

ST. PETER'S CHURCH, HAMBLEDON

JUNE, 1975

THE RECTOR WRITES

We have all followed the recent news from Viet Nam and Cambodia with much concern.

I have just received a letter from a young missionary friend which gives further news which would not appear in the public media. With several other missionaries of the Overseas Missionary Fellowship and other societies, and two short-term doctors, he was himself working in Phnom Penh, under occasional shell-fire, until February last when they were evacuated to Thailand (though since then a few of the men have returned). For Christians, the news of the Christian Church in Cambodia (or Khmer Republic as we must accustom ourselves to calling it), is both wonderfully encouraging, and also a great challenge to our prayers. There has been a remarkable growth of vigour in the Christian Church there recently. Whereas between 1923 and 1970 only 650 were baptised, since 1970 the number has been 1300. In 1970 the number of worshippers on Easter Sunday would be about 200, but this year it was over 3000 in 30 churches in some of which there was standing room only. A Khmer Christian, asked why his countrymen were turning to Christ, replied "(1) Because the people hear and see that Christians are concerned about the temporal needs of the people, and (2) Because the people have no hope. Their gods gave them doctrine but died and left them. However, 'Christ is alive' is often heard."

As we thank God for this, we need urgently to pray for a young church now facing unknown dangers. In particular their leaders may soon be under threat. Pray that they may be given protection, grace and courage, and also for a fine group of Christian students who are likely to be under new pressures now.

DIARY FOR JUNE

1. SUN. TRINITY 1

Holy Communion at 8 am and 12 noon
 10 am Children's Church: Mr. S. Mitchell (Japan)
 11 am Morning Prayer : Mr. S. Mitchell
 6.30 pm Evening Prayer : Mr. S. Mitchell
 7.45 pm Young People at Heath Cottage
 Loose collections all day to Overseas Missionary Fellowship

2 MON. 2.30 pm Hambledon Homes Holy Communion

8 SUN. TRINITY 2

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

15 SUN. TRINITY 3

Holy Communion at 8 am and 7.30 pm
 10 am Children's Church
 11 am Morning Prayer
 6.30 pm Evening Prayer
 7.45 pm Holy Communion
 7.45 pm Young People at Heath Cottage

22 SUN. TRINITY 4

Holy Communion at 8 am and 10 am
 10 am Series 2 Holy Communion
 11 am Morning Prayer
 6.30 pm Evening Prayer
 7.45 pm Young People at Little Woodlands

29 SUN. ST. PETER'S DAY

Holy Communion at 8 am and 7.30 pm
 11 am Morning Prayer
 6.30 pm Evening Prayer
 7.45 pm Young People at the Rectory

AND IN JULY6 SUN. TRINITY 6

Holy Communion at 8 am and 12 noon

10 am Children's Church

11 am Morning Prayer: Rev. E. Shirras B.Sc.
(Asst.Sect. C.P.A.S.)

6.30 pm Evening Prayer: Rev. E. Shirras

7.45 pm Young People at Heath Cottage

Loose collections at 11 am and 6.30 pm to CPAS

7 MON. 2.30 pm Hambledon Homes Holy Communion

13 SUN. TRINITY 7

Holy Communion at 8 am

11 am Morning Prayer

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

7.45 pm Young People at the Rectory

CHURCH FLOWERS

June 1 Mrs. E. Secrett

June 8 Mrs. E.A. Wieler

June 15 Miss M. Parker

June 22

June 29 Mrs. Thompson

FREE WILL OFFERING ENVELOPES

Total for April 1975 £27. 57p E.F.Denny

CHURCH REGISTERSBaptism

May 4 Mark Parry Murray-Jones;

Memorial Service

May 8 Veronica Cole of Beech Hill

Burial

May 22 Olive Spindler (91) of Cherryhurst

BRIEF POINTS FROM THE RECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT
(left over from last month)

- (1) Warm thanks not only to our elected officers, but to all who helped, in connection with our services, in the preservation cleaning and beautifying of the church, in production and distribution of the magazine, in our organisations (Women's Fellowship, Young People's Group, Parish Fellowship), or in any other way.
- (2) A tribute to the REv. Ted and Mrs. Elton for their gracious ministry over nearly 18 years
- (3) Numbers at services were steady. The total of communicants in 1974 had slightly increased. He was specially glad of those who worshipped every Sunday.
- (4) Evening services were neglected in many churches, and he hoped Hambledon would continue to point a better way. All were very happy to see the Young People coming in a group on the 2nd Sunday of the month.
- (5) Congregational singing was good. We owed much to Michael Puttock and were sorry to lose him; but were very glad Christopher Mabley was available and settling in to the task.
- (6) Can we act now to enlarge our choir? A few more at 11 am and several at 6.30 pm are needed. Even those who may not necessarily be able to come every Sunday could be a real help. Further enquiry straight away would be welcomed by the Rector, or the secret betrayal to him of the name of someone with an apt voice!
- (7) Congregational friendship was important, not just within like-minded groups, but right across the membership. The Lent mid-week evenings and occasional lunches had helped. We might try a summer Sunday lunch, and perhaps at the end of the year a short congregational weekend.
- (8) The Bishop of Guildford has provisionally booked June 12/13, 1976 for a visit to Hambledon and that would be a very special event.

(9) Confirmations: Perhaps we shall have a group ready to be confirmed then. Of course there would be a course of preparation beforehand, one for Young People (minimum age 15) and one for adults of all ages. The course would cover the main areas of Christian belief, practical help for living the Christian life, and teaching on the Church and sacraments. Candidates would want to find their way into worship and membership before being confirmed. Baptisms: Likewise in the case of baptisms, we encourage a parent to come into the worshipping family first and then they introduce their children in baptism.

(10) Young People at their own request now held their informal "squashes" every Sunday at 7.45 p.m. and these were going happily and usefully.

(11) Children's Church was also going well. Nothing could be better than for a family to come together, and those who did so appreciated it greatly. But many local children did not come. If the Rector or Mrs. Thompson could be informed beforehand, we would gladly arrange for someone to sit with unattached boys and girls during a service.

(12) Missionary interest in the parish has been growing over the years. Living as we do in a specially protected and beautiful area we owe it to our fellows in other parts of the world to be aware of their needs and to act to help them. So missionary Sundays during the year are important days. May our parish giving increase steadily year by year.

(13) Prayer The members we need to thank more than any are those who pray, for we depend upon them more than we can say. Jesus said "Without Me you can do nothing."

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS IN JUNE

Numbers have been good at the start of our short summer course on "New Testament Background." It finishes with three further talks in June as follows:

- June 4 How the Epistles came to be written
- June 11 How the Gospels came to be written
- June 18 Are the New Testament documents reliable?

All who would like to come will be most welcome.. at the Rectory at 8 pm for coffee, and at 8.30 pm for the talk.

After this present series ends we would not envisage another such mid-week series until the Autumn.

VISITING PREACHERS

On June 1 we look forward to a visit from Mr. Steve Mitchell, who has for many years been a missionary of the Overseas Missionary Fellowship in Japan. He will be speaking to Children's Church, and at the main services at 11 am and 6.30 pm. This will be a good opportunity for us all to hear more of what God is doing in the Far East through this great society, and we shall have our chance to give to the work in the collections of that day.

Looking on into the following month, on 6 July the Rev. Edward Shirras comes to preach to us at 11 am and 6.30 pm on behalf of the Church Pastoral-Aid Society, with which this parish has a specially close link.

COFFEE MORNING AND BRING & BUY

There will be a Coffee Morning with a Bring & Buy Stall at Aran Lodge, by kind invitation of Major R. P.A. and Mrs. de Berniere-Smart, on Tuesday, 17 June from 10.30 am to 12 noon in aid of repairs to

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the Church Organ and Village Hall improvements. Everyone is welcome and it is hoped to have as much home-made fare and garden produce on sale as possible.

PERSONALIA

Mrs. Veronica Cole died in hospital after a long illness which had given her much pain and weakness over the years. She had fought back after earlier operations with great courage, and indeed earlier this year had been nursing her sister after a spell in hospital. We remember Kenneth Cole specially now.

Mrs. Olive Spindler died in hospital on Whit Sunday after a second heart attack within a few days. She was 91, but none-the-less had been able to look after herself well in her own home. Over her long years in Hambledon she had come unfailingly to worship on Sundays, and only very recently had that journey become too much for her. We rejoice to think she is now "with Christ...far better." Several of our church members have been on the sick list. While a large part of King Edward School was laid low with a virus, Mrs. Derek Parsons and Mr. Robert Marsden had spells in hospital, but are now convalescing well; and Miss Marion Birley has had a painful and distressing attack of shingles. We send our very best wishes to them all.

WOMENS FELLOWSHIP

Miss Joan Hall, who has been Headmistress of a Government Secondary Girls School in Uganda was a welcome speaker at our Fellowship Meeting in April. She gave a vivid and amusing picture of her work during several years service, mentioning both the political problems in that country as well as the

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encouraging Christian aspect of the work amongst the African school girls. Several of our members commented afterwards, "We hear so much about the bad things in these days, that it is good to hear of the encouragements too."

The final meeting of the session will be on Thursday, 26th June, with a musical programme followed by tea in Mrs. Ellingsons lovely garden.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The W.I. met at the Village Hall on Wednesday 14 May for the visit of the Voluntary County Organiser.

Before starting the business of the meeting the president, Mrs. J. HARDY asked members to stand in silence in memory of Mrs. COLE.

The V.C.O. Mrs. P. BAILLIE from Forest Green explained the resolutions to be put before the Annual General Meeting at the Albert Hall on 4 June. Members were asked to vote on each of the resolutions, and the results were noted by the delegate who will attend the Albert Hall meeting.

Mrs. B.J. MAJOR