

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.

1942

January 1st

On this day on our "Active Service list" there were

- 287 men, 5 women, 9 Prisoners of War
- 1 Missing, 10 Killed

From the Surrey Mirror

March 24th

STRENGTH OF SPIRIT WILL WIN THE WAR,
SAYS VICAR OF ST JOHN'S, REDHILL

"It has been the unread Bible, the unsaid prayers, unattested sacrament and unattended church which has driven God out of the minds of men asserted the vicar at the annual Parochial Church Meeting.....It was surely the duty of Christians to let people know that by strength of the Spirit of God rather than men and machines that the war would be won."

The vicar referred to the death of The Rev. E. A. Douglas and expressed sympathy with Miss Douglas, who had, last week, lost also her mother. The meeting stood a moment in respect to the memory of Mr Douglas.

The Electoral Roll was presented by Miss Gwen Cooper. It contained 1,418 names compared with 1,453 last year.

How best to help relatives of men killed on active service had been considered. Nothing permanent could be erected at present, but a wooden stand had been put outside the east window of the church, where flowers could be placed.

At the meeting a presentation was made to The Rev. C. J. Butler who is shortly leaving to become a Chaplain in the Royal Navy.

From the Diary of Rev Ball

Tuesday April 7th

The Rev. C. J. Butler left this day to be a chaplain in the Royal Navy. He had preached his last sermons at St John's on Palm Sunday March 29th which was appointed by HM The King as a Day of National Prayer.

Sunday April 12th

Over 60 Pioneers from Shenley, under Lt. Fathers, attended mattins.

Friday May 1st

Mr C. K. Turner (organist) leaves this day to join up in the A. F. S.

Sunday May 10th

Pioneers from Shenley attended the morning service.

Tuesday July 14th

Miss Hoyle leaves her home as it has been taken over by the military.

Sunday June 21st

Pioneers from Shenley attended the 11am service. After this Sunday the Pioneers were very greatly reduced in numbers at Shenley and Romanby.

Thursday September 3rd

This day, at the King's desire, was observed as a Day of National Prayer. Six services were held in St John's Church and were well attended. At the School Service at 9.45am the girls from St John's Council School and the boys from Dolmain Road (evacuees) attended with our own school. Also a voluntary service taken by the vicar (WAR.B) at The Fuller's Earth works was very well attended.

Friday September 4th

Start of 4th year of war.

On this day on our "Active Service list" there were

- 318 men, 9 women, 11 Prisoners of War
 - 11 Killed
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Sunday November 8th

The Redhill Section (newly formed) of the Women's Junior Air Corps came to Mattins at their request as the vicar was appointed chaplain to W.J.A.C. (Redhill). (NB from this time the W.J.A.C. came every 2nd Sunday in the month at 10am).

Sunday November 15th

The church bells were rung this day in the morning as an act of thanksgiving for the victory over Rommel's army in Egypt. Six ringers under Mr A. Gear rang the six bells – (2 could not be rung as no ringers). A large congregation attended the 11am service.