



OUR notes this month must begin by wishing our readers every happiness at Christmas and indeed for the New Year as well.

It is of course natural and understandable that Christmas is a day when family reunions add so much to the happiness of the day and on occasion too, when we look back and think of those who are no longer here to join us. Memory can bring so much happiness and sadness but if we understand the real meaning of Christmas it is surely happiness that takes first place.

Let us get down to this simple thought—suppose there had been no Christmas—and it is, after all, the very foundation of the Christian Faith.

There have been in the past—and some still exist—forms of belief which consist of certain moral principles laid down by their founders but which cannot be said to add anything to the goodness and beauty of human existence. They do little more than act as guides to moral behaviour.

But there is such a thing as sentiment—something hard to define but something which concerns our feelings, and at no time in the year are our best sentiments or feelings more easily aroused than at Christmas.

This, of course, is not putting Christmas on a very high level and is leaving on one side the tremendous fact that at Christmas we celebrate an event which turned the whole course of the world's progress—it brought light and hope to a world full of darkness and harshness.

Our days are becoming overshadowed by the demands of modern progress which leave little room for sentiment of any kind. May Christmas this year bring abundant happiness and good will—and that is our wish to all our readers.

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AT the end of each year we express our very grateful thanks to those ladies who so kindly and regularly distribute the Magazine each month. We record their names—Mrs. Day, Mrs. Barnes (Sitterton), Miss Smith, Mrs. Snook, Mrs. Eastment, Mrs. B. Hewitt, Mrs. Woolfries and Mrs. Poore, and at Winterbourne Kingston, Mrs. Richards and Mrs. House.

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THE Vicar has now received the architect's Report on the fabric of the Parish Church and we have good reason to be thankful that it is tolerably favourable, although some repair work must be put in hand fairly soon. This and other matters were to have been discussed recently by the Church Council, but unfortunately the meeting has had to be postponed twice on account of the Vicar's illness.

The future of the Magazine must also be considered as it has been run at a financial loss for some time. The official Diocesan Gazette in future is to be published quarterly on account of the expense of production, But a Diocean Leaflet is to be issued each month and a copy of this will be placed in our own monthly Magazine and thus enable readers to be in touch with the general affairs of the diocese, and it will include a letter from the Bishop each month.

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**T**HIS is the first year for well over a quarter of a century that Mrs. Bedford has not been one of the ladies who have dusted and cared for the Parish Church, and we are deeply grateful for all she has done. Thanks are due also the the following for their regular help—Mrs. A. Barnes, Mrs. N. Barnes, Mrs. Talbot, Mrs. F. Marsh, the Misses Lys, Mrs. P. Minterne, Mrs. Herring, Mrs. Janes, Mrs. Day, Mrs. M. Miller, Mrs. Drew and Mrs. Farnham.

At S. Nicholas, too, we have a similar band of voluntary workers to whom we make further reference next month.

When we consider the really large number of kind people who care for the well being of our two churches—and we do not by any means overlook our bell ringers—we do realize how blessed we are by their kindness.

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**I**T is with very deep regret that we have received from Mr. Berry his resignation as Treasurer and Secretary of our Parochial Church Council. Mr. Berry's health has not been good for some time and we can well understand his wish to hand over this work to other hands. Mr. Berry's business experience and the infinite care which he has given to our finances can never be excelled, and we have reason to be most grateful to him. We hope, however, that he will act in an advisory capacity for a long time ahead.

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**J**UST as we go to press we must make a brief reference to S. Nicholas Fayre which was an unbounded success. The Vicar was prevented from attending and Brigadier Lipscomb introduced Mrs. Gough who kindly opened the Fayre. Next month we hope to give a full report.

#### CHRISTMAS DAY.

Holy Communion, Parish Church, 8 a.m.

Holy Communion, S. Nicholas, 9.30 a.m.

Mattins and Holy Communion, Parish Church, 11 a.m.

Sunday after Christmas, Carols at Evensong at the Parish Church.

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#### Register

Burial, at Winterbourne Kingston.

September 11th, Eliza Jane Miller, aged 92 years.