

RECTOR'S LETTER

My dear Friends,

May I draw your attention to the arrangements we are making for the observance of Lent this year? Visiting preachers will again occupy our pulpit on some Sundays, and we are also holding a short week-night service on Fridays during Lent. The first of these services will take place during the Week of Prayer for Home Missions, and we will therefore use a special form of intercession for Home Missions at that service. On the following Fridays there will be a series of short Bible Studies on the Second Epistle of Paul to Timothy.

The last two meetings of the Church Fellowship will be held on Thursdays February 9th, and March 9th, and on each occasion there will be a particularly interesting programme. At the February meeting the Rev. Dr. B.A. Reading will show the Mission to Lepers latest film - "Seed upon the Mountains" - and the Bishop of Fulham will be our speaker at the March meeting. We are particularly fortunate to be having a visit from the Bishop whose Jurisdiction covers the whole of North and Central Europe, and who spends much of his time visiting the English Churches in many countries. The Bishop's lecture will be illustrated by colour transparencies which he has taken during his visits to the Continent.

Yours sincerely,

C. Edward Elton.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES. As the matter for the January issue of the magazine was sent to the printers before Christmas this short report appears some time after the events.

Church Decorations. The Church was again most beautifully decorated for the Festival and we record our sincere thanks to those ladies who undertook this work, and also to the kind friends who sent gifts of flowers and evergreen.

Carol Service. This was most inspiring and helpful, and we thank the members of the augmented choir, their leader, Mr. Martin Palmer, and our organist, for the singing of the carols. Much time had been spent in making preparations for the service. The Nine Lessons were read by members of the congregation, and we are grateful to them for their ministry.

Toy Service. The Matron of "Twizzeltwig", the Church of England Children's Society Home at Hindhead, has sent a

letter of thanks for the toys which were taken to the Home following the service. She writes - "... It is a pity that all who are so kind in making an effort to collect toys cannot have our privilege of seeing little faces filled with delight as they open their presents".

The services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day were well attended, and we apologise to all who were unable to find room in the church at the morning service. Every available space was used in both the church and the vestry, and we realise that some of the adults who occupied the narrow seats in front of the choir stalls would not find them in any way comfortable!

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP. The Rector's Warden, Mr. C.A. Chapman, was our speaker at a well attended meeting of the Fellowship in January. Mr. and Mrs. Chapman visited the U.S.A., and Canada last Spring, and Mr. Chapman showed us over 200 colour transparencies which he had taken during the tour. Some of the photographs were taken on board ship, some from the top of sky-scrappers in New York, and others from the observation car of a train as it travelled through the Rockies. Miss Parker proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Chapman for his most interesting lecture. The remainder of the Church Fellowship programme for this Season is as follows:- Thursday, February 9th, Mission to Lepers Film - "Seed upon the Mountains". Thursday, March 9th. Lecture on the Church of England in Europe (illustrated) by the Lord Bishop of Fulham. (see Rector's letter).

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OLD PEOPLE'S BUNGALOWS. We are delighted to have the three new houses, which have been built by the Hambledon Rural District Council, occupied by Hambledon residents. The houses are well planned, and as they are within easy reach of the village shop and close to both main road and village 'buses they are ideally situated. We hope that our friends now occupying the houses will spend many happy years there. They are warmly invited to attend the services in the new chapel at Hambledon Homes. These are held every Sunday evening at 5.15 p.m., and there is usually a short service of the Holy Communion on the first Wednesdays in the month at 10 a.m.

A CAROL PARTY went round the village on December 21st and collected £11 for the 'Guide Dogs for the Blind' Association.