

Waiapu Church Gazette

DECEMBER, 1941.

COME TO BETHLEHEM

Christmas is first and foremost a religious festival—it is the Feast of the Christ-Child's birth—the Festival of the Incarnation. It is for us not only our duty but our privilege to be able to range ourselves alongside those simple-hearted people, the shepherds, who made their journey of faith to the stable at Bethlehem. And as we go on Christmas morning to pay our visit with them to Bethlehem we go first of all to say, "Thank you," not for the story of the Shepherds with its simple message but for all that He has done for us. But that is not all, when we make our Communion on Christmas morning we seek to enter into fellowship with Christ, to drink of His Spirit, to catch something of the love and sacrifice which are in Him; we come as those who want to be made like

Him. We come to learn at Bethlehem how to empty ourselves and to lay aside for the sake of others all our advantages and comfort; to learn to enter with real understanding and sympathy into the lives and problems of those less fortunate than ourselves; to learn how to serve and how to help.

But we do not come alone, the visit is being paid by thousands of devout Christian people all over the world, in Churches on the Battlefield and elsewhere. They too are coming to offer their Thanks and to offer Themselves to the Christ at Bethlehem—with them we are united spiritually in this Service. We come with a common aim and purpose and to receive from Him whom we come to worship the help and strength to bring His peace upon the world.

PARISH NOTES.

Rotorua

Rotorua had its first official visit from the Governor-General and Lady Newall in October. At their own desire they attended divine service at St. Luke's when Sir Cyril read the lessons.

We observed our Patronal Festival again this year. Forty-six sat down to the Parish Breakfast after the 8 o'clock Celebration. The services were well attended and the family spirit well in evidence. There was a parish social, like one of the good old-fashioned social evenings we used to have. The Bible Classes too, had their social evening and the comment "just like old times" was frequently heard.

Archbishop Averill administered Confirmation on November 2. There were 35 candidates. It was a beautiful service—a full church, a reverent congregation and a very fine atmosphere.

His address on "I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision," Acts 26:19, will long be remembered by all who were privileged to hear it.

He is still an arresting and vigorous preacher. We consider ourselves very fortunate in having his services in the absence of our own Bishop. There was a parade of St. John Ambulance earlier in the day when he also delivered a stirring address.

Patutahi

Dedication of Tablets—St. George's Church, Patutahi.

At St. George's Church, Patutahi, on Sunday, November 16th, an interesting service was held, when tablets to the memory of Bishop Herbert William Williams and Richard Sherratt were dedicated by Archdeacon Butterfield.

In his address the Archdeacon referred to his own friendship with both these men, extending back to his first coming to this Diocese forty years ago. Each in his own way, they were both outstanding men. The Bishop was the wider known, and was remarkable for his sound judgment, ability, learning, churchmanship, and wide practical knowledge in many fields. Mr. Sherratt, his neighbour and friend, was Churchwarden of this parish from its

foundation to his death. He was a man of the highest integrity, great kindness, gifted with a whimsical sense of humour, was a keen lover of horses, and a staunch attendant and supporter of his Church. It was, said the Archdeacon, fitting that the memories of both these men should be enshrined in the church where for many years they were constant attenders.

A very large gathering of Poverty Bay residents attended the service to show their respect for the memory of these old identities. The inscriptions on the tablets are:—

In Memory of

HERBERT WILLIAM WILLIAMS,
Litt. D.

Archdeacon of Waiapu, 1930-1937.

Sixth Bishop of Waiapu, 1930-1937.

Died December 6th, 1937.

A Workman that Needeth not to be
Ashamed.

and

Sacred to the Memory of

RICHARD SHERRATT

Died 13th December, 1938.

Aged 87.

A Churchwarden of this Church
since its inception in 1908.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Matron, Miss L. E. Johnston, acknowledges with thanks the following gifts sent in to the Abbotsford Home: Waipukurau Bible Class, per Canon Mortimer Jones, bread and cakes; Mrs J. Herrick, Waipukurau, vegetables and eggs; Mrs Basketville, Waipawa, vegetables; Waipawa Bakery, buns and currant bread; Miss Buchanan, Waipawa, butter; Lady Galway Guild, Waipawa, per Mrs. H. Rathbone, cakes; Mothers Union, Waipawa, groceries and jam; Mr. Jack Bibby, Waipawa, potatoes; Mrs H. White, Waipawa, butter and sugar, sack onions; Mr. Bixley, Twyford, 1 sack apples; Mr. Slater, Hastings, 21 cases apples; A Friend, Opapa, vegetables, jam and plums; Friends at Synod, per Rev. W. S. C. Stephens, tools and assorted gifts! Mr. Haig, Woodville, cash donation; Mr. Moore, Pukehou, 1 case marmalade oranges; Mrs. J. Herrick, Tautane, quantity lemons; Mrs. Goulding, Omakeke, jam; Mr. Carlsson, Waipawa, grindstone and watering can.