

BAMPTON WITH LEW

Church News Sheet

JUNE, 1951

My dear Friends,

In another part of the News Sheet I have given notice of a visiting preacher, Father Playne who is coming to talk to us about Mission work he has just been visiting in other lands, the answer in fact to our Lord's command to go into all the world and preach the Gospel.

On a car journey I had to make a short while ago I had the interesting experience of hearing, from a man I gave a lift to, what England seemed like to one seeing it for the first time after twelve years abroad.

They say "the spectator sees most of the game", and he was able to give me a very different picture to the one we so often see. In the main he found things rather grim but there were many redeeming features, and one of them was that he could see more kindness amongst people than he had ever noticed before. He agreed with me that some of this might be due to the fact that we had all been fellow sufferers together in the past difficult and dangerous years, and that brought us to deeper thoughts still and we very much enjoyed our journey together. On the matter of kindness I felt he was very right. For instance, my whole day of travelling had been helped by kindness, from the kindness which took care that I got a hot breakfast before starting out at an early hour, to the kindness of the lorry-driver and several others who stopped or slowed down to ask if they could help on seeing me looking into the bonnet of my car, and that on a portion of the Mendip hills where the temptation was to keep going at all costs. The kindness again of the people who so willingly directed me to places I wanted, and of those who received me at the other end and did all they could to make my visit pleasant and my business easy. I thought of all those kindnesses after talking to my fellow traveller, and I thought too of the journey I had travelled. My car had taken me along the road just below a hill now called "Wearyall", that same hill was once called the "Isle of Avalon", in those days surrounded by a waste of waters spreading to the Severn. On that ground in the year 63 A.D. it

is said that Joseph of Arimathaea, with eleven disciples, landed, bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to this country. That he stuck his staff in the ground, that the staff budded and so became the Holy Thorn, later removed to, and now found in, the grounds of the Abbey ruins at Glastonbury, about half a mile away. Certain it is that it blossoms gaily on the original Christmas Day every year, January 5th.

Glastonbury has a wonderful history concerning early and later Christianity in these Islands, and is full of "Reminders". What has all this to do with Missions and kindness? Well I wonder if we remember, and are always ready to own, that kindness had its source in those very things, the coming of Christianity. In days when I know its sometimes hard to see much connection between some parts of organised Religion to-day and the simplicity and sincerity of those early days, there are always Reminders for men and women going upon their daily way of how the really best things have come into our lives.

Those Reminders are our faithful Churches standing sentinel over all the changing times. "Though giant rains put out the Sun there stand I as a sign", when Mr. Priestly spoke those words about St. Paul's Cathedral during the blitz on London he surely spoke them not only of St. Paul's but of all the Churches in our towns and villages.

Of those Churches, in the majority of cases the very same buildings, it was said in the 15th Century - "these men loved their Parish Churches". To-day, alas, they are all too often shadows of the affection they once held in the hearts of the people.

But let us end cheerfully. When you see much kindness around you, and there is such a lot, "think on these things". In days when many say they haven't much time for religion here is a tiny but vital bit of evidence of the place it really has in their lives, it only needs a little encouragement to bring it, like the Holy Thorn, to glorious blossom.

Yours very sincerely,

CYRIL C. KELWAY.

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VISITING I am always grateful to those who can give me news of any in the Parish who are ill, or need visiting for any

other particular reason. Some who so kindly tell me say, "I hope you don't mind me telling you?" Far from minding I am indeed most grateful for such kind help. As one so sensibly said, "how can you be expected to know if you are not told". Even though it may be a case of Hospital and I cannot get there to see them for a while I still like to go to their home. So please carry on the good work and let me know.

#### CHURCH SPRING-CLEANING

I had very much hoped to announce a date for this in the present News Sheet. But I am sure if there is any repairing or altering to be done to our Heating System, and something definitely must be done before next winter, we should be wise to wait. The results of the work put in last year are still evident, you only have to look at a few other Churches to see the difference, and it would be tragic if all the good work was done this year again and then ruined.

As far as the weather is concerned I don't think at the moment we need talk about choosing the cooler days. And so let us wait until the other matter is settled and then hope for many willing helpers to get the cleaning speedily done.

#### CONFIRMATION

If there are sufficient candidates I should like to ask for another Confirmation here in October. In that case I must ask when Confirmation dates are being arranged at our next Deanery Meeting in a few weeks' time. Therefore will any who would like to give their names for Confirmation please let me know as soon as possible. I am of course prepared to take separate preparation classes for older people.

#### GUILD OF ST. MARY

Very quietly and with a small number this Guild has started, and I think that is the best way of all. It started with a Service for admittance of Members, and it has various activities planned for the future. It will be supplied with members from future Confirmation candidates, and when, in time to come, the first members of all may become scattered I hope they will still keep and value their membership. It is open at all times to all who are confirmed and under the age of twenty-one at the time of admittance.

I would repeat my willingness to start another branch of the Guild for those over 21 if any so wish.

#### VISITING PREACHERS

On 17th June at 11 a.m. and at the Children's Service

Major A.W. Cunninghame on behalf of Dr. Barnardo's Homes.  
A retiring collection will be given in the morning, and the usual collection at the Children's Service.

On Sunday, July 8th all day, Rev. Father Playne S.S.J.E. on behalf of the Cowley, Wantage and All Saints' Mission. The Parish has supported the work of this Mission through the Torch Bearers in past years, and this year through a recent Church Sale at the Vicarage.

This will be Father Playne's first engagement on his return from India and Africa.

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#### HOLY BAPTISM

Whitsunday - Geraldine Mary - daughter of Herbert Charles and Muriel Eileen Mary Edgar.  
" - Christopher John - son of Harold Arthur and Edith Rachel Foreshow.  
27th May - Linda Christine - daughter of Reginald John William and Beryl Joan Smith.  
29th " --Alison - daughter of John Farquhar and Sheila Doris McKimmon.

#### HOLY MATRIMONY

5th May - Dennis George Holland and Joan Gerring.

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#### M.U. NOTES

I am sure that all the members who went to Lew Church on Trinity Sunday for the "Wave of Prayer" service enjoyed that occasion very much. We hope to pay another visit to Lew at some future date.

There will be a meeting at the Vicarage on Thursday, June 21st at 3 p.m. when the speaker will be Mrs. C. Ede of Filkins, our D.P.M.

We are invited to Aston Vicarage on Wednesday, July 4th at 3 p.m. and to Standlake on Wednesday, July 11th at 3 p.m. Transport will be arranged for both these occasions and details will be given at the meeting on June 21st, when the summer outing will also be discussed.

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