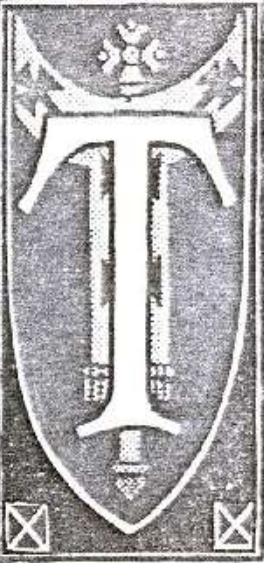


LORD, save Thy Church our
King and Realm and send us
Peace in Christ. ANCIENT GRACE.



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. C. MINCHIN, Mr. G.
HEATH, Mr. ANDERSON Mr. RAWLINS, Mr. FOX, and Mrs. LISTER,
Miss PALGRAVE, Miss M. LISTER, 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. SKUSE (*Enrolling Member*).

Girl Guides.—Miss M. MOLE (*Captain*), Miss M. LISTER.

Organist.—

Mr. A. N. M. COOPER.

Sextons.—

F. & V. RAWLINS.

June,



1934.

MAY.

For three reasons the past month of May leaves us with happy memories. First, we have been gratified to find that there are several candidates coming forward for confirmation in July, and are hoping that it may be possible to arrange for the rite to be administered in our Church. Secondly, the number of communicants—though we do not worship figures—constitutes a record for any one month of which we have any record, though there are still some, we fear, who miss the joy of coming at least once in every four weeks to receive the Holy Sacrament. And in the third place, we are grateful for such a hearty response—again a record for a single Sunday—towards the Parish Quota, which was made on May 27. Thus, the merry month of May of this year has had its special significances for us in Purley.

MISSIONARY SUNDAY.

Sundays with special names attached to them are apt to interfere with the seasons to which they properly belong and the titles which they have been given in the Prayer Book. But we have no hesitation in commending Sunday, June 24, otherwise St. John the Baptist's Day, to all our readers as the day set apart by the Parochial Church Council for missionary sermons. The appeal of the Church Overseas has not bulked very largely of recent years in our parochial life, and we are the losers thereby. No body of Christians can afford to neglect our Lord's command "to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." It is as though when He fed the five thousand in the wilderness, the disciples, contrary to His direct order, had distributed the bread, which their Master had blessed and broken, only to the front ranks of the waiting multitude. It is right, therefore, for us to have one Sunday wholly set aside for the purpose of refreshing our minds in regard to the needs of the world still without Christ. And, by a coincidence, the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel issued only a week ago a special request for prayers on St. Peter's Day (June 29) for a fresh awakening of missionary zeal and for a clearer sense of duty and readiness to respond to the noblest task ever given to man.

THE QUOTA.

St. Luke xxi.—And He looked up, and saw the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury.

In the Court of the women there were thirteen chests shaped like trumpets into which the rich were dropping their gifts as Our Lord raised his eyes from a reverie of sorrow. He had just pronounced those repeated woes of denunciation which fill the preceding chapter, and the final rupture with those who held authority with the Jews had been irrevocably made. It must then have been pleasant for Him to look up and note these givers performing their duty as all devout Jews were taught to do, and pleasanter still to note the poor widow who, out of her penury, cast in all that she had, namely, something less than half a farthing. "One coin," says St. Ambrose, "is better than a treasure out of much, for it is not considered how much is given, but how much remains behind."

Our subject this morning is *giving*, and it will be observed at the outset how much Our Lord watches us in the act. "He looked up and saw the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury." But it has been said that an Englishman's pocket is the last part of him to be converted. There may take place the consecration of his prayers, and of his purpose in life as a Christian man—but his purse? How then can he be brought to surrender *that*?

First, let us look at the requirements. Since the seventh century the Church in this country has been formed into dioceses. This diocese consists of three counties, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire, with 625 parishes. To administer such an area in which are to be found some 794,000 souls, the Bishop

asks for £17,000—not to pay stipends, whether his own or any of the clergy, but for such purposes as training men for the ministry, church building and repairs, religious education, etc., and a further £3,000 to augment poor livings, which form about one-third of the whole number quoted above. Last year only £867 was received towards this latter sum, and in consequence much necessary help to supplement small incomes had to be withheld. (N.B. This benefice is not affected by the appeal in question.) Our duty, therefore, is plain. Each parish has a levy put upon it called the “quota,” which is based upon the number of communicants on Easter Day—truly a spiritual basis, for, as Bishop Burge used to say, if your quota goes up in size, it is an indication that your communicants must be increasing, at least in number, if not in grace as well. We are asked in this Parish to find £13 8s. There are not a few who write a cheque for about this sum for their car licence every year. How much more to be able by a gift of our own to help the Bishop to assist some earnest man, who has felt the call to the ministry, to be ordained, or to enable him to relieve some incumbent who is engaged in a daily struggle to make both ends meet, and, lastly, to supply him with the necessary funds to keep our priceless heritage of ancient and beloved Churches in seemly repair. Such are only some of the requirements.

Secondly, what is the reason why we should give. Many will occur to you at once. There is, for instance, the most ordinary gratitude for the gifts of everyday life—does not the General Thanksgiving best summarize them—“Our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life, but above all for Thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by Our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.” Have you ever shown your thankfulness to God for these gifts? Here is an opportunity to prove your gratitude, and will you offer an inscription, as it were, quietly, and to yourself, as you make your offering, and say, “In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.”

We come to the last point—the reward. Of course, we do not look for such. That is not our motive in giving. Nevertheless, a recompense awaits us, for God is no man’s debtor. “He that watereth shall be watered also himself,” runs the promise, and to the soul of every man that gives there comes an enriching which, like the seed sown in the good and honest ground, yields some sixty and some an hundredfold. It is said, for example, that the River Nile fertilizes Egypt, not so much by its waters coursing within sunny banks, but by its overflow on to rice and cotton fields. We may not have much with which to further God’s work, but then He knows how much we have, and loveth a cheerful giver. And how He rewards, Bunyan has reminded us in his quaint language:

“A man there was, though some did count him mad,
The more he gave away, the more he had.”

HOSPITAL EGG WEEK.

Miss Farmiloe reports that 1,023 eggs were given this year in Purley, and through this magazine wishes to thank all who contributed to this excellent total and especially Miss N. Sheppard, by whom many of the gifts were received.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND THANKS.

Subscriptions are gratefully acknowledged for the magazine from Mrs. Telfer, Mrs. Jones and Mr. Carling. We have also to thank Mr. Hodgkin for cricket material for our boys, which is greatly appreciated, and just as greatly, if not more so, made use of in a field which has been kindly placed at our disposal by Mr. Rose of Long Lane.