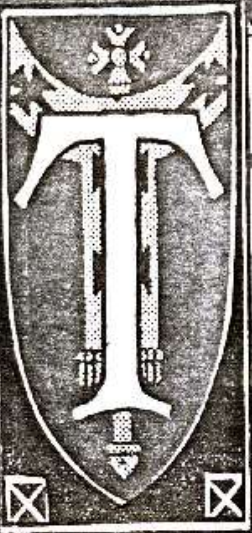


LORD, save Thy Church our
King and Realm and send us
Peace in Christ. ANCIENT GRACE.



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. G. HEATH, MR. ANDERSON and MRS. LISTER, Miss PALGRAVE, MRS. PHYOR, 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.

July,

1933.



With the close of the first half of this year of grace we are all of us wise to imitate the man of business and carry out some quiet stocktaking. The personal aspect of such an overhaul, if such a term is admissible, is that which is obviously the first to have in mind for the general good. Then comes our duty to others during the past six months. And so far as this article is concerned, it is the place, if any, which the Parish Magazine has found, and perchance is keeping amongst us, which at this stage in its existence it becomes us to consider. And our reflexions as we pen these words of self-comment (using the editorial "we") fall naturally under two headings. First the criticisms which have been made can only be described as lenient in the extreme. Certain readers have discovered omissions from time to time, and they have notified them sometimes directly and sometimes indirectly. To those who use the latter method we take the opportunity of saying how much we respect that tenderness of thought which kept them doubtless from open complaint, but we prefer it. For not deliberately, as every fair-minded subscriber will imagine, is news left out which seems worth including. But too frequently it has to be confessed the heart and mind are with us to make this monthly record readable. It is time, strange as it may seem, that it is such a scant servitor to the effort. Not strange only, but unbelievable this admission of pressure must appear to men who really live, as they say, busy lives. Let such in their turn reflect that there is no one in this world so occupied as he whose life is "flung forth"—to use the Master's phrase—into that of others, and that such work as his is ruined beyond all others by self-advertisement. And that is the reason why—to come to the second of our reflexions—we may have seemed to show little appreciation of the compliments which have reached us with reference to the six issues already printed. But in the first place, we attribute these kind remarks to the excellence of our inset HOME WORDS, which has so long established its pre-eminent position amongst the Parish Magazines of this country. The almost breathless excitement, for instance, with which some of our readers await the next instalment of the serial story is in itself a proof of the skill with which this monthly journal is compiled. And secondly, we are encouraged by such cordial support to bring our local contribution to the high level of the magazine with which it is each month incorporated. As Richard Steele wrote, to whom we owe the first English paper *The Tatler*, to be succeeded by the better-known and still existent *Spectator*, in acknowledging his obligations to his friend and schoolfellow Addison, "I was undone by my auxiliary. When I had once called him in, I could not subsist without dependence on him."

THE OXFORD MOVEMENT.

The month of July in this year marks the one-hundredth anniversary of the rise of what is historically known as the Oxford Movement. This is no ordinary centenary such as that of a great man or woman whom the world delights to honour. But its importance lies in the fact that certain Oxford men, at a time when reform in Church and State was agitating the minds of their countrymen, thought fit to set on foot a reaction against the Reformation of the Sixteenth Century, the effects of which are most emphatically to be felt to-day. No apology, therefore, is needed for some notice, however slight, of this movement by any thinking member of the Church of England to-day. Indeed, to us whose lot is cast in the Diocese of Oxford, it is a duty that we should examine closely its beginnings and bearings, as they influence our present modes of thought and action. Accordingly, with the simplest possible aim of dealing impartially

with a subject which lends itself all too easily to partisan treatment, if Englishmen, that is to say, are so unfair to themselves and to posterity as to use it, addresses will be given in our Church at both the Morning and Evening Services on Sundays in July as follows :—

July	9.	The Leaders.
„	16.	The Leaven.
„	23.	The Loyalties.
„	30.	The Lessons.

THE RELIGIOUS CALL—TO THE AVERAGE MAN.

Who first gave to the world the phrase summing up the person who in himself represents the vast majority of mankind, that is to say, the average man? Some master no doubt thought it out in Victorian times, when writers in prose and poetry knew the language as none so far of their successors have been even acquainted with it. But, truth to say, the average man has always been with us at least in Christendom. For one of Christ's Parables gives him life and almost loveliness. In between the man to whom his lord entrusted in the well-known story five talents, and the servant whose capacity only warranted the endowment of one, there is the individual who is given two talents. He is the average man. Not so interesting as the first of the three trustees, nor yet as unimpressive as the last, he is just what any one of us might dub ourselves to be, a very ordinary person. But those two talents of his—how they dignify the average man and give him a place in the world denied even to his more distinguished companion! For, his is the middle course in life avoiding all extremes. He is neither a fanatic nor a bigot, but a man upon whom rests the very grave responsibility of keeping the balance true when men of angular minds acutely differ. It is the firebrand that too often causes war to break out. On the other hand, the plain man pursuing the even tenor of his way has done more for the world's true progress than all the Alexanders and Napoleons who have ever lived. Thus Augustine who came to these shores in the year 597. He found the English people entirely heathen (though there may have been many Christians of the Saxon race) and in seven years he had founded the Church in England. Yet he was an ordinary man, but with this distinction, namely—that he was an ordinary man who did his work extraordinarily well—not a man of genius or of special powers, but one of the men who leave their mark upon their generation simply by going forward and doing that work which they are appointed to do. Such is the strength of the average man, and what a loss it is to our common Christianity that so many millions of his sort do not see how great a work they could do for God and the world to-day, if only they would make the effort. We need in fact a new Society to be called The Society of the Average Man, owning and using their two talents to the full, the first of them being *stability*—a term suggested by that steady line of fighting men who won the Battle of Alma in 1854 against the Russians, so that history knows it as the “soldiers' victory.” The second talent is *humility*, which in reality is the first of all the Christian graces, though it is the last that so many of us learn and practise. And it is set here side by side with stability because the two virtues are so closely associated. For as we learn, we lean, and, as we lean, we learn. With no conceit, then, about his exceptional powers, for he has none, and no diffidence about such gifts as he has received, the average man is fitted to be the world's most useful worker. Thus, of the Twelve Apostles, if four were outstanding men, the remaining eight, when the number was made up, did a work of which

we are not given details, it is true, but it is so mighty that to-day we see the fruits thereof in the world's civilization. Yet of each Apostle who thus wrought out unnoticed his God-given task it might only be said that

His place in all the pomp that fills
The circuit of the summer hills
Is that his grave is green.

Still, just as in the parable, the servant to whom the two talents were committed gained two talents more, so the reward awaiting the average man in this work-a-day world is worth having. And in a word that recompense is two-fold—namely, the trust and thanks of his fellows. If, therefore, the average man will only put away the apathy which is his only enemy in this modern world, and one which hinders his usefulness, and go forward with but one aim, namely—to set an example which no one can mistake—not even a child—then this generation may yet see an application to daily life of Christianity with which only the early centuries of this era can justly compare.

E. E. S.

THE PLAY AND THE PILGRIMAGE.

In our two previous issues mention was made, side by side, of the Play and the Pilgrimage, and that is their only connexion. The latter we have now to say is not to take place. The reason will be fully understood, we feel sure, by all our readers. The Motor Coach Company required a guaranteed number of 150 passengers, if we were to benefit by the rate of 4s. 6d. per person. After, however, a thorough and detailed inquiry it was found that hardly half that total would be secured, and therefore, to the great disappointment of the Rural Dean, and those of us who were interested, the effort had to be abandoned.

On the other hand, the Pastoral Play took place on June 28 last, as advertised, and to judge by the appreciation, written and verbal, which has reached us, it was a success at once as a beautiful spectacle and as a literary and dramatic study. The financial results have yet to be ascertained and will be announced later. Meantime to our friends and neighbours, Mr. and Mrs. Barnett, Mr. and Mrs. Scarsbrook and the Misses Bedford, our thanks are due. And to Mrs. Richard we are especially indebted for obtaining for us the services of a very excellent orchestra.

THE TENNIS CLUB.

When Mr. Aldin was with us, permission was given to those who played tennis, to use the court at The Kennels. This year Sir George Mowbray, on behalf of the South Berks Hunt, has continued to us the privilege of having the court at our disposal until such time as the house is again occupied. New members, therefore, are welcome to join, and application should be made either to Mr. C. Leath or Mr. A. Heath, to whom subscriptions are payable. But no time should be lost as the court is in excellent condition thanks to the good work and skill of Mr. Anderson. Information as to the court and the conditions to be observed in playing upon it can also be had from the Rector.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND THANKS.

In addition to the sum already received in payment of the Magazine, we have to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of an annual subscription from Mrs. Shaw.