

*J. B. Brown*  
**Hambleton Parish Magazine.**

DECEMBER 1945.

HAMBLEDON RECTORY,  
*November 19th, 1945.*

My Dear Parishioners,

Our Services on Remembrance Sunday were well attended especially the Parade Service in the afternoon, when a splendid little address was given by Major General Sir Arthur Mills, K.C.M.G. The offertories during the day were given to the Poppy Fund and they amounted to £19 14s. 7d. We were glad to see so many members of the British Legion and ex-Service men.

A most interesting leaflet has been sent me from Major Fairbanks Smith on the Bishop's Challenge, which it is suggested should be inserted in all Parish Magazines. It is I fear too long to print as a whole, but some extracts at any rate will appear in this issue.

The list of dates for Confirmation Services in this Deanery has not yet been completed, but I now ask for names of any who wish to offer themselves as candidates.

Yours sincerely,  
EDWARD J. SEYMOUR.

**THANKSGIVING WEEK**

Hambleton did extremely well in savings. The target was £4,000, and the total invested was £20,879 a large part being small savings. The Hambleton C. of E. School, St. Dominics, St. Thomas's Hospital, King Edward's School, and King George V. Sanatorium, all contributed to this very satisfactory result. We heartily congratulate Mr. Colin Dowson who wore himself to a frazzle in this cause.

**MOTHERS' UNION**

There will be a Meeting for Members on January 16th at 2.45 p.m., at Mrs. Bellerby's house. The address will be given by Mrs. Banham of Christ Church Vicarage, Woking.

**HAMBLEDON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

The Annual Meeting was held on November 14th, Miss Bush, President was in the Chair. The usual Ballot for the New Committee was not necessary as five members of the existing Committee resigned, and only five new members offered themselves for election. Much regret was expressed at the resignation of Miss Bush from the post of President, but there was hearty applause when it was announced that Mrs. Keeyvett Lee had consented to take her place. Mrs. Kingsford who has been a most able Treasurer for 4 years, also resigned, and Mrs. Dowson was appointed to this post, while Mrs. Edwards becomes Press Correspondent. Mrs. Gillham expressed her willingness to continue as Secretary, to the great satisfaction of everyone. Miss Bush read a report of the year's work, and reports were also read of all the various Sub-Committees. The Pie Scheme has given most liberal contributions to several village funds. The two wool schemes have both produced a very gratifying number of knitted garments, and the Salvage Depot has closed down after several years of most strenuous work. About 150 garments have been sent to the Help Holland Council. The Fruit Preservation Centre also closes down with over 1100 lbs. of preserves to its credit since opening. Mrs. Philip Smith reported that the Tea Fund was not so flourishing as usual,



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owing to the difficulty in obtaining supplies, but in spite of this the meeting closed with its usual excellent tea, during which a round table conference was held to invite suggestions for next year's programme.

### THE BISHOP'S CHALLENGE

#### *Brief Notes on Church Finance*

Bishop's Couriers are constantly asked such questions as these:—

- (1) The Ecclesiastical Commissioners are very wealthy, aren't they?
- (2) Why is the Bishop's Challenge asking for money for stipends; are these not paid by the State?

There is an extraordinary amount of ignorance on these matters, and with a view to helping Bishop's Couriers to answer such questions, this leaflet has been printed.

In the House of Commons on May 4th, 1945, the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir Kingsley Wood) stated that, apart from the pay of Service and Prison Chaplains (consisting of all denominations), *none of the Clergy or Bishops of the Church of England is paid by the State.*

*How, then, is the Church of England maintained?*

- (1) By voluntary donations and weekly offerings.
- (2) *By the generous gifts of Churchmen from the earliest times. These gifts, which we have inherited, have been invested to form a permanent endowment.*
- (3) In some Parishes there are Pew Rents, but these are gradually diminishing.

It is impossible to give an exact figure for the annual income of the Church of England, because voluntary offerings are obviously uncertain and endowments fluctuate—some critics have estimated the Church's income to be £15,000,000 per annum. Assuming that this figure is approximately correct, and if this figure was equally divided, it is estimated that the amount available for each Parish and other centres would be approximately £675.

*The Church of England needs a much larger annual income to meet its commitments to enable it to seize its opportunities.*

*The income of the Church of England can now be said to be reduced by £650,000 per annum.*

In recent years the Church of England has suffered a considerable loss of income through the Tithe Act, which means an annual loss to Benefices of some £470,000, which capitalised on a three per cent. basis amounts to approximately £15,800,000.

In addition, a further sum of £100,000 annually in the reduction of the Church's income has resulted from the Coal Act. Added to these two items, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners have suffered a loss of £50,000 per annum owing to the Tithe Act.

Most Churchpeople understand the financial needs of their Parish, but they do not always appreciate why they should be required to pay so much money to the Diocese. The reason is that much religious work has to be done which is not the responsibility of the individual Parish, but of the Diocese as a whole. For instance, there is a training of men for the sorely depleted Ministry. Money is urgently required to augment the poorer Livings and to assist the Widows and Dependants of the Clergy. Religious Education and Church extension in the Diocese urgently need money. In addition, the Diocese is expected to pay a contribution each year to the Central, or Church Assembly Fund (Guildford's share is £2,233).

November, 1945.