

St. Thomas' Keresley and Coundon Parish Magazine

Vol. 13. No. 7.

JULY, 1917.

Price One Penny

Vicar—REV. WALSHINGHAM C. KERR, B.A.

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

Sidesmen—Mr. A. Enser, Mr. R. Green.
Mr. J. H. Clarke, Mr. J. Allen, Mr. Sleath.

Organist—Mr. H. P. Loasby. Deputy Organist—Miss F. Lloyd. Verger—Mr. J. Crane

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, 6.30 p.m.

Intercessions.—Wednesdays, 7.30.

Holy Baptism.—2nd Sunday, 3.45 p.m.

Saints' Day.—6.30 a.m.

Churchings.—Before or after any Services.

Catechism.—2nd Sunday, 3 p.m.

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.

THURSDAY.—8 p.m., Choir Practice, Parish Room.

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

The Church is open daily for private 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.

Letter to Parishioners.

My dear Friends,

Up to the date of writing, the work on the church floor, of which mention was made last month, has not been begun. The delay is no doubt due to difficulties caused by the war, and of course I cannot prophesy when a start will be made, but I hope it will be soon.

The admission of new members to the Communicants' Guild will take place at the monthly Preparation Service on Wednesday, July 11th, at 8.15 p.m. I trust there will be a good gathering of the Guild to welcome them.

We have been grieved to learn that Trooper E. W. Flowers has been officially reported missing. Such news is almost harder to bear than any other, and I am sure we all offer to Mrs. and Miss Flowers our heartfelt sympathy in their great anxiety, as also to others whose news of their soldier relatives is overdue.

I have a few cards of private prayers for the use of relatives of sailors and soldiers. Each card contains seven prayers: "For one on Home Service or in Training"—"For one serving at the Front"—"For one who is Wounded or Sick"—"For one who is Missing"—"For a Prisoner"—"For one serving in the Royal Navy"—"For one who has laid down his Life." I shall be glad to give one to any who would like one, for the sum of 1d., to be added to the Red Cross subscriptions.

Your faithful Minister,

A. C. COLLIN.

June 21st, 1917.

Sunday Schools.

Saturday, June 2nd, was a red-letter day for our Sunday Schools, and more particularly for the Infants' department, for on that day we were favoured with a visit from Miss Phyllis Dent, one of the Sunday School experts of the Church of England Sunday School Institute. It is now recognised that teaching is an art as much in the Sunday School as in the Day School, the Secondary School, and the University. Men and women who choose teaching for their profession need to study not merely the subjects, but also the methods of education. The question "What am I going to teach?" is not more important than "How am I going to teach?" The answer to the latter question varies according to the age of the pupil. To take extreme instances, every one will agree that the same methods will not suit an infant of three years, and the same pupil at a secondary school twelve or fourteen years later. There are certain methods of teaching adapted to the different stages of development which the child's mind passes through as it grows older. To use kindergarten methods with pupils of 16 would be as ridiculous as to teach infants of three years old by means of lectures and home study. And between these extremes there are well-marked stages, for each of which there are the corresponding methods of teaching. It is just as necessary for Sunday School teachers as for other teachers to know what these methods are, if their teaching is to be effective; and although some people are by nature alone better teachers than others, yet there are none who could not, by studying the art of teaching, improve upon their natural gifts, and very few who by the same means could not make up for the lack of natural gifts and turn themselves into efficient teachers.

It is one of the aims of the Sunday School Institute to help Sunday School teachers to acquire some knowledge of the methods of teaching. And this help includes, of course, advice as to grading classes according to age, and the general management of the Sunday School, as well as the particular method to be adopted with each grade. It was in order to give such help and advice to the kindergarten teachers that Miss Phyllis Dent visited us, and although the teachers had already been able to gather much on these subjects from the Sunday School Magazine, yet the practical assistance given by Miss Dent was of very great value. She made it plain that for infants up to seven years of age the kindergarten is the best possible method, because it is exactly suited to the minds of infants. Objections have sometimes been heard to the kindergarten Sunday School that "it is only teaching the children to play." Nothing could be farther from the truth, or more unjust to the teachers. For instance, the teacher has been telling the children a story from the Bible, and it is required to find out how much they have learned from the lesson. With older children this could be done by question and answer, or by getting them to write down in their own words what they had learned. But this will not do with a class of infants. They cannot frame their ideas in words, and writing is out of the question. But let the kindergarten teacher give them a pencil and paper, and they will readily produce a drawing of the scene and objects and persons which the teacher has told them about. It is surprising what an amount of thoughtfulness sometimes appears in these crude drawings—thoughtfulness which is thus afforded means of expression, instead of being suppressed, as it otherwise would be.

Another point in the justification of the kindergarten is that the children are not permitted to become fidgetty or listless. They are so occupied, and the programme is so varied, that they are kept interested and alert all the time; and yet they see and hear and do nothing that is not directly connected with religious instruction.

Besides certain improvements in the arrangements of the kindergarten suggested by Miss Dent, we are also by her advice going to form an intermediate department for children between the age of seven and nine years. At this age kindergarten methods are no longer suitable, and the children do not respond to them, but need a less elementary and realistic method.

There is every reason for gratitude to the Sunday School Institute for providing such help, and to

Miss Dent herself for the obvious insight and sympathy which she showed for the problems and difficulties of Sunday School work.

The Sunday School party, on June 30th, will possibly be over by the time the Magazine is in the hands of subscribers. It is to be held in a field at Coundon, very kindly lent for the occasion by Captain Miller. In view of the food restrictions and the recently reported utterance of the Food Controller against school teas, there was some hesitation about providing a tea this year. But in view of a more recent utterance of the Food Campaign Department of the National War Savings Committee, it appears that our decision to give a tea on strictly economical lines was a highly patriotic action. The following is the reply of the above Department to an enquiry from the Willenhall Local Central War Savings Committee: "The Department could not give approval (to school feasts) unless they were assured of the strictest economy and an avoidance of all display and excess. In the case of children's treats the occasion offers excellent opportunities for bringing before the youthful mind the aims and principles of the food campaign in a practical manner. If a public meal can thus be made to serve as a valuable object lesson, the Department are of opinion that to hold it may perhaps be morally and materially of advantage." This is our own view of the matter, and it is gratifying to find that two such important bodies as the Food Campaign Department of the National War Savings Committee and the Keresley Sunday School teachers think alike upon the weighty subject of unlimited buns.

On the last Sunday in July will be held a Children's Flower Service at 3 p.m.

Mothers' Union.

The annual gathering of the Mothers' Union will be held at Vicar's Croft, Davenport Road, on Thursday, July 19th, from 6 to 8.30 p.m. An address will be given by the Rev. A. D. Perrott, Vicar of Allesley.

S. Faith's Home.

The Annual Sale in aid of S. Faith's Home and the Girls' Night Shelter will be held at Vicar's Croft on Tuesday, July 17th, at 3 p.m.

Holy Baptism.

"One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism."

June 10.—Leonard Stanley Tedds.

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It may be well to remind subscribers to the above fund that, as their envelopes are not received until the Magazine is in print, the sums acknowledged are not those of the preceding month, but those due the month before last; i.e., the above is the list of subscriptions from envelopes dated May 27th, besides a few arrears from earlier months. It would be a great convenience if all subscribers would send in their envelopes as near as possible to the date written on them.

Dorothy Dodd

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