

December 1960

Harcombe,
Sidbury.

Telephone: Sidbury 363
December, 1960

My dear Friends,

It is hard to realise that this is not only the last issue of the Magazine in its present form, but also the last time that I shall have an opportunity of writing to you. There are two things which I want to say first of all—how extremely sorry I was not being able to say farewell personally, and to attend the gatherings so kindly arranged for this purpose at both ends of the Parish, and to see those who, like myself, were unable to attend through illness. My wife, I know, thanked you on our behalf and told you how very sorry we are to be leaving the Parish after nearly a quarter of a century. Your extreme generosity and thought and kindness and many letters have been very heartening and indicate the great friendship which has always been shown to us and which we shall always remember with deep gratitude. I returned from Hospital by ambulance on Friday to our new home, not after all so very far away. We shall look forward to visits from old friends who will, of course, be most welcome at any time. We shall be so very glad to have letters to keep us in touch with your home affairs.

Most people will probably have heard already that the Reverend P. T. W. Tranter, at present Rector of Myland, Colchester, will be succeeding me in the New Year, and I ask you to continue to remember him in your prayers and to give him all your help and encouragement in the work of the Parish.

Every day we pray 'Thy Kingdom come.' Let us try to say the prayer with a more thoughtful understanding of its meaning; if, perhaps, thereby we may come to a greater longing for its fulfilment. To pray thus for the coming of the Kingdom is, I think, the best preparation which we can make for Christmas. Christmas, the Incarnation of our Blessed Lord, is the promise of deliverance from our present slavery to selfishness. The message of Christmas is that the divine love has entered into the society of our human race to redeem it from its corruption. The promise of Christmas is that since we are thus, through the Incarnation, made partakers of Christ's divinity, we shall therefore, when He wills it, be perfected and enabled to take our place in the Communion of Saints before the Throne of God, in the life to come. That is why we should try, during Advent, to teach ourselves to pray sincerely, 'Come, Lord, come.'

My wife and I join in thanking you all again for your kindness to us and send you our wishes for a Happy and Blessed Christmas.

Your sincere friend,

ROLAND C. HERRING.

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Holy Baptism.

At S. Nicholas. November 20th. Heather, daughter of Herbert
John and Sylvia Legg.