



IN previous issues of the Magazine we have made frequent reference to the place which our Parish Churches hold in the life of a village or Parish and it is an interesting and challenging feature of the present day that while congregations of many churches are more scanty than in the past the number of visitors to them increases. Within the past few years the doors of our churches have been flung open and there has swept across the country a new appreciation of their loveliness, a new consciousness of beauty in form and colour has penetrated into the minds of so many.

Teachers in day schools have found that the appeal of history strikes a note of welcome among their pupils. Travel has become popular among all classes. It seems clear that in the glory of the parish churches of this country there lies an appeal, a call from God which will slowly but surely bring people to worship. It may even be that there is already some offering of worship however inarticulate, in the reverent entry of multitudes into this or that church and their admiration of what they see but only half understand. They feel instinctively that these lovely buildings belong to them and that they have a right to find them open and go inside.

In their crowded lives the obligation to worship on a Sunday has grown very faint, but the greater proportion have been baptized in some church, most parents have been married in church, the British Legion parades in the village church, and there are war memorials within its walls or churchyards.

A revived sense of history, the pageantry of commemoration of those who fell in battle—the great vogue of excursions and outings, the growth of local historical associations, have all cultivated a deeper appreciation and understanding of our older churches as shrines that breathe a living atmosphere of times gone by. And so it seems that our lovely old churches are reaching a far larger number of people than in the past, while those who live almost within the shadow of their walls find their value less. This presumably must be considered a 'sign of the times', but so much to be regretted. For much more than a thousand years the Christian Church in our land, despite its failures, has stood, and still stands, for the Christian in individual and corporate life, and the Christian way of life is still woven into the life of our country.

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IN connection with what is written above it is interesting to note that the Vicar has already had application from several London

schools for dates next summer when they may visit our Parish Church and have a talk on its main features of interest.

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**I**N spite of the fact that our Harvest Thanksgiving services were at a later date than usual and gardens were parched, we have never had our two churches more beautifully decorated and congregations were better than for some years.

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### Register

Holy Baptism.

September 27th. Peggy Karen, daughter of Ernest John and Kathleen Dorothy Nellie Cleall.

(at S. Nicholas). October 11th. Richard Edward, son of Anthony Hayter and Sylvia Patricia Florence Burgess.

Burial.

Mary Rose Joiner, aged 77 years.

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