

# S. Oswald's Parish Magazine.

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DECEMBER, 1895.

With the first day of this month commences the solemn season of Advent, which the Church has appointed to prepare our minds by proper meditations for a due commemoration of the greatest event in this world's history, the Incarnation of God the Son,—and to make us think of His second coming. At this time the Church takes upon her the office of the herald, and, like S. John the Baptist, she cries in the wilderness of this world, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight paths for Him." The Collect and the Epistle for the 1st Sunday in Advent remind us how we are to prepare the way, viz., by "casting off the works of darkness, and putting on the armour of light." This prayer is to be repeated every day with the other Collects in Advent until Christmas Eve. We can use it either in Church or at home.

It is said that the general character of people is moulded a good deal by the sort of country they live in. However this may be, we who live among mountains and valleys may see that in preparing the way of the Lord these hills and vales are constant reminders of something in our lives that needs to be altered. "Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain." Are there not amongst us high hills of pride, self-will, and obstinacy; deep valleys or hollows of past idleness, neglect, and carelessness; crooked ways of insincerity and evasion of duty; rough places of anger, spite, ill-nature, revenge, and unkindness?

Let us all, then, listen to the Church's repeated warnings during this month, and make one more conscious effort to free ourselves from the chain of evil habit and sin, and prepare the way in our hearts for His coming, who wills to be not only Incarnate *with* us but incarnate *in* us.

There will be an extra Service weekly during Advent, viz., Evensong on Wednesdays at 7, with an Address, and the Litany on the "Four Last Things," will be used. Come, all who can.

On Christmas Eve there will be the usual Festal Evensong, with Carols.

The Rector's Bible and Prayer-book Instruction Class on the 7th was attended by about 15 persons. The next will be on Thursday, the 5th inst., at the same hour and place—Infants' Schoolroom at 6-30 p.m.

The Monthly Temperance Meeting will be held on the same evening at 7-30.

The Sunday School Treat will be given on some day during the Christmas holidays, not yet fixed.

THE RECTORY.—Much as we dislike having to resort to Bazaars or Sales of Work as a means of raising funds, that would seem to be our only alternative now. It is proposed to hold one next Summer. A number of ladies have agreed to work during the winter for the purpose of clearing off the balance required, and we should be glad now if all the village would interest itself in the matter to make the thing successful, Mrs. Jennings will be pleased to receive articles, and to suggest to any one the making of such things as are likely to sell. Could not the numerous *wood-carvers* spare a little work for this object?

The work to be done *round* the house is to be given by the Committee to Grasmere workmen, but precisely *how* and *when* is not yet decided. One member of the Committee has suggested that, as a great deal of filling up will have to be done, perhaps those parishioners who possess horses and carts might agree to give a "*boon day*" in carting.

#### WINTER ENTERTAINMENTS.

There was a fair attendance at the Rector's Lecture on the Chinese on the 13th, but many do not seem to have known of it, though all publicity was given that could be. The Bishop of Barrow, in proposing a vote of thanks, hoped that another suggested Lecture on Japan might be given, and himself offered to give us one on Egypt. As he is to be with us again in March, perhaps we may have the pleasure of hearing it then.

An Entertainment—"Social Evening," with Tea—was given on the 28th, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all present, and these were many, the schoolroom being packed. We were glad to see the evident appreciation of the programme, even though there was an almost entire absence of the comic element (and to hear expressions of surprise that such a treat could be had for 6d). Romberg's "Toy Symphony" was well done, and an exhibition of "Musical Drill" by 11 children shewed the use of the school piano and the proficiency of Miss Dilke's teaching, and was received with hearty applause. We are sorry we have not room for the whole programme, but desire to thank all who contributed to make the "Social Evening" so great a success.

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#### CELEBRATIONS OF HOLY COMMUNION IN DECEMBER.

Sunday, 1st, at 8.	Wednesday, 25th, at 7-45 & 11-45 (Xmas Day).
Sunday, 8th, at 11-45.	Thursday, 26th, at 11 (S. Stephen).
Sunday, 15th, at 8.	Friday, 27th, at 8 (S. John Evangelist).
Saturday, 21st, at 8 (S. Thomas).	Saturday, 28th, at 8 (Innocents Day).
Sunday, 22nd, at 11-45.	Sunday, 29th, at 11-45.

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#### HYMNS FOR THE MONTH.

Dec. 1.	Morn. : 48, 403, 204 ; Even. : 51, 47, 54.
„ 8.	Morn. : 243, 217, 46 ; Even. : 531, 49, 23.
„ 15.	Morn. : 50, 353, 226 ; Even. : 352, 205, 22.
„ 22.	Morn. : 53, 268, 49 ; Even. : 203, 269, 54.
	Christmas Day, 60, 482, 484, 59.
„ 29.	Morn. : 58, 56, 559 ; Even. : 482, 62, 63.

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#### Burial.

Nov. 26. Edwin Miles Hudson, aged 28.

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RAINFALL AT GRASMERE.—Total for November, 10·31 inches.

T. A. GREEN.