

May 1955



WHITSUNDAY is on May 29th and this is one of the greater Festivals of the Church. For some strange reason it is rarely observed as such—perhaps it may be overshadowed by the holiday which follows. Do we ever stop to ask how Bank Holidays originated? Each one is preceded by one of the greater Festivals of the Church and it is from this source that they ever came into existence. This applies equally to August Bank Holiday which comes after the first Sunday in the month which is Lammas Day—the day on which the Lammas loaf was presented in Church by the leading farmers of the Parish and used at the Parish Communion. The Lammas loaf was made from the first sheaf of corn cut in the Parish. So we see how closely the Church was and should be related to the holy days or holidays. Whitsunday marks the Birthday of the Christian Church, and we value that Festival all the more when we realize what we owe to the many centuries of Christian teaching. From the very earliest days the Church has been bound up with the origin, growth and development of the English nation. It gave spiritual and ecclesiastical unity to the rival Kingdoms and brought civilisation to the Anglo-Saxon tribes. It softened the fierceness and cruelty of medieval life. It founded schools in which the children could be taught and built hospitals and almshouses for the sick and aged. It taught the knowledge of God to successive generations and helped to provide the beauty of our language. The Church also has taught respect for authority combined with freedom and service. The close connection between Church and Nation can be seen in almost any of our ancient Parish Churches and the whole history of England would be incomprehensible if from it were omitted the work and influence of the Church. It was therefore from the first Whitsunday or Feast of Pentecost that this new great influence came to work in the lives of nations and individuals and it is well to remember that even those who appear to be discontented in the Church owe all that is best in life to the Church's influence and teaching.

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THE Easter Vestry meeting was held last month at which our Churchwardens and Sidesmen were re-elected. At the Parochial Church Meeting which followed the usual routine business was carried out including the election of the Church Council and representatives to the Ruri Decanal Conference.

The Treasurer, Mr. Berry, presented a financial report which was adopted and considered very satisfactory in view of heavy expenditure during the past year on fabric repairs amounting to £145 and other exceptional expenses. The amount paid out to various diocesan and other outside sources amounted to £170 and the year ended with a credit balance of £192 18s. 3d., and on the Fabric Fund £11 16s. 9d.

THE Social held at Kingston last month was very much enjoyed by those who attended and the Tower Fund benefitted by about £25, largely as the result of the draw.

To all those who contributed to the success of the evening we are very grateful.