

ST JOHN'S, REDHILL AND THE SECOND WORLD WAR

The following are extracts from the diary of Rev WAR Ball, then Vicar of St John's, and from the Surrey Mirror.

Part 1: 1938

From the Surrey Mirror

April 29th 1938

ST JOHN'S NEW VICAR INDUCTED IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY AT REDHILL

WARM WELCOME BY HIS NEW PARISHIONERS

St John's Church, Redhill, beautifully decorated with flowers for the occasion, was filled to capacity on Friday evening, for the Institution and Induction to the living of the Rev. W.A.R. Ball, M.A., late of St George's, Ramsgate. The congregation was appreciably swelled by the presence, in addition to communicants and worshippers at St John's, of people from various other churches in the neighbourhood, manifesting the interest centred by the corporate church locally in this solemn service; also a large number of Mr Ball's old parishioners, testifying by their attendance – which necessitated a three hour journey – to the high regard in which the new incumbent was – and still is – held by those to whom he ministered in Ramsgate.

October 2nd 1938

UNDER SHADOW OF THE CRISIS DEDICATION FESTIVAL SERVICES AT ST JOHN'S, REDHILL

Under the shadow of the international crisis the people of St John's had added incentive to observe their annual Dedication Festival last week-end. There were good attendances at all the services, and the collections throughout the Festival amounted to approximately £138.

The Festival opened on Friday with celebrations of Holy Communion at 7.30 and 11 am and a special service for the school at 9am.

There were celebrations of Holy Communion at 7 and 8am on Sunday, and at mid-day. At Morning Prayer the preacher was the Provost of Southwark (Rev J. B. Haldane), who stressed the need for a better use of the imagination. Thinking of things that were not real was not a proper use of the imagination; rather should they use it to make pictures in the mind.

Prayers of thanksgiving for peace were offered up and appropriate hymns sung during the service, which also included a Commemoration of the benefactors who had enriched the beauty of the church by their gifts.

A children's service was held on Sunday afternoon, at which the Rev H.H. Anderson was the preacher and at the Festal Evensong the preacher was the Vicar (the Rev. W.A.R. Ball) who made a reference to the passing of the crisis, and spoke of the Prime Minister's efforts for the peace of Europe. He also called for a rededication of our lives to the work of God.

