

Waxham Deanery MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

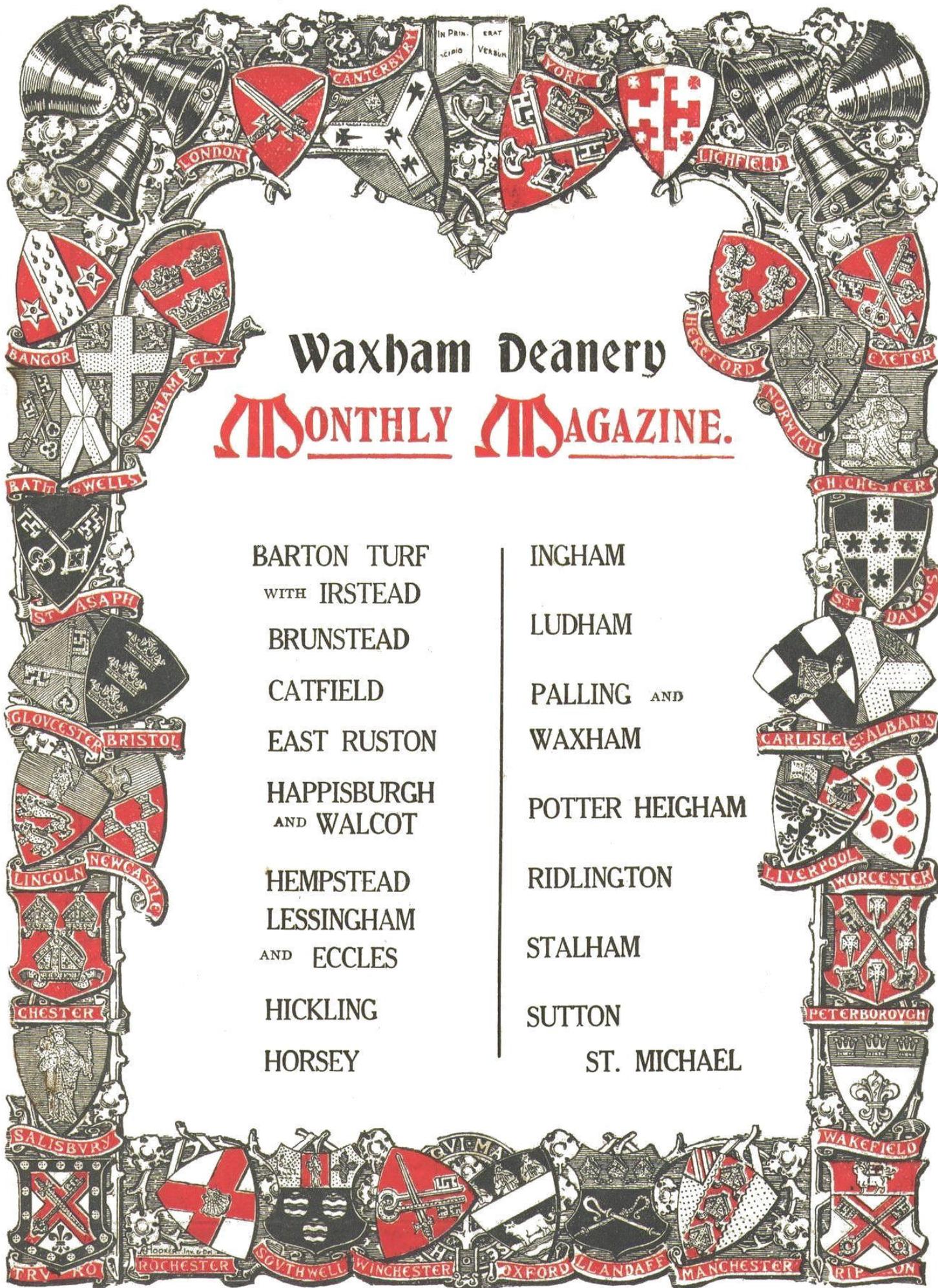
Extracts from the “Waxham and Happing Rural Deanery Magazine”, whose name was later shortened to “Waxham Deanery Magazine”.

Hickling Entries 1914 to 1919

Transcribed from the original by
Helen Cornwell

Hickling Local History Group.

May 2006



Waxham Deanery

MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

BARTON TURF

WITH IRSTEAD

BRUNSTEAD

CATFIELD

EAST RUSTON

HAPPISBURGH
AND WALCOT

HEMPSTEAD

LESSINGHAM

AND ECCLES

HICKLING

HORSEY

INGHAM

LUDHAM

PALLING AND

WAXHAM

POTTER HEIGHAM

RIDLINGTON

STALHAM

SUTTON

ST. MICHAEL

ABOUT THE MAGAZINE

According to the very first “Editor’s Notes”, this magazine started in 1893, as a way of binding together the Deanery. In its first edition the Rural Dean Reverend A. P. Brown writes “Our Rural Deanery is a division of the diocese of Norwich, and we none of us live very far from each other. We are therefore glad to hear more about each other, and the way the neighbouring parishes are getting on. This new magazine will make it easier for us to do so.” There are contributions from the clergy of its constituent parishes: Barton Turf; Brunstead; Catfield; East Ruston; Happisburgh; Hempstead and Lessingham; Hickling; Horsey; Ingham; Ludham; Palling and Waxham; Potter Heigham; Ridlington; Sutton St. Michael; Stalham; Walcot.

The magazine’s first editor was Rev. J. P. Whitney of Hempstead, Stalham; it was published by Mr. Nudd, Haymarket, Norwich. The charge per issue was one penny, and the shortfall was made up out of the pockets of the Clergy. It was issued monthly, together with “The Church Monthly”, and arrangements were made for binding twelve sets together in an annual volume. The binders were Hazell, Watson and Viney Ltd., of Aylesbury, and they charged around 1s. for binding, and an extra 1d. for inserting the parish name in gilt letters on the cover.

The title of the magazine changed through the years – In the 1920s it became the “Waxham Rural Deanery Magazine (Happing Division)”. By the 1930s the magazine was called the “Waxham Deanery Monthly Magazine”, being edited by Hickling’s vicar, Rev. Arnold Bullough, and printed by Jarrold and Sons Ltd., of Great Yarmouth. In the 1940s it was called the “Waxham Deanery Magazine.”

My interest in these magazines was awakened when the first few volumes were loaned to me by fellow Local History Group committee member, Janet Amis, and I am very grateful to Janet and her two sisters Marlene & Geraldine (formerly Beales), to whom those volumes jointly belong. The issues contain much interesting and useful information about the daily life of the church-members and villagers of each parish, including records of baptisms, marriages, and burials. I found the text so interesting that I undertook to transcribe the Hickling entries, and to put them together to create a story of Hickling parish life over approximately sixty years. I hope that these transcriptions will be of use to researchers of Hickling history.

I have since pursued other sources to add to the years’ entries and would like to acknowledge here my thanks to: Keith Bacon and Gerald Robson, (Hickling Local History Group members); Beverley Brooks (Hickling); Gerry King (Ludham), Tom Grapes, (Ludham); Mrs. Gladden (Catfield); Mr. Gower (Catfield); the Norwich Millennium Library Heritage Centre; The Norfolk Record Office.

Whilst reading these magazines, I became interested in the authors of the entries, and their place in the life of Hickling. I have therefore included a short piece of information about the two vicars who made major contributions to the magazine, Arthur Adam Taylor Crosse, and Thomas Arnold Bullough. To help the reader put the events in Hickling into context with the country and the world in general, I have included at the beginning of each decade, some facts of wider interest. These “timelines” were provided by Ivor Kemp and Tony Cornwell. To Ivor I also extend my thanks for research and proof-reading, and to Tony for restoring the old photographs and art work, and for formatting and printing these volumes.

The list of magazine extracts transcribed now extends from 1893 to 1954, with some gaps, but those reproduced here, together with the short biography of the vicar of that time (Rev. A. A. T. Crosse), are the ones from the “Great War” years of 1914 to 1919. This last date is not 1918 as you may expect, because one of the Hickling men died at the end of the war, and his death is recorded in a magazine issue of 1919. I believe that the magazines were produced until the 1960s, and I am anxious to complete the story by adding all the missing volumes. I would be very pleased to hear from anyone who can help.

The full version of the extracts is published by the Hickling Local History Group, in both printed and searchable C.D. versions for archive deposit and loan.

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Notes about the transcription: I have tried to reproduce these extracts faithfully, in the format in which they were originally printed. Some of the spellings of the day were different, and I have not corrected them, e.g.; Walcot; shew; waggon. Some of the names have (I think) been incorrectly printed in the magazine. Where this is so, my interpretation of the correct name appears in brackets (and in italics) after the original spelling, e.g. Bonett (*Borrett?*). If I have any other remarks to make as transcriber, they are also in italics.

ARTHUR ADAM TAYLOR CROSSE, B.A. 1861 TO 1937

VICAR OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH, HICKLING 1889 – 1923

Reverend Arthur Crosse was born on December 20th 1861, into a prominent medical and clerical Norfolk family. He graduated in the honours school at Cambridge University, and came to Hickling as a young man in 1889. He married Edith Rose Fyffe (born Forfar, 1860) in 1890, and they had seven children, who were all raised in Hickling – Dorothy Margaret (Doffy), 1893; Thomas Erskine (Tom), 1894; Arthur John Green (Jack), 1896; Edward Castellain (Ned), 1897; Elizabeth Emily Micklethwait (Libby), 1899; William Alan Ferguson (Billy), 1900; Edith Mary Lavinia (Mary) 1901.

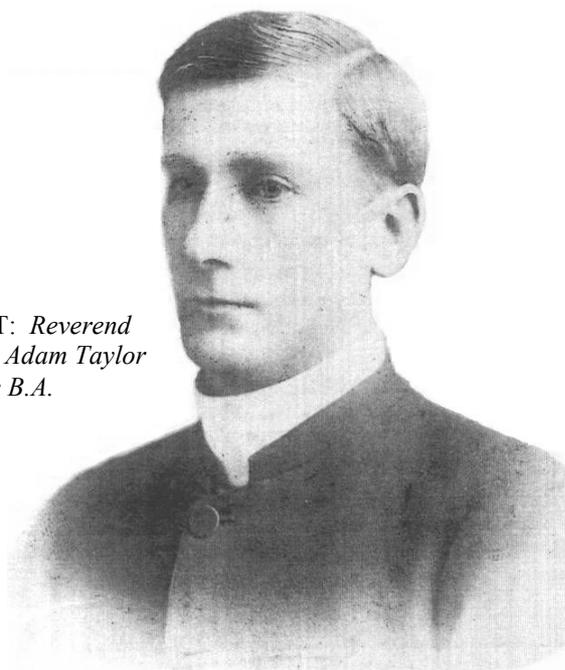
For some time during his incumbency at Hickling, he was also Rural Dean of the Waxham Deanery, succeeding the Reverend R. A. Hitchcock. His interest in music was reflected in his encouragement of the choirs to participate in the Choral Festivals, and for twenty-two years he was the Honorary Secretary to the Diocesan Church Choral Association.

Reverend Crosse left St. Mary's in 1923 to move not far away to become Vicar of Ormesby St. Margaret and St. Michael. Edith Rose died in 1926 during his incumbency at Ormesby, and she is buried there. On his retirement in 1935, he came back to live in Hickling at Church Cottage, with his second wife, Christine (widow of Norman Herbert-Smith). The Herbert-Smiths are commemorated in Hickling Church (Chancel, North Wall). The families had been long-standing friends. Arthur died in 1937, and is buried at Ormesby.

Descendants of Arthur and Rose, now living in Arizona, Australia, Dorset and Yorkshire have been kind enough to provide information about the family, and grand-daughter, Mrs. Felicity Morgan (daughter of Dorothy) has provided the photographs of Arthur, which are reproduced here.



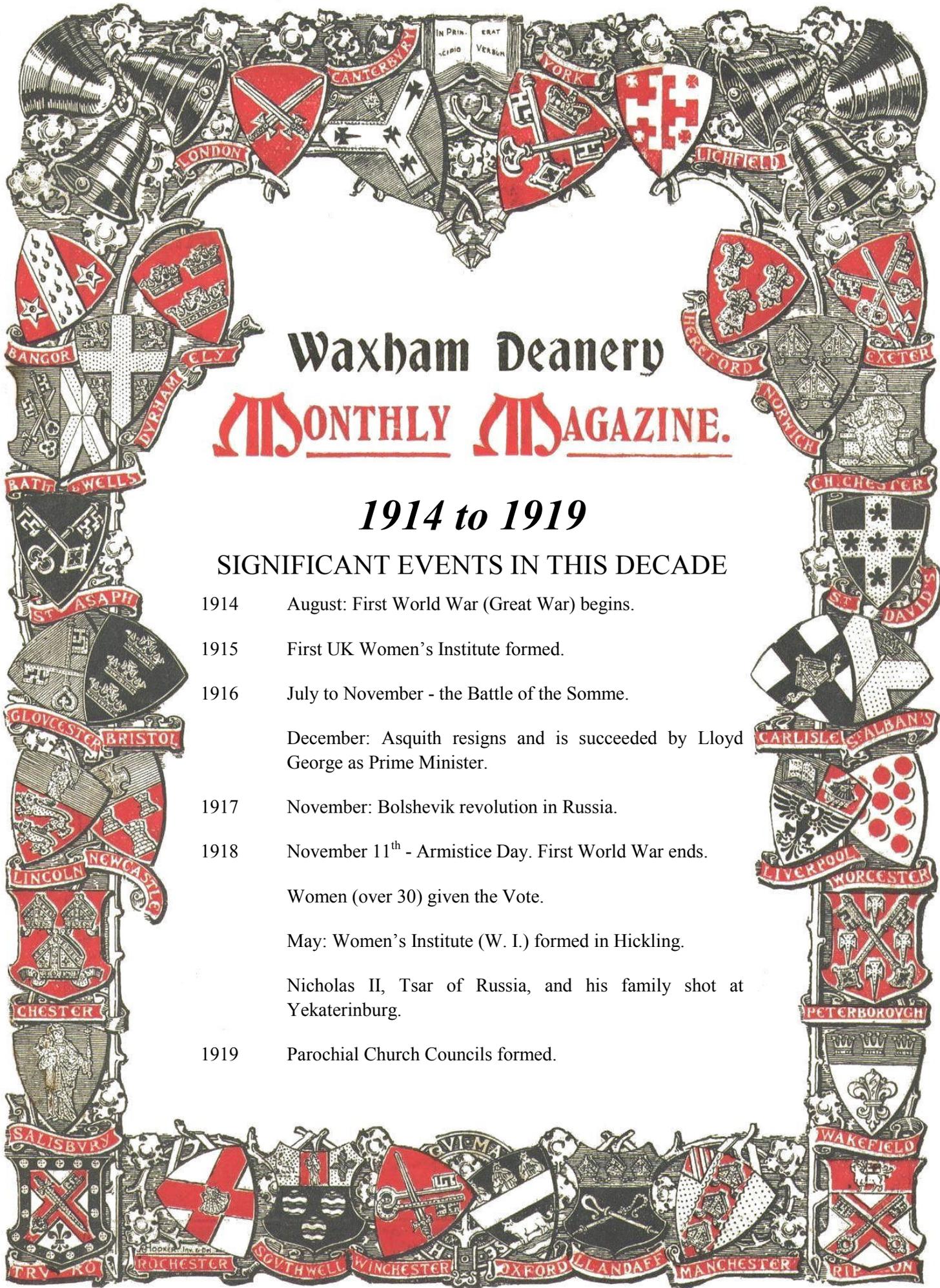
LEFT: *Reverend Crosse pictured outside the west door of St. Mary's Parish Church, Hickling.*



RIGHT: *Reverend Arthur Adam Taylor Crosse B.A.*



LEFT: *Reverend Crosse pictured on the front (south) lawn of the Vicarage at Town Street, with his wife Edith Rose.*



Waxham Deanery MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

1914 to 1919

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN THIS DECADE

- 1914 August: First World War (Great War) begins.
- 1915 First UK Women's Institute formed.
- 1916 July to November - the Battle of the Somme.
December: Asquith resigns and is succeeded by Lloyd George as Prime Minister.
- 1917 November: Bolshevik revolution in Russia.
- 1918 November 11th - Armistice Day. First World War ends.
Women (over 30) given the Vote.
May: Women's Institute (W. I.) formed in Hickling.
Nicholas II, Tsar of Russia, and his family shot at Yekaterinburg.
- 1919 Parochial Church Councils formed.

BAPTISM.

June 14th, Alfred Harold, son of Noah and Agnes Faith Beales, of Hickling.

BURIAL.

May 18th, Lucy Mary Turner, of Hickling, aged 55 years.

ARTHUR A. T. CROSSE, *Vicar.*

OCTOBER 1914

It may be of interest to parishioners to have a list of the men from Hickling who are serving with His Majesty's forces on sea or land at the present time.

Men serving with the grand Fleet – Harold Oxley Beckett, Leading Signalman; Hezekiah William Chapman, Torpedo Coxswain; Wilfred Cubitt Chapman, Leading signalman; Oliver Lionel Chapman; Herbert Edward Gibbs; George Adam Chapman, Master at arms, now on his way from the Pacific to serve with the Grand Fleet; Walter Nudd, Ernest Newman, John Woodrow, engaged in mine-sweeping in the North Sea.

Men serving with His Majesty's Expeditionary Force in France – Frank Harold Bishop, Royal Artillery; Frank Leonard Bunn, Army Ordnance Corps; Walter Wallis, Motor Transport Service.

Men serving with His Majesty's Forces in England – Thomas William Johnson, 3rd Norfolks; Frank Norman Platten, 5th Norfolks; William Gibbs, 4th Norfolks; Vere Herbert Smith, 2nd Lieutenant, 5th Battalion Rifle Brigade; Arthur John Green Crosse, Public School Corps; William R. Gibbs, Lord Kitchener's army.

The following, who are well known in this parish, are also serving at the front – Major B. Wilfred Bowdler(*Bowler?*). R.E., Headquarters Staff; Lieutenant Richard Lawrence Bond, RE; Frederick Alfred Phillips, R.A.M.C.

Sir Robert Price, M.P. made a most excellent speech at the public meeting held here in connection with recruiting for Lord Kitchener's Army, and it is hoped that before long more men from this parish will join the colours. The list of those already serving is a very creditable one, but one feels that there must be some more young, able-bodied unmarried men to whom the call to naval or military service will strongly appeal.

It was very good of the Bishop of Norwich to come and preach at our Harvest Thanksgiving services on September 6th. The Church was beautifully decorated, and splendidly filled, and I must thank the choir and the congregation for the very hearty and reverent singing throughout the service. The offerings throughout the day were for the local Hospitals and Medical Charities. The sum of £9 10s was obtained, and £8 has been sent to the Norwich and Norfolk Sunday Hospital Fund, and £1 10s to the General Hospital at Great Yarmouth. The Bishop said that he thoroughly enjoyed a very delightful service.

The sum of £4 9s. 6d. has so far been collected in Hickling for the British Red Cross Society, £1 15s, has been spent on materials for shirts, etc., £1 10s. has been paid to the local treasurer, Miss Cubitt, of Honing Hail, and the balance is for the meanwhile held in hand.

Eight ladies from Hickling are attending the First Aid and Nursing lectures at Stalham.

Services of Intercession in connection with the war, are held in the Parish Church every Wednesday and Friday evening at 7.30 p.m. It is hoped that those who cannot fight will come and pray for King and country and the cause we fight for, and our sailors and soldiers who are exposed to many and great dangers, and last, but not least, for a righteous and abiding peace.

BAPTISMS.

September 13th – Daisy Elizabeth Gwendolin, daughter of George Charles Sidney and Violet Ethel Beales, of Hickling. Phyllis Irene, daughter of Flowerday and Jessie Bell of Hickling. Irene Nellie, daughter of Thomas William and Rosa Elizabeth Johnson, of Hickling.

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MARRIAGE.

September 2nd, Harold Chapman, bachelor, to Henrietta Louise Bishop spinster, both of this parish.

ARTHUR A. T. CROSSE,
Vicar.

1915

JANUARY 1915

The Recruiting Meeting which was held in the School on Wednesday, December 2nd, was in every way a great success. The room was well filled, and excellent rousing speeches were made by Mr. Wicks and Sir Robert Price. Captain Blofeld, the recruiting officer, arrived just in time to say a few straight and simple words as to the conditions of enlistment, separation allowances, etc., and then the call for recruits was answered by the following men: Alfred Nudd, Clarence Beales, James Turner, Thomas Applegate, Edward Amiss, Edward Gibbs, Frederick Dyball, James Cator, Reynolds Mozeley (*Moseley?*), Robert Brooks, Thomas Applegate, jun., Andrew Beales, Reggie Nudd, There are now fourteen men from this parish serving in "Lord Kitchener's Army," six in the Territorials, four in the Regular Army, two in the National Reserve, and ten in the Royal Navy and RN. Reserve, and one in the Canadian forces, making a total of thirty-seven. We are very proud of all those who have come forward thus in defence of their country, and we hope that the numbers will be much increased. There were many things which were against brisk recruiting at the beginning of the war; the duty of military service had been persistently ignored in this country for generations, owing to a false sense of security, women's tender hearts were adverse to letting their men folk leave them for the risks of war. Employers did not like parting with useful workers, and men themselves had come to think that *others* would do all the fighting for them. Now we have begun to see things in their true light; we see that the call has come to *every individual* man of military age to decide whether he will *himself* do something to protect his home and women folk or whether he will leave others to do it. Whether he will *himself* make sacrifices and risk life and limb or whether he will leave danger and self-sacrifice for others. There is only one thing that can make our homes and country safe and that is a large and sufficient army *at the front*, to second the magnificent work of the navy on the sea. We are genuinely proud of the response which this parish is making to the call of duty and we earnestly hope that the response will be greater and greater still as the practical lessons of war bring home the truth more clearly to each man's heart and mind.

As a result of the Whist Drive held in the Church Room on November 24th, Mr. and Mrs. Youngs, of Brightmere, forwarded me a cheque for £7 1s., which I handed on to the *Daily Telegraph* Fund for the relief of the Belgian Refugees in England. The result was eminently satisfactory, and that so large a sum was sent, was due to the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Youngs in providing all the refreshments and prizes.

I am grateful to the Vicar of Ludham for taking a service for me on Sunday, Dec. 13th, and to the Vicar of Sutton for taking my Bible Class on December 9th and 16th,

I had the great pleasure when in Sussex of visiting Mr. and Mrs. Borrett, late of Hickling Hall, who are living at Barcombe, near Lewes. They were both looking extremely well, and were full of interest in Hickling and its doings. I am sure that the people of this parish will be glad to hear of them, and will reciprocate their kindly feelings and interest. I also saw Miss Borrett and Mr. and Mrs. Crabbe, who wanted to know all about the old place, and sent many remembrances to their friends. It was a great pleasure to renew my acquaintance with those who had been for so many years my kind friends and neighbours.

A Meeting was held on November 27th in the Church Room to consider what steps should be taken for the protection of the inhabitants in case of invasion of these parts by the Germans. As the instructions, and the authority behind them, were not very clear the meeting was somewhat vague and inconclusive. I hear that printed instructions will probably be sent to every householder by some proper authority through the police, which will put matters on a satisfactory footing. We shall then know where we are and be able to make arrangements of a satisfactory and authoritative character. There has never been the least feeling of panic here about invasion among the bulk of the population, and no plans of action seem to be of much use unless they have the support and authority of the General commanding the district; even then the circumstances of the moment will inevitably modify the course of action. The

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moment an enemy sets his foot in this district we shall be under military law, and it is the military authorities who will have to tell us what and what not to do. This should be kept in mind in any provisional plans we make.

Much grief was caused by the sudden and unexpected death of Mrs. Alfred Chapman, who had been married under two years. She was of a very cheerful and brave disposition and had a most happy and comfortable home in which she justly took great pride. Very much sympathy is felt for her husband and for her father and mother and brothers and sisters who are all well known in this parish. Her husband did everything that love or money could do to try and save her life, but she passed peacefully away leaving many friends to mourn her loss.

Hickling people will be interested to hear that Major Basil Wilfred Bowler and Mr. Richard Lawrence Bond, both of whom are known here, and always remembered in our prayers, have been mentioned in General French's despatches.

BURIAL.

November 20th – Elizabeth, wife of Alfred Cubitt Chapman, aged 27 years; also the infant child of Alfred Cubitt and Elizabeth Chapman.

ARTHUR A. T. CROSSE,
Vicar.

JULY 1915

There has been a great deal of sorrow in this parish during the last few weeks. First there was the terribly sad accident by which little William Myhill (*aged 8*) met his death, having been run over by a motor lorry. Everything that could be done for him was done, and he was taken by his father and grandfather to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital at the earliest possible moment, but he did not long survive, and died the same night. It was only that morning that I had presented him with his prize and certificate at the Day School; he came up so happily to receive it, a smiling mannerly little school boy, and in a few hours he was stricken down, and the same evening he died. He was very brave and patient through his time of suffering. The most sincere sympathy is felt with his parents and grandparents, who will miss him very sorely. Then followed the shock of the very sudden illness and death of Reynolds Percy Moseley at the early age of 40. He was a man liked and respected by everyone. At the outbreak of the war he offered to enlist in Kitchener's Army, and not being accepted he became a very keen member of the local Home Defence Corps. He never really recovered from the shock of his wife's death three years ago. He leaves behind him four motherless children. We hope they will find real friends in this their time of need. A large number of friends gathered to pay a last tribute of respect to his memory on June 6th. including members of the Home Defence Corps from Hickling, Catfield and Sutton. By the death of Charles Gibbs many of us have lost an old friend. I can personally speak very highly of him, as he worked for me for many years, and I shall miss him very much; he was one of the real old land marks of the village, a quiet, industrious, kindly, upright man. Then came the news that Flowerday Bell, of the Norfolk Regiment, had been killed in action in Flanders on May 22nd. It seemed impossible to realize that he was really dead; he had left us such a short time, and was so full of life and energy when he last came home on leave. He had been for seven years in the London Fire Brigade, and was a fine specimen of an athletic sturdy East Norfolk working man, very anxious to do what he could for his King and Country, and keen to get to the front as soon as possible. He leaves a widow and three little children, and an aged mother, for all of whom the deepest sympathy is felt.

The Penny House-to-house Collection for the S. John's Ambulance Association, and the British Red Cross Society, brought in the total of £8. Householders, with very few exceptions, responded liberally to the appeal, and our best thanks are due to the collectors, Mrs. Crosse, Mrs. Neal, Mrs. A. Gibbs. Mrs. Brindid, Miss Turner, and Miss Vincent, who worked with such energy and tact in collecting the money. The £8 was forwarded to Miss Burton, of 126 Newmarket Road, Norwich, who is the collector for the County of Norfolk, and from her received a very kind and appreciative letter of thanks.

The Head Keeper on the estate of Mr. J. D. Mills very kindly handed me a cheque for £2, a fine paid by a visitor for shooting on Hickling Broad, and I had much pleasure in forwarding it to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital.

We are all very sorry to know that Mr. and Mrs. Marjoram and their family are leaving the Pleasure Boat Inn to settle in Great Yarmouth. They have deservedly gained the respect and friendship of all in this parish, and we hope we shall not lose sight of them altogether, Mr. Marjoram will be specially missed by the Home Defence Corps whose Drill Instructor he has been from its first formation. I had much pleasure in acceding to the request of the Commandant, Mr. A. H. Chapman, to make a presentation to the Instructor on behalf of the Corps. The presentation took the form of a handsome silver watch suitably inscribed. Mr. Marjoram has not only brought the Corps to a high state of efficiency, but has also gained the respect and friendship of each individual member. We wish him and all who belong to him every prosperity and happiness.

We regret to hear that Alfred Edward Tillet (*Tillett*), of the Army Veterinary Corps, is lying dangerously ill at Alexandria, and that William Robert Gibbs, late of Hickling, but now of Sutton, is wounded, and in hospital in France. We hope soon to hear news of their convalescence, and ultimately of their complete restoration to health.

It is pleasant to hear that good news has been received of Mr. Aubrey (*Aubrey*) Herbert Smith, from the internment camp at Ruhlebru near Berlin. He is in good health, and as comfortable as can be expected under the necessarily trying circumstances of such a life. We hope that his good British pluck and a fine constitution will enable him to win through to the day of liberation.

After Thursday, June 24th, the Bible Class will not meet again till the Autumn.

Owing to an outbreak of measles, we have had to postpone the Children's Annual Festival Service, the annual Pleasant Sunday Afternoon, and the Sunday School Treat to Palling Beach. If the children will only hurry up and get rid of the measles, we will arrange for these functions as soon as possible.

BAPTISMS

June 13th, Kenneth and Philip Henry, twin sons of James Ebenezer and Edith Louise Myhill, of Hickling; Dorothy Agnes Jane, daughter of Edward John and Agnes Lucy Myhill, of Hickling.

BURIALS.

June 4th. William Myhill, aged 8 years.

June 6th. Reynolds Percy Moseley, aged 40 years.

June 10th. Charles Gibbs, aged 79 years.

ARTHUR A. T. CROSSE, *Vicar*.

DECEMBER 1915

"Our Day," in spite of the enforced postponement, was a great success. Mrs. Crosse arranged for a house-to-house visitation, for the sale of flags and cards and the collection of subscriptions. The parish was divided into districts and each district was in charge of a collector. The collectors were Mrs. Clarke, Miss Salter, Mrs. Lambert, the Misses Neal, Howes, Lamb, Vincent, Burton, Beales, and Deary. The weather was bad but the ladies worked very hard and thoroughly. A few households refused help, and a few were not much interested, if one may judge by the amounts they gave, but the great bulk of the people gave willingly, and gave generously, and a total of fourteen guineas was collected. Mr. Spratt has very kindly made up the total to fifteen pounds, for which we are grateful. Our hearty thanks are due to Mrs. Crowe (*probably Mrs. Crosse*) who organised, and to the collectors who carried out the arrangements for "our day". And the people of Hickling have once again shown that in the bulk they are generous givers in a good cause.

Will any parishioners who wish to take the magazine in 1916 kindly communicate with me or with the lady who brings round the magazine in their district.

We were very sorry to hear that Robert Bowes, of the Norfolk Regiment, had been wounded, and much sympathy is felt for his parents. We hope he will soon be thoroughly restored to health.

The weekly Intercession Service is now held in the Church on Wednesday afternoons at 3.30 p.m. on the same day, and the Bible Class is held in the Church Room on Thursdays at 3.30 p.m. During the real depth of the winter I am

trying to make use of the afternoons for meetings etc. rather than the evenings, partly for the sake of my own health, and partly for the sake of those who have long distances to come. For some, of course, the afternoon may not be so convenient as the evening, but I hope that all will try loyally to fall in with the new arrangement, if not for their own sake, for the sake of others – few things are impossible if we are keen and try hard enough. As soon as the worst of the winter is over we hope to go back to the old arrangement.

BAPTISMS

September 12th, Ernest Edward, son of Ernest Monsey and Nellie May Newman, of Hickling.
Edward Roy Kitchener, son of Alfred Edward and Jane Tillett, of Hickling.
Lavina Joyce, daughter of Walter and Louisa Nicholls, of Hickling.

N.B. We are proud to note that in each case the father of the child baptised is serving his King and Country.

ARTHUR A.T. CROSSE, *Vicar.*

1916

JUNE 1916

The following are the payments made in connection with the Sunday School Treat, held in the Church Room on January 21st:

Harrison, bread etc., £ 8s. 10d.; Martin, groceries, 13/-; Crackers and butter, 14/-; Lamp glasses, oil, etc., 5/10; Mrs. Neal, milk, 2/8; Mrs. Ling, work done, 3/-; Mrs. Lambert, washing table cloths, 1/4; Church Room, 3/-; Total £3 11s. 8d., leaving a balance in hand of £1 7s. 8d.

Choir Expenses to Yarmouth and on Broad, £1 5s., leaving a balance of 6/6.

I am sure that everyone in the parish will give the heartiest of welcomes to Mr. George Raymond Neal. He has gone through a great deal of fighting and suffering with great gallantry, and has made a wonderful recovery. May he have many many years of peace and happiness among his old friends after all the strain and stress of war. We offer to him and his parents our heartiest congratulations on his fine record as a soldier, and on his marvellous restoration to health. This is one of the cases that make us proud to belong to Hickling.

We have lost two very well known and much respected inhabitants of this parish in William Pratt and Henry Myhill, and we offer our most sincere sympathy to their bereaved families. They belonged to old established Hickling stocks, and will long be missed by many. They leave many descendants behind them to carry on their work and name, and they lie at rest under the shadow of the old Church so close to which they laboured for many years. One generation departs and another takes its place, and so God's world and God's work goes on. May they rest in peace till the Great Day of resurrection and reunion.

Mrs. Charles Durrant only survived her husband by the short space of nine months. Always a somewhat delicate woman, she seemed to grow weaker very rapidly after her husband's death. How often it happens that after a long and happy union one partner does not long survive the other. She leaves behind her two sons and four daughters, who were rightly devoted to her, and to whom her loss is a great sorrow. We offer them much sympathy.

2nd Lieutenant A. J. G. Crosse, who is command of the Machine Gun Section of the 9th Norfolks in Flanders, has been promoted to the rank of lieutenant, under date August 28th, 1915.

I am sure that all Hickling people would like to express their deep sympathy with the Rector of Brunstead and Mrs. Bird in their great sorrow; and to record the hope that the rector of Catfield will be soon quite recovered from his illness and back again in his parish.

BURIALS

April 19th Eliza Durrant, aged 71 years.
April 29th Joyce Winifred Gibbs, aged 1 month.
May 3rd William Pratt, aged 69 years.
May 10th Henry Myhill, aged 90 years.

ARTHUR A. T. CROSSE, Vicar.

NOVEMBER 1916

A Memorial Service for the late Alfred Nudd was held on Sunday, October 1st, and a very large congregation was present to pay a last token of respect to the memory of one who was held in high esteem. The musical parts of the Burial office were very reverently and sympathetically rendered by the choir, and a bugle party of the Norfolk Regiment sounded the "last post" at the end of the service. I heard from a Norfolk officer that Alfred Nudd showed great bravery in the engagement in which he was killed, and remained unflinchingly with his machine gun to the last; and it will be a comfort to his mother to know that he was buried after the engagement.

On Sunday, October 8th, Harvest Thanksgiving Services were held. The Church was very prettily decorated, and the congregations were good throughout the day. I must congratulate the choir on their very excellent singing of the anthem and other special music. It was the best singing we have heard in Hickling Church for some time, and reminded us of "the good old days," The offerings on behalf of our local hospitals amounted to the sum of £9 1s.

We are very sorry to hear that Corporal William Gibbs, (East Field) Norfolk Regiment, attached to the 1st Essex, has been wounded in France, and is now at a base hospital. He has seen a great deal of strenuous service, being sent first to Gallipoli, and having some terrible experiences there, being among the last to leave the Peninsula; then he went to Egypt, and from there was sent to France, where he has been in the thick of the fighting for many months. Those who know him will feel confident that he has all the qualities of a fine soldier, and we wish him a speedy and complete recovery, and hope soon to see him back on leave in Hickling.

I have just heard that Mr. Alec. Disney has been invalided home to England. I hope his illness is not serious, and that he will soon be able to come home. He has had many months of very hard service in France, and must have richly earned a long spell of rest. We shall all be glad to welcome him back to Hickling.

The collection on October 1st for the Y.M.C.A. huts amounted to £2 12s.

A Norfolk officer has told me what excellent work Robert Brooks is doing in France as a stretcher bearer. He described him as a splendid fellow, as brave as possible, and having a very good name in the Norfolk Regiment.

I much hope that our Afternoon Services on Sundays will be well attended. I know that afternoon service is not convenient for some, but for others it is more convenient than evening service. It suits elderly folk, and also mothers of families. Mothers often cannot get to Church morning or evening with regularity, but they can come in the afternoon and bring their children with them, and I much hope they will do so.

A Red Cross Working Party will be held in the Church Room on Tuesdays during the winter. All good needle-women, machinists and knitters will be welcome. Full details will be published at an early date.

The result of the "Our Day" house-to-house collection is just to hand, and I must heartily congratulate Mrs. Crosse on the success which has resulted from her excellent organization of the effort. The collectors were Mrs. Clarke, Mrs. Lambert, Mrs. A. Gibbs, Mrs. Chaplin, the Misses Neal (2), Miss Lamb, Miss Burton and Miss Mabel Beales. All the collectors say that they were cordially received, and met with very few refusals. The total collected so far is £17 1s. 8½ and there is some more to come in. This shews that there has been generous giving in many quarters. Well done, Hickling.

Mr. and Mrs. George Beales, of the Guest house, have gone to visit their son, Waldo, who is in hospital near Stockport, having been seriously wounded in both legs while fighting on the Somme. We have been very anxious to

hear accurate news of his health and progress, and hope his parents will be able to give a good account of him. He is a fine boy, cheery and brave, and a great favourite in the village.

ARTHUR A. T. CROSSE, Vicar.

DECEMBER 1916

It is with great sorrow that we received the news that Lc.-corporal William G. K. Gibbs, Norfolk Regiment; attached to the 1st Essex, had died on October 20th of wounds received in action in France. He was severely wounded in the chest, but was making some progress, and hopes were entertained of his recovery. Pneumonia, however, set in, and he gradually sank and died, and he was reverently laid to rest in a little Churchyard near the casualty clearing station. William Gibbs was a fine example of Norfolk manhood, and a very attractive personality. He bore an unblemished character, was a good Churchman, a regular communicant, and very keen on his soldiering. He was an only son, and our most heartfelt sympathy goes out to his sorrowing father, mother and sister. Their great consolation must be the memory of his good brave life and gallant death, and the hope of reunion in the better land.

A few days later we received the equally sad news that a gallant sailor, Herbert Pratt, had been killed in action, in the Channel raid on October 26th. He was serving in the R.N.R. fleet of steam drifter mine-sweepers and patrol boats. He was a fine upstanding fellow, tall and straight and the last time I saw him I thought he looked the very picture of a British sailor. He bore a high character, and was liked by all. He was the youngest son of his widowed mother, and a most good and thoughtful son too. To that mother, who lost her husband only six months ago, we offer our tender sympathy in this added sorrow. She will always be comforted by the remembrance of her boy's goodness to her, and by the knowledge that he died at his post of duty, and is in God's gracious care and keeping till the Great Day. We offer our sympathy to all the brothers and sisters of the deceased sailor. Two of his brothers are serving in the R.N.R.

Robert Bishop, R.N.R., came, by God's mercy, safely through the Channel raid engagement, and his brother Frank only missed being in it by a few hours.

It is a great pleasure to announce that Wilfred Chapman, leading signalman, R.N., *H.M.S. Princess Margaret*, has been twice mentioned in despatches, and has been awarded the D.C.M. for gallant conduct and devotion to duty. We offer him the heartiest congratulations. He is one of seven brothers, and their record is a fine one. Mr. and Mrs. Jethro Chapman have every reason to be proud of their sons.

The Whist Drive, arranged by Mrs. Neal, was a great success, and, as a result, the sum of £5 has been sent to the Y.M.C.A.

Mrs. Crosse has collected the sum of £3 10s. for the Colchester Asylum. Miss D. Neal kindly helped with the collecting.

I should like once again to point out to the mothers in this village what an excellent opportunity the afternoon service gives them of coming with their children to worship on Sunday in God's House.

I regret that I was unable to pay a last tribute of respect to the memory of Jacob Mace by attending his funeral at Catfield. I had known him for many years, and we were very good friends. He paid devout attention to the ministrations of religion during his illness, and died a happy and peaceful death, his wife ministering to his comfort with great devotion. It was a comfort to her that their only son, Driver Charles Mace, Machine Gun Corps, was able to come home for his father's funeral.

A Red Cross Working Party is held every Tuesday at the Church Room at 2.30 p.m. All good sewers, knitters and machinists will be welcome, and it is a work in which the wives, mothers, and daughters of soldiers and sailors can most appropriately lend a helping hand.

ARTHUR A. T. CROSSE, Vicar.

1917

FEBRUARY 1917

Three well-known and much respected parishioners have been removed from us by death during the last few weeks, and I personally feel that I have lost three tried and valued friends. George Beales was a man of high character, and had a long and honourable career as a trader in coal and corn on our waterways. Few men were better known than he at our local markets, no one was held in higher esteem by the merchants of the district, and all his customers found him in every way a "straight" man. He was a fine specimen of vigorous and robust old age, but failed very rapidly at the last.

George Vincent Barber was long known as one of the most substantial yeomen farmers of Hickling. He was a large hearted man, a generous friend and neighbour, and a great sportsman, whose devotion to dog and gun was known far and wide. When, in later life, he fell on evil days, he met misfortune in the most cheery and courageous spirit, and few ever heard him complain. He was blessed with a most genial and loveable disposition, and his death brings a great feeling of loss to many friends. He died very suddenly on December 26th, and it is some comfort to think that he was spared those many ailments to which old age is usually exposed.

Mrs John Newman, of Hickling Priory, lived to a great age, and was known to us all as a devoted wife and mother. She was of a very kindly, courteous and hospitable disposition, doing many good deeds in a quiet and unobtrusive way, and giving the heartiest of welcomes to her many friends, with whom she delighted to talk over the happenings of long ago.

All these three "old standards" will be long missed. Their removal is like the removal of old landmarks, and the landscape will seem very bare without them. We offer our deep sympathies to their families in their bereavement.

We desire also to offer our sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. William Howard Myhill, who have just lost their little daughter. It is not long since they lost one of their sons, who was killed by a very distressing accident, and we feel for them very much in this added sorrow.

A War Wedding was solemnized in the Parish Church on December 16th, when Gunner Frederick Clark, R.G.A., was married to Miss Alice Kate Woodrow of Hickling. Gunner Clark has been at the front in France ever since the commencement of the war, and has a fine record of service, including Mons, the Maine, and the Somme. He came straight from the firing line to be married, and had an uneventful journey as far as North Walsham - here his troubles began, and it was only after many adventures that he found his way safely to Hickling Stubb. We got him safely married next day, and at the end of his leave he went back to France. We wish Gunner and Mrs. Clark the best possible good luck in their married life.

The Military Cross has been awarded to Lieut. A. J. G. Crosse for conspicuous gallantry in action.

2nd-Lieut. E. C. Cross and Private Richard Futter have been mentioned in despatches for distinguished and gallant services and devotion to duty.

We are delighted to hear that Herbert Gibbs is amongst those saved from *H.M.S. Cornwallis*; thanks be to God for His great mercy. George Chase and Horace Mills are both reported "missing." We hope it will turn out that they are prisoners of war. We offer our deepest sympathy to their parents in their present great suspense and anxiety. Though it is not well to underestimate the grave seriousness of the matter, let us thank God that there is still hope that they may be alive and well. We earnestly pray it may be so.

The sum of £2 6s. has been sent to the Belgian Red Cross, as the result of the offerings in Hickling Church on November 26th, when a memorial service was held for the late W. G. K. Gibbs and H. H. Pratt, of this parish.

Our very best thanks are due to Privates Shelley and Randall, of the 6th Norfolks, who very kindly, by permission of Lieut. J. W. Boulton, C.O., helped us with the musical portions of our services on December 10th and 17th. The tasteful organ playing of Private Shelley, and the fine bass singing of Private Randall, were fully appreciated by all who had the privilege of hearing them.

BAPTISM.

January 8th, Eleanor Amelia Youngs Myhill, daughter of Edward John and Agnes Lucy Myhill, of Hickling.

MARRIAGE.

December 16th, Gunner Frederick Clark, R.G.A., of Chesham, Bucks., and Alice Kate Woodrow of Hickling.

BURIALS

December 22nd, George Beales, of Hickling, aged 84.

December 29th, George Vincent Barber, of the Lound Farm, aged 80 years.

Jan. 3rd, Anna Sarah Myhill (Hickling), aged 2 years.

January 16 – Ann Newman, aged 87 years.

ARTHUR A. T. CROSSE, Vicar.

MARCH 1917

By kind permission of Major B. F. Ward, the 1206th Battery, R.F.A., gave a Concert in the Church Room on February 7th, on behalf of the Church Funds. The musical arrangements were in the hands of Corporal Sawyer, and he is to be congratulated on getting together so much really good talent, and presenting so excellent a programme before a large and responsive audience. The following took part in the programme: Corpls. Sawyer and Bowler (*Bowler?*), Bombadiers Wyatt, Facey, Cavander and Fidgeon, Gunners Merrick, Davies, Oliver, Finch and Hall; and they had the kind help of Mrs. Curtis. Mrs. Walsh, who was to have helped, was kept away by indisposition. I very much regret that Mrs. Crosse and I were at the last moment prevented from being present, and I am obliged to Mr. A. H. Chapman and Mr. W. Wright for looking after the seating arrangements and other matters for me. During the evening Major Ward said how much pleasure it had given him to be present, how much he had enjoyed the concert, and he hoped his men would be able to come again later on. Mr. Prickett, on behalf of the people of Hickling, thanked Major Ward for his kindness, and also moved a hearty vote of thanks to Corporal Sawyer and all the performers for a most enjoyable evening's entertainment. The profits of the concert, after payment of all expenses, will amount to just over £7.

The Sunday School Treat was held in the Church Room on February 2nd. The treat was purposely made somewhat smaller this year, only the children actually attending school and their mothers being invited. After a substantial tea, the children amused themselves with songs, dances and games. The event of the evening was a very pretty musical play – “The Sleeping Beauty” - performed by a party of girls brought over by the Vicar of Stalham and Mrs. Wallis. We are very grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Wallis, and everybody thoroughly enjoyed the good acting, pretty singing and dancing, and really beautiful costumes of the Stalham troupe.

In order to give the general members of the congregation some small festivity at the New Year season, Professor Walker, of North Walsham, was invited to give an entertainment on February 9th. He was as clever and amusing as ever, and gave us a good two hours of honest fun and harmless gaiety, for which we all felt the better.

We were very pleased to see that Police-constable Ernest Beales, a son of Mrs. Richard Beales, of Stubb road, has been lately awarded the sum of £8, in recognition of his having, most pluckily and at grave risk to himself, stopped two runaway horses in a heavy dray at Battersea. He has already twice had recognition for similar services, and we congratulate his widowed mother on having so brave a son,

I feel sure that many people in Hickling were interested in the wedding which was solemnised on February 15th at St. Paul's, Knightsbridge, between Mr. F. A. Phillipps (Seaforth Highlanders) and Miss Gwendolen Herbert Smith. It was a quiet, but very pretty wedding, and a great proportion of the large congregation present were people to whom Hickling is very well known, they having stayed here on many occasions, and being much interested in its welfare and doings. The bride and bridegroom made a very attractive couple, and I am sure everyone in Hickling would like to wish them the richest blessings in their married life. Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Smith have always been so kind to the people of Hickling, and have sympathised with them so sincerely in their joys and sorrows, that I know we should all like to offer them our hearty congratulations on this happy event. The Church flag was hoisted, and a wedding peal was rung to remind parishioners of what was taking place in London.

It is my sad duty to record that during the last few weeks death has once again been very busy among us. Miss Helsdon, Mrs. Abram Amis, Mrs. Tom Applegate of Eastfield, Abner Nudd, and Miss Howard of the Lound farm, have all been called away, the three last mentioned with startling suddenness. We wish to offer our deep sympathy to all the relatives and friends of the deceased. We have been learning lately, by very sad experience, the truth of the words "in the midst of life we are in death."

We have also received from the Admiralty the tragic news of the death of one of our sailors, Otto Cecil Mason, who, though recently living in Catfield, had his home in Hickling at the outbreak of the war. He was killed in the blowing up of H.M. Trawler, *Sisters Melville*, on February 13th.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his parents and to his wife, who only recently became a mother.

I should like, on behalf of the Church Choir and congregation, to offer a word of respectful sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Meadows White on the loss of their son. Mr. Meadows White has helped us so often in musical matters, and is known to so many of our congregation, that I know they would wish to show their sympathy with him and Mrs. Meadows White and their family in their deep sorrow.

ARTHUR A. T. CROSSE, Vicar.

JUNE 1917

At the Easter Vestry Meeting Mr. G. W. Neal was nominated as Vicar's warden, and Mr. A. H. Chapman as Parish warden, and thanks were given to them for their services during the past year. The Church accounts were presented for the past year, and were examined and approved. The total amount collected for all purposes was £87 1s. 1d., the items being as follows:

Church expenses, £41 16s. 4d.; Sick and poor, £5 4/9; Sunday School, £7 2s. 8d. and £7 10s. (including summer and winter treats); Y.M.C.A. Huts, £5 8s. 1d.; Hospitals, £9 1s.; Belgian Fund, £2 6s. ; S.P.G., £3 9s. 3d.; Church Room, £1 13s., and Colchester Asylum, £3 10s.

The payments for Church expenses were as follows: Archdeacon's visitation, 5/-; Washing surplices, 15/2; Moy, coke, £5 4s.; Clerk, £2 6s.; Organist, £5; Church cleaners, £5 10s.; Mowbray, 8d.; Wine, 3/7; Novello, 2/7½; Choir boys, £1; Blacksmith, 7/6; Diocesan Fund, £3 9s. 6d.; Goose, 16/9; Insurance, Church, 19/-; Church Room, 17/6; E. Myhill, 12/6; Lambert Bros., £1 15/6; W. R. Draper, £5 2s. 5d.; Mrs. Wright, 5/6; Mrs. Chase, £1; Arnolds, £1 3s. 3d.; J. W. Martin, £1 0/11; Flatt, coal, £1 5s. 8d.; Brown, oil, £2 1s. 8d., leaving a balance in hand of 11/8.

We have to record with deep regret the death of two more of our Hickling men on active service, one a soldier and the other a sailor:

Second-Lieut. H. N. Fox, Norfolk Regiment, was killed in action in France. He was wounded, but managed to carry on for some time, when he was instantly killed by a bullet through the head. I had watched his career for many years; he was a promising boy, and hard work and a good intellect enabled him to fulfil the promise of his boyhood. He was unfortunate in failing to obtain a County Council scholarship from one school, but he went to the Paston School at North Walsham, and at once made his mark, both in work and games. After teaching for a while at Stalham, he went to the Borough Road College for teachers, and was doing excellently. He enlisted in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, and saw much active service and fierce fighting in France; and in recognition of his good work he was awarded a field commission in the Norfolk Regiment. He was a fine soldier, and his colonel and brother officers speak most highly of his courage and the excellence of his work, and they most sincerely mourn his loss, as we all do here. He was a fine footballer, cricketer, and runner, and did not know the meaning of fear. We desire to offer our deep sympathy to his parents in their very great loss.

Harold Beckett, who was a leading signalman on the destroyer, *H.M.S. Derwent*, lost his life by a mine explosion in the Channel. I first remember him a curly-headed little boy in our Sunday School, and he and I were always real friends. He joined the Navy at an early age, and was a fine type of a British sailor - genial, merry and full of pluck, and with a great gift of humour - and he will be missed by hosts of friends. He belongs to a family that have been long connected with this parish and Church. His father was much respected as one of our leading tradesmen, and was for many years

parish clerk, and only resigned the office owing to ill health. Harold Beckett leaves behind him a widow and little daughter, and I know that there is no one in this parish who does not feel for them most deeply in this terrible bereavement. May God comfort all such whom war makes desolate and broken hearted.

The death of Mr. H. H. Gibbs, of the Church Farm, after an operation in Norwich came as a great surprise and shock to us all. He had been in failing health for some months, and seems never to have recovered from the shock of his wife's death eleven months ago; but we never thought that the end was so near. His family have long been connected with Hickling, and we much regret that the farm seems likely to pass out of the hands of the Gibbs family. His two sons, and two of his sons-in-law, are serving at the Front, and we feel special sympathy for his younger son, who had lived at home and helped to manage the farm till the war called him away on foreign service. Mr. Gibbs was a man of very kindly disposition, and as a tradesman and farmer will be much missed, especially among his neighbours, to whom he was always most helpful and shewed great consideration.

Miss Corrie Lamb, one of our Sunday School teachers, has accepted a situation near London. She was always very painstaking and reliable in her work, and we shall miss her very much. We wish her the best of good fortune in her new work.

Arthur Turner, of the Northamptonshire Regiment, machine gun section, has been wounded in France. We are glad to hear from his parents that he is still going on well, and we wish him a speedy recovery.

We have still no news of George Chase, who was reported missing on November 13th of last year; and our prayers and sympathy are with his parents in their increasing strain of anxiety and suspense.

Charles Durrant, of the Essex Regiment, was reported missing on April 14th. We still hope we may have news of him as being yet alive, but we know how terrible is the waiting for news in such a case. May God strengthen and comfort those who watch and wait, and restore to us one whose loss would be deeply mourned by many.

BAPTISMS

March 11th, Edward George Robert, son of Charles Arthur and Anna Elizabeth Goleby, of Hickling.

May 13th, Edward John, son of Alfred Edward and Jane Anna Tillett, of Hickling.

BURIAL

May 12th, Herbert Henry Gibbs, of the Church Farm, Hickling, aged 66 years.

ARTHUR A. T. CROSSE, Vicar.

OCTOBER 1917

On Sunday, July 29th, our Children's Festival Services were held, and were very well attended. It was a great pleasure to see such a large gathering of children, and their parents and friends, at both services. On Sunday, August 26th, a special Children's Service was held in the Church Room at 2.30 p.m. The room was filled to overflowing, and the recitations and musical items were excellently rendered, the American national songs being a special feature. Mrs. Walsh very kindly came and sang to us, and brought with her a soldier from Ingham, who had a very fine bass voice; and Mrs. Malcom and Miss Scott delighted us all, as usual. Our efforts on behalf of the Sunday School brought us in the substantial total of £7 5s. 5d.

The Sunday School Treat to Palling was arranged for July 31st, and Mr. Neal, Mr. Chapman, Mr. Disney, Mr. Borrett, Mr. Youngs, and Mr. Hudson Barber kindly promised wagons to take the children to the beach. The weather, however, turned out so bad that we had to abandon all thought of going to the beach; but we had a very excellent tea in the Church Room, and an improvised "sing-song" afterwards. Everyone made the best of a bad job, and we spent a very happy evening, and went home thoroughly pleased and contented.

The postponed visit to Palling was paid on September 14th, and this time we were favoured with delightful weather. Mr. Hudson Barber very kindly sent his engine and three large wagons to take the children to the sea, and Mr. Neal and Mr. Disney each put a wagon at our disposal. Capt. Whitely, with great kindness, made everything easy for us at Palling, and some of the men of the Cheshire Regiment entertained us at tea-time with some excellent gramophone

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records. We all enjoyed ourselves immensely, and I am most grateful to the Sunday School teachers and many others who worked so hard to make the treat a real success; our special thanks are also due to our kind friends, the farmers, who so generously provided conveyances.

Sunday, August 26th, was Missionary Sunday. The congregations were good, and the collections amounted to £3 15s. for the S.P.G. On Sunday afternoon Captain Armitage, Commander, R. N. R., gave an address to the Sunday School children in the Church Room.

Captain Armitage also gave a Lecture in the Church Room on August 28th – “Polar Exploration, north and south.” The lecture was very well attended, and brought in the sum of £2 11s. 6d. for the S.P.G. Captain Armitage is an excellent lecturer, and what he told us was very full of interest. He was second in command and observer in the Jackson Harmsworth North Polar Expedition, and second in command and navigator in the British Antarctic Expedition, under Captain Scott; and perhaps the most fascinating part of his lecture was his account of finding Captain Nansen, who had for the time being lost his bearings. Captain Armitage is an old “Worcester” boy, and is a captain in the P. & O. line. His ship was torpedoed off Portland Bill a short time ago, and he came to Hickling for a rest and holiday while waiting for another ship; It was most kind of him to offer to tell us about his unique experiences at either Pole, and he was most helpful and genial in every way. We shall watch his future career with interest, and we wish him the best of good fortune.

Sunday, September 16th, was our Harvest Thanksgiving and Hospital Sunday. The Church was most tastefully decorated by Mrs. Crosse, Mrs. Herbert Smith and Mrs. Lambert, and has seldom looked more beautiful than it did at the evening service. The congregations were very large, and the singing was excellent - Mrs. Prickett and the trebles and altos never having been in better voice, while there was also a fine volume of bass and tenor. The harvest anthem, “Ye shall go out with joy,” was particularly well rendered. The sermon was preached by Archdeacon Westcott, who gave us an excellent discourse, and he expressed himself as being very much pleased with the singing, and with the size and reverence of the congregation. I am very grateful to the kind friends who motored the Archdeacon to and from Wroxham. We have £9 16s. in hand for the Hospitals, and I hope to make the sum up to ten guineas, so that we may send eight guineas to Norwich and two guineas to Yarmouth.

Captain A. J. G. Crosse, M.C., 9th Norfolks, has been awarded a bar to the Military Cross, for conspicuous gallantry in action and devotion to duty.

Many friends assembled in the Church on September 4th, to witness the marriage of Mr. M. G. Skinner and Miss D. H. M. Beales, who is the daughter of one of the old established and well known residents in Hickling. We wish the bride and bridegroom every blessing and happiness in their wedded life.

William Defew passed away after a lingering and painful illness, which he had borne most patiently for five years. I have never known a case in which greater patience and bravery were manifested. He found great comfort in religion, and waited without murmuring for the time when it should please God to relieve him of his pain and weariness. He was a fine example of what trust in God, coupled with a brave heart, can enable a man to endure. I trust he has found the peace and rest beyond the reach of all pain and sorrow.

BAPTISMS.

August 26th, Reginald Edward James, son of Edward James and Rose Mary Cator, of Hickling.
September 2nd, Irene Agnes, daughter of Ernest Monsey and Nellie May Newman, of Hickling.
September 9th, Rose Marion, daughter of Frank Leonard and Happy Bunn, of Hickling.

MARRIAGE.

September 4th, Martin Gordon Skinner, bachelor, of Tunbridge Wells, and Dorothy Hilda May Beales, spinster, of the Guest House, Hickling.

BURIALS.

Rachel Poppleton, aged 67 years.

William Defew, aged 67 years.

ARTHUR A. T. CROSSE, Vicar.

NOVEMBER 1917

On "Our Day," October 18th, a house-to-house collection was made throughout the parish, on behalf of the British Red Cross and the Order of St. John. The collectors were Mrs. Clarke, Mrs. A. H. Chapman, Mrs. Batey, Miss N. Neal, Miss W. Neal, Mrs. Chaplin, and Misses L. Vincent, H. Markin, H. Burton, and Lc.-corporal W. Beales. They all worked with a will, and were courteously welcomed by everybody. When they brought their money to Mrs. Crosse at the Vicarage in the evening, the sum collected amounted to £19 18/10. Since then, 10/- more has been received, and we hope to bring the total up to £21. Last year we collected seventeen guineas, so this year's collection shews a distinct advance, which is very satisfactory.

We were all very grieved to hear that W. R. Gibbs, of the 7th Norfolks, had been killed in action in France on September 16th. Willie Gibbs lived in Hickling most of his life, and only went to live in Sutton a few years ago. He was well known and liked, and respected by everybody; he had a great fund of humour, and was of a very genial and cheerful disposition, and his religious convictions were very strong. He had been wounded four times previously in action, and we were all very sorry when he was sent out to the firing line again. He was never very strong in health, but he bore all his troubles and hardships with a brave and soldierly spirit, and never grumbled or complained or got downhearted. He crowned a good life by a fine death, and rests in a soldier's grave in France; he did his duty, and served his God; may he rest in peace. Very much sympathy is felt for his young widow, and his aged foster-father, and his relations who live among us.

I hope to be able to continue Evening Service in the Church for some time to come. Last year the afternoon service was not a success. Later on, for the sake of economy in oil and fuel and other reasons, it may be thought advisable to have evening service in the Church Room - due notice will be given when it is decided to make any change.

W. A. F. Crosse has joined the Boys' Section of the Royal Flying Corps, and is in training at the Technical School of Instruction, in Halton Park, near Tring, Bucks.

ARTHUR A. T. CROSSE, Vicar.

1918

APRIL 1918

We were very pleased to see Robert Brooks home on leave from the Italian front. He is looking extremely well, and has grown to be a fine soldierly looking fellow. We offer him our very hearty congratulations on the receipt of the Military Medal. This is the seventh recognition Hickling men have received for conspicuous gallantry in action and devotion to duty.

It was pleasant to see that so many parishioners attended the Memorial Service on March 10th to pay a last tribute of respect to Private Charles Durrant, who died a prisoner of war in German hands, and Private George Chase, who was reported missing sixteen months ago, and was lately officially reported as killed in action. We sincerely mourn these two men, who were so well known to us all. This brings the number of men we have lost in the war to the total of twenty-two (a large number for a parish of this size). The choir rendered the solemn music of the burial office very sweetly and reverently, and the large congregation entered with full sympathy into the spirit of the service. Captain Knowles, of the South Lancashire Regiment, kindly sent over two buglers to sound the "Last Post."

Very much sympathy is felt with Mr. and Mrs. Nicholls, whose daughter Celia died after some months illness at the age of seventeen. They lost their eldest daughter only two years ago, and now there has come this second great sorrow. May God help them in their affliction.

I am glad to say that over £30 has been collected in Hickling for the Church Army Hut scheme. A subscription list has been opened, a house-to-house collection has been made, and there has been a collection in Church. Those who undertook the house-to-house collection were: Mrs Clarke, Mrs. Chapman, Mrs Baty, Mrs. A. Gibbs, Miss N. Neal,

Miss W. Neal, Miss Markin, Miss Burton, Miss Bishop and Lc.-corpl. W. W. Beales. The teachers and scholars of the Parish School subscribed well to the fund.

The terribly sudden death of Mrs. Albert Beales came as a great shock to us all She was a woman of very quiet and gentle character, and was left a widow only a short time since. Always delicate and ailing, she overtaxed her strength after her husband's death, and died of heart failure in Stalham. We sincerely mourn her, and offer our deep sympathy to her sons and daughter.

BURIALS

Jane Beales, aged 49 years.

Cecil Marjory Nicholls, aged 17 years.

ARTHUR A. T. CROSSE, Vicar.

JUNE 1918

At the Annual Vestry Meeting the Church accounts for the past year were presented and passed. I hope to give an outline of them in next month's magazine, and they will be published in fuller detail on the notice boards in the Church porch. The former Churchwardens, Mr. G. W. Neal and Mr. A. H. Chapman, continue in office. It was decided to increase the amount for which the church is insured.

The results of the Jumble Sale held in the Church Room were very satisfactory. In an hour-and-a-quarter the sum of £18 2s. 6d. was realised, and there are some small amounts still to be added. The proceeds of the sale are to be used for some special Church expenses.

We have unfortunately more sad events to record this month. The death of Corpl. Clarence O. Beales, of the Norfolk Regiment, was a great shock and grief to us all. He was killed in France with many of his comrades by a shell which hit the house where he was billeted. He survived his mother by about ten days. He had been married only two days before returning to the front, and we feel very deeply for his young widow, who is well known to us all. Clarence Beales was a fine boy, liked and respected by all who knew him; he was a member of our Church choir, and we shall miss him very much. A special service held in his memory was attended by a large number of relatives and friends.

Walter Gibbs, who was a fine type of British sailor, died of pneumonia in the Naval Hospital at Chatham. His mother and sister were able to be with him, and it is a great comfort to them to have been able to cheer him in his last hours. He, like his soldier comrade, was a fine boy, and a credit to this village and the service which he joined. We offer to his parents our deep sympathy in this great sorrow.

Death has also been busy among some of our old established and much respected parishioners. Two brothers of a very well known Hickling family, Reuben Chapman and Jethro Chapman, have passed away; and Mrs. John Turner died as the result of an accident; and now we hear of the death in hospital of George Harvey, who lived so long in this village. The removal of these old and valued friends causes much grief, and we desire to offer a genuine tribute of respect to their memory, and to express our sympathy with their bereaved families.

BURIALS.

April 25th, Walter John Gibbs, aged 18 years.

April 26th, Jethro Chapman, aged 67 years.

April 29th, Ann Dutchman Turner, aged 78 years.

ARTHUR A. T. CROSSE, Vicar.

JULY 1918

Church Expenses' Account, Easter, 1917 – Easter, 1918.

	£	s	d
Balance in hand		11	8
Receipts	30	0	6
Visitors' Concert	30	12	2
EXPENDITURE			
	£	s	d
Archdeacon		5	0
Moy, Coke	5	6	9
Burton, ditto		12	6
Clerk	2	6	0
Organist	5	0	0
Cleaning & Lighting Fires	5	10	0
Extra cleaning, two years		10	0
Insurance	1	16	6
Brown, Oil	1	10	3
Church Room, Cleaning and Fires	1	7	9
Washing surplices		6	11
Choir Boys	1	0	0
Music		12	6
Small bills and extras	1	12	8½
Balance in hand	2	15	3½
Total	30	12	2

The following sums were also collected: Sick and Poor, £5 15s. 9d.; War Memorial Fund, £7 14s.; British Red Cross, £3 8s. 10d.; Sunday School, £8 6s. 5d.; S.P.G., £7 7s. 5d.; Church Army Huts, £1 12s. 3d.; Diocesan Fund, £18 2s. 6d.

The following sums were also collected by house-to- house visitation: British Red Cross, Our Day, £21; Church Army Huts, £29 9s. 9d.; Colchester Asylum, £2 10s. Towards these last three amounts, Churchpeople and Nonconformists alike contributed with much generosity.

The Sale, which was held in the Church Room, was a great success, and we are very grateful to our many Church workers (male and female) who helped so much in pricing and selling the goods. The stalls were practically cleared in less than an hour-and-a-half, and a sum of £18 2 6d. was realized. This will be used towards the payment of our yearly quota of ten guineas to the Diocesan Finance Scheme.

We are very glad to hear that Mr. Aubrey Herbert Smith, who has been a prisoner of war in Germany since the beginning of the war, has been transferred to Holland to be interned there. We congratulate him and his parents on this happy change. He is in good health, and his pluck and grit have stood him in good stead during a long and weary time of imprisonment and hardship.

We have also two more items of good news to chronicle. The first is that Private Harry Markin, of the Gloucester Regiment, who was reported as missing, is now reported to be a prisoner of war in Germany - wounded, but doing quite well. We are very glad for his sake, and the sake of his mother and sisters, that he is alive and well. He is a fine boy, and we hope that he will come through all his troubles safe and sound.

The other good news is that the Croix de Gaene (*Guerre?*) has been awarded to Wilfred Chapman, yeoman of Signals, R.N. He has already gained the D.S.M., and been twice mentioned in despatches. We are very proud of his record: he comes of a real sea-faring family, and he heads our list of war honours gained in this war. We congratulate him most heartily, and wish him much further success in his profession.

I was glad to see such a good gathering of parents and children at our Children's Service on Sunday morning, June 16th. The wet evening interfered with our evening congregation, but quite a good number braved the rain. We hope to have another Children's Service one Sunday evening later.

A Women's Institute has been formed in this parish. Thirty-six women have joined as members. Meetings have already been held, and I hope I may have an official account of the proceedings from the secretary in due course to insert in the magazine.

ARTHUR A. T. CROSSE, Vicar.

DECEMBER 1918

Our Service of Thanksgiving, held on Sunday, November 17th, for the signing of the armistice and the promise of victory and peace, was attended by a congregation thoroughly representative of our village life, although a certain number were perforce kept away from Church by the prevailing sickness. The service was essentially one of thanksgiving to God for His mercies of deliverance, and of earnest prayer that we may make a wise use of victory, patient still under necessary restrictions, avoiding all extravagant expressions of triumph, and battling firmly against that spirit of unrest and revolution which is sweeping over so much of the world to-day; each man humbly and quietly doing his duty, waiting for the full declaration of peace, and for the glad day when we shall once more welcome home our sailors and soldiers from all parts of the world.

The esteem in which the late Lc.-corpl. George Seth Dack, Royal Fusiliers, was held, in this parish was shewn by the large congregation which assembled on Sunday, October 20th, to commend his soul to the keeping of God, and to pay a last sad tribute of respect to his memory.

A Memorial Service for the late 2nd Lieut. James J. Fox, Norfolk Regiment, was held in the Primitive Methodist Chapel on Sunday, October 13th, amid every sign of respect for the memory of a brave officer and much valued friend.

The news that Roland Charles Durrant, R.N.R., had died in Belfast Hospital of pneumonia, following influenza, came to us all as a great shock. He was a fine lad and a fine sailor, and had seen much service during the war. It seems doubly sad that having come safely through so much hard and heavy service at sea, he should lose his life just at the coming of peace. His mother, on receipt of the news of his critical condition, at once travelled to Ireland, but arrived too late to see him alive; she was able to attend his funeral. We were all fond of Charles Durrant, and held him in respect. We mourn him sincerely, and sympathise most deeply with his parents and many relatives and friends. We have paid a heavy toll in this war, having lost eight sailors and eighteen soldiers.

As fine a set of men as ever left a country village. They will always have a place in our hearts and memories, and generations to come will hear with pride of their steadfast courage and gallant deeds. We have special cause for thankfulness, in that their sacrifice has not been in vain.

By the death of Mr John Newman, of Hickling Priory, at the ripe age of 93, we have lost a parishioner of long standing - one of the old landmarks of the place. Mr Newman was in early life a sailor, and had been in many distant parts of the world. He remembered when Cape Town was only a few wooden shanties and huts; and his tales of the sea were always breezy and fascinating. A keen observer, with a retentive memory and a great deal of shrewd common sense, he was always interesting in conversation. To the last he took a great interest in the progress of the war by land and sea, the more so as he had personal knowledge of many of the theatres of action. A man of upright character, firm resolve, and kind heart, he will be mourned by a large circle of friends.

We were able to send £3 10s. this year to the Colchester Asylum. The collectors were Mrs. Baty, Miss Lewis, and the Misses Ethel Burton, Elsie Bishop, and Iris Markin, to whom our thanks are due for their kind help.

ARTHUR A. T. CROSSE, Vicar.

1919

JUNE 1919

We have provisionally accepted a simple and dignified design of a Mural Tablet to be erected in the Church as a memorial to the men of Hickling who have fallen on land and sea in the great war, and a small sub-committee has been appointed to consider details and carry the matter through. The suggested Tablet is of Sicilian marble, six feet high and four feet wide, allowing ample room for twenty-six names. The cost will be £175. Subscriptions amounting to over £100 have already been promised, and we are only waiting to make sure of the balance required before giving a definite order for the Tablet. I do not think there will be any difficulty in raising the money, or in gathering subscriptions, to enable us to place in the Church a very simple Tablet showing the name of every Hickling man who has served as a sailor or soldier in the war. We have specially endeavoured to consult the wishes of the relatives of the fallen men, and it is very encouraging to find that Church and Chapel are working in the friendliest way together to carry the scheme to completion.

The Annual Vestry Meeting was held in the west vestry of the Church on Thursday, May 15th. There were several important matters to be discussed, and it was decided to adjourn the meeting to May 29th, and to hold the adjourned meeting in the Church Room.

With the sanction of the Bishop of the Diocese some ladies are visiting the country parishes of Norfolk on a Pilgrimage of Prayer. They will come to Hickling on June 2nd for two days. I hope that we shall give them a hearty welcome, and show them how kindly and sympathetic the hospitality of a Norfolk village can be.

After thirty-six years of good and successful service, Mr. Prickett has resigned the Head-mastership of our Parish School. Opportunity will be given in due course of expressing our regret, our appreciation, and our hope for the happiness of our old friend and his wife in their retirement. The new Head-master is Mr. Fredk. A. Aireton, senior assistant teacher of the senior mixed department of the Hugh Myddleton School, Clerkenwell. I feel sure that we shall offer a hearty welcome to him and Mrs. Aireton, and I hope that they will spend many happy and useful years among us. To the school children I would point out that they can show their appreciation and affection for their old friend and Head-master in no better way than by helping his successor by all means in their power to carry on the good work and traditions of the School.

We have to add yet another name to our long Roll of Honour - pray God, it may be the last. Gunner Angus Henry Lamb, R.G.A., has died in Netley Hospital, and has been buried in Hickling Churchyard. We all have many pleasant recollections of Angus Lamb - he was a fine boy, of high character and sterling worth, and a good son to his mother. He was taken ill the day before he should have sailed on his return journey to the United States, and though his mother went off at once to Netley, she arrived too late to see him alive. We offer to her and to the other members of her family our very deep sympathy.

Our men are returning home very quickly now, and we are very glad to have them back again. Special interest is always felt in the return of those who have been to the more distant quarters of the world. Our greatest traveller has been Oliver Myhill, who has served both in the tropics and amid Siberian snows. His cheery disposition, and "make the best of everything" spirit, has carried him through many hardships; and although his wanderings have left their mark upon him, we hope he will soon be restored to full health and vigour. Among others who have been far afield, and have returned safely, we have welcomed back Richard Futter, Frank Platten, Robert Mason, and Harry Wright - the last named, who went away a boy and has come back a man, has seen much service in the R.N.R. - and it has been a great pleasure to see our old friends from America (Charlie Beales, Jack Platten, and Edward Sloper, a type of man of which our village is justly proud).

BAPTISMS.

April 13th, Cubitt Henry, son of Cubitt William and Henriette Leonie Nudd, of Hickling.

May 11th, Samuel Arthur, son of Alfred Edward and Jane Anna Tillet, of Hickling.

MARRIAGES.

March 22nd, Walter Clarke (bachelor), of Chedgrave, and Esther Chapman (spinster), of Hickling.

April 8th, Ambrose Chapman (bachelor), and Alice Dove (spinster), both of Hickling.

May 3rd, Cecil Atherton (bachelor), of Heaton Mersey, Lancs, and Mildred Amis (spinster), of Hickling.

BURIALS.

Angus Henry Lamb, Gunner, R.G.A, aged 24 years.

Susanna Hadrill, aged 68 years.

ARTHUR A. T. CROSSE, Vicar.