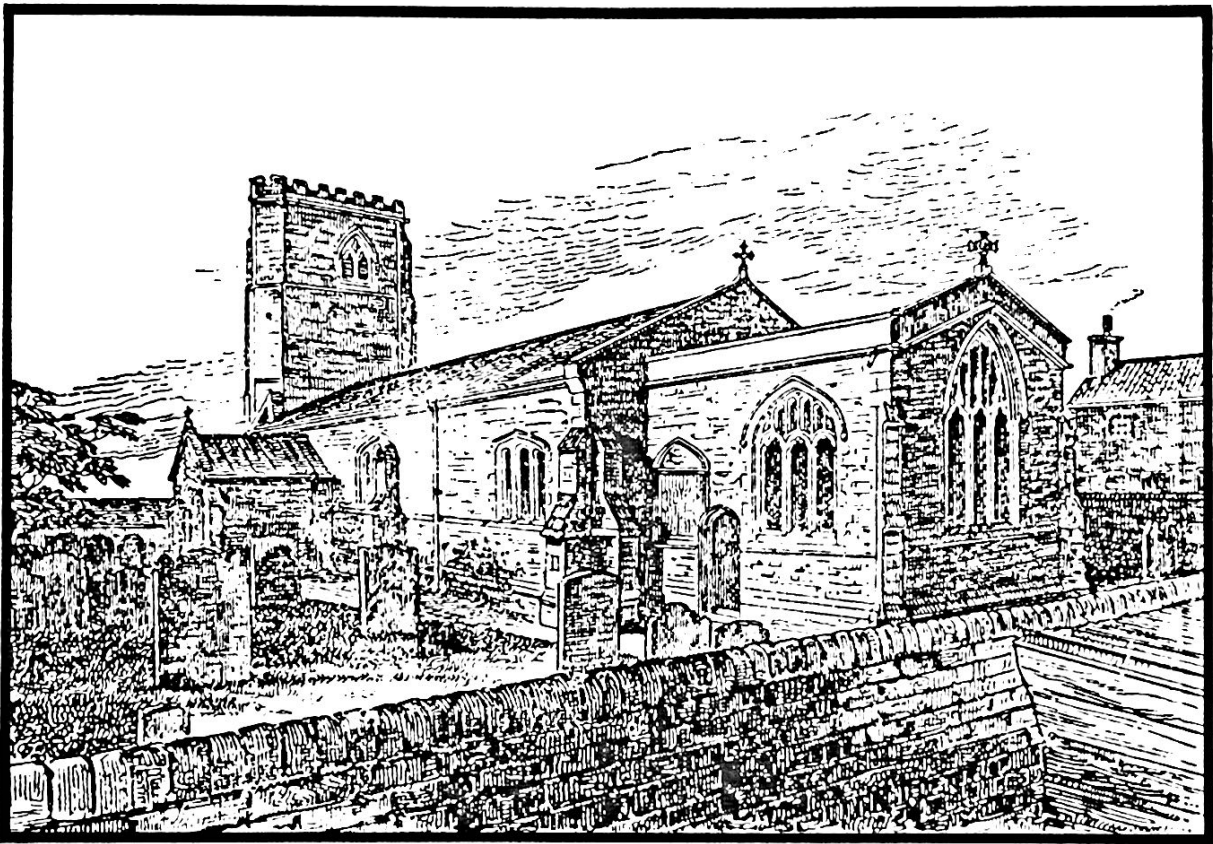


A Rural Ministry

The Cowbit Log Book 1907 - 1947



Edited and Introduced by the Rev'd. Stuart J. Hadley

Situated between Spalding and Crowland in the south of Lincolnshire is the small fenland village of Cowbit with its church dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The record of the church's consecration is in a deed dated 1384 which gives the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary (February 2nd) as its Feast of Title.

It would appear that the Bishop of Lincoln had instructed his parish clergy to keep some sort of parochial log book and this was begun by the Reverend Hubert Larken upon his coming as vicar to Cowbit in January 1907. The Log has been continued during the various incumbencies since then though the years 1913-1921 and 1947-1959 pass without record.

The fascination of the Log Book today is the record it provides of church and village life during the first half of this century. It is not therefore of any great antiquity. Nonetheless it lays before us a way of life which belongs very much to the past. It records the ordinary, insignificant, unspectacular events of everyday life but therein lies its charm.

The vicarage in those years overlooked Cowbit Wash which lay between the channel of the River Welland and the village. Many of the entries relate to the rising and falling of the water level in the Wash. It could rise to within a few feet of the bank on which the church and vicarage stood and there was a constant threat of flooding. More happily the same area could ice over and allow for winter skating. Since the draining of the wash following the 1947 floods the fields are richly cultivated and the spring flowers for which Spalding is famous may be seen growing there today.

The Log records the visits of Bishops, Archdeacons, Rural Deans and neighbouring incumbents on a variety of occasions. In 1940 the Archdeacon of Lincoln's car froze between Crowland and Cowbit and the Vicar had an unexpected guest for lunch that day.

Obviously the church services receive full mention: numbers attending; fall off in number of communicants during the war years; innovations - the use of incense and the Christmas Midnight Mass (but who took the incense on February 7th 1935?); Lantern Services; school masses and of course the annual Harvest Thanksgiving.

To those who complain that life was better before the war than it is today there are some reminders which suggest human nature is still the same: lads "bent on mischief" at the Vicarage garden party and incivility towards collectors for the Church Army - both incidents in 1938. Some notes have a topical air about them: train late and insufficient seating on the Sunday School outing in 1937; train fares too expensive (1946); unemployment and electricity cuts (1947).

Although a great deal of national and international events are not referred to there are some interesting exceptions: the Abdication crisis (1936); the Archbishop of Canterbury's radio broadcasts (1936); Good News from Munich (1938); Germany attacks Poland and France and this country declares war on Germany (1939); peace in Europe (May 1945) and peace in the Far East (August 1945) - but no reference to the D. Day Landings of 1944 which we recalled forty years later.

The entries will hearten many fellow parish priests who come home disappointed at the small response to some special service or occasion. Again it is all here: the poorly supported Lent; the small number of communicants at a festival; the meeting adjourned because of lack of people attending; the poor response to the special appeal and so forth. These vicars experienced all this and have written it down as if to reassure us that thus it ever was.

The annual garden party, the Sunday School winter treat and summer outing, events in the day school, observations of the weather, progress of work in the fields, repairs to the Vicarage and glebe farm: all of this comes together to provide us with a glimpse into a social setting of a way of life that is for some a receding memory, for others a subject already in the history books. For both, the publication of this Log Book fulfills the intentions of Hubert Larken who in 1907 inaugurated this work as the basis of a chronicle of parochial life from that date onwards.

Stuart Hadley 13.2.85

The inauguration of this book as a Parochial Log Book may serve as the basis of a chronicle of Parochial life from this date onwards.

Jan 17, 1907: The Rev. Hubert Larken arrived from Spalding at 4 pm today, flags were hung over the road from the Church to the Vicarage and the Bells were rung. Later in the evening the bells were again jangled and the best welcome that two bells could give was afforded.

Jan 20: The Rev. H. Larken read himself in at 10.30 and preached at 6.30. The Church was crowded at night and the services were all most hearty. Weather bitterly cold.

Jan 21: Daily Prayers commenced at 10 am and 6 pm.

Jan 27: The first early Celebration of the Holy Communion for many years. There were 16 communicants.

Jan 28: The Brass Cross was today placed above the altar.

Jan 29: Mr. Larken commenced to visit the parish.

Feb. 7: The Diocesan Surveyor commenced his survey.

Feb. 19: Mr. Larken in company with Mr. Lucas Atkinson and Canon Bullock sat today as a Commission to look into the endowments of Croyland Abbey. The Commission sat at Canon Bullock's house in Spalding.

Feb. 21: Lent Evensong and sermon at 7 pm. Well attended.

March 7: Joyce and Co. of Whitchurch inspected the clock.

March 8: Posted up notices of new Trustees for Cowbitt endowed School, there to remain for 21 days.

March 9: Administered the Blessed Sacrament to Mr. W. Elwes.

March 16: Hurricane of winds.

March 26: Advertised the Hook 3 acres as to let.

March 29: Good Friday, Litany at 8, Mattins at 10.30, Lantern service at 7 pm. All attended very well.

March 31: Easter Day. Holy Communion at 8 and 12. Services went well. Communicants doubled. Church had new frontal and linen - the gifts of the Vicar and Mrs. Brady of Bellesmere.

April 1. Vestry meeting in the school at 7 pm. About 50 present. Meeting very hearty. Mr. H. Atkin and Mr. Thos Ridlington were appointed wardens. Messrs. Cox, Newbon, E. Lynn, Parker and J. Tyrrell made Sidesmen. Church declared free and no money to be taken for seats.

April 4: A meeting of the Dole Trustees was held at 8 pm and the Hook was let to Joseph Cooling for £10 per annum.

April 13: The Wash arose again and continued over Sunday.

April 16: A meeting of the Committee to start the acquisition of a new Town Clock was held at 7.30. Order given for the new instrument: meeting of School Managers also this day.

April 17: The Rev. A. H. Morris was inducted by the Ven. W. F. John Kaye, Archdeacon of Lincoln, as Vicar of Croyland Abbey.

April 20: The Wash arose 1 inch in the night due partly to a stiff wind. Fire lighted in church. Clothing Club at 2.45 pm to 3 pm.

April 21: Raining all day and the Wash steadily rising. The congregations have been good at Public Worship considering the damp weather.

April 22: Bright and sunny. Men arrived to put a new Kitchen Range in the Endowed Schoolhouse. A meeting of the Clock Committee was held today in the Schoolhouse at 7.30 pm.

April 25: St. Mark's Day, Holy Communion 7.30 am.

April 30: A meeting of the Clock Committee was held at 8 pm.

May 2: Communicants meeting 7 pm in the Church.

May 9: Ascension Day, Holy Communion at 7.30, Evensong and sermon at 7 pm when a good number of people assembled. At night a horse belonging to Mr. Blood of Croyland fell, drawing a load of furniture, at the Vicarage corner. No serious damage was done, the accident taking place within 2 feet of the Bank.

May 10: The Wash made a marked decrease today.

May 12: The Platform on which the Choir sat, placed in the N.W. corner of the Church was moved into the centre of the Tower arch to prepare for the coming of a new organ.

May 14: A very heavy rain fell all day, spoiling the Statutes at Spalding.

May 16: A concert and May Day Dance was held in the School in aid of the new clock. The sum of four pounds five shillings and eight pence was realised. The evening was fine. Today all tunnels were shut down, after the heavy rain of the 14th to prevent a flush in the Wash.

May 18: Miss K. H. Brady and Miss Clara Tipler decorated the Church for Whitsunday; Wash rising fast, Peakhill slipe quite flooded.

May 19: Whitsunday. New altar book given to the Church by Francis Dove.

May 23: A terrific storm burst over the village at a few minutes to seven in the evening, while the Office of Evensong was being said.

May 24: Heavy rain in the night, Wash again rising.

May 29: Slipes flooded, water still rising.

June 1: Weather from May 27 to date has been cold and rainy, causing the outlook to be serious. A set of new green markers for the Church has been given today by Miss K. Brady.

June 2: First Sunday of the month, Holy Communion was celebrated at 8 and noon.

June 16: Trinity III. A new organ was placed in the Church at the West End. Built by T. S. Jones and Son of Upper Holloway, London. The instrument is an old one rebuilt (it) was dedicated this day at 10.30 in the presence of a large congregation by the Vicar, The Rev. Hubert Larken, whose gift the Organ was.

June 19: Today I have sold two old paraffin stoves, and 3 batteries the property of the Parish for 7/6. (Signed) H. Larken, vicar.

June 28: H. M. Inspector visited the school - in the afternoon there was a half holiday.

June 29: St. Peter's Day, there was a celebration of the Holy Communion at 7.30 am.

June 30: The Sunday of the Sunday School Festival. In addition to the ordinary services, a Children's service was held at 3 pm. For this the children assembled on the Vicarage Lawn at 2.45 with a large number of parents. A new banner presented by the Rev. H. Larken was used for the first time. This went at the head of the procession. The church was tightly packed with people and again at night. Fine weather prevailed and so enhanced the happiness of the Festival.

July 2: A severe thunderstorm broke over the village in the afternoon, which did damage in the neighbourhood.

July 4: School Treat. Severe showers spoilt the day between 4 and 5 but after that the rains ceased. The result of the day was very successful, over £8/10/- was taken in various ways, thus expenses were all met. The presence of a motor car was evidently a great attraction. First treat in the summer for many a year. The village around the church was trimmed with flags and bunting and presented a happy appearance.

July 8: A meeting of the Clock Committee was held at 7.30 pm and a Public Celebration of the proposed inauguration of the new clock was fixed for July 25 1907. It was further decided that the Vicar of Cowbitt should start the clock.

July 11: The Forresters Club paraded to Church at 12.15.

July 12: Clock arrived at the Station and was removed by the kindness of Mr. John Boon to the church.

July 18: Work of demolition of old clock commenced.

July 19: Dial in place.

July 20: Hands fixed. The dial being smaller in circumference than the old copper one, the space cut out on the Tower has been cemented up.

July 21: The first meeting of the new Trustees was held this day at 2.45. With the exception of C. H. C. Brady, Esq. all the Trustees were present. The Vicar of Cowbitt was elected as Chairman.

July 22: Clock commenced to run, on trial. Fodder sales at Blue Boar. Heavy storm in the night.

July 23: Clock commenced to strike, and continued going to July 25 at 5 am.

July 25: The Dedication Day of Clock. The tea for children on the registers at 3.30, public tea at 5 p.m. Over 130 sat down. Ceremony of the Dedication at 5.45 pm: this took place outside the tower, the service being one drawn up by the Vicar and printed for distribution. Choir stood under the Tower, children on the slopes and public outside. Early in the day rain had fallen but towards 4 pm it began to brighten and no more fell, thus the Dedication took place in sunshine. At 10 pm all assembled around the Tower and sang the National Anthem.

August 5: Church closed today for summer cleaning, opened again on 9th.

August 16: School closed for Summer holidays at 4 pm.

August 21: Fodder leading (?) finished for the year. In spite of floods in June the crop has not been half amiss, and has been got in dry.

August 25: The Company of Church Lads Brigade from Spalding attended Mattins here at 10.30 today, presenting a very smart appearance. Church was quite full.

Sept 2nd to 7th: Vicar away from home, owing to his father's illness.

Sept 8: Very hot day. Two Churchings and one Baptism.

October 10: Harvest Festival at 7.30. The church was decorated. The preacher was the Rev. S. Wild, vicar of Dunholme. The Church was almost full.

October 11: Choir seats moved to the Chancel arch as an experiment. The result of this has been very satisfactory, and the gain to the tidiness of the Church is evident. The West Arch can now be seen free of litter.

October 13: This evening we had a huge congregation for service.

October 15: A meeting of the Estates Committee was held at the Clerk's house at 2.30 to let off some school land.

October 20: Hung up the new lamps in church with the aid of Mr. Hogg our blacksmith.

October 25: New desks came for the choir seats. These give a better finish to the seating of the choir. The Wash has been slowly moving up all the week and nearly all is flooded but Mr. Atkin's slipes. Fires have begun in the school. Miss Housley, Needham and Clark have joined the choir.

Nov 10: Two new oak kneelers for the West End to enable the space to be utilised for extra seats. These as well as those for the choir are the work of Mr. Wooley of Spalding. The church was quite full tonight at 6.30 pm. A meeting of the School Trustees was held today at the Vicarage at 2.45 pm.

Nov 23: A new screen spanning the West Arch was finished today. The work has been executed by Wooley and Son of Spalding, and is of plain undressed oak. It has been erected by the Rev. H. Larken in memory of his grandfather, Edmund Roberts Larken Vicar of Cowbitt 1835 - 1838.

Nov 30: Wash completely flooded even Canon Hill. St. Andrew's Day - Celebration of Holy Communion 7.30. New stove fixed in the school by the Trustees' order. New hangings and violet frontal for the church. Completion of the painting of the Vicarage house under Dilapidation Act.

Dec 9: A meeting of the Dole Trustees was held this day to make arrangements for distribution on St. Thomas' Day. All the Trustees were present.

Dec. 15: New violet burse and veil with markers were presented for use at the Altar. There was one Baptism today.

Dec 16: Wash rising, today it is within 1 foot of the arm of the Willow tree opposite the Vicarage.

Dec 20: School broke up for Christmas holidays. At the close of the afternoon prizes were given away by the County Council through the Vicar for regular attendance. The children sang some carols.

Dec 25: Christmas Day was fine and bright. The Holy Communion was celebrated

at 8 and 12. In the evening at 6.30 Carols took the place of the Sermon.

Dec 31: The Big Bell was rung at midnight and the two bells rung for the New Year. Ringers were A. Flowers and Rev. H. Larken.

Jan 1 1908: The Circumcision. Holy Communion at 7.30. Children's Tea and entertainment at 4.30. About 84 had tea. Prizes were given at 7.30 pm.

Jan 4: Skating over the Wash pretty general. Parish Clothing Club reopened for 1908 today.

Jan 5: Sunday. Skating freely on the slipes all day.

Jan 6: Epiphany. Celebration of the Holy Communion at 7.30 am. During Sunday night there was a heavy storm of rain which did for the ice completely.

Jan 9: Heavy snowstorm all day.

Jan 13: Day of real good skating. Thousands of people in the Wash to witness the races which were run from the New River towards Cowbitt House. Parish Council met at 7 pm.

Jan 14: Slight thaw, but several enjoyed a few hours' skate. Two mishaps occurred, Mr. Walter Tyrrell of Cowbitt and the Rev. H. V. Heber Percy of Leasingham fell into the water.

Jan 20: A further meeting of the Parish Council was held at 7 pm to consider the Small Holdings Act 1908.

Jan 29: A Tea in the School was held today followed by a concert and a dance. All passed off very well and happily and the evening was fine.

Febr 2: Candlemas Day. The church kept its Patronal Festival today by commencing with an early Eucharist at 8. The services went off very well, at night the preacher was the Venerable John Bond, Archdeacon of Stow. The church was quite full. Alms devoted to a lantern for the porch.

Febr 2: Lincoln Diocesan Sunday Fund, collection of £1.

Febr 22: One of the worst gales known for many years broke over the village about 3.30 pm doing dreadful damage everywhere. One tree in the Wash was torn up by the roots. A crocket on Spalding Parish Church spire was dislodged.

Febr 27: Annual meeting of the Cowbitt Endowed School Trustees at the Vicarage.

March 4: Ash Wednesday. A good service at 7 pm. Apparently a custom here to appear in black on this day.

March 11: Confirmation at 2.30 pm. The first visit of a Bishop of Lincoln since Bishop Wordsworth came at the Restoration. The day was warm and fine and the Bishop apparently enjoyed his visit. 39 candidates were presented from Cowbitt, Weston and Moulton St James. 9 females, 7 males from Cowbitt. A tea for the candidates was held after the service in the school. The congregation were most reverent and listened intently to the Bishop's words.

March 28: The Wash is rising today at a great rate.

April 16: Maundy Thursday. A preparation service for Easter Communion was held this evening at 7.30 and was well attended. Schools broke up for Easter.

April 17: Good Friday. Lovely bright day. Litany at 8 am and the rest of the Services as on a Sunday. They were well attended on the whole.

April 19: Easter Day. Two celebrations of the Holy Communion, 46 communicants at 8 and 16 at noon. This was more than I had hoped for. The confirmation candidates made their first communion. New hangings for the sanctuary were used, the gift of the Vicar. At Evensong the church was well packed. Several snow storms marred the brightness of the day, making everything very chilly.

April 20: The Vestry Meeting was held at 7.30 and adjourned to the school. The accounts showed a balance in hand of £7 odd. There was one male adult baptised today.

April 23: Snowed hard all day.

April 26: The church stove proved refractory and suffocated everyone at Mattins, so that prayers had to end at the Grace.

April 29: Wash rises again.

May 13: Fearful thunderstorm about 4 pm

May 14: The visitation of Archdeacon Kaye at Spalding, 12 o'clock.

May 28: New stationmaster, Mr. Maples arrived. Wash disappearing and tunnels opened at Bell Row.

May 29: Diocesan Inspection of the school.

June 3: Between May 25 and June 3 the weather has been very hot. On May 31 it was 72 in the shade. Today the foundation stone at Croyland was laid of a Young Men's Institute by Lady Brownlow: the Vicar of Cowbitt was present.

June 21: First Sunday after the cleaning. During the preceding week a new dais for the font has been provided, a font cover and the altar has been lengthened. Further a pair of detachable wire doors have been placed on the west door: all was done at the cost of the vicar.

June 28: A special service was held at 3 pm being the Sunday of the School Festival: the address was given by the Rev. H. M. Harvie.

July 2: Sunday School Festival held today in glorious weather in Mr Ridlington's paddock.

July 3: A thunderstorm broke over the village at 4.30 pm.

July 20: Fodder cutting commenced in lovely weather.

August 3: Schools closed for the holidays. Numbers of children are suffering from a nasty cough.

August 13: Trustees of the school met today.

August 23: Mr. Cummins the choirmaster being away today his place at the organ was filled by Mr. Haydn Chester of Spalding: his playing was most enjoyable. There was also a parade of the Spalding Company of C.L.B. at 10.30.

Sept 7: The Parish Council met at 7.30 to consider what steps (if any) should be taken to stop gateways being erected across the Bell Dyke Road. The Council were of opinion that the holder of the 30 acre was guilty of an encroachment.

Sept 14: The Day School reopened after the holidays.

Sept 17: The Vicar of Cowbitt preached at Whaplode Drove.

Sept 24: Cowbitt Flower Show held in the Black Lion yard. The quality of stuff was

better than 1907, though quantity less.

October 1: Harvest Festival today at 7.15, with a celebration of the Holy Communion at 7.30 am. The preacher at Evensong was the Rev. P. L. Hooson, Vicar of Pinchbeck West.

October 22: The Parish Council met at the School tonight to discuss the subject of a gate erected across the Bell Dyke Road. From this date until November 22, very little rain has fallen, the dikes are almost dry and the stock is still in the Wash, very little soft water is available and the main tanks of the Vicarage are empty.

Nov 22: In the night of November 22 a good shower came.

Nov 28: Miss J. L. Dove, eldest daughter of the Rev'd J. T. Dove presented a Queen Anne chalice to the church weighing 25 oz with Britannia Mark. The chalice was discovered at a shop in Clerkenwell and bought by a Jewish friend of the Rev'd. H. Larken. The church now possesses two silver chalices, the small one being used for ordinary purposes and the larger one as required for festivals.

Nov 30: According to a statement prepared by the Headmaster of the Cowbitt Endowed School the population of the parish is 487 inclusive.

Nov 29: Advent Sunday was ushered in by two Celebrations of the Holy Communion. The alms were devoted to Foreign Missions, amounting to £2.14.3, £1 of which was a single offering.

Dec 13: A new organ to replace the old one at the West End was today used for the first time. The instrument is the gift of the Rev. Hubert Larken, Vicar. Builders - Thomas S. Jones and Son of Upper Holloway.

Cost of Organ	£144.0.0
Sale of old organ	£81.0.0
	£63.0.0

Organ recitals were given at Evensong. The organ has been placed further towards the East End and the site of the old instrument filled in with chairs.

Dec 24: Christmas Eve. Air bright and clear today. The school broke up at 4 pm with presentation of attendance prizes. The two Proficiency prizes were awarded to Fred Blow, son of the signalman at Cowbitt Station and Mabel Pindar. The church was prepared for the Feast of the Nativity. A new white superfrontal was used for the first time.

Dec 25: Christmas Day was observed at the Parish Church, (the other religious body in the town having no observance of the Saviour's birthday) by two Celebrations of the Holy Communion. The alms amounting to 15/1½ were given to Waifs and Strays. A new silver chalice, of the reign of Queen Anne, having the Britannia Mark and weighing 25 ounces was used for the first time. Originally found in a second hand shop in Clerkenwell it was bought by Frances J. Dove, oldest daughter of John Thomas Dove, incumbent of Cowbitt, and presented to the Vicar and Churchwardens. The object of the presentation of this chalice was to take the place of the old one, which was sold during the incumbency of Mr. Dove. Evensong and Carols were sung at 6.30 pm.

Dec 26: So dry in the Wash, that stock are out on it today, and football was played on Mr. Atkin's slipe before the church.

Dec 29: A tea was given today to the children attending the Church Sunday School, followed by the annual prizegiving. About 90 children sat down for tea.

Dec 31: The Parish Christmas Tea was held today at 5 pm amid a heavy thaw after Tuesday's snow. There was a good company present. The tea was followed by a Concert given by the Birt Morris Entertainers of Bourne. The tenor bell tolled out the old year and the two bells jangled in the new year of 1909. The ringers were the Rev. H. Larken and Alfred Flowers, sexton.

Jan 1 1909: A celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 7.30 am ushered in the New Year.

Jan 3: Very mild. Temperature 46° and no wind at all. There was some instrumental music before Evensong.

Febr 2: Candlemas Day, the 525 Anniversary of the Consecration of the Parish Church. The Holy Communion was celebrated at 7.30 am. Evensong and sermon by the Rector of Croyland at 7.15 pm. The Church was nearly full for Evensong. For a month there has only been one shower of rain.

Febr 4: A service of Preparation for Holy Communion was held this evening. 50 present.

Febr 6: The Vicar commenced a series of lectures in the Parish Church at Spalding upon the Catechism and Ordinal.

Febr 7: Sunday in the Dedication Octave. Holy Communion at 8 and 12. 52 communicants in all. At Evensong the church was full to overflowing: Canon Bullock preached.

Febr 8: Water in the parish is now so scarce that a temporary pump has been put down at the New River.

Febr 23: Shrove Tuesday. The school was closed.

Febr 24: Ash Wednesday. Holy Communion at 7.30. Communion Service at 7 pm.

Febr 25: Fall of snow

Febr 27: David Goodyear, aet. 80, was buried today: Forresters' Club attended.

March 3: Snow now very deep. The Vicar had to walk to Moulton St. James to preach.

March 7: Roads almost impassable for slush.

March 12: Two oak kneelers for the Sanctuary placed in the church, designed by W. Bond Esq. of Grantham, executed by J. Thompson of Peterborough and the gift of the Rev. H. Larken. The Wash has at last appeared in the lowest districts.

March 30: A meeting of the Flower Show committee was held this evening in the Black Lion and a resolution was carried in favour of holding a 1909 show.

April 4: Mr Thos Ridlington, Churchwarden, fell suddenly in a faint on the Bank while walking with the Vicar; he was conveyed home in a serious condition.

April 6: Mr Ridlington died in the early hours of the morning.

April 9: Good Friday. The service in church at 7.15 pm was well attended.

April 10: Mr. Ridlington was buried at 3 pm amid many tokens of respect.

April 11: Easter Day. There were two celebrations of the Holy Communion at 8 and midday with a total of 68 communicants. The services were heartily and well attended.

April 12: The Easter Vestry was held at 7.30. The wardens elected were Mr. Atkin and Mr. Lynn. The accounts showed a balance of 10/7 in hand.

April 18: Mr Haydn Chester of Spalding played the organ.

May 15: Administered the Sacrament for the Sick to Mrs. Sarah Tipler of Common Entry at noon.

June 30: Clara Tipler resigned her post in the Cowbitt school as supplementary teacher. Miss Daisy Bellairs of Holbeach arrived as a temporary help.

July 1: Rev. H. Larken communicated his decision to leave the parish for work in Grimsby.

July 4: Sunday School Festival. The children processed with their banner to church at 3 pm and were addressed by Canon Bullock. They afterwards returned to the Vicarage garden. At 3 pm and 6.30 the church was more than crowded.

July 6: A meeting of the school Trustees was called for 2.15 - as a quorum could not be obtained, no business was transacted. Mr. Lynn and the Vicar with the clerk were alone present.

July 7: The first bit of Wash fodder was cut today at Lock's Mill. For the Sunday School treat the weather was fine at intervals: however a good number of folk came.

July 8: Forresters Club paraded at church 12.15.

July 13-14. The Wash fodder sales began and good prices were got, £2/10/- per acre as it stood. On the 16th July £4 per acre was realised.

July 19: An epidemic of measles was reported to the Medical Officer of Health, with the consequence that our school was closed for three weeks from today. Notice of the appointment of the Reverend Canon H. J. Palmer Rector of Keighley was in the Spalding paper today, as successor to the Rev. Hubert Larken.

Sunday Aug 1: Today two windows on the N and S side of the nave were dedicated by the Rev. H. Larken as Vicar of Cowbitt, in memory of his predecessor Rev. John Thomas Dove and Jane Ding Dove. The ceremony took place at 10.30 previous to Mattins and in presence of a large number of parishioners. The windows are the work of Miss Caroline C. Townshend, a former pupil of Miss Dove.

(An attached newspaper cutting adds the comment: "It is very exceptional for a lady to stain windows of this description, and it is certain that nothing of the kind has previously been placed within the walls of a church in this country that has actually been painted by a woman.")

At 3 pm the Forresters held a special parade at the parish church. Owing to a heavy shower Regalia could not be worn. A good number were present in church. From the proceeds of the day 3 dispensary tickets were handed over to the vicar. The church was quite full at night in spite of continuous rain.

Tuesday Aug 3: A bright day enabling hay making to be resumed. The fodder appears very wet and will need frequent turning.

Aug 10: The Vicar, the Rev. H. Larken, left the parish today for Grimsby. The presentation (of a silver inkstand and a pair of silver candlesticks) to the Rev. H. Larken took place on Saturday Aug 7th.

Aug 15: The services in the church were at 11 am (instead of 10.30) and at 6.30 pm. The vicar of Moulton St. James, Rev. H. Curtis, officiated at Mattins and Rev. ? Wemby of Spalding Parish Church at Evensong.

Sep 26th: There was a parade of the Spalding Company of C.L.B., at 10.30.

Sept. 23: The Annual Root Show was held today. During the afternoon a terrific thunderstorm passed over the village.

Oct 3: Canon Palmer began his ministry to the parish. (Canon H. J. Palmer has been over 10 years Rector of the large and important living of Keighly in Yorkshire and was Honorary Canon of Ripon Cathedral).

Febr 6 1910: Two sermons preached by Dr. ? Davis, whose curate Mr. Dove had been 45 years ago at Christ Church Marylebone.

March 27: Easter Day. 61 communicants.

May 20: Memorial Service held this day in behalf of his late Majesty King Edward VII.

July 3: Sunday School Festival. Sermon preached by Professor Kennett, Canon of Ely and Regius Professor of Hebrew, Cambridge.

Sept 23: Address to Communicants by Ven. Archdeacon Kilner, Archdeacon of Craven.

June 22 1911: Coronation of His Majesty King George V. 12 (noon) Crowded United Service in Parish Church, with address by the Vicar, followed by firing of duck guns. 3 pm Children's Tea. 4.30 meat teas followed by children's sports. 6.30 pm Supper for men, presided over by Vicar, in tent. Bonfire lit by Vicar's daughter, June Palmer, at 10 pm. Village prettily decorated and houses illuminated. All the events passed off happily and without hitch. Brotherliness and good feeling prevailed throughout. The catering was carried out by a committee under the direction of Mrs. Palmer.

July 2: Sunday School Festival. Address to the children in the Vicarage garden by Mr. W. Bonham-Carter.

Febr 2 1912: From this date for about a fortnight, hard frost with skating on the Wash.

March 20: Confirmation Service in Cowbit Church. First visit by Dr E. L. Hicks, Bishop of Lincoln to the parish. Total confirmed 12 males and 17 females.

April 7: Easter Day. 62 communicants.

July 25: From about this day the Wash was flooded all the rest of the summer and the whole of the fodder was lost. At the beginning of September the water was at its highest and reached, within a few inches, the top of the bank - after a rainfall of about 36 hours, measuring about 4 inches.

Oct 31: Meeting for men in the school addressed by Dean of Lincoln on the "Housing Question" (??), followed by tea and a service in church.

1922: Visited Cowbit. February 21st 1922. Visited the school and some of the parishioners. Confirmation at 2.30 pm. 19 candidates, 14 of whom were from Cowbit. (Signed) W. S. Lincoln.

Visited Cowbit May 21st 1922 and preached at Evensong. (Signed) G. W. Jeudwine, Archdeacon.

Febr 1923. Ten dozen new kneelers from Messrs Jones and Willis Ltd. Birmingham £7.8.10. The hooks put in by James Braybrook jnr.

March: The church roof repaired by Mr Boon and Mr Lynn. The church spouting painted, gates painted, doors varnished by Mr. Lynn.

March 21: Official Visit. *(Signed)* G. W. Jeudwine, Archdeacon, Basil G. Nicholas, Rural Dean.

April 8: Visited Cowbit from Croyland. Catechised the children in church at 3 pm in the presence of a full congregation of their elders. *(Signed)* W. S. Lincoln.

Oct 4 1924: Visit of the Archdeacon of Lincoln who preached at Evensong Sunday 5th and Celebrated at 8 am. Archdeacon Jeudwine visited Miss Sarah De'Camps and afterwards wrote about the chalice: "*From 1696 to 1720 Brittainia and a lion's head erased are the distinctive marks. I think this fixes the limits of date for the chalice, and the character of it agrees.*"

February 27 1925: Came to Cowbit for Confirmation: large attendance though it was a stormy day: 29 candidates: from Croyland and Whaplode Drove as well as Cowbit. *(Signed)* John Grantham.

March 2 1925: Visited the church and school. Very pleased with all I saw. *(Signed)* Basil G. Nicholas, Rural Dean.

Jan 1926: On nights of Jan 16 and 17th froze very keenly. On 16th it registered 26° of frost and out on the Marshes said to be 4° below zero. Skating on Wash. Thaw set in Jan 19th.

Jan 19th: Visit of Mr. Arthur Garner Welbon to see the church registers. He stated one of his ancestors was a foreman on the Cathedral at Lincoln when it was built. The name is now spelt in Cowbitt as Welbourne. Mr. A. G. Welbon lives at Andong Korea and came over in the 'Leviathan'. Hilda Batterham sails today in the 'Leviathan' for America (Detroit).

June 24: Visited the church with the Rural Dean. *(Signed)* John Grantham, Archdeacon of Lincoln.

Nov 2 1927: Old Edward De'Camps, the last of the Cowbitt De'Camps, was brought back to Cowbitt from New Barnet to be buried. His daughter Mrs. Ida Coleman was present. The only son De'Camps is in Canada at present. Mr. De'Camps was buried in the Churchyard at the same spot where he was born over 86 years ago, and Thos Welbourne states that the bungalow in Backgate occupied by Mr. John Stainsby was partly built by bricks from this old cottage which stood in the churchyard and at the bungalow there are stones on the path showing bits of angels' wings and faces, evidently taken at the same time from the churchyard about 80 odd years ago. Mr. Robert Welbourne built the bungalow and his brother Thos was architect of the present vicarage and lived in London and died worth £74,000, so it is said.

Jan 6th 1928: Tremendous gale, worse than any ever experienced by the oldest inhabitant. The waves were very high and made great inroads in the bank. At Peakhill there was great damage to the bank and the danger was that the bank would give way altogether and flood the district. Fortunately the gale subsided before night and men were on duty night and day to regulate the traffic. Hundreds of tons of large stones and brushwood were tipped over the bank, to fill up the gaps. One of the two old trees in the Wash opposite the vicarage windows which has served for a great number of years, as an indicator of the depth of the water was uprooted. The waves were said to be 4 feet high and the car in which the writer was driving to Cowbit from Spalding at noon was soaked with the spray. The storm was at its height at 3 pm.

March 23 1928: Confirmation. Twenty candidates 10 m. 10 fe. *(Signed)* John Grantham.

The Lord Bishop of Lincoln and his wife, Mrs. Swayne, called to see us on their way to Crowland Pageant and had a look at the new school room; went through the school and talked to the children. They expressed (themselves) pleased with all they saw. Ada Clarkson presented a bouquet to Mrs. Swayne.

Dec 1928: Very severe frost and skating on Wash 2nd day of frost. Excursions from all parts and thousands were on the ice.

Jan'y 1929: Another 10 days of skating on the Wash.

1929: On Thursday July 25th (St. James') we switched on the electric light in church for the first time and everything appeared to be quite satisfactory. The light was installed by Mr. Smith of Morton's, The Crescent, Spalding at a cost of £26.10.0. which was paid for out of the fund left to the vicar by Mrs. Riddlington through the Trustees for those who had attended her in her last illness. The light was used for the first time during the singing of the last hymn on Sunday evening July 28th and was switched on by Mr. Elijah Lynn.

June 18th 1931: The Vicar of Cowbit, the Rev'd Edward Tapprell Clark, died this day at the Vicarage aged 63 years.

June 20: Requiem Mass said for the soul of the Rev'd E. T. Clark by Rev. Launcelot Smith, Vicar of St. John's, Spalding. At 2 pm the funeral took place with many of the clergy of the deanery present. The service was taken by the Rural Dean, the Rev'd Canon Nicholas, assisted by the Rev'd. L. Smith. A great company from the parish and surrounding district was present in church and at the grave side. Sequestrators were appointed for the living - Canon Nicholas and Mr. John Boon, churchwarden.

July 17: The Rural Dean visited the church and found everything in good order. The Diocesan Board of Patronage - the patrons of the living - offered the living to the Rev. A. Jackson, vicar of Riseholme and diocesan inspector of schools, who accepted. He afterwards withdrew his acceptance owing to the dilapidated condition of the Vicarage house (and) of the buildings at Turfpitts Farm. The living was then offered to the Rev'd J. A. Pilling Vicar of Gosberton Clough who accepted it. The Lord Bishop of the diocese gave consent to a proposal that the living should be in the hands of the sequestrators until June 1932 so that the revenues of the living might be used to repair the farm buildings and house at Turfpitts farm and to make the vicarage fit for habitation. This work was authorised by the Dilapidations Committee of the Diocesan Trust and let by contract to Mr. Val Green of Pinchbeck. The work on the farm buildings was completed in January and at the vicarage by the end of April.

May 1932: The water rose on the Wash and remained for nearly 3 weeks spoiling the Wash fodder.

June 7: The Rev'd James Arthur Pilling was licensed by the Bishop of Lincoln the Rt. Rev'd William Shuckburgh Swayne to the perpetual curacy of Cowbit alias Cowbitt, in his private chapel at the Old Palace, Lincoln.

June 12: The Rev'd J. A. Pilling read himself in at the morning service and preached at night. He still continued to live at Gosberton Clough as the vicarage had to be decorated throughout, electricity to be installed and other improvements made.

Aug 8: The Parochial Church Meeting was held in the day school when the accounts for 1931 were presented and a new council elected. The Vestry had been held previously when Mr. J. Boon and Mr. V. Holmes were reappointed Vicar and People's wardens.

July 2: The annual trip to Skegness was made - arranged by Mr. F. Pearson. About 200 adults and children went: weather cool with some rain, warm and sunny after tea.

Aug 7: Sunday School Sunday - good congregations. Children's Service 2.30 pm when gifts of flowers, eggs, fruit, groceries were brought and afterwards taken to the Johnson Hospital, Spalding.

Oct 6: Harvest Thanksgiving services began H.C. 7.30, Evensong 7 pm when the preacher was the Rev'd Canon B. W. Hancock rector of Algakirk. This Thursday service marked a change from the older custom of Sunday and Monday services. There was a good congregation.

Oct 9: Thanksgiving services continued - weather very wet and cold - with small morning congregations. Children brought gifts in the afternoon when a good number of parents were present. The Rev'd H. D. Speakman was the preacher at Evensong when the church was full.

Oct 10: Gifts from church taken to Johnson Hospital Spalding and received by the matron. Parochial Church Council meeting at night at the vicarage. A discussion about the hour of the morning service - finally fixed at 10 am. Report that a debt of £12.18.6 outstanding from 1930 had just come to light. Also that it appeared probable that there would not be a balance in hand at the year's end. Agreed to hold a whist drive and dance in November to raise as much as possible and appeal for donations. We also were urged to find some contribution from parochial apportionment to the Diocesan Fund and Central Church Fund (£11.4.0) Nothing had been paid since 1930. Agreed to give Advent Sunday alms to this.

Oct 2 & 11: A girls' Bible Class was formed - meeting at the Vicarage on Tuesday nights - under Mrs. Pilling.

Oct 23: Water began to gather on the Wash and rose steadily until the end of the month.

Nov 1: All Saints Day mass - the first on this day for some years - as well as on All Souls' Day.

Nov 9: A meeting of the Sunday School Teachers at the Vicarage - general discussion of Sunday School work and of the Christmas Treat for the children.

Nov 13: A young men's bible class started; held in the vicarage on Sunday afternoons. 9 joined.

Nov 27: Advent Sunday. Mr. E. E. Welby Everard, the chairman of the Diocesan Trust and Board of Finance took Evensong and preached on Christian Stewardship. Very dark and stormy. Sunday services fixed as from this day: H.C. at 8 am, 'Shortened' Matins, Choral Eucharist and Sermon 10am, Evensong at the usual time of 6.30 pm.

Dec 25: Midnight Mass this year probably for the first time since the Reformation. A bowl of roses - outdoor grown in Cowbit - amongst the decorations, a sign of the mild weather which persisted with bright sunny days into the New Year. A bambino was placed in the chancel and a Christmas tree near the Font. Well attended service throughout the day.

Dec 29: Sunday School Treat. Tea at 4. Musical chairs afterwards. Prizegiving at 6.15. Concert given by the Girls' Bible Class 7 pm. A good show.

Jan 3 1933: A Carnival Dance with the Regent Band - very pleasant affair and a success.

Jan 15: Influenza very prevalent: a mild form but whole families being ill at the same time, amongst others the one at the Vicarage. Very wet night and small congregation so that Mr. W. R. Scott of Surfleet did not preach a sermon. The water which had run off the Wash by Christmas began to gather again.

Jan 23: Annual Vestry - Messrs. Vessey Holmes and J. H. Boon appointed Churchwardens. The Annual Church Meeting followed - an attendance of a dozen. Very cold weather and skating began this day. Influenza still prevalent and the Day School was closed for the week.

Mr. F. E. Pearson, the headmaster of the day school was appointed headmaster of the Cowley School Donington on Jan 14th. On Jan 22nd he went to look at the school house at Donington and finding it in a bad condition withdrew his acceptance. The school managers at Cowbit reappointed him in his present position.

Jan 23: Skating general on the Wash. Races held on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. A great crowd on Thursday afternoon, still larger on Saturday and again on Sunday. Cars lined the bank of the Wash from Peakhill to Handkerchief Hall.

Jan 30: A thaw set in with rain throughout the day.

Jan 31: Sharp frost again but a thaw set in and the weather became very mild.

Feb 2: Feast of the Purification. Patronal Festival. The church was decorated with evergreens and daffodils. Mass at 7.30 and Evensong at 7 pm. Rev. C. J. Gurnhill - vicar of Swineshead - prevented by 'flu' from coming to preach.

Feb 5: Sunday in Octave. Morning congregations poor but good at night when Rev'd L. Smith, vicar of St. John Baptist Spalding, preached.

Feb 12: Snow fell heavily during the night Sat-Sunday. Very cold morning but thaw about noon. Constant showers of snow throughout the week with a blizzard raging on Friday night (17th). A dance arranged for this night had to be abandoned as fewer than a dozen managed to get to the schoolroom. In many parts of the country it was the worst storm of the century. As rain followed the heavy snowfall much flooding was reported. The Wash began to rise quickly on Feb 20th and equalled the depth in 1929.

March 8: Lent Service. Preacher Rev. N. B. Grey of W. Pinchbeck.

March 10: 2.30 Confirmation by the Bishop of Grantham. 21 candidates confirmed - 12 from Cowbit, 8 from Moulton St. James and 1 from Whaplode. Very good congregation.

Lent: Very fine weather throughout the whole of Lent. The water went from off the Wash by the beginning of April. The flower season was very early and work was almost incessant, specially in Holy Week.

Good Friday: Small morning congregation. 8 in the afternoon. Fair at night.

Easter Day: Church looked very fine - all the flowers given and home grown. Gifts used for first time - white frontal and superfrontal by Miss R. Lowe (?) in memory of her fiancé Mr. Pickering, Credence table cover by Mrs. Swin, Burse and corporal by Miss Roe, cover for pulpit cushion by Mrs. Pearson.

May: Religious teaching in Day School inspected by Rev. L. Smith. Report V. Good.

Ascension Day: Early Mass. Service for children at 9 am - 109 present out of 109 with the three teachers. Lesson read by Gilbert Oldershaw. Small congregation at Evensong.

Whit Sunday: A very hot day. Temperature nearly 85°. Good early masses but poor congregations throughout rest of the day. Children's service at 2.30.

Monday: Temperature 90° by thermometer at school. Received a gift from S. Swithin's Lincoln of a processional cross which needs lacquering and a green silk chasuble, stole and maniple with burse and veil to match.

June 7: Organ taken to be rebuilt by Messrs. Cousan of Lincoln.

June 22: A garden Fête arranged for this day had to be postponed owing to heavy rain from 3.30.

June 23: A good day for the fête which began at 6 pm in the Vicarage Garden. Stalls and competitions until 10 pm and then dancing on the lawn to an electric gramophone until 1.30 am. About 250 present.

July 7: A rummage sale held in the day school by Mrs. F. Pearson - did well and produced £4.15.3.

July 21: Two youths - Leslie Compton aged 13 years and Norman Clarkson aged 18 years - were drowned in the River Welland though little is known as to how they came into the water. The river has been dredged at this point and is said to be 14 feet deep with very steep banks. Compton is a boy in the day school and would have been leaving in August. Clarkson an old Cowbit school boy. The whole village deeply moved.

July 24: Funeral of the two lads above named - church full. Buried side by side near Rev. J. T. Dove's grave.

July 25: The church thoroughly cleaned this week. The weather has been very hot for some time. Good crops of hay from the Wash and hay seems to be in some demand. The early season shown by the corn harvest beginning by the middle of July.

July 29: Mr. F. Pearson our headmaster for the past 10 years appointed head of Boston C of E day school, a grade III school with 6 assistants.

Aug 6: Extraordinarily hot again - the warmest bank holiday of the season. This day kept as Hospital Sunday but not very successfully - the heat and the holidays had an effect.

Oct 5 and 8: The Thanksgiving services for the harvest. A big congregation on Sunday night but the others rather disappointing. More produce given than last year which was taken to the Johnson Hospital except that which the children brought at their afternoon service which went to the Waifs and Strays Home, Lincoln. This has been the driest and hottest summer of the century. Crops generally have done very well.

Oct 27: Snow fell for half an hour about 6 pm and on S. S. Simon and Jude's day there was heavy snow from 9 am until 9.30 which turned to rain. A very cold spell though the leaves still remain on the trees.

Dec 1933. Very cold weather prevailed for two weeks - scarcely any rain falling. Christmas - Carol Singers visited nearly every house in the parish. Some trouble with the young men to begin with but behaviour improved. The midnight mass very quiet and reverent - said with hymns - 22 present. Other services nicely attended. Carols on Christmas Eve and at Evensong on Christmas Day.

Dec 28: Holy Innocents. The Children's Tea, prizegiving and concert. The latter quite a good show but poorly supported. N.B. to cater for 8 dozen in future for tea.

Jan 1 1934: A small congregation at mass. A Carnival Dance at night - not a big crowd present.

Jan 4: The Sunday School Concert given at Weston Hills and much appreciated. The dry weather continued and many are without water in their wells for stock. Cattle turned out to graze owing to the shortage of water in some places.

Jan 15: The Annual Vestry held at 7 pm. Mr. J. H. Boon and Mr. Vessey Holmes reappointed Church wardens. The Annual Church Meeting followed with a small attendance. Church accounts showed a balance in hand of £12. 113 names on electoral roll. A new council elected and Mr. Hayes added to list of sidesmen. Statistics for 1933: 3 baptisms (only 2 from parish), 4 marriages, 8 burials, 12 confirmed, 873 communions.

Jan 22: First meeting of the new council when there was a full attendance. A lengthy discussion as to the wages paid for labour in the church with recommendations for economy. Slight rain during the week with severe frost on 25th making the roads and paths ice covered. The only water on the Wash so far is in the lowest level at Peakhill.

Feb 2: 550th Patronal Festival. Preacher at Evensong the Rev. B. Stuart Jackson, Vicar of Quadring - a fair congregation.

Feb 4: A disappointment for the parish in that the Bishop of Lincoln who had promised to come and hold a Confirmation as well as preach at the Sung Mass was at the last minute unable to come and despite every effort no substitute could be found. (The Bishop had to attend the funeral of Bishop Talbot at Winchester on Sat. Feb 3rd). The morning congregations were small but the mass very nicely sung. At a children's service in the afternoon the corner of the church by the font was blessed as a children's corner. Gifts for this included 2 oak prayer desks, a small chair and stool, oak cross and candlesticks, a small figure of Our Lady and some pictures - a very happy service. The preacher at Evensong was the Rev. G. D. K. Clowes Rector of Croyland and the church was crowded.

Feb 5: The Dole Trustees met at the Vicarage and made allocations. Payments to be made next day. The dole was late this year owing to difficulty in receiving rents.

Feb 6: Dole Trustees met at Vicarage to count out Dole money.

Feb 15: Ash Wednesday. The children came to church for the scripture hour 9-9.40 am. and we had a mass with hymns. Very quiet and reverent. A small congregation at evensong. The Lent services this year are: Children after school on Mondays and a Lantern Service on Thursdays. The Lantern and slides were lent by A. J. Arch of Weston Hills. A bad epidemic of measles prevailed during the whole of the month. School attendance dropped very low - only one child present in the Infants Class but the school was not closed.

Feb 25: Very cold again and no rain for the whole of the month.

Feb 27 & 28: Snow fell to a depth of 2" each night but melted before noon.

Mar 1: A very good attendance at the Lantern Service this night.

Mar 5: The Parish Council elected at a meeting in the school room. Elijah Lynn withdrew owing to failing powers and John Boon put in his place.

Mar 10: Heavy rain today - so badly needed.

Mar 11: Rain continuing but cleared in the afternoon.

Mar 12: A public meeting held at the day school to consider the formation of a

Nursing Association for the parish. About 40 were present and voted in favour of forming an association if possible. The scheme outlined by Dr. Booth, the medical officer of health is that Littleworth, Spalding Common and Cowbit should continue to support a nurse who would live at Spalding and use a car. Our share is to raise £20 for the first year and if 100 people will join and pay 1d per week this can be done. Resolved to canvas the parish and see if the required number can be obtained. Canvassers were: Mrs. Bell, Mrs. Stainsby, Mrs. Thickpenny, Mrs. Barnes, Mrs. Hayes, Mrs Coleman, Mrs Elson, Mrs Pilling.

Mar 21: Diocesan Inspection of the children in the day school by the Rev. L. Smith. A holiday afterwards.

Mar 25: Palm Sunday. Lenten envelopes received in church - total £1.17.1. Blessing and distribution of Palms at the Sung Eucharist. Holy Week: Mass and Evensong daily Monday to Thursday.

Encouraging congregations - readings at Evensong. Preparation for Easter Communion on Thursday Evening - only a dozen present. 9 children were confirmed at Pinchbeck by the Bishop of Grantham on Wednesday 28th at 3 pm. A few mothers went by the bus. Good Friday: Matins at 9 am. Litany and Ante Communion at 10.30. Devotional Service - 2-3 pm (advertised 1.30-3 but only the schoolmaster came at 1.30 - 6 present later) Evensong and Story of the Cross 7 pm. The seven words the subject of addresses at all services except Evensong. Fair congregations all day.

April 1: Easter Day: 8 first communions - a dull cold and disappointing day after a Lent observed rather better than usual. Easter sepulchre at Church.

April 4: A trustees of the school meeting in the day school. Electricity to be extended throughout the school. The closets to be converted into a water carriage system if possible.

May 10: Ascension Day. The children attended church at 9 am for a sung mass. A full attendance. There were 10 persons to communicate at an earlier celebration.

May 20: Whit Sunday. A good day on the whole.

June 18: The first hay cut on the bank of the Wash by Mr. Flowers from Backgate to Peakhill.

June 22: A Garden Party in the vicarage garden from 6 pm. Dancing on lawn from 10 pm to midnight. A fine tho' windy day and very enjoyable.

June 25: The Rural Dean, Canon B. G. Nicholas, Vicar of Spalding, made his inspection of the church and school. Asks that we should consider an increase in the sum for which the church is insured.

July 1: Sunday School day: fair morning attendances. The afternoon service not so well attended as usual - the preacher was the Rev. J. P. Hoskins, assistant priest of Spalding Parish Church. A good congregation at night. Very early harvest this year. Fields of oats cut by the middle of July. Good weather for gathering in.

Aug 2: School treat to Skegness - about 275 went by special train leaving at 8 am. A cool windy day - return from Skegness at 8.15 pm and reached Cowbit at 9.20 pm.

Aug 9: Hospital Sunday but not good congregations. Mr. A. J. Arch preached at night. The day schools were repainted inside during the holidays which began on Aug. 1st. The trustees made improvements: 1. extending electric light throughout the schools; 2. changing the closets to a water carriage system and putting a sink,

bath and w.c. in the school house tho' without hot water. Water was laid on to the school house for the first time.

Aug 23: Mr Elijah Lynn died suddenly at his breakfast aged 73. He was an ex churchwarden, a manager and a trustee of the day school. He had been a parish councillor for many years and a county councillor - formerly a guardian of the poor as well.

Sept: The face of the church clock was done up - the figures with 22 carat gold leaf at a cost of £3.

Oct 11 & 14. Thanksgiving for the Harvest. Rev. C. Cooper, Vicar of S. Swithin's Lincoln preached at Evensong on the 11th - a normal Sunday evening congregation. Mr. Hayes addressed the children and the Rev. W. J. Johnson Jones, Vicar of Moulton, preached at Evensong on the 14th when the church was full. Flood lit the tower on the two nights (per Mr. R. Goodacre) with very good effect. A better supply of produce to send to the Johnson Hospital and also to the Boys Home at Lincoln. Very mild weather with high temperatures continued.

Oct 28: A sudden change to wintry weather with cold north winds and showers of snow and sleet. Sharp frosts at night.

Nov 1: Half a dozen communicants on All Saints Day.

Nov 5: A bonfire in the vicarage garden and about 40 children to let off fireworks.

Nov 11: Armistice Day on a Sunday. Good congregations at 10 and 6.30. Small at 8. Poppies sold again throughout the parish by Mrs. Hayes £1.4.4; Miss Braybrook £1.4.8; Miss Roe 9/4½; Miss Batterham £1.3.5; Miss Bush £1.0.8½; total £5.2.6.

Dec 1934: Very wet weather prevailed throughout the month with high temperatures night and day.

Dec 25: Christmas. Midnight Mass again when Merbecke was sung unaccompanied - hymns with organ. A good number at the 8 am mass and at 10.30. Evensong very small congregation.

Dec 28: Christmas treat for the children: This year is a simple form - tea (5 pm), games, crackers, oranges, prizegiving and a sing song to close with.

Jan 1935: Turfpitts Farm: This farm being placed in the care of the Diocesan Glebe committee has been improved by the erection of a house at Queen's Bank (cost £500 erected by Mr. G. Walker of Spalding) and the installation of a pump (£170) on the S. Holland Drain bank. This work completed at the beginning of the month. The bridges leading on to Queen's Bank have been transferred at an exorbitant sum to the living and a further £56 to be spent on them to put them in good order (total £150). Loan for this from the Diocesan Trust, for house and pump from Lands Improvement Corp. Now proposed to erect farm buildings near the house. Water began to appear on the Wash today early in the year but to no great depth. A short spell of cold weather gave hopes of skating but mild conditions returned as soon as thin ice had formed.

Jan 18: Annual Vestry. J. H. Boon and V. Holmes wardens. J. H. Boon's 25th year in office. Annual Church Meeting: Balance in hand £5.18.9. A small attendance.

Jan 25: A strong gale but no damage reported. It continued until the evening of Jan 26 and brought heavy showers of snow. As the wind decreased the snow came more thickly and Sunday Jan 27 was a day of constant snowstorms with snow lying some inches deep. A sharp frost made roads dangerous and on 28 the school van being unable to bring children from Brotherhouse and Peakhill.

Feb 2: The Patronal Festival - on a Saturday. A sung mass at 9.30 was quite well attended by the children and there were half a dozen adults also.

Feb 3: Sunday in the Octave. Fairly good morning congregations. Canon Nicholas preached at Evensong in spite of ill health. Only a good average congregation.

Feb 7: Sung Evensong when the Guild of the Servers of the Sanctuary - S. Guthlac's branch - attended. An attempt to have solemn evensong was spoilt by the disappearance of the incense just before the service began but the vicar was vested in a cope and incense was used for the procession. Is this the first time since the Reformation? There was a good congregation from our own people and about 50 visiting servers. 6 Cowbit servers admitted probationers and 2 others. The Rev. L. S. Parkenson Vicar of W. Pinchbeck preached. Present: Canon Hutchinson (Holbeach), L. Smith (St. John's, Spalding), Speakman (Moulton St. James), L. P. Hoskins (Spalding parish church). Supper provided after in the day school by members of the M.U.

Feb 16: The weather very mild - temperatures of 50° at night being recorded. A very strong wind sprung up in the night of the 15th-16th and grew in intensity to a gale on the afternoon of the 16th. Not much damage was done tho' the stable roof at Turfpitts Farm was partly demolished. The gale subsided a little on the 17th but winds remained strong and the gale was renewed on the 20th.

Lent 1935: Special services for children on Monday afternoons in church - fair attendance throughout: S.P.C.K. cards given as awards. Lantern services on Thursday nights by the kindness of Mr. A. J. Arch of Weston Hills. Good attendances esp. to the end of March. Holy Week fairly well observed and Good Friday showed some improvement on 1934. Mrs. Lynn has had the church clock enclosed in a case of pitch pine 3 ply wood - work done by Mr. Eley of Spalding. And the works completely cleaned and oiled by Mr. Morris of Spring Gardens Spalding who reports that the clock is in splendid condition - no signs of wear nor corrosion - in fact as good as when it was first installed. This work is done in memory of Elijah Lynn for some years a churchwarden of this church.

April 12: Rev. L. Smith inspected the day school in religious instructions. Satisfactory reports on upper classes but infants not so good as formerly.

April 19: Good Friday. Fairly well kept. Somewhat larger congregation at night,

April 21: Easter Day. Church very beautiful with Easter Sepulchre again. Increased no. of communicants and bigger congregations except for the Children's service which was poor.

May 6: The King's Silver Jubilee. Early celebration and united service in Church at 11 am. Mr. J. Hodson read the lesson. A full day's programme arranged by the committee included giving medals to children. Salute of duck guns at noon. Children's sports. Tea for children and adults, races for seniors and a dance in the day school. A lovely warm day.

May 17: The most severe frost in May on the night of 16th-17th. 17° of frost recorded in S. Lincs and much damage done to early potatoes and fruit. Many parts of the country had heavy snow even as far south as Cornwall but here nothing worse than hail. The weather has been exceptionally cold since the Jubilee.

May 30: Ascension Day. The children in church for a mass with hymns. 100% attendance. A small congregation at evensong on each Rogation Day. The weather during the month has been very cold with winds constantly between E and NE.

June 2: A simple procession at the sung mass for the first time. Cross and lights,

banner, servers and priest in cope.

June 21: The Annual Garden Fête in the Vicarage garden. A very hot day and lovely evening - the first for many weeks. A very good crowd for a happy event. Music broadcast from Radiogramophone.

July 7: Sunday School Festival. Usual services with a special service at 2.30 pm when Mr. A. J. Arch preached. A fairly good day. The hay harvest was early and good with fine weather for gathering. It began at the end of June and was completed by the middle of July when the grain was ready for harvesting. This too was gathered with very good weather. Indeed a very hot and dry summer. July 14 a very hot day - temperature of 80° in church at 6 pm.

Aug 1: Trip to Skegness. Prayers in church at 7.30 a.m. - about 20 present. Train left Cowbit at 8 am. Arrived Skegness 9.10 am. An increased number went and the Vicar of Moulton Chapel took his Sunday Scholars. A lovely day, very bright and clear. Returned from Skegness 8.15 pm arriving home by 9.30.

Aug 11: Hospital Sunday. Not such a good day as the year before due to many more being on holiday and away from home - specially those who had received hospital treatment during the past year.

Aug 18: A break in the weather at last. Thunderstorm at 5.30 pm but it cleared off just in time to allow the congregation to get to church for evensong.

Aug 22: The hottest day of the year about 90° in the shade.

Aug 23: Rain and thunderstorm - rain much needed.

Sept 17: A gale throughout the night - big branches of ash tree in Vicarage garden brought down. The gale sprang up again on Sept 19 - further trees down.

Sept 22: A thunderstorm from 2 am to 6 am.

Oct 9: A severe gale lasting until evening of . . .

Oct 10: Harvest Thanksgiving with wind still very strong. Church decorated v. tastefully by Mrs. Harrison, Lynn, Boon, Adkin, Misses Braybrook and M. Bush, Roe and Malster. The choir was very small and the singing exceptionally poor on such an occasion and with fair congregation. Sunday services were good - increase in no. of communicants and at the Sung Eucharist. The vicar of Gosberton the Rev. J. S. Bussell preached at evensong with the church crowded. Collection at evensong only 15/10.

Oct 12: Mr. W. V. Holmes died after a long illness. He was churchwarden from 1920 - 1932.

Oct 18: St. Luke. Solemn Evensong to practise use of incense with servers, and girls bible class present. Another gale during the night.

Oct 22: Sharp frost also on the 26th followed by very warm weather.

Oct 25: Parliament dissolved.

Oct 27: Alms for Abyssinian Red Cross Fund. A gale blew all day - £1 sent.

Nov 1: All Saints Day. 6 people at 7.30 mass. A Whist Drive at night in day school for the Sunday School - £5 obtained.

Nov 5: Fireworks in vicarage garden. Bonfire refused to burn owing to heavy rains over the weekend.

Nov 8/9: Poppies sold - rain heavy at times. Miss Batterham 19/9½, Mrs. Bush

15/11½; Miss Braybrook £1.4.10; Mrs. Hayes £1.2.4; Miss Roe 7/-. Total £4.9.11.

Nov 10: Remembrance Sunday. Fair congregations. Names of the fallen read at evensong.

Nov. 11: Armistice Day. Early mass. Children from school to a short service at 10.50. Teachers and 4 adults present. New down flow pipes put in chancel roof to see if flooding through leaves choking the pipes can be obviated. Also nave roof lead overhauled. Some strips had slipped down about 6 inches into the gutter and were stopping the channel.

Nov 17: Heavy rain nearly every day during the last week. 18 hours continuous rain this Sunday - Sunday School attendance good but other congregations very small.

Nov 18: The water begins to gather on the Wash.

Nov 21: Wash completely covered with water - a fair depth.

Nov 22: School Managers met at the vicarage. Report of H.M.I. received and considered very good indeed.

Dec 4: Frost at night - Wash frozen along the edges.

Dec 7: Frost continued and thick fog all day: very dangerous roads.

Dec 20: Ice bearing on the Wash and skating became general all over the Wash with great crowds on the 21st and 22nd (a Sunday). The traffic congestion was very bad on Sunday afternoon. The Lincs. Amateur Championship held on 23rd - opposite the vicarage. The ice broke at the end of the race near the winning post and some 100 got wet.

Dec 25: A poor Christmas in church - probably due to break in the frost and a thick fog until midday. Ice continued to bear until Christmas Day but it was very wet.

Jan 1 1936: The wash has risen to its highest level for many years. The annual prizegiving was held in church on Sunday Dec 29. Very few parents present. The children's treat on Dec 30. Juniors 3 to 6 and Seniors 6 to 10 - a social and very happy evening. Miss Olive Bush retired after teaching for 15 years - the outcome of a serious accident on the road some 9 months ago.

Jan 10: Annual Vestry at 7 pm. J. H. Boon and V. Holmes reappointed. The Annual Parochial Meeting followed. A small attendance owing to ill health but considerable keenness to get on to the Council - 12 names for 10 seats.

Jan 16: A cold week with a heavy fall of snow this day which froze as it fell. Road conditions very bad. Ice along the edges of the Wash but the water is being rapidly drawn off at Luck's Bridge and so ice is broken.

Jan 19: A very cold night - roads still icy and Wash frozen over. A thaw and rain set in after Evensong and all snow had disappeared by noon on the 20th. Attendance at school 44 out of 94 but medical officer decided not to close the school. H. M. King George V seriously ill at Sandringham.

Jan 20: King George died at 11.50 pm.

Jan 22: King Edward VIII proclaimed King.

Jan 23: Day School closed owing to very small attendance through coughs and colds.

Jan 28: Memorial Services for King George on day of funeral. Requiem mass said

with hymns at 10 am - about 30 present. A United Service at 2 pm. I. Hodson read the lesson - about 60 present. A black frontal with superfrontal and black chasuble used for the first time at these requiems and memorial services.

Feb 2: The Patronal Festival - a dull misty day but a fair no. of communicants. Morning service quite bright and happy. Rev'd H. D. Speakman of Moulton Chapel preached at Evensong.

Feb 3: Snow showers after 10 am but to little depth. The Wash very high once more.

Feb 10: Coldest wind for years. Sea froze in places. A very cold week.

Feb 13: Ice strong enough to bear and a fair no. of skaters.

Feb 15: Thaw set in and ice very wet.

Feb 16: Sharp frost again and very thick fog all day.

Feb 25: A Whist Drive in Day School - a good company to support the funds for Skegness trip in the summer. About 10 yards of the brick wall between the church and the school house garden collapsed.

March 5: 6 candidates confirmed at Pinchbeck by the new Bp. of Grantham in place of the Bp. of the Diocese who was ill. 5 of them made their first Communion on Sunday March 15 - one indisposed. The weather became mild at this time and the water on the Wash began to recede slowly. The weather was very mild from the middle of the month until 26th when it came in very cold again and so continued until April.

April 1: Much water still out on the Wash. Rev. L. Smith inspected the Day School's religious instruction - 85 out of 94 present. Report very good - infants improved. Praise for the second class especially for its pictures and for the syllabus in the top class. (Carlisle syllabus).

April 5: Palm Sunday. Good morning service with blessing of palms and procession. Lent envelopes returned and contained £1.15.0. - an increase of (*blank space*) on last year.

Holy Week: Very cold weather all the week and an extraordinary quantity of flowers sent away. The Good Friday loadings being greater than ever. Congregations quite encouraging throughout the week. A lantern service on Good Friday night after Evensong at 7 pm. Snow fell heavily on the morning of Holy Saturday.

Easter Day: Number of communicants not quite so high as a year ago. Snow and sleet showers fell in the morning. Church very beautiful - Easter sepulchre again. 5 Easter communions made in Easter week this year.

April 20: A heavy fall of snow - fields being white over - lasting for about 5 hours. The temperature began to rise at midday and the afternoon was bright. The Wash still not quite free from water.

May 21: Ascension Day: Well kept. Children's Eucharist at 9 am with full attendance of scholars from Day School. Solemn Evensong at 7 pm with incense - 30 present.

May 12: The first Visitation of the Lord Bishop of Lincoln at Spalding.

May 24: Henry John Palmer, vicar of this parish 1909 - 1917 died at Worthing aged 74. R.I.P.

June 11: A very remarkable thunderstorm from 11 pm for 3 hours returning at 4 am on the 12th.

June 21: Further thunderstorms and a period of very unsettled and thundery weather set in.

July 3: The Annual Garden Fête at the vicarage garden. A fine evening amidst many wet ones and a happy event.

July 5: Sunday School Day. A record no. of communicants early. Good afternoon service but other services very moderate. Rev. H. D. Speakman preached at Evensong. The beginning of July was very wet - 12 inches of rain in the first 12 days.

July 15: S. Swithin's Day and the Wash began to be flooded. Only 3 fields of hay have been cut and none led. The hay crop seems lost this year. Very wet and stormy weather continued all the month.

July 29: The Day School began holidays to Sept 8.

July 30: Trip to Skegness. Prayers in church first. A fine and enjoyable day in this wet summer. All told 111 children and 134 adults made the journey by train - many from Moulton Chapel.

Aug 4: Visit from the Rt Rev'd A. Greaves, Bishop of Grantham to confirm privately William Barnes of Capes Entry. The Wash nearly cleared of water by this date through pumping by Messrs. Farrow of Spalding. Hay was secured from a few fields at Spalding and some at Cowbit after it had been submerged for three weeks.

Aug 14: A warm period at last - bright sun and dry winds helping the harvest wonderfully. It continued until the end of the month with some high temperatures in the last week of August.

Aug 22: A Violet Day for the Church Army in the parish. 30/- realised by Miss Bannister, Miss V. Collins, Miss G. Lane, Miss R. Lown and Miss Roe.

Aug 30: The Sunday Evening collection to the Lincs Deaf and Dumb - 12/- realised.

Sept 13: King George V Memorial Fund day very poorly supported.

Sept 24: Thanksgiving Services for the harvest held much earlier this year. A very poor evening congregation when the Vicar of Whaplode Drove preached. Also in church Rev. H. D. Speakman and Mr. A. J. Arch from Moulton Chapel and Weston St. John's respectively.

Sept 27: The Rev. L. S. Parkenson Vicar of Pinchbeck West preached at Evensong - the only good congregation of the festival.

Oct 15: Rev. E. A. Barrett who had been Rector of Dunoon, Argyll, inducted to the benefice of Croyland.

Oct 14: A Solemn Evensong with incense to mark the beginning of a new season's work with various organisations. Quite a good congregation. Lantern slides shown in Day School by Mr. Arch and Mr. Hayes and refreshments.

Oct 22: Much wind all this season though a very dry month.

Oct 23: Saw hay being led from the Wash.

Nov 1: All Saints. Incense used at the Sung Mass at request of a fair number of people. Good congregation and very nice service. After evensong of All Saints commemoration of those buried in our churchyard during the past 12 months.

Nov 8: Remembrance Sunday. Very stormy and cold, also very dark night. Average congregations. Poppies sold as usual - results were: Mrs Hayes £1.5.0; Miss Braybrook £1.7.2; Miss Bush 14/7; Miss M. Batterham 16/6; Miss V. Collins 7/9. Total £4.11.0.

Nov 22: Thick fog which persisted until the 26th.

Dec 3: The first snowfall - light and did not last long.

Dec 10: King Edward VIII issued an instrument of abdication. Grave national crisis handled by the Prime Minister Mr. Stanley Baldwin with great ability, The King abdicated on Dec 11th and was succeeded by his brother the Duke of York who took the name of George VI. Prince Edward broadcast a message to the nation and left England during the night.

Dec 13: A striking broadcast by the Archbishop of Canterbury. A strong south gale during the night.

Christmas: Midnight Mass again - a fair attendance. Better congregation in the morning. Evensong at 4 pm when half a dozen came.

Dec 27: Prizegiving in the afternoon at the Children's Service - few parents present.

Dec 28: Children's treat - small ones at 3.30 - tea and games and young people's fellowship for Whist and Supper followed by games and singing. Piano in a hopeless condition. The Archbishop of Canterbury preached at the wireless service on the last Sunday of the year of the Recall to Religion.

Jan 6 1937: The day school having reassembled on Jan 4th all the children came to church for a Sung Mass. Incense used and Rev. H. D. Speakman addressed the children. Water was lying on the lower fields of the Wash at this time.

Jan 14: The Annual Vestry and Parochial Church Meeting. Small attendance. Flu prevalent - very mild.

Jan 20: Very wet and the Wash filled quickly so that it was covered by the 24th - stormy and mild. The weather continued wet and mild till the end of February when a cold period set in for the whole of March. Lent being early was trying, the first 5 Sundays being either wet or snowy. The Wash was higher than for 10 years.

March 26: Good Friday - snow showers - a very good evening congregation for Lantern service.

March 28: Easter Day - an encouraging day apart from the 8 am celebration when numbers were smaller than usual. Very good at night. School inspection - religious teaching - report by the Rev I. S. Bennett. Good.

May 6: Ascension Day: Early Mass and children for a Sung Mass but unfortunately no organist at 9 am.

May 12: Coronation Day of H. M. King George VI. Good attendance at Mass. United Service at 11 am when church was full. Duck gun royal salute at 12. Children's sports in afternoon and tea at 3.30. Adults' teas at 4.30 and 5.30 when heavy rain began to fall, and the rest of the programme of sports and fireworks was postponed to Whit Monday. The rain this week caused the Wash to rise again and further rain kept up the level to the end of the month.

May 16: Whit Sunday: a disappointing day until Evensong.

July 2: Garden Fête in the vicarage garden. A lovely day and a successful effort tho' numbers present not so good as last year. Probably due to extra land work owing to lateness of the season.

July 4: Sunday School Day - not very good.

July 15: A hot dry period ended with heavy rain. Thunderstorms continued for some days - heavy storm on the 19th. A bridge by the north door of the church has been erected by Mr. C. Swinn at a small cost. This will be a great convenience in dark and frosty weather.

July 29: The annual outing to Skegness. Prayers in church 7.30 am. The train due to leave at 8.2 am did not arrive until 8.27 and left at 8.35 am. Insufficient accommodation on the outward journey. 305 tickets issued. The return was more comfortable as 3 extra coaches were added at Skegness. Maurice Cooke, a boy of 13 in the day school and a young communicant, was taken to hospital this evening with peritonitis. He died on July 30 at 5.30. Buried Aug 3rd when many children from school were present and Mr. Hayes read the lesson.

Aug 1: Mr Arch played the organ at the Sung Eucharist for the hymns. The rest unaccompanied as at Evensong and sung very well. A spell of very hot weather, began with thick morning mists.

Sept 5: School reopened with Mr Hayes absent for 2 weeks with tonsillitis.

Sept 29: St Michael - children to a sung mass - v. good.

Sept 30: Harvest Thanksgiving - evensong with a better attendance than last year.

Oct 3: Vicar of Moulton St. James celebrated and preached on Sunday am and Vicar of Quadring at night - night not up to average numbers.

Oct 1: Branch of the County Library opened in School.

Oct 22: The first rain for over a month. The day school had a half term holiday - a long weekend.

Nov 11: Armistice Day - service at 10.45 am with children from day school and quite a good number of adults. The weather during October and early Nov. had been very mild with much sun. Today a sudden cold period began and lasted till Nov 21. Poppy Day - record collection: Miss M. Batterham 19/5½; Miss M. Fear 15/2½; Miss Braybrook £1.0.11½; Mrs. Hayes £1.18.3; Miss D. Cooke £1.3.10½. Total £5.17.8.

Nov 21: A memorial figure of St. Hugh blessed in memory of Maurice James Cooke.

Dec 4 & 5: Snow in the afternoon of the 4th and until noon on 5th. The Spalding station of S.Y.A. kept a quiet day here - addresses by the vicar.

Dec 19: Lantern Service with Evensong - good numbers.

Dec 25: No midnight mass nor 7 am. Very good at 8 am - other poor. Fog very thick.

Dec 27: Mr Hayes had a carnival on behalf of the Day School Funds - very successful.

Dec 29: Sunday School Treats - rather poor numbers.

Jan 15 1938: A very severe gale - blew much water out of the River Welland at specially high tides and so the lower parts of the Wash were flooded.

Jan 25: A very wonderful display of the Northern Lights from 6.15 pm to 9 pm. Sky

overhead purple to rose pink constantly changing colour, in north wonderful green.

Jan 29: Another severe gale. A very mild and stormy month. Gale on 31st.

Feb 2: Patronal Festival - Rev H. D. Speakman came to celebrate at 7.30 as the Vicar was indisposed. Other services abandoned as Chicken Pox and German Measles are rife. Attendance at Day School 31 ex 89.

Feb 12: A northerly gale - v. cold.

Feb 13: Snow. About 60 swans on Wash near vicarage.

March 7: A very warm period - temperatures above 60° and much sunshine. The water gone from the Wash and work on the land well advanced. A good beginning to Lent in church.

March 25: Rain for the first time this month but only a heavy shower.

April 15: Good Friday. Fair morning congregation but very few children. Good at night. Lent seems to have been kept better than for some years.

April 17: Very cold Easter Day but good congregations.

May 17: From the beginning of February there has been a great scarcity of rain. The land is very dry, crops are not growing and there have been severe frosts - one on May 8th doing much damage to potatoes and fruit. A great increase in unemployment amongst farm workers. The chancel roof stripped of its dark blue paper and papered white. The walls of the nave distempered dark buff and the plaster repaired in many places. The church thoroughly cleaned during the process.

May 22: A wet weekend all over the country with 1" of rain in this district.

June 5: Whit Sunday. Flowers very scarce this year. Good number of communicants but a very poor attendance at Evensong.

June 10: The Garden Fête. A thunderstorm straight above us at 6.15 pm and rain and hail. Decided to carry on and had a fine tho' cold night. ? the advisability of continuing with radiogram and dance - only 23 dancers and most of them lads bent on mischief.

June 25 & 30: Hospital Carnival in Spalding on behalf of the Johnson Hospital. Cowbit took a definite part with two vans in the procession and various competitions. In common with neighbouring parishes there seems to be a very pronounced decline in the Sunday evening congregations this summer.

July 4: Alfred James Curtis Arch the lay reader at Weston St. John's died this day and was buried on the 7th. He has been a very willing friend to Cowbit during the past 10 years and many Cowbit people attended his funeral.

July 26: The Dilapidations (quinquennial) completed and Queen Anne's Bounty sent cheque for payment. Total cost £106. Work done by G. V. Holmes and Hemmant Bros of Moulton Chapel. The vicar painted his own outbuildings and much of the farm buildings and so saved a great deal. The extra money available used to concrete the top of the new bridge at Turfpitts Farm £25. Half the lean-to buildings at the Vicarage taken down as the foundations had sunk and the walls were cracking. The tenants at Turfpitts Farm found labour for the tarring of the farm buildings.

July 28: Annual trip to Skegness. 280 tickets taken. A good day - not too hot. Left Cowbit at 8.2 am, arrived Skegness 9.9 am. Left Skegness 7.36 pm, arrived Cowbit

8.45 pm. This year the Chapel paid its children's fares and gave them 1/-. We pay fares and give 6d. 5 children have joined the Chapel Sunday School - ? the extra 6d.

Aug 20: A Violet Day for the Church Army. Very poor response from the parish. The collectors complained of incivility everywhere so it is doubtful whether this effort can be repeated: total raised 16/8½. (Miss D. Skells, Miss D. Cooke, Mr. R. Cooke, Miss V. Collins).

Aug 23: The last loads of hay carted from the Wash. There has been very little rain for many weeks and the soil is very dusty. Have ordered the revised prayer book baptism service on cards. The old ones very worn.

Sept 6: School reopened.

Sept 25: A crisis in international affairs. Intercessions each evening after Evensong when a good number were present.

Sept 28: Gas masks delivered at school and assembled. Distributed on the 29th and 30th.

Sept 29: St. Michael's Day: children to a sung mass.

Sept 30: The Good News from Munich per the Prime Minister - Neville Chamberlain.

Oct 2: Thanksgiving for the Preservation of Peace. Mr. Welby Everard preached at Evensong - a large congregation.

Oct 6: Harvest Thanksgiving. Children's Service at 8.55 and Evensong with sermon by the Vicar - poor congregation 27 in all. This has been a week of gales - on Tuesday very strong - one child only from Brotherhouse Bar at school. Mr. T. Kendall had given up the work of conveying children from that end of the parish at the end of Sept. The L.E.A. provided bicycles for 4 children living more than 3 miles from school.

Oct 9: Harvest Thanksgiving continued. Another gale in the morning with small congregations. Rev. J. P. Hoskins preached at night - a fair congregation.

Oct 28: Half term holiday for Day School - closed Thursday night until Tuesday morning. First fogs of the winter - very thick all day Oct 29 until 7 pm. Fire started in church on 30th.

Nov 4: Very high temperatures for November - around 70°. Said to be the highest ever at this season - warm weather until Nov 18 when fog for 3 days was experienced.

Nov 11: Armistice Day. Children from school in church - a few adults. Remembrance Sunday kept on Nov 13 with requiem at 10.20. A fairly good congregation at night. Poppies: Mrs. Hayes £1.12.3; Miss V. Braybrooks £1.5.3; Miss M. Batterham £1.7.9; Miss M. Drury 15/6; Miss D. Cooke 18/7. Total £5.19.4.

Nov 23: A very severe gale. The worst for many years. Damage to Vicarage roof, also to school house and school. Cartshed at Turfpitts Farm blown down.

Dec 17: Very cold after very mild weather. An easterly wind made this day and the 18th very trying.

Dec 20: Heavy snow with severe cold 15° of frost. Snow fell to a depth of 2 feet with drifts up to 5 feet deep. The road to Spalding almost impassable to cars and the road to Moulton Chapel still worse.

Dec 25: Christmas Day a white one with icy roads. A fresh blizzard on the 26th but

a thaw set in at 5 pm. The snow gradually disappeared tho' the nights still very cold. The Wash began to fill with the thaw and by the end of the year there was a large expanse of water which however was not very deep.

1939: Early January was very wet and the Wash filled very quickly to the average height of water for winter. The day school has now only 75 names on the books. Of these about 50 only come from Cowbitt parish. The Sundays in January seem to have been reserved for gales and heavy rain. In spite of this the evening congregations kept very steady.

Jan 22: Instead of the sermon at Evensong we had the whole of Evensong on Lantern slides and the life of Our Lord in pictures. Also on Jan 29.

Jan 25: Further snow - turned to slush and soon disappeared tho' it continued to fall all day and in some parts of the country caused serious trouble.

Jan 26: Another gale from N.E. this time. Most houses in the parish suffered from the rain blown by the wind thro' windows and under doors. The Vicarage as usual a great victim. The school roof over the east spare bedroom stripped of slate.

Jan 28: A very big rise in the Wash. Great anxiety lest the banks should give way. The highest level of water for many years. The water threatened to burst the banks on the Deeping Fen side and men were working there for 72 hours without ceasing. Sand bags were used at Bellesmere farm and the danger passed.

Feb 22: Ash Wednesday - children in church 9 am. A.R.P. and First Aid lectures with the County Library open on Friday nights seem to have made it harder for people to come to week night services.

April 2: Holy Week quite well kept - evening services well attended but

April 9: Easter very disappointing.

May: A very dry month with continuous drought from 16th to June 10th. High temperatures for the first week in June. A dull summer with more than the average amount of rain. International tension increased until

Sept 3: Germany attacked Poland and France and this country declared war on Germany. Amongst war measures the Black Out was most in evidence and as the P.C.C. decided not to screen the church windows

Sept 17: Evensong was held at 3 pm. A slight reduction in the numbers present but a bigger fall in the number of communicants as Summer Time continued till Nov.

Nov 11: Poppy Day results. Total £6.17.8: Miss V. Braybrooks £1.6.0; Miss M. Batterham £1.5.4; Miss M. Drury £1.10.5; Miss D. Cooke £1.2.8; Mrs Hayes £1.13.3. Oct and Nov were wet months and the Wash in flood by the end of Nov.

Dec: Fine and bright after the first week. Christmas fairly well observed but no congregation for Evensong at 3 pm when the King was broadcasting. Very sharp frosts in Christmas week. The school treat disappointing: £1.3.6. received from L.C.C. towards the evacuated children's treat.

Jan 1940: Skating in full swing until Jan 15th except for a thaw on Jan 8 & 9. A full programme of races on the ice and many people every day. Little fog and much sun and frost severe.

Jan 14: The Venerable K. C. H. Warner, Archdeacon of Lincoln celebrated at 8 am and preached at the Sung Eucharist. Lady Gleed presented an altar cross to the church and this was blessed by the archdeacon before the sung eucharist.

Jan 15: The Archdeacon to lunch on his return from Crowland where he had spent the night - his car being frozen at Brotherhouse Bar on the return journey. He visited Turfpitts Farm and saw Guthlac's Stone whilst waiting for repairs. Lowest temperatures for many years, frost continues. The night Jan 20-21 very cold - highest temperature in church on Sunday Jan 21 being 37°. All taps in the vicarage frozen - 2 burst pipes.

Jan 22: Submitted suggestions to the Archdeacon about rebuilding the Vicarage within the present exterior walls. Snow began to fall Jan 15 and there were frequent falls in the following days.

Feb 2: The Patronal Festival saw much snow and very treacherous roads. Some households not able to get out.

Feb 4: Sunday after Patronal Festival. A quick thaw began at last. The roads in a shocking condition - 1 foot of slush over ice. Attendance at church surprisingly good in the morning. An attempt was made to hold the Annual Church Meeting on Sat. Jan. 27. Only 2 attended so it was adjourned. The only chance seemed to be to hold it after Evensong on this Sunday and so this was done.

Feb 7: Ash Wednesday. Very cold again. Frost continued for the first 3 weeks of Lent with deep snow on Feb. 18th. Evensong on Sundays in March at 6 pm. Good Friday March 22nd - earliest possible. Very well kept day, but

March 24: Easter Day very disappointing.

April: Evensong at 6.30 pm again.

May 26: Day of Prayer: good congregations. Church full at night. The evacuation of Dunkirk followed this Day of Prayer.

June 30: In war time it has been difficult to get the Church Council to meet. A meeting was held after Evensong this day to which the congregation were invited but did not come. A good number of the council present.

Aug 2: In place of the annual trip to Skegness we gave the children tea in the day school with races and games afterwards in Mrs. Higham's field. 69 children to tea and over a dozen adults - a very enjoyable evening.

Sept 8: A Day of National Prayer. Not kept so well as in May but good congregations throughout. A weekly Intercession Service - Thursdays at 6.30 pm - has been held throughout the summer months.

Sept 15: Harvest Thanksgiving. As this Sunday is the last at which Evensong will be at 6.30 pm we kept our Thanksgiving this day. Poor at 8 am, fair at 10.30 and good at 6.30.

The disposal of sewage at the vicarage has caused trouble for many years. This summer 4 lines of land drain pipes were laid from the dispersal cistern and these seem to be successful.

October: A very dry month as most of the summer has been. A conspicuous drop in the numbers at early celebrations.

November: Summer Time to continue all the year. Early Mass now put at 8.45 am. The war has made little difference to congregations but the number of communions made has seriously declined. The very dark mornings may be the cause, or it may be that air raid alarms cause sleep to be broken and a Sunday mornings taken to make up for it. Wardens and others have certainly been up many nights.

Nov 17: Water began to appear on the Wash after many rainy days and by the end of the week the Wash was covered.

Dec 1: Frosty weather. A thin coating of ice on the Wash. Much bright sunshine early in the month.

Dec 25: A good number of communicants at the early celebration at 9 am. Other services poor. The Wash water had begun to clear away.

Jan 1 1941: Sunday School Tea and Treat. Many absent owing to colds etc and an early close owing to the Black-Out.

Jan 2: Heavy snow followed by sharp frost.

Jan 5: Some skating but snow fell again late in the day. Thaw and more snow alternated throughout the month.

Feb 6: A very heavy fall of snow with a very quick thaw. The Vicarage roof let much snow in and the ceilings suffered. The new room at the Day School had much water coming through the roof.

Feb 9: The Wash very high. Rainy weather continued and water stands on the lower land in the district.

Lent: Very cold weather and small congregations. Owing to the illness of the Vicar of Spalding the Vicar of Cowbitt was asked to give assistance there. Easter numbers up to the average but a surprise on Easter Monday when 9 communicants were present. At the Annual P.C. Meeting it was decided to keep the early celebration at 9 am in consequence of the extra hour of summer time up to the beginning of Aug. but the number of communicants has fallen considerably.

May 11/12: Spalding attacked by German Planes - much damage by fire and 4 killed.

May 19: Rain after weeks of dry cold.

Rogationtide: All crops very backwards at this date. Mr. A. Hayes appointed headmaster of Moulton Chapel school. At Easter the boys and girls aged 11 years and over were transported to the new Gleed School in Spalding - a bus running each day for their conveyance. The number on the books including 20 London children thus dropped to 68 and Miss Malster was appointed temporary Head Mistress.

May 29: The Rev. L. Smith inspected the school as to religious instruction and gave a 'Good' report.

June 1: Whit Sunday: increase in no. of communicants and in collections for Johnson Hospital. The weather during May was very cold; much rain in the 3rd week and crops backward. Warm sunshine on June 4th continuing into July when wet weather set in and made the harvest very difficult to gather. The weather all through the year was strange.

November: Evensong was changed to 2.30 pm and seemed to suit better than 3.15 as in the previous year. More money in the parish with wages fixed at £3 a week. The vicar taken ill and services were taken by Rev. H. D. Speakman Vicar of Moulton St. James and Lay Readers F. Pearson and G. Smallwood. Water which appeared on the Wash in November had gone by the end of the year when

Jan 1942: very severe frosts began with some heavy snow. A slight thaw in the middle of the month flooded the Wash and sharp frosts afterwards produced ice but snow made it rough.

February reported the coldest for 47 years. Frost every night this year up to March 3-4 when heavy rain fell. The Rt. Rev. F. C. N. Hicks, Bishop of Lincoln, died after a short illness on Tuesday Feb 10th.

April: Easter fairly well kept though no special services in Lent. Good Friday evening service quite good. A very dry spell of weather in April and May with cool N.E. winds prevailing.

May: Jane Frances Dove, the eldest daughter of the Rev. J. T. Dove, died aged 95 years.

June 19: The Rev. L. Smith inspected the school in respect of religious instruction and found a favourable report for us. A great fête for the Red Cross and local boys in the forces held in Mr. J. Braybrooks' field. The record sum of £232 realised.

June 28: The Rural Dean - Canon B. G. Nicholas - visited and inspected the church. The increase in Sunday work owing to the war and the call up of young people to the forces has brought about a sad reduction in the numbers attending the sung mass at 10.30 but otherwise little change is to be noticed.

June 6 1943: A special service for troops in the district manning the search lights taken by their Chaplain.

Sept 19: The Harvest Thanksgiving. The Rev. G. Lanham - a Spalding boy now ordained - helped and preached.

March 23 1945: The Rural Dean - Canon B. G. Nicholas - died this day.

May 8: The war in Europe over. Laus Deo. A splendid service of Thanksgiving held at night even though the Chapel had its own service. During the war years the Vicar of Cowbitt had given much assistance at Spalding Parish Church whilst the Vicar there was single handed and during his long last illness. This work was carried on to the time when Canon P. A. Carnegy was inducted to that benefice.

Aug 15: The war in the Far East ended - far less rejoicing than in May. The difficulties of the period after fighting were growing very apparent and the war time hardships continued unabated.

Christmas Day: The 8 am celebration with hymns - quite encouraging. Evensong was back again at 6.30 p.m. this winter but no more attended than had done in the afternoon in previous years.

1946: A midweek service in Lent once again. A small but very regular congregation each week right up to Easter.

July 30: Sir J. Gleed died - for many years a member of Cowbitt School Trustees - and latterly Chairman of that body. The Vicar and Mr. J. H. Boon attended his funeral on Aug 1st.

July 31st: Sunday School outing to Skegness by train. A fair number of parents went but the fare was considered too high by many. A meal given to each child in face of the difficulty of getting food at Skegness.

Aug: The weather for harvest was very hot and the farmers had a very trying time all over the country. Hereabouts they were better off than some for little was lost tho' the harvest was very late and the conditions not good.

Nov: This will be remembered as a wet year. Little sunshine and much rain. Water rose on the Wash this month and reached a high level in December.

1947: The Archdeacon said Goodbye to his clergy on Jan 6th at Grantham before going to Edinburgh to become Bishop. It was a bitterly cold day and snow began then. The cold and snow lasted and were the worst for many years - since 1895 'tis said. The crisis in coal supplies made this a hard winter: 2,000,000 unemployed in February. Cuts in electricity and churches urged to use as little light as possible. The ice on the Wash remained for many weeks and was good until heavy snow came to cover it. The amateur and professional skating championships were held again with big crowds of spectators. The constant frost - 3 weeks without reaching 32° - made the church very cold and congregations were badly affected. Evensong on Sundays was taken near the stove by the S. door.

February: Lent is early and the weather still bitter and roads very glassy. The numbers coming to the Lent Services on Wednesday however are much higher than last year.

March: Summer time is to begin on March 16th and end Nov 2nd.

March 5: The worst snowfall so far. All roads blocked with 4 foot drifts. The village completely cut off for 2 days. On the 7th the road to the station and to Spalding opened for one way traffic. Drift by the vicarage gate 6 ft high and garage snowed up.

March 16: Snow thawing quickly. A severe gale this night - wind said to be 80 miles per hour - did very great damage. Tree in churchyard crashed thro' the wall. Drawing room window of the vicarage blown in. Ice on the Wash blown across the roads. The Wash rose quickly on the 17th and the danger of flooding grew daily. All men in the village at work sandbagging the bank. The tunnel at Town end blew and danger of a break there very great. Water washed across the roads in many places and lower fields flooded.

March 21: The bank burst near Marcus Hardy's farm at Clout Drove - Crowland parish submerged. A huge army of men and lorries this night bagging Queen's Bank and the railway to contain the waters. By Sunday 23rd the water had gone down on the Wash to the bottom of the Bank. Crowland surrounded by floods.

April: By the end of the month nearly all the land in Crowland parish was cleared of flood water and work on the land was going day and night.

May 29: A heat wave with temperatures up to 90° in the shade lasting until June 5th. Water supply very bad - all cisterns seem dry and the R.D.C. supply very meagre.

June: Useful showers helped the crops after the dry spell. On St John Baptist day the new Archdeacon the Ven. K. E. N. Lamplugh paid his first visit to the church and parish.

July 28: The Sunday School treat was a journey to Wickstead Park, Kettering in which the Chapel joined. A very hot day but highly successful. A thunderstorm half an hour after the company had reached home. This was the last rain to fall until Sept 12th. The harvest was early and quickly gathered tho' the yield per acre not very good.

July 31: The Rt. Rev. Maurice Harland was enthroned Bishop in Lincoln Cathedral.

Appendix: 1959-1984

The above entry of July 31st 1947 is for some unknown reason the last which the then vicar made though he stayed for a further twelve years. The entries recommence in 1959 and are from that date of a purely ecclesiastical nature. The following significant dates and events may however be of some general interest and will serve to bring the Log Book up to date.

October 1959: James Arthur Pilling resigned upon his retirement to Skegness.

November 1960: Harold Moxon, Vicar of All Saints, Lincoln, inducted as Vicar of Cowbit.

1962: Chancel re-ordered to form an enlarged sanctuary. Oil fired central heating installed.

1965: Wooden block floor of church renovated.

March 1976: Harold Moxon resigned upon his retirement to Spalding.

February 1977: Eric John Wingfield instituted as Vicar of Cowbit.

1978 Union of Benefices: By Order-in-Council of 25th July 1978 the three benefices of Cowbit, Weston and Moulton St James were united to form a single benefice entitled The Benefice of Cowbit, from 1st August 1978, Eric John Wingfield being named as first incumbent of the new benefice.

October 1981: Eric John Wingfield resigned the benefice on his retirement.

May 1982: Harold Moxon, vicar 1960-1976, died and was buried near the north door.

June 1982: Stuart James Hadley instituted as vicar of Cowbit.

February 2 1984: To mark the 600th anniversary of the dedication of the church in 1384, the Bishop of Lincoln, The Rt. Rev. Simon Phipps, celebrated and preached at a festal Eucharist. The Bishop spoke of Simeon (Luke 2:22-35) as one who was prepared and ready by his life of prayer to acknowledge and welcome Christ when he came.