

1955.

ST. NICHOLAS, BURNAGE

PARISH MAGAZINE

February 1955

Circulation 800 copies a month

Price 4d

The Rector's Letter

St. Nicholas Rectory,
Fog Lane.

MY DEAR FRIENDS

THE Feast of the Epiphany was a landmark for a young parish since on that day a second hall was officially opened. We can be proud of this achievement because there cannot be many parishes who, in little over a quarter century, have built a fine church and two full size halls. God has surely blessed us in this place and we have much for which to be thankful. A sure foundation was laid and built upon—it is the duty of each generation to see that the "forward move" continues.

Review of the past

THE photograph on the front cover shows some of the people present on that occasion (about 250?) but since these pages are read by 2000? each month, there are many who were not participators in an historic occasion.

This brief report may help some of those absent to capture the occasion. On the stage were some members of the Building Committee, PCC secretary, Mr. Egerton, the Reverend Wilfrid Garlick and myself. After a hymn and prayer I gave an account of what has happened in recent years. The Building Committee in the course of its existence has spent many hours in session but for ages we faced the brick-wall of NO building licences. As the restrictions were relaxed so did we try to achieve a little advance. We were blessed with the arrival of Mr. Arthur Johnson, an architect, who really got us moving. But soon we were deprived of his wise leadership and we felt minus an experienced pilot. Then one day a baby was born and brought for Baptism. The father asked if there was anything "I can do for the church" and before long we were in capable hands. We had as our adviser a man of skill, energy, patience and generosity and without his help our new hall would still be a very long way from completion. This parish cannot be sufficiently grateful for all that Mr. Henry Egerton has done for us.

"Absent members"

ON the opening day we much regretted the absence of Mr. Bailey

(Churchwarden) who has worked for very many hours in the building of the hall. Two others were on the committee, who, if they had been alive, would rejoice to see this day. Mr. Harry Parker and Mr. Albert Barber worked very hard in the planning of this New Hall.

Gifts in kind and labour

THERE have been many generous gifts—among them:—£5 as a thank offering for a good year of business; tiling round the kitchen sinks from Mr. Egerton, Senior; a lovely piano from the Tuesday Afternoon Ladies Class (to be formally presented on another occasion); and contributions from box holders and others during the course of many years, for without their generous support this project could never have been realised.

Voluntary labour—by older and younger, boys and girls, men and women has been a great feature, saving us hundreds of pounds. Special mention must be made of Mr. Sproson, who, aided by two helpers, has done all the electrical work in the Hall. I will not mention other helpers by name though would add that there has been a splendid crowd. Voluntary labour is far from being a thing of the past. In recent months I have been most impressed by the quality of work done by professional workers and their real interest in the hall.

There is more to be done before the hall is complete in every way. Those who have built it will have many memories of failure and success though I feel

we can be proud of our new hall and hope that it will give much pleasure and teaching for years to come.

"I declare . . ."

MR. GARLICK then reviewed the idea from the earliest days—congratulated us on our achievement and declared the hall open. He received boxes and donations (£23). Then followed entertainment from members of organisations and others which concluded at about 10.45.

For pleasure AND education

THE New Hall was opened on Epiphany 1955 or "The Mani-

festation of Christ to the Gentiles." So we pray that not only will much pleasure be enjoyed therein but that through teaching in the Sunday Schools, discussion groups, speakers to young and old, etc., our Christian Faith will be strengthened and the Gospel imparted to many who are not yet firm believers.

Yours Sincerely,

John E. R. Williams

1956.

ST. NICHOLAS, BURNAGE

PARISH MAGAZINE

November 1956

Circulation 750 copies a month

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The Rector's Letter

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

WILL you maintain and set forwards, as much as lieth in you, quietness, peace, and love, among all Christian people, and especially among them that are or shall be committed to your charge? That is one of the questions put to men when they are Ordained as Priests and they reply I will so do, the Lord being my helper.

Appreciation

MR. HENDERSON is no longer Assistant Curate of this parish having gone to serve his second Curacy at Prestwich. As we reflect on his ministry among us, we must surely feel that he has faithfully carried out this part of his priestly vows. Of course he has done much more than comply with the question mentioned above: there are very many both within and without the parish who should always be grateful for his help in a variety of ways. Not least will he be missed in the Discussion Group which he instituted on his own initiative. I too will miss him as friend and colleague in our common tasks. It was inevitable that sooner or later, he should move on. The time has come, sooner than one hoped, and I feel that I am voicing the feelings of many, when I wish him well in his new parish. May the life of the Church flourish through his ministrations and in the world of sport may he for a long time continue to smite and bowl the cricket ball with accuracy and energy. Our best wishes also go to his wife who has done a great deal of good during her stay with us, notably in the Young Wives' Group. Best wishes also to their son, David.

What of the future?

MANY will be wondering if we will now be getting someone to take Mr. Henderson's place. Unfortunately, the answer is "Not for the time being." Firstly, we have had to return to the Housing Authorities the house which

they so kindly loaned. Secondly, we have no alternative accommodation available nor have we the necessary money to purchase a house. Thirdly, we cannot quickly find another Deacon or Priest because they are few and far between and in great demand. So, unless conditions alter greatly, this parish will be without a much needed Assistant Curate.

She was right

AN observant member of our congregation felt sure that she had seen on Television a twin to the painting above our Lady Chapel altar. In the programme viewers were being shown round *Belvoir Castle, Grantham*. I wrote to the *Duke of Rutland* and this was his reply:

You wrote to me concerning the Murillo picture of "The Holy Family" which is above the altar of the Chapel here at Belvoir. I am not certain whether the original is in Paris. This is probably the case as although my picture is definitely a Murillo, it was badly cleaned in the last century.

A prayer seldom heard

ALMIGHTY GOD, as I sit by the fire with this Sunday newspaper and half listening to one of the preachers over the radio, it has occurred to me that I have lied to Thee and to myself. I said to myself I did not feel well enough to go to church. That was not true. I would have gone to work if it had been Monday.

I would have gone for my pleasure had it been my weekly half-day off. I would have gone to the cinema had it been my customary evening, or had it been a show I wanted to see. But it is Sunday and Sunday sickness covers a multitude of sins. God have mercy upon me! I have lied to Thee and to myself. I was not ill.

*I am not ill. I am merely lazy and indifferent. Amen.
(With acknowledgment to the magazine of St. Margaret, Burnage.)*

Yours sincerely

John E. R. Williams

1957

DECEMBER

ST. NICHOLAS, BURNAGE

PARISH MAGAZINE

The Rector's Letter

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

St. Nicholas Rectory,
Fog Lane.

Some of you will remember these dates and occasions:—

1928—July 28, site of church hall blessed.

1928—December 8, church hall dedicated.

1931—August 5, site of church blessed.

1931—October 4, foundation stone laid.

1932—September 24, consecration of the church.

Which means that on Birthday Sunday this year, services will have been held in our parish for exactly 29 years: the church itself has just passed its quarter-century.

Past and Present

No one can properly assess all that has been achieved in this comparatively short time. But the parish in this period has built a parish hall, a church, a Rectory and a second parish hall—all of them still in good condition and being well used. There have been four Rectors, three Assistant Curates and three Parochial Readers. I would find it difficult to work out the number who have held the office of Churchwarden—perhaps someone could give me a complete list with dates sometime. We have a mixed robed choir which compares very favourably with any ordinary parish church—Sunday Schools are of medium strength and there is an abundance of organisations connected with the church. Sunday collections are fairly good and there are 280 members of the Offering Envelope Scheme. It is sad to note that up to date there are over 1,000 fewer Communicants this year compared with 1956 and even the 1955 total was greater. I know that numbers aren't everything but surely this is a sad lapse of attendance at the most important church service. Generally speaking the parish is alive and flourishing.

The Future

SO much for the past and present—what of the future? Among the outstanding needs is that of an Assistant Curate—this has been discussed at the PCC, but the matter is shelved (only temporarily, I hope). We need more help from parishioners who are members of the Church of England for many of them do little or nothing for the Church, apart from sending their children to Sunday School. We should find and send more money to help Home and Foreign Missions. The outstanding debt on the parish hall should be cleared. Some of the outer brickwork of the church needs re-pointing. The church grounds are in a very sad state and are a poor advertisement. These are my views of some of the future targets—you may have different ideas. However, after 6½ years with you, I know that there are among us people with vision and energy who will strive to continue the forward movement of our church.

Lastly, a very Happy Christmas from my wife and myself to all readers of the Magazine.

Yours sincerely,

John E. R. Williams



ST. NICHOLAS
PARISH CHURCH

Gift Day

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8th, 1957

:::

My Contribution

Front of printed Gift Day envelope

1958.

JANUARY

ST. NICHOLAS, BURNAGE

PARISH MAGAZINE

The Rector's Letter

St. Nicholas Rectory,
Fog Lane.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

A very happy New Year to all readers. Thank you all the many people who have helped the Church in many different ways during the last year—in the giving of service or money to maintain and advance the Christian Faith at home and overseas. We are also most grateful to the Cloister Press for their first-class printing of our Magazine. It was delightful to have the first Rector and his wife with us for our 25th Anniversary Services; I hope that his memories of the beginnings of this parish will be of interest.

May God bless and guide you through the year.

Yours sincerely,

John E. R. Williams

I REMEMBER

By *Prebendary H. A. Barnett, the first Rector.*

AMONG the many memories which I have of the beginnings of "Saint Nicholas," the following may be put on record, not necessarily for their importance, but rather for their interest.

1. The temporary Church and Hall was dedicated by Dr. R. G. Parsons, Bishop of Middleton, on Saturday, December 8th, 1928, which was a cold frosty day, with some snow on the ground.
2. Because this building was on the site of a farm then existing, for the first few Sundays my way to the services was disputed by two Old English sheepdogs and some turkeys. I soon made friends with the former; the latter disappeared by Christmas Day, 1928!
3. Such was the enthusiastic support given by the people, that by 1930
6. The bell is the "Jane" bell. It was given by Mr. and Mrs. Clayton in memory of their small daughter Jane, who died before the Church was built, and who was always fascinated by the sound of the small (and not very musical) bell on the temporary church.
7. The Rectory was dedicated by the Rural Dean, the Reverend E. Coombes on April 6, 1932.
8. More especially I remember the many who by their worship and

it was clear that a Church would have to be built.

4. The Architect, Mr. N. F. Cache-maille-Day, came and spent two or three Sundays worshipping with us, and getting to know us, before he began his design.

His first had no tower, and as this did not please the authorities, the present tower was added to his design.

It was intended that at some future date the Church should be extended at the west end, and that here the Choir and Organ should be placed, either in a gallery or on a platform. It was also intended that, when funds permitted, the iron grille at the east end should be embellished with painted shields, fleur-de-lis, or tudor roses, all in iron work.

5. The figure under the font cover is a portrait of the son of the sculptor, Mr. Donald Hastings. Mr. Hastings also made the figure of Saint Nicholas over the main doorway.

work helped to get the Parish safely started and maintained, and Mrs. Barnett and I thank God continually for their "fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now."

9. And finally, we were most touched by the kindly welcome given to us on December 8, 1937 by the Rector, Mrs. Williams, and all of you. We thank you with all our hearts.

H.A.B.

The Rector's Letter

St. Nicholas Rectory,
Fog Lane.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

MOST of you will, by now, have heard that I am leaving Manchester shortly after Easter. On January 14 a letter arrived:—

I am desired by the Lord Chancellor to inform you that it will give him much pleasure to present you to the Benefice of St. Thomas at Cliffe and All Saints in Lewes in the County of Sussex and the Diocese of Chichester. I am also appointed Priest-in-Charge of St. John-sub-Castro, Lewes until the order for the plurality is made by the Church Commissioners, when I will become Rector of this parish also. St. John's is in the gift of the Bishop of Chichester.

About the Town

SOME of you may know Lewes, the County Town of East Sussex with a population of about 13,000. It is 50 miles from London, 8 from Brighton and 17 from Eastbourne. Judging by the Guide Book there is not much missing in Lewes—H.M. Prison, Assizes, Bonfire Societies, many schools and sporting societies, a Race Course and the Glyndebourne Opera House nearby. The town has a Mayor, a castle, a Priory and much history.

The three churches

THE combined population of the parishes is much the same as here (6,000+). *The Church of All Saints* is of very ancient foundation and was probably built by an early bishop: the churchyard stands practically on the town wall. There are three bells, the oldest perhaps dating from the 15th century. The parish was enlarged in the 14th century. The records of *St. Thomas of Canterbury* go back to 1320, the date of the nave, but it was possibly an earlier church of the 12th century. There are four bells and the clock in

the tower dates from 1670. The present *Church of St. John (the Baptist) under the Castle* was built in 1839, and replaces an ancient building of pre-Conquest date. The large churchyard occupies a "camp" which is probably earlier than the town of Lewes itself and may be of Roman origin. The plate includes a chalice, paten and two flagons given in 1750 and a silver alms-dish (1728). The registers date from 1602.

As you will see from these thumbnail sketches, I am going to a town steeped in history. I feel greatly honoured to have been asked to accept these three ancient parishes, but in many ways feel sad that the time has come for me to leave St. Nicholas. We have gained many good friends and will always be interested in the future progress of the parish.

Yours sincerely,

John E. R. Williams

The Rector's Letter

St. Nicholas Rectory,
Fog Lane.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

ON the evening of February 6 I returned from the centre of Manchester on a crowded but silent bus. The tragedy of Munich not only hit our city but the whole of the sporting world, as could be seen by the messages of sympathy and help which came from so many countries. Probably people's first thoughts of the disaster were of its crippling blow to one of the world's finest football teams. Tragic though it is that so many fine sportsmen should have died and been so severely injured, Manchester United Football team will rise once more to its former greatness—a good start has been made in the Cup-Tie victory over Sheffield Wednesday. Some great sports-writers died, among them Don Davies, who only a few days before had spoken so helpfully to our Sunday Night Club.

Losses to the game can be made good but we cannot replace husbands, sons and loved ones. The little we can do is to join with millions of others in offering our sympathy to those who have been brought loss and suffering. I hope that we as a church will be able to send something towards the fund for dependants. May God give them strength to face life with courage and hope for the future.

... but we triumph even in our troubles, knowing that trouble produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope—a hope which never disappoints us, since God's love floods our hearts ...

(from the Epistle to the Romans.)

Yours sincerely,

John E. R. Williams

A LETTER FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

March, 1958.

Dear Friends,

IT is over a month since the announcement of the Rector's appointment to Lewca, and he expects to leave here about the 15 April.

We feel sure it is the wish of all that a presentation should be made, as a token of our esteem and in appreciation of his Ministry in this parish.

We believe a cheque will be the most useful form and we are now ready to receive donations to the presentation

fund. We propose closing the fund on April 5, and making the presentation on Saturday, April 12, at a dance we are arranging specially for the occasion.

We think it will be better if only one gift is made (not several from the different organisations), and look forward to your generous co-operation.

Yours sincerely,

C. E. Pratt }
J. S. Chambers } *Wardens*

Please send all donations to the Wardens.

The Rector's Letter

St. Nicholas Rectory,
Fog Lane.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

IT is always hard to say "Good-bye" to friends but these partings have to be. For seven years I have lived and worked in Manchester. During this time I have met many hundreds of people, taken 151 weddings, baptized 334 babies and prepared 237 for Confirmation. There have been over 33,000 communicants—many have received Holy Communion in their homes and scores of sick people visited. I won't try to work out how many services I have conducted or how many Sermons you have had to listen to. As a Priest I have used *both public and private monitions and exhortations*, though often very inadequately. I trust I have obeyed my Ordination vow to *maintain and set forwards, as much as lieth in you, quietness, peace and love, among all Christian people, and especially among them that are or shall be committed to your charge*. Though much has been done, there is a lot left undone.

Rejoicings

DURING my time here the church has celebrated her "Coming of Age" and 25th anniversaries. In the course of her short history this parish has achieved a fine church, excellent Rectory and two most useful halls. So far as I can see, the church is not short of the essentials for the maintenance of worship and many valuable gifts in the past few years have been received. I am happy to know that St. Nicholas had a credit of several hundred pounds at the end of last year and on the eve of departure to see the church ceiling glorious once more in her rich colours.

Sorrows

SO far I have mentioned some of the good things but there is the other side of the picture. One of my regrets is that I have not met all the regular church people in their homes. I hope they will understand that this omission was not because I didn't want to. Many of us find that there are not enough hours in a day and days in a week. Nor have I called on all the homes in the parish. There have been mistakes but

I hope that I have learnt from them and not caused excessive suffering or disappointment.

Fellow-Workers

AMONG my memories of St. Nicholas will be that of splendid team-work on occasions—nor will I forget the fine individual efforts of many, nor the quiet efficient work behind the scenes. All of these make a parish live and active. There are a goodly number of you who give much to the church in service of one sort or another—there are many who willingly give of their time to maintaining property, beautifying the church, teaching the young, running organisations, assisting the worship and administration. I am happy to remember words and deeds which have been to the benefit of the Church as a whole and to me in particular.

Vocation

I HAVE another great joy—the knowledge that from our parish and congregation in the past few years have come forward four Ordinands and one Lady Worker. Communities such as

ours should be able to produce many Ministers of the Word, both men and women, and I hope that in years to come there will be others who feel that full-time work in the Church is their life's vocation.

Another Parson?

IT has been suggested that this parish cannot afford an Assistant Curate. I disagree—with faith and effort, a house and stipend could be provided. So if my successor suggests that he requires an Assistant Curate, I hope you will give him every support in achieving his need.

Dominus Vobiscum

LETTERS must come to an end. You have been most kind and generous to us during our stay in Manchester. My wife and our children (Christopher, Anne, Nicola and Richard) join me in saying "Thank You" and "Good-bye."

May God bless you all.

Yours sincerely,

John E. R. Williams

Our New Rector

WE welcome the appointment of the Rev. David Arthur Edwards, M.A., to the Benefice of St. Nicholas. The institution will take place at Manchester Cathedral on June 26 and the induction in July.

LETTER FROM LEWES

All Saints Rectory,
1 The Avenue,
Lewes,
Sussex.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

THANK you very much for your generous Easter Offering and farewell cheque which will help towards the purchase of a scooter. My wife is delighted with the whitewood chest of drawers—an extremely welcome and useful present. We were much moved by the many gifts, kindnesses and offers of hospitality during our time in Manchester and especially during the last few weeks.

Our New Home

The move went according to plan and less than 24 hours after leaving St. Nicholas' the bulk of the furniture was in our new home. The decorators have done a very good job and we have had a wonderful welcome from many parishioners. Christopher and Anne are going to a new and very modern school on the Downs above the town where the air and view are wonderful.

Future Engagements

At the time of writing this letter, I have not been instituted and inducted to St. Thomas and All Saints but a rehearsal took place last night. The Bishop of Lewes and the Archdeacon of Lewes are performing the ceremony. Bishop Carney (retired), a representative for the Lord Chancellor, the Mayor and Mayoress of Lewes, the three

P.C.C.'s, 15 clergy and ministers and many friends will be among the congregation which will fill the small but ancient church of St. Thomas. Nothing has yet come through from the Church Commissioners about St. John-sub-Castro, so I will be Priest-in-Charge for the time being.

Full Diary

All three churches are providing me with plenty to do in the near future—baptisms, weddings and a funeral are already in my diary and the monthly school service which takes place in St. John's Church on the last Friday of each month. I am to be the Mayor's chaplain which, as far as I can see, involves one service a year and the mayoral banquet.

An Ancient Town

Lewes is a fascinating town full of history. From my study window I look across a small valley to the castle. Fifty yards from where I am sitting the trains disappear into a tunnel and after passing deep under the castle reappear just before the station. The shortest route to one of the parish halls is down a flight of 70 steps, which also leads to the open-air swimming pool and River Ouse.

Looking Ahead

So you can see that we are living in delightful surroundings. There is heaps of work waiting for me here and as I have said before, I am keen to accept the challenge. I would greatly appreciate your prayers as I begin my Ministry in this place.

Au Revoir

I hope that before long you will have news of a successor to me and I am confident that you will give him the same support which helped me greatly on so many occasions. Perhaps when

you find the time you will drop me an occasional line as I would be delighted to have news of and from old friends.

May God bless you all.

Yours sincerely,

John E. R. Williams

The St. Nicholas Spirit

DEAR Friends, On Wednesday, July 30, our new Rector, the Rev. D. A. Edwards, M.A., will be inducted to the living of St. Nicholas. He will be the fifth rector of our 30-year-old church.

The thought uppermost in all our minds is, rather naturally, what will he be like? As I am not a prophet I will not attempt an answer, but would ask rather what will he find here when he arrives?

Spirit of Unity

A visiting preacher during the interregnum remarked to me that the numbers of our congregation did not seem to have dropped as was usual at such times. I agreed with him and was also able to inform him that this had been so during previous vacancies.

What is the reason? Well, Herbert Barnett first coined the phrase "The St. Nicholas Spirit" and it has been used on several occasions since his incumbency. It is about this "St. Nicholas Spirit" that I wish to say a few words. Essentially it is a spirit of unity.

New Friends

Back in the late twenties and the early thirties when the Drives, Roads, Avenues and Crescents comprising our parish were being built, and people, uprooted from their old neighbourhoods and friends, were settling in our parish, a hut was built near Burnage railway station.

This hut became the centre to which the "displaced persons," if I may so call them, turned to make new friends. It was parish hall on weekdays and church on Sundays. And now, in

its old age, it has attained the dignity of the Old Parish Hall.

Young Parish

Within this hall a new unity was formed and the "St. Nicholas Spirit" was born. Outwardly it is the spirit of unity and of good fellowship; within, knitting it together, is the Holy Spirit of God. This is what I hope our new Rector will find here at St. Nicholas when he comes to minister to us.

We are still a comparatively young parish and we still—I thank God for it—concentrate a lot of our energies on the young members of our church. May we never grow middle-aged or old in this respect, for the young people of the Church today, be they little angels or scallywags, are the Church of the years to come.

Thanks to Wardens

Mr. Edwards is a young man and I know that he will keep up this tradition with his whole heart. It is my earnest hope that we will give him every support in this and all he does for us and with us.

In conclusion, may I pay a tribute to our churchwardens, Mr. Chambers and Mr. Pratt, who have done so much during the interregnum to keep the wheels turning smoothly.

Yours sincerely,
John K. Sheppey, *Reader.*

B. Taylor.

THE PARISH CHURCH OF
ST. NICHOLAS, BURNAGE



INDUCTION

OF THE

Reverend David Arthur Edwards, M.A.

AS RECTOR OF THIS CHURCH AND PARISH

BY THE

Venerable Arthur Selwyn Bean, M.B.E., M.A., B.D.

ARCHDEACON OF MANCHESTER

ON

WEDNESDAY, 30th JULY, 1958

at 8 p.m.

The Rector's Letter

St. Nicholas Rectory.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

I STARTED writing this letter at midnight on the third day after my wife and I, with our children and their granny, moved into the lovely Rectory which has been prepared for us.

It has been finished in intervals between performing such necessary tasks as putting new plugs into electrical gadgets, hanging pictures, and preparing for the holiday which we must have before the Induction, and I hope that you will forgive me if the result is somewhat disjointed: by the time that you read it the Induction service will be over, and I really will be your Rector in deed as well as name.

Looking Forward

It is difficult to express the thoughts which are uppermost in one's mind at a time like this, but there are several things I would like to say to you. In the first place I must record that sense of looking forward with great anticipation which has characterised the months which have passed since the day on which I officially accepted the invitation of the Trustees to become your Rector.

Both my wife and I have strong connections with this part of Manchester, and we have already come to have a great affection for the area and for those who inhabit it.

St. Nicholas' Tradition

We have heard much about your church, about the interesting style in which it is built, and about the vigorous life which flows out from worship on Sundays into action and activity during the week. And we are sufficiently "contemporary" in our own outlook on life to appreciate the church building without in any way ignoring the fact

that, without the enthusiasm and devotion of those who have worshipped in it and served it since the day it was built, the building itself would be of no significance.

John Sheppey wrote in the last issue of this magazine of the St. Nicholas tradition—we look forward more than anything else to the joy and privilege of sharing in that tradition and helping to continue and develop it during the coming years.

Called to Service

Then there is a sense of gratitude, above all to our Lord who has called us to this work, and whom we seek to serve in all that we do—our prayer all the time now is that "we may be found worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called," and that our ministry among you may be to God's glory and not our own. I feel deeply grateful to the Trustees, who have been the instruments of God's choice, and would like to take this opportunity of expressing to them my personal appreciation of the honour which they have done me by trusting me with the benefice—a trust which, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, I shall endeavour all the time to justify.

Worship Maintained

During the months in which we have been preparing to come to you, the Church Wardens and their wives have been wonderfully kind, and neither my wife nor I will ever forget the many ways in which they have made our

advent so much smoother. We rejoice in the knowledge that their generosity and goodness is typical of you all. This must have shown itself during the interregnum in countless ways, and our gratitude would be incomplete if it did not include a warm expression of thanks to all those who have maintained church worship and practice during the months since Mr. Williams left.

Let Us Pray

And so our family has come to live

and work among the St. Nicholas family. Please pray for us, as we shall for you, so that together we may go forward in the Lord's service to continue that work of extending His Kingdom which has been so well begun. "All things are of God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave unto us the ministry of reconciliation."

God bless you and keep you always,

Yours very sincerely,

DAVID EDWARDS.

PARISH NOTES—Contd.

Sunday School

I am sure that you would all like to know that, in response to my appeal for Sunday School teachers, no less than eight volunteers came forward. This is splendid, and although the Sunday School still has its problems, we are out of immediate danger.

Mr. John Sheppey

It is with very real regret that we shall say "adieu" to Mr. John Sheppey when he leaves us on October 5 to commence his course of training for the Ministry at Worcester. John was one of the first Servers in the church, and some of us can still remember him as a youth taking part in the Whitsuntide processions during the ministry of Mr. Barnett. He was one of the first casualties from St. Nicholas during the war when, as a result of service in Libya, he had to have his leg amputated. On his discharge from the Army he took up his work in the church again with all the fervour which is natural to him, and he, along with Jessie Sharples, who later became Mrs. Sheppey, were real stalwarts in the efforts which were necessary to keep the youth organisations in being. John has used all his talents in the service of St. Nicholas, but we will of course remember him most for his sterling work as a Lay Reader, not least during the recent interregnum. We are very happy that he has joined other youthful members of our church in going through as an Ordinand, and our very best wishes go to him and his family for their continued success and happiness in the future, in the wider work of the Church.

Layman.

HINTS FOR COMMUNICANTS

EVERY Rector has his own ideas as to how the service of Holy Communion ought to be celebrated, and in line with these he trains his Confirmation candidates. Here are some of my ideas, and the reasons for them. But I do not want to imply that those of you who have been taught differently are wrong, nor do I want to influence you to change what may be very precious traditions. The Church thrives on a healthy variety, and is not to be compared with a regiment of guardsmen. But this is what I think, and why I do certain things.

I ALWAYS bow to the Cross on the altar when crossing in front of it, because I think that the visible symbol of my Lord's death and resurrection ought to be an object of reverence and affection.

ALWAYS say the Amens at the end of prayers, and the responses, clearly and loudly. This is your way of assenting to what is said and sharing fully in the service. And it applies especially to the Amen at the end of the Prayer of Consecration.

ALWAYS sit for the Epistle, for this represents the teaching part of the service, and we usually sit to be taught. Traditionally we stand for the Gospel, as a mark of special respect for the good news of our salvation in Christ.

I ALWAYS make a reverence in the Creed during those passages which refer to the incarnation and death of our Lord, and raise my head again when we come to the resurrection and ascension. The basis for this is found in St. Paul (Philippians, chapter 2, verses 5 to 11), who sees the incarnation and passion as Christ's humiliation, the resurrection and ascension as His exaltation. Acting symbolically helps me to think rightly at that point about the acts of Jesus.

I BELIEVE myself, as the priest, to be representing both God and the congregation at different points in the service. When representing God, and saying His words, I face the congregation (westwards). When acting on behalf of the congregation I (with them) face the altar (eastwards). You will notice that, in line with this, I always face the congregation when saying the words of institution and reproducing our Lord's actions during the Prayer of Consecration. There is everything to be said for members of the congregation opening their eyes at this point and watching what is happening. I am sure that it assists devotion.

WHENEVER there is a queue of communicants in the aisle waiting to come up to the altar rail, always form one queue in the centre of the aisle rather than one on each side. This will make it easier to come up, and to return to your pew.

WHEN you receive your communion, I prefer you to take the bread in the palm of your hand, and to take the cup with both hands, putting it to your lips yourself. To me this symbolises effectively the fact that the Christian must willingly accept the salvation offered in Christ, and not just be a passive recipient. But take it firmly in both hands, for otherwise you will find me reluctant to let go!

The Rector's Letter

St. Nicholas Rectory,
18th September, 1959

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

HARVEST time reminds us all of God's goodness to us. All that we have we owe to Him, and it is our Christian duty to offer back to Him for His use some of those gifts with which He has so richly endowed us. Which brings me to the Appeal.

Since I last wrote on this subject much water has flown under the bridge. A representative Committee has been formed to organise the Appeal, and it has met twice. An Executive committee, consisting of the Wardens, Miss D. Wainwright, Mrs. Edwards, Mr. F. Carson, Mr. A. Nicholls, Mr. K. Rylatt, Mr. P. Carson as Organising Secretary, and myself as Chairman, has met three times and has done some hard work. The PCC has accepted our main recommendation, that the bulk of the £10,000 needed should be sought from small, regular, weekly donations by a large number of people over a short period of time. This does not mean that special efforts will not be wanted; on the contrary we hope that during the period of the Appeal all Church Organisations and many individuals will arrange dances and whist drives, sales of work and bazaars, and all manner of efforts to raise money. But we are convinced that the burden of completing the Appeal should be spread as widely as possible among those who consider that they belong to the Church of St. Nicholas, so that none of us will have to carry an unequal share of the work. And that means some kind of systematic giving by every single one of us.

What shall we give

Just consider. An average of half a crown a week from 600 families will bring in well over £10,000 in three years. I feel sure that there are at least 600 families whose lives have been touched at some point from the cradle

to the grave by the Church of St. Nicholas. Will they help us in this hour of need, as we have helped them in their hour of need? In some of them there will be only a single old-age pensioner left, who will obviously not be able to afford half a crown a week. They will give what they can, and the widow's mite will be just as precious and helpful as any other offering. But some families, in which there may be more than one person working, will be able to afford more than the average, and they must be generous too. It is an *average* of half a crown a *family* we need, not half a crown from each individual. The offering can be put into an envelope, which we will supply, and either brought to church or collected by us.

What else shall we give

Let me finish where I started. God doesn't just want our money; He wants primarily the love of our hearts, of which our offerings are a symbol. Our giving to God and His Church is a sign of our gratitude for what God and His Church have done for us. Let all our giving to God, of money, time and energy, be comparable to His great love for us.

May God unite and inspire us all,
Your sincere friend and Rector,

David Edwards