

ST. PETER'S, HAMBLEDON

DECEMBER 1981

THE RECTOR WRITES

Let me give the warmest welcome to all Hambledon people, and any staying with them, both to the services and to the informal events of our Christmas programme. Details are on page 2, with further notes below.

Christmas is a very special time; not just because of decorations and carols and the rest; but because of that amazing event when the Lord of glory laid that glory aside, and left His home, and came into our poor world to suffer and be rejected and die. Make time for listening to this afresh. All other Christmas gifts are as nothing compared with it.

HUNGER LUNCH AT THE RECTORY

Sunday 20 December At 12.30 pm

To remind us of the plight of many millions
Gifts to TEAR FUND

20th The TOY SERVICE is at 10 am (Gifts un-
wrapped please) CAROL SERVICES are at 11 am and
6.30 pm., with NO Communion at 6.30 pm.

24th. THE MIDNIGHT COMMUNION is at 11.30 pm.

25th. Holy Communion is also at 8 am and at
12.20 pm on Christmas Day. Again this year we are
holding two exactly similar services of about 45
minutes each, one at 10 am and the other at 11.30 am
and we hope that by using all possible chairs we
shall find seats for all.

27th. Holy Communion is at 8 am only, not at
9.45 am. The Young People will be conducting the
evening service at 6.30 pm.

THE RECTORY PARTY

New Year's Eve 8.30 pm to midnight
Please accept this as a personal invitation
to join us for all or part of the evening

2.

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 1981

6 SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Holy Communion at 8 am and 12 noon

10 am Children's Church

11 am Morning Prayer

6.30 pm Evening Prayer (A.S.B.)

7.45 pm Young People at Heath Cottage

9 Wed. 8.15 pm Bible Study and Prayer (Rectory)

10 Thu. 8 pm Parish Fellowship (Village Hall)

13 THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Holy Communion at 8 am

11 am Morning Prayer: The Rev. Dr David
Milton-Thompson O.B.E. (CMS Kenya):

6.30 pm Evening Prayer: Preacher as above
Sunday Club

Loose collections all day to C.M.S.

7.45 pm Young People at Heath Cottage

15 Tue. 2.15 pm Church School Nativity

20 FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Holy Communion at 8 am only

10 am TOY SERVICE

11 am LESSONS AND CAROLS

12.30 pm Hunger Lunch at the Rectory

6.30 pm THE NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

N.B. NO Communion service at 6.30 pm

24 CHRISTMAS EVE

11.30 pm Holy Communion

25 CHRISTMAS DAY

8 am Holy Communion

10 am to 10.45 am CHRISTMAS SERVICE

11.30 to 12.15 pm CHRISTMAS SERVICE

12.20 pm Holy Communion

27 SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS S. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

8 am Holy Communion, but NOT at 9.45 am

11 am Morning Prayer

6.30 pm Young People lead Evening Service

7.45 pm Young People at Little Woodlands

31 Thu. New Year's Eve

8.30 pm to midnight. Rectory Party, Seep.1.

AND IN JANUARY 1982

3 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 (A.S.B.)

6 Wed. 8.15 pm Bible Study and Prayer (Rectory)

10 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Holy Communion at 8 am
11 am Morning Prayer: Sunday Club begins
6.30 pm Evening Prayer

14 Thu. 8 pm Parish New Year Party (Village Hall)

CHURCH FLOWERS

Dec. 6 Miss E.F. Denny
13 Mrs E.A. Wieler
20 Christmas flowers

FREE WILL OFFERING SCHEME

Offerings for October 1981, £302.12p.
E.F. Denny

LETTERS OF WARM THANKS have been received from the
organisers for all who helped in these:-

1981 BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

House to house collection £200.60
Remembrance Sunday Church Collection 78.94
(Last years record as £257.31) £279.54

N.S.P.C.C.

Coffee Morning at The Cottage nearly £400
Arts and Crafts Exhibition £345
SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS CHILDRENS HOME, MANILA
Lunch and Bring & Buy c £260
HELP THE A GED CLOTHING APPEAL, 16 sacks + £3.50

CHURCH REGISTERS

Baptisms 25 Oct. Sarah Emily Hawick
1 Nov. Ian David Williamson
Burial 10 Nov. Robert Wynne Sharpington

④.

A SPECIAL APPEAL

Our architect's last Quinquennial Survey shows that greater expenditure is before us than our ordinary giving will cover. Work includes:- Renovation of crumbling coping and other stones; Roof repairs; Electrical work; Pointing and other repair to churchyard boundary walls. With V.A.T. and architects fees, the total cost could come to about £4,000.

The P.C.C. is clear that several of these items should be done without delay (i.e. in the Spring). Work on churchyard boundary walls could perhaps wait a little, but delay only adds to the cost.

We felt it right to lay all this before the congregation now, notwithstanding the fact that Christmas brings many demands, and to ask our members if they would be willing, say within a few weeks, to make a special gift. It would be a great thing if, without long drawn out appeal or resort to 'gimmicks' we could deal with this now by straightforward thankoffering, in gratitude to God for His endless mercies to us.

Cheques could be made out to "St. Peter's, Hambledon" and handed to one of the Wardens.

THE REV. DR DAVID MILTON-THOMPSON

Our preacher on December 13 is the Rector's cousin. From London Hospital he served as naval surgeon in the war, then went out as a doctor with Church Missionary Society, first to China until the Communist take-over, then for 30 years in Kenya in charge of the hospital at Kaloleni. At the request of his bishop he came home for a year at a theological college before being ordained. His later years at Kaloleni were as both doctor and clergyman, and he was given the O.B.E. before retiring.

From Kenya, the Philippines, Bangkok, Cranleigh, Hydon Hill to the kitchen sink we were led by seven main speakers who gave us a varied and challenging day at the Rectory. The room was full at both sessions, many staying to lunch.

Mrs Mary Parker took us back to the Kenya of her childhood where she returned last Christmas. She swiftly evoked the smell and feel of the country, and reminded us of the frightening bare plains suffering from failed crops and drought.

From Manila Jane Ashe talked about the Shepherd of the Hills Home where she worked with Jenny Arden-White earlier this year. She told of 60 children aged 0-19 at present in the Home, of workers sacrificing themselves for the work, and of God's faithfulness in providing their needs.

Faith Hansford, recently back from the Christian Outreach relief agency in Bangkok, told of finding strength from God in times of loneliness and discomfort, and we saw what can be achieved by those willing to adventure for Him.

Nearer home, we had appeals for help* from local causes; Mrs Mizen from the Riding for the Disabled centre at Cranleigh; Miss Frith of Chesham Homes calling for help as escorts enabling residents to go out, as gardeners, or collectors of waste paper or silver foil. We were asked to find a village N.S.P.C.C. representative (to continue work begun by the late Beryl Williams); reminded by Mrs Joan Hardy to support The Cellar coffee bar in Godalming and told that Hambledon Guides have room for more girls. Mrs Eve Thompson spoke of a Book Club to provide Bibles for others.

Mrs de Berniere-Smart reviewed John White's excellent book; "Parents in Pain", and both sessions closed with a lively, practical, amusing series of Household Hints by Mrs Cunningham.

M.L.

* More details of all available at The Rectory

6.

ROBERT SHARPINGTON

The sudden death of our friend Robert Sharpington has come as a great shock to us. He had been on duty as sidesman and lesson reader on the Sunday morning, was admitted to hospital the same evening, and suffered a further fatal heart attack on the Wednesday.

His life's work has been for St. Thomas's Hospital for which he had been an outstanding administrator. He began at the age of 14, and except for the war years when he served in the Army in the Middle East and North Africa, he remained with St. Thomas's until he retired three years ago. Whether at the main hospital, or at Hydestile (he was hospital secretary here 1952-1968) his work was always meticulous in care and thoroughness. But more than that, he was a man of much compassion, and made a point of knowing the hospital staff and caring about their personal problems.

Behind all this was a firm faith. However busy he was, he would not miss his daily Bible Reading, and would make time for prayer unhurriedly both at the end of the day, and before the 7.50 am train. We thank God for his character and faith and service, and commit his wife and family specially to God now.

PERSONALIA

MRS STOVOLD of Wornley Lane had to be hurried to the County Hospital where she was in intensive care. She is now improving and hopes to be home again soon. Dr. PALMER also went to the County Hospital for nursing care, and we hope that he too will be able to return home soon. MRS WINTER and MR JOHN TAYLOR have been back at church again. MRS CHAPMAN and MRS VARDEN continue to improve. MRS CULLIS finds balancing difficult, and is unable to go for walks she used to love. It

is a big disappointment to MR SPACKMAN of Minster Rd. Godalming, that on reaching his 90th birthday he has not been able to renew his driving licence. We shall miss him from his place at our morning services.

There is a Confirmation Service at Guildford Cathedral on Wednesday 2 December at 8 pm when four boys of St. Dominics School are to be confirmed. Our members may remember that two of them were baptised not long ago in our church, and have been coming since to our morning service.

THE LINK

For several years now the churches of Godalming have had a united monthly magazine called The Link. It is attractively printed and produced, and gives joint news of their churches, and articles produced by their members.

Fifty copies of the November issue are available at our church on the Sunday this December magazine is published, and we invite our members to buy one as a sample copy. Any who wish could then order The Link regularly (there will be a list at the church door for this purpose for the next two or three Sundays). Their copy would be available in Church at the beginning of each month. The cost would be 60p. for the whole year.

CHURCH SCHOOL

The Committee of Hambledon School Association would like to thank everyone who supported the Jumble Sale on 14 November, both in their donations of jumble, and in attending the sale.

The Headteacher would like to invite you to the School Nativity Play in St. Peter's Church, Hambledon, at 2.15 pm on 15 December.

8.

PARISH FELLOWSHIP

Dr Strang and Mrs Maclay gave us a most absorbing start to our winter series when they showed us excellent transparencies of their two stays in the United States. Something of the immensity, and the variety, within that remarkable country were well conveyed, and it was a very good evening.

The December evening is on Thursday 10 December. We hope Capt. John Hassard-Short will take us on some of his former travels.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Miss Mary Hayward gave us a vivid account of life in Uganda in October. She worked for 25 years as matron in a preparatory school, opened in 1938 for the children of missionaries and other Europeans, but since changed to include all races so that today out of 100 pupils 99 are Africans. She described the difficulties and shortages of supplies. The school diet consists mainly of beans, peas, millet and bananas. Petrol at £15 a gallon limits travel, but in spite of hardships the Christian side of the work goes on unabated so that many Africans have a real testimony of Christian faith. The date of the December meeting has yet to be announced.

S.M.S.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Hambledon W.I. held their Annual General Meeting at the Village Hall on November 11. Mrs Major the President conducted the meeting, and Mrs Vacher the secretary reported on an interesting and varied year. Mrs Allen the treasurer then gave an account of an amazingly successful financial year. A profit of £167 had been made at the Jumble Sale in October.

The members then participated in the first round of the Brain of Surrey competition, Mrs Thompson being the most successful member.