

ST. PETER'S HAMBLEDON

DECEMBER 1978

THE RECTOR WRITES

Eve and I send our warmest greetings to you all, and pray that God Himself will give you His peace and blessing this Christmas Tide.

The first Christmas Day, when Jesus was born, was the beginning of THE EVENT. It was the day God the Son came here, and so took on decisively the task which led on, through suffering and the Cross, to the tearing down of the barrier and the opening of our way back to God. Come and celebrate the right way.

.....

Most years we have had a Rectory party on December 31, closing with a prayer of thanks and trust as the New Year comes in. But this year we shall instead have been together at the Sunday evening service at 6.30 pm. We hope, however, to resume the Rectory parties next year.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

The Rector would be glad to hear of any who might consider preparing for confirmation next year. There could be one small group for young people (minimum age about 15), and another for adults, and this could include any church members who liked to come as a refresher course. Nobody would commit themselves in any way by beginning such a course. Please let the Rector know soon if you are interested.

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DIARY FOR DECEMBER

3 ADVENT SUNDAY

Holy Communion at 8 am and 12 noon
10 am Children's Church
11 am Morning Prayer
6.30 pm Evening Prayer in Modern English
7.45 pm Young People at Heath Cottage

10 SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Holy Communion at 8 am
11 am Morning Prayer; Last Sunday Club
6.30 pm Evening Prayer; Mr G.M. Bolton
7.45 pm Young People at the Rectory
13 Wed. 8.15 pm Bible Study and Prayer (Rectory)
14 Thu. 8 pm. Parish Fellowship: Village Hall
Mr Cecil Chapman, "Journey into Russia"

17 THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Holy Communion at 8 am and 7.30 pm
10 am Children's Church TOY SERVICE
11 am Morning Prayer
12.30 pm Hunger Lunch at the Rectory
6.30 pm SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS
7.30 pm Holy Communion
Young People at Heath Cottage

24 CHRISTMAS EVE

There will be no 10 am or 6.30 pm services today
8 am Holy Communion
11 am THE NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS
11.30 pm Holy Communion

25 CHRISTMAS DAY

8 am Holy Communion
10 am to 10.45 am CHRISTMAS SERVICE
11.30 am to 12.15 pm CHRISTMAS SERVICE
12.20 pm Holy Communion

31 SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

8 am Holy Communion
11 am Morning Prayer
6.30 pm Evening Prayer
7.30 pm Holy Communion

AND IN JANUARY

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7 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Holy Communion at 8 am and 12 noon
10 am Children's Church
11 am Morning Prayer
6.30 pm Evening Prayer in Modern English
7.45 pm Young People at Heath Cottage

14 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Holy Communion at 8 am
11 am Morning Prayer: Sunday Club reopens
6.30 pm Evening Prayer
7.45 pm Young People at the Rectory

CHURCH FLOWERS

Dec. 3 Miss E.F. Denny
10 Mrs E.A. Wieler
17 Christmas Flowers
24 Christmas Flowers

FREE WILL OFFERING ENVELOPES

Total for October 1978, £138 - 54 p.

E.F. Denny

HAMBLEDON & HYDESTILE POPPY APPEAL

House to house collection	£146.59
Remembrance Service: Church Collection	£65 . 37
	<hr/> £211,96

(1977 total was £170.11)

Thank you for your very generous response to this appeal, and for helping us to beat last year's record by £41.85. Also a special thank you to the wonderful team of collectors.

J.A. de B.S.

CHURCH REGISTERS

Baptism Oct. 29 Zachary Amos Kenneth Cole

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CHRISTMAS SERVICES (listed on page 2)

For the most part services are as in former years. The Toy Service is on Dec. 17 at 10 am. The two Carol Services are on Dec. 17 at 6.30 pm and on Dec. 24 at 11 am. On Christmas Eve (Sunday this year) there will be the Midnight Communion Service at 11.30 pm, and with this in mind there will be no 6.30 pm service that day: and because the morning Carol Service will be at 11 am that day there will be no 10 am Communion Service before it.

The main change this year will be as regards the Christmas Morning Service (in former years at 11 am). We all want to continue having whole families, adults young people and children, together. But numbers have grown so great that some dared not come for fear of being crowded out, others came 45 minutes before time to be sure of getting in, and last year some were not able to squeeze in at all. So this year the P.C.C. has agreed, as an experiment, to hold two identical short services for all; one from 10 to 10.45 am, and the second from 11.30 am to 12-15 pm. Our church pews seat about 100, and more than 200 came last year. The ideal would be if this large number could be fairly evenly divided so that the church is full twice; so there will be a list in the porch for two or three Sundays beforehand where any who can are invited to "sign on" for 10 am or 11.30 am. Not all will be able to do so of course. But so far as it goes it may be a helpful guide towards a fairly even distribution between the two services.

HUNGER LUNCH FOR TEAR FUND

At the recent Women's Day at the Rectory Jenny Arden-White said something about Tear Fund, which channels gifts from churches and other Christian groups to those stricken with disasters the world over. Just before Christmas, on Sunday Dec. 17, there will be a Hunger Lunch (soup and cheese) at the Rectory at 12.30 pm. Come and support a good cause.

PERSONALIA

We shall want to express our sympathy to MRS HEATH on the loss of her mother, Margaret had travelled up to Northumberland, and was with her mother during the closing days.

MRS MILLIGAN is now slowly convalescing at home. JULIAN CORNWALL had a few days in the County Hospital following a car accident, but is now at home and making a good recovery. MRS RAGGETT is seriously ill, but at the time of writing is being nursed at home by her husband, while their daughter MRS POPE who lives next door is being a tower of strength to them both. MRS JARVIS has been kept at home for a few days with a very painful back. Our greetings and good wishes to them all.

CHILDREN IN DECEMBER

Children's Church will be on December 3 and 17; and of these the second (Dec.17) will be the TOY Service at 10 am. We shall be grateful then for gifts of used toys or books in good condition, not wrapped in opaque paper please. We give these gifts to children who are orphaned or separated from their parents, and if the toys are unwrapped it is easier to ensure that each gift goes to a child who will value it.

Sunday Club is on December 10, and then discontinues during the school holidays, to reopen on January 14.

Children are specially welcome, of course, at either of the Carol Services (Dec.17 at 6.30 pm, or Dec. 24 at 11 am), or at either 10 am or 11.30 am on Christmas Day.

MID WEEK BIBLE STUDIES

We meet at the Rectory on December 13 at 8.15 pm, and then break for Christmas, to resume in the New Year.

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WOMEN'S DAY AT THE RECTORY

A full programme of talks and information was enjoyed by all who squeezed into the Rectory on 16 November. There was something for everyone and several challenges to do something. Mrs de Berniere-Smart had been to a political conference, and Mrs Redman her interviewer drew out her impressions, and the names of some famous people she had seen. Jenny Arden-White (the youngest member present) described how Tear Fund bring relief to the Third World, not just by pouring money in, but by helping people to become self-sufficient, channelling the resources through Christians who demonstrate the love of God in action. Later Jenny was asked to describe her own department of Tear Fund, running a sponsorship scheme for children in 17 countries: sponsors give £8 a month and are linked with a particular child. Mrs Major described her Saturday visit to join the House Party last February at Fairmile Court. She had memories of visiting that lovely house as a child, and said she returned from the weekend glowing with the warmth of its Christian Fellowship. Mrs Priscilla Grillo talked of her 20 years as a magistrate, and we would have liked to have heard much more. It was sobering to hear how crime has increased, particularly violence and drink offences. Encouragement, however, came from Mrs David Symonds who reminded us of the power of prayer, and of the Women's World Day of Prayer (always on the first Friday of March).

During the lunch break some women went home and others came, with much chatter over soup, sandwiches, savouries and coffee provided by an army of helpers. Mrs Gardner had her Christian books for sale; and Christmas Cards were sold for Cheshire Home, with the reminder that help was often needed there.

During the afternoon Mrs Husbands told of the work of Torch Fellowship for the Blind, which produces Christian literature in braille and tapes to help.

bring blind people to a saving knowledge of Christ. Volunteer drivers are needed on the second Saturday of each month to drive blind people to the Guildford meeting. Mrs Ray Williams told of the two Bible Study and discussion groups on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, and spoke warmly of the way these groups help in our understanding of the Bible. Mrs Thompson gave information about a local party planning to visit the Holy Land in May 1979. Finally Mrs Martin King from Wallington told us about her work as a Marriage Guidance Counsellor. She outlined the selection and training procedures for counsellors, and explained that their aim was to try and help people with any relationship problems (not only married couples). Counsellors try to help clients see for themselves what they can do to ease their problem or overcome it: they never tell people what to do. She showed us how broad the work is, covering also group work in schools, or among engaged couples, or first year nurses. It was a splendid conclusion to a stimulating day. S.B.

FAIRMILE HOUSE PARTY WEEK END

Leaflets giving full details, and application forms, for our Congregational Week End House Party at Fairmile Court, Cobham, will be available later in December both at Church and also from the Rectory. The dates are February 9 to 11. There will be room for 35. Many of those who have been before will want to come again, and we hope that there will be some first timers too.

PARISH FELLOWSHIP

A fine number of Hambledon people and friends came to the November meeting, when Mr Martin King gave us a most delightful evening, showing us his very beautiful slides, not only of birds, but also of the flowers people and scenery of Morocco, ... and later, by way of contrast, of Mull.

On December 14, on the Village Hall at 8 pm, Mr Cecil Chapman will show us his slides and tell

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us the story of his recent holiday by car into Russia, with photographs of some very fine artistic and architectural treasures.

Looking on into the New Year, January 11 is the night of the Parish Party (in the Village Hall from 8 to 10 pm). All are most warmly invited. Book the date in your new diary now.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Fellowship reopened on October 26th after the summer break, and was a happy get-together again. After the usual preliminaries and notices it was good to have as our speaker Mrs Mary Hutchins, one of our own members. She spoke with much feeling on the subject of prayer, her main points being the need for Power, Faith, and Praise in prayer, and her talk was illustrated with events in her own personal experience. She gave us much to ponder over, and a further opportunity to talk and discuss over a cup of tea afterwards.

The Christmas meeting will be held at Ellingsons on Wednesday 20 December at 3 pm. This will include Carols and a mince pie tea.

S.M.S.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

How often a junior delinquent could be underloved rather than underprivileged was pointed out by MRS McFARLANE at the Hambledon W.I. meeting on November 7th. She gave a graphic talk on the work of the Juvenile Magistrates' Court, which is such an important sector of our legal system. Soon she hoped there would be enough attendance centres around the country so that the ideal could be achieved for juveniles of treatment rather than punishment.

The president MRS CROWHURST conducted the business meeting. MRS WIELER thanked the speaker, and tea was served by MRS JEFFERY. The raffle was won by MRS ATKINS. Please note the December meeting will be on the FIRST Wednesday, December 6th. E.G.F.