

RECTOR'S LETTER

My dear Friends,

Ash Wednesday this year falls on February 11th, when there will be a service for the scholars of our Church Day School at 9.25 a.m. Parents and older friends are invited to join us at the church for that service. There will also be a celebration of the Holy Communion at 11 a.m. May I suggest that during this important season of the Church's Year we should all follow the counsel of St. James: "Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you" (James iv:8). Lent should be a time during which Christians seek to deepen their spiritual lives, and this can only be done through fellowship with Christ. One of the ways in which we can experience that fellowship is by our attendance at the services of the church. There is no need for me to enlarge upon this, and I hope that there may be evidence in our village of such endeavour.

May God bless you all.

Yours sincerely,

C. EDWARD ELTON.

DIARY FOR MONTH

- Feb. 1st. Sunday. SEXAGESIMA.
Holy Communion, 8.0 a.m. and 12 noon.
Children's Church, 10.0 a.m.
Morning Prayer, 11.0 a.m.
Evening Prayer, 6.30 p.m.
- 8th. Sunday. QUINQUAGESIMA.
Holy Communion, 8.0 a.m.
Morning Prayer, 11.0 a.m.
Evening Prayer, 6.30 p.m.
- 11th. ASH WEDNESDAY.
Day School Service, 9.25 a.m.
Holy Communion, 11.0 a.m.
- 12th. Thursday.
Church Fellowship in Village Hall, 8.0 p.m. Films,
"Lambeth Conference, 1958," "Your Inheritance."
- 15th. Sunday. LENT I.
Holy Communion, 8.0 a.m.
Morning Prayer, 11.0 a.m.
Evening Prayer, 6.30 p.m.
Holy Communion, 7.30 p.m.

- 22nd. Sunday. LENT II.
Holy Communion, 8.0 a.m.
Morning Prayer, 11.0 a.m.
Preacher: The Rev. E. T. Allen, M.A., Vicar of
Stoughton.
Evening Prayer, 6.30 p.m.
- 26th. Thursday.
Young Wives' Fellowship at Beech Hill at 3.0 p.m.
- Mar. 1st. Sunday. LENT III.
Holy Communion, 8.0 a.m. and 12.0 noon.
Children's Church, 10.0 a.m.
Morning Prayer, 11.0 a.m.
Evening Prayer, 6.30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

We regret that, as the matter for the January magazine had to be in the printer's hands before Christmas, the report on the Christmas services has had to be withheld until this issue of the magazine.

Christmas Carol Service

The church was filled to capacity for this service. The help of those who formed the special choir was very much appreciated, and we were most grateful to the church officers and others who read the Nine Lessons.

Christmas Eve Holy Communion

The fog which had persisted throughout the evening did not deter the over a hundred communicants from attending this service. We were grateful to our organist for the Christmas hymns and carols which he played during the administration of Holy Communion.

Christmas Day

The morning service was a "Family Service" in the truest sense, and it was encouraging to see so many parents attending church with their children.

The Offertories and Collections on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day were for the Church Day School Funds, and amounted to £28 1s. 8d.

Toy Service

A letter has been received from the Matron of Twizzeltwigg (the Children's Society Home in Hindhead) expressing sincere thanks for the toys, games and books which were sent from Hambledon Church. These gifts have brought much joy to the children in the Home. Two cars had to be used to transport the gifts to Hindhead, and we wish to thank Mr. Richard Chapman for his kind help with transport.

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

The visit of the Organising Secretary of the Missions to Seamen (the Rev. A. P. Hutchison) to the January meeting of the Fellowship was much appreciated. The excellent work which is being done by the representatives of the Mission, both at home and abroad, was vividly portrayed in the film "Sea Parish." Men of the Merchant Navy have reason to be thankful to those who, through the Missions to Seamen, provide for their spiritual and material needs when they are away from home.

On THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12th, the LAMBETH CONFERENCE FILM (sound and colour) will be shown at the Church Fellowship. The sound film "Your Inheritance" will also be shown. You are warmly invited to join us at our Fellowship meetings. The time, 8.0 p.m., and the place, the Village Hall. There is no charge for admission. Refreshments are served during the evening (6d.).

MISSIONARY BOX OPENING

We are grateful to those who kindly sent or brought their boxes to church to be opened by the various Secretaries. The total amounts collected from the boxes were as follows:—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|------------------------------------|----|----|----|
| Church Pastoral-Aid Society | 13 | 1 | 4 |
| Ruanda Mission (C.M.S.) | 9 | 17 | 7 |

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Contributions to Missionary and other Societies.

Extracts from letters of thanks received

Ruanda Mission (C.M.S.)

"We praise the Lord for much steady progress in 1958, a growing care and increased interest shown by many new box-holders, and in new recruits coming forward. In the Field we saw more African leadership in the Church with new ordinands, a new hospital started at Kisizi, a Trade school at Gahini, a Senior school at Shyogwe, and Teacher Training at Buhiga."

China Inland Mission

"How delightful it was to receive this generous gift from our friends at St. Peter's. Do please pass on to them our real appreciation for their help. . . . Our Anglican friends in Malaya have just come to the end of a house party for Chinese-speaking young people. You may know that at least half Malaya's population is

aged 21 or less, so there are tremendous opportunities in camps and house parties, and special gatherings are held almost every school holiday. Fairly steadily we learn of young people who are finding the Saviour. At the same time they do need our prayers for many of them live in villages where the people are intensely superstitious, and anyone who becomes a Christian can be sure that he or she will receive no sympathy either at home, or at school, and the step may involve the loss of every friend. To follow Christ is really costly."

(The collections at Children's Church are usually devoted to the work of the China Inland Mission.)

Fegan's Homes

"Thank you very much for the kind gift sent on behalf of St. Peter's, Hambledon. Will you please convey to the teachers and scholars of the Sunday School our sincere thanks for this kind and generous expression of their interest and fellowship in the work we are seeking to do among these needy children."

(The Sunday School collections are sent to the Church of England Children's Society, and a donation is also made to Fegan's Homes.)

The Saint Dunstan's Carol Party went round the village on December 17th and collected £9.

After a very rainy start, the sky cleared and the rest of the evening was fine.

Many thanks to those who came and sang, and to all who gave so generously.

Miss Parker would be glad to have back any carol books or leaflets not yet returned. MARY PARKER.

VILLAGE NOTES

Women's Institute Programme

- Feb. 11th. Produce Show. Competition: Miniature Garden.
27th. Group Meeting—Grayswood, at the Haslemere Museum.
Mar. 11th. Miss Nettleship—Community Singing.
23rd. County Annual Meeting at the Dorking Halls.
Apr. 8th. Miss Cook (Mary Burchell)—"Wanderings of a Novelist."