

St. Thomas' Keresley and Coundon Parish Magazine

Vol. 12. No. 3.

MARCH, 1916.

Price One Penny

Vicar—REV. WALSINGHAM C. KERR, B.A.

Churchwardens—Mr. Sidney Cash, Mr. W. H. Tabberer.

Sidesmen—Mr. A. Enser, Mr. G. Martin, Mr. R. Green.

Mr. J. H. Clarke, Mr. J. C. Dalton.

Hon. Sec., Parish Magazine—Mr. H. P. Loasby

Verger—Mr. J. Craner

Notices for the Month.

MONDAY.—Clothing Club. Men's Club.

WEDNESDAY.—Holy Communion 8 a.m. Parochial Working Party at the Parish Room, 2.30 to 4.30.

SUNDAY.—The Library, 3.45 p.m., Mr. Suffolk. (First and third Sundays.)

ALTAR FLOWERS.—Mrs. Manville.

The Church is open daily for private prayer.

All cases of sickness should be reported at once to Rev. G. W. Barnard, The Vicarage.

Mid-day Prayer.

The Church bell rings every day at noon, when we invite all our people to pause from their duties for a moment and offer up this prayer:—O God, guard and bless our Sailors and Soldiers, and give us victory and peace—Amen.

Services of Intercession for our Sailors and Soldiers.

Sunday,
Thursday, 8 p.m.

Prayers to be Said Daily.

A PRAYER OF PENITENCE.—Forgive me, O God, all the sins and selfishness of the past, and give me the grace to repent and lead a more useful life; I ask this for Jesus Christ's sake.

A PRAYER FOR HELP.—Stretch forth Thy hand, Thou God of Hosts, and decide between us and our enemies; give us fortitude and courage to endure hardness as good soldiers, and crown our labours with victory; for Jesus Christ's sake.

A PRAYER FOR THE SAILORS, SOLDIERS, AND AIRMEN.—Guard with Thy loving care those who are in peril, whether on sea or land or in the air. Help them to remember that "underneath are the Everlasting Arms," and keep them safe in life or death; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A PRAYER FOR THE WOUNDED AND THE MOURNERS.—Send Thy healing grace upon the wounded and pour Thy comfort into the souls of the mourners; give them both a "warrior's mind" until the day dawn and the shadows flee away; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A PRAYER FOR THE NATION.—Stir up, O Lord, a spirit of service throughout the country; may the soul of the nation respond to the call to sacrifice and help me to play a worthy part in this Great Day; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

And we sum up our petitions in the words our Lord taught us—"Our Father, which art in heaven."

Services.

Holy Communion.—Sundays, 8 a.m. Also, 1st Sunday, 12 noon; 3rd Sunday, 10 a.m. (Choral).

Wednesdays, 8 a.m.

Matins.—Sundays, 11 a.m.

Evensong.—Sundays, 3.30 p.m.

Holy Baptism.—2nd Sunday, 2.30 p.m.

Saints' Day.—8.30 a.m.

Senior Catechism.—2nd Sunday, 3 p.m.

Sunday School.—10 a.m.; 2.30 p.m.

Kindergarten.—3 p.m.

Churchings.—Before or after any Services.

From the Vicar.

We are settling down in our new quarters as comfortably as can be expected. I have learnt, among other things, to sleep well on the floor. We are crammed into tiny quarters. On Sunday we had a good service just behind the lines, I could only see a few of my congregation. The men are in the best of spirits.—(W. C. Kerr.)

Sunday School.

The Annual Children's Party was held on New Year's Day. About 130 sat down to tea at 4.15 and 5 p.m. Full justice was done to the good things provided. After tea an entertainment was given, arranged by Mr. J. H. Clarke. One of the most enjoyable items was the part taken by some of the little ones, who gave songs and recitations.

Mr. Loasby proposed a vote of thanks to the teachers, which was heartily given.

On leaving each child received an orange and cake.

The children pay part of the cost of this party, and usually a number of them go carol singing at Christmas and collect the balance in that way. The last two Christmases—owing to the war—this was not done, so the deficit is made up from the Teachers' Outing Fund.

A meeting of Teachers was held in the School, on Wednesday, January 26th. A letter from the Vicar was read, thanking the teachers for their gift of a pair of brass candlesticks, for use at the Front. It was decided that the children be asked to subscribe one penny each annually to the County S.S. Association. The Hon. Miss Leigh says if this is done by all the Sunday Schools in the county it will bring in about £40 a year. The children will be asked to bring their pennies on one of the first three Sundays in Lent.

The National Mission of Repentance and hope.

Letter from the Bishop of Worcester.

Dear people of the Diocese of Worcester,

Our Archbishop has summoned us all to make a serious attempt to recall ourselves and others to a better knowledge of God, and with that view he desires that a Mission shall be held over the whole of England at the close of the Autumn.

For this to be of use, we must begin to prepare without delay, and I am calling together an Evangelistic Council of Clergy, Laymen and Women, to advise me as to our course. Very shortly they will meet and you will hear more. But I may now foreshadow part of what I hope will be done, and write to you so that the precious weeks of Lent may be used for the purpose.

First of all, the call is to bring into our daily lives a fuller and more real recollection of the Majesty of God, and of His ownership over us, for I am sure that the meaning of God's message in the Gospel has not been understood by the majority of people, as far as it affects their common conduct and daily life. We have not understood, or at all events, we have not acted upon the fact, that the intention of religion is to mould the lives of men and women after the image of God, and to bring us all up to our best, and that the religion of anyone of us fails, however much we may profess and call ourselves Christians, unless it begins to have that effect upon our lives. With these thoughts in our hearts let us apply ourselves at once to a recovery of a better position in three respects.

- I. First, in making new and continued efforts to bring worship into daily life and daily life into worship.

Let us make public worship a matter of strict obligation. Let us see in it the way in which, regularly and consistently, we can witness to our Christianity before God and one another.

Let us make private worship the very atmosphere of our souls, until we understand what S. Paul meant by "Pray without ceasing."

Let us jealously keep one day in seven as the Lord's Day, in joyful communion with God and with one another.

- II. Secondly, let us agree to bring our religion into daily life by recognizing that the Majesty of God requires that His people shall live in holiness and righteousness, or, in a word, that our life in the world shall be in accordance with our Christianity. Too often and too far we have allowed the things of the world and the advantages of the world to crowd God out.

There is a fault which we may well remember, the tendency in most of us to persuade ourselves that we are better than we are, and to conceal the worldliness of our lives both from God and ourselves. One of the greatest efforts in our preparation for the Mission may be in our determination to know what we really are, and in consequence, what changes God is calling for.

- III. Thirdly, let us undertake to ponder in what ways we can live up to the fellowship one with another to which Christianity calls us, under the great ruling Majesty of God. What are we doing for one another? What use are we by word, and example, and service to the souls of other people, and to those human lives which are being lived around us? Is our religion a selfish religion? Is our natural reserve, or our tendency to look after ourselves, hindering our practical love for those for whom Christ died? These are some of the questions we must now ask—each one for himself.

There has been a hard spirit brought on by competition, desire to succeed, and desire to be safe, which has got hold of England, even in religion, and we must now try to soften and look for the spirit of fellowship.

Such are some of the leading considerations which I ask the Diocese to set their minds to without delay.

And why should we do this? Some may reply "we are all of us doing our best for the nation. We are serving in many ways the sailors and soldiers, their wives and families; or we are giving our time to munition work, or relieving others who can go to the Front." Yes—but there are deeper questions even than those which surround our policy or our campaign. We have to ask what the Majesty on High means this world to learn, through its terrible experience of anxiety and death. We have to look for the love and the yearning call which lie behind the visitation.

No godly person can, I think, doubt first that all these things are a call to mankind to make a better world, and second that history tells us that if those who are called will not listen, their place is free to those who will. There is a spiritual war going on as well as a temporal war, and the spiritual one has the deeper and the wider effects. Let him hear who has ears to hear.

I would utter this as my profound belief that those who will not strain every nerve to bring back the nation to holiness and righteousness are not true friends of the Empire, and will miss taking part in the surest way of bringing us to honour and peace.

I now leave the subject for the present but very soon I shall be asking every organization in the Diocese, every Parish and every person to be doing their part in preparing for the Mission of repentance and hope.

Your faithful Bishop,

HUYSHE WORCESTER.

Hartlebury Castle, February, 1916.

Mothers' Union.

There was a large attendance of Mothers at Coundon Court, on Thursday, February 17th. The address was given by Miss Cox. On March 2nd, at 3 o'clock, at the Parish Church, there will be a Service, and it is hoped that all those Mothers who wish to join the Union, will be present to be admitted. On March 9th, at 3 o'clock, at the Parish Room, Mrs. A. Kirby will give her second demonstration of practical cooking, and will explain the use of the Hay Box.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BALANCE SHEET.

Receipts.		£	s.	d.
Church Offertory	...	1	17	5
Children's Offertory	...	17	8	
Parochial Returns	...	7	4	0
		<hr/>		
		£9	19	1
Expenses.		£	s.	d.
Note books, pencils, envelopes	...	5	7½	
Prizes	...	4	7	5
Fares to Birmingham	...	6	2	
Carriage of books	...	6		
Teachers' books	...	3	6	
S.S. Magazines	...	4	0	
Registers	...	2	9	
County Council	...	1	19	0
Printing Reports	...	9	6	
Box for materials	...	4	6	
Postage, &c.	...	1	4	
Mrs. Watson, caretaker, &c.	...	15	0	
Mrs. Sanders, caretaker, &c.	...	15	0	
		<hr/>		
		9	14	3½
Balance	...	4	9½	
		<hr/>		
		£9	19	1

Examined and found correct, H. SLEATH.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PARTY BALANCE SHEET.

Receipts.		£	s.	d.
Balance from 1915	...	3	7	
Children's payments	...	15	3	
Two Visitors	...	1	0	
Entertainment	...	12	6	
Cakes sold	...	1	0	
		<hr/>		
Balance from Teachers' Fund	...	1	6	4
		<hr/>		
		£2	19	8
The bread was given by Mr. J. C. Dalton.				
Expenses.		£	s.	d.
Perkins—Milk and carriage of cakes	...	3	6	
Flowers—Tea, sugar, butter, & oranges	...	13	11	
Liggins—Cakes	...	1	5	5
Watson, Caretaker—Preparing room and washing cloths	...	4	6	
C.C.—Fire and lights	...	1	6	
Muslin for tea bags	...	4		
Enser—Putting up stage	...	8	0	
Music	...	1	6	
Sketch	...	1	0	
		<hr/>		
		£2	19	8

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Meeting of British Red Cross.

The following extract has been given from a resolution passed at the last Meeting of the Committee of the Red Cross Hospital: "That owing to the satisfactory reserve now at the disposal of the Hospital those who had kindly undertaken to support beds should now be relieved of their responsibility."

It has been suggested that the contributors should still continue to give their monthly donations, which will be handed over to the Parochial Working Party to send comforts to the men from Keresley and Coundon Parishes who are serving their country at the Front. Funds are much needed to provide wool, etc.

The envelopes may still be taken to the Church, and the donations received will be handed over by Mrs Herschel to the Working Party instead of to the Hospital, for the present.

£4 5s. has been given to Mrs. Tabberer and Mrs. Sleath, beng £1 10s. 1d. for February, plus £2 14s. 11d. in hand.

Parochial Working Party.

Mrs. Miller has kindly provided the material for a large number of sand bags which are so necessary for our men at the Front. Our members are busy making these in addition to the woollen comforts.

On February 9th we sent a large parcel of woollies to the Vicar for distribution among his men, also a parcel of warm comforts to the mine sweepers, and received the following acknowledgment from Mr. J. G. Tinley, Missions to Seamen Institute, Lowestoft: "Please convey our very warmest thanks to the members of your Working Party for the most useful parcel of warm comforts which we have received to-day. I shall have pleasure in distributing the same amongst the men on board the Mine Sweepers who are doing such a splendid work for their country's welfare."

A parcel of socks was also sent to the Hill Crest V.A.D. Hospital.

We have received many letters of grateful thanks from our men for parcels received. We should like to acknowledge the kind gifts of 5s. from Mr. J. Mitchell, H.M.S. "Tiger," and 2s. 6d. from Mrs. Cowpe (2nd donation).

The substantial balance from our Whist Drive is most gratifying. Appended is the Balance Sheet:—

Receipts		£	s.	d.
106 Tickets at 1/3	...	6	12	6
Provisions sold	...	3	6	
		<hr/>		
		£6	16	0
Expenses.		£	s.	d.
Scoring cards	...	8	0	
Rent of School	...	3	0	
Caretaker	...	4	0	
		<hr/>		
		15	0	
Balance to Wool Fund	...	6	1	0
		<hr/>		
		£6	16	0

British Red Cross.

KERESLEY & COUNDON V.A.D. HOSPITAL

Subscriptions to Parochial Bed—January.

No.	s.	d.	No.	s.	d.	No.	s.	d.
1	...	1 4	23	...	8	45	...	8
2	...	8	24	...	—	46	...	2 0
3	...	—	25	...	1 0	47	...	8
4	...	8	26	...	—	48	...	8
5	...	—	27	...	4 0	49	...	1 0
6	...	8	28	...	—	50	...	8
7	...	1 4	29	...	—	51	...	—
8	...	2 0	30	...	2 0	52	...	1 0
9	...	8	31	...	—	53	...	—
10	...	—	32	...	—	54	...	—
11	...	—	33	...	8	55	...	1 0
12	...	—	34	...	8	56	...	—
13	...	8	35	...	—	57	...	—
14	...	8	36	...	6 0	58	...	—
15	...	8	37	...	—	59	...	8
16	...	—	38	...	8	60	...	1 0
17	...	1 0	39	...	8	61	...	2 8
18	...	—	40	...	8	62	...	—
19	...	—	41	...	—	63	...	1 0
20	...	—	42	...	—	64	...	—
21	...	1 0	43	...	—			
22	...	1 0	44	...	—			
							<hr/>	
							£2	2 4