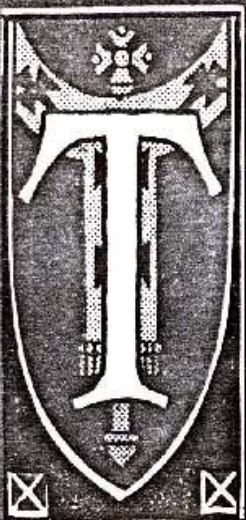


LORD, save Thy Church our
King and Realm and send us
Peace in Christ. ANCIENT GRACE.



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.—

January,

1934.



RETROSPECT—PROSPECT.

It was a saying of Napoleon the First that to weary ourselves over the past is unnecessary. And a greater than he, St. Paul, has set us a resolute example, "Forgetting those things which are behind," he exclaims, "I press toward the goal." And to the Christian, whatever we may feel or think or even assert to the contrary, the best is always in front of us. But there are three conditions—first, ask great things, secondly, expect great things, and, lastly, do great things. Which advice may be familiar to us, and by its constant repetition we may even have allowed ourselves to be lulled into indifference about it, but let us now begin afresh, and add to our times of quietness with God. A few minutes extra can be secured by determination working upon a disciplined mind. Then, it is essential that we should banish vagueness from our prayers, and practise definiteness. Ye have not because ye ask not, bluntly observes the practical St. James. And our praying will not only influence our lives in accordance with the well-known law of association blending to assimilation, but our lives will affect the answer to our prayers. If I hide iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me, says the experienced psalmist. Thus, day will add to day in the New Year, and, since no one stands still as a Christian, our prayer may well be that of St. Peter, as he closes his Second Epistle, that we may grow in grace and in the knowledge of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

1933—1934.

Turning to parochial matters we welcome new families living in what is known as Westwood Row, which lies close upon our Tilehurst border. And this addition to our numbers means that with other changes during the year our population has increased by some forty souls. Meantime, the little church with its tower looking, as someone has said, "just as if it had fallen straight down from heaven," invites us all by its very seclusion to compel ourselves, if need be, to be quiet before God in the midst of this everyday workaday life of ours, which makes such demands upon body and soul alike. Nor must we wait for the mood. "The whole art of living properly considered is the art of the present moment."

And here we must break off to mention a matter of Church finance. Queen Anne's Bounty have accepted the sum of £16 raised in 1933 towards the mortgage arrears of £28 conditionally upon the balance being found by March next. May we, therefore, plead for preparations to be made at once for a sale to be held in that month at the latest.

CAROLLING (MODERN STYLE).

The Waits were originally watchmen who sounded horns. Did any of these gentlemen, one wonders, turn in their graves when some of us, who desire to be their followers, walked the parish through singing carols to the accompaniment of a saxophone. Perhaps they listened in the shady groves which the muses inhabit, but not even they with all their tuneful senses rarified could have formed a more appreciative audience than our carol party found at the four and twenty stations from which we sang on the nights of Thursday, Friday, and Saturday before Christmas. We also received the most gracious hospitality which carollers ever could have been given, and when we had felt like the good king and his page, "the rude wind's wild lament,"—if not the bitter weather—it was pleasant to find so many hosts and hostesses bringing hot refreshment. And though to mention

names may seem invidious, yet it was remarkable that on the three nights without expecting such kindness we were entertained respectively by Mr. and Mrs. Hodgkin, Mr. and Mrs. Claude Menpes and Mrs. Lister, and lastly but by no means least—for Saturday's programme was specially exacting—by Mr. and Mrs. Timson. At many another place of call we were told that next time—and the prospect is delicious—the feast will be prepared. But with much gratitude for future benefits we are sure that we had all the good things this year which were necessary for adequate carolling, which after all was our first concern. Then, as our predecessors the Waits, of whom we spoke at the outset, set the example of carrying a bag with them for perfectly obvious reasons, we were careful to allow no desire to be modern to interfere with so laudable a fashion, provided always that such offerings were devoted in every case to the purpose for which the donors intended them. One envelope, for example, was labelled "For the children," and the wish thus expressed was at once performed. The saxophonist (here is modernity at last!) received his fee, and to the Choir Fund, which is used to build up a stock of music, and, incidentally, to meet the expenses, amounting to £1 10s., of our special services on December 17 last. £2 has been allocated, leaving a balance of 13s., which is to be used for presents to our children at their New Year's Party on the 3rd of this month in the Schoolroom. For this monetary reward to our endeavours our thanks are proffered to all to whom we were permitted to sing, amongst which number we were proud to reckon Mrs. Pocock and her daughter at the Post Office. To the gentlemen of the Choir and especially to Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Fox (may his throat never grow drier) our warmest admiration is due. And we owe a special word of gratitude to our organist, who led us so patiently and with such skill and consistency throughout, though he could ill spare the time from his daily business. Lastly, it would be gross lack of kindness on our part to forget the light-bearer. If only lamps such as Mr. Noel Skuse bore aloft could be seen everywhere outside and in our dwellings, the blessings of progress would soon be visible. As it was, our party by the aid of this powerful illumination was easily seen coming, and thus our audience was assured.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND RECEIPTS.

Mrs. White, of Westfield, has the distinction of being the first to renew her subscription for the current year and her kindness is hereby gratefully acknowledged.