

HARRIETSHAM TIMES

News from January 1917

New Year Message from the Rector

I send you my best wishes for the New Year, and I sincerely pray that it may bring peace to the world, and that we may see our friends and relatives restored in safety to their homes before another Christmas comes. But I fear there is much sorrow and suffering yet to be borne before that longed for day comes, for I feel sure that I am echoing the feelings of all hearts when I say that we do not desire peace until the objects for which we went to war are achieved.

There can be no peace worth having till Germany has made reparation for the crime of plunging Europe into war and for the atrocities she has committed by land and sea and air, No peace can be lasting unless we are assured that it will not be in the power of Germany to provoke another European war at any moment she may choose, and we need some more certain guarantee than her pledged word, for that we know by bitter experience we cannot trust. Without that assurance all the sacrifice that has been made on our behalf will be in vain.

Christmas was certainly not a merry one to any of us, but even in the midst of sadness Christmas brings Happiness, because it gives us assurance that Jesus Christ took upon Him our human nature in order to share in the sorrows of the world, and that our friends who have died in the war must

have won His approval in that they have followed His example and laid down their lives for their friends. It is, therefore, both surprising and sad that so many people should neglect to worship God on Christmas Day. The peace we long for can only really be a blessing to the world if men and nations really believe in and worship Almighty God, and honestly try to practice the teaching of His Son our Lord Jesus Christ. To these great duties then I urge, not only for your own sakes, but for the sake of the Country which we love.

Your affectionate Rector
H. de V. WATSON

Collection from the Christmas Services

The Christmas Services were fairly well attended. At Matins the congregation was swelled by a large contingent of the Royal Flying Corps, from Stede Court, whom we were glad to welcome, and at the three celebrations of the Holy Communion 67 people made their Communion. Several Communicants were ill or away from home. We regret that many who were in good health neglected their bounden duty. The collections for the Lord Kitchener Memorial Fund for Wounded Officers and Men amounted to £4 4s, 3d.

Wedding of Gladys Finnis

Lieut. G. Fulcher and Miss Gladys Finnis were married by the Rector on January 4th at St. Cuthbert's, Phillbeach Gardens. Lieut. Fulcher has returned to France, and will we trust be spared to come home in safety.