

ALL SAINTS', HARTLEY,
Parochial Magazine.

[Published Quarterly.]

EDITED BY J. WELLS THATCHER.



HARTLEY PARISH CHURCH.

Rector's Letter.

MY DEAR PARISHIONERS,

In our last number I was able to give you a list of the people who lived in this parish during the 15th and 16th centuries. I can now tell you the names of every householder about 100 years later, in 1662.

From 1662 to 1688 there was a very unpopular tax in force. By Act of Parliament a levy of two shillings was made on every hearth in each house. This tax was especially obnoxious because the Government Officials were empowered to enter once a year every house and every room to count the fireplaces.

Evelyn in his diary notes that

" In order to quell the general discontent of the nation the ' hearth tax was remitted for ever.' "

But the window tax was substituted in its place and was not abolished till 1850.

In 1662 the Borsholders or Constables, John Best and Thomas Barrow made their reckoning for Hartley, and here it is.

" A note of what hearths are contained in ye parish of Hertley:

Mr. Ewees, 3.	John Darton, 1.
Thomas Young, 4.	John Best, 4.
Edward Best, 3.	Edward Carrier, 1.
Henry Picket, 4.	Richard French, 1.
Henry Middleton, 4.	Jonas Baker, 1.
Vidua Reeve, 7.	Richard Senior, 1.
John Edwards, 5.	Nicolas Wheeler, 2.
Leonard Carrier, 3.	Thomas Barrow, 4.
John Fox, 3.	Francis Wiborn, 1.
Ham Cannon, 1.	a New House, 1.
Edward Swan, 1.	

The Mr. Ewees in the above list is the Rev. George Eves, the Rector, who was put in here by the Parliament. He was probably in Orders as he seems to have survived the Act of Uniformity.

Thomas Young lived at Fairby. The widow Reeve appears to have resided in the biggest house in the village if we may judge by the number of hearths, but which that was we do not know.

I have also come across the names of several old inhabitants who were living here as far back of 1392. They are

John Faurer, William Dalton, John Smyth, Robert Crabbe and Geoffrey " of ye stable."

These names occur in a survey made in the 15th year of Richard ii of the parish of Hartley as part of the possessions of the Earl of Pembroke. In this survey are given some particulars of the Manor House.

" There is a small Hall with one solar at either end for the bailiff. One granary thatched with straw and reeds, one cattle shed for horses and oxen, and two granges."

The document goes on to say

" The Lord of the Manor shall have the amends of bread and ale, infangthef, outfangthef and all other things pertaining to view of frank pledge."

Mention is made of a 100 acre field called " le Rede " of which " an acre is worth 4d. by the year." Of 50 acres called " le Northfield." This appears to be the land on the north side of the Manor Drive. Of 16 acres called " Culeroft " which was " worth 4d. an acre." Of 30 acres, called " Eyleye " and 10 acres called " Brydone." These I have not yet been able to identify.

Then, we learn that there were at that time in the parish

" Hens and eggs worth 2 shillings a year."

There was

" A wood called ' le Lok ' of yongng wood worth 13s. 4d. the acre."

And a wood called

' Le Fryth ' of old and great wood worth 53s. 4d. the acre."

There is a memorandum attached to this survey which states that

" AH the tenants ought to have right of common upon all the demesne lands, except in the garden

and wood with all their beasts except pigs, between the feast of St. Martin and of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary."

All this is description of the parish six or seven hundred years ago. Now we will come a little nearer to our own times. I have lately got into touch with an old Hartley parishioner who is now living in Yorkshire, and has not seen the parish since 1859.

She is over 80 years old but has written me several letters of reminiscences of her younger days when she lived in Hartley.

After telling me that she and her two sisters were born in one of the old Parsonage Cottages she goes on to speak about the Church as she remembers it in the days of her childhood. She says,

" There was a good male choir then, so good that people came from Dartford and Gravesend to hear the singing. At that time the gallery and the high pews were in the Church. How strange it looked when they were all taken away and we could see each other!

The men used to sit on the right hand side of the aisle and the women on the left, except the better class who sat in their family pews. The Choir sat in the gallery."

She speaks of the special dress which the school children wore on Sundays. She says,

" We all, large and small, had served out to us from the Rectory, red flannel cloaks for the winter, and at the end of winter we took them back and were given white calico capes for the summer. And we had speckled straw bonnets with a strip of blue ribbon round them tied under the chin. We met at the School on Hartley Green and walked two and two to the Church.

A noticeable figure among the congregation was my father's step-mother. She wore a long scarlet cloak which she came out in on the day the school children began to wear theirs."

This was " Dame Ware," she lived at Stocks Farm, and I have been told that she always came to Church in pattens, as did many others in those days. They were all left in a row in the porch during service.

My correspondent goes on to tell me about the making of the railway and how pleased the people were, she says,

" they used to walk down on Sunday afternoons after Church to see how it was getting on."

And she tells me,

" Hartley's first post woman was Mrs. Samuel Day. Before her appointment all the village had send to Fawkham for their letters and take them there to post."

Speaking again of the Church she says,

" I remember there was just inside the Church-yard gate on the left hand side a tombstone with these words

' Stop traveller, stop, and cast an eye,
As you are now so once was I,
As I am now, so must you be,
Therefore, prepare to follow me.' "

She is quite right. The stone is to the memory of Eleanor, wife of William Oliver, who died in 1853, aged 75. The inscription is now very indistinct, but may still-be read.

And now I will carry you back again to more ancient times, because a little matter of interest has turned up. We can trace the old Hartley family of the Youngs as landowners here as far as the 16th century. They built a house in 1612 and were here before that. But why was their land called Fairby Farm ? On some old maps it is spelt Firby.

The origin of the name has for long remained a mystery. Various derivations have been suggested, among which the *Fir* tree and the village *Fair* have figured.

But now I think the origin is a mystery no longer.

In an early number of our magazine, I suggested that the name might be derived from the family of Feerby or Ferby who were formerly landowners in this part of Kent, but there seemed nothing to connect them with the parish of Hartley.

In the 15th and 16th centuries they were at Hockenden and Paul's Cray, at Farningham and Dartford.

One of them left part of his estate to the Giffords of Pennis, but that was as near as we could get.

Now, at last, I find that they were here in Hartley at the beginning of the 15th century. The evidence is supplied by an entry in the Patent Rolls, under the date 1420, where mention is made of one " John Feerby, Esquire, of Hertley, in the County of Kent."

He was doubtless owner of the property which became known as Feerby's or Ferby's land, and known in later times as Fairby Farm.

Yours very truly,

GERARD W. BANCKS.

Church Information.

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

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, 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, Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Oldrey, Miss Parkin, Mrs. Symons, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Tate, Mr. Frank Tate, junr., and Mr. and Mrs. Shepperson.

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; Miss N. Goss, Infant School Mistress.

School Managers.—The Rector, Mr. J. Green, Capt. Copus, Mr. J. Stuart, Mrs. G. B. Davies and Miss Rodwell.

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.)

NOTICE.

Members of the Church of England, resident in the parish, are requested to sign the parochial Electoral Roll if they have not yet done so.

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.

April 19th.—Faith Joan de Mallett, daughter of Frederick Thomas de Malett Morgan and Joan Frances Morgan.

May 1st.—Esther Mary, daughter of Ernest and Matilda Backhouse.

Marriage.

December 11h,—Stuart Edgar Beck and 1926 Jane Guendoline Rose Jones.

June 4th.—Oscar Frank Nickalls and Nellie Goss.

Burials.

May 21st.—Fanny Rose, aged 64.

,, 26th.—William George Collingwood, aged 56.

July.	August.	September.
3rd—3rd Sunday after Trinity.	6th—Transfiguration of our Lord.	4th—12th Sunday after Trinity.
10th—4th Sunday after Trinity.	7th—8th Sunday after Trinity.	11th—13th Sunday after Trinity.
15th—S. Swithun.	14th—9th Sunday after Trinity.	18th—14th Sunday after Trinity.
17th—5th Sunday after Trinity.	21st—10th Sunday after Trinity.	21st—S. Matthew, A. C. & M.
24th—6th Sunday after Trinity.	24th—S. Bartholomew, Apostle and Martyr.	25th—15th Sunday after Trinity.
25th—S. James, Apostle and Martyr.	28th—11th Sunday after Trinity.	29th—S. Michael and All Angels.

HARTLEY PAROCHIAL CHURCH
COUNCIL.

The School House, nth April, 1927.

At a meeting held as above :

PRESENT.

The following were present: The Rector, Mrs. F. Tate, Mrs. Oldrey, Miss Sale, Mr. F. Tate, Mr. Chisholm, Mr. D. T. R. Gray, Mr. Cox, Mr. A. L. Farrow, Mr. J. Wells Thatcher and Miss Green (Hon. Secretary).

Prayer was said.

MINUTES.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read by Honorary Secretary and confirmed.

RECTORY DILAPIDATIONS.

Mr. Farrow stated that in accordance with the Resolution of the previous meeting, the Finance Committee had very carefully considered the results to date of the Free-will Offering Appeal, and considered the Church Funds now enabled the proposed grant of £155 2s. 7d. to be made to Rectory Dilapi-

dations, provided the Council would sanction a loan of £125 to be repaid by four annual instalments.

Mr. Farrow pointed out that the promised grant by the Rochester Diocesan Finance Board to Rectory Repairs was conditional upon the Council making an immediate grant of at least £30, and to secure this, he had, with the authority of the Finance Committee, paid £30 2s. 7d. out of the current Church Funds.

Mr. Farrow explained that he had seen the Patron, Mr. Edwin J. King, and laid the whole matter before him, and Mr. King had very kindly offered to advance the sum of £125 to the Council, for the purpose in question, repayable by three annual instalments of £30 each, and a further instalment of £35, free of interest.

Mr. D. T. R. Gray moved that Mr. Farrow's action be confirmed and that the following formal Resolution be adopted. This was seconded by Mr. Chisholm and carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION.

The Parochial Council of " All Saints " Parish, Hartley, Longfield, Kent, hereby agree to pay the sum of £125 in instalments, free of interest, to Edwin J. King, Esq., of Danewood, Speldhurst, Kent, who is the Patron of the Living, and who has kindly advanced this money. This said sum of £125 is part of a larger sum required for the purpose of making a grant in respect of a charge made by the Queen Anne's Bounty for Rectory Repairs. The within mentioned instalments to be repaid as follows: —

30th April, 1928 ...	£30
1929 ...	£30
1930 ...	£30
" " 1931 ...	£35

The Council desire to place on record their deep appreciation of Mr. King's great kindness.

CHANGE OF BANK.

Mr. Farrow moved that the Church Council's account at Westminster Bank, be closed and the balance transferred to Westminster Bank at Dartford.

Mr. F. W. Tate seconded. Carried unanimously.

TITHE COLLECTION.

Mr. Tate raised a question as to the collection of the Tithe Rent Charge and gave three instances in which the collection had been unsatisfactory. After discussion it was decided to make a suitable note in the Parish Magazine with the view to enable members of the Council to tender proper advice to any persons who might feel aggrieved.

Mr. Tate desired his name to be withdrawn from the Tithe Rent Charge Committee.

THE CHOIRMASTER.

Mr. Gray gave notice that he desired to be relieved of his office as Choirmaster, but agreed to leave the matter over until the next Council meeting.

The meeting then adjourned.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
HARTLEY PAROCHIAL CHURCH
COUNCIL.

Held in the School Room, on Thursday,
12th May, 1927, at 8.15 p.m.

PRESENT.

The Rector, Rev. G. W. Bancks, M.A. (Chairman), Miss Bancks, Mrs. Green, Miss Green (Hon. Sec), Miss Sale, Mrs. Chisholm, Mr. W. H. Chisholm, Mr. Eric Green, Mr. D. T. R. Gray, Mr. A. L. Farrow (Hon. Treasurer).

The Meeting opened with Prayer.

MINUTES.

The Minutes of the last Annual Meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

HON. TREASURER'S REPORT.

The Report and Accounts were presented by Mr. Farrow, who explained that the period under review was from Easter, 1926, to 31st December, 1926. The accounts presented at the last Annual Meeting on 26th April, 1926, covered a period of 15 months to Easter, 1926, but Mr. Farrow had had his attention drawn by the Rural Dean to the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure, 1921, section (8), which requires that the Accounts be closed on 31st December each year.

The Report and Accounts were passed.

ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS.

The Rector nominated Mr. Wells Thatcher as his Warden.

Mr. Farrow expressed a desire to resign from the Office of Churchwarden, by reason of his not now residing in the Parish. He pointed out that he left Hartley in March, 1926, but then agreed to continue in Office for another year, until he had completed certain duties in connection with Rectory Dilapidations, and he felt that the best interests of the Church would be served by someone residing in the Parish. After some discussion and no other nomination being put forward, it was proposed by Miss Green, seconded by Mrs. Green, and unanimously agreed that Mr. Farrow be asked to accept the Office for another year.

ELECTION OF PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL.

The following were elected for 1927-28 :

The Rector and Churchwardens, ex officio, Miss Bancks, Mrs. Oldrey, Mrs. F. W. Tate, Miss Sale, Mrs. Wells Thatcher, Miss Newcomb, Mrs. Gray, Mr. A. Blackwell, Mr. A. Cox, Mr. D. T. R. Gray, Mr. W. Nash, Mr. F. W. Tate, Mr. W. H. Chisholm, Mr. Eric Green and Mr. Alexander.

COMMITTEES.

The following were elected :

Standing Committee—The Chairman and Churchwardens.

Finance Committee—The Churchwardens, the Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer.

SIDESMEN.

The following were elected : Mr. A. Blackwell, Mr. A. Cox, Mr. W. Nash, Mr. J. Green and Mr. Alexander.

LAY REPRESENTATIVES.

On the proposition of Mr. Farrow, seconded by Mr. Chisholm, Miss Bancks and Miss Green were elected Lay Representatives

at both the Ruri-decanal Conference and the Diocesan Conference.

HONORARY TREASURER.

Mr. Farrow tendered his resignation. It was proposed by Mr. Farrow, seconded by Mr. Gray and agreed unanimously that Mr. Eric Green be appointed Hon. Treasurer. Mr. Green signified his acceptance of the Office.

HONORARY SECRETARY.

Miss Green agreed to remain Honorary Secretary.

CHOIRMASTER.

Mr. Gray having, at the last Council Meeting, tendered his resignation as Choirmaster, proposed that Mr. W. H. Chisholm be appointed. This was seconded by Mrs. Green and carried unanimously. Mr. Chisholm agreed to accept the Post.

It was also resolved that a letter be addressed to Mr. Gray expressing the Council's deep appreciation of his long service.

CHOIRWARDEN.

Mr. Gray said he would be willing to assist Mr. Chisholm and it was proposed by Miss Bancks, seconded by Mrs. Green and carried unanimously, that he be appointed Choirwarden.

PARISH MAGAZINE.

A letter from Mr. J. Wells Thatcher was read, expressing his regret in being unable to attend the Meeting and suggesting that any shortage of Cash Balance on the Hartley Parish Magazine be met out of the Funds of the Council.

It was proposed by Mr. Farrow that the matter be referred to the Church Council with the recommendation of this Meeting that the suggestion be adopted. Seconded by Mr. Gray and carried unanimously.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Thatcher for his very valuable services as Editor of the Magazine.

Thanks were voted to the following for their services during the past year:—

VOTES OF THANKS,

1. To the Lady Workers of the Church.
2. To Mr. W. H. Chisholm and Mrs. Oldrey, as Organists.

The Meeting then closed.

HARTLEY PAROCHIAL CHURCH
COUNCIL.

Statement of Accounts for period from
Easter, 1926 to 31st December, 1926.

	£	s.	d.
Weekly Offertories paid to Hon. Treasurer	42	3	8
Freewill Offerings from inception of Scheme, i.e., 17th October, 1926, to 31st December, 1926	26	13	7
Transferred from Churchyard Fund			9
	£68	18	0
	£	s.	d.
Deficit from previous Account ...	3	12	2
Labour, general, including			
Churchyard	16	3	6
Insurance Premiums	6	15	5
Repairs to Organ ...	1	15	0
Printing and Stationery	4	15	8
Postage Stamps (Freewill Offering Scheme)	2	0	0
Two ladders, 10/- and £2 8s. 4d.	2	8	4
Tools and Repairs		9	c
Oil, New Lamps, Lamp Chimneys, Cleaning Utensils, etc. ...	4	4	4
Expenses. Mr. Rickards (soloist)	10		0

Archdeacon's Visitation Fee ...	18	0
R. D. Conference. Delegates' Subscriptions	10	0
Subscription to Rural Dean's Expenses Fund	5	0
Subscription to Bishop's Thanksgiving Fund	2	2 0
Subscription to Given-Wilson Institute (Xmas Day Offertories	1	18 3
Balance, carried to 1927	20	1 4
	£68	18 0

A. L. FARROW,
Hon. Treasurer.

Editor's Notes.

Since I last wrote to you, my dear readers, a pleasing thing has happened in our midst. Two delightful young people, whom we all know well, have plighted their troth. The young lady has grown up amongst us and has attracted us all by her charming manners, her skill as a Hartley Player, and her capacity as a housekeeper and hostess.— We have not known the happy young man for so long, but he is good, capable, and faithful. He has had the advantage of being brought up in a wise and good home. On behalf of you all I wish Miss Bancks and Mr. Eric Green many, many happy years.

* * *

We are all sorry at the departure from our parish of Mr. and Mrs. Snow and their daughter, Wendy. I was so fond of Wendy. Then Mr. W. Macaulay left us; he was a regular performer of his duties as a Sidesman, a much travelled man and a wise one. Lastly Mrs. Dashwood and her daughter, Sylvia went away. My wife and I miss them greatly. Our parish is the poorer by these losses and our venerable Church the more empty.

Mr. D. T. R. Gray has resigned his office of Choirmaster after long and faithful service. He and his wife and children have been regular attendants at Church. On your behalf and for myself I desire to tell Mr. Gray how highly his long service has been valued and I hope and believe we shall still have him and his family taking their part in our Church activities.

* * *

It was owing to Mr. Gray that the boys in the Choir were put into cassocks and surplices as used to be the case many years ago. The plan works well and adds to the dignity of the service. In this connection I want to thank Mrs. Oldrey, who has had several of our girls to train; they come to Church and their young voices are most helpful in our singing.

* * *

My esteemed friend and colleague, Mr. Farrow, adds a postscript to a letter. I should like you to read it. Those of you who have not been able, for some reason, to send in your Free Will Offering envelopes regularly will try to correct this omission. Our Council needs every penny to meet the growing financial needs of our growing Church. This is the P.S. :

* * *

" Might I whisper in your ear that a few of the subscribers to the Free Will Offering are in arrears. I have decided not to address a special letter to them at the moment, but if you would be so good as to insert a small paragraph in the next issue of the magazine asking the subscribers to pay up and so relieve the Hon. Treasurer of much anxiety, I should be very pleased."

* * *

Here is convincing proof of the growth of our Church life. The number of communi-

cants on Easter Day, 1925, was 44, in 1926 there were 60, and in 1927 we had 79.

* * *

Readers will find a carefully written statement in another part of this Magazine relating to the payment of tithe. I commend it to their attention. I ought to say here that when the Rector first came to this parish he had no difficulty in collecting the tithe justly due to him but since the land has been cut up into little snippets he has lost some hundreds of pounds. I am ashamed of this. We who own land in this parish own it subject to tithe charge. That charge is held by the law of the land to be as sure in its payments as local rates or imperial taxes.

* * *

I am so delighted that we have got a troop of Girl Guides here. They look so smart in their comely uniforms and they are going to do good work. It has pleased me to see them in Church. I hope that neighbours who are interested in this valuable work will send a subscription to my friend, Mrs. Frank Tate.

* * *

I am so glad that Mr. Delf is having another try with the Boy Scouts. If Mr. Delf can only give the necessary time to the work I know of no one better fitted by past training for this important job.

I see by the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Church Council that Mr. Eric Green has become Treasurer, Mr. W. H. Chisholm, Choirmaster and Mr. Gray Choir Warden. All good men; all good appointments.

* * *

The paragraph I am about to write is rather personal, when the Rector sees it I hope he will pass it. Some of you do not know that our Rector has not been very well

lately; his sight is a worry to him. I want you all, who are members of our Church, to say a little prayer for him when you are remembering those you love and presenting their names to God.

* * *

An esteemed neighbour, who has just left the parish writes: "It was an awful wrench to break away from you all after all the years of friendship. We miss our little Church. We felt so united and nearer to God in our dear little Church at Hartley."

* * *

"Nearer to God." That appealed to me. It is a sermon in itself. I commend the thought to you, my dear readers.

« * *

Mr. Chisholm has kindly audited the Magazine accounts for me and they are printed in this number. I am so grateful to the Church Council for their kindness in being disposed to relieve me of financial anxiety. A little paper like this cannot possibly pay its way, and I think I am justified in saying that the small deficit which the Council are asked to undertake is well worth it, considering how much pleasure this little periodical gives to residents in Hartley and to many others outside the parish.

* * *

On Sunday afternoon, May 29th, the Lay Reader attended at the Sunday School on behalf of the Rector and gave the prizes to the successful Scholars. Such nice prizes! This is the list: 1st Class, Nellie Gray and Mary Sale; 2nd Class, Evelyn Day and Kathleen Day; 3rd Class, David Lyon and Ida Keene. Miss Sale, Mrs. Gray, and Miss Parkin are all devoted workers for the children. Such nice children! Some very small Miss Sale told the Lay Reader that if, for

any reason, the little ones cannot come to Sunday School, they cry. So you see what a nice place for children a Sunday School really is!

* * *

After the evening service on May 29th, the congregation stayed behind to witness a pleasing little ceremony. The members of the choir desired to mark their appreciation of the good service which Mr. D. T. R. Gray has rendered as Choirmaster for so long. So they gave him a very nice wallet for the pocket. In the absence of the Rector through indisposition the presentation was made by the Lay Reader.

TITHE RENT CHARGE.

A new tithe act has come into operation this year. The following official pronouncements have been made.

"All ecclesiastical tithes payable on or before 1st April, 1927, are by the Tithe Act, 1925, vested in Queen Anne's Bounty."

"For the purpose of collection the whole of England is divided into 15 areas each with its own Committee."

"The Parish of Hartley is in area no. 11. The Secretary is H. J. Moodie, Esq., 2, Basinghall Avenue, London, E.C.2., to whom any communications may be addressed."

When a person buys land he usually does so subject to the payment of a yearly impost called tithe. Land subject to tithe is always cheaper to buy than land not so subject. All persons purchasing such land do so knowing that it is subject to tithe payment.

The collection of tithe in this parish has for some years been a matter of very great difficulty resulting in arrears which amount to several hundred pounds.

Little or none of this loss has been occasioned by attempts to evade payment of what was due. The trouble and loss have been due to the *inextricable confusion* caused by the *breaking up of the old tithe plots into small holdings without the new plots being re-apportioned and put on the map.*

Where this is not done a collector may find it difficult or impossible to ascertain the tithe due. An original plot may be cut up into a number of holdings some of them running into several other original plots !

It is not a collector's business to measure up and estimate the tithe, often a most intricate undertaking, neither should he take anybody's word for it *except that of the Ministry of Agriculture*, duly marked on the map.

All a collector can do if the assessment is not on the map is to *guess*. The guessing nearly always means mistakes. And then the trouble begins.

These mistakes and also careless or culpable action on the part of collectors would not be *possible* where property is properly apportioned. If dispute or sharp practice occurred a tithepayer would have nothing to do but refer to the parish map, and there the matter would end.

When in 1836 all parishes were divided into plots of fixed area and tithe charge, it was, of course, foreseen that if these plots were broken up fresh apportionment would be necessary. And that if the new areas and assessments were not fixed by some *competent authority and entered on the parish map*, such confusion would ultimately arise that the collection of tithe would be practically impossible. It was assumed that a buyer of land would, as a matter of course, complete the transaction by having it duly re-apportioned.

If he neglected to do this the collector was directed, as the *only practical alternative*, to *ignore the new sub-divisions* and continue to collect by the parish map, i.e., ask for the tithe in one sum as stated on the map, *until re-apportionment had been effected*. Tithe is levied on the land not on the owner.

It is sometimes said that the law allows a collector to chose any one of say, five owners on a plot and demand the tithe from him, leaving him to collect from the other four. That is not so. At least the law does so *only* if these five owners have neglected the necessary precaution of having their property re-apportioned. As soon as they have done this, the law *compels the collector to collect from each individual*.

If the necessary precaution of re-apportionment had been taken in this parish when the land was cut up into small holdings, no trouble or loss would have been likely to arise. The collection of tithe, no matter how sub-divided the original plots, would have been a comparatively simple matter and professional agents need not have been employed.

Both Small Owners, Ltd. and Messrs. Payne and Trapps, when they came here, gave the most positive assurance that all plots should be properly re-apportioned as they were cut up, and that till the matter was completed they would collect or pay the tithe. *They did neither*, and the result has been confusion, trouble and loss ever since.

Fortunately owners of land in the parish have come to realise that if trouble is to be avoided there is only one thing to be done, and though late in the day the matter is now in the hands of the Ministry of Agriculture.

When this re-apportionment has been

effected, by **all** the owners, and if **all** future sub-divisions, as they arise, are similarly dealt with, there will be no trouble or loss in the future.

It was suggested by the Hartley Church Parochial Council, at their last meeting that if any tithepayer feels that he has a grievance he should apply to one of the members who would see that his case was laid before the area committee who have now full authority over the collecting and to whom the collectors are now alone responsible.

EMPIRE DAY AT HARTLEY SCHOOL.

The school children and their mothers and neighbours came in force on the morning of May 24th. Miss Fiddis and Miss Goss had worked like Trojans; so had the children. Flowers and ribbons made the School-house gay. The Queen of the May was Edith Francis, who sat on her throne with her crown and sceptre of flowers. She made a delightful speech to her subjects and granted them a holiday. Charming songs and choruses were sung. There was also the Maypole, and the children plaited the coloured ribbons around the pole without a mistake as they danced. The girl Guides looked charming in their uniforms. They filed in following their leader who carried the Union Jack—most impressive.

The Rector and the Lay Reader made a few appropriate remarks and everybody went away perfectly happy in having witnessed or having taken part in a delightful spectacle which calls for the highest praise to be given to Miss Fiddis and Miss Goss.

GIRL GUIDES.

A meeting was held at the Institute on Monday, April nth, when Miss Atkinson Grimshaw, of the London School of Training, gave a very interesting talk on " Girl

Guides, What they are, and What they can do."

She spoke of the high ideals that girls had ever before them, when they joined this great movement— of the Guide Law of Honour, Loyalty, Helpfulness, Friendliness, Chivalry, Obedience, Cheerfulness and Purity, and of the great need there was, that the mothers should prove the Guide's best friend and give the sympathetic help that was so necessary.

A " company meeting " was taken by the Ash and Hartley Guides under the direction of Miss Hornby and Miss Clark, closing with songs sung round the camp fire.

Many new members were added to the local Association, an association which is made up of any resident interested in the Girl Guide Movement. Subscription, 2/6 yearly, and the Treasurer is Mrs. Frank Tate.

The Divisional Secretary, Mrs. Biggs, of Wrotham, was present, also the Divisional Commissioner, Miss Norgate, of Meopham, who made an excellent chairman.

The Girl Guides meet every Friday in the Institute, at 5.30.

BOY SCOUTS.

This movement has again been started in Hartley under Mr. Delf's leadership, and is going strong. At present the boys are meeting at Mr. Ellerby's on Friday evenings.

Small boy to his mother: " Yes, we meet at Mr. Ellerby's in one of his chicken houses."

Gasp from mother.

" Oh, it's quite a nice chicken house, and holds a hundred birds, but it has only a few cockerels in now."

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.

Many interesting lectures and demonstrations are being given on the first Thursday in each month in the Institute.

Miss Kathleen Denham, assistant minister at Penge Congregational gave a wonderfully interesting talk of her travels in Italy, demonstrations of crepe paper, sealing wax, and " quick fry " have also been much enjoyed.

President, Mrs. Frank Tate; Vice-President, Mrs. Balchin; Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs. Hamilton; Organising Secretary, Mrs. O'Brien.

HARTLEY PARISH MAGAZINE
ACCOUNT.

From the beginning of June, 1923 until December, 1926, inclusive
Dr.

	£	s.	d.
To Donations	...	42	2 6
Miscellaneous Sales	3	2 0
„ Advertisements	...	30	12 0
„ Subscriptions	...	25	15 4
	£101	11	10

Cr.

	£	s.	d.
By Printer	...	99	12 0
„ Balance	...	1	19 10
	£101	11	10

Examined with the account book and found correct.

W. H. CHISHOLM,

May 23rd, 1927.

NOTE.—There is due to printers for December, 1926 and March, 1927, Magazines, the sum of £iS 2s. 6d., of which about one half is in hand.

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" NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH."

It is nothing but the truth to say that the Hartley Players excelled themselves in the presentation of this comedy on March 17th, 18th and 19th last, at the Constitutional Hall, Hartley. The characters were :

Bob Bennett, Robert Hale; E. M. Ralston, J. A. O'Brien; The Rev. Dr. Doran, John Corri Boulger; Clarence Van Dusen, E. M. Thom; Dick Donnelly, Eric Green; Gwen Ralston, Edith Evans; Mrs. Ralston, Blanche Curwen; Ethel Clark, May Symons; Mabel, Lulu Bancks; Sabel, Ethel Lingham; Martha (a Maid), Wendy Snow.

The furniture was lent by Stidolph Bros., High Street, Dartford. Ernest Harry produced the play, John Corri Boulger made the scenery and stage managed it as well. Frank Gable was assistant stage manager and Hedley Symons business manager. Mrs. Oldrey was at the piano.

Everybody worked hard on the stage, in front, and behind, to make the production the great success it was.

At the conclusion of the last performance Mr. Harry came forward and made a happy speech. It was an act of great bravery on his part for he was in pain and knew that within a few hours, so to speak, he must submit himself to the surgeon and undergo an operation of a dangerous kind and doubtful as to the issue.

We all congratulate him and his skilful doctors upon his wonderful recovery and wish him many years of health, happiness, and usefulness amongst us.

LONGFIELD & DISTRICT NURSING ASSOCIATION.

Mr. J. Wells Thatcher took the chair at the Annual Meeting held at Darenth on May 10th last. It was such a well attended gathering,

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bright, cheerful, and practical. Minutes were read, the balance sheet presented, committee elected, an address by Miss Maguire, and a resolution was passed in the following terms:

" That the Association shall in future be known as the Longfield, Hartley, Darenth and District Nursing Association."

Mrs. Collar, who has rendered devoted service for four years as Hon. Secretary, retired and her place was taken by Mrs. Gibbens. The great help which Miss Fleet and Mr. Fleet have given was warmly acknowledged as was the service of Mrs. Hicks, the treasurer, and the members of the Committee. Nurse Weaver and Nurse Bishop do splendid work all over the district.

Their visits include midwifery, monthly, general, casual and ante-natal. The subscriptions payable are: wages not exceeding 55/- a week 5/- a year. Other subscribers pay what they can afford. Non-subscribers can have the nurses' services upon a small payment.

This is a splendid practical Institution and all residents should subscribe to it. They will get their money back in skilled service if they fall ill.

The Chairman at the Annual Meeting was much beholden to Mr. Fleet, who placed his car at the Chairman's service. Mr. Wells Thatcher was charmed by the warmth and friendliness of the reception accorded to him.

EDITOR'S NOTES.

1. **HAVE YOU SENT YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TO THIS GORGEOUS MAGAZINE to Miss Bancks, Hartley Rectory, Longfield, Kent. IF NOT, WHY NOT?**
2. **If your new neighbours do not yet take in this SUPERLATIVE JOURNAL, will you tell them about it. Say that the Editor and the Parson are quite nice when you know 'em!**

The Rector tells me that Miss Goss, our charming and capable Infant School Mistress, has been and gone and got married! Her husband is a man to be envied. I wish the young people a long life of happiness.

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