

RECTOR'S LETTER

My dear Friends,

The enclosed leaflet on "Christian Giving" introduces a subject which is so often looked upon by church people as being a matter of very little importance. In the past the support for many of our charitable institutions, such as hospitals, schools and orphanages, and also of our churches, has, to a large extent, been left to the generosity of the "wealthy aristocracy."

Since the beginning of this century vast changes have taken place in our own country, and one of the results of these changes has been that the State has taken over the responsibility of meeting the costs of upkeep of many former charities. We all, therefore, take our share in providing the wherewithal through our compulsory contributions. But the Church still depends upon the voluntary support of its members and we cannot today leave this to the few. One should here, perhaps, point out that although our church is the "State Church" we do not receive a penny from the State towards the finances of the church, and we are living to a large extent upon the generosity of Christians of bygone years. We must, therefore, all take our share, and all that I would ask you to do at this stage is to examine your contributions as a member of your Parish Church in the light of the suggestions in the leaflet "Christian Giving." If everyone who counts himself as a member of St. Peter's, Hambledon, acts accordingly, then there will be a vastly different balance sheet for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting to consider next year!

Our Free-Will Offerings have increased very considerably during the past twelve months, as have also our church collections, and we rejoice in these tokens of God's working in our midst. But we cannot by any means be satisfied in the light of what real Christian Giving should entail. There are one or two points which we in Hambledon should bear in mind when we study our financial position:—

- (1) We have only a small church to light, heat, and keep clean and in good repair. (Should we not, therefore, be helping some poorer parishes with their burdens?)
- (2) Our church is in need of considerable repairs and of complete interior re-decoration. It should also have a lightning conductor in order to meet with the requirements. These matters should have been dealt with several years ago.

- (3) The stipend of the Rector is being made up to the minimum for an incumbent in this diocese by the Diocesan Board of Finance, and we receive one of the largest grants which the Board has to make in this respect. Thus we in Hambledon are receiving money from some of the poorer parishes in the diocese in order to pay for our own ministry.
- (4) In 1957 the amount sent from our Parish to Overseas Missions was one of the smallest in the diocese. This year there has been a considerable increase in our contributions and we look forward to the time when we are taking a still fuller share in helping to spread the Gospel.

The Diocesan Authorities will shortly be issuing a manifesto on Diocesan Finance, and the part we will be expected to play will not come as such a shock to us if we ALL make regular and proportionate contributions to the funds of the church. This is not just an appeal for money, but a call to all who belong to St. Peter's, Hambledon, to enter fully into the worship of God.

A number of special preachers will occupy our pulpit during the remainder of Lent, and I know that you will benefit by their ministry. I hope to be here to welcome most of them to our church, but I must be away on Good Friday when the Vicar of Milford visits us, as I will be conducting the "Three Hours' Service" in his church that day.

Particulars on the services on Easter Day will be found in the Diary for the Month. We have again included a Children's Church at 10 a.m., as this service was so much appreciated last year. I am very aware of the fact that as the number of cars of those attending the 10 a.m. service increases, so does the possibility of congestion on the hill approaching the church. We will endeavour to finish the 10 a.m. service in good time so that those who come by car to the 11 a.m. service will have a clear road when they arrive.

With every good wish for a very happy and blessed Easter.

Yours sincerely,

C. EDWARD ELTON.

DIARY FOR MONTH

- Mar. 1st. Sun. 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. Preacher at 10.0 a.m., 11.0 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. services: The Rev. Paul N. Rimmer, M.A., Chaplain at Ootamacund, India.
Offerings (all day) for Commonwealth and Continental Church Society.
- 3rd. Tues. Annual Parochial Church Meeting in the Day School at 8.0 p.m.
- 4th. Wed. Day School Managers' Meeting, 4.0 p.m.
- 8th. Sun. LENT IV (Mothering Sunday). Holy Communion, 8.0 a.m.; Morning Prayer, 11.0 a.m. Preacher: The Rev. F. Hurd, M.A., Vicar of Stoke-next-Guildford; Evening Prayer, 6.30 p.m. Preacher: The Rev. F. H. Hargroves, M.A., Hospitaller of St. Thomas's Hospital.
- 12th. Thurs. Church Fellowship in Village Hall, 8.0 p.m. A colour film taken during his recent visit to Russia will be shown by the Archdeacon of Surrey (The Ven. A. J. de C. Studdert, M.A.).
- 15th. Sun. Passion Sunday. Holy Communion, 8.0 a.m. and 7.30 p.m.; Morning Prayer, 11.0 a.m. Preacher: The Rev. P. G. Holden, M.A., Vicar of Witley.
- 18th to 20th. Deanery Players in Borough Hall, Godalming, at 8.0 p.m.
- 22nd. Palm Sunday. Holy Communion, 8.0 a.m.; Morning Prayer, 11.0 a.m.; Evening Prayer, 6.30 p.m. Preacher at 11.0 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.: The Rev. K. R. Walter, B.A. Organising Secretary, Church Pastoral-Aid Society. A film illustrating some of the Society's work will be shown at the Evening Service.
Offerings all day for C.P.-A.S.
- 24th. Tues. Annual Parish Meeting in Village Hall.

- 26th. MAUNDY THURSDAY. Young Wives at Beech Hill, 3.0 p.m. Speaker: Miss Edwards, of Moral Welfare; Holy Communion, 8.0 p.m.
Offertory: Church Missions to Jews.
- 27th. GOOD FRIDAY.
Morning Prayer, 11.0 a.m.
Preacher: The Rev. G. L. Taylor, Vicar of Milford.
Collection for Church Missions to Jews.
- 28th. Sat. Decoration of Church for Easter Day.
- 29th. EASTER DAY.
Holy Communion, 8.0 a.m., 12.0 noon and 7.30 p.m.
Children's Church, 10.0 a.m.
Morning Prayer, 11.0 a.m.
Evening Prayer, 6.30 p.m.
- Apr. 5th. Sun. EASTER I.
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.

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

The film of the Lambeth Conference was shown at the February meeting of the Fellowship, together with an S.P.C.K. production on general parish work, entitled "Your Inheritance."

Both films were excellent, and the Lambeth film reminded us of the problems and opportunities which face the Anglican Church in all parts of the world today.

MARCH FELLOWSHIP, Thursday, March 12th, at 8.0 p.m.

The Archdeacon of Surrey will show the films he took during his recent visit to Russia. You must not miss these colour films and the Archdeacon's commentary, which will be of special interest to everyone.

VILLAGE NOTES

Hambleton Parish Council

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 24th, at 8 p.m., in the Village Hall. At the end of the meeting there will be a talk on "Highways," by Mr. John Main.

It is hoped that everyone will make a special effort to attend. This meeting is your opportunity to come along and express your views on any village problems.