

FEBRUARY 1987.

ST PETER'S CHURCH : HAMBLEDON

My dear Friends

This month I want to say something about Lent which will be with us next month. It hardly seems possible, caught up as we are at the moment in this seemingly permanent freeze-up; nevertheless, it is the case. The word Lent comes from an old Saxon word lengthen, which means the lengthening of the days. Something to look forward to! We also look forward to our Lenten programme and it is about this that I want to write.

Lent is always an opportunity to do something special or a little different and after discussion with Mac Bolton and a number of others, this is what we propose to do: We will have a course of sermons on Sunday mornings which will be linked to a Bible Reading on Wednesday evenings in the Rectory, with the opportunity for questions and comment afterwards. The Wednesday evening will consist of a short time of worship, to begin with a couple of hymns and a prayer, followed by a Bible Reading taken by one of us and then, as I have said, an opportunity for questions. I say this because I know some of you like to know what you are letting yourselves in for! We hope to take subjects which are of topical and theological interest and one of the reasons for writing, is to put the ball in your court and to ask for your suggestions on the kind of things you think it would be profitable and important for us to consider. Do give this some thought and please let me know.

Lent is a time when all church people make an 'extra' effort to think through their Christian faith and commitment. I do hope therefore that you will try to put these Sundays and Wednesdays in your diary NOW and make this a priority. I am sure we shall all benefit.

Yours sincerely

PETER SERTIN

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 1987

Feb. 1 FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

- 8 00 am Holy Communion (1662)
- 11 00 am FAMILY SERVICE :
followed by coffee at the Rectory
- 6 30 pm Evening Prayer (1662)
- 7 45 pm Youth Fellowship

Feb. 2 7 45 for 8 00pm PCC meet at the Rectory

Feb. 8 FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

- 8 00 am Holy Communion (1662)
- 11 00 am Morning Prayer (1662)
followed by Holy Communion
(Sunday Club meets at the Nursery School)
- 6 30 pm Holy Communion (ASB)
- 7 45 pm Youth Fellowship

Feb. 11 8 15 pm MEETING FOR BIBLE STUDY AND
PRAYER AT THE RECTORY

Feb. 15 SEPTUAGESIMA

- 8 00 am Holy Communion (1662)
- 10 00 am Children's Church
- 11 00 am Morning Prayer (1662)
- 6 30 pm Evening Prayer (ASB)
- 7 45 pm Youth Fellowship

Feb. 22 SEXAGESIMA

- 8 00 am Holy Communion (1662)
- 11 00 am Holy Communion (ASB)
(Sunday Club meets at the Nursery School)
- 6 30 pm Holy Communion (ASB)
- 7 45 pm Youth Fellowship

Feb. 25 7 45 for 8 00pm. The PCC have arranged an
Open Meeting at the Rectory for the whole
Parish to hear Gp. Capt. Ridsdale, Diocesan
Adviser on Christian Stewardship, talk on the
whole subject of Christian giving, especially
relating to our own commitment to St Peter's
and the Church of God.

AND IN MARCH

Mar. 1 QUINQUAGESIMA

8 00 am Holy Communion (1662)
11 00 am FAMILY SERVICE :
followed by coffee at the Rectory
6 30 pm Evening Prayer (1662)
7 45 pm Youth Fellowship

Mar. 4 ASH WEDNESDAY

11 00am and 8 00pm Holy Communion

Mar. 8 1ST SUNDAY IN LENT

8 00 am Holy Communion (1662)
11 00 am Morning Prayer (1662)
followed by Holy Communion
(Sunday Club meets at the Nursery School)
6 30 pm Holy Communion (ASB)
7 45 pm Youth Fellowship

FREEWILL OFFERING SCHEME

Total for December 1986 : £601. 01 - Edric Hardy

CHURCH FLOWER ROTA

February 1 : Mrs A Stedall
8 : Mrs M Campbell
15 : Mrs J Corbett
22 : Mrs E Secrett

CHURCH CLEANING ROTA

February 6/7 : Mrs R Taylor and Diana
13/14 : Mrs J Hassard-Short
20/21 : Mrs B Gardner
27/28 : Mrs P Williams

PERSONALIA

Virginia Stevens has had the misfortune to fall and break a wrist, which so far is the only piece of 'bad' that we have to report following the coming of the snow which seemed to grind most things to a halt. We would like to thank all who manned the spades to clear the church paths and an area of the road for parking; also Redland Bricks Ltd. who kindly cleared Church Lane with a jolly useful mechanical shovel. Michael Atkins kept an eye on the heating system and organised kettles of boiling water to free the oil frozen in the pipes. Many thanks to all who either 'phoned or called on the elderly and housebound in the village; the ladies in the almshouses have especially expressed their thanks.

SUNDAY CLUB

Carol singing : With snow on the ground we can still think about carol singing and on December 22nd the Sunday Club children, with their Leaders, two Mums, one Grannie and 1 cat (!) met at Silver Leys, New Road, for mince pies, etc. before setting out to go carol singing. They would like to thank all those they visited for their warm welcome and contributions. £14.50 was raised for Tear Fund.

Rowena Hall

The Sunday Club are delighted to welcome Louise Secrett as one of their Leaders.

LONDON CITY MISSION

Gifts from the Toy Service held on 7 December were sent in good time for distribution before Christmas to needy children. This was organised through the London City Mission and they have written to say a very big thank you to all who gave such lovely toys.

LOUISE ARDEN-WHITE

Although it is comparatively recently that Louie left us, her presence is very much missed by the evening congregation at Hambledon. Louie has gone to Amsterdam to take a Discipleship Training Course with YWAM (Youth with a Mission) an International Movement of Christians

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from many denominations dedicated to presenting Jesus Christ personally to this generation. After completing her course, Louie expects to be sent to South Africa in April. We all wish her well and remember her warmly - see the current Prayer Letter.

Note : It will be remembered that Caroline Atkins attended the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh in 1986 working with a team from YWAM.

HAMBLEDON BROWNIES are holding their Bring and Buy Sale in the Village Hall at 2.30pm on Saturday 7th February in aid of the Blue Peter Sightsaver Appeal. There will also be a Jumble Sale in aid of Brownie Funds. Mary Grove at Highfield (Wormley 3532) can supply further details.

If you can still find more jumble, don't forget that Jeanette Aldridge has a Jumble Sale in February in Godalming in aid of the Save the Children Fund. Do give Jeanette a ring on wormley 4650 if you have anything that you think might be suitable.

MISSIONARY NEWS

Our gifts of money have brought a letter of thanks from Simon Mabley from Pakistan who writes: "Thank you for your generous gift which will be spent paying for the travel on a Christmas break to Lahore".

Rick James writes from Honduras and says: "Thank you very much indeed for the kind gift from Hambledon. I was thrilled and will be able to use it for something special". He wrote on the outside of the envelope that he would like to buy some books on Small Businesses in Developing Countries. Rick is working in a remote area with an organisation called MOPAWI (which was set up in 1984 to help community and economic development amongst the Miskito people). His particular work involves the promotion and subsequent marketing of Mosquita products (e.g. rice, beans, cacao, coconuts, cashews, palm oil, dried fish and handcrafts). Six 'Papabis' stores have been set up which buy people's harvests at a fixed price and sell

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basic consumer goods at an equally fair price. Rick is initially helping with this, then looking for other markets in the interior. He needs a high level of Spanish, which he says he is far short of possessing and also a basic grasp of Miskito - so language study must be disciplined. MOPAWI is a specifically Christian organisation but does no direct evangelism, preferring to work through the individual witness of its personnel and the collective witness of its development methods.

Tim and Zinnia Symonds write: "We have been quite overwhelmed by the kindness of our dear friends in Hambledon! The Christmas 'hampers' were quite marvellous and we all had great fun opening the contents, while the assortment of parcels, packages and toys for the girls were a child's dream! The cash on top of all this left us speechless! Thank you all who have contributed so generously, very much indeed. Support such as that given us by Hambledon makes a deep impression on us we assure you!!"

Sarah Clarke gave her personal thanks for groceries and money which she received before flying out to join Stephen in Bangkok for Christmas. She returned on January 18th, so we will give up-to-date news of the Clarkes next month.

Sheila Bolton

Faith Denny has had news of the Pettit family who used to live at Burgate Farm but now reside in Essex. They write that 1986 has been a rather hectic year for them, with Glyn in and out of hospital since May; he was able to return to work at the end of August, now very fit and well. Richard (15) worked hard feeding bullocks, etc. before he went to school and with the help of good neighbours, they coped until Glyn was on his feet again. Alastair is nearly 13 and Glenys reckons she will soon be the shortest of the family!

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Our good wishes to the Pettit family and all friends now living in far-flung corners.

HENRY SMITH'S CHARITY

Many elderly people in Hambledon, through the Parish Council, benefit annually from the Charity established by Henry Smith. Not a great deal is known about him - he was born in Wandsworth in 1548 and was buried there in 1627. He was a very rich man, an Alderman of the City of London, and although he owned considerable property, he preferred to live as a tramp, begging for food and clothes. The more welcome he was made, the more money he bequeathed. He was sometimes known as 'Dog-Smyth'; for, whenever he requested food for himself, he also asked for an extra 'bit' for his dog! He was one of the most generous men who ever lived and during his lifetime gave to many towns in Surrey £1,000 apiece to buy lands in perpetuity for "ye relief and setting the poor people aworke"; such towns included Guildford, Croydon, Dorking, Farnham, Reigate and Richmond, although his requests extended to other areas throughout southern England. It is much to the credit of the Administrators of the Charity, that after some 360 years, money can be found to distribute amongst many parishes and organisations.

Note: The Editor is indebted to the Clerk to the Parish Council, Miss Mary Parker and Mrs Muriel Campbell, for their help in compiling the above.

THE ADVERSARY : It is said that when General Montgomery commanded the 8th Army in the Western Desert he had a large photograph of Field Marshall Rommel in his caravan. He looked at the photo in order to know his enemy, and so to be able to counter his every foreseeable move. Our enemy is the devil, and, in 2 Corinthians ii, 11, we are warned not to be "ignorant of his devices". One of Satan's subtlest schemes is to get people to believe that he does not exist. Read part of this old piece of doggerel -

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Men don't believe in a devil now, as their fathers used to do; They've forced the door of the widest creed to let his majesty through; There isn't a print of his cloven hoof, or a fiery dart from his bow, to be found on earth or in air to-day, for the world has voted it so! But who is it mixes the fatal draught that palsies heart and brain, and lades the bier of each passing year with ten hundred thousand slain? Who blights the bloom of our land to-day with the fiery breath of hell, if the devil isn't and never was, won't somebody rise and tell? Who dogs the steps of the toiling saint, and digs the trap for his feet? Who scatters tares in the field of Time, wherever God sows His wheat? The devil is voted not to be, and, of course, the thing is true; But who is doing the kind of work the devil alone should do?

(the poem goes on and ends with the following lines:)

The devil is fairly voted out, and, of course, the devil's gone; But simple folk would like to know who carries his business on!

Our Saviour Christ met the devil and defeated him. He is a greater Authority about Satan's existence than any modern sceptic. By putting our trust in Him, we may share in Christ's Victory.

I first came across the doggerel verse in 1930, so it is not modern.

D G C Symonds

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON GROUP : Weather conditions prevented us from meeting on 14 January and we hope that Mr Peter Stock will be able to visit us at a later date. On Feb. 11 Mr Steele will show films on "Juniper Hill and Neighbourhood" - all are most welcome at Juniper Hill at 2 45 pm.

Joan Hardy

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP : In December we had a visit from the Rev. George Goldsmith of Binscombe Evangelical Church. He spoke about suffering and brought his wife Sheila, herself a cancer sufferer, who shared with us the way God had helped her to cope with her illness. He also brought Margaret, a member of his church, who had suffered emotional problems. They both testified to an inner joy and peace which God had given them. Our next meeting will be at Ellingsons on February 22nd.

Brenda Gardner