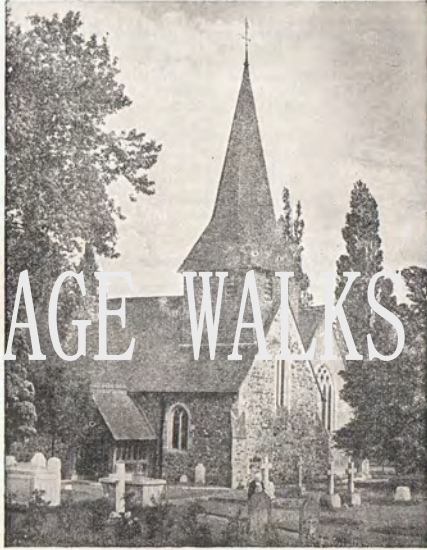


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Churchwardens—Mr. J. B. RUMSEY, 24, Church Road, Byfleet.
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 Mr. A. C. SMITH, 19, Studland Road, Byfleet.
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Mothers' Union and Young Wives' Group—Meetings in St. Mary's Hall at 2.30 p.m. on the first Thursday in each month, and also at 8 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays. Group Leader: Mrs. A. RUMSEY, 24, Church Road, Byfleet. Tel.: Byfleet 43505. Enrolling Member: Mrs. M. COE, Loranda, Sanway Road. Tel.: Byfleet 45852.
Church of England Men's Society—Meets at 8 p.m. every third Tuesday of the month. Secretary: Mr. W. HARMAN, 64, Fullerton Road. Tel.: Byfleet 45573.
St. Mary's Youth Fellowship—Friday evenings in St. Mary's Hall at 7.30 p.m. Leaders: Mr. V. COOK, 36, Rutson Road, Byfleet; and Mr. M. BOWETT, The Barbican, Gaveston Close. Tel.: Byfleet 44624.
St. Mary's Junior Church—Every Sunday at St. Mary's Church Hall for all ages at 10 a.m. Parish Communion at 10 a.m. on the Third Sunday is attended by children over 7 years of age.
Parish Social Committee—Secretary: Miss PAULINE PEIRCE, 38, Dawson Road, Byfleet. Tel.: Byfleet 42652.
Church Cleaners' Secretary—Mrs. V. COOK, 36, Rutson Road, Byfleet. Tel.: Byfleet 41460.
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ROCK BOTTOM

My dear People,

I want to begin by thinking about trees, and the very important part they play and have played in the story of mankind. There are several ways in which they are valuable to the life of man, and there must be a wealth of interest in studying their infinite variety. They are God-made, God's gift to man by which He provides timber for building houses and boats, furniture and many other things useful to man, shade from the sun, protection from the rain and from soil erosion. We have therefore much cause to be thankful for God's gift of the trees. He even provided the wood for the Cross on which Christ died! Think especially of the trees, then in Holy Week, and of the unique event of Good Friday when Christ hung upon a tree to save you and me from the death of sin. We shall be thinking about the meaning of the Cross at the Three Hours' Devotion from 12—3 p.m. on Good Friday. We should be glad to have you with us even for a part of the time.

It is at the Cross that we reach rock bottom. This is surely man's lowest ever, to crucify the Christ whose whole being expressed loving concern for mankind. The Cross at once measures the depravity of man, and also our need of forgiveness. Rock bottom indeed! And yet it is also a symbol of hope and of final victory. This is the mystery of the Cross, and that which makes it the most worth-while thing to think about in this world. It brings down our pride, and yet raises our hopes in final victory over death and evil, in and through our Saviour, Jesus Christ. If you do not believe me, take a long look at Christ on the Cross, and I am sure you will see what I mean.

The dead body of Jesus was buried in a cave in the rocks, and sealed

by the guards who rolled a huge rock into the opening of the tomb. But the grave could not hold Him. "The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom ye slew, hanging Him on a tree." (Acts 5, v. 30). The victory of His Cross was sealed by His rising to life again, and we bid you come this Easter Day to celebrate the double victory of Christ over sin and death. Join with us in giving glory and worship to our ever-living Saviour, who offers you forgiveness for the past, and the glorious hope of eternal life in the realm of His kingdom of righteousness and peace.

Wishing you a very happy Easter,

I remain,
Your sincere friend and Rector,
H. F. JONES.

SPECIAL FOR HOLY WEEK

The Byfleet and Pyrford Council of Churches has arranged a special Service on Tuesday in Holy Week (9th April), to be held in Byfleet Methodist Church at 8.15 p.m. It is to take the form of a Programme of Readings and Music for Holy Week to be given by the Staff and Pupils of Sheerwater County Secondary School. All welcome. For the details of other Holy Week arrangements please see the Parish Diary for the month.

PARISH DIARY FOR APRIL

- 2—(Tues.). P.C.C. 7.45 p.m. in the Committee Room.
- 3—(Wed.). H.C. 10 a.m. Children's Service 4.30 p.m. Evensong and Prayers for the Sick 6.45 p.m. H.C. 8 p.m. Bible Study and discussion 8.30 p.m. "Pathfinders" 7.30 p.m. in the Church Hall.
- 4—(Thurs.). M.U. afternoon Group 2.30 p.m. Talk on Voluntary Service Overseas. Anglican/Methodist Discussion 7.45 p.m. in the Methodist Church Hall.
- 5—(Fri.). St. Mary's Youth Fellowship 7.30 p.m. in the Church Hall.
- 7—PALM SUNDAY. H.C. 8 a.m. FAMILY COMMUNION 10 a.m. Matins 11.15 a.m. Evensong 6.30 p.m. Refreshments in the Church Hall afterwards. There will be a Distribution of Palm Crosses at each Service.
- 8—(Mon.). H.C. 8 p.m. Confessions in Holy Week by appointment.
- 9—(Tues.). H.C. 7.15 p.m. United Service 8.15 p.m. in the Methodist Church, Byfleet, arranged by the Byfleet and Pyrford Council of Churches.
- 10—(Wed.). H.C. 10 a.m. Evensong and Prayers for the Sick 6.45 p.m. H.C. 8 p.m. Bible Study and discussion 8.30 p.m. "Pathfinders" 7.30 p.m.
- 11—MAUNDY THURSDAY. H.C. 7.15 p.m. M.U. & Young Wives' Group 8 p.m. Service in Church.
- 12—GOOD FRIDAY. Litany and Ante-Communion 8 a.m. Children's Service 10 a.m. Three hours devotion 12 a.m.—3 p.m. conducted by the Rector. Evening Service 7.30 p.m.

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- 14—EASTER DAY. H.C. 7 a.m., 8 a.m., 9 a.m. Junior Church 10 a.m. Matins 11.15 a.m. followed by H.C. Evensong 6.30 p.m.
 15—(Mon.) Pilgrimage of Youth to Guildford Cathedral.
 16—(Tues.) C.E.M.S. 8 p.m. in the Committee Room.
 17—(Wed.) H.C. 10 a.m. Evensong and Prayers for the Sick 6.45 p.m. "Pathfinders" 7.30 p.m.
 19—(Fri.) St. Mary's Youth Fellowship 7.30 p.m.
 21—FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EASTER. H.C. 8 a.m. Sung Communion 10 a.m. Matins 11.15 a.m. Junior Church (Infants) 10 a.m. Evensong 6.30 p.m.
 23—(Tues.) Church Socials' Committee 8.15 p.m. in the Committee Room.
 24—(Wed.) H.C. 10 a.m. Good Companions 2.30 p.m. in the Methodist Church Hall. Evensong and Prayers for the Sick 6.45 p.m. "Pathfinders" 7.30 p.m. Ruri-Decanal Conference 8 p.m.
 25—(Thurs.) ST. MARK'S DAY. H.C. 7.15 p.m. M.U. and Young Wives' Group 8 p.m. Folk Dancing demonstration.
 26—(Fri.) St. Mary's Youth Fellowship 7.30 p.m. Junior Church Teachers' Meeting 8 p.m. at the Rectory.
 27—(Sat.) C.E.M.S. Outing for the aged.
 28—SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EASTER. H.C. 8 a.m. Junior Church 10 a.m. Matins 11.15 a.m. Evensong 6.30 p.m.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

- "And He took them in His arms and blessed them." (St. Mark 10, v. 16)
 February
 18—Daniel and Lise, children of Simon and Judith Monk.
 25—Mark Darren, son of Raymond and Janet Rogers.
 25—Kathleen Shirley, daughter of James and Shirley Pettit.
 March
 3—Carla Patricia Whitten, daughter of John and Patricia Key.
 10—Ian Gavin, son of Terence and Brenda Hodsdon.
 10—Orlando James, son of Clifford and Vivian Richards.

MARRIAGES

- "Let marriage be had in honour among all." (Hebrews 13, v. 4)
 March
 2—Maurice George Taylor and Rosina Betty Tilley.

BURIALS

- "The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God." (Wisdom 3, v. 1)
 March
 8—William Johns, aged 88 years.
 12—Agnes Helen Forster, aged 79 years.

CREMATIONS

- March
 7—Ethel Lilian Stiles, aged 80 years.
 15—Thomas James Cutler, aged 67 years.

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" 18	13	15 0	7	13 0	21	8 0
" 25	16	5 0	12	10 10	28	15 10
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C.E.M.S. NEWS

On January 25th, the following Officers were re-elected:—President: Rev. H. F. Jones; Chairman: A. Smith; Secretary: W. Harman. A. J. Bond decided not to carry on as Treasurer, and the gratitude of members was expressed for his valuable work over the past few years; his successor is P. Whitehill. It was felt that someone should be responsible for public relations and publicity for the branch, and the author of this report was elected P.R.O.

The total membership at the end of February was 25, a number which we are pleased to note seems to increase at every Meeting.

By the time you read this, we hope to have received a visit from the General Secretary, the Rev. Charles Birtles, B.A., which will be reported in the next magazine. This will be his second visit to Byfleet, as many will recall we met him a few weeks after he had taken office.

What do we do? Those of you who have read this report, and who know of our existence may be asking this question. We are an active branch, which not only meets to discuss problems, but which, to give a few examples, takes elderly and infirm men on outings, visits patients in Ellesmere Hospital, Walton, tidies gardens for those (men and women) who are less active now than previously. To find out more, why not come to our next Meeting on Tuesday, 16th April, at 8 p.m. in the Committee Room of the Church Hall, or join us on our Outing for the elderly/infirm on Saturday, 27th April.

JIM ALLEN.

COMMUNICATION

"I don't have any communication with my parents" a young man said to me recently, "we don't seem to have anything in common." Then he looked at me expectantly, waiting to discover what I would say. I said quite a lot and I hope a little of it helped him—and them.

If parents are to retain the friendship of their children, if they are to maintain real communication, it seems to me that they have, right from the start, to be frank in what they say—fully communicative. Children are quick to detect defence mechanisms and the adults' false assumption that some things are best not discussed with their children. The vital word here is "discussed" because in that way—by discussion—lessons can be given and examples set which are far more durable than those instilled by unreasoning discipline and lack of confidence; though discipline has, of course, its place on occasion.

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I have stressed the parents' part in all this because so much is in their hands from the beginning. Yet it is not an entirely one-way responsibility. The young man who spoke to me is shortly to be married and is therefore at an age when I could say to him "perhaps, because you realise the problem, you may have to make the first move—remembering the difficulty of your parents in being a trifle 'set in their ways' perhaps. They will probably welcome a move by you."

This problem of communication is not confined to family relationships. It is fundamental to all human relationships and the way to good communications can best be made by a loving frankness. A little natural friendliness helps so much and is worth large quantities of 'acting a part' or politely avoiding involvement.

We are all of different make-ups and are, perhaps, very quick to account for our retiring nature as being a sign that we are introvert, or for our excess of noise as being a sign that we are extrovert.

Paramount to all is the need of most of us for human relationship; this needs communication and this needs effort from all of us in frankness and love.

If people find it hard to communicate with each other, how will they begin to discover the vital communication with God who said "love your neighbour as yourself"? His loving concern was such that he sent Jesus Christ, the priceless communication between God and man. The involvement of Jesus was such that included death. In a few days we celebrate the fact that death itself could not extinguish the communication of love.

JOHN SMITH.

MORE VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED FOR THE VISITING SERVICE FOR THE ELDERLY

In Byfleet there are many old people living alone who are suffering from ill-health, disability, or sheer loneliness. The Clergy cannot hope to visit all of them with sufficient regularity to be of assistance in view of the number of elderly people requiring visits.

To cope with the situation members of the Methodist, Roman Catholic and Anglican Churches have combined to form Visiting Service Groups. There are four of these Groups in existence at present consisting of over thirty volunteers.

Can you spare an evening of your time for once a week or once a fortnight to visit one of these elderly people? If so, please contact Major A. Curtis of 6, Studland Road, Byfleet (Telephone No.: Byfleet 42569); or The Reverend John Smith, 124, Church Road, Byfleet (Telephone No.: Byfleet 46605).

M.U. & YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

The Annual General Meeting of the M.U. & Young Wives' Group was held on Thursday, 14th March, and the election of Officers for the coming year took place. Mrs. M. F. Jones resigned from the position of Enrolling Member after nine years' service, and Mrs. A. Rumsey relin-

quished the post of Group Leader also after nine years' service on the Committee. Mrs. Rumsey was congratulated on the success of her work as Group Leader, and presented with a Gift Token and a Rose Bush. Mrs. Jones had previously been given a Brooch in recognition of her work for the branch. Membership had grown during the past year and a very interesting series of Meetings held. The following were elected to serve as Officers and Committee members for the ensuing year:—Enrolling Member: Mrs. B. Haswell; Group Leader: Mrs. M. Coe; M.U. Secretary: Mrs. J. Bowett; Y.W.G. Secretary: Mrs. A. Carver; Treasurer: Mrs. B. Chappell; Assistant Group Leader: Mrs. M. Wood; and Committee members: Mrs. F. Sturley, Mrs. P. Buddery, Mrs. M. Ansell, Mrs. A. Mills, and Mrs. J. Cankett.

METHODIST LETTER

"Coniston,"

9, Queen's Avenue,

Byfleet.

My dear Friends,

Have you ever heard of an Anglican Nun being invited to address a Men's Meeting in a Methodist Church?

This was the occasion of a memorable evening in March when the Byfleet Men's Meeting (a joint group sponsored by our two Churches, but meeting on Methodist premises) received as their invited speaker Sister Mildred Rebecca, C.S.M.V., of Spellthorne St. Mary, Thorpe. I had met Sister Mildred before and because she is an authority on her subject we invited ladies to our Meeting, as well as the men. Since the end of the nineteenth century, she told us, her Order has been treating drug addicts, and she spoke to us on Drug Dependence.

The present concern among all responsible citizens for the alarming increase in known cases of Drug Addiction among young people means that cases of Drug Dependence, and the suicides to which the condition frequently leads, is a constant news item in the press. We do not hear so often of the dedicated men and women who are working all the time to help the victims of this craving. Sister Mildred talked for over an hour, and at the end of her talk added quietly—the principle drug of addiction is still alcohol. She went on, "the only hope for an alcoholic is total abstinence. The rule is never to take the first glass."

Perhaps no one who reads this letter is an alcoholic, or even likely to be. But every one of us is in touch with young people and others who could very easily become addicted to alcohol. In Methodism, over the years, we have laid great stress on the importance of personal example in this matter, and I gladly set down my name as a Total Abstainer. I write from conviction based on experience, and would gladly share that experience with any reader whom I might be able to help.

With every Easter blessing,

Yours sincerely,

LESLIE J. GROVES.

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THE BRAMPTON PRESS

Queens Road, Hersham
Walton-on-Thames, Surrey

PRINTERS OF THIS MAGAZINE

HERITAGE WALKS ARCHIVE DOCUMENT