

THE ARCHBISHOPS' PASTORAL LETTER

One of the criticisms of this was that, though well-meaning, it did not go far enough in its analysis of the nation's ills. The Archbishops have now issued an 'Appendix' in which they say :

In our Pastoral Letter we posed two questions :-

What sort of society are we looking for ?

What sort of people do we need to be in order to achieve it ?

These questions sound simple, but placed side by side they imply that What we can achieve depends upon what we are
and

What we are depends upon what we believe.

There are at least five areas of life in which Christians have a distinct contribution to make.

They are:-

1. Employment and unemployment. What is the right attitude to work ?
2. Law and order. How can they be reconciled with freedom ?
3. Power and powerlessness. What is God's power ?
4. Ambition. How can enterprise exist without selfishness ?
5. Integrity. Where does our personal, social, economic and political life lack this ?

The Archbishops conclude by repeating what they have continually said on T.V., Radio and in the Press, that it is no good just mentioning these things - these topics call for intensive study, group discussion and prayer, leading to action.

The importance of such groups is now increasingly recognised, and they are becoming a normal part of Church life. Another article in this magazine has more to say on the matter. On the media the Archbishops have emphasised that they would like to see the formation of groups not confined to Christians but welcoming all people of goodwill who have a concern for the well-being of our nation and for the future of mankind, and hope that in such groups fruitful dialogue and growth in understanding will ensue, and then common ground for various kinds of action discovered.

If anyone in the parish wants to take the initiative in forming such a group in his own house, let him go ahead and invite his friends and neighbours in, and we will give him any help and advice we can. The Archbishops themselves suggest that useful material with which to begin may be found in the booklet entitled 'What kind of Britain do we want?' which can be obtained from : C.T.N. Church House,
1 Hanover Street,
Liverpool L1 3DW.

The price per copy is 15p.

SERVICE OF PRAYER FOR RACIAL HARMONY

I had the opportunity to report Mons. Bruce Kent's sermon in St. Mary's Church, Hampton, on October 19, in last month's Spire. This United Service was held during the Week of Prayer for World Peace.

Two days later, on October 21, a number of us met in the Church of St. Francis de Sales to keep the Service and Vigil of Prayer for Racial Harmony. The Teddington Christian Council joined with the Hampton and Sunbury Council of Churches in organising this. After last year's visit of our Pakistani friends, it was decided this year to invite members of two other minority groups, Polish and Chinese, and to ask them to tell us how they intergrate into our British society.

The Polish group included a number of young people who sang vigorous Polish songs and hymns. Their leader spoke of their opportunities in the new environment of Britain and of how they were settling down. The Chinese Methodist minister gave us an idea of the various problems which affected Chinese students in this country.

The short service was followed by a most cheerful social gathering over coffee, organised by the Justice and Peace Group; and this in its turn was followed by a two-hour vigil. We all sat round the altar, with the Easter candle alight, and prayed and meditated on the very great need for racial harmony in the world today. The evening was led by Father Meehan, and to him we owe a most sincere debt of gratitude for his leadership and for his inspiring thoughts and prayers both at the service and at the vigil.

H.M.S.

WELCOME SERVICE

A further Welcome Service entitled "A Poppy for your Thoughts" was held on the second Sunday in November, and was well-attended.

Please make this service at 4.30, on the second Sunday of the month, well known to everyone. It is short and informal and is followed by tea, and provides an opportunity for everyone to meet.

H.M.S.

"THANK YOU"

The Lady Eleanor Holles and Hampton Schools Voluntary Service organisations brought a group of educationally sub-normal children from Clarendon School to the Parish Fireworks Party at Laurel Dene again this year. We were all most fortunate as the evening was fine, though cold.

The display was, perhaps, even more spectacular than those in previous years despite the fact that a few of the fireworks failed to go off. The preliminary sparklers were as universally popular as ever, and the soup and baked potatoes provided at the end were particularly comforting on so cold a night. The outing was a great success - both children and helpers thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank the Social Committee for a very pleasant evening.

Caroline Bolt

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Don't forget the parish party on Saturday, January 10. The theme this year is "The Mighty Sea" but don't be put off - if you don't feel like being an old crab or Father Neptune, a mermaid, a limpet or a pirate, a sailor or seaweed, you could be a beachcomber, a day tripper or even on a cruise in your best party dress. So whatever your mood do come and bring all the family, it is a party for all ages. All refreshments are included in the price of 50p for adults and 25p for children of 16 and under. Tickets are available from all members of the Social Committee.

CAROL SINGING

We will meet at 7.30 p.m. outside the Church on Tuesday, December 23. After a short "warm-up" at a couple of carols we will move off to our first stop which this year will be SHERWOOD ROAD. The following stops will be: SEYMOUR ROAD, TAYLORS CLOSE, FITZWYGRAM CLOSE (inside the courtyards) SANDERS CLOSE and back to Wayside by about 9 p.m. for our traditional hot mince pies and coffee. Do come and join this very festive occasion and swell the volume - then perhaps someone might hear us! If you live in or near one of our ports of call, please move a curtain in acknowledgement of our presence, or if you wish to make a donation it will be graciously accepted and given to Christian Aid.

THE TUESDAY CLUB

The Tuesday Club with increased membership at its fortnightly meetings has supplied an interesting variety of speakers and topics this session. We have shared the highlights of a holiday in Canada, we have been given useful and interesting information on Local Community Services and we hope to glean professional hints from an arranged talk on Home Decorating on November 18. If you would like to share our cheerful meetings, please join us. There is a Travel Quiz on December 2 followed by a Christmas Party on the 16th.

CLARENDON SCHOOL HARVEST FESTIVAL

What a wonderful occasion! We old-age pensioners who were present were very impressed by the children's performance for in a very short space of time we were transported from the sight of British coal miners to a most charming display by Hula Hula girls - then across the Atlantic to a fine display by lumber jacks and the notable shout of "Timber" made us really all feel that a giant Redwood was about to come crashing down beside us! - then in an amazing way we were taken to an Australian sheep farm and oh! those dear little lambs were the 'hit' of the show! Then the girls with their drill - not to mention the 'angelic' monks and of course the rest of the choir. The service was much appreciated of course and thank you for the little gift presented to each O.A.P. The baskets for the house-bound looked very attractive and I'm sure must have been received with great pleasure by the recipients. Last but not least - the patience which must surely have been displayed by Headmaster and teachers in preparation - beyond all praise. Thank you one and all!

O.R. Wright.

"FOR THE LOVE OF IT"

Thirty people took part in a sing-in after the usual choir practice to sing their favourite hymns. It was Mr. Dafforne's suggestion and seemed so successful that another such evening may be arranged in the New Year. About twenty-five hymns were sung ranging from "All things Bright and Beautiful" to "Abide with me". The singing was ably led by Mr. Gostling suitably attired in evening dress (he said he was going out afterwards) and Mr. Dafforne performed on the organ.

Singing is one of the oldest forms of worship and has a great therapeutic effect on singers and congregation alike, as the Venite puts it "O Come let us Sing to the Lord, let us worship the God of Salvation".

H.T.

THE MOTHERS' UNION

In spite of the fact that it was not an election year we were so short of time for all that we wanted to do at our Annual General meeting that the Chairman accepted the approval of our renewing the prayer groups and working party and pushed it on to the first date that came into her head without stopping the proceedings to consult about what would be the most popular time for them. So it is her fault that Wednesday, November 19 besides being very wet and cold was also the date of at least two other assemblages that affect our members. Two of us spent what we found to be a fruitful time of intercession and then, refreshed with the time-honoured cuppa, went on to mend the worst damaged of the hassocks. There are plenty more to do and we don't want only to repair but also to do something a bit more creative! I am open to suggestions about the day and time for future meetings; look on the M.U. notice board in church for the next one. When we have found the right day we hope this will be a monthly affair until Easter. We also hope to welcome other members of the congregation who would like to join us in this enterprise; it is not specifically a Mothers' Union activity.

And while on practical matters I should be glad of some offers of help to maintain the rosebeds in good order as it seems unfair to the regular churchyard workers that because of a year's delay in getting the roses there should also be a delay in our help on the rosebeds.

C.H.B.

Article on THE PROBATION SERVICE - held over because of pressure on space.

SCOUT GROUP

Some of you will remember reading in the October magazine that we had applied to the Local Council for permission to erect a small hut on our Camp Site, hoping that it would be there in time for the Bonfire Party, but we are still hopefully awaiting the required planning permission.

Anyway our Bonfire Party was voted as good as ever, and judging by the picture in "The Surrey Comet", so were the "hot dogs".

In October our Cub Scouts took part in the District Swimming Gala, gaining 5th place, and on November 12 we had a visit from Mrs. Doris Stevens, the A.D.C. when she presented the boys with their Swimming Certificates. Also on that evening our two new helpers, Lesley Mackett and Phil Carter received their Leader Permits.

The Parish Hall looked quite attractive on Saturday, November 22 for our Christmas Bazaar, and by the display on some of the stalls a lot of hard work had been put in by some parents and friends. A pleasing result of £250 for our Group Fund.

All parents and friends are invited to come along to the Parish Hall on FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19 at 7 p.m. when the Group are holding their Annual CAROL SERVICE.

S.R.C.

THE CHRISTMAS SETTING

The Church will be decorated for Christmas on the morning of Tuesday 23 December. Your help in providing variegated or berried holly, ivy or other suitable greenery would be most welcome. I shall be gathering greenery etc., into the Church on the Monday morning and any gifts could be brought at about 10.30 a.m. or early i.e. between 9.30 a.m. and 10 a.m. on the Tuesday.

Flowers are expensive and difficult to come by at this time of year but if anyone would like to give flowers (especially white ones) they would be most gratefully received.

If you feel you would like to help in making our Church festive do please come along anytime on the Tuesday morning between 10 - 11.30 a.m.. It is a great help to me to know beforehand how much assistance I may expect so that I can plan accordingly.

R.A.B.

But before the decoration comes the less glamorous business of cleaning the church. We have made excuses - such as awaiting the reconstruction jobs - to avoid a real spring-clean for the last 18 months but now we really need a good Advent clean-up ready for Christmas.

Please look at the notice in the church porch and offer a bit of cleaning time morning, afternoon or evening - Wednesday, Thursday or Friday, December 17, 18 or 19.

C.H.B.

A PERSONAL VIEW OF THE HOLY LAND

On October 27 of this year I left Heathrow Airport by a British Airway's Trident jet aircraft to begin a fifteen-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land. This pilgrimage was organised by Inter - Church Travel Limited and led by the Reverend David Clegg, who is Vicar of Prestwich in Lancashire. I had hoped to go to Israel as a member of a tour, which was organised by another company, last year. This venture was cancelled owing to lack of support. Yet I was glad that the uncertain political problems in the Middle East had not forced Inter - Church to alter their plans for the pilgrimage of which I was a member.

For me the prospect of a visit to the Holy Land and to its sites which are associated with the Life and Ministry of Our Lord was both exciting and challenging. Exciting as Israel was the farthest place to which I had travelled from England, and was a country unlike the lands which are closer to us in Western Europe. In fact, a Trident aircraft travels for four and-a-half-hours

between London and Tel Aviv. Yet the challenge, and by this I mean the personal and spiritual challenge, of a visit to this unique land was what I considered before and during my journey.

I believe that a visit to the Holy Land does offer this challenge to our belief and view of the events and teaching in the Old and New Testaments. From our earliest days we have developed mental images of places such as Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Nazareth. These images have advanced with our reading and study of Holy Scripture and its physical setting. Yet our greatest achievements of our efforts to understand the physical setting of the Holy Land and its peoples will not equal the experience of a visit to where the historical events of the Bible were enacted. Before my arrival at Tel Aviv I realised that many of my firm impressions of the places to which Our Lord ministered would change with the experience of a personal visit. In fact, after I had been to countless places and visited churches, chapels, ruins of ancient cities, the River Jordan, the Sea of Galilee, the Dead Sea and stood on Mount Tabor I could and can recall only one place which appeared to me as I had imagined. Surprisingly or not this was one of the sites of the scene of Our Lord's first miracle at Cana which today is known as Kefer Kenna which is near Nazareth. I regret to write that this site remains a 'doubtful' site among scholars and experts.

I arrived at Tel Aviv reconciled to the fact that the land of Patriarchs, Judges, Kings, Prophets and Our Lord's first Disciples would begin to appear before my eyes. Here was the first sight of that land. Here I began to see, hear and smell an eastern land of unique significance to the world, its nations and millions of their peoples. Here I began to realise the true size of this land, whose extent from east to west, from the Jordan Valley to the Mediterranean Sea, can on a clear day be seen from Mount Tabor. Here I began to notice the considerable differences in this land between its southern and northern divisions which can be termed for convenience as Judea and Galilee. Here I began to see the ever-changing appearance of this small area where a journey of less than twenty-five miles by coach from Jerusalem to Jericho will bring the pilgrim from above sea level to below sea level and from poor farming land to desert. Here I began to sense the tense relationship between the Arabs and the Jews, who can often live in personal harmony but are divided by political, national and international pressures which can affect the peace of our world. Here I began to feel the Presence which no other land can share with the same degree. Here the Presence of Our Lord remains and can be shared by all who come and see in faith where was enacted the greatest drama in history.

(to be continued)

David Dore

FAITH, FELLOWSHIP AND MINISTRY

In its leading article on November 14, the Church Times - a fairly conservative organ of opinion (but much less so than it used to be!) strongly commended the importance of meeting in groups for prayer, study and discussion. Such groups, it said, "should now be a normal part of Church life. The days are fast going when members of congregations saw one another only in the decorous Sunday setting of the pew".

For 24 years the policy of this parish has been to encourage such groups, but until recently our success has been only occasional and sporadic. That it could be done I was sure, and this certainty was strengthened when 22 years ago I met a man from a parish on the other side of the river who told me that there 28 such groups (they often called them 'cells' in those days) met regularly and flourished.

There are of course many difficulties in sophisticated suburban areas like ours, as was pointed out during our meeting with Brother Joseph. People are very wary of one another, afraid to reveal their true feelings or enter into close relationships. "We go about behind masks". There is a fear of committing one's self, of getting involved. This may still be largely true - but it is certainly not as true as it once was. The old aloofness is beginning to break down. Our church, which used to be a cold, unfriendly place, has greatly changed. People coming back after some years away remark upon the difference. This new attitude is reflected also in the frankness and fellowship which now characterise the Church Council and its committees, and the way in which people work together in carrying out various plans and projects.

But we still have a long way to go. We feel the need for renewal, for a deeper level of **being**, not just more activism and doing. Is the way that Brother Joseph and his team offer the next step for us to take on the road to authentic Christian freedom and maturity? The Church Council is at the moment agonising in thought and prayer about this.

Our house-meetings are also seeking the way ahead, and they now have off-shoots outside the parish, and more and more people are being brought in. The subject of ministry has been much in our minds lately, and a note has just been received about this: 'It seems that we are always talking about ministry in the abstract - the ordained ministry, the ministry of the laity. All ministry comes from God, but in calling each of us to the exercise of a particular ministry he uses and hallows our own natural gifts. All of us, whether ordained or lay, are called to ministry of some kind. To help us to see more clearly where each of us fits in we shall be considering the ministries of apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher (see Ephesians 4, vv 11 - 12) at the next few prayer-meetings at 69 St. James's Avenue. As we have often said before, these are completely open to anyone who would like to come. There is no formal membership, and no one is expected to attend regularly'. This openness applies to all other house-meetings as well - we are inclusive and welcoming, not an exclusive club hard to join! Another note - the meeting at 75 Burton's Road will in the New Year change its fortnightly evening from Wednesday to Tuesday, beginning on January 13.

DEANERY INTERCESSION LIST

December

- 14 St. Mary, Twickenham.
- 21 St. Philip & St. James, Whitton.
- 28 St. Stephen, East Twickenham.

January

- 4 St. Peter & St. Paul, Teddington.
- 11 St. Michael & St. George, Fulwell.
- 18 All Saints, Hampton.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

December

- 14 Instead of Evensong, informal WELCOME SERVICE at 16.30, followed by light refreshments.
- 17 07.30 Holy Communion; 20.00 Prayer Meeting (75 Burton's Road)
- 17-19 ADVENT CLEANING OF THE CHURCH
- 21 In addition to usual Sunday arrangements, CHRISTINGLE SERVICE 16.30
- 22 20.00 Prayer Meeting (69 St. James's Avenue)
- 23 SAINT THOMAS'S DAY: 07.30 Holy Communion; 09.30 onwards decoration of church for Christmas; 19.30 Parish Carol - Singing.
- 24 CHRISTMAS EVE: 18.00 Carol Service at Laurel Dene; 23.45 Midnight Eucharist.
- 25 CHRISTMAS DAY: 08.00 Holy Communion (with Hymns); 09.30 Parish & Family Communion, followed by Parish Breakfast in church; 12.10 Holy Communion: 16.30 Carols by Candlelight.
- 26 SAINT STEPHEN'S DAY: 10.00 Holy Communion
- 27 SAINT JOHN'S DAY: 10.00 Holy Communion
- 28 In addition to usual Sunday morning arrangements - CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE at 11.15, and instead of Evensong, SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS at 18.30.
- 30 THE INNOCENTS' DAY: 07.30 Holy Communion
- 31 20.00 Prayer Meeting (75 Burton's Road)

January

- 1 THE NAMING OF JESUS: 07.30 Holy Communion
- 4 Instead of Evensong, a dramatic reading 'KINGS COME TO JUDEA'.
- 6 THE EPIPHANY: Holy Communion at 07.30 and 10.00
- 8 20.00 Prayer Meeting (69 St. James's Avenue)
- 10 19.45 PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY (Hall)
- 11 Instead of Evensong, informal Epiphany WELCOME SERVICE at 16.30, followed by light refreshments.
- 13 20.00 Prayer Meeting (75 Burton's Road)

BAPTISMS

- November 23 Caroline Jane Feltham, 51A High Street, Hampton
Rebecca Louise Zachariades, 37 Windmill Road.

MARRIAGES

- October 25 David Alan Turner to Angela Carole Page
- November 15 Alan John Selby to Jane Woodman

CREMATION AND INTERMENTS

November

- 1 John Roy Barnes, 58 Southwood Road, Ramsgate, aged 42 years
(interment of ashes in family grave)
- 9 Frances May (Anne) Parsons, 27 Elizabeth Gardens, Sunbury,
aged 84 years (interment of ashes in family grave)
- 24 Frederick Alfred David Robins, 132 Uxbridge Road, aged 45 years
(at South - west Middlesex Crematorium)