

News Letter



QUEENS ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH • COVENTRY

Minister :

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Assistant Minister :

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SERVICES IN AUGUST, 1965

Sunday, 1st August:

Rev. David M. Harris, B.A. (New Bradwell).

Sunday, 8th August:

11 a.m. The Assistant Minister
6-30 p.m. The Minister

Sunday, 15th August:

11 a.m. The Minister.
Service of Holy Communion.
6-30 p.m. The Ordination of Mr. Roy Jones.
The sermon will be preached by the Rev.
Principal L. G. Champion, B.A., B.D.,
D.Th.

Sunday, 22nd August:

11 a.m. Rev. Dr. R. F. Aldwinckle (MacMaster University, Canada).
6-30 p.m. The Assistant Minister.

Sunday, 29th August:

The Minister.

MID-WEEK MEETINGS AT 7-30 p.m.

Tuesday, 3rd August:

The Assistant Minister.
The Five Pillars of the First Gospel. No. 1.
Chaps. 5, 6 & 7.

Tuesday, 10th August:

The Assistant Minister.
The Five Pillars of the First Gospel. No. 2.
Chapter 10.

Tuesday, 17th August:

The Assistant Minister.
The Five Pillars of the First Gospel. No. 3.
Chapter 13.

Tuesday, 24th August:

The Assistant Minister.
The Five Pillars of the First Gospel. No. 4.
Chapter 18.

Tuesday, 31st August:

The Minister.

Secretary :

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News of the Church Family

Dedications

On recent Sundays, Ruth Anne Jackson, Andrew William Jones and Karen Gwendoline Ward were brought to morning service by their parents, who promised, with the help of God and the support of the church, to bring up their children to know and love Jesus Christ.

A Baptism

We welcome into our membership Elaine Head, who was baptised on Sunday, June 27th, and was given the right hand of fellowship at the communion service on July 4th.

Transferred

Miss Irene Beney, to Payton St., Stratford-upon-Avon, where she now lives and teaches. She had been a loyal and active member with us for 36 years, serving in the choir, and as deputy organist. We are glad to hear that her talents are already being used in the Stratford church.

Deaths

We offer our sympathy to the relatives of three of our older members who died recently. Though two of them had not been in membership with us for very long, they had long years of Christian service behind them. **Mrs. E. Smith** — died July 5th in St. Andrew's Home, was transferred from the Upper Brailles Methodist Church in August, 1959. Since then she had been a faithful worshipper and a regular member of the Over-60 Club. **Mrs. A. E. Spurgeon** — July 10th, joined our membership last December, when she moved to Coventry from Reading after her husband's death, in order to be near her son, Mr. Archer Spurgeon. **Mr. George Stevens** of whose sudden death we were all grieved to learn, on the other hand had been a member for many years. A tribute to George will appear in the September issue.

Congratulations

To **Mr. George Charles** who has been elected to the Vice-Presidency of the Coventry and District Auxiliary of the B.M.S.

God Speed

To **Alec and Margery Clemson** who are soon to emigrate to Australia, to join their daughter Helen (Mrs. Catchlove), their son-in-law and grandchildren.

Marriages

On Saturday, August 7th, in York, **Elizabeth Avison** to **Howard Rippiner**. Although we cannot attend their wedding, we are very glad to know that Howard and Elizabeth will be returning to Coventry to live and work.

On Saturday, 14th August, at 11 a.m. **Valerie Harris** to **Tony Hartshorn**. This is a wedding we are able to attend, and we are sure that many of us will be at Queen's Rd. to share the service with Valerie and Tony.

DIARY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

There are not many entries this month—our own private diaries are doubtless more crowded than the Church one during the holiday season! Some things however, are worth noting:—

Tues., Wed. and Thur., August 24th, 25th, and 26th. 'Play Days' arranged by the Young Worshipper's Staff, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon each day, for children aged 0-11 years.

Fri. August 20th to Fri. August 27th. Lakeland Holiday at Newlands, Nr. Keswick. Mr. Hamper is taking a 60-strong party of young people, over 40 of them from Queen's Rd., the others from Quinton Park, accompanied by the Rev. Neil Hall. All good wishes for a wonderful time.

Advance Dates

Sat. Sept. 4th. Ordination and Induction of Mr. Michael Lamb at Beechen Grove, Watford. Inquiries re coach to Mr. J. Lawrence.

Sat. Sept. 11th. Ordination and Induction of Sister Cynthia at Wolston. Details later.

Sunday, August 15th. Ordination and Induction of Mr. Roy Jones as Travelling Secretary for the S.C.M. Dr. Champion, Principal of Bristol Baptist College, and a representative of the S.C.M. will take part in the service, which will be held in Queen's Rd.

"Christians still too often thought of themselves as brands plucked from the burning, rather than torches to illuminate the world".

(Dr. Howard Williams, Baptist Assembly, 1965).

"Oh! . . . The Buzzing of the Bees . . . "

FREEDOM IN WORSHIP

As Baptists we are not tied to any set form of service, but have complete freedom to order our worship as seems best. In practice, we tend to follow much the same pattern Sunday by Sunday, and our congregations show that this is found to suit most people most of the time.

An occasional holiday makes us appreciate home all the more, however; and it may be our only opportunity of sampling some other kind of beauty not usually at hand. There are great riches in the traditional forms of worship of other denominations, from Catholic to Quaker, besides an unknown store of as yet untried methods waiting to be revealed to us in this 20th Century.

Could we not have an "experimental" service once a quarter, not for the sake of "gimmickry", but to enable us to explore some of these other channels through which the Holy Spirit has spoken to men in the past, or may be waiting to speak to us today?

COURTESY

"Of courtesy it is much less
Than courage of heart or holiness.
Yet in my walks it seems to me
That the grace of God is in courtesy".

Hilaire Belloc

We are not normally or basically a discourteous people; we would not deliberately irritate, annoy or hurt our fellow members. Why then do we still persist in:—

Thoughtless and selfish car-parking?
(Improving — but we still have our lapses!).

Paying no attention to Mr. Hamper's words prior to the collection. We know he is introducing the offering, so why listen to what he says? It's only the same thing as last week, with the words twisted round a little — so let's shuffle about, and chink our coins and snap our handbags open and shut — with a hey-nonny-nonny, where's that sixpence gone?

Opening our hymn-books and fluttering the pages while the verse is being read? This is particularly unfortunate when a young child is taking part in morning service. The child is probably nervous, the voice not very strong, but this is the great moment — and no-one hears a word! The acoustics in the church are excellent — the merest whisper can be heard — provided we listen.

VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Here, there — and everywhere.....
Or here, there — and nowhere?

Not everyone can spend a year or more overseas with V.S.O. or I.V.S. But more, far more, could join the month-long summer work camps organised by the World Council of Churches. Why don't they? Not because they don't care. Many of them are giving up part of their summer holiday or evenings after work to local voluntary service. When the need *and the opportunity* is placed squarely before them, they will respond. One of our young members is working at a W.C.C. camp for the third successive summer. Why only one?

The answer, as I see it, lies in two 'lacks'—
Lack of efficient and encouraging publicity
within the church.

Lack of money.

A volunteer work camp means what it says — you work hard, and you pay basic expenses. This the volunteers are prepared for, but nevertheless, it can prove a stumbling block. This is where the church should step in. Wherever these volunteers go, they represent the Christian Church as a whole, and their own church in particular. It is of vital importance that they feel their own church is involved with them in their work.

It should be accepted that a volunteer for a camp is to a certain extent the church's responsibility, expressed in the payment of an agreed percentage or a basic amount. It should equally be understood that *every* volunteer would *accept* it. Any who were fortunate enough not to need it would simply return it to the church in the offering.

So, in 1966, let's have:—
Publicity and encouragement.
Application forms readily available.

Financial help — not to make it easy, but sufficient to show that the church cares for them and appreciates their efforts.

"NEVER FROM OUR OFFICE MOVE"

This line from a well known hymn always provokes a smile from certain members when it is sung, for it has always seemed to be the motto of some good people in Baptist Churches including our own.

Cont.

"Never from our Office move"

Cont.

How often does one read in the "Baptist Times" of folk who have held office in their church for long, long years and while faithful service is always to be admired, may it not be that sometimes people hang on to a job for too long and by keeping out younger members may be frustrating the work of the Holy Spirit?

Lord Avon says in his memoirs, "It is a common happening that those in power, as their tenure of office continues, find themselves less and less able to contemplate relinquishing it. The vows they made earlier that they would give way to a younger man when the years begin to blunt their faculties..these they choose to ignore. Power has become a habit they cannot bear to cast off". This is true, not only in politics but also in other spheres, including the church.

INSIDE OR OUTSIDE ?

This last 'Buzz' was prompted by the discussion at the July Church meeting on the "Functions of a Central Church". We quote extracts from the 'Buzz', with what we hope are appropriate comments from the report on the "Functions"—

"Some of us find the general assumption that everyone must be so *visibly* involved, so tremendously busy about the church and its organisations, rather hard to bear at times. It sometimes seems to be frowned upon — not to have some 'office', nor even to desire one, and it is nearly always very difficult to decline gracefully when there are reasons which are quite private. It does not always follow that those without visible function are not involved, however, perhaps quite deeply and occasionally even dangerously".

(In some of these — i.e. spheres of service — the church acts through its individual members active in the world around them..... In a church of 600, one percent can supply the organist, two Young Worshippers teachers, two trades union secretaries and a Youth Club Leader).

"Despite appearances, not all at Queen's Rd. are enjoying the affluent society. Some, in fact, may despise it and continue to suffer, economically and otherwise for their opposition to the so-called 'values' in the world of business. There are those who prefer to sacrifice their standard of living rather than go along with some of the commercial practices

accepted as normal today. They don't feel like saints or martyrs, however, rather like fools who cannot clearly see exactly where the next compromise is coming. They may not be vocal in prayer meetings, but they know, even today, in Coventry, what 'Give us this day our daily bread' means to them".

(The church is likely to include all types and social classes, and its size enables many to be released for work outside the church).

"To some of us virtually all the questions are open in our day and age, and look like being open for a long time to come except when and where answers are forced down people's throats".

(We need training to deal with the largely uncharted problems of being a Christian in the 20th century).

"How dangerously easy it is to delude ourselves that we are serving others, or even Christ, when in fact we are only serving our own 'spiritual' egos! The acid test is to give and to serve, and for it to be forgotten that one has done so — forgotten by the recipient, even humiliated by the recipient, and yet not to feel rancour. Is this not more nearly the ageless task of the Christian — to initiate, pioneer, open the trail, and be forgotten? The God to whom Jesus pointed.....was One who comes in weakness, humility, defeat and utter sacrifice. Defeat in the sense in which the world still understands that word, therefore Victory in a way in which none of us can yet understand — surely this is the heart — the crucified heart of the mystery. It simply seems to some of us that we had better try and understand a little more of this".

(Above all, we should pray for a new spirit of humility and love).

And finally, some truths about our relationship with the world which some Christians find it hard to accept:—

"A part of our peculiar cross is sometimes to feel a little more 'en rapport' with people outside rather than inside the church — so-called atheists and agnostics, even an occasional communist, when the latter seem genuinely and ultimately concerned about the fate of modern man. The awful thing about such associations in a few Christian eyes is that there is no deliberate attempt to proselytize, but only genuine human meeting somewhere towards the depths".