



# ST. MARY THE VIRGIN PURLEY PARISH MAGAZINE

*Harvest Festival.*—On Sunday, October 6th, we shall keep our Harvest Festival. The services of Holy Communion will be at 7 a.m., 8 a.m. and 12.15 p.m. There will be no afternoon service, but Evensong will begin at 6 p.m., which hour we shall maintain for the evening service until further notice. Our collections will be given to the Royal Berkshire Hospital, and the offerings of fruit, vegetables and flowers will be sent to the Battle Hospital after the Festival is over. None need to be invited to Harvest Thanksgiving services, for Harvest is the one festival in the year which everyone attends. Is it because we understand a Sunday dedicated to such a purpose better, shall we say, than another, which some Christians break, such as Easter above all brings home to us? If it be so, and we are drawn by the very human and natural duty of gratitude for the food which we need, let us this year also give our thoughts to Him who is the Bread of Life. Our hearts will then follow.

*A Month's Happenings.*—Just before September came upon us—on its very eve indeed—a delightful wedding such as only a country ceremony can be—took place at our church, when Mr. Arthur Heath and Miss Edith Mabel Pocock were married. Perhaps one of the most noticeable features of the service was the presence of youth at the helm. Not only were the bridal couple young, but so were the best man and the brother who gave his sister away. All the same, one could observe the watchful eyes of Mr. and Mrs. Heath on one side, and, on the other, of Mr. and Mrs. Pocock, making sure that all went well. Which, of course, everything did, even to the photographs, than which we do not think we have seldom seen better. Then, the month was upon us, and the first Sunday afternoon saw the baptism of Mr. Cooper's second son, who was given the name which adorns more than one great man before him, Martin. Our truest wishes go out to this much-loved boy, and our congratulations to his parents. Thus the month drew on, and just as it is in early autumn that the sunshine begins to shade off to somewhat darker days, so with our happenings here. At the Kennels Cottages, first, we had the experience of Mr. Anderson's cottage suddenly falling empty. It was a sad break with the past to have our old friend leave us, for we owe him much for faithful, loyal service, over many years, which also recall to the mind the memory of Mrs. Anderson and her care of our church, which, with her husband, she loved and in which she took so constant a pride. Lastly, we move a few steps down the row of cottages, and find a home not only swiftly but also tragically bereaved, and our sympathies go out as a parish to Mrs. Savage, so unexpectedly called to the lot of widowhood. Yet since the Blessed Virgin must have shared the like experience, may it not also be an honour to be such; if as St. Paul says, she is a widow indeed that "trusteth in God."

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*Acknowledgments and Thanks.*—The very sincere thanks of us all are due to Mr. Hodgkin for the copy of the Churchyard Plan, now to be seen in the Porch. We are also in his debt for the first subscription of £1 towards paying for the Plan. Will others follow so generous an example. To Mrs. McCann and Mr. Anderson we are grateful for subscriptions to the Magazine, and we also gratefully acknowledge subscriptions to the Stipend Augmentation Fund from the Rural Dean, Mrs. Farrer, Mrs. Newbury, Miss Ryley and Miss Silver, Mr. Coles and Mr. Wakeford.