June 1939
A letter has been sent to the clergy of this country asking them to bring before Parochial Church Councils a resolution concerning public worship and prayer:- "That in this grave national emergency, the spiritual forces of this Nation need to be mobilised as well as the material ones. And that this Meeting humbly petitions His Majesty the King to issue a Royal Proclamation calling upon all loyal citizens to attend a place of worship on Sundays, and there to pray that the Divine Grace and Power be granted to this Nation, and Guidance to all in authority".

(Village events included: A cake competition, a garden fete, Football lad's challenge cup, the odd fellow's parade)

August 1939
The above was proposed and seconded, put to the meeting and carried at the Parochial Church Council Meeting.

The resolution was signed and returned to Sir Charles Marston who was responsible for the distribution of copies throughout the country. On 18th of last month a reply was received from him as follows:-

Dear Sir

The Resolution signed on behalf of your congregation concerning His Majesty the King being asked to issue a Royal Proclamation on Church attendance was presented to the Prime Minister on July 17th and will receive his consideration.
I thank you and your congregation for the prompt recognition of the real help needed by our nation in these days of anxiety and peril.

Yours very truly
Charles Marston.

(Village events included, A Sunday school outing, Girls' Friendly Society festival and tea party)

September 1939

My Dear Friends

I am writing to you at a critical moment of the world's history. Is peace to be secured, or is Europe to be wrecked by the most terrible war the world has known? Though there is a slight ray of hope it seems as if only a miracle can avert disaster. Let us pray constantly...

(Village events included: Harvest Festival, balance sheet or the Red Triangle football club, Sunday school outing and festival and a choir outing.)

November 1939
Owing to the black-out regulations, the time and place of our Sunday Evening Services have had to be altered. Until further notice they will be held as follows:-
On the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at 6.30 in the Schoolroom.
On the 2nd and 4th (and 5th when it occurs) 3.30 in Church.
(Village events included: A United Remembrance Sunday service with monies collected going to Earl Haig's fund, Sunday School festival, Mothers Union events and Girls 'Friendly Society events.)

December 1939
The Girls Friendly Society received this from an evacuated mother: "Thank you very much for the lovely shawl for my baby. I was very pleased with it and I think that the children must have worked hard as it was so nicely knitted. It will keep baby lovely and warm during the winter months".

(Village events included: Christmas celebrations for and with the parish)

1940

January 1940 (reference to Christmas 1939)
The Sunday School Christmas Treat:- "we were very pleased to welcome with us the mothers and children from London. Special gifts had been provided for them from the Evacuation Committee".

What the Red Cross can do.

"For over seventy years the British Red Cross and Order of St. John have been the recognised *voluntary* organisations in England for providing auxiliary relief for the suffering caused by war. Their objects are to supplement the medical services of the fighting forces...

Perhaps one of the most humane and valuable tasks which the Red Cross performs is the establishment of hostels for the accommodation of relatives near their sick and wounded men when their condition is serious...

Every penny contributed to the Red Cross Fund will be needed if the war develops...

February 1940 (During Lent)

...At the beginning of the century, there was a general idea that the world was steadily and automatically getting better and better and there was no need to be anxious about the future. The hopes of that time have been ruthlessly shattered by two great wars in a comparatively short period...
This terrible set-back is a warning to us all...
S.P.G. (Society for the Propagation of the Gospel- actively involved in missionary work , particularly in the context of WW11).
Sent thanks for a gift received.
(Church led groups continued)

March 1940
Our prayers are always offered for the young who have been called to serve our King and Country and who have responded so loyally, and I trust that when we have all done the many duties that our work and our homes require of us, we shall join together in the worship of God and say a prayer for their safe return.

(Church led groups continued)

April 1940
G.F.S.(Girls Friendly Society) received a letter of thanks from the Polish Relief Fund for comforts sent.

(Church led groups continued, outings and celebrations for Easter.)

May 1940
National Prayer.
In accordance with the "Call" issued by the Archbishop Of Canterbury, the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church Scotland and the Moderator of the Federal Council of Evangelical Free Churches, we shall make Whit Sunday a day of prayer for our nation and the world at large.

(Church led groups continued, the bell ringers annual meeting, collections for Cornelia Hospital)

June 1940
At this time of grave national peril, the war overshadows everything else, but it should serve to make us wait more continually upon God…
There were very good congregations at all services on the National Day of Prayer, Sunday May 26th. The collections throughout the day were given to the Fund for providing Church Army Huts for the forces and amounted to £3 11s. 6d.
With the departure of Robin Belben for service in the Military Police, we find ourselves in the unusual position of having lost both Church-wardens.
God grant that Mr Belben and Lieut. Westerman may soon be back amongst us, because peace shall have been restored.

(Church led events continued, a garden fete, teas for a birthday and junior choir)

July 1940
By the time of this issue of our Magazine is in your hands, the great German offensive against our country may have commenced…
In such a time it is good to know that the defences of our island are stronger than ever before. The greater part of the B.E.F.(British Expeditionary Force- a British Army in Western Europe sent to support the French in World War II) is safely home , our Air Force is as strong as when the intensive war began seven or eight weeks ago, and our Navy is stronger than the beginning of the war…

But we must not rely only on material weapons, nor must civilians rely solely on the armed forces. In the end it is the morale of our people that will be the decisive factor, and that depends on each one of us…To each come the call to prayer…

(Church led groups continued)

September 1940
Notwithstanding all the treats and alarms and raids of the past month, we can, and should thank God that so much noise has had little effect and that our country is better prepared than ever to face the craft and assaults of the enemy. In particular we thank God that our parish has been preserved from air attack. At the same time our sympathy goes out to all our fellow countrymen near and far who have suffered in any way from bombing operations…

We shall with other Churches in the country follow the lead of our King and observe Sunday September 8th as a Day of National Prayer…

(Church led groups continued, monies collected donated to various charities and the local hospital)

October 1940
At the beginning of another month we have to thank God for his continued mercies towards our country. No invasion of our country has taken place, we have not been crushed by air attacks as the enemy hoped, his blockade has been ineffective, our harvests have been good and there is no food shortage.
We in Lytchett Matravers must thank God too that no bomb has yet dropped in our parish…
The National Day of Prayer, an additional afternoon service was held when we joined our brethren of the Methodist and Salvation Army bodies in a united Service at the Victory Hall.
(Church led groups continued, the young peoples club requested evacuees to attend to help them have a happy and included time, the boys' club games after services)

December 1940
Christmas draws near, a day that seems so out of keeping with war conditions; but it is good even in the midst of conflict to remember the angels' message, to remember that peace is one of the supreme blessings promised by Our Lord to those who are true to Him.
We have recently learnt there is only one days holiday is to be allowed this year. I do hope, however, that all who possibly can will attend one of our Christmas Services…
Our village is to be congratulated on having raised £35 15s 3d for Earl Haig's Fund…(less than usual was raised at the British Legion United Service owing to an air raid)…

(Church led groups continued with festival and celebrations for the senior boys club, Sunday school, junior boys' club and Girls' Friendly Society)

1941

January 1941
It may seem hardly fitting in these times to wish you all a Happy New Year and yet it is possible for Christian people in the worst of times to rest on the promises of God, and to find joy in knowing that they are in His hands.
Our country has passed through one of the most momentous and critical years of her history, and by God's grace she still stands fast against the assaults of the most formidable enemy she has ever had to face…

Victor Parke and Cecil Hann
Sad news has come for us about two more of our men serving in the forces, Victor Parke has died in the service of his country and Cecil Hann is reported missing, but we must hope that his life has been preserved. We would assure their relatives of our sympathy at this time.

February 1941
In accordance with the appeal made by H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester, and approved by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the collection at the 11 o'clock service on Sunday, February 9th, will be given to the Red Cross and St. John Fund.

Is Lytchett to be thwarted in having bells to herald Morning Prayer? No! For the enthusiastic ringers ring their chimes on hand bells in the Church, and many worshippers have expressed their appreciation of the charming greeting as they enter the Church.

Mother's Union… We are now affiliated with Lady Rockley's Knitting Party for Dorset Troops and have a good supply of wool for all who would like to help.

(Church led groups continued.)

April 1941
…We are now as you all know in what is likely to be the most critical period of the war. It was most fitting therefore that His Majesty the King should appoint the recent National Day of Prayer, and we thank God for this fine lead given to our people…
Our services on the National Day of Prayer were well attended. For the morning sermon the Rector chose as his text, Ps. 37, verse 5…

(A wedding party at Victory Hall with 40 guests, church led groups continued)

May 1941
We are now going through a period of increased activity as far as the war is concerned. During the last few weeks we have had much to cheer us and we have had disappointments. These are critical days and much depends on the events of the next few months…

In Memoriam

5th April Evelyn Cecil, 1st Baron Rockley (At St Aldhelm's Chapel Lytchett Heath)
On Sunday morning, April 20th a special memorial service for Lord Rockley was held at our Church and his daughter, the Hon. Mrs. Greville was present.

July 1941
...Since the publication of our last issue the war has entered a new and critical phase. Very much depends on whether Russia can withstand the German assault on her territory. It seems to be the opinion in official circles here, that should Russia be beaten, an attack on our own land would most likely be made. Whatever we may think of Russia, the fact remains that as we are fighting a common enemy, the most formidable our country has ever had to face, our two countries must work together.
We must pray that God will use the present situation to bring back many in Russia to Himself.

War Weapons Week – May 24th to 31st (a variety of events took place...)
The total contributions of the village amounted to £1210, a splendid result!

War Damage insurance
Our parliament has very rightly passed an act by which much property must be insured and the rest may be at the option of the individual oner. Fortunately Church buildings are insured free, but Church goods such as the organ, bells, pews etc, can only be insured by paying a premium of 30/- for every hundred pounds worth.

August 1941
As I write this letter month by month I feel thankful to God each time that in spite of all the machinations of the enemy, our country has been preserved, is carrying on and increasing in strength. The last month has seen the conclusion of the Syrian Campaign, the Abyssinian Campaign brought very near to an end, the strengthening of our position in North Africa, and increasing success against U boats. The more success we have the more should we remember to give thanks to God, the more should we seek to show our thanks "not only with our life but in our lives," the more keen should we be loyal to the church organised in this world to forward God's eternal purposes...

In addition to the stirrup pump, Mr. Oldham has kindly presented six buckets for A.R.P. purposes. We offer him many thanks for his kind thought.

(Church led groups continued with festivals and picnics)

September 1941
On the National Day of Prayer we are making a new experiment. Our United Service will not be on neutral ground of the Victory Hall, but in our Parish Church with its age-long associations of Christian worship.
National Day of Prayer Sunday 7th September.
The Primate has issued the following statement:
The King's desire that Sunday, Sept. 7th should be observed as a National Day of Prayer will have a ready response from his people...

(Church led groups continued, to include a ramble for junior choir)

November 1941
A Memorial Service for the late Lady Rockley was held at the Parish Church on Sunday morning and the Hon. Mrs. Lane, daughter of Lady Rockley was present…
Remembrance Sunday Service.

December 1941
We are now drawing near to the end of another war year, a year which to some of us has gone quickly enough, which for war years is much desirable. At the same time we think of those who are suffering persecution in lands under Nazi control, for whom time must indeed go painfully slow…

1942
February 1942
I suppose that it would be generally agreed that this will be the decisive year of the war, however longer it may last. So it must be a year of supreme effort, for the Axis forces in spite of severe reverses, are still strong and will make every effort to retrieve their position.
In the far east indeed they have much cause for satisfaction. We have all learnt to realise during this war the value of the advice:- "Never underestimate your opponents." It follows that we must not underestimate our own need of preparedness…
Red Cross. Collections will be taken for the Red Cross Fund on Sunday February 8th.

March 1942
…This letter must be short and I would only add that I hope the critical days through which our Empire is passing will make us all the more diligent both in private and public prayer.

April 1942 (advertisements now appear in the Parish Magazine)
Warship Week.
It is too early at the time of writing to announce the result of the Warship Week in our parish, but we are very grateful to all those who devoted their energies to making it a success. We are glad too that one feature of the week was the Church Parade of the Home Guard and the representatives of the Civil Defence Services. So our dependence on God is rightly recognised.

May 1942
This month brings with it the short Rogation Season, a time which should mean more than ever to us in these years, when adequate food supplies are obtained with difficulty. It is a time then for those who realise our ultimate dependence of God, and who are not prevented by wartime duties, to witness to this fact by joining with us in our Rogation processions and in prayers for God's blessing on the crops. We put ourselves and the needs of our country in His hands, and we are confident that He will do all things for the best. In these days our faith is being tested. Let us all stand firm in the strength of God.

(Church led groups continued)

August 1942

We are now going through another very critical period of the war, and so I would pass on to you a heartening message for Christian people which comes from the Rev. M.A.C. Warren, who has recently been appointed to one of the key positions in the English Church- General Secretaryship of the Church Missionary Society.

He says,

"What is the spiritual opportunity that is offered by material danger? It is the opportunity given to the Church to face an impossible situation by throwing herself back in complete reliance upon God: it means individual Christians discovering that imprisoned by circumstances created by man, they are set free by God to bring a wholly new power to bear on those very circumstances. They are not delivered out of the circumstances . They are enabled to triumph in them."

(Church led groups continued to arrange rambles and picnics for Sunday School and younger children)

September 1942

National Day of Prayer Thursday Sept. 3rd.

Services will be held in Church at 10am and 3pm., when the form of service authorised by the Archbishops will be used: and a United Service will be held at Victory Hall at 7pm. The collections from these services will be given to various war charities.

October 1942

Medical Missions

St Luke, being a physician has naturally become associated in the mind of the Church with Medical Missions. His day, Oct. 18th , falls this year on Sunday and our services will be arranged accordingly. Our morning collections will be given to the Medical Missionary Auxiliary of the Church Missionary Society.

National Day of Prayer.

...At the close of the service there was a display of German Air Force equipment arranged by Mr. George Oldham who gave an explanatory talk with demonstrations. A collection, amounting to £1 5s 0d was given to the R.A.F. Benevolent Fund.

(Church led harvest festival)

November 1942

Armistice-tide

On Armistice Day, Wed., Nov. 11th, there will be a Celebration of Holy Communion at 11a.m and on Sunday, Nov. 15th, there will be a United Service in the Church at 11a.m.

December 1942

Civil Defence Sunday

Owing to the recent outstanding great day of Thanksgiving, marked by the pealing of the Church bells, so long silent....

...At 10.30, members of all the Civil Defence Services paraded out-side the Victory hall under the command of Mr. George Oldham, Chief Air-raid Warden, who made a short

appropriate speech. The company then marched down to the Church for the parade service, at which there was a full attendance.

(A farewell social was held for the Rev and Mrs Phillips, 'The Messiah' was performed in the church and a Sunday School Christmas party took place)

1943

January 1943 (reference to Christmas 1942)
In the midst of dark times, Christmas comes as a bright spot. Though it does not shine with its peace-time lustre and cannot be celebrated with that sumptuousness with which we associate it, still with the glad news of the birth of the Saviour it strikes again a clear note of hope and cheer us on our way. So it has been with the Christmas which has just passed.

September 1943
Members of our Parish Council, Home Guard, Special Police, N.F.S., A.R.P, Civil Defence and Women's Institute have just attended Divine Service in commemoration of the outbreak of this Second World War and to praise and thank God for so many Blessings amid the tragedies and heart-breaks of these 4 year

October 1943
First thoughts in these grim days are for those cut off by war in the prime of life and for the lonely homes that will know them no more. We always respectfully offer our sympathy to every bereaved home of this Parish. At the moment this goes to Mr & Mrs Ernest Boughton. They and their boy Clifford have, all three, given all that we human beings can give, the light of the sun and the beloved face. It is a too tremendous demand on human hearts were it not for the undying Christian Hope. May the High Parent bless all three, parents on earth and their boy in his Father's Larger World – and bless every-where all mourners on whose faces of grey this war leaves its mark and imprint.

November 1943
As this war progresses more hearts will be made anxious, and saddened, and to more and more people shall we have to say 'I am sorry to hear of your news". There is the desolate phase 'Missing'. Already it has caused anxious rising and falling hopes to some in this Parish.
Now it has come to two other families. Frederick Ames and Harry Yates are posted as ' Missing'. Their families feelings are our feelings. It might have been- it may be- our own son. And so our hearts beat in unison with the hearts of those who receive these tidings.
1943 Armistice Sunday - November 7th was rightly one more Public Annual Remembrance of the double debt of those alive today. The debt is owed to those who will always mourn on Armistice Sunday and on November 11th. It is also owed to those whose Dead Bodies explain the presence of our living Bodies. If they had shirked the fatal peril, we should not be here. We thank God and we thank THEM, and we prayed (as true men must) for their happiness in that Wider World to which they have been withdrawn. God bless our old crusades and our latest hostages of death.

December 1943
May the Angel's Song of Peace this Christmastide to Men of Goodwill become louder and louder until it drowns the crash of shell and bomb. Ever to do so it must begin with the words on men's lips 'Glory to GOD in the highest'. Hope to the anxious, Comfort to the bereaved and Sweetness to the living is in the Divine Words of Christmas, Easter, Ascension and Whitsuntide. May they this Christmas, in spite of the flames of red war, come to men of Goodwill with Hope and Comfort and Peace.

(Church led groups continued during 1943, providing events and activities for young groups, as well as the usual church events)

1944

January 1944
It was with a sense of great relief and thanks to God that the safety as Prisoners of War of Frederick Ames and Harry Yates. What a moment of joy when those telegrams came! Parents know best! No Service man or woman that we know of is forgotten in the prayers of our Parish Church. Their names sound regularly there in the ears of their families and neighbours, offering up praise and prayers for welfare of the absent ones.

March 1944
May our Heavenly Father comfort the anxious people of England in the testing time not now far distant.

April 1944 (Rector Rev. G.H. Heaslett – previously Army Chaplain in Jerusalem wrote)
We have just had a profound address to the Nation from my old chief General Montgomery. I well know the character which lies behind those words of his. He calls to the Nation not alone for physical munitions of war, but for a spiritual background and Christian religious support of our armies now and continuously on into the days when they shall thrust their bodies against the bodies of the foe, battling for our lives. The Christian Faith teaches us the power of God to aid, preserve, and to conquer. Jesus Christ, God's son, our Master and our Leader, calls also. From the cross He called, and 3 women and 1 man answered the call. To-day, for the world's sake once more, not for His Own sake, He calls. Shall the answer be less to the God of unboundable care and affection and rescuing effort than an earthly leader? Are we to believe in the power of man for victory, but not the Power of God? Neither General Montgomery , nor my other former chief, General Dobbie, the Man of Malta, would countenance for one second such a proposition. These great men of our race are also mighty men to God. They would esteem it a disastrous heresy to belittle the part of religion in mounting the forces necessary for victory. The Christian Church and its prayers matter intensely in the conduct of life, whether it be peace or war.

Your parish Church is open to at all hours for individual devotion, and open at time of Divine Corporate Service for congregational remembrance of God…

June 1944
Whit Sunday and the beginning of our 'Salute the Soldiers' week coincided. An afternoon Village Church Parade packed the Parish Church until even standing room failed. This cheering result was due to a wonderful co-operative loyalty of every organisation and every aspect of life in the Parish. We rejoiced to have, taking part with us, the rev Mr Forward of the Methodist Church and his people, together with Captain Miss Godward of the Salvation Army and her folk. The biggest Procession ever seen in Lytchett (so elders affirm) marched from the Salvation Army Hall to the old Church, with five Standards (British Legion Banner, Women's Institute Banner, and three from the Salvation Army) gaily waving in their ranks.

We were joined in Church by the splendid Wareham Town band, who afterwards gave selections on the Recreation Ground.

July 1944
The United War Intersession Services desired by our King and the Heads of our Churches are in full and healthy being. The close of the King's Broadcast was spiritual to the core. Read it again, "At this historic moment surely not one of us is too busy, too young, or too old to play their part in a nation-wide vigil of prayer as the great crusade sets forth. If from every place of worship, from home and factory...our intersessions rise, then please God...the predictions of an ancient Psalm may be fulfilled: 'The Lord will give strength to His people' "
With alacrity you obeyed this Call with daily United Intersessions (at 7p.m) at each church in turn, and a specially crowded gathering in the Victory Hall on Sunday afternoon on June 11th. So God's Blessing and God's Strength is being faithfully invoked upon for our courageous militant Forces in their perilous struggle for the world's life and peace. The individual Churches continue similar Praise and Prayer at their own places of worship each Sunday, in which their people are sincerely asked, in the King's words, to make time to join for the sake of those who are offering their bodies for the foe's attack.

August 1944
Many hope and many prayers occupy us these days. Such great events East and West are afoot: cause indeed for deep thanksgiving to God for His care of our Homeland, and very much of this parish. We give Him wondering and moved thanks for His mercies to us.

November 1944
We welcome a much-needed Gift to our Parish Church, though we more regret and sympathise with its primary cause.
On Sunday morning, October 22nd, I dedicated to the Glory of God and to the service of His ancient Sanctuary here a most beautiful Silver Bread Box for the use at Celebration of Holy Communion. The Gift is In Memory of Hugh John Norman Lindsaye, Killed in Action 30th April 1941. Squadron Leader Hugh J.N. Lindsaye, Royal Air Force, was, as we know, the son of our neighbour Mrs. J.F.C. Westerman. With her, as with all other bereaved in our parish, we warmly sympathise, as we do with all mothers and parents and dear kin everywhere. These self-forgetting boys protect our bodies with their bodies, and depart yonder that we may stay a little longer here. But our hearts travel after them,

and surely theirs will turn as ever to those for whom they shall only have to wait a little while.
Per ardua ad astra. *
Whenever , sooner or later, the surrender of Germany is announced, on that day precisely 7p.m., there will be held a Thanksgiving Service in the Parish Church. This Thanksgiving Service will be automatically continued on the following Sunday at all Services. Th above assumes that the announcement may come on a week-day. If, however, it comes on a Sunday, Divine Service will immediately, take on the character of earnest Thanks to God for His Great Succour and Mercy.

(* Per ardua ad astra is a Latin phrase meaning 'through adversity to the stars' or 'through struggle to the stars' that is the official motto of The Royal Air Force and other Commonwealth air forces such as the Royal Australian Air Force and Royal New Zealand Air Force, as well as the Royal Indian Air Force until 1947)

(Church led groups continued to provide activities for the younger members of the community, as well as festivals, jumble sales and outings.
It was noted that a 'Daily Telegraph' article drew attention to - due to the lack of meeting places, more young women were frequenting public houses, in some areas it was a problem. The T.U.C. `Women's Advisory Committee' A resolution would be put to the T.U.C. to legislate for local authorities to provide appropriate recreational clubs to meet a new need now, and after the war.)

December 1944
At 7.0p.m. on the day on which the surrender of Germany is officially announced, there will be held in the parish Church a service of Thanksgiving for Victory, if that be a week-day. This thanksgiving will be continued all day on the following Sunday. But if the announcement is on a Sunday the immediate Services will take on the aspect of Thanksgiving.

1945

January 1945
We had a surprise gift, as well, and very notable. Most of you have seen the devotional and artistic gem of Nativity portraiture, Child, mother, Joseph, shepherd, donkey, posed on the Arundel Altar Tomb. The whole work was a spontaneous offering to God, through our Parish Church, from the hands of Masetti Ildo, an Italian soldier -friend for the moment in England through the divisions caused by war. Ildo's hand made the Cave we have been seeing, and the fields and the road- all done so swift and deft, with an eye that saw beauty as clearly as his heart worshipped God in this (to him) foreign land, a place of his exile. To him we tender grateful thanks and to his compatriots assisting, Scapinoi Senerino and Malagnti Tonino.

(A note on the success of the December Church Social…which was hilarious at times!)

April 1945
In a world whose present ways are in such contrast to the Easter message it may feel a little artificial to offer to one another Easter Greetings. Yet we do so, and in a basic and true sense, rightly do so, to remind one another that even in the darkness 'Christ is Risen" and the Dawn breaks and the full Day is at hand when the deeds of Darkness perish and men are free to work and love.

May 1945
The Midnight Hour of desolation passes. Dawn-streaks rise into the sky deep-gloomed for five and half years. The physical victory is at hand. Our Thanksgiving to the only Giver of Victory and the one permanent Ruler in Kingdoms of Men have announced for some time. At 7p.m. on VE Day we shall hold a brief service of Praise to God for His Goodness to our land and it's people's survival. Additionally we shall continue these offerings of gratitude and duty on the following Sunday. We invite, with sincerity and the desire of comradeship, all those who would like to use this old Parish Church (which has had a part in Victory Thanks-giving to God continuously for these last 450 years of its 800 year-old life) to be with us in one great band of worshippers.

July 1945
Subjects considered by the PCC for action were the Return of Service men and women to their homes in the Parish and the means to welcome them back to social and spiritual fellowship.

November 1945
The Parish Church War Memorial Fund is now open. Subscriptions can be sent to the Hon. Treasurer P.C.C.

(Thanks was given to Mrs Carre for her gift of her books on memories and knowledge of the life of the parish through nigh 100 years…Mrs Carre work I of essential value to this parish, and will be necessarily incorporated some day in a History of Lytchett Matravers.)

December 1945
The first peace-time Christmas since 1938 is upon us. What a spell of upheaval and catastrophe (far from ended), of fears feared, fears relived, and fears come only too true. With those whose hearths have an empty chair this Christmas, we feel a sincere comradeship of loss…
Those who are not members of the Christian Church may well ponder where secularism and merely intellectual wisdom has brought mankind to the last two wars- in the sacrifice of 80,000,000 human lives in violent and premature death. And worse is on the way. The course of Nature takes some time to reduce the body to dust, but the new Nuclear Power takes only decimals of seconds to destroy us 'as without a trace'…

(Church led groups throughout 1945 organised events for the younger members of the community)