



PLUCKLEY
PARISH MAGAZINE

Owing to the "black-out," all the Churches in our neighbourhood tried the experiment of an afternoon mid-week service. We all wondered what success we should find, but were satisfied with the results. Congregations, on the whole, were not much smaller than at week-night evening services.

In Pluckley we had three special addresses by neighbouring clergy. Mr. Bligh-Hill, of Bethersden, spoke on "Watchfulness," Mr. Treasure, of Hlothfield, on the "Patience of God," and Mr. Luckraft, of Egerton, gave us a searching talk on "Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birth-right," and cast away priceless opportunities for usefulness, because he failed to realise what great opportunities they were. Our largest congregation at these services was 16 people. We, also, made intercessions in regard to the war; and, altogether, we had a very profitable time.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held on February 21st, when Mrs. Quin, as treasurer, read the financial statement for the past year, which showed a deficit of over eighteen pounds on the last twelve months. This was partly due to the removal of some generous subscribers, and the Council are anxious to find new subscribers to the Free Will Offering Scheme. Will any who do not yet subscribe, make up their minds to pay even a few coppers regularly to this fund? Mrs. Quin will be glad to take their names and provide them with envelopes for their monthly, or weekly, gifts. If everyone helps we shall certainly be able to pay our way.

After the passing of the accounts, representatives were appointed to the Diocesan, and Ruridecanal Conferences, and our own Parochial Council was elected.

The Annual Vestry Meeting for the appointment of Churchwardens will be held in Easter-week, and on the same evening the first meeting of the Church Council will be held, for the election of officers and other business. We have been extraordinarily fortunate in having Mrs. Quin as treasurer, and Mrs. Robert Small as secretary. They are both exceptionally efficient.

WEDDING.—March 2nd, 1940: Herbert Dungey and Daisy Mary-Stevenson.

HOLY COMMUNION.—April 7th at midday; April 14th at 8 a.m.; April 21st at midday; April 28th at 8 a.m.(G.F.S.).

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Most people will have already heard that I have asked the Archbishop to allow me to resign my living of Pluckley, and that his Grace has given that permission. A Deed of Resignation will soon be prepared and signed, and we expect to leave Pluckley early in September.

We have been in the parish for fifteen years, and my wife and I both feel that it will be well to make way for a younger man. And, though it will be hard for us to part from our home here, and from so many friends, we feel that it is the right thing to do. However, there is all the summer to come first, and we need have no thought of farewell yet.

Easter fell early this year and flowers were not plentiful, but somehow our decorators made the Church look as bright as ever, and we had nice services, and a large number of communicants. St. Mary's services also went well.

At the Annual Vestry Meeting we were glad to be able to re-appoint Dr. Clarke and Mr. Greene as Churchwardens.

During April we have lost by death two well-known figures in Pluckley, Mr. Hogben and Mr. Turff. Mr. Hogben passed to his rest at the age of 87, one of our very oldest parishioners. Our sympathy goes out to Mrs. Hogben and Miss Hogben, who will miss him so much from his place in the house, and whose care of him was part of their very life.

Mr. Turff's death came upon us unexpectedly, and breaks another link with the past. He was a most efficient Schoolmaster, and gave his pupils a very thorough grounding, to which many of them owe their success in life. His widely scattered old boys would often call to see him when they came home.

Mr. Turff was also Churchwarden for some years and took a great interest in all village affairs.

The marriage of Mr. Basil Homewood and Miss Ada Pile took place on April 15th. Miss Pile has been for some time a member of the Church Choir, and also a valued worker in the G.F.S. We wish them all happiness.

The Bishop of Dover will hold a Confirmation in Pluckley Church on Tuesday, May 14th, at 7 p.m. We remind you that Ascension Day falls on May 2nd. Let us keep it well.

BAPTISM.—March 17th, 1940: Margaret Stevenson.

WEDDINGS.—March 23rd, 1940: Victor Frederick Pannell and Ellen Grace Jordan. April 15th, 1940: Basil Jack Homewood and Ada Elfrida Pile.

FUNERAL.—April 10th, 1940: Abraham Thomas Hogben, aged 87.

HOLY COMMUNION.—Ascension Day, 7.30; May 5th, midday; May 12th, 7 a.m., 8 a.m. and midday; May 19th, 9.30, St. Mary's; May 26th, 8 a.m., G.F.S.

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On Whit-Sunday the Archbishop asked that we should all unite in prayer their great responsibility, and prepare the way in the minds of all nations for the coming of justice and peace" In reply to this request we gladly said special prayers together in Church and committed our leaders to the guidance of the Blessed Spirit of God.

Before this Magazine is published we shall also have had a great National Day of Prayer, by order of His Majesty the King. The next thing to do is to set ourselves to pray regularly, week in and week out, for God's guidance, and inspiration, and help for our Government and for the men of the three Services and the men of our Allies.

It is regular, continuous prayer in which we must depend, praying at home, and praying each day in Church, whenever we are free to do so. "The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much," is the Bible promise. It is for us to be righteous and to pray, and to have confidence in the God who answers prayer. We are meeting for united prayer each evening at 7. Come and join us.

The Bishop of Dover held a Confirmation in our Church on Tuesday in Whitsun week, when twelve candidates received the laying on of hands, with the assurance of the gift of the Holy Spirit. It was a delightful Service, and we were all impressed by the Bishop's earnest addresses; and, at least, we shall remember how he urged us to keep on trying, and promised us success if we never gave up. Failures we all have. But those who try again after failing must eventually succeed. Nothing is more certain than that.

The Archdeacon of Maidstone is very kindly coming to preach in our Church on June 9th at the Morning Service. We invite you to be present and give him a welcome.

The annual School Maytide Festival will be held on Saturday, June 8th, at 2.30 p.m., in the Kectory garden. The proceeds will go to the fund for School improvements.

We are asked by the authorities to warn people against asking any questions from any Service men as to where they have been stationed or whether they expect to be moved. Questions which seem to us to be harmless may cause real mischief.

BAPTISMS.—April 21st, Mary Constana Doorne, Derek Graham Finn; May 9th, Stanley Eric Miles; May 12th, Kenneth Gassou, Jean Margaret Leonard.

WEDDING.—April 20th, Stanley Charles Rains and Doris Aline Filmer.

HOLY COMMUNION, June 2nd, at mid-day; June 9th at 8 a.m.; June 16th at mid-day; June 23rd at 8 a.m. (G.F.S.); June 30th at mid-day.

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Since our last issue many and great events have happened. The Belgians have capitulated and, as a consequence, our troops in Belgium have been evacuated from Dunkirk—a piece of work which was like a miracle, the whole glory of which can only attribute to God's goodness. The defence of Boulogne and Calais will never be forgotten. Now, with France overrun, we look forward to our own country being in the very front of the struggle. At all events, this brings us altogether—at least for a time. No longer do our men go to France and Belgium to fight. We are all together in our island and, at least, news will pass quickly from one to another.

As a village we have much cause for thankfulness. One by one we have heard of our own men and boys landing somewhere in this country. We hope, by the time this is printed, the list will be quite complete.

Village life is a wonderful thing. We are one big family and we share one another's hopes and fears and anxieties and joys. What one feels we all feel.

Our own particular joy and relief at the Rectory has found a place in all other hearts in a way that has touched us very much, and the same joy has gone round with the news of each other man safely back.

For the next period of the war we are all together "in one boat, or, rather, one Island," as Mr. Duff Cooper put it. We are all in the war area. This brings us all under discipline and, to some extent, restricts our freedom. We have to forget our own personal safety and act only for the good of all. We must stay where we are, if crisis comes, and only leave home if we get official orders. The crowded roads of Belgium and France, and the fate of refugees, and the way refugees hamper the troops, must be a warning we never forget. It is much more important that our troops should be unhampered than that you or I should be safe. So, let us keep calm and put real trust in God, who alone can keep our hearts and minds in peace.

Meanwhile, village life goes on, as much as possible, in normal way. The School held their May-tide Festival, with the crowning of the May Queen, Hilda I, on June 8th, in the Rectory Garden. It was a lovely afternoon and the garden made a good background for the pretty dresses of the performers. Captain Quin and his staff and the children are much to be congratulated on producing their accustomed performance in difficult times.

BAPTISMS.—June 1st, 1940, John Hamo Thorneycroft; June 9th, 1940, Joyce Lilian Miles.

WKDDING.—June 10th, 1940, Peter Albert Frederick Black and Alice Ellen Miles.

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

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We are faced with the certainty of a great war struggle—the struggle of the British Empire against an enemy who will use every possible means to overthrow us. And there is a great spirit in the country, a determination to face whatever comes, and never stop till the powers against us are overcome. It will be a very testing time, and we must be prepared for it. The enemy uses all the forces of war, and uses, besides, an unseen weapon, which has been successful again and again. That weapon is the undermining of the morale of the people attacked, and it sets itself to undermine in the grit and determination and confidence; and again and again it has succeeded. We have seen whole nations go down before this invisible weapon, and fear overcome them. It has been a ghastly weapon for them to face, and they have collapsed before it. Their resistance was undermined, and they ceased to hold out to the end. All this shows us our need to maintain our confidence and determination to the utmost. We are not a people to collapse, but we need to feed and strengthen our confidence to the highest possible pitch. Not only to face whatever comes, but to face it courageously and calmly. That is the strongest weapon we can have, and it comes from confidence in God, and from nowhere else.

The whole world is watching us, and only through sure trust in God can we do what the world looks to us to do. We must go out, as a writer puts it, "with the flame and religious persuasion of the Crusaders in our hearts, to conquer the world for our Ideas." We must be a Christian people in very truth if we are to have the confidence we need. It is for all of us to become men and women of prayer. We have to be a nation dedicated to God, and nothing less.

And then, when war is over, there will be a tremendous task before us to put the world to rights. Europe will be left in chaos, with Governments gone, and everything to be built up afresh. "The greatest crime of Fascism," says Dr. Oldham, "is that it has poisoned and corrupted the mind of youth, and by the centralisation of power, destroyed all independent centres of social cohesion. Man being set against Man, group against group. The seeds of mistrust, suspicion and hatred are being sown."

Only can we help to put the world straight if we are a dedicated nation. We must be at very heart a Christian people if ever order is to come out of the chaos Europe is in.

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The passing away of Mr. Blackman leaves a large gap in our little society. He was known and respected by everybody: his postal work was marked by precision and punctuality and courtesy. The Cricket Club loses in him an umpire and a very keen member; the R.A.O.B. will feel his loss very much, and so will other movements.

BAPTISMS.—June 30th, 1940. Doris Mabel Stannard; July 14th, 1940, Eileen May Margaret Allen.

FUNERAL.—July 17th, 1940, James Barry Blackman, aged 63.

HOLY COMMUNION.—August 4th, at mid-day; August 11th, at 8 a.m.; August 18th, at mid-day; August 25th, at 8 a.m.

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Our Patronal Festival (December 6th), S. Nicholas* Day, falls on a Friday this year, and we shall observe it by having a Celebration of the Holy Communion at 8 a.m., and by special intercession for the church and parish at our Short Service at 3.45 p.m.

The Annual Children's Service will be held at 3 p.m. on this day, and we hope kind friends will send their usual gifts for the children to the Rectory. I should like to see as many adults there as well, so to mark such an occasion in the Church's year with a family service.

Advent Sunday, the first Sunday of the new year, will fall this year on December 1st, and the preacher at our Morning Service will be the Revd. F. Bennett, C.F.

The Mothers' Union Committee met on November 19th and made arrangements for future meetings.

On December 18th there will be a service in the Parish Church at 2.30 p.m., after which all the members are invited to tea in the Rectory hut.

We are hoping that members of the congregation will realise that the care of our beautiful church is their concern, and Mrs. Watkins will be very glad to hear of any ladies who would like to take any part in it. Miss Warden and Mrs. Mitchell are looking after the Altar linen; Miss Webb, the Altar brass; Mrs. Wilkinson and Miss Day, assisted by schoolchildren, are taking care of the "Children's Corner," to all of whom we are very grateful. We hope to hear during this month of ladies who will supply the Altarflowers each month during 1941. Will all who wish to do so let Mrs. Walkin- know which month they wish to undertake; it will be of great assistance if they will.

A meeting is to be held on January 15th, particulars of which will be announced later. The committee decided to hold some of the gathering at S. Mary's so as to give an opportunity for those living at that end of the parish to attend.

Christmas Day will fall on Wednesday this year, and though much of its festive character will have to be curtailed under our present circumstances, that may serve to throw into greater prominence the real meaning of the day.

So universal have we generally regarded the observance of this day to be, that it is with a shock we have to realise there are people to-day to whom its real significance has no meaning.

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We, who are Christians, will be helped to realise more keenly what the coming of the Babe of Bethlehem has meant and still means to the world, as we suffer at the hands of those who are setting Him at nought. There will be the Celebration of the Holy Communion at the Parish Church at 8 a.m. and mid-day. Matins and Sermon at 11 a.m., and Holy Communion at S. Mary's at 9.30 a.m.

HOLY COMMUNION.

Parish Church: December 1st and 15th, at 12 noon.
December 8th, 22nd and 29th, at 8 a.m.
December 25th, at 8 a.m. and 12 noon.
S. Mary's: December 15th, at 9.30 a.m.
December 25th, at 9.30 a.m.

BAPTISM.

November 17th.—Keith Howard Young.

MARRIAGE.

November 7th.—Ernest John Smith and Elsie Mary King.