

"MEET JEAN-PIERRE"

Day conferences held on 29/30 June at St. Benedict's, Sunbury.

Jean-Pierre de Meulder is a Roman Catholic priest, who has been leading contact and mission work for twelve years among the immigrant-worker communities in Brussels. Jim Cranswick, who is developing this type of mission work in our own and ten other local Christian communities, asked him to come here and tell us about his work. About 30-40 people attended each day, shared a meal, fellowship and his experiences. It was a joy to meet him. He gave the impression of being a man of great humility, simplicity and humour. And it was stimulating to get some insight into the work of a R.C. and into the Christian communities of another country. I am most grateful to Jim Cranswick for arranging the meeting.

His English was good though a little quaint. I am not really criticising. I mention this only because its quaintness produced some striking phrases: e.g. "We are not speaking about Church but making Church". And that indeed was really a summary of his message.

Since 75% of city people are without the Church and ways of life and relationships are changing, those who feel called to go out and share Christianity must do so alongside the "churchless" majority. We cannot expect them to come to us.

It is a mistake, he emphasised, to slavishly copy the methods of others. They in Brussels had begun by imitating the experience and organisation of those in Paris and Lyons but this had proved fruitless.

We must always share our experiences with others and be most flexible in our approach. Both the committed and the uncommitted have questions, and the committed do not have all the answers. We need to make deep personal relationships with people so that we are able to discuss questions of life.

Father Jean-Pierre talked of the organisation of his work, stressing all the time that those who undertake it must be sensitive and open to the needs of those whom they meet in the various areas of their lives, and that personalities are more important than organisation. He suggested that people want the essentials of faith not church traditions, and they need the opportunities of sharing faith and fellowship.

He was asked what success he had had and replied that if one goes into this work with the idea of numbers in church and success it is better not to start. However, if people who have lived twenty-five years with personal questions and now have found people with whom they can open up for the first time, then this is worthwhile.

We all found it reassuring that progress seemed to be in depth rather than in demonstrable numbers. All of us in the Contacts Groups occasionally feel that we are not "earning our keep" but Jean-Pierre stressed that the work is slow. Training of ourselves with others and the Holy Spirit to become opportunists for God is not to be accomplished in a minute.

We discussed the various types of contact groups and larger groups which "make church". But anyone hoping for a blue print of mission methods would

have been disappointed. Jean-Pierre stressed that "we do not know at the beginning how we have to end".

I was led to compare his approach with my work of teaching "remedial reading". So often I have sought in conferences, books and experts a foolproof method of instruction, a scheme for success, but again and again I have learned that there is no one method of teaching reading; the only method is that which the teacher and the student feels is right at any one time. Similarly perhaps there is no one method of making Christians, only that which the Holy Spirit and the committed Christian feel is right at any one time.

J.R.

LECTURES AT ST. GILES TRUST FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

A Message of Hope - Study of Isaiah 40 - 55.

Oct 7	The Greatness of God	Nov 4	Downfall of the oppressor
Oct 14	Deliverance is at hand	Nov 11	Restoration
Oct 21	The Folly of Idolatry	Nov 18	The Holy City
Oct 28	No other God	Nov 25	The Servant of God

Dr. William Neil, the eminent theologian and author says "By the mysterious moving of God's Spirit the finger of this unknown and at the time unheeded prophet of the Exile points directly to Christ".

I attended his lectures last year and he was very good indeed. They start at 7 p.m. but the doors are open at 6.30 p.m. Membership is free, but we must apply for tickets. I can take up to four people in my car. We will leave Hampton Hill at 6 p.m. and arrive back at approximately 8.45 p.m.

Don Rawlins.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE NEWS

As our first Folk Dance was such a success we are holding another on September 21. The cost, including refreshments, will be 40p. and tickets should be available soon. Doors are open at 7.30 and the dancing will start at 8.00 p.m. prompt. Casual clothes should be worn and as you will appreciate this type of dancing is not suitable for young children.

This event will be closely followed by the Harvest Supper on October 10. The Fireworks Party will be at Laurel Dene as usual on November 2 and on November 16 we are holding an Edwardian evening.

THE MOTHERS' UNION

Most able-bodied people spend something on transport: 5p. to Twickenham I remember when it was 1½d; xp. a gallon for petrol - and by the time you read this is may be marked up in £s; even a new inner tube for the old bike is considerably more than you thought it would be.

Last year five hundred members from Exeter came by special train to London for the Overseas Sale at Mary Sumner House, and indeed brought with them a large consignment of Teddy Bears that they had made and collected for the Christmas trade there. Over the two-day event members came from as far away as Northern Scotland and goods came from all over the British Isles and some from overseas.

If you have seen a connection between these two paragraphs, you won't be surprised to hear that after all these years of running it, it has been decided that it is no longer economical to hold a central sale on that scale. Passenger fares to London and the cost of goods - transport is out of all proportion.

BUT last year's sale did raise £7, 277.42 to help support M.U. workers - mainly those in developing countries. The number of members in these countries is increasing rapidly and they and their churches are giving more and more to support their own and the world-wide movement. But they still need our help. Last year I met the M.U. worker for Southern Zambia. She lived among bush villages and her area covered thousands of square miles. Her nearest 'shop' was 50 miles away. Her food was largely out of tins because she could not afford to shop very often and wasn't able to live on the poor diet of 'mealies'. I went out with her to a branch meeting at one village and found there local members who had started out before dawn to walk many miles to come to see her and that may suggest how much they valued her visit!

Somehow that money must be replaced. The dioceses have been asked to do it locally. I can't find any standards or formulae to work out how much we should all be responsible for: there are too many variables. So I take it that we must all raise as much as we can. Our deanery's special effort will be on Wednesday, September 25 in our Parish Hall at 2.30 p.m. St. James's will be responsible for a cake stall and will be grateful for all contributions. The main attraction of the afternoon will be a visit from Sister Muriel of Bangladesh, who has worked there for some years, through the war in which she was wounded and through the floods when she was concerned with relief.

C.H.B.

OUTING TO GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL - June 8

And God said "Let there be rain - in abundance". And the farmers said "God is merciful" and the gardeners said "God is good" and the parishioners of St. James's said "God is most surely British". Thus dawned June 8, the day of the Parish outing to Guildford, black clouds and torrential rain. Nevertheless a very cheerful crowd gathered in St. James's Road and as the church clock struck ten there was an impatient stamping of feet, large and small, awaiting the coach which was at least one minute late. We hastily scrambled aboard and soon were heading down the A3 into the blackest cloud imaginable. However, having listened to the anguished cries from the farmers God heard also the prayers of little Emma Palethorpe and on arriving at the Cathedral the rain stopped and as we entered the Cathedral the first rays of sun shone through the windows.

This was my first visit to Guildford Cathedral which stands impressively on Stag Hill overlooking Guildford and the surrounding countryside. The interior is no less impressive and on entering one's eye is immediately drawn up the nave to the High Altar. It has a feeling of great tranquility and spaciousness and is so designed that the congregation are contained entirely in the nave with an uninterrupted view to the High Altar and the side aisles are narrow and used only for exceptionally large congregations. We had a kind elderly guide who showed us around. He told us how much effort had been made to encourage local groups and organisations to contribute to the building of the Cathedral and many of these can be identified in the various lovely little stained glass windows. The kneelers were also of special interest, having been worked by men as well as women, each one divided diagonally, the lower half being worked in blue to

symbolize the hill and the upper half in light colours to suggest the sky. All the designs were approved by the Cathedral's architect so that original ideas are shaped to conform to the over-all pattern of the Cathedral. The Cathedral is of gothic design which I personally find very appealing, yet the lightness and spaciousness give it the mark of a modern design.

After our leisurely tour we had our picnic on the green in front of the Cathedral. For me one of the great attractions of this outing was the "picnic provided" part, in fact my enjoyment of the outing began on Friday, not having to prepare the family's meals for Saturday. The catering must definitely be voted first class and the hot coffee was a most unexpected pleasure for although the sun graciously shone down on us it was nevertheless rather breezy on the hill.

At 1.30 we once again boarded our nice warm coach and were taken to the river, the River Wey I am told, where our boat was waiting to take us to Godalming. It was quite one of the loveliest river trips, partly on stretches of canal and partly on the river itself. It was slow and peaceful and we had ample time to admire the beautiful fresh meadows. Our driver "skipper" also gave us some interesting information about the days of the horse drawn barges. We had to pass through three locks which added greatly to the children's enjoyment and, I suspect to that of most of the adults. On arrival at Godalming we gave three hearty cheers for our "Skipper" who had skilfully manoeuvred us through very narrow bridges and very shallow water. Then there was a smart rush to get a hot cup of tea, return to our coach and home.

It was indeed a memorable day and while I know everyone who went will want to join with me in thanking the various committees involved for all their hard work, I would also like to offer my own very personal thanks. I am only a parishioner of St. James's by marriage, so to speak, as I owe my allegiance to the nearby Roman encampment. Nevertheless I am always made so welcome at these excellent social events, accepting all and giving nothing in return. So may I take this opportunity of saying very sincerely "Thank you St. James's"

M.W.

THE VISIT TO ST. JAMES'S

On Thursday, July 4, in St. James's Road, sweet-smelling smoke rose higher than the spire of St. James's Church towards the Lord as Christians of various persuasions came together in the Vicarage gardens. But it was not incense; it was charcoal and sausages.

Still, it is on such fertile ground that the Spirit's seeds are planted and we all greatly appreciated the kindness and warmth of the welcome given to us by the Vicar and Mrs. Brunt and a score of parishioners. We (and the Justice and Peace Group members there in particular) would very much like to thank everyone concerned.

About twenty people attended from the congregation of St. Francis de Sales and half a dozen or so from the United Reformed Church. The various groups mixed themselves up very well and were charmingly entertained by our hosts.

At nine o'clock or so, we all repaired into the Church where Mr. Brunt threaded us quickly and with remarkable skill through the vagaries of Saxon

Parish Boundaries which determined 19th Century local government districts; the complicated responsibilities of Vestries in those days; the several different creatures which are today known as Hampton Hill (depending on whether you are a postman, clergyman or a local councillor); and a number of other needles through which good Christians have had to pass on the way to salvation.

Mrs. Orton then gave a most interesting and vivid account of the growth of the parish and the Church, including the efforts of the first Vicar, Mr. Fitz-Wygram, to whom all of us owe not only the establishment of formal Christianity in this area (and a truly caring and very practical Christianity, too) but also the foundation of our sewer system and the whole substratum of our Hampton Hill life. (In those days ladies would pay boys 1d to cross the street and post a letter rather than walk themselves through the filthy mire of the High Street!)

During the coffee which followed everyone was even more relaxed! Several parties strayed up to the Belfry and one actually managed to make the bell chime thirteen at ten o'clock.

And not long after this (but not, one hastens to add, as a result) we went our several ways, yet brothers, still, and warm.

P.B.

(Reprinted from 'Parish Matters' the Newsletter of the Church of St. Francis de Sales).

HAMPTON HILL AND HAMPTON COMMUNITY CARE GROUP

The Bring and Buy Sale which took place at 63 Park Road, on Friday July 12 was very well attended by friends from both Hampton and Hampton Hill. To everyone's surprise and pleasure we made £135 for our own funds - much more than the £100 which we hoped we might make!

The weather remained fine for the morning and afternoon sessions. The donkey didn't arrive to the great disappointment of the younger visitors, but they made do with a children's tombola, and with games organised by Mr. David Nunn. Everyone was most generous with the bring and buy stalls; a friend went off and picked all the cherries off his cherry-tree, and brought them to us to sell. The cakes on the cake stall were marvellous, and on every stall there were very attractive bargains.

The raffle with nine prizes was very popular, and in the evening the Rev. Dennis Green raised a lot of money with his bottle stall and auction. It poured with rain during this session, and we had to be indoors, but we had an extremely noisy and cheerful party within.

It was a very creditable community effort, and very many thanks are due to everyone who worked together to make it such a success. C.C.G. now feels much more financially secure.

Hannah Stanton.

ACTIVITIES START AGAIN

We will re-start the ladies' afternoon choir the fourth week of September. We have been meeting on the 2nd and 4th Thursday afternoons at Wayside at 2.15 p.m. but it seems there are several people who cannot manage this day but could come on a Monday. If this applies to enough people we will change the day to the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 2.30 p.m. The notice of our start will be on the notice board in Wayside and also in the next magazine. Please contact either Mrs. Young 979 5329 or Mrs. Severn 979 1954 if you are interested.

Our weekly one hour of Keep Fit will resume in the hall every Tuesday at 2.00 p.m. starting on September 10. We will welcome any who may be interested to come along and see what we do. No charge is made for watching! But if you want to feel any benefit you will need to do it! Eileen Fowler seems to look pretty good and it's her methods we use!

Just turn up or telephone one of the numbers above.

The badminton for beginners and young people will start in October or perhaps late in September. This club plays in the Parish Hall on Saturdays in the morning, afternoon or evening according to the availability of the hall. Although this is not one hundred per cent convenient it does enable young people to try their skill at a sport which otherwise would not be open to them. If you are interested and are eleven years old or more please contact Mr. Fisher 979 4893 (23 St. James Road).

A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE

The visit of Dr. Una Kroll presented both a challenge and a stimulus. She looked at the past, and showed how crisis and opportunity had forced the Church to adapt its forms of ministry (e.g. the appointment of the seven deacons described in Acts 6). She looked at the present, when crisis again presses hard upon us - shortage of manpower and money, and the ineffectiveness of some traditional ways of doing things. She looked into the future, when the crisis will have been surmounted and instanced some of the many and varied forms the Church's ministry might then take. Here are three brief impressions by three people who heard her sermon and joined in the discussion afterwards:

(1) God-person + Others? At least this member of the congregation got a new slant on 'ministry' and the many forms it can take from Dr. Una Kroll's sermon on July 14.

In the subsequent discussion, Dr. Kroll enlarged on the idea of reallocation of the Church's manpower by, for example, having many of the services conducted in their entirety by trained lay-people, while the ordained clergyman would become the spiritual focus of the community. This 'God-person' would be freed as the apostles of old were to concentrate on essential teaching and training, on full pastoral care.

Some expressed misgivings at the thought of Sacraments being administered by lay-people: answering the question 'Will it come to pass?' Dr. Kroll thought 'Yes - despite, rather than because of, the Church Hierarchy'. Not a few would agree with her.

J.W.G.

(2) Dr. Una Kroll's sermon and her discussion-session after the evening service left most of us refreshed and optimistic about the future of the ministry. Her concept of ministry was very broad: ministers in many spheres, people whose gifts and enthusiasm would be found in many areas of service, and in the centre of the Christian community the full-time Minister of the Word as a 'resource-person' with deep reserves of scholarship, wisdom and spiritual strength. He would be referred to constantly for help and guidance, and one of his main functions would be to stimulate the laity to use their gifts and initiative to the full. There would undoubtedly be fewer full-time clergymen than there are now, but their training would have been much longer and more

thorough, and their ministry would be supplemented by a much wider variety of 'auxiliary ministries' than exists at present.

An interesting side-light on Dr. Kroll's visit was that there was hardly a mention of the ordination of women to the ministry of the Anglican Church, a cause for which she has become known as a doughty champion: is this an indication that it is being taken more and more for granted? H.M.S.

(3) Ideas presented during the stimulating evening we had with Dr. Una Kroll needed to be scaled down to fit into my level of thinking. Maybe they are thus no longer authentically Dr. Kroll, I could not hope to do her justice; the following thoughts, however, have not left me since that service.

Dr. Kroll saw the financial and man-power crisis in which the Church finds itself at present as a challenge to rethink. Do we need the Church in its existing structure both in regard to buildings and organisation of clergy? Having to part with these may prove to be a liberating step forward. Dr. Kroll called her sermon "The forward looking ministry"; she thus concentrated on the changes in ministry that are taking place and others that she hopes will come about. A note of hopefulness characterised her whole outlook. The Holy Spirit shows us how to meet needs as they arise, sometimes without the Church or people outside it realising that a particular service is done in the name of the Lord - such a service being "ministry". She saw a diversification of ministry, with the priest at one end of the scale, a "resource person" who knows about the spiritual life, life with God, and who is not bogged down with administration or tied to the present standard duties of the parish priest. Delegation of duties. At the other end of the scale, services like waste paper collection (which meets an ecological need) or the Wayside Project are kinds of ministry which deserve to be recognised as such by the Church establishment.

Similarly there are some services that are now non-religious, which were, however, originated by people who knew that it was the Holy Spirit who called them to act in the way they did - Dr. Kroll mentioned the Samaritans. I feel the same applies to the Old Peoples' Welfare Committee, St. James's Nursery School and the new Hampton Hill and Hampton Community Care Group. In these instances the people outside the Church ought to realise that this, too, is ministry. H.B.

THE WAYSIDE MONDAY CENTRE

This closed for a summer break at the end of July, and we plan to re-open it on September 23, until further notice.

The Centre will then open as it has during the past three months, every Monday from 10.30 A.M. to 2.30 P.M. and from 7.30 to 10.30 P.M. 'Elevenses' and a light lunch are available at a small charge during the mid-day session, and coffee and biscuits in the evening.

A short article giving further details about the purpose and work of the Centre is planned for next month's edition of this magazine.

HELP

As some of you will know, advertisements have recently appeared in the local press and in the Church Times in connection with the post of assistant organist and choirmaster at this church. But it might well be that some people

with the necessary qualifications who live not too far away have missed these - or a reader of this magazine may know of someone who might be interested - so we are mentioning the vacancy here. We need someone for the post who is both a keen Christian as well as a competent musician, who would be prepared to share responsibility with Mr. Dafforene, perhaps on the basis of taking full charge every alternate week. The amount paid in salary will be subject to agreement. The Standing Committee of the Church Council hopes to meet early in September to consider applications, which should be sent in writing to the Vicarage.

CORRECTION TO STANDING MATTER

We are very glad that Seymour and Dawn Harris have now been able to move into the parish they love and serve so well, so the entry under Church Officers (which will be amended as soon as the printers can do this) should now read :
Mr. S.D. Harris, 69 St. James's Avenue, 979 3163

DEANERY INTERCESSION LIST

- August 18** Laurel Dene and all other Old People's Homes in the Deanery
25 Bishop Wand Secondary School and all other Church Schools
September 1 All Schools and Colleges in the Deanery
9 Welcare
15 All other Christian denominations in the Deanery

SOME DATES TO NOTE

- August 12** 10.30 A.M. Editorial Board (21 St. James's Road)
14 7.30 A.M. Holy Communion
24 SAINT BARTHOLOMEW THE APOSTLE: 7.30 A.M. Holy Communion
28 8.00 P.M. Liturgical Committee (63 Park Road)
29 THE BEHEADING OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST: 7.30 A.M. Holy Communion
September 4 7.30 A.M. Holy Communion; 2.30 P.M. Mothers' Union: Branch Meeting (W)
7 2.30 P.M. Old People's Welfare Committee: Annual Gala- (Holly Road Recreation Ground)
9 8.15 P.M. Properties Committee (18 St. James's Road)
11 7.30 A.M. Holy Communion
15 Infants' and Rectory Sunday School Departments reopen (Junior Department reopens on October 13)

N.B. Some arrangements may have to be modified at short notice because of holidays.

MARRIAGES

- June 29** John Richard Finch to Rosalind Ann Needs
July 6 Andrew Bain McDonald to Susan Howard

BURIALS AND CREMATION

- July 4** William Thomas Vickery, 62 Uxbridge Road, aged 88 years (at Hampton Cemetery)
18 Percy Edward Redington, 15 Myrtle Road, aged 69 years (at South-West Middlesex Crematorium)
19 Thomas Arthur Fountain 1 School Road, Avenue, aged 68 years (at Hampton Cemetery)