

The Ven. Archdeacon, in the course of a powerful sermon, begged his hearers to remember at all times the primary use of the hall. It was, he continued, secured for the purpose of enabling the Christian people in the district to have a building where they could meet together for the worship of Almighty God, and although it would be used for secular purposes he hoped and prayed that the hall would always be dear to the people of the district as a place where their souls communed with God.

The hall is capable of seating one hundred people and is fitted with beautiful portable Church furniture, including Altar, with ornaments, Font, Prayer Desk and Lectern. It is built on a corner section in the middle of the settlement and will be a great boon to the place.

In the evening the Ven. Archdeacon preached to a large congregation in the pretty Church of St. Michael's and All Angels', Matamau, returning to Dannevirke at a late hour after a good day's work. Messrs Benson and Prior very kindly drove the Ven. Archdeacon and the members of the Choir to Piri Piri. During his visit to Dannevirke the Ven. Archdeacon Ruddock was the guest of the Rev. C. E. Nicholas.

Mr Geo. Lewis, licensed law-reader from Stratford, is visiting the district, and has very kindly assisted in the country services which have been much appreciated.

Tauranga:

Vicar: Rev. Eric D. Rice, M.A.

The Lenten Services have been fairly well attended this year. The Vicar is preaching a course on Wednesday evenings in town, and on Thursday evenings at Gate Pa, besides taking a Lenten Mission for children on Wednesday afternoons after school. Of course the ones who need the help of these special services most don't come, but the attendance of the faithful ones illustrates the truth of the words "to him that hath shall be given."

Our Harvest Festival was held on Quinquagesima Sunday, when the Church was beautifully decorated. The offerings of fruit and vegetables were sent to the Richmond Road Children's Home, Auckland.

Just before Lent, chiefly through the kind offer of the popular contractor, Miss Ruby Oliver, of Auckland, we had a most delightful concert in the Parish Hall, the proceeds being devoted to the improvements to the Church grounds.

We are looking forward to the Bishop's visit to the parish towards the end of April, when there will be a parish social to enable us all to meet him.

Tenders have been let for the building of a Vicarage, and the removing of the Parish Hall to another position in the Church grounds.

S. Matthew's, Hastings.

Vicar: Rev. J. B. Brocklehurst.

Curate: Rev. N. Robertshawe, M.A.

Last month the Sunday School and Bible Class opened, and a keenness is noticed which should continue throughout the year. The teachers' classes are being revived on Tuesday evenings, and are a real help in giving lessons afterwards. The staff of teachers is being augmented, and regularity of attendance is looked forward to as being the mainstay of the vitality of the work.

During Lent there are the usual weekly services on Wednesday evenings with instructions on the Creed. So far the attendance can only be called fair. The Show has intervened and the atmosphere of continual press of other things has a tendency to crush out the keeping of Lent. And yet it is a period whereby we can advance deeply in our appreciation of spiritual things. Fasting and prayer still bear their fruit in the lives of earnest Christians. If we would practice more restraint in earthly affairs, and give more entrance to the influence of God's Holy Spirit, our individual faith would be deepened and fired with vigorous power.

During the month we have had a visit from Miss Bagnall, the Travelling Secretary of the Auckland Women's Branch of the Bible in State Schools League. She gave a very enlightening address on the meaning and work of this League, and altogether encouraged us by her view of the work that has been accomplished. This was on Friday, March 12th. On the following Sunday evening, Canon Garland preached to a crowded congregation on this same subject. He gave a most convincing sermon, and provoked wide discussion on the matter. It is clear that people only wish to understand the principles more clearly before they commit themselves to support the scheme. We are pledged to do all in our power to bring this great effort to reintroduce Bible reading to a successful issue.

The C.E.M.S. held their monthly meeting on Wednesday, March 11th. Those who were able attended Evenson in Church, and afterwards the regular meeting was concluded in the Parish Hall. This Society has in its power to be a great influence for righteousness amongst men. The rule of service and prayer should be constantly before us.

The G.F.S. is again in a flourishing position, commencing its operations on March 5th. Many new members are seeking enrolment, and it is a real help for girls to find an encouragement for mutual help and sympathy in the ranks of such a Society.

Once more the Gleaners' Union is to re-meet after a recess from November. The first meeting is fixed for

March 26th, in the Parish Hall. Now that these Societies are taking up their regular meetings, our energies on the spiritual side of life is being developed, and religion enters into daily life as well as on the specially appointed days of services.

The Church building grows apace, and will soon be noticeable from many quarters.

Te Karaka.

Vicar: Rev. G. Watson.

The Lenten Service on Wednesday evenings has been very badly attended so far, and the fact that the congregation at any of the Services on Ash Wednesday was in the singular, shows that the Church people of Te Karaka district have not learnt the great need that all have for times of real penitence, effort and self-sacrifice. Let us hope that all are making some individual effort after holiness, trying to seek God's face by the way of penitence as our Bishop's Lenten Pastoral advised us.

A meeting of the Vestry was held at the Vicarage on March 6th. Archdeacon Williams was present and congratulated the Vestry on the erection of the Vicarage. It was hoped that a statement of the total cost of the Vicarage would have been presented at the meeting, but the Churchwardens were unable to do this. The cost of the Vicarage has exceeded the £450 limit by about £50. Mr Appleton who has worked so hard as Secretary and Treasurer for the Annual Fete, presented a balance-sheet which showed a credit balance of about £95 which is very satisfactory.

We were very pleased to have our Bishop with us on Sunday the 15th. His Lordship preached at the Evening Service when our parish Church was well filled. On Monday the Bishop went up to Matawai by the morning train, being met at Otoko by the Rev J. W. Robinson. He returned by the evening train, and on Tuesday morning left for Pututahi. It was a flying visit, and we are all looking forward to His Lordship's next visit on the first Sunday after Trinity, when he is coming to re-open the Maori Church at Puha which our Maori brethren are putting into repair and furnishing.

The Vicar is taking his annual holiday after Easter, and will be absent from the parish for two or three Sundays. Rev. M. W. Butterfield has kindly offered to take duty at Te Karaka on Sunday, 26th, the second Sunday after Easter, and the Services on the other Sundays will be arranged for.

The following subscriptions for the "Gazette" have been received by the Vicar:—Mrs Turnbull, Mungatu, 5/-; Mrs Gardner, Te Karaka, 2/6; Mr G. Bell, Te Karaka, 2/6; Rev. G. N. Watson, 5/-. Total 15/-.