

was very prettily decorated. The vicar conducted the services, which were all very largely attended. In the evening solos were well rendered by Messrs York and Green and Misses Green and Buckhurst.

On Monday, 19th December, Mrs Scruby gave a most delightful "Gift Tea" at her residence "Aroha Nui," in aid of St. Mary's Garden Fete, which takes place on the 18th inst. The weather was perfect, and the guests, which numbered about 60, were entertained with music, singing, and a very amusing competition. Afternoon tea was served on the lawn, and a most enjoyable afternoon was spent. The fancy stall will benefit to a very considerable extent, as the gifts were both useful and valuable.

A valuable set of altar linen was presented to St. Mary's some weeks ago by Mrs Scruby, and a further gift from the same lady of palls for the prayer-desk and pulpit in white, beautifully embroidered, was used for the first time on Christmas Day. Both gifts represent months of patient and loving labour. The Sunday scholars were given a tea and entertainment shortly before Christmas. Prizes were given to the best in each class, and awards of books to all the scholars.

### Ormondville.

*Vicar: Rev. M. Cockerill, B.A.*

The Christmas and New Year's holidays have been marked by specially fine weather, and consequently picnics and excursions by road and rail have been very much in evidence. It is pleasant to have noticed no diminished congregations at the Sunday services.

A very important and forward step has been taken by the vestry in the purchase, for £120, of three acres of land immediately in front of the church at Ormondville. The immediate purpose this will serve is to provide for a long-felt want, namely, paddock accommodation for the clergyman's horse. The money is borrowed from the Whetakura Church Building Fund and is repayable in two years. The vestry would have much liked to have bought the other acre, unfenced, which is on the frontage facing the church. The general intention is that the four acres shall form the site, at some future day, for the vicarage. The property is very compact and its position adjoining the church is unique. Who would like their name on a subscription list to buy this other acre outright before anyone else comes in between the church and the three acre paddock?

The general parish Fete has not been this year the great financial success it was thought it would be, considering the ideal conditions of the weather on the day it was held. Still, £32 is a sum very fair considering the other occasions on which the church has asked lately for support for various objects.

The Ormondville Sunday School again probably heads the list of the Sunday Schools of the diocese in the proportion of prizes gained by its pupils at the recent examination. Out of nine pupils who entered for the examination seven obtained a pass in the 1st class in each of the three subjects, thus be-

coming entitled, in addition, to a prize. One of these, Isabella Gilmore, gained a Bishop's prize, one of the six given by the Bishop to the first and second in the diocese in each subject. Three teachers entered this year for the examination. We congratulate one of them, Miss Edith Webb, on obtaining the prize given by the Bishop, while Miss Florrie Brabazon was close behind.

### Takapau.

The Christmas services were very largely attended. The superintendent of St. Mark's Sunday School, Mr J. Hughes, is introducing the system of stamp albums. The children of this school were treated to a trip and picnic into the bush on the second day in the New Year.

### Dannevirke.

*Vicar: Rev. E. Robertshawe, B.A.*

*Curate: Rev. G. E. Kear.*

Our annual sale of work on behalf of the three Missions was held on December 7th, in the vicarage garden. This is now the fourth of these annual meetings, and was very successful. The stalls were presided over by Mesdames F. G. Cowper, Maters, Mason, and H. Cowper, and Misses Robertshawe, Wiltshire, Knight, Irvine, and Russell, and were well patronised by the visitors. The large garden is well adapted for a garden party of this kind, and although about 100 were present could easily have accommodated a great many more. In the absence of the vicar at Miss Eccles' wedding at Woodville, the proceedings opened under the direction of the Rev. G. E. Kear. Rain, which had been threatening, fortunately held off until the evening, and, so did not, as at last sale of work, interfere materially with the proceedings. Games of croquet were indulged in, and afternoon tea and ices dispensed. The nett proceeds, after paying all expenses, amounted to £26 10s 4d, which will be divided equally between the Maori, Melanesian, and Home Missions.

Our choir held sometime ago a business meeting and elected officers and drew up rules. The effect of this is shown in vastly improved attendance and singing. Visitors remark that the Evensong service at St. John's compares favourably with that of any other church in the diocese.

The new lesson books for the Sunday School have now arrived, and are much appreciated by the teachers. The lessons are exceedingly well laid out and the notes are most clear and helpful.

Since the Mission a slight alteration has been made in the times for Holy Communion. Previously it was held on every Sunday, but alternately at 8 and 11 a.m.. Now it is celebrated on every Sunday at 8 a.m. and on the second Sunday in the month also at 12. This change has caused an improved attendance. At a meeting of the Matamau Building Committee, it was decided that a new sketch plan should be submitted to the Bishop and Board of Trustees for their adoption.

It is to be hoped that before long tenders will be called for the church.

A good deal of sickness, chiefly arising from colds, has manifested itself among the members of the congregation, but all are making satisfactory recoveries.

A meeting of the O.E.M.S. was held on Tuesday, when the usual forms of procedure were gone through, and petitions offered for the various parochial organisations.

The Wednesday night Bible class has finished their study of the Epistle to the Philippians, and at their next meeting will begin the Epistle to the Hebrews.

On November 30 a most successful gathering of the G.F.S. and M.U. was held in the church, when the vicar addressed those assembled on prayer. After the service all present became guests of Mrs Hartgill and enjoyed afternoon tea and games in her beautiful garden. Such gatherings do an immense amount of good, and we thank very heartily the ladies who superintended the proceeding. Mrs Dawson is president and Mrs Freeman Potts secretary of the G.F.S., and Mrs Giesen secretary and Mrs Eaton president of the M.U.

### Whakatane.

*Vicar: Rev. J. W. Chapman.*

The great event of last month in this part of the diocese was the visit of the Bishop for the purpose of holding confirmations. Unfortunately the visit was a very hurried one, owing to the Bishop having to visit Auckland to confirm in a few parishes there. The Bishop arrived from Rotorua on the 16th, and in the evening held a Maori Confirmation in St. George's Church, Whakatane, at which three natives received the Apostolic Benediction of the Laying on of Hands. The next morning the Bishop, accompanied by the Revs. W. Goodyear, Ratema, and J. W. Chapman, proceeded to Ruatoki, where they were met by the Rev. Pene Hakiwai. A Confirmation Service was held in the Mission House, when ten mission girls and two or three others were confirmed. The Bishop's address to the confirmees will, we are sure, long live in their memories. The Mission House at Ruatoki, under the zealous care of the Rev. Pene and Mrs Hakiwai is doing a very real work for the natives in this particular locality. We trust that before long the scope of its usefulness will be largely increased by the erection of a very much larger and more suitable building on a site above the present house, which is being given by the natives. Returning to Whakatane in the afternoon, a pakeha confirmation was held in the evening, when twenty-three candidates were presented by the vicar. There was a very large congregation, and the Bishop's words to the candidates were listened to with rapt attention. The next day the Bishop proceeded to Matata by the beach road, and a very hearty service was held in the native school in the evening. The next morning he left for Te Pake via Paengaroa. Unfortunately the weather, which up to this time had been beautifully fine, turned out wet,