

REPORT ON THE SEPTEMBER SESSION OF THE LONDON DIOCESAN SYNOD (21 SEPTEMBER, 1974)

The Synod was preceded by a Eucharist in St. Matthews Church, and the Bishop in his short sermon spoke about the forthcoming Election and the dangers of inflation, how necessary it was for everyone to reduce their demands and have more simplicity in life, and he thought that this would probably mean more contentment with life too.

Two questions were asked; one concerned the Diocesan contributions to St. Helen's Retreat House, to which we pay £500 per annum from a special trust fund, and the other question concerned St. Alban's, Teddington. It was disclosed that the £59,000 was held by the London Diocese Fund for St. Alban's Church extensions, and it has recently attracted interest at the rate of 9.4%. The trust which left the money was reported as saying that the money was to be used as soon as possible for the completion, or part completion, of the Church, but with certain exceptions, not to be used on the interior of the Church. It was held that an amending claim to the trust could be applied for, if it was apparent that the trust for which the money was set up was impossible to fulfil.

The main part of the business was concerned with initially, the effects of inflation upon Clergy Stipends. The Synod was addressed by Mr. John Smallwood representing Southwark, who spoke about a Stipends System that had been introduced in their Diocese and had very successfully raised additional money to increase Clergy Stipends. Despite many pessimistic forecasts that the Parishes would not be able to raise additional money levied upon them, only two parishes out of 213 had failed to meet their obligations in the first two years. One effect of the scheme had been to neutralise the endowment system. There had been a significant effect upon recruitment of additional clergy. It was interesting to note that the highest giving in the Diocese - an average of 82p per person - was from a Parish in Deptford, in what one would describe as one of the lower income areas. Details of the Southwark Stipends System have been given to members of our Deanery Synod and P.C.C., and there is no doubt that our own Diocese will very seriously consider a similar scheme, and it will mean that Parishes will be called upon in the not too distant future to increase, very considerably, their scale of giving.

A number of resolutions were moved on behalf of the Deanery Synods, and they mainly concerned the delegation of power to Deanery Synods for the allocation of Deanery contributions to the Common Fund to Parishes in the Deanery, if they request it. There was a similar resolution for the Diocese to consider the introduction of Parish Shares and very much concerned the better use of funds at Parish level. Both these resolutions were carried, but with a fair amount of opposition mainly because it was considered that Deaneries were not equipped to deal with finance matters and that it would lead to additional expense and costs as a local level and a duplication of the services already carried out at Bedford Square. However, the general views seem to be that we encourage the greater inter-dependence of Parishes within the Deanery and would give more status to the Deanery, as envisaged by the Synodical Government Measures. There was very little discussion about the mechanics of operating such a scheme, and it was left for Bedford Square to produce a scheme.

Another resolution recommended the provision of availability in every

Deanery for facilities for Baptism by immersion for all who desire it. This motion was also carried on a majority vote only, and in its favour it was said that Adult Baptism was increasing and there was a requirement for the deep symbolism that immersion provided. A clergy member of the Synod who had previously been a Baptist Minister, was not in favour of the resolution, on the grounds that most Baptist Churches had facilities and would gladly extend the use of them to the Church of England, if they require it.

The Synod finished the day by discussing a resolution from St. Margaret's, Westminster, about mobilising the Christian conscience of Britain to press the Government to conform with the United Nations Aid target of 0.7% of the gross national product. There was only time for the motion to be introduced and seconded and for the Bishop of Kensington to say that much was being done particularly through the E.E.C., and he thought that probably now wasn't the time to pressurize the Government on this matter. It was left that the matter would be debated at the next Synod.

There was not time to discuss the reports on Welcare and the Industrial Chaplaincy.

It must be commented that the attendance was very thin, and certainly in the afternoon session, there was not even a quorum had it been called.

A.R. Taylor.

HAMPTON AND SUNBURY COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

The Annual General Meeting of the Council was held on October 15 at St. Mary's Church Hall under the Chairmanship of Miss Hannah Stanton, when a goodly crowd of representatives from local churches (seven from St. James's) reviewed another year of inter-denominational co-operation. A new series of United Services was arranged for 1975 giving us the opportunity of partaking in Services at one another's Churches and thus seeing more of other viewpoints. (The most recent of these was on Sunday October 20 at the United Reformed Church before a specially-invited speaker, the Rev. Neville Cryer, General Director of the British and Foreign Bible Society).

Amongst some important decisions taken at the meeting were the establishment of a Sunbury Committee to overcome the difficulties caused by local geography, and the setting up of a joint drama group to provide a Good Friday Passion Play. Details about auditions and rehearsals will be given as soon as possible. The Treasurer (Mr. Ron Stratton) announced that over £670 was collected in the area by volunteers during the 1974 Christian Aid Week. A special lecture is being arranged in London for the 1975 campaign to which church organisers are invited (date yet to be decided).

The meeting concluded with a very enlightening talk on the World Council of Churches given by Dr. Richard Bingle who has held administrative positions on the Council for several years and recently attended an Executive Committee Meeting in East Germany. Some two hundred and seventy Churches throughout the world are now linked in a common chain of Christian action. This wide circle of Churches embracing many races and nationalities gives rise to more outspokenness and action on today's problems than we are used to in Britain today. Thus, the World Council has given financial aid to many nationalist movements in Black Africa (e.g. Frelimo), reflecting the strong feelings of coloured Churches against colonialism and white supremacy. The Council

has allocated money for relief projects to both North and South Vietnam. Such actions are taken to show the Third World that Christian charity is not confined to "Western civilisation". (The Council is confident that none of the money was spent on arms). Dr. Bingle held our attention with much detail on the Council's work and organisation that cannot for lack of space be reproduced here. But he intrigued us with the statement made recently by a visiting Churchman to Russia, that, far from that country's being atheistic, the churchgoing population was higher both relatively and absolutely than in this country. This is a startling claim indeed. What do readers think?.

RB

THE CHURCHYARD

Again!? Well, the weeds won't stop growing so we can't stop asking for help in clearing them. Especially since the response to the last article has to my knowledge not been too enthusiastic. Granted, the Autumn is not the ideal time to start gardening, and the weather has made it virtually impossible anyway to do anything practical. Let's all resolve to have a fresh vigorous start next spring.

On November 30 everybody will have a chance to take a good look around and choose "their" corner. We'll have a Grand Clearance before Winter sets in. As many helpers as possible are officially asked to present themselves with shears, rakes and lots of energy.

Something very positive that has happened in the meantime is the cutting of the hedge along Park Road. A major job that was not widely advertised because it needed the right kind of tools. It was consequently carried out almost entirely by the faithful few, and as a member of the pedestrian public I would like to say Thank You to them. It looks a sight better and one can now walk past without being grabbed by thorny tentacles.

H.B.

WASTEPAPER SALVAGE

The proceeds of the sale of the paper from our wastepaper collection are now benefiting a number of local charities and community projects. In six months about 33 tons of paper has been saved and the account of the money allocated is as follows:-

Hampton Hill Old People's Welfare Committee	£173.68
Hampton/Hampton Hill Older Citizens' Day Centre	£106.88
Community Care Group	£103.68
Proceeds from Sept. 28 Collection	<u>£108.16</u>
(not yet received)	<u>£492.40</u>

It has been decided that the money from the September 28 collection (after deduction of the cost of a tarpaulin) should be allocated to the renovation of the church clock now back in service after its overhaul. We feel this work is of benefit to the community and should receive a share of the money.

As most people have heard, Richmond Borough Council has set up a wastepaper collection pilot scheme in the Teddington/Hampton Wick area which extends to the east side of Hampton Hill High Street. Although the Council scheme is outside our area, we hope that those people in these outside areas who have been helping the St. James's scheme will continue to do so. The

voluntary collection of wastepaper is a really worthwhile community effort and , as long as our scheme continues, we shall be able to raise much-needed funds for our many local community organisations and charities.

D.E. Nunn-

EDWARDIAN EVENING

On Saturday, November 16 you are invited to an Edwardian evening, where you will look Edwardian, sing Edwardian songs, eat Edwardian food and with luck watch a few Edwardian turns. Tickets are available from members of the Social Committee price 50p.

While we are thinking of singing, watch out for details of the Parish carol singing in December. The date and the route will be pinned on the church notice board earlier in the month.

THE SCOUT GROUP

Any of you enjoying a quiet walk in Bushy Park on the morning of October 5 must have wondered at the unusual amount of activity taking place. This year is the 150th anniversary of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and Britain's Scouts have agreed to join in the celebrations in a truly practical way - by helping to raise the money for a much-needed new lifeboat. Our Cub-Scouts participated in the Sponsored Walk and the amount collected to date is £100, so a very generous amount should be forthcoming from the whole of Twickenham District.

Autumn is a very active time for the Group. The Troop took part in the District Swimming Gala on October 4, gaining 9th position. The Cub-Scout Gala will be on November 8 at Richmond Baths, also on that date the A.D.C. for Scouts will be visiting the Troop in order to present our new Scouter with his Leader Permit.

Both this week-end and the next, two Patrols are camping at Walton Firs, and for the Cubs the serious business of League football is well under way.

On Friday, November 1 we have a party of 50 going to Ralph Reader's Farewell London Gang Show; this includes a number of our B.P. Guild friends, and on November 2 our Bonfire Party on the Camp Site will take place as usual. This event seems to attract greater numbers every year, and any friends of the Group are very welcome.

Our Christmas Bazaar is being held on Saturday, November 23 in the Parish Hall.

It was very gratifying to see the good response to the Vicar's invitation to Parade at the Harvest Festival Service, also to meet some new parents.

S.R.C.

Y. P. F. REACH OUT - PROGRESS REPORT

In the September issue of this magazine, it was explained that the Young People's Fellowship was reaching out. Well, it has reached out! By the end of that month, about 50 young people were visited, a result of which is that over half expressed an interest in us. We were greatly encouraged by this and

success has followed success, including a Folk/Rock Concert in the Hall, at which about 100 young people thoroughly enjoyed themselves. This is more like it, people say. Y.P.F. is very much alive and kicking. It has a job to do in our community and at the moment it is succeeding. By the time you read this, I hope that you will have 'experienced' another evening service conceived, written, produced and performed by Y.P.F.

If this article encourages you to know more about us, then find out by phoning me (979 1589) and I will gladly come and chat if you wish.

Martin Edmonds.

HAMPTON HILL OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE COMMITTEE

We had the privilege of being invited to the Harvest Thanksgiving celebrations of the Clarendon School on Wednesday, October 9 together with any of the elderly who wished to attend. We were greeted with a lovely cup of tea and biscuit - much enjoyed. The programme was a mixed one of both religious and secular items from Joseph being sold into slavery in Egypt to mothers going shopping for their vegetables, etc., from the shopkeepers - how well the children performed their parts, and what patience must have been displayed by the teachers in training them - if I were a gentleman instead of a mere woman I would raise my hats (2 of them) to the trainers! Each old person present (me included) received a packet of tea and there were baskets of produce to be distributed to the house-bound afterwards. Thank you Clarendon School for a lovely experience which I am sure was much enjoyed by all. One house-bound recipient of produce was heard to say that she hadn't seen so many children at her front door in years - she was very agreeably surprised!

Olive R. Wright
(Committee member)

THE COMMUNITY CARE GROUP

On Saturday, October 19 the Hampton Hill and Hampton Community Care Group held a wine and cheese party at Rectory School Hall. Well over 150 people braved the pouring rain to sample the appetising selection of food and drink and to fulfil the main purpose of the evening: getting to know one another. It was most enjoyable seeing together so many people one usually meets through their widely differing functions within the community. Quite a few attractive raffle prizes helped to raise some funds, which were considerably augmented by the very interesting bookstall provided by Mr. G. Landborough. The Rev. D. Green spoke for the three Co-Chairmen of the Group in welcoming the guests, and the fact that his invitation to dance went unheeded goes to show that everybody welcomed this opportunity of cementing the community spirit by friendly chat. The convivial evening ended in high spirits, most people actually having to be reminded of the time.

H.B.

THE MOTHERS' UNION

The Deanery meeting in the parish hall was a great occasion and we thank all those who came along to support the Mothers' Union Overseas work. Sister Muriel told a fascinating story of her travels among M.U. Branches in Bangladesh, sometimes travelling by bullock cart and sometimes along rivers

in her own boat the "Mary Sumner". It was a story of poverty and courage among her members suffering from the aftermath of war, from famine and floods, and now beset by bands of lawless bandits. The Mother House of her Order had been destroyed but the Sisters went on with their religious work and life, and never expected to be recalled to their homeland. There was encouraging news about co-operation between the Denominations and of the growth of Christianity among some of the younger villagers. The meeting raised £73 for Overseas work.

In October Miss Dines told us of her very different work near Salisbury, Rhodesia. She had lived among her Branches and as she described her recent return visit we felt something of the warmth and affection as well as the spiritual depth among the African members as they worked together to improve the standards of living in their villages and strove for the secondary education of their children; something that is free and accessible to their white neighbours but limited and expensive for them.

The news last month was that the Queen has now signed the new Charter and we are all set to go ahead with it. New membership cards (3p) and a pamphlet on the Aims and Object (10p) is on the M.U. bookstall. Of course the basic aim has not changed and is formulated as "the advancement of the Christian religion in the sphere of marriage and family life". A hundred years ago the idea of the Christian religion was, in this country, more widely accepted than it is today but I wonder whether the religion or the family life was understood as it is today and the function of a M.U. Branch is something quite different from what it was in Mary Sumner's day. For one thing we now have quite consciously to emphasise the family as a unit and as part of a community of the extended family, something that I suppose was taken for granted in the village of Gid Arlesford when Mary Sumner was a young wife. One of our members has already suggested that we should have changed our name to "Family Union". I think the Commission did consider the change of name but decided that it was not practicable. We might, however, keep it in mind for ourselves.

We intend to keep the programme of events posted both in church and on the notice board at Wayside but I would like to point out an extra morning meeting on Thursday, November 21, when there will be a short report of the recent conference on "Marriage and the Law" followed by some discussion. Coffee will be served at 10.30 a.m. and the meeting will start at 10.45 a.m. and finish at 12.00. Anyone who is interested will be welcome.

C.H.B.

MONDAY AFTERNOONS

Alternating with the already established "Ladies' Choir" there will be a few weeks of informal gatherings that might be put under the general heading of "would you like to have a go"? The first on November 4 will be for poetry reading and will be followed by others on oil painting, records, play-reading etc. There is no need to 'join' just turn up when you feel like it! Titles will be put on the Wayside notice board.

HARVEST FESTIVITIES

The church was beautifully decorated, and one hesitated to think how much time and skill had gone into some of the exquisite flower-arrangements : and on the Sunday it was entered by two hundred and forty people who came to thank God for His generosity. More than one hundred and sixty of these came to the Family Communion, and most of them stayed for the breakfast afterwards, held in the church itself and lasting much longer than usual, as though people were loth to leave such a friendly gathering in such a pleasant place. There were a number of visitors too, some from overseas, including a Canadian staying with relatives in the parish, who told some of us about his work. He spends half the year working as an accountant, and then he has enough money to enable him to devote the other six months to the ministry of healing as a member of the International Order of Saint Luke. Every year he conducts healing missions in Texas and in parishes in Chester. He said that he hoped to be here again at Christmas, and would let us have copies of his book "Along the Healing Way". What he said was an encouragement to us to seek to develop more fully this ministry in our own parish.

The next day, in pouring rain, a small band of volunteers divided the gifts amongst forty mushroom-baskets and conveyed them to the homes of some of our more elderly parishioners, to whom they brought a ray of cheer on such a drab morning. The Harvest Supper was delayed for a week because of the Election, but when it finally came it was even more enjoyable than ever. The new chairs added to the colourfulness of the proceedings, but caused problems for the Social Committee, because they are wider than the old wooden chairs, and this meant fewer people at each table. But a very successful solution was found in a table-arrangement never used at this function before, which increased the general togetherness as well. Our M.C. advised us to eat in leisurely fashion and to indulge in good conversation, as coffee would not be served until 9.00 p.m., and we obeyed his behests in both respects, and so were in a mellow good-humoured condition by the time the entertainment by the members of the Drama Group was presented for our delectation. If we hadn't already been in jovial mood, this would have done the trick, for it was extremely funny, and the performers obviously enjoyed it as much as we did. So with a feeling of well-being and an experience of good fellowship, this happy sequence of events came to a close. Many thanks to all concerned.

DEANERY INTERCESSION LIST

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|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| November 10 | St. James, Hampton Hill |
| 17 | St. Alban with St. Mary, Teddington |
| 24 | St. Mark, Teddington. |
| December 1 | All Hallows, Twickenham |
| 8 | All Saints, Twickenham |
| 15 | Holy Trinity, Twickenham Green. |

SOME DATES TO NOTE

November

- 8 SAINTS OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND: 7.30 A.M. Holy Communion; 8.00 P.M. Liturgical Committee (63 Park Road)
- 9 8.30 - 10.30 A.M. Wastepaper Collection
- 10 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY: Special Form of Service at 6.30 P.M. Courses for Sponsors and Coaches begin at St. Benedict's Centre, Sunbury.
- 12 8.00 P.M. Second Training Session and Discussion Evening for all interested in the Wayside Project (W)
- 13 7.30 A.M. Holy Communion: 8.00 P.M. Parochial Church Council (W)
- 16 8.00 P.M. Edwardian Evening (Hall)
- 18 10.30 A.M. Editorial Board (21 St. James's Road)
- 19 8.00 P.M. Tuesday Club: Speaker from the R.W.V.S. (W)
- 20 7.30 A.M. Holy Communion
- 21 10.30 A.M. Mothers' Union: Open Meeting - 'Marriage and the Law' (W) 8.00 P.M. Prayer Meeting (69 St. James's Avenue)
- 23 2.00 P.M. Older Citizens' Day Centre Association: Christmas Fayre (St. Mary's Hall, Hampton); 2.30 P.M. Scout Group Christmas Bazaar (Hall)
- 24 STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY: Visitors will be commissioned at the 9.30 A.M. Service, and at 6.30 P.M. there will be a special preacher - The Reverend B.A.J. Durden, Chief Clerical Organising Secretary of the Church of England Children's Society. After the Service, refreshments will be served, and there will be opportunity for questions and discussion.
- 30 SAINT ANDREW'S DAY: 7.30 A.M. Holy Communion; 9.00 A.M. All-day and all-out Mass Attack in the Churchyard begins, to clear it of leaves and weeds before Winter sets in.

December

- 1 5.15 P.M. Young People lead the Service at Laurel Dene
- 3 8.00 P.M. Tuesday Club: Speaker on the work of the John Groom Association for the Disabled (W); 8.00 P.M. Deanery Synod (Whitton)
- 8 DEDICATION FESTIVAL: After shortened Evensong the first of two Teach-ins on the Second Isaiah and his Message of Hope: 'Isaiah and Messiah', followed by refreshments.

MARRIAGE

September

- 28 Colin Alfred Rainer to Hazel Ann Pope.