

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

This was held at the Parish Hall on March 19, the evening beginning with the serving of coffee and sandwiches. This period gave people time to greet one another, introduce newcomers, and also an opportunity of canvassing for last-minute nominations for the P.C.C. and committees!

At 8.15 p.m. the Vicar formally opened the proceedings with a moment of prayer. Then, as Chairman of the Meeting of Parishioners, he explained that this part of the evening could be attended by any ratepayers in the Parish, whether or not on the Church Electoral Roll, and that they were able to vote on the election of the two Churchwardens. Mr. Brunt expressed his regret at Mr. Rockliffe's illness, and subsequent absence from the meeting, and hoped that we should very soon see him back in our midst, fit and well. This sentiment was heartily endorsed by all. Following the reading of the Minutes of the 1968 meeting, Mrs. Orton proposed that Mr. G. I. Robinson and Mr. L. Rockliffe be re-elected as Churchwardens. This was seconded by Mr. Brooks and unanimously agreed. The Vicar then called on all those who were not on the Electoral Roll of the Church to withdraw.

The Minutes of last year's Annual Church Meeting were read. After one or two minor alterations, they were adopted unanimously.

The numbers on the Electoral Role had increased in the past year. Only one name had been lost, and eleven had been added, making the present total 188.

In his Report, the Vicar said the Church Council had met nine times, with two special meetings to consider the questions set by the Bishop of Kensington.

The Vicar spoke of the decline in the number of young people confirmed—a very sharp one between 1956 and 1966. Some of the other points he made are summarised as follows:

The Church to-day is often a frustrated and somewhat bewildered one. What is our role, what is our job—on the parochial level, the national level, the international level? 85 years ago, the job on the parochial level was much more clear and plain. The Church stood first for God and His Glory, and the worship due to Him. A primary task of the Church was the training of young and old so that they might be able to render due and intelligent worship and service to God.

Then there were all kinds of practical jobs to be done in the parish: they didn't have to be looked for, they were there for all to see. There were all kinds of obvious needs to be met—and the other agencies in the field were so few, it was obvious that if they were to be met the Church would have to do it.

For instance, there was *drink*. Many drinking-houses in the parish, and not far afield the glamorous gin-palaces with their slogan 'drunk for 1d., dead-drunk for 2d.' This way of escaping the miseries of life through drink brought instead increasing misery, especially to wives and families—money that should have been spent on food and clothes was squandered in this way, and many a drunken man meted out violence to his family. So the evil of drink had to be fought by the Church, and temperance encouraged in every possible way

Then there were *poverty* and *unemployment*, *bad housing* and *shocking sanitation*. The relief of the poor had always been part of

Christian compassion—and it came high on the list of priorities in our church in 1884. In that year St. James's lost the Hampton Court Grant of £65 a year, and had to decide what to do to replace this loss. As it often did in face of important issues and problems, our church acted in a democratic way in advance of its time, and called a meeting of members of the congregation and laid the responsibility squarely on them. It was felt that a minimum of £210 was needed to maintain the ordinary day-to-day life and work of the Church in this parish—this would mean raising the average Sunday collection from £2-18-8 to £4. The meeting decided to accept the challenge, and that 46 Sundays a year should be devoted to this, and only 6 for charities outside the parish. The first charge on the collections would be *Church Expenses*; the second—*the Poor* (with a qualification—'to the extent hitherto given'); and the third—*the Schools*: and so it worked out something like this—

Church Expenses	£120
Poor	£35
Schools	£55
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					£210
					<hr/>

To provide for the poor, to maintain the schools 'as a nursery for the teaching of religion to the young'—these were the second and third priorities in 1885. Of course, as well as collections in church, there were subscription-lists (bringing in large donations from the gentry, and smaller ones, sometimes a few pence, from the villagers) for special projects, especially in the bad years when unemployment was high, and the ordinary poor-fund could not cope. There were also sales of work and concerts and so on, and gradually the schools came to be supported by these other methods rather than by collections in church.

In 1893, a modification was made and another priority introduced (again after full discussion in a parish-meeting)—the provision of a curate. This meant knocking down the provision made for the poor from £35 to £25 (but presumably times were a little better), and other adjustments.

What about our priorities to-day? Most poverty in our country is now dealt with by the services of the Welfare State, and so the relief of the poor no longer occupies a prominent place in our balance-sheet. But there are still many poor *in the world*, if not on our own doorstep—and it will be seen that they do indeed have a place—and it must be an increasingly large one.

(To be continued)

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK, MAY 12—17

The annual united effort of the various churches affiliated to the Hampton Council of Churches, consisting of the Methodist Church, the Congregational Church, All Saints', St. Mary's and our own parish of St. James's will as usual take the form of a house-to-house collection. Last year in Hampton and Hampton Hill we raised the very creditable sum of £719 and our hope is that we may at least equal this in 1969

and if possible increase our giving to keep pace with the rising price of need.

The SPECIAL PROJECT chosen for our area this year is for Kushta Sevashram leper hospital in Gorakhpur in the Central Provinces of India. The hospital's water facilities serve its domestic needs and can only supply water to irrigate 4 out of its 40 acres of land; this means that 36 acres are under dry cultivation subject to irrigation by the monsoons and the hospital's income is therefore pitifully small. Under the extension Service of the Indian Social Institute the Government has offered the hospital a further 100 acres which, with additional irrigation schemes, could bring in a net income of £900—there is a tractor available locally.

The cost of sinking a tube well and ancillary irrigation will total £2,225 and CHRISTIAN AID has recommended that a grant of half of the money—£1,100—should be made outright and that the other half should be a repayable loan. It would be good to think that, because of the giving of our area, this hospital should be made self-supporting.

As for the ever constant need to help the victims of war, CHRISTIAN AID can and does do much to alleviate some of the world's suffering. Some 400 flights have been made carrying vital supplies of food to the starving in Nigeria and Biafra; in putting medical teams and supplies into Viet Nam; in supplying tents, cooking stoves, etc., etc., for survivors of the Iran earthquake—the expansion of this work is limited only by the funds available.

CHRISTIAN AID work and help, where possible, *is designed to create a situation of self-help*. All local donations go "in toto" to CHRISTIAN AID and the H.Q., estimates that the C.A. Week campaign costs only one halfpenny in every shilling given. No comparable organisation can equal this record.

YOUR assistance will be very welcome—please let Mrs. Orton (979 5868) know. The area was well covered last year but we have many new developments and more helpers will be needed.

REVOLTING CHRISTIANS?

At the Manchester Student Conference on Response to Crisis organised by the Student Christian Movement, Humanists, Communists and Christians met together to discuss the crisis of conflict between the rich white world growing richer and the poor coloured world growing poorer. A self-destroying world.

We found ourselves united:—in disgust with a society based on the priorities of money and power, in seeing the need for revolution—a complete change of attitudes and systems, and in the desire to create a co-operative multiracial world where all men could be economically and psychologically free.

We came to realise that the only way we could help the Third World was by changing *our* systems of exploitation and neo-colonialism. We decided that to do this effectively would involve careful analysis of power structures, intensive study and research into the workings of such firms as [Censored!—Ed.] which help the survival of apartheid in South Africa and prevent effective action from being taken in Rhodesia. We must make the facts known and awaken consciences

and be prepared to embarrass and disrupt the present system by demonstrations and strikes wherever necessary.

We were disillusioned both with capitalism and Russian so-called communism. We felt the need to evolve a new politics which would allow the poor to own and use what national resources they possess in their own interests and in their own way realising that at present we trade with poor countries purely for our own benefit, giving inadequate payment for goods received. Our aid is used as a political weapon and decreases each year (at present it is only one-tenth of our defense bill) and we get 80% of it back via British firms.

We pledged our support to the Haslemere Group—formed last year in response to the realisation of the inadequacy of charities such as OXFAM and Christian Aid—who have said ‘We do not align ourselves with the Third World out of charity. We do so because we are concerned with the health of our own society, because we recognise that it, too, is damaged by an exploitative system . . . the developed world prefers to attempt to put a man on the moon to trying to cope with hunger, poverty, and disease in Afro-Asia . . . A system that destroys the humanity of the family in Asia destroys our humanity too.’*

We discussed ways in which we could work to change a society in which men have become appendages to machines and alienated from their fellow workers: where 94% of university students come from the middle classes: where coloured people are forced to live in ghettos: where 3 million families live in distressing conditions.

We left feeling that the time for talking was over, now is the time for action. Everyone must make their own personal response of dedicated commitment remembering that from Jesus Christ to Che Guevara men have been willing to risk loss of position and even of life to free other men and unless we are prepared to do the same we shall be found wanting.

CLARE BRUNT.

* Haslemere Declaration, price 1/-, 515, Liverpool Rd., London, N.7.

THE PARISH CONCERT

All ages of the district paraded their talents at the Church Hall on Saturday, April 19. It may have been amateur, but all the heart and effort of the performers shone through, from the morals impressed on the audience by the Brownies of both packs to the gay abandon of the Mums in their portrayal of the 'twenties. The whole show was very enjoyable and provided one of those homely evenings for all the family. The curtain appeared to stay closed for long periods at times but one can imagine the chaos behind them that needed sorting out before the next act appeared. I for one would plead that more of these evenings are made available and that those sparks of talent that lay hidden can have the opportunity to come out of hiding. My summing up, “A good and enjoyable evening.”

ONE OF THE AUDIENCE.

ANY QUESTIONS—WAYSIDE, APRIL 13

Before a "full house" an innovation proved a success for the Panel of Four, under the Chairmanship of Bill Robinson.

The Team—Mrs. C. Brunt, Dr. J. Richards, Mr. R. Salisbury and Councillor D. Harris—discussed and gave their views on ten questions from parishioners, ranging from the solution to the world population explosion to preference for coloured bed-sheets, and why! The answers gave the audience much food for thought and information to digest.

Many flashes of humour dissolved the room into laughter, particularly the male view on mini-skirts and false eyelashes. Mr. Robinson involved the audience, as well as the team, in the discussions, and all too soon it was time for refreshments and talk.

The Social Committee's thanks go to the Team and Chairman for a delightful evening.

R.M.B.

Y.P.F. IN SCOTLAND

On Easter Monday, early, 21 young people set off for Dalmahoy, near Edinburgh. Three of these did not belong to St. Jim's, yet they were all happily integrated before Doncaster was reached.

Events in Scotland are too plentiful to report, ranging from scaling Ben Nevis to a dinner with all the trimmings on the occasion of Chris Stuart's birthday.

Many of us who have been on previous holidays deemed this one to be the best yet, which is quite an achievement for the organisers, especially Ann Stuart and Alan Taylor.

There were many sad faces on the way back, but remember, it's only eleven months until the next best holiday yet!

M.C.E.

PARISH OUTING—MAY 17

As Blenheim Palace is closed this day the venue has been changed to Chichester—to visit the Roman Palace at Fishbourne in the morning, and Chichester in the afternoon.

The Palace is the largest Roman Residence yet found in Britain with mosaic floored rooms. These and a Museum are under cover. Admission charges are:—Adult 4/-, Child under 15) 1/-.

A guided tour of Chichester Cathedral has been arranged for 3 p.m. Coach tickets will be available early May from the Social Committee, price 12/- Adults, 7/6 Children.

The coach will leave at 9 a.m. prompt from the Church and return late afternoon.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

- May 5.—8.15 p.m. Properties Committee (81, Park Road).
.. 6.—11.00 a.m.—4.00 p.m. Additional Curates Society: Annual Meeting (St. James's Church, Piccadilly and Caxton Hall); 8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club: Open Meeting—'Mental Health' (W).
.. 7.—2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union: Open Meeting—'Wel-Care' (W); 7.30 p.m. Reception to meet Sister Patricia, of the Convent of St. Mary the Virgin, Wantage, who will speak on the subject of 'Drug Addiction and Alcoholism' (St. Alban's Church Hall, Teddington); 8.00 p.m. Parochial Church Council (W).

- .. 8.—8.00 p.m. Mothers' Union: Deanery Wine and Cheese Party (St. Mary's Hall, Twickenham).
- .. 9—12: PARISH WEEKEND AT HILDENBOROUGH HALL (N.B.: Only service in St. James's Church on May 11 will be Evensong at 6.30 p.m., and no Sunday Schools will meet. There will also be an open meeting of the Junior Council of Churches at St. Mary's Hall, Hampton, at 8.00 p.m. on that day at which a film of the New Park project will be shown).
- .. 12—17: CHRISTIAN AID WEEK.
- .. 13.—7.30 p.m. Mothers' Union: Diocesan Festival Service (St. Paul's Cathedral).
- .. 15.—ASCENSION DAY: Holy Communion at 8.35 a.m. (in St. Anne's Chapel, L.E.H.S.) and at 7.30 p.m. (in church); 8.15 p.m. Liturgical Committee (90, Ormond Drive). N.B.—To-day is the occasion when this parish is prayed for in St. Paul's Cathedral at the Holy Communion Service and Evensong (8.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m.), and if any St. James's people can be present they will be warmly welcomed.
- .. 16.—10.30 a.m. Editorial Board (34, Burton's Road); 8.00 p.m. Scout Group—Annual General Meeting (Hall).
- .. 17.—9.0 a.m. Coach leaves for Parish Outing to Chichester; 3.30 p.m. Old People's Party (Hall).
- .. 19.—8.00 p.m. Stewardship Committee (40, Gloucester Road).
- .. 20.—8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club: Annual General Meeting (W).
- .. 21.—8.00 p.m. Hampton Hill Association: Annual General Meeting (School).
- .. 22.—2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union: Deanery Festival Service (St. Stephen's Church, East Twickenham); 8.00 p.m. Wel-Care Thanksgiving Service (Holy Trinity Church, Brompton Road).
- .. 25.—WHITSUNDAY: Sunday arrangements as usual on the fourth Sunday in the month. (N.B.—All offerings will be for a special 'good cause' to be announced.)
- .. 29.—8.00 p.m. Parochial Church Council (W).

BAPTISMS

On March 30 :

Julia Ann Fisher, 206, Hounslow Road, Hanworth.
Kathleen Anne Miller, 6, Lindsay Road.

On April 27 :

Suzanne Julie Hayler, 8, Hanworth Road.
Jacqueline Hayley Deal, 23, Sanders Close.

MARRIAGE

On April 12 :

Allan Alfred Wright to Valerie Joan Dowsett.

BURIAL

On April 17:

Alice Mary Lamb, 223, High Street, aged 77 years (at Teddington Cemetery).