

# *The* CHRONICLE ARCHIVES

*January - December 1945*

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Goring United Reformed Church  
Goring by Sea, Worthing, West Sussex.

## E L M G R O V E C H R O N I C L E

Jan. 1945. (Goring Congregational Church). No. 5.

MINISTER'S CONTRIBUTION When so much is being spoken and written about the future treatment of Germany, we will do well to ponder words spoken by the President of the United States of America. Speaking of post-war Germany he said :- "We shall not leave them a single element of military power or of potential military power, but I should be false to the very elements of my religious and political convictions if I should ever relinquish the hope, and even the faith, that in all peoples without exception, there live some instinct for truth, some attraction toward justice, & some passion for peace, buried it may be, as in the German case under a brutal regime. We bring no charge against the German race as such, for we cannot believe that God has eternally condemned any race of humanity. There is going to be stern punishment for them, and for those who were responsible for this slavery of mankind. The German people are not going to be enslaved, because the United Nations do not traffic in human slavery, but it would be necessary for them to earn their way back to the fellowship of peace-loving and law-abiding nations."

At Christmas time we sent a letter of greeting & good wishes to the men in the Forces whose names are on our Roll of Honour. We told them of our remembrance in prayer at our monthly Communion Service. Replies have been received, and here are quotations from two of them.

From Paymaster Commander Maurice Knott, R.N.

"It was a delightful thought sending me the good wishes of you all from the Goring Congregational Church, and I do appreciate all that was behind your note. It is the priceless link of the home and all that it means which keeps so many to their ideals."

From the Rev. J.B. Wiseman, Chaplain R.A.F.

"Thank you very much for the letter of Christmas good wishes. I very much appreciate the thought as you scarcely know me, though you know my parents. I have been very glad to hear how well the work is going at Goring, and send you my very best wishes."

CHURCH NOTES. The severity of the present winter has often limited the attendances. But even so there has been some generous giving for special objects. Also we gratefully acknowledge the continuance of a most helpful ministry. And did any group of little folk ever have more charming talks than do the children at our morning worship?

On Jan. 14th, the Rev. Stanley Thompson of Tindon paid us a welcomed visit, and the same day Mr. G. Mitchell conducted the afternoon service.

It is hoped to re-commence evening worship at 6.30 the first Sunday in March, and there will be a service on Good Friday at 11 a.m., conducted by our Minister.

Preachers for ensuing Sundays include the following :-  
Feb. 11th: Rev. S.J. Cowdy. Feb. 18th: (Afternoon) Rev. B.R.H. Spaul, M.A. Mar. 11th: Rev. H.J. Horn. Mar. 25th: (Morning) Rev. B.R.H. Spaul, M.A. April 8th: Rev. F.J. King. April 22nd: (Evening) Rev. B.R.H. Spaul, M.A.

All other dates and times not mentioned the services will be taken by our Minister, the Rev. F.J.H. Humphrey,  
D.S.O.

CHURCH FINANCE. Our Treasurer's financial Statement for the past year is encouraging. Offertories & Freewill contributions totalled £437. 13. 5, and the total sum raised for the I.M.S. amounted to over £37.

Offertories for special purposes included Sussex Home Missions £8. 13. 0. British & Foreign Bible Society £5.2.10. Red Cross & St. John's £8. 17. 6, and Queen Alexandra Home for Disabled Soldiers £5.

CHILDREN'S PARTY. Tuesday, Jan. 2nd, was a happy day for our little people, and the Canteen at 28 Goring Road looked very Christmassy with decorations, and several helpers were waiting to receive the guests - 15 Scholars and two Cradle Roll babies. Games were soon in full swing, everyone joining in enthusiastically. Then came tea, everything being "Home-made," and plates were soon cleared. The afternoon finished up with recitations from some of the tiny ones, and very nicely they recited too. Finally there was a little parcel for each to take home.  
E.N.G.

LADIES' WORKING PARTY. Balance and Income up to date

total £74. 8. 8. Expenses (Wool, etc.) £42.12.2. Leaving a balance in hand of £31.16.6.

READING The "New Advance" for the Triple Jubilee Year of CIRCLE. the London Missionary Society has been enthusiastically adopted by the Board. And the wonderful achievements of the Society under God should spur us all to greater effort. With wider vision, greater faith in the power of the Gospel, more earnest prayer, and generous giving, we too can help to make this year one of real advancement.

In order to increase our interest and knowledge of this great work our Church has decided to purchase all the various books and publications recently displayed in the vestibule, and anyone who would like to read any of them can apply to Miss Stevenson after either of the Services on Sunday, or on Tuesday afternoons at 28, Goring Road. No charge will be made for this but borrowers are asked not to keep a book longer than two weeks.

The L.M.S. Chronicle can also be obtained for 2/- yearly. And we shall gladly welcome more members for the Watcher's Band, and more annual subscribers for the funds of the Society.

M.F.S.

OUR We are very much indebted to all those friends CHOIR. who give such loyal service in this direction.

Choir Practices are now held at 54, Mill Road on Fridays at 6 p.m., and Easter music is already being arranged for. But still more help is needed, and Mr. Truss earnestly appeals for new members.

CHRISTIAN The hope of the future in Europe depends CO-OPERATION. upon the work which can be done by the Christian Churches. It is true the Christian Churches are in many cases minority religions, but their influence extends far beyond their numbers, and this war has shown how strong their influence is in many other nations. Magnificent has been the heroism shown by the Churches in Norway, Belgium, Holland and elsewhere. They have been the centres of the resistance movement, & their influence has been widespread and remarkable. But the influence they might have in their own countries will be insufficient by itself, unless they are able to act together.

Some years ago it would have been almost impossible

to have expected any kind of general co-operation between the Churches. But to-day while the Christian Churches are as convinced as ever of the truth of their faith, they are recognising that there is a very wide field in which they can work together, and there is increasing co-operation and friendship between the various Churches. If this can be increased, and why should it not, it must have a profound influence on the future of the world. Spiritual means are needed to revive the spiritual & moral values that have been shattered during these last years. Amid the chaos and disintegration of war the Church of the living God abides, overleaping man-made barriers, offering a new world order based upon Christ's way of life. We also "helping together by prayer." Rev. F.J.H. Humphrey.

THE NEW CHURCH. The designer of the very attractive collecting boxes for the Building Fund may, or may not, excel in architectural knowledge, but on examination it will be found that the doorway and windows represent several styles - Norman, Early English, & Perpendicular periods. But it is all the same a most delightful little model for any home, and a goodly number have already been distributed. Whatever may be the differences of opinion as to the kind of building to be erected, we are all agreed that a new Church is badly needed in this neighbourhood. It is therefore earnestly hoped that still more friends will take one of these boxes.

It has been said that the most interesting things in life are those we have never yet seen! That being so the thought of a new Church may well fascinate us. And a time will come when we may well remember some words once spoken by Dr. J.H. Jowett. "If God writes 'Opportunity' on one side of a door, He writes 'Responsibility' on the other."

PLEASE NOTE. On Tuesday, Feb. 6th, at 7.30 p.m. at the Shelley Road Lecture Hall, Mrs. Dowers, the Secretary for Schools for Missionaries, will speak on the activities of those Institutions. There will be a film, and refreshments will be provided.

E L M G R O V E C H R O N I C L E

Mar. 1945. (Goring Congregational Church) No. 6.

"IF SPRING CAME BUT ONCE IN A CENTURY, INSTEAD OF ONCE A YEAR, OR BURST FORTH WITH THE SOUND OF AN EARTHQUAKE, AND NOT IN SILENCE, WHAT WONDER AND EXPECTATION THERE WOULD BE IN ALL HEARTS." (Longfellow)

"THE LIFE EVERLASTING" The "life re-orient out of dust" which is shown itself to-day in every bursting leaf and springing flower is Nature's parable that awaits man after death. No doubt apart from the resurrection of Jesus the yearly miracle kindles sad thoughts in mournful hearts, and suggests bitter contrasts to those who sorrow having no hope. But the grave in the garden has turned every blossom into a smiling prophet of the Resurrection. And so the season illuminated by the event teaches us lessons of hope that we "shall not all die." Jesus Christ rose from the dead. He beat death. He tore the crown from its brow. He laid his power in the dust. He cast its shroud from him and came back into the garden, and into the light, and into the life of men.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ teaches us that life has nothing to do with organization, but persists apart from the body. It teaches us that we may pass from death and be quickened in the substance of our being; it teaches us that the earthly house of our Tabernacle may be fashioned like unto the glorious house in which He dwells, now at the right hand of God.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is grounded in God's almighty love which would not allow Jesus to be "holden of death." The whole assurance of immortality, whether for ourselves, or for those dear to us, lies in "the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord," in His life, death, and resurrection.

Is there with us to-day "an ebb from the shores of another life"? Are men and women so absorbed in manifold secular activities that they only want "one world at a time"? On the other hand when the world rocks and sways in the convulsions of a great war, when the toll of human life is so heavy, is there not the need of the Christian faith and hope concerning the life of the world to come?

There always have been, and still are, a few men and women to whom life after death is not desirable. And there are others who profess their belief in the immortality of influence, but a cessation of personality beyond the grave.

If we were isolated units we might not be much concerned about our future state; but the fact that we mean so much to each other makes a vast difference. No normal person could stand beside the bed of a dying loved-one and say good-bye not caring whether they ever met again. Anybody who could be so indifferent would lack some of the essential realities of a live man or woman. The very meaning of the Christian faith is that love is the most enduring element in the universe, abiding for ever. Love never faileth. And nothing, neither death nor life, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Jesus Christ our Lord!

But the "life everlasting" is not something which is entirely reserved for life beyond the grave, rather it is something of which Christians have a foretaste, real though imperfect and incomplete, in this present life. This comes through surrender to Jesus Christ who is the Mediator of eternal life. When in this life a man or woman comes to know God, a far more radical change has taken place in the soul than will take place in the passing from this life with God on earth to the admittedly much fuller life with God in the world beyond.

Eternal life is the gift of God under the hand of time. There is a sense in which every Spring-time is a parable of God's great Gift, but the assurance of the gift is in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is an assurance which has nerved and inspired the followers of Jesus Christ in every age. And it will enable their successors of to-day not only to bear up and endure, but even to be more than conquerors whatever the circumstances in which their lot is cast.

Rev. F.J.H. Humphrey.

**AFTER** On March 23rd the Elm Grove Management Committee  
**THE** were asked to meet the Shelley Road Church Diaco-  
**WAR.** nate in order to consider a letter received from  
the Bishop of Chichester concerning what it is  
proposed to do under the County Reconstruction Scheme  
when the war is over.

The combined meeting was well attended, and presided over by the Rev. E.R.H. Spauld provided an opportunity for

a discussion on the proposed plans for the Goring Congregational Church, and the various view points were sympathetically received. But the main business centred on the need of applying for "priority" if there is to be any chance of building a new Church at the conclusion of hostilities. To secure a place on the Bishop's list certain requirements are necessary, and fortunately the Goring Church appears to have strong claims for inclusion, and it was felt that the application to be included should be made at once. A resolution to this effect was passed unanimously, and if, as is hoped and expected, the application is favourably received a further combined meeting may be held when the architect of the Church plans may also be present, and be asked to consider any possible alterations that may be suggested.

Provided that the Church secures this priority the new Church would have to be erected within two years of the war ending.

**CHURCH NOTES.** Both services on Easter Sunday, April 1st, will be conducted by the Rev. F.J.H. Humphrey, D.S.O., and our Minister will also conduct a service on Good Friday, at 11 a.m. During April and May Mr. Humphrey will take all services excepting the following:-  
 April 8th. Rev. F.H. King.  
 April 22nd. Rev. B.R.H. Spaul, M.A. (Evening)  
 May 6th. Rev. F.J. Walkey, D.B.E., M.C.  
 May 27th. Rev. B.R.H. Spaul, M.A. (Morning)

The afternoon service on Feb. 25th, was followed by the dedication of Lillian Elizabeth Anne Byard, the infant daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Byard of "Banfield," Compton Avenue, Goring. Mr. Byard being in the Forces was unable to attend.

We very sincerely sympathise with Mr. Fransman in his recent bereavement - the loss of his wife after many years of illness.

**RED CROSS KNITTING CIRCLE.** Members are still carrying on with the good work of providing articles for the Forces, the latter still being very much needed.

As the Hostel is closing down there were fears that this Knitting Circle would be without a meeting place, and on being approached the Rev. Maitland of St. John's very willingly offered the free use of St. John's Hall. In



the meantime the owners of the Hostel have kindly given permission of the free use of the shop until it is let. For the present therefore the work will still be carried on as usual at 28, Goring Road.

OUR With the evening service reverting to 8.30 p.m.  
CHOIR we hope to have a larger Choir, and this being so the following anthems will be rendered :-  
 Mar. 25th. "How lovely are the messengers" (Vandelsboom)  
 Apr. 1st. "Christ being raised from the dead" (Elvey)  
 Apr. 8th. "What are there?" (Stainer)  
 Apr. 15th. "Blessing, glory, wisdom and thanks." (Bach)  
 Apr. 22nd. "The radiant sun." (Woodward)  
 Apr. 29th. "O for a closer walk with God." (Foster)  
 (Soloist, Mrs. East)

TRIPLE The London Missionary Society Rally at the Royal  
JUBILEE Albert Hall is fixed for May 9th. at 7 p.m.  
RALLY Chairman the Lord Mayor of London. Tickets 2/6, 2/- and 1/-. Even a fortnight ago bookings were reported to be heavy for this great meeting.

SUSSEX At the Spring Assembly held on Mar. 14th, at  
CONGREGATIONAL Union Church, Brighton, a token presentation was made to the Rev. F.H. Wheeler, who is retiring from the post of Moderator after 26 years of devoted service. Mr. Wheeler has done splendid work for our Churches, and enhanced it by his genial personality. The new Chairman for the Union for the coming year will be the Rev. H. Kenward.

"FEELING AN Situated as we are at Elm Grove there is not  
ATMOSPHERE" very much that any one of us can do to make any very evident headway. But the following words written by Dr. T. Wilkinson Kiddle are worth our consideration as worshippers.

"If congregations, large or small, were to spend a few minutes before the service began in sustained supplication to God for the man who, in a moment or two, would enter the pulpit, the whole atmosphere would be charged with spiritual power. Preachers are very sensitive people. They can feel an atmosphere."

ELM GROVE CHRONICLE

No. 7.

(Goring Congregational Church)

MAY 1945

MINISTER:- REV.F.J.H. HUMPHREY, D S.O.  
19, Robson Road, West Worthing.

CHURCH SECRETARIES:

Mr. A.J.Rule, 28, Wadhurst Drive,  
Goring-by-Sea  
Miss. Handford, (Corresponding Sec)  
29, Marlborough Road, W. Worthing.

CHURCH TREASURER:

Mr. E.W.J. West  
Owermoine,  
Smuggler's Walk,  
Sea Place, W. Worthing.

SITE OF PROPOSED NEW CHURCH - Barrington Road, (Shaftesbury Avenue) West Worthing.

Contributions towards the Building Fund will be gratefully received by the Treasurer

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH.

"The worst sin, pride, comes out of our graces, and the best grace, which is humility, comes out of our sins." Philip Henry.

OUR CHURCH ANNIVERSARY. On August 4th. next, it will be five years since services were first held in the School Hall at Elm Grove. Looking back many must feel how much we all owe, first to the Rev. Morris Bold, M.C., & now to the Rev.F.J.H.Humphrey, D.S.O. for their most helpful ministries. Conditions have not been easy, but considering the limitations involved by the temporary premises there has been real progress. Casual worshippers quite often express their appreciation of the services.

The Church Anniversary Meetings have been fixed for Wednesday, August 8th., when the newly appointed Moderator for the district- the Reverend Maxwell O. James, B.A., B.D., has kindly consented to give us a day from his holidays. He will conduct the afternoon service, and also speak at the evening meeting. Full details concerning these meetings will be given in our next issue.

On the previous Sunday, August 5th., all those who have the little Church Collecting Boxes will be asked to bring them and during the service Mr. Humphrey will receive them. This will give our Officers the opportunity to announce at the Anniversary celebration how much money has been raised in this way.

+ + + + + . + + + + +

FOREIGN  
MISSIONS

"If Christianity were not for these out-numbering millions---and only for us, it would suffer shrinkage in its scope, and therefore in its truth & power. Ceasing to be the universal truth with world-wide values, it would sink to the level of a provincial, parochial cult. Our faith in it could not then long survive." (R.E.Welsh in "Challenge to Foreign Missions")

The inauguration of local effort in connection with the London Missionary Society's Triple Jubilee and New Advance Movement will take place at the Shelley Road Congregational Church on Wednesday, May 23rd., at 7 p.m. The special speaker for that occasion will be the L. M. S. Home Secretary - the Rev. Cecil Northcott. Later in the year (on September 24th.,) it is hoped to hold a Missionary Pageant, this also at Shelley Road, and our own Church at Goring will be asked to take part. A small Missionary Committee has been appointed to deal with this and other matters, Miss.Stevenson acting as Secretary. It is encouraging to report that our Missionary Library books, (which are loaned without charge) are being well circulated.

In the financial year recently closed our Church has contributed the sum of £35-5-8 to the funds of the L. M. S.

(2)

CHURCH NOTES. At the Communion Service on April 1st., Miss. M. Brazier was received into our Church fellowship. In welcoming this new member Mr. Humphrey referred to her long connection with a London Baptist Church, and the fine record of work done there by her.

FLOWER ROTA. The flowers which are provided for the Communion Table week by week surely have a ministry all their own, and undoubtedly are very greatly appreciated. Owing to ill-health Mrs. Beasley is unable to continue to arrange for this rota & whilst sincerely thanking her for services rendered, we also add our best wishes for improved health. Mrs. Doyle has kindly consented to carry on this good work, and the suggestion has been made that it may be possible to provide a small fund which could be drawn upon during those months in the year when flowers are so scarce.

MAY AND JUNE SERVICES On Sunday, June 10th., we are to have another visit from the Rev. Ridley Chesterton, and on Sunday June 24th., the Rev. B. R. H. Spaul, M. A., will preach - EVENING ONLY. The services on all other Sundays till July will be conducted by our own Minister, the Rev. F. J. H. Humphrey, D.S.O.

OUR CHOIR. Are we not sometimes inclined to take for granted services freely given, and which entail regular and consistent effort on the part of those who help? Every Church Choir is a case in point, and the least we can do is to occasionally express our appreciation of such work. Our own Choir have in recent weeks very ably given us an excellent selection of anthems at our Sunday evening Services, and will continue to do so. For the next few weeks the following have been chosen:-

- |    |            |                                |           |
|----|------------|--------------------------------|-----------|
|    | May 13th.  | "LIFT UP YOUR HEADS".          | (Hopkins) |
| ++ | May 20th.  | "COME HOLY GHOST".             | (Attwood) |
|    | May 27th.  | "O DAYSPRING".                 | (Stainer) |
|    | June 3rd.  | "O KING AND DESIRE".           | (Stainer) |
|    | June 17th. | "God is a Spirit".             | (Smart)   |
|    | June 24th. | "THEY THAT WAIT UPON THE LORD" | (Elvey)   |
- ++ Miss. Hilda Lowman will be the Soloist on May 20th.

We give a very hearty welcome to Mr. H. E. Fransman who has recently joined our Choir

### "OUR CITIZENSHIP"

By the Rev. F. J. H. Humphrey

St. Paul in his letter to the Philippian Church says "Our conversation", or more correctly, "Our citizenship is in heaven". We must not take this to mean, as applied to ourselves, that we have no citizenship in earth. It is not locality so much as quality that is in view, the quality of spirituality.

We live in this world and we are occupied in making the best of it, but we also sustain relations to another. Heavenly and earthly citizenship are not only compatible, but it is a fact that the whole material life of society, here and now is secured and perpetuated by spirituality. The secularist looks upon the worship of God as so much vital energy scattered in the air, but in reality a living faith is the golden bond which holds society together, the dynamic which keeps the world moving towards a glorious goal.

"Our citizenship is in heaven". It is also here. It is a very real part of our heavenly citizenship to fulfil the duties of our earthly citizenship. A man may prefer a cloistered seclusion but he is not fulfilling the purpose of his Creator if he turns his back upon the world.

(3)

God does not mean that his private interests should be to any man his prison, the house of life should be provided with windows and a door.

Nothing so narrows and impoverishes character as the concentration of thought upon oneself. From personal observation I can affirm that for one man or woman spoiled by thrusting forward into public service a hundred have been developed and enabled by it. When we give ourselves to service the service reacts on us.

We should have a thoughtful interest in those who serve on our local Council. They are, and will be, subject to the criticisms and attacks of ratepayers and private interests. Perhaps we do not make them sufficiently conscious of the backing of Christian public opinion, but we should value the services that men and women render freely in the interests of the community. Theirs is a solemn trust, a great responsibility, a noble privilege.

No one of us should be happy unless he is a states-man, a towns-man, a man who loves the State and the town as he loves himself. Action springs from love. What can we do for Worthing? How can we bring our heavenly citizenship to bear on the life of this town? We can do it in at least two ways:-

1. First, trite and commonplace though this sounds, WE MAY BE GOOD MEN AND WOMEN. Whether we hold public office or not, the most important thing is to be distinguished by real goodness of heart and real beauty of behaviour. If I had to choose between character and opinions, I would rather have a man of character and wrong opinions than a man of right opinions and no character to support them. CHARACTER COUNTS; goodness talks. Goodness is a real civic service.

2. Secondly, WE CAN HELP MAINTAIN THE SPIRITUAL BASIS OF SERVICE.

The humanitarian interest is stronger to-day than it ever was. It is a sound instinct which gives a broadcast appeal for some charity after the wireless Service on Sunday evening. In our own time the emphasis on social service has returned with force, but there is a danger here - the danger lest such service should take the place of religion and be divorced from the motive of faith. "After all", say some, "Christianity just means helping other people. If we do that we can let theology go". This is the attraction of a creedless Christianity, a religion whose only ritual is that of good works. In reality it is simply an escape from thinking things out, from facing up to the question of faith.

It is easy enough to argue for the service of men as a substitute for religion, easy to score points against the man who goes to Church and does little or nothing for the community, in favour of the man who scorns the Church but is generous, kind and sympathetic. Yet the truth is that the two things cannot be separated without loss to both. Without service religion degenerates into unreality, and without religion service becomes materialistic and finally ineffective.

There are men and women to-day who, while not professing the Christian faith yet believe that only in Christian conduct can we find a way out of the perplexities and miseries of modern civilisation. But can we go on believing in Christian conduct if we reject the theology on which it is based? Can we keep on helping people if we believe that life is only material, and has its roots in earth?

We have to come back from the valley of service for man to the mountain top of worship and illumination if our service itself is to be saved from becoming mechanical and soulless. Only a keen sense of our heavenly citizenship can redeem our charities from the blight of materialism, and our social service from the curse of superiority. Without this, the most practical service fails to touch the real ills of society which are the ills of the spirit.

The value of what we give and what we do depends first of all on what we are. We live in a period full of danger and difficulty. This is not a time for frivolity, but for earnestness and strenuous endeavour. Whatever our political or economic theories may be it must be wise and patriotic to live a simple life.

Let us consider above all the example of our Lord and Saviour who came not to be ministered unto but to minister. The heart of all His ministry was that He gave Himself. That is the great way, the way of the Cross.

(4)

A MORNING PRAYER

This day, O Lord -  
 Give me courtesy:  
 Give me meekness of bearing, with  
       decision of character:  
 Give me longsuffering:  
 Give me charity:  
 Give me chastity:  
 Give me sincerity of speech:  
 Give me diligence in my allotted task.

\* \* \* \* \*

TO THOSE WHOM IT MAY CONCERN. "Have you ever thought of thanking God for spectacles ?  
 I never did until I was asked a similar question. Since then I have thanked Him for  
 them every day". (Samuel Wilkinson)

+ + + + +

AT EVENTIDE

When thou hast spent the hurrying day  
 In pleasure and delight,  
 Or after toil on weary way  
 Dost seek to rest at night,  
 Ere sleep close up thine eyes too fast  
 Do not thy God forget,  
 And think how well so e'er it be  
 That thou hast spent the day  
 It came of God and not of thee  
 So to direct thy way.  
 Thus, if thou try by daily deeds  
 And pleasure in this pain  
 Thy life shall cleanse thy corn from weeds  
 And thine shall be the gain.

G. G.

Not what, but WHOM I do believe,  
 That, in my darkest hour of need,  
 Hath comfort that no mortal creed  
 To mortal man may give;  
 Not what, but WHOM !  
 For Christ is more than all the creeds  
 And His full life of gentle deeds  
 Shall all the creeds outlive.

Not what I do believe, but WHOM !  
 Who walks beside me in the gloom ?  
 Who shares the burden wearisome ?  
 Who all the dim way doth illumine,  
 And bids me look beyond the tomb  
 The larger life to live ?-

Not what I do believe,  
 But WHOM !  
 Not what,  
 But WHOM !

NEW CHURCH COLLECTING BOX.

HAVE YOU ONE ?

ELM GROVE CHRONICLE

No. 8.

(Goring Congregational Church)

JULY 1945

MINISTER:- REV. F.J.H. HUMPHREY, D.S.O., 19, Robson Road, West Worthing.CHURCH SECRETARIES:-Mr. A. J. Rule, 28, Wadhurst Drive,  
Goring-by-Sea  
Miss. Handford, (Corresponding Sec.)  
29, Marlborough Road, West Worthing.CHURCH TREASURER:-Mr. E.W.J. West,  
Overmoigne  
Smuggler's Walk,  
Sea Place, W. Worthing.SITE OF PROPOSED NEW CHURCH - Barrington Rd., Shaftesbury Avenue, W. Worthing.

Contributions toward the Building Fund will be gratefully received by the Church Treasurer. Up to date £350 has been promised, and 44 Collecting Boxes are out. There are still 56 boxes left for those willing to take them.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH.

MENTAL "SIGHT". "It is the mind that sees, not the eye." (Charles Reade)

MINISTER'S CONTRIBUTION. "We are now in our fifth year at Elm Grove, and we have much cause for thankfulness for the way in which our work and fellowship have been maintained. It has been my privilege to follow those who began so well, for nearly three years. When I undertook the temporary Ministry I did not anticipate that it might continue for so long. Owing to the position the Baptist Union of Churches has given me I cannot refuse the outside demands made upon me, and I often feel the inadequacy of my service at Elm Grove. I am deeply grateful to our gifted and loyal helpers who so regularly undertake the arrangements for our services, and while I much regret that I cannot do more, I remember with great thankfulness my fellow worshippers in whose sympathies and prayers I am strengthened.

Some friends have very kindly wished my wife & me a happy holiday, but at present we are not taking one. Whenever I am away from Elm Grove it is because I am preaching elsewhere, and this year there is not much prospect of holiday Sundays.

OUR NEW CHURCH. The possibility of soon having our Church building is still a matter of hope. It is very difficult to get any reliable information as to when the promised priority for Churches will operate. That there is a great need for houses no one will deny, and the provision of them must undoubtedly have first place. But the dwellers in these new houses must not be left without a place of worship. The souls of men and women and children will not be satisfied unless there is at least the opportunity of worship and spiritual fellowship. A plan for housing that excludes housing for the soul is not conducive to the best interests of our people, and it is to be hoped that the Committees which are representing the Churches will press their claims with the utmost urgency.

THE ASPIRATIONS OF OUR TIME. It seems that one effect of a world war is to awaken hope for a new and better world. This must not be taken as a justification for war, but it is a noteworthy feature. We have plans



for more wisely built cities, proposals for better education, a Beveridge Report, a Charter of World Security. These things are signs that people are feeling hopeful about a better world, and it is a poor business to deprecate these feelings. These after-war plans are not all that is necessary, but they are a part of what is necessary. To depress those who are thinking, planning and toiling for a new order of society is not the best way to increase their desire for the Grace of God. There is an irrepressible spirit in man which raises its head at every possible opportunity. It is the fundamental human protest against all the shameful evil of the world, the instinctive utterance of the conviction that there is a God, & that He is righteous and good. The very aspirations of our time are evidence of man's spiritual nature and high destiny - a judgment which accords with our Christian belief, and sets us our task. It is our task under God to send men on the road to the satisfying life. "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God, and thy neighbour as thyself."

F. J. H. Humphrey.

OUR CHURCH On Sunday, August 5th., our Minister will conduct both Services, and ANNIVERSARY. during the same will receive the Collecting Boxes for the Church Building Fund. The result of this effort will be made known at the meetings on the following Wednesday. Friends are asked to write their names and addresses on the label underneath the box.

On Wednesday, August 8th., there will be an Afternoon Service at 4.p.m. when the preacher will be the Moderator of the Southern Province of the Congregational Union - the Rev. Maxwell O. Janes, B.A., B.D. Tea will be provided at 5-15 and weather permitting it is hoped to have this served in the open.

At the Evening Meeting Mr. W. H. Young will be the Chairman, and Mr. James will again take part, together with the Rev. B.R.H. Spaul, M.A., and the Rev. F. J. H. Humphrey, D. S. O.

Our special visitor for this occasion - the Rev. Maxwell James - recently closed a happy and prosperous pastorate at Above Bar and Northern Churches, Southampton. At a farewell meeting representatives of different denominations expressed warm appreciation of the good work Mr. James had done, especially among the youth organisations.

LOOKING Some of our number who have recently come amongst us may be inter-  
BACKWARDS. ested to read the following based upon notes made in the Church Minute  
Book:- 1940. Aug. 4th. The first Sunday Services were held at Elm Grove, &  
were conducted by Mr. W.H.Young. About 35 were present, but even this number inclu-  
ded several friends from the Shelley Road Church.

Aug 20th. Mr. E.T. Wiseman was appointed Secretary & Treasurer,

1941. May. The Rev. Morris Bold, M.C. commenced his ministry

Sept. "House of Quiet" was opened at 3, Goring Road, for the use

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of soldiers, and remained open until Jan. 1943. Mr. Bold took a special interest in furnishing an "Upper Room". The Communion Table in that room now forms the pulpit at Elm Grove. Also the draperies now in use were those which helped to give dignity and charm to the little Chapel Mr. Bold planned.

1942. July. Mr. Bold returned to the full-time ministry in the Methodist Church. At a farewell social a presentation cheque was made.

Oct. 4th. The Rev. F.J.H. Humphrey, D.S.O. (Ex-President of the Baptist Union) commenced his ministry.

Oct. Free-will Offering "Envelope System" was adopted.

1944. April. Miss Jordan was appointed Pianist and Choir Mistress.

May. "Elm Grove Chronicle" News-Sheet was started.

Sept. Mr. Wiseman and family left Worthing for Bexhill. As the first Secretary Mr. Wiseman had given untiring service and the Church passed a resolution of appreciation, and on behalf of members Mr. Humphries made a presentation.

Dec. The New Church Building Fund was opened.

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REV. RIDLEY On Sunday, June 10th., Mr. Chesterton paid us yet another visit. CHESTERTON. Unfortunately, as on the occasion of his last visit, the weather was unfavourable. Mr. Chesterton's sermonette to the children told of a Presbyterian Minister who had many varied and original ways of trying to secure the interest of the children in his Church. On one occasion he asked them to put down on a sheet of paper (unaided by father or mother) six of the most beautiful things they could think of. (How this would have delighted the heart of the late Arthur Meek!) Amongst the things thought of were:- A bed of orocuses with the sun shining on them. A woodland covered with bluebells. The moon shining on the sea. The sound of Mother's voice. The Love of God.

"God - Thou hast made the world so beautiful;  
A flock of birds on pinions fleet and strong,  
Then - though it were not yet enough to soar -  
Gave them song.

God - Thou hast made the world so beautiful;  
A bower of June with roses gay abloom,  
Then - though it were not yet enough to grow -  
Gave them perfume.

God - Thou hast made the world so beautiful;  
A million beings, soul their priceless gem,  
Then - though it were not yet enough to live,  
Gave Love to them." (Theodocia Pearce)

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FINANCIAL Our Church Treasurer reports that during the Quarter ending 30th. STATEMENT. June, 1945, the Freewill Offerings were as follows:  
Envelopes, £55-0-6, and loose cash £63-16-2, a total of £118-16-8  
The collection for Red Cross & St. John's was £14-1-8,  
this being £5-4-2 more than last year. The amount received for the L. M. S.  
Medical Missions was £5-2-9.

Anyone willing to help Church Funds by the "Envelope System" can apply to the Church Secretary, who will furnish particulars.



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OUR CHOIR. We extend a very cordial welcome to Mrs. Turnbull (our Minister's daughter) who has recently joined our ranks on her return from India.

Owing to illness and holidays the attendances have fallen off rather badly, and we renew our invitation for new members, especially ladies.

We are looking forward to Miss. Jordan's return from Canterbury at the end of July, and hope our leader will have benefited by the change.

At the Anniversary Services we hope to render the following Anthems:-  
 Aug. 5th. Sunday, "The Cherubic Hymn". Tchaikovsky  
 Aug. 8th. Wednesday, "O for a closer walk with God." Foster.  
 SOLOIST - MRS. EAST. (Mr. Truss, Choir Secretary)

#### MISSIONARY NOTES.

Those of us who went to the Annual Meeting of the South West Sussex Auxiliary of the L. M. S. at Yapton on July 4th., felt well repaid. The Rev. C. Northcott, the Home Secretary, in a very inspiring address, spoke of the beginnings of the Missionary Cause 150 years ago, and of the wonderful spread of the Gospel, and growth of Christian Churches in many lands since then.

I should like to thank all those who have so generously promised to contribute to the special New Advance Fund. But we still need more subscribers towards this if Elm Grove is to do its share. If you have not yet received a promise form, please ask for one. (Miss. M.N. Stevenson)

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#### MEMBERSHIP.

At the Communion Service on Sunday, June 3rd., Mr. Humphrey welcomed into our Church Fellowship Mr. & Mrs. Deslandes, of 13, Robson Road, These friends come amongst us after being connected with Ferme Park Church, London, for over 40 years. Mr. Deslandes is now on our list of Sidesmen.

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#### CHURCH ARCHITECTURE.

A writer in a religious weekly on this subject has summed up his main points thus:-

1. The character of any building should be derived from the use to which it will be put. A Church should look like a Church and not like a Public hall.
2. It is not a case of affording architectural luxuries, for good design does not necessarily increase the cost. The simplest building can be beautiful.
3. Emphasis is laid upon adequate heating, ventilation, good acoustics, and well designed seating accommodation.
4. What the writer calls the "front" of the Church is also of great importance. What is the eye to rest upon? The suggestion is made that the central point needs something beautiful and appropriate. The pulpit and Communion Table are of real importance, and a background that would set off flowers. (At Elm Grove we are particularly fortunate in this respect.)
5. Finally the writer suggests that in the case of a new site the attempt should be to build the Church first, and make do with temporary buildings for other activities. The emphasis should be on where it is most needed, "On God rather than man, on worship and the preaching of the Word rather than upon our social activities which are in no danger of being neglected."

PREACHERS FOR AUGUST. Aug. 5th. and 19th. Rev. F.J.H. Humphrey, D.S.O.  
 Aug 12th. Lt. Col. T. Blower, S. Army.  
 Aug 26th. Rev. F. H. King

Congratulations to Mr. King, on attaining his 80th. birthday. Two of his children are missionaries in China, & he still preaches nearly every Sunday.

ELM GROVE CHRONICLE

NO.9.

(Goring Congregational Church)

SEPTEMBER 1945

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MINISTER:- REV. F. J. H. HUMPHREY, D.S.O., 19 Robson Road, West Worthing.

CHURCH SECRETARIES:-

Mr. A. J. Rule, 28 Wadhurst Drive,  
Goring-by-Sea  
Miss Handford, (Corresponding Sec.)  
29 Marlborough Road, West Worthing.

CHURCH TREASURER:-

Mr. E.W.J. West,  
Owermoigne  
Smuggler's Walk,  
Sea Place, W. Worthing.

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SITE OF PROPOSED NEW CHURCH - Barrington Road, Shaftesbury Avenue, West Worthing.

Contributions toward the Building Fund will be gratefully received by the Church Treasurer. Special Collecting Boxes can still be obtained by those who are willing to help. Ask for a little "Church" money-box, and pray that guidance and direction may be given to those who have the planning of the building scheme.

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THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

THE LETTER AND THE SPIRIT. ("The letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.")

"The danger to men's souls lies in the obvious fact that the letter demands so much less of them than does the spirit; and human nature will always choose the easier of two courses. That is why our Lord bequeathed to His followers nothing but great broad principles of conduct which would demand the continual guidance and illumination of the Holy Spirit for their right application." Rev. L. B. Ashby.

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YOUR SPECIAL ATTENTION IS DRAWN TO THE DATE OF OUR PASTOR'S ANNIVERSARY, ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7th., AND THE COLLECTIONS FOR THAT DAY. THE OPPORTUNITY THUS AFFORDED WILL NOT ONLY ENABLE US TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS A VERY WORTHY CAUSE IN WHICH MR. HUMPHREY HAS GOOD REASON TO BE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED, BUT WILL ALSO IN SOME MEASURE ENABLE US TO GIVE TANGIBLE EXPRESSION OF OUR VERY SINCERE APPRECIATION OF OUR PASTOR'S MINISTRY AT ELM GROVE.

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MINISTER'S CONTRIBUTION: Sunday October 7th. will mark the completion of 3 years ministry at Elm Grove. When I began in 1942 I hardly expected to go on for so long. The sooner a building can be erected, and a Church formed with a regular ministry, the better it will be for the work of the Kingdom of God. I am very deeply grateful to all the friends who have supported me through the past and difficult years; above all I am thankful to God who has given me strength and blessed me far beyond my deserts. No one knows better than myself the deficiencies of my service, but I can honestly say that I have tried to give the best of my time and labour, this notwithstanding the demands in other directions made upon me.

In view of my Anniversary I ventured to ask our Committee if they would allow me to make an appeal for a special cause in which I am deeply interested. With their agreement I now submit the cause for the kind consideration and help

of my friends.

SPURGEON'S COLLEGE. Forty-five years ago I received my training for the Christian Ministry in Spurgeon's College. The College building was in those days adjacent to the Metropolitan Tabernacle, Newington Butts. To-day the College has a fine site and spacious building on the summit of South Norwood Hill. Beginning with one student the College in its ninety years of existence has trained upwards of 1700 ministers, and I who was a student 45 years ago am now honoured in being Chairman of the College Council.

In the war the College has suffered the loss of many things, as well as considerable damage to the building itself. Government compensation will be quite inadequate to meet the cost of necessary repairs and replacements. What makes it so necessary and urgent that these repairs and replacements should be carried out, is the fact that we have received 150 applications from men in His Majesty's Forces who wish to receive training for the ministry. Mr. Spurgeon laid down that if a man shewed himself to be a soul-winner and worth training, no financial inability should bar his entrance. If he can contribute he is expected to do so, otherwise if he is worthy his training is free. To meet the need for repairs and the demands these new entrants will make, we require £10,000. An appeal is being made to all Spurgeon's men and to all friends of the evangelical faith for contributions. Spurgeon said "He who converts a soul draws water from a fountain, but he who trains a soul-winner digs a well from which thousands may drink to life eternal." I may add that no better contribution can be made to the new order that the world is seeking, than the adequate training and equipment of preachers of the Eternal Gospel.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS ON SUNDAY OCT. 7th. It is proposed that the collections on my Anniversary Sunday (apart from the money in the envelopes) shall be devoted to the work of Spurgeon's College. I am very deeply grateful to the Elm Grove Committee for agreeing to this, and I venture to make an earnest appeal for my College in its need.

F. J. H. Humphrey.

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OUR  
CHURCH

ANNIVERSARY.

Our 5th. Anniversary services and meetings held early in August were well attended, and the presence of many friends from Shelley Road Church was much appreciated. As was appropriate the sermons and addresses centred around the enduring Church of Christ, its responsibilities and opportunities. Our special visitor - the Rev. Maxwell Janes - in an unusual historical survey quickened our imagination, and helped us to picture the little Church built 1200 years ago on the bridge at Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire, and typifying in a sense the 'toughness' and enduring quality of the Christian Church.

On the previous Sunday our own Minister gave us two sermons well worthy of the occasion. In the morning the discourse was based on the words of Christ - "My Church", with the accent on "My"; and in the evening Mr. Humphrey used the illustration of the athletic relay race as suggesting our share in the Christian fellowship. The "Heavenly Host cheering us on" was one of many helpful thoughts, and our pastor referred to the athlete who runs still better when spurred on by the applause of spectators. Applying this idea to life generally are we always as generous as we might be in our appreciation of good work done, in Church life for instance?

In his Secretarial Report Mr. Rule carried out this idea by offering (in words) floral tributes to those who have rendered service in the work at Elm Grove. "Larkspur" to the Choir was an inspired thought! During the evening meeting on the Wednesday the Choir sang "O for a closer walk with God", and Mrs. East paid us a special visit in order to sing the solo part.

CHURCH BUILDING FUND. The opening of the collecting boxes and the amounts resulting from same was awaited with more than usual interest. These boxes had only been distributed in December last, and our Church Treasurer was more than pleased with the total result and the collection made at the Anniversary Meeting. We give thanks to the "Giver of all" for the spirit which prompted these generous offerings. The boxes and special donations together totalled £82. 6. 8., and the collection made, and proceeds from refreshments, added another amount of £14. 11s. making the full total £96. 17. 8. The Church Building Fund up to date has reached the sum of £290.

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OUR CHOIR. One of our members, Miss Pat Brazier, is shortly to be married at Shelley Road Church, Mr. Humphrey officiating. The young bride will be leaving us for Canada, and we shall be sorry to lose her after about 3 year's service in our Choir. Our best wishes go with her for a safe journey, and a very happy married life. The Choir presented her with a silver plated sugar basin and cream jug.

During September and October we hope to render the following anthems.

"Teach me O Lord the way of Thy statutes"	Attwood
"O Gladsome Light"	Sullivan
"The heavens proclaim Him"	Beethoven
"O Lord how manifold" (Harvest Festival)	Barnby
"Thine O Lord is the greatness"	Kent
"The radiant morn"	Woodward

The Choir is now fairly well balanced, but we should be glad to have the assistance of another regular bass.

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LT. COL. T. BLOWER. On August 12th we had two helpful services conducted by Col. Blower of the Salvation Army. Those who were not able to be present at the morning service will be interested to read the following remarks with which Col. Blower prefaced his sermon:-

"Hoping it may not be out of place, I would like to express appreciation of the many blessings received from the ministry of this pulpit. When my wife and I came to live in Goring, having retired after 45 years of public service, we sought a place where we could worship with freedom. (Bus transport to Worthing had ceased.)

One Sunday morning I set out to explore, and reached Elm Grove. A crowd of people were entering the School, and my interest aroused, I followed, and soon learned that a religious service was being held. Mr. Humphrey was preaching, and what a sermon! The soul uplift was so great that I wished every pulpit could be filled with the Gospel as preached that morning. The following Sunday my wife accompanied me, hence our worshipping at Elm Grove as opportunity offers."

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MISSIONARY NOTES. The Church at Shelley Road is holding its Biennial Medical Missionary Sale on Wednesday, Oct. 17th., and as in previous years our Church at Elm Grove is responsible for a Miscellaneous Stall. Friends are asked to make contributions of fruit, vegetables, home-made jams, chutney, bottled fruit, knitted goods, fancy articles, or anything likely to sell. Miss Stevenson & Miss Thomas are in charge of the Stall. The Sale will be opened at 3.30 p.m. by Mrs. H. Clegg, with Mr. H. Mitchell in the Chair. Teas served from 4.15. At the

evening meeting at 5.30 the Rev. R. B. H. Spauld will be Chairman, supported by the Rev. F. J. H. Humphrey. Speaker - Miss Pitt, who has spent some years in China.

COLLECTIONS		XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	
FOR JULY & AUGUST.		Loose Cash.	Envelopes.
July 1st.		£4. 9. 7.	£3. 10. 11.
July 8th.		5. 14. 8.	5. 6. 8.
July 15th		4. 14. 5.	3. 18. -.
July 22nd		- - - - -	2. 17. 5.
July 29th		5. 16. 4.	3. 14. 2.
Aug. 5th		9. - . 4.	4. 13. 2.
Aug. 12th		5. 15. -.	2. 14. 6.
Aug. 19th		10. 5. 2.	4. 6. 6.
Aug. 26th		4. 17. 10.	2. 15. -.
July 22nd.		£50. 13. 4.	£33. 16. 4.    £84. 9. 8.
British & Foreign Bible Society. Loose Cash Coll.		£8. 17. 0d.	Total £93. 6. 8.

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THE CHILDREN'S "HOUR" A pleasing feature of our Sunday morning service is the presence of bright faced little children, who with their teacher Miss May Green, are ranged beside the platform. The older ones, not so numerous, have Miss Cole and Miss Handford to teach them, and their work is much appreciated. Enquiries have been made as to what happens to the tiny ones when they go out in the middle of the service, so here in a few lines we give some information.

It is only natural that having had to sit quiet for half an hour these little ones become restless. So for the first few minutes they are encouraged to relax, and talk about things in which they are interested. The skill of teaching lies in taking up the things in which children are interested, and bringing them to bear on the intended Bible lesson. Needless to say this has to be done brightly and briefly. The short lesson is followed by giving the children texts and pictures related to the lesson, on which they use coloured chalks, and each child is allowed to take home the work done. By this means a message from the Word of God is often taken to parents who never come to hear it in Church.

A little piece of service in which these children are much interested is the colouring of pictures and the making of a Scrap Book, which when it is completed will be sent to the Worthing Hospital. They are reminded that while they are well and strong, and can run about and play, there are children who are sick, and have to lie in bed all day. The work among "the tiny tots", begun in a small way, has shown by its rapid growth what an opportunity there is in our neighbourhood, if only we had more and better accommodation it could be much more effectively used. As it is we have it in our work at Elm Grove as a standing witness to our loyalty to our Lord and Master who said "Suffer the little children, and let them come unto Me, for of such is the Kingdom of God".

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SUSSEX HOME MISSIONS. Annual Meeting will be held at Shelley Road on Monday, Sept. 17th at 7 p.m. Speaker:- Rev. Stanley Blomfield.

NOTICES: Preachers:- Sept. 16th. Mr. J. R. Peryer, B.Sc. Sept. 23rd. Rev. W. R. Chosterton. Mr. Humphrey is hoping to take these Sundays without any preaching engagement, resuming his ministry with the Harvest Thanksgiving.

HARVEST SERVICES will be held on Sunday Sept. 30th. Contributions will be gladly accepted.

BRITISH SAILORS' SOCIETY. Sunday Nov. 25th. (Morning) Rev. R. Motson Thompson will speak concerning the work of this Society.



ELM GROVE CHRONICLE

(Goring Congregational Church)

No. 10

November 1945

MINISTER - REV. F. J. H. HUMPHREY, D.S.O

19, Robson Road, West Worthing,

(Tel:- Goring 41043)

CHURCH SECRETARIES:-

Mr. A. J. Rule, 28, Wadhurst Drive,

Goring-by-Sea. (Tel:- Goring 41935)

Miss. Mandford, (Corresponding Secretary)

29, Marlborough Road, West Worthing.

(Tel:- Goring 41127)

CHURCH TREASURER:-

Mr. E. W. J. West,

Owermoigne,

Smuggler's Walk,

Sea Place, West Worthing.

(Tel:- Goring 42450)

CHURCH BUILDING FUND. PLEASE NOTE THAT IT IS PROPOSED TO OPEN THE COLLECTING BOXES  
HALF-YEARLY. THEY WILL AGAIN BE ASKED FOR ON JANUARY 27th. 1946.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH.

"Think of the Sunday standards that we preach and sing and pray about in Church, and then think of the Monday ones." (Rev. John Bevan.)

MINISTER'S CONTRIBUTION. The very kind and generous response to my appeal for Spurgeon's College far exceeded my expectations. In some degree I have accepted it as a tribute to the ministry I have tried to give. Such a thing does not make a man conceited, it rather inspires humble thanksgiving to God and His people, and the earnest desire to be more worthy. This gift of £73-10 will help to train men for the Ministry of the Gospel, and can we doubt that it is accepted by Him who bade His servants go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.

My wife and I received so much sympathy while our son was a prisoner of war in the hands of the Japanese, that we feel we must express our thankfulness now that he is home again in a fair measure of health. It has been for us and for many others a very anxious time. The first report we had told us that he was missing, and then after 18 months we had an official postcard. Three of these post-cards came in three and half years. Returned prisoners do not speak very freely of their experiences, but there is no doubt that their privations and sufferings have been very severe. Inadequate and miserable accommodation, insufficient food, forced marches, long hours of manual labour in tropical heat, the often brutal treatment of Japanese guards - these things our men had to endure, and it is little wonder that many did not survive. The worst and most lasting of these experiences is mental, and it would seem that the Japanese tried of set purpose to upset the balance of our men's minds. Returned prisoners find it difficult to concentrate in writing a letter or reading a book. They shrink from meeting with people, and feel themselves to be strangers in their home world. We have testimony that passages from the Bible, especially the Psalms, and the exercise of prayer did more than anything else to preserve the mental balance of our men, and enable them to endure. Our son is restored to his wife and family and to us, and we cannot be thankful enough, but we would not be selfish in our joy, forgetting parents and wives whose sons and husbands will return no more. Alas that there should be so many!

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CHRISTMAS LIGHT AND JOY

Christmas draws near, and will be past before we have another issue of our Chronicle. The first Christmas came as a star and a song in the night, when things were looking very black. It broke through the troubled darkness as a happy relief. It told that people were not to be left to struggle and die in the dark.

The first after-war Christmas will seem a sad festival to many. They may say that they will be glad when the season is over because it only revives wistful memories of loved ones whose faces are seen no more. Folks may be so conscious of the night of grief that they feel Christmas celebrations are an artificial cheeriness, a mere pretence of joy, a forced smile in the face of suffering.

But Christ was born at Bethlehem in the night, at a time when hope was running low and hearts were breaking and there seemed no consolation. The star and the song broke through the dark mystery and silence like a bright surprise. It is the darkest hour that reveals God's presence, and our wondering eyes behold how He pierces the surrounding gloom with His love, His promise and His victory. No Christmas-eve can fall more sadly than the first. The times were distressing and sadly out of joint when the Saviour was born. And as it was then so is it now, and the birth at Bethlehem is the welcome assurance that the world God made is not abandoned by Him, that He has plunged into the midst of our human life to guide and to save. Everyone, even the most desolate, can experience a thrill of gladness and confidence if the thoughts are turned to Bethlehem. A star to guide, and a song to cheer. Do not the present times call for light and joy - a Hymn of Joy which would express a-new and a-fresh and with an ever sweeter intensity that spirit of joy and gladness which Christmas time renews?

Men and women of every country respond to the wish for a Happy Christmas. Happiness not hatred is what people crave for most at heart. To see it to be at once our privilege and duty to be happy, and to use every means in our power to bring happiness to others, this surely is the right reading of the Christmas message.

We are sick to death of the awful suffering and slaughter of modern warfare. We are disgusted and disheartened by the suspicions, snarlings and snappings, and misunderstandings which follow the cessation of hostilities. But can we succumb to these feelings if we have seen the star, and heard the song? The Star of Bethlehem must be our favourite star, the Song of Bethlehem must be our favourite song, because they lead us to Jesus who has conquered the night of despair, and in Him we too may conquer.

Christmas will have come and gone before another "Chronicle" appears. Let us wish one another Christmas light and joy, and a New Year in which we may have a reaping of some light and gladness.

F. J. E. Humphrey.

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CHURCH ) The following members were recently welcomed into our Church fellowship:-  
NOTES. ) Oct. 7th. Mr. & Mrs. Galley. Nov. 4th. Mr. Mrs. & Miss Tryhorn. To have unfortunately had to say farewell to our Goring friends Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert. We thank them for all their help & interest & our best wishes go with them as they return to Farnham.

A Service will be held on Christmas morning, & in Mr. Humphrey's absence the Rev. F. H. King is being asked to lead our worship.

On Dec. 9th. Mr. W.H.Young will conduct both services & on Dec. 30th the Rev. B.R.H.Spaul will preach in the evening.

Mr. Truss reports that the Choir has recently had the pleasure of welcoming Mrs. Galley into membership, & the Choir has already had occasion to benefit by her musical experience.

Christmas music now being rehearsed includes two fine Anthems and several Carols. Our Choir Secretary writes:-"Surely there must be some experienced singers in our congregation who would like to join our ranks. If so, please do not be backward in coming forward".

During recent weeks three of our number have been called Home. Mr. B. J. Beasley passed away on Oct. 31st. Mrs. Cuming on Nov. 6th. & Mr. Beasley on Nov. 9th. "O happy they who rest in God".

#### COLLECTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER.

	<u>LOOSE</u>	<u>CASH</u>	<u>ENVELOPES</u>	
Sept. 2.	£ 5-	6-11	£ 4-11-	8
9	5-	15-11	2-	15- 8
16.	4-	9- 4	3-	3- 8
23.	4-	19- 7	5-	3- 0
30.	(Home Missions)		4-	12- 3
Oct. 7.	(Spurgeon's College)		6-	13-10
14.	6-	3- 6	2-	17- 6
21.	4-	11- 4	2-	7- 0
28.	3-	17- 9	3-	13-10
	£35-	4- 4	£35-	18- 5
			£71-	2- 9
Sept 30.	- - - - -	Sussex Home Missions - - - - -	12-	2- 6
Oct. 7.	- - - - -	Spurgeon's Training College---	73-	10- 0
		Total -	£156-	15- 5

THE NEW : The Hymn Book Committee appointed to deal with this most diffi-  
CONGREGATIONAL : cult task has now completed its examination of the present Hymn-  
HYMN BOOK. : ary, & has provisionally decided to omit no less than 277 hymns.  
 ..... : This has been considered necessary because there are so many  
 hymns which the Committee wish to make room for & which are not included in the  
 present Hymn Book. Such a wholesale deduction is almost certain to call forth  
 criticism for some of the hymns scheduled for deletion are old favourites. Most of  
 us for example would be sorry to lose the following which are included in the list  
 of proposed omissions:-

- 324. "From north, and south & east, and west( issionary Hymn)
- 355. "Father of mercies" (Robert Foreman Horton)
- 410. "O blessed life ! the heart at rest".
- 603. "Father in high heaven dwelling"
- 634. "Cold and cheerless, dark and drear".(John Page Popps lovely  
 Winter hymn).
- 702. "Hark! hark, my soul".

The full list mentioned was given in the "Christian World" of Nov.1st. and post-  
 card protests or comments are asked for by the Rev. K.L.Parry, 24, Clarendon Road,  
 Bristol. 6.



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PRAYER & PATIENCE.) Looking back on the year soon closing it has been somewhat disappointing that after 5 years of hopeful anticipation we have not secured the priority hoped for as regards the building of the new Church. At the conclusion of the short business meeting held after the morning service on October 21st., Mr. Humphrey reported that the future was still extremely uncertain, and that there appears no likelihood of any application for building being favourably received for some time to come. Urging that it was a matter for prayer our Minister asked that he might pledge members to remember in their own personal prayers the difficulties with which we are faced. In John Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress" the writer with masterly simplicity describes "Patience" as "being willing to wait". We at Elm Grove must also be content to wait some time longer. But need waiting time of necessity be wasted time? Shall we call it "Preparation" time? If our gathering together for worship is helping us spiritually, welding us in unity of purpose, and fitting us the better for what lies ahead, then this long time of waiting will not be lost time.

THE £100 CHALLENGE.) In his autobiography Andrew Carnegie makes reference to a man who queried whether anything could be called a "trifle". Certainly something that appears relatively unimportant may sometimes lead up to what is anything but a trifling matter. A casual friendship on the Bowling Green, and a report of our Anniversary Meetings printed by the "Worthing Herald", (together with the mention of Mr. Rule as Secretary,) resulted in our Church Building Fund benefitting by over £250! This wonderful result was mainly due to an anonymous friend who offered £100 if members at Elm Grove would raise an additional £100. We reached our goal within a fortnight, and another week added yet another £50. A Taunton friend on hearing of this wrote: "This openheartedness speaks very eloquently to strangers like ourselves of the eagerness and enterprise which characterises your members. It is encouraging to hear of such enthusiasm." It is indeed "encouraging", and we warmly thank all who responded so readily, and contributed so generously.

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LADIES' SOCIETY.) The Annual Business Meeting was held on October 2nd., Mrs. Humphrey presiding, and it was decided to continue to work for the Army of Occupation. We are now in our fifth year of meeting, and the membership totals fifty. Garments made during the year were 811, the full total for the 5 years being 3,004. The Officers were re-elected, and the Treasurer's Account showed a balance in hand of £37. It was resolved to make the following gifts:—£10 towards the £100 Challenge for the Church Building Fund, and £10 for Mr. Humphrey's appeal for Spurgeon's Training College. The weekly meetings are now held at 77, Lansdowne Road, by kind permission of Mrs. Knott. (Contributed by Mrs. R. Cowen, Hon. Sec)

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MISSIONARY NOTES. In connection with the New Advance the L. M. S. hopes to increase the membership of the Father's Prayer Union. The aim is to unite in the fellowship of prayer all who desire the extension of Christ's Kingdom. It is our privilege to share in these prayers, and members are only asked to contribute 3d a year for the Handbook, which gives brief descriptions of the various Mission Stations, their opportunities and needs, thus helping to make our prayers more definite. Will you join our Branch?

At the Medical Missions Stall at the Shelley Road Sale of Work on October 17th., the Goring Stall proceeds reached the excellent total of £19-12-2.

Those who would like to have the L. M. S. Chronicle for 1946 are asked to order it NOW. (Miss. M. N. Stevenson, Elm Grove Missionary Secretary)