

# HTSM First World War Monthly Journal

## January 1915

### **The parish adjusts to wartime.**

The Rector, E.C. Kirwan, had clearly been agitating to be allowed to go with the 5<sup>th</sup> (Reserve) Battalion of the Queen's Regiment, who were being sent to Windsor, but the Bishop 'thought it undesirable'. Kirwan must have been disappointed. However, the Chaplain-General 'has entrusted the Rector with the spiritual charge of men who may be sent to Guildford without a regular chaplain'. This probably cheered him up by giving an outlet for his martial spirit. There were men from the Royal Field Artillery in Guildford, from the 46<sup>th</sup> and 47<sup>th</sup> Brigades, and Kirwan arranged a Church Parade in Holy Trinity for the men only. The congregation had matins at a later time.

The Rector had received a letter from S. Wagstaffe, a parishioner, who was on HM Trawler *Dentaria*, who thanked the parish for the socks, mufflers etc that had been sent. These would have been knitted in homes throughout Guildford to provide some extra comforts to the serving men.

The magazine also mentioned Lord Kitchener's appeal to the public to help soldiers at home, and not to treat them to drinks. The natural reaction to buy a soldier a drink was having disastrous consequences in drunken-ness, as least as the authorities saw it.

Belts were being tightened in Guildford. The bell-ringers had decided not to ask for the Belfry Fund that year because there were so many other calls on people. In December 1911 it was noted that the bells needed work, including a new frame. This was done in 1912 and the bells were rung for the first time on Christmas Day. They were dedicated in February 1913. There were no funds for repairs or building work so everything had to be done by appeals to the congregation. The Belfry Fund may have been making up a shortfall after the 1912 work, or it may have been an annual request for funds.

Mary Alexander January 2015.