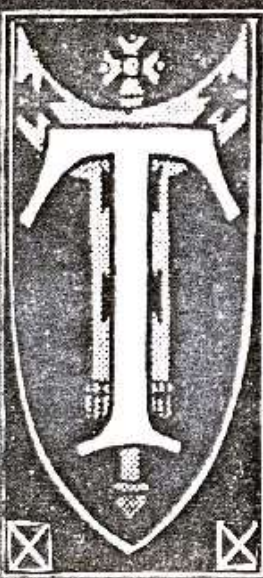


LORD, save Thy Church our
King and Realm and send us
Peace in Christ. ANCIENT GRACE.



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.

July,

1934.



A WEDDING.

Since the 15th of May, 1838, there have been exactly one hundred and twenty-nine marriages solemnized in the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Purley. And an examination of these entries in our Register reveals one or two points of interest. First, the number of brides and bridegrooms in the early days who could not sign their own names is noticeable. Yet what would it have mattered to John, for example, the village blacksmith, of nearly a hundred years ago, if—as he no doubt often put it—his wife was no scholar. In the historic forge which still is with us the anvil sang its lusty music daily, and inside the adjacent cottage was Sarah doing, we are sure, capably enough all the necessary cooking and mending and talking. What need then that she should also have been even a passable correspondent?

In due course—it was somewhen near Christmas Eve, 1843—Joseph Justice John was born, and if this designation was his mother's choice, she is surely deserving of congratulation, for out of a head not made unwise by overmuch learning and without the aid of Dr. Johnson's new dictionary, for doubtless she could not also read, she thought out names for her son besides which columns in our Register of William, Henry, James and George look almost uninteresting. Then, the Rector of those days was a man of caution. At times he inserts, as by law required, the ages of the contracting parties. But when in 1844 a labourer married Caroline, a widow, the bridegroom was but 26 and the bride—if you please—is of "full age." And thus it is that art enters even into the compilation of an ordinary parish register. But all this is by way of preface to recording the fact that not since Mr. and Mrs. Bye, now happily settled in Suva, Fiji, were married in August last, has there been a wedding in our Church until Saturday, the 16th of June, when, as will be seen in another paragraph, Mr. Rain's daughter became the wife of Mr. Leslie Harvey.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL.

A Meeting of the Parochial Church Council will be held at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, the 4th of July next, when three matters of importance, amongst other items, will be considered. The lighting and heating of the Church occupied the members' attention at our last meeting and it is necessary now to carry both these subjects a stage further towards completion. Then there is the Electoral Roll, in regard to which applications have to be considered, in accordance with the measure, from those who are non-resident in the Parish but have for six months previously used our Church as their place of worship.

THE MOTHERS' UNION.

On Tuesday, the 19th of June last, a nice number of members of our Branch of the Mothers' Union went by omnibus to Reading, where with various other branches they met at St. Mary's Church for a thanksgiving Service in connection with the call to renewal sounded recently all over the world and in our own diocese. The vast congregation, the procession of banners, and the line of clergy following greatly impressed all present. The Service was a hearty and beautiful one—the music being particularly well-chosen and inspiring. And we shall long remember the address which was given by the Provost of Guildford. He spoke

first of the Mothers' Union as a power for good the world over, and told how it was started in a humble way by its founder, Mrs. Sumner, at a drawing-room meeting. Then the preacher gave us the thought of maintaining the glow of renewal, and urged upon all members the duty of forwarding the work so well begun, especially in their own hearts and homes. Finally, we were reminded that the call to be renewed is not one merely for a particular reason or period, but that it must echo in the spirit of our minds throughout the whole of life itself. And thus a memorable occasion ended and we returned to our parishes feeling the joy and profit of it, to which as time goes on we shall refer in our branch meetings. But one detail must be mentioned before we conclude this notice. Those banners which were so conspicuous a feature—at least of the outward part of the ceremony—how they seemed to convey the idea of giving *identity* to such branches as bore them! And the thought naturally arises that we too might well be ambitious of possessing a like emblem of unity and purpose. Perhaps our members will think this matter out in view of the next meeting to be held in September, the actual date of which will be announced in the August issue of this magazine.

C. E. S.

THE WEDDING OF MISS MARY RAIN.

A beautiful morning in June, such as her parents at their marriage had before her, greeted Miss Mary Rain on her wedding day in Purley Church. She also found a full congregation waiting to see her stand beside Mr. Leslie Harvey at the altar and to join with them in a quiet and reverent solemnization of holy matrimony. Mr. William Robert Rain was there as best man, himself a Purley bridegroom of six years ago. And then there were Mr. and Mrs. Rain with a host of friends to support them, and Mr. Harvey, the father of the bridegroom. Mr. Davies from Tilehurst brought his choir of boys and rendered delightful music. And after the Service was over there was a gathering at the bride's home, The Dawn, which was a model of such occasions, and one felt an atmosphere of the most cordial and sincere good fellowship maintained till the last guest left through the rare kindness of our host and hostess.

OUR BOYS AND CRICKET.

Thanks to the great kindness of Mrs. Lister, Miss Palgrave and Mr. Bull, each of whom has generously contributed towards necessary material for the game, our boys have done well with their cricket. And after a month's practice only they are now proceeding to a match. Indeed we are awaiting with almost breathless interest the outcome of this fixture with Pangbourne Choir on June the 30th, in Mr. Rose's field. But whatever the result may be we wish to record here our gratitude to all who have been so kind as to support us in enjoying our recreation together.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND THANKS.

An annual subscription for the Magazine has been received from Mrs. Hurdley and is hereby gratefully acknowledged.