

St. Mark's, Englefield.

LOCAL SHEET.

No. 169.

JANUARY, 1900.

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

THE NEW YEAR.

MY DEAR PEOPLE.

Once more it is permitted me to wish you all a very Happy New Year.

The old year which has passed away has not been marked by any occurrences of importance to us in the Parish. All things so far as the Church is concerned have gone upon their even way, and it may be said that practically there is no history to be written for us in these things.

We turn to meet the New Year, the last of this great and eventful century. We know that it will bring to us all much the same work to be done, the same cares and difficulties to be faced. We trust also it will lead us to the same sources of happiness as in the past.

There is indeed a cloud over us all in the Great War raging in South Africa, which we should surely be regarding as a sign and token of the Hand of God, touching us as a people, and bidding us to a truer thought and regard for His Faith and Fear.

Let us turn to the future with this thought and seek that we may in the days to come, endeavour by our prayers and in our lives to draw our way of life more closely to an agreement with His Will, and by His help to follow out a manful and God-fearing Spirit in word and deed, whether in the worship of His Church or in the common action of our work and pleasure day by day.

I remain,

Yours always faithfully in Christ,

H. SAVIILL YOUNG.

CHRISTMAS DAY.

Once more this Great Festival has come and gone, and on the whole been heartily observed amongst us. We should have liked to have seen more communicants, especially we thought it sad that so many who were present at the Morning Service left the Church without staying for the Holy Communion.

It always seems the true way of commemorating the various chief incidents of Our Saviour's life, which are brought before us in the Great Church Festivals; and we seem also to lose something of that Bond of Brotherhood, which should be so clearly marked among Christian People, where there is a neglect of that His gift of the Bread of Life, by which we are made one with Christ and so also one with another, and are knit into the fellowship of His Mystical Body.

The services were heartily rendered and the whole day seemed as it should be, bright and cheering to those who met together in the Church.

We are asked to announce that Mrs. Benyon's Annual Christmas Tree will this year be on Wednesday, January 3rd.

THE ALTAR LIGHTS.

It has been suggested to us, that some who have seen the Archbishop's decision with regard to the carrying of lighted candles and the use of incense in Church, think that it forbids the two lighted candles which we have above the Altar at the Celebration of the Holy Communion.

We take the opportunity of correcting this idea. The Archbishops in their decision were dealing with the use of lighted candles carried in processions and forbade them. Our Altar Lights are in no way affected by it, but are in their place as before, under the provisions of the Ornaments Rubric in the Prayer Book.

WORKMEN'S CLUB.

The Games Tournament arranged with Mortimer for December 13th, was postponed on account of the bad weather. The Mortimer Club will visit us on January 10th.

The Dance Sub-Committee have made arrangements for the Xmas Dance to be held on January 1st, when no doubt a pleasant evening will be spent.

SMOKING CONCERT.

A very successful Smoking Concert was held in the Workmen's Clubroom, on Wednesday evening, December 6th. The room was full, and a long programme was carried out.—Mr. James Tegg occupied the chair, and Mr. G. Johnson the vice chair, whilst Mr. A. E. Robinson was again the accompanist. Songs were contributed by Messrs. F. Cox, M. Allen, E. Allen, Webb, Rudd, Hopley, Leaver, Standidge, Nason, Johnson, Robinson, Roberts, Durnford, W. Allen, Fisher, Chandler and Smith. Mr. F. Cox contributed a violin solo, and Mr. J. Tegg a recitation.—A hearty vote of thanks was passed to the sub-committee, Messrs. Robinson, Fisher and Claydon, who had made the arrangements, and a most enjoyable evening was brought to a close by the singing of "Rule Britannia" and the National Anthem.

HYMNS FOR JANUARY.

First Sunday after Epiphany	...	M.,	79.	315.	321.	107.
		E.,	77.	80.	24.	
Second Sunday after Epiphany	...	M.,	219.	181.	172.	
		E.,	273.	256.	28.	
Third Sunday after Epiphany	...	M.,	248.	182.	196.	
		E.,	178i.	184.	20.	
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany	...	M.,	285.	217.	202.	
		E.,	220.	193.	21.	

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LOCAL SHEET.

No. 174.

JUNE, 1900.

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DIOCESAN INSPECTION.

We were favoured on Wednesday, May 16th, with a visit from The Rev. G. E. J. Milner, the Diocesan Inspector of Elementary Schools.

The following is his Report :—

"The Infants answered easy questions promptly. Their Repetition of Texts and Catechism was well said. A form of Morning Prayer should be learned.

"The Scripture subjects were not very well-known by Standards I. and II., and the Baptismal Covenant was only fairly explained. The Repetition of this class was accurately said and the written work was very fairly well done.

"The Bible and Prayer Book subjects were very well-known by the Upper Division, but the amount of Holy Scripture was hardly sufficient. A period of Church History had been carefully taught and was intelligently appreciated by the children. The Church History should be taken in addition to the Subject of the Diocesan Syllabus, not substituted for any of them. The Repetition was very distinct and accurate. The tone and order seemed to be very good."

Diocesan Prize—Edith Buckland.

Commended—Elizabeth Martin, Amy Neville, Emily Horne, Owen Wyatt, Florence Neville, David Stocker.

A. Worth, R. Bates, W. Tegg, Edward Day, H. Neville, George Wilder.

Keturah Vince, Winifred Robinson, Bertha Winchcombe, Ethel Tegg, Ernest Neville, Laura Allen.

BELL RINGERS' GUILD.

A Meeting was held in the Belfry on Wednesday Evening, May 16th. There were present W. Vince, foreman, J. Abery, G. Abery, A. Lamperd, W. Lamperd, R. Moon, H. Morland, A. Thorne.

The Rector was present also, and went over the lists, giving each member present a copy of the book issued by the Diocesan Guild, containing rules, lists, &c.

There was no further business to be done and the meeting was adjourned.

THE WAR.

The thoughts of most of us are busy with the war in South Africa, and specially with those who have gone from Englefield to bear their part as "Soldiers of the Queen."

We have been very kindly allowed to insert the enclosed extracts from a letter of Mr. Johnson's, and are sure they will interest our readers.

"We came on board the Steamship Nile from Cape Town. The sea was rather rough round the Cape, but all through the voyage the weather was good. We called at Port Elizabeth to land some men—it looked a very pretty and well laid out Town, in fact, a better Town than Cape Town. We had Divine Service on board while we stayed there on Palm Sunday. We landed at East London on Monday, we stayed the night at the Railway Station and left by train at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, and spent two nights and days in the train passing through such well-known places as Molteno, Stormberg, &c., to Burghersdorp. Here we saw Lord Kitchener, we kept on the train to Bethulie, where we detrained. I had the honour to lead the Company into the Orange River Free State across the Bethulie Road Bridge.

We entrained again for Springfontein, where we arrived at midday and pitched tents for the first time. To-day, Easter Monday, I and 3 men are guarding a bridge across the Edenburg Spriut, last Easter Monday I was playing at

outposts, to-day I am on outpost in earnest, 403 miles from East London and am enjoying this quite as much as last year. If we do not get a fight it will not be our fault, as we have followed them up pretty close."

"You can imagine lying down last night fully equipped with my hand on my rifle, but nothing occurred to alarm us and we were relieved at 8 this morning by a guard from the Derbyshire Regiment. We have not joined our Battalion yet, we expect to go on at any time. The scenery in the Free State is not nearly so grand as in Cape Colony, but I have ceased to wonder why our men found it difficult to turn the Boers out of the hills now I have seen them. They are indeed grand in the northern part of Cape Colony."

MAFEKING.

It is not our place and it is not our custom in our Local Sheet to take cognizance of events in the greater world, but we think we are justified in breaking through our usual habits and putting on record in these pages, the reflection of the national joy at the raising of the siege of Mafeking.

The long and patient character of the defence, the determined and cheery tone of the defenders, the trustful looking for the aid which came in its promised time, the splendid boldness of the relieving force, all go together to make a new chapter in old English ways, and we may take the story as one of those bits of history, which, while it reflects to us deeds of the days gone by, may teach us that our men are of the same stuff as their forefathers of past times and show us the qualities our lads must seek to attain that the old flag may hold its old place in days to come.

WHIT-SUNDAY.

This Great Festival which commemorates the descent of the Holy Ghost upon the Apostles to abide in the Church for ever in accordance with Christ's Promise, comes to us on June 3rd. It is one of the days first marked as Festivals in the Church at the beginning and was in those old times specially used for the Baptizing of the fresh converts to the Faith of Christ.

OUR SERVICES WILL BE AS USUAL.

First Celebration of Holy Communion, 7.30 a.m.
 Second " " " 8.30 a.m.
 Mattins and Third Celebration of Holy Communion, 11 a.m.
 Litany and Holy Baptism, 3 p.m.
 Evensong and Sermon, 6 p.m.

 THE LENT WORKING PARTY.

The Lent Working Party was held, as usual, under Mrs. Benyon's guidance and supervision in the Long Gallery, and this year seems to have had even more than usually a most successful course. More workers than ever attended the meetings and the result was most satisfactory, no less than 290 garments being completed.

Home and Foreign Missions, as usual, had their shares in the work which was turned out, and in addition to these, a good many articles have been sent also to the Soldiers engaged in the War in South Africa.

Everything has been sent off to the various centres of the Missions and other places where they were required, and grateful acknowledgments have been received from the recipients. The Kisebaus going to Kilimani and the Frocks to Mbweni. It is very pleasant to have such good results to chronicle once more and to think of the people who so far away are enjoying the fruit of our labours.

 HYMNS FOR JUNE.

Whitsun-day	...	M., 154, 317, 320, 107.	E., 152, 207, 156.
Trinity Sunday	...	M., 160, 163, 162.	E., 161, 419, 166.
1st Sunday after Trinity		M., 165, 210, 230.	E., 274, 281, 224.
2nd Sunday after Trinity		M., 415, 221, 226.	E., 269, 284, 217.

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LOCAL SHEET.

No. 175.

JULY, 1900.

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WORKMEN'S CLUB.

The Club celebrated the Relief of Mafeking with a Smoking Concert and a Dance.

The Smoker was held on May 24th and was most successful. Mr. Robinson kindly presided at the piano. Mr. Tegg was in the Chair, Mr. J. M. Young occupying the Vice-Chair. A good number of members and friends were present, including 2 members of the R.A.M.C. who had been invalided home from Bloemfontein. Needless to say they had a most enthusiastic reception.

The Dance was held on Thursday, June 7th, and like all our dances was most enjoyable. Mr. Claydon had tastefully decorated the room with flags and placards announcing the fall of Pretoria. Mr. V. Rivers, F.R.C.O., was the accompanist. Dancing commenced at 8, and was kept up merrily till 12. A good number of members and friends were present and a very enjoyable evening was brought to a close by singing "Rule Britannia" and God Save the Queen.

The arrangements in both cases were in the hands of the respective Sub-Committees.

The following Books have been added to the Library :—

The Natal Campaign	...	...	...	By Bennet Burleigh.
The Farringdons	...	...	...	By the Author of a Double Thread.
From Capetown to Ladysmith	...	...	...	By Steevens.
The Transvaal from Within	...	...	...	— Fitzpatrick.
Mr. Thomas Atkins	...	...	...	— Hardy.
Ganot's Physics	...	...	...	— Atkinson.
Slave of the Lamp	...	...	...	— Merriman.
A Detective's Triumphs	...	...	...	— Donovan.
Stickit Minister	...	...	...	— Crockett.
Adventures of Sir Toady Lion	...	...	...	— T. B. Reed.
Sir Ludar	...	...	...	— A. Hope.
The God in the Car	...	...	...

Books.—*Continued.*

Story of Charles Strange	By Mrs. H. Wood.
Ashley	" "
House of Haliwell	" "
Fordham's Feud	By B. Mitford.
A 439	Various.
Jack's Courtship	— Clo Russell.
Carbuncle Crue	— Fergus Hume.
White Prior	— " "
Camp Fire and Wigwam	— Edward Ellis.
Wanted	— D. Donovan.
Who Poisoned Hetty Duncan ?	— " "
From Information Received	— " "
Man from Manchester	— " "
Physiology of Plants	— Dr. Loraner.
Elementary Botany	— Oliver.
Structural Botany	— Scott.
Sophia	— Stanley Weyman.
Invisible Man	— Wells.
Juggler and the Soul	— Helen Mathers.
Rupert of Hemszau	— Anthony Hope.
Scottish Chiefs	— Miss Porter.
Worship of the Image	— Gallienne.
Her Dearest Foe	— Mrs. Alexander.
At Bay	— " "
City of Refuge	— Besant.
S. Catherine's by the Tower	— " "
Casa Braccio	— Marion Crawford.
Three Fates	— " "
Marriage by Capture	— Buchanan.
Heart of the World	— Haggard.
At the Mercy of Tiberias	— Wilson.
Infelice	— " "
Heavenly Twins	— Sarah Grand.

FRIENDS AT THE FRONT.

We have received the following letter from Sergeant Johnson. And as all that is connected with our friends who are serving Queen and country in the War in South Africa, will be of interest, we venture to print it as it stands, he says :—

“I landed at East London on April 10th, after a very pleasant voyage. We left East London by train, in which we spent two days and nights passing through Molteno Station, Stormberg, Bethube, Jagersfontein, Springfontein to Edenburg, where we encamped from April 14th to May 15th, when we had an order to march. We started on Sunday at 6 p.m., a march of 100 miles toward Bloemfontein, via Redesburg and Heweltdorf, where we expected to catch our Regiment, but we found they had left the day before.

"We conducted a convoy of 28 mule and bullock waggons, to tell stories of lamed oxen, refractory mules, broken-down waggons, with rivers forded and other features of the journey, would be too long for this letter, but all was accomplished without any serious mishap.

"As our Regiment had left we made a forced march and are now in a most picturesque camp with them about 4 miles to the N.W., (but) quite in sight of Bloemfontein.

"The order of the march is 4 a.m. to 8 a.m., then breakfast and rest till 4 p.m., then march till 8 p.m.

"This rule cannot always be kept, as we had to halt where we could find water to make our tea or coffee, and food and water for mules and oxen.

"Two nights we waited for the moon to rise and started at 8 and 9 respectively, and marched till 11.

"Each night we bivouacked, each man having a waterproof sheet and one blanket. The earth for a bed and the sky for a roof, and we lay immediately under the Southern Cross. The nights are rather cold, but the days are like the best English Summer days. While at Edenburg we had service on two Sundays in the trenches constructed for the defence of the Camp. On the Sunday we left, we had service in the Town Church at 9.30 a.m., conducted by the Commandant of the Camp. We went fully armed and it was rather a novelty to stand up in Church with a hymn book in one hand and a rifle in the other, but all was peace.

"I am pleased to say that Private Roberts and myself are very happy and in excellent health. As I am afraid I shall be unable to write to all old friends separately, I will venture to ask you that should you consider any part of this letter sufficiently interesting, you will allow it to be communicated to all through the Local Sheet."

CRICKET SEASON.

Our Cricket Team has been busy and already six matches have been played, but somehow ill-luck has dogged their efforts and we have no victories to record. The list so far is as follows:—

- 1st.—*versus* Bucklebury Fireside, lost by 39 runs.
 2nd. " Padworth, lost by 31 runs.
 3rd. " Whitchurch, lost by 13 runs.
 4th. " Mortimer, lost by 53 runs.
 5th. " Goring, lost by 9 runs.
 6th. " Messrs. Palmers' Biscuit Factory, lost by
 11 runs.

We have been favoured with the following communication from a member of the team, which may throw some light on the present condition of affairs :—

"It's a long lane that has no turning," and the members of the Club are expecting to find the right turning on some Saturday in the near future. With 6 matches played and 6 lost, one would think it quite time a win was recorded, and that is just what the members of the team think. The last match was lost by 11 runs, the week before the difference was 9 runs, and so on. To read these results, some people would ask "What are the team doing"? The answer is "Playing Cricket, enjoying it, and not a bit down-hearted." A little better fielding, and the turning of the lane will soon be reached.

HYMNS FOR JULY.

3rd Sun. after Trinity ...	M., 245, 317, 315, 107.	E., 197, 184, 28.
4th " " "	... M., 281, 196, 172.	E., 230, 298, 306.
5th " " "	... M., 285, 520, 439.	E., 215, 274, 28.
6th " " "	... M., 290, 197, 436.	E., 534, 302, 20.
7th " " "	... M., 273, 297, 184.	E., 260, 221, 169.

PARISH REGISTER FOR 1900.

BAPTISMS.

- January 1st.—Francis Edward Smythe.
 February 4th.—Nellie Amelia Jane Neville.
 March 4th.—Mabel Lilly Stocker.
 March 18th.—Doris Edith Elizabeth Wigmore.
 May 5th.—Isaac George Rouse.
 " " Alice Matilda Leaver.

BURIAL.

- January 31st.—William Wickens, aged 77.

St. Mark's, Englefield.

LOCAL SHEET.

No. 176.

AUGUST, 1900.

Price with "Banner of Faith" ONE PENNY.

THE CHOIR EXCURSION.

As it was decided this year that the men and boys of the Choir should go for their treat together, and that the Ringers should accompany them, it was a large party that assembled at Appleton's Corner on Monday morning, July 18th, at 5 a.m., in order to drive to Reading in time to catch the excursion train to Bournemouth, which started from the S.W. Station at 6.15 a.m. The party were driven in 4 conveyances provided by Mr. Duckett of Theale, and enjoyed the drive according to their places in the procession, those in the hindermost vehicle being as white as millers from the dust, those in front of them a little less white, and so on. Arrived at the Station, everybody dusted everybody else, and with very few other trippers starting, places were taken comfortably, and the train left very punctually. The railway journey proved to be very long and tiring (it took two hours to get to Basingstoke) as the weather was very warm, but Bournemouth was eventually reached at about 10.15. The most interesting sights to be seen *en route* were a good view of Bisley Camp and the various picturesque parts of the New Forest, which were passed through. After booking such luggage as was necessary (breakfast baskets, etc), the whole party proceeded to the Restaurant where meals were to be provided, and having satisfactorily located it made their way to the beach. Here the party broke up, each group "ganging its ain gait"; Mr. Robinson having the whole troop of juveniles to himself, whilst he superintended the arrangements for, and progress of their bathing. At one o'clock, all met at the Quadrant Restaurant, where a good dinner was provided and enjoyed. After this most interesting event was over, separate parties were again formed, and each partook of the amusements or recreations or what not, which the place provided. One party went by Steamer to Swanage,

another, chiefly composed of the boys and their pilot "lined up" on the pier, where they had the good fortune to see a diver at work and also to see all his special dress taken off piece by piece—a very interesting sight. Others found recreation in other ways, but all found their way to the "Quadrant" at 6 p.m. (tea-time). After tea, a little shopping was done by almost everyone, and then the Station was proceeded to. The journey home seemed of course, more tedious than when "outward bound," but home was ultimately reached without the least mishap having occurred all day, at about 1 a.m. At Appleton's Corner once more, hearty cheers were given for Mr. and Mrs. Benyon and the Rector, after which the company dispersed.

We are very glad to insert the above account, which has been kindly sent to us and are sorry to say the Rector was not in sufficiently good health to be able to join in the long day's excursion.

THE CRICKET CLUB.

The following matches have been played since our last issue :—

- v. Mortimer, lost by 36 runs.
- v. Goring, lost by 20 runs.
- v. Bucklesbury Fireside, won by 23 runs.

It will be seen from the above, that the "turning in the lane" mentioned in our last has been reached, and success has at last attended the efforts of the team. Such a run of bad luck is almost unaccountable, and it says much for the character of the team, that they have obstinately persevered, despite so many reserves, and have hung together in such a sportsmanlike way. We hope that they will now be as successful as they have been otherwise. During the month "double figures" have been made by H. Archer (14 and 15), A. E. Robinson (28, 13 and 10), F. Penny (14 and 11), H. Smith (12), and O. Hopley (10). Excellent bowling has been shown by O. Hopley, A. Lamperd, W. Smyth and A. Standidge.

THE HARVEST THANKSGIVING.

It is not possible at this moment to give the exact date of Our Harvest Thanksgiving for the passing year. But things seem moving on a pace, and we are able to say that it will take place about the usual time in September and be held on the lines to which we have now become accustomed in the Parish.

CHURCH GOING.

We were asked one day since our last issue was published. "What we thought of the congregations in the Parish," that is as to the numbers who came together there to worship God, to pray to Him and to praise Him in His House of Prayer.

We fear there is but one answer which could be given to such a question, it is sad to see more do not habitually come, how little in these days the duty of joining together as a body of Christian People seems to press upon the greater number, and how very poor are the reasons, the excuses which can be given for such neglect.

Yet no one who reads his Bible can have a doubt as to what ought to be, as to what is due to our religion. What is due to God and Our Saviour. ?

It is no consolation to be told it is the same everywhere. Each one will have to answer for himself. There is the call of the Holy Word of God—"Thou shalt worship The Lord Thy God." The same promise of The Saviour—"Where two or three are gathered together in My Name there am I in the midst of them." The same teaching of the New Testament—"Not forsaking the assembling of yourselves together," and these are with us now as they have always been. How shall we escape if we turn away and reject the teaching which God has given us. ?

HYMNS FOR AUGUST.

8th Sun. after Trinity ...	M., 176, 320, 316, 107.	E., 232, 287, 24.
9th " " ...	M., 260, 274, 251.	E., 220, 214, 31.
10th " " ...	M., 196, 536, 235.	E., 223, 217, 19.
11th " " ...	M., 302, 518, 299.	E., 298, 184, 28.

St. Mark's, Englefield.

LOCAL SHEET.

No. 177.

SEPTEMBER, 1900.

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

HARVEST THANKSGIVING.

It is proposed to hold this Annual Parish Festival on Wednesday, September 5th.

We understand that the arrangements are made for carrying it out on the usual lines, and that the main features will be the same as last year.

There will be Morning Prayer in the Parish Church at 11 a.m., and a Sermon will be afterwards preached by the Rev. R. P. Newhouse, Vicar of S. Laurence's, Reading, and a collection will be made on behalf of the Reading Hospital.

The following thoughts of one of the most eminent clergymen of the Church of England are worthy of consideration in respect of this Annual Festival, he says—"In a Harvest Festival, we are carrying on what God commanded to the Israelites when they entered the chosen land. They came to offer thanksgiving and to pray for a blessing on the ingathering. St. Paul marks the meaning of the act when he says, 'if the first fruits be holy, the lump is also holy.' The offerings were placed upon the Altar to represent the remainder. The action is a dedication to God of His own gifts throughout the world. A reminder that He is the Creator and Giver of all earthly gifts. The Author of all good, that He causes the rain to fall, the bud to swell, the fruit to ripen. And the ceremonial is the acknowledgment of our perpetual dependence upon Him and of His perpetual mercy in feeding us."

CRICKET.

Our Club has played four matches since our last issue, of which the following is a record :—

- v. Padworth, won by 74 runs.
- v. Aldermaston, lost by 48 runs.
- v. Whitchurch, lost by 56 runs.
- v. Reading Biscuit Factory, drawn.

in this, the Biscuit Factory, having 6 wickets down for 162 declared their innings, and Englefield responded with 78 for 8 wickets.

The best bowling performances have been given by O. Hopley (6 for 15 runs against Padworth), and A. Savage (5 for 22 runs against Aldermaston), and A. Lamperd (5 for 26 against Whitchurch.)

The highest scores have been made by O. Hopley 26 ; A. S. Todd 29 ; W. Lamden 23 ; and G. Young 19 ; whilst double figures have also been made by A. Standidge, G. Coombes, H. Archer, A. E. Robinson, and A. Savage. In the return match on Saturday, the 25th, we are happy to say, our cricketers were fortunate in gaining a victory over the Aldermaston team who visited Englefield, beating them handsomely by 30 runs on the first innings with only 4 wickets down. Aldermaston made 85, and Englefield 115, as above stated. A. S. Todd was largely responsible for our success, scoring 46, not out.

In the younger branch, the Boys' Club, had a very enjoyable match with Burghfield in the Park, on Monday, August 20th.

Burghfield had first innings and put together the very tidy total of 73 runs, 22 of which were got by W. Wallis and 11 by H. Shearn. Englefield came out well in the bowling department, Mr. Harry Benyon taking 3 wickets, while Egbert Cox, who went on as a change later in the day, bowled 3 of the visitors with three balls in succession.

Englefied made in their turn a capital innings of 98. Clinch getting 34, Stephen Clayden 22. Egbert Cox and L. Vince 11 and 10 respectively.

Burghfield then went in a second time, but lost 9 wickets for 45 runs. H. Benyon bowling 4 and E. Cox 2 of the wickets and the rest being run out.

THE CLUB.

The Meeting of the Committee to make arrangements for the Winter Season was held on the evening of Monday, August 27th.

The Rector was in the chair and there were present :— Messrs. Roake, Palmer, Robinson, Harris, Horne, Fisher, Long, Moore, Hopley, F. Cox, C. Cox and Tegg, Hon. Sec.

Various propositions were discussed as to the Winter Entertainments, and it was decided to carry out a Programme on the same lines as in past years. The principal features settled were a Smoking Concert on the Harvest Home Night. Four Dances to be held, as usual, during the Winter Months. Smoking Concerts, as usual. Home Tournaments as in previous years, and Out Tournaments with Burghfield, Mortimer, and S. Mary's, Reading. The general arrangements it was decided to leave in the hands of the Sub-Committee with a suggestion that it would be well if possible to have a Tournament with the Pangbourne Club.

On the proposition of the Tournaments' Sub-Committee, it was decided to limit the amount of the prizes given for the Billiard Handicap in proportion to the number of entries, as follows :—For 30 entries, 2 prizes—1st 12/6, 2nd 7/6 ; For 20 entries, 2 prizes—1st 10/6, 2nd 4/6 ; For 12 and over, 1 prize—10/6 ; and under 12 entries there should be no handicap.

Some discussion followed as to the present methods of lighting the Club and possible improvements, and the meeting adjourned.

SERGEANT JOHNSON.

We have been favoured with the perusal of another letter from Sergeant Johnson, dated Pretoria, where he was with the forces of Gen. Roberts at the time of writing.

He gives a graphic account of the journey thither by rail, travelling with some score of comrades in a coal truck, with only a single blanket a-piece to cover them, and suffering to some degree from the cold.

He was looking forward at the time to the future of the campaign, as his corps had already passed the town and were encamped four miles to the north, on the point of proceeding in chase of General Botha, whom they hoped to find in position to meet them on the hills some 2 or 3 miles distant.

THE SCHOOL.

We take the opportunity of reminding our readers that the School holidays will be over on September 10th, when work will recommence, as usual.

The buildings have been thoroughly cleaned and done up internally, and look quite refreshing in the brightness of new colouring and varnish.

HYMNS FOR SEPTEMBER.

12th Sun. after Trinity ...	M., 209, 316, 317. 107.	E., 193, 217, 24.
13th " " ...	M., 381, 388, 298.	E., 382, 219, 31.
14th " " ...	M., 353, 355, 186.	E., 269, 236, 222.
15th " " ...	M., 214, 245, 197.	E., 424, 272, 16.
16th " " ...	M., 215, 161, 228.	E., 223, 257, 297.

St. Mark's, Englefield.

LOCAL SHEET.

No. 178.

OCTOBER, 1900.

Price with "Banner of Faith" ONE PENNY.

THE HARVEST HOME.

We had our Harvest Thanksgiving once again in the good old way, on Wednesday, September 5th. The day commenced with the usual service in the Church, this year we had an Anthem which the Choir sung very nicely, and the Sermon was preached by the Rev. R. P. Newhouse, Vicar of S. Laurence's, Reading.

Then came the dinner in the Long Gallery, presided over by the Squire. Plenty of good English Roast Beef and Plum Pudding.

Then after grace was said the Squire proposed the health of Her Majesty the Queen, and when this had been duly drunk, the Rector proposed the health of Mr. and Mrs. Benyon. He reminded us it was the last year of the most wonderful century, the century which had seen the flag of England set up in many regions of the world, the century which had produced their railways, developed the powers of electricity and steam also in many ways, and not least given them the bicycle; but for them the fact they would wish to remember at this moment was that it brought the Silver Wedding day to their good Squire and Mrs. Benyon. Sitting there at his table he would say not much about him, but wish that he and Mrs. Benyon might be present at their Harvest Home, when 25 years more should bring round a Golden Anniversary to meet as happy a gathering in that same room.

We need hardly add that the toast was drunk with all enthusiasm.

Some other toasts were then kindly proposed by the Squire, including The Rector, The Rev. R. P. Newhouse, &c., &c.

The prizes of the Garden Show were afterwards distributed by Mrs. Benyon.

The display was we think quite up to the average, and the judges were Mr. Bowie, gardener at Calcot Park and Mr. Cox, gardener at Calcot Grange.

The following are the names of the Prizes Winners :—

Division 1—Labourers.

Best cultivated garden—1 J. Abery, 2 E. Morland, 3 W. Cox.
 Best collection vegetables—1 W. J. Stocker, 2 J. Abery, 3 E. Morland.
 Potatoes, kidney—1 J. Norris, 2 F. W. Holmes, 3 H. Groves.
 Potatoes, round—1 John Thame, 2 H. Groves, 3, J. Norris.
 Cabbages—1 J. Abery, 2 W. Day, 3 George Rabbits.
 Onions—1 W. J. Stocker, 2 T. Huggins, 3 D. Elliott.
 Runner beans—1 J. Abery, 2 D. Brill, 3 J. Thame.
 Carrots, long—1 E. Morland, 2, J. Abery, 3 J. Norris.
 Carrots, short—1 George Rabbits, 2 J. Abery, 3 J. Norris.
 Turnips—1 J. Abery, 2 S. Fisher, 3 F. W. Holmes.
 Parsnips—1 W. J. Stocker, 2 E. Lamperd, 3 J. Abery.
 Marrows—1 J. Norris, 2 W. Day, 3 A. Rampton.

Division 2—For Mechanics, Garden Labourers and Amateurs.

Best cultivated garden—1 C. Cox, 2 J. Cross, 3 H. Martin.
 Collection of vegetables—1 C. Cox, 2 J. Cox, 3 H. Martin.
 Potatoes, kidney—1 J. Cox, 2 B. Webb, 3 H. Horne.
 Potatoes, round—1 J. Cox, 2 D. Horne, 3 C. Cox.
 Cabbages—1 H. Horne, 2 D. Horne, 3 C. Cox.
 Onions—1 J. Cox, 2 D. Horne, 3 C. Cox.
 Runner Beans—1 C. Cox, 2 H. Horne, 3 H. Martin.
 Carrots, long—1 H. Horne, 2 H. Martin, 3 D. Horne.
 Carrots, short—1 H. Horne, 2 C. Cox, 3, J. Cox.
 Turnips—1 H. Martin, 2 H. Horne, 3 C. Cox.
 Parsnips—1 H. Martin, 2 H. Horne, 3 C. Cox.
 Marrows—1 T. Dixon, 2 C. Cox, 3, H. Martin.
 Wild Flowers, boys—1 E. Day, 2 R. Wyatt, 3 A. Day.
 Ditto, girls—1 E. Buckland, 2 F. Neville, 3 Ida Rampton.
 Queen Wasps—1 A. S. Claydon, 2 Alice Cox, 3 Edith Buckland.
 Cooked Potatoes—1 Mrs. W. Cox, 2 Mrs. G. Elliott, 3 Mrs. B. Webb.

The afternoon was filled up with cricket and other amusements, and the beautiful silver presents given by the household servants, tenants, and others employed on the estates, on the occasion of the silver wedding, as well as from private friends, were set out to be seen by the company.

Then came the tea for women, &c., and in the evening a capital concert given in the Long Gallery, under the direction of Ben Lawes, followed by dancing, wound up an exceedingly successful and happy day. The total of the collection made after the service, with the addition of the offertory at the celebration of the Holy Communion on the following Sunday, which was, as usual, devoted to the same object, amounted to £57 16s. 0d. The following are the names of those who sent gifts of fruits and flowers for the Hospital:—J. Thame, W. Day, G. Parsons, G. Wyatt, J. Bond, F. Cooper, A. Dyer, W. Fowler, W. Smyth, R. Wheeler, W. Allen, C. Fisher, G. Yarlet, T. Smith, E. Lamperd, F. Cox, T. Webb, H. Martin, J. Tegg, C. Cox, D. Horne, J. Claydon, G. Fisher, Mrs. Coombes, A. Harris, G. Allen, T. Dixon, D. Elliott, Mrs. Roake, J. Martin, J. Norris, F. Holmes, W. Cox, T. Cox, G. Neighbour, E. Morland, J. Lawrence, W. Vince, F. Pocock and Brill, H. Horne, H. Groves, W. Knight, J. Aberly, Mrs. H. Fisher, Mrs. Winchcombe, Mrs. Dell, W. Palmer, F. Reed, J. Cross.

THE WORKMAN'S CLUB.

The Committee arranged a Smoking Concert to wind up the Harvest Home, and in addition to the usual strong display of local talent, engaged Mr. Ben Lawes and party from Reading, the result being voted the best Smoker we have had yet. Mr. I. U. Young, was Chairman and Mr. C. Fisher, Vice-Chairman. The following Members took part:—Messrs. B. Webb, F. Cox, A. Allen, C. Fisher. S. Claydon, and many other Friends.

The Sub-Committees are busily arranging the usual series of Dances, Smokers and Tournaments for the coming winter. The first two Dances, will be on October 24th and November, 21st, when we hope to see many of our lady friends present.

The first two "Smokers" will be on October 30th and November 28th. The inter-club Tournaments are Mortimer. November 14th, Burghfield, December 5th or 12th, St. Mary's Institute Reading, October 13th, at Reading.

The Home Tournaments will commence on November 1st., and we hope all Members will make a point of entering their names on the board before October 31st.

SERGEANT JOHNSON.

Our readers will be glad to learn that we have more news of Sergeant Johnson, who wrote on August the 9th, from Crocodile River, near Pretoria, whether they had marched with Gen. Ian Hamilton's division. On August 2nd, he writes—"We heard that the Boers were in a strong position, about 4 miles away; and that we were to turn them out of it. The action commenced at 8 a.m., and by 12 the position was ours, and we arrived at the top of the Kopjes to see the enemy scouting away in all directions. The men of the regiment admit that this was the stiffest fight they had taken part in during the campaign. Ours was a direct frontal attack, and we were exposed to fire from right, left, and front, how we escaped the many bullets flying about was a miracle. General Hamilton personally complimented the Volunteer Corps for the part they had taken in the action. The Kopje we scaled was a very high and steep one, for the last hundred yards it was a case of crawling up and sliding back again. As we were coming down we wondered how we had ever managed to get up; but the excitement must have helped us."

On the return journey to Pretoria, the marching was done at night, often on short rations in heavy marching order; but we are glad to say that Sergeant Johnson is still able to tell us that he is in excellent health, and, to judge from his letters his spirits are equally good.

THE SCHOOLS.

Our School re-opened on Monday, September 10th. The numbers of the children are about the same as usual; and we are happy to say there is no change in the teaching staff.

HYMNS FOR OCTOBER.

17th Sun. after Trinity	...	M., 197, 317, 315. 107.	E., 248, 200, 172.
18th	,,	... M., 257, 265, 269.	E., 236, 274, 165.
19th	,,	... M., 207, 210, 242.	E., 252, 164, 179.
20th	,,	... M., 432, 221, 437.	E., 274, 436, 270.

St. Mark's, Englefield.

LOCAL SHEET.

No. 179.

NOVEMBER, 1900. [Price with "Banner of Faith" ONE PENNY.]

S. P. G.

Many of our readers may not be aware that this year, 1900, is the bi-centenary of this Great Missionary Society.

Owing to the Long Gallery, at Englefield House, being in the workmen's hands for re-decorating, we shall be able to have our Annual Meeting in the usual way, it is proposed however that we should have collections in the Church for the Society, on November 18th, and the boxes which man kindly hold on its behalf may be sent in about the usual time next month, as regards which notice shall be given.

SERJEANT JOHNSON.

We have received the following letter from Serjeant Johnson, and print it here feeling sure that it will be interesting to many of our readers. The war seems practically at an end, and we are hoping soon we may welcome him again to Englefield, but the Boers show that they are still capable of giving serious trouble, and we cannot yet speak of peace as an existing fact, though we begin to hear of Services of Thanksgiving to God for its blessings talked of, and we must hope that before we keep at Christmas the Festival of the Prince of Peace, all may once more be quiet and happiness in South Africa.

Serjeant Johnson writes from Belfast in the Transvaal, and speaks first of having halted at Pretoria, on August 30th, for two days on the Race Course after being on the march since July 16th. "I have no doubt," he says, "that you will have read in the English newspapers of the movements of Gen. Ian Hamilton's Division to which we have been attached. I think we may say we have experienced a fair share of campaigning since that time, as the Division was marching the whole time until we arrived here on Saturday, Sept. 8th, marching distances varying from 6 to 25 miles under a tropical sun, and for half the time on three-quarter

"rations. I think this may be called the hard side of campaigning. During that time we had, at least, a dozen Advanced Guard and Rear Guard actions. The Advanced Guard actions generally happened when the Royal Berks were leading, but they were not very serious affairs, nothing to compare with our action at Nitrals Nek, on August 2nd, in which we all took part, and which lasted about four hours, it being a very difficult position to take. My thoughts were very much at Englefield, on Sunday, September 2nd, as I imagined you would be celebrating your Harvest Thanksgiving on that date. We had a Church Parade here on Sunday last, September 9th, attended by Lord Roberts with Lord Kitchener, with the whole of his Lordship's Staff. I have kept in excellent health all through. The present strength of our Regiment is about 500. Volunteer Company 60, others are at Rest Camps and in Hospital, a few gone home, and some, I regret to say have passed away."

WORKMEN'S CLUB.

The first Tournament of Games took place on Saturday, October 13th, when a good representative party met our old opponents, St. Mary's Institute, at Reading. Fortune favoured us and we opened the season well, winning the Tournament by 10 Games to 7. We were hospitably entertained by the home team and a very pleasant evening was spent. Our members taking part were Messrs. Bucknell, Moore, Lamperd, Long, Smales, Todd, Read, Robinson, Fisher, Penny, Hopley, Beasley, Savage, Tedman, Claydon and Taylor. The Sub-Committee, Messrs. Robinson, Bucknell and Claydon made all arrangements.

A Happier or Jollier party than that assembled in the Club on Wednesday, October 24th, for the first dance we think it would be difficult to find. An anxious question with not a few of our dancing Members lately has been, "Would the new floor be down,?" Thanks to Mr. Roake, the floor was down, and from a dancers' point of view perfect. About 50 were present and from 7 p.m. to 11 thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Mr. Victor Rivers, F.R.C.O., provided excellent music. Our Sub-Committee, Messrs. Moore, Long and Hopley were efficient M.C.'s and 11 o'clock came only too soon. The next dance is fixed for November 21st.

The following Books have been added to the Library :—

Rodney Stone	...	by	...	Conan Doyle.
Castle Inn	...	"	...	Weyman.
War of the Worlds	...	"	..	Wells.
When the sleep wakes	...	"	...	"
Wonderful Visit	...	"	...	"
In Kedars Tents	...	"	...	Merriman.
The Christian	...	"	...	Hall Caine.
Coming thro' the rye	...	"	...	Helen Mathers.
The Master	...	"	...	Yangwill.
The Wooing O't	...	"	...	Mrs. Alexander.
The Raiders	...	"	...	Crockett.
Lust of Hate	...	"	...	Guy Boothby.
Maid, Wife or Widow	...	"	...	Mrs. Alexander.
"Punch," January to July, 1900.				
"Strand," " "				
"English Illustrated," " "				

JAMES TEGG, Hon. Sec.

Oct. 16th, 1900.

THE CRICKET CLUB.

The following Balance Sheet has been handed in for printing :—

October 28th, 1900.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
Subscriptions—				Per Hon. Treasurer—			
J. H. Benyon, Esq.	1	1	0	Widson & Co. ...	4	16	6
Mrs. Benyon ...	1	0	0	Perry & Cox ...		18	6
Rev. A. S. Young	1	0	0	Per Hon. Sec.—			
Anon ...		5	0	Brakes ...	5	19	0
Members and per Hon.				Erecting Tents ...		17	6
Sec. ...	2	8	6	Bat Shields... ..		2	4
Sale of old kit ...		1	0	Repairs		2	8
Brake Fares ...	3	12	6	Petty Cash		6	7
Cocoa-Nut Shies per							
Mrs. Benyon ..	3	15	1	Balance	13	3	1
Sale of Badges ...		2	0				1 11½
Total	£13	5	1	Total	£13	5	1

HYMNS FOR NOVEMBER.

21st Sun. after Trinity	...	M., 223, 317, 457. 107.	E., 436, 301, 19.
22nd	,,	... M., 215, 221, 236.	E., 217. 297, 302.
23rd	,,	... M., 246, 545, 273.	E., 248, 197, 190.
Sun. next before Advent		M., 268, 183, 290.	E., 254, 534, 202.

St. Mark's, Englefield.

LOCAL SHEET.

No. 180.

DECEMBER, 1900. [Price with "Banner of Faith" ONE PENNY.]

ADVENT SEASON.

The holy Season of Advent is with us again, appealing to us for quiet thought upon the memories and hopes which connect themselves with its teaching.

Nothing can sum these up for us more clearly or more briefly than the collect for its first Sunday, which we are bidden to say day by day.

First we are reminded of the First Coming of the Eternal Son, Who taking our nature upon Him, came into the world, that He might be The Saviour of Mankind from sin, its power and its penalty alike, and of our need to look to Him for our own Salvation.

And then we are reminded how He will come again. No more in His Great Humility, but on the Right Hand of power, to be The Judge of all men and that we shall rise then either to eternal glory or everlasting shame.

Advent marks for us each one, the flight of time, it marks for us the truth that one day we shall give our account, how far we have used or misused, laid hold on or neglected the redemption and the means of grace which the Love of Our Redeemer has purchased for us in so much suffering, and with so much mercy and compassion for our state.

So let us see to it at this time with self-examination and repentance, seeking to prepare for the Great Festival of Christmas ; and beyond all such thought of this present time, seeking so to live now that we may look on with joy and peace to the Second Coming of Our Lord.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

There will be a Meeting on behalf of the Foreign Missions of the Church of England, on Wednesday, Dec. 5th, at 7 p.m., when the Rev. Cyril Wych of Grahamstown, will attend as Deputation on behalf of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts and deliver an address on the work and progress.

The boxes which are held in the Parish on behalf of the Society, may be given in at that time or sent to the Rectory before the meeting.

The collections in the Church on behalf of the Society on Sunday, November 18th, amounted to £9 4s. 6d.

WORKMEN'S CLUB.

A Smoking Concert was held on Tuesday, Nov. 6th, and although not largely attended was most enjoyable. Mr. J. Church, who many will remember as a former member of Club and Choir brought a party of friends over from Pangbourne Club, who greatly contributed to the success of the evening. Mr. Robinson was at the piano and also gave two songs, Messrs. Hopley and Moore occupied the responsible positions of Chair and Vice-Chairmen respectively, and guided the proceedings with great tact, thereby allowing all who wished to sing at least twice, not always an easy task when all present are in full song.

An inter-club Tournament of games was played on Wednesday, Nov. 14th, when our old opponents of Mortimer Club paid us a visit. It is not always an enviable task to get a team together for an Out Tournament, other clubs find this as well as Englefield, for Mortimer came very short handed, but though short in number, luck did not desert them, the result being 13 games for Mortimer, 8 for Englefield. Our members must pull together to reverse this on their own visit to them.

The next Tournament is on Dec. 12th, when we visit Burghfield, where our members always find themselves "at home." The first round of the home Tournament is progressing and by the time this is read will be decided. Some keen contests have taken place and as usual some of our best have dropped out. Owing to the few entries there is no Billiard Handicap this year.

The second Dance on Wednesday, Nov. 21st, was, as usual, a success. The floor was in good condition. Mr. V. Rivers, F.R.C.O., gave us excellent music, the sub-Committee were efficient M.C.'s and not least, the ladies found plenty of partners, which is not always the case, as dancing men seem none too plentiful. Mr. F. Cox kindly brought his violin, which was a most agreeable addition. The date of the Christmas Dance is not yet decided on.

CHRISTMAS DAY.

The Services will be the same as usual, Holy Communion celebrated at 7.30 and 8.30, and again after Morning Prayer at 11 a.m. Evening Prayer and Sermon at 6 p.m.

THE SCHOOL.

The Christmas holiday will commence on December 20th, when the School will break up for a fortnight. On Friday, December 21st, the Schoolroom will be open from 12 till Evening, that parents and others interested in the work of the Scholars may have an opportunity of seeing an exhibition of their work which will then be on view.

THE NEW CENTURY.

It is hardly possible in sending out these numbers which form the last portion of this little publication for 1900, without some reference to the close of the century.

After all there is something very solemn in the mark, such a date sets upon the flight of time, though on the other hand it is easy enough to say, there is no more importance in reality to be attached to one year above another.

It means for each and all, so much more of our allotted span of life passed and gone, used or misused, well spent or wasted; our work done or neglected, and the time when the account must be rendered so much nearer at hand, and it whispers to us to see to our tasks "While we have opportunity." Gal. vi., 10.

The Rector has arranged that the Rev. A. J. Skinner should assist him with the Sunday Duties at the Church during the winter months beginning with December and continuing his services till Easter. Mr. Skinner is a Master of the Reading College and has already taken the Services at Englefield in the Rector's absence.

MRS. BENYON'S CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

We have authority to state that these will be distributed on Thursday, December 20th, at 11 a.m.

The Children's Christmas Tree and Treat will be early in January as it was last year, and due notice will be given of the exact date. Mrs. Benyon hopes to see the parents present on the occasion in the usual manner.

HYMNS FOR THE MONTH.

1st Sunday in Advent.	...	M., 219, 315, 322, 107.	E., 53, 51, 362.
2nd ,, ,,	...	M., 47, 50, 288.	E., 50, 205, 48.
3rd ,, ,,	...	M., 45, 305, 204.	E., 274, 52, 268.
4th ,, ,,	...	M., 46, 51, 53.	E., 52, 290, 225.
Christmas Day ... ..	...	M., 60, 62, 317, 321.	E., 60, 59, 24.
Sunday after Christmas	...	M., 60, 62, 219.	E., 58, 297, 28.