

BIRCHINGTON BELLS

IMPRESSION OF FIRST HEARING THEM

By a visitor from London

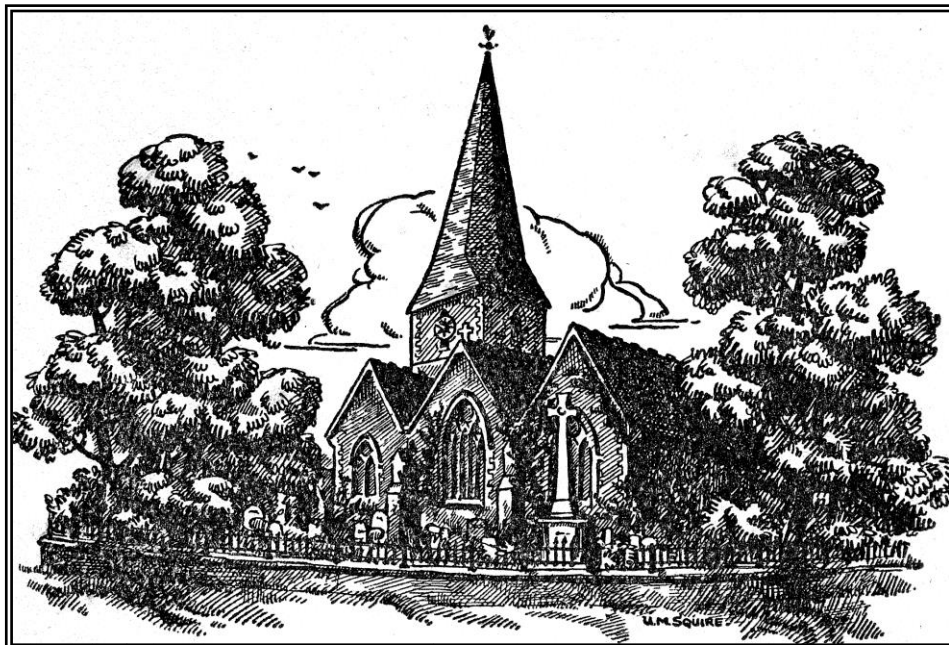
(Printed in the Westgate & Birchington Guardian, August 1926)

Although most of us hear the call to church, modern life has so many other attractions which arrest our attention even on Sundays. I always think church bells symbolise very impressively the Divine call to conscience. I felt this more than ever on hearing the glorious bells of Birchington for the first time. When I heard those bells pealing out a hymn, I was uplifted and found myself in a reflective mood – reflecting chiefly on my shortcomings and particularly why, in recent years, I had practically ignored the Christian call to worship.

To me, the simple tune of Birchington's bells was far more beautiful than any melody played by many accomplished musicians. It found its way to my conscience – to my soul.

"Fight the good fight". In London one rarely hears these beautiful things. There the church bells clang out their call in monotonous tones, but this hymn, chimed as it was last Sunday, set me thinking of the great fight that had to be fought – the big battle of life.

All who heard this call to vespers, whether they answered it by their presence or not, must have felt a few moments of happy calm and quiet strength. The home of these bells (All Saints Church) – this ancient shrine of the Christian faith – is passed daily by hundreds of unheeding motorists. Would not these motorists catch a glimpse of life's purpose better if they could stay and listen to the message of the bells? For in those chimes one may hear the still, small voice of God.



All Saints Church, Birchington - c. 1926