
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

In August 1978 the first meeting of the Hampton Deanery Social Responsibility Committee was held, with Mr John Twaits from Teddington as Chairman, the Rev. John Cotgrove as Vice-Chairman, and myself as Secretary. Committee members are: Mrs Bligh-Scrutton from Wel-Care, Mr Simpson and Mrs Devo (the Lay Chairman and Secretary respectively of Hampton Deanery Synod), Mrs Clarke and Mr Reg Holmes from Whitton, and Miss Joan Watts, the Director of the London Diocesan Council for Wel-Care.

The calling of this Committee into being marked a new departure in the area of social involvement in the Deanery; this Committee was to work very closely with Wel-Care, in fact Wel-Care was to be a part of it. But the Wel-Care active area of intensive social work and caring was not to be the only sphere of interest. The Committee was to be encouraged to be actively involved in other areas of deprivation; for example, in loneliness, isolation and in problems of racial tension.

It was hoped that the interests of the Churches would widen out; too often, it had been felt, the Churches had been involved solely with the welfare of their own congregations, and become inward-looking and had not been ready to take a broader interest in the concerns and problems of the wider community.

Readers will remember that in the last issue of the magazine I was asking for volunteers to help in one-to-one teaching of immigrants who come to this country knowing no English; this has gone to all Churches in the Deanery and is an appeal from this Social Responsibility Committee.

Another involvement for me was an invitation to serve as a representative from the Kensington Area on the parent-body, the London Diocesan Board of Social Responsibility; and on July 4 I attended its second meeting, having been unable to attend the first. Bishop Jim Thompson of Stepney was the Chairman, and in next to no time he knew us all by our christian names. The meeting was informal and enjoyable.

Much time was spent on the job-description for the advertisement for appointment of the Adviser to the Board: this is going to be a high-powered and responsible job. Other administrative matters were also dealt with. The Bishop, however, had insisted that his second Board meeting should not be entirely connected with administration, and there was included a very interesting paper on Alcoholism, a growing concern in many areas, introduced by Captain Terry Drummond CA from St. Botolph's, Aldgate. Facts told us included some figures from a survey: "On a drinking day in 1974, the 'average drinker' drank 56% more alcohol than he would have done in 1965" (Brit. Journal of Addiction, Sept 1978). Retail outlets had increased: the number of super-markets and other stores with off-licence departments in England and Wales went up from 1056 in 1965, to 4267 in 1972, and the figure will undoubtedly be higher now.

A lively discussion followed and was not finished by the end of the meeting. It was resolved to continue this, as well as embark on the subject of Immigration at the next meeting. I found it all very interesting, and hope that both the Committee and the Board will in fact prove of value to the wider community.

The first of the principles of the new Board in the Statement of Intent is as follows:

It will seek to further the Church's awareness, at Diocesan, Area, Deanery and Parochial levels, that the commitment of all Christians to the Kingdom of God involves the transformation of individuals and society in the light of our understanding of the mercy and justice of God as revealed in Christ.

I am very proud to be your representative. If anyone has other social problems or involvements which it is felt either the Committee or the Board should consider, please let me know.

Hannah Stanton.

A NEW BISHOP FOR THE SEYCHELLES

On July 25 the Venerable French Chang-Him, at present Archdeacon of the Seychelles, will be consecrated Bishop of Seychelles by His Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Trevor Huddleston C.R. Archbishop of the Province of the Indian Ocean, assisted by the Bishops of Madagascar. This will be a very happy day for the Anglican Communion in the Seychelles for Father French, as they still like to call him, is a Seychellois. Indeed he was the first Seychellois Anglican Priest. Until then the clergy had generally come from England. So in a very special way he will be their very own Bishop.

He is, however, no stranger to England for he studied at Lichfield Theological College and served his year as a deacon at Goole in Yorkshire, returning to the Seychelles to be ordained priest there in 1963. He has remained in the Seychelles working in the various islands for the whole of his ministry except for one year, 1967-68 when he returned to England to work in the parish of Norwood and for further study. He became Archdeacon of Seychelles in 1973 and has now been elected Bishop.

Until 1973 the Seychelles Islands had been part of the Diocese of Mauritius and Seychelles. The Bishop had been resident in Mauritius having to cross 1300 miles of the Indian Ocean to visit his people in the Seychelles. Then in 1973 the Province of the Indian Ocean was inaugurated (Mauritius, Seychelles and Madagascar) and the people of the Seychelles had their own first Bishop, George Briggs, who has just retired.

Last year when Bishop Briggs was in England for the Lambeth Conference he visited our church. Those of you who met him may be interested to know that he is now Assistant Bishop of Derby and is living in Matlock. When Bishop Briggs was with us he talked about the extension of the Cathedral (St. Paul's) in Victoria, Mahe. Victoria is the capital of Mahe, the largest of the Seychelles islands, and is the centre of activity. It is, in fact, the only town. The Cathedral has a very central position so that it is convenient for the people coming in from the many villages and settlements. You will be pleased to know that the £25,000 required has now been collected. This was a wonderful effort for such a small area as Seychelles. Churches and societies in many parts of the world contributed to this and it is pleasing to know that St. James's, Hampton Hill, helped in this great effort. The extension has now been completed and it is fitting that so soon it should be the scene of the Consecration of the first Seychellois Bishop of Seychelles.

Some of you may remember meeting Archdeacon French Chang-Him

when he came to visit us in 1975. He was then very excited as he was returning to Seychelles for his wedding the following month. He has indeed a delightful wife, Susie, whom we met when we stayed with them on the Island of Praslin in the Seychelles. They now have twin daughters, Frances and Michelle, who will soon be three years old.

When the Bishop next comes to England I hope he will find time to come and stay with us again and so be able to meet some more of you. Meanwhile I know he will be grateful for your prayers for him and his people as he enters upon this new part of his ministry.

Sylvia Boarder

“THE STRANGERS SCATTERED THROUGHOUT CAPPADOCIA” (1 Peter; 1 v.1)

Imagine how you would feel if you noticed a hole in your cellar-floor and on investigating found that it led downwards through the centuries, to a series of vast underground galleries descending through several storeys, and that in this vast underground complex were not only intricately carved dwellings, shops and storerooms but stables, churches, even graveyards, deepwater wells and air-vents and secret exit tunnels with mighty boulders lying ready to block them against intruders; in all a city capable of sustaining 20,000 families underground for several months at a time.

This happened as recently as 1926 to a Turkish Muslim farmer living in a modern village of 5,000 inhabitants in the central plateau of Cappadocia, a strange area where extinct volcanoes tower like pyramids above a high mesa where lava and ash spewed up aeons ago have combined with the extinct cones to make a landscape strangely lunar. Cappadocia, now central Turkey, was once the country of Hittites, then of the Assyrians who came down on them to establish a Persian Empire which was to last until 95 B.C.; an empire whose kings were at length forced to pay tribute to Caesar before the whole region became a province of Rome in A.D. 17. As Rome too was pressed eastwards by barbarians so arose the civilisation we know as Byzantine, whose Christian scholars, artists and mystics were to engrave an indestructible chapter in Cappadocian history. The Cappadocians readily accepted the teachings of Peter, perhaps Paul came to the land from his city of Tarsus, and the land was completely christianized by the 3rd century A.D.

In this treeless country throughout the ages people had turned to the soft volcanic stone for their building material which they carved in situ into homes and places of worship, first out of the mountain sides and then, as invasion followed invasion, they burrowed deep into the earth that they might dwell there in safety. As did Roman Christians in the catacombs, so must have these Cappadocian Christians retreated underground, adapting what they found carving out splendidly embellished churches, with columns, arches, frescoes and brilliant murals painted in glowing colours. There are evidences of earlier religions and folk lore in the earliest of the frescoes and murals; the devil is a thirteenth member of the Last Supper, Christ is seen being born from an egg, the Magi are to be recognised meeting Christ not only as a babe but as a young man and on the cross. The miracles are depicted there — the healing of the blind men, the feeding of the five thousand, so many wonderful paintings and sculptures, all hidden underground, their presence unsuspected until our own century.

No European traveller penetrated this remote land until the 1700's and their stories of a people "living in pyramids" in cities in the mountain sides, adorned with bright paintings glimpsed through intricately carved archways were dismissed as mere travellers tales. Europe had long ago forgotten that Cappadocia was one of the first great citadels of the Christian faith and it was not until another century had passed that the first explorers' accounts were verified. It is still an untravelled country, remote and strange. The last Christians were uprooted by the Turks in 1924 and the Muslims have moved into the carved dwellings and farm there and make pots there. But there are still deserted valleys like the deep Ihlara gorge in the southern plain where six miles of elegantly sculptured dwellings and wonderful, lavishly painted temples remain, once the homes and places of worship of tens of thousands of Christians – those strangers scattered throughout Cappadocia of whom St. Peter speaks. All is deserted now but tells vividly of the faith which once gave strength and splendour and solace to this distant land. The Magi still brood there, the Holy Family – Lazarus is raised there in sculpture, the life, death and resurrection of our Lord live in the frescoes. The spirit of the early Christians make it a place of great peace. They live in the deserted galleries and their psalms seem to echo in the still air of the weird volcanic landscape.

Peter Moorey, during his recent sojourn in hospital read of these ancient Christians and the wonderful discoveries which have come to light and it was his enthusiasm and interest which prompted this article.

M.O.

THE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES – ALIVE OR DEAD?

The quarterly meeting of the Hampton Council of Churches was held on Tuesday, July 3 at the Methodist Church, Hampton. "So what?" you may ask. "What is that to do with me?"

As a small group of representaives of the local churches we do not do anything dramatic to cause it to have much to do with you. However, if you read this at least I can put you in the picture.

We began our meeting with a talk, open to all, by Bridget Walker of Christian Aid who had just returned from the Sahel and we received a vivid, first hand picture of some of the work being done in that vast region of W. Africa, to the progress of which we have contributed our Christian Aid monies this year.

This was followed by a report on that week and we rejoiced at the final total – £1550, a 19% increase on last year – an ecumenical effort ably led by Mr and Mrs Scawen of All Saints, supported by all the church organisers and collectors. Pat pointed out that we could use even more collectors next year – remember this. She reminded us that she can always obtain material for services and talks for church groups if asked. She has collecting-tins if desired. (Mrs P Scawen, 9 Birchwood Grove, Hampton. 979-7429).

Hannah Stanton reported on Community Care and urged us to publicise the need for volunteers in the transport section. Your time and car, but not your money, are required (expenses paid). Apply C.C.G. office 979-9662.

We welcomed the Rev. Martin Nathaniel, new curate at All Saints. We were glad to hear that the United Reformed Church is to have the part-time ministry of Mrs Bennett from Twickenham from September.

Mr. Smart, All Saints, reported on the first meeting in a pilot scheme for ecumenical street groups – watch this space in the autumn.

We then discussed our role within Hampton and Hampton Hill – as an ecumenical leaven – though to call all the local churches the “lump” would be rude! We do feel that leaven is needed to further increase the effective unity of the churches. There is considerable good will and an ability to work together when the need is obvious, as in Christian Aid. But surely we should now be looking for more co-operation, more dynamics? I do not promise, not in any way, that the Council of Churches can provide them by itself – this requires an earnest desire for unity amongst everyone. Still, if you have got this far, you may remember that the Council does exist and is alive, if not kicking.

J.R.

AN AFRICAN SAYING

“If someone is good enough to scrub your back, the least you can do is wash your own face” – a saying amongst Africans in Upper Volta, in the Sahel.

IMPRESSIONS OF A VISIT TO MARY SUMNER HOUSE

On a cold and rather miserable day in June, the Vicar and a small band of Mothers' Union members set off on our visit to Mary Sumner House.

We were all rather preoccupied with our own particular problems, but by the time we had eaten our lunch and arrived at Waterloo we were much more relaxed and ready to enjoy our outing.

First we looked around the well stocked bookshop and made our various purchases.

On our arrival at M.S. House we were greeted by a charming guide who took us to the heart of the house . . . THE CHAPEL, where she conducted a short but very reverent service. The kneelers were worked by branches of the M.U. from all over the world and very beautiful they were too! Two were put out to welcome us, (from All Saints and St. Mary's Church, Hampton). How lovely it would be to see a kneeler from St. James's there too!

After looking around the chapel we were taken on a tour of the House and saw the Committee room with its wonderful table and chairs, the pen and ink stand presented by H.M. Queen Mary and the high-backed wooden chair in which she always sat on her frequent visits to the House.

Our guide showed us the library, resource room, offices, large Assembly Hall and some fascinating memoirs of Mary Sumner and other personalities in the Mothers' Union.

Our tour ended with a most welcome and delicious tea in the restaurant.

After saying farewell to our guide we prepared to leave, strengthened to face the outside world and all its problems again.

I feel very proud to be a member of the M.U. and to play a part, however small, in this world wide organisation.

F.O.M.

KEEP-FIT OPEN DAY

My mind is swinging in rhythm. It is July 20 and I have just returned from watching the human body move as it was meant to move.

Pat and Eila and their beautiful "girls" gave us about ¾hrs. of sheer enjoyment. Clad in black leotards and black nylon tights and ballet shoes they performed the sometimes simple, sometimes complicated, exercises with ease and grace, to some lively and suitable recorded music.

The seats around the Hall were just about full and the spectators took a great interest – some even joining in when invited.

Afterwards we were regaled with very good tea and homemade cakes, an assorted Bring and Buy table and a very exciting raffle including some interesting looking bottles, but as usual I hadn't bought the right ticket!

I hope that this effort for Cancer Research met with financial success.

A.T.

CANCER RESEARCH

Pat and Eila would like to thank everyone who helped to make the Keep-Fit Open Day such a happy and successful occasion.

Thanks to all who supported us, to those who made the tea – washed up – bought and bought – most of all the Keep Fitters themselves, without them none of it could have happened.

The splendid sum of £82.50 was raised on the day, and thanks to various contributors, who wish to be anonymous, a cheque for £110 is to be sent to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

PARISH PICNIC IMPRESSIONS

1. On Saturday June 30 about 40 of us set out in cars from the Church at regular intervals on a most scenic and interesting route to a delightful spot in the heart of Surrey, called Holmbury St. Mary. Despite most explicit instructions, one or two of us still managed to get lost, fortunately only temporarily.

There was a most interesting quiz to be answered en route, and although seemingly straight forward it baffled most of us except for the two who managed an all correct score sheet.

At our destination we indulged in a game of 'Puddocks' (rules supplied on request), and despite the recruitment of a passing and slightly surprised stranger, Alwyn Loyd's team still overcame the opposition by a handsome margin.

An excellent picnic tea provided by the Social Committee was followed by a few more games and a search party for a missing youngster (eventually found) after which we returned to Hampton Hill in good time for the C.C.G. barbecue in Hannah Stanton's garden in the evening.

Our sincere thanks go to Roger Bucknell for devising such an interesting route and finding the perfect spot for the picnic. Both made for a very good outing.

R.B.

2. At 14.30 on Saturday June 30 a large group of "highly-skilled rally-drivers" met outside St. James's Church; after collecting their instructions they sped off in a south westerly direction, heading towards Guildford.

People along the route must have wondered why the cars kept slowing down, and sometimes stopping – if only they realised the arguments that were going on inside the cars – is it the correct answer to a clue or not?

Having gained as many answers as possible, the cars and occupants sped on to the final destination, spurred by their curiosity – what is this game called

Podex that we were all to play? Eventually everyone arrived, the various times reflecting not so much the navigator's ability as the driver's obstinacy in refusing to listen to his/her instructions.

We soon had the intricacies of Podex explained to us, the sides sorted out; the better team went in to bat, despite – or more likely because of a certain member of the social committee who changed all the rules (E.S. shall remain nameless); and a certain R.B. decided to climb to the top of a tree; we all had a great deal of fun.

After a really splendid tea, and all feeling that perhaps we were not quite as young as we thought we were, we set off home having all had a wonderful time – our thanks to all who organised it. Perhaps another one soon?

A.M.

Footnote: Podex (pronounced Puddocks) was a cross between cricket and rounders.

LOVE ALL

Some thirty people with plenty of guts, and most of them highly-strung, courted each other on the greensward of The Lady Eleanor Holles School on Friday evening, July 13. These sporting couples, facing each other in the glowing light of even, watched with glinting eyes for the lob into the tram-lines or the ace down the middle. Those engaged in the back-handed compliments and overhead smashes ranged from young Wimbledon hopefuls to one grandfather who has never got further than Earlsfield but it still trying (very). To such an extent that he is strongly rumoured to have won the St. James's doubles tournament with his partner Janet (only because they knew the umpire). Deucedly well done, old man! Prill Smith provided much-needed liquid refreshments and tasty morsels at her home afterwards to round off a most enjoyable and active evening. We were all disappointed that the grandfather's young wife Eila was unable to play because (believe it or not) she had a touch of whooping-cough. But although keeping on the sidelines, Eila busied herself with the order of play and produced a wonderfully smooth programme. Thank you Eila, and get well soon.

J. Connors

NEWS FROM ABROAD

How would you like to pay £2.50 a head for your parish outing, be expected to walk the five or so miles from the church to the picnic-spot, be regaled merely with one French-loaf sandwich and a can of drink, and have to brave the occasional shower of rain? That would have been your lot if you belonged to the Lutheran Church parish in my home-town just north of Hamburg. You would have had the satisfaction of contributing to the fund for a new organ, your voices could have mingled with the strains from the church's own brass-band in an open-air service of praise, and you could have read about your exploit in detail in the local press. Incidentally, six of the thirty or so participants cycled to the picnic.

The other German parish we have contact with, the one in Wuppertal, Rhineland, recently sent a mixed youth group on a camping-holiday in this country. The youth leader and the vicar took 14 youngsters aged between 16 and 18 in two minibuses to South Wales and camped one night in Wayside on

their way home. The young people had met in their confirmation class and are still meeting regularly. Confirmation classes last two years, ending with confirmation at 15. The parish has several such youth groups. Immediately after their return to Germany, the youth leader and vicar were taking another much larger-group of younger children on a holiday to the Baltic Sea.

While on the subject of Germany — they have a system of glass-reclamation which works most impressively. At strategic points in residential areas large metal-containers are set up, into which people drop their empty bottles. The schemes are run by various industrial enterprises — for some you put coloured and white glass into different containers, others take all kinds of glass indiscriminately. All you have to do is wash the bottles and remove metal tops. Labels can stay on. The system obviously pays and people are very keen to support it. The container into whose chute my children threw bottles with such great gusto at Christmas has since been joined by two more. All of which are always filled up remarkably quickly. Why can't we run a similar scheme in this country?

H.B.

BOX OPENING EVENING

The Box opening evening held on July 12 at 68 Park Road proved a successful evening. Many people having Children's Society boxes came along to have them opened and the tellers were kept very busy counting the money and sorting it into bags. The final sum raised through the boxes this year was £108, more than double last year's total: this was partly due to the fact that more people actually have boxes, and that some have had them for a longer period of time. It is a really magnificent sum of money and thanks are due to all those responsible for collecting this amount.

H.T.

TO STAND AND STARE

Occasionally it is good to come into our church ten minutes early to have time to stand, or sit, and stare. First a thorough look around at the beautiful proportions of our church, then the visual feast of the stained glass in every window. I think we must be blessed with more and greater beauty of glass than any other parish church that I have visited, and in the course of my work I have moved around quite a bit.

Next gaze in turn at each of the vases of flowers which are so lovingly arranged to the glory of God and the joy of mankind — each vase is a masterpiece of nature and art, and can remind us of the beauty in this world. We hear so much of the other side of things.

The third feast is for our ears when the grand notes roll out from our magnificent organ and perhaps the best time to listen to this is the Voluntary after the service. Just sit a moment before talking or making a dive for a welcome cup of coffee. It is played for your delight.

A.T.

HAMPTON WAR MEMORIAL CHARITY

No. 4 Oldfield Road, Hampton, has become vacant and the Trustees of this Charity will meet on Tuesday the 4th day of September, 1979 to consider applications for the vacancy.

Under the Scheme governing this Charity the bungalow may be let at a rent for use and occupation by a man (or his widow) who served in the forces of the Crown in the 1914/18 War and who for not less than the last three years has been ordinarily resident in the area which formerly constituted the Urban District of Hampton. If there is no person duly qualified the bungalow may be let to any person considered by the Trustees to be deserving and preference will be given to a duly qualified man or the widow of a man who served in the Forces of the Crown in World War II.

A form of application can be obtained at 51 High Street, Hampton, from Mr. J. Pearce, Solicitor and Clerk to the Trustees, to whom it must be returned by the 24th day of August, 1979.

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CHEMISTS' ADDITIONAL DUTY ROTA

August

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 12 | F.G. Martin, 3 Station Approach, Hampton |
| 19 | E. & R. Kirby, 53 High Street, Teddington |
| 26 | Boots, 66 Broad Street, Teddington |
| 27
(Bank Holiday) | E. Moss, 14 Broad Street, Teddington |

September

- | | |
|----|---|
| 2 | D.R. Thomas, 113 Stanley Road, Teddington |
| 9 | H. Hall, 62 High Street, Hampton Hill |
| 16 | E. Moss, 14 Broad Street, Teddington |

SOME HOLIDAY-PERIOD ARRANGEMENTS

Sunday services will be as usual; week-day services as announced in church on Sundays and indicated on the notice-board outside the south porch.

Sunday School reopens on September 9.

Prayer Meetings as usual at 75 Burton's Road on Tuesdays August 14 and 28 and September 11.

No Choir Practices during August.

The Mothers' Union will meet on the second Wednesday in September (instead of the first) – September 12.

The next Church Parade for our uniformed groups will be on Harvest Festival Sunday, October 14.

The Liturgical Committee meets at 63 Park Road on Wednesday evening September 5.

BAPTISM

July

8 Jeremy Samuel Atkinson, 71 St. James's Avenue

MARRIAGE

June

30 Keith Paul Trussler to Brenda Joyce Maybee

BURIAL

July

6 Florence Alice Marjorie Shipman, 38 Cross Street, aged 72 years