

ALL SAINTS', HARTLEY,
Parish Magazine.

(Published Quarterly.)

EDITED BY J. WELLS THATCHER.



HARTLEY CHURCH.

THE RECTOR'S LETTER.

MY DEAR PARISHIONERS,

At this season of Christmas-tide and the New Year the bells are wont to ring.

It will not be inappropriate then if, after wishing you all good cheer, I say a few words about the bells that hang in the towers and steeples of our churches.

We do not often see them, they are hidden away with the bats and cobwebs in their gloomy belfries. That is perhaps why the exceeding interest and mystery of their history is so little appreciated.

An earlier age endowed the bells with mystic powers and not a few of the attributes

of living things. Most of these would prove embarrassing to us in the present day, but it is at least a pity that they cannot talk as well as ring. What tales the bells could tell about the village life in which they have played their part, perhaps for centuries!

Our treble bell, for instance, was hung about the year that Richard II came to the throne. It, no doubt, tolled a knell for the Black Prince. That was nearly 600 years ago. What could it not tell us of the doings of Hartley folk through all those years?

The bells, of course, have a language of their own.

Oft and again they have spoken to the poets. Tom Moore sang:

“Those evening bells, those evening bells
How many a tale their music tells.”

And another bard has declared that “if he could produce all the good things that bells have said he should complete a volume.”

But if they cannot tell us parish history at any rate their own history is a fascinating and romantic one, and well worth our while to trace.

Who invented bells? Nobody knows. They have been used in every country of the world, and by every race, ancient and modern. They have been found in the oldest excavations of Egypt and Assyria. The Priest in the temple of Osiris rang a bell. They were used in India and China in the remote past. The Emperor Augustus hung them in the temple of Jupiter. But when and where they first appeared we do not know.

Neither do we know how bells, big ones and little ones, signa, campanæ and tintinnabula came to be used in Christian Churches.

It has been suggested that the latter were found in the Roman basilicas in this country when, in the 4th century, they were converted into Christian Churches. But that is only surmise.

Neither does there appear to be any foundation for the tradition which attributes their introduction to Paulinus, Bishop of Nola in Campania.

A bell in the middle ages was certainly known as a campana, and a small one as a nola, but that can be explained in another way, and there is ample evidence that the good Bishop knew nothing about them.

We English have not been particularly happy in the choice of a name, for the word bell means a thing that bellows. Johnson, in his dictionary describes it as “a hollow body of metal formed to make a noise!”

The classical tintinnabulum is not much better. The French name, cloche, refers to its shape. Our bell-shaped garment the cloak is derived from the same root. By the way, from the custom of striking the hours with *bells*, we have borrowed the name clock for our modern timepiece. The mediæval campana had probably a similar meaning “a hollow thing.”

In none of these names is the *music* of the bell recognised. And yet it is a musical instrument, or should be if well made, and kept in tune.

To make music the bells of a peal must not only be in tune with each other, but individually.

A bell gives out, not one note, but a chord, and the chord must be harmonious.

At any rate the so-called fundamental note must not be flatter or sharper than the note an octave above, or the note an octave below. But they are not always in unison, and then the bell is out of tune. There is also a 3rd and 5th in the chord.

The history of bells in this country before the 13th century is more or less mythical. We know that small bells, closed and open, made of metal plates, brazed or riveted, were first in use, and that these were superceded by bells of cast metal.

Bells were used in England in Saxon times. They are mentioned by Bede. And in the 8th century Archbishop Egbert ordered the priests to ring their church bells. These

were big bells. "ut omnes sacerdotes suarum sonent ecclesiarum *signa*."

But none of these remain, and little is known about them.

Two or three Norman bells are extant, but it is not till the 13th century that we have historical data. Several bells, now existing, date from this period. We know because they bear inscriptions.

The inscriptions found on bells are exceedingly interesting, and sometimes quaint. They often give the name of the founder, determine the date, or show the particular use of the bell. The earliest inscriptions are generally in Latin and very simple as "*Ora pro nobis*," "*Te Deum Laudamus*," "*Ave Maria*." Very often we find the founder's name, as "*Robertus Mot me fecit*." Many later inscriptions are in English, as this one, "*On Sabbath all too church I call*." A bell in Essex is inscribed "*I am koc of this flock*."

On another we find "*John Astak named me John*." That means that John Astak stood sponsor at the christening.

Bells, from early Christian times, were baptised to consecrate them to religious use, godparents were appointed and names bestowed.

Here is a prayer used at bell-baptisms. "*Lord grant that wheresoever this holy bell thus baptised, shall sound, all deceits of Satan, all dangers of whirlwind, thunders, lightnings and tempest may be driven away. O Lord infuse into it the heavenly due of the Holy Ghost that the devil may always fly away at the sound of it*."

The age of bells may be traced by the character of their inscriptions. Before A.D. 1400 we find Gothic uncials. After 1400 black lettering was used on bells. Founders'

stamps came into use about 1450. Capitals were again employed after 1550, but with no stops between the words. Bells from the end of the 16th century are almost always dated.

Strange and mystic powers were attributed to bells in earlier times. It was even believed that they possessed the gift of locomotion. There are legends of bells which had been removed from one belfry to another returning to their old home. They were believed to have the power of dispersing storms, of averting pestilence, of driving away enemies, and of extinguishing fire.

All this is clearly seen in the inscriptions. Bishop Latimer, on one occasion, preached a sermon ridiculing these popular beliefs. He denounced them as "fantasies and delusions" and asked the people why, if they believed that bell-ringing could scare the devil, all the bells in England were not rung together at a certain hour, and so scare him right out of the country once for all."

Bells, in the middle ages, were used, not only to summon the congregation to public worship, but to call attention to specially solemn parts of the service. Those used for this purpose were usually small, and called handbells. Such are the sanctus and sacring bells.

But church bells were used for other purposes. In some thinly populated districts they were rung at sunset to guide travellers to the village.

On Shrove Tuesday a bell was rung to call people to confession. Later, being associated with the last meal before the Lenten fast, it came to be called the "Pancake" or "Fritter" bell. And hence this poetical allusion, "*Hark, I hear the pancake bell, The fritters make a gallant smell*."

In some parishes it was customary to ring a bell at the close of morning service. This, being popularly supposed to be a warning to the cook to get the dinner ready, became known as the "Pudding" bell.

Then there was the "Sermon" bell. This was rung to let the people know whether there would be a mid-day Celebration, or a sermon.

A "Gleaning" bell was rung in many parishes at harvest time as a signal when gleaning would begin and end. And an "Oven" bell to let the people know when the fire was alight and they could come and bake their loaves in the parish oven.

The hours of the "Ave" or "Angelus" bell have varied, but it was usually rung at sunrise, sunset, and in later times, at mid-day.

In the county of Kent there are 2,000 Church bells. Only about 36 are as old as the 14th century. Our treble is one of these. *There are not more than a dozen bells in the county of greater antiquity.*

It was taken down from the belfry some years ago with a broken clapper, but has now been satisfactorily repaired, and rehung.

This bell bears an inscription in Gothic or Lombardic capitals, with characteristic stops between the words.

It reads: "ROBERTUS RIDER ME FECIT." Robert Rider was a London founder from 1357 to 1386. No other bell of his is known to exist except one at Ford in Sussex.

The inscription on our other bell reads, "PACK AND CHAPMAN FECIT, 1771." There is good reason to believe that this is the recast of a bell which hung in our belfry in the 16th century.

Longfield is the only other parish in this neighbourhood possessing a 14th century bell, but it was taken down from the belfry long ago *hors de combat*, and is now mounted in the vestry. By the wise discrimination of Rector and Churchwardens it was saved from the melting pot when the new bell was installed.

It is smaller by 2½ inches than the Hartley bell and is by a different maker. The inscription reads "WELELMUS REVEL ME FECIT."

William Revel, like Robert Rider was a founder in the middle of the 14th century. The date of both these bells must be near 1360, but which is the older we do not know.

There is, however, a difference in the character of the stops, which, to an expert, might suggest a clue.

There are bells of Revel's at Norwich, Husingham and several other places.

With regard to yet older bells than ours in the county of Kent, the dates of which are ascertainable, there are about half-a-dozen of the early part of the 14th century, about the same number belonging to the 13th century, and none, I think of earlier date.

There was formerly a 14th century bell at Sutton-at-Hone, but this, unfortunately, was recast in 1802.

The date of the bell at Fawkham is 1604. At Ash the oldest date is 1717. At Meopham 1650. At Darenth 1609. At Dartford 1702. The date of the oldest bell in the Parish Church, Gravesend, is 1736.

At Rochester Cathedral there may have been bells in Saxon times, but if so, no record is extant.

It is almost certain that there were bells

there in Gundulf's time, but no trace of them remains.

In 1154 it is recorded that Prior Reginald hung bells in the larger tower. "fecit duas campanas et posuit eas in majori turri."

There are records of later bells, but the oldest now existing is one by John Wilnar, dated 1635.

In Canterbury Cathedral the oldest bell is "Bell Harry," dated 1635. This is said to be a recast of one given by Henry VIII. Its weight is 3 tons. It is tolled only for the Sovereign or the Archbishop. It rings the curfew every evening at 8 p.m.

There were bells in the ancient Campanile, destroyed by earthquake in the 14th century.

Later there were several in the central tower and also in the Arundel.

Among the present peal of ten in the s.w. tower, there is none older than 1726.

Yours very truly,

GERARD W. BANCKS.

EDITOR'S NOTES.

There were large congregations at our morning and evening services on October 14th last, when our harvest thanksgiving was celebrated. The ladies of the congregation had decorated our venerable Church most beautifully. Neighbours had sent their offerings of fruit, vegetables, flowers, and other produce. These good things were taken to Livingstone Hospital, Dartford, in due course by Mrs. Andrus.

* * *

The Choir came in full force in the evening, Mr. Gray rendered a solo effectively and Mr. Worsley, a new resident, sang a beautiful theme in a beautiful way. The Rector preached an admirable sermon in the evening. The collections were for the upkeep of the Churchyard.

In the morning of this happy day, the Boy Scouts came under the leadership of Mr. Oliver Delf and the Girl Guides under Miss Clarke and Miss Edwards.

* * *

I attended the institution and installation of the Venerable Reginald Thomas Talbot, D.D., as dean of the Cathedral Church of Christ and of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Rochester.

* * *

This impressive ceremony took place on September 17th last. Our ancient Mother Church was filled to its utmost capacity. I realized the strength, the dignity, and the power of the Church of England on this occasion. The Lord Bishop in full canonicals, the Archdeacons, the Clergy, the Mayor and Corporation and the police, all took their proper parts.

* * *

The Venerable Archdeacon of Rochester, as Vice-Dean, installed the new dean, using words which are quoted here because of their interest and their antiquity.

"By virtue of this Instrument, we, the Canons of this Cathedral Church, do induct, install and invest you, Reginald Thomas Talbot, D.D., into the real, actual and corporal possession of the Deanery of this Cathedral Church, with all its rights, members and appurtenances, and assign you a place and voice in the Chapter of the said Church according to the tenor and effect of the same."

* * *

After the service was over the worshippers went to the Corn Exchange to meet the new dean. This was a happy, informal function, accompanied as it was by a welcome cup of tea and its pleasing and tasteful garnishments.

I should like to form a reading party for Hartley and district. The scheme would be to read in the houses of the various members according to arrangement. The works to be read should be the classics of France, Germany and Italy in their native languages, and the classics of Greece and Rome in Greek and Latin. The number of the reading party would never be large, but it would be very pleasant even if only two or three could be found to meet together.

* * *

There was a fine rally of the Boy Scouts under Mr. Delf during the past quarter. They met on Mr. Hedley Symon's land and had a great time. I was so sorry that I could not be there.

* * *

Mr. Ernest Harry is to be congratulated on the fine way in which he leads the Hartley Players, whose good work is partly due to their native ability and partly to Mr. Harry's skill as a director and producer.

* * *

Readers will be interested to learn that Mr. J. Wells Thatcher has been appointed to the following offices:—to be a member of the publications Committee of the Rochester Diocesan Society and Board of Finance, to be a member of the Rochester Diocesan Conference, to be Joint Editor with Mr. H. G. Hoey (of Edenbridge) of the new Rochester Diocesan Monthly Notes, a 4 p.p. leaflet which is to be inserted in all Parish Magazines in the Diocese and, finally, he has been accepted as a Diocesan Lay Reader by the Committee of Reference of the Rochester Diocesan Association of Lay Readers.

* * *

When I last saw J.W.T. he was sifting cinders and filling paraffin lamps. I begged him to do his best to sustain the credit of the

ancient parish of Hartley and not to be puffed up with pride. He blushed and said: "I will remember your advice and admonition," then he went on with his job.

* * *

As our Magazine is a quarterly and Rochester Diocesan Notes are to be published monthly, we could arrange to insert the three previous issues of the Notes in each of our numbers as they appear. Or, better still, we could deliver the "Notes" for the two months on which our Magazine does not appear.

* * *

Our Service of Remembrance on Armistice Sunday was held at the War Memorial. The day was fine, there was a great and reverent congregation. The short service was deeply impressive. A report of it will be found in another page. Captain Webster excelled himself in the beauty, aptness and untold labour of his decorations upon our sacred triangle of grass.

* * *

The *Liverpool Echo* and the *Birkenhead News* interviewed our valued friend, Mr. W. H. Chisholm. He is one of the seven survivors of the Yukon gold rush of 1898. The newspapers give thrilling reports of Mr. Chisholm's adventures in the frozen north. He did not go out as a prospector, but to assist in the establishment of a steamship service from the Pacific coast to Dawson City. The *Birkenhead* newspaper publishes a picture of Mr. Chisholm in the bloom of his young manhood—a most handsome young chap!

* * *

This incident will interest you. When the Editor of this admirably conducted journal was quite a youth, he was sent by the Church of England Temperance Society to Addington palace, near Croydon, with a parchment

January.	February.	March.
1st—Circumcision of Our Lord.	2nd—Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary.	3rd—3rd Sunday in Lent.
6th—Epiphany of Our Lord.	3rd—Sexagesima.	10th—4th Sunday in Lent.
13th—1st Sunday after Epiphany.	10th—Quinquagesima.	17th—5th Sunday in Lent.
20th—2nd Sunday after Epiphany.	13th—Ash Wednesday.	24th—6th Sunday in Lent.
25th—Conversion of St. Paul.	17th—1st Sunday in Lent.	25th—Monday before Easter.
27th—Septuagesima.	24th—2nd Sunday in Lent.	26th—Tuesday before Easter.
	25th—St. Matthias, A. & M.	27th—Wednesday before Easter.
		28th—Thursday before Easter.
		29th—Good Friday.
		30th—Easter Eve.
		31st—Easter Day.

petition. It was to pray Queen Victoria to become patron of that Society.

* * *

The document needed only two signatures, those of the Archbishops of York and of Canterbury. York had signed already. A nice clergyman received the lad, took the petition in to the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Tait. Presently, His Grace came out from his study smiling, with the parchment in his hand. "I am sure," he said to the lad, "that Her Majesty will not recognize my signature, for the ink has run on the parchment."

* * *

Young Thatcher had the wit to reply:—"There is no other signature like yours, your Grace, and I am sure the Queen will recognize it." The kindly prelate patted the boy on the shoulder and said to the chaplain: "Take him in and give him a cup of

tea." That chaplain who entertained the youth was none other than the revered Baron Davidson of Lambeth, who was but recently Archbishop of Canterbury.

BAPTISMS.

June 3rd—[REDACTED] of John and Doris Davis.

Sept. 2nd.—Peter John, son of Reginald Arthur and Minnie Crouch.

Dec. 2nd—[REDACTED] of Harry Thomas Jennings and Helen Margaret Clark.

BURIALS.

Oct. 11th—William Sale, aged 69.

Nov. 9th—Peter John Crouch, aged 11 months.

Church Information.

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

Churchwardens—Mr. A. L. Farrow and Mr. J. Wells Thatcher.

CHURCH SERVICES.

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

Doly Communion, 9 a.m., on the 2nd Sunday in each month; at 12 noon on other Sundays which will be duly announced.

Parochial Church Council (elected under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure, 1921).—Council for 1927-8: The Rector (who is Chairman by virtue of his office), Mrs. Eric Green, Mrs. Oldrey, Mrs. F. W. Tate, Mrs. Adams, Miss Sale, Mr. R. Adams, Miss Green (Hon. Secretary, Miss Rodwell, Mr. D. T. R. Gray, Mrs. Alexander, Mr. F. W. Tate, Mr. W. H. Chisholm, Miss Newcomb, Mrs. Balchin, Mrs. Keen, Mr. Eric Green (Hon. Treasurer), Mr. B. Alexander, with the the Churchwardens by virtue of their offices.

Committees—Standing Committee: The Chairman and the Churchwardens. Finance Committee: The Churchwardens, the Treasurer and Miss Green.

Sidesmen—Mr. A. Blackwell, Mr. J. Green, Mr. B. Alexander, Mr. Eric Green, Mr. R. Adams, and Mr. T. R. A. Wakeford.

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

Choirmaster—Mr. W. H. Chisholm.

Choirwarden—Mr. D. T. R. Gray.

Members of the Choir.—Mrs. Balchin, Mrs. Eric Green, Miss Boorman, Mrs. Chisholm, Mrs. T. J. Clark, Mr. C. E. Cuff, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Gray, Miss E. Green, Mrs. Keen, Miss M. Marrington, Miss Newcomb, Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Oldrey, Miss Parkin, Mrs. Symons, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Tate, Mr. Frank Tate, junr., Mr. G. G. Murrington, Mr. and Mrs. Wakeford and Mrs. West.

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Choir Boys.—Frederick Crouch, David H. Gray, John Rose, Ronald Maggs, Jackson.

Diocesan Lay Reader.—Mr. J. Wells Thatcher.

Sunday School at the Church Parochial School.—(Vacant), 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; Mrs. Nickalls, Infant School, Mistress.

School Managers.—The Rector, Mr. J. Green, Capt. Copus, Mr. J. Stuart, Miss Rodwell and Miss Harry.

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

Churchyard Keeper.—Mr. A. Rogers.

Church Cleaner.—Mrs. Hoadley.

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.)

Altar Flowers.

January—Mrs. Walker.

February—Mrs. Eric Green.

March—Mrs. Boulger.

April—Mrs. Isaacs.

May—Mrs. T. J. Clark.

June—Miss Green.

July—Mrs. Elliott.

August—Mrs. Andrus.

September—Mrs. Chisholm.

October—Miss Robertson.

November—Mrs. Ralph Day.

December—Miss Harry.

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ARMISTICE DAY.

A Service of Remembrance, arranged by representatives from various village organisations, was held at the War Memorial, on Sunday, November 11th, and many of our people shared in a simple but sincere tribute to the men of Hartley, whose names are recorded among Britain's Glorious Dead.

Thanks to Captain Webster's care and skill, the War Memorial, with its beautiful floral decorations provided a fitting centre for the ceremony, and the grouping round the Cross of the Rovers, Scouts, Cubs and Girl Guides, with the Troop colours, made a really impressive scene.

The service opened at 10.45, and was conducted by the Rector, with Mr. Wells Thatcher, while Mr. S. H. Ellerby took part on behalf of the Congregational Church. The Musical Society and Parish Church Choir led the singing, with the support of the Hartley and District Band, conducted by Mr. T. Fleetwood Tate, which also contributed opening and closing music.

Just before 11 o'clock the Names were read by Captain Webster. The Scouts and Guides dipped their Colours while relatives of the Fallen placed wreaths at the foot of the Memorial. These were followed by similar tokens laid by representatives of the School children, the Constitutional Association (Miss Barker), the Women's Institute (Mrs. F. Tate), the Co-operative Society (Mr. George Day), and the Village wreath (Miss Newcombe).

The Silence was announced by Big Ben, Commander Morgan having arranged with his friend Commander Millar for a wireless reception of the Westminster chimes, and the conclusion of the Two Minutes was signalled by the "Last Post" call.

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A collection in aid of Earl Haig's Fund for the Disabled realised nine pounds.

An early morning parade of the Scouts and Girl Guides was inspected by Brig.-General Andrus, who made a special point of attending the Hartley service.

[This paragraph would be sadly incomplete if I failed to state that all the details were carefully tested beforehand so that the timing might be exact. Mr. F. W. Tate, Chairman of the Parish Meeting, took great pains and gave much time to make the service worthy of the occasion. His kindly labour was abundantly rewarded.—Ed.]

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.

Great satisfaction is felt by the members of the Women's Institute at the completion

of the cloak rooms and kitchen which have been added to the hall, and which it is hoped will be paid for by the Sale of Work which was opened by Col. J. Waley-Cohen, on Saturday, December 1st. Cookery demonstrations, travel talks and community singing have attracted members in full numbers during the past few months, and for the New Year, a course of seven health lectures is being arranged. New members will be welcomed on the first and third Thursdays in each month.

"HER HUSBAND'S WIFE."

BY THE HARTLEY PLAYERS.

On October 25th, 26th and 27th, The Hartley Players produced "Her Husband's Wife" at the Hartley Constitutional Hall.

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Much speculation had been rife in the village as to whether the hall alterations would be finished and the necessary licence from the Kent County Council obtained in time for the show, but thanks to the energy of Mr. Hedley Symons, a member of the Hall Building Committee, who is also Business Manager and Secretary of the Hartley Players, the licence arrived on the 25th and the show proceeded.

The uncertainty caused a very thin but kind and appreciative audience on the Thursday night, though Friday and Saturday the hall was well filled, as is usual when it is known that these keen amateurs are giving one of their now well-known performances.

The committee were hardly happy in their choice of a play on this occasion, but doubtless their desire to give their audience as much

change as possible, added to the limits of a very small stage, makes their choice of suitable plays a difficult matter.

The plot is thin and borders on the impossible. Irene Randolf, a young wife in the best of health, is convinced she is going to die, and with medicines, powders and other treatment occupies her whole time when she is not worrying over the question of what will happen to Stuart, her husband, when she is gone. Convinced that she must pick out her successor, she elects to ask her old school friend, Emily Ladew, to fill the vacancy in the event of her death and makes her old uncle, John Belden, put the proposition before Emily.

Miss Ladew has recently broken off her engagement, but Irene does not know that the erstwhile fiancé was her brother, Richard Belden.

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Furious at what she considers an insult, Emily, for her own ends, agrees to the plan and proceeds to make marked advances to Stuart, until Irene becomes jealous and tries to frighten her off by tales of the awful brutality of Stuart, who is "as innocent as a babe." The usual complications ensue and between ourselves the play does not end but "fizzles out."

As Irene, we were glad to see a new-comer to the Hartley Players in Miss Joyce Roper. She sustained a long and rather difficult and thankless part with sufficient measure of success to prove that the committee were well advised to try such a young beginner in so big a role. For most of the time she acted well, in places she was excellent and nowhere was she really weak. We hope to see her again, she shows great possibilities.



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As Stuart, Mr. J. O'Brien was distinctly good—his part called for little acting till the third act, where his rendering of the "drunk" scene was clever, restrained and never overdone. How easily it might have been made repulsively vulgar, but in the hands of Mr. O'Brien we could only laugh heartily at a really clever piece of acting.

Mrs. May Symons is always a pleasure to watch, seldom does an actress get a part better suited to her abilities and seldom does an amateur make more of her chances than did Mrs. Symons as Emily Ladew. Her changes from the broken and crushed discarded lover to the furious woman aware for the first time how she has let herself deteriorate and again to the smartly dressed woman who learned her arts in Paris, making violent love to her prospective husband, gave May Symons chances to show what she could do, and of those chances she made the most.

Capt. Hale was given the part of Irene's brother and Emily's late fiancé, Richard Belden.

He gave a clever performance but, in our opinion, he was wasted—we want to see "Bobby" Hale in a part better-suited to his undoubted capabilities. Why is Bobby always the hopeless lover? We hope the Committee will soon try a good straight comedy with Capt. Hale in a "strong" part. We are of opinion that he could "grip" the Hartley audience if given the chance.

The old family servant was ably portrayed by Blanche Curwen. Mrs. Curwen had little to do, but did that little artistically and well. We all know the amateur's idea of a "stage" servant, but Mrs. Curwen "lived" as Norah, and many of the audience wished they could have the chance of engaging "Norah" in their own homes.

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Lastly, as "Hamlet" without The Prince of Denmark, so would "Her Husband's Wife" have been without Uncle John. Dr. H. S. Beadles has only appeared once before for The Hartley Players, but it was evident the moment he made his first entry that he was an experienced amateur.

The author was kind to Uncle John, nearly all the best lines in the play are his, certainly, the greater number of jests, quips and most of the fun fall to his lot and not one point was missed. His performance was a joy to watch from every point of the hall, except the prompt box and even in that direction his experience helped him to tide over one or two very shaky moments.

The generally expressed opinion seems to be "a rather poor and somewhat silly play very well acted."

Our congratulations to all who were responsible, they learn by their faults, and we look

forward to three very full houses when the Hartley Players present "Raffles," The Amateur Cracksman, on December 20th, 21st and 22nd. A "crook" play and a "thriller" is something quite new in Hartley.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING.

On this festival the congregation showed that they can overcome their reluctance to join heartily in the singing of the services, and our venerable rafters rang with the glad sound.

The choir did their duty joyfully and at evensong special music was, as is usual, provided by them. The anthem was "Fear not, O Land, be glad and rejoice," vigorous and appropriate, enhanced by a dignified solo interlude, effectively sung by Mr. Gray. After the Rector's address, Mr. Cyril Worsley sang Mendelssohn's beautiful song from the Oratorio "Elijah," "Then shall the righteous shine as the sun." Mr. Worsley

has not long been a resident in Hartley, and our thanks are due to him for so readily giving us the great pleasure of hearing him. We hope ere long he will again sing for us.

The Choirmaster tells me that the first requisite for good congregational singing is that all should rise when the choir rises, and thus be ready to begin all together.

This is surely a simple matter. Let us try it, and sing with all our energy.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Do You Want to Borrow a Book?

Amplion,
Hartley,
Nov. 28th, 1928.

Dear Mr. Editor,

I am not too sure whether it is generally known that we have a branch of the County Public Library at the Women's Institute, and that books may be borrowed on Tuesday afternoons, from 3.30 to 5.30 by anyone living in the village.

Perhaps you would be good enough to make these facts known through the medium of your valuable little paper.

Yours faithfully,

E. A. TATE,

President, Hartley Women's Institute.

FINAL NOTE. I am getting nervous; this mag. is getting so big! Some matter must be held over until next issue. When you are sending this number by post, be sure to put the right stamp on; it may cost a penny. It's worth it!—Ed.

GRAVESEND DISTRICT SCOUT ASSOCIATION CAMP. SCOUTS' OWN SERVICE.

By kind permission of Mr. Hedley Symons held in his grounds at Hartley, on the second Sunday in September.

The service was conducted by Scout Master Pickering, of Gravesend.

After the Scout Law was read by Scout Mitchell, of Longfield, the service was opened by Scout Master Delf with prayer.

The lesson was read by Captain Hales, of

Longfield, and the address was given by the Rev. C. A. Montgomery, Scout Master, 1st Northfleet.

The hymns were heartily sung by the boys, and the large gathering of visitors, and were splendidly lead by the Hartley Village Band, under the direction of Mr. T. F. Tate.

BAND CONCERT.

The Constitutional Hall was filled to its utmost capacity on November 29th, when the Hartley and District Band gave a miscellaneous concert consisting of instrumental music, songs and recitations. The playing of the Band showed that continued progress is being made, and all their items were well received. Miss Marjorie Tate, contralto, contributed some songs, and received hearty applause. Mr. Cyril Worsley also sang several solos in various styles, and his excellent tenor voice did full justice to them. He also collaborated with Mr. W. H. Chisholm in a humorous duet, which was much enjoyed. Hearty laughter was also accorded to the humorous songs presented by Mr. Keith Wood, whose versatility was shown in an impressive rendering of a dramatic monologue. Mrs. Lulu Green was a popular favourite as usual in some of her characteristic recitations.

Mr. Roy Chisholm, L.R.A.M., was the capable accompanist, and the whole concert was given under the direction of Mr. T. F. Tate, the enthusiastic Bandmaster. Mr. J. Wells Thatcher acted as announcer in his usual genial manner, and contributed a few well-chosen remarks during the interval. The concert was a complete success from every point of view, upon which all concerned are to be heartily congratulated, and we shall look forward to other similar entertainments from the Band in the near future.

ROCHESTER DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION OF LAY READERS.

The winter service of admission and conference was held at the Cathedral on

December 8th last. The Editor of this Magazine was admitted as a Diocesan Lay Reader by the Lord Bishop and received his new licence. The service in the Lady Chapel was most impressive and affecting.

Our rural dean, Revd. F. J. Everett, M.A., presented the candidates on behalf of the Warden, the Venerable the Archdeacon of Rochester. Mr. Wells Thatcher was chosen to read the lesson. The sermon was preached by the Revd. Canon J. O. F. Murray, D.D., late Master of Selwyn College, Cambridge.

A conference followed in the Chapter Room, at which the Bishop presided. The minutes were read by Mr. Henry W. Young, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer. Dr. Murray addressed the readers. This address and his sermon will ever be remembered by us. He has a beautiful personality and he is filled with the Spirit.

Evensong in the Cathedral followed, the Dean read one of the lessons. The Lay Readers made a brave show in the stalls; the Mayor of Rochester, who is also a lay reader, sat in the first stall. Afterwards, we all went to tea at the Archdeaconry where the much esteemed Archdeacon, our Warden, and his daughter entertained us. Finally, I was taken home to my very door by Mr. A. M. Fleet, of Darenth Grange. I told him it was his final good deed for the day.—(Ed.)

CAROL SERVICE.

On Sunday evening, December 30th, the usual Carol Service will be held in the Parish Church at 6.30.

Miss Dorothy Webster, whose magnificent voice has been heard before in our Church, has kindly consented to come again, and Mr. Cyril Worsley will also sing.

The old carols, in which all can join, will be included in the service, and as the moon will be at the full, we expect the Church to be crowded to the doors. May our old rafters stand the strain(s)!

HARTLEY MUSICAL SOCIETY.

The first concert of the season was given in the Women's Institute Hall on Thursday, December 6th.

The choral work rendered was "The Death of Minnehaha" (Coleridge Taylor), with Miss Mildred Hankins and Mr. Leslie Holmes in the solo parts. The cantata was preceded by an overture for piano and organ from "Hiawatha's Wedding Feast," played by Mrs. Oldrey and Mr. Roy Chisholm, and the song of Chibiabos, "Onaway, Awake," splendidly sung by Mr. Cyril Worsley.

The cantata itself, a beautiful and dramatic composition, was sung with considerable effect by the members, and any minor defects were more than compensated by the artistic singing of the soloists, Miss Hankins and Mr. Holmes.

The second part of the programme was principally devoted to a song recital by Miss Hankins and Messrs. Worsley and Holmes, and rarely before has Hartley been favoured with the presence of such fine artistes. The large audience was not slow to express its appreciation.

We must not omit to tender hearty thanks to Mr. Worsley, not only for his own singing, but also for the kindly interest which led him to bring his friend, Leslie Holmes, a very notable baritone, from his London engagements, to delight us with his beautiful singing.

It is hoped to give another concert in February.

[Mr. W. H. Chisholm, the able conductor of the Hartley Musical Society, is to be heartily congratulated on the zealous and intelligent support which he receives from the members individually.—Ed.]

The Rector, Churchwardens, Members of the Parochial Church Council and the Editor wish a Happy Christmas and a Joyful New Year to all their neighbours in Hartley and to all their readers in distant parts of England, to those readers in distant parts of the British Empire and in Foreign Lands.

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