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ALL SAINTS' HARTLEY,

Parish Magazine

(*Published Quarterly.*)

EDITOR, THE RECTOR.

HARTLEY CHURCH

The Rector's Letter.

Hartley,

March, 1937.

My dear Parishioners,

It is now just over a year since I first come to Hartley and began to face a series of problems that had been allowed to accumulate for many years.

It was during my first week at Hartley that I heard about the Church Schools and how cold they were said to be. In a few months the stoves which had been passed as adequate for so long were replaced or supplemented by more up-to-date stoves and that ceiling in the old schoolroom which had presumable been painted a dark brown during the whole of its ninety-six years of existance was painted white and two skylights built into the roof. All this has been paid for.

Less than a month after I came to Hartley we were told that the Church wanted repairing rather urgently. On looking into records of the Church it was clear that instead of bemoaning the expense Hartley should be thankful that the old building had stood so well when so little money been spent on the exterior during the last twenty or thirty years. The money for repairs will never be raised said the officials resident pessimists, but the fact is that the money for repairs is coming in steadily and I hope we shall see our way clear to commence work during the summer. A report by

the Standing Committee of the Parochial Church Council is reprinted in this magazine, showing what work will be undertaken. The exact cost of this is not available at the moment, I hope that within two years all the money will be forthcoming if people continue to give as generously as they have done during the past year.

The old Rectory which for the last ninety years has been so absurdly situated at the extreme end of the parish is no longer a burden to be borne by the Rectors of Hartley, and the mortgage on the Rector's stipend which was raised to put water on to the Rectory Cottage has been cleared off now that the house is sold. Plans for the new Rectory have been obtained and I hope that when you are walking along Church Road one day this coming summer you will see workmen engaged in building it.

In addition to these non-recurring problems there are many other varied things to do which outsiders do not notice when things run smoothly. So when I hear as unfortunately I do that some people have the strange idea that progress is not being made, I can only say that these people to whom I refer are not interested enough either in Hartley or the Church to find out the true facts.

The spiritual side of the Church's work cannot be measured like the business side can be, but we have every reason to thank God for the Christian fellowship which exists among the members of our congregation. It is easy when thinking about the business side of the Church to think that a successful parish is one which can show an eleborate organisation, but to what end do these organisations exist? It is not that our spiritual life may be freed from distractions and that our influence as followers of Christ should spread?

What constitutes Church membership? As in all societies it has been found necessary to have in our Church certain rules for its members to keep. Above all man-made rules there is that definition of a Christian which our Lord Jesus Christ said—"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to the other."

Yours sincerely,

L. G. W. LENTON.

Sunday School Party.

A Christmas Party for the children of our Sunday School and their Parents was arranged by the Sunday School Teachers and friends, and took place on Saturday, January 23rd., in the Women's Institute Hall. There was a generous supply of good things to eat which go to make a party enjoyable, and after the tables were cleared away, there were all kinds of games and competitions and singing until the little guests were tired out, with the help of kind friends who supplied gifts, each boy and girl was given a present to take home with them.

Wanted—Sunday School Teachers.

At least one additional Sunday School Teacher, Lady or Gentleman, is required for the Parish Church Section of the Church of England Sunday School, and also for the Sunday School held in the Church Day Schools. Both Sunday Schools commence at 3 p.m. and last for under an hour. Sunday School work is of vital importance to the life of the Church, as it directs the lives of future Church members. Will anyone who feels that they would like to held, communicate with the Rector.

Organ Fund.

Subscribers to the Organ Fund will be glad to know that it has £38/18/9 to its credit. Further progress has been restarted by the very pressing need for Church repairs, but it is hoped that as soon as funds permit, our Parish Church will possess an organ suitable for leading the musical part of the services, and worthy of the ancient Church.

Coronation Services.

The Coronation of our King and Queen will be the occasion of great festivities throughout the Country and Empire, but the centre of it all will be the ceremony in Westminster Abbey when the King is solemnly set apart for his task in the house of God. His Majesty, we know, will be engaged by our loyalty to him expressed in elaborate festivities He will be uplifted by our prayers for him and his reign. There will be a special service at the Parish Church on the Sunday before the Coronation when all are invited to join in prayers and thanksgivings on this occasion.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

Sanctuary Guild.

The following ladies arranged flowers on the Holy Table :—

April—Mrs. Hemmings.
May —Mrs. Appleton and Mrs. Todd.
June—Mrs. Adams.

Parish Register.

Baptism.

Mar. 31st —[redacted], Son of Harry Cecil and Margaret Parkins.

Burials.

1936
Dec. 16th—William Thomas Boucher, aged 79 yrs.
18th—John Henry Bonsall, aged 80 yrs.
31st—George Verrell, aged 75 yrs.

Advertisements.

We regret that owing to the Christmas rush, the Agricultural Co-operative Society's advertisement appeared in the last issue with a slight error. We trust that it caused no inconvenience.

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Church Repairs.

Subscribers to the Church Repairs Fund will doubtless be interested to hear what the exact position is at the moment.

The Archdeacon of Rochester, who first raised the question of Church Repairs at his visitation to the Church on the 26th March, 1936, advised us to engage the services of Mr. E. Farley Cobb, A.R.I.R.A., the Architect who has been entrusted with the care of the Cathedral for many years.

It has now been decided to carry out all the work at first suggested by Mr. Cobb, and also remedy defects which have become apparent in the East wall of the Church. The Report of the Standing Committee on Church Repairs which was subsequently approved by the Parochial Church Council is here given in full, with the exception of the Architect's estimate of the cost.

Report of the Standing Committee on Church Repairs.

At the last Council Meeting on December 16th you will remember it was decided, on the advice of the Archdeacon, to start de novo with regard to the repairs to the fabric of the Church, it being obvious that the proposals put forward by the Architect to deal with the building as a whole, embracing a new roof, were not likely to be carried into effect in entirety, owing primarily to lack of funds, and in some measure because of diversity of opinion as to the necessity for such extensive work being carried out.

At the time the Architect made his first inspection, he was not able to make a close examination of the roof, internally, and it was thought that on closer inspection he would be able to say that complete re-roofing was not an immediate necessity. Furthermore, material facts regarding the construction of the roof had not been brought to his notice.

The decision, therefore, to make a fresh start, with this further data in our possession met with the general approval of the Council and the Archdeacon very kindly offered to bring the Architect out to Hartley again and meet the Standing Committee and Mr. Cuff at the Church to go thoroughly into the matter with him.

This meeting took place on Saturday, January 9th when an exhaustive examination of the building, both internally and externally, was made by the Architect and members of the Committee.

With the aid of a ladder we were able to get inside the roof and see, with the aid of torches, its construction and condition. We found that the roof, as one sees it from the outside, was constructed by bolting its rafters by sectional plates on to the old timbers which had hitherto carried the thatch. The timbers themselves were quite sound, but it was noticed that a number of the tiles were out of position due to the nails having gone. There was a quantity of nesting material inside the roof and it was in a very dirty condition.

The bells were examined and the opportunity taken of having them oiled.

The South wall was then carefully looked at and although it was a fine and fairly dry day, dampness in the wall was obvious, both in the Nave and Chancel, particularly the latter. Plaster was loose in places and the Architect considered that it would be a waste of money to attend to the inside until the outside had been properly repaired to prevent the wet getting through the wall.

The wall on the North side of the Nave was quite dry and did not appear to require attention, although it was somewhat out of plumb.

The East wall, however, was not found to be in such good condition. Some years ago a crack in the window arch was made good, but there are signs of further settlement having taken place.

We then proceeded to examine the exterior and, anticipated, found the South wall in an exceedingly bad condition. The pointing generally is as soft as it is possible for it to be; in fact, it is surprising that the stones remain in position at all. There is no doubt that the whole of this wall will have to be attended to. The Architect will of course see that the job is carefully and properly done, and in such a way as to cause no disfigurement, having regard to the age of the building and its general appearance.

The East wall is in much the same bad condition and the angle buttress at the junction of the South and East walls has lost its usefulness, as it is practically standing away from the walls and taking no weight at all.

The Architect and the Committee consider that the settlement of the East wall is primarily caused by the undermining of the foundations by rain and surface water, and possibly also to the existance of graves close to the wall in the Chancel, where cavities may by this time have been formed for the soil under the wall to be washed into.

The state of the foundations to this wall can only be ascertained by excavating and arrangements are being made with the Architect to open up a section of the ground to see the condition of the wall at the base, and whether there are any footings. Until this has been done and an inspection made by the Architect, one cannot say what will be necessary. We hope it may prove to be only a small matter to put right, but we have grave doubts about it.

The North and West walls are, fortunately, in a fairly sound condition and only a small amount of repointing is necessary.

The oak shingles are showing signs of age and require some attention, but this is not a very serious matter. The bell cot badly needs painting to preserve the timbers which are much exposed to the weather.

The gutters and down pipes to the main roof require adjusting to take the water away properly. In places the water misses the guttering altogether. Larger guttering and down pipes would be preferable with such a big roof.

The Architect considers the whole matter very carefully and promises to send his report in the form of a revised specification as soon as possible.

This has now come to hand and the Standing Committee has considered it in detail with the rough estimate of the cost subsequently provided by the Architect.

After very careful consideration the Committee has come to the unanimous conclusion that there is nothing in the specification that can safely be omitted. All the work specified is absolutely necessary and very urgent if the Church is to be preserved.

There is no doubt the roof will have to be done soon. The recent spell of bad weather has made this more apparent than ever. The rain has been coming in in several places and the Committee has instructed Mr. Harris to patch it up temporarily.

Since the Architect's visit it has been discovered that the leaded work to the windows in the South wall is defective. The rain gets through and runs down the inside of the windows to the cills below. Nothing is included in the specification for putting this right.

The Committee, therefore, propose to ask the Council at this meeting to sanction the execution of the whole of the work Mr. Cobb has specified,

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towards the cost of which we have already £83 in hand. It is estimated that in a few months time further monies will be available, approximately another £75.

We have not yet heard from the Board of Finance as to a Grant, for which application was made last November, but perhaps the Archdeacon will be able to tell us how the matter stands and what our prospects are in that connection. We are hoping that the Board will look upon our application with sympathy and contribute something towards the reparation of one of the oldest Churches in the Diocese.

The question of finding the balance of the money is one which should not be at all controversial. The Church belongs to us, in the same way as our homes are ours, and just as we would dream of letting our homes fall down, so we must not let our Church down.

We as a Council have certain duties to perform and are under obligation to the parishioners whom we represent in connection with the Church fabric, in that we are expected to see that it does not get into disrepair.

The Committee feel that with a united front. embracing all those who uphold the Christian doctrine and all it stands for, ways and means will be found of raising every penny needed to restore this our House of Worship to the state in which it should really be.

List of Subscribers, Repairs Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Mrs. Delf		5	0
H. A. Webb	5	0	0
J. Baines Lewis	5	0	0
Mrs. Coney		10	0
E. J. Cuff	1	0	0
Rev. & Mrs. Lenton ...	2	2	0
Mrs. Fitzroy Mundy ...	2	0	0
Church Repairs Box ...	2	0	8
Strawberry Tea	5	2	6
Sale of Work	33	14	8
Holy Communion collections allocated to Repairs ...	3	12	8
Transfer from Reserve ...	39	18	10
Harvest Festival collections ...	2	2	10
Christmas Days collections ...	1	4	6
Ash Wednesday		4	0
3rd Sunday, February ...		15	3
Total ...	94	12	11

Grant promised by the Diocesan Board of Finance £50/0/0.

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Church Information.

Rector—THE REV. L. G. W. LENTON, A.L.C.D.
Lamorna, Hartley,
Telephone : West Ash 220.

Churchwardens—

Mr. F. F. TATE, "Brendon," Ask Road, (Rector's Warden).

Mr. CHAS. APPLETON, "The Stoep," Fairby Lane, (People's Warden).

CHURCH SERVICES.

Matins, 11 a m. Evensong 6-30 p.m.

Holy Communion, 8 a.m , every Sunday and 12 noon on the first and third Sundays.

Sunday School—At the Church, 3-0 p.m. : Mrs. Lenton, Superintendent. At the Church Schools, 3-0 p.m. : Mrs. F. E. Todd, Superintendent ; Assistant Miss Sale.

Hartley Parish Magazine—Editor : The Rector ; Hon. Secretary : Mr. F F .Tate, "Brendon," Ash Road

Parochial Church Council—(elected under the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measures,1921)—Council for 1936 ; Mr. B. Alexander, Mrs. Appleton, Mrs. Balchin, Mr. & Mrs. Cuff, Mr. W. H. Chisholm, Mr. Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. Ewbank, Mr H. Groom, Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Keen, Mrs. Lenton, Miss Ling, Mr. & Mrs. Parkins, Miss Sale, Mrs E. A. Tate, Mr. and Mrs. Todd, *Hon. Treasurer* : Mr. F. F. Tate, *Hon Secretary* : Mr. F. E. Todd.

Representatives to Diocesan Conference—Mrs. Lenton and Mrs. Tate.

Representatives to Ruri-decanal Conference—Mrs. Belchin and Miss Sale.

Bell Ringer—
Mr. E. Hoadley.

Church Cleaner—
Mrs Willis.

"Sauce for the Goose."

My job toward my neighbour is,
Like self I have to love him.
It matters not if I'm below,
Or socially above him.

To love and honour parents too,
That's Father and my Mother,
To succour them in times of need,
Each difficulty to smother.

The next in order comes the King,
And Ministers of state,
All Judges, Police, and such as those,
To whom I pay the rate.

Submit myself as best I can,
To Govenors, and Pastors.
To Teachers who are not ordained,
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To Let

To order self so lowly and,
Revering too each letter,
To carry out this much I must,
Obey it to the better.

To hurt a body by a word,
Or even by a deed,
There's nothing gained by doing this,
There is not even need.

I must be true and just in all,
With those I have some dealing,
For if I don't, I lose respect,
As well as cause ill feeling.

In heart, all malice, hatred too,
I must not have them there,
To counteract them I must try,
To bear as well forbear.

For should temptation come my way,
Resisting firm I'll stick,
Control my hands, and fingers from,
Both stealing and to pick.

A nasty tongue is hard to stop,
When used for lies, and such,
As slandering, ill-speaking, for,
These faults will cost so much.

In soberness and chastity,
Keep body temporate,
Not drinking more than what is good,
Ne'er over satiate.

I must not covet this or that,
Belonging other men,
It mentions this in those commands,
And known as number ten.

To learn and labour truly whilst,
We can before it's late,
So gain that life with Him above,
For that, we'll have to wait.

FRANCIS R. HORNER.

Confirmation at Hartley.

The Right Rev. The Lord Bishop of Rochester will hold a Confirmation at Hartley Parish Church on Tuesday, May 18th at 8 p.m.

Classes for Confirmation Candidates preparation are held on Sunday afternoons at 4 p.m. in the Church.

Ladies Working Party.

A Parish Working Party has been formed under the leadership of Mrs. Lenton to prepare for the Sale of Work which, it is hoped, will take place later on in the year.

The first meeting of the Working Party took place at 'Lamorna' on Friday, February 26th, and in future meetings will be held on alternate Fridays at 2-45 p.m. at 'Lamorna,' Hartley Hill, and Plympton, Ash Road, by the kind invitation of Mrs. Todd for the convenience of those who come from both ends of the Parish. New members are invited to join the Working Party at any time, either bringing their materials to make up for the Sale, or to help do the work provided.

Orders for work to be completed at any time can be given in to Mrs. Lenton, Mrs. Todd, or any other members. No orders too small or too large.

Diocesan Sunday.

January 31st was set apart this year as Diocesan Sunday, when the needs of the Diocese of Rochester were brought before the congregations of the Churches by special Preachers. Hartley was fortunate in having Mr. R. R. Hogg of Chatham as visiting preacher for this Sunday morning. Our Treasurers have forwarded to the Board of Finance the first quarter's payment of quota which is our contribution to the Diocesan Fund.

The Secret of Good Gardening

It is reasonably easy if you remember that you cannot get more out of the soil than you put in.

If you want bumper crops or perfect flowers you must replenish the ground with good, well-balanced fertilizers. Only the best will do.

Tell us what you intend growing and we will mix a special fertiliser most suitable for your requirements.

Now is the time to order. Do not put it off until later. You may miss the opportunity to apply the manure at the right time.

You will need the right implements too. Look over your gardening tools and be prepared for the Spring.

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To Let

Hartley Women's Institute.

"In things non-essential, liberty;
In things essential, unity:
In all things, charity."

Meetings in the Women's Institute Hall on first Thursday in the month at 2-45 p.m. and on the Third Thursday at 7-30 p.m. Subscriptions 2/- yearly. New members welcomed.

The 16th Anniversary of the Institute's existence was celebrated on February 4th, with a Birthday Tea, complete with iced birthday cake and candles. A jolly afternoon was spent.

The programme for the year is a varied and interested one, catering as it does, for well over one hundred members.

Market Gardening, Local Government, Life in a Women's prison, Song Recital, Sketches by the Drama Group, Cooking by oil and electricity, Loose Cover making, Lecture on Scotland, Keep Fit Exercises, Soft Toy Making, Songs, in Mime, etc. are among the many subjects which interests the housewives of Hartley.

Competitions were arranged and also a market stall, to which members may bring anything they wished to sell.

A course in glove-making is held on Monday afternoons, and Country Dancing is practiced on Monday evenings.

Fortnightly Saturday Whist Drives are held, proceedings devoted to social Service.

E.A.T.

Hartley Congregational Church Notes.

On Sunday, December 5th, 1937, our 10 year's effort to raise and cancel a debt of £1,500 on Land and Church Building was achieved. A Sale of Work in the Constitutional Hall realized £121/3/9 net. This result was largely due to many months of preparatory work by our ladies working party. Many other friends did invaluable work, including our oldest member, who sold 2,500 packets of sweets, showing a profit of £5. The Sale attracted a company of delightful people (Church folks are the best when they are good) from everywhere, led by the Rev. E. J. Barson and our old friends from Penge Congregational Church. The financial success of the 5 Sales we have had has been due in great measure to parties of Penge visitors. We had the pleasure of welcoming the Rev. and Mrs. A. Haig from Chatham; Mr. and Mrs. A. MacCallam, who motored from Hastings; and our Rector and Mrs. Lenton. Miss E. M. Thompson of Bromley opened the Sale with a kindly speech, in keeping with her character (as stated by the Rev. E. J. Barson), as the Good Fairy who bestowed blessings on Congregational Churches in rural Kent.

We keep in grateful memory all friends who have given time, money, thought, help, encouragement in the past 10 years to establish this little church, which now stands unencumbered as a gift to Hartley for all who desire in the future to approach God in the simplest form of public worship.

The proceeds from the various sections were—

	£	s.	d.
Handicraft Stall	43	7	1
Women's Guild Stall ...	40	11	10
Men's Stall	9	4	6
Confectionery Stall ...	8	1	4
Sweets Stall	5	0	0
Cake Stall	5	8	6
Tea Stall	6	1	0
Competitions	1	11	2½

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Xmas Tree ...	...	19	3½
Donations ...	...	1 12	6
Total	...	122 4	3

The Church Social, Monday, January 4th, was a real Family Party, in which grave and reverend seniors engaged with young folks in games and merriment. "For," as Charles Dickens says, "it is good to be children sometimes. and never better than at Xmas time, when its mighty Founder was a child Himself."

In support of the National Campaign for fitness, it might be wise for all our friends above 60 years to engage in such pastimes as Blow Football, Musical Chairs or Whacks, before breakfast every morning. Such a practice would abolish old age—A highly desirable precedure.

At the Sunday School New Year's Party, January 14th, some 60 Scholars, Parents and Friends had a good time. Kind people gave the tea, including jellies and bonbons, supplied sweets, apples, oranges, ad lib. and a Xmas tree, and Xmas decorations in the Institute Hall. 12 of the noisiest games, a little Play entitled "The Old Arm Chair," the Xmas tree with gifts for 40 scholars, and a presentation of a Hand Bag to Mrs. A. Day, as a recognition of years of quiet work in the school, passed a very enjoyable 4 hours.

S.H.E.

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