

Matawai.

Vicar: Rev. D. B. Malcolm.

The annual meeting of parishioners was held at the Vicarage, Matawai, on Saturday, July 20th, the Vicar presiding.

The Vicar's annual report dealt with the work of the parish since he took charge, about the end of January.

He extended his thanks to the office-bearers for their services, and to the ladies conducting the Sunday schools—Miss Howe and Miss Bulst at Matawai, and Mrs R. E. Bilham and Miss Cooper at Otoko. He also mentioned the good work of the Ladies' Guild, and the successful sale of work that they held in December.

Two Church sites have been acquired during the year—one at Motu, and the other at Oponae.

The annual balance-sheet was read by the treasurer, Mr C. C. Ruby, and disclosed a credit balance—General Fund £26 3s 8d, Building Fund £34 10s 8d.

The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows:—Vicar's Warden, Mr J. Emmerson; People's Warden, Mr C. C. Ruby; Vestry, Messrs R. de Lautour, J. Hennessy, R. Fisher, N. H. Shaw, and Stoeker (the latter subject to his agreeing to act).

We extend the deep sympathy of the parish to Mr and Mrs J. Hutchinson and family in their recent great bereavement.

The public of Matawai and district are to be congratulated for the splendid way they came forward and subscribed for the purchase of timber to erect Mr Mannix's whare, who had the misfortune to lose all his effects by fire.

August 4th was observed as requested by the Bishop. The services at Otoko, Rakaurua and Matawai were marked by large congregations, and a very devotional atmosphere.

We hope to welcome Captain Allen, early in September. He is visiting the Matawai parish, his object being to raise funds on behalf of the Church Army, per medium of entertainments, and our arrangements will be published later.

The Vicar requests that the names of those wishing to be confirmed be sent in to him at once.

Opotiki.

Vicar: Rev. Thomas Fisher.

The one thought of the year past can be told in the phrase "Carry on!" The task has been stiff at times.

Perhaps inevitably there is a real danger of a lowering of the spiritual and moral life. Against this I ask you all to help by more earnestness in prayer, and more constant realisa-

tion of the presence of the living God.

We may find encouragement (1) in the increase of Communion made during the year, in spite of all distractions; (2) in the gatherings together in earnest prayer and seeking after God when great perils of war were heavy upon us, and in the enlarging of the small circle of those who think it worth while to respond to the noon prayer-bell; (3) the lively interest repeatedly expressed by those who are, or have been, in the thick of the fighting; (4) above all, in the realised presence of God in the services of His House, notably in the Sacrament of His love.

Though it is cause for thankfulness that so many of our Opotiki boys are spared, yet we grieve to record two losses. Arthur Brunt, killed in action on the battlefield, near Albert, in France, on March 30th, 1918. A good and dutiful son of our faithful member, Mrs Brunt, and a regular worshipper; and Walker Barrett, whose fate is still unknown; he was twice wounded, and on March 30th, 1918, was spoken with on camel back, near Jericho, being carried to a dressing station. It is believed his camel got bogged on that night, and he fell into the enemy's hands, "wounded and missing, believed prisoner of war." His C.O. adds: "Never was a braver boy in action." Many of his former neighbors hold on to the hope of his ultimate return. He was awarded the M.M., "and it was never more worthily earned!"

Ormondville.

Vicar: Rev. F. W. Whibley.

The Bishop of Waiapu held Confirmation services in our district on August 18th, sixteen being confirmed at Ormondville and eleven at Makotuku.

At Ormondville: Edward William Henley, Charles Horace Newling, Thomas Finnamore Jessop, John Lee Vigers, Claude Love, Maxwell Stewart Mulholland, Raey Eric Clark, James Neville Beattie, Rita Isabel Williams, Margaret Milner Healey, Kathleen Jessie Hill, Kathleen Eva Wilmer, Doris Mabel Wilmer, Frances Jane Barnes, Brenda Mary Hegg, Jessie Ethel Annie White.

At Makotuku: Hull William Daniel Hammond, Philip Hugh Bailey, Geoffrey Alan Bailey, Lionel Edward Boyte, Albert Victor Boyte, Alexander Charles Patchett, Elsie May Boyte, (Mrs) Annie Garrick, (Mrs) Helza Rangahill Kahina Schaare, (Mrs) Elizabeth Geddes.

Very large congregations attended at each service, and reverently witnessed the apostolic custom of "Laying on of hands," listening with rapt

attention to the earnest words of our Bishop.

Our annual meeting cannot be held until August 28th, too late for this issue of the "Gazette."

Mr Fothergill (people's warden) has been unwell, and has spent a few days at Rotorua. We all trust he may be benefited by the change, and come back invigorated for the work he does so faithfully and well.

Havelock North.

Vicar: Rev. J. A. Lush, B.A.

Curate: Rev. A. Hall, M.A.

This last month has been one of annual meetings. At St. Luke's the Bishop came for the Sunday and preached to the children at Clive in the afternoon, and after visits to the schools on Monday spoke at the annual meeting in the evening. The finances were sound, and the main outcome of the meeting was a resolution to call the congregation together in order to endeavor to start a Kindergarten Church School, and find a suitable teacher. At Clive he found that about £40 more had passed through the books this year, of which £23 were special offertories. We hope to start a Communicants' Guild in this part of the parish—to bind together all the full members of the Church for instruction and devotion.

Confirmation classes are being held in preparation for the visit of the Bishop in November.

Several subscribers have not yet paid their annual subscription of 3s 6d. Will they please do so at their earliest convenience?

The Vicar is at present in a stationary hospital in France as chaplain, and seems fairly well, though he has been away longer than any N.Z. chaplain. We are anxious that he should come back while he is fit and strong, and give to the Diocese the benefit of his work with the men.

Whakatane.

Vicar: Rev. H. W. Klingender.

The Bishop of the Diocese visited this parish at the end of June, and held a Confirmation for Maori candidates at Matata on the evening of his arrival, and on the following morning consecrated the Church to the service of God, and dedicated it the name of St. Augustine.

The Ven. Archdeacon Tuke, and the former vicar, the Rev. W. J. Chapman were present, besides the local clergy.

The service was well attended, there being some 30 Communicants, Maori and Pakeha. Lunch was provided in the grounds after the service.

The Church people of Matata are to be congratulated on having their