

**BENSON.**

**Holy Week.**—We hope to have our usual services in the Holy Week ; daily morning prayers at 11 o'clock and Evensong with Address at 7 ; also on Maundy Thursday Holy Communion at 8 a.m. On Good Friday, in addition to the services at 7 and 11, the Litany will be said at 8 o'clock and there will be the usual Addresses on the Seven Words from the Cross with hymns from 2 to 4. There will be Collections on Good Friday for the Mission of the English Bishop in Jerusalem.

**Church Army Mission.**—The Mission to be held among us by Capt. Blood, of the Church Army, was announced by an error as beginning on Monday, April 13th. It should have been April 19th, on which day the Missioner hopes to begin with a lantern lecture in the Schoolroom at 7.30 p.m., illustrating the work which the Church Army is carrying on.

**Soup Kitchen.**—The weekly distribution of soup took place from January 7th to March 11th, and in the very cold weather it was greatly appreciated. The accounts are as follows :—

Receipts.		£	s.	d.
Balance in hand from 1908	...	...	8	8
Subscriptions of Committee	...	...	1	7
Contributions collected	...	...	4	5
Half-pence paid	...	...	2	8
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			£8	10
				5

Expenditure.		£	s.	d.
Meat	...	...	3	7
Peas and grocery	...	...	3	2
Mrs Aldridge	...	...	1	10
Fuel	...	...		2
Mr. West, placing and removing copper	...	...		6
Balance in hand...	...	...		4
			<hr/>	
			£8	10
				5

Messrs. Weedon kindly contributed 5 cwt. of coal.

**Church Repairs, etc.**—Mr. Churchwarden Wood has issued his Balance Sheet for the new warming apparatus and Churchyard Improvement Fund, the combined costs of which were £58 0s. 11d. We are greatly indebted to him for the pains that he has taken in getting both these works satisfactory accomplished. He asks us to correct a printer's error in the account, where "Mr. Dawson" should have been "Mrs. Dawson."

We hope to have a concert for the benefit of the Churchwardens' Fund on Easter Wednesday, April 14th, and Mr. Ramsey, Mus. Bac., whose Organ Recital for the benefit of the Organ Fund in September last was greatly appreciated, kindly offers another on Wednesday, April 21st.

"Buried Cities, A Geographical Puzzle," which afforded entertainment to a good many readers several years ago, has long been out of print. It has now been re-printed, with additions, for the benefit of Benson Church Organ Fund, at the price of 6d., and may be had at the Vicarage, the Post Office, and Mrs. Baker's, and also at the printers, Messrs. Bradford, in Wallingford.

**Burial.**

February 25th, John Palmer, formerly of Roke, aged 84.

## BENSON.

**The New Year.**—When we wish each other a Happy New Year it should remind us that the happiness must depend upon our new efforts and new resolutions. These may take various forms. It strikes some of us that the attendance on our week-day services has greatly fallen off in recent years, and the places of those who can no longer come are not filled by those who can. Yet many regular Church-goers in most places feel that it is good to attend at least once between the Sundays. Are there not some who could help to make our Friday Evensong more like what it was a few years ago?

**Foreign Missions.**—Our annual meeting for the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts was held in the school on Wednesday, December 2nd. The Vicar presided and called attention to St. Berin's Eve as a happy occasion for a Missionary Meeting, since it recalls to us the coming of the first Christian Missionary to our West Saxon forefathers; for in old calendars of the Church December 3rd is St. Berin's Day, this being the day on which he died at Dorchester in 649. The meeting was then addressed by the Rev. Dr. Harold Wilson, Vicar of Chearsley, Bucks, and formerly Vice-Principal of the Theological College of St. John's, Newfoundland. He gave a very lucid and interesting account of the Colony of Newfoundland and of the Diocese, which includes the Bermuda Islands and a large part of the Coast of Labrador, involving very arduous work for the Bishop and Clergy whose visits to the various parts are necessarily made by sea. The lecture was illustrated with lantern views partly supplied by the Society and partly from photographs taken by Dr. Wilson himself. The Rev. G. J. Davies proposed a very hearty vote of thanks to the lecturer.

The amounts contributed to the funds of the Society were Church collections, November 29th, £2 16s. 10d.; collection at meeting, £1 13s. 4d.; boxes (Misses Ruck Keene, Mr. Archer, Miss Hilda Field, Mrs. Cobb, Mrs. Eason), £5 18s. 7d.; total, £10 8s. 9d. The expenses of the meeting (including hire of lantern, carriage of slides, preparation of room, lights and telegrams) were unfortunately heavier than usual, amounting to 7s. 2d. The balance sent to the Society was £10 1s. 7d.

**Confirmation.**—The Bishop of the Diocese has appointed a Confirmation for this parish to be held at Ewelme on Monday in Midlent week, March 22nd. The Vicar will be glad to receive the names of candidates at once in order that the classes may be arranged without delay.

### Baptism.

December 13th, Mary Ann, daughter of Jesse and Mary Jane Lovegrove, of Roke Marsh.

### Marriage.

December 2nd, John Edward Dixon, of Benson, and Rosa Sturges, of Crowmarsh.

**Obituary.**—James Grimshaw, who had lived several years in Benson and was respected by all, passed peacefully away on December 2nd, having lately completed his 80th year.

Emily Nellie Savins Green, aged 19 years, died after a severe operation in St. Thomas' Hospital, London, and was buried at Benson, December 18th.

## BENSON.

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**Bible Society.**—Mr. Mackwood Stevens gave an Address full of earnestness as well as of interest at our meeting for the Bible Society on Wednesday, February 10th. Unfortunately the weather was such as to make the attendance scanty, but all who were present were much impressed with the value of the address. The Vicar presided, and Mr. Pettit proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Stevens, which was warmly seconded by Mr. Wood. The Secretary of the Branch Society, Miss G. Maynard, reported amounts collected, £4 5s. 8d., and two Collecting Boxes, 5s.; the collection at the meeting was £1 9s. 4d., less expenses 9d.; the total amount remitted to the Society being £5 19s. 3d.

**Church Army.**—The Mission Van in charge of Captain Blood of the Church Army, which has lately been stationed for a time at Ewelme and elsewhere in our neighbourhood, will visit Benson for a fortnight's mission on Monday, April 13th. The prayers of all who desire the spiritual welfare of the parish are earnestly asked that God's blessing may be granted to this work among us.

**In Memoriam.**—*Thomas Edward Field.*—(The following notice is taken from the *Church Times*).—The long life of an earnest and devout layman, who passed away January 30th, merits a special notice. Thomas Edward Field was born at Wallingford in 1816, and succeeded his father in business there. At twenty-five years of age he became a borough Councillor, and four years later an Alderman, retaining his seat on the Council for forty years and serving six times as Mayor. From his youth he was an earnest Churchman, and being appointed Churchwarden of St. Mary's in 1839 he worked zealously for the restoration of that Church, which was carried out in 1853. It was always a satisfaction to him that his influence had prevailed to limit the pew-doors to one side-aisle. In 1859 he moved to Benson, where he again gave hearty assistance in everything connected with the Church under three successive Vicars; and eventually, as Churchwarden, he took part in the induction of his eldest son to the Vicarage on the presentation of the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church. In 1881, chiefly to benefit an invalid daughter, he removed to Clevedon in Somerset, where, as long as health and strength permitted, he gave his services as secretary of the Elton Cottage Hospital and treasurer of St. John's Schools, and in other good works connected with the Church. On Wednesday, February 3rd, after a *Requiem* in the early morning, the burial service was beautifully rendered by the Clergy and Choir of S. John's in the afternoon, and he was laid beside his second wife and their daughter in the beautiful Churchyard of All Saints.

**Lent Sermons.**—The following Clergy have kindly undertaken the sermons on the Friday evenings:—

- March 5th, Rev. G. J. Davies.
- „ 12th, Rev. Hilgrove Coxe, Rector of Baldwyn Brightwell.
- „ 19th, Rev. C. A. K. Irwin, Rector of Swyncombe.
- „ 26th, Rev. A. D. M. Bidlake, Curate of Ewelme.
- April 2nd, Rev. A. H. Caldicott, Vicar of Warborough.

### Baptisms.

- January 24th, John Edward, son of Charles and Mary Ann Sherwood (Benson).
- „ 24th, Charlie, son of Henry Thomas and Rosina Skinner (Benson).

### Burial.

- February 9th, Frank Verey Beckley (Preston Crowmarsh) aged 2 years.

**BENSON.**

Churchwardens' Account for the year ending  
Easter, 1909.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.
Balance in hand ... ..		6	8
Rents of lands and cottages ... ..	64	1	6
Rent-charge on allotments ... ..	3	19	8
Invested fund (5 quarters) ... ..	1	4	7
Insurance claim ... ..	1	16	0
Balance of Special Repairs Fund ... ..	3	13	6
Church Collections (19 Sundays) ... ..	15	8	2
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	£90	10	1

Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
Tithe and Rates on Church Estate ... ..	18	17	2½
Messrs. Slade, agreement ... ..	1	0	0
Cottage repairs and Insurance .. ..	6	18	3
Church repairs, furniture & Insurance	10	10	11
Churchyard and Church-walk ... ..	4	7	9
Lights and fuel ... ..	12	4	10
Visitation and Miscell. Expenses ... ..	1	9	10½
Clerk, Organist, Organ-blower, etc. ... ..	27	16	10
Organ tuning ... ..	4	4	0
Balance carried on ... ..	3	0	5
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	£90	10	1

Account of Alms, &c., Easter 1908 to Easter 1909.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.
Balance in hand ... ..		6	3½
Collections for Sick & Poor (12 Sundays)	17	12	10
Private Communion & Gifts for Poor	7	0	0
Choir Fund (11 Sundays) ... ..	10	0	2
General Fund, at Early Communion	2	15	5
Churchwardens' Fund (19 Sundays)...	15	8	2
Ditto Special Fund (2 Sundays) ..	4	11	2
Home Missions (A.C.S.), May 24 ... ..	1	7	7
Diocesan Spiritual Help Society, June 28 ... ..	1	19	9
Queen Victoria Clergy Fund, Aug. 19, £3 4s. 2d.; Donation, Mr. Cozens, 10/-	3	14	2
Radcliffe Infirmary, Sept. 23 ... ..	3	4	11
Wallingford Cott. Hospital, Sept. 27	4	13	8
Temperance Society, Dec. 20 ... ..	1	3	8
Waifs & Strays Society, Christmas Day	2	3	9
Ditto Childrens' Collections and Box ... ..		17	8
Earthquake Fund, Jan. 24 ... ..	4	8	4
Foreign Missions (S.P.G.), as in January Magazine ... ..	10	1	7
King's Messengers, Childrens' Col- lections and Box ... ..	1	5	11
Calcutta Mission, at Early Com- munion, Aug. 9 to Sep. 13 ..	10	0	
Dioc. Mission. Cand. Assoc., Ditto Oct. 25 to Dec. 20 ... ..	10	0	
Jerusalem Mission, Good Friday ... ..	1	4	8
Penitentiary Association, Lent ... ..		8	4
Organ Fund, Sept. 16 ... ..	1	11	6
Ditto Alms Box ... ..	1	1	10
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	£98	1	4½

Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
Sick and Poor ... ..	24	15	2½
Choir, payments to boys ... ..	4	9	11
Organist, supplementary salary ... ..	5	0	0
Choir Books, Repairs, Washing, etc.	3	2	7
Harvest Thanksgiving posters ... ..		4	0
Churchwardens' and other funds, as above ... ..	60	6	8
Balance carried on ... ..		3	0
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	£98	1	4½

The Vicar and Churchwardens feel the time has come when they must ask the parishioners to give the Church Expenses Fund their very kind attention.

The collections from Easter 1908-09 only amounted to just over £15.

It is true we have a Church Estate which produces a nice little sum, but we do feel that this ought to be set aside for permanent work and that those who worship in the Church to-day should rise to the occasion and see that at least they provide the wherewithal to pay for firing and lighting, cleaning, official salaries and many other incidental expenses.

The present deficit to Easter 1909 is some £17, and considerable extra work must be undertaken to the interior this year which will entail considerable outlay.

The Vicar desires to record his best thanks to the contributors to the Easter Offerings, which amounted to £32 5s. 0d.

At the Easter Vestry, April 13th, Mr. Wood and Mr. Hargreaves were re-appointed as Churchwardens, and Mr. Gray was again nominated by the former and Mr. J. H. West by the latter to serve as Sidesmen. At the subsequent meeting for the appointment of parochial representatives for the election of members of the Diocesan Conference, Mr. Morris and Mr. Gray were again chosen.

The Church Army Van arrived in Benson on Monday, April 19th, and the Mission commenced with a lecture by Captain Blood, in the schoolroom, on the work of the Church Army, illustrated by lantern pictures. The Vicar presided, and the attendance was sufficient to encourage the Missioners at the beginning of their work.

**Baptism.**

March 28th, Ellen Maria, daughter of Frederick Walter and Mary Ann West.

**Marriage.**

April 12th, Oliver Barnes, of Fisherton Anger, Wilts. and Sarah Elizabeth Hunt, of Crowmarsh Battle.

**Burials.**

March 24th, William Willis (formerly of Roke), aged 92.

April 10th, Julia Bargus (Benson), aged 64.

April 21st, Sarah Ann Tipping (Benson) aged 80.

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The visit of the Church Army Van closed on Sunday evening, May 9th, with a Service in the Schoolroom after Evensong in Church. Captain Blood gave one of his earnest addresses, and a few words were added by the Vicar, who then commended the completed work to God in a final prayer. On this and several previous occasions there was a good attendance, but it was felt that the mission was too late in the year to secure the larger attendance which marked the last mission some years ago. The missionaries were much gratified by their kind reception in our village, where our Church-people, with few exceptions, and several others also, combined in giving them hospitality and in being generally helpful. Mr. Richards was the Assistant Cadet during the first week, and Mr. Wyatt afterwards. The collections in Church for the funds of the Church Army on the concluding Sunday amounted to £2 2s. 2d.

On Sunday, June 20th, there will be collections, in response to the Bishop's Pastoral Letter, for the Diocesan Education Society.

**Horticultural Society.**—The Annual Show is fixed for Wednesday, August 18th. It is proposed to hold a Baby Show again on this occasion, as last year, for infants under two years of age. Mothers are reminded that the prizes are not awarded merely according to the size and weight of the infants, but rather according to their general healthiness and development; the purpose of the show being the encouragement of that care in cleanliness, feeding, and general treatment, without which the little ones cannot thrive. Names should be sent to Mrs. Field without delay.

**Historical Notes.**—VI. (continued from November, 1908).—In the year 777 Bensington is mentioned the second time in the annals of our country. "This year Cynewulf and Offa fought about Bensington and Offa took the town." So we read in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle which was compiled little more than a century later under the directions of King Alfred. The valley of the Thames was the borderland between the two Kingdoms of Wessex and Mercia, sometimes annexed by one and sometimes by the other. At this period it belonged to the West Saxons; but Cynewulf their King was a weak ruler, while Offa the Mercian was a powerful conqueror, determined to extend the boundaries of his Kingdom. Thus he took possession of the district of which the royal town of Bensington was the capital. The name of Offa left a strong impression upon the old traditions of the village. An embankment formerly existing between the Church and the river was said to be a

relic of Offa's Palace, and when the Church tower was re-built in 1780 a stone coffin found in the Church was supposed to be Offa's coffin. It was not so, for Offa was buried near Bedford; but the place that his name occupied in Benson legend is interesting when we recollect that he was a notable Church-builder, the founder of the great abbeys of Bath and St. Albans and many other Churches, and that his favourite dedication was St. Helen, to whom our Church is dedicated. She was the mother of Constantine the Great, and there was a legend that she went to Jerusalem in the year 325 and discovered our Saviour's Cross buried on Mount Calvary. We do not know why Offa favoured her, but it has been shown that Churches bearing her name are numerous along the lines of his conquests. When all these facts are put together they point to a strong probability that the first stone Church in Benson was built by Offa.

### Burials.

May 8, James Webb (Benson), aged 74.

„ 14, Harry Webb (Crowmarsh Battle), aged 49.

„ 24, Elizabeth Mary Howard (Benson), aged 84.

## BENSON.

**Horticultural Society.**—In consequence of other events taking place in the immediate neighbourhood—the Wallingford Regatta and a Flower Show at Warborough—on Wednesday, August 18, the Committee have decided to postpone our Flower Show, which had been announced for that day, and to hold it a week later, August 25th.

**Church Collections, etc.**—The collections for Home Missions (the Additional Curates' Society) on the Sunday after Ascension Day, May 23rd, amounted to £1 1s. 11d. Those for the Diocesan Education Society, in response to the Bishop's Pastoral Letter, on the 2nd Sunday after Trinity, June 20th, were £2 16s. 10d.. The annual collection in the Day-School for the Children's Cot Fund at the Radcliffe Infirmary has lately been sent, amounting to 13s. 6d., the largest sum that has been sent from our school during the nine years that it has contributed.

Our annual collections for the Queen Victoria Clergy Sustentation Fund will be on Sunday, July 18th.

**Historical Notes.**—VII. (Continued from last month).—The victory of the West-Saxons over the Britons in the year 571 placed an extensive district at the disposal of King Cuthwulf, and a large part of it was retained as a royal manor with

Bensington as its chief town. In order to trace the history of this manor we must go back to the foundation of the West-Saxon bishopric in 636. (For the two events which have been mentioned, see notes II. and III., April and June, 1907). Considerable lands about Dorchester on the one side, and on the other side the parish of Southstoke, belonged to the bishopric in early times, and were most probably given to St. Berin as its first endowment by King Cynegils, being cut off from the royal manor. The hamlet of Fifield also appears to have belonged to the bishopric; and this is the more interesting because in all probability it must have been given so that the Bishop, as one of the King's chief counsellors, might have a house here when the court was at Benson. There is good evidence to show what the limits of the manor were about a century before the Norman Conquest. On the north it included Brookhampton. The boundary followed the river Thame from the point where Chiselhampton bridge crosses it, and then followed the Thames as far as Littlestoke Ferry southward. Thence it crossed the hills eastward to include the parishes of Northstoke, Checkendon, Greys and Henley. It then passed northward along the Buckinghamshire border, taking in Assendon, Bix and Pishill, and crossed north-westward to include the parishes of Swyncombe, Britwell, Brightwell Baldwin and Newington. What is known of its gradual dismemberment must be reserved for a future occasion.

## BENSON.

**Historical Notes.**—VIII. (Continued from last month).—The first record that we possess of a grant of land in the Manor of Bensington is in the reign of King Ethered (976-1016). The northern parts had already been alienated. The portion which in later days became Brightwell Baldwin appears to have been given away first, but the recipient is unknown. Newington (including Brookhampton) with Berrick Prior and Britwell

Prior belonged to Emma, the King's Consort, and in 997 she gave them to the Priory of Christ Church at Canterbury; hence arose the designation, *Prior*. The ancient Chronicle of Abingdon Abbey, now in the British Museum, preserves a charter, dated 996, by which the King gave to his three brothers, Eadric, Eadwig, and Ealdred, two portions of "Bynsingtun-land," of which the boundaries are defined, and from these we gather that they included parts of what are now known as Berrick Salome, Britwell Salome, Ewelme, and Swyncombe. But though the three princes were empowered to bequeath this land by will to whomsoever they pleased, yet it seems to have reverted to the Crown and merged again into the royal manor, being granted afterwards to some other persons of whom we have no record. The suffix *Salome* comes from later owners who derived their name from the Berkshire village of Sulham, otherwise called Soleham or Sallom.

The next record of the manor that we possess is that of Domesday Book, compiled in the year 1084. There we find the manor of Newington with its dependencies held by the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the other parts already mentioned held by various owners. Ewelme was divided among four owners. Swyncombe belonged to Milo Crispin, the wealthy lord of Wallingford, and was held by the Abbey of Bec in Normandy. The Conqueror had given Long Crowmarsh to Walter Giffard, his friend and companion in arms, and Crowmarsh Battle to Battle Abbey in Sussex which he founded as a thank-offering for his victory. Other lands southward and eastward had also been severed either by the Conqueror or by the Saxon Kings before him. Still the diminished royal manor included, with Bensington itself, Warborough on the one side, and Nettlebed, Henley, and parts of Checkendon on the other side.

**Church Repairs.**—The interior of our Church now presents a fairly clean and bright appearance. This is entirely due to the munificence of the Misses Ruck-Keene. Much remains to be done in the way of further improvements, but the present low state of Church finance will not admit of any further orders being given. Will some kind friend come forward and bear the cost of covering the porch door with new crimson baize, or give the material for covering the kneelers round the font? A miniature organ for the lesser services is a most urgent want, and will cost about £7. Will the parishioners lend a helping hand? Many thanks are due to Mr. J. H. West for the notice-board in the porch, and also to the anonymous donor for the new mat at the Chancel door, as well as to Miss Deane and Mr. Birmingham for their kind help in making up the new tapestries in the Chancel.

**Entertainment.**—We are hoping to start a fund for the purchase of a small instrument, as mentioned above, by the proceeds of a musical entertainment, followed by a short dramatic piece, in the Schoolroom the second week in August.

**Queen Victoria Clergy Fund.**—A sum of £2 8s. 7d. has been contributed to this fund, including Church Collections, July 18, £1 18s. 7d., and subscription by Mr. Cozens, 10s.

**Agricultural Benevolent Institution.**—There will be collections for this Institution on Sunday, August 15th.

## BENSON.

**The School.**—We have had an excellent Report from the Rev. P. C. Bevan upon his examination of the school, July 9th, and we regret that it cannot be inserted in full. It must suffice to say that it speaks of the teaching being given with care and thoroughness, of a high level of knowledge in the upper standards and abundant evidence of good work in the junior groups, and of the Infants' good knowledge and excellent answers. The Diocesan Prize was awarded to Dorothy Lane (Berrick); Certificates of Merit were obtained by Percy Ward, Edwin Selwood, Lizzie Wells, Margaret Wells, Emily Barry, and Gerald Aldridge; and the following were commended:—Owen Cordery, Joseph Chapman, Henry Aldridge, Leslie Talbot, Mary Hunt, Percy Talbot, May Butcher, Evelyn Sandall, Thomas Biggs, Elsie Bridcutt, Dora Hutchings, Arthur Bridcutt, Harry Casey, Dolly Hutchings, Kate Cooper, Ivy Whichello, Grace Billing; and of the Infants' Class, William Vine, Maggie Josey, Elsie Pratt, Ivy Smith, Frank Polley, Ada Gardner, George Pointer, Nellie Lane, Elizabeth Jones, William Gurney.

On Wednesday, August 4th, the children attending the Sunday School had their usual treat, assembling at the school at 2.15 p.m., and after a ten minutes' service in church having tea in the Vicarage Garden; then the crossing of the river in the horse-boat and two hours of cricket for the boys and various games for the girls and little ones in the Rush Court meadow by Mr. Faber's kind permission. The weather was favourable and all went happily.

The school is to re-assemble on Monday, September 13th.

**Concert.**—The musical and dramatic entertainment, of which notice was given last month, took place in the School on Monday and Tuesday evenings, August 16th and 17th. The vocalists and performers were a company of amateurs from Churchfield and the Vicarage, with some very valuable help from Wallingford. After a series of songs, duets, and humorous pieces, among which encores were very numerous, the performance of "The Area Belle" won great applause at the end. In spite of rain the room was well filled the first evening and crowded the second evening; and critics pronounced the whole entertainment to be excellent.

**Harvest Thanksgiving.**—We hope to have the usual services in thanksgiving for the Harvest on Thursday, September 16th. The preacher at Evensong (7 p.m.) will be the Rev. Arthur H. Drummond, Vicar of All Saints', Maidenhead, Hon. Canon of Christ Church and Proctor in Convocation. The Holy Communion will be celebrated the same morning at 7.45. The collections will be for the Cottage Hospital at Wallingford, and those of

the following Sunday will be for the Radcliffe Infirmary.

**Rummage Sale.**—It is proposed to hold a sale of such miscellaneous goods as our friends may contribute for the benefit of the Church Funds in the latter part of October. A more definite announcement will be made next month. Meanwhile, Mrs. Field will be glad to receive contributions at the Vicarage.

### Baptisms.

August 1st, Olive Amy Rachel, daughter of James and Emmeline Hussey.

August 15th, Olive, daughter of George and Ruth Dix.

August 22nd, Albert John, son of William and Mabel Billing.



£1 4s. 10d. Expenditure : County Committee, for fuel, 19s. ; Star Registers, 5s. 10d. Total, £1 4s. 10d.

**Roke Gardens.**—Receipts : Balance from previous year, 2s. 2½d. ; Rents received, £3. Expenditure : Rates and Taxes. 16s. 1½d. ; Day School, as above, £1 6s. 3d. ; Sunday School, as above, 19s. 10d. Total, £3 2s. 2½d.

**Harvest Thanksgiving.**—We had a hearty service and a good congregation on Thursday evening, September 16th, in thanksgiving for the harvest. Canon Drummond preached an earnest and impressive sermon on St. James v. 7-8. The collections for the Cottage Hospital amounted to £2 18s. 10d.. and those of the following Sunday for the Radcliffe Infirmary were £3s. 6s. A hamper of fruit and vegetables was also sent to the Cottage Hospital.

**Rummage Sale.**—Saturday, October 30th, is the day upon which we hope to have the Sale for the benefit of the Church funds. Will our friends kindly put aside for it such articles as they are willing to contribute ?

**Waifs and Strays.**—There will be collections for the Society for providing Homes for Waifs and Strays on Sunday, October 31st, when a sermon will be preached in the evening by the Rev. C. W. H. Whalley, M.A., Organising Secretary of the Secretary for this Diocese.

**In Memoriam.**—The unexpected and almost sudden death of John Aldridge, aged 15, after an operation at the Radcliffe Infirmary on Wednesday, September 15th, came as a shock to us all. He was a promising and well conducted boy, and the greatest sympathy is felt for his parents in their loss.

The Rev. G. J. Davies has kindly undertaken the charge of the parish in the Vicar's absence October 4th to 22nd.

**Baptisms.**

August 29th, George Edward, son of John Edward and Rosa Dixon.

September 12th, Ronald, son of Ernest Alfred and Mary Jane Polley.

September 18th, Jack, son of William John and Sarah Ann Vaughan.

**Marriage.**

September 18th, John Griffin and Edith Ellen Spicer, both of Benson.

**BENSON.**

**The School.**—Accounts of the Foundation Managers for the year ending June 30th, 1909.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.
Balance from previous year ... ..	36	7	3
Subscriptions (2 at £5 ; 1 at £2 ; 1 at 21s. ; 3 at 10s. ; 2 at 5s. ; 16 at 2s. 6d.) ... ..	17	1	0
Roke Garden Rents ... ..	1	6	3
Rent of House... ..	9	5	0
County Committee for wear and tear and cleaning ... ..	45	1	0
	£109	0	6

Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
Repairs, etc., of School ... ..	69	13	5
Do. School House ... ..	15	8	0
Alteration of Offices ... ..	10	1	0
Rates, Taxes, and Insurance ... ..	4	1	6
Diocesan Inspection Fund, Auditor, and Sundry Expenses ... ..	18	3	0
Balance carried on ... ..	8	18	4
	£109	0	6

**Accounts of Sunday School.**—Receipts : Roke Garden Rents, 19s. 10d. ; Anon., 5s. Total,

## BENSON.

**The Navy League.**—A meeting was held in the School on Monday, September 28th, at which Mrs. Hunt, from the Central Office of the Navy League, gave an address on the subject of this organisation and the purpose which it is intended to fulfil, showing also the great importance of making every effort to strengthen our navy at the present time. Captain Oakes undertook the duties of Chairman, there was a good attendance, and all were greatly interested in Mrs. Hunt's eloquent appeal. We hope some practical results will follow from it.

**Organ Fund.**—The last published statement, in the Magazine of October, 1908, showed a balance of £92 9s. The following sums have since been added:—Savings Bank Interest, 1908, £2 3s. 8d.; Alms Box in Church, September to March, 7s. 4d., and April to September, 7s. 6d.; Organ Recital, April 21st (£1 7s., less expenses 17s. 9d.), 9s. 3d.; Anon., 1s.; W. Cozens, Esq., £1; Rev. P. C. Bevan, £2 2s.; Proceeds of "Buried Cities," £2 15s. 9d. Total, £101 15s. 6d. A sixth instalment of £12 has now been forwarded to the Charity Commissioners towards repayment of the loan of £300 from the Benson Church Estate, leaving a balance of £89 15s. 6d. in the Savings Bank. After allowing for the interest which will now have accumulated upon the amounts already refunded to the Commissioners, the balance remaining to be raised will be about £130.

**Mothers' Meeting.**—Mrs. Field hopes to re-open the Mothers' Meetings at the Vicarage on Monday, November 8th, at half-past two o'clock, and will be glad to receive the names of any who wish to join them.

**King's Messengers.**—The meetings for boys will be resumed on Saturday, November 6th, at two o'clock, to be held on the first Saturday in each month; those for girls will be held on the third Saturday, commencing November 20th.

**In Memoriam.**—The Rev. William Henry Young in the years 1860 to 1862 held the joint Curacy of Benson and Berrick, residing in the latter village and having charge of Roke also; and his good work is not forgotten there. In 1873 he was appointed to the Vicarage of North Moreton, and his zealous and earnest ministry in that village is well known. Some months ago failing health compelled him to resign his charge, but he was spared the pain of leaving the parish and passed away peacefully on Friday, September 24th, having completed his 78th year.

Mrs. Lyon had lived for the most part in Benson during the last nine years, and was generous in her gifts both to the Church and to the poor. After some months of suffering she passed away on Wednesday, September 22nd, and was buried the following Monday beside her late husband at Thatcham.

Mr. Henry Reeve Cooper had only lately left

us, after residing for many years in this parish. He was well known for his bountiful liberality, and great regret was felt at the news that he also had passed away in Yorkshire after a short illness on Friday, September 24th.

### Baptism.

Sept. 28th, Frances Mary, daughter of Charles and Mary Ann Josey.

## BENSON.

**The Church.**—We have again to acknowledge several welcome gifts. We have to thank Mrs. Weatherby for generously supplying new matting in the nave and aisles, and our valued friend, Mr. Archer for kindly bearing the cost of covering the large baize door anew, and Mrs. Pelham for her work in some important needlework, and an anonymous donor for a new chair that was needed in the north aisle. The Churchwardens would still be grateful for two new chairs for the Vestry to replace the old Windsor Chairs that are there, and also for some new material (6 yards by 2 feet) for the kneelers at the Font. Also a set of eight new bell-ropes would be gratefully welcomed for the better ringing of the Christmas peals. Another need is an iron door and frame (about 2½ feet by 6 feet) to fix in front of the furnace; and if any friend possesses an old one that is disused it might serve well.

**Organ Funds.**—The cost of the miniature organ, which well supplies a real need in our Church, was (including carriage) £5 8s. 3d. Towards this sum we had the proceeds of the Concert in August, £3 13s. 6d., and a donation of 2s. 6d. The proceeds of the Rummage Sale, October 30th, were £10 15s. 7d., which, after paying the balance of £1 12s. 3d. to the above-named fund, leaves a sum of £8 15s. 6d. towards the debt on the large organ. Best thanks are due to the many contributors and helpers whose willing assistance made the sale successful.

**In Memoriam.**—The death of Sarah Lane, on All Saints' Day, after a month of severe illness, is a real loss to us and is lamented by all. She was a regular Communicant for a good many years and a regular worshipper in our Church not only on Sundays but on Friday evenings and other occasions. Faithful in her home duties, which were not light, she still found time for Church work; and she zealously devoted herself, often in spite of much inconvenience, to the weekly distribution of the Church Army Gazette among numerous subscribers. Though we feel she could ill be spared among us, we commit her humbly into God's hands, and we trust He will stir up the wills of others that her place in His Church may not remain unfilled.

**Foreign Missions.**—There will be collections for the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts on Sunday, December 12th. The annual meeting for this Society will be on the following Tuesday, December 14th, to be addressed by the Rev. Arthur Haig, M.A., Vicar of Wroxton, Oxon, and formerly a member of the Cambridge Mission to Delhi. The Vicar will be glad to have the Collecting Boxes sent to him on that occasion.

The first Friday in Advent, December 3rd, will be, as usual, our day of special Intercession for Missions, with Holy Communion at 7.45 a.m. (the alms to be given to the Diocesan Missionary Candidates' Association), Matins at 11, Evensong and Address at 7. A special appeal for renewed earnestness in the observance of the Day of Intercession has this year been addressed to the whole Church in England by the two Archbishops, and is specially commended to us by our own Bishop.

**Advent Services.**—Matins on Wednesdays (except December 8th), Fridays and Holy Days at 11; other days at 10. Evensong on Fridays (except the last) at 7, other days at 4.30.

**Christmas.**—On Christmas Eve (Friday) the Evensong will be at 6.30 p.m. On Christmas Day there will be Holy Communion at 8 a.m.; Matins and Holy Communion at 11 a.m.; Evensong at 5 p.m., with carols.

### Baptisms.

- October 31st, Ruby, daughter of Henry and Ada Sandall.
- October 31st, Albert Edward, son of Albert William and Annie Field.
- November 7th, Evelyn Beatrice, daughter of Bert Roland and Mary Ann Passey.
- November 14th, Carrie Sybilla, daughter of William George and Kate Sybilla Chainey.

### Burial.

November 3rd, Sarah Lane, aged 41.