
FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

ENGLAND AND NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand, one of the smaller self-governing Dominions, was settled from Great Britain under the Wakefield policy between 1840 and 1860. The immigrants established in their new home the culture and institutions they had known; but over the last 100 years differences have emerged, some of which we have noticed during our six months in the 'old country', as England is so often referred to in New Zealand. This does not mean that everything is strange, on the contrary we have been surprised by the similarity between the two countries. The differences can largely be explained by reference to the smallness of the New Zealand population, the differing geographical position and history of the two countries.

To speak first of the Churches, we are surprised by the density of the church buildings here, and by the fact that nearly always these buildings belong to the Church of England; whereas in New Zealand there are relatively fewer church buildings with a greater proportion belonging to the other denominations. Although differences in Churchmanship do exist in New Zealand, these differences are not so apparent in the forms of service as they are in this country. There are in New Zealand only two small religious communities for women, and when one of the men's communities in England was approached about forming a branch house in New Zealand it was concluded after a thorough examination that New Zealand was not yet ready for this development.

The Church congregations are much about the same size in the two countries, and New Zealand parish organisations are similar to those here. The weeks can easily become filled with Church activities in both places. The Province of New Zea-

land is divided into only seven dioceses, each of which is geographically much larger but numerically much smaller than the dioceses in England. In addition to the seven bishops, there is a Maori bishop whose task it is to work among the Maori people throughout New Zealand. There are also two missionary bishops: one each for Melanesia and Polynesia, which are groups of Pacific Islands close to New Zealand.

Very few schools in New Zealand are owned or controlled by the Church, and all state education is free, secular and compulsory to the age of 15. Much of the initiative for social work has been taken from the hands of the Church in New Zealand and social welfare is now regarded as the domain of the central government.

As would be expected from the ready availability of timber in New Zealand most of our buildings have quite a different appearance from those that we have seen here. Even in the cities, especially those in the North Island, it is the exception for a church or house to be built of brick or stone. The semi-detached house is almost unknown and most houses have the same amount of garden at the front as at the back. This gives the cities an air of spaciousness. Most of the private homes are what English people call bungalows, and as snow falls only in the very high country many of the more modern houses are being built with flat roofs.

One of the most noticeable differences between the two countries is the lack of dialects in New Zealand and the great number that there are in England. In conclusion, we would say that everything here appears to reach both a higher and a lower level than in New Zealand, whether it be art or wealth, education or entertainment.

L. B. & D. F. Brown.

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about
people, activities & organisations

Mothers' Union and Women's Guild
In September, too late for mention

in the last magazine, a large party of
us accepted the invitation to visit the

Hanworth All Saints' branch and join them in their service. We found that it was indeed an inspiration to worship with them in their lovely new church and to realise that Christian art is not a thing of the past. In his address the vicar, the Rev. W. Shergold, compared our lives to the rooms of a house and showed us how each room could be fitted in with the whole Christian life.

Afterwards we were shown round the church and one heard little gasps of pleasure as the small groups admired the unusual beauty of the font, the Lady Chapel or the arrangement of the flowers. The glass of the lovely windows has been made by a new technique in which the colour is made in the glass and the light passes through so that the building is transfigured by the light from its windows instead of being darkened by them.

After the service we were entertained to tea at Woodlawn by members of the branch.

Mrs. Mills sends us the following account of the Diocesan Mass Meeting which only five of our members were able to attend this year:

We had a very enjoyable afternoon at the Central Hall. I think there were about 2,000 M.U. members present.

Before the opening by Mrs. E. Coombs, Mrs. Alan Hodson gave us an Organ Recital and Mrs. Kershaw led us in community singing. Then Mrs. Coombs introduced Mrs. Manners of Mary Sumner House, who gave us an enlightening address on her visit to New Zealand.

Then came that lovely Hymn, "O love that gavest Beauty", and a programme of music by 'Members' Choirs', (Mrs. Lewis and I both wanted to join in) of 100 voices. Then the Bishop of Stepney's address. His theme was "Worship, Work and Witness", and he called it "From Castle to Shrine". He said—an Englishman's Home should not be a castle to keep enemies out, but a home to encourage our friends to come into. Also that it is difficult to imagine our kitchen table or sink as a shrine, but that we must endeavour to make it so and do our work to the Glory of God, even our washing up.

The time was then 4.0 p.m. and we closed with the hymn "God is work-

ing his purpose out". (I think we ought to practise it). Mrs. Lewis and I managed to get a lift back on the Holy Trinity members coach, and arrived home just after 5 p.m.

Continuing our programme on "Worship" Mrs. L. P. Brunt will talk to us on November 5th about Worship in the Russian Orthodox Church, which is one of the Eastern Orthodox Federation of Churches.

The split between East and West Christendon happened gradually between the ninth and thirteenth centuries and is, I suppose, one of the greatest tragedies of Christianity, especially since there was never at that time any great difference of doctrine or on spiritual matters.

To-day, we of the Church of England have much in common with the Orthodox Church, and, I am told, no fundamental disagreements on doctrine. But after all these centuries of separation we have developed differences of tradition and outlook. The appearance and symbols of the Orthodox Church may seem very "foreign" to us with our less exuberant modes of expression, but the Russian Church has a beautiful liturgy which we could all understand and it has been said that "worship" was the particular gift of the East while "discipline and order" that of the West.

After the revolution the Russian Church largely went into exile and Paris became its centre whence, in spite of material poverty (or because of?) it has, in recent years, enriched Europe with Christian saints and at least one Christian martyr, not to mention a spirited new ballet from which our own English ballet derived a lot of its inspiration.

Owing to pressure of engagements it has not been possible to arrange any sewing meetings, though we still hope to manage one before the Autumn Sale.

We have undertaken to provide our usual handwork stall so please remember that the day is drawing very near.

The Whist Drive in aid of table cloths and Missionary Exhibition realised a profit of £5 19s. 3d. The

Jumble Sale a profit of £6 2s. 6d. Many thanks to all those who contributed to the success of these two events.

The film of "Cry the Beloved Country" is mentioned elsewhere in this issue. An M.U. party for the afternoon performance is arranged for Wednesday, Nov. 19th, to meet outside the Regal cinema at 2.15 p.m. and the Y.W. for the evening of Monday, Nov. 17th, to meet outside the cinema at 7.20 p.m. The Secretaries would be pleased to have names as soon as possible.

C.H.B.

C. OF B. CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

A special effort is being made to raise funds in this district before the end of December. Several local churches helped at a Sale of Work held in Teddington this month, and raised nearly £60. When, in July, we were invited to help at this effort we were already heavily engaged for that week and felt that it was not possible for us to take on anything else. We did manage to cancel an afternoon meeting so that it did not clash with the sale and some of us took contributions but it still means that as a parish we have not yet made a sufficient contribution. This work is so important and so dependent on our efforts that it would be a pity if under the stress of our own financial requirements this year, we failed to support it. It has been proposed that we have a morning coffee and "Bring and Buy" Sale one Friday in December. I should be glad to hear either of support for this or of other suggestions.

C.H.B.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOLS

The alteration of time to 2.30 p.m., and the new arrangements about places of meeting, have had most encouraging results so far. The Junior School, meeting in the church, now has over 30 boys on its books, and it seems that, if the present rate of growth continues, the girls will soon reach this figure too. Owing to these large numbers, the vicar is having to confine himself to teaching here, because in this section the need is greatest. But it has been very pleasant to welcome two new helpers on to the teaching-staff, Mr. Sumner

and Mr. Moilliett. The change in time has certainly helped the starting-problem, but it is not yet solved, because the numbers of children are increasing all the time, and classes are again beginning to be overcrowded. And we have just heard that Miss Phillips, who has for a long time been superintendent of the Senior Girls, and until this re-arrangement had to cope single-handed with all the girls over 11 (now she has Miss Wright with her), is leaving the district in December. She will be a great loss to the whole church-life of our parish, and to the Council, of which she has long been a faithful member and regular attender: but, especially will she be missed in the Sunday School, where she has done such devoted and skilful work with little or no assistance. We must pray that the right person will be found to take her place. We would also like to hear of people who would come into the Sunday School to help a teacher with a class before teaching themselves. You can learn a good deal about teaching-methods by first being there, helping with the apparatus, getting to know the children, and seeing how an experienced teacher does the job. Then in time you will perhaps feel able to take on a class on your own. If you would like to do this, please let the vicar know. There are great opportunities waiting in our Sunday Schools, but we must have the right people in to teach and help.

The new Sunday School on the Rectory Estate is now firmly established, and is still growing in numbers. It is good to note that the older boys and girls from this estate are now beginning to come down to our central schools. We are very glad to welcome them.

Most of the children from the former afternoon Children's Service now seem to be have been happily absorbed into the Sunday School. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Beckett for their loving nurture of this service and those who came to it over a period of eight years; and to Mrs. Jarvis, who came from another church to fill the vacancy as pianist, and rarely missed a service.

THE AUTUMN FAIR AND SOCIAL

This is a new venture, but there is great enthusiasm, and we feel sure that it will be a great success, both in promoting good-fellowship and also in bringing aid to our hard-pressed finances. There will be eight or nine stalls, with a variety of articles on them, including some most attractive illustrated books for young people, and special parish calendars embodying one of Mr. Webb's, beautiful photographs of the church. All our organisations are helping, including the Scout Group and the Guides and Brownies, who are throwing in their full weight to help the church on this occasion instead of holding their usual bazaar for their own funds in December. There will be a special cake competition: prizes of 10/-, 7/6 and 5/- are offered by Messrs. McDougall's Ltd., for the best home-made cake using their Self-raising flour for the prescribed recipe. Recipe-leaflets at 3d., including entrance-fee for the competition, can be had from Mrs. Brunt at the Vicarage.

The Melford Radio Service will be providing film-shows in the Club-Room at 3.30, 4.30 and 5.30 p.m. (admission to each show 9d.).

The day will be rounded-off with a grand evening-social beginning at 7.45 p.m. (admission 1/6d.). This will include games, competitions, old-time dances, community-singing, and various entertainments, including a display by pupils of Miss Ena Holdaway's School of Dancing, and songs by Mr. Goody, Mr. Merri-field and Mrs. McLean. Mrs. Woolf will be at the piano.

The Social Committee have indeed arranged an excellent programme, and we are looking forward to a most happy and successful day.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

Nov. 3rd.—7.45 p.m. Church Council 'At Home' (Hall).

Nov. 5th.—3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union: "Worship in the Orthodox Church" (Hall).

Nov. 6th.—7.0 p.m. Drama Group Theatre Party.

Nov. 9th.—Remembrance Day. Special Form of Service, 10.55 a.m.

Nov. 10th.—7.30 p.m. R.D. Conference, St. Mary's Hall, Twickenham: Open meeting—"The Church's Ministry of Healing".

Nov. 11th.—8.0 p.m. The Men's Society—"The Work of the Police-Court Mission" (Vicarage).

Nov. 15th.—3.0 p.m. Autumn Fair. (Hall and club-room).

7.45 p.m. Social Evening (Hall).

Nov. 17th.-22nd.—Film "Cry, The Beloved Country" showing daily at 2.30, 5.45 and 9.0 p.m. at Regal Cinema, Twickenham. (Several church parties going).

Nov. 20th.—8.0 p.m. Confirmation administered by the Bishop of Kensington.

Nov. 21st.—8.0 p.m. Social Evening for men arranged by C.E.M.S. (Club-room).

Nov. 22nd & 23rd.—Deanery Conference for Youth Leaders and Sunday School Teachers, Whan Cross.

Nov. 25th.—8.0 p.m. News-Team-Fellowship (Vicarage).

Nov. 28th.—7.0 p.m. Magazines ready: Distributors' meeting.

No. 28th.—8.0 p.m. Drama Group presents three one-act plays (Hall).

Dec. 2nd.—8.15 p.m. Church Council (Vestry).

Dec. 11th.—Dedication Festival. 7.45 p.m. Evensong and Gift Service. Preacher: Father Paul Singleton, C.R.

BAPTISMS

Oct. 5th.—Barbara Ann Plumb-ley, 77, Longford Close.

Nov. 12th.—Neal Quive Stephenson, 20, Dorset Mount, Leeds.

Nov. 12th.—Gary Clark, 42, Hanworth Road.

Received into church; Linda Clark.

MARRIAGES

Oct. 4th.—Dennis Frank Moss to Gwenneth Madge Brain.

Oct. 25th.—Reginald Ernest Cook to Pauline Joan Howard.

BURIAL

Oct. 7th.—Maud Clement Morris, 6, Hanworth Road, aged 48 years. (At Teddington Cemetery).