

PRICE THREEPENCE.

No. 35—DECEMBER, 1931.

ALL SAINTS', HARTLEY,

# Parish Magazine.

(Published Quarterly.)

EDITED BY J. WELLS THATCHER.



PARISH CHURCH, SWANSCOMBE.

## THE RECTOR'S LETTER.

My Dear Parishioners,

You have my best wishes for the New Year. May the clouds which have gathered around us in 1931 show, in the coming year, their silver lining.

The village is promised, in the near future, a supply of electric light. Things long expected sometimes come at last.

Let us welcome its advent, at any rate, as a symbol of brighter times at hand.

We are moving with the times. In the not far distant past our Church depended for artificial light upon candles placed on the backs of the pews. The metal "sockets which held the candle sticks may still be seen on the pew backs.

The village has been supplied with the

company's water for the past 30 years. The mains were, being laid down when I came into the parish. But there was a time when the houses at the upper end of the village were dependent upon a well at the back of the Court. The water was drawn by a horse, fastened to a pole, one bucket going down as the other came up. Near by was a large stone cistern. This was filled up once a day, and people came with yokes and pails and carried it to their houses. All the wells in the parish, I think, except the one at the Retory, are now out of action.

The Rector of Swanscombe has very kindly sent us some notes of the history of the Church. It is one of the most interesting in this neighbourhood.

Yours very truly,

GEEAED W. BANCKS.

## SWANSCOMBE PARISH CHURCH.

BY F. C. ELLISTON ERWOOD, F.S.A.

The architectural periods represented in Swanscombe Church are :—

(1) C. 1050. Pre-Conquest. The lower half of the Tower, with a " double-splay " window, built of Roman brick, in the south wall.

(2) 1100—1190. Norman. The Font. Blocked windows in the chancel and the remains of arched niches on either side of the chancel arch.

(3) 1190—1280. Early English. The nave Arcades, with clerestory windows above. Lancet windows, blocked and open, in various parts of the church.

(4) 1280—1380. Decorated. The Chancel Arch, North and South doors, Porch, East window and other windows. Piscina and Sedilia.

(5) 1380—1480. Perpendicular. Rood loft stair. Various windows. The Lectern.

(6) Later work. The Altar rails, the Candelabrum 1687, the Pulpit (probably early 18th century work in pitch pine), the Weldon Tombs 1609, 1613, Stained glass fragments in S.E. window of South aisle. There are no brasses, but there is an indent of a man and his two wives and five children at the west end of the N. aisle.

The growth of the Church as indicated by these remains appears to be:—

(1) A pre-conquest church of which the tower alone remains. There is no clue to either the size or shape of this church. The tower may have been central instead of western as now. The upper part of the tower has been rebuilt, probably in the 14th century, but the lower stage shows the employment of Romano-British building material, though typical Saxon features, with the exception of the double-splayed window, are absent.

(2) A Norman church was built with its west wall formed by the east wall of the tower, its nave coinciding with the present nave though without aisles, a Norman chancel arch flanked by semicircular headed niches (probably for altars) and a square chancel, somewhat shorter than the present, with single round headed windows on the north and south.

(3) The church was considerably enlarged in the following century by the addition of narrow aisles, necessitating the substitution of the present nave arcades for the solid Norman wall. The chancel was lengthened at the same time and lancet windows, two on each side, were substituted for the earlier openings. The clerestory windows above the piers were originally outside the church and lit the nave.

(4) The succeeding periods were mainly concerned with structural alterations rather than with additions. The Chancel arch was inserted in the 14th century and larger windows were put in place of the narrow lancets in both the 14th and 15th centuries. The aisle walls were raised to allow of this, and it will be noted in one place that the new window is so large that the moulding below the parapet has been raised to give more headroom to one of these windows. The North and South doors to the nave (the latter now blocked and forming part of the War Memorial, but visible from without) and possibly the porch are 14th century work. The South door has on its jamb a small " mass dial." The Rood stairs belong to the 15th century. The blocked opening above the lower entrance of the rood stair is that of a 14th century window, the centre of a group of three in this aisle, two of which remain. The stairs went up in a little turret, the remains of which can be seen on the exterior of the south wall. The east end of this aisle was probably screened off as a chapel (? the shrine of S. Hildefirth) and the way to the Rood Loft was probably along the top of these screens to the Rood Loft. If the under side of the chancel arch be examined, marks will be seen where a framing was fitted, filling the head of the arch. This was probably covered with canvas and painted, for there was a bequest " to the paynting of the clothe of the roode lofte " in 1539.

Much damage was done to the church by a disastrous fire in 1902 and most of the woodwork is new, including the shingled broach spire. The font, now much shattered but pieced together, bore on its side the symbols of the Evangelists. They can be faintly discerned in part.

## EDITOR'S NOTES.

I am told that the exhibition of chrysanthemums, fruit and vegetables, as well as an industrial section, was a happy and successful function. It was held in the Constitutional Hall, Hartley, on November 7th last.

Mr. Walter Wright, the Hon. Secretary, is to be congratulated, as is Mrs. A. Robson. The exhibition was arranged by the Longfield and District Horticultural Society.

I met my old friend, Mr. Hurst, in Ash Road the other day. He looked smiling and cheerful. He tells me that he is more than 80 years old and still does his bit. Well done, my dear Hurst!

I am advised that the Hartley Players excelled themselves this autumn. They had a full house on the night of their last performance. It is their 6th season. The play chosen was "Tons of Money." A neighbour who saw the performance remarked to me: "I'm so glad they chose something to make us laugh. We don't want problem plays or things in the nature of tragedies. We all have or own sorrows, and if we can be made to laugh rather than to cry, that is what I like."

The meeting of the Parochial Church Council was held on November 10th. Useful work was done. \* \* \*

It is with much pleasure that I print a letter from our highly esteemed Dean of Rochester. Our Rector, Rev. G. W. Bancks, was invited to preach in our Cathedral in October. It is reported to me that there was a large congregation and our Rector's voice was heard by worshippers who were far away from the pulpit. It is difficult to speak in great Churches because of the echoes. It must be gratifying to my dear friend and chief that what he had to say was well thought out and well said.

Armistice Day at Hartley was very wet. The Rector held the service at our memorial. The attendance was not so large as usual. We regret the ill-health of that gallant soldier. Capt. Webster, whose care of our Memorial has won the admiration of all of us. This year he was not well enough to decorate our sacred bit of earth in the wonderful way as heretofore. I

hope he may be spared to do it for us next year. \* \* \*

A Debating Society has been started in Hartley. Mr. Ellerby tells me that it has made a good beginning.

My brother Churchwarden, Mr. F. Tate, and the Rector have delighted me by proposing a Children's Gift Service on Sunday afternoon, December 13th, at 3 o'clock. I think it so important to interest children in the service of God's house. Whatever gifts the children bring are going to be given to the poor children connected with the Given Wilson Institute, Plaistow, London, E. My friend, Mr. T. Fernie, Manager and Secretary of the Institute, is coming to speak to our children.

I am sorry to learn that my Friend, Mr. T. F. Tate, has had to give up the conductorship of the Hartley Band. I trust that those who have benefited by his patient and skilful labours will not forget what they owe to him. Nor must the parish forget how much the Band, under his leadership, has contributed to the general enjoyment. I am told that the new conductor, Mr. Clarence Bones, is young, able and full of enthusiasm.

\* \* \*

A charming letter from Bishop Harmer appears in the *Rochester Diocesan Chronicle* for December. The Bishop gratefully acknowledges the book containing the names of more than two thousand subscribers to the portfolio of beautiful pictures illustrating incidents in the diocese.

\* \* \*

I was delighted with the witty report of the Debating Society which appears in this number.

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Mr. Adams, after several years as Secretary, felt compelled to relinquish this valuable work on account of other business calls. We must, however, take this opportunity of extending to him our sincere thanks for his splendid work on our behalf, coupling in these thanks Mrs. Adams, who assisted in the work in a very practical way.

## BAPTISM.

Dec. 5th.—David William, son of Henry Thomas William and Rose King.

January.	February.	March.
1st—Circumcision of our Lord.	2nd—Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary.	5th—4th Sunday in Lent.
3rd—2nd Sunday after Christmas.	7th—Quinquagesima.	13th—5th Sunday in Lent
6th—Epiphany of our Lord.	10th—Ash Wednesday.	20th—6th Sunday in Lent.
10th—1st Sunday after Epiphany.	14th—1st Sunday in Lent.	25th—Good Friday.
17th—2nd Sunday after Epiphany.	17th—Ember Day.	27th—Easter Day.
24th—Septuagesima.	19th—Ember Day.	28th—Monday in Easter Week
25th—Conversion of St. Paul.	20th—Ember Day.	29th—Tuesday in Easter Week
31st—Sexagesima.	21st—2nd Sunday in Lent.	
	24th—St. Matthias, A.D.	
	28th—3rd Sunday in Lent.	

### Church Information.

The Lord Bishop—THE RIGHT REV. MARTIN LINTON SMITH, D.D., D.S.O. 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 F. W. Tate and Mr. J. Wells Thatcher.

#### CHURCH SERVICES.

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

**Holy Communion**, 8 a.m., on the 2nd Sunday in each month; at 12 noon on other Sundays.

Parochial Church Council (elected under the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure, 1921).—Council for 1930-31: The Rector (who is Chairman by virtue of his office), Mrs. Eric Green, Mrs. F. W. Tate, Mrs. Adams, Miss Sale, Mr. R. Adams, Miss Green (Honorary Secretary), Miss Rodwell, Mrs. Alexander, Mr. F. W. Tate, Mr. W. H. Chisholm, Mrs. Balchin, Mrs. Keen, Mr. Eric Green (Hon. Treasurer), Mr. B. Alexander, Mrs. Gray, Mrs. Chisholm, Mr. and Mrs. Ball, Mr. Marrington, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Day, Mr. and Mrs. Percy Harris, with the Churchwardens by virtue of their offices. Representatives on the Ruri-Decanal Conference—Mrs. Balchin and Mrs. Keen. Representatives at the Annual Diocesan Conference—Miss Green and Mrs. F. Tate. Committees—Standing Committee:

The Chairman and the Churchwardens. Finance Committee: The Churchwardens, the Treasurer and Miss Green. Sidesmen—Mr. A. Blackwell, Mr. J. Green, Mr. B. Alexander, Mr. R. Adams, Mr. L. Harris. Organist and Choirmaster—Mr. W. H. Chisholm. Members of the Choir—Mrs. Balchin, Mrs. Eric Green, Mrs. Chisholm, Mrs. T. J. Clark, Miss E. Green, Mrs. Keen, Miss Chisholm, Mrs. Symons, Miss V. W. Emmott, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Tate, Mr. Frank Tate, junr., Mr. G. G. Marrington. Diocesan Lay Reader (Retired)—Mr. J. Wells Thatcher.

Sunday School at the Church Parochial School—Superintendent: Miss Vera W. Emmott. Time: 3 to 3.45 p.m. Church Parochial School—Miss Fiddis, Headmistress; Miss Emmott, Assistant Teacher; Mrs. Nickalls, Assistant Teacher. School Managers—The Rector, Mr. J. Green, Mrs. Balchin, Miss Rodwell, Miss Harry and Mrs. Reilly.

Bell Ringer and Organ Blower—Mr. A. Rogers. Churchyard Keeper—Mr. A. Rogers. Church Cleaner—Mrs. Hoadley. Sexton and Grave Digger—Mr. J. Crouch.

Magazine Secretary.—F. T. Tate, "Amphion," Ash Road, Hartley.

#### 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. P. Harris.  
*February*—Mrs. Walker.  
*March*—Miss Bonsall.  
*April*—Mrs. Hemming.  
*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*—Mrs. Eric Green.

A NICE LETTER FROM THE DEAN.

THE DEANERY,  
 ROCHESTER.

October 26th.

Dear Mr. Editor,

I want to thank the people of your church for sparing to us your Rector to preach to us on Sunday evening last in our Cathedral. The high thoughts which he so charmingly expressed to us were much to our delight and edification. We congratulate you on having such a pastor.

Yours sincerely,

R. T. TALBOT,

Dean.

A PLEASING CHANGE.

Many favourable comments have been received on the removal of the organ and the choir to the west end of the Church, and it is earnestly hoped that the additional support thus provided will encourage everyone to join heartily in the singing. Our beautiful little chancel is not adapted for the effective leading by the choir of congregational worship, which has suffered accordingly, and more especially in the evenings.

The new arrangement is already adding enjoyment to worshippers and will be an encouragement to attend evensong during the coming dark evenings.

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## N. S. P. C. C.

A successful meeting was held on Thursday, the 10th September, in aid of this Society, in the Women's Institute, presided over by Mrs. Stickland, of "The Old Downs," in the unavoidable absence of the local President, Mrs. Crofton.

At this meeting a very interesting and eloquent address was given by Mr. Marris, Organising Secretary for this Division, on the aims and objects of the Society, which was listened to by a large and appreciative audience, representative of all the local parishes and a result of which a collection of £2 was remitted to Headquarters.

It is most gratifying to notice how this Society's ramifications are being appreciated here and we feel sure that in future an added share of support will be evidenced locally to this deserving Charity and a satisfactory gesture is the appointment of Mrs. Stickland as Vice-President.

## HARTLEY CRICKET CLUB.

During the last season 16 matches were played and of these the home side proved successful on 5 occasions.

Rain interferred on one or two Saturdays, but fortunately good weather prevailed when our more distant visitors came to Hartley and they and their supporters enjoyed a good day in our company.

Continued improvement has been made in the playing pitch and the pavilion and bowling screens have now been added to the equipment.

The Whist Drive held early in the year gave great help to the receipts side of the balance sheet, while the assistance received from the subscribers was much appreciated.

Thanks are again tendered to Mr. G. Day, J.P., for kindly allowing the use of the ground rent free.

Playing members during the season numbered 18, and the year closed with a balance in hand of £3 12s. 5d.

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## HARTLEY AND DISTRICT BAND.

Eight years have passed since the formation of the Band, and during almost the whole of this period Mr. T. F. Tate has acted as conductor and secretary. It is with much regret that his resignation has been accepted, since he has been its inspiration.

In Mr. Clarence Bones, of Greenhithe, however, the Band has found a very capable successor and there is, therefore, no reason why its progress should be interrupted. The members are proving loyal to the new conductor, and there is every reason to look forward to continued success.

During the last few months, a concert has been given in Ash and a dance at Longfield, while the Bradley Cup Final, at Kingsdown, was attended. Engagements were carried out at Longfield Church Fete and the Hartley Sports Club: Fete and music was also supplied at the British Legion Armistice Service at Longfield.

The learners class instituted early in the year now contains eight pupils, some of whom are doing very well and should within a short time be capable of taking their place in the band.

Many thanks are due to the subscribers to the funds for their continued support, without which the financial position would have proved very difficult, if not impossible. The end of the year is reached with a balance in hand of £5 6s. 7d. and this, considering that during the last year new uniforms have been purchased, is very satisfactory.

Arrangements are in hand for further performances and it is hoped that more will be heard of the Band within the near future.

HARTLEY CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH NOTES.

The Annual Church Meeting assembled on November 7th. The Secretary reported on the past year—the 5th a year of marked progress—of memorable experiences, of new friendships, of deeper spiritual life.

Mr. A. H. Edward again took the leadership as Chairman. Mr. F. Parkins remains our cheerful and optimistic Treasurer. The Church Council is represented by Mrs. K. Gable, Miss F. Kirke, Mrs. A. Shambrook, Messrs. F. Comont, C. Sizmur and E. Day. Ex-officio.

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HARTLEY.

Mrs. A. Shambrook represents the Church in Missionary matters.

Mrs. K. Gable superintends the floral decorations at the evening services.

Mr. P. Comont continues as musical director. Mr. A. H. Edward and the Secretary were re-appointed delegates to the Congregational Meetings. During the past year, £195 has been added to the Church Building Fund, which totals £325. A subcommittee was formed to consider plans for a building.

This year marks an important movement among Congregationalists. Our Leaders have come forward, and in celebrating the 100th birthday of the Congregational Union, every church in the country has been urged to make some extra effort in Christian work.

The Fellowship Meeting every alternate Friday was our response to the appeal, and after 19 meetings, gives promise of a new spiritual life in the Church.

The great Rally Day of Congregationalism was Sunday, October 4th. Captain-Paymaster J. P. Ratcliff, R.N., showed that unity and fellowship within the church must lead to an extended influence outside the Church. A week night commemoration service was organised, in which churches were grouped in districts for united worship. Hartley, being an isolated post on the Chatham District frontier, had a service to itself; and on Friday, October 23rd, Rev. A. M. Brackenrig. 15.A., B.D., and Mr. Durrant came from Rochester to officiate. The Address was a fine comprehensive glance over the outward growth, and the inner spiritual development of Congregationalism.

Harvest Thanksgiving Services on September 27th remain as entirely pleasant memories.

Mr. O. Delf, in the afternoon, gave an interesting address to the children. In the evening a, very large audience gathered to meet the Rev. A. Haig, R.N., Secretary of the Kent Congregational Association. He spoke on the mysterious ways the Great Harvester sows the seed, and reaps His spiritual harvests. Israel was saved by Egypt, only to fall, through no fault of their own, into worse trouble under the Egyptian taskmaster, before the Land of Promise could be gained. Such experiences must come as " man is made for

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a larger order of things." Friends were as generous as ever with gifts. These were collected with many expressions of thanks by the Salvation Army Officers, of Gravesend.

The present time of world trouble proves that in spite of accumulated knowledge and inventions, scientific discovery and philanthropic endeavour, human affairs have been mismanaged. As a Church, we believe that true life values can only be built on one foundation—Jesus Christ. (1 Cor., chap. 3.)

With that view before us, we very gladly welcome 2 young friends into the Church Fellowship. Miss Violet Hodgson and Mr. Duncan Macdonald.

On Armistice Sunday, November 8th, Mr. E. D. Roper, from the League of Nations Union, London, was the speaker at the Evening Service. The possibility of another great War, with its appalling consequences, was once again presented. The facts given were common knowledge. The difficulty is to realise what they mean; and to understand that every supporter of the League of Nations Union adds strength to the peace movement.

Mr. W. G. Wood, late of "Woodcraft." Hartley, writes: "We have the Hartley Parish Magazine and follow with much joy the Church work you are all doing." Many of us remember Mr. and Mrs. Wood with much affection, and are glad to have their kindly message.

S. H. ELLERBY,  
Hon. Sec, H.C.C.

#### HARTLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.

Nearly eleven years ago, the very few women then living in Hartley, decided to meet together occasionally for mutual help. Permission for meetings to be held in the then newly-erected army hut, was readily granted by the Hartley Agricultural Co-op. Society, and the Hartley Women's Institute was founded.

For several years heroic efforts were made to raise money for the hall that was hoped for, and in November, 1926, that hope became a reality. Our hall was built, and has proved to be of great service not only to the members of the Institute for lectures, demonstrations.

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and social work, but also to the village for guide and brownie meetings, band practices, literary and Parish meetings. Many of these organisations are charged a purely nominal rent—for the parish and brownie meetings nothing whatever is charged.

Social events, bazaars, jumble sales and whist drives 'are held in the hall at various times in aid of charity. £30 being raised yearly in aid of the Cancer Campaign alone. Fifty

old ladies were conveyed from Dartford and entertained to tea in the month of August.

With the continued increase in the population of the village, the membership of the Institute has also increased, the number this year being 90. All women in the village are asked to join and share the excellent lectures and demonstrations that are held on the first Thursday in each month at 3 p.m. Subscription is 2s. yearly.

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### TONS OF MONEY.

The Hartley Players, who presented " Tons of Money " on November 12th, 13th and 14th, advertised it as their funniest piece and the entertainment it offered was entirely comic.

J. A. O'Brien had the the role of the hero, and found scope in it for letting himself go much more than usual, and got laughs by seizing opportunities as when he used his length of leg with comic effect, just as by his quick changes of costume which were funny but in a very obvious way, like the rudder at the stern, in the boat cushions, toilette and the very stagey curate with red wig, spectacles on nose-end and a deprecating facetious manner.

Louise O'Brien was Aunt Benita with a plainly labelled character part, satisfactorily handled save that she seemed, in looks, barely old enough to be so deaf and forgetful, and some of her positions lacked the prim dignity her demeanour might have suggested. Moreover, she apparently went out of mourning into colours at the supposed demise of her nephew.

May Symons had to play the part of a very silly woman in Jean Everard and one felt that she somehow failed to convince herself, so that her acting was barely up to her usual high standard. What made it harder for her was that despite some quite clever make-up (save that Ernest Harry's beard was tripartite) the first impostor, the second impostor and the real George Maitland retained marked individuality, although the last two were meant to be identical to people encountering first the one and then the other. However, they were enough alike to make the situation comic when they confronted one another at last.

The real George Maitland would naturally have had more confidence than the other, but the acting of Henry (C. Buckingham) showed at times an uncertainty that did not altogether belong to the part. He had for comic business what had already been done very well in Act II by Sprules (Noel Leese), who was effective as grave butler in public and lover and schemer in private, but Joyce Roper did not respond to his lead so well.

Robert Hale was very lucky in a small part of which every word told, especially " Gooseberries " coming at a moment when a third party is feeling de trop. But could he not have had a beard looking less like felt, and have realised that not a bend forward from the waist but a curved spine is an old man's stoop?

J. Corri Boulger had the rather colourless

part of family solicitor which he played with adequate dignity.

Stella Wilkinson made her debut with the Hartley Players in this performance and showed herself to be a most competent actress.

The full houses for each performance showed appreciative audiences.

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#### PARISH MEETING.

At the meeting on 9th November, some 25 parishioners were present, Mr. E. W. Tate in the chair. The provision of an additional pillar box on Hoselands Hill was noted, and thanks expressed to the Dartford Postmaster for this useful concession. Satisfaction was also voiced at the removal of an apparently-dangerous tree overhanging Ash Road.

The report of a committee appointed to go into the question of fire protection was discussed. The inquiry showed that while all local fires hitherto had been attended by the Brigade maintained by the Dartford Urban District Council, a second Brigade had recently been organised by the Dartford Rural District Council. Parishes supporting the latter Bri-

gade are rated for the purpose at ¾d. in the £. The report concluded: " After considering the subject carefully, we submit the following recommendations:—

1. Since the adoption of the Rural Council scheme will involve a rate of ¾d. in the £, we feel that any advantages to be gained do not warrant the expenditure and therefore recommend that the parish should take no action.

2. That as we consider the existing eleven hydrants to be insufficient, more should be installed. We suggest two additional hydrants should be provided each year until the parish is reasonably covered.

3. That hydrants should be regularly tested by the Rural District Council.

4. We suggest, finally, that it would be advisable for parishioners to consider the question of obtaining small chemical extinguishers for use as ' first-aid ' appliances in their own homes. We tested one of the parish extinguishers' and found it in order, and we think there can be no doubt as to their usefulness at the outbreak of fire, pending the arrival of the Brigade."

The report and recommendations were adopted.

Other subjects discussed included footpaths, on which problem a committee was appointed to report; the discharge of refuse near houses, and, finally, electricity supply. A representative of the West Kent Electric Co. explained the scheme proposed and answered many inquiries.

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### FLOWER SHOW.

Our enthusiastic gardening friends of Longfield held a very successful exhibition of flowers, fruit, vegetables and preserves at the Constitutional Hall on Saturday, 7th November.

Although not the first show of its kind Hartley has seen (the Co-operative Society at one time made a practice of Autumn exhibitions), the affair proved highly popular and we congratulate the organisers on the response secured.

Mr. Hickmott's splendid specimens of chrysanthemums, which had carried off awards at the National Show a day or two before, were greatly admired. Mr. Walter Wright's collection also claimed commendation and the

quality of blooms in these exhibits was a surprise to most of us.

Blooms of fine form and colours were shown in almost all classes, and some excellent vegetables were also on show.

In the industrial section, which included classes for preserves, cakes, etc.. more entries from Hartley were seen, several carrying off prizes. During the evening, Mr. Hickmott appealed for support from Hartley to meet the heavy expenses of the Society, and we have no doubt this will be forthcoming.

Musical items of a varied character were performed at intervals under the direction of Mr. Roy Chisholm, L.R.A.M., particularly pleasing items being the songs by little Miss Jill Worsley.

## THE DEBATING SOCIETY.

The newly-formed Hartley Literary and Debating Society, with a membership to date of forty-nine, has held four highly successful meetings in the Women's Institute Hall, the attendance at each meeting numbering between fifty and sixty.

On the 16th October, Mr. C. Worsley gave a sympathetic view of Russia, but in the lively discussion which followed he found but one comrade.

On the 30th October, Mr. Raymond Barker got us discussing India after he had given us some first-hand information on the difficulties of the situation in that country.

On the 16th November, Mr. H. Brinton, Organising Secretary, Kent Federal Council, League of Nations Union, gave an interesting

discourse on the Disarmament question, and again there was a good discussion.

The meeting on the 27th November saw a welcome innovation, the voices of the ladies being heard for the first time, the cause being Capt. Bignell's paper on "Women and World Affairs"; so forcefully were their views expressed that a party of men, forced to the conclusion that nobody loved them, were only restrained from going out into the garden to eat worms by their abhorrence of cannibalism.

The second half of the session commences on the 8th January, 1932, and meetings will be held thenceforward on alternate Fridays. The Hon. Sec, Mr. Gomer B. Davies, will be glad to receive the name of anyone wishing to join the Society (Subscription 1s.), but admission to all the meetings is free.

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