

RECTOR'S LETTER

My dear Friends,

We wish you all a very happy Christmas. How often this greeting will pass our lips, and the lips of thousands of people, during this season! Our shops are gay with Christmas decorations, gifts and tempting foodstuffs for the celebration of Christmas in our homes and among our friends. In so many cases it is just another opportunity for money-making, or for a "celebration"! The Christian rejoices because there are "Good tidings of great joy"—"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

In all the rush of seeing that our relatives and friends are not forgotten at this season, and in all the hurry of preparing for celebrating Christmas in our homes, let us beware lest we forget the real reasons for these rejoicings. It does seem strange that so many Christians should excuse themselves from church attendance during the Christmas Festival because they are so busy preparing for their celebrations! Christian worship should surely have first priority.

Details of the arrangements we are making for Christmas services are given in this magazine. We hope that you will attend the morning service with your families on Christmas Day. The times of the services of Holy Communion have been arranged so that everyone should be able to communicate during Christmas.

Our thoughts will be with those who have recently been bereaved and for whom Christmas will be a time when they will feel especially lonely. We pray that they may find comfort in the message of this Festival, which reminds us that we are never alone, for the God who came on that first Christmas Day is "Emmanuel"—"God with us."

Your sincere friend,

C. EDWARD ELTON.

PRAYER BOOKS AND HYMN BOOKS

The Church Council decided to purchase some new Prayer Books and Hymn Books, but when the church is full the books will still be in short supply. It would be a real help if those who can will bring their own Prayer Books with them to church. We believe that there may be many who would like to give Prayer Books and Hymn Books to the church and so help us to have a sufficient supply for all occasions. A list will be placed in the church porch for names of those who may be willing to make such gifts. To save the cost of postage on the books we suggest that you make a gift of the cost of the books and we will obtain them direct from the publishers. Details of prices will be indicated on the notice in the porch.

FOR YOUR DIARY

- Dec. 1st.—Advent Sunday. Children's Church, 10 a.m.
 8th.—Second Sunday in Advent. Bible Sunday. Preacher
 all day: The Rev. R. Marsh, recently Chaplain
 at Arusha, Tanganyika. Collections for Colonial
 and Continental Church Society.
 12th.—Confirmation Service at Godalming Parish Church,
 7.30 p.m.
 13th.—(Fri.) Young Wives (Carols), 2.30 p.m., at Beech
 Hill.
 15th.—Third Sunday in Advent. Preacher at 11 a.m.: The
 Ven. A. J. de C. Studdert, Archdeacon of Surrey.
 21st.—(Sat.) Decoration of church for Christmas.
 22nd.—Fourth Sunday in Advent. 3 p.m., Toy Service;
 6.30 p.m., Carol Service.
 24th.—(Christmas Eve) 11.45 p.m., Holy Communion.
 25th.—(Christmas Day).
 8 a.m., Holy Communion.
 11 a.m., Morning Prayer.
 12 noon, Holy Communion.

THANKS

Clock for the Vestry

In response to the request made in the November magazine Mr. and Mrs. G. Steventon, of South Munstead, have very kindly presented us with a suitable wall clock for the church Vestry. We wish to thank them for this gift, which has been made as a thank-offering for blessings received.

Prayer Desk, Holy Communion Linen, Carpet for the Chancel and Chairs

We are glad to be able to report that we have received offers to provide the above items, and fuller details will be given in a future issue of the magazine.

Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund

A letter of thanks for the collections on Battle of Britain Sunday (£8 11s. 11d.) has been received from the Secretary of the Appeals Committee.

Harvest Festival Gifts

Twizzeltwig Nursery, Hindhead.—The Matron of this Church of England Children's Society Home writes as follows:—"Will you please convey my very grateful thanks to all for the lovely Harvest gifts. I am sure you must realise what a tremendous help these gifts are to us."

(Continued after inset)

Hambledon Homes.—The Superintendent writes:—"May I express to you, on behalf of the old folk in the Homes, our grateful thanks for the gift of fruit and flowers from your Harvest Festival service. Such gifts are much appreciated by us all."

Magazine Distributors

Our grateful thanks to all who so kindly help to distribute this magazine, and also to the Hon. Treasurer of the Fund, Mr. W. Marsh, of Bryony Hill. Mr. Marsh will be grateful if distributors can let him have any magazine money they may have in hand before the end of December.

Advertisers in the Magazine

The advertisements help us to keep the price of this publication as low as possible. We thank those who advertise and hope that readers will support them. Mr. Hutchins is responsible for collecting the advertisements and we thank him for this very important contribution to the success of the magazine.

SYMPATHY

Although Mr. Maurice Thurgood had been far from well for some time, the news of his death came as a surprise to his many friends. We extend to his widow and his mother our sincere sympathies in their sorrow.

MR. AND MRS. CYRIL CARLE

We have been extremely sorry to have to say good-bye to Mr. and Mrs. Carlé, of Burses Cottage, who are leaving Hambledon for the Isle of Wight. Mr. Carlé has been Secretary of the Parochial Church Council and also a Sidesman, and Mrs. Carlé has given invaluable service in the Sewing Meeting. We will all miss them very much, and we wish them every blessing and happiness in their new home.

CONFIRMATION

Eleven candidates are being prepared for Confirmation. The service will be held in Godalming Parish Church on Thursday, December 12th, at 7.30 p.m. You are invited to attend this service, when the candidates will enter into the fuller fellowship of the Church. Please remember them in your prayers.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL SECRETARY

We are pleased to report that Miss F. Denny, of Hydon Ridge, has been appointed Secretary of the Church Council.

HAMBLEDON WOLF CUBS

The Wolf Cubs competed in the Godalming and District Handicraft Competition on November 9th, and won the shield.

The team consisted of Trevor Winter, Robin Goodchild, John Morris, Terry Jackson, Peter Goodchild and Derek King.

On Remembrance Sunday the Pack attended the morning service, bringing their colours. The colour-bearers were Trevor Winter, Robin Goodchild and John Morris.

As your representative of the Parish of Hambledon on the Board of Governors at the Godalming County Grammar School, I feel it is my duty to report to the parents on such a special occasion as Speech Day, which was held on October 24th.

Firstly, let me congratulate Robert Jeffery on his gaining a certificate for applied mathematics.

One cannot appreciate too much the attention which is given by the Headmaster and teachers of this school to give your children the encouragement to reach the high standard of education which is needed of the present generation.

The atmosphere that is created by everyone at this school is most impressive to a new member of the Board.

It was most satisfying to see the number of prizes and certificates that were awarded to those pupils who passed examinations.

It would, I am afraid, need more than the space available in this magazine to print a full report on Speech Day, but I intend to visit this school when the pupils are working, so that I can give you further information.

R. V. BOARDMAN,

Governor for Hambledon Parish.

CHURCH REGISTERS

Holy Baptism

"One Lord, one faith, one baptism."

Oct. 22nd.—Christopher David, son of David Leonard and Sheila Mary Sheldon.

Holy Matrimony

"Those whom God hath joined together let no man put asunder."

Sept. 14th.—John Richard Kenion Parry and Sonia Anne Stevens.

Nov. 9th.—David George Best and Rosemary Elizabeth Elliott.

Burial

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

Oct. 25th.—Maurice Fielder Thurgood, aged 51 years.