

RECTOR'S LETTER

My dear Friends,

Spring-cleaning will be in full swing in many homes by the time this magazine is published, and some of us know, from experience, that this domestic operation sometimes has serious consequences! How often it happens that, following the "spring-clean," there is a search being made for a favourite pair of old trousers which are just right for that job in the garden, or for an old pair of shoes which were "the most comfortable pair I ever possessed"! And yet, in spite of the mistakes which may be made during the process of spring-cleaning, how very necessary is this operation! Our homes do feel (if homes can "feel") the benefit of a thorough clean-up with its consequent disposal of surplus paraphernalia. There is a moral in all this, and we can each of us think out its implication and application in our own inner lives.

It was as I was sorting out, and, with some reluctance, turning out, some old papers, that I came across a Derby Diocesan News Supplement which contained the Bishop's Lent and Easter Message. It is a simple message, but full of deep truth and I would like you to be able to share it with me. I quote: "In the Church's proclamation of the Gospel, Good Friday and Easter presuppose one another. Good Friday, if it had stood by itself, and if crucifixion and death had been the end of the story, would have suggested no message of triumph, but rather a story of despair: Easter Day, considered apart from Good Friday, would have brought with it no message of reconciliation with God, or of forgiveness, but would have spoken to us merely of the continuance of human life after death. It is Calvary **and** Easter, Atonement for sin **and** victory over death and the grave, which, **taken together**, enshrine the central mystery of our Religion, each throwing light on the other, so that Death is swallowed up in Victory, and Victory is victory over suffering and sin, not simply over the grave."

We wish you and yours all the joys of Easter.

Yours sincerely,

C. EDWARD ELTON.

FOR YOUR DIARY

- Apr. 3rd. Maundy Thursday. Holy Communion, 8 p.m.
 4th. Good Friday. Morning Service, 11 a.m.
 5th. Decoration of Church for Easter Day.
 6th. EASTER DAY.
 8 a.m., 12 noon and 7.30 p.m., Holy Communion.
 10 a.m., Children's Church.
 11 a.m., Morning Prayer.
 6.30 p.m., Evening Prayer.
 17th. Thurs. Mrs. Denys Head invites friends to an At Home and "Bring and Buy" at Hydon Farm, 3.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. Please support this effort for Sewing Meeting Funds.
 24th. Thurs. Young Wives' meeting at Beech Hill at 3 p.m.; C.P.A.S. Annual Meeting in Central Hall, Westminster, 7 p.m.
July 19th. Sat. CHURCH FETE.



CHURCH REGISTERS

Offertories and Communicants

		£	s.	d.	Comts.
Feb. 19th.	Alms	1	6	6	12
23rd.	Alms		17	6	9
	Church Expenses	5	15	3	
Mar. 1st.	Church Pastoral-Aid Society	12	19	1	33
	China Inland Mission		12	6	
9th.	Alms		13	3	12
	Church Expenses		3	14	1
16th.	Bishop's Challenge Fund	13	10	9	30
	China Inland Mission		3	14	9
	Church Expenses		5	0	

Holy Baptism

"One Lord, one faith, one baptism."

- Mar. 9th. Adrian Stanley Norman, son of Brian Stanley and Sheila Lilian Talman.
 16th. Katherine Mary, daughter of Ian Graham and Nancy Lantz Turbott.

Burial

"Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted."

- Mar. 7th. Kathleen Mary Farmer, aged 87 years.

THANKS

Lectern Light.—A reading lamp, which was recently fixed to the lectern, has proved a real asset to those who read the lessons. We wish to thank Mrs. Robertson, of Stepside, for so kindly providing this most necessary and useful addition to our church.

Cassock.—The Rector thanks most warmly the generous friend who has sent, anonymously, to him, via Messrs. Wippell, of Exeter, a new cassock. This gift will replace the much patched and worn cassock which has been in constant use for over twenty-one years!



VILLAGE NOTES

Report of the Hambledon Annual Parish Meeting

There was a record attendance of over 40 people at the Annual Parish Meeting held last Tuesday in the Village Hall.

It was unanimously agreed that Hambledon should enter the Best-kept Village Competition, which is being held this year.

Mr. Sharpington, Secretary of St. Thomas' Hospital, Hydestile, raised the question of the Council providing street lighting from Enton to St. Thomas' and King George V Hospitals, as it was a dark and narrow road for their staff to walk at night. This road forms part of three parishes—Witley, Busbridge and Hambledon—and he said that he knew Witley were willing to co-operate if Hambledon and Busbridge would do the same. The Chairman pointed out that although the Parish Council saw the hospitals' view, they felt that as there was no street lighting at all in Hambledon, Hambledon ratepayers would get little benefit from lighting a road on the outskirts of the village that few of them used. A motion, proposed by Mr. Sharpington and seconded by Mr. Dainton, that a public meeting be called to adopt the Lighting and Watching Act of 1833, so that lighting could be provided, was defeated by 14 votes to 11.

Mr. E. Sutton raised the question of the dangerous trees at Rock Hill, reporting that only recently a falling tree had nearly injured a child.

The Chairman reported that the Parish Council had no power in this matter, but were pressing the Trustees of the Fold Preservation Trust, who were responsible for the trees, to take some action.

Mr. A. C. Main, Hambledon's Representative on the Rural District Council, gave a very interesting talk on Rural District Council work, and afterwards answered questions.

HAMBLEDON

The Annual Vestry and Parochial Church Meetings were held in the Day School on Friday, March 14th. The Rector thanked the Churchwardens for their services during the past year. Mr. C. A. Chapman was re-elected Rector's Warden, and Mr. S. Ayling was re-elected People's Warden.

Mrs. Peer, the Hon. Treasurer, presented the Statement of Accounts, which showed a balance in hand on January 1st of £263 18s. 0d. There had been an increase in the church collections and subscriptions to the Free-Will Offering Fund. The Secretary of the F.-W.O., Mrs. D. Head, stated that subscriptions amounted to £288, and a further £92 had been received in Income Tax recoveries. The balance in hand in the Building Repair Fund is now £598 10s. 0d.

In his report the Rector thanked all the church officers and workers who had helped to make the year a successful one. A number of gifts to the church, including a Communion Rail to the memory of the late Canon Seymour, a clock for the Vestry, lectern light, lightweight chairs and Prayer and Hymn Books, had been received in recent months. There has been a marked increase in the number of Communicants—in 1956 there were 693, and in 1957, 1,327. The introduction of a Children's Church at 10 a.m. on the first Sunday in each month, had proved worthwhile. The attendances at the Church Fellowship, which was commenced in November, had been encouraging.

The Church Council was elected, and a number of additional Sidesmen were elected. Mr. J. B. Marriage was appointed Auditor and thanked for his services.

Statement of Accounts.—A copy of the Statement presented at the Annual Meeting has been posted in the church porch. The following are the details of special collections for missionary work and charities:—

	£	s.	d.
Church Pastoral-Aid Society	11	15	2
Ladies' Home Mission Union (C.P.A.S.) ...	4	14	0
Bishop's Challenge Fund	20	0	0
Church Mission to Jews	4	11	11
R.A.F. Benevolent Fund	8	11	11
Earl Haig Fund	20	0	4
C. of E. Children's Society	5	0	0
Fegan's Homes	2	8	6
Colonial and Continental Church Society ...	10	8	1
School Managers' Fund	21	6	4