

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.

1941

January 1st

There were 162 names on our Active Service List.

Saturday January 11th

In the evening about 7.45 pm twenty eight delayed action and other bombs were dropped in the parish. These fell on the Brighton Road, the sewage farm and Earlswood Common and no-one was killed or injured and no material harm caused!

Sunday February 9th

At 3.30pm a "Musical Service" was held on behalf of "Red Cross". A raid warning was given while the "lesson" was being read but no-one left the church and the all clear soon came. £7 -12 -0 was given in the collection.

From the Surrey Mirror

February 19th

"HE WILL COME HERE NO MORE"

REIGATE SCOUTS AND GUIDES MOURN FOR B-P – MEMORIAL SERVICE
AT ST JOHN'S, REDHILL

Striking tribute to B-P ...was paid at the memorial service at St John's Church Redhill on Sunday afternoon....The church was filled to capacity, what few seats were left after about 750 scouts and guides of the Reigate and District Associations had taken their places being quickly filled by the public.

Sir Jeremiah Colman was unable, much to his own regret, to attend owing to ill health but was represented by Hon District Commissioner Newton E Hazel. Lady Colman was present and also in the congregation was the Lord Privy Seal (Sir John Anderson).

The service was conducted by the vicar.....The address was given by the Rev. H. H. A. Anderson CF AKC formerly curate at St John's and at one time Scoutmaster of the 4th Reigate (Hooley) Troop.

From the Diary of Rev Ball

Saturday 1st March

Number on Active Service is 186: also 3 killed and 1 Prisoner of War.

Sunday March 23rd

H M the king appointed this day as a National Day of Prayer. The services were well attended especially the 11am service when a company of the a.m. P.C. were present (the local company with H.Q. in Mill Street).

From the Surrey Mirror

April 1st

REPRISAL RAIDS UPON GERMANY

PLEA AT ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

A plea for public opinion to assert itself against reprisal raids on German towns was made by the Vicar of St John's at the Annual Church Meeting at the Parochial Hall.

"I would plead with you", he said, "to see what you can do in your own little way on this question of retaliation upon Germany".

The revised electoral roll was presented by Mr Gear and contained 1,453 names – five less than last year.

The accounts, presented by Mr A K Miles, showed a balance of £12.

From the Diary of Rev Ball

Tuesday July 1st

This day there were 225 men, 3 women and 3 Prisoners of War on our Active Service list. Also 6 men killed.

Sunday July 20th

The Company of Signallers billeted at Shenley attended the 11am service.

Sunday August 10th

The Company of Signallers billeted at Shenley attended the 11am service under Lt. Pirie.

Wednesday August 20th

Parish fete and S.S. treat held at the Mount now occupied by a HQ Co of Pioneers, Lt. Col. Sir John Usher Bart and Major Ashdown MC obtained two tents and a marquee for our use and tables and forms for tea. The weather was bad and the programme had to be curtailed.

Monday September 1st

On this day the "On Active Service" List was composed as follows: 244 men, 3 women, 5 Prisoners of War, 2 missing and 7 dead. Total 261.

Sunday September 7th

National Day of Prayer. At 11am a company of the Pioneer Corps (from Romanby in Mill Street) and a company of signallers (from Shenley) attended. £15-15-0 from the collection was sent to the RAF Benevolent Fund.

Sunday September 14th

At 11am 75 men with NCOs of the 72nd Seaforth Canadian Highlanders came to our service from South Nutfield. The Rev. Capt. and Chaplain Orme came with them and read one of the lessons.

From the Surrey Mirror

September 27th-30th

98TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST JOHN'S REDHILL

PARISHIONERS THANKOFFERING OVER £144

On Sunday ...The preacher at morning service was the Rev. Rev Anderson, Precentor of Southwark Cathedral, who spoke to the parishioners on the theme of their rededication and of the many blessings for which they should be thankful. They were fortunate at this time, he said, to be able to worship in their own, undamaged church for about two-thirds of the churches in the diocese had been damaged by enemy action, some of them being put completely out of use.

From the Diary of Rev Ball

Sunday October 5th

Harvest Festival at St John's attended by company of Signallers (Shenley) at 11am.

Wednesday November 12th

A sale on behalf of the CMS was held in the church vestries. It proved a great success, the amount raised being £92-10-0.

Sunday November 16th

For the first time the early celebration at 7.15am was held in the clergy vestry. Owing to black-out difficulty.

Sunday December 7th

At 11am about 60 men, NCOs, and the officer in charge, Lt. Richardson, of the Pioneer Corps, newly stationed at Shenley, attended service. The lesson was read by Lt. Col. Stillman of the Canadians.

Thursday December 25th

On Xmas eve a mid-night communion was held at Hooley Mission as St John's could not be blacked out and 90 were present. At St John's at 7.30am a celebration was held in the vestry and 51 were present.