

We welcome several new communicants among us and hope soon to again present more candidates for the "laying on of hands." Miss Law, headmistress of the local High School, has undertaken the senior boys' class at the Sunday School, and the Vicar hopes to be able to start a senior class of Bible students.

On Sunday, February 20th, the Vicar and the Rev. H. Collier interchanged. We very much liked Mr Collier's rendering of the musical portion of the service as well as his very thoughtful sermons.

#### MATAMAU DISTRICT.

Harvest Thanksgiving services were held on Sunday, 27th inst., at Te Ruhunga, Matamau, and Umatoroa. The Churches were tastefully decorated and the services well attended. The sermons were preached at the different places by the Archdeacon of Hawke's Bay and the Rev. C. Nicholas.

#### Puketapu.

Vicar: Rev. M. W. Butterfield, B.A., B.D.

It is really time we had a little news in this column to show that we are alive. Only a few copies of the "Gazette" have been taken in this district hitherto, but as we have forty copies per month supplied to us now we should make use of it.

The Bishop visited part of the district at the end of January. Mr Kinross White kindly lent his car to take the Bishop and the Vicar as far as Patoka. There the Bishop called on as many of the residents as possible and stayed the night at Mr Roil's. On Sunday Mr Dunnage motored us to Puketitiri. The weather was moist but not nearly wet enough to account for the absence of so many from Divine Service. I hear that several settlers were away on holiday, but even so we might have done better.

The Bishop preached at Matins and celebrated. After service we shared the kind hospitality of Mr and Mrs Simcox, and the Bishop baptised their infant son. Service at Patoka was well attended as usual. Mr Bennett then motored us to Rissington. We had tea at Mr Geoffrey Moore's, at Riverbank, and were motored afterwards to the Schoolroom. There was a large congregation, although several of the usual members of it were prevented from being present. The Schoolroom had been specially prepared for the occasion; new curtains were hung over the windows, and vases of flowers placed very artistically in various parts of the room. Every effort had been made to make the room as fit as possible for the service. The Bishop administered Confirmation to five candidates.

The Vicar has to thank Miss Spencer for her valuable help in preparing these candidates for Confirmation.

We were the guests of Mr and Mrs F. Hutchinson, Jr., on Sunday night, and by him we were motored back to town next day. The Bishop enjoyed the kind hospitality everywhere accorded him, and looks forward to similar visits again.

The Parish Picnic was held on Saturday, February 5th, and was well attended. Our "dear little Sunday School," with its handful of pupils, was in evidence. The Sunday School prizes were distributed, and a programme of sports duly appreciated. Organised by Mr Joe Bicknell, a collection had been made amongst the members of the congregation for a small memento for Miss Ballantyne, in acknowledgment of her two years' faithful service as organist. This took the form of a beautiful wristlet watch. We were sorry that Miss Ballantyne was unable to be present, and we missed Miss Mountfort, to whose energy, for two years, the School owed its existence. The day was very warm, but everything passed off happily.

Country Communion.—The Vicar is very anxious that if possible no Sunday shall pass by without a Celebration of the Holy Communion somewhere in the parish. Celebrations are now held whenever possible, and as the opportunities are so few, communicants should not allow one of them to pass without taking advantage of it.

A private Communion set, or at least a small portable one, is urgently needed. I know it has only to be mentioned and someone will supply it. I think we have some of the most generous people in New Zealand in this district. We are proud to know how much people are doing for the various war funds and do not like to ask for too many things just now, but still there are some urgently necessary.

The Vestry are moving in the matter of buying or building a Vicarage. It is felt that this can be done more advantageously now than after the war when the price of building material will have risen considerably.

The Vicar has found the motor cycle and side-car a very great help in his work, but is still dependent on the horse and gig for rough travelling. Mr Beamish has most kindly had the gig and harness all done up. The Vicar takes this opportunity of expressing his thanks to him and to other parishioners who are constantly helping in one way or another.

The Vicar would be grateful if relations of soldiers on service would send him their names so that they may be remembered in the great intercession at our Sunday Eucharists.

Parishioners throughout the district were heartily pleased to hear of the honour bestowed upon Sir An-

drew Russell, of Tamumu. We heartily congratulate him and Lady Russell and hope they may be long spared to enjoy the dignity so fittingly bestowed.

The Vicar will be away in camp at Rangiotu from March 16th for ten days, but will try and get the services on the 19th supplied.

The Rev. R. Blathwayt, of Hastings, will preach at Puketapu on Ash Wednesday evening.

#### Matawai.

Vicar: Rev. J. Pigott.

The new Vicar arrived in the parish on Thursday, January 27th. He was met by Mrs Fleming, who kindly provided him with hospitality for the night, and Mr Cameron, who has been acting as lay-missioner in the district under the Vicar of Te Karaka. We regret to state that Mrs Fleming is now in the Gisborne hospital seriously ill. Our prayers and sympathy are with her, her husband and family.

On Saturday the Archdeacon of Waiapu arrived by the morning train to conduct the service of the institution on the following day. He inspected the Church site in the afternoon besides making the acquaintance of some of the parishioners. Mr Fleming kindly provided him with a horse, and in the evening he rode on to the Motu, where he stayed the night with the Vicar at the hotel.

Although heavy rain fell on Saturday evening, Sunday was comparatively fine and we started the day with a Celebration of the Holy Communion in the Schoolroom at 8 a.m. at which there were seven communicants, the Archdeacon being Celebrant. At 11 a.m. we had choral Matins, the Archdeacon preached and the Schoolroom was well filled. At 7 p.m. the Vicar was instituted to the newly-formed parochial district of Matawai. The Archdeacon conducted the service, gave a short address after the institution, and the Vicar preached at the end of Evening-song. We had a very good congregation and the weather for Matawai was equally good. The Archdeacon was the guest of Mr and Mrs Ral de Latour that night, who kindly drove him over from the Motu. On Monday morning he left by the 7.40 a.m. train. We enjoyed having him with us and his addresses were a spiritual help to both the Vicar and the people.

Rakauroa.—The parish is suffering a great loss by the impending departure of Mrs Shaw and family from Rakauroa. Mrs Shaw, for reasons of family health, has decided to leave Rakauroa in a few weeks' time for Gisborne. They are still keeping on the station, so we hope to see something of them from time to time. The Shaws have been devoted Church people and the mainstay of our ser-