

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.*—6.30 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. A. N. M. COOPER (*Joint Treasurers*), MR. E. O. FARRER, MR. S. F. HUNKIN, MR. G. HEATH, MR. ANDERSON and MRS. LISTER, MISS PALGRAVE, MRS. PRYOR, MISS MOLE, MISS N. SHEPPARD with MRS. H. A. TIDBURY (*Secretary*).

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

*Sunday School.*—MR. A. N. M. COOPER, MRS. DAY, 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. LEBRUN.

May,

1933.



Easter, whenever it occurs, naturally fills the month with its significance. And the Festival which was the red-letter day of April in this year passes into history as not just yet another Easter but, if we only knew it, a greater one than any which we have hitherto seen. Perhaps we can persuade ourselves that this is always true. But we live in days when people are not content to take statements merely at their face value. Now men and women ask as never before what we mean by these religious celebrations and these high memorials of a glowing past. Whatever may be said to the contrary, the present is a moment of real inquiry to which state of mind the rather contemptuous flippancy, if not frivolousness of modern times, is but the not unnatural foil. Thus from all sides we hear this Easter of unexpected numbers at our Church services. What did all this concourse of people come to see and hear? And, first, it must be remembered that Eastertide offers the earliest opportunity when comes the Spring

“ And bids old Winter lay her honours down ”

to make the most of an all too-short holiday. Then, what moved these worshippers to resist perhaps those many distractions which catch the eye and greet the ear at every turn “ now that April's there ”? Not that all did so. “ I let them have the car to go to church,” said a business man taking his brief rest away from home. And no doubt a very large number followed his example; but even for such absentees from due religious observance Easter was in the air, *and they knew it*. If only they had accompanied their wives and children and with them worked the secret out which the Day so wondrously reveals when we bestir ourselves! Professor Harnack, one of the greatest scholars whom the modern world has seen, thus writes: “ The certainty of the Resurrection and of a life eternal which is bound up with the Grave in Joseph's garden has not perished, and on the conviction that Jesus lives we still base those hopes of citizenship in an Eternal City, which make our life worth living and tolerable,” (*What is Christianity*, p. 161). What then does this year's Easter really teach us? First, as to *outlook*. A difficult winter lies behind us, and whatever economists may say, we tell each other that the future is uncertain. And so we settle down to a condition of hopelessness which, being wide-spread and infectious, actually retards the world's recovery and unfits us for the wear and tear of life. If only we believed in resurrection as a principle and Christ Risen as our Power to make it practical, would not the spirit in each one of us revive, and despair turn to victory? Then, as to *atmosphere*, those surroundings, that is to say, in which we work and live, too readily we can poison the very air which we and others breathe or make it vibrate with harsh tones of strife. But when the living Jesus fills the world—our world—we take in fresh draughts of hope and health and happiness if, as life goes on, we will bow our heads to learn that only from a Risen Saviour do these gifts come.

#### THE CONFIRMATION.

Few, if any of us, can forget Palm Sunday, 1933. At 3 p.m. on that day Bishop Whitehead, sometime Bishop of Madras, confirmed sixteen candidates in our Church. Within the last forty years only three such services had previously been held actually in Purley, but, without making comparisons, it may be said with certainty that the administration of the rite on April the 9th last was as impressive a ceremony, such as a Confirmation ought in reverent hands and with spiritual minds to be. First, the Church was most thoughtfully prepared to enhance its natural setting for so moving an occasion. And the choir did not wait to be asked but came and sang with care the appropriate hymns. Then, the candidates, one and all, displayed an obvious sense of the solemnity of the act in which they were engaged with a crowd of witnesses, friends and relations, beholding. And, finally, there was the Bishop telling us out of his rare experience the Gift to expect in Confirmation, without which we are unquipped for every-day life. As we heard this address, it is enough perhaps to say that many of us who had been confirmed in days ago re-enacted

the holy scene. And we shall all do well if as Palm Sundays return we live over again the hour we spent in Purley Church on the 9th of April in 1933.

### THE RELIGIOUS CALL—BUSINESS MEN.

In that representative body, the Apostles, whom Our Lord gathered round Him, it was inevitable that one of the twelve should be a business man. For this small band of followers were to renew the world when their Master, after His Resurrection, clothed them with heavenly power. And whilst in any such mighty movement which had as its purpose nothing less than to save mankind, place must be found for St. John the mystic and St. Andrew the lovable man—to take only two examples—it was impossible to do without St. Matthew, with his busy accurate mind. And as the Church of Christ increased in numbers in the circuit of the years, the need of business men grew with the setting up of organizations to deal with the practical outcome of preaching the Gospel, such as the relief of the poor and the care of the sick. And then there were those sacred records to be preserved and passed down from age to age which should safeguard the teaching to Jew and Gentile with the warrant of most holy Scripture. It was in this work especially that St. Matthew excelled. And yet no doubt he did not know the gift that lay within him when he was just Matthew the tax-gatherer. Time and the company of His Lord and Master brought to light his high capacity as a writer and a chronicler, whose quick eye and sure memory seized upon events in the greatest of all lives and marshalled them in matchless form and order.

This then is what a business man can do when his heart is touched; for then follows the capable hand moving punctually at the impulse of the head disciplined by business habits. And how such disciples are needed in the Church of to-day! Indeed they are indispensable for two reasons. First, recent legislation dating from 1919, when the Enabling Act became the law of the land, has endowed each baptised layman of eighteen years and upwards with a *voice* in the affairs of his parish. The latest measure indeed which received the King's assent in 1931 gives the Parochial Church Councils, of which, at the age of twenty-one years he can become a member, a direct influence in the appointment of the incumbent. Thus in ways which may be called official the business man takes his place with the professional man in the administration of our parishes.

But there is another and it may be termed a *vocational* reason why the man of business is called for in the Church to-day. His presence alike in the Council and in the congregation is a proof that, like his prototype, St. Matthew, he has heard the Master's call and is following. His business instinct has led him to do so, because his Lord has met him, so to say, on his own ground and has convinced him. "What shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" The question which is also a challenge echoes down the rolling years, and not the dearest treasure that the merchant mind can correctly price, nor the most valued possession which life can bestow upon us, even if it is bodily health, can weigh, when all is said and done, against the soul's well-being. There are, in fact, few assets of the Kingdom of such sterling worth as godly business men, for in a word they reassure minds that are not so trained or methodical that the Saviour in redeeming mankind allowed Himself to be sold for money, that thereafter gold and silver should only have their permanent uses in the Kingdom which He has won.

### DEANERY MISSIONARY FESTIVAL.

On Saturday the 17th of June next a Missionary Pilgrimage to Winchester Cathedral has been arranged to take place for this Rural Deanery of Bradfield. No more interesting destination could have been chosen for our purpose, and it is hoped that from each of the twenty-one parishes "pilgrims" will avail themselves in good numbers of such an opportunity as this which promises at once to be valuable and delightful. Motor-coaches will pass through our main centres to pick up intending pilgrims, special guides will conduct us through the Cathedral, and then after tea, which we shall take together, a service with

a sermon will be held, for which seats will be provided for us in the choir. An early application to your incumbent for tickets, costing 4s. 6d. each, and including tea, is necessary, nor will accommodation be secured until the ticket money has been fully paid.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

The following is the Balance Sheet for the year ended the 31st of December last, which was passed at the Annual Church Meeting held on the 20th of April last :

| Receipts                   |      |         | Expenses                         |      |          |
|----------------------------|------|---------|----------------------------------|------|----------|
|                            | £    | s. d.   |                                  | £    | s. d.    |
| 1. Collections . . . . .   |      | 3 8 1   | 1. Salaries and Wages . . . . .  |      |          |
| 2. Subscriptions           | £    | s. d.   | Organist . . . . .               | 30   | 0 0      |
| Mr. H. Farmiloe . . . . .  | 20   | 0 0     | Sexton . . . . .                 | 26   | 0 0      |
| Mrs. Farmiloe . . . . .    | 5    | 5 0     | Cleaner . . . . .                | 7    | 15 0     |
| Mr. Hodgkin . . . . .      | 5    | 0 0     | Organ Blower . . . . .           | 2    | 10 0     |
| Mr. Lister . . . . .       | 5    | 0 0     |                                  |      | 68 5 0   |
| Mr. White . . . . .        | 3    | 3 0     | 2. Special Collections           |      |          |
| Misses Mole . . . . .      | 3    | 0 0     | Easter Offerings . . . . .       | 8    | 16 11    |
| Mr. Crispe . . . . .       | 2    | 2 0     | Mayor's Distress Fund . . . . .  | 5    | 0 0      |
| Mrs. Aldin . . . . .       | 2    | 0 0     | Oxford Mission to                |      |          |
| Mr. Saunders . . . . .     | 2    | 0 0     | Calcutta . . . . .               | 0    | 13 0     |
| Miss Menpes . . . . .      | 1    | 1 0     | St. Luke's Hostel . . . . .      | 0    | 5 0      |
| Alderman Farrer . . . . .  | 1    | 0 0     |                                  |      | 14 14 11 |
| Mr. Gulliver . . . . .     | 1    | 0 0     | 3. Repairs, etc.                 |      |          |
| Mr. Osborne . . . . .      | 1    | 0 0     | Furnace . . . . .                | 5    | 10 0     |
| Mr. T. E. Paull . . . . .  | 0    | 10 6    | Organ (tuning) . . . . .         | 5    | 0 0      |
| Mr. Thwaite . . . . .      | 0    | 10 0    | Lych-gate (repainting) . . . . . | 1    | 7 6      |
| Mr. Standen . . . . .      | 0    | 10 0    | Church Roof . . . . .            | 0    | 15 6     |
|                            |      | 53 1 6  | Church Clock . . . . .           | 0    | 12 6     |
|                            |      |         |                                  |      | 13 5 6   |
| 3. Invested Funds          |      |         | 4. Fuel                          |      |          |
| Mrs. Fullerton's           |      |         | Coal and Coke . . . . .          | 7    | 15 0     |
| Charities . . . . .        | 15   | 15 2    | Oil . . . . .                    | 1    | 10 7     |
| Dividend on 5 p.c.         |      |         |                                  |      | 9 5 7    |
| Joint Stock . . . . .      | 2    | 17 6    | 5. Churchyard                    |      |          |
| Conversion Bonus . . . . . | 3    | 5 6     | Extra labour . . . . .           | 3    | 5 0      |
|                            |      | 21 18 2 | Gravel . . . . .                 | 1    | 4 0      |
|                            |      |         | Cartage . . . . .                | 1    | 3 0      |
|                            |      |         | Lawn Mowers                      |      |          |
|                            |      |         | (sharpening) . . . . .           | 0    | 15 0     |
|                            |      |         | Weed-killer . . . . .            | 0    | 10 6     |
|                            |      |         | Tools, etc. . . . .              | 0    | 7 6      |
|                            |      |         |                                  |      | 7 5 0    |
|                            |      |         | 6. Sundry Disbursements          |      |          |
|                            |      |         | Parish Quota . . . . .           | 8    | 10 0     |
|                            |      |         | Insurances . . . . .             | 3    | 17 9     |
|                            |      |         | Service Books . . . . .          | 1    | 7 6      |
|                            |      |         | Visitation Fee . . . . .         | 0    | 14 6     |
|                            |      |         |                                  |      | 14 9 9   |
|                            |      |         | Balance in hand . . . . .        | 15   | 14 11    |
|                            |      |         |                                  |      |          |
| Total                      | £141 | 0 8     | Total                            | £141 | 0 8      |

I certify that I have examined the above statement with the vouchers etc. and the same is the correct record as shown in the books kept by the Churchwardens. (Signed) HORACE TURNER, Pangbourne. April 19, 1933.

PARISH REGISTER.

HOLY BAPTISM.

April 16. Michael Harold, son of Gasper Cecil and Nellie May Newton.

HOLY MATRIMONY.

April 15. Stanley Pocock and Queenie Florence May Keep.

BURIAL.

April 6. Mary Eliza Heath, aged 86 years.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND THANKS.

We gratefully acknowledge the receipt of annual subscriptions from Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Thwaite, Mrs. Silver, Miss M. Mole, and Mr. T. E. Paull.