

July 1955



THE old Vicarage has now been sold and in future will not be occupied by Vicars of the Parish. As we said last month this marks the end of an epoch. Part of the house is centuries old but it is recorded in one of the Registers that on June 27th, 1772, the house was 'reduced to ashes' and with it many of the ancient Registers were destroyed. With the restoration of the house many rooms were added and successive Vicars became more and more burdened by the expensive upkeep, but now at last the 'Retreat' gives up its old name and is now known as the Vicarage. The 'Retreat' has been very greatly altered and improved and also reduced in size and we feel sure it should be a happy and comfortable home for Vicars of the future.

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THE known date of the appointment of the first Vicar of the Parish is 1404 but of course there were others before that date. Presumably the Dissolution of the Monasteries by Henry VIII had an indirect influence on the patronage but like so many other livings the Patronage was given to the older universities of Oxford and Cambridge and Balliol College, Oxford, has had the appointment to Bere Regis since the year 1679.

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AN event of importance is worth recording this month. Some of us had the opportunity of being present at Salisbury on the occasion of the visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury when he preached to a crowded cathedral congregation of about 3,000. Representatives of civic authorities included the Mayors of most towns in Dorset and Wilts, the three Services by high ranking officers, and the Lord Lieutenant of Wilts. The service was most impressive with processions entering the Cathedral from various directions and the singing led by the choir in the West Gallery and of course the great organ.

The Archbishop in his address dealt with many points of topical importance but space does not permit us to give even a summary. Perhaps the main note was one of great optimism combined with increasing responsibility in the future of the Anglican Church. In the morning the Archbishop spoke to the clergy in the Chapter House where about 400 attended. Here His Grace dealt very largely with the subject of Christian reunion which is also the subject dealt with at some length in Convocation. But both the Archbishop and Convocation reaffirmed the greatest importance of asserting the teaching with regard to the Orders of the Ministry and on that

point there could be no compromise. The Archbishop has recently returned from a prolonged visit to various parts of Africa and he has a very wide knowledge of the greater problems of the day both overseas and at home. It was therefore particularly encouraging to note his optimistic outlook of the increasing vigour of the Anglican Church in both of these directions.

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THE Sale held last month at Winterbourne Kingston in aid of S. Nicholas Church Restoration Fund surprised everyone. Intended to be something on quite a small scale it soon became obvious that local enthusiasm meant it to be something more. Laden stalls appeared unexpectedly stocked with gifts of all kinds and helpers and buyers appeared from all directions and in a very short time the treasurer, Brigadier Lipscomb, was able to announce that the £50 mark had been passed and together with the bowling for the pig and poultry the fund benefits to something just over £60. We are most grateful for this excellent support.

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Register

(held over until next month)