



IN English country life the Thanksgiving for the harvest has always been an occasion of importance. It is primarily a recognition of God's goodness and bounty and rightly so. In recent years however it seems to have diminished in importance and perhaps this may be reckoned as a sign of the times, but let us

hold fast to this old custom. We shall have our thanksgiving at the Parish Church on Sunday, September 28th, and at S. Nicholas on the following Sunday. We do not sell the gifts which are brought, and we do not send them to the hospitals, but we do send them to the Homes for Old People at Wareham and Blandford where they are greatly appreciated. So please may we have an abundance as far as possible of things which do not perish too quickly, such as jam, honey, etc.—but of course fruit and other things are also most gratefully accepted.

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THE Harvest in one sense marks the completion of work well and truly done by those on whom we depend so much. Indirectly, too, it corresponds with the end of the holiday season. The whole idea of holidays came originally from the Church—they were then holy days, and holy days in the Church's year were the only holidays anyone ever had. They have now been increased enormously and unfortunately we have largely forgotten their origin and the great Holy Day of each week has for so many become a holiday. No one, of course, is compelled to attend their Parish Church—although the law has never been repealed which inflicted heavy penalties on those who failed to attend church on Sundays! We write the above as a small reminder of a Christian duty.

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DURING the past few weeks we have lost several old and respected parishioners. On the same day Mr. Vacher and Mr. Ernest Marsh passed on. The former was a valued member of the Methodist denomination who helped much at their chapels. Mr. Marsh was a member of an old farming family in the parish and before his health failed he occupied several positions in the life of the village. For many years he sang in the Parish Church choir. Then we must record the passing of Mrs. Sophia Wellstead, who died at Winterbourne Kingston in her 108th year. Although bedridden for many years she maintained her interest in local happenings and her sense of humour almost to the very end. Apart from her great age she was a loved parishioner who first sang in S. Nicholas Church choir about 100 years ago.

OUR Parish Church Garden Party at the Vicarage was fortunate in having one of the few fairly fine days, although activity was curtailed in the evening by cold wind and rain. In spite of this it was in every way a happy and successful day thanks to the goodwill and hard work on the part of so many. The proceeds, after paying expenses, amounted to about £75 and in this respect S. Nicholas beat us again. We must try to reverse this next year!

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MANY of our Parish Churches, especially in country districts, are short of boys to sing in the choirs. It used to be considered a privilege to be a choir boy but now unfortunately this does not appear to be the case. Parents alone can put this matter right and Miss Smith would be glad to know of boys who are prepared to have the honour of joining our choir.

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Register

Holy Baptism.

Aug. 10th. John, son of Arthur and Patricia Lilian Sherwood.

Burial.

July 17th. Ernest James Marsh, aged 76 years.

Aug. 11th. At S. Nicholas. Sophia Wellstead, aged 107 years.