

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

(Published Quarterly.)

EDITED BY J. WELLS THATCHER.



*All Saints', Hartley (Interior).*

THE REV. T. PEARMAN-STEVENS'  
 LETTER.

Forge Cottage,  
 Hartley, Longfield.

May 22nd, 1934.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

It is the wish of the Editor that I should "say a few words" to you in the June quarterly issue of your Magazine, and I am very glad to respond.

It seems difficult, indeed, to realize that I only came to do what I could for you as lately as Sunday March 4th, and now Easter, Ascension Day, and Whitsun lie behind.

Coming as I did to you after the commencement of the Lenten season, it was

not possible to arrange for a consecutive course of addresses (as one would, normally, have wished to), but there was quite a nice little congregation on Good Friday for Morning Prayer and Address. And the attendance at all the services on Easter Day was distinctly good.

Ascension Day is apt to be regarded as a "field day" for the children of our Church Day Schools—and they certainly mustered strongly for Morning Prayer and Address at 11 a.m. But we were pleased to see several of the members of our regular congregation both then and at the celebration of Holy Communion at 8 a.m.

Whit Sunday produced a specially good congregation at the 11 a.m. service of Morning Prayer and Sermon, and there were fresh faces also at the Evening Service,

but the attendance at the 8 a.m. celebration of Holy Communion was a little disappointing when one remembers the significance of the Whitsun season—it could scarcely be said that we were “all with one accord in one place.” But looking (as I have done) at last year's figures, it would appear that poor numbers at Holy Communion at Whitsun is inclined to be a Hartley tradition; if so, it must, as speedily as possible, be upset.

Taking the services of our ordinary Sundays, the monthly 8 a.m. celebration of Holy Communion has never failed to find communicants—often in quite good numbers—rather against what I had been led to expect. And if this service were presently to find a place in the programme for every Sunday, I think there are quite a number of younger people who would gladly respond. The numbers at the services of Morning and Evening Prayer are gradually improving—anyway, in the sense that if some regular member of the congregation is absent for some reason, there always seems to be a fresh face in his (or her) place.

An enormously important bit of work is being done by Mrs. Cuff (and her helper) in the Sunday School. The children are getting the benefit of all her ripe experience as a trained teacher, and they sing their hymns with an enthusiasm which would put new heart into some of our older folk (if they could hear them) who are inclined to be pessimistic about the future of religion in this country when they themselves shall have gone. One only hopes that Mrs. Cuff will somehow find it possible to continue this sacrifice of her Sunday leisure—not in order that the parish priest may have “forty winks” between his morning and evening services, but that he may be enabled to use that most invaluable afternoon opportunity for confirmation class work.

And that takes me naturally to my last thought to-day. Far too many people “who profess and call themselves” members of the Church of England have never been confirmed, and are losing, therefore, all that Holy Communion can so especially

give. May I appeal to them to re-consider their position—and let me tell them that no parish priest would refuse to prepare privately for confirmation anyone who might (not unnaturally) feel self-conscious in attending a class with younger folk.

People tell me sometimes that they can find no definite scientific evidence of the survival of personality, and that their attempts to get into touch with their departed loved ones, by methods which the Church refuses to countenance, only leave them far from satisfied that they have achieved that end. To them let me, in all earnestness, say this: “If you were confirmed, you would (I hope) come naturally to Holy Communion; and there in that service, where our Lord has told us that He is so very specially present, you would become one with Him and with your departed loved ones in what, in the Apostles creed, we say we believe in—“the communion of saints” (“the union of the living and departed in Christ,” as we learnt in our catechism at school).

Yours in all sincerity,

TOM PEARMAN-STEVENS

(In charge of “All Saints”).

#### EDITOR'S NOTES.

Our clergyman-in-charge, the Rev. T. Pearman-Stevens, M.A., is working hard and successfully in the Church and parish, and has been doing so since the first week of March last. He visits regularly, preaches with earnestness and sympathy, and takes a real interest in the social life of our village. He is keen on cricket and has put in an appearance at various local functions, where he has received a warm welcome.

\* \* \*

A full report upon the Rectory and glebe land has been sent to Queen Anne's Bounty. It is hoped that a purchaser will be found for this valuable and most desirable property.

\* \* \*

Our late Rector was deeply interested in the possibility of wall painting underneath the plaster of the chancel walls of All

Saints. Mrs. Eric Green, daughter of our late esteemed Rector, has started a fund with a donation of £20 for an expert to examine and report. It was felt that this might be a suitable memorial to her beloved father. A sub-committee is dealing with the matter. But as the state of the frescoes is unknown, it was decided that the expert

We are again indebted to Mr. W. H. Chisholm for a short paragraph and a deeply interesting picture of Venice from the air. I envy Mr. Chisholm, who visits all the capitals of Europe and goes to the United States of America as well. But, alas! I have not the strength to follow him, except in spirit.



*Our late Rector and his Grandson.*

should carry out a week's work before any further steps are taken.

\* \* \*

The Revd. G. W. Bancks left £100 in his will to be used for the benefit of the parish at the discretion of the Parochial Church Council. Our Treasurer has received the money.

At the request of Rev. T. Pearman-Stevens, I received a party of eighty girls from the Dartford County School on May 4th last. I asked the mistress in charge to let me have a report from the girls. Three reports have come to hand; they are delightful. I have printed them for you to read. Notice the age of the writers and then say to yourselves: "These children are being well and carefully educated."

I congratulate Miss Fiddis on her admirable report of our Church Day School. The figures are eloquent, so are the facts. I do hope that Miss Fiddis may be able to start an Old Pupils' Association. It is so good for those who have gone out into the world to keep in touch with their old School. Miss Fiddis has had a long innings and has made a fine score. The School and the children are very dear to her. As the years go by the children who have gone forth will remember their Head Mistress with affection and respect.

\* \* \*

I trust that some lady or gentleman will come forward and offer to relieve Mrs. Cuff if at any time she cannot take the Sunday School. Mrs. Cuff is to be congratulated on her work for the young.

\* \* \*

The report of the Parish Meeting makes excellent reading, but the last paragraph makes me sad. Captain Webster's work for our War Memorial will be a standing memorial to him. I do hope that some good soldier will be found to carry on the the work which Captain Webster began and carried on from the beginning.

\* \* \*

Here let me say how much I admire the hard and capable work of my colleague, Mr. E. J. Cuff. His days are quite filled up by his duties as sequestrator, churchwarden, and chairman of the Parish Meeting. I marvel that men and women can be found everywhere to work strenuously and for love for the religious and social causes in their midst.

\* \* \*

If by chance any lady cannot attend to the Altar flowers when her turn comes to perform the office, will she communicate with Miss Green, Brick End, in good time?

\* \* \*

I am sure that you will all be glad to have and keep the picture of our late Rector which appears in this number. It was taken last year, I think, with his little grandson, John, and the dog and cat who loved him.

I was much impressed by the report of the Hartley Choral Society. The love of music, as therein expressed, will touch a responsive chord in every heart which loves the harmony of ordered sound.

\* \* \*

The picture of the interior of our Church, which is in this number, was taken some time ago before the repairs were made and the electric light installed.

\* \* \*

I am much impressed by the work of the Women's Institute, both in Hartley and everywhere else. The married women who become members learn many things by which their husbands and children benefit, and the unmarried ones can lay in a store of knowledge for future use. Mrs. F. W. Tate is president; Mrs. H. E. Davies, of Treveor, is hon. treasurer, and Miss E. Robertson, of Hartley Hill Cottage, is hon. secretary. Two shillings a year will make you a member; it will be money well spent.

\* \* \*

When I had read Mr. Gomer Davies' clever report about the Debating Society I felt sad, for he is giving up his brilliant work as hon. secretary.

\* \* \*

You will read the report of our Church Treasurer with interest, and you will resolve to assist the Church funds to the best of your ability. Money will be wanted for needed repairs, and the day is near at hand when we shall require an extension of the churchyard.

\* \* \*

Our clergyman in charge has written a fine letter to us all; it is a letter full of teaching, of advice, and of exhortation. I know that every person in our parish who is old enough to read will read it and be encouraged by it.

#### ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY SCHOOL.

A year's report on the Sunday School was given by the Superintendent at the Annual Meeting of the Vestry and Parochial Church Council. The change to the Church had resulted in an increase of scholars on the whole, though some of the old ones found it too far to come. There was now

no division into Senior and Junior classes, as this matter presented difficulties in the Church.

Miss Chisholm had played for the Sunday School for a few weeks after the change, meanwhile giving lessons on the management of the organ for hymns to the two young helpers, Miss Parkin and Miss Peggy Hoyle, who are now managing very well.

The Class is a happy little band, and the attendance is usually very good.

It would be much appreciated if any lady would offer to relieve Mrs. Cuff at the Sunday School on occasional Sundays. It seems a pity that if the Superintendent finds it impossible to be present, the Class cannot be held, as happened on May 6th.

**Church Information.**

*The Lord Bishop*—THE RIGHT REV. MARTIN LINTON SMITH, D.D., D.S.O. *Archdeacons*—THE VEN. WALTER M. BROWNE, M.A., Archdeacon of Rochester; THE VEN. LEONARD SAVILL, M.A., Archdeacon of Tonbridge. *Dean of the Cathedral*—THE VERY REV. FRANCIS UNDERHILL, D.D. *Clergyman-in-Charge*—REV. T. PEARMAN-STEVENS, M.A. *Churchwardens*—Mr. E. J. Cuff 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 1933-34: Mr. and Mrs. Alexander, Mrs. Balchin, Mr. and

Mrs. Chisholm, Mrs. Cuff, Mr. and Mrs. Groom, Miss Green, (Hon. Secretary), Mr. J. Green, Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Green, Mr. and Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Keen, Mr. G. G. Marrington, Mr. H. Parkins (Hon. Treasurer), Mrs. H. Parkins, Miss Sale, Mr. F. F. Tate, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Tate, 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. Balchin. *Committees*—Standing Committee: The Chairman and the Churchwardens. Finance Committee: The Churchwardens, the Treasurer and Miss Green. *Sidesmen*—Mr. F. F. Tate, Mr. H. Parkins, Mr. B. Alexander, Mr. J. Green, Mr. E. S. Green, and Mr. L. Harris. *Organist and Choirmaster*—Mr. W. H. Chisholm. *Members of the Choir*—Mrs. Balchin, Mrs. Chisholm, Miss Gladys Parkin, Miss E. Green, Mrs. Keen, Miss Chisholm, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Tate, Mr. F. F. Tate, Misses S. and I. Keen, Betty Glover, Basil Keen, Dennis Moore, Sidney Moore, Billie and Dennis Hoadley, Edna and Vera Glover. *Diocesan Lay Reader (Retired)*—Mr. J. Wells Thatcher.

*Sunday School* at the Church—Superintendent: Mrs. Cuff. Time: 3 to 3.45 p.m. Miss Gladys Parkin helps too. *Church Parochial School*—Miss Fiddis, Headmistress. Miss Farrow, Assistant Teacher. *School Managers*—Mr. J. Green, Mrs. Balchin, Miss Rodwell, Miss Harry and Mrs. Reilly.

July.	August.	September.
1st—Fifth Sunday after Trinity	1st—Lammas Day	2nd—Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity
8th—Sixth Sunday after Trinity	5th—Tenth Sunday after Trinity	9th—Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity
15th—Seventh Sunday after Trinity	12th—Eleventh Sunday after Trinity	16th—Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity
22nd—Eighth Sunday after Trinity	19th—Twelfth Sunday after Trinity	19th—Ember Day [Trinity
25th—St. James, Apostle and Martyr	24th—St. Bartholomew, Apostle and Martyr	21st—St. Matthew
29th—Ninth Sunday after Trinity	26th—Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity	23rd—Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity
		29th—St. Michael and all Angels
		30th—Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

*Bell Ringer and Organ Blower*—Mr. A. Rogers. *Churchyard Keeper*—Mr. A. Rogers. *Church Cleaner*—Mrs. Rogers.

#### 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. L. Harris.  
*February*—Mrs. Groom.  
*March*—Miss Barker.  
*April*—Mrs. Hemming.  
*May*—Mrs. Willes.  
*June*—Miss Green.  
*July*—Mrs. Elliott.  
*August*—Mrs. Andrus.  
*September*—Mrs. Chisholm.  
*October*—Miss Robertson.  
*November*—Mrs. Delf.  
*December*—Mrs. Eric Green.

#### At All Saints:

Easter Communicants, 55.  
 Whitsunday Communicants, 29.

#### BAPTISMS.

May 6, 1934.—  
 May 20, 1934.—  
 June 3, 1934.—Ruth Hilda Glover.

#### BURIAL.

May 27, 1934.—Harry Clarke.

#### ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING OF THE VESTRY AND PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL.

The Annual Meeting of the Vestry and Parochial Church Meeting for the election of Churchwardens was held in the School Room on Monday, April 9th, at 8 p.m.

The Rev. T. Pearman-Stevens was in the chair.

Mr. Wells-Thatcher was re-elected Rector's Warden, and Mr. E. J. Cuff was elected as People's Warden.

# H. T. PARRETT

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Sidesmen—Mr. F. F. Tate, Mr. H. Parkins, Mr. B. Alexander, Mr. J. Green, Mr. E. S. Green, Mr. L. Harris.

The members of the Parochial Church Council elected were:—Mr. and Mrs. Alexander, Mrs. Balchin, Mr. and Mrs. Chisholm, Mrs. Cuff, Mr. and Mrs. Groom, Miss Green (Hon. Secretary), Mr. J. Green, Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Green, Mr. and Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Keen, Mr. G. G. Marrington, Mr. H. Parkins (Hon. Treasurer) and Mrs. H. Parkins, Miss Sale, Mr. F. F. Tate, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Tate, with the Churchwardens by virtue of their offices.

Rochester Diocesan Conference—Miss Green and Mrs. Balchin.

Rural Decanal Conference—Mrs. Keen and Mrs. Balchin re-elected.

#### PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL.

An emergency meeting of the Parochial Church Council was held in the Schoolroom on May 8th, at 8 p.m. The Rev. T. Pearman-Stevens took the chair.

The new Treasurer, Mr. H. Parkins, reported that it would be expedient to open an account at Longfield. The necessary forms were signed.

A cheque for £100 was received from the executors of the late Rev. G. W. Banks, for the benefit of the parish, as the Parochial Church Council may decide.

A donation of £20 was promised from Mrs. Eric Green to head the subscription list for the expenses of restoring the wall frescoes in the Church, as this is taking the form of a memorial to the late Rector. A sub-committee to deal with this matter was considered necessary, and the following members of the Council were elected on it: Mrs. Eric Green, Mrs. Chisholm, Mr. E. J. Cuff, and Mr. L. Harris.

#### THE TREASURER'S REPORT, ALL SAINTS'.

In comparing the accounts for the first five months of this year with those for the same period in 1933, we find that, so far as the ordinary Church Collections and the Free Will Offerings are concerned, the situation is a little improved.

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**Deliveries to Hartley Mondays and Thursdays.**

But owing to the necessity for redecoration of the interior of the Church, the balance brought forward at the beginning of this year was £7 less than for 1933, while expenditure has been £18 greater—being more than double that of the corresponding period of 1933.

The quota for this parish is £13, and is as yet unpaid. Last year we were not able to pay more than £10. Then, in addition to this, there is urgent repair work needed to the fabric of the church. To mention only two things: part of the roof is in a very bad condition, and the south wall needs rendering in places to keep out the damp.

The Parochial Church Council is very grateful for the legacy of £100 from the late Rector, but we ought to be able to meet all Church expenses out of our ordinary collections and the Free Will Offering scheme.

It may be hoped that these offerings will continue to increase.

#### HARTLEY CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL.

The numbers attending this School have varied very much since 1914. The average attendance then was about 50; now it is 70. It was as low as 42 in 1921, 44 in 1922 and 1926. But since 1926 it has risen gradually until in 1933 it was 76.

It is a very healthy School, and during the 20 years (1914-1934) there have been but 5 outbreaks of epidemics. I do not count individual cases, but when the average goes below 60 per cent., then the matter must be reported to the School Medical Officer. These outbreaks occurred in March, 1919—Whooping cough, average 52.8 per cent.; in April, 1921—Measles, average, 44.8 per cent.; in January, 1925—Influenza, average 43.6 per cent.; in July, 1925—Whooping cough, average 54.5 per cent.; in January, 1930—Measles, average 56.4 per cent.

The usual average attendance is over 90 per cent., often 98 per cent., and this in spite of long journeys and inclement weather.

The reports of His Majesty's Inspectors have been very fair, and they have seemed

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HARTLEY.



The Produce Stall, stationed at the entrance to the Institute Hall, is now open on Thursdays, 2.30—4.30. Home produce can be purchased, and buyers will be welcome, and will get good value for their money.

Membership of the Institute is open to all women interested in the movement. Subscription, 2/- yearly.

#### WORLD PEACE.

The plea for Disarmament and World Peace, published by the Archbishop of Canterbury in collaboration with all the Christian Churches of Great Britain, on May 17th, includes the following sentence:—

“The price is willingness to accept the principle of the collective action of nations as members of one great commonwealth”;

and again:

“In spite of many adverse signs, we believe that the reason and conscience of mankind are moving towards acceptance of this idea, the forces which make for unity being greater than is often recognised.”

There are indeed cementing forces in active operation. There is an International Railroad Congress in Brussels, and an International Chamber of Commerce in Paris, where men of all nations meet to foster the smooth movement of international trade.

The railway contacts are particularly valuable, and I have seen a freight train in the South of France with wagons in it from eight different European countries, and a moment's reflection will bring realisation of the intimate contacts involved between all the countries in tracing these cars and calculating the divisions of the freights earned. Kipling said somewhere, that “Transportation is civilisation,” and indeed it means just that, civilisation and peace.

Another interesting international organisation is the Long-distance Telephone Committee in Paris. In a small hotel bedroom in Malaga (Spain) there was a card hanging, which read, “You may telephone from this room to Australia, United States, Canada and all European countries.”

Finally, there is the League of Nations, the great path-smoother. Some folks only feel the bumps, but with patience these will be removed, as in Church Road, for example.

W.H.C.

This is a particularly fitting time to emphasise the responsibilities of Churchpeople for the protection of their Church's property, since during last month throughout the country chancellors and archdeacons were delivering charges to the newly elected churchwardens, in whose hands the Church places the greater part of that responsibility. They have a very weighty task that has not always been properly carried out. There are enough authenticated instances of vanished chalices and pewter cups of the time of Elizabeth, of lost land, and of charities no longer traceable, to cause grave concern.

\* \* \*

We may quote perhaps the case of a parish whose new vicar had no idea that the parish possessed an Elizabethan chalice. An outside enquirer learnt that the churchwardens had some recollection of once having seen it, but no idea where it was; until a search by the vicar's wife discovered it stored away among some papers in the vicarage boxroom. Then there was the footed pewter patten that had been hammered down and converted into a candlestick. The General Purposes Committee has this year been supplying to a number of archdeacons, for sale at their visitations, parcels of literature in which the authorised Terrier and Inventory has found a prominent place. A wider use of these forms (commanded by Canon 87) would make easier the minds of those concerned for the treasures of the Church.

\* \* \*

Of the many students from abroad working in England more than 3,000 come from Asia, Africa and the West Indies. Few people realise the great loneliness that is their most constant trouble during their time in this country. It is easy to assume that all is well with them, that their time is fully occupied with work, and perhaps not so comfortable to picture them alone in lodgings, alone at cinemas, on solitary holidays. It is stated in the latest Report of the East and West Friendship Council that it is the aim of that body to remedy this state of affairs by providing opportunities for oversea students and English people to make friends with one another. Its centres are the English university cities. In 1932 the Missionary Council voted £100 a year for three years for the work of the East and West Friendship Council.

*Assembly News*, May. [We are asked to quote from this periodical when we can.—ED.]



#### VENICE FROM THE AIR.

I am indebted to the Editor of the Illinois Central Magazine for the above excellent and unusual view, which was taken by a friend of mine from the air.

Venice is usually associated with gondoliers and the Lido, but in reality it is an important seaport, and for many centuries the Merchant of Venice has followed a thriving trade. In this picture you will see the seaport with merchant ships. In the foreground you have the Campanile or bell tower

of St. Mark's Church. The Church itself is separated from the tower, and its five small domes are in the left foreground. Just behind is the courtyard of the Doge's Palace, while to the right is St. Mark's Square, a very busy spot as you will see from the number of ant-like people in it. The rectangular dark patch is a crowd of people outside a popular restaurant taking their coffee in the open air. To the right of the tower can be seen the entrance to the Grand Canal.

W. H. CHISHOLM.

#### A PARISH MEETING.

A parish meeting was held on May 14th, at the Women's Institute.

Mr. E. J. Cuff was in the chair, and a much larger number of parishioners than usual attended, and showed great interest in the proceedings and business transacted. Keen interest was manifested in the report of the Footpaths Committee given by its chairman, Mr. Sizmur. Much strenuous and valuable work had been put in on this job since the previous meeting. The whole of the paths in the parish as reported by the

Committee were passed to be shown on the map. Mr. Nairn called attention to a footpath not previously mentioned, but known to several old inhabitants.

A letter from Captain Webster was read in which he stated that ill-health would prevent him from carrying on his honorary duties at the Memorial. It was heard with deep regret, and the meeting expressed a hope that Captain Webster's health would improve, and signified great appreciation of the unsurpassed work he had carried out in the past.

### HARTLEY AND DISTRICT LITERARY AND DEBATING SOCIETY.

1st March.—Mr. F. F. Tate's opening of the discussion on, "Dickens and his present day appeal" was to those of his hearers who were bath-chair borne, or displayed other signs of ripeness of years, like an old song well sung calling up bitter-sweet memories. To show the extraordinary versatility of the immortal novelist, Mr. Tate read a number of excerpts illustrating Dickens' ingenuity in creating characters and situations; Dickens to make you laugh, Dickens to make you cry, Dickens to make you feel that all is well, Dickens to stir you to action because everything is wrong, Dickens to freeze the very marrow of your bones, Dickens to make you love, and gently press the hand that seeks yours (*Honi so it—and all that*). Also see article, "Rumour," in the September, 1933, "Parish Magazine." Moreover, officers of the Society are but fulfilling their duty in doing all that lies within their power to make the meetings attractive to the members and guests.) The more immature members or bassineteers reacted somewhat differently to the excerpts, registering for the most part contrary emotions, laughing while their elders wept, dozing over the thrills, hence the discussion which ensued was particularly interesting and lively, the views expressed ranging from idealization to indifference. Mr. S. H. Ellerby made the interesting disclosure that his father was a contributor under Charles Dickens' editorship.

15th March.—Mock Parliament. At the invitation of the Society, Mr. W. T. Colyer, the prospective Labour candidate for this division, assumed the office of Chancellor of the Exchequer, and as such told the House what he would do with "£50,000,000 to spare." The position was not quite fair to Mr. Colyer, but he sportingly accepted the Society's conditions, entered into the spirit of the thing and by his personality won the hearts of both sides of the House. To some, listening to his allocation was rather like the expectant hearing of the reading of a will only to find that one is not a beneficiary; one might have thought that secretaries of Debating Societies or even editors

of Parish Magazines——. Mr. Colyer took his job seriously, but was not averse to a bit of fun or slow to respond in kind.

The session concluded with the Annual General Meeting of the 23rd. March. The Vice-President, Mr. Cyril Worsley, took the chair, two cups of coffee and the only biscuit with icing on it, and the treasurer's pencil. The Secretary's and the Treasurer's reports shewed that the Society was still in a flourishing condition, extraordinarily so for a country society of this kind; this success is due in the first place to the members themselves attending the meetings, entering into the discussions or braving the perils of the platform, but grateful acknowledgment was made of the great amount of help received from other quarters. Seven of the chief speakers of the session had not appeared on the Society's platform before, and of these seven, five are members of the Society.

\* \* \*

Mr. Gomer Davies' term of office as Secretary having now expired, he would like before he puts down his pen and our editor finds his blue pencil, to thank, oh! so many (not least the kindly editor of this magazine), for their help, encouragement and forbearance during the past three years. His task, if task it could be called, was made easy for him. *Vale!*

### HARTLEY CHORAL SOCIETY.

On April 20th, the Hartley Choral Society brought a very happy and successful season to a close, by a well attended and enjoyable Social, at which the Rev. T. Pearman-Stevens was present, with other guests.

The Society, under the able leadership of Mr. Cyril Worsley, with Mrs. Oldrey as accompanist, Mr. Gray as secretary and Mrs. Keen as treasurer, had re-started its activities after a long "closed season." Some twenty-five members met every Friday evening to use and rejoice in the gift of voice. They sang part songs, choruses, and chorals for the sheer delight of singing, in the traditional British manner.

Enthusiasm and informality of procedure ruled, and the attitude of mind adopted was

the one that only by personal performance is the full enjoyment from music to be obtained.

The Secretary and members are looking forward to starting again in the autumn, and hope to have the pleasure of welcoming many new friends.

#### THE HARTLEY PLAYERS.

On April 12th, 13th, 14th, the Hartley Players presented "Hawk Island," a drama of the night in three acts by Howard Irving Young. It was produced by Renalt Capes, and scenery and effects were by E. Snelling Colyer, who surpassed even his own usual high standard. The efficient lighting and switch arrangements on the stage were no small achievement, and we have before met his complete handling of wind and thunder and engines (in this case that of a motor boat), but a buoy-bell and the regular double flash from the beacon were most successful and more than anything else sustained the eerie atmosphere that was needed.

Gregory Sloane (Bobbie Hale) has a house on Hawk Island, isolated from the mainland till the return of the motor launch two days later, except for a boat that could not make for harbour in such a storm as rages off and on throughout the play. The house party is keyed up by this, and also by their own persistent discussion of murders, which offer them a dire fascination, and has been suggested by the fact that a writer of murder stories, Antony Boyce (Noel Leese) is one of their number. There is further cause for tension for some, because Madeline Austen (Margaret Eades) and Ronald Parish (Renalt Capes) are in love, and her husband knows it. So Tom Austen (Andrew Kerr) should presumably have been pleased when, after a shot has been heard, Gregory Sloane comes in and says he has murdered Parish, whose body some can perceive at the bottom of the cliff. It is, however, really a joke, and Austen, made suspicious by some fooling of Parish with the gramophone, is not greatly troubled by a groaning green-lit ghost (who very reassuringly carried a glowing cigarette-end the while it greenly groaned), and

when he switches on the light makes short work of him, leaving the guilt still with Sloane, who had not yet told the joke to the rest, though he thought it had gone far enough. Sloane, however, when alone with him, plays upon his nerves by describing the forever guilty sensations of a murderer, and only because of a reflection in the window does he escape the dose of Prussic acid prepared for him.

The person whose commonsense eventually makes Austen's guilt clear is Sally Rogers (Yvonne de Verteint) the daughter of a simple-minded bailiff on the island, and a connection of Sloane. He has paid for her university education, and realises at the ends that he wants to marry her.

Someone outside the house party was needed to come to the rescue, for they were either too closely involved in parish and fate, or else of character so set that their minds did not even consider with any freshness the odd circumstance that a man seen washed by waves at the foot of the cliff was later, though still shot dead, quite dry and barely cold, in the study.

Noel Leese, as the author, looked the conceited aesthete, and hair, monocle and gesture suited the part. He got laughs that were, on the whole, legitimate by his lordly assumption of an omniscient acquaintance with crime, while at the same time being plainly a coward in the presence of physical danger. Charles Breton, as Paul Coopse, had the rôle of a blunt, honest, downright man, whose chief humour seemed to be to contradict his wife, and he did succeed in casting off the oiliness of the hypocrite that was pronounced in his last two parts. Two other people who completely dealt with parts quite out of their former experience were Vera Haely as Harriet Coopes, portly, fussy and foolish, and Mary Winnett as Stella Wynne, cold hard and detached. The latter was, perhaps, a little self-conscious in her management of the long cigarette-holder, but anything more different from the slavey she has been before would be hard to imagine. Margaret Eades, on the contrary, had the motional part that usually falls to her lot: her pallor towards the end of the play was effective and her weariness and distraction convincing.

Andrew Kerr and Renald Copes were both unattractive characters, though one seemed more fool than villain, but their parts were capable of more variation of mood and tempo than they showed. The villain, though so cold-blooded, was worked upon through his imagination in one scene, and however bland Renald Copes may have decided Donald Parish should be, he surely should have shown diminishing sobriety after so many potatoes. Bobbie Hale had one of the most interesting parts in the play, and got something out of it, though the ruby lips took from his masculinity.

Yvonne de Verteint is new to the Players, and promises to be a useful member. Her movements were easy and her speech clear and her personality attractive, though rather static. She needed more vigour and more drive for the part of the clearest-headed person on the island. How she came to be in night attire like the house party when she was not staying in the house and the night outside was wild was a little mysterious, and equally peculiar was Antony Bryce's choice of evening clothes to wear under his mackintosh when he dressed to go over to the mainland in none too good a boat.

The play was enjoyable, and the acting, on the whole, of a consistently good level.

The stage, moreover, was pleasing to the eye, though the necessary amount of furniture in the small space made position so important that the engineering of it was sometimes-obvious. This must have added considerably to the problems confronting the producer.

#### HARTLEY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH NOTES.

Our new Church home is in course of erection. After 2½ years' deliberation the recommendations of the Building Committee were accepted by the Church. We are greatly indebted to Mr. W. Lockwood, L.R.I.B.A., for disinterested help given in the early stages. Eventually matters were placed in the hands of the Rev. H. Kenward, Commissioner for Church Extension in Kent, who introduced the Architect, Mr. P. Meredith, F.R.I.B.A. The present building will accommodate 135 persons, and can be enlarged later, if so desired. Mr. R. Hopkins, of Gravesend, secured the building contract at £1,250, easily beating six other competitors. The Church should be completed by August 20, 1934. The opening ceremony is arranged for Saturday, September 15, 1934.

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March 25th was Missionary Sunday. The visitor sent by the London Missionary Society was Miss P. R. Acis Sharpe, Matron of a Medical Mission in Shanghai. Her recital of the wonderful work showed how valuable Christian work was in such distant places, and, incidentally, the splendid devotion of such workers as herself. The Chinese people had the same desires, problems, troubles, faults as ourselves, and needed the same eternal outlook, and saving Christ. A quaint reference was made to the kindly nature of the Chinese girl, who would tell any lie if she thought it would please her guest. Entirely wrong, but rather celestial.

\* \* \*

Congratulations to Peter Goodwin, who won a first class certificate, to Ralph Sizmur, and to John Harrison, who won second class certificates at the annual Scripture examination of the West Kent Sunday School Union.

\* \* \*

Hartley has enjoyed much good music and drama during the last ten years. The Old Musical Society, the Hartley Players, the Church Army, the Hartley Band, and our friends from Emmanuel Church, Dulwich, have filled the "streets of memory" with harmonious and living pictures. Saturday, April 21, marked the 9th visit of the Dulwich Artistes, and the best of all their performances, in aid of our Building Fund. Mr. G. A. Vincent, the organiser of the party, was the author of the rollicking farce, "A Mock Law-suit." From time to time, in various places, our friends devote their fine talents to aid some good cause. We hope other audiences will appreciate their gifts as much as we did on the above-named occasion.

\* \* \*

Our grateful thanks to Mr. Geo. Oldrey and Mr. Leslie Hooper for lending their cars, as occasion arises, for the convenience of our Ministers.

The Rev. T. Pearman-Stevens, Clergyman in charge of "All Saints," Hartley, has soon found a way into our homes and affections. Since March, 1929, when the late revered Rector and Mr. J. Wells Thatcher made the friendly offer of a page in the Parish Magazine, the relationship between the two churches has been entirely cordial. We are devoutly thankful that Mr. Pearman-Stevens will support this happy state of affairs.

Meeting one of our Ministers on a Sunday evening, Mr. Stevens addressed to him a delightful slogan. "So you are on bowling to-night. Bowl well, and mix your deliveries." Though two churches, we are in a sense one team, bowling from the two ends of the wicket. If the Rev. Pearman-Stevens will change over to our end at any time, we will give his "mixed deliveries" very serious attention.

\* \* \*

Regretfully we must accept the absence of Mrs. Ralph Day and the children from the Sunday Evening Services. We owe Mr. Ralph Day many kindly favours. We know him as a tremendous worker, and doubtless the new farm he has removed to, near Wrotham, will soon be a model of efficiency.

\* \* \*

*Thoughts from the Rev. Stanley Morgan:*  
"Life is all a matter of taste. Some prefer a cellar—others a cathedral."

"To fall below the highest intimations within you is to grieve the Holy Spirit."

"The wonder of human life is that God owns his workmanship. A picture of value is signed by the artist's name. God sets His signature to humanity—sealed by the Holy Spirit."

S. H. ELLERBY

(Hon. Ses., H.C.C.).

## HARTLEY PARISH MAGAZINE.

" Restharrow,"

Hartley,

Longfield, Kent.

May 28th, 1934.

DEAR MR. THATCHER,

I have 20 complete sets of the Magazine from the first issue in June, 1923, also some incomplete sets, these latter containing the descriptions and histories of neighbouring churches, and also, what will be most interesting to our own residents, practically the whole of Mr. Bancks' researches into and stories about Hartley in olden times. I should like to sell these sets, and, if agreeable to you, we might offer them at 10/- each. The Magazine itself is now practically self-supporting, but I should like very much to be able to return the £10 os. od. which the Parochial Church Council kindly advanced me some years ago, and the sale of these old copies would, I think, be a legitimate means to use to that end.

If you are agreeable, perhaps you could put a brief announcement in the coming issue.

Yours very sincerely,

W. H. CHISHOLM.

J. Wells Thatcher, Esq.,  
Hartley, Kent.

[I do hope that persons interested will purchase all these sets.--E.D.]

## LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.



## HARTLEY GROUP NOTES.

It is increasingly clear that the present impasse confronting the League is due to a general lack of confidence in the whole collective system for achieving international peace and security, fear and suspicion having taken its place. The Union's task is to dispel fear by propagating knowledge, and to organise a body of opinion capable of supporting the Government in the sustained effort which will be necessary if a new and disastrous armaments race is to be averted.

Members will wish to keep themselves informed, not only of current events, through the periodicals, but also of the background of aspiration and effort in the League's fourteen years' history, for which purpose it is hoped they will make full use of the books from the Union Library, available on application to Mrs. S. D. Tate, "Brendon," Ash Road.

In addition, the Youth Group provides means for those under thirty to assuage their thirst for information without risk of being forcibly "fed" (speaking as one of them). During the past quarter we have listened profitably to talks by Mr. D. M. Simmons and Mr. Raymond Barker; while in debate the motion: "That Private Enterprise should be Prohibited from Trading in Arms," was carried. Through the summer, opportunities for discussion will be provided, mainly during rambles and between games, but the chief occupation of the Group will be a vigorous campaign for a big increase of membership.

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