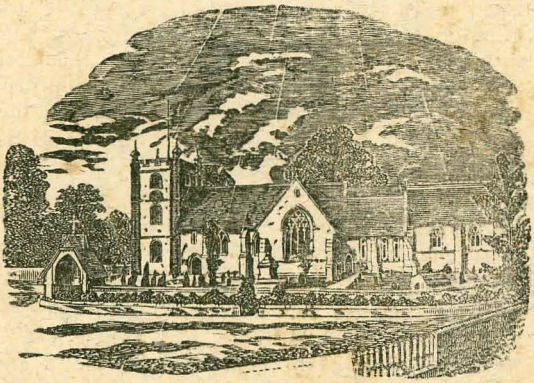
THE

HAMBLEDEN

Magazine.



PRICE THREE HALF-PENCE.

NOVEMBER, 1899.

BLACKWELL AND GUTCH, Printers, London Street, Reading.

HAMBLEDEN PARISH MAGAZINE.

Baptisms.

Oct. 1.—*(Skirmett).* Arthur Philip, son of Philip and Harriet Harmon.
,, 8.—*(Frieth).* Henry, son of Tom and Kate Ing.

Marriages.

Sept. 30.—*(Frieth).* Charles Munday and Louise Druce.
Oct. 14.—William Bird and Edith Harriet Gater.

Burials.

Oct. 2.—William Lawrence, aged 52 years.
,, 29.—*(Frieth).* Arthur Charles Webb, aged 36 years.

All Saints' Church, Skirmett.—November 1st being All Saints' Day, there will be a Festal Service with Sermon at 7.30 p.m. The Sermon will be preached by the Rev. Malcom Mackay, assistant curate of Henley, who is shortly proceeding to Central Africa, to join the staff of the Universities' Mission, under the Bishop of Zanzibar. The collection on this day, and the Sunday following, will be given to the "Incorporated Society for Promoting the Enlargement, Building, and Repairing of Churches and Chapels"; an annual collection having been promised to this Society in return for a contribution to the Building Fund of this Church.

The Parochial Tea will take place in the Parish Room on November 2nd, and will be followed by an Entertainment kindly provided, as on former occasions, by Lady Esther Smith. Tickets (which will only be given to Parishioners residing within Skirmett district) can be obtained of Mrs. Turton.

Mothers' Union.—A meeting of the members in this Parish will be held at Greenlands, by the kind invitation of Lady Esther Smith, on Friday, November 17th, at 3 o'clock. An address will be given by Mrs. Pilkington, of Upper Heyford Rectory, near Banbury.

Mothers' Meetings are held fortnightly at Hambleden Rectory, on Fridays, November 10th, 24th, etc., at 2.30 p.m.; at Skirmett on Fridays, November 3rd, 17th, etc., at 2.30 p.m.; at Frieth on Thursdays, November 9th, 23rd, etc., at 2 p.m.

A Concert will be given by the Parish Church Choir at Hambleden, on Tuesday, January 16th; further particulars will be announced later.

The "Rummage Sale" was a great success as far as the goods went; but we were disappointed that more people did not respond to the appeal in our last number for "old goods." It is a great advantage to some of our poorer neighbours to be able to purchase clothes and old furniture, etc., at a cheap rate, and we could have sold a great many more things, had we had them. The proceeds of the sale amounted in all to £4 13s. 2d. The "penny" stall was for the "Waifs and Strays," and after paying off the debt on the Church-workers' outing last summer, we have £3 in hand towards our fund for sending convalescents for change of air.

A beautiful sheet **Almanac for 1900** may be purchased at the principal shops in the Parish for 1d.

The Clergy.

The Rev. W. R. C. King has been appointed to take the place of Rev. A. G. Nash, who has gone to Caversham; Mr. King (who is the son of a Clergyman well-known and respected in Oxford, both in the City and in the University, the Rev. J. R. King, Vicar of S. Peter's in the East with S. John the Baptist; Fellow of Oriel College, and Honorary Canon of Christ Church) served his first Curacy at S. Mary's, Reading, and has since been in charge of the Parish of Bradenham.

The Rev. G. F. Eyre has been presented to the Vicarage of Far Forest, near Bewdley. The Parish is in the two Counties of Salop and Worcester, and in the Diocese of Hereford.

Advent.

We are fortunate in getting the help of our neighbours to preach special sermons during this season. As none of our Churches are very accessible to outsiders on winter evenings, we must consider it a great kindness when Clergy will come to us. The Rector would invite the Parishioners to make an effort to attend these Services, both for the greater glory of God and their own good, and also as an act of courtesy to the preachers. Following is a list:—

Parish Church.— Wednesdays, 7 p.m.

Dec. 6.—Rev. J. F. Maul, Rector of Henley.
„ 13.—Rev. J. C. H. Brooke, Assistant Curate of Henley.
„ 20.—Rev. Canon Pinder, Rector of Rotherfield Greys, and Rural Dean of Henley.

S. John's, Frieth.—Thursdays, 7 p.m.

Dec. 7.—Rev. J. B. Gunnery, S. John's, Wycombe.
„ 14.—Rev. W. R. C. King.
„ 21.—Rev. E. D. Shaw, Vicar of High Wycombe.

All Saints', Skirmett.—Fridays, 7 p.m.

Dec. 8.—Rev. M. Graves, Vicar of Turville.
„ 15.—Rev. B. S. Batty, Vicar of Medmenham.

God's Acre.

"Within a hallow'd acre He sows yet other grain
When peaceful earth receiveth the dead He died to gain;
For though the growth be hidden, we know that they shall rise;
Yea even now they ripen in sunny Paradise."—*Hymn 386.*

Though we are all apt to think, as we advance in years, that the world in general is not so good as it was by a great deal when we were boys or girls (as the case may be), few will dispute that an improvement has taken place during the last 50 or 60 years in regard to the way in which our Churches and Church-yards are cared for. Law books speak of 'the feed' of the Church-yard as part of the Parson's profits! and the high iron railings, enclosing some of the graves in our Churchyard, point to the time when this was the only way in which persons could save their graves from being trampled by the Parson's flock. There was something to be said for this method of keeping the grass short; for nothing presents such an appearance of neglect as when the graves are lost to view in long

grass, unless it be when flowers have been planted or placed in tins or pots, and have been left to wither and decay. The customs of different places, and the customs of different persons in the same place vary much. In some places one finds the Church-yard levelled and carefully mown like a lawn, the graves marked either with a permanent memorial or with a slight wooden or iron cross, which can be taken up for mowing. In other places many flowers are planted both upon the grass and in borders. Undoubtedly all would agree in wishing that there should be a sense of peace and repose about a Church-yard, that it should not look gloomy, but bright and sweet with the sight and scent of flowers.

The departed loved one is not in the Churchyard, but in Paradise; but in the Churchyard we wish to think of the Person, the living spirit rather than the decaying body; the surroundings should speak of life, of life in Christ. Flowers speak of life, of the resurrection; *real* flowers, not manufactured painted tin wreaths. Certainly the modern and growing custom of placing artificial wreaths under glass shades is not an improvement. Nothing so much spoils the look of a Churchyard as a lot of glass shades glaring in the sun. It is a custom introduced from abroad, and like many other things manufactured across the Channel, not to be encouraged. In regard to permanent memorials, nothing speaks so plainly of life in Christ as a simple cross. There is more rest to the eye in the green grass than in cold grey stone; in a cross there is less to obstruct the view than in the big plain stones that they were so fond of 50 years ago, and a cross speaks simply and plainly of a Christian's hope. There is no need for a large space for a long inscription, either for the glory of God, or the edification of men; for either purpose a cross serves best. Those who wish to erect memorials either in the Church or Churchyard, or other consecrated burial ground, should recollect that the law does not permit them to do so without the sanction of the Rector. They should submit the design and the inscription to him before ordering. It is easy to see the intention of this. The Churchyard is the burial ground of the Christian Church: some responsible person therefore, must see that nothing is introduced which is not in accordance with the principles of the doctrine of Christ. The Rector thus acts in the capacity of God's Steward; he also is the Parson, *i.e.*, the representative of the people, present and future, and has to take care that no individual encroaches upon the rights of others. No one of course would intentionally do this, particularly in such a place. There ought to be nothing in such hallowed ground to jar upon the feelings of faithful Christians. The tenderness and sympathy that goes towards the bereaved should always overshadow it.

Notice to the Parishioners in **Skirmett.** Opportunities of Divine Service within reach besides the Services in the Churches in the Parish.

Holy Communion. 8 a.m. at Turville on 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays in the month.
12 (noon) at Fingest on 1st Sunday.
,, Turville on 3rd Sunday.

Morning Prayer. 11 a.m. at Fingest on 1st Sunday.
,, Turville on 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th Sundays.

Evensong. 6 p.m. at Turville on 1st Sunday.
3 p.m. at Fingest on 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th Sundays.