

LORD, save Thy Church our  
King and Realm and send us  
Peace in Christ. ANCIENT GRACE.

# THE CHURCH MAGAZINE

OF  
ST. MARY THE VIRGIN  
PURLEY :: BERKS

## CHURCH SERVICES.

*Holy Communion.*—Each Sunday at 8 a.m., also at 12.15 p.m. on 1st Sundays, and on Saints' Days and Thursdays at 8 a.m.

*Mattins.*—11 a.m.

*Evensong.*—6 p.m.

*Rector:*—REV. E. E. SKUSE.

*Churchwardens.*—MR. C. E. HODGKIN, MR. H. A. TIDBURY.

*Parochial Church Council.*—MR. C. E. HODGKIN (*Vice-Chairman*), MR. H. A. TIDBURY and MR. E. N. COOPER (*Joint Treasurers*), MR. E. O. FARRER, MR. S. F. HANKIN, MR. G. HEATH, MR. ANDERSON and MRS. LISTER, MISS PALGRAVE, MISS LISTER, MISS MOLE, MISS N. SHEPPARD with MRS. H. A. TIDBURY (*Secretary*).

*Day School.*—MRS. H. A. TIDBURY (*Head Teacher*).

*Sunday School.*—MR. E. N. COOPER, MISS LISTER, MISS M. LISTER.

*Mothers' Union.*—MRS. LISTER (*Enrolling Member*).

*Girl Guides.*—MISS M. MOLE (*Captain*), MISS M. LISTER.

*Organist.*—

MR. A. N. M. COOPER.

*Sexton.*—

W. J. LEBBUN.

January,

1933.



## THE NEW VENTURE.

Amongst your New Year's good wishes we want you to include a sheaf for *our* Parish Magazine, which begins its life on the first day of January, 1933. Whether it will survive that day of birth depends on you who read this number. It is for that reason that we emphasize the possessive "our" in the opening sentence. Some of our readers will soon perhaps be writers in these local pages. Others—if the interest grows (like Topsy)—may be sending us contributions to a correspondence column. But all can be eager and even enthusiastic sharers in our new enterprise, the purpose of which, briefly stated, is to provide the members of our community with a tangible link connecting us with each other and with our place of reverent, common worship to the glory and honour of Almighty God.

1932.

Purley has a history of its own, and some day we hope to dip into the past and make it live in these pages. Meantime each year as it comes and departs is full of abiding human interest. First, we record with regret the removal of Mr. and Mrs. Aldin, of The Kennels, than whom no parish can ever have possessed better or more consistent friends. Then, by a coincidence which would be strange if we did not believe that nothing befalls by chance, death has taken from us two parishioners, whose sick-beds were as perfect models as it is given to us to see of patient endurance under disabling pain—Mrs. Anderson and Mr. Day. And, thirdly, we welcome quite a band (for us) of new-comers, for Council Houses are a feature of these post-War years, and the parish which provides them with a site has (in the eyes at least of the multitude) obtained distinction—on the landscape. Cordially we welcome our new inhabitants; we trust that all twelve families will soon be happily settled in, and later on if we may express the hope, we should be glad to see the name of Glebe Road used as a form of address, if Rural District Council regulations permit, and when summer comes we expect that the bath-rooms will be a real amenity to the tenants.

Thus far in regard to personnel. As to events, the Mothers' Union enjoyed two special gatherings at the Old Rectory on August 24 when Mrs. Lister gave the members a garden party, and in the Schoolroom on November 30 when the Rev. H. Lister gave an address. Three meetings have been held of the Parochial Church Council, the net result of which is that so far as finance is concerned good and useful work has been done to set and keep our house in order.

The Managers of the Day School have met twice, the chief item of their discussion being the increase of the number of our scholars to twenty-three. Provision is in the making to relieve the additional burden thus cast upon our most capable and devoted teacher.

Under Mr. Cooper's earnest direction the choir has grown in numbers and in confidence, and we have to thank Mr. Rawlins and Mr. Fox for the enthusiasm with which they never cease to inspire our younger members. The latter, incidentally, have had outings in August and October, the first to Sea View and the second to the Zoo, tickets for which were kindly presented to us by Miss Silver and Miss Ryley. A fuller notice will appear in future of such occasions as these, but it would be impossible to allow the two excursions held this year to pass into history without mentioning that the sea trip in the summer was nearly prolonged by fog into a night's holiday in the Isle of Wight, and that, as regards our autumn trip, the first house visited at the Zoo was inhabited by parakeets of such gaudy and garrulous type that the chief wit of the party labelled these fowl—"the Zoo Choir!" And referring to treats we must not



forget to record a visit to "California," organized by Mrs. Tidbury for our children out of funds provided as one of her parting gifts to the Parish by Mrs. Aldin.

The Girl Guides have had a most successful year, which they have crowned by winning the District Competition, although they form the youngest and smallest company around us. All will congratulate them upon this achievement. Their entertainment, too, on December 3, was notable, and finds an all too short but separate report in this issue.

And here we take leave of the year that has closed. Thankfulness for most valuable help received from all, and specially from Miss Palgrave, whose constant and devoted care of our beautiful Church is in itself a model of parish work at its very best, mingles with praise to Almighty God for all the loyalty and the unselfish steadfastness with which such support and encouragement are given to the Rector. And what of the New Year? No better words perhaps could sum up the urgent need which faces us than those delivered in days of old to a host of men and women confronted with difficult times: "Speak unto the children of Israel that they go forward" (Exod. xiv. 15).

The Religious Call (i) "The Church." [This, the first of twelve articles upon the present outlook, was to have been written by the Archdeacon of Berkshire if illness, which we all regret, had not intervened].

When the Primate of All England was at York as Archbishop of the Northern Province he made use of the following statement in the course of a Church Congress speech:—"Religion attracts, but the Church repels." This witness is true, for sometimes through indolence and sometimes through immersion in politics the Bishops have been unspiritual and therefore unprofitable chief pastors of the flock. To-day the State is the "religion" of the great majority of our people, whether they are of that section whose lives from the cradle to old age are directly assisted from public funds, or they belong to an educated minority whose motto appears to be that, if the Kingdom of God does not come by observation, it is advanced by legislation. Gradually, therefore, but most surely the Church has surrendered the initiative in the fight, which is ever being waged for the souls of the nation—to the nation itself through its representatives in Parliament. Thus, we receive from time to time directions to pray for the solution of problems, domestic or international, and we are given to understand that in complying with such requests we are proving to our congregations that we are "alive" to the questions of the day. Briefly, we are the victims of an unhappy admixture of politics and religion—to the detriment of religion, just as the attempt to blend politics and economics has nearly ruined industry in this country. Now, first, let us take the example of Our Lord and of St. Paul the Apostle. To say that neither the Master nor His great follower was "alive" to the immense problems of their times would almost be blasphemy. Yet when a man came to Our Lord with a pressing question about an inheritance, which was a term very dear to the heart of a Jew, the stern answer he received is memorable: "Man, who made Me a judge and a divider over you?" (St. Luke xii. 14). Similarly, whatever troubles convulsed the Roman Empire when "the lion" (2 Tim. iv. 17) sat on the throne of Augustus, the only counsel the Apostle has to impart is contained in the exhortation to pray "for kings and all in authority that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty" (1 Tim. ii. 2). In other words, we are given broad principles to guide our actions and principles only. The details are the business of experts in their own sphere such as statesmen in politics, business leaders in commerce, and so forth. To pretend that the Church is conversant with the inside of all life is as absurd as it is dangerous inasmuch as it tends to lower the dignity of prayer as part of the machinery of State.

Secondly, then, what is our duty in the face of "momentous issues?"



The answer is twofold. In the first place, it has been finely said that "Christianity is organized for catastrophe." Crises are always with us, and are not in themselves evil, for the word merely means "times of testing," that is, when we are afforded by God opportunities to decide whether we are leaning upon Him or upon our own resources, political or private. And, in the second place, it is so much more fatally easy to distract men's minds by catch-words such as Disarmament than Repentance—to take but one great Christian bulwark. But as a working-man speaker said at another Church Congress: "It is not legislation nor education that we want, but regeneration." E. E. S.

#### GIRL GUIDES.

The 1st Purley (Berks) Girl Guide Company was started in June, 1931, and now has two warranted Guiders, seven Guides and three recruits. Three members of the Company and one Guider went to the divisional camp at Ramsbury (Wilts) in August last, and fortunately came in for the beginning of a heat wave. The other Guider went to a training camp at Exmouth. The Rose Bowl, which was given for annual competition amongst the Companies in the Pangbourne District has been won by the 1st Purley Company. As the Company is the smallest in the District, and it is the first time they had competed, it is a very gratifying result. A very successful concert was organized by the Guides with the help of Mrs. Tidbury and her school children on December 3 last. A sum of £4 5s. was taken, and I should like to thank all those who came out and so generously gave their support. M. H. MOLE (*Captain*).

#### PARISH NOTICES.

A Confirmation will be held in our Church before Easter. Preparation Classes begin on Monday, January 23, for girls, and Wednesday, January 25, for boys, at 7 p.m., in the Schoolroom, and will continue on these days in each week regularly up to the time of the administration of the rite.

#### CHURCH NOTICES.

In addition to the Sunday Services in this month there will be Celebrations of the Holy Communion at 8 a.m. on the 6th inst. (The Epiphany), the 25th inst. (Conversion of St. Paul), and on Thursdays, the 12th and 19th inst.

#### PARISH REGISTER.—1932.

##### BAPTISMS.

- Jan. 24. Ann and Michael St. John, children of Edwin and Nita Watson.  
 Feb. 21. Joan Mary, daughter of Alfred Sidney and Kate Elizabeth Pocock.  
 " " Doris Margaret, daughter of Harold Frederic and Louisa Blanche Friend.  
 " 28. Ellen Alberta, daughter of Albert Charles and Ethel Irene Kirk.  
 Apr. 17. Sylvia Edith, daughter of Albert Joseph and Mary Ann Carter.  
 June 19. Peter Donald, son of Cecil and Ethel May Askey.  
 " 30. Robert Edgar Arthur, son of Arthur Edgar and Ivy Lena Newbery.  
 July 16. Edgar John, son of Charles and Emily Carter.  
 Nov. 6. Doreen Mary, daughter of William George and Alice Mary Olley.

##### MARRIAGES.

- Apr. 23. Frank Foster and May Elizabeth Cousens.  
 July 30. Alfred Ernest Colyer and Jessie Sheppard.

##### BURIALS.

- Jan. 8. Emily Belcher, aged 47 years.  
 Sept. 30. Mary Eliza Anderson, aged 68 years.