

S. Oswald's Parish Magazine.

MY DEAR PARISHIONERS,

The S. Oswald's Magazine, after a rest of two years or more, enters now on a new stage of existence; and I trust it may prove a valuable means of communicating and recording parish news and information of many kinds which every house in the valley ought to be in possession of. Those especially who take an interest in any kind of parochial work, whether in the schools, missionary or temperance work, or affairs connected more immediately with their Church and affecting themselves, will find various items relating to all these things in these pages; and it is hoped they will make that interest more general by encouraging the sale of the magazine. I regret that, through pressure of work, this first number is a little late in making its appearance.

Last year at this time the parish was without a rector. And the months since my institution on the 1st of March have been largely taken up, so far as I have been concerned, in becoming acquainted with you all, and in learning the ways and customs peculiar to a new sphere. In whatever I have done or left undone, and in any changes I have seen fit to make, I trust I have not been actuated by any but the best motives, nor adopted them except after the fullest consideration. Slight changes are unavoidable, as all men are not constituted alike; and according to an old saying of these parts, which is not so silly as it looks, "It taks a' maks to mak every mak." In more genteel language, each has his idiosyncracies. Remember that this is true, too, of a congregation. But we are all good so far as we are *in earnest*, and will do good when we have some common understanding. In the great fundamental aspects of our holy Faith, as our Church of England lays them down for us in our Common Prayer Book, and in the duties between pastor and people, I trust we shall all be agreed as we ought to be, and the more so as we strive to learn to know them and each other better.

Let me say here how much I should like to have my burden of responsibility lightened by seeing a greater number of our people making use of the privilege of worshipping in their old parish Church. A more welcome sight this would be to me and to the regular worshippers than the crowds of visitors who frequent it in the summer time, who yet, by the way, set us so good an example. But in all things I wish to see good motives at work. Do not come to please the clergyman. Do not be so foolish as to stay away to spite him. Do not come simply because it is respectable. Do not act like an old character in one of our mountain parishes of whom a story was told by the late Bishop of Carlisle. The parish priest called on him and enquired why he never came to Church. He replied that he did not think it necessary, as he heard from his neighbours that he performed his duties quite satisfactorily, and there was no need for any others to look after him! Those times of ignorance, it is to be hoped, have quite passed away. Come to acknowledge and confess your manifold sins and wickedness; to render *thanks* to God for the great benefits you have received at His hands; to set forth His most worthy praise, to hear His most holy word; and to ask those things which are necessary for your bodies and souls. *These* are the motives for which we are to assemble ourselves together. I shall not rest content till I see a fuller Church, and a heartier and more general service; nor cease to pray for the return to the fold of those who have really gone astray like lost sheep. Especially I desire to see more of our village people resorting to the Holy Table, to the Church's central act of worship; and there again especially more *men*. Where are all those who have been last confirmed? and what has become of their resolutions?

There is much, indeed, on the other hand, for which I can thank God, and take courage. I have found many willing helpers, more perhaps in proportion than in any other place in which it has been my lot to work. There are good examples set, good precedents given; we only want them followed up.

It is my hope that before another New Year arrives the old Rectory house may be renovated. This has been occupying my attention for some time past. Various plans have been drawn up for this purpose, and the selection of the most suitable of

these is now the matter under consideration. A parish room will, if possible, be included in the premises, for Bible classes, confirmation and communicants' classes, G.F.S. and mothers' meetings, and other purposes, for which at present there is no place but the school or hired rooms in the village. The cost of all together will probably be about £1000. Some kind friends are sanguine that this amount can be raised in the neighbourhood, others are doubtful. I should like to see *all* help to the extent to which they are able; I am pleased to find everywhere the acknowledgment that the thing is needed, and I have no scruples in asking for the money, as it will be for a permanent benefit to the Church and parish, and not merely for me during my own tenure. The plans will be gladly shewn to anyone at my present place of abode, and all subscriptions will be duly accounted for. The Diocesan Church Extension Society will probably give a small grant, but it is necessary first for me to give an account of what we can do locally.

Mothers' meetings, to which all mothers are welcome, are held at present at Mrs. Bowness's rooms on Thursday afternoons from 2-15 till 4-0 o'clock.

Girls' Friendly Society's meetings, for work and readings, are also held at the same place on Saturdays from 2-30 till 4-0.

I wish those who have an interest in improving the services in the Church would attend the choir practices on Friday evenings, at 7-0. The Church is badly adapted for the proper placing of the choir; but if more eligible men would come into the choir we should contrive to give them places, and if those in the congregation who have better voices would come into the front seats of the north and south aisles they would materially help the singing. In this let us try to give God of our best.

The S. Oswald's Glee Class, started two months ago, is making satisfactory progress. It numbers about thirty members. The subscription is only one shilling and the price of the music. With the musical talent in Grasmere, we ought to be able to accomplish great things. The practices are on Tuesday evenings (7-30 till 9-0) at the school. Application for membership should be made to Mr. E. Hermann Baldry or to Mr. Simpson, of The Wray.

The S. Oswald's Branch of the Church of England Temperance Society holds its meetings on the first Thursday of each month at the School, 7-15 to 9-0. The Annual Tea and Dance in connection with this took place on New Year's Eve. There was a good attendance, and friends mustered in quite sufficient numbers. All passed off in a most orderly and satisfactory manner, and evidently it was a most enjoyable evening to all. This Society knows how to combine temperance with sociality, and its meetings are pleasant and cheerful gatherings. It is to be regretted that more *men* do not come to them. There is no more manly thing than temperance, rightly understood; and in Grasmere at least this characteristic will, it is hoped, always be kept to the front.

The Band of Hope still continues under the care of the Misses Simpson. The band of young hopefuls met at the School on Thursday, the 27th ult., after a short service at 3-0 p.m. in the Church, and 54 of them sat down to an excellent tea. After the tea, a Xmas tree awaited them in the class room, laden with presents of all kinds. The proceedings concluded with games, until the clock struck 7-0, when hearty cheers went up for their kind entertainers. An entertainment in connection with the above, in the shape of a play with the old title, "Puss in Boots," will have been given before this appears. Particulars will be seen in the local newspaper.

The Xmas holidays at the School commenced on the 20th ult., when about 120 were in attendance to receive the usual presents most kindly bestowed by J. T. Danson, Esq. The report of the Diocesan Inspector, of his examination in religious knowledge held on November 29, with the Bishop's notes thereon, will be found below.

And now, after so much by way of first address—more than must be expected in future numbers—I wish a very Happy New Year to everyone, with every blessing.

Your faithful servant in Christ,

W. JENNINGS.

CARLISLE DIOCESAN EDUCATION SOCIETY.

REPORT OF RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN GRASMERE SCHOOL (MIXED).—Present 94 ; average attendance 74 ; on books 100. Old Testament, New Testament, Catechism, Liturgy, Repetition,—Standards I. to III., good ; IV. to VII. very good.

GENERAL REMARKS. — The Master of the School has been deprived of the services of an Assistant for 13 weeks, but the work has not suffered to any extent. The children in the lower group answered with great readiness, whilst the work in the highest class deserves high praise.

The singing was very good.

F. L. H. MILLARD, *Diocesan Inspector.*

A good report.—J. W. C.

INFANTS.—Present 38 ; average attendance 32 ; on books 44.

GENERAL REMARKS.—The repetition was well said, and the rest of the work satisfactory.

F. L. H. MILLARD.

Satisfactory.—J. W. C.

Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials in 1894.

BAPTISMS —

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| Feb. 11. | Daniel Hewitt Elleray. |
| Mar. 4. | Peter Allan Sanderson. |
| „ 7. | Sidney Fletcher. |
| May 13. | Florence Lilian Peel. |
| July 1. | Eva Irene Bamford. |
| „ 1. | Samuel Borwick Dawes. |
| „ 15. | Edith Kate Green. |
| „ 22. | Nora Grisdale. |
| Aug. 5. | Edward William Kendall. |
| „ 12. | Stanley Baldry. |
| Sep. 23. | Caroline Borwick. |
| Oct. 7. | John Walker. |
| Dec. 2. | Charles Howard Wilson. |
| „ 30. | Bruce Colin Langhorn. |

MARRIAGES —

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| May 17. | Edward Thompson and Agnes Pearce. |
| Oct. 18. | Joseph Smith and Ann Wilson. |
| „ 31. | John Henry Irving & Margaret Dixon |

BURIALS —

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| June 10. | Thomas Henry Usher, age 42. |
| „ 18. | William Coates, age 74. |
| July 8. | Walter Baisbrown, age 14 months. |
| Sep. 23. | William Dawson (Wythburn), age 31. |

SUNDAY SCHOOL TREAT.—A tea and magic lantern entertainment will be given at the end of this month. Mothers will be admitted to the latter free.

PIANO.—Does anyone know of a good, strong, cheap, second-hand piano, that would do for the school, for infants' musical drill (required by Government), and for entertainments ?