

ST. PETER'S CHURCH, HAMBLEDON

DECEMBER, 1975

THE RECTOR WRITES

Earlier in the year I have two or three times mentioned my hopes that we might have a congregational week-end House Party. My wife and family and I have the happiest memories of several such week-ends from Wallington. Members who went to them often spoke of them as quite the best occasions of the year, and they were so greatly enjoyed by members of all ages that we had one every year.

We have been able to find a lovely house conveniently near at Cobham. Formerly the home of Sir Douglas MacAlpine, it is now owned by a Trust of St. Helen's Church, Bishopsgate, and is occasionally available for use by other churches. We have been able to book the week-end from Friday, 30 January (evening) to Sunday 1 February (tea-time). There are tennis and squash courts; and we can take other games, or entertain each other. The programme provides a great deal of leisure when we can simply be "off-duty" together and enjoy one another's company, in a way that neither Sunday services nor other church occasions fully provide.

We hope to have a party of 30 or a few more. Parents will see from the brochure that there are special terms for children (half price for under 12's, and tiny babies virtually nothing!) It will add to the pleasure of us all if we should have among our number children, teenagers, and members of all ages up to the Very Wise. Brochures and booking forms are available now both at church and at the Rectory. The Rector and Mrs. Thompson will gladly answer questions or tell you more, and completed forms should be returned to them.

MAY I CLOSE THIS LETTER BY SENDING TO ALL OUR MEMBERS, AND TO ALL OTHER READERS AND FRIENDS WHO LIVE IN HAMBLEDON, FROM ALL AT THE RECTORY, OUR WARM GREETINGS AND VERY BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY CHRISTMAS.

DIARY FOR DECEMBER

7 SUN. Second in Advent

Holy Communion at 8 am and 12 noon

10 am Children's Church

11 am Morning Prayer

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

7.45 pm Young People at Heath Cottage.

10 Wed. 8 pm Prayer and Bible Study (Rectory)

11 Thu. 8 pm Parish Fellowship (Village Hall)

14 SUN. Third in Advent

Holy Communion at 8 am

11 am Morning Prayer

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

7.45 pm Young People at The Rectory.

18 Thu. Women's Fellowship: Carols

19 Fri. 2 pm Church School End of Term service

20. Sat. Decorating the Church from 9 am

21 SUN. Fourth in Advent S. Thomas

Holy Communion at 8 am and 7.30 pm

10 am Children's Church TOY SERVICE

11 am Service of Lessons and Carols

6.30 pm Carol Service. Young People specially invited.

24 CHRISTMAS EVE

11.30 pm First Communion of Christmas

25 CHRISTMAS DAY

8 am Holy Communion

11 am Short Christmas Service for Families

12 noon Holy Communion

28 SUN. Innocents' Day

Holy Communion at 8 am: Series 2 at 10am

11 am Morning Prayer

6.30 pm Evening Prayer
 7.45 pm Young People at Little Woodlands
and in JANUARY 1976

- 4 SUN. Second Sunday after Christmas
 Holy Communion at 8 am and 12 noon
 10 am Children's Church
 11 am Morning Prayer
 6.30 pm Evening Prayer
 7.45 pm Young People at Heath Cottage
- 5 Mon. Parochial Church Council Meeting
- 7 Wed. Prayer at The Rectory
- 8 Thu. Parish New Year Party (Village Hall)
- 11 SUN. First after the Epiphany
 Holy Communion at 8 am
 11 am Morning Prayer
 6.30 pm Evening Prayer

CHURCH FLOWERS

- Dec.7. Miss M. Parker
 14. Mrs. B. Wieler
 21. Christmas Flowers
 28. Christmas Flowers

FREE WILL OFFERING ENVELOPES

Total for October 1975 £44.07p E.F. Denny

PARISH REGISTER

Burial November 19 Joan Madeline Dowson (93)
 of Court Farm.

CHRISTMAS SINGING

It is hoped that our choir can be augmented for the two special Carol Services at 11 am and at 6.30 pm on the Sunday before Christmas, and also at the Christmas morning service at 11 am. Anyone willing to help us on either of these occasions is asked please to speak to the organist after any service soon.

LADIES' DAY

Hambleton lanes and woods were glorious in Autumn array when my passenger and I made our way to the Rectory for Ladies' Day 1975. My anticipation was keen, for the Guest Speaker, invited by the Rector from his last parish in Wallington, was a school-friend of mine.

The warmth of the welcome, the coffee, and the sunshine which greeted us on arrival set the tone for a day when the friendship and fellowship of the Christian family were felt by all present, judging by the ease and informality of the proceedings.

The first set of slides which Mildred Carter showed was of a Flower Festival at Holy Trinity, Wallington, to mark the centenary of that church. The way in which the Gospel message was illustrated by the floral arrangements was most impressive; I should like to see the same slides all over again.

Any spare moments during the day could be spent at the bookstall, from which Mr. Thompson selected a few, and reviewed them, during the morning.

After lunch more people came, and we were treated to slides of scenes and customs of the Holy Land, accompanied by an informative commentary. Then it was time for a local touch, and Miss Denny, Mrs. Jack Symonds and Mrs. Hardy told us about the Parish Fellowship, the Women's Fellowship and the Women's Institute respectively. Finally we all enjoyed a good laugh when Miss Parker drew from Mrs. Hutchins reminiscences of the Good Old Days at Hambleton. Ask Mrs. Goad about the time she dressed up as a ghost!

We hope this will be the first of many Ladies Days, and that those who missed this one will have their appetites whetted for the next.

E.E.S.

JOAN MADELEINE DOWSON

Our friend Mrs. Dowson died peacefully in her sleep at the age of 93, and many came to her funeral in our church on 19 November. In his address then, The Rev. C.E. Elton spoke of her coming to Court Farm in 1930, of her husband's service as Churchwarden, and of her own both on the managing body of our Church School and of our Parochial Church Council for many years. She was a constant supporter of both Women's Fellowship and Parish Fellowship, of the sewing group that met in those days, and of the Women's Institute. It was initially due to her kindness (now continued by Major and Mrs. Major) that the private courtyard at Court Farm was opened on Sundays for the use of our congregations. She will also be remembered as a keen and gifted golfer, and indeed she was Ladies Captain for her former county of Norfolk in earlier years.

ACCOLADE TO AKELA

MISS MARY PARKER has just retired from the happy but demanding task of Cubmistress in Hambledon after no less than 47 years of continuous service. This is a great record of devotion, and it was entirely fitting that many of her "old boys" came together in the Village Hall to pay her a deserved tribute and to make a presentation. She herself replied to this with a delightful speech recalling how she had initially stepped into the task as a temporary arrangement...and had never been allowed to escape! As a village we owe a great debt to those who work week by week and year after year and have given their love and energy and leadership to the cubs (and to the brownies too of course). Especially now we ask Miss Parker to accept our gratitude.

MR. KEN GRAVESTOCK succeeds her, and we give him our thanks too, and our very best wishes both to him and to the pack.

...and welcome to join us.

PERSONALIA

MISS STONE suffered what was mercifully a very slight stroke early in November, but we are glad to say she is now recovering well. MR. HAMILTON has had an operation for cataract, and if as we hope this proves successful a similar operation on the other eye would follow fairly soon. MRS. WHITE has had some difficult days and many ups and downs, but it has at least been good to see her back from hospital two or three times on "week-end leave". MRS. ELLINGSON went splendidly through her operation, and is now home, gaining strength and walking with the help of two sticks. MR. REG. MAY of Hatch Cottage has followed his son John's example by breaking a bone. He now has his leg in plaster, no small burden to carry about, and looks forward to the day when both plaster and crutches can be thrown away. SUZANNAH de BERNIERE-SMART suffered slight concussion from an unfortunate fall while at her task of caring for children, and was under doctor's orders to rest for a while. MRS. FULLER is now safely out of hospital and convalescing, and we hope it will not be very long before she is fit again.

WEDDING BELLS Our warmest wishes to SUSAN HARDING and TIMOTHY MCBROWN on their marriage on 20 December.

ARE YOU PLANNING TO COME TO
OUR CONGREGATIONAL WEEK-END HOUSE PARTY ?
(Fri. 30th January to Sun. 1st Feb.)

See the Rector's letter on p. 1
Special brochures are available.

THANKYOU

Mr. Harold Hutchins has now completed a very long spell as Advertising Secretary for our church magazine, and as he now hands over this task we give him our warm thanks for all he has done over many

years. Mrs. Pettit has now kindly taken over from him, and we are most grateful to her.

WE HOPE OUR READERS WILL REMEMBER TO SUPPORT WITH THEIR CUSTOM THOSE WHO ADVERTISE IN THIS MAGAZINE.

CHURCH FLOWER ROTA

The Flower Rota for January to June of next year is now on the notice-board in the church porch, ready for kind volunteers. We are most grateful to all who regularly help us. At the same time there are probably others who may have held back. Please do not feel that those who undertake this have to be experienced or specially gifted. This little piece of service is not a Flower-arranging competition, neither is it necessary to produce exotic expensive flowers. The only qualification is a simple desire to take a share in this particular piece of preparation for worship.

PARISH FELLOWSHIP

The Autumn season got off to a happy start on 13 November when a good number came to see the colour transparencies showing Mr. & Mrs. Alan Fitzpatrick's recent holiday in Israel. The showing of these beautiful slides was for Alan (he told us) his first venture into "show biz", and it was a great pity that his wife was not able to come and see our enjoyment herself. Pictures and commentary together helped us to see Bible events in their setting and the slides of Galilee, so little changed after nineteen centuries, were a special help here.

In December we look forward to seeing the colour transparencies taken by Dr. Jack Symonds when he and his wife toured Canada a few weeks ago. Again this should be a fascinating evening. Bring your friends with you to the Village Hall on Thurs. 11 Dec. at 8 p.m. All are welcome.

The revised programme for the season is:
11 Dec. Dr. Jack Symonds shows colour transparencies of Canada.

8 Jan. New Year Party. All welcome to join us.

8.

12 Feb. Mrs. M. Stevens. West Surrey Bird Life
(slides)

11 Mar. Mr. Cecil Chapman. Transparencies of Norway

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

At the October meeting Mrs. Jack Symonds took us across Canada and back in 40 minutes! It was a most entertaining experience. Departures and arrivals seemed always to take place in the middle of the night, and the distances involved were so vast that a journey of 200 miles for a day's outing was made to seem like a visit to Guildford! We look forward to seeing the colour transparencies of this Canadian visit, shown by Dr. Jack, on Thursday, 11 December, at the Parish Fellowship.

The Women's Fellowship meets next on Thursday, 18 December at 3 p.m. for the annual Carols afternoon. Some members of the Youth Fellowship will be taking part. The place of meeting will be announced later.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

"Witches, Ghosts and Poltergeists" was the subject of MR. CHARLTON's talk to the W.I. on Wednesday 12 November. Members were enthralled as Mr. Charlton told of many interesting and uncanny happenings which he had come across in his study of the subject. A wall made of human vertebrae in Titchfield, a poltergeist who moved the tins around in a supermarket! In thanking Mr. Charlton, MRS. CROWHURST recounted how she and her husband had met with a local ghost near Elstead!

During the business of the meeting, MRS. HARDY reminded members that next month was the A.G.M.. She also announced the results of the Annual Sale held in October which raised £108.

Members of the W.I. were at the Village Hall on Tuesday 11 November to receive clothes and blankets for "Help the Aged." Seventeen sacks were collected.

R.J.M.