

GRASMERE PARISH MAGAZINE

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THE TEACHING OF EPIPHANYTIDE.

This year with a very late Easter the season of Epiphany stretches to its maximum of six Sundays. This very rarely happens and it is interesting to see what the Church expects us to study during these six Sundays. If you look at the Gospel for each Sunday you will find that they consist of an account of the early year's of our Lord's life and of the beginning of His ministry: then there is one example of a miracle, one example of a parable, one example of teaching without a parable. The Lessons for the Sunday mornings give us the teaching of our Lord in the early chapters of St. John's Gospel and the witness of the Baptist to our Lord. In the evening Lessons we read in St. John's Gospel the teaching of our Lord on the Bread of Life, finishing on the 6th Sunday with the exclamation "If any man thirst let him come unto Me and drink."

Thus it is clear we are meant to study the early days of our Lord's work before hostility became acute and when, though regarded with suspicion by the authorities, yet He was welcomed and acclaimed by the people. We see also how the first fall in His popularity occurred when He taught—"I am the Bread of Life."

It is quite true that the essential knowledge of the Christian is concerned with the Birth, Death, Resurrection and Ascension of our Lord. Those are the four cardinal doctrines: God became man: the Son of God gave Himself for me: Christ is risen from the dead: Christ is with us always: on those four statements hang all our hopes. But our devotional life will never be really rich unless we know Jesus Christ in all circumstances of His earthly life. So in this period of Epiphany we are clearly meant for once to turn our thoughts temporarily away from the four main articles of the Christian faith and to endeavour a deeper knowledge of the teaching and practice of our Lord so that we may grow more like Him by study and example.

This is the more emphasized in the choice of that subject of "The Bread of Life" for the second lesson at Evensong. We must learn to feed on Him in thought and act. With our prayers and our studies will go our Communion and we shall be asking Him to come to us through the consecrated Bread and Wine and feed us with that food of which we can never have enough.

So then use these weeks to study our Lord in His early ministry; pray that we may grow like Him and then carry it into practice by feeding on Him at the Holy Communion.

For further parochial news see third page of cover.

MOTHERS' UNION.

The next meeting of the Mothers' Union will be held on Wednesday, February 17th, at 2-30 p.m., in the Rectory, when Miss Clarkson, of St. Katharine's College, Liverpool (now in Keswick), will be the speaker: she will talk about growing children in the life of the Church.

It should perhaps be broadcast that mothers who have babies or small children are most cordially invited to bring them and a nursery with attendant and toys awaits their arrival. No one need say that she cannot come because of her small child.

There will be a Celebration of the Holy Communion on Tuesday, 23rd February, at 10-30 a.m.

THE MISSION.

In every theatre of war there come days when the news is not very exciting: the work of building up for the next offensive is being carried on and there is little to report. So with this offensive of the Mission: we are building up. Wednesday, 3rd February, is the next date to notice when all are invited to come at 7 p.m. to the Church to pray for the Mission. It was a very bad night on January 6th when we had our first definite corporate prayer, but it was very encouraging that twenty people braved the storm. Now I ask you to come again on Wednesday, 3rd February, at 7 p.m.

In March there will be a much more important move: a real advance.

MEN'S SERVICE.

A Service for Men only will be held in the Church on Sunday, February 14th, at 3-15 p.m.

Perhaps we can hope for a better day than last month when it turned out the worst Sunday in the year, so that only a dozen men braved the snow.

There will be further Services for Men on March 14th and April 14th and let us hope for a constant increase in the attendance.

CHURCH COLLECTIONS.

Dec. 27	£7 3 7	Jan. 10	£2 10 1
Jan. 3	£4 11 4	„ 17	£3 5 0

RAINFALL.

Rainfall in December, 15.31 inches. Rain fell on 26 days.
Total rainfall for year, 92.15 inches. Rain fell on 214 days.
Heaviest fall in 24 hours, 4.53 inches on Oct. 9th.

G. M. Simpson.

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