

## MONTHLY NOTES

### SERVICE ACCOUNT—MARCH, 1902.

RECEIPTS.	
Offertory: average \$40.72 .....	\$162 89
" Lenten Services .....	11 19
" Easter .....	193 12
" Good Friday .....	17 20
" Choir .....	50
	\$384 90
EXPENDITURE.	
Balance, 1st March .....	\$50 76
Clerical Stipend .....	62 50
Sexton's Salary .....	25 00
" Expenses .....	75
Choir .....	5 71
Lighting .....	1 57
Heating .....	193 93
Printing .....	4 95
Interest Account .....	12 50
Synod—for Jewish Missions .....	17 20
Balance, 31st March .....	10 93
	\$384 90

The offertory on Easter Day was, as may be seen from the above, very satisfactory, being almost exactly the amount required to pay off our coal account, while the ordinary offertory during the month, being above any previous average, has enabled us to overtake the adverse balance which we have carried so long from month to month.

Our account for special repairs, however, is not quite so satisfactory. The collectors' returns have not all been made, and subscriptions are not all paid. It is not likely that the full amount of the expenditure incurred will be made up at present, and we may have to carry forward an adverse balance on that account, to be provided for at a future date, together with the cost of some additional improvements which many desire to have made, but which, although not costly, we have not felt warranted in having done until the outlays for the work done have been provided for. It will, of course, be remembered that the improvement to the heating, which is the largest item of expenditure incurred, was not contemplated at the first, but was added to our anticipated outlay later, when it was definitely decided upon by the Committee as advisable to get done immediately, notwithstanding that there might be some delay in paying for it. We expect to be able to print a full statement of this account in our next number. In the meantime the Treasurer would be glad to have returns made and subscriptions paid in, as far as practicable, during the present month.

The Rev Canon Macnab's lectures, delivered every Thursday evening during Lent have been extremely interesting and have been greatly appreciated by steadily increasing audiences. The congregation are much indebted to Canon Macnab for undertaking, for their benefit, the burden of these weekly lectures in addition to the daily work which the Lenten season has required of him.

A fine old piece of church plate is now in use at St. Alban's at the early celebrations and other services. It is an ancient alms-basin of latten or beaten brass-work, worn very thin by constant use. The quaint design on the face of it shows the figures of Adam and Eve on either side of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, with the Serpent half concealed among the branches. A number of holes in the plate are said to have been made by the bullets of Cromwell's soldiers who must have used it as a target for gun practice in the days when men thought they were doing God's service by zealously destroying all that was beautiful in the way of church furniture. There is an engraved inscription on the back of the plate as follows:—"Presented to the Reverend Canon Alex W. Macnab by the Vicar and Churchwardens of St. Thomas the Martyr, Oxford, Easter, 1900." The plate has an interesting history, the particulars of which may be noted later on.

Miss Maclure with some of her friends, and the ladies of the Altar Guild, have provided, as a donation, a complete new set of altar linen, beautifully worked. They have also remade the white altar cloth, detaching all the embroidered work and replacing it on new silk. The old pieces of silk have been made into offertory bags and mats for the offertory plates.

Mr. John Parry has given to St. Alban's a vergers' gown, which was used for some time in Holy Trinity, where he formerly held the office of vergers. As it was made in England, of good material, and is as good as new, the gift is one which may be well appreciated.

To Mr. David Orr we are indebted, firstly, for the suggestion to discontinue the rather slovenly method which has hitherto been practiced in St. Alban's with regard to the disposal of the offertory plates when not in use, and secondly for the expense of brackets or shelves upon which the plates may be placed so that in this respect things may in future be done in a more decent and orderly manner.

In our last number we had occasion to observe that the cathedral did not possess a verge. This deficiency of equipment has been very promptly supplied, two members of the congregation having each presented a verge on Easter morning. These are of oak, ebonized, with silver tips which are heraldically engraved, one having on the obverse the armorials of the Diocese, and on the reverse the shield of arms of the Treasurer, without crest, but accompanied by the amice, or vair-lined cape which is the badge of a member of a cathedral chapter; the other has on the obverse a shield displaying the St. Alban's cross, and on the reverse the shield of arms of the Choir master, also without crest, but with the baton which indicates his office.