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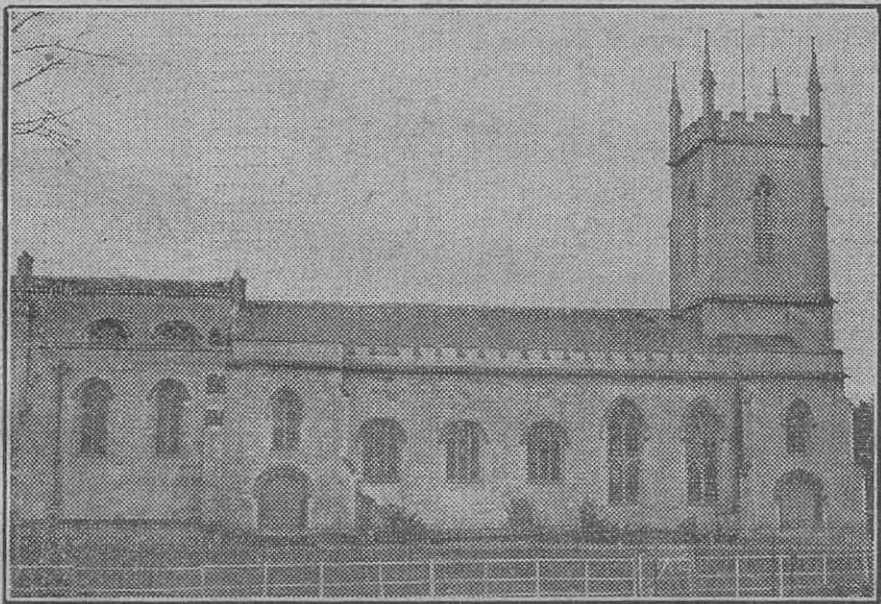
## VANDERING WORSHIPPER AT MATTHEW'S CHURCH

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SE who are despondent about the state of the G  
ght well do what I did on Sunday morning—visi  
at Gainscross, and I venture to think they would  
perience.

ere seemed to be a message of hope throughout the  
d. Naturally, being Easter Sunday, there were  
promise of life hereafter, and the attendance at the  
spirit prevailing spoke of sure hope for the future

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ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH, CAINCROSS

It is a long time since I last visited the church, and I was struck with the vitality existing. Formerly there was—or such was my impression—a serenity almost amounting to sleepiness, but to-day it is different. In one respect, however, it is very much the same. As far as my recollection goes the musical side was of a high standard when I went there before, and it is so to-day.

### Nave Nearly Filled

The large nave was nearly full when I arrived, and I had to be content with a back seat. This gave me an opportunity of studying the congregation. I hope I shall be forgiven for doing this, but being so far removed from the lectern I could not hear the Lesson readings very distinctly and could not help allowing my thoughts to wander. It was a very mixed gathering, but a very reverent one. For many of them—no doubt the majority—the service was the second they had attended that day, for three or four Holy Communion services had been held earlier in the day, and who can attend gatherings like that, especially on such a day, without a deep and lasting feeling of reverence?

The way everyone joined in the singing was an inspiration. The lofty building echoed with the notes of triumph of the Resurrection hymns. I should have liked an acquaintance of mine—whose gloomy outlook is that of complete annihilation at death—to have been present. If he had not been convinced that he was wrong in his views when he went away from the service I should have been surprised. The truth—“He is risen”—was the keynote. The choir and everybody else gladly sang it and believed it, and the Vicar (the Rev. C. H. Scott) emphasised its meaning in his earnest, thoughtful discourse.

### Beginning of Apostolic Faith

The resurrection of Christ was very naturally the basis of Mr. Scott's sermon. He pictured the change that took place in the disciples of Christ during the crucifixion and the resurrection, and he asked What made the apostles definitely sure that Christ was the Son of God? It was, he said, the resurrection which was the real beginning of the apostolic faith. It was not that the laborious years of Christ's teaching and His matchless life had not produced a great impression on the disciples. They had, and His followers were almost convinced that He was the Messiah, but their faith had not been tested. Many a man, added Mr. Scott, finds it easy to say the Lord's Prayer in the sunshine, but his faith droops in adversity, not reviving until a friend points him upward. The shattered hope of the disciples revived, became a strong conviction, and ultimately a certainty as the result of the happenings on the Third Day. They were prepared then to risk their lives to make

Christ's mastership known. Later on they bled for their faith.

### An Amazing Event

Sometimes the resurrection seems incredible," continued Mr. Scott. "We admit it was an amazing event, but such a startling thing is needed to understand the after history of the Church and the world—to account even for the great change in the disciples themselves. A week before they were a broken band, but suddenly they became hopeful and fearless. What produced that change? They had seen their risen Lord alive; they were converted. Previously the disciples' idea of Christ's kingdom had been parochial, but then their views changed, they realised it was a spiritual kingdom in which Gentiles and Jews alike could enter.

"We, to-day, may thank God for those stalwarts of the early Church who resolved to make Christ's love known to every man. Our position is just what it is to-day because of the faithfulness of that band of men trained 1,900 years ago in the society of Jesus. Because they were faithful we are enjoying the same society.

"The Church to-day lives simply because Jesus lives," emphasised Mr. Scott. "We must carry on the work which the early Church began and send the gospel message of the crucified, risen and living Christ to those who know Him not. We have to look out beyond our own parish.

"If the resurrection had not been true," continued Mr. Scott, "the Church would have perished ages since. The Church has suffered much, but she has gone from strength to strength, and if an explanation of this is sought, the resurrection of Christ is sufficient.

Mr. Scott is a newcomer to Cainscross, having been there only about two months, but the energy and enthusiasm he is putting into his task has proved contagious. He is the type of man who does not spare himself in order to further work to which he has set his hand.

### One Who is Indefatigable

I have referred to the fine musical side of the service, and after I left the church I had the pleasure of meeting the one who is largely responsible for this, namely Mr. J. Dee. I read in the Parish Magazine of the "indefatigable Mr. Dee" and I thought how suitable was the description. With the aid of the organist and choir he works hard to maintain the high standard of singing that has so long been the rule at Cainscross. He has an able lieutenant in Mr. Norman U. Smith, L.R.A.M., the organist. Mr. Smith, an old Marling School boy and now a member of the staff at Stonehouse Council School, secured his degree at the Royal Academy of Music, London, a few months ago. He is well known as a talented bass singer. The choir is strong and well-balanced and must be a valued adjunct to the church.

### Nearly 100 Years Old

Cainscross Church cannot boast of a long history like so many other churches in the locality. It was erected in 1837—a year before the ecclesiastical parish was formed. The church consists of a chancel, nave of five bays, aisles, north and west porches and an embattled western tower with pinnacles, containing one bell. The organ was erected in 1883 at a cost of about £350. There are several very good stained glass windows and the east one was placed in 1897 in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. Four others are memorials



# CHURCH LIVES TO-DAY



CAINSCROSS CHURCH CHOIR

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## Workers

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er, in the fortunate

position of having Mr. F. J. Smith and Mr. R. E. Stuart as churchwardens. The last-named is the representative of the church to the Diocesan Conference. Mr. S. G. Annis is the hon. secretary of the Parochial Church Council, while the hon. secretary and treasurer of the Free-will Offering Fund is Mr. P. Ashton. Mrs. Meadows is the hon. secretary and treasurer of the church magazine, which is a flourishing periodical having a circulation of between 300 and

400. It is the hope of those responsible for the magazine to increase to 500 before long. By recent increases, this has been achieved. Reference must be made to the Working Men's Club, a vigorous body working for the good of the church. Mrs. Scott and her deputy, Miss Steele discharge their duties as churchwardens.