

September 1951



THE holiday season is now over and again it has been a very disappointing one as far as weather was concerned. We must hope that it will now be such as the farmers will be able to gather in what appeared to be a very promising harvest. The date of the Harvest Thanksgiving at the Parish Church will be Sunday, September 30th and at S. Nicholas on the following Sunday when Evensong on that day will be at 7.15 p.m.

Of late years the Thanksgiving for the harvest has to some extent ceased to draw the crowded congregations which filled our churches. This is the case all over the country and is perhaps symptomatic of the general decline in church attendance which is the case almost everywhere. It is no use closing our eyes to this fact but it is a matter which should cause real concern to those who profess and call themselves Christians. Let us be clear on one point which is that the clergy are not to blame except in rare instances. On the other hand the clergy cannot be expected to be able to give their best when all that they stand for and attempt to do is ignored. What an inspiration it can be both for clergy and people when 'we assemble and meet together' as our Prayer Book says to 'render thanks for the great benefits we have received at His hands—to set forth His most worthy praise, to hear His most Holy Word and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary as well for the body and the soul'. Those beautiful words incorporated in our Prayer Book hundreds of years ago have echoed through our ancient Parish Churches bidding faithful men and women to do their Christian duty week by week.

The causes for the decline in church attendance are many. Wireless and easy means of transport are among them, but he is a poor Christian who is content to allow such things to prevent him from doing what he knows in his best self is his duty to God and his neighbour.

As far as our own two churches are concerned we have cause to be thankful for the loyalty of the faithful who do come, and in many country parishes things are far worse. But you—as you read these lines—if you are among those who have given up will you think about a new start? It may mean an effort and even cause surprise to your neighbours but it will bring you something which at present is missing in your life.

THE children of S. Nicholas Sunday School together with several members of the Mothers' Union had a happy outing to Weymouth under the supervision of Mrs. Sheppard. The weather was kind and the tea was good.

Register

Burial at Winterbourne Kingston.

August 7th. Joseph Charles Miller, aged 83 years.