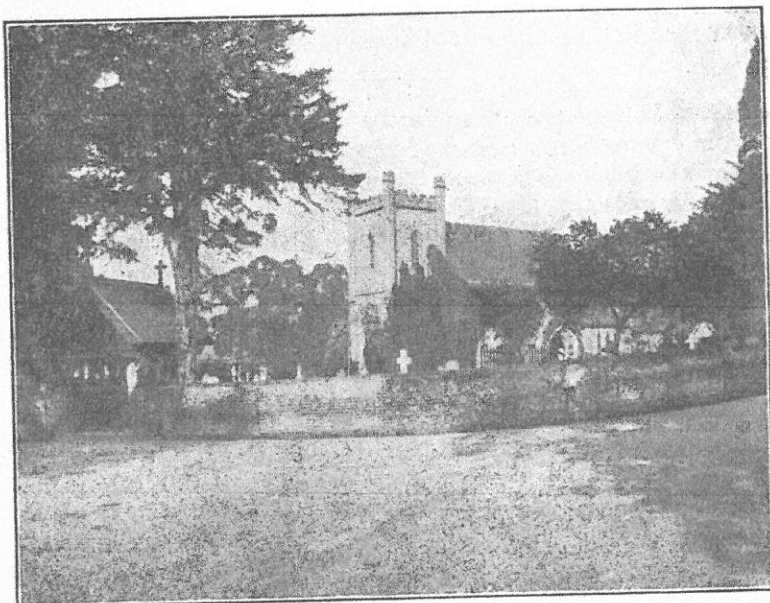




The Church Magazine of S. Nicholas, Remenham.

NOVEMBER, 1925.



Rector :

REV. GEORGE H. WILLIAMS.

Churchwardens :

Sir W. ANKER SIMMONS.
Mr. ALEXANDER DAVIDSON.

Sidesmen :

Mr. D. MARCHAM.
Mr. S. H. SMITH.

Clerk and Sexton :

Mr. G. E. SHIRLEY.

KALENDAR—NOVEMBER, 1925.

- Nov. 1. 21st Sunday after Trinity. All Saints' Day. H.C., 8 and Noon.
" 8. 22nd Sunday after Trinity. H.C., 8. Children's Service, 3.
" 15. 23rd Sunday after Trinity. H.C., 8.
" 22. Last Sunday after Trinity. H.C., 8.
" 29. First Sunday in Advent. H.C., 8.
" 30. St. Andrew A. and M. H.C., 8.
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Our first thoughts in Remenham Parish at the present time are naturally with our Rector in his grave illness, and with his family in their anxiety ; at the time of writing his second and more serious operation has been completed, and though the strain upon him is, of course, very great, yet he is going on as well as can be expected. Our prayers will be that he may be as soon as possible restored to his former health, but that, it is to be feared, will be a matter of many weeks. Meanwhile he sends us the following message : " The Rector from his bed in King's College Hospital sends most grateful thanks to all his people for their goodness to him in this time of difficulty and trouble."

Two other old residents of the Parish have recently from some time past been suffering from severe illness : Mr. and Mrs. Baker, of The Ferns ; we are glad to hear that their condition has much improved, and we all hope that they may be spared to us for many years. A short while ago a presentation was made to Mr. Baker of a purse of money on behalf of the parishioners of Remenham and others, as a slight testimony of their esteem and regard ; and Mr. Baker requests us to publish the following letter of thanks to them : " Mr. W. Baker begs sincerely to thank the subscribers for their generosity, which enabled the Parish Council to provide such a splendid gift to him. He is extremely thankful for such a present."

Mrs. Vivian, who was temporarily at Remenham Place, has most kindly sent a donation of £10 to the Church funds.

In accordance with the wishes of the Archbishops, we shall observe Armistice Day on Sunday, November 8th, and the Rev. A. G. Parham, Rector of East-hampstead, has kindly consented to give the address at 11.0 a.m. The collection will be given to Earl Haig's Fund for Ex-Soldiers.

The Harvest Thanksgiving took place on Sunday, October 4, the Church was very beautifully decorated, while there were many gifts of fruit, flowers and vegetables. The services were taken by the Reverend C. R. Carter, Fellow and Bursar of Magdalen College, Oxford ; who also preached both morning and evening. We are most grateful to him for coming. The decorators were as follows : Mrs. Burnell, Miss M. Burnell, Mrs. Davidson, Mrs. Littlejohn, Lady Speed, Mrs. Surtees, Mrs. Tonge, Mrs. Seagrave, Mrs. Selwyn and Miss M. Selwyn, with Messrs. Aird, R. Ansell, Duffin, J. Stephens, W. Stevens, senr. and junr., and Shirley.

We are also grateful to the Reverend Prebendary Waters, of Lichfield Cathedral, and to the Reverend J. M. Jeakes for their kind help on Sundays September 28th and October 11th respectively.

A great deal of fuss has been raised lately in the newspapers over the Archbishop's reference, in his sermon at the Church Congress, as to the falling off in quality of modern sermons. First of all, it was only an incidental remark, coming in after a much fuller reference to the good work of the Clergy generally, about which the papers said nothing; and although the Archbishop's words were in the above respect profoundly true, since the Ministry of the spoken word is of primary import, yet equal to it are the Ministry of the Sacraments and the pastoral work of the Parish Priest—in which there has most certainly not been a deterioration in the English Church in the past 50 or 60 years—which fact the Archbishop testified to. Secondly, if preaching has fallen off, it is largely because congregations are, as a rule, impatient of Sermons; it is very difficult to concentrate into a quarter of an hour anything more than a mere smattering of essential teaching. What we chiefly need is to a large extent Catechetical teaching, as laid down in the prayer book, in the rubric to the Catechism, and that not only for children but for adults also! Thirdly, the composition of Sermons and even their delivery is not nearly so difficult a matter as the selection of Texts—Get a good text, and the rest comes quite naturally—this was the dictum of a famous preacher. The greatest texts were those of a very funny old Fellow of Eton some 80 years ago, such as "Wash," "Shout," "Cut," "Run," and the best of all from the book of Ezra "Nine and twenty knives"! This old gentleman's most famous allocution went by the name of the "Pedestrian Peck" sermon. About the year 1840, a man attempted to assassinate Queen Victoria in Windsor Park; a person, who was passing by, rushed out and collared the would-be assassin. This passer-by had the (now) immortal name of Peck. This action stirred Mr. Plumptre, the Fellow of Eton, to the following enthusiastic eulogy on the next Sunday. "Her most sacred Majesty's life was in imminent danger—the foul assassin advanced brandishing his lethal weapon—in another moment he would have executed his fell intent—had it not been for the undaunted courage, the intrepid resolution, the matchless heroism, of Pedestrian Peck!"

A Drawing-room Meeting on behalf of the Diocese of Trinidad was held at Matson House on October 20. The Bishop of Trinidad attended, and discoursed most pleasantly about Oil and Gold and Yams and Church Education and South American Presidents who rush about waving carving knives. But Remenham parish had only two representatives present, the remainder came from across the river. A good number of people seemed to be afflicted with the trouble mentioned in St. Luke xiv. 18!