

## WMW DIARY 1900

(Red words are my best guess, *italics are* my suggestions/comments, dots..... are where I cannot even guess.) Underlinings are Wright's. **Bold type** my selection of 'best bits'.

### Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January

Ring in the new year with Ted. .... In morning Ted leaves for Alton. Mass 9, Cummins celebrant. Sharpley comes to pay his rent 10am. Very busy at business, writing letters etc. In afternoon bike in mud and fog to Workhouse, case of smallpox at Laceby. Coates' boy and friend come for dinner, very nice.

Pouring with rain. .... very warm out of doors. Mother very bilious. .... Parsons goes to Grimsby in brougham pulled by Baroness to Janie Iles concert, .... Busy with Maggie in valley filling in holes. **Deal out money to various folks from the sick fund.** (*First we've heard of that. Whose fund?*)

..... Hounds meet at Wyham, Maggie goes out Molly and Quercus, both very fresh..... Busy manuring sundry precious roses, ..... fetch first Roman hyacinths, ride Quercus afternoon, nearly fall in with hounds entirely ..... take dogs into valley after tea. Call and take sick money to Mrs Charles Smith for Neddy. Have champagne for dinner for New Year. Bills coming in.

..... Take short ride by Cold Harbour on Quercus then jump in Middle and Near Bottom ditches, and over the poles, ..... Fenwick a good deal worse, sends for doctor. Letter from Louie with DT news of poor Lewis. ....

..... Maggie goes hunting Stainton X-rds, I to Louth on Quercus to do sundry shopping, meet George near Elkington coming for doctor for Fenwick. ....

..... terrible day. .... blowing a hurricane towards night. .... Quercus gets shod. .... Send tithe cheque to Rector, and other business.

**High Mass 11, Collection for war fund (!)** total throughout day £4/11/6. ....

..... Ride round by Lambcroft to Binbrook where meet George and have jumping up by Top Barn, not bad at all. **In afternoon examing Mrs Holland's cottage, very damp, and go to Yon End. Holland gets rabbits for sick people. Satan finds something for idle hands –**

..... Ride down to Thos. Coates to take cheque for land and income tax, find him out, return by Waltham, Maggie comes on Molly as far as Waithe. .... Edith Porter comes in afternoon for a week. Mackerill calls about Holland's cottage. Send cheque for £5 result of Sunday's 'alms' to Lord Mayor's fund. Curious and mad letter from Rector.

..... Ride to Louth to pay sundry bills, saddler, Hall, Moody, get chairs for the kitchen, Meet George and Tommy about the Scallows. .... Tremendously musical evening. **New chairs for kitchen cause great excitement – very nice.**

..... Maggie rather unwell, afraid she has got the prevailing illness. Ride with George in morning and change horses and jump Molly over various hedges and then Quercus over Near Bottom dyke. In afternoon walk with Edith Porter round by Scallows and see foremen Yon End about the drains, Holland bad in bed.

..... Maggie in bed all day tho not very bad with influenza? George and self spend most of the morning riding round various fields and taking various jumps eleven altogether, five on Molly, two of which nearly brought me off. In afternoon garden, **leave rabbits on various sick people**, call on Miss James, walk to Peterhills, Holland in bed very bad.

Very chilly and disagreeable, inclined to snow on and off. .... In afternoon Tommy takes the lathe down to station. George and I ride round by Boswell and back by Swinhope, do sundry jumping, I on Molly jumping very oddly. Pass Mr McKinn in his garden. After tea go round and call on various sick folk in the place. Telegram comes from Cummins he can't come over tomorrow, Maggie still upstairs tho not very bad.

High Mass 11, Evensong 3pm, Ballachey comes out from Grimsby to take service. ....

..... In morning write letters to 'Dog' (=the Rector, Fagan,) and Chs Kew – In afternoon ride on Quercus and meet the hounds near Clickham, go round by Barnoldby and Hatcliffe, Richard call in the afternoon. ....

..... Fumble around, Mother and everyone seems very grumpy and unwell, ..... Drive Edith Porter to station after her week's stay, on the whole a success, no particular contretemps! ..... people in village better, Tommy bad for a change. ....

..... Nice letter from Rector, ..... **ride with George through Grainsby to Thoresby, contretemps round a corner and am pitched off, no hurt. Come back by Ludborough taking three fences very fairly on the return journey near Lambcroft and home.** ..... Take dogs thro field near stackyard, nearly light till six.

..... Tommy still bad. No important news of war tho great crisis now at hand. In afternoon ride to Binbrook to cash money at post office, take two jumps coming home. .... Mother's neuralgia bad.

..... Ride with George..... take hedges nr. Beelsby, Molly refuses. Mother very unwell in morning owing to some medicine she took for neuralgia. Borman comes in afternoon, very nice feller. ....

..... Hounds meet at Hawerby X-rds, George take 'Molly', Tommy 'Puffin'. Maggie not well enough to go. Go to Louth on 'Quercus' ..... Curate comes from Grimsby, Cummins still too unwell to take duty .....

Pink sunrise with natural consequences. .... Harris, curate from Grimsby takes .... services.

..... Warmer, especially towards evening. Parsons goes to dance somewhere near Barkwith, Maggie goes out for first time. Ride, ..... take two hedges successfully Clear little trees in spinney. Holland still bad. ....

Much milder, ..... **Attend Sessions, two Wold Newtonians up for rowdism (sic, rowdy-ism?) 5/6 each including costs.** ..... Examine snowdrops Yon End, and **new stables, latter nearly finished as regards brickwork.** .....

..... Take dogs to Yon End, aconites fast coming out and snowdrops at present undisturbed New stables progressing very fast. In afternoon take Quercus to Thoresby ..... pay

Johnson's bill, ..... return by 'Hell Firs' and Lambcroft taking two hedges at Lambcroft and one out of Fox Cover into Long Plat. .... Holland still kept indoors. Cut wood.

..... Holland out at last for a little. ....

..... **Drive down to station and put up, and go on to Lincoln for County Meeting, travel with Parkinson and Thos. Hill, Lincoln very full.** Tremendous lots of big pots, meeting over about 1.30pm, get lunch White Hart, and look into Cathedral. ....

..... Bike round by Waltham to Thos Coates and leave periodicals, see hounds, and back on low road. .... **Alarmed at fox hanging about and doing depredations.**  
.....

..... Cummins awful cold. .... All come in to supper, not much to eat.

..... Quercus' back still far from right. .... Parsons putting corrugated roof on .....-shed

..... **Mother in one of her moods, routing out everyone and everything, so uncomfortable**

..... Ride to Louth, ..... Quercus goes rather lame, very trying. George thinks it is the back sinews. **Try and repair damage to lawn and beds done by horses getting in overnight, smashed clean through tennis wire** ..... War news a trifle more reassuring, great rows in parliament. Young Mackerill calls about new stables which proceed pretty well, getting roof on. John Wright sends begonia bulbs, return them.

#### Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February

..... Ettie and Maggie go in waggonette to Grimsby, Maggie to see Dr Stephenson about her nose. Leave 5/- for Mrs Wilkinson from sick fund. Get rose roots from Yon End. Tom Wright comes, keep out of his way. ....

Candlemas. No Mass at Wold Newton, so much for our over worked Rector. However Askew does turn up, a regular muddle and misunderstanding, mixed up with S. Ethelstick. Decorations of Xmas taken down  
..... In afternoon 'brandy discovery' causes consternation. ....

Gloomy morning, snowing hard until about 3pm, thawing also hard as terribly slushy. ....

..... Trim fruit trees Yon End. Intend to bike to rural District Council, but give it up, roads awful. .... Parsons repairs damage to tennis wire caused by horses. .... George bad eye and gets finger badly trapped.

**Snow showers, bike to Grimsby some of way in a blizzard. My day on Rota Bench rather late only Field besides self, see Frank Iles in station.** ..... get back about 3.30, experiencing another blizzard. In evening walk with Ettie to Binbrook, see Cinderella Cantata, very good, songs Parsons excellent. Sup with Custances. Freezing very hard so road clear.

Thieves in the house again, apparent. Must be one of two or both. Tremendous frost, very slippery. Bacon here doing frame and lopping overhanging trees all afternoon. Grimoldby rabbit catcher here in valley,

result – seven couple. Ground very hard (*Whether this is the rabbit catcher from Grimoldby near Louth, or a rabbit catcher called Grimoldby is not clear. Parish records show George and Hannah Maria having three children baptised in 1896 – 8, he being described first as ‘Cow man’, second time as ‘Seedsman’ – obviously more than just a labourer.*) .....

Terrific frost. Thieves in the house again. Causes consternation as “shy of the household divide the spoil”. Ratcatcher here, result 9 ½ brace from valley. .... Take rabbits to Wilkinson and Hickabottom. ....

**Freezing hard, very cold. .... See hares at Yon End. Skate in afternoon and perform evolutions on bicycle. .... total result of rabbits 16 ½ couples, sell ten couple.**

Fearfully cold, begins about 9.30 to snow very hard. .... Write to ‘Dog’ Fagan.

Tremendous snow and drifts, terribly cold. Parsons and G off to Grimsby about 3pm –

Tremendous frost, awfully cold but very bright and sunny. .... Maggie and I walk over to Binbrook to leave letter on Custance also PO for Mrs Pickup. Roads very heavy, drifts in hedge side. Wind SW but no effect. Parsons returns after dinner. Great wood fires. ....

Another terrific cold day, sun bright and inclined to thaw even after sun gone in. .... walk with Maggie up Valley, ice on pond hopeless all slush and bumps. Can’t be any more use now. Very hopeless, weather can’t do anything definite. ....

Candlemas market, another fall of snow and thawing wind, N for change. Mother hears form her cousin Edith Westmorland of Sandal of Mrs Westmorland’s death..... our grandmother’s half sister, aged 81..... Bright and comparatively warm afternoon, Maggie and I walk round by Canterbury Walk at Scallows. Parsons goes to Concert at Louth,, a regular failure, no folk there. Great tussle over cutting through great butt of wood. ....

**Terrible morning, bitterly cold, strong SE wind, begins to snow about 10am and gets wilder and more terrific towards evening about 4pm, something almost appalling, trees breaking beneath weight of snow, difficulty about the schoolchildren getting to their homes in Beelesby (sic, Beesby?) and Cadeby. Walk thro valley, snow very deep, great drifts. Horses brought up from fields, clears off towards midnight and thaws heavily.**

Lovely bright peaceful morning, wind SW, snow gone off trees, thaw all day. Tremendous drifts on Hawerby Hill, fearful slush on the roads, get wet directly one goes out. **Hot sun, wind chilly. In afternoon go to Yon End and see Hockney about road. Firs broken off half way up valley, great many.** .....

Thaw whole day, .... Roads and field simply morass, flooded in places. .... Splendid news from the war at last, Kimberley relieved by General French.

..... Cummins very bad indeed, goes back to Grimsby directly after lunch. ....

Warm thawing wind, rain and lovely sun, first day of spring. Snow melting almost before one’s face. ....

Colder again ..... Settling the seed list with Holland total £1 16/3, In afternoon ride Molly and take letter to Tharratt’s, snow from there to Louth road almost impassable. ....

..... Mother nasty cold in throat, ‘Dog’ sends letter and invitation to tea in vain. Rather fuss among the old maids in the morning, Parsons finds it rather warm. Bike to Louth in afternoon ..... roads

very hard coming back, not bad rather ratty. **Rat catcher here, he and Holland get ten brace, not bad.**  
Parsons away again in evening.

Mild again, ..... Attend Mattins and see Fagan, looking better after his 14 weeks absence  
..... drifts still in some places. .... Parsons and I walk to Yon End, Rabbitt catcher here, results 9 ½  
couple, Tea at the Rectory, Mrs F looking distinctly better. ....

Beautiful warm balmy spring day. .... **George takes Quercus to be shod, hears  
of his uncle's suicide.** Get snowdrops with Maggie at Yon End. ....

.....

. .... Damp and very hot. .... Walk with Rector. ....

..... dense fog, ..... **Parsons goes to Thoresby and takes £150 on account for  
Mackerill, busy writing and business in morning, borrow £150 , £100 from Ettie, £50 from Maggie.**  
Bike in awful wet to Grimsby, stop few minutes in Workshop, call on the Cummins, .....

Thick fog the whole day, ..... **Attend Mattins and go into Rectory to examine Altar rail plans.**  
..... Parsons returns mid day. Edith Porter comes in the evening, village concert, do not  
attend it, .....

*Ash Wednesday* Not up to Mass, attend Mattins and Commination at 11.30, also Evensong 7.30 when  
McKin preaches. **Edith Porter who causes disturbance by very unfortunate remarks goes to Louth  
with Parsons in waggonette, the latter going to be done up.** ..... Settle up item out of  
Bacon's bill. Pay Holland extra wage up to March 4<sup>th</sup>. .....

### Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March

..... In afternoon bike to Grimsby to get flowers and brandy for Mr Cummins who is  
sinking fast. The Relief of Ladysmith just noised abroad, flags flying. Go ..... to Rectory to meet young  
Jack Fagan, son of Colonel Fagan.

..... **busy revising "Landed Gentry". Take the Fagans, (Uncle and nephew) round the  
stables. In afternoon ride round by Lamberoft with him, take two hedges, very funny nearly off.**  
Take tea with us and then go down Valley and try in vain to get a rabbit. Parsons still away at Balderstone's  
banquet at Louth. See Elijah about **manure**.

..... Attend Mattins. **Ettie takes Jack Fagan in her cart to the Meet of Hounds at  
Thorganby, Maggie goes on Quercus, I on Molly, First day out hunting a great joke spoilt only by  
return home, scilly (sic) idiot I am. Bobbie Brooks and Maunsell Richardson want me in top boots  
(riding boots with mahogany tops, correct 'untin' attire.)** Get back about 3.20, Maggie about 5pm.  
..... I take letter down to Thoresby on bike. ....

.....

New postal arrangements, get letters at 9 o'clock. Maggie goes to Meet, Boswell. Quercus to be shod.  
...finish trimming 'berry garden'. .... **I bike to Grimsby and attend Rural District Council, and call out  
for granite and get it promised at last.** Call to ask after Poor Mr Cummins and see him, I fear for the last  
time, most sad. Return by Waltham House and Grainsby, feel very sad.

.....everything drying up. Mass 8am for Mr Cummins, ..... Ride Quercus to Louth, very lame coming home, very annoying. ....put cotton on berry trees but rather too late I fear. Books come from Burns and Oats for choice.

Very gloomy and cold again. Busy after Mattins with accounts of Grimsby Spiritual Aid Association also letter and business generally. Take letter and present of £5 towards replacing old altar of Holton le Clay to Askew of Ravendale. Attend late evensong at quarter to five. **Folk dropping in, new postman makes declaration before me** (*as JP, to 'faithfully and honestly carry the mails' etc*) **in library**,..... do no reading. **George take Quercus to Eve the 'vet' of Louth who practically orders the horse to be turned away for the Season, very trying. So Marcella will have to come up and chances of hunting are nipped in the bud.**

Ettie goes to Emscote to stay with the Jacksons for a week. Cold and dull. Maggie rides Marcella to Grimsby to see her doctor. .... Busy at old House (*again unclear whether Grange or Welfitts*) cutting and training creepers in front. In evening Balderstone comes to say farewell, off to India for 5 years. Service 7.30, I play organ. Nainby boy comes.

..... help Maggie with barbed wire fencing. ....Sun not been out for over a week.

Turns out bright and sunny at last. .... Busy cutting apple trees at Yon End Marcella goes to get shoes on, .... Boots come from Oxford, sent away again. .... Go with Polly to Fagans in the evening, the Rector in rather a mood I thought. **Row over servants' night light.**

.....  
Fine spring day, wind gone out of East at last to NW. .... **Cut apple trees Yon End, see foreman about drain in village.** .... busy cutting up lime tree etc, get quite overdone.

.....  
Very cold indeed. .... finish apple trees Yon End. **See Mackerill just bringing up granite blocks with engine and trucks.** .... Mrs Morcom calls and has tea, says Mr Harneis cannot really recover. Busy sticking in rose cuttings, they having been summer trimmed. ....

..... Busy in garden and mending bicycle punctures with Parsons..... Plant out aconites in my spring garden, and busy in wood department. ....roads very dry and hard. Spring smell in the air. All the roses trimmed by Holland.

..... Take £10 to Rector for School. Eve comes to examine Quercus, much better. Busy clearing away branches. Walk over to Hawerby to see Phil Morcom, Lowry sitting with him, Mr Harneis, rather worse. ....

..... Attend 11 o'clock service. Ride Marcella with Maggie to the meet at Swinhope, 12o'clock, and hung around more or less with the hounds till about 3pm, coming home by Cuxwold and Swallow. Drive down to meet Ettie at station, .... Mother in regular mood. .... So end second day hunting, hardly enjoyable.

Flag flying in honour of S. Patrick. Very cold, ..... Bike to Grimsby with Parsons to order a wreath of violets and lilies for Mr Cummins, who passed away on Thursdy evening, only heard this morning, nearly a month since he read Mass in the Church..... Good kind man, RIP to be buried at Gt Coates. Get back from Grimsby about 3pm Mackerill calls to see me and talk to him in the kitchen. Mag and I busy cutting osiers at 'Yon End'.....

..... **George and party as also Holland away on their enjoyment somewhere.** .....

..... Drive Mr Fagan to Great Coates, put up at Quirk's and attend Poor Mr Cummins' funeral, very very painful, ..... glad he chose the pretty little Ch yard and not horrid Grimsby cemetery.  
..... get back about 5.30, pleasant drive.

A good deal warmer. Put up notice of Parish meeting for next week. .... Great clerical meeting at Rectory for SPG bicentenary, very dull, Wallace Logt interesting on old events and people. Attend Evensong, **cut osiers Yon End**. Intended to go to Meet of Beagles but couldn't manage it. ....

First day of Spring Wind East (see old saying on subject) ..... Hounds meet Hawerby Cross Roads. Maggie and I, also Ettie and Polly on wheels all go to the Meet. I go on to Louth to get sundry things by low road, get back about 4. Jump Marcella over Middle Bottom dyke twice, **Hounds hang around on and off the whole day and come finally for refreshments about 5pm, Maunsell Richardson, huntsman etc**, busy finishing cutting osiers Yon End. Quirks come to tea on bikes, Very dark night. ....  
**Write to Sharpley on manure stream crossing road.**

..... **Mackerill calls about granite – conveyance** ..... **'Dog' gets a warmer from Mother in the afternoon as he and Mrs Fagan come for tea.**

Very cold and gloomy. .... **Ettie and Maid 'Martha' go in waggonette to have their teeth removed. I ride Molly down to Ashby to leave orders with Bacon concerning frame paint etc** Parsons and I busy Yon End with leaves. After service, busy with hedge. Twelve sheep come, Askey calls about altar stone, Parsons fetches 200 pots for 5/6 from Thoresby.

Very cold, very gloomy, sky same blank as ever. Ride Molly ..... over two hedges with large daylight. **Scene at stables owing to traction engine bringing granite.** (*so is this the same granite he called for at the RDC meeting, being put into his stables – granite setts?*) ..... Bike to Grimsby to get newspaper, stockings drawers. Take fine arum lilies up to Altar for Lady day. .... Photo's from Elliott and Fry.

..... Keep Lady Day and not 4 in Lent, white hangings, lilies on either side of altar. ....

..... Meet of Hounds Welbeck 12 o'clock, go with Maggie, Marcella rather excitable, come back round by Irby and Beelesby in heavy snow shower. Start for workhouse but get punctured in bike in Ravendale, so return and take Parsons' machine to Waltham by Hawerby Hill way and leave magazines at Thos Coates, very chilly, heavy snow showers on and off. ....

Chilly, North wind, ..... snow again, ride down soon after 10am to Covenham to Meet of Beagles at Robinson's Farm, see Phil Morcom and walk over few fields after Beagles. Get lunch about 1.45. **In afternoon drive with Maggie and Parsons to Barnoldby, look over Mr Nainby's things for sale, see old portrait used to be at Scallows belonging to grand mama Wright.** Foreman? (*sic, incl qu. mark!*) calls on business, also Mr Lowry, spend a long afternoon in drawing room.

..... **Parsons goes off to the sale at Barnoldby.**

..... **Busy putting burnt earth on land and doing hedge etc. Parsons arrives back about 11.30 with good news of the purchase of the picture for 9s, very pleased.**

Awfully chilly morning. Anniversary of a certain event. Attend mattins. Ride to Louth on Marcella for a few things, ..... **Get back about 3pm, being row in Servant department always is when I am away. Go with Maggie to Barnoldby and fetch back ancient portraits originally in Scallows hall.**

..... **Very busy hanging picture afterwards.** (*I think there is a chance these pictures are still in the Manor, maybe in the dining room.*) Until late hour. Letter from Mrs Jack asking me to be godfather.

..... **Rector calls with his letter to the Bishop on incense.** (*This correspondence is in the Archives at Lincoln in the parish papers, will get it copied. Quite amusing.*) Note from Phil Morcom putting me off, very irritated. .... Maggie and I busy in garden Yon End, have no less than thirteen fires  
.....

Lovely spring day..... **Maggie and I go to Meet at Croxby, see a few folk, run helter skelter to Thoresway, Marcella getting a trifle wild, so go up to Smithfield, hounds go on to Rothwell gorse.** Porter comes over with young Archer about violin. Walk with Mother to Yon End and show Mother stables. Busy with hedge after tea. Maggie gets back about 6. News. Mrs Brookes Wood separated, Tom Haxby has measles, Mrs Sowerby, Cuxwold dead. (*relative of Michael Sleight, I think.*)

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April.

..... **Go with Maggie to the Meet at Rothwell Gorse, I go round by Normanby Clump and catch up hounds near Nettleton, go down awful hills, get a spill coming up them, Marcella goes back down, go with hounds in Pelham woods. Lord Yarboro says he is glad to see me out etc.**  
.....

..... **Go on bicycle to Grimsby, attend Sessions, village constables sworn in. Machine blows up, (it's a bike!) leave it to be done up and get borrowed one. .... Spring cleaning has begun, alas!** .... Inclined to be row at dinner over comparative merits of Rectory or Manor house arrangements.

..... **Brocklesby Races, Phil (Morcom from Hawerby Hall) comes over so I decided to go, especially as Polly won't go Leave about 11.30, and get there about one o'clock. Have rather a joke, lose 4s over two races just for the sake of it.** Dr Shepherd and Heneage hang around, also Miss Young and Mrs Robinson, Louie and Lewis do not turn up All over about 4.30, get home about 6.30, come back very fast to outdo the Care-smiths. ....

..... Maggie goes to the Meet Riby, has last day of season. Spring feeling in the air.  
..... Write to Binnington about picture in reply to his very kind letter.  
.....

..... Ride to Grimsby ..... **get my bicycle with new back cover to tire, also pay for wreath etc. .... busy with hedge at top of field near Church. Dobbs return, am really rather sorry.** .....

..... Bike to Market Rasen and on by 11 train to Lincoln, see tailor and one or two other things, return by 1pm train, get to Mkt Rasen 1.40, get back with horrid head wind about 3.40. Attend Evensong and **go to Yon End and interview Dobbs who has taken up abroad (sic) in front until May time.** (*Parish records show two Dobbs families resident in the village around 1890, Joseph, a labourer, and Mary, and Charles, a foreman, and Mary, both breeding prolifically. Amongst Charles' children is George, born approx 1880, who may well be the George husband of Lucy who has a child George Alexander Dobbs in 1911, who was the husband of Mary' the Dragon' Dobbs of Chalk Cott and the Bungalow.*)  
.....

Mass 8, poor attendance. Few branches on altar for Palms. ....

Bright morning. Mother too unwell, Mag and I alone for Mattins Epistle and Gospel 10am, Spend most of day at Grimsby workshse, both morning and afternoon, **get picture of Gt Grandfather framed.** Bike back with Phil Morcom and argue on Catholic subjects. ....

**At service 10 o'clock, Bobbie Brooks appears en route to Meet at Welton (presumably Southwold at Welton le Wold.) so I join him on Molly, see ABC, potter about Welton Woods, return about 1.30, wish afterwards I had stuck to it, was not sure Maggie meant me to. ....**

..... First really growing day. .... **bike down to Petterhills and note how gorse is swallowing up some good larch wh must be cut out.** .... Discover the state of my new tire on bike, very annoying.....

Up but late to Maundy Mass, leave 9.30 on Marcella for Mkt Rasen, where I arrive about 10 minutes to 11, meet ABC, Woodie and others, forget to get ticket Get tried on and feel rather dissatisfied with my clothes. **Look into Cathedral, not as gloomy as it ought to be for Passion Week,** Leave by 1 train get back about 3.30 .....

*Good Friday.* ..... Services 8.45, 11, 3.45, 7pm. 11o'clock fairly attended, afternoon very poor, evening not as good as usual..... After tea Ted Mag and I walk round by Stocky to Beesby Wood and get a few anemonies, rather small but no use for Church. ....

Very hot and relaxing SW wind at last. Busy decorating the Church most of day. .... 'Martha Snell' (*maid?*) takes holiday . Phil Morcom comes to shoot clay pigeons with Teddie. .... Rub up the censer. ....

*Easter Day.* ..... Very fair congregations for Low and High Mass, very good in Eve. Walk with Teddie to Petterhills and Duck Pond. Collections for Bishop Blythe's mission to Holy Land.

..... At Petterhills cutting out the trees from the gorse, (*when did anyone last see any gorse in Petterhills? Or osiers, come to that. Or larch.*) Ted comes and helps. ....  
..... Plant crowds of crocus in my spring garden from yew walk bed. ....

My room cleaned. .... Parsons goes to Hull, Teddie leaves for Alton, ..... Plant seeds in herbaceous border 4.30 to 6.30. ....

Magnificent summer day. Bike and join Mr Askey at Ravendale, and go fast to Brigsley and examine fine old Church, tho' practically a ruin. Then on to Holton le Clay, and examine that and altar slab recently restored to church and to be put back in there shortly, curious old font, fine Saxon arch also at Brigsley. .... General fuss (*at home*), tho quite needless, owing to cleaning going on. Stanford of Elkington calls, also Lowry, of course nobody "at home".

..... Louth Races. Plant seeds up to 11.30, then **go in waggonette with Ettie and Maggie to the Races (not at all desiring so to do), but rather depressing in the House. Enjoyed it on the whole, crowded assembly in carriages.** Morcom, Dr Shefford etc on the spot very much. ....

..... go to Petterhills and cut out trees. .... after tea I busy in garden planting seeds until seven. **Forget about vestry meeting, go during dinner, see Rector, too late for meeting, 6.30 not 7.30.** (*Nothing new here then!*) Mother very depressed.

..... **Mother in regular mood, especially when Rector calls, however Maggie takes her for a drive and she is better.** ..... Rector and Mrs Fagan and Teddie (Fagan) come to dinner, which goes off satisfactorily as a whole.

After very hot night with window open, fair morning turns very chilly. .... Rector and Mrs F and Teddie come to look at daffodils which are very fine.

*St George's Day.* Flag flying in honour of patron saint. .... Mother in tears and very depressed. .... Johnson's boys busy with spring operations in back quarters, .....

..... busy at Petterhills, Johnson's boys etc busy with May cleaning. ....  
**Rector's 'Do' in school room followed by kind of concert, I give reading, Parsons gramophone performs** .....

..... **Foal being broken in great ado in the field, Maggie, George, Tommy and Holland and self. Mackerill calls. After lunch go to Yon End and see finished stables and say horses may go there now at any time.** Hang pictures on stairs. .... **Ride round by Job's Lane, help up cracked sheep,** .....

..... **Bike to Lincoln and on to Brattleby, keep lunch, only Grace and Mrs W at home, then on to Lincoln, and go to jewellers with Grace, and buy 13<sup>th</sup> Century silver ring £2. Bike straight back leaving Lincoln 5.45 and getting home 8.15 via Wragby and Hainton, great badgering day in the Valley, with tag rag and bobtail, which is why I especially was out of the way.**

..... **Bike to Grimsby where I join Ettie and Mother and so on to Hull, meeting Mrs Sutcliffe and the Tophams on the boat. I feel and look very shabby. Choose chimney piece grate etc,** drive out to Hedon arriving about 3.35. Stand as god-father to Joanne Margaret. Jack and Mrs Jack (*Wright relatives?*) very nice, leave 7.5, Hull 8.30, get home 11o'clock.

Magnificent day, ..... rather bad frost at night. .... **In afternoon see Parker bricklayer about tombstone being repaired,** .....

.....

Warmer again. Library being cleaned, busy helping with pictures. Garden seats brought down. Man comes about carpet. ....

### **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May.**

..... Bike to Grimsby to Sessions, My day on the rota, plenty of folks there however, Field in the chair, get back about 2.15, ..... ante room day for cleaning, hang fresh pictures in library, my room, Ettie's room.

..... The drawing room being cleaned, help by taking down and putting up pictures. Ride Marcella to Louth and order clock for Elijah Smith, also picture for Maggie, "Meet of Southwold Hounds". .....

..... **read with great disappointment but no surprise the archbishop's decision on 'reservation'.** ..... peafowl cause trouble. ....

..... Kelly's man comes for particulars for 1900 Lincolnshire. Johnson's boy putting down carpets throughout house. In afternoon Mrs (General) Fagan (*Colonel been promoted?*) and Miss Fagan come for tea and croquet, I play first game of season, very badly too. **Baroness (horse) very bad. Eve comes and examines, says it is 'strangles', very tiresome.**

..... busy in garden and Petterhills cutting trees out of the gorse. .... go to Yon End and fasten up barbed wire at end of 'Nut Walk'. After dinner go with Maggie to Rectory, Mrs General Fagan a very charming woman.

..... pay £5 for Church expenses from most of family. ....  
Go with Maggie to view trees Yon End, just out most gorgeous beeches. ....(School treat)

..... Attend Mattins, birds Peacocks pheasants etc make tremendous commotion. Bike to Louth to get address of servant, get back by 2.30. .... Plant 'Mummy Wheat' .....

..... **Ettie and Maggie go to Thoresway housemaid hunting. After lunch bike over to Thoresby and pay £50 to Mackerill on account (= total £200 now paid), return and write infuriated letter to Sharpley about getting leading done.** .....

..... Take overseas papers to Dobbs. View the trees, very gorgeous, also bluebells.  
..... ride over to Binbrook and pay Birkett's bill, blacksmith. ....

..... Bike to Grimsby with Spiritual Aid accounts and get them audited by Parkes of Lincoln Bank. .... Phil Morcom comes, go **with him to Petterhills and get gorse to put round young trees, (good method of tree protection!)** also show him stables and old garden..... **See Elijah in garden about bees, and say final farewell.**

..... **Spend morning examining old (Manor) Elijah's house, (ie what we now call Welfitt's. Elijah Smith, given in parish baptism register as a Foreman with wife Hannah, moves to Ashby cum Fenby as we will see later. He is apparently still subject of a Poor Law order, and as such has an overseer, none other than that noted financial wizard, WMW) also other houses and go over 'The Grange' 'Yon End'. In afternoon get more gorse from Petterhills, .....** Ettie and Polly at Louth hiring servant. **Go over to Thoresby and see about new chimney piece and see Mackerill. Parsons decides to join the "Sherwood Rangers".**

.....  
Contretemps in the field. Awfully cold. **Parsons bikes to Lincoln on military business.** I busy sending out notices to Spiritual Aid Association meeting next week..... Ride to (Thoresby) Station, pay the Station Master for various things. Busy in garden planting lupins, peafowl and creatures very tiresome. **Parsons in a muddle over "Yeomanry business".**

..... Bancroft's daughter's wedding, organ, bells etc. Make it ornate, put flag up. McKinn comes in after the wedding for refreshment. Take magazines down to the Coates at Waltham on Marcella, ..... Go over to Hawerby to dine with the Morcoms, Mr. Harneis down looking and seeming much better. **Fuss about fetching up chimney piece. .... Breakfast and all other meals in library where dining table has been removed. Great upheaval, builders etc all on the go, putting in the new grate and chimney piece in dining room. (probably the one that is still there.)** ..... **Martha housemaid departs in the morning, left to tender mercies of "Polly" Wray.**

..... Bike to Market Rasen and on to Mid Rasen and back to station, take train to Barnetby and change, on to Doncaster via Crowle, then out to Warmsworth, getting tto Louie's about 1.30. Louie Lewis **and niece (blimey, that's been kept quiet!)** all look very well. Leave 7 o'clock, Doncaster 7.20, get to Barnetby about 8.40. Bike from there thro Brocklesby Park and Low road, Ravendale, get back about 10.20. Fireplace done.

..... Busy planting out seedlings. .... **Parsons goes to Louth to try and get out of the 'Yeomanry'**. .... Mafeking ought to be relieved today.

..... Holland goes out with sons. Busy in garden most of day. .... Ride round by Swinhope Thorganby and Ravendale, contretemps in Far Bottom, Marcella has bad cold, can't eat, rather suspicious. (*'Strangles', as diagnosed in Baroness earlier, is a very contagious disease in horses, according to my local horse expert.*) Cat unwell. Get news of relief of Mafeking about lunchtime, put up flags. Chickens come off, at least six do. Very chilly at night, hope frost won't damage blossoms of fruit trees. **Parsons get required Medical Certificate.**

Mass 8, Mattins 10, Paine of Beelsby takes them, Stanford of Elkington in evening..... birds and beasts cause trouble in evening.

..... Try to settle about going away. Go off to Archdeacon's Visitation and lunch afterwards at Vicarage. Grimsby Spiritual Aid Association directly afterwards in Vicarage. .... New Maid comes in evening. Drink champagne in honour of Mafeking. .... Settle to go to Teddie's tomorrow.

Leave by 9.45 via Lincoln for Kings X, lunching in train from Grantham. .... walk and bus across to Waterloo, ..... get to Alton about 7pm, meeting Ted near the station. Walk up to 'The Butts'. Go a little into town after dinner, very gay with flags for Mafeking and Queen's birthday.

..... Ted drove me ..... to Basingstoke. After lunch I walk to Basing by the low road, passing a man on stretcher from railway accident. Get to Basing Rectory about 3.30, have tea with Mr. and Mrs. Hesty who seemed very glad to see me. Mrs Maitland and family as also Mrs Pitcher and family all living in the Rectory. .... After dinner Ted introduces me to his club.

..... Attend 7 o'clock Mass at All Saints near the Butts, leave with Ted in pouring rain by 9.10 for Bishopstoke, change ..... for Chichester. Return to Southsea and meet Ted who had business in Fareham. 10 men of war standing in the Solent Spithead. ....

..... Bike up to the Abbey of S Mary and S John, brotherhood of S Paul, attend Sext and look over the Abbey, then return and view old Alton church and go with Ted to some farm, get puncture. After lunch bike with Ted to Winchester ..... see Cathedral and S. Cross, train back to Medstead. Bike from there back to Alton.

..... Ted comes with me by the 10.20 up to Waterloo. Go and view the Academy, spend 1 ½ hrs there and enjoy it a bit. ... Ted comes to see me off at Kings X, get home very fast about 9pm. **Hear all the trouble with new servant who rush off in terror or madness.** (*terror more like.*) .....

..... Mother and Ettie leave for fortnight's stay in Scarboro'. .... Busy planting out flowers in garden pots. Partial eclipse of sun very visible from about 3 to 4.30. ....

..... Bike to Grimsby for Sessions and pay Constable for annual supper £1/1s. (*still paying for being caught biking without a light last year?*) Very short meeting. Mr Tuckwell takes me over his very interesting garden full of quaint old-fashioned flowers. Polly and Maggie servant-hunting in Louth. **Charles Nainby comes and gives me a ride in his motor car.** Play a good game of croquet at the Rectory and attend Evensong, nose always bleeding. Fenwick and **Julius** go round garden etc.

..... Polly and Maggie go to Louth servant hunting. .... Bike over to Binbrook about the plumber who was out. After solitary lunch bike with dogs to Ravendale and back. Marcella worse and Parsons at Louth. .... Peafowl egg found and put under a hen.

..... Hang dining room pictures all morning. .... Busy in garden most of afternoon.  
**Maltby and Parker come about their future business.** Parsons at Louth for his sports.

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June.**

..... Bike over to Brattleby leaving Newton about 10.45, getting to B at 1pm. .... Alice and Mrs W at home. Drive after lunch to Stow church, most interesting, come back by Coates, quite a medieval gem. Leave Brattleby 7pm, with a horrid head wind, get back about 10pm. Rather done. Carpet put down in library.

Sheep taken away to be sheared. .... **Polly and Maggie go to Louth and at last dig up servants. Parsons doing the railings. Horses all better.** Mowing machine taken away.....

*Whit Monday. Bank Holiday.* ..... **No sign of the prevailing holiday. Fumble around cottages, various small things require doing in various places.** .....

..... Write letters including cheque lent to CJW(*igan*) for £15. ....

..... Busy planting out pansies into one diamond shaped bed and other places. Rector and Mrs Fagan come at 3 o'clock and have very good game of croquet and beat them, Parsons and I v Rector and wife.

..... **After tea go down with Maggie to station to fetch up restored portrait which turns out to be the one formerly over the fireplace at dining room Binbrook Hall, busy hanging it, very pleased.** (*Yet more confusion over Scallows/Binbrook Hall. I am not certain that Wrights ever lived at Binbrook Hall, although there was a time when Scallows was called Binbrook Hall, maybe by the Wrights. Both were owned by the same estate from Yorkshire. WMW's Aunt Polly, ie Mary Wright, his father's sister who died childless, leaving her estate, (valued at £28,000 being mortgages on various properties around Louth, to WMW's sisters, which is why he is always borrowing off them), gives her address in her will as Binbrook Hall but I reckon it's Scallows. Stovin, the tenant of Binbrook Hall Farm mentions with loathing the Wright women living in Scallows, who allow rabbits to ruin his crops, in the 1860-70's, and he is still there as mentioned in this diary a couple of years previous.*)

Memorable day. .... Start en route to Scarborough and get as far as New Holland, and there have lunch, Then on to Barton, heavy rain for ½ hour. See Barrow church and very interesting church of SS Mary and Peter, the latter with Saxon tower and old Nave Saxon. Get back via Wootton, tea at Brocklesby 'Pelham Arms'. (*presumably on his bike.*)

..... Charles Nainby comes. .... **Eleven partridge eggs laid close to church door.**  
..... **Ollard to be ordained priest tomorrow.**

Magnificent summer's day. Mass 8. Tommy faints. ....

..... **set partridge eggs.** After lunch bike to Workhouse via Waltham. Get sundry medicines in Grimsby, meet Mother and Ettie coming back from Scarborough. ....

Tremendously hot, quite unbearable in the sun. .... **Hang up new picture sunset in drawing room, by well known artist.**

..... **Mother and Polly drive to Louth and re-engage ‘Game Horse’** (a maid who was mentioned in a previous diary). .....Parsons at Baumber, Bland’s Bazaar, Contretemps after Mattins a propos of altar flowers. (nothing new there then.)

..... Bike to Louth to see Ingoldby about the insurance. .... Ride Marcella round by Scallows whither I go to get out of storm which hangs around. Talk with Miller (current tenant of Scallows?) which costs 1/-, tiresome. .... Prepare for departure.

Leave home (Thoresby) 10.20 train for Grimsby and so on to Manchester without changing carriage, arriving M 3.20 or so, Drive to Victoria Hotel near Exchange station, get tea and go in tram from High St up to Harpurhey cemetery and put flowers on grandparents grave on right of cemetery chapel. After dinner Maggie and I walk ..... very warm and very tired.

Leave Manchester 9.40 train for Chester. .... walk up ..... and view the old streets and Cathedral, ..... leave Chester in great fuss and confusion, passing Hawarden in distance with flag half mast for Mrs Gladstone’s death. .... get to Llandudno about 5.30, go to Marine hotel, and get nice quarters. Fumble around. Mother’s cough bad. Make a false move visiting conjuring ‘take in’.

*They stay away till Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June, staying Llandudno and Bettws y Coed. Spend most of time bathing, visiting local sites, - William and Maggie walk up Snowdon, (Mother unwell so they don’t take railway), and numerous churches and castles. Letter from Poll arrives “with sad news of Killick family” (check of burial register shows Joseph Killick, 12 yrs old buried on 21/6/00). Get back to “usual rows about servants etc etc.”.*

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July

Paine of Beelsby reads Mass 8, Mattins 10, Merrikin preaches good sermon in evening. ....

**Sharpley comes to pay rent £841 7s 5d.** Very pleasant. Drive with Mother and Polly to the station, leave by 2.20, ..... get to Oxford via Bletchley 10.30, **go to the Clarendon Hotel, quite full at the Randolph – didn’t try College where I ought really to have gone.** Go to bed very tired.

After breakfast fumble around Union and College gardens. .... Bike over to Bindsey, lovely little church. .... **Dress and attend Evensong College Chapel about 5.15, dinner 6.30 long Latin speech Dr Bellamy in great form, gorgeous feed.** (Is this the ‘Gaudy’ mentioned earlier?) Join Wigan and Hage at Hotel about 10. ....

Breakfast with Wigan at the Hotel. Go on the Barge with old ... old fellers up to Bagley Wood, another gorgeous lunch follows. Hutton on the spot, very much. Leave by carriage about 3.30, ..... Meet Wigan and Hage, go down by 4.20 to Paddington, drive to Victoria and leave by 7pm for Sole Street and Luddesdown, spend night there. Mrs W. Hebbert and six sisters all at home .....

After breakfast see round very pretty garden church and school of Luddesdown. .... (returns to Lincs ).

..... **Bike to Louth with Sharpley’s cheque. Get caught near Scallows coming back, in heavy thunder shower, get rather wet under the hedge. Men in house busy with cabinet.** (Possibly installation of upstairs WC at end of Manor landing involving Maltby the builder and Parker the plumber from Binbrook) Fumble about with new peafowls just hatched. .... Rector and Mrs Fagan return from Yorkshire. Get invitation to stand ‘best man’ for Domenicetti (vicar of Belchford).

..... **Ride out to Ashby and see Bacon about bees, borrow 6d of him to pay his own man.** Parsons playing cricket at Binbrook. .... Wigan returns borrowed money.

Beautiful morning, oversleep so don't get to Mass.

..... **Take voting papers to Foreman (Mrs Dobbs).** Attend Guardianship meeting Workhouse, Parsons at Foresters meeting at Binbrook. ....  
.....my birthday..... Bike to Grimsby to Sessions, call at Rector's (of Grimsby) coming back.  
..... Play croquet and beat Mr and Mrs Fagan. .... **Chapel meeting out of doors. Attend Evensong**

..... **More beehives after dinner. Kitchen maid comes, hear of tales in carrier's cart. ....**

.....sun terrifically hot, **bike with flat tire to Louth**, do sundry business's. **leave by 12.5 to Mablethorpe, take bathe in rather rough sea and return by 1.30, had quite enough of Mablethorpe, getting back with new blown out tube, getting back about 3.30. catch Charlotte Smith depredating in Yon End garden.** (*Not clear who this is, and whether related to the 'Tommy Smith caught in the pit' last year. Baptism records show an Alice Smith baptised on Oct 21 1888, and a Charlotte Taylor on Dec 30<sup>th</sup> same year, so both would be 11-ish, a good age for scrumping – did he get confused? The only other Charlotte Smith is giving birth in 1850's, so I doubt she'd be at it – could be an incomer tho'.*)

.....Settle about garden parties etc send off invitations. Hear of poor Charles Smith's death at Bloemfontein. (*name on War Memorial. Presumably the husband of Mrs Charles Smith who is still in one of the cottages. Baptism records show a Charles Smith baptised on July 23<sup>rd</sup> 1871, being son of Mark and Harriet Smith of Humberston – age might be right, but Mark and Harriet don't figure again, the other Charles Smith being a blacksmith/labourer in 1860-70's*) Bike to Louth, sun terrific, take train to Mablethorpe, can't bathe owing to sea being so far out, ..... get Domenichetti's present, silver mustard pot £2. .... Dr and Mrs Shepherd, Mrs **Burton**-Burton, Dog and Mrs Fagan come to tea. ....

..... Knife from Lou as a birthday present. .... Discuss Church matting etc after mattins with Rector. **After lunch Ingoldby's come over and spend afternoon, play croquet and show him new stables Yon End, Maltby finishes upstairs Cabinet having been three days at it, looks very nice and smart and seems to act well. Parsons goes to Gainsboro about the 'Trailer' motor bike.**

Glorious day, no rain. .... Miss James comes for tea and dinner. Get infuriated as grass not cut.

..... Leave 9.30 in great fury with George and only just catch train at Louth for Lincoln, Mother and Mag having gone by Thoresby, we all examine old curiosity shops etc ... Busy shopping up to last, leave by 4o'clock, bike back from Louth. .... Ethelred and Henry III coins.

..... **Parsons Motor bike and 'trailer' comes (sidecar on motorcycle?)**

Grand day. Church yard mown sometime in small hours. Get red currants and black at Yon End with Maggie. Mother and Mag call on Coates Waltham. **I bike to Grimsby 4.30 to get my hair cut and thin flannel coat, return by low road to Thoresby. Call at Tom Wright's to see garden and find Parsons there with his "trailer" tutor.** .... Edith and cook both somewhat unwell, sent to bed, get sweet **metric** for them from Killicks. ....

Grand day, terrifically hot, cook and housemaid bad so bike to Fulstow to see Dr. Sheppard. Heneage holds forth with old tales, remembers "Poor Papa" well. Bike back with Dr. in boiling sun. .... **Pheasants come off, cause excitement.** (*Were these the 'partridges' of earlier?*) ..... Parsons at Quirks.

Grand but suspicious morning. I prophesy a storm. **Get red currants Yon End, Parsons taking me thither in 'Trailer'**. Strawberries get soon after breakfast, very warm in cage. **Parsons takes me down in trailer to Poor Carr (Smith's) funeral in Waltham Church, very large one?** (*Don't think this is the war victim*) After funeral see black clouds and ominous grumblings. Get back alright and go off being S. Margaret's day to Lowry's (*vicar Hawerby*) for tea, meet Mr and Mrs Lane, also Mr and Mrs Clem Bellairs. Memorial service 7.30 in church. Awful storm bursts at last. And goes on till 11pm, very terrific.

Calm beautiful morning, things rather bashed with rain. Mr and Mrs Walwyn Iles (*previous tenants of Manor and North Farm*) come for day, both very nice and looking very well. **Show them new Communion rails, also new stables.** ..... **George (groom) has son and heir born.** (*Baptism register shows to George and Mary Ann Tasker a son, baptised Percy on 9/9/00, born 21/7/00, brother to Mabel Ellen born 1898, also Edward born 1902*) Iles go away about 7.15 with flowers. Get red currants, Yon End, and **make hay in Church yard**..... servants better.

..... Walk and discussion on punishment hereafter. ....

Lovely day. Bad diarrhoea and not well generally. Maggie also rather bad. Get rasps and currants etc..... Preparing for tomorrow's do. Wigan and Ollard start for their Normandy trip. Servants about all right after their complaints.

Better tho' very unwell..... **Johnson fixes up old three cornered book case.** Busy preparing for garden party, get tables, chairs etc all put out in garden, about 30 people put in an appearance including Westbrook's of Caistor with friends, Miss Johnson, and Mrs Beesley, all over 6.45, Charlie Burkinshaw stays on, Louie comes up with Polly, looks very well. ....

Not up to Mass alas. Awfully hot, even feel dizzy from the effects. **Get all hay in church yard put into 'cocques'** (*inverted commas are Wright's, this is the best I can do*) Coates comes for tea. Preparations for Binbrook flower show. Leave 6.33 fish train for Kings X, ..... get into town about 11o'clock. Drive 39 Bedford Sq, Mrs Galte entertains me to supper. Giovanni comes in later. ....

Binbrook flower show. .... Domenicetti's wedding day. Get bus which takes me down to Notting Hill gate station turn right and go up Kensington Park Road to S. Peter's Bayswater. Lunch with Domenicetti's party. In church at wedding 2.30 acting as Best Man. At Mrs Dalyel's at Home afterwards, awful squash. Get back Bedford Sq 5.30.

..... Fumble around shopping etc walk down Oxford St, Bond St and Piccadilly, lunch at Restaurant with Galte. .... Leave by 4.15 for Thoresby, meet Teddie Fagan at Peterboro, Lowry at Louth, come up in Fagan's carriage. .... **Hear news new cook going, not surprised.**

..... **Mrs Edith Porter and Tiny Iles come over the former not very well, Tiny in very good form.** (*'Tiny' Iles, daughter of Francis Walwyn, may be Frances Iles died 1951, well remembered by Bob Dale*) ..... They all go down in waggonette 7.30. I go down and talk with Foreman Dobbs, nearly catastrophe in pond 'Yon End'.

.....

Much cooler. Get quantities of currants and black ones got by others. Mrs Fenwick comes in to boil them up. .... Ettie and Mother call on Haxby's, Mag and I go to Stanford's at Elkington, very pleasant on machines. **Parsons' motor car man operating on his machine.** Meeting held in schoolroom after dinner. ....

..... Parsons at Miss Young's garden party, where others of the family ought to be. **Thunder at times in the distance, pay Parsons £3.**

***Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> August***

..... Leave 8.15 for Louth, George driving, leave Louth 9.36, travel with Miss Wyatt to Kings X, leave London Bridge Station by 2.5, get Newhaven about 4.15, ..... leave by 'Prince Arthur' 5.30 for Caen, ..... spend most of time on deck, ..... get to Caen about 4.30 or 5, go into S. Pierre, attend Mass 5am, slumber in S. Pierre, get café au lait at Hotel Angleterre, ..... can't find Wigan and party, so walk towards Abbaye aus Hommes and quite by chance come across them at Hotel near Abbaye. Very pleased to discover them. Leave by train and meet them at Hotel Luxembourg at Bayeux, they coming on on machines. See over very fine Cathedral, ..... Luxembourg excellent hotel, nice gardens, sit therein.

Very windy morning, ..... they go off by bikes to S'-Lo, I train via Lison where I get dejeuner, then on to S'-Lo where I meet them in grand Church of Notre Dame, ..... Leave 5.10 with Wigan Ollard and Cross for **Coutance** arriving there about 6. Go to Hotel Angleterre with pretty vine-clad verandah.

Examine Cathedral well, ..... mount Lantern, ..... Examine fine church of S. Pierre with two towers, ..... also fine church of S.Nicholas with lanterns in imitation of Cathedral, ..... leave 3.30, ..... change Foligny for Granville, where I arrive about 6pm find others already there. No luggage turns up. **Go to Hotel de Paris in some stinking street, in fact it all stinks.**

*Spends further two days touring churches of Normandy with college friends, leaving S. Malo 12.30am on Monday 6<sup>th</sup>, getting in to Southampton 2pm, ("awful passage") then train for Waterloo, leaving Ollard at Woking, Cross at Waterloo, Wigan and I stay at Alexandra Hotel near Victoria and try in vain to get into Music Halls and theatres, all full. ....*

..... leave by 12.30 train ..... getting in to Thoresby 6 o'clock, Wigan saw me off. Miss Clerk of Binbrook in carriage, Fieldsends get in at Alford. Occurrence with Kirke boy giving me a lift up from station, Mother and Polly at Louth, return with curious news – 'Dog' seems to have been going on in a strange way. Note Tours £9, *lists all places visited. (Is this the total travel cost?)*

..... Ride Marcella to Binbrook, take boots to be mended. .... **late on about 11, Foreman Dobbs comes for leave for Irishmen to be put up.** Mr Lowry calls to see Motor car. Talks of coming election.

..... fetch carpets down from church (to save them). ..... old peacock not to be found last thing.

..... **Bring pews (bone of contention) and deposit them in false roof.**

.....

.....

.... Don't feel very well, indeed very sick. Bike to Grimsby and get Spiritual Aid accounts settled and printed. **Go on to Cleethorpes and take the air (good air to boot) on the pier.** ..... Bike to Thoresby to meet Wigan. Mother not very well. **Parsons motor car on the go again.**

..... Afternoon bike to Rothwell with Wigan, Ettie and Maggie in cart. Huge garden party and a very good one to boot, Canon Andrews, Alington etc, puncture at the last minute before returning. .... get back from Boissiers about 8.15, see his new screen, very pleased with it.

..... Bike with Wigan to Mkt Rasen, and train to Lincoln, see the Cathedral and bike on to Brattleby, get there just in time for lunch, Mrs W Gracie and Alice there. Bike down to Stow..... as also Coates..... back to Brattleby for tea, meet the Miss Townsend. .... After taking port wine, leave .... about 6.30, get home biking the whole way about 9.30, rather done. Take heavy supper, on whole a very good day.

Magnificent day with sea fog towards evening. .... Wigan plays the organ, Mablethorpe Flower Show, Holland showing thereat. In afternoon Ettie, Maggie, Wigan and Parsons go to Pickup's at home and return much amused. Mackerill comes and settles up new stable accounts. ....

..... **Bike to Louth and pay into Trustees account £154, see Ingoldby and Tombstone man Clark.** Get back about 1.15, **after lunch Parsons, Mother Polly Wigan and self all go to Cleethorpes and have a rare old joke. Take Wigan round by Old Clee Church and examine it. Go on pier, 'down to Low Water', Shrimp tea, merry go round etc.,** get back about 8.30, Mother and Polly in cart get back soon after.

Very warm and hazy, give up biking to Barton as we had hoped, take Quercus out for the first time, round by Cold Harbour and Lambcroft X-road, get caught in terrific shower near Fox Cover and get wet to the skin, soon clears up after making everything thoroughly wet. Wigan and I go to tea at Rectory, Alington's come, play croquet and tennis, side rather bad, put on mustard plaster.

..... Wigan plays for Evensong, good congregation, **difficulty with pheasants.** (?)

.... Bike to Grimsby, meet Mrs Sutcliffe, Jack Jackson and Gilbert at the station, get out New Holland, and bike to Barton thro' Barrow, see both churches and lunch at 'The George'. **Leave Barton about 2pm, and get to WN about 3.45, a good 24 miles.** After tea bike over to Clarke's garden party at Binbrook, Ettie, Maggie, Parsons self and Wigan, very good 'do'. Get back across the fields about 9pm. Harvest progresses slowly.

..... Bike to Thoresby to see Wigan off just in time, he also bikes down. Then on to Grimsby via Low Road, only Jack Sutcliffe with me on bench, longish list of delinquents. Bike back 10'clock, Mother and Ettie drive over to Fulstow to call on Shepherds, .... go with Maggie to have a look for mushrooms, get a heap of fungi. ....

..... I ride Quercus, **settle up Grimsby Spiritual Aid Association business, hear from Lord Yarborough on the subject.** In afternoon Maggie and I bike over to Swinhope to Alington's small kind of 'Do', rather a joke. Admiral in very good form. Fred Marshals come over for afternoon and Nellie Haxby. Parsons brings curious news of JM from Louth.

..... Bike into Grimsby to settle up Grimsby Spiritual Aid Association. Leave books at Coates'. Meet Tuckwells. Arthur Jackson comes for lunch. .... Get apples in 'berry garden'. **Stone-throwing nuisance on go.** .....

**Up very early to catch stone-throwers.** .... Leave with Mother and Parsons for Grimsby in waggonette to catch 2.25 train for Hull en route to Burlington, meet Mr Coates and travel with him, Louie and little Louie arrived before us at 10 Bright Crescent where we have good rooms for a week. Go out afterwards on parade etc, .....

..... go switch back Circus on south side with bear performance. ....  
Parsons and I get photos taken. ....

*Carry on much the same with bathing, going out on parades, concerts and music hall, trips to Scarborough and Flamboro Head, till 6pm. Return Friday 31<sup>st</sup> Aug.*

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September**

..... Harvest operations progressing fast,  
leading hard.

.....

.....Connie turns up minus her luggage of  
course, which however arrives later on. Waggonette goes to be done up.

..... Bike to Grimsby. **Very full Bench, 'Licensing day', nearly everyone refused.**  
Get back about 1.30, Mrs and Miss Sutcliffe here for lunch. .... After..... bike up to  
X-roads where the machine bursts and delays further progress of Connie, Annie, Parsons and self. ....

..... Miss Iles funeral at Louth tho' I didn't know till afterwards. George goes to Louth to fetch back  
cook. Take Quercus out and have an episode coming back near Skallows road and give him beans.

..... Custances come for tennis and croquet, as also Swarnzly and Corbett, S. John's man at Caistor.  
Have good game of croquet on Rectory lawn. **New cook comes. Take violent dislike to Gertrude  
Custance.** ..... Mother calls on Armitages, Sowerbys and Pickups. Parsons goes to Nainby's in  
evening. ....

..... **Parsons takes my bicycle to be done up, expensive affair at Louth.**

.....

.....

..... Annie Parsons and self only just catch express, get to Spalding about 11 am,  
see church and bike on to Crowland, see abbey and old bridge, lunch and go to Thornley, see old abbey and  
bike 7 miles to Peterboro. Take tea, see over and round Cathedral. Leave Peterboro by 5.45 train, get home  
biking from Thoresby about 9pm. ....

..... **Goods and other chapel folk at Church for Elsey  
funeral (yesterday).** (*Sarah Elsey of Binbrooke aged 56 yrs*)

..... Mrs Morcom and May M. come for lunch, very  
nice. Dr Shepherd, Mr. Heneage and Miss Jameson come in the afternoon for tea. Most of us with Mother  
walk down the Valley. **Sheep dead and unpleasant in spinney. Must see about it.**

..... Bike with Annie (Tootal, cousin) (too late for train) all the way to Huttoft via Louth and  
Alford, get there 12.20, Mass proceeding, 'Church Militant' prayer. Meeting in Schoolroom afterwards,  
amusing address from Canon Rhodes Bristow. Bike back to Alford, take tea and train to Thoresby, and bike  
back. ....

Magnificent day. Ride Quercus round by Hatcliffe, see Tom Haxby, **Great excitement, the cook not very  
well and very grumpy.** In afternoon whole party go down to Cleethorpes, Maggie Mother and Connie in  
cart, Annie Parsons and self on machines, lose one another but finally meet at 48 Sea Bank Rd, Harriet  
Parrat's (Mrs Button), have rare old tea and then go on pier to see dancing. ....

..... George Haxby and Gibson come for tennis and dinner. Bike down to investigate remains at Ormsby and go on to Utterby, and see church. Haxby and Gibson leave about 11pm –

..... **Write to Postmaster General about postman.** .....

..... Servants fuss. .... **Get apples Yon End, .....**  
**Irishmen tiresome.** Sup with the Fagans, Tall girl staying there.

.....

.....

Cracked cook departs. ..... Annie Tootal leaves for Dolgelly and leaves quite a vacancy by going. See her at Grimsby station with Janie Iles. At Sessions with Sutcliffe and Bannister, Call on Iles, ..... **Foreman Dobbs in difficulty over jury list.** See Tuckwell.

..... **Take overseers book to Ashby cum Fenby and discover Elijah Smith after a time, take books to Rectory and see Foreman Dobbs on overseers business.** ..... Harvest Festival at Binbrook, go earlier and take tea with Custances, Bullock preaches peculiar sermon, procession without banners. ....

Attend Mass 7.45 (Rector too quick for me). Miss Powell, tall Rectory horse goes away. Miss James, schoolmistress returns, George meets her. Take Quercus out round by Hawerby and Beesby, short episode on Hall road. Mother and I call on Tuckwells and go on with Polly to Waltham Grove to see if there would be anything much in the sale.

..... Edith Porter comes over for the day on her bicycle. Play croquet with her in the morning. ....Afternoon take Quercus out slowly, so very hard. Askew comes for tea with disturbing news as to the reception of old (new) altar. Bike with Edith back to Boswell (Oysters), inclined to rain very black and very sultry. Parsons at Thos Wright's, Holland goes to view garden things at Waltham Grove. Sheep removed. Pay Holland 15/- for potatoes.

.....

..... **Parsons at Grimsby cashes me a cheque for £5 to pay him and Polly.** Old dining room pics glass goes away for Louie. ....

..... bike to Baumber,..... on to Horncastle, see church, return via Scamblesby, Donington on Bain and Welton. .... Parsons goes off after dinner about his machine. ....

Dull, gets duller and duller. .... **Get Keswicks** (*common type of apple, still in village*) **out of orchard.** .....

**(Our at home day, no one comes.)** ..... Bike with Teddie Fagan to Binbrook to see Woodie (*Woodthorpe Clark of Manor House in Market Place*) and Harry Burkinshaw, both out. Return and play croquet with Edward F and am beaten. ....

.....

Michaelmas Day. .... See Ingoldby and do sundry business. .... Disaster to the carrier. .... busy after dinner with grapes and candles.

Harvest Festival, High Mass 10.30, .....

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October**

Beautiful day, **Sharpley, Odling and Burkinshaw come for shooting, result of day – seven brace of birds, one hair (sic) one rabbit.** Take Marcella to Thoresby and get Mother's machine in morning, come back through valley, see Tyson boy there. **Parsons motor car comes back after being done up.**

.....

..... **heavy showers 9.30 to 10. Go to Sessions Grimsby heavily covered up to keep off wet, in consequence it turns out beautiful.** Very short sitting. Back by lunch. .... Play croquet and get miserably beaten by Polly. ....

..... Bike to Louth and take train to Bardney, see interesting church, ..... also site of abbey. Laing vicar kindly showin me over, giving me refreshments. Then on to Topholme, with fine remains of refectory and pulpit. Then on through Woodhall Spa to Kirkstead, ..... on to Coningsby, and from there straight to Spilsby via Revesby. From Spilsby to Firsby station and take train back to Louth and bike back from there. **Radical meeting for Perks in school room – I not present. (Election hustings)**

..... get apples and fumble around. Leave for Brattleby, ..... wait for threatening storm. ..comes on furiously about 2pm ..... take 4 train back from Lincoln to Louth and bike from there in pouring rain. Miss James comes for dinner. ....

..... Election excitement all over. .... Pours with rain. Play croquet and beat Polly twice. **Get in various plants, also some apples, "Cockpit", (an apple variety still at Scallows.)**

..... **Ride Marcella to Louth to do sundry business at Bank and elsewhere, see Major Eyre Coote our candidate introduced to him, see Dr Fawcett. .... Go with Parsons after dinner to Binbrook to hear Major Coote at the Temperance Hall, come and go by fields bike.** .....

Terrible day, up and off 8.30, serve for Mass 9.30, Mattins 11. Walk with Stanford's brother, tea and crowded church for Evensong. Bike back and glad the day is over. (*Stanford is Vicar of South Elkington, has Wright spent the day there?*)

**Another magnificent day but an awful one. Admiral Alington, Woodie, Mr Parkinson and his brother (prim-est bore I ever met), Sharpley and Odling come for shooting – total result five hares, nine brace of birds, about four brace lost. Parsons on duty in morning, I in afternoon. Glad to get them away about 6pm.** Tom Wright and Wm Parkinson come for dinner. Now 11m and when will he go? Oh! Oh! Oh! (1.15am)

..... get in apples. **Admiral Alington comes about the political meeting.** Bike to Great Coates to examine discoveries and return about 2pm back again. Ride round by Hawerby see Lowry and Beesby see Tharratt. (*farming Beesby?*) **Meeting 7.30 well attended, Mr Fenton speaks, Admiral Alington takes chair, Lowry, McKinn present. Supper afterwards.**

..... In afternoon Mother and Ettie call on Custances and Burkinshaws of Binbrook, I play croquet. Walk over and call on Mr Harneis sitting alone in his drawing room, not very well. ....

..... **Ride with Maggie round by Smithfield to Binbrook to register my vote for Major Eyre Coote.** Return by Swinhope, Mother and Ettie call on Alingtons and McKinns in

afternoon. Play croquet, ..... Fear Coote won't get in. Parsons bike to Market Rasen.  
(Motor not working?)

Fine autumn day. **Start for Lincoln but change my mind and go to Louth to hear results of poll. Quite too awful, Perks a majority of 902, most hopelessly disappointing. Return with bad news to Newton.** Mother and Polly drive to Thoresby. I take Marcella round by New Road. Holland away, (without leave).

.....

..... Bike to Market Rasen en route to Lincoln, see tailor about various things, lunch "White Hart", and spend some time in Cathedral and discuss the image to be replaced in South porch of Choir.

..... Gainsboro returns Conservative. ....

.....Mass 8. Rector take service at Hatcliffe, we have Mattins 11.30. Walk with Mother to Haverby for Harvest Festival, ..... crammed church, very nice service, ... Sermon 6.50 about Satan good.

..... Miss Marris comes for lunch and afternoon to get rose cuttings. I attend Rural District Council. Get back about 4pm. **After dinner, go to Rectory, see new billiard room. Parsons has an accident off his machine, hand badly cut.**

Hard frost, dahlias and flowers cut down. .... Busy in garden most of day getting flower seeds etc, bringing down flower boxes from upstairs (*windows*), **In afternoon have a two hour game of croquet with Rector and Mrs Fagan and after leading well the whole game get beaten in the end. Ettie also beats me.** Study my Greek Testament in the evening. Read hard at 'Emma', very dry.

**Dull drizzly morning, shooting day. Tommy Coates, Tommy Wright, Tharratt and Twizzy** (*Haxby the name comes from a Haxby family name Twistleton. Does this give a link to the Twistleton-Wykeham-Fiennes family of which Sir Ranulph is an august member, and does this explain why the current George Haxby so often wears open-toed sandals in all weathers?*) **go over North Farm, turnips simply dripping with rain like walking through pond. Total bag 6 brace of birds, 4 hares and rabbit. Tom Wright stays dinner. Mother has musical fit and plays away.** Village concert, don't go, being on duty long enough. Maggie goes to meet of hounds 9.30 at Swinhope, amusing account of Mrs Alington. Finish 'Emma' at last, very terrible and tedious.

..... send off stamps to Conny for book on trees, ..... Busy with Ettie making out bulb list to be sent to Dixons. .... See Mrs Fagan about Betsy Marshall.

..... Ride Marcella to Market Rasen and take 12.19 train to Lincoln 2s/- return. See tailor, go round Cathedral glistening in sun, **get measured by Clarke for top boots, 3 guineas.** ..... come back through Stainton and Swinhope for change. **Medical lecture in evening from Miss Morgan.**

Terrible day with terrific showers and short spaces of bright sun. .... Wm Parkinson comes for lunch and onwards. Go with Ettie to Thorganby and take tea with Miss Marris and get quantities of perennials. Roads very bad. ....

.....

Frightfully chilly morning. **Hounds meet 10 o'clock Haverby X-rds. Go with Maggie and on to Louth to get cheques cashed. Get back about 1.15, Hounds busy about the whole day, Maggie has a nasty spill with no bad results.** Bike down to Workhs and get my attendance put in, never been since July (early). **Parsons new motor trike a wonderful and dreadful thing.** Mother not very well, want a good change. Garden seats taken away. Greenhouse bulbs put in.

..... Take Quercus out from 10 till 1 round by Kelstern Swinhope and Thorganby. Pay 1/- for Anti-Vivisection. In afternoon drive with Rector to Beelsby to call on 'Old' new Rector there, not very prepossessing. Parsons at Louth on his new machine. ....

Mother and Ettie leave for Scarboro, 4 Esplanade South Cliff. I bike to Louth, take train 12.5 on to Mablethorpe to lunch with Parkinsons, Willie Swinburne, Mrs Frodsham (**Fany Swinburne**) and 2 daughters, Timmy Iles all there for lunch. Walk by **sad sea waves**, very dreary. Leave after tea 4.27 and bike back with Askey via low road to Granby, get awfully hot and rather overdone. .... get a piece of buckthorn from Mablethorpe, rather uncommon.

Terrible morning, pours cats and dogs on and off till 1 o'clock. Shooters four in number come and go without doing anything. Re-engaged for Tuesday week, worse luck. Take Quercus out round by Waltham to leave magazines, have a fall in Middle Bottom after clearing dyke, no harm. ....

Pours with rain the whole morning. Write letters till 12.30. Cut down big thorn on lawn, the last of four thorns originally round the house. Take Marcella out round by Swinhope and recover my overcoat from McKinns. .... Medical lecture in schoolroom which I do not attend.

Terrible morning pouring..... till 1 o'clock. Maggie drives the nurse Miss Morgan to Elkington. ....

..... I play organ throughout day. ....

..... **Take Quercus round by Smithfield Wood and Caistor road (ie the High Street), turns very lame and have to walk all the way back from Caistor X-roads.** Go down in carriage and meet the Meades at 5.40 train. The Fagans come for dinner and everything goes off very well. ....

Beautiful day. Mrs Meade has bad cold so stays in bed. Ride with Meade round by Swinhope Smithfield and Thorganby. In afternoon walk round by Church and Yon End and tea with Fagans..... **Show Meade various things to do with drains and stable etc.** Talk until nearly 1am. Very tired. I wonder which? I wonder which? (??)

..... Surprised visitors don't go, rather bothered in morning. **Walk with them down the Valley and Yon End and see Foreman Dobbs about collapsed stables.** (not the new ones?!) In afternoon Maggie and I do decorations up at the church. I get pears from Yon End, nice few. Settle down to visitors towards evening, Mrs Meade awfully nice. Shuffeys (guests at Rectory) come in after dinner show photographs, .....

#### **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November All Saints Day.**

..... Up to Mass, nice number present. Mr and Mrs Austin Meade leave for London. Ride Marcella to Belchford, arrive 11.30 for the 'Missa Cantata' grand function, beautiful sermon by the Bishop Leave 3, get back after 5 o'clock. Gracie Wright (*Brattleby cousin?*) comes 5.40, Evensong sermon by Bullock, vicar of Grimsby. Bees taken.

..... **Gracie Wright inclined to alarm family by suggestion of staying unlimited time. Nurse lecture in evening in schoolroom,** Gracie and I do not attend. ....

..... Hounds meet Welbeck, Maggie goes. I go later on Marcella and just see them near Waltham. .... I plant 360 tulips in formal beds. Practise organ for about an hour. Gracie very amusing at dinner. ....

Miserable day. .... Mass 8, very late. I play organ, festival All Saints hymns etc go off fairly well.

**Damp and dull, 1<sup>st</sup> Meet of Season Riby X-roads, Maggie goes to it.** James Iles can't come after all, Organ tuner turns up. Busy finishing putting in tulips and narcissi and crocuses. .... Gracie gives a musical entertainment, plays beautifully. Very amusing at night on family matters.

..... Gracie departs for Mablethorpe. .... **Sharpley and Odling shoot over place, total bag 4 hares 3 brace of birds, 1 pheasant.** (*are 'birds' then partridge?*) Take magazines on Marcella to Coates at Waltham House. Maggie and I dine at Rectory. .... Grand night, full moon. Left without visitors at last, peace, perfect peace.

..... **Walk with William Parkinson to the Meet at Haverby X-roads, see heaps of people, run with Caton Haigh and P. round by Beesby Wood and Stock Furlong to Peterhills, leave them there and return for lunch. Maggie out on Molly.** ..... Parsons goes to Mayor's reception at Grimsby. **I ride over 6.30 to Caistor ECU meeting,** service 7.30, arrive in time. Sermon by Abrahams of S. Augustine's Hull, Mr Hill addressed the meeting afterwards, Custance and Boissier both present, **I now president of North Lincolnshire branch.**

..... Busy alone in garden in morning. Holland getting flowers from Tuckwells of Waltham. .... Begin business at my perennial border. .... **Quercus quite hopeless.**

..... Ride to Grimsby, get bulbs for boxes, get hair cut, see Quirk when choosing hats. .... **George goes to Louth to see vet about Quercus.**

..... **Eve comes to see Quercus and thinks he can patch him up for sale.** In afternoon..... ride to Binbrook, tea with Miss Johnson and Miss Holdershaw. Very enjoyable. Very chilly at night, **Parsons has nasty accident on Thoresby road in evening, motor injured slightly.**

..... play organ and have improved. ....

..... Dog and Mrs Fagan leave for their holidays to Brighton. Tom Wright and Parsons turn up about 11.30. ....

Doubtful and showery, sun struggling. Ride to Waltham to take Potentilla to Tuckwell, ..... 'Game Horse' returns. Leave for Scarborough. .... Mother and Ettie looking very well, in very nice rooms. (Toncks proprietor stays talking thro evening.)

**Teddie's birthday. Sent Teddie cheque £9 day before, 5/- extra, twice a year** (*see notes at end of year*). ..... look into various shops, ..... Mother Ettie and self attend 7.30 Choral Evensong and sermon at S. Martin's in octave of festival. Go to sleep during sermon.

Terrible day. Get mackintosh and go off to York, meet Louie and Lewis at the 'Repository' **Waller's**. Attend horse sale, go round Cathedral and city with Louie. .... Parochial tea and concert on Spa for S.Martin's, join Ettie and Mother there, get rather bored. ....

.....very cold wind. Evensong 7.30. .... get a billycock at 'Roundtiles', get stomach ache from wind in the evening.

Hear from home they can manage organ so decide to stay on till Tuesday. .... In afternoon go with Mother and settle about Ted's picture. Mother getting lovely picture for me, engraving. ....

.....

..... go into town to look for present for Louie. Spend some time in Tonck's shop looking at glasses., ..... in afternoon walk with Ettie round by harbour, sea gone down, still dashing into wreck near harbour entrance, "Lord Warwick", preparing to haul it up. ....

Awfully cold, few flakes of snow. .... Mother and Ettie come with me to station, go down and look at new curtains, lovely, leave by 11.15. .... George meets me at Grimsby, disagreeable wet drive home. ....

..... Go with Maggie to Meet at Aylesby Manor, and spend most of morning more or less with hounds round by Gt Coates, Bradley, Irby, Croxby and back, Maggie soon after. ....Parsons at entertainment at Cleethorpes. Help Holland with spouts and cutting creepers. Polly fetches rose trees and boots from station, the latter cause great excitement. (*'top boots' for hunting?*) .....

Miserable day more or less rain. Help Holland with creepers and spouts. ....

..... Write long letter to Mother in answer to hers about Bournemouth digs. Help Holland with rose trees, and get them all in their places. Take boots and note to Binbrook, riding over the fields. Parsons gets back and off again to Grimsby on his bike in evening.....

..... Maggie and Polly drive to Louth via Thoresby, I ride in to see after framing of pictures etc. Send brace of pheasants to Mrs Porter. **Kirke boy come and buys Quercus, £7, another £1 if he goes sound, small price as he is still as lame as he can be.** .....

..... In afternoon ride to Thoresby, call at station and Mackerill's, Quercus goes away. Begin new rockery, move capitals and bases from original place. ....

..... Ride Marcella to Grimsby Petty Sessions from 11 to 1.30, Field, Coates Bannister present. .... **Young Mackerill comes, go with him to view old cow stable Yon End, tottering to its fall also barn at farm.** .....

..... Maggie goes hunting, hounds meet Waltham station, Marcella has to be shod. Spend all day gardening. ....

..... Ride to Thoresby then on to Louth, order **drizzet** ..... **medical meeting in schoolroom for Polly Maggie and Parsons.** Heard from Mrs Meade at last but only an enquiry letter.

..... Pickle in garden the whole day. Tharratt brings nice mare over for inspection for sale. **Top boots awful, must take them back tomorrow.** Things come from Scarborough, glasses etc. ....

### Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December

..... **Driven down to Thoresby in morning en route to Lincoln with top boots and clothes, get them seen to.** Lunch 'White Hart' and sit in Cathedral and discuss new statue of Our Lady, Meet Fagans at Louth on their return and am driven up with them. Parsons goes to Aswardby to stand godfather to Poll Short's son, Maurice Guy Minnett Short.

..... Play organ rather badly. Sheep go away fortnight for 50.

..... do accounts of 'Grimsby Spiritual Aid Association', write various letters and notices. Garden, dig in my nursery. Ride with George to Thoresby see Johnson and return by Tharratts to look at horse for which he wants £45. ....

..... **Medical business in school room, quite hot and relaxing.**  
.....

..... **Busy preparing flowers etc for Mother's return, put chrysanthemums all over the house.**  
**Maggie goes hunting,** ..... Polly goes to Louth in waggonette to meet Mother, Parsons helps me to move old stone bases and capitals, 'Dog' comes to settle about his dance, play billiards with him 4 to 6,..... Mother looking so well. ....

..... Hang pictures and move stones also in afternoon. Mother shews beautiful cards, presents she has got for us. **Nurse comes to examine for ambulance lectures, Maggie? Polly in for it.** .....  
Parsons at Alford singing.

..... Show Mother and Ettie garden and alterations, ..... get some of the roses manured. .... See to the barbed wire at Yon End with Maggie. .... Parsons still away –

..... Hounds meet at Ashby. Maggie and I both out, run round from Grainsby to Bradley etc, get back about 2, ..... tea and billiards at Rectory, Parsons singing at Lincoln, appears up on machine owing to contretemps about his bag. ....

.....

..... Busy manuring roses the whole afternoon. .... Parsons returns. Ettie displays her jewellery after dinner. ....

..... Parsons singing at Louth (Yates'). Finish rose trees in the afternoon. ....

Lovely day, like spring. .... Help Maggie to get barbed wire removed which we successfully do.  
..... **Parsons returns with motor about 7. Seems not very well and rather upset**  
**Mother.** .....

Beautiful spring day. Ride to Market Rasen en route to Lincoln, stay 1 ½ hours, get whip and present from mother, return 10'clock train. .... Manure church-yard rose trees. .... **Parsons' motor again on go all right.** Hunting crop 17/6,

Much more chilly, ..... busy in garden most of day. **Granite chips come for gravel paths.**  
Intended to call on Mr Harneis but Mrs Alington and Mrs McKinn, followed by Miss Nell Haxby followed by Mrs Sowerby turn up, help Mother to entertain them. ....

..... Maggie and I go to look for hounds and find them near Barnoldby, stay with them a short time, then return about 1.30, In afternoon call on Mr Harneis who seems very well. **Glorious new picture of Mother's arrives, busy getting them hanged in drawing room.** ..... **Polly in queer mood, more gravel arrives.**

.....

Beautiful morning. Dining room window smashed. Hounds meet Hawerby X-rds, go out with them but late, fumble around Thoresby, not enjoyable. Janie Haxby comes for lunch, see her at tea.  
..... Letter from Louie about going to York.

..... Mother and Polly drive down to Louth in waggonette. Busy in garden. Sutcliffe's invitation comes and causes excitement. Parsons takes me down in motor car in little over half an hour. Leave Grimsby for Doncaster 3.15, ..... walk up to Warmsworth, find Louie and Lewis well.

..... Up early, leave Doncaster quarter to nine, **get to York soon after ten, spend day at Repository and buy Kitty, dark brown mare 30 guineas, get very fussed.** Take her back in box 3.15, get up to Warmsworth about 6.30. ....

Try new mare and fumble around and go to Sale of horses and see Lewis buy two horses, leave Doncaster 4.15 via Retford, get to Grimsby 6.40, ..... **contretemps coming out of Grimsby, waggonette runs into dray. Borrow another conveyance so get back 9 o'clock.** Waif and stray lecture missed.

..... get Xmas cards sent off. **Bike into Grimsby and get coat left in waggonette and various things,** ..... Dog and Mrs F call on Louie. All at home for dinner, except Ted, difficulty in getting rabbits on Ted's part.

Very chilly, white frost. **Days begin to lengthen, cold begins to strengthen. Parsons takes me in his motor to Louth where I do sundry shopping., coming back via Low road, Granby Inn and New Road Ravendale in hour minus 5 minutes.** Loo goes to Thoresway to see Burkinshaw's. Mother not very well. Holland trying to catch rabbits. Contretemps pecunia abstulit. (*money theft?*)

Mass 8. Only Fenwicks and self present. Dog long sermon in morning, Louie bored. ....

..... Mother in fuss. Get Church decorated, Louie helps. Lou goes 2 o'clock, Parsons taking her and baggage to Grimsby in motor, very muddy. Finish church and go to Yon End, see foreman. Get house decorated. Teddie comes in the evening, looking very well. Neck with nasty boils worries me, also **Sickle - B???**

*Christmas Day.* Turns out quite spring-like, sun shining during High Mass. Good squad turn up 8 o'clock Mass, Also good congregation at 10.30 and 4pm Evensong.. **Carols in place of hymns, spoil services in my opinion. See Mrs Charles Smith (war widow?) after Church etc and get tips knocked off.** Huge turkey 7 o'clock dinner, quite a success, only Loo absent from family board.

..... Attend 8.30 Mass. Fumble about with chrysanthemums, ..... Ted goes shooting, get a brace of pheasants. Hear bad news from Rectory, death of Rector's nephew, drowned while saving another, terrible for Mrs General Fagan. (*Was this the Jack Fagan who visited in March/April?*) Walk with Ted to Yon End, down valley. Mother not very well. Not much like Xmas weather, will come anon.

Warm baking spring day. .... Teddie shoots at gorse, tea for boys and children in schoolroom, get ferns at Stock Furlong. **Cutting** double hedge rather excites me. ....

..... Ride to Binbrook on sawyer business. .... Rector calls and gets beans from Mother, not being very well. Parsons at tea fight at Kirke's.

..... **Meet at Normanby Clump, Maggie goes before me, I find them near Smithfield about 11.30 run down through Stainton and Kirmond le Mire, then back from Rothwell gorse and Thoresway Smithfield, get home 3.15, find lawn kicked up all over, "Niobe" having spent the night there. Have to roll it as the gardener appears not to have thought of it.** Read with Ted in library until late hour.

Low Mass 8 o'clock. **Row with Holland as I anticipated, also with Small's boy and Marshall about peacock.** .....

..... **Ted goes back to Alton driving with Parsons to Louth 11.30, to see Ingoldby on business,** Parsons goes on to Sutton on Sea for some performance, **I ride to Binbrook to**

**settle up Sawyer's bill with me for securing sheep in park, total 12/7/6, I fancy £1 6s too much.**  
..... after lunch walk with dogs round by Swinhope Road and Cold Harbour and back  
through old garden, ponds all very full of water after terrific rains. Mrs Holland bad again in her throat.  
..... **I go up and ring out the 19<sup>th</sup> and ring in the 20<sup>th</sup> century alone, and  
return and finish this diary 12.30, new century ½ hour old. Amen.**

Notes at rear of diary.

2

Total charity giving, incl. church collections, £28 5s 9 ½ d.

Christmas 1900.

Rabbits sent to –

Rector, Fenwick, Wray Hickabottom, Bancroft, Hocksley, Neal, George Tasker, G. Holland, (one) Mrs  
Good, George Robinson (before new year) Mackerill,

Whisky George Robinson.

Tips, Foreman Dobbs 10s, Charles Dobbs 1s, Housemaid, 4s, Kitchen Maid 2/6, Tommy Bootleg 2/6  
Groom 5s, Gardener 5s, Fenwick 2s, Hocking's little son 2/6.

Total bicycle mileage 1580. (*each day is detailed....*)

Sheep account, total £11 1s. (*for grazing in Park, Tom Haxby grazier.*)

Interests due

To Polly on £200 half yearly, 5 per cent on Apr 6<sup>th</sup> Oct 6<sup>th</sup>.

To Maggie £200 due ditto

To Ettie £100 due ditto.

To Teddie £500 interest 4 per cent o May 14<sup>th</sup> and Nov 14<sup>th</sup>.

