The Franciscan

ST CLARE'S CHURCH.

AUGUST 1984
THE PARISH OF ST. FRANCIS, MEIR HEATH WITH ST. MATTHEW, ROUGH CLOSE

Comprising the Parish Church of St. Francis, the Church of St. Matthew, Rough Close and the Church/Centre of St. Clare, Meir Park.

Sunday Services:
- 8-00 a.m. Holy Communion (St. Francis)
- 9-45 a.m. The Family Eucharist (St. Francis)
- 9-45 a.m. Sunday School
- 11-15 a.m. Sung Eucharist (St. Matthew)
- 4-30 p.m. Sung Eucharist (St. Clare)
- 6-30 p.m. Evensong (St. Francis)

Holy Baptism is administered at any of the main Sunday Services. The Blessed Sacrament is reserved and is available for the Communion of the Sick at any time. The Parish Priest would appreciate being informed of those who are ill.

Parish Staff:
- Parish Priest : Fr. John Pawson, St. Francis Vicarage, Meir Heath. (393189).
- Assistant Priest : Fr. John Aston, 3 Melrose Avenue, Meir Heath. (396939).
- Lay Readers : Mr. V. R. Gibbons B.A. "West Winds"
  Common Lane, Meir Heath. (392330).
  Col. W. E. Duckworth B.D.S. 683 Lightwood Road, Lightwood. (319288).
  Mr. K. C. Lowe B.A. 12 Caterham Place, Meir Park. (392435).
  Mr. B. S. Thornhill B.Sc. "Uplands" Church Close, Meir Heath. (395908).
- Churchwardens : Mr. R. Powell, 22 Birkholme Drive,
  Meir Heath. (396188).
  259 Sandon Road, Meir (319141).
  Mr. J. Leese, Rose Cottage, Cocknage,
  (Barlaston 2683).
  Mr. T. Young, 1 Glaisyer Drive, Meir Park.
  (398412).
- Verger : Mr. H. Pettit, The Bungalow, Bracken Close,
  Common Lane, Meir Heath.

NOTES ON OUR CHURCHES

ST. FRANCIS’ CHURCH was consecrated in October 1940 and was known as the Children’s Church of the Lichfield diocese, because of the generous gifts to the building fund which came from every church school in Staffordshire and Shropshire.

ST. MATTHEW’S CHURCH was founded in 1850, damaged by subsidence, rebuilt in 1960-61 and dedicated on September 21st, 1961.

ST. CLARE’S CHURCH/CENTRE was begun in September 1980 and opened in June 1981.
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YOUR LAST THANK YOU —
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Dear Friends,

I’m always intrigued whenever I spend any time at the seaside by that common British bird, the seagull, as it soars and glides and manoeuvres effortlessly across the sky with hardly a single flap of its wings. It’s a fascinating sight, isn’t it? Of course, the real test of the seagull’s determination and ability to keep airborne comes when the storm comes and it finds itself buffeted and battered about. That is when it has to draw on all its inner reserves of strength.

Isn’t life something like that? Normally we can soar and glide effortlessly through it—until the storm comes. And the storm can come in various ways. Through the serious illness of a member of the family, through the death of a partner or parent, the storm may even come in the form of redundancy. These are the real testing times in our lives; the storms of life which we have to live through and use all the strength we have available to help us do so.

The strength drawn from the support of family and friends is one of our reserves but, as Christians, the greatest of all is in the inner strength and peace which the Lord Jesus Himself provides as we lean on Him. His promise is not that we can avoid or escape the storms of life, but that in the midst of them we can have the firm assurance of His love for us and His presence with us. As we lean on Him we shall find that we can say along with St Paul, “In all things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.” It may take time, indeed it will take time, before we can do so, but rest assured on His promise and we shall find it to be true for ourselves.

May the peace of the Lord Jesus be with you all.

John Aston.

Elaine and I would like to thank you all for your cards and congratulations on the birth of Katie.

ENCLOSED IN THIS EDITION of “The Franciscan” is a copy of the annual report from the missionary society which our parish supports—the United Society for the Propogation of the Gospel (USPG for short). It gives a brief outline of the people and places who are involved in the world-wide Anglican Communion and who are part of the same family of christians as ourselves. Do read it, and pass it on to anyone else who may be interested in the wider church.

STILL ON USPG can we once more recommend the quarterly magazine “Network” which is published by the Society. It costs
£1.40p per year and to ensure your copy of the magazine, please place your order with Miss Blant.

St Clare’s Day falls on Saturday August 11th. There will be a Sung Eucharist at St Clare’s at 12 noon followed by a buffet lunch and a warm invitation is extended to all members of our three worshipping communities.

TWO OTHER FEAST DAYS occur this month. The feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord is on Monday August 6th and there will be a mass at 7.30 pm on that day. St Bartholomew’s Day is on the 24th and the service will be at 9.30 am.

AN APOLOGY is due to all the cooks in the parish. We had hoped to be able to have copies of “Franciscan Fare,” our proposed cookery book, on sale at the Garden Party. Unfortunately, due to a number of factors, this proved impossible but we are trying hard to have it ready some time within the next few weeks.

CALLING ALL COVENANTERS! Have you returned the form to the Diocesan Office in Lichfield? If you have, then thank you very much, we have already had one cheque for parish funds from recovered income tax. If you haven’t returned the form, please do so as quickly as possible so that we can get the next claim in. If there are any problems about covenants, or if you would like to join the scheme, please contact Mr Ken Allen.

WHEN THE APPOINTMENT OF THE NEW BISHOP was announced, your clergy wrote to assure Bishop Sutton of the prayers and good wishes of the parish. In reply he says: “Your welcome and assurance of prayers means much to me at this time. I trust that I will be able to see and meet you at Mür Heath in the not too distant future. Yours sincerely, +Keith.”

INSTRUCTION GROUPS for adults and young people have now begun. If there are any other people who are thinking about Confirmation, they will be very welcome.

Do you remember the Supper held during our Stewardship Campaign in 1982—in particular the degree of fellowship and sharing shown during that splendid evening?

If so, you will be pleased to hear that we have arranged a
Parish Outing to that fascinating city of York on Saturday September 22nd, 1984. The cost will be £2.95p per person (children under 5 free) and it is open to all members of our three congregations, their families, relatives and friends. The return trip to York will be by luxury coach leaving Meir Heath at 8.00 am and arriving back at approximately 10.00 pm, allowing time in York to visit some of the many and varied attractions of this historic city. Various pick-up and set-down points have been arranged around the parish, thus avoiding the need to travel to the station and car park fees.

Although the cost of the trip has been made as inexpensive as possible, any profit will be donated to the Helen House Hospice for chronically and terminally ill children. Someone will be available at each of our three churches immediately after each Sunday service during August and early September to take your booking or to provide further information.

**For your Prayers**

**Week One:** Give thanks for freedom from aggression in the land, and pray for all those who serve in the Army, Navy or Air Force.

**Week Two:** Give thanks for those who man our life-boat and emergency rescue services along the coast-line of our country and pray for those who are inexperienced in sailing or climbing.

**Week Three:** Pray for all who will be married this month, that they may remain faithful to their partners and grow in love and understanding. Pray also for all whose work brings them into contact with bride and groom and this most important occasion.

**Week Four:** Pray for tour operators and coach drivers and all those who are involved in transport in connection this holiday season. Give thanks for those who go out of their way to provide for the needs of holiday makers and tourists.

**PAUSE FOR THOUGHT**

*The more we receive in silent prayer, the more we can give in our active life. We need silence in order to be able to touch souls. The essential thing is not what we say, but what God says to us and through us. All our words will be useless unless they come from within—words which do not give the light of Christ increase the darkness.*

*Malcolm Muggeridge.*
SUMMER BIBLE QUIZ

1. On which mountain did Noah's ark finally come to rest?
2. Which of Isaac's two sons had the smooth skin?
3. Who was Joseph's younger brother?
4. On which mountain was Moses given the commandments?
5. Who was the brother of Moses?
6. Who took over command from Moses?
7. Who was responsible for cutting Samson's hair?
8. Whose faith was tested by afflicting him with all sorts of pain?
9. Give the name of the priest who Samuel served?
10. Which king was the father of David's friend, Jonathon?
11. What was the name of David's son, noted for his wisdom?
12. Which prophet was fed by ravens?
13. Where were the Israelites taken to, when in exile?
14. Which one is not a prophet: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ahab, Ezekiel?
15. How many psalms are there?

No prizes are offered and all the answers are in the Old Testament.
Answers in next month's magazine.

K.L.

Just a Moment!

Going through an old anthology of readings which has been on my shelf for many years, I came across some verses by that great Christian poet and hymn writer, George Herbert. Two of them seemed to be worth printing—they come from a poem called "How to Behave in Church".

Let vain or busy thoughts have there no part,
Bring not thy plough, thy plots, thy pleasures thither,
Christ purged His temple; so must thou thy heart.
All worldly thought are but thieves met together
To cozen thee. Look to thy actions well;
For churches are either our heaven or hell.

Judge not the preacher, for he is thy judge:
If thou dislike him, thou conceiv'st him not.
God calleth preaching folly. Do not grudge
To pick out treasures from an earthen pot.
The worst speaks something good; if all want sense,
God takes a text and preacheth patience.

Round About

ST MARY'S WIMBLEDON recently put service above profit. For some years now the parishioners have served picnic meals to the crowds attending the tennis tournament. The profits, which last year amounted to over £7,000 were given to the church at home and overseas. This year they were approached by a catering firm and offered £40,000 for the catering rights. After much discussion the parish decided that the service and the welcome they offered were more important than the money and so the church in Wimbledon continued to serve those who come to watch the Wimbledon fortnight.
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Taking Time Out

This is the day of the package holiday. They get bigger. They sometimes get better. They certainly get more numerous. They take more people about the world than ever before. Aircraft take off like flocks of birds on package tours.

This is big business. It is by no means bad business. It brings happiness to many; but there are some dangers inherent in the whole package tour idea which need watching.

One is a danger of trying to cram too much into it. After all, a holiday should not be exhausting. It should be a time out from the daily round. One of the dangers of trying to push too much into a holiday is that this element becomes crowded out.

Opportunity
Another is that it does not give enough opportunity for getting away from people and for being, naturally and quietly, ourselves for a time. Most of us live crowded lives. It seems a pity to go on holiday and be more crowded than ever.

So it is worthwhile keeping a careful eye on what we do with our modern holidays. We create something highly organized and good in intention. And then, if we aren't careful, ruin it by overdoing it. A human body and spirit both need leisure. Both will do better to be quiet for a time rather than that, in the pursuit of more and more, we get less and less of what really matters.

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THE SIGN
The Nationwide Magazine
Inset for Church and Parish
No. 957  August 1984

Our Spiritual Heritage

by the Rt Revd C. R. Rutt,
Bishop of Leicester

Of Meekness towards Ourselves

One of the best exercises of meekness we can perform is that whose subject is ourselves, in never fretting against ourselves and our imperfections. For though reason requires that we should be displeased and sorry for it when we commit any fault, yet we must refrain from a bitter, gloomy, spiteful, and passionate displeasure. For many make a great mistake in this respect, who, being overcome by anger, are angry for having been angry, and vexed at having given way to vexation, and fretful for having been fretful. For by this means they keep their heart perpetually laid and steeped in anger; and though it seems as if the second anger destroyed the first, it serves nevertheless to open a passage for fresh anger on the first occasion that shall present itself. Besides these, anger, spites, and vexations against ourselves tend to pride, and flow from no other source than self-love, which is troubled and disquieted to see ourselves imperfect. We must then be displeased at our faults, in a peaceable, calm, and steadfast manner.

FRANCIS DE SALES
Introduction to the devout life
The Editor is always glad to hear from readers. If you have any questions or problems arising from topical issues or the practice of the Christian faith, write to Canon Purcell, 'Your Letters', The Sign, St Thomas House, Backet Street, Oxford OX1 1SJ. Please enclose s.a.e. A £4 Book Token will be sent to the writer of any letter published.

Sex and Violence on TV
We asked readers their views on the question Is there too much sex and violence on TV? Many replies have been received and the following is a selection of them.

Ed

Yes
Sex and violence as seen on TV seem to reflect both those things in our society. Violent acts have been with us since Cain and Abel and sexual indulgence since New Testament times. Today's reaction and revolt against Victorian repression is seen in a new freedom to do as you like, an obsession with sex and a determination to shock. As a result, our TV screens are plastered with violence and sex. Yes there is too much of it. It is an insidious influence particularly on the young, who are only too ready to learn and participate.

I. C. F. Mills, Barnsley

Yes
Presentation of amoral behaviour is rapidly becoming the accepted norm. It is natural that people are losing sight of God's order. When faced with violence we eventually become immune. Constant horrors lose their impact and the intensity has to escalate in order to entertain in drama or rate a mention in the news. Yes, there is too much sex and violence on TV.

C. Sherwood, Basingstoke

Yes – but not always
It will be difficult to argue against the degree of sex and violence on TV when these are necessary to make a valid point in the most effective way. But they are not permissible when they merely excite and possibly corrupt. Unfortunately, when judged by this yardstick, there is too much sex and violence on TV. Whilst each plays a part in human relationships, it does not help towards a balanced society if they are wrongly portrayed or given an undue emphasis for the wrong reasons.

T. Williamson, Haltwhistle

A Need for Limits
For the majority of TV viewers, sex and violence on TV is taken with a pinch of salt. These are the comparatively well adjusted members of the human race. However, there is a small percentage whose minds are easily perverted. When an unsavoury scene is shown it could adversely influence some of these people who will then be tempted to copy it, with disastrous results. In my opinion, sex and violence on TV should be limited.

H. Suddards, Bingley

Leave it to Conscience
To decide what is too much is a matter for the individual conscience. Times change. Morals and behaviour today would be unacceptable to Victorians. Judged by older people there is certainly too much sex and violence on TV. Judged by the young set sex and violence are just part of modern life and therefore acceptable. Christians must be careful not to try to enforce their opinions on others. Everybody has a right to their own opinions. After all, if we do personally not approve of TV programmes we can always switch off.

G. Cremer, Hornsey

AUGUST CALENDAR

5 S 8 after Pentecost
6 M Transfiguration of our Lord
12 S 9 after Pentecost
19 S 10 after Pentecost
24 F St Bartholomew the Apostle
26 S 11 after Pentecost

For Children, Prizewinners:
April 1984
Mark Gregory, Sedgley
H. E. M. Hunt, Tottington
Tracy Kent, Clekeaton
Kevin Reece, Rochford
Thinking about Prayer

by the Revd Richard Harries, Dean of Kings College, London

Relationship with God

The idea of entering into a relationship with God is fundamental. As the Jewish philosopher Martin Buber once put it, "properly speaking God is he who can be addressed, not expressed. The same point is made by Karl Barth when he wrote, 'human thought and speech cannot be about God, but must be directed towards God'.

Having asserted the crucial significance of the personal model of God it is then both possible and necessary to qualify it. For it is not a literal description. Though some modern presentations of the Christian faith have not guarded against literalistic interpretations as carefully as they might have done, the Church in earlier centuries had a built-in corrective to anthropomorphism. For God is Holy Trinity. He is not simply an isolated being. He combines in himself both personality and relationship. The doctrine of God as Holy Trinity, when it has been central to the devotional life, has kept people from thinking of God simply as a super person.

The Mystery

Another way in which the Church has expressed its awareness that God is a mystery who cannot be summed up in any human picture is by mixing impersonal images with the personal one. This is very frequent in the psalms where God is a rock, a light, a house of defence, a castle and so on. Water is a familiar biblical image and in St John's Gospel it stands for the Holy Spirit. In these three short prayers the Holy Spirit is addressed in personal terms but because the imagery is impersonal, there is no danger of conveying a limited, localized god.

O Holy Spirit,
River of life,
seep into the soil of our lives
and
nourish us.

O Holy Spirit,

rain on dry earth
fall and soak into us
make all things fresh

O Holy Spirit,

Mountain stream in spring
zestful and clear
make us alive with your life.

BOOKSHELF

The Prayers of the New Testament
Donald Coggan

This is in Mowbray's Christian Studies Series selling at £3.50 and is a most worthwhile book to have. The writer, formerly Archbishop of Canterbury, has taken all the prayers recorded in the New Testament and has tried, as he puts it, "simply and faithfully to expound them in such a way as to incite the reader to kneel down and thoughtfully make prayers his own'. This is not a book for hurried reading but it is aimed for use over a longish period to be taken as it were in daily doses. It is a most valuable book to possess and to treasure and has within it the seeds of such deepening of the personal spiritual life.

A Handbook of Parish Youth Work
Clive Andrews

The needs of young people today are as great as they have ever been, perhaps greater. Therefore whatever the Church can do for them - and it is much - is of supreme importance. The writer of this book is former Youth Adviser in the diocese of Southwark and brings much experience to the question of working with and for young people. Those who want to know more of such matters as leadership, running a youth club, worship for young people, and what can be done for the handicapped, the unemployed young and others with special problems will be greatly helped by this useful book. It is one of Mowbray's well known handbook series and sells at £3.95

The Church in the Market Place
George Carey

This is an encouraging success story of a church which, through

to page five
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TS 8/84
Treasures of our Churches

There are many thousands of parish churches in England; some in towns, some hidden away in the country. Some are well known, some are unknown; but all are part of a marvellous heritage. They are not just show pieces; each is a house of God, and each, with its tower or spire reaching heavenwards, is a statement of belief in his reality. Many of these churches possess things which are works of art in themselves, from fonts, screens, monuments, pulpits and doorways. In this series we shall select and illustrate each month one of these various features for illustration and comment.

Lych Gates

The purpose of these handsome structures at the entrance to the churchyards puzzles many people. They are often spacious, and roofed over, as in this example from a churchyard at Smarden, in Kent. But they served in fact a very practical purpose. The clue to it is to be found in the word ‘Lych’, which comes from the Anglo-Saxon ‘lic’ which means ‘corpse’. So these roofed gateways to churchyards were places where the coffin at a funeral was sent down to await the arrival of the officiating minister, who would then lead the funeral procession onwards into church and then to burial. The size of these lych gates indicates that quite a number of mourners could wait there.
The Picnic

'What shall we do tonight?' said John to his sister, one

Advertisement

The Anglican Church Today and Tomorrow

MICHAEL MARSHALL

A penetrating study of the present day Anglican Church by the Bishop of Woolwich who looks at the foundations of the Anglican tradition, and examines what direction the Church should take in the future when there is likely to be a resurgence of religious interest. Michael Marshall was recently appointed episcopal director of the new Anglican Institute in St Louis, USA.

paper £4.50

The Psalms Come Alive

JOHN H. EATON

John Eaton examines the Psalms specifically through the arts, along the paths of poetry, architecture, music, dance and drama. Explored in this way, the Psalms spring to life in all their passion and joy, leading the reader to look afresh at religion and art today. The book includes black and white illustrations by the author's wife, Margaret.

paper £4.95

MOWBRAY

Friday teatime.

'Your homework,' said Daddy. 'That'll do tomorrow,' said Fiona. 'It's such a lovely evening.'

'Tonight, please!' said Daddy firmly.

John muttered, 'There's no sense in it!', but they knew they had to obey.

Next morning Mother, cutting sandwiches, said, 'Get ready quickly. We're going to the sea.'

Later, as they sat watching little boats in the bay, John said, 'That's why you made us do our homework! Why didn't you tell us?'

'We didn't want you to be disappointed if it turned out wet,' said Mother.

'Sometimes,' added Daddy, 'you have to obey orders on trust, even when you can't see the reason for them - just as the fishermen disciples did, that morning on the lake. The boats reminded me.'

'When was that,' asked Fiona.

'Some weeks after the Resurrection. They were back in Galilee, and all one night they fished and caught nothing. In the morning someone called from the shore, 'Cast your nets to starboard. You will have a catch.'" They might have thought, 'What a hope!' or 'There's no sense in it!' (John blushed) But they trusted the speaker, and did as he said, and their nets were full of fish!

'Then they realized it was Jesus! He had lit a fire, and they sat round, and cooked fish on it.'

'They had a picnic, like us!' laughed Fiona. 'What a happy picnic it must have been, with Jesus there!'

Competition. A picture of sailing boats. Send, with name, age and address, by 31 August, to Jennie, St Thomas House, Becket Street, Oxford OX1 1SJ. Prizes.
The Miracles of Jesus

From the earliest times the miracles performed by Our Lord have inspired artists. This series of photographs made by Sonia Halliday, who travelled widely to get them, presents some of these famous happenings in the gospels as seen by artists in different times and places.

The Healing of Peter’s Mother-in-law


Matthew, Mark and Luke each have an account of this healing miracle. It took place in Capernaum, the scene of so much of the Lord’s Galilean ministry. Matthew’s account of it is: ‘And when Jesus entered Peter’s house, he saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever; he touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and served him. That evening they brought to him many who were possessed with demons; he cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick. This was to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah, “He took our infirmities and bore our diseases.”’

This is one of the three acts of power in this part of St Matthew’s Gospel. Before there have been the cleansing of the leper and the healing of the centurion’s servant. Now there is this scene where, with a touch, Christ’s healing power is conveyed to the woman with a fever. Immediately she is enabled to rise and serve him. All those, as Matthew no doubt wished to tell us, who have received salvation from Christ must go on to serve him.

by Anne Arnott

Martin House

Helen House, the Hospice in Oxford for children gravely ill with life-threatening disease, has become very widely known for its wonderful work. But it is the only one of its kind in this country. There is a great need for a similar children’s hospice in the north of England, and an appeal was launched some months ago to establish Martin House in Yorkshire. It is to be a ‘home from home’ for eight children at a time, perhaps to enable parents under intolerable strain to have a break; perhaps just to give the family of the sick child medical and spiritual support during a stay there, for accommodation is to be provided for the family if desired. The Sisters of the Anglican Order of the Holy Paraclete have agreed to establish a House alongside Martin House providing spiritual support linked to the medical care. For further details or offers of help, the address is: Martin House Appeal Office, 132 High Street, Boston Spa, Wetherby, Yorks, LS23 6BW.

Hospital Visiting

For over two weeks I have been visiting one of our family in a great northern teaching hospital. I have watched the stream of visitors outwardly bright and cheerful at the bedside of their sick relatives, and have then seen some of them walking away down the endless corridors in tears, unable to contain their
The Story of The Church

As the monks supported the Pope, Henry VIII appointed Thomas Cromwell to suppress the monasteries and confiscate their wealth. The monks had lost the respect of the people, and except in the north there was little resistance.

Henry and Cromwell plan their campaign

Cromwell sends visitors to enquire into the lives and finances of the monks

And preachers to denounce them

Question Competition Report

Should members of a P.C.C. serve for a limited period only?

The prize is divided between two readers:

Yes

It is essential for the development of the Christian community and fellowship within a church that P.C.C.s have limited periods of membership. If members become fixtures, the forward movement of the Church becomes limited, and ideas from newcomers and young people are ignored. Any

Christian community needs a changing leadership to enable it to meet contemporary needs.

P. Walton, Essex.

No

If a member of the church gives active support, and wants to help with its administration, he or she should be allowed to do so. The qualifications and enthusiasm of a candidate will be apparent to the other church members with whom the decision should rest.

H. R. C. Hickish, Devon.

THINK IT OVER

There is no room for God in him who is full of himself.
A Jewish saying.

Sense of Peace

He brought a sense of peace and hope; and I knew the effect of a ministry such as his – and it is one shared by a number of women chaplains in this country – can be incalculable, for he stands beside people at their point of greatest need.

Anne Arundell

Women Today from page seven

distress and anxiety. Others go full of happiness at seeing their own patient getting better. Like them I have been thankful for the skill of surgeons and doctors and the nursing staff. But I felt especially helped and sustained by a hospital chaplain who came and visited our daughter, a nurse herself, and prayed for her both before and after a demanding operation.

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ST MICHAEL’S, WINWICK in Northamptonshire needed a bit of a face-lift and the Vicar appealed for help. The congregation responded well—and got some help from a surprising quarter. The Governor of the local Youth Correction Centre (the new name for a Borstall) heard of the appeal and sent some of his lads along to help. The result was a much improved church, greater understanding between parishioners and Y.C.C. and the satisfaction of a necessary job well done.

ST EDMONDSBURY CATHEDRAL has been in the news lately following the decision to disband the girls choir. But another news item came at the Peter-tide ordinations when the former Bishop of Stafford, Rt. Revd. John Waine, (now Bishop of St Edmondsbury) ordained his son Stephen as deacon. The Waine family links with Lichfield diocese are not going to be broken, for Stephen is to work in the parish of St Peter, Wolverhampton, one of the major centres of this diocese.

ST PETER’S WEST BROMWICH has cause to be proud of its young people. Earlier this year they raised enough money to send a group of ten handicapped people on holiday to Bruges in Belgium. The group travelled by Jumbulance and stayed at the English Convent in Bruges.

SELSLEY METHODIST CHURCH has its problems. According to its newsletter a visiting preacher was told: ‘Please speak up loud and clear because the agnostics in this church are troublesome.’

N.S.M. — WHAT’S THAT?

For many centuries the church in this land has been accustomed to the idea of a ‘full-time ministry’—men who were employed solely to administer the sacraments, preach the gospel, evangelise and care for the people who lived in the parishes. This was not always the case. The first disciples often had a job as well as a ministry: St Paul was a tent-maker, St Peter was a fisherman. In the Middle Ages many of the clergy were small time farmers, they had a patch of land (known as glebe) which provided them with a living and supplement the offerings given by the congregation.

In recent years there has been something of a revival of this idea. A number of men have come forward for ordination to the priesthood who believe that they can exercise a dual ministry, in the parish and at their place of work. There are now teachers, industrial workers, policemen, and social workers (among many others) who are ordained and who exercise their ministry in their place of work and assist in the parishes in their spare time. They are known as ‘Non Stipendiary Ministers’—or N.S.M.’s for short. Are there any men in this parish who feel called to this type of ministry?
FLOWER ROTA

S Francis
Aug. 12th Mrs Hewins & Mrs Jackson
19th Mrs Carson
26th Mrs Leach
Sept. 2nd Mrs Lowndes & Mrs Fox

St Matthew
Mrs S. Barker
Mrs K. Wildblood
Mrs J. Bowers
Mrs L. Benbow

St Clare
Mrs. M. Wood
Mrs D. Smith
Mrs E. Farnell
Mrs D. Tomlinson

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June 24th .... .... 164 .... .... .... £287.93
July 1st .... .... 131 .... .... .... 224.88
8th .... .... 165 .... .... .... 291.14
Weekdays .... .... 239

From the Registers

Baptised:
June 24th Emma Charlotte Ann Brindley

The Departed:
June 11th Mary Catania (58) 3, Brabazon Close, Meir Park.

SERVING LIST

Aug. 12th 8.00 am A. Tabbenor
9.45 am T. Barnacle, R. Corkhill, M. Powell, S. Spooner
4.30 pm K. Wheeldon
6.30 pm K. Allen
19th 8.00 am T. Barlow
9.45 am R. Hasell, J. McManus, H. Platt, H. Sherratt,
C. Beardmore, G. Williams.
4.30 pm K. Wheeldon
6.30 pm H. Sherratt
26th 8.00 am M. Powell
9.45 am D. Beardmore R. Powell, S. Spooner, B. Stanton
4.30 pm K. Wheeldon
6.30 pm R. Powell
Sept. 2nd 8.00 am A. Tabbenor
9.45 am K. Allen, T. Barlow, D. Beardmore, S. Langton,
C. Beardmore, G. Williams.
4.30 pm K. Wheeldon
6.30 pm K. Allen

SIDESMAN'S LIST

Aug. 12th 8.00 am R. Battison
9.45 am T. Barlow, N. Chiles, R. Clough, T. Young
11.15 am Mr & Miss Clarke
4.30 pm P. Topping
6.30 pm R. Powell, H. Proctor
19th 8.00 am Mrs M. Oakman
9.45 am K. Allen, J. Jackson, E. Pritchard, E. Turner
11.15 am R. Lowe
4.30 pm R. Quinn
6.30 pm Mrs O. Barnacle, Mrs V. Powell
26th 8.00 am C. Jackson
9.45 am A. Beardmore A. Bennett, G. Hillage, F. Holbrook
11.15 am J. Leese
4.30 pm G. Edwards
6.30 pm N. Green, I. Turner
Sept. 2nd 8.00 am Mrs C. Gibbons
9.45 am T. Barlow, N. Chiles, R. Clough, T. Young
11.15 am D. Redfern
4.30 pm P. Topping
6.30 pm H. Powell, H. Proctor
ORGANISATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Mothers’ Union: First Tuesday in the month at 7.30 p.m. in the hall
   Enrolling Member: Mrs. Rhead (393219).

Ladies Fellowship: Alternate Tuesdays at 8 p.m. at St. Clare’s
   Secretary: Mrs. Shenton (397556).

Womens’ Institute: Third Thursday in the month at 7.15 p.m. in the hall
   Chairman: Mrs. Chiles (393497).

Good Companions: Every Tuesday at 2 p.m. in the hall.
   Secretary: Mr. Moore (393736).

Craft Club: Every Friday at 1.30 p.m. in the hall.
   Organiser: Mrs. Rowley (394050).

Mens’ Club: Every Wednesday and Friday at 7 p.m. in the Mens’ Club.
   Chairman: Mr. Bird (392692).

Play Groups: Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 9 a.m. in the hall.
   Supervisor: Tuesday and Friday mornings at 9.30 a.m. in St. Clare’s.

Keep Fit Class: Every Wednesday at 7.30 p.m in St. Clare’s.
   Organiser: Mrs Morris.

Mothers & Toddlers: Tuesday at 1.30 p.m. and Thursday at 11 a.m. in
   St. Claire’s. Organiser: Mrs. Young (398412).

Scouts: Every Monday at 7.30 p.m. in the hall.
   Leader: Mr. Wilde.
   Every Monday at 7.30 p.m. in St. Clare’s.
   Leader: Mr. Hill (317151).

Cub Scouts: Every Monday at 6 p.m. in the hall.
   Leader: Mrs. Hancox (393984).
   Every Monday at 6 p.m. in St. Clare’s.
   Leader: Mrs. Marsh (392087).

Rangers: Wednesdays at 8.15 p.m. in the hall.
   Leader: Mrs. Bull (392120).

Guides: Every Tuesday at 7.15 p.m. in the hall.
   Leader: Mrs. Shaw.

Brownie Guides: Every Wednesday at 6.30 p.m. in the hall.
   Leader: Mrs. Rigby (396588).
   Every Wednesday at 6.30 p.m. in St. Clare’s.
   Leader: Miss Rushton (393548).

Scout Parent Assoc.: Occasional meetings in the hall.
   Secretary: Mrs. Vitta (392038).

* * * * * * *

The parish supports the work of the Church overseas through the United
Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (USPG). Further information
and copies of the Society’s magazine “Network” may be had from Miss B.
Blant, 326 Sandon Road.

* * * * * * *

The parish supports the work of the Church of England Children’s Society
through the Society’s home collecting boxes. These may be obtained
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Church Council: Vice-Chairman: Mr. R. Gibbons; Secretary: Mr. B. Thornhill; Treasurer: Mr. H. Sherratt; Covenant Secretary: Mr. K. Allen.

Church Music: Organists: Mrs M. Holbrook (SF), Mr W. Adams (SM), Mrs W. Thornhill (SC), Choirmaster: Mr N. Jenkinson (SF).

Church Flowers: Mrs J. Pawson (SF), Mrs J. Leese (SM), Mrs M. Young (SC).

Church Magazine: Secretary: Mrs O. Barnacle.

Church Overseas: USPG Secretary: Miss B. Blant.

Church Giving: Envelope Secretary: Mrs B. Allen.

Church Teaching: Day School Headmaster: Mr J. Cliff. Sunday School Supervisor: Mr P. Boyer.

Church Children’s Society: Parish Secretary: Mrs N. Walters.

Sacrists: Mr H. Platt (SF), Mrs M. Adams (SM), Mr K. Wheeldon (SC).

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