

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

(Published Quarterly.)

EDITED BY J. WELLS THATCHER.



*St. Margaret's Church, Ifield.*

THE RECTOR'S LETTER.

SCRATCH CLOCKS.

MY DEAR PARISHIONERS,

There is a stone on the south wall of our church which is a little different from the others.

On close inspection it will be seen to have a small hole in the centre from which a few incised lines radiate to the outer edge.

It is perhaps seven or eight hundred years since those lines were cut and the hole drilled, and so, as we might expect, the face is weather-worn, and the lines are indistinct. There is so little now to attract attention, that it might easily be overlooked.

And yet there is no doubt that once upon a time, that little stone was time-keeper to

the whole village, and was looked upon with a certain amount of reverence if not with awe.

In the early Medieval age before the coming of clocks and watches, in many a village the time guide was the church bell, and that was regulated by the sundial on the south wall of the church.

Our dial, or all that remains of it, is in the corner of the nave wall, facing the south, and almost on a level with the floor of the porch.

It was not so near the ground when the church was built. At that time the outside ground level was three or four feet lower than at present. We now go down five steps into the church.

It is this heaping up that has necessitated the digging of the trench round the church to prevent the walls from getting damp.

These primitive dials are called "Scratch" or "Mass" clocks. The former designation referring to the rude incisions on the stone, the latter to their use in notifying the hour of mass, or other church service.

They cannot have been accurate time keepers for the pointers seem usually to have been fixed at right-angles to the wall, out of line with the axis of the earth, and with no account taken of the local latitude, or of the equation of time.

It is possible that some of them may have been provided with movable hands to be set by a visiting priest when there was no resident one, to indicate the hour of Mass on the following Sunday.

It is a curious fact, and often considered something of a problem that they are sometimes found on other walls than the south, and in positions in which the sun would never reach them.

But in such cases there is little doubt that they are stones used in restoration after the old church has fallen into ruins. They are sometimes in fact, found built into walls of houses or other buildings erected near the site of an old and demolished church.

There are, no doubt, many of these scratch clocks still remaining on the walls of old churches which have escaped recognition.

This may easily be so. The stone will almost certainly be weather-worn. It may be covered with lichen, or hidden by ivy. It may even be filled in with cement or plaster.

But it is a matter of real interest that they should be found, and recorded. They are

reminiscent of the village life in the olden days. They have their historic value as relics of early mediaval times, and although now slowly mouldering away, unnoticed and forgotten, there was a time when they played no small part in the social and religious life of the village.

Perhaps, by the way, these stones have another message for us. In the old days when the little pointer marked the time of service, all the village came to church. Now, though the bell still calls, and there are clocks and watches galore in every house, the hour of public worship is often forgotten or ignored.

Yours very truly,

GERARD W. BANCKS.

ST. MARGARET'S, IFIELD.

BY REV. K. M. FINCH, RECTOR.

I wonder how many people at Hartley know S. Margaret's, Ifield? As the crow flies it is only just three miles from your own church, but being off the beaten track of those going to Rochester or to Gravesend it is little known to many who live not far from it.

Perhaps the chief interest that the church has is its diminutive size, it measures roughly on the outside 48ft. 6in. by 19ft., and on the inside 42ft. by 14ft., and from the ground to the top of the bell turret is 34ft.

Its history has a certain interest of its own, there is no mention either of Parish or Church of Ifield in Domesday book, which was completed in 1086, but about 140 years later, in 1227, there appears the following quaint record among the Kent Assizes at Canterbury:

"Adam, clerk of Ifield, and Jordan his servant, and Hugh Genitas, were attached for the death of a certain priest, and of a certain clerk, who were found slain in the Hundred of Acstan, by Winefeild, and Jordan does not come, and he has been hailed in the borough of Chalke, and they did not have him and therefor they are in mercy, and Hugh comes and places himself on the country, and the xij jurors, and the four

villays, Mepeham, Gravesend, Melston, and Nutstede, say that they do not suspect him, and therefore let him be at liberty, and they say the same of Jordan.

"And Adam comes and says that he is a clerk, and the Clerks of the Lord Archbishop seek for him a court Christian, and it is certified that he has a wife and a lay fee, and he admits this, and says that he does not wish to stand right in the lay court, and therefore let his lay fee and his goods be taken into the king's hands. And afterwards Adam comes and renounces his privilege of Clerkship, and places himself on the country, that is on the Hundred of Shameles, and let him be committed to Stephen of Cusington for custody, and the jury of the two Hundreds, and all say positively that he is not guilty and therefore he is quit thereof."

There are other notices of Ifield among the Assize records besides this all having something to do with highway robbery or murder, indeed the Rector himself was murdered in 1352, but this is the earliest I know of, and it reveals to us that by 1227 there was a resident parson here, and helps us, I think, to see what may be the reason why the little church was built. Those who know it, know also that it lies only a few hundred yards to the south of Watling Street, the oldest road in the country and along which all the commerce of the south-eastern coast has been carried to London ever since the days of the Roman occupation.

On December 29th, 1170, Thomas á Becket was murdered in Canterbury Cathedral, and in 1220 his bones were translated into the famous shrine which became the resort of thousands of pilgrims up till Reformation times, and during those years through Ifield a constant stream of these pilgrims passed to and fro, side by side with the stream of commerce. It seems then that in 1220 or thereabouts the little church of S. Margaret's was built perhaps by the pilgrims themselves, for Mass to be celebrated for them, after sleeping in the woods which then bordered the "street," and before setting out once more on their journey, the Parson being supported probably on such alms as they could give, and from that time 1227 we have a list of all the Rectors right up to to-day.

Such I picture to be the foundation of our church, a rude structure of heaped up flints and chalk, its corners being supported with partly hewn lumps of Kentish rag and held together with the poorest of mortar, and such are the walls to-day though there is now a plaster over them on the inside, and the flints are hidden on the outside with a covering of stucco with which they were encased perhaps sixty or seventy years ago with the idea of keeping out the damp.

I say it was a rude building, no wonder in 1596 it needed repair which I think means shoring up the south wall, that gets all the weather, and this repair, together probably with more, was carried out mainly at the expense of two men, Mr. Nicholas Child, Lord of the Manor, who is buried in front of the sanctuary and Mr. Richard Parker, who was then churchwarden, and they were probably assisted by Sir John Gerrard or Garrard, who lived close by at Ifield Court in the parish of Northfleet, and who became Lord Mayor of London in 1601, for Hasted tells us that at one time his coat of arms adorned the east window in the church.

Once or twice again in its history the church has needed restoration or renewal, at some time a gallery was built at the west end, a little vestry built on the north side, oak altar rails put in and a three decker erected; later on again the pulpit of the three decker was taken down and placed on the north side of the church opposite the reading desk on the south, and below this latter the old clerk's seat is still to be seen.

Later on again, an organ was erected in the gallery and a new window put in at the west end, and last but not least about two years ago the stained deal altar was replaced by a beautiful one carved in English oak from the design of Sir Herbert Baker and executed by the Preston Hall Colony for Consumptive men.

There is not much of interest to look at in the church, but behind the reading desk can be seen on the outside the remains of an ancient low window used for giving light, and for the ringing of the sacring bell, and in the north wall is a curious alcove in the form of an arch, which is said to have been cut in the thickness of the wall, to give the

priests right arm room to consecrate as he officiated at a small side altar which at one time stood there.

The seats too are curious, all having doors on old fashioned hinges and there still may be seen at the end of each seat the holes in which sockets were screwed to take the candles when that was the only way of lighting.

There are one or two brasses, but these are very simple, and there is a stone commemorative of Rev. George Lauder, Rector, 1707 to 1720, who after meeting with some misfortune in Scotland where he was ordained

walked all the way from there with his two daughters to Ifield and Nurstead, where he was presented with the living of the two parishes which were in his day and before that were held by one Rector. It was in his time, 1719, that Harris wrote his history of Kent in which he tells how the bell of Ifield church is said to ring of its own accord when a parishioner or person of note in the neighbourhood is about to die. It is said that this was last heard as recently as 1912, but I will conclude with Harris' own comment "I suppose the ringing is only in their heads and not in the steeple."

April.	May.	June.
3rd—Good Friday.	1st—St. Philip & St. James, App. & Ann.	7th—1st Sunday after Trinity.
5th—Easter Day.	3rd—4th Sunday after Easter.	11th—St. Barnabas, Ap. & M.
6th—Monday in Easter Week.	10th—5th Sunday after Easter.	14th—2nd Sunday after Trinity.
7th—Tuesday in Easter Week.	14th—Ascension Day.	21st—3rd Sunday after Trinity.
12th—1st Sunday after Easter.	17th—Sunday after Ascension.	24th—St. John Baptist.
19th—2nd Sunday after Easter.	24th—Whitsunday.	28th—4th Sunday after Trinity.
25th—St. Mark, E. & M.	25th—Monday in Whitsun Week.	29th—St. Peter, Ap. & M.
26th—3rd Sunday after Easter.	26th—Tuesday in Whitsun Week.	
	31st—Trinity Sunday.	

#### EDITOR'S NOTES.

How splendidly our friends have answered our cry for help! Their gifts have nearly wiped out the debt upon this most excellent Parish Magazine. The following sent gifts to my friend, Mr. Chisholm: the Dean of Rochester, Mr. Hickmott, our Rector, Mr. F. Wise, Hartley Congregational Church and Sunday School, Mr. Edward, Jr., Mr. H. Allen, Mr. Edwin J. King (patron of the living), Mr. W. H. Taylor and Mr. and Mrs. Wells Thatcher. Thank you everybody.

\* \* \*

We are now going to reduce the size of this periodical to twelve pages, if possible, so as to try and live within our means. That being so, the reading matter will be curtailed and much readable material must be left out.

All those of our neighbours who knew Mr. and Mrs. McAllister when they lived in our parish, will share with me in this expression of deep regret and sympathy at the loss of their dear daughter Molly. She was just growing up to be a friend and companion to her parents and her brothers when she was suddenly called by the Great Angel. The gates of life had hardly opened for her passage when the Everlasting Doors were swung wide for her to enter in.

\* \* \*

I have received the Year Book of the Anglo-American Club Union of Czechoslovakia, 1930. A wonderful compilation printed in English and admirably illustrated. Thank you, Mr. H. C. Doggett, for sending it. We all remember your capital talk in Hartley.

My friend, Mr. Watson, informs me that a Sports Ground has been secured for the parish. The land is at the back of the Constitutional Club, and will be of great benefit to the constitutions of all who play thereon. When they make a bowling green I hope to be found with the wood.

\* \* \*

I wrote to our esteemed printers asking for advice as to producing this magazine at less cost. The reply of Mr. E. W. Snowden charmed me so much that I reproduce part of it: "I have been looking through some copies of your magazine to see where cost could be saved. I found the contents generally so interesting that I almost forgot my task. . . The style and size of the magazine is, I believe, unique among localities with populations similar to that of Hartley, most of which seldom have more than two pages of information."

\* \* \*

I congratulate Mr. Walter Wright, of Longfield, upon the work he is doing as Hon. Secretary of the Longfield & District Cottage Gardeners' Association. The Balance Sheet for the past year is eloquent of wise expenditure and good management. Go on your blooming way, my dear friend, and make all good things sprout, not to say Brussels sprout!

\* \* \*

I want everybody interested in cricket to send a donation to Mr. H. W. Balchin, Hon. Secretary of the Hartley Cricket Club. The annual report makes excellent reading and there is a small balance in hand. Mr. George Day, J.P., has earned the gratitude of the members by allowing them the use of his ground free of cost.

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We were all much touched by the gift of the Sunday School children of Hartley Congregational Church. The money they collected by carol singing they gave to help to clear off the debt upon this magazine, which is such a powerful exponent of the mind of the parish that the Editor of the *Daily Mail* tells me that he is getting quite nervous lest our circulation should be greater than his!

\* \* \*

#### BAPTISMS.

Jan. 11th.—Muriel Eve, daughter of Frederick and Florence Giles.

Feb. 15th.—Ronald James, son of Ernest Richard and Henrietta Lilian Hoadley.

#### BURIAL.

March 7th.—Andrew John Smith, aged 71.

#### Church Information.

*The Lord Bishop*—THE RIGHT REV. MARTIN LINTON SMITH, D.D., D.S.O. *Archdeacons*—THE VEN. DONALD TAIT, M.A., Archdeacon of Rochester; THE VEN. LEONARD SAVILL, M.A., Archdeacon of Tonbridge. *Dean of the Cathedral*—THE VERY REV. REGINALD THOMAS TALBOT, D.D. *Rector*—REV. CHARLES GERARD WINSTANLEY BANCKS, M.A., appointed 1902. *Churchwardens*—Mr. F. W. Tate and Mr. J. Wells Thatcher.

#### CHURCH SERVICES.

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

**Holy Communion**, 8 a.m., on the 2nd Sunday in each month; at 12 noon on other Sundays.

*Parochial Church Council* (elected under the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure, 1921).—Council for 1929-30: 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, Mrs. Alexander, Mr. F. W. Tate,

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Mr. W. H. Chisholm, Mrs. Balchin, Mrs. Keen, Mr. Eric Green (Hon. Treasurer), Mr. B. Alexander, Mrs. Gray, Mrs. Chisholm, Mr. and Mrs. Ball, Mr. Marrington, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Day, with the Churchwardens by virtue of their offices. *Representatives on the Ruri-Decanal Conference*—Mrs. Balchin and Mrs. Keen. *Representatives at the Annual Diocesan Conference*—Miss Green and Mrs. Oldrey. *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. R. Adams, Mr. L. Harris. *Organist and Choirmaster*—Mr. W. H. Chisholm. *Members of the Choir*—Mrs. Balchin, Mrs. Eric Green, Mrs. Chisholm, Mrs. T. J. Clark, Miss E. Green, Mrs. Keen, Miss Chisholm, Miss E. Parker, Mr. G. F. Oldrey, Mrs. Oldrey, Mrs. Symons, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Tate, Mr. Frank Tate, junr., Mr. G. G. Marrington, Miss V. W. Emmott. *Diocesan Lay Reader (Retired)*—Mr. J. Wells Thatcher.

*Sunday School* at the Church Parochial School—Teachers: Mrs. Gray, Mrs. Adams and Miss Alexander. Time: 3 p.m. to 3.45 p.m. *Church Parochial School*—Miss Fiddis, Headmistress; Mrs. Nickalls, Infant School Mistress; Miss Vera W. Emmott, Assistant Mistress. *School Managers*—The Rector, Mr. J. Green, Mrs. Balchin, Miss Rodwell, Miss Harry and Mrs. Reilly.

*Bell Ringer and Organ Blower*—Mr. A. Rogers. *Churchyard Keeper*—Mr. A. Rogers. *Church Cleaner*—Mr. S. Hoadley. *Sexton and 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.)

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*July*—Mrs. Elliott.  
*August*—Mrs. Andrus.  
*September*—Mrs. Chisholm.  
*October*—Miss Robertson.  
*November*—Mrs. Ralph Day.  
*December*—Mrs. Eric Green.

**FIRE !**

Dear Mr. Editor,—Here is a memo. for your magazine :

*Every Man His Own Fire Brigade.*—Haswell (Durham) Parish Council are placing fire extinguishers on lamp-posts so that people whose houses catch alight may take one from the nearest lamp-post and put out their own fire.

What Hartley does to-day : Haswell does tomorrow !

Kind regards, A. E. EDWARD.

Hartley.

**HARTLEY CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH NOTES.**

The Congregational Union of England and Wales attains this year its Centenary. An appeal from the Union, to all Congregational Churches to celebrate this event by some extra evangelical work, has been debated in our Councils.

We propose to start a week night Devotional Meeting in the Institute Hall commencing Friday, February 27th at, 8 p.m. Any support to this effort will be most gladly received.

The New Year's message was given by the Rev. M. Williams, M.A., on Sunday, January 4th. In Nature, the old and outworn died, to give place to the new and beautiful ; really a dying into life.

1930 had been overshadowed by the effects of wrong human thought and action, but its failures and disappointments might well be a dying into life. Better ways and better thoughts would bring happier times.

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Seventy guests attended the New Year's Party on January 5th.

Commander J. P. Ratcliff as M.C. carried things along in "the way they have in the Navy," a somewhat boisterous procedure. It was noticed that the grown-up young people became children again, and the old folks — like Swedenborg's angels — grew younger and more beautiful as time went on. Miss M. Pinkstone, as a Spanish dancer, won the prize for the best fancy dress. The refreshments were ample, and well served by Mrs. G. Lynton and her staff.

December 14th, 1930, marked the 4th birthday of the church, and a visit from the Rev. F. H. Wheeler, D.S.O., overseer of 420 churches in Kent, Sussex, Surrey and Hampshire. The kindly Bishop speaking on Paul's dictum "I have kept the faith," said, true happiness and success depended on keeping the light of faith clean-shining. Easy with youthful enthusiasm, difficult at middle-age. The finest achievement in life was that of the old man or woman who has "kept the faith" to the end.

He commended our effort to build a little house by the wayside, to shield and nourish "the light of faith," to guide spiritual way-farers yet to come by way of Hartley.

The Second Sale of Work in aid of the Building Fund on December 6th, 1930, was a delightful experience. A number of cars brought a jolly company from Penge Congregational Church, intent on giving the most generous help.

Mrs. A. E. Feaver, the opener, expressed very graciously her interest in the objects of the Sale. Mr. A. E. Feaver announced that the Penge Church were sending £10 to the Hartley Church Fund, and he knew a friend (?) who would give a further £35. "You have already," he said, "the price of the roof of the building, so there's your floor; now stand on it and go forward with the work."

The Sale realised, with sums promised, £120.

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New Term commences Tuesday, 21st April.

*Prospectus on application to Miss Bonsall.*

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Subscriptions for this Magazine  
to be sent to the Hon. Treasurer,

Mr. W. H. Chisholm,  
"Restharrow," Church Road,  
Hartley, Longfield, Kent,

Or to the Hon. Secretary,

Mr. R. Adams,  
"Conroi," Church Road,  
Hartley, Longfield, Kent.

*Advertisers will also send the copy for their  
Advertisements to either of the above, together with  
payment for same when payment is made.*

We are deeply grateful to the Rev. and Mrs. E. J. Barson, and all Penge friends for their presence and support.

Our good fortune is in having so many friends. On Saturday, Jan. 31st, for the fourth time, the Concert Party from Emmanuel Church, Dulwich, provided a most enjoyable musical and dramatic programme. The audience of nearly 100 showed every appreciation of the talents of the artistes. Our visitors appeared to enjoy the performance as much as the audience, and most kindly responded to an encore for nearly every item.

Many thanks to Mr. and Mrs. G. Vincent for organising the Concert, and to our sub-Committee, Mr. and Mrs. T. Tate and Mr. C. Sizmur.

The Church Building Fund benefitted by the net profit of £3 18s. 9d.

We note with pleasure that Mr. Duncan Macdonald and Miss Lily Gilham have joined the teaching staff of the Sunday School.

We regret that after 4 years of valuable service, Mr. F. Wise has resigned the position of Treasurer.

Mr. F. Parkin succeeds to the Church Treasury with all our best wishes.

Notices tend to increase, and we beg the kind indulgence this quarter of our always considerate Editor.

S. H. ELLERBY,  
(Hon. Sec. H.C.C.)

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#### THE FOURTH WALL.

In presenting "The Fourth Wall" by A. A. Milne on March 12th, 13th and 14th, the Hartley Players gave us a more tense three hours than they usually provide. The murder is done on the stage in the second scene, so the audience know all about it from the beginning, but it is yet thrilling to be in at the police interrogation and see how the murderers prove an alibi and how even the clever young sergeant from town who shows intelligence and powers of deduction arrives at a wrong conclusion because he did not think of assuming two murderers. The excitement goes on when the ward and the nephew of the murdered man meet at the scene of the crime at midnight, and out of their conviction that suicide was inconceivable for "Arthur," search and reconstruct until they get at the truth.

Mary Beadles and Oliver Beadles had the whole of this scene to themselves and the memory work it must have involved was considerable. They managed it very creditably as was perhaps best attested by the apprehension at once aroused when the door swung quietly open and one feared their conversation had been overheard. Yet the scene did lack some poignancy and tenseness: they were trying to keep calm, of course, but the discoveries were momentous to them and the girl's partial collapse in the middle and fears at the end showed that it was being a strain.

O. Beadles all through missed by a shade giving the impression of a breezy, unlitery, ordinary good fellow with a fund of common sense and loyalty that could be drawn upon. He was moreover so much the undemonstrative brother to the girl he is supposed to be going to marry that one hardly needed to look in the programme for similarity of surname. Whether a girl whose only experience is the reading of detective stories could really have carried out such a good piece of detective work is beside the point here, but it makes it difficult to judge of the acting of Act III. Susan Cunningham's demeanour seems ludicrously calm until we discover that she has friends outside and inside the room, knows that the revolver is unloaded and the evidence she surrenders a dummy. However, one would think Mr. Carter would suspect quite such poise in the circumstances, and whatever forethought and accumen she may have had, it would surely be alarming for a girl to find herself tête à tête with a murderer she knows to be desperate, and so more tension might have been expected.

Ernest Harry, as well as producing, had the long part of Mr. Carter to play and it suited him admirably in the deliberation of manner it postulated. His accomplice, Laverish (J. C. Boulger), was quite another type. He and his beard and field glasses were alien and distrusted on sight,



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Following their usual custom the Band toured the district during the Christmas season and played an excellent selection of music appropriate to the occasion. Their efforts were evidently appreciated, for they managed to collect the substantial sum of £6 6s. 10d., which was added to the Band funds.

On January 22nd the Band held an invitation concert to which the relatives and friends of the Band members were invited, and the Women's Institute Hall was filled with a large and appreciative audience. Space will not allow of detailed mention of the various items in the programme, but it may be stated that amongst those who contributed to a thoroughly enjoyable concert were: Mrs. Balchin, Mrs. H. M. Clark, Mrs. Jarrett, Mrs. Shambrook, Mr. S. Hooper, Mr. G. F. Oldrey, Mr. W. Pearce and Mr. Fred. Shambrook. The President of the Band, Brig.-General T. A. Andrus, C.M.G., was present and complimented the Band upon their playing, and congratulated the conductor, Mr. T. F. Tate, upon the results of his work.

Another concert was given by the Band, also in the Women's Institute Hall, on Thursday, March 5th, the artistes on this occasion being Miss Norah Day, Miss Elsie Morris, Mr. Claude Bahr, Mr. W. Pearce and Mr. and Mrs. Shepperson. The Band also contributed several numbers. The Hall

was filled to its utmost capacity and the audience showed their appreciation of the various items by demanding numerous encores. At the conclusion, the conductor moved a hearty vote of thanks to the artistes, and also to Mrs. Shambrook who kindly undertook the refreshments, and this was carried with acclamation. It should be noted that the Band have recently acquired a new set of uniforms and these were worn for the first time at this concert.

A special class for recruits to the Band has recently been started under Mr. W. G. Benson and about a dozen lads are meeting twice weekly and receiving excellent tuition. Good progress is being made and we shall expect to see some of these lads taking their place in the Band before very long.

Arrangements are in hand for the Band to give a concert at Ash before the end of March, and also for a dance at Longfield early in April.

**WHIST DRIVE.**

To meet the urgent need for additional funds, the Parochial Council are arranging a few social events, the first of which took the form of a whist drive in the Women's Institute Hall on 14th February. Thanks to generous givers of prizes and refreshments, and to enthusiastic work by other helpers, the useful sum of £8 was raised. We had the further pleasure of seeing 80 people gathered with the Rector in most friendly fashion and this alone made the affair well worth while.

The Council is indebted to Mr. F. W. Tate for his enthusiastic and well directed labours upon this function.

## HARTLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.

"To unite in promoting any work which makes for the betterment of our home, the advancement of our people and the good of our country."

An excellent programme has been arranged for 1931 by the Committee of the Women's Institution. Demonstrations on rug-making, cookery (bread and hot cross buns) and cross-stitch embroidery, a musical afternoon, talk on Life in S. Africa, and a garden tea are among the many attractions which will be enjoyed by the members. Meetings are held in the Institute on the first Thursday in each month at 3 p.m. promptly, and the subscription 2s. yearly. New members will be very welcome.

On every third Thursday members meet for music and to make garments for the Gravesend Hospital (Children's Ward).

Whist drives are held in the Institute on alternate Saturdays at 8 p.m., the proceeds of these drives being devoted to charity. For the second year in succession £30 was raised for the British Empire Cancer Campaign Fund.

A whist drive is arranged annually in aid of St. Dunstan's, to be held this year on March 21st.

The Editor wishes to dispose of some good furniture. Slight repairs are needed in some cases. The items are: washstand, dressing table, chest of drawers, all these are mahogany, and other goods. This is a great bargain to anyone needing such articles.—  
[Advt.]

The Treasurer has for disposal Copies of the last six months of the Magazine, containing the very interesting historical account of Neighbouring Churches.

The Set can be purchased for 1/9 (post free).

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