

A PASTORAL LETTER FROM THE ARCHBISHOPS

(Read in all Churches on Sunday, October 19)

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York hope that you will regard this letter as a personal one from themselves to you. They are asking that it be read in all Churches today because they believe that there is a great body of seriously-minded men and women who are deeply concerned, not only about the economy of our nation, but about its spiritual condition.

During the last few days you will probably have shared through the media something of what we have been trying to say at this critical time. We have posed such questions as these - "What sort of society are we looking for?" and "What kind of people are needed for the creation of this society?"

We Christians believe that God reigns and that he cares about nations.

We believe that he has demonstrated his concern in the life, teaching, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We believe that his Spirit is operative today doing his recreative work in individuals and groups.

If however a responsible society is to come into being everyone must realise that he counts and that his contribution matters.

The time has therefore come when we feel it is our duty to call all Christian people:

- (i) to pray steadily, persistently and intelligently for our nation.
- (ii) to think seriously about our society in the light of what we believe asking such questions as "What sort of society do we want?" and "What sort of people do we need to be in order to achieve it?"
- (iii) to co-operate with Christians of every allegiance, and with others who are willing to be associated with us, so as to influence society in a positive and helpful way.
- (iv) to live out the faith we profess, that God reigns and that God cares.

We therefore invite you as members of your local congregation to take seriously God's call to God's people in God's world, and to go on and work out in further detail in the next few months, what this will mean for yourself, your home, your parish and the community where you live and work.

Donald Cantuar :
Stuart Ebor :

NOTES ON DISCUSSION IN WESTMINSTER (ST. MARYLEBONE) DEANERY SYNOD

The decision of the Diocesan Synod to increase Diocesan Quotas by at least 50% for 1975 is understandable in purpose, but deeply burdensome in result.

However, the deeper concern is for the future. The policy of annual massive increases in the quota will not meet the financial crisis of the Diocese, particularly as inflation continues to escalate. A more far-reaching strategy is vital if the Churches and the Diocese are to survive financially. Future budgets should be re-styled to reflect priorities, strategy and mission. To meet inflation only with inflated budgets is no long-term

answer.

1. MINISTRY AND MANPOWER

- (a) We need a fundamental examination of the role of the clergyman and his relationship to all the other ministries of the Church.
- (b) Oversight of the local Church need not necessarily be exercised by men in the full-time employment of the Church.
- (c) A permanent diaconate should be established and recognised in the Church. This would be for people in secular employment who have undergone proper training and they should be permitted to assist in the administration of the word and sacraments.
- (d) The increase in clergy pay should not be further imposed upon the Diocesan Quota.
 - 1) Clergy should be permitted to take part-time employment to supplement their income to an agreed level. This would not be 'defeat' but might revitalise the effectiveness of ministry.
 - 2) Where a parish demands the full-time services of its clergy, it must bear the increases in his salary.
 - 3) In cases where there is a clear case for full-time clergy, but too little support to pay salary increases, there should be a special Diocesan grant.

2. ADMINISTRATION

No small part of the increase in the diocesan budget goes towards the larger sum for administering the work of the General Synod and its Boards and Councils and the Central Board of Finance. In the employment of this central administration there are at present 146 employees paid at Civil Service rates at a total of £470,500 in 1974.

We must demand a thorough scrutiny and cut-back at this level of the life of the Church if we are to speak convincingly to the man in the pew about stewardship and the responsible use of money and resources.

3. MISSION OR MAINTENANCE ?

- a) Where is the Diocesan quota being spent? What are the priorities of expenditure? How much is merely maintaining the structure and how much concerned with forwarding the mission of Christ's Kingdom in London ?
- b) Buildings are often a great burden to us as well as being a wasted financial asset. Fewer yet better buildings would serve our mission far more effectively.
- c) We question whether the Diocese should continue to pour money upon a local Church and Ministry that makes no attempt at mission. It is not a matter of size - a congregation of 20 can still evangelise - it is a matter of purpose, prayer and action. We need to call every priest and every Church in this diocese to mission. A Church on fire with the gospel does not usually have problems over money - giving flows from hearts redeemed and renewed by the grace of Christ.

(These 'notes' are being widely discussed in our own Deanery, at Synod and Parish level and our own P.C.C. will be considering them in October and November - Ed.)

" I HAVE NOT COME TO BRING PEACE BUT A SWORD"

This was the opening text of the sermon which Monsignor Bruce Kent, Secretary of Pax Christi, gave in St. Mary's Church, Hampton, on Sunday, October 19 at a United Service of the Hampton and Sunbury Council of Churches. This particular Sunday was the first day in the Week of Prayer for World Peace, a week which is being observed now in more and more parts of the world.

And our attention was rivetted while Bruce Kent went on to speak of peace in the context of the weapons of destruction which every nation is accumulating in the name of defence in the world today. Nationalism, independence and the wish to build up a defence force of their own, are the incentives, and more and more nations are preparing to buy arms from the wealthy nations of the West, which send round what the preacher called Woolworths full of varieties of weapons, including nuclear armament. Western investors profit from all this. 100 major and minor conflicts have taken place in the world since World War 2. More bombs were dropped on Vietnam by the U.S.A. than that country dropped during World War 2. The U.S.A. is a predominantly Christian country. All western countries, including ourselves, produce arms and do very well out of it. It is an unpopular theme, this hammering away about our responsibility for all this, but we are all involved financially to the tune of contributing £1.60 a week for each man, woman and child in this country alone to this appallingly dangerous situation. The world on the whole spends more on 'defence' than on health and education put together.

At one time, an excuse for this arms pile-up was a precarious balance of power; attack by nuclear weapons would mean immediate retaliation. This is no longer. Several powers now have nuclear weapons, and potentially many more.

It is risky to talk about peace. It is not cows in a field. It is not necessarily the peace which ensues for an interval after the guns stop firing. It is not the peace of the grave, or the peace which hovers over the under-developed countries in starvation and misery - for example, in Chad in the centre of Africa, where the life expectation of people is 35 years; compare our life expectation of 70 - 80 years.

Peace is a fulfilment accomplished by a determination to achieve justice among men, of the nations coming together and understanding each other in sympathy and love, and dealing justly with each other. Its accomplishment will be achieved by hard work, and will be started by a few people; public opinion has got to be changed and this takes time. Bruce Kent cited the example of the slave trade, taken for granted by so many and for so long, and eventually abolished by the hard, enduring work of a few; equally the conditions in the mines and factories of 140 years ago when women and children laboured for long hours in unspeakable conditions; a few people worked hard at changing public opinion and went on until it did change. The same hard work is needed in efforts aiming at a more permanent fulfilling of peace and justice to be shared by all, by all nations and all faiths. Vision and endurance in the attainment of this is what is needed at this time.

H.M.S.

STOP PRESS: Meet Brother Joseph (Guiseppe Gennarini) and his team on Sunday November 16 at 7.00 p.m. in Church. All Welcome.

WELCOME SERVICE

Our second Welcome Service took place on Sunday, October 12 at 4.30 p.m., as usual on the second Sunday of the month, and was very well attended chiefly by families.

The service was longer than we had intended, but there was welcome guitar playing and the children came forward readily to take part in singing. We are learning much as we go along.

Please continue to back up these services which at the moment welcome young and old, people new to church-going and people who are regular attenders. There is tea afterwards and a chance to meet people. Our next second Sunday dates are November 9, December 14 and January 11; on the last of these dates the service will take the form of an Epiphany Service.

H.M.S. (for the Liturgical Committee)

ARE WE BLINKERED ?

How often do we see what is right? Not very often. Something has to go wrong before it is even noticed that it is happening at all. We take it all for granted.

Do we really see the lovely fresh flowers in the church each week? I bet we would soon notice if they were dead!

Do we think about the hours of planning and preparing before special services when they run smoothly? We jolly well notice when we don't like the service or there is a hitch.

Do we see our Vicar spending countless hours with the bereaved, sick or troubled? We certainly know about the letter he didn't write!

I wonder how many people noticed every one of the 120 chairs were washed prior to the Harvest Supper - we would have noticed had we been asked to sit on dirty chairs!

These examples are endless, and it goes on all the time. Things are only brought to our notice when mistakes are made and things left undone.

People are working in this parish in many ways, doing an enormous variety of things, some of which are never really noticed, others we see. Let's all take off our blinkers and realise we are all using our own talents in the way we feel we can use them best.

E.V.S.

BADMINTON

If you would like the opportunity of an occasional game of badminton on a Saturday, contact Mr. Fisher - 979 4893 - who will be pleased to give you full details.

This club is run only when the parish hall is available, but it does give the opportunity to young people to become acquainted with the game and enjoy the company of other young people with similar interests. There are vacancies at the moment so act now.

PARISH CONFERENCE AT ISLEWORTH

Some 23 or 24 Church members gave up their Saturday on October 4 to meet together at Isleworth Parish Hall to discuss various questions and topics.

The first topic concerned the need or otherwise for the parish to have a body solely devoted to considering various aspects of Church life and renewal and making propositions to the P.C.C. for implementation or otherwise, the thinking behind this being that with so much "day to day" business for the P.C.C. to get through it was difficult to allocate time to considering and thinking through which direction the parish should be heading, and whether or not it was neglecting some things which it ought not to. It was also felt that the size of the P.C.C. contributed to the difficulties of such discussions. The conference was split fairly evenly on this issue, some believing a separate body was necessary, and others that a reorganised P.C.C. could do the job. Certainly a large majority on both sides felt that the P.C.C. as constituted was too large.

Much discussion was provoked by the subject of money, and how we should raise it, and from whom. It was also questioned as to why we needed the money and what we would do with it. Whether we should approach the whole parish or only those connected in some way with the Church, illustrated our dilemma (ever occurring!) as to what Church membership means, and who are the members, and what are their responsibilities. Are people put off Christianity by being asked for money, before, perhaps inadvertently, being welcomed into a warm fellowship at our Church without any strings attached? We weren't sure of the answer; if you feel you have any contributions to make to this please let us know.

It is easy to feel frustrated at the lack of any "concrete proposals" emanating from such conferences. To do so is perhaps to undervalue the importance of open discussion, "speaking the truth in love", and to feeling the depth of concern for the whole body of Christ that such a conference displays. Parish conferences have a part to play in our Church's life, for giving the whole congregation the opportunity to make their contribution and perhaps as close quarters see the concern of others to do the right thing, even if of differing views as to how to achieve it.

Let's hope next time more people will be able to come.

A.T.

HAMPTON AND SUNBURY COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

At the A.G.M. of the Hampton Council of Churches on October 7 in St. Mary's, Sunbury (the reconstruction of whose interior by the way is noteworthy), non-members were invited to hear a talk by the Rural Dean the Rev. J. Cotgrove, on Marriage, Divorce and the Church. He stated the official position of the Church of England, giving an interesting historical resumé of how today's rigidist approach has developed.

This strict refusal to re-marry divorced people in church was subject to a lively debate afterwards. The Church of England view is based on the principle that any exceptions would "open the floodgates" and make divorce even easier. And how can anybody judge who is really the innocent party in a divorce? Methodists, on the other hand, take the attitude that with Christ a new beginning is always possible; who are we to refuse this fresh start to a couple who admit a mistake in the past and want to do better in the future? A partial answer seems to lie, as so often, in education, proper, serious marriage preparation classes.

A very valuable evening.

H.B.

A REMARKABLE RECORD OF SERVICE

The Childs family - Stanley and Doris, Michael and Yvonne - have put in hours of their spare time over many years in working for the Church-sponsored Scout Group known as 3rd Hampton Hill. In recognition of this both Stanley and Michael have received their Long Service Decorations from Scout Headquarters - Stanley in 1966, Michael in 1970. Now Stanley has retired from his position as Group Scout Leader - an office he has held since 1963 - and Michael has taken his place, as he also did when his father had to cease being Akela on becoming G.S.L. Stanley Childs became keen on scouting in his former parish of St. Francis of Assisi, Ruxley, and when he moved to our parish in 1950 he was asked to form a Cub Pack, which he did with great success. This Pack has for years been one of the liveliest in the district, with a long waiting-list. One of his main concerns over the years has been to build up the interest of the parents in what their sons were learning and doing, and to win their support and co-operation in all that was being done for the boys' welfare and development. It has been a long uphill struggle - so many parents take it all for granted and never lift a finger. But slowly and gradually things have changed for the better. Through special open and parents' evenings, Christmas parties and the forming of various committee, more and more parents have become involved. He resigns at a time when the Group is flourishing as never before, with the satisfaction of a job well and faithfully done behind him, and the assurance that the good work will go forward with increasing momentum under the wise guidance and in the capable hands of his son. His only disappointment will be that the long-cherished dream of a permanent headquarters of their own has not yet been achieved by the Group, but he has done all in his power to try to bring this about, and there are still hopes that a site not too far away may still be found.

The Parochial Church Council at their last meeting recorded their deep appreciation of his valuable work, and they intend to make a presentation to him on a suitable occasion in the near future.

NEW YEAR PARTY

Saturday, 10 January 1976 is a central date in the social calendar of St. James's. For at 7.45 p.m. in the Parish Hall begins our Grand New Year Fancy Dress Party. Those who are regulars on these occasions know what great fun it all is and will need no reminders. To newcomers the advice is - make sure of your tickets early. The price, to include the refreshments which the ladies of the Social Committee are justly famous for, is 50p for adults and 25p for 16 years and under. The fancy dress theme is "The Mighty Sea" which promises endless combinations (striped please, Jack). So get thinking about your costumes now!

R.L.B.

THE CHURCHYARD

On Saturday, November 29 we plan to tidy the churchyard as far as possible for the Winter. Help with the leaf-sweeping and clearing in particular will be appreciated, and able bodied volunteers of any age and of either sex will be welcomed - possibly with open arms, but more probably with a broom and a barrow!

Do please help if you can - on SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29.

A LETTER FROM TWICKENHÁM CRUSE CLUB

Dear Mr. Brunt,

We are an organisation founded to assist widows and we do so in two ways: firstly by providing a counselling service to help with the deeply disturbing period of bereavement and secondly by providing practical help to do with running a household, and the care of the children. It is within this second area of activity that we need more helpers.

The nature of the work involved can be divided into three types :-

- a) the practical things - fixing a leaking tap, glazing a window, mending a fuse etc;
- b) the area of everyday advice - on assurance, insurance, mortgages, documents of all sorts, and a hundred and one other things that crop up;
- c) the needs of children - it is hard for a single parent, especially for one who has to work, to give her children all the time they need. To take one or two on the occasional trip, or to have them at one's home, is a valuable help both to the mother and the children, who may be missing out on the stimulation and the encouragement as well as the affection which their father would have provided. Cruse is anxious to see the creation of steady relationships between helpers and children, a type of "uncle" or "aunt" relationship.

We at Cruse would like to compile a registrar of people who are attracted to helping in any of these ways. Any assistance, however occasional, would be welcome.

Perhaps you will be good enough to mention our request to your members to see if some are interested. We should appreciate a note in any magazine you publish. We are also happy to provide a speaker to elaborate more fully on the work of Cruse if you like.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

(If you can help in any of the ways suggested please let the Vicar or the Community Care Group know, or contact directly the local secretary :Mrs. V. Rayski, 4 Claremont Road, Teddington. 977 4773 - Ed.).

THE PANTOMIME

Bored, tired, listless - Yes? Well, if you're one or all of these you need to come to the event of the year.

Y.P.F. presenting that epic of epics :- "HUMPTY DUMPTY".

I hear that you've already been notified of this marvellous event, so I'll just reiterate what my good friend P.K. (who?) has already told you.

On December 13 1975 at 2.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. in the Church Hall, School Road, Hampton Hill a star-studded cast of thousands (including at no mean expense, Richard Burton, Elizabeth Taylor, Robert Redford, Steve McQueen and Paul Newman - oh yes! we at Y.P.F. don't do things by halves), will perform that well-worn pantomime - Humpty Dumpty; but we'll perform it at you've never seen it performed before.

We're doing all we can at our end to ensure that this artistic masterpiece is a great success, all we wish now is that you "bored, tired, listless" people will drag yourselves from your T.V. sets to support our pantomime. With your support we can guarantee to rid you of your blues and put you in the mood for the season of festivities.

Tickets are going fast, so get yours from G. Brown, 44 St. James's Road, or M. Brittain, 13 Cranmer Road. (children under 14 - 20p)

C.R.

P.S. Due to unforeseen circumstances Mr. Burton, Miss Taylor, Mr. Redford, Mr. McQueen and Mr. Newman will not be performing; in their places will be their capable understudies - R. Severn, H. Lawrence, P. Kucinkas, L. Watkins and K. Wells.

DEANERY INTERCESSION LIST

November

- 16 St. Augustine of Canterbury, Whitton.
- 23 St. James, Hampton Hill
- 30 St. Alban with St. Mary, Teddington.

December

- 7 St. Mark, Teddington
- 14 St. Mary, Twickenham

SOME DATES TO NOTE

November

- 11 20.00 Social Committee (4 Ormond Drive)
- 12 07.30 Holy Communion
- 13 20.00 Prayer Meeting (69 St. James's Avenue)
- 19 07.30 Holy Communion; 20.00 Welcome Group (21 Longford Close);
20.00 Prayer Meeting (75 Burton's Road); 20.15 Hall Management Committee (18 St. James's Road)
- 22 14.00 Fayre and Bazaar in support of Day Centre (Linden Hall, Linden Rd.)
- 23 STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY: One-Day Visitation - visitors will be commissioned at the Parish Communion. After a shortened Evening Service, members of the Stewardship Committee will lead a discussion and answer questions, and refreshments will be served in church.
- 26 07.30 Holy Communion; 20.00 Parochial Church Council (W)
- 27 20.00 Prayer Meeting (69 St. James's Avenue)

December

- 2 SAINT ANDREW'S DAY : 07.30 Holy Communion 20.00 Deanery Synod.
- 3 14.30 Mothers' Union ; Branch Meeting (W) 20.00 Welcome Group (21 Longford Close); 20.00 Prayer Meeting (75 Burton's Road)
- 4 08.45 Holy Communion (St. Anne's Chapel, LEHS)
- 10 07.30 Holy Communion
- 11 20.00 Prayer Meeting (69 St. James's Avenue)
- 13 14.30 & 19.30 Y.P.F. PANTOMIME (Hall)

**STOP-PRESS : PANTOMIME NOW JANUARY 31; NOVEMBER 29 -
TIDYING CHURCHYARD.**

BAPTISMS

- September 28 Lawrence Edward Clift, 245 Ashburton Road, Ham
Paul Matthew Reynolds, 30 Chapel Road, Hounslow

MARRIAGES

- September 27 George John Crisp to Edna Cockroft
Jonathan Plant to Pamela Wrighton
- October 18 Philip Donald West to Patricia Ann Burrows
Robert Fitzgerald to Katriona Curwood Wood
William Dunphy to Christine Joyce Wright

CREMATIONS AND INTERMENTS

- October 2 Mary Ann Sarah Smith Richins, Hampton Court House (formerly 12 School Road) aged 84 years (at South West Middlesex Crematorium)
- 23 Neville Welch Spencer, 10 Meath Close, Hayling Island, aged 85 years (interment of ashes in family grave).