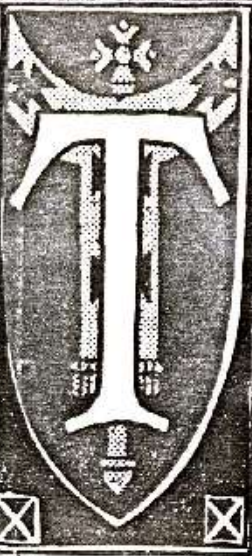


LORD, save Thy Church our
King and Realm and send us
Peace in Christ. ANCIENT GRACE.



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, Mr. A. N. M. COOPER, Mr. E. O. FARRER, Mr. C. MINCHIN, Mr. G. HEATH, Mr. ANDERSON, Mr. RAWLINS, Mr. FOX, and Mrs. LISTER, Miss PALGRAVE, Miss WICKES, 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, 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.—

September,

1933.



MONTH BY MONTH—August.

One wedding, three baptisms and the passing of a friend of ours in the course of a month must constitute almost a record for us in Purley. And to most of us the names will easily be recognizable, so that we shall all feel it a very real pleasure first to wish Mr. and Mrs. Bye much happiness in their married life; then to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Denys Neale upon the birth of a son, baptized Brian Oliver, to remind us that his maternal grandfather is one of our oldest and firmest supporters, Mr. Alderman Farrer, whom we felicitate together with Mr. and Mrs. Neale, the child's parents, and to offer in the same way our heartiest good wishes to Mr. and Mrs. F. Nash upon the birth of their daughter, Kathleen June, baptized on August 6, as well as to Mr. and Mrs. Haines, relatives of Mr. and Mrs. Askey, of the Copse, whose infant son received the names of Michael John on the 20th inst. But we mourn the loss of Mr. Frederick John Gilbert, of Tilehurst-on-Thames, whose family have been attached to Purley since three years ago they came to live so near to the Church. But what thoughts does the chronicle of such events as these inspire—common as they may be in our everyday life. First, in such a small community as ours it should be easier for us to rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. But, secondly, the fact that whether in life or in death the House of God is the one place where all can meet and unite is a vivid illustration of the binding force of practical religion. Without that bond we are so many scores of individual families realizing little or no interdependence. But finding our Head in Our Lord Himself we are unified, members one of another so that if one member suffers all the members suffer with it.

THE HARVEST FESTIVAL.

Upon the last Sunday in this month (September 24) we propose to hold our Harvest Thanksgiving Services. The Services will be at the usual hours, with the addition of a Celebration of the Holy Communion at 7 a.m. as well as at 8 a.m. and 12.15 p.m. Evensong will be said for the last time this year at 6.30 p.m. Gifts of grain, fruit, vegetables and flowers will be most welcome, and help in the decoration of the Church for this Festival on the morning of the Saturday previous will be most acceptable. The Collections throughout the day will be given to the Royal Berkshire Hospital, and the gifts in kind will be sent to the Battle Hospital.

THE RELIGIOUS CALL—To BOOK-LOVERS.

According to Francis Bacon reading maketh a full man. But what that shrewd observer of human nature would say if he could revisit the scene of his own literary labours, it is difficult to imagine. For whereas in those days, spacious as they were, for the Virgin Queen reigned a Tudor of the Tudors, books were the precious study of the very few, they are now an essential part of the lives of the great majority. The errand-boy who brings to the punctual housewife the daily necessities contrives *en route* as much enjoyment out of his absorbing story as does the noble lord turning the page in his great library. And the wonder is where the time and the means are to be found for the steady flow of literature which makes its way into our houses by loan or purchase. But the marvel dies

only to relive, like the chrysalis, in a lovelier guise when we consider how thankful we ought to be for our books. For, through them, we can, first, escape for a time from our everyday business of the real and actual into the realm of make-believe. And what a kingdom is this where fancy reigns and paints in high colouring and with romantic touch life as sometimes we wish it could only be. For all the world loves a story, but with this difference: the Greeks and after them the French to show that wrong must find its due punishment, but as for ourselves it is art for art's sake, and we are ready to skip the moral and even the wedding bells if only there is a plot worthy of half the name. And then if some new phase in thought arises, our diligent authors seize upon it and either thrill or shock us as the mode suggests. But this is but a small tributary in that great stream of literature for which we give praise, and if that rivulet is at times muddy and unpleasing we need not let its tainted waters touch us, for they slake no thirst such as we have been given to quench at the fountain of books, great or small, which human genius writes and with bent knee offers to Him Who deigned to be called the Word.

Then, in days of sickness, how great the comfort of books! And who has not solaced his pain if only for a time whilst with Mr. Micawber, for example, his mind dallied with the pleasures of rosy expectation or voyaged adventurously in the *Scarlet Pimpernel* across the misty Channel, tasting the fresh sea salt to relieve if only in thought the tedium of lying still because one must. Indeed when we have carefully indexed as we should the causes for gratitude upon our recovery from illness, let us not omit those books which carried us away from ourselves outward bound to many lands and scenes with the speed of thought just when the imagination needed the salutary journey in case it should prey upon itself.

But, lastly, there is a Book for which every book-lover must daily offer both in word and deed his sacrifice of praise. "A lamp unto my feet and a light unto my paths." Nor is it too much to say that we do not understand literature until we have given the Bible its due place amongst our books. And that is the first place. It is useless, as we are well aware, to quote history and remind readers that not three hundred years ago it could be said of this country that it was "the nation of a book and that book was the Bible." But it is a question of maintaining a true sense of values. For what are these myriad pages of light-reading but like unto the many-coloured flowers with which we fill our garden-beds that they may refresh our minds which cannot dwell upon one business only in life and keep their tone. But for living with its realities of good and evil, duty and pleasure, victory and defeat we need to read daily until they sink deeply into our very souls those chapters from Genesis to Revelation which the Holy Spirit Himself illuminates, so that morning and evening and indeed when we will, He, waiting near, may lead us "to green pastures and beside the waters of comfort."

JUMBLE SALE.

Throughout this month diligent preparation must be made for a Sale to take place upon the last Saturday in October. For though the interval may seem long it is not too lengthy in which to collect sufficient material together upon which to realize the sum of £22. That is the task before us, namely, for the

payment of the final amount due this year to Queen Anne's Bounty under the mortgage contracted in 1923. The full figures are £28 14s. 7d., but of this large total the sum of £6 14s. 7d. represents the proceeds of the play produced at the end of June last towards this object. But only with the exercise of our fullest efforts will the amount be raised, and we urge upon all our friends to give us their utmost help. And the results will well repay our best endeavours, for it is the last time we shall be called upon to deal with this indebtedness, the discharge of which must then pass into history as a liability upon the incumbent which the parishioners have nobly borne, but which no one is ever likely—rector or parishioner—to wish repeated.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Parochial Church Council was held at 7 p.m. on Friday, July 28. Mr. Hodgkin was re-elected Vice-Chairman of the Church and Mrs. Tidbury again fills the post of Secretary, which she has so kindly filled and with such care for the last five years. The office of Treasurer Mr. Tidbury, owing to pressure of business, laid down in favour of Mr. Cooper, but remains to assist him with the parish finances. The Council, after this formal business, discussed the vacancy caused by the retirement of our former Sexton, Mr. Le Brun, and other matters, and decided to meet again at Michaelmas. Meantime four new members, Miss Wickes and Messrs. C. Minchin, Rawlins and Fox, have added their names to the Council. But we were reluctant to accept the resignation of Mr. Hunkin on the plea that a resident in the Parish should occupy the position. Our thanks, however, are sincerely due to him for all his invaluable help to the Parish, especially in connexion with the formation last year of the Finance Committee, of which he was a member, and for the meetings of which he very kindly opened his house.

PARISH REGISTER.

HOLY BAPTISM.

- Aug. 6. Kathleen June, daughter of Frederick John and Lily May Nash.
„ 20. Michael John, son of Lewis and Doris Haines.
„ „ Brian Oliver, son of Denys Alfred and Ethel Madge Neale.

HOLY MATRIMONY.

- Aug. 14. John Eric Alwyn Bye and Phyllis Ethel Baker.

BURIAL.

- Aug. 28. Frederick John Gilbert, aged 68 years (at Henley Road Cemetery).
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND THANKS.

Subscriptions towards the Parish Magazine have been received from Mr. Sykes-Wright, Mrs. Neale, Mr. Wakeford, Mrs. Thimbleby and Mrs. Poulton, and are hereby gratefully acknowledged.