DECEMBER, 1956

THE PARISH PAPER

Puttenham & Long Marston with Wilstone

CHRISTMASS

7.30 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. Long Marston.
8.30 a.m. Wilstone.

A joy to the eye is the piece of skilled work that has been done by Mr. Cyril Chandler on the north wall of Long Marston Church. And good too was it to have his diagnosis of the trouble as due to settlement of the roof thrusting away the flint work to the depth of two to three feet along practically the whole length of the wall. I had imagined that the plaster work generally was perished and that the whole building was beginning to shed its flints like a moulting hen its feathers. I must again express our thanks to those who sent donations making it possible to put the repairs immediately in hand, and now to Mrs. J. M. Gregory whose sale and whist drive in October made a profit of £22. 2. 11 making it possible to settle the account outright with something left over for the repair of the bent and broken iron fence along the roadside. This is a legacy from the war days when anything including heavy lorries and even the steam roller made a practice of turning in the Vicarage gateway, and not seldom crashing the fence opposite.

Mrs. Cyril Chandler is home again from hospital, and certainly benefitted she tells me I am pleased to say. Miss Saunders is back at school apparently quite restored to health. We were particularly fortunate during her absence in having the help of Mrs. Stansfield, and not least since it coincided with the arrival at Bromley of children from Wilstone. They were at home in their new school from the first moment. "It's not any different" said one infant.

To slightly change the adage about the piper, those who appoint the bishops call the tune. Tap. Tap. Tap. Tap. Tap. Tap. Its our Government-appointed bishops tapping in the nails of the Church of England's coffin. Their recent resolutions regarding marriages which you have seen in the daily press amount to reducing the ten commandments to nine making adultery no longer a sin to be repented of, and adding a new beatitude—Blessed are the adulterers—by the blessing it is proposed to give on the marriages of divorced persons. "Well,

of course you can't have the wedding in Church" resolutions say in effect "but you can come to Church afterwards and have a little service of blessing on your union". Meanwhile the Roman Church reaps harvest. Since Cardinal Newman (author of 'Praise to the holiest in the height' and 'Lead kindly light') went over to Rome in 1845 rather over two thousand Church of England clergy have followed him. In the last 18 months the rate has reached its greatest pace since the years immediately following Cardinal Newman's departure from the C. of E. Recent departures hereabouts include the Vicar of S. Saviour's, Luton, and Canon E. C. Rich, Vicar of Padbury the other side of Winslow (and incidentally too his son-in-law Lord Craigmoyle). Since the 1914 war the average number of laity received into the Roman fold is over ten thousand yearly. The bishops should indeed be able to have dealings with, and to live on friendly terms with those of our fellow-countrymen who do not accept the Christian code in these matters, but to change that code is outside their power, and their attempted change is not even intellectually respectable. If those who go through a civil form of marriage after divorce are married in the eyes of the Church then there is no reason in refusing them marriage in Church. If such unions do not constitute marriage in the eyes of the Church then to pronounce a blessing on such unions is to pretend wrong is right. Tap. Tap. Tap. Bring out the coffin stools. All the commandments over and over again have been broken by Roman Catholics who have the same sinful nature as ourselves, but the Roman bishops have never contradicted the commandments, never called black white, never in the clamour for a change in the commandments said "Yes, marriage is no longer a contract between two persons for life".

BURIALS

July 6.—Sarah Catherine Turner. 98 years. At Puttenham.
Aug. 8.—Albert French. 72 years. At Long Marston.

BAPTISMS. At Long Marston.

Sep. 12.—Shirley Ann Nurden.
,, 12.—Terence Henry Nurden.
Oct. 7.—Paul Raymond Baylis.
Nov. 4.—Lynette Susan Cox.

At Wilstone

Oct. 7.—Tony Raymond Bonham.
Oct. 21.—Jennifer Elizabeth Emery.

MARRIAGE. At Long Marston.

Sep. 29.—Ernest William Coles and Sylvia Elizabeth Stevens.

RECEIVED WITH THANKS

Church wall. Mrs. Henry Chappin 10/-, Miss E. E. Chapman 10/-, Miss Starley (Jersey) £1.