



HIS month we keep our Patronal Festival—a day of thanksgiving for all that our beautiful Parish Church has meant to those who were born, lived and died in the Parish for more than 1200 years. Our present church stands on the spot where a Saxon church stood before the Norman Conquest, but the exact date of consecration is not known. We do know, however, that all those centuries ago the church was dedicated to S. John Baptist, but history does not tell us why this particular saint was chosen.

A beautiful old Parish Church witnesses to the faith of past generations, not only in the way in which it was built but also preserved and cared for by successive generations, and it is encouraging when we have appreciation of our services expressed by so many who attend from other places. But again we must remember that a Parish Church is much more than a building however beautiful it may be. It stands for the Faith and Worship of the Church in England, which is bound up with the origin, growth and development of the nation. It was the Church in England which brought the Anglo Saxon tribes into civilisation and led them into ways of peace and order—it was the original founder of schools, hospitals and almshouses and the only source of comfort and care to the sick and needy. It was the Church which gave Parliament its first home and last, but by no means least, it covered the land with churches and cathedrals of unsurpassed beauty to provide for the spiritual comfort and help for each generation in turn.

It is undoubtedly true to say that there is not a family in the Parish—with the exception of newcomers—which has not at one time or another come to the Parish Church on the occasion of importance in the lives of these families: if only, perhaps, on such rare occasions as baptism or marriage. Will those who were baptised or married come and offer thanks in our Parish Church on Sunday, June 28th?

Will readers kindly note the following with regard to services in the Parish Church on the first three Sundays in July.

July 5th. Mattins 11 a.m. Evensong 6 p.m.

July 12th. Mattins and Holy Communion 11 a.m. Evensong 6 p.m.

July 19th. Mattins 11 a.m. Evensong 6 p.m.

Children who usually attend in the afternoons are asked to attend in the mornings when the Register will be marked and stamps given.

At S. Nicholas there will be no alteration in the services.

Register

Holy Baptism.

At S. Nicholas, May 17th.

Tina Alison, daughter of Clifford Brian and Betty Margaret
Brown.

At the Parish Church, May 31st.

George Tom, son of Geoffrey William and Mary Ireland.

Maria Julia, daughter of Raymond Reginald and Estelle
Rosemary Skinner.