

lamented Mr. Robert Groom, sen., whose constant attendance at Church and interest in Parish affairs has been so well known to you all for many years. The past 12 months has indeed been a period of trial and of change to his family. May they, through it all, have felt themselves rooted in "Him, who is the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever." Mr. Hansen has also gone beyond the veil. He was a man well known in his younger and stronger days for his sterling qualities and public spirit. Mr. Edgecombe (Kopua), after three or four years' weakness, followed by sickness, has also passed away. He was a man widely respected for his honesty and straightforwardness. Not only the old, but the young, too, have been called to their account. Miss Lillian Watson faded gradually before our eyes, a victim to consumption. It was not the only bereavement her parents have borne during the past year. "Whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth."

Church Services.—At Kopua a monthly service has been held for the past six months. This has been due to the kindness of Mrs. Sanders in allowing the use of her drawing room, and to the help of Miss Saunders in playing for us. Judging by the attendance at these bright and homely services, I think they have come to stay.

Ladies' Church Guilds.—I cannot yet say whether the ladies of the Makotuku Guild intend to hold a bazaar this year. At Ormondville the Guild is again steadily working. Their assistance is invaluable. Since the proceeds of the bazaar held by them goes to the General Church Fund, a claim exists upon all the Parish to assist. I am glad to be able to state that two ladies at Kopua have made an offer, which has been gladly accepted, to prepare a stall at the Ormondville bazaar to be called the "Kopua Stall." It would be encouraging if other centres did the same. Such a method of helping would have the double effect of stirring up a spirit of friendly emulation among the stall-holders, and also would call out to some extent the help of parishioners in all parts of the Parish.

Whetukura Church Buildings.—During my ministry here, now over three years, we have worked steadily to create this Fund. It now reaches a little over £250. Of this sum, half, or £125, has been lent to the Vestry, and the Glebe has been purchased with it. The loan is due to be repaid by next Christmas. So far only £25 has been subscribed. This has been given by parishioners in Ormondville. The subject of the repayment of this loan will be brought forward as part of the business of the evening. If the loan were repaid, there should be nothing to prevent the Whetukura Church being built in the ensuing spring or summer.

The Glebe.—Unquestionably the most important matter, outside the ordinary routine of Church work, is the subject of the Church Glebe. The sum of £125 will shortly be due to

the Whetukura Church Building Fund, this being the amount of their loan to the Vestry. Of this £25 only has so far been collected.

Some adverse criticism has been made of the action of the Vestry in purchasing this land. I may say its purchase was authorised some 18 months ago, at a full meeting of the Vestry, there being only one dissentient to the proposal. Personally, I quite agreed with the gentleman, Mr. Warrington, who brought the proposal forward. These two facts should never be lost sight of in criticising this subject:

- (i.) Had the Vestry not bought it when they did they would have lost it perhaps for ever. It was the only convenient land, contiguous to the Church, that was, or is ever likely to be, available.
- (ii.) The second consideration is that the Vestry had no foreknowledge of the wholesale departure of so many of our best Church people. Let me say this in a general way. The possession of the Glebe has been most convenient to me as a grazing paddock. Not only has there been an abundant supply of grass, but a winter supply of hay, too, has been found for the clergyman's horse. Partly out of a sense of appreciation of the use of the Glebe I have planted and fenced, at my own cost, some 200 ornamental trees around the paddock. I think it is difficult to overrate the value of this Church property. The present Vicarage is fast falling into disrepair. In a few years the Parish, after selling the present house, may be ready to undertake the erection of a fresh Vicarage on the new land contiguous to the Church, where it should be. Meanwhile, a shelter hedge will be growing up. The Glebe only awaits draining, stumping, cleaning up, and laying down in English grasses to convert its somewhat desolate appearance into what, with the Recreation Ground, will become the prettiest and most attractive paddock in Ormondville. It will be a valuable and most useful Church property.

Dannevirke.

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

Curate: Rev. C. E. Nicholas.

From letters which have been received from the Rev. E. Robertshawe, we learn that he has been already greatly benefitted by the change and rest, and hopes to return in February next fitter than ever. He has been staying for some time at Leamington, in Warwickshire, and at last advices was moving into Yorkshire.

Mr. J. R. Russell, the late Choirmaster at St. John's, has just arrived in England, after a splendid voyage. The new Organist and Choirmaster, Mr. J. Prinze, entered on his duties on the 4th August.

The annual meeting of parishioners was held on Wednesday, July 24th, and though the night was teeming with rain, there was a fair attendance. The financial report was an excellent one. Though there was a falling off in offertories, the amount received from seat rents and annual subscriptions had largely increased. The Christmas Day offertory was a special one towards the New Stone Church Fund, and amounted to £27. The following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing year: Vicar's Warden, Mr. F. J. Knight; People's Warden, Mr. F. G. Magnusson; Vestry, Messrs A. Webber, F. A. Butler-Harrison, H. Tilsley, S. Tansley, F. Fiecken, W. Dobson, S. E. Wright, and R. Soundy.

The Vicar's suggestion to set aside the first Sunday in each month for a united Communion for the workers in the various organisations of the Church has met with a very good response, about 70 being present on the first Sunday in July.

The new Communion set in silver, and most of the other brass ornaments asked for by the Vicar-in-charge, have been promised, and it is expected that all the articles will arrive and be dedicated for use on Christmas Day.

Three aged parishioners have recently passed to their rest—Mrs. Wells (who for several months previous was a great sufferer), Mrs. Warner, and Mrs. Wratt. We extend our sympathy to their sorrowing relatives.

Patutahi.

Vicar—Rev. H. T. Rawnsley.

The annual meeting of parishioners was held in the Church on Wednesday evening, July 24. The balance-sheet for the year ended June 30, 1912, was read and adopted. The finances were shown to be in a satisfactory condition, and the Vestry hope this year to considerably reduce the debt on the Vicarage. The Vicar congratulated the Vestry on a successful year, and stated that the attendance at most services had been well maintained, and the number of Communion had increased, though one or two of the country centres were very weak.

The following Vestry was elected: Vicar's Warden, Mr. J. B. Broadhurst; People's Warden, Mr. R. Sherratt; Vestrymen, Messrs East, Billham, Woodward, Jerram, Randall, Sherratt, and M. Willbraham.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Sunday-school teachers, Choir, Ladies' Guild, Organists, and all Church workers, and to Mr. C. P. Davies, the auditor of the Church accounts.

Te Karaka.

Vicar—Rev. T. A. Meyer.

Last month the annual social took place. It was a moonlight night, and the weather was good. The hall was crowded, and the people enjoyed themselves thoroughly. The Vestry left the undertaking in the hands of Mr. F. W. Gardner, and he managed