

HTSM First World War Monthly Journal

June 1916

Military Hospital in Warren Road

The Rector's letter began 'I have received instructions from the Assistant Chaplain General, Eastern Command, that I am to be responsible for the spiritual welfare of the sick and wounded men who may be sent to the Military Hospital in Warren Road. It is possible that this bit of special war work will make serious inroads on my time. I have, however, taken advice, and am led to the conclusion that it would be wrong to evade this opportunity of doing what is a very congenial task. I can only beg your kind indulgence if parochial work gets into arrears. We are living in special times, when nothing can go on "as usual;" and I do not think that anyone living in a parish which has done so much for soldier, will blame me for undertaking this work.'

The Hospital was in the Union Workhouse and was run by the Royal Army Medical Corps under Herbert Powell of Piccards Rough, whose home became a Convalescent Hospital. The Warren Road Hospital opened in March 1916.

The Church of England Men's Society reported that they had sent £51 to the fund for Rest Huts behind the lines in France, and had sent Easter cards to all their members in the forces. Four thank-you letters were printed.

A chaplain in France appealed for eight psalters for a choir he was forming for Sunday services. Three green stoles for Holy Trinity were also requested.

The Holy Trinity Lads' Guild put on 'an entertainment to the wounded soldiers at Waverley Hospital [which] unearthed unexpected musical talent ... [and] the football team has been well above the average, and brought its season to an end by combining with "Guildford Stars" and defeating the Godalming boys in a charity match before a large crowd.' The hospital was in Waverley Abbey house, near Farnham. A summer swimming club for the Lads was doing well and it was hoped to have cricket and boating clubs as well if funds allowed. They did, and an end-of-year report in October noted that they were a great success. The Guild had a midsummer boating picnic in June.

However, most groups in the parish, such as the Band of Hope, Mothers' Union and Sunday School, decided not to have an annual excursion or party but the choir boys were going to be taken out for a day.

Mary Alexander