

THE PATTERN OF SUNDAY WORSHIP - 9

As the Corporate worshipping life of the Church developed in the nineteenth century, the different forms it took tended to become the badge of some party or group. So churches with High Mass at 11.00 were thought of as associated in thought and outlook with 'High Church' or what were now beginning to be called 'Anglo-Catholic' groupings within the Church; those with Matins as their main morning service were classified as belonging to the Liberal or Conservative Evangelical wings of the Church, with 'Low Church' or 'Central Church' points of view. But there were people in all these sections of the Church, and many who would protest that they belonged to none, but were only Christians and Churchmen pure and simple without any other label, who were dissatisfied with this confusion and the division and partisanship it often expressed or engendered. So, for instance, we find Prebendary Wilson Carlile, the renowned founder of the Church Army, who was usually described as a 'broad Evangelical', continually urging that neither Matins nor Eucharist without communicants had any right to be thought of as the principal act of worship on the Lord's Day. This should be a Communion which was both a great offering of praise expressed in music in which everyone could join, and a sacred meal at which everyone (and not the priest alone) could receive the blessed food. He himself produced a leaflet with simple music for such a service, and it is known that a number of churches made use of this soon after the First World War.

But there had been experiments on similar lines before this. St. Ninian's Cathedral, Perth, began its Parish Communion followed by breakfast in 1912, and the country parish of Temple Balsall in Warwickshire has had this since 1913. There are other examples going back far earlier, but not sustained over such a long period as these have been. By 1937 the experiments had ceased to be sporadic and this form of service was firmly established in many churches of all types: an appraisal was called for, and this was provided by a volume of essays written by theologians and parish priests published in that year. The first essay attempts a definition. "By 'the Parish Communion' is meant the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, with the communion of the people, in a parish church, as the chief service of the day, or, better, as the assembly of the Christian community for the worship of God; for even the phrase 'the chief service of the day' is unsatisfactory if it is understood to mean a service - one among several - and not **the service - the** divine Liturgy".

To put this ideal into practice was not always easy. One difficulty was in choosing the best time for the service, so that those who wished to communicate fasting could do so without undue strain. In most places the time chosen came to be between 08.45 and 09.45, and the service was often followed by a breakfast which was also an extension of the fellowship in Christ experienced during the service. (Many parishes also went further, and instituted a weekly 'Parish Meeting' at which all matters concerning the worship, witness and mission of the Body of Christ were discussed, and many decisions formerly reserved for the Parochial Church Council alone were taken).

Another difficulty was caused by the defective nature of the rite as provided by the Church. One of the defects discussed at some length in the book was the very small place allowed for lay participation. (This was the final result of many factors, including a fading in the Church's own

MUM! I'M ALL RIGHT.

Some two years ago 'Johnny Go Home' was a most shocking documentary and with the murder trial associated with it, was more nauseating than even the most squalid of Charles Dicken's tales of the London underworld, but a meeting of the Mothers' Union Social Problems Department last week heard the film's producer, Michael Deakin (he it was who, discovering children asleep on his office door-step, started the research which led to the film and case), say that the present situation is that there are now twice as many children sleeping rough in London streets as there were in 1974. "Nothing has been done" he said, and went on to outline some of the things he hoped might have been done.

In fact although it may be true that almost nothing has been done, there have been little moves here and there. It takes a long time to get British Rail even to consider having kiosks on their main line termini to help lost children, the wheels start slowly but perhaps some momentum is gathering in various directions, though basically the problem is one of homelessness and joblessness, and it doesn't seem as if there is an approaching answer to these. 70,000 leaflets headed "Why not come to London?" were distributed to school-leavers in the provinces, but one wonders whether prospective run-away children are just the ones to study pamphlets given them at school.

In Liverpool the Mothers' Union made their start on a response by setting up the "Mersey Message Home". Children who find the telephone number can phone a message and give the address to which it can be sent. The M.U. member on duty or taking the Robo-phone record passes the message on to the minister nearest the address and he delivers it. In many cases this turns out to be the first indication to the family that their child is still alive. The notices giving the telephone number were distributed in likely places round Merseyside; at discos, coffee bars and at service stations on the motorways but it soon became evident that a lot of Liverpool's run-aways came to London and from there you can't get much of a message to Liverpool for 2p. So Liverpool diocese asked London to help. £500 was needed to set up the Robo-phone in the London M.U office. And London had no money. But Southwark knew how to cope with that and agreed to come in and share. Last year in a few months they raised all the money they needed to bring the delegate from their linked Diocese of Carpentaria by air from Northern Australia, to meet all her expenses for six weeks' duties in England and still have enough left over to make a good contribution to the new plane the Bishop of Carpentaria needed to do his work. Southwark members are not noticeably more affluent than London ones; how did they raise this sum? By prayer and tiddler jars. Tiddler jars: jam jars on the kitchen shelf into which go halfpennies left in the purse after the shopping. As thanksgiving for this year's Centenary Southwark have already paid their half of the expenses and three year's maintenance is assured, we are just waiting for the G.P.O to fix it. The number will be 799 7662. At present the service is for Merseyside and Birmingham children, though it is hoped to get this worked out for London but as you can imagine, to organise this over such a large area will take time and the co-operation of all clergy and ministers, as happens in Liverpool, has to be assured.

Now I am asking for this account to go in the Spire because we need help: Hampton Hill, as far as I know, is not a refuge for homeless or runaway children, but if you-and I address all the readers, not just M.U members-can think of a place where a publicising card might usefully be put will you please let me know? The card gives only the number to ring and the fact that a message can be sent home in confidence. London M.U members are asked

to start tiddler jars and perhaps there are others who may feel like contributing in thankfulness that run-away children are not one of their parental heartaches.
C.H.B.

CRISIS AT CHRISTMAS

As well as the thousands of run-away children mentioned in the previous article, it is estimated that there are some 100,000 men and women in Britain today who may be termed 'single homeless'. Of this number about 10,000 are in the London area. This situation is what the Bishops of London and Southwark call 'the scandal of Christmas 1976'.

Ten years ago the late Rt. Hon Iain Macleod, appalled at the terrible plight of these people particularly in winter and at Christmastide, decided that a united attempt must be made to relieve such widespread misery and poverty. As a result of his efforts there came 'Crisis at Christmas' a campaign for the single homeless, to give as many as possible of them a roof over their heads and food at Christmastide, and to raise funds for on-going projects which could continue to provide much-needed help and rehabilitation the whole year round. But despite all these efforts, the need is now far greater than it was ten years ago. One of the Church's efforts will be once again to have an 'Open Christmas' in the disused church of St. Mary at Lambeth, when volunteers will work in shifts all round the clock for 6 days serving meals to all in need (last year over 10,000 meals were served, involving huge quantities of turkey and Christmas pudding). The Bishops also invite all parishes in their areas to send representatives to join them in Hyde Park at 2.00 p.m. on Saturday December 18 and then march to Lambeth Place, bringing a gift if possible. We hope to take part in this, and further announcement will be made in church.

THE WAYSIDE MONDAY CENTRE

Much of the satisfaction of daily living comes from the quality of our relationships. Many people are deprived of this satisfaction because they have trouble in managing their relationships and their feelings, which are an important factor in relationships. Some suffer so much that they need psychiatric help, but many more struggle on without zest for life. Some of us feel called to minister to such people. Or it may be that we are approached by a relative, a colleague or neighbour who looks to us for understanding and support at times of emotional crisis. What are we to do? We want to help but we feel our inadequacy and wonder whether our good intentions and instinctive responses constitute caring. All of us at some time will experience emotional distress ourselves and need others to care for us. To whom will we go? What do we need to do in order to receive help?

At Wayside, in St. James's Road, there is a Centre which is open on Mondays to all who care to come, but particularly welcomes those who are lonely, anxious or unhappy. We try to help people to face up to and resolve their problems, and to provide understanding and support where it is needed.

The Wayside Monday Centre has been in operation now for 2½ years and is run by about 25 trained "helpers" who take it in turns to be available either in the morning or evening sessions. They held their first formal annual general meeting on October 26 under the guidance of a small management group. The meeting provided an opportunity to review the work of the Centre and the training in helping relationships (provided by the Richmond Fellowship) which has been, and continues to be, available to helpers.

A further initial training course is planned for the first three months of 1977, and anyone interested in joining the course - either to become a Wayside helper or simply to improve his or her relationships in everyday life - should contact Tony Lawrence or Ron Bridges.

P.A.L. & R.E.B.

THE FIREWORKS PARTY

There were no damp squibs on Saturday, November 6 when members of the Parish gathered at Laurel Dene for the annual Fireworks Party.

Despite the rain which had fallen for most of the day sterling work had been done by the men of the Social Committee in setting up a very creditable display, which whizzed, banged, sparkled and glittered to the delight of all.

After the fireworks we were treated to hot potatoes in their jackets and cups of steaming tomato soup to warm up cold hands and toes. All in all I considered it a very good 60-pence-worth, bearing in mind the cost of fireworks nowadays and the fact that the potatoes and soup were included in the price, and I look forward to seeing what ingenious combinations are thought up for next year's display.

G.M.G.

CAROL SING-ALONG

For the last few years, the Y.P.F. have organised a carol sing-along for the elderly in the parish hall. Anyone else is also very welcome. This event has been very much appreciated by all who have attended in the past. 1976 is no exception, therefore you are all invited to the hall on Sunday 19 December at 2.30p.m. Transport can be provided where required. If you need this service or know anyone who does contact Martin Edmonds 979 1589 or Roger Severn 979 1954.

M.C.E.

A CHRISTMAS SERVICE FOR THE FAMILY

Once again we are holding our Christingle Orange Service, this year on the Sunday after Christmas, when parents, children and friends are invited to come along and together welcome the coming of the Christ-child.

As we look forward to singing our favourite carols, and the moving children's Procession round the church with their lighted oranges, perhaps it would be as well to think about the origin and meaning of this service.

The first Christingle Orange Service as we know it, was held in Moravia in 1747, also it was known in the ancient Welsh Church by the name of "calenig". The orange represents the World, the candle - the Light of the World, and the red ribbon - the Blood of Christ.

This ancient Christmas Service was actually revived in this country a few years ago by the Church of England Children's Society.

D.C.

PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Obviously this year we hope to have a Jubilee Fancy Dress Party - red, white & blue - what could be easier? Union Jacks, red, white & blue shirts, dresses, hats, crowns, coronets, kings and queens, silver glitter, princes and princesses, a right royal occasion! It's all going to happen on the evening of Saturday January 15. Everything you consume is included in the price of 60p. (30p for 16 and under). Of course you may not wish to be in Jubilee costume but come all the same, it's fun for all ages. Tickets are available now from all members of the Social Committee.

PARISH CAROL SINGING

In response to the plea in the November magazine we have decided to tour the new estate covered by the last Newcomers' Party. All enthusiastic carol singers are invited to meet at the Church at 7.15 on Wednesday December 22 where we will warm up with a carol or two. The next two ports of call will be Willowbrook followed by Fairlight; by this time we hope that all the late-comers will have caught up with us. From here, with the help of the Pailthorpe van (and any others please that may be available) plus a few cars, we will all reassemble in Deacons Walk and sing our hearts out, hopefully encouraging some of the inhabitants to join us. All singers are invited back to Wayside to partake of the traditional "hot" coffee and mincepies at about 9 to 9.30p.m. If you have never joined in before this would be a very good year to start.

SCOUT GROUP NEWS

I know all our previous supporters will welcome the news that, having had several offers of help from parents and friends, we are able to revive the Tuesday Bingo. The first will be on December 7 and then on 21 our "special Christmas Bingo".

On October 29 at Richmond Baths our Cub Scouts attained 8th place in the District Gala. Three of our boys, Stephen Childs and Stephen and Stuart Osbourne qualified to swim for Twickenham in the County Gala when the District achieved 6th place out of 15.

Although some people must have been put off venturing over the muddy morass of the Recreation Ground, our Bonfire Party attracted the usual crowds, some newcomers remarking on the friendliness of our function. It was nice to see our new Venture Scout Unit "doing their bit" with the refreshments, also the generator provided by a cub parent did much to add the facilities of the Camp Site.

Those of you who attended church on Remembrance Sunday could not have failed to notice the old flags of the Group have been rested on the wall of the north aisle, bringing back memories of the past as we go forward into the future.

M.J.C.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN FINE NEEDLEWORK?

1. The church's set of purificators is within sight of its demise. Are there any experienced needlewomen who would enjoy making one or more of a new set? Each one is roughly the size of a large handkerchief and is hemstitched, or fine-machine-stitched, round the border with a small-1½ inch square - embroidered motif in one section.

2. On our visits to other churches or cathedrals we often see embroidered kneelers and hassocks which add colour and beauty to the decorations, so when it was planned that the Mothers' Union would provide new kneelers for the Parish Communion rails some of us pictured something of this kind. Alas it soon became apparent that we had not enough experienced embroiderers to attempt this: the kneelers are several feet long. It is now almost decided to make the kneelers of moquette - and this should look good-but we are leaving the final decision for another month in case there should be after all, people, men or women, who knew enough about "canvas-work" and who would like to give their expertise and help and could thereby encourage us to think again about embroidery. Lying around the church are still a few fraying bits of canvas-work done by our predecessors

perhaps a hundred years ago, so that there is no doubt that once made, such work can be a gift to posterity!

Please let me or Mrs Gloyns know if you could help.

C.H.B.

THE CHURCHYARD [1].

The drought (remember!) reduced the overall amount of growth and consequent mowing and other work this summer, and once the leaf-fall is over we look forward to a period of rest. Hopefully, by the time you read this, the working-party arranged for November 27 will have successfully cleared the leaves and left all tidy for the winter.

THE CHURCHYARD [2]

After something around a century of exposure to the ravages of rain and frost, the mortar in the wall along Park Road had become soft and crumbling. One small section by the iron gates either fell or was pushed inwards during the summer, and the subsequent discovery that bricks could thereafter be easily dislodged, led to further sections being pushed over as a more or less regular Saturday evening diversion for some locals with nothing better to occupy their minds.

To rebuild the wall will cost several hundred pounds which we cannot at present afford, so meantime, the remaining courses have been removed to near ground level where the wall will be temporarily capped with cement. Fortunately David and Peter Nunn have taken on and carried out this strenuous task, cleaning and stacking the bricks against the time when we may be able to rebuild, and we are very grateful to them for doing so.

J.G.

AROUND THE SPIRE

We welcome into St. James's Avenue Pam and Trevor Atkinson - although they have been members of our church for a long time, they have not lived in the parish.

For two years, Vernon Bridges has been a Cadet Deck Officer with Cunard, sailing on several different ships to all six continents (and through the Suez and Panama canals). He is often able to spend some time ashore and has been on safari, and overland to Petra, the "rose-red city half as old as time". In October, he joined a vast supertanker for its maiden voyage from Italy to West Africa, and has complained of being knocked off his bike by a huge wave as he freewheeled down the deck! While in Italy, he managed to visit Rome, Florence, Siena and Pisa.

Mrs. Irene Milns has now left us and taken up her abode in the lovely-sounding (and from the photographs which we have seen, also lovely-looking) Primrose Cottage, Hartfield, East Sussex, where she says she will always be very glad to see any of us who are down that way. She will be also keeping in touch with us by occasional visits, and she will of course be receiving a posted copy of this magazine every month. Before she left she was summoned to a meeting of the Parochial Church Council and there presented with a leather writing-case as a token of the affection and esteem in which its members held her.

At the Confirmation held in St. Mary's, Hampton, on Wednesday evening November 17, our Vicar and Seymour Harris presented to Bishop Cecil Patterson the five adult candidates who had been prepared under their superbiaison: Vera Bannister, Pamela Drewett, Stella Walker, Terence Boldwin, Paul Harley. They made their first Communion in our church on the

following Sunday, and we are very glad to welcome them into the communicant fellowship of St. James's. For Paul it was a specially eventful week, because he became the proud father of a baby daughter on the day before he was confirmed. Among the representatives of St. James's in the congregation at St. Mary's were a large group of our newly-formed Questers, having a good view of all that went on from their exalted seats in the gallery.

FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE.

It was pleasant to meet again recently our African friend from Rhodesia, Canon Alban Makoni. He is the Rector of a large parish of some 3000 square miles, with 46 churches, and a staff of two assistant clergy and 94 readers. Despite the difficulties and tensions of this unsettled time, Christians are growing in numbers and maintaining an effective witness. He told us of a recent confirmation service: over 1000 candidates came together for a final 3-weeks course immediately prior to the confirmation, and lived in tents around the central church of the parish of the Holy Name; it was felt that a number of these were not sufficiently prepared for confirmation, and they returned to their churches to await the next confirmation. 911 candidates were, however, presented to the Bishop, and on the day of the service they were all in church an hour before the service was due to begin, - and this hour was spent in complete silence as everyone knelt in deep prayer and meditation. I am not quite sure how long the actual service lasted, but the Bishop, who said at first that it would not be necessary to divide the candidates into three groups, was very glad to have the two tea-breaks which Canon Alban suggested to him!

Brother Giuseppe and his team have spent most of this year in a parish in New York. They hope to be back in England early in January, and there is a possibility that they will begin their work in this and two other parishes about the middle of the month. What that work is is difficult to describe: all we can say at the moment is 'come and see' - then having seen you will be able to decide whether it is for you or not.

BIB AND SUCKER

St. James's Baby Mornings

Wayside - 1st and 3rd (and 5th) Thursdays, 10.30 to 12.00 noon.

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| January | 20 | Talk on the National Childbirth Trust by Penny Samuels |
| February | 3 | Talk with slides on Safety in the Home by Borough Safety Officer |
| | 17 | Workshop on the Marriage Relationship under the guidance of Mrs. Johnson an experienced Marriage Adviser |
| March | 3 | Keep Fit the Eileen Fowler Way
plus: Nearly-New Sale Baby Clothes |
| | 17 | Meet Maureen Sutton, Organiser of the Community Care Group |
| | 31 | One Parent Families in our Community Introduction by Joan Worth |
| April | 7 | Reflections on Holy Week and Easter |
| Maundy Thursday | | |

APPEAL FOR TOYS

Some additions to the toybox in Wayside would be much appreciated. Quite a few children now come to Wayside every Thursday for the Toddlers Club as well as for the Baby Morning, and the toys they find there are none too numerous and in some cases rather tired looking. If you have any toys your children do not play with any more they would be very welcome here. Have a look through your treasures.

We could also do with a really sturdy box to keep those toys in. Perhaps somebody has a tea chest that is no longer needed.

H.B.

A SERIES OF MONTHLY TALKS.

The Hampton and Sunbury Council of Churches have pleasure in announcing the following series of talks taking place in the first 6 months of 1977. The talks will be held in the Methodist Church, Percy Road, Hampton, at 8pm, and all will be followed by questions and discussion.

It is hoped that discussion or study groups will be formed to follow the talks, possibly in the interval between lectures. These will not necessarily be the existing prayer and discussion groups which may well have programmes of their own, but it is felt that occasions may be offered for additional groups to be formed.

DOES IT MAKE SENSE.....

1....TO BELIEVE IN GOD?

Thursday. Jan. 13.

Speaker: The Rev. Dr. John Chamberlayne. MA BHD
Superintendent of the Whitechapel Methodist Mission, Lecturer at London University-Diploma in Christian Studies.

2....TO FOLLOW JESUS?

Wednesday. Feb. 9

Speaker: The Rev. Canon J.L. Houlden, MA.,
Principal of Cuddesdon Theological College, Oxford.

3....TO READ THE BIBLE?

Wednesday. March 9.

Speaker: The Rev. Professor Christopher Evans, MA.,
Professor of New Testament Studies. Kings College, London.

4....TO PRAY?

Wednesday April 20

Speaker: An Angelican Nun from the Order of the Sisters of the Church, Ham Common.

5....TO GO TO CHURCH?

Wednesday. May 11

Speaker: The Rev Fr. Micheal Hollings. MC. MA
Parish Priest. St. Anslem's, Southall.

6....TO HOPE FOR LIFE AFTER DEATH?

Thursday. June 9.

Speaker: The Rev Marcus Ward, MA., BA., BD.,
Retired Principal of the Richmond Methodist Ministerial Training College.