

death of Mrs Haultain, better known to us as Constance Clarke, who only a little over a year ago left with her husband to share his life and anxieties as a Missionary in Africa, but who has now been called to her long home, leaving him with the love and burden of twin daughters. The services in our little Church on the 3rd Sunday in Lent were most pathetic when the Vicar with Mrs Clarke took their places quietly as worshippers, leaving the entire services to the Rev. J. Hobbs, who came out for the occasion, and preached appropriate sermons on the Calls which come from God and the Response which we return. Large congregations at Taradale, morning and evening, and at Meanee in the afternoon, testified by the beautiful expression they put into the hymns and every part of the service, both the very deep sympathy for their very highly respected Vicar, and the love for her who will always be just "Conny" to them. The effect of this sorrow will be to bind us even more closely together, and increase our interest in the Mission Field.

Waipukurau.

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

The Annual General Meeting of the Mother's Union was held on Friday, 16th March, at St. Mary's Sunday Schoolroom; business, to elect officers for the ensuing year. The Vicar, Rev. A. W. Stace, presided. Mrs Stace was again elected President; Mrs Scruby, Representative; Mrs Nicholson, Treasurer; Mrs Reid, Secretary. Proposed by Mrs Stace, seconded by Mrs Nicholson, "That the Mother's Union contribute three parcels a month to the Lady Liverpool Fund."

It was unanimously decided that a collection should be made on Friday, March 29th, after Corporate Communion Service in aid of distressed women in Servia, France and Belgium, and sent as an Easter gift. It was also decided to contribute £1 10s yearly to the Mary Summer House.

Since our last meeting one of our oldest and most helpful members has gone from us in the person of Mrs W. A. Williams, whose practical help and cheery disposition will be much missed in the future.

Our Lenten Services are, I am pleased to say, well attended.

Mrs Stace gave a very pleasant evening at the Vicarage last week to bid farewell to two young lady members of St. Mary's Choir.

Mr Broome-Smith, F.R.G.S., gave a most interesting address to a large gathering of people at St. Mary's Hall on March 15th. This was certainly one of the best Missionary meetings yet held in Waipukurau.

BAPTISMS.

Henry William Clapperton, Nancy Ellen Turner, Thomas William Robertson, Margaret Alison Menzies, Charles Jack Briddell, Jean Lamont Monteith, Harry Monteith, Helen Bret Monteith, Queenie Pakepuke Te Whakaake.

Tolaga Bay.

Acting Vicar: Rev. E. A. McCutcheon.

Native Work: Rev. W. Tureia Puha.

Lay Reader: Dr. Weeks.

The extremely bad weather and its disastrous effects upon our roads have combined to greatly set back the work of visiting and holding services in the various outlying districts. More time, therefore, has been devoted to the centre, and it is very helpful to us all to note the steady increase in the attendance at the services at S. Andrews. The early celebration of Holy Communion and Mattins, however, are not receiving the attention they should. Let us all wake up and not give to God the fag end alone of the day's services.

Mr P. Holmes has very kindly consented to give his services as Choirmaster, and under his careful guidance, the choir is learning to do its part with that reverence and devotion which can win souls to the service of Christ.

Mrs Weeks is doing faithful work in the Sunday School, and except when I am free to attend, she is unassisted. Will none this Lent deny self in order to come and impart to the little ones, so dear to the heart of the Master, a knowledge of the scriptures, the Church's beautiful catechism, and the sacraments of our Lord? Consider! "Is it nothing to you all ye that pass by?"

At 3 p.m. on Wednesdays in the public school a short Bible Class is held, on the lines of the Nelson system. Parents are asked to co-operate and encourage their children to attend. The teaching is unsectarian.

Puketapu.

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

Parishioners will be glad to know how Captain-Noel Beamish got the Military Cross. We append the official description of his action:—

CAPTAIN FREDERICK NOEL BEAMISH, 1st Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment. In the action at "Les Boeufs" on 23rd Oct., 1916, this officer led his Company with the greatest dash during the day and by his coolness, well supported the Company which had gained an advanced and isolated position. When Captain Waters was wounded he took command, re-organised both Companies, consolidated, and held the position under heavy Machine Gun fire.

This officer's name was brought to my notice in the attack on 12th October, 1916, for good and cool leadership. He is the life and soul of everyone, and by his coolness and bravery is a great example to all his men. Recommended, from what I have heard, Captain Beamish organised all the parties of the two Battalions who were in the Gun Pits, and by his gallantry and coolness did much to help the attack and holding of them.

Awarded Military Cross 9th Nov., 1916.

Tauranga.

Vicar: Archdeacon Tuke.

Lay Readers: Messrs. C. J. Butcher,

T. R. Philpotts and F. A. Stevens.

Confirmation Classes have commenced and are held each Thursday at 5 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. Private classes for any who cannot attend at either of the above hours can be arranged for with the Vicar.

Our subscribers to the GAZETTE will please note the call of the managers of the paper that their annual subscriptions should be paid at once. Mr T. R. Cross, the People's Warden, will forward any sent to him. May I ask for a prompt response.

The circulars asking our Parishioners to join in supporting a "Stipend Fund" will have reached most of them by this issue. As it is not a personal matter, but the duty of every churchman and churchwoman to support the Church, the Vicar asks everyone to do his share. As long as we rely only on the offertories, which are badly affected on wet Sundays, we shall never get our Church finances satisfactory. If all would have joined the Envelope System, all had been well; but as so few, comparatively speaking have, it is urgently necessary to create a Stipend Fund similar to that which is in nearly every parish.

There are several about here who will sympathise very deeply with the Rev. A. P. and Mrs Clarke, of Taradale, in the loss of their daughter (Connie), who had lately gone to the C.M.S. in East Africa with her husband, the Rev. Donald Haultain, for whom many prayers will be offered in his sad bereavement.

Two of our soldiers have fallen of late viz., Frederick Ralph, who leaves a widow and child, and Alver Fenton, who was educated here and well known in the Bethlehem District.

One of the oldest settlers here, Mrs Alley, passed away recently, leaving her husband and well-known members of her family to mourn the loss of a good mother and wife. We offer our heartfelt sympathy with all of these in their losses.

Corporal Reeve, of Gate Pa, has been invalided home. We are glad to hear that the voyage did much to improve his health. Private Dudley Mansel from there will be leaving with the 26th Reinforcements. Sergeant Southey has been having a strenuous time in leading a raiding party in France lately, and Mrs Charles Mansel's son had recovered sufficiently from his wounds to go to Egypt in the Mounted Infantry.

The Vicar held another good service at Oropi and at Whaha Marama last month. At the former he was hospitalized by Mr and Mrs F. Kensington.

Holy Week and Good Friday services will soon be announced.

It is hoped that many will take their share in decorating the Church for Easter and procure Lycopodium and other greenery suitable, and white and gold flowers. The Chrysanthemums will hardly be out in time.

All Communicants are reminded of their Easter Communion and the Good Friday services.