

will be a minister indeed, one full of strength and courage and earnestness. Amen.

### VALEDICTORY.

(By a Parishioner.)

It was with feelings of profound regret that the parishioners and people of this district learned that their Vicar, Mr Davidson, was about to sever his connection with the parish in order to take over the new charge of Otane.

Immediately upon hearing of Mr Davidson's promotion, the local people set about to show their appreciation of his ministry in this district and decided to present him with a purse of sovereigns as a mark of appreciation of his ministry in the Tolaga Bay parish. As the local town hall has been demolished by fire it was decided that the best course would be for the committee to meet Mr Davidson privately to make the presentation. Accordingly a meeting of the committee was summoned at the Vicarage for Tuesday, the 23rd December, and at the conclusion of the ordinary business, Mr Holder (Vicar's Churchwarden) handed Mr Davidson a purse of sixty sovereigns, and in doing so referred to the Vicar's ministry in the parish in highly eulogistic terms. Mr Holder laid particular stress upon the fact that the departing Vicar had never at any time spared himself and had made almost superhuman efforts to systematically and thoroughly work the huge parish entrusted to his charge. He exhorted Mr Davidson to spare himself a little more in his new parish in order to conserve his strength to carry on the work for Christ that he has undertaken.

Dr. Weeks (People's Churchwarden) spoke a few words of thanks for Mrs Davidson's work in the parish and laid particular stress on the good work that has been done by her.

Mr Davidson was taken entirely by surprise, and was obviously deeply moved by the spontaneous expression of love and goodwill shown by his parishioners and the people of the district generally. He feelingly returned thanks for the many kindnesses he had been shown in the past, the presentation made to him that night, the good wishes for the future, and more particularly for the appreciative words spoken of Mrs Davidson. He said that his ministry in Tolaga Bay parish had been a very happy one but that he felt that the state of his health would not permit him to do justice to the work of such a scattered parish. Keen regret was felt throughout the parish that circumstances would not permit of a public farewell to Mr and Mrs Davidson, but the Church officers were reluctantly compelled to make the pre-

sentation in private as it was felt that whilst we have no public hall, there was no place suitable for such a gathering.

Mr Davidson left for his new charge on Friday, the 2nd January, and the prayers of the parishioners will go out that his ministry in Otane might be as successful as it has been in Tolaga Bay.

### Waipukurau.

Vicar: Rev. A. W. C. Stace.

On Monday next Mrs Harper is to give a big euchre party in S. Mary's Hall in aid of the forthcoming bazaar. A splendid musical programme has been arranged and one and all can be sure of a good evening's enjoyment.

On Sunday last the Rev. H. Collier took the morning and evening services, and the Rev. A. Stace preached at Takapau. The Sunday School will re-open on February 1st.

Just before Christmas Mrs Von Dadelszen gave a most enjoyable "Fancy Gift" afternoon, also in aid of the bazaar. The guests were entertained with a most amusing competition entitled "A Feather Wedding," and several of the guests gave musical items, which were much enjoyed.

### BAPTISMS.

Derek Monekton Simmons.  
Emslie Thomas Reid.  
Lawrence Aylmer Reid.  
Kietie Emily Jessie Lloyd.  
Doreena Vine Hall.  
John Hall.  
Leslie Gordon Hall.

### BURIAL.

On January 9th, William Jones, aged 70 years.

### Tauranga.

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

The Christmas Services were well attended, especially the early Celebration, when there was a record number of communicants to worship the "new born Babe" of Bethlehem. The Church was looking very beautiful in His honour, as the result of efforts of members of the Junior Guild under Mrs Baigent. The pulpit, decorated with designs in moss, was especially beautiful. Our thanks are due to Mrs McDonald, of Ngawaro, for the moss, and to Miss Kensington, of Oropi, for the lycepodium.

With beautiful weather on New Year's Day the success of the annual Sunday School and parish picnic was assured. The "Torea" took two big loads to the Mount, where everybody was well catered for by Mr F.

H. Hammond, assisted by the teachers. The picnic paid for itself, and there was absolutely no accident.

The scheme for building a Vicarage has advanced another step. After one meeting proved abortive, another meeting of parishioners authorised the Vestry to undertake a loan up to £500 for a Vicarage. Now the advance in the matter should be a bit quicker than it has been for the past twelve months. A scheme for improving the parish hall when moving it was postponed for a time.

A most interesting demonstration of the Kindergarten method of Sunday School teaching was given in the parish hall last month by Miss Turner, of Dargaville, whose zeal and enthusiasm has fired us all. There was a good attendance of parents and friends. The effort should greatly help in the improvement of the most important part of parish work—the training of the children.

A green silk burse and veil, made at the Deaconess House, Christchurch and paid for by the members of the Communicants' Guild, was dedicated at the early Celebration on the second Sunday after the Epiphany.

### S. Augustine's, Napier.

Vicar: Rev. Canon Tuke.

Half the Parish seems to be absent on holiday. Many have gone to Auckland, and many others are camping out nearer home. The "holiday season" congregation is very evident from its thinness. A good many in camp could and should come at least once on Sunday and not neglect their Celebrations and other services as they are doing.

The Sunday School has kept up well in attendance during the month; quite half the scholars have been present. We are hoping to hear the results of the late examination soon.

All parishioners and especially parents are requested to give a donation to the Annual Sunday School Picnic which will be held on Wednesday, February 4th. Given a fine day we hope again to spend a hard but enjoyable day's work in the old camping ground at Farndon Park. We are always pleased to have our parents and friends with us. We shall leave by the 9.25 train and return to town before six o'clock. Hot water for picnic parties will be provided as usual.

The heat on several Sundays during this month has been very trying. An electric fan or two in the Schoolroom and two large ones in the Chancel and body of the Church would allow our teachers and children to sit in comfort; and the congregation and choir to feel less drowsy and overcome by the thick