

## TO THE LONDON DIOCESE

### A PASTORAL LETTER FROM THE BISHOPS

(as read in all churches on Sunday, 2 February, 1975)

The year 1975 promises to be one of great difficulty. It is likely that not only in our own country but throughout the world men will be faced with much hardship and be required to make great sacrifices. The consequences of economic crisis will be felt by all.

We who are fortunate to live in the West have for centuries enjoyed a standard of living far in excess of the rest of the world. We are bound therefore to feel acutely the effects of inflation and shortages. But we do well to remember that even at its worst, our condition is one of great affluence compared with the great majority of our fellow human beings. Vast numbers live in abject poverty and squalor, deprived of the basic necessities for civilized existence. For them hunger and destitution are the norm of their experience. They have never known anything else. While for us the economic crisis may inflict discomfort and shortage of the things to which we have been accustomed, for those less privileged than ourselves it means starvation and death.

We Christians dare not be indifferent to the sufferings of our fellow creatures, and must use every opportunity open to us to redress the balance between the affluent and the deprived people of the world. As citizens we must demand that our government will take more seriously its obligation towards the poor. As individuals we must accept readily any sacrifices which may be required of us.

At the Diocesan Synod on 27 November, 1974, the following resolution was passed:-

"That this Synod resolves to call on Christian Aid and the British Council of Churches to mobilise the Christian conscience of Britain and to organise an educational and pressure campaign to support Her Majesty's Government's acceptance in principle of the United Nations' aid target of 0.7% of the Gross National Product, as laid down by the International Strategy, so that it shall be implemented by 1975, and invites every Christian congregation in Britain to support this; and reaffirms its hope that all parishes will give not less than 10% of their income to the work of the Church overseas; and calls upon all Christians to commit themselves to some act of sacrifice or self-denial which will help to free resources for countries in real need, as for example by abstaining from meat on one day per week or by reducing the use of fertiliser on lawns and flower-beds".

We commend this resolution to the serious attention of every parish in the Diocese.

But synodical resolutions are of themselves not enough. There must be also personal commitment and sacrifice. We therefore call upon the people of the London Diocese to examine themselves in the light of the crisis in which we are now involved, and if necessary to accept a more modest way of life than that we have hitherto enjoyed. If, as we are assured, it is true that inflation has come upon us because we have demanded more than we can create or pay for, then we are all to blame, and Christians should be among the first to acknowledge their responsibility. We can do this effectively by greater simplicity in the way we live and a readiness not to demand more for ourselves but rather to go without for the sake of other people.

As a token of our readiness to understand better the needs of others and to

help overcome them we, the Bishops of the London Diocese, ask that every member of the Church of England, and indeed other Christians if they are prepared to co-operate, will on the Fridays during Lent either forego one meal or be content with an austerity meal. We invite the parishes to organise this effort in such a way that the saving in money by not having a meal may be collected and sent to each Area Bishop. The total amount will be sent to Christian Aid.

Finally, at this time of crisis, we call upon the Diocese to greater prayer and dedication to our Christian loyalty. We can have no doubt that God is calling us to renewed service and to deeper understanding of His will. He is speaking to us in the turmoil of these days, and we must wait upon Him and listen for His voice. It must be our prayer that when He speaks, we may be found ready.

### A BRIEF LOOK BACK AND FORWARD

The Mothers' Union open meeting on February 3 attracted a gathering of more than 90 people from this and neighbouring parishes. There would have been more but for floods in Twickenham. They were rewarded by a most stimulating and challenging address from Mrs. Nugee, who made clear the new opportunities which were now there for the society to grasp.

The Teach-Ins on the Eucharist had to be extended to cover three post-Evensong sessions, and even then of course the whole ground could not be covered. Just over 30 people took part on each occasion, and some of the points presented and discussed will be summarised in this magazine as and when space permits. We begin this month with 'The Shape of the Liturgy'.

The Church Council is devoting much of its time to a serious consideration of the role of the Church in and beyond the parish in this last quarter of the twentieth century, and the place of Stewardship in a time of inflation and uncertainty. As well as keeping these matters high up on the agenda of its regular evening meetings, members felt that from time to time opportunities for more leisurely and prolonged discussion were needed, so arrangements are now being made for a weekend non-residential conference at Isleworth Church Hall on May 3 and the afternoon of May 4, when in very pleasant surroundings away from everyday pressures we should have time to consider these important issues in some depth. It is hoped that all present members of the Council, together with those newly-elected on April 30, will be able to attend, at least for part of the time.

You will find on a later page a contribution sent in by the small committee appointed by the Council to prepare for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. We hope that all concerned will give heed to their call to those whose names are (or should be) on the Electoral Roll to take their responsibilities less lightly, and at least turn out in force on April 30.

Many people have taken Christian Aid envelopes in response to the appeal of our Bishops for a more realistic and meaningful Lenten fast, and are putting the money saved each week into them. Envelopes should be returned as soon as possible after Easter. Austerity lunches are no novelty now, as most of us have them on most days of the week, but there will still be the usual corporate one on the Wednesday in Holy Week, and again the money will go to support the life-saving work of Christian Aid.

The arrangements for Holy Week and Easter are listed under 'Some Dates to

Note', and it is also hoped to send a greetings-card with them to every home in the parish. One very special event this year will be the Folk Passion to be presented on the Monday by the Twentieth Century Christian Music Group from Cambridge University. They have been to Birmingham Cathedral, and are becoming increasingly well known, and what they offer should be moving and meaningful for us. They like to end the evening by an informal discussion with us over a cup of coffee.

## THE SHAPE OF THE LITURGY

The Eucharist as we have received it consists of two parts. The first is concerned with the Ministry of the Word, and the second with the Ministry of the Sacrament. The first part developed from the service that the earliest Christians attended in the Synagogue and consists of readings, prayer and instruction. The second part, the specifically Christian part, is done in obedience to the command of Jesus at the Last Supper: "Do this in remembrance of me".

The earliest account of the institution is to be found in 1 Cor. 11, 23-25. The gospel accounts are in Mark 14, 22-25. Matthew 26, 26-29 and Luke 22, 17-19. John does not mention the institution at all in his narration of the Last Supper, although many parts of his gospel have an unmistakable eucharistic significance (John 6). Although there are variations in the accounts, there is agreement on four things: that Jesus :-

1. Took bread and wine
2. Blessed God over the bread and wine
3. Broke the bread
4. Gave the bread and wine.

These are the four actions that were enshrined in the Liturgy, and about which it was constructed. In Liturgical terms these became :-

1. The taking of the bread and wine by the celebrant, associated with the Offertory.
2. The Canon, or great prayer of thanksgiving.
3. The Fraction (Breaking of Bread for distribution, also seen as a sign of unity)
4. The Communion.

Although a number of other ceremonies and prayers had been introduced, this basic shape remained quite clear in the liturgy of the Church of England until the 1552 Prayer Book. In this the order underwent a radical reconstruction. The Canon was broken up into a Prayer for the Church, a Prayer of Consecration, and a Prayer of Oblation and interspersed with the various penitential parts of the service. The main reason for this was to avoid any devotion to the consecrated Bread and Cup by placing the Communion immediately after the Prayer of Consecration. They were not allowed to remain on the altar any longer than practically necessary. What happened in fact was to draw attention to the mediaeval idea that the consecration was accomplished by reciting Jesus' words of administration over them, losing sight of the idea that thanksgiving and praise were at least as important (there was no distinction in Jewish thought between these and blessing - a Jew blessed food by blessing God over it). The element of praise is entirely absent from the Prayer of Consecration in 1552 - 1662. This re-arrangement and introduction of other material has masked the basic shape of the Liturgy in the 1552 - 1662 rite, and one of the advantages of both Series 2

and Series 3 is that they have recovered and emphasise this shape. Further advantages are the recovery of joy, the balancing of the remembrance of the cross with the Resurrection, Ascension, and the present work of the Holy Spirit. Western Christianity in the Middle Ages was obsessed with the suffering Christ, as is illustrated by the development of the lifelike crucifix. Eastern Christendom maintained a balance. The cross was there, but it was the glorified Christ who was represented on it bearing the marks of triumphant suffering. The 1552 - 1662 rite was a product of its time and whilst no one would maintain that Series 3 is perfection it does represent a more balanced view.

S.D.H.

### GROWTH IN THE SPIRIT

Since writing under this heading in last month's 'Spire' I have twice visited a church not far from here and had the opportunity to see at first-hand what can happen in an ordinary parish when people allow God to break through - the difference that reception of the Baptism in the Spirit makes to individual members of a congregation, many of whom had not been previously noted as specially devout, and through them how this affects the parish.

Here at St. James's many of us had an opportunity to see the film 'Following the Spirit' in November, and while the facts as shown there spoke for themselves - a lifeless congregation coming to life in a quite remarkable way - an obvious criticism was that that was in Texas, and the situation is very different in England. But similar things are happening in England too. Recently a book has been published telling of renewal in a parish in Luton; the Church Council heard of the parish in Bristol which was faced with closure ten years ago because of lack of congregation and money but last year was able to GIVE AWAY £13,000!

The church that I visited last week was until recently an unremarkable Anglo-Catholic parish with a post-war church. Preparations for renewal began with a stewardship campaign to put the parish's financial affairs in sound order, and then moved on to a parish mission in which a team of theological students assisted. During this period nine people were invited by the vicar to share in the pastoral work of the parish. They were commissioned by the bishop and committed to a six-year training period. These people became leaders of house-churches which have since developed their own leadership, and the lay pastors have in most cases moved on to other work.

With this kind of organisation many parished might think that they are doing rather well, but there was more to come! At the climax to the mission, on Whit Sunday last year, they prayed that the Holy Spirit would be outpoured as at the beginning - and He was! There was no doubt in their minds that this was so. What now became clear was that the organisation and activity that had developed had all fitted into a plan that no one had anticipated. Since then they have not looked back. The vicar says that these past months have been more to him than the previous fifteen years of his ministry. In addition to the usual Sunday services there is a weekly 'Prayer and Praise', at present held in a large room at the vicarage. About 40-50 people attend this, a different mix from a total of about 100 who come regularly. When I joined them for one of these meetings what impressed me was that these were perfectly ordinary people, approximately equal numbers of men and women, and aged between sixteen and seventy. There was joy there and praise. What might in some groups have been simply

community-singing was real praise. Into prayer they brought their deepest concerns for family and friends, and also gave thanks for what the Lord was doing in answer to prayer. Miracles of healing have happened, and people who had been oppressed released. 'Prayer and Praise' starts at 9.00 p.m. and sometimes people are still there in the early hours of the morning. I left at 11.30. Another event is the monthly 'Guest Service' on Sunday evening. At this people are invited to respond by coming up to the altar and many have received Baptism in the Spirit there. My impression was of a community in which people really loved the Lord, and because of this they really loved one another and wanted to share their experience - of a healing community where not only physical ailments were overcome, but people were on the road to complete wholeness - of a community which made sense of the concept of the Body of Christ, where everyone was something and everybody mattered.

S.D.H.

### WORSHIP AND COMMUNITY DAY - April 26

The churches of the neighbourhood are holding a Day Conference to give anyone who comes an opportunity for growing in understanding of worship and its place in the life of the community we live in. It's on Sunday, April 26 at Ashford Methodist Church from 10.00 till 17.00, with lunch arranged at St. Hilda's Church Hall.

Bernard Braley and a team of consultants are coming to lead the day. Together they offer a great deal of expertise and experience in the subject and in conferences of this kind.

If you valued last year's "Pray Day", you won't need encouraging to come. If you missed that event, don't miss this one. Full details and forms this month from your clergy.

And it costs only £1.00

### SOCIAL EVENTS

If you hurry you may just be in time to secure coach tickets for the guided tour of **St. Paul's Cathedral** on Saturday 22 March. Sir Christopher Wren's masterpiece is crammed with history. Come and learn a little. Those who wish to may go up into the whispering gallery etc., at a small extra cost. We hope to attend Evensong before returning at about six p.m.

**David Bell's** long awaited **organ recital** is on St. George's Day, Wednesday 23 April at 20.00. Come and enjoy some of the great organ classics played by a master of the art. Programmes 30p.

Summer is coming, and to prove it we're planning a **Barbeque** in the delightful grounds of Laurel Dene on 31 May, watch this space for further details.

A real treat is in store for the children and their mums and dads on Saturday 14 June. A coach outing to the **Bluebell Line Private Railway**. Tickets available nearer the date.

P.S. A healthy male is wanted to bolster the Social Committee and to help keep those gorgeous women at bay.

R.B.

## YOUR PARISH HALL

It's cleaning time again! On Saturday and Sunday 10 and 11 May we could do with all the help we can get to spring-clean the hall. (i.e. washing all the walls, ceilings, paintwork, windows and floors). Unfortunately, last year not many helpers turned up, which made very hard work for the few who did. SO PLEASE come and give us a hand this year, even if you can manage only about one hour, it all helps. If you will supply buckets, cloths and energy, the committee will provide step-ladders etc., and tea and coffee at frequent intervals, and a light lunch if required, plus all cleaning powders. Do come, it can be quite enjoyable.

## CHURCH FLOWERS

I would like to thank all those who have so kindly helped to decorate the church during the past year. Would you like to "have a go" and lighten the load on those already helping? It is a very worthwhile and satisfying service. Flowers are provided as necessary and arrangers "go to it" at about 9.30 a.m. on Friday mornings. Gifts of garden flowers are most welcome, and prior notice may save the cost of having to purchase flowers.

Help and gifts are specially welcome at the Festive Seasons. For Easter, the church is decorated on the Saturday morning and, as it takes some time to gather the flowers together, help is particularly needed from about 10.30 a.m. Help is also required at about 11.30 a.m. with the clearing up. Gifts of flowers or greenery for Easter can be left at 19 St. James's Road on Good Friday, or at the church early on the Saturday morning.

R.A. Bridges.

## CALLING ALL LOCAL WOMEN!

Have you thought of an occasional evening away from the family and T.V.? An evening when others have made the arrangements and you can sit back and relax? If so, the Tuesday Club may well provide the answer. The annual subscription is a modest 30p. and there is a small charge for coffee and biscuits.

The Club, for women of all ages, meets on alternate Tuesdays at Wayside in St. James's Road, nearly opposite the church, but, let me assure you, that you do not have to be a member of St. James's Church to join us. And, please, don't think that we are a gathering of "do-gooders". Of course, there are some serious talks but most of them are of general interest and, from time to time, there are social evenings.

Recently, Mr. Wadlow of "Motivity", whose premises you have probably noticed when visiting the local library, gave a fascinating talk on his firm's activities. There is very little that he is not prepared to undertake. Amongst an amazing variety of jobs his firm has provided 24,000 pieces of snakeskin cut into one inch squares, removed the zips from 28,000 pairs of ladies' boots and sorted 130,000 computer cards into alphabetical order. If you have a problem you will know where to go!

I would mention that, on February 18, there is a talk and film on the work of the River Police. There will also be meetings on March 4 and 18. Just come along on one of these evenings at 8.0 p.m. Any member will be pleased to introduce you to Mrs. Robinson, our Chairman. For dates after Easter telephone Mrs. Robinson in March (979 2426). If you are new to the district, you will find joining the Club a pleasant way of getting to know your neighbours and seeing a friendly face when you are shopping in the High Street.

E.M.B.

## ARE YOU HAVING YOUR SAY ?

Are our forms of service satisfactory ? To your liking ?

How would you feel if St. James's were to be merged with another parish ?

Should we concentrate more on raising money - or less ?

Is St. James's in danger of becoming an exclusive club, run by a few for a few ?

These are questions, among many others, which the P.C.C. is likely to be discussing later this year.

You may be sure that its members will consider them most carefully, and that their decisions won't easily be arrived at. BUT - whatever the decisions, do you think **your** views will be represented ?

It is, of course, essential that the P.C.C. should be representative of the body of the parish, and its members do honestly try to consider many shades of opinion. The trouble is that few people seem to care enough about who represents them or how.

The P.C.C. comprises 25 elected members : the average poll at the last four elections (1971 - 74) has been about 40 voters - including that 25 ! Small wonder that the P.C.C. sometimes questions whether it is in touch with the parish at large ! But whose fault is it if it is out of touch ?

Concerning the questions and problems facing us, you may well be a 'Don't Know'. This year, at least, don't be a "Doh't Care".

The election will be held at the Annual Church Meeting on 30th April at 8.00 p.m. Before it, there will be an hour or so's "Grumble Session" when we hope that views, popular and unpopular, will be aired. It should be an interesting, even a lively, meeting.

If you are on St. James's Roll of Electors, you are entitled to be there and vote. Or maybe you aren't on it, but could be - by getting a form from the church and filling it in.

Either way, just ask yourself - do you care enough to do something about it ?

S.C.C.M.

## PROGRESS IN THE COMMUNITY CARE GROUP

The Hampton and Hampton Hill Community Care Group has lately brought out a publicity leaflet setting out its projects and aims. This contains a review of the five concern groups with which the C.C.G. originally started, and to which two more have now been added:- an Office group and a Social and Fund Raising Group.

The leaflet also endeavors to formulate plans for encouraging neighbourhood groups at grass-roots level; the need to create within the community the capacity to help itself. This takes time and careful imaginative consideration, and we are certain that along this way we should go. This neighbourliness is what villages and many places in Britain still retain, but which many populations situated around large conurbations seem to have lost; we feel that with encouragement it can come back.

We are putting copies of this leaflet into all churches and also into the public library. Please take copies and distribute them among your friends.

The C.C.G. is going on firmly but we are all sorry at this time to be losing the Rev. Dennis Green, the curate at All Saints, one of our Co-Chairmen. Dennis is going to Leverington near Wisbech in Cambridgeshire as Priest-in-Charge of that Parish. All our good wishes go with him. We had a very good Wine and Cheese Party on Saturday, February 15, at which we thanked him for his enthusiasm and energy, and for his whole-hearted support in the first year of the life of the Hampton Hill Community Care Group.

Hannah Stanton.

## THE HAMPTON COUNCIL OF CHURCHES LENT GROUPS

The Hampton Council of Churches has encouraged ten study groups to meet in various parts of Hampton and Hampton Hill during Lent. All the groups are studying the Epistle to the Ephesians, and have the help of the Bible Reading Fellowship study notes on Ephesians stressing God's Plan for Unity.

We are hoping that from these groups will come volunteers who will help with contributions at the Three Hours Service on Good Friday, March 28.

Hannah Stanton.

### DEANERY INTERCESSION LIST

- March 23      Welcare                                      April 6      St. John Baptist, Hampton Wick.  
March 30      Church Schools, specially Bishop Wand.

### SOME DATES TO NOTE

March

- 13      20.00 Prayer Meeting (69 St. James's Avenue)  
18      20.00 Tuesday Club: Miss Monk - 'The Maddison Clinic' (W)  
22      PARISH VISIT TO ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL  
23      PALM SUNDAY: Sunday arrangements as usual. At Evensong it is hoped that a quartet will sing some items of Passion Music. Palm Crosses made by African Christians will be distributed at all services.  
24-26      Holy Communion daily at 07.30  
24      20.00 FOLK PASSION, followed by refreshments and informal discussion  
26      12.00 - 14.00 AUSTERITY LUNCH - all proceeds for Christian Aid (W)  
27      MAUNDY THURSDAY: 20.00 Reading of Passion Play, followed by PARISH COMMUNION, after which light refreshments will be served. Our friends from the United Reformed Church will be joining us.  
28      GOOD FRIDAY: 10.00 Children's Service; 12.00 - 15.00 THE THREE HOURS DEVOTION: this will be divided into six periods of half-an-hour each, so if you cannot stay for the whole time please enter or leave at the hour or half-hour. All offerings today for Christian Aid.  
29      HOLY SATURDAY: 09.30 onwards - decoration of the church for Easter; 20.00 QUIET HOUR: Meditation and Prayer in preparation for Easter.  
30      EASTER DAY: Holy Communion at 08.00 and 12.10; PARISH AND FAMILY COMMUNION at 09.30, followed by refreshments; Children's Service 11.15, Evensong 18.30  
31      EASTER MONDAY: 09.30 Holy Communion

April

- 8      THE ANNUNCIATION: 07.30 and 09.30 Holy Communion; 20.00 P.C.C.(W)  
10      20.00 Prayer Meeting (69 St. James's Avenue)  
23      20.00 Organ Recital  
24      NEWCOMER'S PARTY (by invitation)  
30      19.30 ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (Hall)

### BAPTISMS

January

- 26      Luther Daniel Edmonds, 6 Grena Gardens, Richmond.  
Thomas James Howe, 20 Parkside.