

Wing,

Jan. 1st, 1918

My Dear Friends and Parishioners,-

In passing from the old to the new year, and offering you my greetings and hearty good wishes for 1918, I feel, as I am sure we all feel, that we are having such a time of peculiar solemnity and anxiety as the world has never known before, and we need all the guidance and strength and consolation that our Father in Heaven alone can and will give us if we turn to Him in earnest prayer. If this terrible war, with all its sacrifices and surprises and horrors, has taught us nothing else (and it has taught us much else), it is at least bringing home to us the blessing and the power of prayer. As a nation, we are passing through very deep waters, and it is sad indeed to think that though we are now in the middle of the fourth year of the great war and that, in spite of all our efforts and sufferings, the end appears as yet so far off and so uncertain. We can only hope and pray for peace, and out our whole trust and confidence in Him, Who doeth all things well. For us denizens of the once happy and prosperous village of Wing, the year 1917 is memorable for the great loss we have sustained in the death of our much loved friend and benefactor, Mr. Leopold de Rothschild. About him it is almost needless for me to speak to you, for we all think of him alike, and I trust we shall never forget or allow our children to forget what he and Mrs. Rothschild have been to us, or what they have done for this place and neighbourhood during the many years of their residence in our midst. 'Sympathy' means not only feeling *for*, but feeling *with* the desolate and oppressed – sharing their sorrow in fact; and it is in that sense that we sympathise with Mrs. Rothschild and her family in the death of their great head, as well as their more recent bereavement. Major Evelyn de Rothschild died in Cairo Hospital from wounds received at the battle of Gaza last November. Wing, too, like every place throughout the length and breadth of the Empire, has lost many of its bravest and our best, and scarcely a week (never a month) passes but I have the sad task of adding a fresh name or names to our Roll of Honour on the Church door. Captain, the Hon. Neil Primrose, though not a native of Wing, was well known to us all; his short but brilliant and promising career was closed in the same battle, and Lord Rosebery and his family are assured of our deepest sympathy. We append a list of names from the above roll. 'Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.'

With respect to local and domestic concerns the past year has been uneventful. The Schools are going on well. Miss Monk, who came to us last Easter as headmistress of the girls, is doing excellent work. We miss Mr. Long both in his school and in the parish; his place is filled temporarily by Mr. Dawson, who is carrying on the school well, both in and out of doors. The 'Victory Patch,' at Moorfields, kindly provided by Mrs. Rothschild for the boys to grow potatoes, was quite a success. I must mention also that in addition to collecting 358lb. of blackberries for the Army, and 30 cwts. Of horse chestnuts for munitions, the boys have during the term contributed £2 5s. 2d. to the Red Cross Fund., King George's Fund for Sailors and the Overseas Club. Their war loan contributions amount to £3 6s. 10d. The health of the village has been on the whole good, and there has been no epidemic, though an outbreak of impertigo keeps many of the younger children from school.

I would again commend to your notice the War Loan. Wing has pulled up nearer to its proper place during the last month, but with our many munition workers and the high rate of wages, there must still be much money in the village which people, particularly the younger workers, might invest in this object at once patriotic and profitable. We must look ahead and prepare for the 'lean years' which will most likely come after the war. I venture to urge this upon the young women especially, many of whom I notice dressed at needless expense. We have been much cheered by late by the

holiday visits of Wing men from the Front (would that they could have “come to stay”!) My daughter has had a great number of delightful letters (nearly 50 already) in acknowledgement of our Christmas parcels; they all seem to come to hand and are much appreciated.

With my prayers for God’s blessing on our parish for the coming year.

I remain,

Your Friend and Pastor.

Francis H. Tatham.

WOMEN WORKERS FOR THE RED CROSS SOCIETY.- We beg most earnestly the women of Wing not to slack off their efforts in this most useful work; it is more needed than ever. Mrs. Tarver has been disappointed that so very few (compared with previous years) have applied for material and that Wing (compared with its neighbours) has produced very little.

WASTE PAPER.- The collection of waste paper will take place this month on Wednesday, Jan. 16th. Philip Ginger will perambulate the village with his cart as before, and though the results of his two former visits were satisfactory, we hope that the next may enable us to complete the necessary ton.

DAY OF NATIONAL PRAYER.- On Sunday next, the Feast of Epiphany, Jan. 6th, there will be held in Wing Hall at half past three in the afternoon, a united Service of Prayer. This has been arranged so as not to clash with the hours of service and school at the Chapels, and I earnestly hope that all who possibly can will join together in heart and voice in our intercessions on behalf of the Nation and Empire in this time of trial.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS.- Some members of the Church choir went round the village on Christmas night singing carols and collected £4 8s., which has been handed to the Library Fund for Blinded Soldiers.

THE PARISH CHURCH.- Except for the beautiful white flowers on the altar the Church was not decorated this year. There were three celebrations of Holy Communion. Matins, Carol Service at 3, and shortened Evensong with carols at 6. There were in all 108 communicants. The Church, which was for some Sundays very cold through some mistake in lighting the stove, is now very effectively warmed.

NAMES ON THE ‘ROLL OF HONOUR’ AT THE CHURCH DOOR.- James Paxton, James Bull, William Garforth, Frank Bryant, Joseph Brand, Sidney Fountaine, Henry Gardner, Sidney Guess, Dennis Horne, Lionel Jordan, Frank Pickering, Henry Pratt, William Pease, Edward Randall, Harold Randall, Oscar Remington, James Rogers, William Woolhead, Arthur Woodward, Leonard Oakeley, Ernest Pollard, George Woodward, John Hammerton, Frank Page, Evelyn Rothschild, Ernest Syrratt. In addition to these we have to report John Hammerton, George Jordan and Ernest Willis as ‘missing’.

OFFERTORY RECIEPTS

	£	s.	d.	
Dec 2. Advent Sunday	3	0	5	Sunday Sch. Exp.
9. 2 nd Sun. in Advent	1	14	7	Sick & Needy.
16. 3 rd “ “ “	1	8	2	Church Exps.
23. 4 th “ “	1	11	3	“ “
25. Xmas Day	4	6	3	Sick & Needy.
27. Sunday after Xmas	1	8	5	Church Exps.

EXTRACTS FROM PARISH REGISTERS

HOLY BAPTISM

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

HOLY MATRIMONY.

Dec. 4. – Charles Archer, of Sidcup, Kent, to Emily Jane, daughter of Frederick Yates, of Burcott, Wing.

Dec. 13. – Joseph John Green (soldier) of Wing, to Hilda Eleanor, daughter of John Temple, Wing.

Dec. 20. – George William Pidgley (R.N. Flying Corps), of Wingrave, to Louisa Annie, daughter of William Watson, of Wing.

BURIALS

Dec. 17. – Bernard Bolton, of Littleworth, Wing, aged 85.

Dec. 24. – Elizabeth Gardner, widow, of Wing, aged 58.

Dec. 29. – Stuart Cutler, aged 5 months.

We shall all miss Bernard Bolton, a fine specimen of the faithful and industrious farm labourer. For upwards of 40 years he drove daily Mr. Adams's milk cart to Leighton Station, and during all that time only twice missed the train – once when the time of departure was changed without notice, and once when he stuck fast in a snow drift. He was the last among our men to wear a smock frock (it is much regretted that the useful and suitable garment has become extinct in our part of the country, it is both pretty and economical, cool in summer, and warm in winter). We also record with much regret the death of Elizabeth Gardner after two days illness. She came originally to Wing in the service of Mr. Horsman, and was a niece of Mrs. William Page.