

CRICK RECTORY,  
*October, 1928*

MY DEAR PEOPLE,

Whatever their politics may be, I generally find Crick people are very conservative in their habits and like to keep up old customs. More than once parishioners have regretted to me that Crick Feast is not kept up like it used to be. No, it isn't, and more's the pity!

Our old village feasts were always connected with the Parish Church, and the old Crick Feast began as an annual commemoration of the Consecration of the Church. Till 1752 it used to be held on the first Sunday after Michaelmas, but in that year it became necessary to make a change in the calendar. Owing to the inaccurate method of calculating leap year in use at the time, the year was eleven days behind the sun, and so to correct this eleven days were struck out of September for that year. People could not understand this, and all over the country villages went on calculating their feasts by the old calendar, and thus our own feast came to be kept after what was known as Old Michaelmas Day. But even by that time the religious significance of the feast had been largely lost sight of, though not entirely, or our people would not have continued to speak as they do of Feast Sunday.

Can't we do something to bring back the original spirit of the old Crick Feast by joining together in worship and thanksgiving in our beautiful old church on Feast Sunday? The church still means much to many who perhaps rarely enter its doors. At its font they and their children have been baptised, many have been confirmed within its walls, at its altar many have been fed with the Sacred Food of body and soul, many have been joined together in Holy Marriage, and beneath its shadow they hope their own bodies will rest together with those whom they have loved and are gone before. Ought we not give thanks to God for the place where He has been brought into touch with us at all the really big moments in our lives?

But the feast was not only an expression of our thankfulness to God for our Church, but of our fellowship one with another. In our village life, things are constantly happening to estrange us from one another – personal differences, party differences, religious differences, class differences – and the more we keep apart the more we fail to understand one another and the wider the differences grow. A feast like (his, if properly observed, offers a golden opportunity for healing old grievances and drawing together in a mutual understanding. On our Feast Sunday we have the privilege and opportunity of coining together to the Holy Table, "In love and charity with our neighbours." And if we will take the advantage thus afforded and drop all our old quarrels and disputes, the Feast will be a real turning point in the history of the parish.

I am sending this letter to all parishioners. There are some I know who prefer to worship God apart from us in other ways; but I am convinced that the more truly they have found God in their own way the more ready they will be to 'rejoice with them that do rejoice'. and to join with us in spirit if not able to join in our worship.

The Dedication Festival will be held on October 14th. There will be a Sung Eucharist at 8 a.m., Shortened Mattins and a Simple Eucharist with Hymns (as on great festivals) at 10.30 a.m.; Evensong at 6.30 p.m. A Social gathering will be held at the Old School from 8 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. on Saturday, October 13th; admission 6d (tickets to be obtained from Mr. Gilbert or at the Rectory). This will be preceded by Evensong in the Church at 7.30 p.m.

I remain,  
Yours faithfully,  
Norman Hatherley, Rector