

ST. PETER'S CHURCH, HAMBLEDON

DECEMBER, 1974

A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS

Diary

SUN. 1 ADVENT SUNDAY

Holy Communion at 8 am and 12 noon  
10 am Children's Church (led by  
friends of King Edwards School)  
11 am Morning Prayer & Holy Communion  
6.30 pm Evening Prayer

MON. 2 2.30 pm Holy Communion: Hambledon Homes

SUN. 8 ADVENT II

Holy Communion at 8 am  
11 am Morning Prayer  
6.30 pm Evening Prayer  
7.45 pm Young People at Heath Cottage

MON. 9 8 pm Bible Study at The Rectory

THUR. 12 3 pm Women's Fellowship at Ellingsons:  
Carols

SUN. 15 ADVENT III

Holy Communion at 8 am and 7.30 pm  
10 am Children's Church: TOY SERVICE  
11 am Morning Prayer  
6.30 pm Evening Prayer & Holy Communion

THU. 19. 2 pm Hambledon Church School  
CAROL SERVICE

SAT. 21. Decoration of Church for Christmas



2.

SUN. 22 ADVENT IV

Holy Communion at 8 am and 10 am  
10 am Series 11 Communion Service  
11 am Festival Service of Nine  
Lessons and Carols  
6.30 pm Special Carol Service  
7.45 pm Open Evening for Young  
People

TUE. 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

11.30 pm Holy Communion

WED. 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

Holy Communion at 8 am and 12 noon  
11 am Family Christmas Service

SUN. 29 SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Holy Communion at 8 am and 7.30 pm  
11 am Morning Prayer  
6.30 pm Evening Prayer & Holy Communion

CHURCH FLOWERS

We are all most grateful to those who kindly provided  
and arranged the flowers in church during 1974.

The rota for December is as follows:

December 1	Miss Denny
" 8	Mrs. Wieler
" 15	Miss Parker
" 22	Christmas Decorations
" 29	Christmas Decorations

There is a new list for 1975 in the Church Porch.  
Please enter your name against the Sunday of your  
choice if you would be willing to undertake this  
service for us. It is greatly appreciated by all  
our members.

FREE WILL OFFERING ENVELOPES

Total for October £24.90p

E.F. Denny



## THE RECTOR WRITES . . .

What a strange body the Church is! Why should it choose to begin its new year, not with January 1st, nor even with Easter or Christmas (either of which would have good reason), but four weeks before Christmas on Advent Sunday?

Because God's Advent, or Coming, is the only proper starting place. God's move is the first move. GOD COMES TO US. This is the first message with any hope in it, and this is where our Church Year begins.

GOD COMES TO US IN JESUS CHRIST. The Advent season reminds us of the two great comings of Christ:-

(i) His Second Coming is still future and could be at any time. Every week in the creed we say "I believe .. from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead" It will be a great day when He comes to put down evil finally, and to establish righteousness and peace for ever, and drives us to think whether we are ready for it. This is the one future fact we can be sure about, and our lives are bound to be out of proportion if we let it disappear from our thinking.

(ii) His First Coming is past already Thank God for Christmas. Thank God that Jesus Christ came first not to judge, but to rescue and prepare us. Against the solemn fact of His second coming in judgement, the message of Christmas shines with its full relief and joy.

All of us at the Rectory wish you God's Peace and Blessing this Christmas.

BIBLE READING NOTES Have you ordered your Bible Reading Notes for the early months of 1975? Our parish secretary is Mrs. Pettit of Burgate Farmhouse, Vann Lane (Telephone Hascombe 374) and she would gladly give you further information.



THE HARVEST SUPPER Was a very happy event. As always the Village Hall was most gaily and attractively decorated. The innovation of a hot meal was voted a great success, and was a credit to the ladies responsible. Entertainment was provided at short notice by a fine body of men, and behind their heavy disguises some thought they were able to detect respected members of the Parochial Church Council. All great fun. There was even sufficient profit to enable us to send a gift to Refugees. Our best thanks to all who helped to make it such a happy evening.

BIBLE STUDIES AT THE RECTORY December 9th is the last in the current series. There will then be a break until after Christmas. A new series will be announced soon, to begin in January, and we hope many will come then.

#### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The first meeting of the season was held on the 24th October at Ellingsons, when we welcomed the new Rector's wife - Mrs. Thompson. Mrs. Tony Waite from St. John's, Woking, was our speaker, and she took as her subject 'Times of change in the days in which we are living.' This proved to be an interesting talk showing us the need to readjust our thinking in our approach to various aspects of life today, both in our secular and Christian work. The December meeting will be held on the second Thursday, 12th December, at which we shall be singing Christmas Carols, led by some young people with their guitars.

M.S. Symonds

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP We were all most grateful to Mr. Edric Hardy for showing us his splendour and transparencies of Scotland in November, and to Mrs. F. Jeffery for serving refreshments. All who came greatly enjoyed the evening.



On Thursday, 12th December, in the Village Hall at 8 p.m. Mr. Martin King from Wallington will give us an evening on "The Natural Life of the Holy Land", illustrated by his own colour transparencies. Come if you can, and bring your friends.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS At the services of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, all our offerings will be given away, to REFugees, and to Children in need.

TOY SERVICE The Children's Church at 10 am on 15 December will be our annual TOY SERVICE, and we hope that our boys and girls will bring toys, books, games, or other suitable gifts so that we can take these to Children's Homes in time for Christmas.

CHURCH DECORATION Gifts of flowers and greenery will be most welcome for the Christmas Services. They may be left in the vestry on Thursday or Friday 19th or 20th. On the Saturday morning we hope to complete the decoration of the Church, and would be glad of many helpers then.

CAROL SERVICE Once again there will be two Carol Services on the Sunday before Christmas. At 11 am there will be the Festival Service of Nine Lessons and Carols; and at 6.30 pm a special Carol Service; and at these we hope both older and younger members of the congregation will take part.

HAMBLEDON ALMSHOUSES The Trustees are very thankful that now at last, after many delays for which they were not responsible, the builders are at work carrying out considerable repairs and improvements. In particular a separate bathroom is being added, and when the work is completed the two homes will be made sound, modernised, and painted.

The total cost of this is to be over £5,000. About a third of this sum is provided by an improvement grant from the Council, about £800 from Trust Funds, some £500 by certain donors; and the remainder (a little more than £2,000) must be raised by a loan from the Council.



6.

If any kind reader would like to make a gift now to reduce the leeway, or to offer perhaps a covenanted annual donation to help pay off the loan, either the Rector or our treasurer (Mr. Cecil Chapman) would be glad to hear from them.

TRANSPORT TO CHURCH SERVICES As you know, we are unable any longer to secure the services of the coach that used to run from Hydestile and Lane End once a month. Happily, only a very small number of our friends have been affected and we hope all have been able to secure a lift to and from church through the kindness of other church members. Please be sure to let the Rector know straight away if this is not so.

With the winter months on us now, and dark nights too, there may well be others who would be glad to come to our services if the services of a car could be arranged. We would gladly try to arrange this for any Sunday service if we can. Let the Rector know of your needs.

PERSONALIA It was a shock to all of us to know that Mrs. Ellingson was in hospital after a car accident. Her car suffered considerable damage, and it was all the more remarkable that Mrs. Ellingson herself was safely home again within a few days, and indeed at the Church Council meeting soon after that. We thank God with her for His mercies. Canon Oldham has not progressed as was hoped, and has been ordered another month of rest at home. Mr. Jack Edwards is now back in hospital for further surgery to his foot. We remember them all in our prayers.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE The November meeting of the W.I. was held on Wed. 13th in the Village Hall. Members were reminded that at the next meeting, which is the Annual General Meeting, they will be asked to vote for a new committee. The president Mrs. Steele said that as she had already served an extra year she felt it was time for a change, and therefore a new president would have to be elected.