

February 1918

REV. A. E. BAYNES.- I am sure that my parishioners will be grieved to hear, as I am to tell them, that we are about to lose my much loved and valued colleague, Mr. Baynes. He is (not going, I am glad to say until after Easter) leaving to take up by the Bishop's direction a district and quasi-sole charge in the large parish of Sandhurst, Berks. What Mr. Baynes has been to us and to me especially in my failing health during his three years' tenure of the Curacy, I need not remind you. His performance of all his pastoral duties, his visits and ministrations (particularly to the sick and sorrowful) his thoughtful and impressive sermons, his careful teaching in the schools have endeared him to us all, and we regret his departure from Wing, as we pray for God's blessing on him in his new sphere of work.

NOTICE.- A Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 6th, at the Wing Hall, at 2.30, at which an Address will be given by Miss Pichard Hall on the proposed alteration in the Marriage Laws. Mrs. Tatham hopes that all the members of the Mothers' Union will attend and many others who are interested in this important question. (Members will doubtless remember Miss Pichard Hall, who spoke here at the time of the National Mission.)

With reference to the above, and in a sermon preached on the Gospel of the day (2nd Sunday after Epiphany) viz., "Our Lord's first miracle at Cana of Galilee," the Vicar said:- "You will remember that in our Solemnization of Matrimony the presence of Jesus at the marriage is specially mentioned. Marriage is there called a 'holy estate' or state of life, an honourable estate instituted by God (not man) in the time of man's innocency, signifying unto us the mystical union that is betwixt Christ and His Church, and we are reminded that Christ adorned and beautified it by His presence and His first miracle. Marriage is a covenant, an agreement, no doubt, and therefore like any other agreement it has to be legalized, sanctioned and guarded by the law of the land but it is from its very nature unlike any other covenant; it is a sacrament, it has a spiritual side which others have not and is more obviously appointed and instituted by God Himself. 'Those whom God has joined together, let not man put asunder.'" Other compacts and connections may be from time to time revised or annulled, if it be thought necessary or expedient for the common good, but *not* this one. And if it be degraded or tampered with, if instead of being regarded as God's gift to man it becomes in our eyes a thing that can be adapted to the passing whims and conveniences or even to the lusts and passions of man, we destroy the very foundations upon which the whole fabric of Society, of public and private morality, is built. Love (I mean true love), purity, happiness, home, domestic affections, the joy of children, the confidence of family life – all these (and think for a moment what a life without these blessings would be!) all these would inevitably go too.

Sweet is the smile of home, the mutual
look,
When hearts are of each other sure;
Sweet all the joys that crowd the house-
hold nook,
The haunt of all affections pure.

I say this, and I say it now, because as many of you are doubtless aware we are within measureable distance of a terrible, a fatal danger. A move is being made and a Bill is actually about to be brought into Parliament which, if passed, would go far to alter the whole idea and status of marriage in this

country. We know to our sorrow how many hasty and unhappy marriages there are now-a-days, how instead of being entered reverently, discreetly, advisedly, soberly, in the fear of God, this holy and honourable estate of life is enterprised and taken in hand lightly or wantonly. In compliance with the unhappy state of things our laws have for many years sanctioned the separation for a while of husband and wife; but this is of a temporary nature and was never meant to loosen or to free them from the life-long bond to which they have pledged themselves. But now this futile measure I speak of purposes to enact, that if the parties shall have lived apart for three years, this shall ipso facto be recognised as divorce, and they shall be free. It is almost impossible to believe that such a degraded and degrading idea of marriage *can* prevail. If we will unite together and take every opportunity of showing how deeply we feel in this matter, we shall by God's help avert this dreadful catastrophe. Marriage is the one institution of our social life upon which our Lord may be said to have legislated, and we need to remember His words, 'What God hath joined together, let no man put asunder.'

Since writing this, we hear that the Bill has been withdrawn for the present.

LENT SERVICES

On Sunday evenings during Lent, the Rev. A. E. Baynes will give a course of Addresses, subject, "Christ our Life."

Lent i. – The Way, the Truth, and the Life.

ii. – The True Vine

iii. – The Light of the World.

iv. – The Bread of Life.

v. – The Good Shepherd.

On Friday evenings, at 6.30, the Rev. T. H. Liddiard will give a course of Addresses, subject, "The Child of God."

Feb. 22 – In Baptism

March 1 - In Confirmation.

8 – In Holy Communion.

15 – In Holy Matrimony.

22 – In the Burial of the Dead.

On Friday afternoons at 5, there will be a Special Service for children, commencing Friday, February 15th.

RINGING OF CHURCH BELLS.- On Ash Wednesday, February 13th, and every day afterwards, the Church bells will be rung for the Evening Service, both Sundays and week-days.

The monthly collection of waste paper will be made on Wednesday February 13th.

OFFERTORY RECIEPTS

	£	s.	d.	
Jan 6	3	12	2	Red Cross Fd.
13	1	13	4	
20	1	12	10	Waifs and Strays
27	1	12	0	

BAPTISM

Dec. 30. – Sybil Rosalie Haynes, daughter of Henry and Ada Haynes.

BURIALS

Dec. 29. – Stuart Cutler, 5 months

Jan. 5- Stanley Richard Baker, 10 weeks