

## FEED THE MINDS. SCARBOROUGH. OCTOBER 18. 1973

I was invited many months ago to chair a large meeting in aid of the Feed the Minds Campaign in Scarborough on October 18. The Rt. Rev. Trevor Huddleston, Bishop of Stepney, was to give the address, and I was asked to say a few words and introduce him. I accepted, hoping to learn more about this action group, having an idea already of the world-wide need to strive to eradicate illiteracy by education, by the provision of more reading matter of all descriptions, by making available opportunities for training writers, journalists, and others responsible for teaching materials, text books, etc.

Feed the Minds (FTM) - Joint Action for Christian Literature Overseas - comprises the United Society for Christian Literature (USCL), the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge (SPCK), and the Christian Literature Council. Started in 1964 by the Archbishop of York, it raised in the first 3 years £700,000. It has gone on raising money and carefully sponsoring projects, as the Archbishop of York describes in the publication "Outreach" Vol. 6 No 1:-

"Grants for book-vans, for scholarships, for magazines, for newspapers, for training of indigenous authors and managers, for the setting up of printing-presses and bookshops in 28 countries, from Nepal to Fiji, from the Lebanon to Mozambique... I think of the centre in Africa where African writers are trained as journalists, broadcasters and tradesmen, I think of a town in my own Diocese, Scarborough, which raises money to provide five scholarships for Africans to train here in London for book-production. This is long term aid and planning".

The Scarborough meeting I attended was most impressive. Out of a population of 40,000, 1,000 people came to the Methodist Hall to hear Bishop Huddleston. A cheque for £1,000 from the local Girls' High School was received; the collection at the meeting raised £166, and here already there was a scholarship for a student to study at the African Literature Centre at Kitwe in Zambia.

Bishop Huddleston spoke of the need to meet the present moment of crisis in the Christian Church, to teach men's hearts with truth, to do what we can for the astounding rapidity of expansion of Christianity in the world today (for example 90 million Christians in Africa south of the Sahara). He warned of the press and T.V. image of chaos, violence and tragedy which is so often given of Africa, and spoke of the dignity inherent in African poverty, where there is an unwritten law that the little one has must be shared with one whose need is greater; he stressed the importance in African thinking of the community, the richness of African potential and the contribution towards world thinking which can come from this great continent.

I was very proud to have had a share in the meeting.

Hannah Stanton.

## TORTURE AND POVERTY

These are two amongst many scandalous evils of the modern world. The use of the barbarous practice of torture is increasing rapidly throughout the world, and one hope of limiting this is for the United Nations to establish a convention forbidding torture by international law. The leaders of the Church of England have pledged their full support for this effort to secure the outlawing of torture, and we can back them up by signing the Petition asking for this. Forms are available in church.

The General Synod of our Church also asks us to support to the full the World Development Movement's campaign entitled Europe '73. Representatives of all churches and many community groups are involved in the planning of this campaign, which is aimed at helping people to understand how important it is that the enlarged European Community should exercise responsible stewardship of its resources, and work for the narrowing of the gap between rich and poor nations. Leaflets and petition forms about this are also on the information-table in church.

### HARVEST THANKSGIVING

Traditionally, our Harvest Festival consists of two separate celebrations: a festive Thanksgiving Service in Church, which this year fell on Sunday, September 23, and a Harvest Supper on the following Thursday.

The service was indeed a celebration: the church looked its best in its festive garb of autumn flowers, the glowing red of the pyracantha berries a beautiful example of nature's harvest. Rather less romantically, tins predominated among the parishioners' gifts - a fitting tribute, however, for towns-people, and often more useful for the recipients. But fresh fruit and vegetables were also brought to the altar, mainly by children. The large number of these, very young ones with their parents, as well as the scouts, guides, cubs and brownies who had turned out in strength for their church parade, helped to make this well attended family communion service of thanksgiving such a joyful occasion.

We all felt we had good reason to be thankful for our plentiful daily bread, and we were happy to join in further celebration on Thursday afterwards, when this "bread" took the shape of a delicious turkey-salad with all, but really all, the trimmings. Our Harvest Supper always is very popular, we could easily fill a larger hall. And that is no wonder considering the almost lavish spread to which we are treated.

The evening opened with a verse from the lovely harvest hymn "Come ye thankful people, come", a reminder for everybody, also those who had not been able to come to Church on Sunday, of what we had come together for. After the meal itself the drama group entertained us with an amusing farce; a very funny plot and script and some excellent acting put us all in a very happy mood indeed. The organisation in preparing, laying, and clearing the meal, with main course, sweet, cheese board and coffee, is admirable, clockwork-like is an appropriate word. And although it is true that many hands make light work - comparatively, we all supported the Vicar who in his closing words thanked the Social Committee for all the hard work they had put in to making the Harvest Supper a great success.

H.B.

### NEW FORMS OF WORSHIP

#### Comment I

Our Festival of New Forms of Worship got off, I feel, to a good start on October 7 when the sermon was replaced by a discussion. To my surprise, people spoke very freely and would have continued to do so had the time allowed. Perhaps next time, the inclusion of a chairman would give those sitting at the back of the church a better chance to 'get in'.

The following Sunday we were introduced to dance in worship. This was very well demonstrated by a small group of people who mimed in dance a paraphrase of Psalm 86 which we had sung during Evensong. The meaning of this psalm had escaped me when singing it, but this small group of people really put the message over.

I know that all who were at these two services did not necessarily like them, but I hope everyone will try to keep an open mind, as I feel sure that to try new forms of worship cannot be wrong, even if we don't adopt them in the end.

Don't let us hang on to the old because it is old, or accept the new because it is new. Can we not find the balance?

Our experimental period continues until the end of December. Details can be found on the church notice board. Do try to come to some of these services, Like them or not, they may well give you something to think about. E.V.S.

### **Comment 2**

Evensong, October 14.

On this occasion my sympathy was with those whose reaction to "Evensong with Dancing and Mime" was "not on your Nelly" and stayed away. It was certainly with some relief that I heard the Vicar in his introductory remarks say that the congregation were not going to be called on to join in. It's not that I don't like dancing, but I'm close on three score years and could not rely on arthritic knees to support the venture. As it turned out, apprehension about something so new and untried, as far as our parish is concerned, was quite misplaced.

We sang Psalm 86 in the proper place and then in the sermon-time heard an American paraphrase of it - 'We is Still Friends, Lord'- with the music for the mime. The dance itself seemed to be in the nature of poetry. There, clearly enacted, was the human soul turning to God but prevented on all sides by..... by what? According to the Prayer Book version, by ".....the proud and the congregations of naughty men (who) have sought after my soul".

The simple movements of the dance, like the actual words of a poem, evoked our responses. Those of us watching could each have his own interpretation of the evil pressures on this aspiring soul to prevent its rising to the heights it sought: pressures from outside, the pressures from within. And we knew what these could be for us. Then after dejection and rising only to fall again, it at last gained confidence to walk away with firm step and head held high because ".....thou Lord, hast helpen me, and comforted me".

Of course this drama presented only one small facet of the religious life- no 20 minute sermon can do more than that either- and one longed for this poor soul to have comfort and support of others of its faith struggling in the same dance. But that is another story.

C.P.W. (Confirmed Public Worshipper)

### **Comment 3**

#### **Series 3**

Communion.

This is also, of course, a new form of worship, and there are bound to be divided opinions about it at this stage. Some of us, for instance, find the giving of the Peace an embarrassment, perhaps because of our natural English reserve and built-in inhibitions about touching other people and being touched. It might be a good idea if those of us who feel like this remained kneeling at this point. The Vicar, I know, wants us all to feel free and at ease, and not to force ourselves into ways and actions that at the moment go against the grain. But it would be wrong for us, a minority, to try to have banished from the service a feature which clearly has deep significance, though something stops us from entering freely and happily into it ourselves.

P.F.G.T. (A Pleader for Give and Take)

## THE MOTHERS' UNION

October has been a busy month in the Branch. Five members worked very hard preparing and serving the buffet lunch on the first day of the Overseas Sale. Mrs Edmonds who is Overseas Representative for both our Branch and Hampton Deanery received a letter of thanks for the help given by St. James's members from Mrs. Lambert, Chairman of London Overseas Committee. We sent a cheque for £5 towards the expenses, several members supplied cakes for the teas.

On October 8 a variety entertainment was given to the Darby and Joan Club. This was much appreciated and there are requests to repeat the performance for the Forget-Me-Not-Club and the Monday Club at Laurel Road Flats.

Six members took part in the Harvest Supper production of "Miss Pringle plays Portia". No wonder we have gained the reputation of being a lively branch!

At our meeting on October 10 Mrs. Irene Dawson related some of her experiences as a Mothers' Union worker Overseas ---- in Australia, Mauritius, the Seychelles, British Honduras and the West Indies. She held us enthralled with her gay account of life under varying social and climatic conditions. In her turn, Mrs Dawson enjoyed her visit to us and felt that she had made friends in St. James's. Now that she has come to settle in Shepperton we hope that we shall see her often.

For the last meeting in 1973, Mrs. J. Robson (Chairman of Religious Education Committee) is coming from Ashford on MONDAY December 3. Her subject will be "The meaning of Advent". (Advent Sunday is on December 2 so this will be a particularly topical talk). We should all gain much from Mrs. Robson's visit, she is an excellent speaker.

I.V.R.

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Christmas is on its way again so book the date for our Parish carol singing. We need all ages and voices, high, low, good and not so good - they all add to the volume.

The date, Wednesday, December 19 at 7.30 p.m. outside the church. After a tour of the parish we finish the evening at Wayside with hot coffee and mince pies. Remember the date and get Christmas off to a good start.

We decided to give you plenty of notice for one of the highlights of our social events, the Parish Christmas Party. This is a very popular and happy evening as it is one of the social occasions when whole families can really have fun together, from grandparents to small children.

Our theme will be Pantomime, very easy! Here are a few ideas to set you thinking; the dame, principal boy, Tinkerbelle or even the audience. Tickets will shortly be available from the social committee at 40p. adults, 20p for children 16 and under. Remember the date, Saturday January 12, 1974 in the evening.

## LOST PROPERTY

Plastic covered wire basket - found after Harvest Supper in St. James's Hall - please apply 979 6999.

## DEANERY INTERCESSION LIST

The drawing-up of this has been under discussion for some time, and it came to hand just too late for mention in the October issue. We all want to support one another with prayer and concern, and to help us to do this we have decided to concentrate our prayers on one particular parish or organization in the area during the course of one week twice a year. So we begin as follows:

### Week Beginning

#### October

7	St. Mary, Hampton
14	All Saints, Hampton
21	St. John the Baptist, Hampton Wick.
28	St. James, Hampton Hill

#### November

4	St. Mary, Twickenham
11	All Hallows, Twickenham.
18	Holy Trinity, Twickenham
25	All Saints, Twickenham

#### December

2	St. Stephen, East Twickenham
9	SS. Philip and James, Whitton

The full list for the first six months is on the notice-board at the west end of the church.

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### SOME DATES TO NOTE

#### November

12	10.30 a.m. Editorial Board (75, St. James's Avenue).
13	10.15 a.m. Hampton Deanery Chapter meets at Wayside.
14	7.30 a.m. Holy Communion
15	8.00 p.m. Group for Welcome and Contact.
16	8.00 p.m. Augmented Choir preparing Passiontide music meets in vestry.
18	At Evensong, members of YPF will present dramatic and musical items as expressions of worship.
20	8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club (W).
21	7.30 a.m. Holy Communion
22	2.45 p.m. Meeting of Trustees of Nursing Association Comforts Fund (Vicarage)
25	STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY: At Evensong, a vivid presentation of the Church's needs and resources, followed by refreshments, questions and discussion.
27	8.00 p.m. Beetle Drive (W).
29	8.00 p.m. Group for Welcome and Contact.
30	SAINT ANDREW'S DAY: 7.30 a.m. Holy Communion; 8.00 p.m. Augmented Choir (Vestry).

**December**

- 2 First Sunday in Advent: At Evensong, questions such as 'the following will be discussed; 'Why Advent anyhow? Why not begin the Christmas season today, as most people do?'
- 4 8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club (W).
- 5 7.30 a.m. Holy Communion; 8.00 p.m. Parochial Church Council (W).
- 9 At Evensong, special preacher from Africa.
- 10 7.30 for 8.00 p.m. Deanery Synod meets at St. Mary's, Hampton  
Subject: Youth Work.

Sunday Services at Laurel Dene: December 2 - Members of YPF;  
December 16 - Senior members of congregation.

**BAPTISMS**

September  
30

Arabella Louise Bunce, 51, Park Road.  
Daniel Paul Smith, 115, Burton's Road.  
Adam John Zollo, 52, Sunnyside Road, Teddington.

**MARRIAGE**

October  
27

Kenneth James McKenzie to Lynda Whittles.

**CREMATIONS**

September  
27

Mina Victoria Lambert, formerly of 50, Laurel Road,  
aged 76 years (at Guildford Crematorium)

October  
5

Daisy Matilda Coleman, 3, Fairlight, Uxbridge Road,  
aged 83 years (at South-West Middlesex Crematorium)