

GRASMERE PARISH MAGAZINE

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A. E. CARRADUS, JACK WILSON,

JUNE, 1942.

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WHY DO I LIVE IN GRASMERE?

“Why am I left here in Grasmere?” Have you ever thought that? After all it is queer: here is the greatest war in all history affecting almost every country in the world. Here is our own country left for a period unaided to meet the full force of the enemy. Here are large portions of the country destroyed and shattered, London, Coventry, Liverpool, Hull, Norwich, so the list continues. Meantime you and I live here in Grasmere with our lives little changed for all practical purposes. Oh, I know there are minor discomforts and the buses are full and there are soldiers in the Prince! But we are not affected vitally: we have food and clothes (some at any rate!) and a house and sleep. In fact we still enjoy the blessings of peace in the middle of a war. Why?

Don't let's misunderstand each other! I'm not asking why Grasmere is not having relays of parachute troops dropped in it each night. That is due, I suppose, to the R.A.F., the H.G., the R.N. and a number of other initials. But I am wondering whether you have asked yourself — “Why is it that I am here in Grasmere where I am hardly affected by the war?” Let's put the question a little differently: why has God decided that for these last three years other people should have gone through hell and that I should not? What is His purpose for me in keeping me out of it?

You know if you really ask that question of yourself quite seriously, it is a little awkward. It may be that our Father thinks that we are such weak and useless creatures that we could not stand up to rough treatment. I don't like that answer a bit. I don't suppose you do. Besides I don't think it true.

But if that is not the right answer then the only other possibility seems to be that He has planned some other job for us to do for which He needs people whose nerves have not been upset by H.E.s and incendiaries, people who can remain calm because they have not been badly frightened.

What is that job? We cannot tell in detail yet—at least I can't. Perhaps you've thought about this already and can be more sure in

For further parochial news see third page of cover.

your answer. It must have something to do with the Post-War Period it seems to me: the sort of England that there is to be after the war. But whatever the job may be I feel quite sure that our business at the present time is to start training. Our country was caught unprepared for the war. We must see to it that we are not unprepared for what comes after.

The first part of our training must be to get the question into our heads — why have I not gone through hell like other people in the last three years? What does God want of me? We certainly shan't find the answer until we think about the question and see that it is a real question and must have a real answer. So why has God let me remain in safety?

C. M. S.

On Sunday, 28th June, the collections at all services will be given to the Church Missionary Society. The preacher, both morning and evening, will be Canon Bradley.

IN MEMORIAM.

Sarah Hannah Taylor was buried in Grasmere on the 26th May. She had lived in Grasmere for nearly twenty years at Glenthorne and so had nearly ceased to be an "off-comer" and was well known and respected by all.

Sarah Jane Hodgson — "Sally" to her intimates — will be much missed in Grasmere where she had spent all her life. To many of the outside world she was known for her dramatic powers, her clever impersonations in the Grasmere plays were greatly appreciated. By her neighbours and friends she will be remembered with affection and respect for her unselfishness, her readiness to serve and to be of use in an unobtrusive capacity, for her kindness and her steady devotion to duty.

RAINFALL.

Rainfall in April, 5.82 inches. Rain fell on 12 days.

G. M. Simpson.

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