

ALL SAINTS', HARTLEY,  
**Parochial Magazine.**

(Published Quarterly.)

EDITED BY J. WELLS THATCHER.



**Rector's Letter.**

MY DEAR PARISHIONERS,

I told you some time ago about an old Hartley resident, Thomas Cotyer who died in 1473, and I gave you extracts from his will in which he mentions some interesting particulars about himself and the parish.

I can now tell you a little more about the people who lived here in that age, for I have copies of several other old wills of Hartley parishioners of the 15th and 16th centuries.

Here is an extract from the will of a John Cotyer, dated 32 years before that of the Thomas I have already mentioned. He says :

“ I wish to be buried on the south side of

the Churchyard of Hartelee. To the High Altar, for tithes forgotten, I leave 20 pence. For repairing the Church 40 pence.

“ To Christiana, my wife, my property called ‘ Le Hayes ’ in the said parish for 16 years and afterwards to my son, Thomas.”

He had also a son William, and two daughters, Johanna and Alice.

Then there was John Parysse, another Hartley parishioner of those times. He mentions in his will a daughter Rose married to John Cotyer. To her he leaves all his lands, and also his “ best caldron with the tripod.” To her son, John, besides corn and flocks, he bequeaths “ one brass jar, a pot and a pan.”

To Alice Brasyer "for taking care of me during my infirmities six pence and corn from my crop." Any money left over was to be distributed at the discretion of the Rector.

The Crippes were yeomen of the parish for several generations. One, Thomas, died in 1527. He left a cross of copper and money for the "reparacyone" of the Church. Thomas Ifield owed him 26 shillings of which amount he says "I forgwyve him 16 shillings and 8 pence." To "Annye, his wyf" he left the residue of his "godys."

Then there was James Crippes. He wished to be buried in the Churchyard near his wife, sister and brother. He farmed land under the then Lord of the Manor for in his will he says "To my good Landaladie Mistress, Anne Sedley, and to Mister William Sedley, Esquire, to each two angells." The angel, by the way, was a gold coin current in the 16th century and so named because it bore an image of the Archangel Michael.

With the help of these old wills and other contemporary records we can get a fairly accurate picture of the village and its inhabitants in the 15th and 16th centuries.

The Manor House at that time is said to have stood somewhere behind the present Court in Foxborough Wood. The Lord of the Manor was Mr. Richard Cressell, and later on in the middle of the 16th century, Mr. William Sedley.

There were several other landowners in the parish. One of these was Mr. John Cotyer who lived at "The Hayes." This was a house which stood on the site of or somewhere near, that now occupied by "New House" Farm.

There is nothing left of the old residence, but some of the land on the other side of the

road which belonged to it, is still called "Haws" field.

The name "New House" by the way, seems to be a modern version of New Hawes or New Hayes, a word which meant a farm or fenced-in land. In a will dated 1553 the property is called "the Howse." I think it was rebuilt in the 17th century when the Burrows were here, and so, then or later, came to be known as New House.

After the Cotyers it became the home of the Overeys who were landowners in this and the neighbouring parishes for two or three generations.

There were other Cotyers at this time who lived at "Le Stokke." This too has disappeared, but the residence of Mr. Wm. Lockwood now called "Stock's Farm" appears to have been built upon the foundations of the old house and still bears the name.

Other residents of that time were the Youngs. They are said to have been here or in Ash, ever since the 11th century. At any rate they were at Fairby or Fereby in the 16th century. But they must then have lived in an older house than the one they built in 1612.

There were also houses on the sites of what were later known as "Middle Farm" and Hartley Wood Farm.

Those were the big houses. The smaller ones and cottages numbered about 20. The latter were pretty equally divided between the farms, two or three on each. There were at this time about 140 inhabitants.

I can tell you the names of most of the people who lived here then for although our registers do not go back so far, the residents are mentioned in wills, deeds and other documents.

Besides Richard Cressell, John and Thomas Cotyer, John Parysse, John Overey, Thomas and James Crippes and John Young already referred to, there were John Taylour, John Mabbe, Roger and Stephen Smyth, John Boxwood, Thomas and John Godfrey, John Osmond, John Chartham, William Hoke, John Coke, Thomas at Chyrch, John Smyth, John and Richard Northash, John Beyt, Thomas Ifield, John Scudder, John Gardener, John Larryman, John Bendaler, Philip Oram, Jane Taylour, Anne Warynys, James Millarie, John Turner, John Page, Jane Langley, Alice Brasyer, "Mother" Northash, Thomas Goodwin, John May, John Court, Nicolas Ellis, William Chusune, Thomas Whytehead, and Gyffray ap Coan.

Here are 38 men, and among them are 22 Johns! No wonder that surnames had by this time become the fashion among all classes. John at Chyrch, Richard Northash and Thomas Ifield are interesting examples of surnames that had not yet become hereditary.

The village at that time had not assumed the aspect which is familiar to us. Hartley Woods were much more extensive, and Hose-land Woods covered the land on both sides of the road up the hill.

Following the roadway through the wood we should have come out on the common which extended on the one side over a large portion of what is now called Trapp's land, and on the other to the boundary of Fawkham parish.

The trackway across the common branched off as the road does now into the roads leading to the Church and to Ash. There was probably, a wayside cross at the parting of the ways, but no houses between that and Middle and Fairby Farms. If John at Chyrch had

lived near this spot instead of up the hill he would no doubt have come to be known as John Crouch or John Cross.

The village in that age was at the upper end of the parish, and, I think, there is no doubt that there was a village green at the top of Stocks Hill, which is now the six acre plot called Barnfield. Roads and footpaths from all parts of the parish led to this spot. And from here to the shooting butts.

Here stood the parish stocks and whipping post, which were set up in every village in the 14th and 15th centuries, usually near the church or where the people mostly congregated.

Somewhere near would be the cage in which local misdemeanants were incarcerated. This was probably a small brick building with double locked door and a peep-hole through which the village constable handed in food, and kept an eye on the prisoner.

I think near this spot stood the Church House where the Whitsun Ales, the Harvest Supper, and other social and parochial functions were held.

There were many holidays and a good deal of gaiety in the village when these anniversaries came round. Besides May Day and Hocktide and Shrovetide, there were all the Saints' Days, when there were sports, games and dancing and other revels. The Church House was the centre of most of this merrymaking. The pots and pans and cups and platters necessary for the feasting were kept here. There was no lack of good fare, the churchwardens were often the custodians of a store of provisions contributed by the parishioners for these festivities.

There was much play-acting too, and every village had its companies of actors and singers. We may be sure that in those days the "Hartley Players" and "Hartley

Minstrels" were much to the fore.

There was, of course, an annual fair on All Hallows Day, and as by this time the Churchyard was forbidden ground, it would be held on the Green.

The smithy, the wheelwright's shop, and later on the poor-house, were all in Grub Street.

I cannot find any trace of a school at this time, but, perhaps, the parish Clerk, as in many another village, taught the children.

There was one, John Pase, a tailor, but most of the people's shopping was done with the journeymen pedlars, who visited the village from time to time.

The Church must have looked much the same as now, except that there was a west door. Inside we should have found the chancel screen and the Rood, with candlesticks on the beam for the lights, and the stone Altar and the walls bright with fresco painting.

Outside there was the churchyard cross. This was probably of stone with steps leading up to it.

In the middle of the 16th century, of course, many alterations were made, both in the Church and in the services. At this time the churchwardens were John Overey and John Smyth.

The Rectory was near the Church and close by was the tithe barn.

Here, in the early part of the 16th century, lived John Beyle followed by William Cokke. And then came William Potter, who was Rector for more than 20 years.

He must have been in some ways a remarkable man. Appointed here in the reign of Henry viii, he was Rector of this parish all through the changes and counter-changes brought about by the ecclesiastical legisla-

tion of the reigns of Edward vi, Queen Mary, and Queen Elizabeth. He died in 1566.

In 1547 the Clergy were ordered to remove all the images from the Churches, to break up the stained glass windows and whitewash the inside walls of the churches.

It must have been William Potter who carried out these injunctions here for he was still at his post when Queen Mary came to the throne in 1553. Then all the statutes relating to religion, which were passed in the reign of Edward vi, were repealed and the Book of Common Prayer pronounced heretical. Thousands of the clergy and many of the Bishops refused to obey the new orders and were ejected. But William Potter does not appear to have been among these for he was here in 1558 when Elizabeth came to the throne, and must once again have superintended the casting down of the images, and regulated the services and all his ministrations in accordance with the reformation legislation which now came into force again.

From the inventory made in 1553 we know that belonging to Hartley Church there were "vestments of cruell and thred and of red damaske," "Copes of grene satten and their Albs." That there were "candle-sticks of latten, a cross of copper and gilt, a chalice and paten of silver, a three-branched candlestick and a hand bell." When the next Rector came into office there was not much of the church property remaining except, perhaps, the "Bible in a large volume, and the paraphrases of Erasmus." One of the bells even in the steeple seems to have gone the way of all the rest. Our second bell is dated as late as 1717.

We learn a few interesting particulars about Wm. Potter from his will, which was proved in 1566. In this he is described as "Priest and parson of Hartley." He

wished to be buried in the "Choir of the Parish Church." But we have no record of his burial.

He had brothers, Robert and Thomas, and a niece, Ellen.

To Edmund Parker, priest of Dartford, he left his "best long gown lined with ruffelles."

To Martin Haggerde, priest of Meopham, his "frise gown." To Wm. Herde, parson of Facam, his "sarsnett typpet," his "silk hatte," and his "best satten night cappe."

He left for the repairs of the Church 20 shillings. To the poor of Ash 6s. 8d., of Facam 6s. 8d., and of Longfield 3s. 4d.

To "Mother" Northash he bequeathed a quarter of barley, and to "everie one of my parishioners of Hartley, man, woman and child, four pence."

Yours very truly,  
GERARD W. BANCKS.

### Church Informaion.

*Rector*—Rev. CHARLES GERARD WINSTANLEY BANCKS, M.A., appointed 1902.

#### CHURCH SERVICES.

Matins, 11 a.m. Evensong, 6.30 p.m.

**Holy Communion**, 8 a.m., on the 2nd and 4th Sundays in each month; at 12 noon on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays in the month.

*Parochial Church Council* (elected under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure, 1921).—Council for 1926: The Rector (who is Chairman by virtue of his office), Miss Bancks, Mrs. Oldrey, Mrs. F. W. Tate, Miss Fiddis, Miss Sale, Mrs. Wells Thatcher, Miss Green, Hon. Secretary; Mr. A. Blackwell, Mr. A. Cox, Mr. D. T. R. Gray, Mr. W. Nash, Mr. F. W. Tate, Mr. W. H. Chisholm, with the Churchwardens by virtue of their offices.

*Committees*—Standing Committee: The Chairman and the Churchwardens. Finance Committee: The Churchwardens and Miss Green. Tithe Rent Charge Committee: Mr. D. T. R. Gray, Mr. F. W. Tate and Mr. J. Wells Thatcher.

*Sidesmen*—Mr. A. Blackwell, Mr. A. Cox, Mr. W. Macaulay and Mr. W. Nash.

*Organists*—Mr W. H. Chisholm and Mrs. Oldrey.

*Choirmaster*.—Mr. D. T. R. Gray.

*Members of the Choir*.—Mrs. Balchin, Miss L. Bancks, Mrs. Chisholm, Mrs. T. J. Clark, Mr. C. E. Cuff, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Gray, Miss Green, Mrs. Keen, Miss M. Marrington, Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Oldrey, Miss Parkin, Mrs. Symons, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Tate, Mr. Frank Tate, junr., and Mr. and Mrs. Shepperson.

*Licensed Lay Reader*.—Mr. J. Wells Thatcher.

*Sunday School*.—Miss Sale, Superintendent. Teachers: 1st Class, Miss Sale; 2nd Class, Mrs. Gray; 3rd Class, Miss Parkin. Time: 3 p.m. to 3.45 p.m.

*Church Parochial School*.—Miss Fiddis, Headmistress; Miss N. Goss, Infant School Mistress.

*School Managers*.—The Rector, Mr. J. Green, Capt. Copus, Mr. J. Stuart, Mrs. G. B. Davies and Miss Rodwell.

*Bell Ringer and Organ Blower*.—Mr. A. Rogers.

*Churchyard Keeper*.—Mr. A. Rogers.

*Church Cleaner*.—Mrs. Grant.

*Sexton & Grave Digger*.—Mr. J. Crouch.

### WORK OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL.

"It shall be the primary duty of the Council of every parish to co-operate with the Incumbent in the initiation, conduct and development of Church work both within the parish and outside."—(Section 2 of the Measure.)

#### NOTICE.

Members of the Church of England, resident in the parish, are requested to sign the parochial Electoral Roll if they have not yet done so.

#### Altar Flowers.

*January*—Mrs. Walker.  
*February*—Miss Bancks.  
*March*—Mrs. Boulger.  
*April*—Mrs. Isaacs.  
*May*—Mrs. T. J. Clark.  
*June*—Mrs. Green.  
*July*—Mrs. Elliott.  
*August*—Mrs. Andrus.  
*September*—Mrs. Chisholm.  
*October*—Miss Robertson.  
*November*—Mrs. Ralph Day.  
*December*—Mrs. Snow.

#### Baptisms.

Dec. 11.—[REDACTED] of Edwin Francis and Evelyn Canada Harris  
 Jan. 30.—Ruby Laura, daughter of Fredk. Thomas and Lois Emily Robinson.

#### Burials.

Feb. 16.—Charles Robertson, aged 66.  
 „ „ Eliza Robertson, aged 67.  
 „ 18.—Martin Nicolas Ray, aged 67.

#### HARTLEY MUSICAL SOCIETY.

The second concert of the season was given on Friday, January 21st, when a programme of Sir Arthur Sullivan's music was provided. A feature of the concert was a selection

from the famous Gilbert and Sullivan operas, given by permission of Mr. R. D'Oyly Carte. "Three little maids from School" was sung by the Misses Marrington, Parkin and Chisholm, and "A regular royal Queen" by Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Chisholm, Mr. Legrand and Mr. Clark. The less well-known Madrigal from "Ruddigore." "When the buds are blooming" was daintily sung by the choir with solo parts by Mrs. Shepperson and Mrs. Frank Tate.

Favourite old songs of a bygone age were resurrected for the occasion and delightfully sung by Mr. J. W. Orr, of Lewisham, and Mr. H. Saunders, of Bromley, who most kindly gave their services. Mr. Orr sang "The Sailors Grave," "Orpheus with his lute," "Sigh no more ladies," with encores "Once Again" and "Take a pair of sparkling eyes." Mr. Saunders sang "O mistress mine," "Ho Jolly Jenkin," the Judge's song from "Trial by Jury," and as an encore gave an original and impressive rendering of "The lost chord."

The accompaniments were played by Mr. Roy Chisholm.

The Hartley Players had arranged to present a one act play, but to the intense disappointment of us all this had to be cancelled owing to illness of several of the Company. Miss Bancks most kindly stepped into the breach on behalf of her fellow players and gave "solo" some delightful sketches including Mrs. 'Arris on "The drama," and a selection from "When we were very young."

The weather was of the very worst and only a small audience assembled—a new experience for our enterprising little society—but those who did brave the elements enjoyed a pleasant musical evening.

April.	May.	June.
3rd—5th Sunday in Lent.	1st—S. Philip & S. James App. and MM.	5th—Whitsunday.
10th—6th Sunday in Lent.	.. 2nd Sunday after Easter.	6th—Monday in Whitsun Week.
11th—Monday before Easter.	6th—S. John, Evangelist.	7th—Tuesday in Whitsun Week.
12th—Tuesday before Easter.	8th—3rd Sunday after Easter.	11th—S. Barnabas, Apostle and Martyr.
13th—Wednesday before Easter.	15th—4th Sunday after Easter.	12th—Trinity Sunday.
14th—Thursday before Easter.	22nd—5th Sunday after Easter.	19th—1st Sunday after Trinity.
15th—Good Friday.	23rd—Rogation Day.	24th—S. John Baptist.
16th—Easter Eve.	24th—Rogation Day.	26th—2nd Sunday after Trinity.
17th—Easter Day.	25th—Rogation Day.	29th—S. Peter, Apostle and Martyr.
18th—Monday in Easter Week.	26th—Ascension Day.	
19th—Tuesday in Easter Week.	29th—Sunday after Ascen- sion.	
24th—1st Sunday after Easter.		
25th—S. Mark, Evangelist.		

THE "MESSIAH" AT HARTLEY CHURCH.

After evensong on Sunday, January 2nd, selections from the "Messiah" were given by the choir and friends.

We were honoured with the presence of Miss Dorothy Webster, whose rendering of "O Thou that tellest," was deeply appreciated, and an inspiration to the choir in their responsive chorus.

Our own singers, Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Shepperson, who sang "He shall feed His flock and "Come unto Him," Mr. Gray "The people that walked in darkness and Mr. Oldrey "But Thou didst not leave," were also heard with the greatest pleasure.

Mr. Roy Chisholm, kindly released by his Vicar, presided at the organ, and with his help the well-known choruses, "And the glory of the Lord," "Behold the Lamb of

God" and "Lift up your heads," was given adequate rendering.

Mr. Black gave his usual efficient service as blower, a most essential feature in getting the best out of our little organ. Only those who play it know what this means.

MISS SALE'S REPORT (SUNDAY SCHOOL).

S.S. Missionary Boxes.

Half year ending November, 1926.

	s.	d.
General	5	8
Medical	11	9
	17	5

A letter has been received from Mrs. Woodhouse, Ellore, S. India, thanking the children for scrap books sent out last year.

A. M. SALE.

### Editor's Notes.

The Hartley Players scored a first-class success in "Mr. Pim Passes By." The performance was given twice at the Constitutional Hall on December 9th and 10th last. I will not presume to speak of the players in the order of their histrionic merit when all were so excellent. But May Symons, as Olivia, and John Corri Boulger, as Carraway Pim, were splendid.

\* \* \*

The other characters were Ernest Harry as George Marden, J.P., Lulu Bancks as Dinah, Blanche Curwen as Lady Marden, Eric Green as Brian Strange and Edith Evans as Anne. The morning room, which is the scene of the comedy, was admirably furnished by J. T. Cooper & Son, 23/25, King Street, Gravesend, who lent valuable furniture free of cost, the mantel piece and other properties were skilfully painted by Mrs. Boulger, whose clever husband made many of the properties.

\* \* \*

Ernest Harry produced the play, J. C. Boulger was stage manager, Hedley Symons business manager and Miss Harry prompter. The work undertaken by these principals both before, at and after the performances was enormous and done admirably.

\* \* \*

I was privileged at a later date to receive a cheque for £14 8s. od. from Mr. Hedley Symons, by order of the Committee. This handsome gift from the players wiped out the debt on this Magazine. I am most grateful.

\* \* \*

The Christmas play, given by the school children, under the able tuition of Miss Fiddis, pleased me mightily. The parents were charmed by the clever work of their sons and daughters. I congratulate Miss Fiddis

## C. W. NAIRN,

### BUILDER AND DECORATOR.



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---

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### —Butter—

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## New Laid Eggs.

and all those who helped her upon the production of a series of delightful scenes. I realise how great the labour was but the splendid result was a fitting reward.

\* \* \*

On the Sunday evening, after Christmas Day, we had a musical service in Church. The Hartley Band came, under the skilful conductor, Mr. T. F. Tate. Band, choir and congregation, all joined in vocal and musical praise to God. It was good to be there.

\* \* \*

On the following Sunday evening there was another musical service. Roy Chisholm was at the organ. Solos were sung by musical friends. The choir sang many numbers from "The Messiah." A report in detail will be found elsewhere. The church in our village is alive to its duties and its privileges.

\* \* \*

At my request Miss Fiddis has kindly given me the programme of her charming Christmas play. The note at the end pleased me much. Mothers and children working together, giving time, labour and materials to make the great success which the play was.

\* \* \*

In a private note to me Miss Fiddis states that the play made a profit of £4 10s. od., which will go to the sports fund. The boys have their football, but they have no field near the school. The girls are to have a net ball set. Here I will quote my esteem correspondent and warmly endorse the statement she makes:—"Sport is badly needed, and as you know, it is the best means of teaching youngsters *the game*."

\* \* \*

I received a long interesting letter from Mr. Farrow. He writes from the British South African Police, Chifingra, S. Rhodesia. His letter was written on his lap by lantern light. He says he gets this Magazine reg-

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TELEPHONE: LONGFIELD 3

ularly. Here is an extract from his letter :—  
 "As I sit here to-night, miles away from anywhere (for I am on patrol), I think of the good old days in Hartley and look forward to seeing you all again."

\* \* \*

That jolly company, The Hartley Players, have just sent along the particulars of their next play, "Nothing but the Truth." and I notice they have gone one better this time and are playing for three nights.

They have adopted what I consider the excellent plan of charging popular prices for the opening night—I cheerfully anticipate a crowded house on Thursday. Our Player friends are so well-known, their fame having spread so far afield, that it is not surprising to hear that the advance bookings for Friday and Saturday's reserved seats are already most encouraging.

### Hartley School Play.

#### CHRISTMAS WITH THE PIXIES (CANTATA).

Louie (Orphans of The	...	Allan Crouch
Lena (Black Forest)	...	Mary Sale
Flora (Queen of Fairies)	...	Anne Robson
Florabel (Queen's Attendant)	...	Irene Sims
Nurno (Queen's Messenger)	...	Evelyn Day
Toto (Queen's Page)	...	Nora Foster
Bertold (Pixie Scout)	...	Margery Harris
Kris Kringle	...	Jim Stewart
Sergeant Redjacket	...	Tom Crouch
Prince Victor (Father of Louie)	...	John Ballard
Princess Victoria (Mother of Lena)	...	Dolly English
Queen of Fairies	...	Olive Applegate
Fairies—Flossie Shambrook, Marie Butler, Janet Roots, Roma Barlow, Poppy Lynds, Rene Etherington, Beryl Harris.		

Chorus of Redjackets and Pixies—The remainder of the School.

Opening Prologue ... Edith Francis  
 "You are old, Father William" ... Beatrice Bromley

There were no other helpers, except the Mothers who gave materials in most cases, and the children, who made their own fancy dresses.

[It charmed me to learn how splendidly the mothers and children worked to make the play a success.]

\* \* \*

We have all been sad in Hartley lately over the loss of two respected neighbours who, after a long and devoted life together, passed away within a short time of each other, and fared forth upon their last long journey, side by side. Our deep sympathy goes out to the children who loved them and who are left to mourn their loss.

DON'T CARRY THAT ACCUMULATOR TO TOWN AND BACK AGAIN ANY LONGER.

YOU CAN HAVE IT CHARGED IN HARTLEY BY

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Crystal Palace.  
National Utility Poultry Society.  
Tottenham N.U.P.S.  
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LAYING TEST AWARDS :—

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(Buff-Rocks) 1922-23  
1st & Silver Cup, Tottenham N.U.P.S.  
(Wyandotte) 1924-25.  
Wye College 1st (Buff-Rocks) 1924-25  
Wye College 2nd (Buff-Rocks) 1925-26

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**Selected Pens** from 12/6 per 12 eggs U.R. or 15 eggs U.N.R. If two lines of blood, 5/- per sitting extra.  
**Flock Matings**, 7/6 per 12 eggs U.N.R.

## THE CALL OF SPRING !

To all country dwellers the arrival of Spring means the re-awakening of every sort of garden activity.

There are Seeds to be sown, Lawns to be mown, Borders to be planted, Paths to be rolled, Edgings to be trimmed, besides the routine work of weeding, hoeing and watering.

Good Tools greatly reduce the labour and improve the result. It will pay you to obtain your Garden Tools from

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Spades, Forks, Hoes, Rakes, Bagging Hooks, Shears, Lawn Mowers, Rollers, Watering Cans, Syringes, Gardening Gloves, Lawn Brooms, Trug Baskets, Flower Pots, Planting Lines, Seeds, Plants and Fertilizers.

W. WISE, Secretary & Manager.

# THE HARTLEY PLAYERS

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PRESENT

## NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

A COMEDY IN THREE ACTS,

By JAMES MONTGOMERY,

THURSDAY, FRIDAY and SATURDAY

March 17th, 18th and 19th,

AT THE

## Hartley Constitutional Hall

Doors Open 7.45. Commence 8.15. Cars 10.30.

---

TICKETS (including Tax)	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.
Numbered and Reserved	2/-	3/-	3/-
Reserved - -	1/-	2/-	2/-
Unreserved - -	6d.	1/-	1/-

Can be obtained from Members and from Hartley Grange.

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16, Spital Street.  
30, Lowfield Street.  
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The members of the Free Church had a most successful social evening at the Women's Institute on Monday, February 21st last. Several friends of mine were there. Songs were sung by Mr. S. Ellerby, Mr. T. F. Tate, Mr. W. H. Chisholm and Mrs. F. Tate. There were recitations by Mrs. Balchin, Mr. A. S. Edwards and Miss Lulu Bancks. A 'cello solo by Mr. Comant. I must not forget the substantial tea which I did not get because I was in London. Then there were games. Altogether a most happy evening.

\* \* \*

REVD. MARTIN NICOLAS RAY.

Our old churchyard has welcomed another pilgrim and one who has made a long pilgrim-

age to places oversea. The Revd. Martin Nicolas Ray was buried on Friday, February 18th. He was rector of All Saints', Stretford, and late Archdeacon of Wiscousin. Mr. Ray was born at Ridley Court. His mother was the daughter of a very old Hartley parishioner, Mr. William Bensted, of Hartley Court, and afterwards of Hartley Manor. Mother and son now rest together in the same grave.

\* \* \*

I am now going to write for you a most important Editorial note. Most important, I repeat. It is this. All Magazine subscriptions are now due and I want them badly. Will you kindly send them to Miss Lulu Bancks, Hartley Rectory, Longfield,

Kent. One shilling is the minimum. If you can afford more, pray send it, there's a dear soul. If the Magazine has to be posted to you send a bit extra for that as well.

\* \* \*

Those of us who love and enjoy good music had the time of our lives on Saturday evening, February 26th, when the Village Concert Party visited Hartley.

The weather was dreadful, but some forty people braved the elements and were well rewarded.

Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Bailey, Miss Jean Kennedy and Mr. Tom Smith were the artists. They have been on tour for sixteen weeks in the Kent villages.

Mr. Bailey sang several songs and Mr. and Mrs. Bailey together delighted us with folk

songs. Miss Kennedy provided a recital from Dickens, most beautifully done, and later with a sketch of real Cockney children. Mr. Tom Smith played music on his violin, classical and modern, and in doing so illustrated the wide difference between dance music as we used to know it and as it now is, needless to say without flattering the latter. Mrs. Bailey played all the accompaniments in delightful style.

[The Handbill announcing this concert was headed "Village, Country, Town and School Concerts with the Co-operation of the Kent Rural Community Council." I am a great believer in community singing and in any form of entertainment which will brighten village life. I am so sorry the weather was so bad.—Ed.]

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