

## IMPORTANT DATES IN THE HISTORY OF MORDEN.

- 1015 Manor bequeathed to Westminster Abbey by Prince  
Ethelstan, son of King Ethelred. (Earliest record)  
1116 Probable date of first stone church.  
1246 First recorded Rector of Morden-Nicolaus Lupicini,  
Canon of St. Peter's, Rome.  
1299 The Parish became a Vicarage to benefit the Abbey.  
1553 Manor bought by Edward Whitchurch, and Lionel Duckett.  
1554 The Manor sold to Richard Garth.  
1604 The oldest church bell.  
1633 The silver-gilt chalice and paten presented.  
1634 The Rectorial tithes, house and 14½ acres of glebe  
restored to the parson of Morden, William Booth.  
1634 The earliest parish register now extant-began.  
1635 Royal Collection to assist in rebuilding the church.  
1710 Communion Table and cover presented by  
Mrs. Elizabeth Gardiner.  
1720 Pulpit and church school constructed by  
the will of Mrs. Elizabeth Gardiner.  
1791 The Sunday School founded.  
1792 The gallery erected.  
XIX Century.  
1805 The Vestry constructed.  
1814 Roof reconstructed.  
1819 The Sunday School hall built by Dr. J. W. Peers.  
1834 A barrel organ purchased.  
1843 New organ installed, another chalice, paten and  
now font presented. Also a carved oak alms-box.  
1882 The Church roof, walls and flooring renewed.  
1887 The Church tower repaired (Jubilee memorial).  
XX Century.  
1904 The Church repewed, pulpit moved, etc.  
1910 The Village school becomes Parish Hall.  
1932 St. George's Church hall erected.  
1938 St. George's Church erected.  
1941 Weekly school services inaugurated.  
1950 Emmanuel Church hall built.  
1955  
1960

## THE FIVE YEAR PLAN.

St. Martin's, Lower Morden, opened 1957

The above information was reproduced from a scroll beautifully written by Miss Eileen Boman. Our printer has made some handsome cards with a picture of the church for use in Sunday school.

## **Old Morden**

### **Thirty Years Ago**

The parish magazine for 1926 tells its own story of the disturbances felt in the parish as "the Tube" was being constructed. The Church authorities met at the Rectory to consider what provision could be made to serve the expected thousands who would soon arrive from London's slum areas. The Rector, the Rev. J. W. Langhorne, then nearing eighty seven years of age felt that he could do nothing to provide for the needs of the multitudes, in fact he was worried about finding £600 then demanded to put the Rectory property in order. Apparently the Rector of Carshalton felt equally unable to meet the expected need of clergy and church buildings. The task was therefore committed to Bishop Garbett, who began to make plans for a new parish of St. Helier.

For some time past, "the Ravensbury Mission" had been running at Col. Bidder's house in Bishopsford Road, services being held there on Sundays at 6.30 p.m., and on one historic occasion a special baptism service was held for one of the Bidder family.

Thirty years ago, Sunday School was held twice each Sunday in the Parish Hall at 10.15 a.m. and at 3 p.m. There was also a Children's Happy Evening with "Gym" on Wednesdays and other activities on Thursdays. The St. Lawrence Social and Athletic Club met on Fridays at 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Holy Communion was administered at Evening Prayer once a month, at 8 a.m. each 2nd Sunday and at Morning Prayer twice monthly.

The Parish Magazine consisted of Home Words with a special cover on which the Church officials and the Church services were duly listed, together with a page of parochial news—and all for a penny. Of the advertisers then reserving space, four firms have so continued through the intervening years—Messrs. G. C. Wood of 120 Kingston Road, Messrs. G. W. Lillie of 232 Merton High Street, A. J. Stringer of 63 Church Road, Mitcham, and the Prudential Assurance Company.

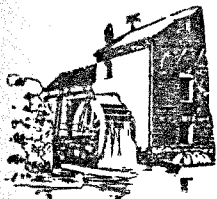
The year 1926 saw the general strike, but "the Sunday School and parish outing to Worthing-on-Sea" was enjoyed by some 200 people travelling in five "excellent cars."

The population of Morden was 1,850 and it was expected that over 10,000 people would move into the parish when the L.C.C. estate developed. By the end of the year "The Willows," which stood almost opposite the Rectory was in the hands of the house-breakers, and the planners were talking of pulling down "the Grange" and the Parish Hall. Mercifully better counsels prevailed!

Before the year closed the Rector was presented by the Choir with a new cassock to mark the 60th anniversary of his ordination, but just before Christmas he had an accident as he crossed the road and never really recovered his strength.

## **Old Morden**

### ***Threetimes in a Century—1865, 1917, 1957***



We have to go back forty years to find the last wedding of a Rector's daughter in Morden. Miss Lucy Langhorne had been working away from home (it was wartime) and came home in time for the calling of banns. The bridegroom was a medical man.

An even longer step back into history carries us to the preceding Rectory wedding. On 30th October, 1865, Miss Anna Sophia Biscoe Tritton (then aged 42) was married to Colonel Daniel Lysons (aged 49) a widower serving the Queen in "Montreal in Canada". The old Rector (the Rev. Robert Tritton) was then aged 73, and there is no indication that he was present at the wedding, for the bride's brother the Rev. R. B. Tritton of Otford, Kent, officiated. The bridegroom was a son of the late Rev. Daniel Lysons, member of a family well known for their interest in archaeology.

Another daughter of the same Rector was married in St. Lawrence Church on November 4th, 1851, to a clergyman named the Rev. Henry Seymour of Copsall, Notts. Her name was Miss Susannah Biscoe Tritton, the family name Biscoe being her mother's.

Further search has revealed no other similar wedding on record since 1634 when the parish registers were carefully kept. We may therefore head this page "Four times in three centuries!" Of these, only the last two took place from the present Rectory, for Rector Tritton lived for a long time at "the Grange" while his curates occupied "the Parsonage" as the house was then called. It was not until the Rev. Wm. Winlaw came to Morden in 1879 that the present house became the permanent residence of the Rector, although it had been rectory property for a long time before that. Soon after his arrival in Morden Mr. Winlaw built the long windows which greatly improved the three main rooms of the house, and built the high wall by which the peach trees once flourished. The fig trees, the yew hedge and the box-borders all date from the early days of 1880.

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By the kindness of Mr. Brown of Berkerley Press who took the photographs it is hoped to have a supply of wedding pictures at the Christmas Fair, which is to be held at St. Martin's on Friday and Saturday, 9th and 10th November.

## **Old Morden**

### **Repairing the Parish Church Tower**

For more than a month the tower of St. Lawrence Church has been wrapped in scaffolding while masons and workmen have been busy on important repair work. Some months ago the Church Council accepted an estimate of £804 for the replacement of decayed masonry and the re-pointing of the brickwork. Subsequently it was decided that a further thirty stone quoins must be replaced, bringing the total replacements to 116. The original stone was Reigate Rag which is not now considered suitable for this kind of work. The Church Council therefore decided to replace with Clipsham stone; but after still further investigation, it was finally decided that the replacement should be carried out with Box Ground stone. This material is being used for repair work at Windsor Castle, and is expected to last at least 150 years before weathering seriously.

Further improvements since decided upon include the renewal of the stonework in the Tower windows. Beneath the Roman cement facing which had fallen away in recent years, there was a good deal of decayed stone, and the Council had to choose between replacing the original stone or facing up again with a cement finish: the difference in cost was not very great and it was thought desirable to restore the church as nearly as possible to its original appearance by replacing the decayed stonework of the windows.

These additional items will bring the total cost of the present restoration work to over £900. It is expected that the Five Year Fund will be able to make a grant of more than £300 towards this cost, and in addition, about just over £100 is available from other sources.

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### **How Much Shall I Give?**

The other day I was handed a little slip of paper upon which the question was asked, "How much shall I give this year to Missions?" The answer was fourfold; and I want to leave with you the suggestions as I read them:

1. If I refuse to give anything to missions this year, I practically cast a ballot in favour of the recall of every missionary.
2. If I give less than heretofore, I favour reduction of the missionary forces proportionate to my reduced contribution.
3. If I give the same as formerly, I favour holding the ground already won; but I oppose any forward movement. My song is "Hold the Fort", forgetting that the Lord never intended His army to take refuge in a fort. All His soldiers are commanded to "Go".
4. If I increase my offering beyond former years, then I favour an advance movement in the conquest of new territory for Christ. Shall I not join this class? I do believe in increasing the present number of Bible-believing missionaries; therefore, I will increase my former offerings to missionary work.

## Morden Fifty Years Ago, 1912

The parish magazine tells briefly the story of a year in which the new "Parish Church Room" came into regular use after reconstruction. The Rector (the Revd. G. P. K. Winlaw) explained the excess expenditure in some details for the original estimate of £850 finally became £1,142. A Wimbledon architect, Mr. J. S. Brocklesby carried out the work with direct labour employing no contractor. By this means some £200 was saved on the lowest tendered price. Apparently the increased cost was due to several important changes made as the scheme progressed. Thus there was added 8ft. 6ins. to the length of the main hall, the old roof was replaced with a completely new roof supported on twelve brick piers because the old walls were considered inadequate, while the roofs of the two cottages were also rebuilt. Other "extras" included a new main drain, new kitchen ranges and fireplaces with mantel shelves.

All this meant that a special appeal was launched to meet the extra cost, while a chair fund (with chairs at 3s. 2d. each!) was also started.

The new hall was soon in regular use. On Tuesdays a company of the Church Lads Brigade (No. 3037) met under the leadership of Frank V. Hodgson. The boys spent a few days camping in Ravensbury, with bathing in the Wandle, which was reported to be "safe but not deep".

Miss Campbell's Women's meeting met on Mondays from 2-4 p.m. in "the room opposite the parish room" which disappeared long since.

Each month the Holy Communion was administered twice only—at 11 a.m. on the first Sunday and at the evening service on the third Sunday, with three celebrations on greater festivals (8 a.m., 11 and 6.30 p.m.)

Offerings were received in church once a month and given to Missions, including S.A.M.S., Colonial and Continental Church Society, C.M.S. and C.P.A.S. These varied from £3 to £5.

Evidently the death of Mr. John Wormald, who had been a generous supporter of the church, would have involved the closure of a "soup kitchen" had not the Rector decided to run this as a church activity, along with a "boot club". These were to be financed by special offerings on the first Sunday of each month. It may be difficult now to visualise the conditions which made these activities necessary.

A regular "Women's Class" was also held in the Village Club, a wooden hut standing where the new "Crown Inn" is now built. Church functions were held there from time to time and the Rector took a leading part in its work for those in the Crown Road area.

A Series of monthly concerts was held in 1912 in the "Parish Church Room", arranged by different parishioners. That on May 3rd raised £3 2s. 10d. for the victims of the "Titanic" disaster, which had greatly shocked the whole nation. Tickets were sold at 2/-, 1/- and 6d.

A gymnasium was opened by the gift of four pairs of boxing gloves, parallel bars and a mattress.

Sunday School was held weekly at 10.15 a.m. and 2.30 p.m., the "year" beginning on Whitsunday, and the annual outing consisting of a drive to Sutton station in two farm wagons lent by Mr. Symes (one of the Churchwardens). "The morning of Monday, August 26th broke in a deluge of rain and as far as one could see it looked as though we were in for a thorough wet day when we met in the Parish Room at 7 a.m. So bad was it that only half our members turned up, and we hesitated whether we would go or not. With great courage we decided to go and valour was rewarded for when we got to Littlehampton the sun shone on us from 10 a.m. till about 5 o'clock in the afternoon, when some of us who ventured up to Arundel in boats came in for a storm and a wetting. The day was a great success."

The Church officers for the year were Messrs. A. E. Treacher and S. B. J. Symes, churchwardens with Messrs. H. Alderman and Oscar J. White as sidesmen, Mr. F. Coomber replacing the latter at the Easter Vestry meeting. Mr. G. Worsfold of 4 Crown Road was sexton and Mr. Geo. Hutton the organist.

The Bishop of Southwark came for a parish Confirmation in May when 27 candidates were presented. Only a few weeks before that even the Rectory family had welcomed a new baby who was baptised on 2nd May.

At a distance of half a century we look back on the life of Morden as a small village where everyone was well acquainted and met regularly at church, where the life of the village centred around the church and the three "pubs", the Crown, the George and the Plough (which stood in Central Road where the boot repairer, Mr. Druce, now is and later was replaced by "The Tavern").

Without a doubt the Rector was a busy and devoted man, doing his best for the people, many of whom he was known from his childhood, for he was only eight years of age when his father became Rector in 1879. The Revd. G. P. K. Winlaw was a keen cricketer and a good shot, and early in 1913 he founded a rifle club which met in the old school playground behind the "Parish Church Room".

There must still be a good many people who recall those days. Would any care to let the Editor have their recollections, and perhaps the loan of a few old photographs?

## Carols on Stonecot Fifty Years Ago

A lovely frosty moonlight night eight of us and our leader met at Morden Church to go carol singing. Ascending in the dark to the organ loft we lit the candles on either side of the organ and had a short practice. Our leader satisfied, we gathered our equipment, three poles, a lantern, a supply of candles and two violins.

Leaving the Church we crossed by the water trough to The Lodge of Hill House, down George Hill about 200 yards through a gate into the fields, each divided by a stile, and crossing the stream by a little bridge we leaped over the last of the "Seven Stiles" which brought us to the present junction of Forest Road and Sutton Common Road, passing the finest row of poplar trees for miles around.

Having arrived at Burleigh House, we erected our tripod of three poles, and with a piece of string hung thereon the lantern with the candle. We grouped ourselves on the terrace, the "orchestra" tuned up and we heralded forth a number of carols. The big hall door opened and Mr. and Mrs. Nicholls, who always drove to Church in a carriage and pair, requested the party to come inside for supper: ham, tongue, Christmas pudding, mince pies, jellies, fruit, nuts, sweets, not to mention drinks. It took us over an hour to do justice to these good things. Expressing our grateful thanks to our host and hostess, we proceeded up Sutton Common Road to the Georgian house, set in lovely grounds, known as "The Woodstock." After singing several carols, we were given a generous donation to the Missionary Society and we passed on to Stonecot House near the top of Stonecot Hill.

Stonecot House was reputed to be haunted, so imagine our astonishment when the door was opened—no, not by a ghost—by a big, burly, handsome black man, who requested us to come inside. Holding hands and in fear and trembling, we went into the drawing-room, which banished our fears for we thought we had been transplanted into fairyland. This was a magnificent room lit by scores of candles in wonderful chandeliers and fairy lights fixed to wall mirrors all round the room.

## Morden in 1937 — 26 years ago.

The year opened with the Revd. H. G. Banks in charge of the parish, for the Revd. A. J. Culwick had moved to Buntingford in the preceding autumn, and the Revd. J. A. G. Ainley was to be instituted on 4th March. The work at St. George's was in the care of the Revd. E. W. Maxwell, while Mr. T. G. Land served both as lay-reader and churchwarden. Sunday Schools were held in the parish hall and in No.1 School (now "The Willows") while St. George's Scouts and Guides met regularly in St. George's Hall.

Mr. H. F. Turner was Hon. Treasurer of the P.C.C., and Mr. R. F. Moss was serving as sidesman. These two are the only men named on the parish magazine cover who are still with us.

The tercentenary of the church rebuilding (1636-1936) had proved successful, and many special gifts had been received in that year.

From the 1st February Mr. Stuart Wilson assumed responsibility for the business side of the parish magazine, and set about a canvass of the parish which soon led to a large increase in circulation. (The May issue was completely sold out in a few days!). The Revd. K. C. Scott (responsible for St. Peter, St. Helier) preached a stirring sermon in February. Mr. Banks left after Easter to become Vicar of Westmill, Herts (very near to his old Rector) and Mr. Maxwell left for St. Leonard's-on-Sea after 18 months service in the parish.

A weekly prayer-meeting was announced in April to be held in the clergy vestry on Mondays at 8.30, and a few weeks later the Revd. Gordon Hyslop, who had been curate at St. Paul's, Cambridge under Mr. Ainley's leadership came to serve at St. George's, making his home in "the Rectory cottage", the old coachman's rooms over the Rectory stabling in Central Road. During the summer open-air services were held in the churchyard after Sunday evening worship and a regular Bible study group met on Thursday evenings in church. Early in July Dr. Bartlett, Hon. Secretary of B.C.M.S. addressed a garden meeting at the Rectory with Mr. David Stokes, just back from Ethiopia as second speaker. Archdeacon Morris (now Bishop Morris) served the parish for two weeks in July while the Rector and Mrs. Ainley were on holiday in Ireland, not far from Cork city where the Rector was born.

St. George's people "scrubbed up" the church hall which was doing duty then both as church and as hall, but a decision



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was made unanimously by the Church Council to put up "a semi-permanent church next to St. George's hall". The church was designed by the Revd. Gordon Hyslop and opened within a few months (5th January, 1938) with only £350 still to be raised. But the Rector was not content with this advance, and in December 1937 he agreed to purchase a site on Stonecot Hill for £1,500. He wrote "On this site we hope as soon as possible, to build a Church and a Church Hall for that area . . . and we hope you will pray especially for a site in the Hillcross area. We must secure the sites now or they will be lost for ever". The Revd. Geo. and Mrs. Price came to live at 394 Hillcross Avenue in order to serve that area, and the Revd. G. H. D. Davis came to assist at the parish church.

Only one error marred the magazine for December when details of a wedding appeared in the list of burials. But no doubt the happy couple (Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Cull) took it all in good part!

Evidently 1937 was a thrilling year in the life of the parish.

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### NOTES from Emmanuel

A Lent series of Sermons at Emmanuel was given on the subject of "The Meaning of the Cross"; we considered the death of Christ on the Cross as (1) our Ransom and Redeemer; (2) our Substitute and Sin-Bearer; (3) Atoning Sacrifice; (4) Suffering Servant of God; and (5) Victorious Saviour.

The series of Lenten Bible Study groups was attended by 40-50 people, who met in seven different homes, on each of the four Wednesday evenings in March, to study the 1st Epistle of John. Special thanks are due to those who offered their homes for this purpose, and to the leaders of the group studies.

Homes were offered by Mr. and Mrs. Day, Mr. and Mrs. Eade, Mr. and Mrs. Harden, Mr. and Mrs. Jakeman, Mr. and Mrs. Nicholson, Mrs. Wait and Mr. and Mrs. Walker.

Groups were led by Miss Tillett, Mr. Eade, Mr. and Mrs. Harden, Mr. Jakeman, Mr. Hobday, Mr. Sargeant and Mrs. Walker.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Cope on the birth of a daughter, and also to Mr. and Mrs. Ramsey, on the birth of a daughter also.

#### Emmanuel Dates :

April 1st—Confirmation.

April 6th—St. John Passion.

April 16th to 20th—Children's Holiday Campaign.

April 30th—Summer Fair Committee.

## Old Morden

### A DOUBLE CENTENARY

A tablet now unrecognizable records the burial of "Arthur, son of Daniel and Harriet Sophia Lysons, who died 11th Feb. 1861 aged 2 years and 6 months". That was just over a century ago. Almost a hundred years earlier in 1762 the child's grandfather had been born in a Gloucestershire Rectory. Daniel Lysons, eldest son of a long line of squires of Rodmorton, soon showed a keen interest in ancient churches, in English history and in drawing. After graduating from Oxford he was ordained to the curacy of Mortlake in 1784, leaving six years later to become curate of Putney. At that time Mortlake had 1766 residents, of whom 339 were 'lodgers', and Putney 2294, including 274 lodgers. (Morden consisted of 65 houses, and Merton 116, while Putney had 440 houses, giving an average of 6 persons per house).

During these years the young curate compiled historical and other notes on 28 parishes south of the Thames from Petersham to Addington. Of the 26 drawings in the first volume of 'Environs of London' most are thought to be his work. This publication in four quarto volumes took place from 1792-96 and proved to be immensely popular. Many copies are still to be found in libraries up and down the land, but some have been robbed of their engravings! A second (corrected) edition followed in 1811, but meanwhile the parson and his barrister brother Samuel were elected members of the Society of Antiquaries, fellows of the Royal Society and Daniel also fellow of the Linnean Society. A joint work which they planned together 'Magna Britannia' in six quarto volumes reached only one volume when Samuel died and the project was abandoned.

Daniel retired to the family living at Rodmorton in 1804 with his wife of three years. On her death he remarried and the only son of the second marriage was Daniel, born 1816 when his father was 54. This son went first to Shrewsbury school and thence into the Army. In the Crimean war he led his regiment through the whole campaign and in 1856 he married Harriet Sophia Bridges, coming to live at Morden Lodge, while working in London. Twin sons were born to them in July 1858 and another son in April 1860. But little Arthur, one of the twins, fell ill and died in February 1861 and the family moved away leaving their child's body in a grave near the vestry of St. Lawrence Church. Shortly after the wife and mother also died, and Colonel Lysons returned to Morden in 1865 to ask the hand of the Rector's

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daughter, Anna Sophia Biscoe Tritton as his second wife. In 1879 he was promoted General after commanding the Sherwood Foresters in several campaigns overseas (including 'the Canada rebellion', and in 1886 he was knighted G.C.B. by Queen Victoria, becoming Constable of the Tower from 1890 until his death in 1898. In addition to sundry drill books, he wrote a history of the Crimean War, a book of Reminiscences and found time for yachting in addition to hunting, shooting and fishing.

So a tiny grave in the churchyard links the parish with two noted antiquaries, a Crimean veteran and much besides.

Life in Morden a century ago must have been interesting, for Joseph Bazalgette, who modernised London's drainage system and later built the Thames embankment, lived in a farm-house now remembered only by the name Farm Road. Mortimer Charles Smith occupied the Mansion in Morden Park, David Bigbee Esq. lived at Morden Hill (where was that? was it Hill House, standing where now the Sanctuary is?) and Thomas Nicholls White had Morden Hall as an 'academy'. Joseph Pickering kept 'the George Inn' and Mrs. Parson 'The Crown', while Luke Potterton was a 'beer retailer' in Lower Morden.

Mrs. Ann Marchant was 'receiver of post' with despatches daily at 8.30 and 3.30. Her husband was blacksmith. Ladock Smith was schoolmaster with Miss Catherine Jack as schoolmistress. The Revd. Robert Tritton was Rector and the Revd. Wm. Gerrard Andrews was curate, living in the Parsonage, later known as the Rectory, standing in Central Road, and soon to be followed (1868) by the Revd. A. Cyril Pearson as curate in the same house. It was there that Arthur Pearson spent his school holidays before his blindness led him in later years to found St. Dunstan's, and thus to link Morden for ever with caring for war veterans. Pearson Court now standing on the site of the old Rectory commemorates that famous son of a Morden Curate.

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## Glynne's Account of Morden Church

BY V. J. TORR

The following brief account of Morden Church was composed at some time before about 1840. Sir Stephen Glynne (1807-74), its framer, was an enormous inspector and writer upon old churches, and it may be of local interest to have a report which is but one of between 5,500 and 6,000 on English churches.

Glynne was the brother-in-law of W. E. Gladstone, and they and Gladstone's wife all have monumental effigies in Hawarden Church in the diocese of St. Asaph, in North Wales. After Glynne's death, all his notebooks remained at Hawarden Castle, the Gladstone seat, but later were transferred to St. Deiniol's Library nearby; and the original of what is reproduced here is to be found there.

Glynne was a great devotee of Gothic architecture and a man of great experience and observation in architectural matters. The fact that he calls Morden uninteresting is partly due to comparison with countless more imposing churches and partly to his abated interest in post-medieval work. But it is significant that he at least hints that the side windows were ancient material reused in the works of 1663; and earlier still, in the **Gentleman's Magazine**, the same suggestion was advanced, with which I personally agree. Re-using of old stonework was a fairly common process and saved money. Now the Morden side windows are of 14th century design and their mouldings look perfectly orthodox for that date. If, however, the good benefactor of 1936 had in fact ordered new windows to be made, it is far more likely that such would have been in a late form of Perpendicular, as witness the Gothic survival works at Oxford, Cambridge and elsewhere.

If Glynne referred to the wall monuments as not remarkable, I would agree, with a few exceptions; but such a remark cannot apply to the handsome slabs on the floor. His description of the east window glass as modern must be altered to 17th and early 19th century. The account misses mention of the arms of Queen Anne, but it is only rarely that Glynne refers to such ornaments.

### MORDEN ST. LAWRENCE

This most uninteresting Church is entirely of brick, and seems to have been built late in the 16th century. (inserted note revised this : "Built 1636").

It consists merely of a nave and chancel with a Western tower embattled. The tower has a square window and opens to the nave by a pointed arch. The windows have Curvilinear windows of 2 lights, set in square recesses, and perhaps may be of early date, or else are well imitated. The East window is of 4 lights and Rectilinear, with modern (**sic**) painted glass. There are a few monuments, but not remarkable.

## Old Morden

### SOME HUMBLE INHABITANTS

A resident of these parts, Mr. J. R. Laundon, recently published a fifty-page "Study of the Lichen Flora of London" in "The Lichenologist", and has presented a copy of his work to the Rector. Mr. Laundon is a staff worker at the National History Museum and for ten years past he has worked all over the area within 16 kilometres of Charing Cross.

His researches show that the increased air pollution has gradually killed off many specimens that were known a century or two ago, but the limitation of further urban development by the "green belt" has halted this destruction.

What is a lichen? It is a botanical curiosity consisting of a plant-body or "thallus" which is fungal in character, but containing within it some green "algae". Because of this symbiosis of two different forms of plant life living together the lichens persist in very adverse conditions, being at times dried up to a hard crusty state, and in wet weather soft and pliable.

It is the proportion of sulphur-dioxide in the air which really causes the death of lichens, but, of course, a good many have been destroyed by the alteration of their habitats.

Several years ago, Mr. Laundon drew attention to the fact that some of the rarer lichens have old-established colonies on tombstones in Morden churchyard. It so happens that these are included in the list of monuments to be preserved for historical or artistic reasons and in order to avoid attacks by those who have little understanding and less sympathy with plant ecology the precise details will not be made public.

In the London area, 62 species of lichen occur, but this is seen in perspective when 73 species were recorded in a small area of Bookham Common.

Only one species occurs in the City of London itself, and it is the same that survives alone in the heart of New York.

The chief habitats within the London area are often spaces such as Putney Heath and Wimbledon Common together with churchyards. Old brick walls also carry a considerable flora of this type, as do some rock gardens and a few monuments. Reservoir sides and certain channels also have their own special inhabitants.

The disappearance of many species recorded over a century ago is sadly unavoidable.