

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.*—

November,

1933.



## MONTH BY MONTH<sup>A</sup>—October.

This month has been a period of helpful ministry from some fresh voices and one that has become delightfully familiar to us. Three such Sundays as those which intervened between the beginning and the end of October leave memories behind of means of grace bestowed which cannot soon or easily be removed. But, first, we must put on record our most grateful appreciation of the assistance so generously given by the Revs. H. Lister, G. Skipwith, W. L. Bunce, H. P. Bull and W. B. Farrer, and to Mr. Standen we owe a debt of thanks for providing the necessary transport on one occasion. But, secondly, with this privilege of listening to new witnesses to the truth of the Gospel there comes the responsibility of hearing. And in this connexion we recently read a compelling phrase which summed up the life and character of no less an historical figure than Mary, Queen of Scots. In her it was said "the decalogue was supplanted by the creed." No explanation of such a verdict is needed other than that like many people of all ages this woman thought by the correctness of her belief to excuse her flagrant disobedience to the Ten Commandments. How do we contrive so to dupe ourselves and drug our consciences? "Take heed how ye hear" is Our Lord's warning, and to neglect it is to add to our condemnation.

To pass to topics that are more personal, we are relieved to learn that Alderman Farrer's health is somewhat improved; we sympathize with Mr. and Mrs. Arnold and their daughters in the sad occurrence which has befallen one of their relatives, though he did not live amongst us, and we offer our congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Iles upon the birth of a daughter, baptized Margaret Anne on the 29th of the month. Notice of the Sale held on the last Saturday in October will be found elsewhere in this issue, and is only referred to here because its inclusion in the current number of the Magazine is responsible in part for the delay in going to press.

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### REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY.

Although in the official reminders which have reached us the first Sunday in November is mentioned as Remembrance Day, we are keeping our observance of Armistice Day for the 12th of November for two reasons. First, it seems to us nearest the actual date of the anniversary, and may be fitly regarded as a continuation of the solemnities of the previous day if we set apart the second Sunday in the coming month for the high purpose before us. And, secondly, the local Branch of the British Legion, in whose ranks are not a few of our brethren and friends, have expressed a wish to come to our Church for Evensong upon the Sunday last mentioned, and thus repeat for us the pleasure which we felt in having them as fellow-worshippers in last year's Day of Remembrance.

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### STIPEND AUGMENTATION FUND.

A list of the subscribers to this appeal which was issued during October by resolution of the Parochial Church Council will appear in the Church Porch without delay. One letter sent with what is to be an annual gift is worthy of attention, for it runs thus—"I am fully in sympathy with the object, and I should like to be in a position to do more than the humble effort I am now making." Evidently the writer of that letter took the view that the matter as emanating

from the legally constituted council of the Church in this place is official and therefore belongs to the financial obligations of the parish. Others have, in the same way, realized a spiritual duty in their generous giving, and they are the greater number of those into whose hands the appeal was delivered. For the rest, figures showing the financial position are always available to the public in the form of Clerical Directories, but no one is forced to read such volumes or to trouble themselves about their application to the parish in which they live. Another year, however, if this Fund continues, a better and less invidious method will have to be adopted of making its object known.

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### THE RELIGIOUS CALL—TO STEWARDSHIP.

There is no need to explain the word, for everyone knows what it means to be put in trust of some office or function. Great estates have their stewards, and in the Royal Household there are many servants into whose charge His Majesty the King commits the manifold duties which attach to his state and person. Such stewardship we admire and even dignify with becoming names and titles. But when we touch upon personal stewardship especially in the matter of our possessions we reach a subject which is beset with difficulties. "It is more blessed to give than to receive," runs the beatitude, but who pays it but lip-service? Again, "Give and it shall be given unto you," and we fail to see the force of the divine promise. May it not be that the administration of our trust or to put it in a word "giving," is a lesson to be learnt? A clue to the answer here is to be found in a phrase of St. Paul, who speaks of some of his disciples first "giving themselves" before they could even do the duty of giving up what they possessed. And thus we light upon the true order, which had it been observed in the Church would have saved all the confusions and the criticisms which have followed in the train of the multitudinous appeals from ten thousand parishes. Not that many of these petitions for help in some recognized direction are not worthy enough in their own degree, but they are far from the ideal of Christian stewardship, and the methods employed in connexion with them have often brought religion into disrepute. A better way of recent adoption is a Gift Day when each one brings his contribution to God's Altar and that holy place consecrates the gift. But some would almost smile if such a suggestion were laid before them. As far as they are concerned their benefactions are much of the same character with no particular leaning towards the work of God. The first need therefore, for all our gifts is a setting which is proper to it. Then like the woman whose gift was so poor that she hardly dared to bring it, yet when the sun arose next day the tiny offering shone like burnished gold, so if the heart and soul be in it, how precious is the giving! It is as though we gave ourselves with what we offered, as He did Who, though He were rich, became poor that we through His poverty might be made rich.

"In this place," writes from Czecho-Slovakia a former occupant of Purley Park, "although the people are so poor that they have scarcely the bare necessities of life, their gifts have made the Church worthy of the glory and majesty of God. And we can imagine these devoted people finding their way to the house of the Lord with a new sense of the felt presence of God, because their giving had helped to create an atmosphere in which breathed nothing mean or

calculating, but only the love of God Who—as we say but as in a glib phrase—giveth all. But, secondly, what is the *secret* of such giving as that? It is in the normal way of first giving ourselves. Some indeed may require to be smitten to the very earth like the self-satisfied soul—a Pharisee of the Pharisees—till they can rise to the height of a true humbling, for it takes all of a man to be a Christian, and from false eminences, or to use the old phrase “standings,” where we think ourselves to be safe from all change or chance, we must needs come down and learn that we have nothing but that which we have received. “Where did you learn peace?” asked someone of the German mystic Tauler, and his reply was—“When I left the creatures.” Perhaps the holy man’s words take us beyond the range of the average man, and we understand better the spirit of the Elizabethan prayer asking God that those gifts which He meant to be common but which through our selfishness had become partial might once again reflect His bounty in the eyes of all men. Giving then is bound up with a man’s salvation, which it follows in the sight of the Lord and never profitably precedes. It is not philanthropy alone, but that good thing made more excellent, since it is sanctified by prayer and the heart and soul go with the gift, bringing glory to the Giver of all good.

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#### THE JUMBLE SALE.

The weather interfered to a considerable extent with the attendance at the Jumble Sale held on Saturday the 28th of October last. Still everybody seemed to enjoy the effort, which was being made as we have previously been told in these pages, to raise the sum of £20 towards the final mortgage premium. Only half that sum, that is, £10 was realized, but it was worth that amount and more to see the enthusiasm with which the helpers entered into the business. And to them all we are grateful as well as to those who so generously sent articles for the stalls. One criticism remains to be dealt with. It is objected that two such sales in a year are an excess of zeal on somebody’s part without mentioning the person intended. But necessity knows no such law or regulation in these things, and we were constrained to find the sum first stated above in this year or suffer the penalties imposed by that well-known body, Queen Anne’s Bounty, who, in passing, are not guided by caprice or fancy in their financial dealings, as some appear to think, but only demand, as Parliament allows them, the performance of legal obligations whether in connexion with tithe or loans into which a man enters, be it said, with his eyes open.

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#### PARISH REGISTER.

##### HOLY BAPTISM.

Oct. 29. Margaret Anne, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Iles.

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#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND THANKS.

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