

Puttenham, Long Marston & Wilstone Magazine

MARCH, 1939.

SERVICES.

Holy Communion. Usually Wilstone 1st Sunday in month; Long Marston 2nd, 3rd, 4th; Puttenham 5th. 8 a.m.

Mass. Daily. Sundays. Always Long Marston, 10.30 a.m. (Sung).

Evensong. Usually 2.30 p.m. Puttenham; 6 p.m. Long Marston; and (Winter months) 6 p.m. Wilstone.

The death of Pope Pius XI. has called forth universal tributes of respect, from the teams of the M.C.C. match against Rhodesia ceasing play to stand for one minute in silence to our own Church Assembly in London rising to its feet and doing the same. Here, at Puttenham, the bell was tolled, and surely not the first time for the passing of a Pope; and on the Sunday the lovely Russian kontakion (E.H. 744) was sung before the Mass. For myself I would like to set down my thankfulness for the late Pope's encyclical on "Marriage and the Family" addressed to the world in 1931. It is in my own belief likely to be the most important writing of the century. Certainly in the 38 years already gone I should find it difficult to name any other document this century has produced that approaches it in importance. The Covenant of the League of Nations? The Versailles Treaty? Any Act of Parliament? Any book? Hitler's "Mein Kampf"? I can think of none. Just as last century produced no document to my way of thinking of equal importance with the encyclical of Pope Leo XIII. on "The Condition of the Working Classes." I know this latter encyclical almost by heart through constant reading of it, and I take the liberty of giving away with the March Magazine a leaflet with extracts which I happen to have by me.

The vacancy in the Rectory of Drayton Beauchamp once again raises in the mind an urgently called-for redrawing of boundaries. Wilstone should, I think so obviously, be put with Drayton with the Rector living at Wilstone. At the moment I understand that the property next to Wilstone Church is for sale. It is the ideal site for the Vicarage which could be built with the proceeds of the sale of Dray-

ton Rectory. It is difficult to write this without appearing anxious to be rid of Wilstone. It is not that, but the impossibility of properly working three churches. The change would actually be to my personal loss as the £60 (£42 when it reaches my pocket after deduction of income tax) would go to the Rector of Drayton with Wilstone. But the immense benefit that the change would be to Wilstone outweighs in my mind every other consideration. It would benefit Drayton too, since so tiny a parish at present it can hardly hope to attract anyone except a semi-invalid.

The unveiling of the Rowdon Memorial is provisionally fixed for the afternoon of May 10th. The Sewing Party Sale is fixed for June 6th. The proceeds are for a further panel in the East Window, this time as a memorial to the late Mr. J. G. Williams, of Pendley, who in life, together with Mrs. Williams, was so great a benefactor to this parish. Pendley Manor gave Puttenham its Parish Room and site, and the new part of the Churchyard. At Wilstone the Parish Room and cottage and the site, and the site of S. Cross Church and £600 to the Building Fund; and at Long Marston the school site and a large donation, All Saints' Church Building Fund £700, and a large donation to the Vicarage Building Fund, and countless small benefactions over many years. I cannot believe that there will be any one who will not agree that the next panel should be a Williams Memorial. Other spaces remain for donors to put in a Memorial to parents or other dear ones, with a suitable inscription at the foot. Costs can be obtained from me.

Received with Thanks. J.M.G., 10s., Rowdon Memorial.