

SOME FURTHER THOUGHTS ON THE GEOGRAPHICAL EXTENSION OF THE EARLY CHURCH

The Gospels provide clear evidence of the mixed reaction to Our Lord during His ministry on Earth. Not even for the Saviour of the World was there always a welcome. The growth and development of the Church in its earliest years continued to reflect this mixed reaction of Mankind. The early missionaries were more accustomed to the hostility of Nazareth than the welcoming peace of Capernaum.

Clearly the main expansion of Christianity was westwards from Jerusalem. To the north of the Mediterranean Sea this expansion is identified by three territories. These were Asia Minor, Greece and Italy. Nicea in Asia Minor was the setting chosen for the first Ecumenical Council of the Church in 325. This Council was in session for about four months and was attended by about three hundred bishops. So that there was nothing minor about this part of Asia Minor in the context of the Church's life and witness! Further west in Greece the importance of the Christian community at Corinth is stressed by the knowledge that Paul wrote his Epistle to the Romans in that city. Further west still in Italy there is evidence of Christian missionary activity in an inscription which was found at Pompeii. This inscription proves that there were Christians in this city before its destruction by an eruption of Vesuvius in 79. By 250 there were about two hundred and fifty Episcopal sees in Italy, which was the land of the Empire's capital.

The Church in Asia Minor, Greece and Italy can be identified as a Southern European group of territories. The swift development of this group contrasts with what can be termed a Northern European group which grew at a slower pace. In this group were such territories as Gaul and Britain. One reason for this slower growth was the distance of these lands from the more evangelised centres in the Eastern Mediterranean. To reduce the effect of this distance a new outpost was needed. This was provided by the establishment of the Church in the south of France.

Christianity in Gaul may have begun with the work of the disciple called Crescens (2 Tim. 4:10). There is evidence of a westward growth of the Church from Asia Minor to the Rhone Valley by the second century. This movement was represented by Greek Christians whose focal point was the bishop of Lyons. A notable bishop there was Irenaeus who survived a terrible persecution which occurred in 177. About a hundred years later there were Christian communities at Arles, Vaison, Paris, Bordeaux, and Rheims. Nearer to England there was a community at Rouen.

Further north in Britain the beginnings of Christianity are uncertain. Very probably the first Christians arrived from Gaul with the aid of the good communications which were established and maintained by the Empire. Evidence of the existence of established Christian communities is provided by the attendance of three British bishops at the Council of Arles in 314. Archaeological evidence of Christian witness is provided by the remains of a chapel in a wealthy Roman villa at Lullingstone in Kent. These remains date from the fourth century. Of historical importance to the development of the British Church is the beginning of the Saxon invasions around 432 and the departure at about the same time of St. Patrick to begin his missionary work among the Irish.

The geographical expansion of the Church had reached Ireland in which the most westerly land in Europe was found. History reveals that this geographical growth from Palestine to Ireland did not represent continuous spiritual growth for the Church and its members. The historical record is one of decay and renewal followed by further decay and renewal. For example, the Christianity which had been established in Britain was not accepted by the Saxon invaders who worshipped pagan gods. The result of this situation was that the Church decayed within the Saxon territories but was maintained by the Celts who had fled to Cornwall, Wales and Ireland.

Until the sixteenth century there was no further major westward expansion of the Church to new lands beyond Europe. The century that witnessed the beginnings of the Reformation saw the leaders of a now divided Christendom seeking to establish Roman Catholic or Protestant Christianity in North and South America as well as in parts of Asia. The success of these leaders and their descendants is not easy to summarise in a few words. Of crucial importance was the motive of each individual who sought to preach the Kingdom of God to his fellow men. Very often motives other than true motives were the deciding factor in the establishment of Christianity. The result of this can be seen to-day in the United States with its enormous social problems which appear inconsistent with a nation of such material wealth and in a number of South American states where extreme wealth and poverty co-exist without challenge within brutal dictatorships.

In these times the Church has expanded to its westernmost limits. So what are the implications of this situation? What of the future and its possibilities for the growth of the Church? Will a return journey begin to Jerusalem?

The writer believes that the main hope for the Church is its constant renewal. This renewal continues with great conviction in the life of the Church in Africa and Asia where daily living has a much greater urgency of survival than in the Western world. To the West and its Christian communities the newer communities can address the essential ingredients of Christian life and witness nearer to their New Testament ideal. In addition to the encouragement of these communities far beyond the seas we can recall in Europe the extremes of Greece and Ireland which, with their shortcomings, retain a national Christian identity. Both countries have societies which have not been disturbed by the worst effects of secularism.

So that the future seems to indicate a renewal from within an individual parish, diocese or province to restore the true quality and meaning of Christianity. This spiritual growth may prove to be much more difficult than the geographical extension of centuries before. With the aid of the Holy Spirit there will surely follow a more determined and prophetic Church if its members persist in this spiritual growth to proclaim the majesty of Jesus Christ.

David Dore.

A NEW TOWN - FRENCH STYLE.

During our recent holiday in France our hosts thought that we would be interested to see one of the new towns being built outside Paris to accommodate the overspill both of population and commerce.

We had had a mountain range of buildings pointed out to us on our journey from the capital to the pleasant village where we were to stay, and at a distance it looked, to me, forbidding enough, rising from a ridge of high ground

and towering over the fields of sweetcorn and spinach. Closer to, it was, as the French are so fond of saying, "Formidable!"

Evry, for this is its name, consists of a housing complex of flats built, it seems, purposely on the mountain range idea. First the hills, then the smaller mountains with the high peaks towering behind. Every block is a different colour and of a different texture, design and pattern; an individual shape of pink, puce, beige, green, blue, yellow, mauve and sometimes a sludge shade where all the colours would have appeared to have been mixed together! Each flat has been thoughtfully provided with a window-box, some of them bright with flowers but many 2 ft. high with weeds, either because the flat was as yet untenanted or the occupants not horticulturally minded. The shrubberies and central gardens are already untended and sprouting with weeds. The complexes of flats are joined together by intricately patterned cobble or tile pedestrian walkways. I remember one area was called, appropriately I thought, Dragon Square, and one was dominated by high simulated rocks of what appeared to be polished blue-black glass or coal. They were meant to be reflected in twin lakes but these were already covered in thick slime and the effect was not as intended. Building was still in progress over many more acres, but half-heartedly, because instead of the half-million inhabitants envisaged only about a tenth of that number had, so far, been attracted to Evry and businesses were slow in setting up in the commerce-complex which we did not visit but could see - huge blocks of glass and concrete set along wide roads, served by a station as long as St. James's Road, ever moving escalators, potted plants and used, when we visited it, by two other persons besides ourselves and on this occasion it was 8.30 a.m!

Now for Evry shopping centre. This was entirely under cover - boulevards, corner-cafes, bistros, shops, cinemas, sports centre and supermarkets - all under the planners' sky of toughened glass. Trees grew, fountains splashed, but no birds sang and there was no sound of traffic. All cars were left outside in the biggest sub-terranean garage park I have ever seen. There was, however, constant music.

We went to what I can only describe as a super, Supermarket. Very posh indeed. The patisserie was the first department we encountered where my hostess bought a wonderful loaf - a baguette with branches - wonderful to look at as well as to taste. There were dozens of different shapes of delicious breads, cakes and pastries in such a profusion of design, artistry and lushness as beggars description, at prices which, to us, were terrifying. The exchange was 8.57f to £1, and each small cake was at least 2f.50 (about 37p.); large gateaux were about £7, and more modest (!) ones £4. Queues of people were being served as fast as the assistants could manage. (Incidentally, for me to visit the loo cost anything between 55 centimes and 80 centimes and since a tip was expected, it could well cost a franc. One could buy and post four postcards for £1 - so that is why some of you didn't get one!)

The vegetable and fruit hall was quite breathtaking. It out-chelsead Chelsea flower show for beauty and arrangements. The "side-shows" were dwarfed by a central mountain of tomatoes, cabbages, marrows, red peppers, green peppers, melons, peaches, oranges, apples, nectarines and gorgeous things I didn't recognise. It was so beautiful and so lush that I took a picture - I hope it turns out all right, otherwise you won't believe all this. From thence, more than slightly shattered, we moved into the cheese hall. Again the side shows, again the central mountain, but suddenly, the sheer amaze of it all was turned to a kind of horrified sadness, and non-acceptance and as I surveyed the

wondrous mountain of dozens, even hundreds of different kinds of cheeses in all shapes and sizes, piled upon each other, rising ceilingwards and all at astronomical prices, my eyes filled with tears and I left to gaze blindly at the suitcases across the way until I recovered. What were my thoughts? Firstly, I suppose, "Poor little England", with all that those words convey; then I must confess, a certain amount of ignoble envy as I do enjoy a tasty piece of cheese and I'd never seen the like, and I don't suppose you have either, but much more was the thought of the greater part of the world living hand to mouth instead of hand in pocket. It seemed **wrong** to me, immoral. So much for so comparatively few. Wrong that food and drink should assume such importance; wrong that trolleys should be piled high with goodies of every description, in excess of necessity or even occasional reasonable indulgence - every day a sort of commercial Christmas spree. Poor little England indeed if this is what we are expected to help pay for, if this is what we aspire to.

I couldn't get away from it all fast enough to return to the normality of Ponthierry, Ironically, as the lift doors closed on us the piped music was playing the Abba song "Money, Money, Money - it must be funny in the rich man's world."

Margery Orton

A church in Evry? I didn't see one - I'm sorry.

BAPTISMAL PARTY

Unfortunately, since changing the time of the Baptismal Party from the afternoon to the morning, we have had very poor weather. This has been quite a deterrent to most of the young mothers and babies previously invited and visited and consequently the numbers attending have been rather low. Nevertheless it is always a happy occasion, and a very good opportunity for some of the congregation to meet those babies who have been baptised into our Church, and of course, their mothers. It also gives those same mothers a chance to meet one another and be introduced to some of the local organisations should they wish to use them.

In all a very valuable innovation, and despite the few it does cater for, I certainly feel it is a good idea to continue - and, by the way, many thanks to the members of the Mothers' Union who turned up on the morning to provide us with refreshments, chat, and a welcome helping hand with all the older brothers and sisters there.

Coryn Robinson.

TUESDAY CLUB

It was in a festive mood that 32 members of the Tuesday Club sat down to a Jubilee supper the 26th July. The tables with their white tablecloths and red, white and blue floral pieces looked most attractive. We had a super supper produced by members of the committee and a small band of willing helpers. Members appreciated the lavish menu, and presented with delectable food gave no thought to calories. After the Toast to the Queen Mrs. Rockliffe moved a vote of thanks to the Committee and this was warmly endorsed by all present. It was generally agreed the Supper was an appropriate finale to the Club's summer session.

E.M.B.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Fireworks Display

This very popular event is to be held on Saturday 5th November at Laurel

Dene. The whole family can enjoy a magnificent display of fireworks in safety. The cost of the ticket includes refreshments. Tickets available from members of the Social Committee - price 70p per head. These tickets are bought like gold-dust, so hurry!

Buffet Dance

This event is to be held on Friday 11th November in the Parish Hall, School Road. "The Knightriders" will be providing music until 11.30 p.m. and drinks will be available.

This event last time was a great success and, with the lights turned low and the wine flowing, should prove even more so this year. A date not to be missed. Tickets will be obtainable from members of the Social Committee.

P.S.

AUGMENTED CHOIR FOR CHRISTMAS CAROLS

If you would like to join the choir for the special service of Readings & Carols on Christmas Day afternoon, we shall be delighted to welcome you. So often it is said that there is little opportunity to participate in the carols - here then is your chance - special practices for the choir and augmented choir are planned for Fridays, 18 November & 2 and 9 December commencing at 7.45 p.m.

R.J.C.D.

AROUND THE SPIRE

A lot of news about our young people this month - to some extent this coincides with the start of the academic year. Our Churchwarden's daughter, Lindsay Robinson, off to Bath university to study European languages; Ian Fisher is about to start a degree course in Geography at Edinburgh university; Vernon Bridges is "in port" at the moment on a period of further training in the Merchant Navy at college in Southampton. Sue Lawrance is now a qualified nursery nurse and working in the maternity unit of University College Hospital. Hilary Gould is off to Nottingham University where she is to study medicine, and Nick Hanson is going on to study for a B.Sc. at Kingston Polytechnic. The twins, Sarah and Lucy Watkins and Jo McDadd all did well in "O" levels and hope to go into the 6th form at the Lady Elenor Holles School.

Helen Brown, for long a choir girl in St. James's and now a qualified pharmacist was married recently at our Church and our congratulations go to her and her husband.

Ros Chester (nee Melville) has just had her first baby - a little boy. Best wishes to both Ros, Malcolm and Andrew, all now living in Weston Green.

Hal & Eila Severn have just returned from a month-long trip to Australia to visit their son, Michael, his wife Carol and baby son, Ritchie. No doubt we will be hearing all about it soon!

We hope we have covered all the news, but please remember if no-one tells us we can't put it in the magazine - so please let us know.

It has probably been noticed that we are now regularly serving tea after Family Communion at Wayside. This decision was made in view of the fact that many amongst us felt it was normally wrong to pay such a ludicrous amount of money for coffee whilst no benefit was going to those who were literally slaving to grow the coffee beans for us. Perhaps if more people were prepared to boycott this product temporarily then the price would return to a reasonable level, or our views may have effect and some help could be given to the very poor people working on the coffee plantations.

LET'S SEE A GOOD FILM

Earlier this year one of my favourite film-critics wrote an enthusiastic piece about a film she had just seen in East Anglia. She said that her correspondence usually contained complaints from people living in the provinces who said they didn't get a chance to see the productions she recommended because these seemed never to get out of London. Now here she was reversing the order and herself complaining that a beautiful film shown in East Anglia, about to be shown in the provinces, was quite unlikely to be released in the metropolis. The film? "No Hiding Place", the war-time story of Corrie ten Boom and her family.

I had heard that a film was going to be made from the book Corrie ten Boom wrote but not how good the final product had turned out to be. I wrote at once to the distributors and asked about a London showing. They replied that although there were no present plans for showing in London it would probably come eventually and notices would appear in the Press. Unfortunately I am not myself, very successful at looking for notices in the Press; the expected inset always appears on the one day I don't look so may I ask any reader who finds out about a local or West End showing of "No Hiding Place" to let me know as soon as possible so that we may have time to try to make a block booking for a party-expedition to see it.

C.H.B.

ARE YOU SITTING SAFELY?

We are told that more accidents happen in the home than in any other single location. I thought I knew most of the snares and danger points there could be in an average house but when I heard the Borough Safety Officer talking and showing slides about this I realised that I was guilty of carelessness and had a lot to learn. Mrs. Davis, the same Home Safety Officer, has promised to come to the November meeting of the Mothers' Union on November 2, and anyone else who would like to meet her and hear what she has to say will be very welcome. That's 2.30 p.m. at Wayside.

C.H.B.

FURTHER READING?

There are many good periodicals dealing with religious and allied subjects but unfortunately they become more and more expensive. It therefore seems a pity that those that we take between us don't have a wider circulation. Some of us have felt that we should like to pass our copies on for others to read and it has been suggested that we should have some sort of a "reading-table" but where and for use when, is not quite clear. We certainly don't want a some sort of waiting - room litter of out of date magazines; but may-be the regular paper collection could deal with that.

Many years ago - in Mr Harvey's time, I think-there was a small library. I don't know where it started, but it finished up in the Baptistry.

If you would welcome a selection of periodicals for a few weeks' perusal or/and a small library of modern relevant books or books of proven worth and also if you have suggestions as to how this business could be run, please will you tell me?

C.H.Brunton

THE HALL "SPRING-CLEAN"

We started at 8.30 a.m. and finished at 5.40 p.m. During this time we had over forty helpers, men, women, and children - a magnificent response!

As a result, we achieved more than I had dared hope.

Everything was washed: not only all of the paintwork - walls, doors, windows and ceilings (excepting the main hall ceiling) but also all of the crockery, the venetian blinds, and the lighting fittings.

Plus two things we have never been able to do before: the paintwork in the lobby off the side of the stage was all washed, and entirely thanks to the ladies, every one of the stacking chairs cleaned as new.

And a final absolute bonus, we even managed to clean the outside doors and notice boards of the accumulated graffiti!

On behalf of the Hall Management Committee, many, many thanks to all of you who made possible such a wonderful result.

J.W.G.

ALTERATIONS AT ST. STEPHEN'S E. TWICKENHAM

Alterations, renovations and make-do-and-mend were depressingly on my mind on the way to St. Stephen's but once inside the church, I was very much impressed by the large, modern room in which we found ourselves. It was crowded with people talking together after the evening service. The height of a ceiling creates for me the atmosphere of the room, and this one seemed just right. (In fact 9-10 ft). The room stretched across the width of the church and was separated from it by a long curtained window. More of this later.

To our right was a small library or quiet room, comfortably furnished which could be curtained off for privacy when necessary. To the left of the main room was a door leading to the toilets, situated under the old tower. Next door to this was a spacious kitchen, well equipped with sink, cooker, plentiful hot water and wide work surfaces, one of which was the counter, shuttered off from the main room. This then was the lay out.

The large room had unexpected advantages in that separating screen. The curtains could be drawn back so the church was visible, and a public address system allowed people in there to follow the service and take part; absolutely ideal for young mums who wish to bring their children, yet worry that the fidgeting disturbs the rest of the congregation. In its turn the glass screen could be folded back, so with chairs lined up, the floor space could become part of the church once more for big services. With its separate heating system the room could be used for many evening activities, and screened off, it left the sanctity of the church unmolested. From inside the church the meeting room looked rather like a box placed under the west window; but then only the clergy have this view!

Is this what we need in St. James's?

Our church is smaller than St. Stephen's, and we would have to use the width of the church; the side aisles are rarely used now. There would be many problems to be solved, not the least finance. It cost St. Stephen's about £18,000 some three years ago, and costs have gone up since.

So, if the professionals manage to solve the structural problems, can the rest of us solve the financial ones?

K.B.

INAUGURAL MEETING HAMPTON AND HAMPTON HILL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION.

8.15 p.m. OCTOBER 13.

**ALL SAINTS CHURCH HALL,
THE AVENUE, HAMPTON, MIDDX.**

For several months Richmond-Upon-Thames Borough Council has been discussing the setting up of a Community Centre with the representatives of local organisations. It is proposed that the Community Centre will be run on the same basis as the Whitton Youth & Community Centre, i.e. management will be mainly in the hands of the members in co-operation with representatives of the Council. Membership will be open to any local resident and also to local non-political groups.

The Community Centre should be ready for use by Spring 1978 and therefore it is time to form a Community Association which will run the Community Centre.

Please come along to the Inaugural meeting and help to launch the Association in a proper manner.

The following organisations have been represented on the Working Party which has carried out the preliminary work and their members should be able to obtain further details from their representatives:

Community Care Group.
Hampton Resident's Association.
Hampton Council Tenants Association.
Hampton Hill Association.
Hampton Hill Youth Club.
Hampton Council of Churches.
Hampton District Girl Guides.

BAND CONCERT

A concert will be given in our church by the Richmond Brass Band on Thursday evening at October 13 at 8 o'clock. There will of course be no charge for admission, and the programme will include a wide variety of popular music. This is the first event of its kind to be held in St. James's and it is intended to be the beginning of a series of concerts by the band in as many churches as possible throughout the borough.

M.J. Smith

TIMES OF SERVICES

This matter was brought up at the Annual Church Meeting and many suggestions were made about it in the notes that people sent in afterwards (see August issue). But it had also been under consideration in the Liturgical Committee and PCC before this, and now everybody has been given an opportunity to express an opinion, a decision has been made. We will try the experiment of having all present afternoon and evening services at the same time, 4.30, during the period of GMT, and in consequence Baptisms on the fourth Sunday will from November onwards during the winter period be at 3.30 instead of 4.00.

BIBLE PUZZLE No. 4

The following is a verse from the Gospels. Can you decipher the Code and say from where the verse comes?

LNVIU BIGHI LGDIY LKCGR QBRQU
BROUR DLYID RRWDL NUFZG URVRZ
PEBLK WPIGB RQSZE BSRPI FBTKK
VRZPB ITYIG KVNTU BIPDL YIUBI
BRKVF ALPLU URUBI SUBTU TFCBLS

Puzzle No. 3:

St. matthew chapter 5 verse 3: How blest are those who know their need of God; the kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

Only correct solution received from David Lloyd, 73, Burton's Road

DEANERY INTERCESSIONS

October

- 9 St. Mary, Hampton
- 16 The Area Pastoral Committee
- 23 Religious Education in the Deanery
- 30 All Saints, Hampton

November

- 6 All Saints, Twickenham
- 13 All Hallows, Twickenham
- 20 The Mayor and members of the Borough Council

SOME DATES TO NOTE

October

- 11 20.00 Prayer Meeting (75, Burton's Road)
- 12 07.30 Holy Communion; ; 20.00 Liturgical Committee (75, Burton's Road); Scout Group Dance (Hall)
- 13 20.00 Band Concert (in church); 20.15 Inaugural Meeting of the Community Association (All Saints' Church Hall)
- 17 10.30 Editorial Board (21, St. James's Road)
- 18 SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST: 19.15 Holy Communion
- 20 10.30 Young Families' Group: 'How to be a thrifty Mum' (W);
20.00 Prayer Meeting (69, St. James's Avenue)
- 22 Paper Day - centred on Wayside 08.30 - 10.00; Sponsored Walk in support of Christian Aid.
- 23 WEEK OF PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE BEGINS: Morning arrangements as usual, but no Parade Service today, so Sunday Schools as usual; instead of Evensong here, a UNITED SERVICE at 18.45 at Sunbury Methodist Church.
- 24 20.00 Stewardship Committee (106, Park Road)
- 25 20.00 Deanery Synod; Prayer Meeting (75, Burton's Road)
- 26 20.00 - 23.15 Vigil for Racial Justice and Peace: St. James's is responsible for the period 21.45-22.15 (Teddington Methodist Church)
- 27 SS. SIMON AND JUDE: 19.15 Holy Communion; 20.00 Wayside Monday Centre Helpers AGM (W).
- 30 17.15 Senior members of church lead service at Laurel Dene.
N.B. EVENSONG TODAY AND THROUGHOUT WINTER at 16.30 (returns to 18.30 on Palm Sunday, 19 March 1978)

November

- 1 ALL SAINTS' DAY : 19.15 Holy Communion
- 2 14.30 Mothers Union Branch Meeting (W).
- 3 10.30 Young Families' Group: 'How a blind mother copes' (W);
20.00 Prayer Meeting (69, St. James's Avenue).
- 5 Parish Fireworks Party at Laurel Dene (admission by ticket only 70p)
- 6 17.15 Members of YPF lead service at Laurel Dene
- 8 SAINTS OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND: 19.15 Holy Communion;
20.00 Prayer Meeting (75, Burton's Road)
- 11 Parish Dance (Hall)
- 13 REMEMBRANCE DAY: Sunday arrangements as usual: in addition,
British Legion Parade Service at 10.58.
- 16 14.45 Newcomers' Party - by invitation (Hall)

BAPTISMS

August

- 28 Kelly Claire Burnett, 98, Rectory Grove
Kathryn Ellen Howe, 37, Princess Road
Margaret Ann Jermain, 86, Croft Road, Swindon
Claire Elizabeth Roberts, 30, Bushy Park Gardens

MARRIAGES

August

- 27 Ian Lloyd Abbotts to Anne Mary Saunders
John Derek Hutchinson to Jane Lesley Oldham

September

- 10 Christopher Murray Thomas Medley to Helen Brown

CREMATION AND BURIALS

August

- 19 Alan William Wilson, 7, Cardinal's Walk, aged 54 years (at South-West
Middlesex Crematorium)

September

- 21 Rose Maud Hiscox, 9, Edward Road, aged 77 years (at Teddington
Cemetery)
- 23 Benjamin Alexander Victor Ellis, 8, Wolsey Road, aged 80 years.

STOP PRESS: It has been necessary to change some dates. Scout Group Dance is now on October 19, and to avoid clashing with Community Association meeting, Band Concert will now be on October 20.