOUTS.

This troop spent a delightful Easter at Nurstead Park, by kind permission of Major Edmeades, who, together with his lady, showed the troop every kindness and formally inspected them.

The mothers and friends of the boys made

generous provision for their sustenance. The boys are most grateful to them.

On arrival tents were smartly pitched. The camp cooking was well done. Everything went smoothly owing to good discipline. Some of the boys made their own tents—most creditable affairs. Each scout contributed 2s. 6d. towards the outing. They had a great time. Scoutmaster O. F. Delf paid them a visit. The troop was directed by Assistant Scoutmaster Fred. J. Rogers, and Cubmaster Sizmer. Two zealous officers.

The Annual General Parents' Meeting took place a few days before the outing.

I nearly forgot to add that there was church parade on Easter Sunday at the venerable Church. The camp fires and the sing songs in the evenings were thrilling.

**“ WESTWARD HO ! ”**

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HARTLEY HILL COTTAGE.

HARTLEY CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH NOTES.

We should be a happy people at this time; having completed the purchase of a plot of land, adjoining the Women's Institute Hall, 50ft. road frontage by 320 feet in depth. This land, we trust, will be dedicated to the worship and service of God for all time, when the Church Buildings we have in view shall be erected thereon.

The purchase price was £120. On March 29th, 1928, we decided to buy this land. Our cash balance at that time being £34. In just under a year the balance of £86 has been raised. Most of this sum was acquired by loans of £5 and £10 from our members, and eventually a great part of the loan was generously given.

Our Treasurer, Mr. F. Wise, analyses the sum subscribed as follows:

	£	s.	d.
Surplus from Sunday Services			
from Dec., 1926 to Feb. 28th,			
1929     ...     ...     ...	54	11	0
From Social Parties     ...     ...	6	14	4
„ Rummage Sale     ...     ...	24	1	8
„ Donations 10/-, 10/-, £1,	£1,	£5,	£5,
£1, £5, £5, £2 10s., £2 10s.,	£3,	£15	...
£3, £15     ...     ...     ...	36	0	0
	£121	7	0

We are indebted to Mrs. F. Wise, Mrs. Hooper, Mrs. Gable and Mrs. T. Tate for organising the very enjoyable social evenings.

A Building Fund has been started by a London lady, who, appreciating a Sunday evening service, gave £1 to inaugurate this Fund.

\* \* \*

On Easter Sunday our young people had the pleasure of listening to an address from Mr. J. Wells Thatcher on the wonderful boys and girls of the Bible.

\* \* \*

Dr. Barrett's old Church Hymnal has now been replaced in the Services by the more up-to-date compilation—the Congregational Hymnary. Our grateful thanks are due to friends who have sent donations or have purchased their own copy of the book, and so have relieved the Church of a part of this expense.

\* \* \*

Several preachers have expressed great pleasure in meeting the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides at the monthly Church Parades. These services have been bright and interesting. Audiences just comfortably filling the Hall. On February 10th the Rev. M. Williams, M.A., advised no scout to marry unless he had lived a straight life, as a wife is sure to find out anything crooked and wrong.

On March 10th Mr. S. Wycherley showed how the fine grained stones took the best polish, and so the lad or lass of fine character would come out first in life's stress and strain. Mr. E. W. Taylor said the boy who trusted in luck was heading for disaster. It was pluck we all needed. We offer congratulations to Scoutmaster O. Delf and Lieutenant Edwards, the officers in charge, on the fine appearance and good manners of their companies.

We have had some good preachers during the past quarter, notably, Commander Paymaster J. P. Ratcliff, R.N., and Mr. A. J. Mee, B.Sc.

S. H. ELLERBY,

Hon. Sec. H.C.C.

#### LONGFIELD, HARTLEY, DARENTH, & DISTRICT NURSING ASSOCIATION.

An enjoyable afternoon was spent by those who attended the Annual Meeting of the above Association.

By the kind invitation of Miss Fleet, the President, it was held at The Grange, Darenth, on Thursday, May 2nd, and also thanks to her generous hospitality, a delightful tea was provided at the close of proceedings.

The chair was taken at 3.30 by Mr. Wells Thatcher, who conducted the business part of it in such a way as to save the audience from one minute's dullness.

Having presented the Report and Balance Sheet for adoption, after commenting especially on the amount of work done at a small cost; and getting the Committee elected for the present year; he read through the rule as to fees, which is being revised owing to some uncertainty as to the interpretation of it, though not changed at all as to the charges made for the Nurses' services.

An address was given by Miss Babington, Secretary of the County Nursing Association. She suggested the question being asked by a member "Is it any good paying a guinea for being affiliated to the Kent County Nursing Association?" and in her answer showed how much more we receive than the value of our subscription, which is good business for us.

Notices will shortly be seen of a scheme of "Gardens of England" being open at a

charge of one shilling per head on behalf of district nursing. We note that Cobham Park was open on Whit Monday for this good cause.

Referring to the Report of our Association, Miss Babington said that it seemed to breathe the "right spirit"—giving a chance of a nurse going to sick neighbours even if not required by the members themselves—and so worth supporting. Which of us did not give thanks that we live in these days and not a hundred or even less, when we heard how the sick were at the mercy of a race of so-called "nurses" who drank gin and took snuff at their bedside?

Votes of thanks were passed (i) to the Speaker (proposed by Canon Powell, seconded by Miss Fleet), (ii) to Mrs. White, resigning Committee work (proposed by the Secretary, seconded by Mrs. Baldwin), (iii) to Mr. Tapsell for auditing the accounts (proposed by Mrs. Crouch, seconded by the Treasurer), (iv) to the Chairman (proposed by Mr. Fleet, seconded by the Rev. C. M. Gibbens) and lastly, after remarks by the Chairman, to Mr. and Miss Fleet for inviting us to their house and showing such bountiful hospitality (proposed by Mrs. Lancashire, seconded by Mrs. Spalding).

Mrs. Eric Green gave a humorous recitation before the "refreshing cup" of tea was served.

Possibly a hundred may have been present and we may safely say that all went away glad that they had come.

[This report would not be complete unless I add, on behalf of the Association, that the warmest thanks are due to Mrs. Gibbens, the Hon. Secretary, for the thorough and able way in which she fills her office.—Ed.]

### WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.

A varied programme has been enjoyed by the members of the Women's Institute during the past few months.

Capt. Austen, who lived in Jamaica for many years, and was there during the great earthquake, gave an interesting talk.

A very instructive and helpful talk on Local Government was given by Mr. Cromar.

A cookery competition was arranged and a "something new out of something old" competition proved very entertaining.

On third Thursdays Mrs. Tom Tate has very kindly taught the art of chair caning to any member who wished to learn, and many chairs in the village have now taken on a new lease of life in consequence.

Mrs. Oldrey and Miss Chisholm help with the community singing, which is a feature of the Thursday meetings.

The usual Easter gift of eggs was contributed by the members and sent to Gravesend Hospital, and two sacks of clothing was given to the distressed miners.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 6th, 3 p.m., when a collection of curios and antiques brought by the members will be on view, and Miss Margaret Smyth will talk on the British Empire Cancer Campaign. New members will be heartily welcomed.

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.....  
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 .....

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### EDITOR'S FINAL NOTE.

Rev. Canon Powell, Vicar of Darenth and Rural Dean of Gravesend, has written a charming article about his ancient Church of Darenth. It will appear in our next issue.

### ANNUAL PARISH MEETING.

Twenty parishioners attended the "Annual Assembly," held at the School on April 8th. Dealing first with the business laid down by the Local Government Acts, the meeting re-elected Mr. F. W. Tate Chairman for 1929-30, and then proceeded to the appointment of two representatives on the Dartford Rating Authority. Regret was expressed at the withdrawal of Mr. Peter Newcombe from office, and a resolution of thanks was accorded to him for his services. Mr. C. W. Nairn was re-appointed, with Mr. G. F. Oldrey as his colleague for the ensuing year. The Chairman pointed out that the whole parish was much indebted to its representatives for time and trouble spent in raising questions, which had been particularly difficult owing to the general re-assessments recently carried out. Many appeals had been entered against the new valuations, and Messrs. Nairn and Newcombe had done everything possible in the interest of Hartley ratepayers.

A proposal to establish a district fire brigade was then considered. The scheme, which was the outcome of conferences held at Horton Kirby some time ago, would have entailed a large expenditure on engines and equipment, and a regular charge on rates. Mr. Hedley Symons, in moving that the time was not opportune for the establishment of such a brigade, argued that an engine at Horton Kirby would be less serviceable than that at Dartford. Mr. Ralph Day, who seconded, said that as the Church Road main was known to be too small to supply water for a fire engine, the benefit of the new scheme would be limited to a portion only of the parish. After further discussion the resolution was put and carried.

Two other motions connected with fire protection were then carried: the first, at the instance of Mr. Sizmur, asked for an inquiry by the Rural District Council into the question of providing chemical fire extinguishers for public use; and the second, suggested by Mr. T. F. Tate, called for a test by the District Council of the efficiency of the existing fire hydrants.

Arising out of footpath problems the Chairman proposed an approach to the Commons and Footpaths Preservation Society in order to obtain an independent opinion on the points in dispute, and the meeting agreed that this should be tried.

Mrs. Bishop called attention to the long interval in the Sunday evening train service from Fawkham to London, and the Chairman received instructions to communicate with the Southern Railway on the subject.

### HARTLEY AND DISTRICT BAND.

The "Gravesend and Dartford Reporter" commented upon the concert given on April 30th as follows:—

"The Hartley Brass Band gave an excellent concert at the Constitutional Hall on Tuesday evening. The large hall was well filled with an appreciative audience. The Band had an interesting programme . . . and acquitted itself admirably. Mr. J. Vernon has a fine tenor voice and rendered his songs in capital style. Mr. Bernard Wheeler gave some good comic songs and patter; Mr. and Mrs. Eric Green were excellent in their humorous sketches. At the close of the programme Mr. T. F. Tate, the very able conductor, proposed a vote of thanks to the artistes, the accompanists, Miss Burch and Mr. Comont, and to Mrs. Shambrook, who kindly attended to the little needs of the artistes in the way of coffee and sandwiches during the interval."

We may supplement the above by adding that the Band has now succeeded in paying off the loan on their instruments, having raised by means of donations, subscriptions and concerts no less than £320 in the five years since their formation. Congratulations!

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Or to the Hon. Secretary,

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