

September 1914

My dear Friends,

We enter this month under the shadow of a great calamity. A terrible war, involving all the great nations of Europe and our own beloved country among them, has suddenly broken out. War on so stupendous a scale, waged on land and sea and in the air by so many nations at once over so wide an area and with such enormous armies, has never been witnessed in all the world's history before, and the deadly effect of modern arms and explosives renders it all the more horrible, I need not remind you of the sad and shameful story of how it has all come about. Of one thing we are all agreed that England could not avert or avoid it, hard as she tried to do so. Had we stood aside to see Belgium crushed and France dismembered, it would have been at once a crime and a blunder, and when our turn came (as assuredly it would have come) there would have been no man to pity us, and we should have deserved any punishment that we got. Now that it has come we have to face it, and right bravely on the whole do people seem to set all else aside and to rally to the call of the country in this supreme moment of her necessity. I say "on the whole," for there are still some laggards who fail to recognise the gravity of the situation and their own duty. Their indifference comes, I would fain hope, more from ignorance than selfishness or cowardice. But there is no excuse for those who say they do not know why England is fighting or what she is fighting for to keep her plighted word and for her liberties, perhaps for her very existence as a nation, and, cost us what it may we are bound with God's help to do and to give our very best in this holy cause. We must work and we must pray. Don't let us forget that, I wish I could see more of you joining in our daily and weekly intercessions in Church. This is a subject on which (whatever our religious sentiments may or may not be) we are absolutely "of one heart and one mind". And there is much virtue in united prayer; it blesses and cheers us who offer it and I beg you, one and all, Church folk and Dissenters alike, whether you attend our services or not, at any rate to remember in your daily prayers our King and country, our sailors and soldiers, the sick and the wounded, the dying and the dead, and all who are suffering or will suffer anxiety and bereavement, or poverty or want in consequence of the war, and also to entreat our Heavenly Father to assuage the madness of the nations and restore us the blessing of peace.

Your faithful friend and pastor,

F. H. TATHAM

I append a list of the Wing men who are serving in the Army or Navy at present. I hope it may be still further enlarged (indeed just as I write this I have been told of nine more from Ascott who have enlisted) and there are many who can, and therefore, we hope will rally to the call. Albert Bandy, Harvey Beard, James Bull (Crafton), Alec Gates, William Gates, Alfred Green, John Green, Edward Guess, Horace Haines, Charles Hatley, James Holton, Harry Kempster (Crafton), William Kenning, Jesse Lane, Percy Lane, Frank Langley, James Laurence, Samuel Laurence, Victor Laurence, William Morton, Harry Page, Eric Pantling, James Paxton, Harry Pratt, Edward Ramsay, Reginald Randall, Lewis Rogers, Anthony Rothschild, Evelyn Rothschild, Lionel Rothschild, H. Watson, Ernest Willis, Charles Wright.

INTERCESSIONS – A short Service of Intercession on behalf of our country and all engaged in or affected by the war, is held daily in Church. The tenor bell is chimed for a few minutes at 12 and the service begins 3 minutes later. All who are unable to attend the service themselves are asked to add their prayers to ours.

There are also intercessory prayers at Matins (8) and Evensong (6). On Thursdays a Celebration of Holy Communion at 8 and intercession at 2.30 as well as at 12. On Fridays Evensong 7.30 instead of 6.

The excellent Form of Intercession issued by authority is well adapted for private as for public use. The Vicar will gladly give a copy to anyone who applies for it.

SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' FAMILIES ASSOCIATION – The local representative is Miss Helen Tatham to whom any qualified person may apply.

THE SCOUTS – During the last month our Scouts have been doing excellent service – indeed owing to the absence of their Scoutmaster almost more work has been laid upon them (though they were willing enough) than was fair.

SPECIAL CONSTABLES – There have been two enrolments of special constables in Wing and a further draft is required – at least the more there are the less frequently they will be called upon; they are needed for watching the reservoir and other duties. The folly of admitting so many Germans into this country is now apparent; their numbers are a source of danger and many of them seem bent on mischief and add greatly to the labours of the police.

THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT – We had been warned that some troops would be quartered in Wing but did not know when to expect them. On Sunday evening, 16th, the 6th Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment of Territorials arrived. They had travelled by train from Swindon to Leighton; they numbered about 500 and it was with some difficulty that billets were found for them in the village. It was understood that they were about to spend some weeks, if not months, here for training purposes, but on Tuesday, the 18th, they were suddenly moved on – much to the disappointment of many. They were a fine set of men and recruited mainly from the city and neighbourhood of Bristol. They went off at half an hour's notice and it has been hard work to wind up their billing accounts in the village, the list of numbers, names, houses, etc. being very imperfect and confused.

THE HARVEST FESTIVAL THANKSGIVING SERVICES – As we announced last month the service will be held in the Parish Church on Wednesday, September 30th. At the Choral Evensong the preacher will be the Rev. Canon Hopton, M.A., Vicar of Moseley, Rural Dean of King's Norton, Birmingham. We must not forget to thank our Heavenly Father for the beautiful weather of the last month and the abundant harvest which has been now safely gathered in. Scarcity and distress in the coming months are inevitable in consequence of the war, but if we had had a half spoiled or meagre harvest in addition to our other anxieties it would have been indeed very hard to bear. Whether we shall have the usual tea or not will be settled later; at any rate we hope we may have the tray money for the benefit of the Hospital.

THE FLOWER SHOW – So much has happened since Bank Holiday, August 3rd, and our thoughts have been so absorbed by the war that we have almost forgotten the Flower Show. Suffice it to say the Flying Man seemed likely to produce bumper attendance and would have done so but for a most untoward deluge of rain; it fell just about 3 o'clock drenching those who were already on the ground and also the many hundreds who were on their way to the Show and who were so hopelessly wet that they could only turn round and go home again. Mr Birchenough, the Flying Man, gave us a beautiful display of his skill, but his performance was curtailed first by the rain and then by an urgent summons to return to Hendon at once. Even with these drawbacks, we understand, the returns were very good and much in excess of those of the last few years. The exhibits were more numerous than ever before and were pronounced by the judges to be quite first rate.

CONFIRMATION – The Bishop of Buckingham will hold a Confirmation in Wing Church on the afternoon of Sunday, October 11th. The Vicar is disappointed in the case of some of the candidates he is preparing that their parents over-rule their children's own 'good desires' on the grounds they are not old enough to be confirmed.

EXTRACTS FROM PARISH REGISTERS.

HOLY BAPTISM.

Aug. 10. Henry Jordan (adult baptism), son of the late Thomas and Ann Jordan.

“ 17. Leslie George, son of Walter Henry and Bertha Rowe, of Ascott.

“ 23. William Alfred, Marjorie May and Florence Rose, children of Alfred and Maud Willimott, of Balham.

BURIAL.

August 6th- George Lovell, of Wing (died in Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury), aged 63.

We regret to announce the death of Charles, son of Samuel Gates. He died at the Hammersmith Hospital, aged 27, and was buried at Hammersmith.

OFFERTORY RECIEPTS.

	£	s.	d.	
Aug. 2. 9 th Sun. after Trin.	1	16	10	Sick & Needy
	0	4	6	U.C.M.A.
“ 9. 10 th “ “	1	8	3	Church Ex.
“ 16. 11 th “ “	1	14	10	“ “
“ 23. 12 th “ “	11	3	8	Prince of Wales' Fund
“ 30. 13 th “ “	1	12	3	Church Ex.

The Collection made for the Prince of Wales' Fund has been increased by contributions sent later to the Vicar. In several cases people have handed him their billeting money for this worthy object.