

ST PETER'S CHURCH * HAMBLEDON

OCTOBER 1991

Hambledon Rectory
September 1991

Dear Friends

"What is the Church?"

I recently heard a lecture in which the speaker suggested that there are 5 progressive stages in the way people think about their local Church :

- Stage 1 The Church is the building.
- Stage 2 The Church is the Vicar. (!)
- Stage 3 We help the Vicar to be the Church.
- Stage 4 We are the Church as long as the Vicar is there to help us.
- Stage 5 Clergy and people together are part of God's universal Church.

It is worth examining this perceptive analysis further. The trouble with Stage 1 is that it can result in what one might call a "maintenance complex" and even a "museum complex!". The aim then is simply to keep the building in good order, the Services going, and the accounts in balance. Often there is the idea that the Church is there primarily to uphold the past (like a museum), and this can lead to resistance to change, however necessary this may often be.

In Stage 2, too much emphasis can be attached to the character, personality, views and gifts (or lack of them!) of the individual clergyman. That is one reason why a change of ministry from time to time is good for the Church. Sometimes it is assumed that an incumbent has powers which he does not actually possess. One of the good things about Synodical Government is that all major

/

decisions at national, diocesan and parish level are taken not by the Archbishop, the Bishop, or the Vicar, but by the General Synod, the Diocesan Synod, or the Parochial Church Council, thus encouraging partnership between the ordained and lay members of the Church.

In Stage 3, there is often a lack of awareness about the spiritual gifts which God gives to the whole Church, and not just to the clergy. Nobody (including the clergyman) has all the gifts. We all need each other, and each other's gifts, spiritual and practical, if the Church is to function properly.

The problem with Stage 4 is that it can make the Church too dependent on the clergyman (and his wife!), and in any case, the current shortage of clergy means that more smaller parishes are likely in the future to have to share their minister with one or more other parishes. (By the mid-1990's there will be roughly 1,000 fewer clergy, a drop of about 10%). Of course we must pray for and encourage more suitable vocations to the ordained ministry. Nevertheless, God may be using the present shortage of clergy to encourage churches to develop "every member ministry". This can be a real challenge to our spiritual commitment. I heard a speaker say recently that for many people in the West to-day, churchgoing is just a "leisure activity". They go when they can, but do not see regular weekly worship as an essential part of their Christian commitment. This same lack of commitment can also cause resistance to the new testament principle of "every member ministry". But churches which are seeking to put it into practice are seeing considerable growth. At St Peter's for example, the Readers and I seek to share the ministry on Sundays as a team.

/

/

Stage 5 is clearly the right way forward, with clergy and lay people working together in partnership, not only at the parish level, but also ecumenically, as part of God's world-wide Church.

I guess there is only one question remaining to be asked. How do we individually see the Church, and our role in it?

Yours very sincerely

CHRISTOPHER BLISSARD-BARNES

PS: There is still time to apply for the Fairmile Court Parish Houseparty Weekend from October 18th - 20th. People are welcome either to come for the whole time, or as day visitors, e.g. on the Saturday. The worship and meetings are being planned so that everyone will feel at home, and there will be plenty of time to relax and enjoy the amenities and the fellowship. All are welcome to apply. We would be particularly glad to see more people coming from the morning congregations (both 8 00am and 10 30am).

CHURCH REGISTERS

Baptisms : September 1st:

Jonathan Michael ATKINS and
Thomas James ATKINS

Wedding : August 31st:

Michael Stephen Leith BERESFORD and
Bryony Anne JONES

FREEWILL OFFERING SCHEME

The total given in August amounted to £1,564.80.

John Taylor

CHURCH CLEANING ROTA FOR OCTOBER

4/5 Mrs Pauline Parker
11/12 Mrs Ann Smith
18/19 Mrs Pauline Underwood/Mrs Diane Wyborne
25/26 Mrs Maureen Reynolds

CHURCH FLOWER ROTA FOR OCTOBER

6th HARVEST FLOWERS
13th " "
20th Mrs Pat Williams
27th Mrs Molly Harper

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

October 1st 8.00pm Bible Society AGM plus Bible Quiz,
Godalming United Church.
(Quiz mainly on The Acts).
8.00pm Meeting for anyone interested in
the possibility of a call to "full-time"
ministry, Busbridge Church Centre.
Speaker - the Rev. Julian Hubbard, of the
Advisory Board for Ministry (formerly
"ACCM").

2nd 8.00pm Healing Prayer Group at the Rectory.
HYF Small Groups.

4th 12 noon. Renewal Meeting, Christ Church,
Woking. (Open to all).
Speaker: The Archdeacon of Surrey.

5th 9.00am Meeting for Prayer at the Rectory.
7.15 for 7.30pm Village Hall
HARVEST SUPPER AND ENTERTAINMENT
Please remember to bring with you a place
setting (cutlery and china) for main
course and a sweet. Tickets at £2.50
may be reserved by ringing Ray Williams
on 0428 682455.

/

/
October 6th

19TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY * HARVEST FESTIVAL

8 00am Holy Communion

10 30am Family Service and Baptism.

6 30pm Holy Communion

7th 5.45pm Deanery coach to London City Mission
departing from Godalming Rugby Ground.
Tickets from Nigel or Shirley Pollock
(see page 13).

3th 8 00pm Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship,
Guildford YMCA.
Speaker: The Rev. David Cohen, Director of
Scripture Union.
"Different kinds of Leadership".

9th 8 00pm Clergy/Readers' Meeting at the Rectory.
Home Meetings.

12th 9 00am Meeting for Prayer in the Vestry.
Schools Mission begins in Godalming with the
Saltmine Team.

13th 20TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8 00am Holy Communion

10 30am Holy Communion (1662)

Preacher : The Rev. John Partington.

6 30pm Evening Prayer.

16th 8 00pm Deanery Synod, Witley.
8 00pm Meeting for Bible Study and Prayer at
the Rectory.
1 Corinthians 1:18-31.
Christ, the Wisdom and Power of God.

18th PARISH HOUSEPARTY WEEKEND begins at Fairmile
Court. Please arrive from 6 00pm onwards.
(Evening Meal at 7 00pm).

/

/.....

October 19th 9 00am Meeting for Prayer in the Vestry.

20th One World Week, and Week of Prayer for
World Peace begins.

21ST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8 00am Holy Communion

10 30am Morning Prayer (ASB)

6 30pm Holy Communion (ASB) with Healing
Ministry.

(Preacher: The Ven. John Went,
Archdeacon of Surrey.)

(This Service will be designed to help all
members of the Church to worship together,
following the weekend Houseparty).

23rd Home Meetings

26th 9 00am Meeting for Prayer in the Vestry.
Service at Guildford Cathedral with
Graham Kendrick.

27th 22ND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8 00am Holy Communion

10 30am Morning Prayer (1662)

(followed by shortened form of Holy
Communion)

6 30pm Evening Prayer

31st Garth Hewitt Concert, Godalming.

AND IN NOVEMBER

November 2nd 9 00am Meeting for Prayer at the Rectory.

4 00pm Licensing of Mr Keith Fish as a
Reader, St Martin's Dorking. (see page 9).

3rd 23RD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8 00am Holy Communion

10 30am Family Service

6 30pm Holy Communion

(Preacher at 10 30 and 6 30pm: Canon Peter Sartin).
(see page 9)

/

/

November 6th 8 00pm Healing Prayer Group meets at the Rectory.
HYF Small Groups.
7 30pm - 10 00pm Seminar on stress and burnout. Millmead Centre (see page 9).

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

October 2nd
10 00am -
3 00pm

A Christmas Fair will be held at Mcushill Court, Milford, in aid of the Milford and Villages Day Centre for the Elderly. Entrance £2.00 (half-price for OAP's) which includes coffee and biscuits. Light refreshments are available all day.

October 12th

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON GROUP ANNUAL SALE
HAMBLEDON VILLAGE HALL AT 2 00PM
(see page 14)

October 26th

United Church, Godalming.
Exhibition by local churches in the Main Hall. Videos in the Upstairs Room.
Schools' Poster Exhibition in the Small Hall.
Prayer and Meditation in the Church from 12 noon until 2 00pm.
At 7 00pm there will be a shared austerity (rice) supper. Tickets £2.00 with profits to go to charity.

November 1st

Coffee Morning at Willowfield, New Road, Wormley, in aid of the Milford and Villages Day Centre for the Elderly. (see page 10).

November 16th
10 30am

HAMBLEDON NURSERY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAIR.

/

PARISH NOTES AND NEWS

Additional facilities for the Church?

The PCC is looking into the possibility of installing a proper WC and basin in the room next to the organ chamber which used to house the old organ blower. If progress is made with these investigations, further information will be given in the Church notices.

Assistant Youth Leader

I am happy to announce that Paul Ridsdale-Smith has kindly agreed to assist Helen Burgess in this way in the Youth Fellowship.

Andrew and Felicity MacLay's latest prayer letter is at the back of the Church. We shall have them much in our thoughts and prayers as they set off for Burundi, and look forward to hearing their news and supporting them in prayer.

Hallowe'en

Many people think that Hallowe'en, on October 31st, is just a harmless bit of fun. An article in the latest edition of Renewal Magazine, however, states that the Hallowe'en celebration is thoroughly rooted in paganism and the occult, and can be traced back to the ancient religion of the druids. Hallowe'en is also "serious business for Satanists and witches", as there are certain rituals and spells which can only be cast on Hallowe'en night. Hallowe'en, says the article, treats occultism as 'harmless' and states that when Christians participate in Hallowe'en "it sends a message to children that witchcraft, demonism, Satanism and the occult are fun, entertaining and harmless". Furthermore, "virtually all the symbols of Hallowe'en are evil -- witches, monsters, ogres, vampires, ghosts, ghouls, goblins, devils and demons all portray evil". The Bible says "Abstain from all appearance of evil", (1 Thess. 5:22). God repeatedly forbids his children's participation in such demonic activities, Christians should have nothing to do with

/

/.....
the Hallowe'en celebration, says the article. If they assemble on Hallowe'en, it should be "to worship, sing, praise, pray, intercede, wage spiritual warfare and pull down demonic strongholds".

Beating Burnout : How to Survive in a Stress-filled World

This is the title of a seminar to be held at the Millmead Centre, Guildford, on Wednesday, November 6th from 7.30-10.00pm, led by Rob Parsons, Director of CARE for the Family. If you wish to attend, please send a cheque for £3.50 (per person), payable to CARE, and send it to Margaret Bleakney, CARE for the Family, 53, Romney Street, London, SW1P 3RF., giving your name, address and 'phone number. Leaflets giving full details are at the back of the Church.

Church Notices and Items for November edition of the Parish Magazine

Would leaders of organisations wishing to have notices given out in Church, please let me have them by the previous Wednesday. Mrs Pat Williams would be grateful to have items for the November magazine by Monday, 21 October please.

Our New Reader

We warmly congratulate Keith Fish on successfully completing the training course for Lay Readers. This is a demanding course usually lasting 3 years, which has, of course, to be undertaken in one's spare time. We are delighted that Keith is to be licensed as a Reader by the Bishop of Guildford at St Martin's Church, Dorking, on Saturday, November 2nd. If you wish to attend, please sign the list at the back of the Church. There will be a cup of tea at 3.15pm and the Service will commence at 4.00pm.

Among others who hope to be there is Canon Peter Sartin, and I am delighted that he will be staying over the weekend and preaching at St Peter's on November 3rd at the 10.30am and 6.30pm Services. It will be very

/

/
good to welcome him back to Hambledon, as indeed it has been to have visits recently from the Rev. Canon Ian Savile, Patronage Secretary of the Martyrs' Memorial Trust, (CPAS), the Patrons of St Peter's, the Rev. Ted Elton and the Rev. David Thompson, whose ministries we have much appreciated.

C.B-B.

MILFORD AND VILLAGES DAY CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY

Please support the Day Centre which helps to care for the elderly in your Village.

There will be a CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING at WILLOWFIELD, NEW ROAD, WORMLEY, on FRIDAY NOVEMBER 1ST from 11AM - 3.30PM to raise funds for this worthy cause. DO PLEASE COME AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS.

Any further enquiries from Mary Blowers on 0428 684321 who would be pleased for offers of "home-made" items for the various stalls. These can vary from hand-knitting, jams, cakes, etc. and Christmas decorations.

PERSONALIA

We have been sorry to learn recently of the illness of Mrs Lynda Hughes resulting in major surgery at St George's Hospital, Tooting, and also that Mrs Jenny Sewell has been admitted to the Guildford County Hospital for surgery. We pray for them both and send our love as they settle to a period of frustrating inactivity in their recuperation.

HAMBLEDON CRICKET MATCH - VILLAGE v. CHURCH

An exciting afternoon of cricket was provided on the afternoon of September 1st. The Village batted first, making a good score by tea-time; whether it was a result of the tea we shall never know, but the Church made a disastrous start - Rector and others

/

/.....
...out for a duck - and at one point the Church were 10 runs for 4 wickets! The later batting made up for any previous shortcomings, so much so that the spectators had some narrow shaves when cracks sent the ball hurtling towards Faith Denny's garden!

So a victory on this occasion for the Church - we hope the Village will invite us again for another good afternoon much enjoyed by spectators and players alike.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL 1991

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old".

The House-to-House Collection this year will take place between 28th October - 9th November.

I would be grateful to hear from anyone who would be willing to call on houses in the Nutbourne area of Hambledon, as Mrs Harding, who collected for many years in this area, is no longer able to do so, as she has now moved to Haslemere. My thanks to Mrs Harding for all her help.

I hope that the Poppy Appeal this year is as successful as it was last year, so please give generously, remembering the large numbers of ex-servicemen and women and their dependents who benefit from your donation.

The REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE will be at 10.30am on SUNDAY 10TH NOVEMBER.

Alison Bouckley
(Godalming 860544)

HARVEST BANNER

Four ladies were on their knees - no, they were not praying - that had already been done for guidance and inspiration. They were snipping and cutting, tacking and stitching the backcloth for the Harvest Banner that

/.....

/.....

was spread out on the floor.

"We will make the leaves out of felt, that should be easier, it won't fray". So what appeared to be dozens of leaves were cut out and laid on the backcloth to look dead and uninspiring - so off they came to be given veins, light and shade to add life. Another morning gone.

"Who will make a pumpkin?". "Will you have a go at the corn?". "What about apples and pears?". "We must have some grapes and a harvest mouse". A rummage through the bit-box produced a few suitable items but isn't it odd that you never seem to have quite the right colour or texture you need. "We will have to shop again". "You must have spent quite a lot already on materials, I'll get this". "Have you worked out how much it has cost so far?". "Never mind about that, we must get on, time is slipping by, we will never get it finished".

Do look at the Harvest Banner which four ladies have made to the glory of God and perhaps you could provide a few pennies from heaven to help towards the cost involved in giving praise to our Lord.

Joan Hardy

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

By the time you read this magazine, we shall have had our first Autumn get-together and will be looking forward to meeting again in October.

This will be our long-awaited Salvation Army afternoon. We were disappointed when the last one had to be cancelled, but now we have another opportunity - this time to hear Capt. Frost, when he comes to speak to us, at Dennys on Wednesday, 23rd October, at 3.00pm. Be sure to come and hear all he has to tell us.

Brenda Gardner

OUTING TO LONDON CITY MISSION

A reminder once again that a coach will be leaving Broadwater, Godalming, (to enable people to park cars) at 5 45pm on Monday 7th October to visit the London City Mission, which we have supported as a charity for a number of years.

Let us see first hand what is happening in our capital city on the mission field. The cost of the coach is £3.50 each. When we arrive we will be given drinks and sandwiches, and then we will hear from the Mission workers and be given a tour of the Mission Centre.

Tower Bridge is very close and we will have a chance to see it floodlit. (I would suggest that those coming would care to give a donation towards the hospitality shown and for the work that is done).

Do please come and join in this outing to make it a success. If you are planning to come and require any further details, arrangements for transport, etc., please give a ring to Shirley Pollock on 0428 682116.

Shirley Pollock

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON GROUP

We entered the enchanting world of Beaky the Dolphin who had befriended man. Mr Madgwick and other members of a photographic team from the IOS made a film to study the ways of a Dolphin.

Beaky, a solitary male, appeared on the Pembrokeshire coast from the Isle of Man, and stayed in the area for some time mainly in the harbour where privately-owned boats were moored. Much to the amusement of some and annoyance to others, Beaky played with the mooring buoys, sometimes towing a boat to a different part of the harbour. Beaky then moved on to the Cornish coast

/

/

where he would appear when the lifeboat men banged on the jetty. Always seeming happy with a friendly smile, he would nudge the divers and gently push them around, sometimes letting them hold on to his dorsal fin while he did a quick dash around. It was said that he pushed a diver to safety who had got into difficulties.

Beaky has now moved on; has he joined other Dolphins as no sightings have since been made? The team, whose movements were very clumsy by comparison, felt really privileged to be the friends of this beautiful creature.

From one enchantment to another, on slides we saw Feathercombe in Spring with azaleas, bluebells, primroses and other flowers, making a blaze of colour to delight the eye.

Thank you Mr Madgwick for a lovely afternoon.

Joan Hardy

PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT OUR SALE ON SATURDAY
OCTOBER 12TH IN HAMBLEDON VILLAGE HALL AT 2.00PM

We would be grateful for anything saleable -
we aim to make this sale better than ever. All
proceeds will help local charities.

Stalls will include: GIFTS * CAKES * PRODUCE *

BOOKS * TOYS * WHITE ELEPHANT *

GOOD JUMBLE AND MORE!

Any queries to Joan Hardy on 684733.

CHRISTMAS CARDS FROM CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

Twelve weeks, or sixty shopping days to Christmas! I know it sounds a long time but it will go very quickly, so get one of the jobs crossed off your list and order your cards now from Christian Outreach.

Once again, they have produced a lovely selection of cards for Christmas and notelets for other occasions. There is a display of all the cards available in the porch of the church.

Please help Christian Outreach in their work by buying your cards from them. Order forms will be by the display board.

Gabrielle Mabley

AND STILL ON THE THEME OF CHRISTMAS!

Louise Arden-White is having thoughts of holding a Village event for the Christmas Season for all the family along the lines of:-

" CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS "

The venue - Hambledon Village Hall
on a date to be announced.

Come and contribute with items of music, dance, reading, etc. or just come and enjoy!

So brush up those 'party-pieces' and if you would like to talk to Louise, her tel no. is Wormley 682582.

It is hard to believe that the two months' leave for Paul, Faith, Jonathan and Thomas Atkins ends on 7 October. It has been great having them around in

/

/
the Village and we know that Edna, Michael and Queenie are going to miss them very much indeed. They brought some beautiful weather with them and although it may be some while off, we look forward to seeing them all again. It has been particularly 'special' to St Peter's Church to welcome the next generation of the Atkins family at the baptism of Jonathan and Thomas on 1st September. We wish them all a safe return to Malawi.

BIBLE SHOP IN USSR'S 'SECOND CITY'

For the first time, Soviet people can buy a Bible from a shop thanks to a new Bible Centre which has opened in Leningrad/St Petersburg, the second largest city of the USSR. Richard Worthing-Davies of the Bible Society attended the opening of the Centre, which the worldwide Bible Societies have helped to stock with an initial quantity of 100,000 Scriptures, including Bibles, New Testaments and Children's Books.

Previously, the only way people could buy Bibles in the USSR was through a church. The international and interconfessional Bible Centre is situated on a main street in the city and has been established by the new publishing organisation 'Spiritual Enlightenment'.

Although Spiritual Enlightenment is not itself a Christian organisation and its statutes do not limit its publishing activity to religious material, it has pledged itself to assist all churches and church-sponsored Bible Commissions to get their biblical materials published; it will reserve 60 per cent of its output for Bibles and related materials.

.....
