

St. Mark's, Englefield.

LOCAL SHEET.

No. 133.

JANUARY, 1897.

[Price with "Banner of Faith," ONE PENNY.]

First we must wish all our readers a very Happy New Year.—A year of peace and progress, of health, and well-being for our Parish and all its people.

1897 is to be noteworthy for that in it our good Queen will we trust complete a reign of 60 years; which has been a period of progress for our country, full of changes, indeed, but changes which have worked wonderfully for the benefit and advancement of the great number of our countrymen, as well as in the spread of our Empire throughout the world. Long may the reign continue, and bring with it a continuance also of the blessings of which hitherto under the Divine mercy it has been so full.

THE WORKMEN'S CLUB.

The members of the Workmen's Club to the number of 20, visited the Club at Mortimer, on Wednesday evening, December 9th, in order to play a return match with the members in various games. Both teams spent a very enjoyable evening. The result was a decisive win for the visitors by 11 points to 6. Hearty votes of thanks were given on both sides and suitably responded to.

THE DANCE annually given by Mr. Benyon to the members and friends will take place on Wednesday, January 6th, and an Entertainment to be given in the "Long Gallery," under the kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Benyon, by the "Englefield Club Minstrels," has been fixed for January the 20th.

NATIONAL SCHOOL.

We were very sorry, all of us—Managers, Teachers, and Children, that for the first time since they were instituted, Mrs. Benyon was not able to distribute the prizes, which she gives for Needlework in the School, and more sorry still that a bad cold should have been the cause of her absence.

There was a great deal of very good work, and often a difficulty in deciding who was the most deserving of the competitors.

We subjoin the list of the winners of the prizes :—

RECOMMENDED FOR PRIZES.

Girls. Needlework.

Standard	I.—Florence Neville.
„	II.—Amy Neville.
„	III.—Emily Horne.
„	IV.—Emily Morland.
„	V.—Edith Harris.
„	VI.—Gertrude Wyatt.
„	VII.—Nellie Cox.

KNITTING.

Standard	I.—B. Fowler.
„	II.—E. Buckland.
„	III.—R. Bates.
„	IV.—A. Vince.
„	V.—H. Harris.
„	VII.—A. Smithers.

SAMPLERS.

Elizabeth Wheeler	...	Marking on Linen.
Hilda Harris	} ...	Marking on Canvas.
Edith Harris		

INFANTS.

May Wheeler.

|

Alice Cox.

KINDERGARTEN.

Edith Bates.

SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE
GOSPEL IN FOREIGN PARTS.

The Annual Collections on behalf of this Society were made in the Church, on Sunday, December 13th, with the result that offerings to the amount of £32 8s. 9½d. were received.

To this must be added the sum collected by the boxes, 17 of which are held by different persons in the Parish, and which produced the following amount:—

	£	s.	d.
Mrs. Benyon	8	0	11¼
Miss Wells	0	6	2½
Mrs. Thame	0	3	6
Mrs. S. Martin	0	5	3
Miss. Webb	0	7	7½
Mrs. Dyer	0	4	0½
Mrs. Roake	0	12	10
Mrs. Hannington	0	11	8½
Hilda Harris	0	4	6¼
Mrs. Hobart	2	4	8
Mrs. Palmer	0	6	10½
Mrs. Wardswell	0	4	9
The Bothey	0	4	8½
Mrs. Coombes	0	6	0
Mrs. Clayden	0	3	1
Mrs. Butler	2	9	8
Mrs. Robinson	0	4	1
	£17	0	5½

The total amount, sent as a Parish Contribution, reaching the sum of £49 6s. 9d

We should like to record our thanks to those who so kindly undertake to be holders of the Society's Boxes, which have done such excellent work for the progress of Christ's Church in the distant dependencies of our Country.

HYMNS FOR THE MONTH.

2nd Sunday after Christmas—	M.	70, 315, 321 ;	E.	179, 265, 306.
1st Sunday after Epiphany—	M.	79, 178ij, 176 ;	E.	78, 80, 21.
2nd "	"	—M. 4, 193, 176 ;	E.	172, 220, 215.
3rd "	"	—M. 248, 199, 178 ij ;	E.	406, 439, 432.
4rd "	"	—M. 197, 279, 214 ;	E.	191, 182, 184.

CHURCH SERVICES.

There will be no change in the Sunday Services for the current month.

On Saints' Days, the Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at 8.30.

Mattins will be said daily at 11 a.m.

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No. 134.

FEBRUARY, 1897.

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CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES.

These have been the order in the Parish for the last month.

They began with the usual Children's Treat given by Mrs. Benyon in the Long Gallery, how we wished she could have been with us to order everything and bestow her gifts upon the little people with her own hands.

This, however, could not be, but there was a magnificent Christmas Tree, splendidly decked out with lights and ornaments, and high perched up a figure of Old Father Christmas, smiling down upon us with all the genial mirthfulness of old time.

Of course there was tea excellent and plenty, with good store of cakes and jam and bread, and after it was over the tables were cleared away and the seats turned so that the children should face the Tree, and the curtain was then undrawn and discovered it to our eyes in all its glittering beauty.

Then we had Christmas Presents every little one something good or useful to take home, and then after a few words from the Rector the candles began to burn down and had to be put out and we went away.

The one drawback to the evening was the rain which came down in torrents and prevented a great many of the mothers of the children from coming in to see the Tree, according to the custom of past years, otherwise all went off as happily as could be, and everyone seemed thoroughly to enjoy themselves. Mr. and Mrs. Roake, Mrs. Hannington and others lent valuable assistance in the arrangements and in "making tea."

THE CHOIR SUPPER.

According, we believe to time honoured custom, the Parish Choir with the Churchwarden and Sidesmen dined with the Rector on January 12th. One valued Member of the Choir, Mr. Tegg was prevented by illness from being with us, but all the rest put in an appearance. We first discussed a very substantial meal of the good old Christmas sort, and then we drank everyone's good health and wished each other a Happy New Year. Then we adjourned to the drawing room. Our good Organist Mr. Robinson took possession of the piano, and song followed song in quick succession, both from Members of the Choir and the remainder of the party, the latter certainly supplying their full share of the evening's harmony. An hour or so soon passed merrily away and in good time we all went homeward our several ways.

ENGLEFIELD CLUB MINSTRELS.

With the kind permission of Mr. Benyon these gave a very successful Entertainment in the Long Gallery, on Wednesday, January 20th.

Everything was capitally arranged, the "get-ups" and other details of the evening's amusement had been most carefully seen to. The songs as well as the other portions of the programme had been thoroughly rehearsed, and all went off in a well-ordered and spirited manner, which showed that no pains had been spared by the individual Members of the Troupe, as well as by those who had the management in charge.

A large audience was present and seemed thoroughly to appreciate the efforts made for their gratification.

Some of the Songs and Choruses struck us as being particularly satisfactory, and the applause which greeted the more comic portions of the bill of fare showed how well the taste of the audience had been understood and provided for.

As a whole we most heartily congratulate Mr. Robinson and his friends on a very successful effort to relieve the monotony of winter nights and give an evening's pleasure to their neighbours.

THE RINGERS.

According to ancient custom as we are told the Ringers rang a Midnight peal on New Year's Eve.

Before proceeding to the Belfry they met at the Club House and partook of a supper provided by the caretaker and his wife. Many of our readers will remember how the dreariness of the wet evening before Christmas Day was enlivened by a selection of carols and other tunes played on the hand-bells at various houses in the Parish. And it was from the gifts then received that the expenses of the supper were defrayed.

HYMNS FOR THE MONTH.

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany	M.,	320.	322.	324.	E.,	82.	545.	26.
Septuagesima	M.,	83.	168.	36.	E.,	232.	228.	22.
Sexagesima	M.,	533.	242.	290.	E.,	163.	273.	28.
Quinquagesima	M.,	281.	166.	236.	E.,	268.	161.	276.

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LOCAL SHEET.

No. 135.

MARCH, 1897.

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PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION AND ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS.

Mr. Roake, the clerk to the Parish Council, has received a notification from the Local Government Board, that this year instead of having one Meeting for the Election of Parish Councillors, and another later for the Annual Parish Assembly—both can take place on the same evening if held on Thursday, March 18th.

In a small Parish like Englefield, and where there is not much business to transact it seems the best course to adopt.

In the absence of the Chairman (Mr. Benyon), Mr. Roake has fixed the Meeting to be held in the Long Gallery, at 8.30 p.m., on Thursday, March 18th. Notices to this effect will be posted about in the usual manner.

Mr. Roake, the Chief Officer has sent the following statement concerning the

ENGLEFIELD FIRE BRIGADE:—

The Annual Supper and Meeting took place at the Fire Station, on Wednesday, February 10th. The Chief Officer presented the Report for 1896.

Two Fires were attended, the Brigade getting to work in both cases, as follows:—July 23rd, Field Farm, Burghfield; July 26th, Perrin's Farm, Mortimer. The number of hours employed in extinguishing the above was 15, and the miles travelled to and from the fires were 26.

The Charges in each case were promptly paid by the Insurance Companies interested. Fifteen Steam and Manual Drills were held and Members of the Brigade attended on 6 Evenings at the Long Gallery, when the Entertainments, etc., took place ; they also attended on 52 Evenings for cleaning gear.

The average number of attendances for every purpose is 66 per member.

Foreman Barefoot being top of the list with 69, out of a possible 73.

H. Shakelford having left the Brigade, R. Moore has been elected to fill the vacancy.

OUR SCHOOLS.

These were inspected by the Rev. S. Angel-Smith, Vicar of Theale, on Monday, February 1st, and we have every reason to be satisfied with the Report, which is as follows :

“This School maintains its high standard of religious knowledge, and continues to give evidence of careful instruction and of attention and reverence in learning. The repetition of prayers, hymns, texts, and catechism, was both accurate and intelligent throughout the School.”

“In the Infants’ Room, the Inspector was particularly pleased to find that the meanings of words repeated by heart had been explained and was generally understood by the children. In the class Edith Bates passed the best examination.”

“In standards II. and III., which were taken together, Old Testament is marked very fair and the other subjects good. The answering, though very satisfactory on the whole was not quite as general as might be wished. Stephen Clayden, Rose Bates, Alice Day, Amy Neville, Fred Fisher and Arthur Horne did very well indeed.”

“Standards IV. to VII. form a very good class, and offered a large number of subjects, in all of which they did very well. They particularly distinguished themselves in the Catechism, Prayer Book, and Old Testament. The diocesan was awarded to Hilda Harris, who was hard pressed by Ella Hayes, Sidney Allen, Edward Buckland, Charles Claydon, and Emily Morland. Practice in writing accounts of Bible events is somewhat needed for the spelling of proper names among other things. Constant use of maps for Bible History and a closer following of the syllabus are also recommended.

On the whole we may regard this report as highly satisfactory to the efforts of the Master (Mr. Robinson), and the Assistant Teachers (The Misses Hill), on whom the burden of the teaching has fallen altogether during the last quarter of the School year.

The Report of H.M. Inspector is not yet to hand.

THE WORKMEN'S CLUB.

The Annual Meeting of the Club was held on January 25th, the Rector being in the chair.

The following were elected Officers:—Hon. Treasurer : Mr. G. Roake ; Hon. Secretary : Mr. A. E. Robinson ; Messrs. J. Abery, W. Barefoot, C. Cox, D. Harris, F. Howard, G. Johnson, J. Tegg, W. Vince, A. Harris, Senr., F. Bray, F. Cox, and W. Pocock, were elected as the Committee.

A hearty vote of thanks to the President for his many kindnesses to the Club was proposed by the Rector, and seconded by Mr. Roake, and carried unanimously. An alteration was made in Rule IV., substituting the word “monthly,” for the words “In January, April, July, and October.”

And a new Rule was passed to the effect that the names of Candidates for membership should be exhibited in the Club Room, previous to their election.

The Annual Report for 1896, and the Financial Report of the Hon. Treasurer were produced and passed, showing a most satisfactory condition of progress during the last year.

ANNUAL DANCE.

The Annual Dance was held in the Club-Room, on January 6th, and was a pronounced success. The company assembled, numbered 90, including the Rector and Mrs. Saville Young. The room had been tastefully decorated by the Caretaker, and the music was supplied by Messrs. Binfield & Co., Reading. The arrangements were, as usual, carried out by Messrs. Robinson, Johnson, and Tegg.

A Committee Meeting was held at the Club, on Thursday, February 18th. Mr. Roake was elected chairman for the year. Various matters of business connected with the working of the Club were discussed and settled, and arrangements made for future meetings. The question of lighting the Billiard table figured largely among these, but no decision was arrived at.

The Rector and Messrs. Tegg and Robinson, were appointed a Library Sub-Committee, and Messrs. Robinson, Tegg, and Johnson, a Dance Sub-Committee, to carry out arrangements for the current season.

The next Dance will be held on Monday, March 1st, from 7 to 10.30.

THE CRICKET CLUB.

The Annual Meeting of the Cricket Club was held in the Club-Room, on Monday evening, February 22nd, there was a large gathering of members.

The regular business of the meeting was gone through, it appeared that after paying all expenses of last year a balance remained of 3s. 9d. in the hand of the Treasurer.

The usual election of Officers then took place, Mr. Benyon was nominated President, the Rector was elected Treasurer, Mr. Robinson, Captain, and W. Taylor, Secretary, and the following gentlemen were elected to form the Committee:—Messrs. Eborne, Johnson, Tizzard, Smith, Lamperd,

Clayden, and Smythe; Mr. Holloway was appointed Sub-Captain. It was decided to offer a prize bat to the highest average in batting, and if the funds permitted a prize also would be given to the best average in bowling. Mr. Clayden was again appointed groundman to the Club.

Various matches were discussed and ultimately it was left in the hands of the Secretary to fill up the programme for the season.

LENT.

The Holy Season of Penitence and Prayer, and Fasting, comes to us again on Wednesday, March 3rd.

Let us use it faithfully, and with sorrow for our sins and earnest real effort that we may lead truer and holier lives.

The Annual Working Party will be held at the House, on Tuesdays, closing with a short service in the Church.

On Fridays, at 7 p.m., there will be a Sermon and the Litany of Penitence in the Church.

PREACHERS.

March 5th.	Rev. J. Stewart, S. George's, Reading.
„ 12th.	Rev. J. B. Marsh, Slough.
„ 19th.	Rev. J. M. Hallam, Willesden.
„ 26th.	Rev. J. Manders, Stokenchurch.

ASH WEDNESDAY.

Holy Communion at 8.30 a.m.

Mattins and Commination Service at 11 a.m.

Evensong at 4 p.m.

Litany and Sermon at 7 p.m.

Lent is fast approaching, as we know, that Ash-Wednesday is on the 3rd of March, so we are thinking of Lent and of our working party. It is a great disappointment to myself again to be prevented being at Englefield with our kind helpers; but the working party will go on quite in the same manner, only that we have the satisfaction of knowing that we have a lady now at the Rectory who takes a deep interest in all good works and in Missions, and with our Rector and Mrs. Savill Young's full approval, we shall again work for our poorer neighbours in the East end of London (where there is so much distress and destitution) and looked after by the Sisters of S. Saviour's Haggerston, and also for Central Africa.

Mrs. Hobarts and Mrs. Lavell hope to come down each Tuesday. We will remind our workers that we propose that the first Meeting will be in the Long Gallery, on Tuesday, March 9th, at 2.30, tea at 4.15 and the Rector tells us Evensong will be at 5 with a short address.

I may also add that our number of garments last year were 271 for England, 36 for Central Africa, making altogether 307 garments, the highest quantity we have ever succeeded in making. I have no doubt we shall not be behind this year.

ELIZTH. M. BENYON,
18, Grosvenor Square,
February 23rd 1897.

CHURCH DEFENCE COMMITTEE.

The Rev. Charles A. Williams will give a course of Lectures in the Long Gallery, at Englefield House, in furtherance of the object of this Institution, on the Thursdays, March 11th, 18th, 25th, and April 1st. Full particulars will be on the special notice.

HYMNS.

1st Sunday in Lent.	...	M., 84. 89. 284.	E., 92. 250. 267.
2nd ,, ,,	...	M., 88. 87. 279.	E., 92. 91. 256.
3rd ,, ,,	...	M., 89. 254. 198.	E., 92. 252. 93.
4th ,, ,,	...	M., 287. 156. 257.	E., 92. 263. 251.

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LOCAL SHEET.

No. 136.

APRIL, 1897.

[Price with "Banner of Faith," ONE PENNY.]

PARISH COUNCIL.

The Annual Meeting for the Election of Parish Councillors was held in the Long Gallery, on Thursday evening, March 18th. The Retiring Members—R. Benyon, Esq., and Messrs. Roake, Harris, Horne, and Dixon were Re-elected for the ensuing year. The Annual Parish Assembly was then held, to receive from the Trustees of the Apprentice Charity the statement of Receipts and Expenditure, which showed that the Annual Income is £27 17s. 4d. One Boy and one Girl had been Apprenticed during the past year, and Grants to two Boys for Tools, the Expenditure being £35 5s. 0d. The Amount available for Apprenticing being £191 2s. 7d. at the present time.

The list of Recipients of Pottinger's Bread Charity was submitted to the Meeting. The Annual Income of which is 40 shillings, received from R. Benyon, Esq. The Meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman—Mr. Palmer.

THE GUILD OF S. MARK, AT ENGLEFIELD.

There will be a Meeting of this Guild in the Church on the afternoon of Sunday, April 4th. Which it is proposed should be a service of preparation in view of the approach of Easter, when the Prayer Books bids all members of the Church to the Holy Communion.

The office of the Guild will be said and there will be an Address. It is hoped that all members now resident in the Parish will make a point of attending. One great use and object of a Guild consists in the help and support which the union of the members gives to each separately in times of temptation, trial, and in difficulty, and this is helped much by the Meeting at such times as may be possible during the year. Should we not meet oftener, in the old times we read—"Then they that feared, the Lord spake often one to another?"

SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Several complaints have reached us lately as regards the want of proper organisation in the Sunday School, as at present carried on, and we hope after Easter, something may be done to remedy some very obvious defects in the method which now exists.

PREACHERS ON FRIDAY EVENINGS.

April 2nd.—Rev. W. H. Harper, S. Mark's, Reading.

April 9th.—Rev. E. B. Mackay, St. Peters', Wallingford.

PASSION-TIDE.

The most solemn and holy season of the Church's year is coming to us this month. It is given first of all, to speak to us and remind us of the Sufferings and Death of Christ, and to recall to our thoughts vividly and plainly the work of His Atonement, and the price which He, The Eternal Son of God paid for our redemption. Then it teaches us how we by our own particular sins and faults have caused His Sufferings. In the great burden of Gethsemane and Calvary He was suffering for us. "He bore *our* sins in His own Body on the Tree." Lastly it comes before us, bidding us to mourn over our sins as well as over the pain and anguish which we have caused Him "Who loved *me*, and gave Himself for *me*." Let us try and enter in this spirit on the Holy week, and particularly let us make Good Friday the day of His Suffering, a time for thoughts of penitence and prayer.

Easter also comes with its glorious message of victory and hope "I am He that liveth and was dead," and "Because I live, ye shall live also."

The message spoken of Divine love to penitent, humble, and thankful hearts.

In this spirit let us come to our Easter Communion. Our great yearly sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to God, for the unspeakable mercy of Redemption and Life.

HYMNS.

Passion Sunday	... ..	M., 108. 107. 315.	E., 112. 184. 105.
Palm Sunday	... ..	M., 99. 106. 250.	E., 110. 244. 251.
Good Friday	... ..	
Easter Day...	.. ..	M., 134. 316. 324.	E., 135. 140. 302.
1st Sunday after Easter...		M., 134. 433. 410.	E., 135. 410. 436.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER-TIDE.

The Services for Holy week, Good Friday and Easter Day will be the same as in last year.

In Holy week there will be a short Service with an Address on each evening at 8 p.m.

Good Friday.—Mattins and Sermon 11 a.m.
 Service with Address 2 to 3 p.m.
 Evensong and Sermon 8 p.m.

Easter Day.—Holy Communion at 7.30, 8.30, and at Mid-day.

St. Mark's, Englefield.

LOCAL SHEET.

No. 137.

MAY, 1897.

Price with "Banner of Faith," ONE PENNY.

EASTER DAY.

Our Easter festival seemed bright and joyous. We were glad to see so goodly a number of communicants at the services, and only wish that more had remained to worship with us at the choral celebration at midday.

Everything was arranged as nearly as might be on the lines of the past years, and it seemed to us that the services, with their hearty singing and earnest tone, told of a real desire to do honor to the Risen Lord, whose triumph over death and the grave is commemorated at the Holy season.

Let us remember the Day with thankfulness, and trust it speaks well for progress in holy things during the year now before us.

HYMNS FOR THE MONTH.

2nd Sunday after Easter M.,	248.	197.	315.	320.	E.,	224.	177.	274.
3rd Sunday after Easter M.,	196.	282.	232.		E.,	175.	230.	260.
4th Sunday after Easter M.,	178ii.	301.	202.		E.,	170.	172.	219.
5th Sunday after Easter M.,	245.	143.	247.		E.,	178iii.	217.	271.
Ascension Day	M.,	147.	144.	304.	E.,	150.	301.	30.
Sunday after Ascension Day—								
	M.,	147.	144.	300.	E.,	150.	299.	145.

ASCENSION DAY.

This great Festival on which is commemorated the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ into Heaven occurs on the 27th of May.

May we hope that as many as are able will keep it by coming to worship Him in His House.

The services will be the same as last year:—Holy Communion at 7 and 8 a.m.; Mattins and Sermon at 11; Evensong and Sermon at 8.

EASTER VESTRY.

Vestry meeting held pursuant to notice on Easter Monday, April 19th, 1897. Present—the Rector in the chair, and Messrs. Roake, Coombes, Palmer, Robinson and Vince.

Notice convening the meeting was read, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Churchwardens' accounts were produced, examined, and allowed. A voluntary rate of 1d. in the £ was recommended to meet current expenses.

Mr. Benyon was reappointed Rector's churchwarden, and Mr. Roake, Parish Churchwarden.

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Benyon for his kindness in paying the organist's and blower's salary, and for the repairs carried out in the Church during the past year.

Messrs. Todd, Coombes, Palmer and Dyer were appointed sidesmen.

CHURCH WARDENS' ACCOUNT, FROM EASTER, 1896, TO EASTER, 1897.

	RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Amount of Church Rate	9	8	9
Easter Day Collection	13	5	0			
October Collection	17	19	6½			
					31	4	6½
From R. Benyon, Esq., Organ Tuning	2	2	0			
„ „ Organist's Salary	20	0	0			
„ „ Organ Blower	1	0	0			
					63	15	3½
Balance from Easter, 1896	26	17	11½			
					£90	13	3

	EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.			
Visitation Fees	0	18	0			
Mrs. Horne, washing surplices	1	16	2			
Mrs. Allen, 1 years' Church cleaning	3	5	0			
W. Vince, 1 years' Sexton Salary	4	0	0			
„ „ 1 years' Bell Ringing	1	0	0			
Bell Ringers' Excursion to Bletchley	2	3	6			
Golder, Repairs to Bible	0	2	0			
Hand Bells purchased of Rev. A. H. C. Heigham	3	10	0			
Wafer Bread	0	3	4			
Heelas, for Seat Rope	0	4	6			
Salmon, for Wine	0	15	0			
Golder, for Hymn Books	6	3	6			
Fuller & Archer, for Candles	2	15	3			
Dusters for Church Cleaning	0	5	6			
One Years' Fire Insurance	3	2	6			
GINNS, Organ Tuning, 1 year	2	2	0			
Organist's Salary	20	0	0			
Organ Blower's Salary	1	0	0			
Mr. Coombes, mowing Church Yard	1	10	0			
Timber Yard Account.—							
New Grave Cords	1	1	0			
Repairs to Roof Cleaning out Gutter	1	9	10			
Materials for Cleaning Church	0	12	2			
Cocoa Matting for Vestry	1	1	0			
Three-dozen Brussel Kneelers for Church	4	1	0			
Gas £5, Coke £6.	11	0	0			
					19	5	0
Balance in hand	74	1	3			
					16	12	0
					£90	13	3

THE WORKING PARTY.

Lent has passed, and Easter with all its brightness has come, and with it the end of our working party. Once more we have to thank our kind workers for their ready and willing help.

I am sure it will be a matter of great satisfaction to all, as well as myself, to realise that our number of garments made during the six weeks exceed any number hitherto made, and whereas in 1896, the numbers were 307, this year, 1897, they are 328, and the following distribution has been made:—

Sisters of S. Saviours, Haggerston, working amongst the very poor in the East End—124 garments.

Sisters of the Ascension, working amongst the very poor in this district—111 garments.

Association for helping those in great distress—51.

Garments for Central Africa—42.

Owing to unavoidable delay in the African Garments being sent out last year, the following letter has only lately been received from Miss Demford, one of the ladies working in the Mission at Magila, I think it will interest our readers to hear an extract from her letter.

U.M.C.A., MAGILA,

March 15th, 1897.

DEAR MADAM,

Please accept my grateful thanks for the nice parcel of frocks you so kindly sent us, they were just what I needed, and I am deeply indebted to your kind working party for making them. I find it most difficult to get really small frocks, there is such a demand for tiny babies' garments. . . . The mothers do like to have their children dressed, and they are quite as proud of their babies as a European mother.

Dear little black mites, they look so sweet dressed in a little red frock, which shows up their beautiful glossy skins. If I might venture to trespass upon your great kindness again later on, I will beg for a few frocks even much smaller than the smallest sent in this parcel (the size for a baby of a month or six weeks). They do not wear long robes, just a short frock as soon as the baby can be dressed. . . . Again thanking you, believe me,

Sincerely yours,

L. M. DEMFORD.

I think it must be a real pleasure to us all to feel we have been able in anyway to help those in great need.

ELIZABETH M. BENYON.

18, Grosvenor Square.

April 23rd.

OUR SCHOOL.

The following is the Report of H.M. Inspector for this year, dated Feb. 26, 1897.—Mr. Tremenheere says of the Mixed School, "The children are in excellent order, and are making capital progress in all their subjects. The work is accurate and shows a high degree of intelligence." Infants' Class.—"The Infants are intelligently and successfully taught. The discipline is very praiseworthy on the whole, but care should be taken to keep the babies' class in touch with the teaching."

The certificate of Miss Hill will be issued when due upon the application of the Managers.

WORKMEN'S CLUB.

We are asked to announce that the catalogue of the books which have been lately added to the Library is now in the printer's hands, and will shortly be ready for issue to the Members.

The last dance of the season took place on Wednesday, April 21st.

THE CRICKET CLUB.

We have received the following list of matches which have been arranged to take place during the present season.

LIST OF MATCHES FOR 1897.

DATE.	OPPONENTS.	GROUND.
May ... 1	Bucklebury Fireside C.C.	Home.
„ ... 8	Goring C.C.	Home.
„ ... 15	Guildhall C.C.	Newbury.
„ ... 22	Swallowfield C.C.	Home.
„ ... 29		
June ... 5	Woolhampton College C.C.	Woolhampton.
Whit-Monday 7	Evans O' Donnell & Co. (London).	Home.
June ... 12	Aldermaston C.C.	Home.
„ ... 19	Mr. Steel's XI.	Bradfield.
„ ... 26	Biscuit Factory C.C.	Home.
July ... 3	Bucklebury Fireside C.C.	Bucklebury.
„ ... 10	Woolhampton College C.C.	Home.
„ ... 17	Goring C.C.	Goring.
„ ... 24	Biscuit Factory C.C.	Reading.
„ ... 31	Burghfield C.C.	Home.
August ... 7		
„ ... 14	Swallowfield C.C.	Swallowfield.
„ ... 21	Guildhall C.C.	Home.
„ ... 28	Aldermaston C.C.	Wasing.
September ... 4	Burghfield C.C.	Burghfield.
„ ... 11	Married v. Single	Home.

 PARISH REGISTER.

BAPTISM.

April 25.—Lily, daughter of William Henry and Ann Fowler

MARRIAGE.

April 17.—George Henry Pusey and Ellen Elizabeth Elliott.

April 19.—Charles Ambrose Boyd and Florence Eleanor Butler.

BURIAL.

(At Ventnor) Cornelius Cox.

St. Mark's, Englefield.

LOCAL SHEET.

No. 138.

JUNE, 1897.

[Price with "Banner of Faith," ONE PENNY.]

THE DIAMOND JUBILEE.

We are all looking forward to the Great Day, June 22nd. When we hope to celebrate the completion of the 60 years of H.M. Queen Victoria's long and happy reign.

It will be a day marked and remembered in the history of our country. And we hope that in our own parish we may keep it in such a manner as will give us happy recollections of it, in the years to come.

We understand that there is to be a whole Holiday for all parishioners, young and old, as well as for everyone whose daily work lies in Englefield, in the ordinary way.

There will be a Celebration of Holy Communion at eight in the Parish Church, and as 1887, two short services in the Parish Church, one at 11.30 a.m., and the other at 12.30 p.m., to give every one an opportunity of attending, Dinner will be in the Long Gallery at 1.30, followed by Games and such-like in the Park.

Tea will come in the Long Gallery at 6, then Dancing on the Lawn for the young people till 10 p.m. ; and to wind up all the other pleasures of the day—Fireworks in the Park.

It reads like a good long programme for us all, and no doubt everyone will come bent to do special honours to so joyous an occasion, and be happy over the many blessings and increased prosperity which this longest Reign in England has brought to our native land.

Perhaps it will help us a little to understand the advance of comfort in the common things of life, if we look round our own parish and our own neighbourhood and see how in the matters of daily life, comforts have multiplied and education has advanced. Then notice how our postal arrangements have improved, keeping us so much more easily in touch with friends and relatives in other parts of England, and beyond the seas. While the railways enable us to make excursions to other places and carry us so swiftly from one end of the country to the other.

On another side too we may recognise how books and newspapers have been produced for our people as they have become able to read them, and, by the aid of these, as well as the electric telegraph we learn now-a-days more easily what is doing on the other side of the world, than 60 years ago what was happening in York.

And think what photography has done for us, and how we can send our "likeness" to our friends and relations across the sea, for the smallest rate of postage.

We should not do right either if we did not remember the advance in thoughtful care over our Church Services, which Queen Victoria's Reign has seen. The restoration of Architectural features and Holy symbols, the improved music, the more decent arrangements, surpliced choirs for example, as well as multiplied opportunities of attendance on the Sacraments and worshipping God in His Holy House.

God has certainly given us in this nation and perhaps throughout all the world, a stirring of men's hearts, to think more of the Unity of His Kingdom upon earth, and in the midst of increased wealth and comfort to offer to Him of the fulness He has bestowed.

MRS. BENYON writes to us :—

“ I feel sure our Lent Workers will be pleased to hear how much their efforts have been appreciated, and will be interested to read the following letters ” :—

(Copy) S. SAVIOUR'S PRIORY,
Great Cambridge Street, N.E.

Dear Madam,

Thank you most heartily for the beautiful garments you have so kindly sent us from your Lent working party. They will indeed be most useful, and we are very grateful to you and to all the kind workers for your goodness in helping us so liberally.

Gratefully yours,
(For) KATE, S.S.M.,
Mother of S. Saviour's Priory.

From the Matron of the Association for those in great distress :—

(Copy) “ The Matron is especially pleased with all the beautiful Articles you have so kindly sent for distribution amongst the poorer clergy.”

From the Sisters of the Ascension,
Seymour Street.

Dear Mrs. Benyon,

(Copy) “ I do not know how to thank you enough for the beautiful amount of Clothes you have so kindly sent us, we are most grateful for them.”

Believe me,
Yours very sincerely,
ADELAIDE,
Mother Superior.

THE RINGERS.

The Annual Meeting of the Englefield Ringers was held in the Vestry at the Parish Church on May 26th. The Rector nominated Henry Abery and John Vince to be Ringers in the places of George and Henry Wallace, who have left.

A vote of thanks was given to Mr. Roake for allowing the use of his horse and trap on the occasion of the visit of the Diocesan Guild of Bell Ringers to Mortimer.

Subscriptions were paid and various matters of interest discussed.

HYMNS FOR THE MONTH.

Whit-Sunday	M., 157. 207. 317.	E., 154. 156. 210.
Trinity Sunday	M., 160. 163. 165.	E., 161. 164. 166.
First Sunday after Trinity	M., 221. 217. 230.	E., 214. 281. 276.
Second Sunday after Trinity	M., 273. 268. 236.	E., 274. 534. 20.

BAPTISM.

May 13th.—(Privately). Edith Alberta Robinson.

Received into the Church, May 31st.

ASCENSION DAY.

Our Services were the same as last year on this Great Festival. Two Celebrations of Holy Communion at 7.30 and 8.30 ; then full Choral Mattins with a Sermon from the Rector. Evensong at 7.30., when the Sermon was preached by the Rev. J. T. Fox.

Everything was bright and joyous as the Festival should be. But we wish we had had more Communicants to worship Him who has "gone up on high."

St. Mark's, Englefield.

LOCAL SHEET.

No. 139.

JULY, 1897.

[Price with "Banner of Faith," ONE PENNY.]

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF BELL-RINGERS.

Some members of this Guild from outside the Parish visited our Belfry on Saturday, June 19th, and rang what is known as "A Peal of Minor in four methods," comprising in all 5,040 changes, viz. : 720 in College single, two sets of 720 each in Oxford Bob, Canterbury Pleasure and Plain Bob Minor.

The names of the ringers were :—Ernest Bruce, Treble ; William Lucas, 2nd ; Charles Giles, 3rd ; Alfred E. Reeves, 4th ; Fred Richardson (Conductor) 5th ; and William Horne, Tenor.

HER MAJESTY'S DIAMOND JUBILEE.

Everyone has been keeping—each in their own way—this great Festival of H.M. glorious reign—rejoicing over the long period of prosperity with which God has seen fit to bless us as a nation, and in the many helps to happiness and comfort that the progress of our people has brought within reach of all classes of the community.

At Englefield, we have kept it in Englefield fashion.

First—We began our day with a Celebration of Holy Eucharist, then at 11.30 and at 12.30, there were two Thanksgiving Services, which were attended we believe, by all the parishioners. Then we assembled in front of the House,

and led by the Band and headed by the Rector, we all marched to the Long Gallery, which with a Tent outside to hold the over-flow, seated some 360 people, men, women, and children for a capital dinner, which had been provided for us all by the kind liberality of the Squire and Mrs. Benyon. There full justice was speedily done to the excellent catering of Mr. George, of Reading, and the Rector in a short speech proposed—The Health of H.M. Queen Victoria, and we sang “God Save the Queen” once more, I wonder how often we have sung it during this last week or so? Next we drank the health of Mr. and Mrs. Benyon, and wished they would have heard the hearty cheers which greeted the mention of their names, and told of the deep affection which binds them and their people at Englefield together.

Then out into the fresh air and the bright sunshine of “Queen’s weather,” Comic Singers, Nigger Minstrels, filled a happy afternoon on the Terrace, and there was too much heat for any to wish to wander far from the deepest shade of the trees, as the sun stole round to the west.

Tea in the Long Gallery and Tent followed at 6, and a distribution of Jubilee Mugs to the School children (we forgot to say that fair hands had decorated us each with a Jubilee Medal after dinner), and we went once more out to the Lawn on the Terrace, and danced, at least a few of us danced, (why not more couples?) till the evening came upon us, and the shadows fell and deepened, and we went up to the hill top behind the House, and Mr. Roake manipulated fireworks, rockets, &c., &c., till at 10, a huge one rushed up into the sky, and served as the signal for lighting the Bonfire; how it blazed, and crackled, and flared up into the darkness, greeting some half-dozen others whose light could be detected on distant points. Once more the Band struck up “God Save the Queen,” and then we made our way homewards thoroughly tired with a very happy and delightful day of pleasure and amusement.

We only wanted Mr. and Mrs. Benyon with us to have made it perfect, there is always something, but there was nothing else.

Our best thanks as a parish are due to them for the generous care which did so much for our benefit and pleasure, and we must say a word of thanks also to Mr. Todd, Mr. Roake, and everyone else who helped to carry out the detail of the arrangements, particularly to the kind ladies who looked after the little children in the School, while the mothers went to the dinner.

CHURCH HISTORY LECTURE.

On Thursday, June 17th. the first of Two Lectures on Church History by the Rev. Canon Pindar was delivered at Englefield House.

The subject was "Gregory the Great." In a very interesting Lecture we learnt how large a claim the great "Doctor" of the Latin Church, as he is styled, has upon our honour and veneration, not only on account of his personal qualities, his deep religious enthusiasm, which led him to resign a high position as the chief magistrate of his native city, to enter on a life of devotion to God, the self sacrifice which led him to devote his wealth to pious and charitable purposes, but also on account of the debt which this country owes to him, as having been touched by the sight of the British Captive children at Rome, and sending Missionaries to help in the Evangelising of this country. Where it must be remembered there was already a British Church in existence. British Bishops having been present at the council of Arches, more than two centuries and a half before this time. Mrs. Benyon very kindly came from London to meet the audience, which was hardly as large as we had hoped, but there is so much going on, we trust the next on the "Early Monasteries," which is due on July 1st, will be better attended.

HYMNS FOR THE MONTH.

3rd Sunday after Trinity	M., 279. 316. 320.	E., 290. 182. 228.
4th " "	M., 196. 229. 290.	E., 219. 281. 549.
5th " "	M., 214. 220. 545.	E., 256. 298. 280.
6th " "	M., 418. 432. 436.	E., 274. 222. 439.

 PARISH REGISTER.

BAPTISM,

June 6th.—Frances Mabel Grace Tigwell.

MARRIAGE,

June 15th.—Thomas Foder and Lucy Davis.

St. Mark's, Englefield.

LOCAL SHEET.

No. 140.

AUGUST, 1897.

[Price with "Banner of Faith," ONE PENNY.]

Our parish notes this month are issued under most melancholy circumstances, owing to the very serious illness of our good Squire.

We had heard of an illness from which he had been suffering in London during the early part of the summer, and when we learned that he was returning to his home amongst us we all hoped that the change to the bright country air of Englefield would bring to him a renewal of strength and recovery from his weakness.

But no such change for the better has—we regret to say—taken place, and the daily failure of strength is now filling everyone with the saddest anticipations.

We are quite sure that there is no one in the Parish who does not feel something of the shadow which this has cast upon us; and everyone will grieve over the anxiety and care which must weigh so heavily upon Mrs. Benyon and the other members of his family who are gathered round him.

Many kindly thoughts of deep and earnest sympathy will follow her through the long hours of watching in the sick room; and many a heartfelt prayer will be offered for her and for her daughters to our Father in Heaven that they may find all the help and comfort which they so much need, and strength for the burden which He has seen fit to send to them to bear. And not only for them, but for Mr. Benyon also—that he may be preserved from every evil, and upheld and strengthened in all the time of his suffering and weakness.

While this is passing through the press the news has reached us that the Good Squire of Englefield has entered into rest.

THE CHOIR MEN'S EXCURSION.

BY ONE WHO WAS THERE.

Brighton was the place selected for our trip this year, and the annual excursion to that place, arranged by the Reading Philanthropic Society, enabled us to fix the date and make our arrangements for July 5th. It was a small but lively band of 11 persons which met at Appleton's Corner on that date at 5.15 a.m. We were 9 choir men, plus Messrs. Coombes and Robinson. Here Davis's brake awaited us and we proceeded to Reading, where we were joined at the station by the Rev. J. T. Fox, who remained with us throughout the day. Our journey to Brighton was a very comfortable one, for we had an excellent corridor carriage, in two compartments; and although the occupants of the Rev. gentleman's compartment *would* persist in singing about something which "must be very unpleasant," they certainly could not have been referring to the journey. Arrived at Brighton, we made for Booth's restaurant, where we had a hearty breakfast. The remainder of the morning, until dinner, was spent in walking along "the front" and on the pier (where animated photographs were studied, presents purchased, &c.), concluding with a visit to the Aquarium. Returning to "Booth's," we were joined, according to arrangement, by our worthy Rector, and proceeded to our private room—13 in number, but far from unlucky—to dine. The afternoon was spent in two different ways. One party,

although the sea was rough, was determined to have a sea voyage, if it were only for a mile or so, whilst the other was satisfied with something less risky to the feelings. The voyagers all enjoyed their trip, although they *did* have a drenching start. I said *all*—I forgot—there was *one* exception. Never mind, he's better now. The non-voyagers had meanwhile witnessed a pantomime performance in the large hall on the pier. Another turn or two round the pier, a few more purchases, and then to "Booth's" for the last time, tea-time. Thence, quietly to the station, returning to Reading in the same comfortable carriage, Davis's brake once more, Appleton's corner, hearty cheers for our kind-hearted Squire, three more for the Rector, then home by the comfortable and respectable time of 11 p.m.

OUR RINGERS.

Our Ringers went this summer, as usual, to join the other members of the Diocesan Guild at the annual meeting.

This year it took place at Banbury, under the presidency of Canon Porter.

Our own members had a long and rather troublesome journey to face, but an early start enabled them to reach their destination in time to take their part in the various labours and entertainment of the day; and are able to report a very pleasant excursion as the result of the year's festival.

Next year the meeting will be at Boyne Hill, which will bring it within an easy distance of Englefield, and we shall hope for a more detailed account of the proceedings.

OUR SCHOOLS.

The holidays begin as usual on the last Saturday in August. Schoolroom and playground alike will be at rest for the next six weeks, and we hope work will begin again on Monday, September

HYMNS FOR THE MONTH.

1st Sunday	...	...	M.,	E.,
2nd „	...	...	M., 266. 298. 263.	E., 196. 175. 217.
3rd „	...	...	M., 207. 184. 248.	E., 236. 193. 24.
4th „	...	...	M., 247. 213. 265.	E., 244. 221. 282.
5th „	...	...	M., 261. 279. 215.	E., 238. 176. 28.

The Litany will be said at 3.30 p.m. on the first Sunday in each month, and it is suggested to parents that this is a convenient service to which they can bring their infants to be baptized.

We should like to draw attention generally to the Rubrick at the head of the Orders of Private Baptism of Children in the Prayer Book, as indicating the duty of parents in respect of the age at which they should bring their little ones to be made "members of Christ and children of God" as the catechism teaches us, and express a hope that they will delay no longer than is absolutely necessary in bringing them to the Font.

St. Mark's, Englefield.

LOCAL SHEET.

No. 141.

SEPTEMBER, 1897.

Price with "Banner of Faith," ONE PENNY.

Mr. Benyon's Funeral.

Last month we closed our notes with the sad news of Mr. Benyon's death. This month we have to tell of his funeral.

It took place on Saturday, July 31st. At 7.30 the coffin bearing on it the beautiful floral memorials which his own family had offered, was carefully and reverently borne into the Parish Church in which for so many years he had worshipped; there it was received by the Clergy and placed in front of the Altar. Very beautiful the holy building looked, dressed as it was in all the wealth of flowers which the loving memory and thought of friends from far and near had sent as their tribute to the grave. At 8.30., we had our first service, the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Many were present and some 45 communicated at this Holy Service, in which we are brought so near to those loved ones and holy ones of God, "Whose rest is won," and who wait for us till God shall "make up the number of His elect," as we pray in the prayer the Church has set for us, and the words of the Prayer Book echoed the thoughts of Sacrifice and praise of penitence and hope, which belong to the great act of Christian Worship, which The Lord Jesus instituted for our use, and drew us nearer in thought and spirit to Him and His Saints in rest.

When this Service was over the Church was cleared for a time, but presently a much larger congregation began to assemble for the final service at mid-day.

By Mrs. Benyon's expressed wish a portion of the Church was specially set apart for the villagers of Englefield. And in the Churchyard the path and the way to the grave were kept open by those employed on the estate. The grave itself, which is at the Eastern side of the Church, had been carefully lined with moss and decorated with choice flowers from the gardens at Englefield, under the superintendence of Mr. Coombes.

At the time appointed, 12.30, the sad procession of the mourners came from the House and were met at the Lich Gate by the Choir and Clergy. Slowly joining in one procession, they made their way into the Church while the opening sentences of the Solemn Office for the Burial of the Dead were read by the Dean of S. Paul's. When all had reached their places inside the Church, Psalm xc., was sung, then the lesson was read by the Archdeacon of Berks, and the Hymn "Jesus lives" followed.

Then once more the coffin was lifted up and carried out to the grave, preceded by the Clergy and Choir. Slowly and carefully it was lowered to its last resting place. The Dean of S. Paul's read the remaining portion of the Service. The Choir sung the Hymn "Now the labourer's task is o'er," the benediction was pronounced, and the holy and solemn ceremony was ended. So may he rest in peace; he has gone from us into the waiting land—the Paradise of God. His body has been laid among the people whom he loved so well under the shadow of the old Church, which his devotion and reverence renewed and beautified. And his memory remains and lives, the memory of one to whom were given great powers and opportunities for good, and who used them nobly in the service of God and man.

On the following Sunday, August 1st, the Archdeacon of Berks preached at the morning service on Job., v. 26.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING.

In consequence of the sad event of which we have been speaking above, the Harvest Thanksgiving will not be celebrated this year in the usual manner, but the first Sunday in September will be set apart as a Day of Thanksgiving for the Harvest now gathered, and the collections which will be made at morning and evening Service will be given to the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

CHILDREN'S NEEDLEWORK.

The usual Sale of the Children's Needlework was this year held in the School, at 3 p.m., on Friday, August 20th. We were very glad to welcome Mrs. Hoare amongst us, and mothers and children alike were glad to greet a friend of old times once more.

We regret to chronicle that with the end of the month Mrs. Benyon will leave Englefield for her future home in London. Our best wishes for the future follow her, stirred and inspired by many never to be forgotten memories of the generous, kind and conscientious manner in which she has played her part during these years at Englefield. Many prayers and kindly thoughts will be with her in the years that are to come.

REV. J. T. FOX.

It has been our misfortune during the last month to lose the services of Mr. Fox, who for some time past ministered as Assistant Curate of the Parish.

We shall miss him from the place which he has occupied in the Church on Sunday evenings during these last few months.

Many will no doubt look back over days that are past with pleasant recollections of his kind and genial presence in the parish, and many good and helpful words and deeds, and one and all will wish heartily every blessing and happiness in the new spheres of labour to which in time to come he may be called.

HYMNS FOR THE MONTH.

12th Sunday after Trinity	M., 383. 381. 315.	E., Anthem 388. 386.
13th Sunday after Trinity	M., 191. 172. 224.	E., 271. 268. 21.
14th Sunday after Trinity	M., 210. 217. 196.	E., 263. 265. 230.
15th Sunday after Trinity	M., 214. 228. 281.	E., 232. 197. 215.

St. Mark's, Englefield.

LOCAL SHEET.

No. 142.

OCTOBER, 1897.

[Price with "Banner of Faith," ONE PENNY.]

MRS. BENYON.

This month we have to record the departure of Mrs. Benyon from Englefield. Before leaving she visited every house in the parish, and bade a personal farewell to those whose welfare, both as regards temporal and religious matters had been one great object of her care.

The following address, beautifully illuminated and bound in a handsome volume, was signed and presented to her by the parishioners as a token of their affection and respect:—

“To Mrs. Benyon, Englefield House, August, 1897.

“We, the undersigned inhabitants of Englefield and others connected with the Estate, desire, on your departure from amongst us to express, once more, our very deep and heartfelt sympathy in the great sorrow and bereavement which has fallen upon you and which has caused your separation from this parish.”

“We ask leave most respectfully to express our very great regret at your departure and that your home will be no longer among us.”

“We wish to place on record our very earnest and real appreciation of the large and generous interest which you have always continuously shewn in everything that belongs to the welfare and prosperity of all classes in the parish, and to bear witness to the kindly and solicitous attention which such matters have always received at your hands.”

"We trust all strength and comfort may be given you from Almighty God in these days of trial, and that many years of useful and prosperous life may be yours in your future home."

"We remain, Madam,

"Yours most faithfully."

(Here follow the signatures of the householders.)

Mrs. Benyon kindly sent the following reply in the form of a letter addressed to the Rector:—

"Englefield House, Reading,
"August 30th, 1897.

"My dear Rector,

"Will you accept for yourself and say to all my kind friends at Englefield, how touched I am with their beautiful address, and how very much I shall value it. I can truly say that among the many kind letters and sympathy shewn me in this time of my great sorrow, I shall value this the most as coming from those amongst whom I have spent the happiest years of my life. It seems perhaps fitting that this beautiful address should meet my eyes as I am leaving the home, a people we have both loved so well. With grateful thanks,"

"I remain,

"Yours very sincerely,

"ELIZABETH M. BENYON."

SCHOOL TREAT.

This took place on Wednesday, August 25th. The children all assembled at the School at three p.m., and proceeded in due order to the Rectory. The day was fine, and the sun shone brightly all the afternoon and lit up the dark green foliage of the old elm trees and made the garden cheerful. The boys found a place for cricket in the meadow

of the glebe in front of the house, and though the long grass beyond "the pitch" made fielding a matter of chance and difficult, a very active and cheery hour was spent over the game till the bell rang to announce that tea was ready.

We had this in the barn. There had been so much showery weather that it was judged wiser to put up tables and forms under its shelter than to run the risk of having it in the open air. Plenty of cake and bread and butter and tea. And then out again into the field and the garden for the races. Mrs. Benyon with her accustomed kindness had sent us a goodly show of work baskets, knives, purses, pocket books, and other things for prizes, and for more than an hour boys in the field and girls in the garden competed for them in their various order and degree.

All was over about seven p.m., and the children went then witnessing to their appreciation of the afternoon's entertainment by cheers for the Rector and Mrs. Young, Mrs. Hoare and the Misses Selby, as well as Mr. and Mrs. Robinson, most kindly helped with the various amusements, and kept all going with good spirits and kindly merriment to the end. Many thanks to them all.

DIOCESAN BELL-RINGERS' GUILD.

We have received the following :—

"Drayton Vicarage, Abingdon.

" August 24th, 1897.

"Received of the Englefield Ringers (per Mr. Vince), ten shillings for the Cathedral Bell Fund, for the Oxford Diocesan Guild."

"F. E. ROBINSON,

Master."

10/-

THE CHOIR BOYS' EXCURSION.

(Communicated).

On the morning of September 1st, 1897, at about 7 o'clock, an observer might have noticed many more boys than usual, loitering about the Timber Yard gates. On looking inside, 2 empty vans and more boys would also have been observed, and probably a Churchwarden or a Sidesman, or some other Church Official. It was very evident that something very important was about to take place. Well, imaginary observer! something *was* in the wind. The assemblage had collected for the Choir Boys' Annual Outing, and the whole party consisting of 19 Choir Boys, 1 Organ Blower, 1 Organist, 1 Churchwarden and 2 Sidesmen was deposited in less than a hour afterwards on Whitchurch Bridge. Here, after a short "wait," we were met by a very comfortable Steam Launch, whose name to some was a mystery. (I may mention that this was not the only mystery which required solving during the day, but more anon.). The aforesaid launch, after being boarded, steamed towards Reading, bound for Marlow, and the fun began—so did the rain—lively coincidence, wasn't it? there never was such a day. Fishermen in punts, fishermen on the banks, locks, mills, houseboats, tents; all to the background of beautiful woods and fields alternately, made up in quick succession sights to see, and excuses for shouting, which made the rain quite a secondary consideration. Between times, there were plenty of sweets, apples, pears, biscuits, etc., to be negotiated with, and you can trust boys to be boys, even at the "cigarette stage." Then the excellent dinner and tea in the saloon! Oh; Mr. Churchwarden, pilot, guardian of the trip, what a manager you were that day! You thoroughly deserved the unlimited cheers, which greeted you at parting. Needless to say, when Marlow was reached, everyone had become quite familiar with and felt a contempt for the rain. (It however, didn't seem to mind; it simply came down harder than ever). A stroll through the town, shopping by the juniors, and a look over the Fire Station by the seniors gave a good opportunity for "stretching the legs." The return journey was commenced at about 2.30 p.m. The same sights and places

from another and wetter point of view, the same voices singing the same school songs, the same fishermen in the same punts (but looking more humpbacked and serious), the cry of "Any luck, gov'nor?", the very same kind of shies at the same luckless dabchicks or floating bottles; in fact, the same programme as before with just a little more water to it, and here we are, before our time, at Whitchurch Bridge once more. Our coachmen soon arrived, and before long we were at the Timber Yard once more, but no lounging about this time. I promised to mention other mysteries besides the one previously mentioned. Well the second that occurred to me was, "Why did those four lads come without an extra coat?" The third, "How can those fishermen sit so long in the rain without any sport, and what do they say when boys ask them funny questions?" The fourth mystery was one of the deepest, viz. "How is it that the boys do not sing half as strongly in Church as they did that day?"

Another Dover day said the cynic to me five minutes after our arrival. "Don't you 'believe it' said I," we enjoyed ourselves immensely to-day, and we did not then.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING.

The usual Festival being obviously an impossibility this year, it was decided to keep our Thanksgiving on Sunday, September 5th.

The Church was tastefully decorated with choice flowers and fruit and corn, and we had our usual hearty services.

The offerings amounting altogether to £14 11s. 3d., were given to the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

HYMNS FOR THE MONTH.

16th Sunday after Trinity M., 214. 182. 321. 315.	E., 216. 236. 228.
17th Sunday after Trinity M., 209. 280. 274.	E., 240. 178iii. 202.
18th Sunday after Trinity M., 282. 181. 172.	E., 269. 425. 25.
19th Sunday after Trinity M., 207. 213. 232.	E., 156. 217. 19.
20th Sunday after Trinity M., 281. 224. 166.	E., 427. 222. 436.

St. Mark's, Englefield.

LOCAL SHEET.

No. 143.

NOVEMBER, 1897.

[Price with "Banner of Faith," ONE PENNY.]

THE SQUIRE.

This month we have to offer our most cordial greeting to Mr. and Mrs. Fellowes, on their taking up their abode at Englefield.

Most heartily we bid them welcome and wish them every happiness and prosperity. Our Parish has been more than ordinarily fortunate in its associations during the past, and we look forward confidently that the coming time will be even as the old; and trust that with the Divine blessing our new Squire and his family may see many years of peace and comfort, of deepening friendships, and successful activities of life, in the good old English home ^{by} of the Parish Church.

THE CRICKET CLUB.

On the whole we think we may congratulate our Cricket Club on their performances during the past season, as set out by the report of the Hon. Secretary at their Annual Meeting.

So far as actual success in matches is concerned, victory and defeat appear to have been evenly balanced; but when the resources and quality of opposing teams are taken into consideration, our Club may well be satisfied with its performances.

The prize bat given for the highest average has been won by Mr. Holloway, who comes out with 31 to his name, and has filled the post of Sub-Captain throughout the year. Mr. Church and Mr. J. Perrin appear to have distinguished themselves most in the bowling department.

We are glad to see that the balance sheet shows that receipts and expenditure have been on a level, and everything seems to indicate a healthy and prosperous condition of affairs, from which to look forward to another year.

HOME MISSIONS OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

These have always had a warm corner in the hearts of Englefield people, and we are glad to learn that Mrs. Fellowes is taking the post resigned by Mrs. Benyon, as Vice-President of the Berkshire Branch of the Diocesan Association.

Year after year seems to teach more plainly the need for this work in the Church; the rapid growth of population and the emigration of our people in search of work to the centres of the large towns make an ever-increasing demand upon those, who, in the older places have with them always the benefit of Church services and means of grace, to assist, according to their powers, their brethren and sisters, who are seeking their livelihood in new homes.

FIRE BRIGADE.

(Communicated).

The Annual Fire Brigade Excursion took place at the latter end of last month, and, as is usual, the Members proceeded on two separate days to the Royal Borough of Windsor. The weather was very fine on both days and a pleasant time was spent in viewing the State Apartments, Round Tower, St. George's Chapel, the Terraces, and the Stables. After dinner a drive was taken to Virginia Waters, visiting *en Route* the Copper Horse at the top of Long Walk, the Statue of the Prince Consort erected on Smith's Lawn in 1887 by the Women of England to commemorate the Jubilee, the Ruins at Virginia Water, and lastly, but certainly not the least, the Magnificent Artificial Lake and

Waterfall. The drive back to Windsor was by way of the Holloway College at Egham and across Englefield Green, arriving at the Headquarters for the day, viz. : "The Castle Hotel," about 6 o'clock. The Fire Station and Town was inspected after Tea and the Members returned to Englefield about 10.30, after spending a very enjoyable day.

On Saturday the 9th, the Brigade went to Mortimer with the New Manual Engine, presented to the Mortimer Brigade by the late Squire. A Fire Station very similar to our own has been erected near the Club. Upon arriving there a Series of Drills took place to test the Engine, several subscribers to the Mortimer Brigade being present, afterwards the Engine was cleaned up and placed in its New Quarters ready for use. The two Brigades then proceeded to the Club and partook of Tea together. The remainder of the evening being spent in friendly intercourse, games, &c.

INTER-CLUB GAMES TOURNAMENT.

(Communicated).

"Englefield v. St. Mary's, Reading,"—So read our programme for Saturday, October 23rd, a fact which reminded us that winter was upon us again, with its long evenings and its own particular entertainments, also forcibly reminding us of former contests both out and home, each with its own particular "remembrances," as showing the value of these social gatherings; many were the reminiscences indulged in by our Members while awaiting the arrival of our visitors, speculations as to possible successes, and renewing acquaintance with old opponents, which in many cases was found to be quite mutual. Our visitors arrived shortly after seven o'clock, and as both sides were eager for the fray we soon got to business, each party intent on their own particular game, so all were busy for a time till one party were seen leaving their table, being evidently on good terms with Dame fortune, for they had easily won their "rubber,"—one game to Englefield. The next return was an opposite result, so the games went on, for and against, the enquiries began to get anxious, "How are we now"? "Oh! we are, 6 to

4," "6 to 6," "7 to 6," "7 to 7," till one champion at Bagatelle makes a final break of 72, and so finishes the contest, the result being in favour of Englefield by 8 games to St. Mary's 7. Thus we won our first match. During the evening an excellent game was played in the Committee Room by Members and Visitors, which was voted by many to be the best game of the match. The rapid disappearance of "The Eatables," and the Table Conversation must have been very gratifying to the Caretaker (not forgetting Mrs. Caretaker), for the excellent, if not elaborate, meal they had provided. At the conclusion of the Games very complimentary remarks were passed by the Hon. Secretary St. Mary's Club on behalf of the Visitors, which was suitably responded to by Mr. Secretary A. E. R. We all look forward with great pleasure to the return match on January 8th, at Reading, and it may be added we hope for better weather than on the return match last year. The following Englefield Members took part in the games:—

Whist.	Don.	Bagatelle Double.
Messrs.— H. J. Sparvell R. Moore —	Messrs.— W. Holloway A. Lamperd —	Messrs.— R. Mountford C. Cox —
Messrs.— A. E. Robinson R. Moore —	Dominoes. Messrs.— E. Allen G. Elliot —	Single. Mr. R. Mountford — Mr. C. Cox
Double Cribbage. Messrs.— W. Barefoot G. Johnson —	Messrs.— W. Smythe J. Abery —	
Messrs.— G. Tizard F. C. Bray —	Draughts. Messrs.— F. Howard G. C. Rudd	
Single Cribbage. Messrs.— A. E. Robinson H. W. Wilder		

The following tournaments have been arranged for the season :—

- Englefield *v.* Mortimer at Mortimer, on Nov. 17th.
 „ *v.* Burghfield at Englefield, Dec. 15th.
 „ *v.* St. Mary's at Reading, Jan. 8th, 1898.
 „ *v.* Mortimer at Englefield, Jan. 26th.
 „ *v.* Burghfield at Burghfield, Feb. 9th.

THE CLOTHING CLUB.

The Clothing Club closed on Monday, October 24th. The tickets will be returned to the Depositors on Wednesday, November 4th, at the School at 12 o'clock noon. Fresh deposits will be received on the first Monday in December, at the usual time and place.

ALDERMASTON FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

The Annual Dinner is fixed to take place at the Hind's Head, on Saturday, October 30th. We write this *before* the event, and you will read it *after* the event. By the kindness of the Squire our four Englefield members will have a comfortable drive there and back.

THE BELFRY.

The Annual Meeting of the Bradfield Deanery Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Bell Ringers will be held at Burghfield, on Saturday, October 30th. Seven members of our Belfry have signified their intention of being present. The programme is—Service in Church, 3 p.m. Tea at 4 p.m., to be followed by the General Business Meeting.

The Rector who is now at Harrogate will return to the Rectory before the first Sunday in November.

St. Mark's, Englefield.

LOCAL SHEET.

No. 144.

DECEMBER, 1897.

[Price with "Banner of Faith," ONE PENNY.]

ADVENT.

The solemn time of preparation for Christmas has come to us again. For us it means the beginning of a New Year of the Holy Seasons of the Church, which if we will use them rightly, may be so helpful to us in our religious training and in the performance of our Christian duties. Advent—the season of preparation for Christmas.—The Birthday of Jesus Christ our Lord.—The Coming of the Son of God into the World—Taking our Nature upon Him.—Made Man for our sakes.

Then it has the Second Coming of Our Saviour, as the Judge of quick and dead, as another matter of thought for us. Advent calls us to remember and remembering it, to take it seriously to heart, that at His "Coming we shall rise again with our bodies, and give account of our own works." We should say to ourselves this Advent "I shall have to reckon with God as to how I have used His gifts," *i.e.* : in matters of religion, the Church and its Services, my Bible and its teaching, and my neglect or care to follow it, my Prayer Book and all the Holy instruction there is in it for the good of my soul, and also matters of this life, time, knowledge, learning, health, strength, responsibilities.

How shall we answer in that day before Him Who knows all? All that we do, or say, or think.

Let us turn to Him while we have time. Let us seek Him that we may find pardon for sin. And then when His Birthday comes again let us draw nigh to Him at the Holy Communion. Praising Him, thanking Him, and rejoicing in that first Coming in His great humility, that He might be The Prince of Peace to us, and to all men.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES.

Holy Communion at 7.30 and 8.30; Mattins and Holy Communion at 11 a.m.; Evensong and Carols at 6 p.m.

We must not omit to chronicle the birth of the first grandchild of Mr. and Mrs. Benyon, which took place on Thursday, November 18th, at Holy Trinity, Wolverton, in Buckinghamshire, of which Parish Rev. F. E. Rooke is Vicar. We rejoice to learn both Mrs. Rooke and her infant son are going on as well as can be. And offer our best congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Benyon on the happy event.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The usual Annual Meeting on behalf of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts will be held by the kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Benyon, in the Long Gallery on Wednesday, December 1st, at 7 p.m.

All Boxes should be sent to the Rectory not later than the previous Monday.

The Meeting will be addressed by the Rev. Canon Macnab, of Canada.

Sermons on behalf of the Society will be preached in the Parish Church on Sunday, December 5th, when the Annual Collections on behalf of the Society will be made.

FOOTBALL CLUB.

Our Football Team had a very pleasant and successful Match with the Whitchurch people on the ground in the Park, on Saturday, November 13th. Englefield winning by 3 goals to none.

The following are the names of the players :—E. Cottrell, (Capt.), G. Coombes, M. Cox, G. Oliver, F. Cox, J. Church, J. Thame, A. Beasley, T. Sessions, and G. Taylor.

WORKMEN'S CLUB.

According to previous arrangements, a party of the members of our Club visited Mortimer on the evening of Nov. 11th, for the purpose of meeting the members of that Club in a Tournament of Games. A pleasant evening was spent, and the visitors were successful by 9 games to 3. The Rev. Lovett Cameron very kindly provided refreshments for the visiting team, and in responding to the vote of thanks proposed by Mr. Robinson, alluded to the close connection which exists between the villages of Englefield and Mortimer.

HYMNS FOR THE MONTH.

2nd Sunday in Advent	M., 362. 359. 363.	E., 51. 358. 26.
3rd Sunday in Advent	M., 50. 45. 52.	E., 51. 226. 288.
4th Sunday in Advent	M., 47. 353. 46.	E., 51. 355. 19.
Christmas Day.	M., 59. 316. 312. 261.	E., 60. 62.(Carols).
S. Stephen's Day—		
1st Sunday after Christmas	M., 60. 65. 447.	E., 62. 58. 439.

CHURCH SERVICES.

On each Sunday the Holy Eucharist is celebrated at 8.30, and also on the Holy Days.

S. Thomas, A. & M.	Dec. 21st at 8.30
S. Stephen, M.	Dec. 26th at 8.30
S. John, Ap. and Evan.	Dec. 27th at 8.30
Holy Innocents	Dec. 28th at 8.30