

The Church Times, The Record, The Church Family Newspaper, all published weekly, not one of them is official. They are all private ventures like any other paper. I think they pay their way, though I am not sure, but they are not subsidised. New Zealand is a very small place compared to England. Is there any possibility that any men can be found in this country to risk losing money in establishing a National Church Journal? If not, I fear we must stay as we are.

DO NOT DELAY CONFIRMATION

Recently the Bishop of St. David's held a Confirmation in Goodwick parish church (St. Peter's) for the two parishes of Fishguard and Goodwick. The congregation almost filled the church, and there were nearly forty candidates, nineteen girls, ranging in age from little girls to young women, and about an equal number of boys. The service was conducted with dignity and devotion, the hymns being sung with that sense of tune and rhythm which is a special gift of Welsh folk. The Bishop, vested in cope and mitre, was attended by his chaplain, the parish clergy, and the vicar of Fishguard.

Before beginning the service, the Bishop said: "I want to take this opportunity of speaking to parents about a matter which is causing me some anxiety. I hope you will never discourage children from coming forward for Confirmation because you think them too young. The age of Confirmation is being delayed more and more. I ask the parish clergy, 'Why don't you bring children to be confirmed?' They reply: 'We do our best, but the parents say they are too young.' Remember what our Lord said. He had to rebuke those who would have kept children from coming to Him. 'Suffer the little children to come unto Me.' He told them that children were capable of having more spiritual knowledge than older people. You can be quite sure that little children, say from ten to twelve, grasp the spiritual meaning of Confirmation even more than those of nineteen or twenty. The greatest leakage of those who have not been confirmed is among those who have not been trained early.

Children who have been confirmed quite early less easily fall away after Confirmation."

—Church Times.

PARISH NOTES

ST. ANDREW'S, PORT AHURIRI

Rev. W. S. G. Cameron, Vicar.

Good Friday Services.

The response to the appeal for the Procession of Witness was very pleasing, for such an act does much to keep our own lamp of faith burning and help the weak and wavering ones. Other services on Good Friday were well attended. The Three Hours' Devotional Service which was conducted by the Rev. W. T. Drake was very helpful and much appreciated. The Easter services also were well attended and the number of communicants slightly exceeded those of former years.

Eskdale held their Harvest Thanksgiving Festival on May 7th, the gifts being given to St. Mary's Home, Napier and France House, Eskdale.

The Mother's Union has resumed its activities for the year and members are asked to remember that they meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month. The annual meeting is to be held on May 24th.

At the annual meeting of the Girls' Club the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—President, Mrs. W. S. G. Cameron; vice-presidents, Misses D. Reeves, Reynolds and Rogers; secretary, Miss C. Haultain; treasurer, Miss H. Cameron; committee, Misses B. Haultain, L. Mentzer and N. T. Downs.

The Anzac Commemoration Service that was held at Eskdale was most uplifting. The service was conducted by the Rev. E. H. Kedgley and the Rev. W. S. G. Cameron and the address was given by the Bishop.

GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY

Advice has been received that Miss M. W. Preston, Girls' Friendly Society delegate from headquarters, London, will arrive in Napier on 15th June, 1939 and will be the guest of the Bishop of Waiapu and Mrs G. V. Gerard at Bishops Court. Tentative arrangements are being made for Miss Preston's G.F.S. organising work in the Waiapu Diocese.

Miss Preston is only 28, very nice looking, and a trained Girls' Friendly Society worker. Also has gained diplomas in Domestic Sciences, a Speaker's Training, and has worked with the Christian Student Movement. Miss Preston should make a strong appeal to the modern girl.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The matron of Abbotsford Home wishes to acknowledge with grateful thanks the following gifts:—Harvest Festival offerings: St. George's, Gate Pa, Tauranga; fruit, vegetables, mutton, clothes, honey, St. Peter's Parish, Waipawa; Holy Trinity, Woodville; one sheep, Mr. H. White; jam and clothes, Mission Shop, Waipawa; apples and pears, Mrs Meredith; potatoes, Omakere W.I.; parcel oddments, Mrs King, Waipawa.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor,

Waiapu Church Gazette.

Sir,—

I appreciate Mr. McLean's thoughtful letter on the observance of Good Friday, but I think he has missed the point about the buns.

It seems to me that they accentuate the message of the day and recall to the members of the household the message of Good Friday. The sacramental teaching of our Church emphasises the fact that each meal and all our activities should be an extension of the Eucharistic service. All our food is symbolically marked with the sign of the cross and on Good Friday these buns bring us this message.

The redeeming work accomplished on Good Friday has for its ultimate goal the bringing of the earth and all that dwells upon it back into the circle of the Divine love, and the round bun with the surcharged cross symbolises this great fact. The spices which it should contain have also an interesting meaning.

I do not think, however, that anyone can accuse the present-day bun of being a happy accompaniment to a feast!

Yours,

REGINALD GARDINER.

Havelock North, 11/5/39.