

RECTOR'S LETTER

My dear Friends,

The Harvest Thanksgiving Services will be held on the first Sunday in October, and details of these are given elsewhere in this magazine. In both town and country parishes amongst the most popular services are those of the Harvest Festival, and no doubt one reason for their popularity is the fact that they are always bright, the hymns are well known, and the church is decorated for the occasion. But perhaps the real reason for the good attendances at the Harvest Festival is that at this time of the year we gather in that part of the harvest which is most representative of our "Daily Bread," and we realise how entirely dependent we are upon God for the fruits of the earth.

Even in this "Scientific Age" the words of the Harvest hymn, "We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land," which was first written as long ago as 1782, are not out of date. We may use the latest type of machinery for the ploughing of the land and the sowing of the seed, but the farmer knows that he ultimately depends upon God for the germination and growth of the seed. In that hymn we acknowledge that the seed "is fed and watered by God's Almighty Hand." The combined harvester is a remarkable piece of machinery, and is the invention of man, but it cannot come into operation until the fields are "ripened ready for harvest." As I write this letter the weather is causing the farmer some anxiety, and we need to pray for seasonable weather for the ingathering of the harvest.

We invite you to join us in our Harvest Thanksgiving Services, when we will be thanking God for all His goodness to us. We should thank Him for the supplies which come to us from overseas, as well as from our own country, but, above all, we should thank Him for the spiritual blessings which are ours through His Son, our Saviour. There is a great depth of meaning in the words of the General Thanksgiving: "We bless Thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for the Redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of Grace, and for the hope of glory. And we beseech Thee, give us that due sense of all Thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we shew forth Thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives." May He help us so to respond to His Goodness to us.

Yours sincerely,

C. EDWARD ELTON.

FOR YOUR DIARY

Sept. 25th. Thurs. Young Wives' Group at Beech Hill at 3 p.m.

Oct. 5th. Sun. HARVEST FESTIVAL.

8.0 a.m. Holy Communion.

10.0 a.m. Children's Church.

11.0 a.m. Morning Prayer.

12.0 noon Holy Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

28th. Tues. Ladies' Home Mission Union (C.P.A.S.) Meeting at Tigbourne Court, 3.0 p.m. Speaker: Miss Coggan (Secretary).

MISS CORA JENNINGS

It is with deep regret that we record the death, following a road accident, of Miss Jennings, of King Edward's School. She attended our services whenever she was free to do so, and many will remember the most interesting illustrated lectures, on her recent tour in Kenya and Tanganyika, which she gave at our first meeting of the Church Fellowship.

We mourn the loss of one whose life has been one of continual witness to her Lord, and we know that many of the girls and members of the staff at the School will thank God for the influence she has had upon their lives.

NEW CARPET IN THE CHURCH

Just as this magazine goes to press we have been delighted to see that the luxurious carpet (anonymously presented) has been laid in the chancel. The rich blue of the carpet blends so beautifully with the same glorious colour in the East window.

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

Sunday by Sunday the flowers on the Holy Table are most tastefully arranged for us by a small group of ladies from our congregation, and we would thank them most sincerely for their services in this way.

THE CHURCH "CAR PARK"

We are inclined to take very much for granted the fact that members of the congregation may park their cars in the courtyard of Court Farm, and we wish to acknowledge with real gratitude the kindness of Mrs. Dowson in this respect.



CHOIR OUTING

We were pleased to welcome the members of the congregation who joined us for the outing to Bournemouth, via the New Forest. The ride through the forest was delightful and the children in particular, enjoyed seeing the ponies—many of them with their foals. On our arrival at Bournemouth we were just able to find sufficient space for our deck chairs (the tide was in!). Most of us "stayed put" until it was time for tea and the return journey home. Some of the more venturesome of our party enjoyed a bathe, and everyone seemed to enjoy the day out. The weather was ideal. There was only one slight mishap, and this took place before the outward journey, when one of our number (he shall be nameless) found that he had left his picnic lunch at home. He was, however, able to retrieve the said lunch, for the coach happened to pass his door, and so all was well. We were happy to have the same coach driver as we had last year, and all who use the road could learn much from his outstanding courtesy when driving.



SEWING MEETING

On July 8th, twenty-nine of us boarded a coach for Portsmouth Harbour, where we took the ferry-boat to the Isle of Wight. Mrs. Carle, formerly of Buss's Cottage, was there to meet us and gave us a warm welcome. We enjoyed a picnic lunch, in glorious sunshine, on the beach at Sandown. Two members were soon in their swim suits and in the water. Others, who were less energetic, took to the water in a motor boat. Everyone, from a very trusting taxi-driver who did not collect his fares from his six passengers until the return journey, to the ticket collectors, helped to make it a happy day. We returned home with gratitude to God for the wonderful weather we had had.

CHURCH REGISTERS

Holy Baptism

"One Lord, one faith, one baptism."

Aug. 10th. Tessa Sarah Beechey, daughter of Allen Mainwaring and Suzanne Beechey Parker.



VILLAGE NOTES

BEST-KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION, 1958 HAMBLEDON

The following are the Judges' remarks on Hambledon's entry in the above Competition:—

Paucity and Orderliness of Advertisements: *Good*.

Absence of Litter and Unsightly Litter Dumps: *Fair*—more attention needed.

Condition of Hedges, Fences and Walls: *Very Good*.

Condition of Churchyards, Cemeteries, War Memorial Surrounds, Village Halls and Bus Shelters: *Excellent*.

Condition of Village Centre and/or Greens, Playing Fields, Verges, Paths, Ponds and Streams: *Very good—except for Village Green*.

Tidiness of Flower, Vegetable and Allotment Gardens, Out-houses and Sheds: *Fair—more attention needed*.

GENERAL REMARKS

Good Points: Judges reported very favourably on the Churchyard and the Village Hall.

Bad Points: The village green was disappointing—the public house sign was criticised and also the condition and appearance of some sheds.