

RECTOR'S LETTER

My dear Friends,

We wish you all a very happy New Year. The end of the Old Year gives us an opportunity to call to mind the many happenings in our own lives, in the life of the local community and in the world at large, during the past year. For some there have been special rejoicings, for others great anxieties and sorrows, and for us all 1957 has been a year of change and uncertainty in the world. We can look back in gratitude for "all the way that the Lord our God hath led us". There have been dark days in 1957, and there may be hardships as well as joys in store for us in 1958, but to those who have committed themselves to Jesus Christ there is nothing to fear. The words of one of our hymns sum up the position so far as the Christian is concerned - "Our future all unknown, Jesus we know, and He is on the Throne". The Lord goes before us, and, whatever the coming year may have in store for the world, God still reigns supreme.

We often "take stock" at the end of a year, to ascertain how much progress, or otherwise, may have been made during the twelve months. As I look back over the part of 1957 in which I have been privileged to minister at St. Peter's, Hambledon, I am very conscious of the fact that there have been many who have made their contribution to the life and work of our church, and I do most sincerely thank all who have helped in any way.

I would like to add a personal word of thanks to all who by their thoughts, prayers and practical help have encouraged us at the Rectory during my wife's illness. Your kindnesses have been very much appreciated. I am glad to be able to say that my wife is now making steady progress and looks forward to the time when she will once again be able to enter fully into the life and fellowship of the parish.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

C. EDWARD ELTON.

The next meeting of the Fellowship will be held in the Church Day School on Thursday January 9th., at 8.0 p.m. When Dr.A.T.Laughton will give an illustrated talk on his travels in connection with his work at the National Institute of Oceanography. We are indeed fortunate in being able to book Dr.Laughton, and we hope that there will be a really good attendance on January 9th.

We hope that the Fellowship will enable us to get to know each other better and we intend to have a varied programme, which will include discussions as well as talks and addresses. Any suggestions you may like to make will be gratefully received.

Young Wives' Fellowship.

Sister Parfitt of King George V Hospital was the speaker at the November meeting. Her most helpful devotional address was much appreciated.

Carols were sung at the December meeting, and we were fortunate in having as the soloist Miss Whitehead. We record our thanks to the member who so kindly covered the cost of the fees of the soloist and her accompanist. The children's party which followed the carols was a very happy one, and the children did full justice to the "feast" prepared for them. A visit from Father Christmas, who brought a present for each child, brought the proceedings to a close. A special work of thanks to Mrs.Bernard Grillo for so kindly inviting the "Young Wives " to her home for the party. Her kindness in allowing the group to meet at her home each month is very much appreciated.

THANKS.

Lightweight Chairs. We acknowledge with grateful thanks a gift of thirty canvas and lightweight metal chairs for use at meetings and for extra seating at church. Miss E.F.Denny of Hydon Ridge has very kindly provided the chairs, which will prove most useful when we have large congregations and when we require extra seating for meetings in the Rectory and the Day School. The Chairs can be stacked away in comparatively small space, and can be transported from place to place more easily than wooden chairs.

Bulbs for the Churchyard. We wish to thank Mr Alan Secrett for so kindly providing a supply of bulbs for the Churchyard.

Posters. From time to time we are able to advertise services and meetings by means of most attractive posters, and we wish to record our thanks for the services so willingly rendered by Mr. Boardman.

The School Concert from behind the footlights.

The concert produced £10 for the Village Hall and £5 for the School fund.

One of our greatest difficulties is obtaining costumes and "props" without great expense. Thank you, parents, who helped by turning out almost everything from Grandma's cape to the kitchen stove.

The large audiences were a great encouragement to the young performers. G.E.P.

The Village Hall.

A new Committee has recently been appointed, and for those wishing to hire the hall the following information will be useful:-

All bookings will be handled by the Assistant Secretary, Mrs. E.L. Sutton, Bryony Hill, Hambledon (Tel: Wormley 307) The Chairman is Mr. C.A. Chapman, Tigbourne Court, Hambledon, the Secretary is Mr. P. Harvey, The Round House, Chiddingfold (Tel. 3185). Mrs. A.C. Main, of Mervil Bottom is the Treasurer.

The Committee has considered plans for the future and will be calling a further public meeting in the near future. The intention is that the hall should become an attractive centre for village functions, and to achieve this the committee needs the support of the whole village.

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For your Diary.

Thursday, January 9th. Church Fellowship in the Day School at 8.0 p.m. Dr.A.T.Laughton will give an illustrated talk on "Travels in Oceanography".

Thursday, January 23rd. Young Wives Group at Beech Hill at 3.0 p.m. Speaker: Mrs.Warner. Subject: "Modern Heresies".

Thursday, February 13th. Church Fellowship in the Day School at 8.0 p.m. Film: "A City Speaks".

Confirmation.

We welcome into the fuller fellowship of our Church the following who were confirmed by the Bishop of Guildford at Godalming Parish Church on December 12th:- Arthur Gordon Blackman, Colin John Edwards, Denis Anthony Edwards, Raymond Anthony Freemantle, Dorothy Billield, Myrtle Joyce Blackman, Janet Edwards, Patricia Margaret Gaymer, Elizabeth Ann Humphrey, Sheilaigh Ann Keenan and Vera Luxford.

Hambledon Church Fellowship.

The first meeting of the Fellowship was held in the Village Hall on Thursday, November 28th., at 8.0 p.m. The attendance (over fifty) was most encouraging, and we were fortunate in having as our first speaker, Miss C.Jennings, the Senior Mistress at King Edward's School, Witley. Miss Jennings' address, illustrated by excellent colour transparencies which she had taken during her recent tour of Kenya and Tanganyika, was most interesting. We regret that it was not possible for us to advertise the first meeting of the Fellowship in the November Magazine, but it was well advertised in the local papers, in Church and on the notice-boards. We apologise to any who were unable to be present because they had not heard about the meeting. We hope to have regular meetings during the winter months - on the second Thursday in each month. The meetings will now be held in the Church Day School. There are no rules for membership and all are invited to join our fellowship.