



# ARTISTIC IDEAS IN CHURCH DECORATION



PARSON and parishioners alike are often sadly at a loss, when the time for decorating their especial place of worship arrives, for novel and artistic ideas into which they should fashion the heap of

completed to your satisfaction, proceed to pierce a handful of single holly berries with long stout pins, and then neatly attach as shown in the illustration. The circle or halo would look very effective in wadding, but the placing of laurel leaves in its stead will not be detrimental to the general effect.

In Fig. 2 we have a rather more elaborate design, but the extra care and labour expended on fashioning this pretty idea will in no way be lost. It is necessary, on account of its size, that we should make this decoration in two parts—the inner monogram first and the frame afterwards. Take a piece of millboard of the required size, and upon it mark out roughly the entwined I.H.S., in order that greater accuracy should be observed in fashioning the whole design. Let a small piece of green leaf or holly be awry, and the whole symmetrical effect will be lost. The "I," as you will observe, tapers into a cross at

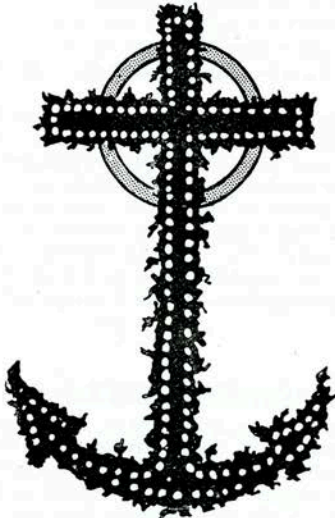


FIG. 1.

holly, laurel, and other evergreen material at their disposal. Therefore, to help these worthy folk in their generous and self-imposed task, we offer timely assistance in the shape of some practical instructions and illustrations on the decorating of churches, chapels, mission halls, &c.

The materials we need are of course a good supply of seasonable green stuff, some large thick pieces of brown cardboard, or millboard, as it is more commonly termed, upon which our designs are to be fastened; wadding and moss will also be needed. A ball of thin stong twine, too, will be called into requisition, which, together with a strong pair of sharp scissors and a pointed knife, will be practically all the materials a deft pair of hands will require.

The design which first comes under our notice is Fig. 1, the Latin cross combined with anchor and circle, which, as we know, is an emblem of atonement and patience. First of all cut a rough frame from cardboard somewhat the shape of the finished design. Now cover the whole anchor with moss, upon which proceed to place small pieces of green holly, free from berry, threading the moss and holly stalks carefully to the cardboard with twine. A pair of scissors must now be used to trim any projecting leaves, in order to attain the necessary "clean" outline. This operation ac-

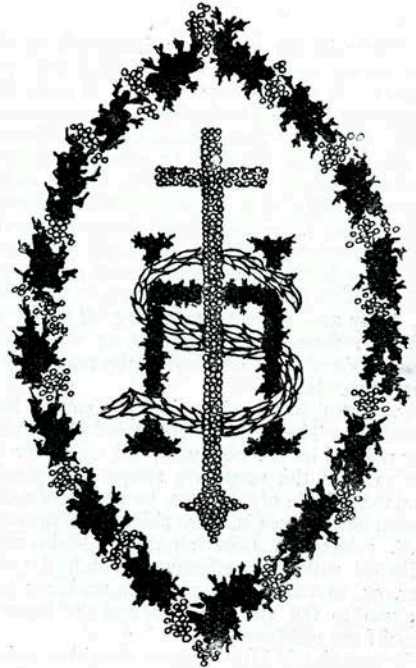


FIG. 2.

the top and finishes at the bottom with some slight ornament. The whole initial is composed of red holly or other berries, as convenience may dictate. The best ground upon which to place



the berries is wadding, a material which enhances the colour of the present decoration. The berries may be either glued or sewn upon the frame, the latter course being the more tedious, but infinitely preferable. The letter "H" is made from green holly, and its completion requires no explaining.

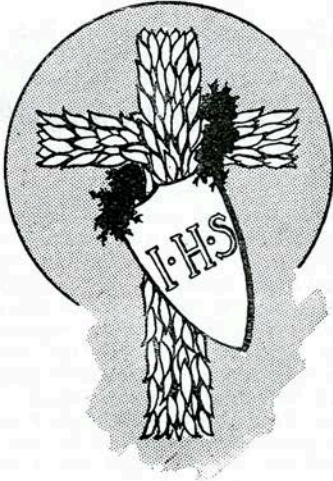


FIG. 3.

The "S" calls for some care, inasmuch as the laurel leaves need to be carefully laid one over the other. It will facilitate matters if each leaf is separately fastened to the frame as you proceed in the making. The unnecessary cardboard, that which is not required to frame the letters, should now be cut from the whole design with a sharp penknife; this accomplished, a general finishing and trimming should be given to the whole monogram, which doubtless will have some slight disarrangement in the cutting process.

The outside frame is easy enough of manufacture, holly and berries alternating all round the frame. A frame should be cut as before, and the green decoration attached in the manner previously described.

Fig. 3 furnishes a charming yet simple little decoration. The cross is composed of laurel or other pointed leaves neatly lapped one over the other to form the necessary shape. Suspended round the middle of the cross, by means of a rope of green holly leaves, is a neat shield, with the usual I.H.S. printed in bold lettering. Plain white cardboard will look effective enough for this latter, or, to vary the decoration, wadding may be glued to the shield frame, and the lettering formed from red berries.

The two simple little crosses on either side of our heading are composed of red berries, on a bed of wadding, with a narrow border of moss or other green plant with a small leaf. The halo, or circle, may be plain cardboard or white wadding, as taste dictates.

A circle of single laurel leaves would by no means make an ineffectual substitute.

## ORIGIN OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS.

"THREE Blind Mice" is a music book of 1690. "A Froggie Would a Wooing Go" was licensed in 1650.

"Little Jack Horner" is older than the seventeenth century.

"Pussy Cat, Pussy Cat, Where Have You Been?" dates from the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

"Boys and Girls, Come Out to Play," dates from Charles II., as does "Lucy Locket Lost Her Pocket."

"Old Mother Hubbard," "Goosey, Goosey Gander," and "Old Mother Goose," apparently date back to the sixteenth century.

"Cinderella," "Jack the Giant Killer," "Blue Beard," and "Tom Thumb" were given to the world in Paris in 1697. The author was Charles Perrault.

"Humpty Dumpty" was a bold bad baron who lived in the days of King John, and was tumbled from power. His history was put into a riddle, the meaning of which was an egg.

"The Babes in the Wood" was founded on an actual crime committed in Norfolk, near Wayland Wood, in the fifteenth century. An old house in the neighbourhood is still pointed out, upon a mantelpiece of which is carved the entire history.

## AN INTERESTING CHRISTMAS CUSTOM.

IN Germany it is a custom of young people to make presents to their parents. For three or four months before the happy season sets in, they are busy preparing, and the greatest secrecy is observed. Then on Christmas Eve one of the rooms is lighted up by the children; a great yew bough is fastened on the table at a little distance from the wall, and illuminated with long candles. Under this bough the gifts for the parents are laid, concealing in their pockets what are intended for each other; then the elders are brought in, and the present-giving commences. On the principle that giving is more delightful than receiving, the German children look very beaming and happy on this occasion.

## WANTED.

WANTED! young feet to follow  
Where Jesus leads the way,  
Into the fields where the harvest  
Is rip'ning day by day;  
Now, while the breath of morning  
Scents all the dewy air;  
Now, in the fresh, sweet dawning,  
Oh, follow Jesus there!  
Wanted! young hands to labour;  
The fields are broad and wide,  
And harvest waits the reaper  
Around on every side;  
None are too poor or lowly,  
None are too weak or small,  
For in His service holy  
The Master needs them all.