

The Church Magazine of  
**St. Mary the Virgin,**

Durley :: :: 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. (6 p.m. October to March).

*Rector:* Rev. E. E. SKUSE.

*Churchwardens.*—MR. C. E. HODGKIN, MR. H. A. TIDBURY.

FEBRUARY, 1935.

## CHURCHGOING AND THE COMMUNITY.

Someone recently was expressing surprise because a devout worshipper attended Church *twice* upon a Sunday. Of course, our forefathers "did that sort of thing," and to them indeed the week would have been ill begun if the first day of it, both morning and evening, had not received the gracious blessing of Almighty God. And it was these men, as we freely admit, who built our homes as well as our churches. It is, however, urged that we live in such haste to-day, and find the pressure upon our health and strength so heavy that we must needs rest on Sunday. Let that be granted—for the sake of argument. But what is rest, or, to use a more expressive term, repose? It is nothing but replacing the waste of our energies, physical as well as mental and spiritual, which we use up in the week's work and life. And such replenishment is not gained, but is rather thwarted, by turning Sunday into a holiday in the interest so called of bodily health. But if we will not be persuaded, against the experience of such as do really stop to think, to begin the week with God and for the good of our own souls, observe the wholesome discipline for such it is—of Sunday, let us not be so selfish as to forget the souls of other people. "O come, let us worship and fall down and kneel before the Lord our Maker,"—here is the invitation to the community, and first, to worship together. And if we refuse to accept it, others, though we may not think so, suffer. The sick in mind and body, the aged and the infirm, the children who need our example—these are members of the community who have the right to regard us as their representatives in the weekly act of the public acknowledgment of God in this place. And since He is the Head and Father of all the families upon the face of the whole earth, each community has a duty to discharge to all its members by dint of doing which the recognition of God in human life is brought home to us—for the general good. To misuse, therefore, the opportunity of worship provided week by week is to cause loss to our neighbours and to ourselves. At the same time worship must not be regarded as an obligation, which we fulfil by half an hour's devotion in the early morning, after which we are at liberty to do what we will with the rest of the day—a view of Sunday which has wrought untold mischief in the last two generations—but an offering the whole day long, the fragrance and savour of which fills the working days of the week so rightly begun. For the Day is the Lord's Day—not ours to do as we would with it. And this brings us to working together, which should naturally follow upon corporate worship. Instead, however, of co-operation we see nothing but confusion—a world at war with itself. And we are content to note and even to deplore the evil symptoms of spiritual unrest but forget to look for the ground and reason of it all. Strife and conflict are only indications of man's rejection of the Ten Commandments which are as plain and clear as the sun at high noon. But we want an easier way, and in our madness think we can cure human failings by signing documents and passing resolutions at conferences. The one remedy is that which Our Lord wrought upon the Cross, and of which St. Paul preached saying that he would know no other doctrine. And to us who are alive to-day it is a grave question whether we are not guilty of more sin against Almighty God than those who went before us even in the awful tragedy and din of battle—if war be called a "sin" since we are growing more and more disinclined to use God's methods for ennobling and sweetening human life—and especially, life in the community.

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## CONFIRMATION.

With the Bishop's permission, the Bishop of Yukon (British Columbia) is coming to confirm in our Church upon a Sunday in March, at 3 p.m. The

Bishop will also preach both morning and evening. Classes have already been arranged and will be held twice a week at times and places convenient to the candidates.

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### AVE ATQUE VALE.

By the passing of Mr. Cecil Aldin not only have we humans lost a rare friend but the world of fourfooted things amongst which he moved and ruled as a well-loved king must miss him, though their dumbness keeps them as ever so mysteriously silent. Men and horses and dogs—with them all he had an inborn touch of deep and reassuring understanding. Such is the gift which we in Purley have been allowed to enjoy for a period of years—the presence of an English gentleman in our midst who combined the love of his fellow-men with an affection for dogs so intimate that they seemed to revel in showing themselves capable of almost human intelligence. Once indeed they acted on the London stage in a play which Mr. Cecil Aldin produced with dogs alone. What comfort then have we—and they—when contemplating the vacant place so conspicuously made both here and wherever those who love him still remain? St. Paul who probed with such deep thinking into the mysteries which shroud our life bids us cling to hope. He even asks us to rejoice in it. For hope has power to clothe the future with inspiring colours. And to see him again—and many another—fresh endued with what the Apostle calls “eternal glory” is vision satisfying enough to bridge the interval of time between hope and its fulfilment. And may such thoughts as these assuage grief in hearts who have been called to share in the deep experience of mourning.

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### THE CHOIR DESK.

A speedy response has come to the appeal made in our last issue for a choir desk to be placed within the chancel for the trebles. Fuller details will be available in our next issue, but meantime we are prompted to make use of this wonderful act of kindness to draw attention again to the need of new lighting and the cleaning of the organ. Perhaps someone before the month ends will follow the example so nobly provided by the parishioner who is now making himself responsible for the choir desk and has thereby earned the sincere gratitude of us all.

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### THE PARISH LIBRARY

It is gratifying to know that the Branch of the County Library which we inaugurated last year in the Parish has proved to be so successful. Mrs. Tidbury, who attends to the needs of borrowers (and the more the merrier!) every Wednesday after school is over is much to be thanked for the time and care she bestows upon this useful addition to her other parochial duties.

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### PARISH REGISTER.

#### HOLY BAPTISM.

Jan. 20. George Brian, son of George Arthur and Winifred Jane Fleet.

#### BURIAL.

Jan. 3. Annie Amelia Price, aged 65 years.

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### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND THANKS.

The following have been enrolled as Church Builders under the Diocesan Church Extension Scheme: Mr. and Mrs. Young, Miss Stephens, Mrs. Wilkinson, Mrs. and Miss Plunket, Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton Baker and Mrs. Tweedie.

Subscriptions for the Magazine are generally speaking renewable each January and some have been paid during last month. A full list of names will be printed in our next issue.

