

PLUCKLEY  
PARISH MAGAZINE

We wish all our readers a very happy New Year. And we remind them that happiness does not come by chance, but is very largely in our own hands. We shall all find that we are most happy when we know that we have been doing our duty to God and to our neighbours. That alone gives a satisfaction which no self-pleasing can ever give. If we feel each day we are doing what God meant us to do, we shall be contented.

We miss from our circle our oldest member, Mrs. Raldock, who kept her faculties in a very wonderful way to the end of her life.

She will be remembered for the great amount of help she gave to others, and for her cheerfulness. It was a pleasure to see her plant the tree in commemoration of the King's Jubilee.

We have still in the parish one who is 93, and four, at least, who are over 80. Pluckley people live long.

The Bacon Charity will be distributed on New Year's Day. There is one vacancy for a married couple, and one for a widow.

The Rector will be glad to have the names of any old people who might be eligible before the New Year.

The joint party for members of the M.U. and G.F.S. was held on December 5th, when between forty and fifty people enjoyed a very happy evening of competitions, games and songs.

We have, once again, kept the Dedication Festival of our old parish Church of St. Nicholas. Fifty-five children, and a few mothers, came to Church on Saturday, December 7th, for a Lantern Service, after which, St. Nicholas cakes and oranges were distributed. We thank all those who so kindly provided this entertainment by their gifts.

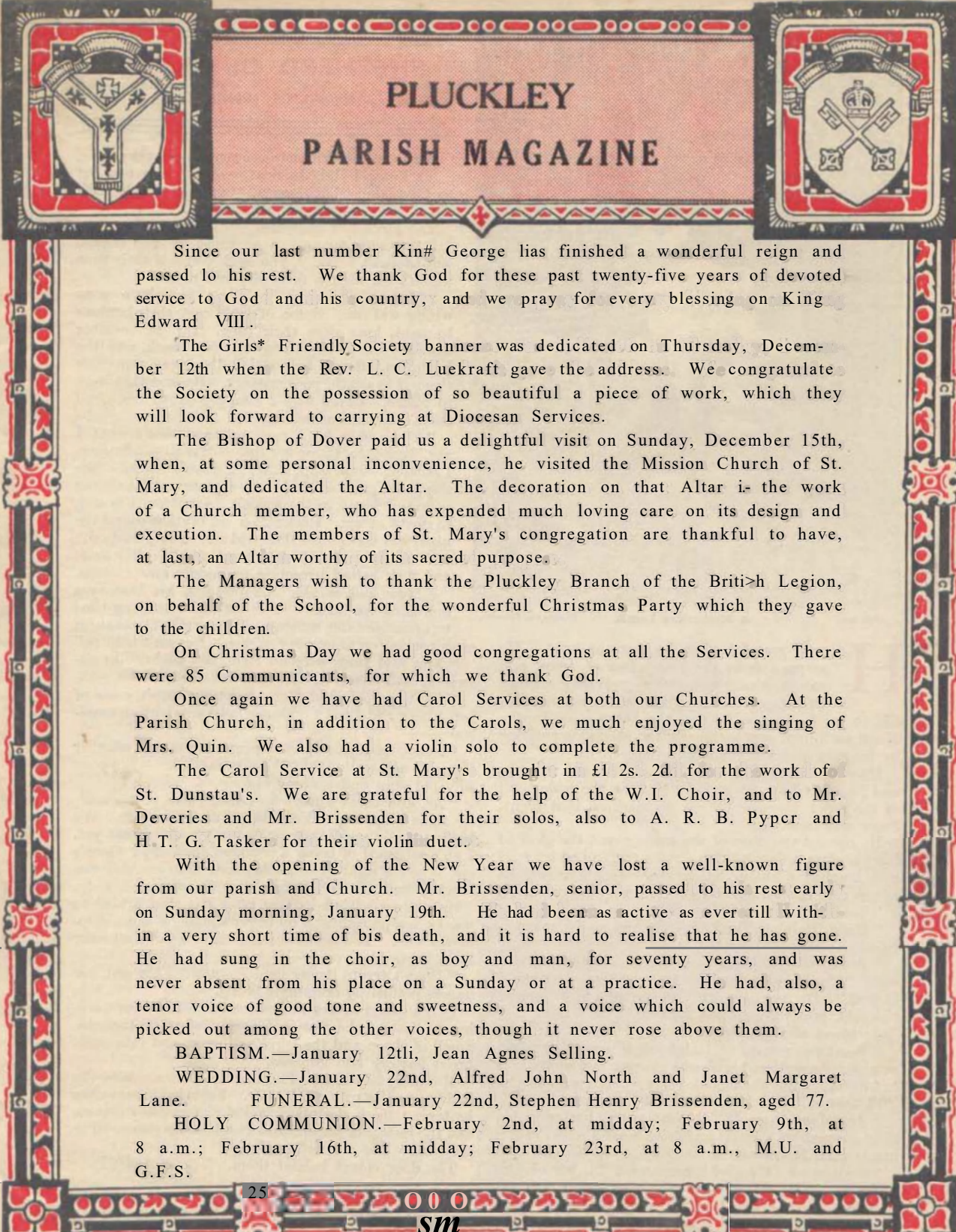
On December 8th we had our Festival Services.

£6,000 is still needed to complete the Archbishop's New Churches Fund. There will be a Gift Service in Canterbury Cathedral on January 18th, when purses from all parishes in the Diocese will be presented. Three representatives from Pluckley will go there with our gifts. We shall have a collecting box in Church at Epiphany time, and we hope all will give according to their means.

**WEDDING.**—November 30th, Charles Herbert Ottaway and Dorothy Monica Dixon.

**FUNERAL.**—November 27th, Ellen Baldoek, aged 97.

**HOLY COMMUNION.**—January 5th, midday; January 12th, 8 a.m.; January 19th, midday; January 26th, 8 a.m.



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Since our last number King George has finished a wonderful reign and passed to his rest. We thank God for these past twenty-five years of devoted service to God and his country, and we pray for every blessing on King Edward VIII.

The Girls' Friendly Society banner was dedicated on Thursday, December 12th when the Rev. L. C. Luekraft gave the address. We congratulate the Society on the possession of so beautiful a piece of work, which they will look forward to carrying at Diocesan Services.

The Bishop of Dover paid us a delightful visit on Sunday, December 15th, when, at some personal inconvenience, he visited the Mission Church of St. Mary, and dedicated the Altar. The decoration on that Altar is the work of a Church member, who has expended much loving care on its design and execution. The members of St. Mary's congregation are thankful to have, at last, an Altar worthy of its sacred purpose.

The Managers wish to thank the Pluckley Branch of the British Legion, on behalf of the School, for the wonderful Christmas Party which they gave to the children.

On Christmas Day we had good congregations at all the Services. There were 85 Communicants, for which we thank God.

Once again we have had Carol Services at both our Churches. At the Parish Church, in addition to the Carols, we much enjoyed the singing of Mrs. Quin. We also had a violin solo to complete the programme.

The Carol Service at St. Mary's brought in £1 2s. 2d. for the work of St. Dunstons. We are grateful for the help of the W.I. Choir, and to Mr. Deveries and Mr. Brissenden for their solos, also to A. R. B. Pypcr and H. T. G. Tasker for their violin duet.

With the opening of the New Year we have lost a well-known figure from our parish and Church. Mr. Brissenden, senior, passed to his rest early on Sunday morning, January 19th. He had been as active as ever till within a very short time of his death, and it is hard to realise that he has gone. He had sung in the choir, as boy and man, for seventy years, and was never absent from his place on a Sunday or at a practice. He had, also, a tenor voice of good tone and sweetness, and a voice which could always be picked out among the other voices, though it never rose above them.

BAPTISM.—January 12th, Jean Agnes Selling.

WEDDING.—January 22nd, Alfred John North and Janet Margaret Lane.

FUNERAL.—January 22nd, Stephen Henry Brissenden, aged 77.

HOLY COMMUNION.—February 2nd, at midday; February 9th, at 8 a.m.; February 16th, at midday; February 23rd, at 8 a.m., M.U. and G.F.S.

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The Archdeacon of Maidstone very kindly paid us a visit on February 9th, and preached in the morning at the Parish Church. It is always a great pleasure and encouragement when we are able to welcome any of our Church leaders in this way.

We were also very glad to hear the Rev. E. Couchman preach on February 16th.

The Sunday School prizes were presented on February 16th. The attendance of the children has been extraordinarily good. At the Parish Church Joyce Luckhurst and Herbert Perigo had never missed, and Ronald Pannell, and the St. Mary's School, had also obtained full marks. Other children followed close behind with only two or three absences, and the rest of the School showed a very high standard of regularity. We may be proud of our Sunday School, and grateful to the teachers.

Once more we have candidates in preparation for Confirmation. We ask all praying people to remember them.

Colonel Dawes has offered to fit up the South-west end of the Church as a Children's Corner, and a beautiful design has been made by Mr. John Morris, whose parents live in Pluckley.

The Church Council has gratefully accepted Colonel Dawes's offer, and has applied for a faculty. It is hoped that the work may be finished by Easter. We must see that when the Corner is there the children learn to use it regularly and reverently.

Lent will have already begun by the time this Magazine is circulated.

We earnestly hope all our readers will use the season well. We all need a time specially set apart for drawing nearer to God, and lifting our hearts to higher things. Lent gives us such a time. We must use it by spending more time in prayer and helpful reading, and by meeting one another in Church for joint worship.

A Study Circle Service will be held in the Dering Chapel on Fridays, March 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th. The Rector feels sure that this will be more helpful than a regular Service and sermon. Good people everywhere are feeling that the great hope of revival in religion is the gathering together of groups of people for definite study and thought and discussion.

This subject was dealt with by Bishop Walter Carey at the Ruridecanal Conference on February 18th, when he gave a most helpful talk. At the Chapter for Clergy on the morning of the same day, the Tail Missioner recommended the same thing—groups for study.

*(Continued on back page)*

The Rector and the Rev. W. F. Cobb will lead the Study Circle on the Epistle of St. James.

WEDDING.—February 1st, Fretl Cooper and Edith Mary Miles.

FUNERAL.—February 1st, Jessie Sewell, aged 75 years.

HOLY COMMUNION.—March 1st, at mid-day; 8th, at 8 a.m.; 15th, at mid-day; 22nd, at 8 a.m.; 29th, at mid-day.



# PLUCKLEY PARISH MAGAZINE

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We were glad to see such good congregations on Good Friday and Easter Day. The two days are always inseparable. Good Friday brings us the forgiveness of our sins through the Cross of Christ, and on Easter Day we rise with Him to newness of life. Forgiveness and a changed life are our two great needs.

Twenty-nine Communicants came to church at 7 o'clock on a lovely Easter morning. Fifty-nine came at 8 o'clock, and thirty-four at midday. This is a number for which we are thankful.

The anthem, "Awake up my Glory," was well sung by the choir.

Money is beginning to come in quite well for the repair of the spire. Among other and larger contributions we were specially pleased to receive a cheque for a pound from an old Pluckley choirboy who is now living in West Kent and saw the appeal for the spire which was printed in the *Kent Messenger*. He sent his gift to help "the dear old church."

Perhaps others now living away from Pluckley, will follow his example. We shall need all the contributions we can get, both large and small.

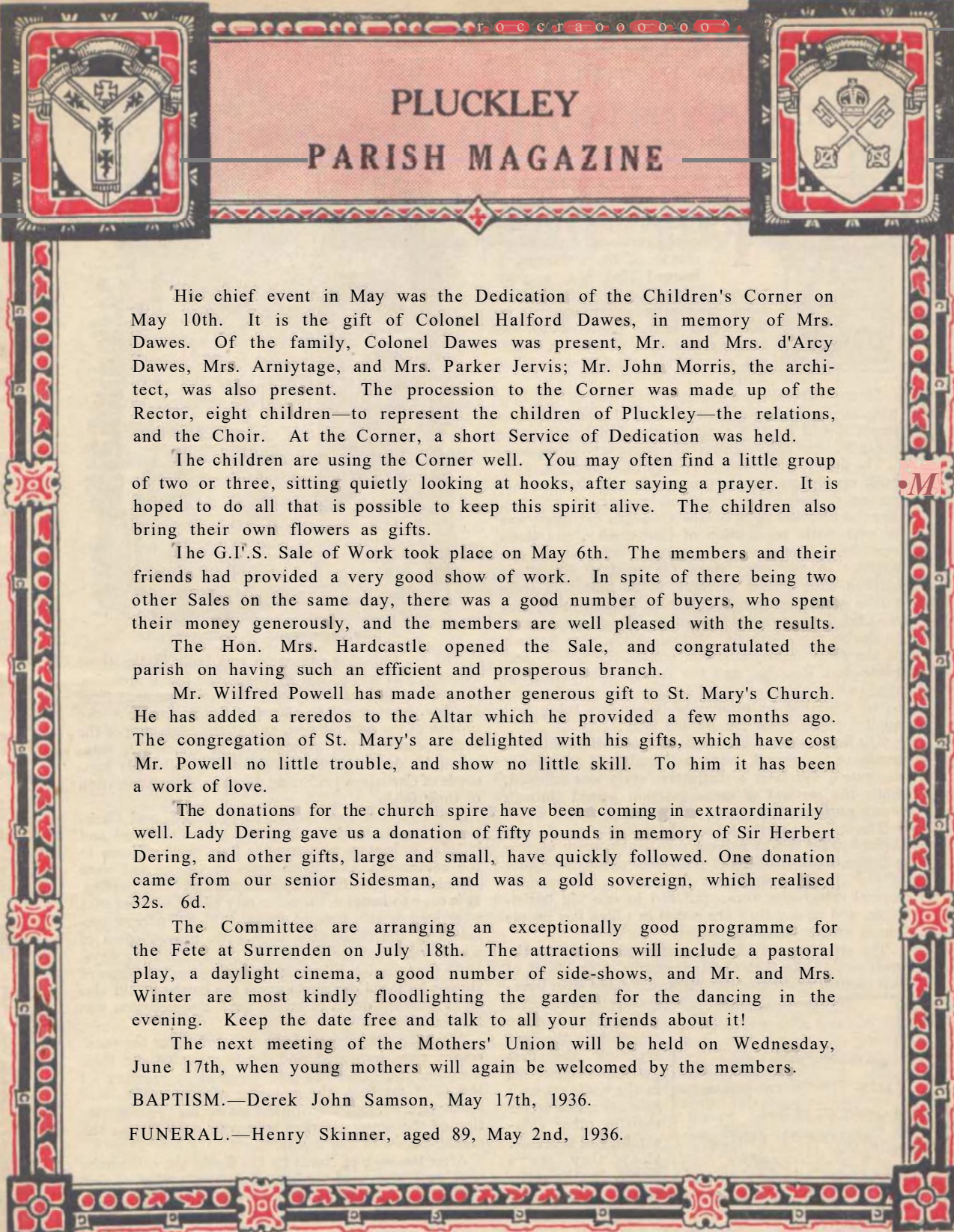
By the time this Magazine is circulated the Children's Corner in the Parish Church will have been dedicated, we hope. It is the gift of Colonel Dawes, in memory of his wife, who had a great love for children. We remember Mrs. Dawes chiefly as one who radiated happiness to all whom she met. She spent a good deal of time in Pluckley, and was much loved by all.

The object of a Children's Corner is to bring children into touch with their Parish Church, to make them feel that it is a Father's house, and to learn to use it for private prayer. It is a great thing if children learn to love the House of God, and find peace and rest within its walls.

The G.F.S. Sale of Work will be held on May 6th. The Hon. Mrs. Hardcastle is most kindly opening the proceedings at 3 p.m.

ASCENSION DAY falls on the 21st. We invite all Christian people to come to church. They will, by so doing, honour their Ascended Lord, and gain blessing for themselves.

HOLY COMMUNION.—May 3rd, at midday; 10th, at 8 a.m.; 17th, at midday; 21st, at 7.30 a.m.; 24th, at 8 a.m.; 31st, 7 a.m., 8 a.m. and midday.



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The chief event in May was the Dedication of the Children's Corner on May 10th. It is the gift of Colonel Halford Dawes, in memory of Mrs. Dawes. Of the family, Colonel Dawes was present, Mr. and Mrs. d'Arcy Dawes, Mrs. Arniytage, and Mrs. Parker Jervis; Mr. John Morris, the architect, was also present. The procession to the Corner was made up of the Rector, eight children—to represent the children of Pluckley—the relations, and the Choir. At the Corner, a short Service of Dedication was held.

The children are using the Corner well. You may often find a little group of two or three, sitting quietly looking at books, after saying a prayer. It is hoped to do all that is possible to keep this spirit alive. The children also bring their own flowers as gifts.

The G.I.S. Sale of Work took place on May 6th. The members and their friends had provided a very good show of work. In spite of there being two other Sales on the same day, there was a good number of buyers, who spent their money generously, and the members are well pleased with the results.

The Hon. Mrs. Hardcastle opened the Sale, and congratulated the parish on having such an efficient and prosperous branch.

Mr. Wilfred Powell has made another generous gift to St. Mary's Church. He has added a reredos to the Altar which he provided a few months ago. The congregation of St. Mary's are delighted with his gifts, which have cost Mr. Powell no little trouble, and show no little skill. To him it has been a work of love.

The donations for the church spire have been coming in extraordinarily well. Lady Dering gave us a donation of fifty pounds in memory of Sir Herbert Dering, and other gifts, large and small, have quickly followed. One donation came from our senior Sidesman, and was a gold sovereign, which realised 32s. 6d.

The Committee are arranging an exceptionally good programme for the Fête at Surrenden on July 18th. The attractions will include a pastoral play, a daylight cinema, a good number of side-shows, and Mr. and Mrs. Winter are most kindly floodlighting the garden for the dancing in the evening. Keep the date free and talk to all your friends about it!

The next meeting of the Mothers' Union will be held on Wednesday, June 17th, when young mothers will again be welcomed by the members.

BAPTISM.—Derek John Samson, May 17th, 1936.

FUNERAL.—Henry Skinner, aged 89, May 2nd, 1936.

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The May Queen Festival was held on May 27th in Ilie Rectory Garden. We were favoured with beautiful weather, and there was a large number of spectators. Winifred I was duly crowned by Mrs. Cheeseman, and the grouping of the courtiers was very pretty and effective in the garden surroundings\* After the amusing proceedings, entitled the Marriage of the Queen, other events followed. The infants percussion band performed under Miss Chovil's leadership, and showed a good sense of rhythm. This band is a new feature in the school, and is of educational value. The Maypole dances under Miss Ellis were again beautifully carried out. Mrs. Quin and Miss Porter were very busy behind the scenes. We congratulate Captain Quin and Mrs. Quin and the staff and children on a very successful show.

The proceeds will enable the infants' room and the small classroom to be redecorated, which will greatly smarten up the interior of the building. There will also be something from the takings for the School Sports Fund.

The Spire Fund is going on very well owing to generous giving in big and small sums alike. We hope to receive grants from one or two Church Building Societies.

The Church Council is anticipating that it may be possible to make a grant from the Fête Fund toward the much-needed repairs to the foundations of St. Mary's Mission Church.

At all events we invite all friends to come to the Fete on July 18th, and persuade as many friends as possible from outside the parish to come, too. The whole programme is exceptionally good, and the gardens of Surrenden make an ideal setting.

The elms on the east side of the church have been causing a great deal of anxiety. Two of them have fallen quite lately, and the rest are in a dangerous condition. The Church Council has consulted with Mr. Burrows, who bought that piece of property, and it has been most reluctantly decided that, for the safety of life and of the church and nearby buildings, it is inevitable that these trees should come down. All these elms were planted about 90 years ago, and they have more than completed their full span of life. New trees will be planted in their place.

MOTHERS' UNION.—Wednesday, July 15th, Holy Communion, 9.15.

FUNERAL.—June 13th, 1936, Emma Woodcock, aged 76.

HOLY COMMUNION.—July 7th, at midday; 14th, at 8 a.m.; 21st, at midday; 28th, at 8 a.m.

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The great event of the month has been our Church Fête.

The day was windy and cool, but it was fine. And a fine day this July is a God-send. Weather reports from all over the Kingdom told of rain and storm and flood, but with us it was fine, and for that we are thankful.

Surrenden was an ideal spot for a Fete, with its gardens and park, and the wide view beyond, and it became a fairy scene when it was lighted up for the dancing.

The financial results are not known at the time of writing, as the account has not been made up. We can only say that the result will be good. We can say, also, that people got good value for their money and were well entertained. The Pastoral Play was charming in its open-air setting, and Captain Quin and his cast are much to be congratulated. The unaccompanied singing, also, was a delightful addition. The cinema had to be shown indoors, instead of in the open-air, as had been announced, but the exhibitions were well attended, and were a success.

The stalls all held things which were well worth buying, and they were accordingly bought. Refreshments were most efficiently managed, and the tables were all filled. We have to thank all who contributed to make the Fête such a success. Thanks of a very special kind are due to Mr. and Mrs. Winter for inviting us to hold the Fête at Surrenden—an invitation which ensured the success of the undertaking by placing everything in such beautiful surroundings.

It is no small thing to allow tents and sideshows to be set up on garden lawns. Nor is it a small thing to be left on Saturday night with disordered grounds. We thank Mr. and Mrs. Winter, also, for the great amount of work they did in preparation for the Fête and on the day.

We have to thank also the Committee and all their helpers for all the work they put in, stallholders and all who ran sideshows, and the bellringers, who had charge of the gates and the car-parking.

Thanks go also to Miss Watt, for her wonderful cake and weight guessing competition, which was so successful.

And last, but by no means least, we are particularly grateful to Mr. Gann for the transport of chairs and tables, a big task which few knew of, but which was of great value.

The church services on the first four Sundays in August will be taken by the Rev. T. H. Jarman, of Bermondsey.



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Every year the Archbishop arranges a " Week of Prayer and Teaching " in one of the Rural Deaneries in the Diocese. This year it is the turn of East Charing, the Deanery to which Pluckley belongs. The Week " begins on Monday, October 26th, and lasts till Friday, October 30th.

It begins with a United Service in Ashford Parish Church, on the Monday, at 3 o'clock, when the Archbishop himself will preach. This will be followed by separate Missions in all the different parishes.

Our own Missioner will be the Rev. J. E. Preece, Vicar of St. Peter's, Norbury, who will be helped by Miss Carr, of Canterbury. Services and Group Meetings will be held, and the call will be made to all of us to draw nearer to God and live as His children should live. We shall be brought into touch with definite personal religion.

Such calls to attend a Mission are not often made, because to be often called and not to heed has a hardening effect on the hearers and is a dangerous thing.

Calls of this kind come seldom, and then they are to be very much heeded. The voice of God is heard calling His children to Himself, and we either obey that call or refuse it. A great responsibility falls upon us. It is not a case of enjoying a stirring speaker, it is a case of making up our minds what we are to do next. We are left either better people or more careless people afterwards. God grant we may be left better.

The headmaster of a Public School was asked by a boy, not long ago, " What is the use of religion? Plenty of people I know seem to get on very well without it." And his answer was, that religion is the only thing which teaches us how to live. And that is true. Christ came to teach men how to live: how to serve the purpose for which they were made. Life is a poor thing unless it is used in the best way : for ourselves and for those around us.

Religion must be the one definite rule of life, the guiding principle in all we do. A life definitely guided by God is the only successful life.

Meanwhile, it is time for all praying people to begin asking for God's blessing on this great effort. The success of a Mission depends on the prayer which has gone in preparation for it.

The Pluckley G.F.S. has been most successful in the Diocesan Competitions. The following is the list of awards: F. Ellis, Passe-partout 1st, 100 marks, also Photography 1st; G. Morris, Photography 2nd; E. Bishopp, Crochet Gloves 1st, 100 marks. Embroidered Table-cloth 1st, Knitted Frock 3rd; C. Filmer, Gloves 1st; V. Chovil, Water-colour 1st.

*Inter-Diocesan Competition* : F. Ellis, Passe-partout 1st; V. Chovil, Water-colour V.H.C.; E. Bishopp, Embroidery H.C.; C. Filmer, Gloves Commended.



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In a little more than a month we have had seven funerals. That must be a greater number in summer time than any of us can remember.

From the Parish Church members we have lost Mrs. Crombie, who had been a regular communicant to the end, coming into church in time for the midday celebration, when the full service became too long for her. Her many friends will miss her much. She was so full of life and energy, and took so much interest in the life of the place.

Mr. Edward Skinner must have sung in the Choir for about 60 years, and also belonged to a great family of bellringers. He was a regular Communicant and much beloved by his many old friends. He had spent his last few years away from Pluckley, but his body is laid in his old Churchyard.

Mrs. Miles will be missed by a large number of friends. She was a Communicant at St. Mary's, and took a great interest in that church, and was also a Mothers' Union member. Her passing away so quickly was a shock to us all.

Miss Nellie Pile, who also belonged to St. Mary's, had been an invalid for some time, and we can feel that it was best that she was spared a longer spell of illness, but it goes home to all our hearts when a life is cut short at 22. We are sure, however, that young lives like that reach their full growth in the unseen world.

Mr. George Brunger and Mr. Henry Farrance were well-known figures in Pluckley, and much respected. We always miss such well-known figures.

The last to be mentioned is little Pamela Smith, who only spent two weeks in this world before passing on to complete her life with Christ in another world.

The Harvest Thanksgiving Services will be held at the Parish Church on October 4th, and at St. Mary's on October 8th.

The Week of Prayer and Teaching begins on October 26th, and we hope all our readers are looking forward to the time with expectancy and hope of blessing.

**BAPTISMS.**—July 26th, 1936, Desmond John Leonard, also Allan Ralph Croucher; September 6th (at St. Mary's), Brian John Cooper.

**WEDDING.**—July 11th, 1936, Alfred Edward Smith and Bessie Florence Marden.

**FUNERALS.**—August 11th, 1936, George Brunger, aged 66; 19th, Alice Amy Miles, aged 51; 20th, Mary Forrester Crombie, aged 83; 22nd, Pamela June Smith, aged 2 weeks; 29th, Edward Skinner, aged 88; September 2nd, Henry Farrance, aged 74; 16th, Ellen Hilda Pile, aged 22.

**HOLY COMMUNION.**—October 1th, 7 a.m., 8 a.m. and midday; 11th, 9.30 at St. Mary's; 18th, midday; 25th, 8 a.m. (G.F.S.).

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The five days of Prayer and Teaching have come to an end, and we have been brought into touch with living personal religion. We have been invited to dedicate ourselves afresh to the service of God, and to look for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in all we do. And now the time has come for good resolutions, resolutions which shall be kept—resolutions to give up our wills to God's will, and live each day as He wants us to do.

Resolutions to make our prayers more real, and find God's presence when we kneel before Him. Resolutions to be regular in our worship in church and in our communions. Resolutions to join with others in fellowship and study and prayer.

It is easy to slip back into old ways after a week like this. But a Mission is nothing by itself. It is the gateway into a new life, and we must pass through it to that new life. We look for new vitality in all our church life.

We had lovely weather for our Harvest Thanksgiving services, and had a large number of communicants and good congregations. We had a full choir, and the singing went well. The gifts of fruit and vegetables were large and good, and Mrs. Dawes had a trailer full of gifts for the hospital when she most kindly took the load into Ashford.

It was a pleasure to have the Rev. W. H. Symonds with us at St. Mary's before he left Willisborough to go to his new living at Seasalter. The gifts at the Mission Church were again large and generous.

Armistice Sunday and Armistice Day will soon be upon us. We hope everyone will keep those days well. We must never forget those who laid down their lives in the Great War, and those who still suffer as a result of that War, and we must pray that the eighteen years of peace we have seen since then may be continued for all time. It is a mad world we live in just now, with threatenings of wars abroad, and fighting in Spain. More and more we feel that only the spread of Christ's Kingdom can prevent another great upheaval. So let us pray earnestly for peace.

The Jumble Sale was again blessed with fine weather, and realised over £23, for which we are thankful to givers, and workers, and buyers.

The Mothers Union held their meeting on October 21st, when Messenger Irene gave a talk in preparation for the Mission.

The G.F.S. held their Admission Service and quarterly tea party on October 1st. The Society is always delighted to welcome new members.

BAPTISMS.—September 27th, Marilyn Morris.

October 18th (at St. Mary's).—Peter John Noakes.

HOLY COMMUNION—November 1st, at midday; 8th, at 8 a.m.; 15th, at midday; 22nd, at 8 a.m.; 29th, at midday.



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Armistice Sunday was, as it should be, a calm, still day, with some sunshine; so that we were able to enjoy the Service outside the Church in comfort.

There was a large parade of British Legion men when the Memorial part of the Service was held at the Cross. A wreath was laid by the President, and the "Last Post" was sounded. The lessons at the Church Service, which followed, were read by Mr. Sullivan, and the second part of the Legion Service was used after the sermon. Such a Service binds us all more closely with one another, and with the Blessed Departed.

Advent Services will be held in the Dering Chapel on Fridays. The Service on December 4th will be an Intercession Service for the work of Foreign Missions. Such services are always held at St. Andrew's-tide and are a great source of strength to the work abroad. The services on December 11th and 18th will be conducted as study groups. The subject discussed at these services will be taken from the passages read in the Bible Study Fellowship scheme. Sample copies of these papers were given out during the Week of Prayer and Teaching. We hope that people have been using these papers in their daily Bible reading, and that they will be glad to discuss them together at a Group Service.

The Church Council members are anxious that the new life stirred up by the Week of Prayer and Teaching should be continued. They agreed at their last meeting that the best plan would be to have a Monthly Meeting for Bible Study and Prayer based on the Bible Reading Fellowship.

St. Nicholas Day (December 6th) falls on a Sunday this year. We hope that all who can will be in their places in Church to thank God for His beautiful House of Prayer, and to remember all who have worshipped and worked in that House for 800 years.

On Christmas Day we shall have three celebrations of Holy Communion. We invite all communicants to be in their place and begin their Christmas in the right place, by worshipping Him, Who, for our sakes, came down from Heaven, and was Incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary.

We hope to have a Carol Service in the Parish Church on December 20th, and at St. Mary's on December 27th.

The Mothers' Union held the Monthly Meeting on November 18th, when Miss Evans gave an Address which will be long remembered.

WEDDING.—November 21st, 1936: Ernest Alfred Terry and Dorothy May Luckhurst.

HOLY COMMUNION.—December 6th, at mid-day. December 13th, at 8 a.m. December 20th, at mid-day. Christmas Day, 7 a.m., 8 a.m. and mid-day. December 27th, 9.30 a.m., St. Mary's.

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