

at Pouawa, and it is hoped that it will be possible to have a weekly service in it. An organ has already been purchased to aid the singing.

The attendance at Sunday school steadily increases. We should gladly welcome the help of two additional teachers.

The Harvest Festival was generously supported, and we are most grateful for all that was given.

### WOODVILLE.

We are awaiting the arrival of our new Vicar, who is expected at the end of April. Meanwhile the services are being maintained as well as possible. The Diocesan Chaplain is here this month, but next month (April) we shall have to depend on our lay-readers.

The Rev. G. W. Davidson, who is on leave through sickness, has resigned the parish, and his resignation takes effect on March 31st. Mr. Davidson is living at Foxton, but manages to come occasionally to see us and to visit some of his friends. We are glad to know that, as a result of his rest from regular duty, his health is somewhat improved. We hope that he will be able to carry out his wish to preach at Evensong on Easter Day.

The Sunday school resumed on March 7th, but only a comparatively small number of the children attended. The attendance was much better on the 14th, but will have to improve still more before it reaches its former level. No doubt the infantile paralysis scare has much to do with the poor attendance.

### OTANE.

The exterior of St. James' Church has been painted, and the walls inside have received a coat of oil and varnish. The renovation of the interior was necessary, owing to the spraying of the walls some seven or eight years ago with disinfectant, in order to exterminate a plague of insects which infested it, rendering the walls unsightly. The contractor has made an excellent job of the work. Pulpit and Lectern Falls of white damask have been given by our linked branch of the M.U. in England, St. Mary's, Wallasey, as a Christmas gift, and a parishioner has given a violet set as a thanksoffering. Another parishioner has embroidered a violet burse and veil, and is at work

on a red set, and both these sets will be used at all Communion services throughout the parish, while another has promised a new hymn-board. We are grateful to the donors of these gifts, which were all badly needed.

The number of Communicants at the early celebration on the Sundays in Lent has been very encouraging. The attendance at services at Omakere has also improved. With the due observance of Holy Week and Good Friday a happy and joyful Easter is assured.

## THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CORNER.

My Dear Girls and Boys,—

Next Friday is Good Friday. Some people think of it as a holiday. For Christian people it is a very holy day, because our Master and our King was hanged upon a cross on the first Good Friday.

Jesus was crucified? Then why call it "Good" Friday? Surely that was a "bad" and dreadful day?

Our Lord came to earth to show us what God is like. He came to show us that God loves us and cares for us; but that God hates sin because it separates us from Him. Jesus loved us so much, and He wanted us so much, that He lived always for us, and then died a shameful death for our sakes.

The hymn you know so well tells us:

"He died that we might be forgiven;

He died to make us good."

So you see, it is "Good Friday for us because all that happened on that day was for our good.

On Good Friday all of our Lord's followers will think of His great act of Love for all people on that first Good Friday.

What did His first friends think? They thought as His enemies thought—that Jesus was dead, and would never be seen again. They were full of sorrow and despair. But their sorrow was turned to joy.

Would you like a story about two of our Lord's friends?

Two men were walking along a quiet country road. They were friends, and they were in trouble. Their faces were drawn and sad, and they looked as if they had not slept well of late.

One spoke, and said, "It is so hard to believe that He is dead. He who was always loving and good, dead! I felt that He would be our King. Now that can never be. They have killed Him."

"Yes," answered the other. "His enemies have got rid of Him, as they said they would. But what have they done with His beloved body? The tomb is empty."

As they talked they felt someone join them. The Stranger asked the cause of their sorrow. The two friends were amazed. Where did this Person live that He had not heard of the death of Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified on Friday? Then the Stranger began to talk and His words seemed full of wisdom. As they drew near their house they invited the Stranger in to have a meal. There, at the table, as He took bread and gave thanks to God, the friends knew Him.

It was Jesus! He was alive! Oh! the joy of the rapture of it. "Jesus is risen! Jesus is risen!" they sang. Though they could no longer see Him, they knew that He was alive. Quickly they ran back to Jerusalem. But what different men! Now their faces were happy and radiant, and as they ran they cried, "We must tell the others the Good News. He is risen! We have seen Him!" And they rushed into the room where the friends of Jesus were gathered: "He is risen!! Jesus is risen!" they cried, and as they did so Jesus Himself appeared in their midst. They knew, and you and I know, that "Jesus is risen, and is alive for evermore." This "Good News" is for all the world, because men and women and boys and girls of all countries belong to Him. Because Jesus rose from the dead, so shall we. You and I need never be afraid of death, because Jesus has conquered it. He is stronger than death, and has taken away all its power.

Shall we pray for our brothers and sisters in other lands on Easter Day? Some of them have never heard the name "Jesus."

And shall we try to have as our first waking thoughts—

"Jesus is Risen! Alleluia!"

Your friend,

D. M. BEATTIE.