

GRASMERE PARISH MAGAZINE

Rector — The REV. D. P. KING, M.A.

Wardens — MESSRS. JOHN W. SMITH and ALBERT SMITH.

Sidesmen: GEN. SIR JAMES O'DOWDA, H. SMITH, P. PEEL,
G. L. BORWICK, R. HAYES, JAS. WILSON, W. THOMPSON,
W. E. SHARP, J. ECCLES, E. WILSON, E. TYSON,
A. E. CARRADUS, JACK WILSON,

Church Man : MR. J. M. THOMPSON.

FEBRUARY, 1945.

My dear Friends,

I have always carefully refrained from the usual rectorial letter in the Magazine but this time I do want just to say something to all of you who have honoured me with your friendship.

No man could have been welcomed more warmly or treated with greater kindness and generosity during the five and a half years that I have been with you. You have done so much to make both myself and my wife feel that we were not "off-comers." I will say nothing of your kindness to Andrew, since he at least is a Grasmere boy, even if born in Cumberland.

For all this, and for much more that I am unable to express, for all the happiness that we have been given here in Grasmere during these five tragic years of war, I can never be sufficiently thankful. I could never have brought myself to leave Grasmere unless I had come increasingly to feel that the offer from the Bishop of Sheffield, to go to Millhouses, was a real duty.

So I am leaving you; and I feel sure that no rector has left you with greater genuine sorrow than I do. But I should be useless to you as rector if I refused to obey what I believe to be the call of God.

The end of a ministry in a parish is always sad, not only because of the separation that it entails but also because the words must come:—"give an account of thy stewardship." To look back is to see lost opportunities, people whom I have failed — that "I have left undone those things which I ought to have done and have done those things which I ought not to have done." For all my failures I desire to apologise and only ask that sometimes in the future you will say a prayer for me that I may hereafter better do my duty in that state of life unto which I truly believe that God is calling me.

But the end of my time in Grasmere is not wholly sad; for, by the grace of God, I believe that something has been accomplished and I ask you to bear in mind anything that you have learned and carry it out to the uttermost. Let the new rector when he comes find a parish eager and anxious to advance together towards a clearer vision of God.

Yours sincerely,

DENYS KING.

For further parochial news see third page of cover.

THE INTERREGNUM.

The Rector will leave Grasmere after Sunday, 18th February. That will be his last Sunday. He will be instituted in the parish of Holy Trinity, Millhouses, on Saturday, 10th March. Up to that date he is responsible for the services in Grasmere and he is very grateful for the generous way in which both Mr. Malleon and Mr. Ashton Smith have offered to help. From that date the sequestrators are responsible: they are as a rule the Rural Dean and the Churchwardens.

The real test of the work of a rector lies in what happens during the interval before his successor comes. I am confident that Grasmere will prove faithful and loyally support those who so kindly have offered to conduct the public services.

ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENT.

Lent is very early this year and begins on Wednesday, 14th February. Owing to the interregnum there can be no special services in Lent, but on Ash Wednesday there will be Celebrations of the Holy Communion at 7 and 8 a.m.

The fact that there are no special services need not mean that we do not keep Lent. Let us try instead to make our own prayers of more avail just because we have not the help of the public services.

During an interregnum the life of the parish must be maintained by the prayers of the faithful and therefore the duty falls all the more on us this Lent to be persevering in our prayers and in our acts of Communion. So let us make a simple rule for Lent of prayer and Communion and keep that.

BAPTISMS.

Nov. 26. Joan Margaret Palmer. Dec. 24. Ann Johnson.

CHURCH COLLECTIONS.

Nov. 26. £4 4 3	Dec. 25. £15 11 11*
Dec. 3. £4 2 5	„ 31. £ 6 14 10
„ 10. £3 17 6	Jan. 7. £ 4 9 4
„ 17. £3 12 6	„ 14. £ 4 14 5
„ 24. £8 6 10	„ 21. £ 3 11 8

* Divided between Sunday School and Church Expenses.

RAINFALL.

Rainfall in December, 13.30 inches. Rain fell on 23 days.

Rainfall for year, 97.78 inches. Rain fell on 243 days.

G. M. Simpson.

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