

# Parish Messenger

## RINGWOOD PAROCHIAL DISTRICT.

VICAR: REV. C. J. T. MARTIN,

The Vicarage, Ringwood Street, Ringwood. Phone: Ringwood 74.

No. 42.

APRIL.

Bi-monthly.

### S. PAUL'S, RINGWOOD.

Sunday Services: 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday School every Sunday, 3 p.m. Holy Communion: First and Third Sundays, 11 a.m.; Second and Fourth Sundays, 8 a.m.; Fifth Sunday, 7 p.m. Holy Baptism: 4 p.m. Sundays (except last Sunday of month). Churchwardens: Dr. A. T. Langley, Messrs. C. Wedge and A. C. Ostrom. Vestrymen: Messrs. J. W. Barrett (Secretary and Treasurer), W. Northrope, C. Patterson, J. Roberts, Davidson and Pendlebury.

### SOUTH WARRANDYTE.

Services: Every Sunday, 3.30 p.m. Sunday School: Every Sunday, 2.30 p.m. Holy Communion: At Vicar's Monthly Service. Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Capeness.

### MISSIONARY WORK.

The Armenian Church in Jerusalem has initiated and supports its own educational work, and has secured the advantages of contact with the West by inviting the co-operation of a sister Church of the West. The Armenian Church stands out as the most progressive, self-reliant and hopeful body of Christians in the ancient East. The Armenians were the first people of the world to make Christianity their national religion. These are the people who are so terribly persecuted by the Turks, and yet they maintain their faith. They have been goaded to greater effort, and in Jerusalem they have their only school of theology which survived the war for the training of clergy. They are bending every effort to make this college up to date. American Armenians are giving great help, and the American Episcopal Church is co-operating with this work. Soon again we hope to see the Armenians a great power for the Lord in the East.

### FREEWILL OFFERING TOWARDS REMOVING CHURCH DEBT.

In our last issue we mentioned that an effort would be made to remove our heavy debt. At the Annual Meeting it was unanimously agreed that the Vicar should personally confer with the parishioners on the question. I now wish to prepare all for my call by stating the position. I am not going to be for the Church, but rather to remind



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all that the Church property is the property of the parishioners, and that the debt upon it is their debt. As their agent I ask their co-operation in the removal of a heavy burden. First I ask, make this a matter of prayer: that God will guide and enable you to do your duty to God and His Church, when I call you, will be ready to entrust me with your offering. If you wish such to be anonymous, I will keep your trust and enter your gift accordingly, and in all cases no one will know what his fellow has given until I have completed the work, when a full list will be submitted. Money received will be paid into a Trust account. I hope to begin this work immediately, so please be prepared. Carefully digest the Financial Report and the note above on "My Church" and then by God's guidance act as becomes a churchman by setting aside what your heart directs as your share in this year's effort to remove the debt of £2300 from the shoulders of yourself and your fellow-churchmen. This gift must not be confused with your regular contributions to the current expenses of the Church. The Vestry respectfully asks all to accept the envelope scheme through which a regular income for ordinary purposes is secured.

### OUR PRESENT FINANCIAL POSITION.

Last year's figures show: Stipend, £300; upkeep of buildings and other expenses, £170; interest, £140; new Vicarage, £1250. Against these expenses we received: Donations, £89; collections, £200; Mitcham and South Warrandyte, £40; Ladies' Guild, £145; hire of hall, £38; rent, £36; sale of land, £414. The Diocesan loan of £1380, and one from the E. S. and A. Bank of £1700 form a financial burden which cannot be allowed to remain. The sale of the old vicarage has reduced the actual debt to £2900. What is your duty just here? The full statements are posted in the Church porch.

### HARVEST FESTIVAL.

This will be held on Sunday, 25th inst. The Rev. Mr. Norman will officiate at the morning service and the Vicar at Evensong.

### ORGANIST.

For a considerable time we have been without the services of a regular organist. We are pleased now to report that Miss Moss has accepted the position. To those who have so kindly and ably carried on we offer the heartiest thanks of the congregation. We ask the choir now to rally, and try to make our Church worship as bright and uplifting as is possible.

### THE CHILDREN.

This year is a splendid one in the Church's general outlook. Everywhere it is "What of the children?" It is my hope that we may establish a "Young People's Scripture Union." I have a supply of member cards at 2d. each; short readings for each day of the year are given, and members are asked to pray every Sunday morning for each other. Are you interested in children? Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

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### MY CHURCH.

How often have you heard it said—or said it yourself—"Yes, I am a member of the Church of England. St. \_\_\_\_\_ is my Church"? A good many times, no doubt; but have you ever thought what that little word "My" implies, especially when associated with the noun "Church"? First, "My Church" carries with it privileges.

It is My Church, not the Vicar's, or the Vestry's, but mine.

It is My Church, not because of the work I do for it, or the gifts I make to it, but by virtue of my Baptism. I am born into it. I am a member of the family.

It is My Church, and, as a member of the family, I have certain rights and privileges, such as the right to Worship, the right to the Sacraments, the rights to the services of the Clergy. No invitation is needed any more than I need an invitation to my own home. A warm welcome is pleasant and desirable, but it is not essential, and its absence will not affect my claiming and using my privileges. No one can drive me away from My Church. A story is told of an old Scotch woman who had a quarrel with her minister. On the following Sunday she was in her place at Church, and when the minister expressed his surprise, she replied, "Young man, my quarrel was with you, not with the Lord."

My Church is my Father's House, and I will not allow any human failure or shortcoming to weaken my loyalty to Him, or affect my position or attitude as a member of the family.

And then, My Church carries responsibilities. The possessive pronoun. "My" always does. When a doctor says "My patients," or a lawyer "My clients," or a priest "My people," it implies solemn responsibilities for them. And when I say "My Church" it implies responsibility, too.

Since it is My Church, I will do my part by being regular in my attendance. I will do my part to create a warm, kindly, brotherly, family atmosphere. I won't so much look for a welcome, but will look for the chance to give one. I will not so much expect to be called upon, but will do some calling myself. It is My Church, I am the host, and I must be there to welcome as guests all strangers and visitors.

Since it is My Church, I will do my part in helping financially. The Church is my mother. If my mother is in need, I want to help.

Since it is My Church, I will try to take as much interest in it as I do in my own home. I will take a personal pride in its appearance and furniture, and not leave it all to be done by others.

Since it is my Church, its honour is mine. I will not allow others to criticise it, neither will I criticise it myself. Should I find myself forced to criticise it for any real reason, I will take every care that such criticism is constructive, and not merely destructive.

Since it is My Church, I will try to be an asset, and not a liability, a plus and not a minus quantity. I will remind myself often that a Church includes parishioners as well as clergy, and that by my oath of enlistment I am pledged to confess the faith of Christ crucified, and manfully to fight under His banner, and continue His faithful soldier and servant to my life's end.—(From the Parish Paper of St. Mary's, Preston.)



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PRAYER FOR PARISH.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Thou good Shepherd of the sheep, who did'st come to seek and to save that which was lost; we beseech Thee to be present in Thy power with Thy Church in this parish. Show forth Thy compassion to the helpless, enlighten the ignorant, succor those in peril, and bring home the wanderers in safety to Thy Fold; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

Edited by your friend and pastor,

C. J. T. MARTIN.

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