

**Great and Little Bromley Church Magazines
Reverend James Henry Ransom**

Issues available

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Most of these kindly shared by Susan Reilly (nee Ransom)

If you have any other editions please contact me!

These old magazines have been scanned and converted to text for historical reference
by Dr Hugh Frostick, Historian for Great and Little Bromley.

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December 2021

ST . GEORGE'S CHURCH, GREAT BROMLEY
No 2, September 1963 Price 2d.

CHURCH SERVICES

Sundays: Holy Communion 8.00am

Matins 10.45 am

Evensong 6.30 pm

Weekdays: Holy Communion: Tuesdays 7.00 am

Thursdays 8.00 am

Saints' Days 7.00 am

My dear Friends,

I am writing this before we begin our holiday and I am reminded that the origin of holidays is holy-days. Each day, indeed each moment, is a significant event in itself and we know not what might occur at any particular moment. It is wise therefore to be constantly prepared for anything. This preparedness is not achieved merely by an act of will or courage, but is a built-up quality which can only come as a result of constant care and attention. We should begin each day by praying first for thankfulness and then for God's protection and guidance throughout the day.

Because of our human frailty we need to remind ourselves constantly through the day of God's presence with us by means of short ejaculatory prayers known as "arrow prayers" which we can shoot up to God at any time. In the evening, and not necessarily just before we get into bed, we need to collate that day's experience and offer it to God as a finished thing. By this means there is no hangover of the previous day's sin and there is less likelihood of bad habits being formed. A sin not acknowledged and unconfessed leaves a mark, a dirty mark, upon the soul, and the depression made by such an act of disobedience forms an oasis into which similar acts quickly flow. The depression then becomes a permanent feature of the character and by its own wilfulness becomes incapable of resistance. So the character becomes bad and ultimately wholly bad.

This running down process applies not only to overt acts of sinfulness, but also to the more devilish weakness of indifference. When we "couldn't come less" we should be worried most, for it means that we have no standard left against which our actions can be measured. I feel that this attitude of indifference is the most common fault, for we seem to manage equally well whether we say our prayers or not. If we lived in a world where indifference were the standard this would be fine, but the world is really not such. There are some things which are right and others which are wrong and for the Christian there is more wrong than right and he realises or ought to realise that he lives in a world of conflict. It is significant that each of the four Collects at Matins and Evensong contain the word "defend". "Defend us thy humble servants in all assaults of our enemies", "Defend us in the same (day)", "that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies", "Defend us from all the perils and dangers of this night". These prayers would be meaningless if there were no enemy or no conflict. In war one must expect sudden unpredictable excursions, which test and may overthrow one's defences, resulting in confusion and weakness and primarily uncertainty. The man who is prepared by his daily prayers must see God's hand at work in all that occurs. No occurrence, great or small, in the lives of individuals, or of nations, comes to pass without His will, or at any rate without His permission.

The prepared man who makes each day a holy-day with all the newness and excitement we associate with holidays, comes to see that in some events God is rebuking him, in others encouraging and leading him forward. Good forms and adversity alike have their message for him, and suffering itself is accepted, as having Divine purpose. It is the fading of this certainty that accounts for much of the present-day indifference. The faith that is alive and can change man's attitude, which faith is regularly promulgated Sunday by Sunday in our worship, is firmly fixed on the certainty that God speaks to us in all our experience be it pleasant or otherwise.

Yours sincerely,

J . H. RANSOM.

CHURCH REPAIRS

£376.5.0. has just be paid for some of the recent work to the nave roof. A start has been made on the north side of the roof but the builders tell us that the repairs cannot be finished this year as weather conditions make it impossible for the men to work so high up much after the end of October.

The produce stall made in all £29.3.10. Recent donations include 17/9 d. from one person in 3d. bits, and 17/5d. in pennies from another.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

The usual Service will be held. on Thursday, 26th September, at 7.30 p.m., and the Festival will be continued on Sunday, 29th, the Feast of St. Michael & All Angels. Decoration of the Church will be on the Thursday morning, for which helpers are much needed, as well as gifts of flowers, fruit, vegetables, etc.

PILLARS

Please give these to the Rector or to Miss Thomas by the end. of the month.

CHURCH ROBBERY

As most know, thieves broke the locks of two cupboards and. a deed box in the vestry on August 12th. No money was taken because it is never left in Church, but the keys of the old safe and the deed box were stolen. These contain only the registers .

P.C.C

Next meeting, Tuesday, September 10th, at 7.30 pm

ALTAR FLOWERS

September 1st & 8th. Mrs Sutherland
15th & 22nd. Mrs. West
29th. Mrs. Adams

FUNERALS

August 13th. Christopher Stanley Webb, aged 7
August 13th. Edith Elizabeth Hills, aged. 77

ST. MARY'S CHURCH LITTLE BROMLEY

CHURCH SERVICES

Holy Communion 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays at 9.00 am;
2nd. and 4th Sundays at 7.00 a.m.
Evensong: Sundays, 5.30 pm.

My dear Friends,

We are told by business houses and particularly by big business that it pays to advertise. The Church is a big business because it is concerned with the whole of experience and. so I am quoting, with modifications, an advertisement from a Scottish magazine which can, and does, apply to both parishes.

Great & Little Bromley Churches - Vacancies

Old established and attractive Churches have 1,000 vacancies for men, women and children (no age restriction) willing to give one hour weekly to the greatest work on earth the service of God. Previous experience useful, but not essential as training will be given: Specially invited to apply are those who have served on a strictly part-time basis in former years and who may now be ready to join our small but permanent staff.
Please apply either church on Sunday next,

* * *

You will notice that no mention is here made of remuneration. In the Civil Service there are, I believe, several grades and the salaries are paid according to the Purple Book, the Green Book, A.P.T and so forth. The Church has only one Book which gives guidance in this matter and I can do no better than quote from it.

“The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God
is eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord”

Yours sincerely,
J H RANSOM. ,

My dear Friends,

The homily in last month's magazine, showing reasons why people do not come to Worship, led inevitably to the conclusion that men do not come to worship God because they have not as yet taken in the revelation of what God is like as shown in Jesus and ended with the statement that a great number of men, probably the majority, do not think of God at all. Perhaps most of us fall into this category, for having been brought up on a nominally Christian country within a nominally Christian family our worship is a natural consequence. For the most part we have not thought through, or stopped to accept, the teaching of Jesus as our own. Consequently, our worship is something that when we get there gives us a slight sense of uplift, relieves our feelings of guilt and gives us a sense of belonging, for we feel that the act of worship, performed in common, cements the bonds which unite us one to another. This is quite true, but it is not worship, for the same object could be achieved by a gathering for the purpose of community hymn singing with a few prayers added.

In its essence worship is a giving to God. In the last resort there is nothing that we can give to God which He cares to receive, except ourselves and all that we have and are. But beauty of music and colour, language and art is part of what we have and are. We can only offer to God the best that we can, not as a substitute for ourselves, that would be of no value, but as an expression of ourselves. The richness of the offering is the expression of the heart. (Collections and offerings ought not to be confused, but there is a real connection here - the richness of the offering is the expression of the heart). 'Why do we have the Holy Communion service so early in the morning? So that we can present ourselves at our very best, unspotted by contact with the world. 'Why does the priest wear special vestments at this Service, why are the candles lit, why is the Altar decorated with beautiful flowers, why the beautiful sacred vessels, why the Preparation before the Service begins, why the dignity and solemnity, why the most beautiful language of the best book in the world - the Holy Bible - incorporated in the Prayers, why has the most beautiful music in the history of mankind been composed for the Mass, why, Why, Why?

Because this is true worship, this is the trysting place with God, this is the centre of religion, what its all about, this is real, permanent, relevant, meaningful, adequate, up-to-date, unalterable. Here is mystery and holiness, here too is love and tenderness. Here is an expression of God's majesty and of His mercy. And the sacrifice we offer is not something apart from ourselves, it is ourselves at our best and highest, pardoned and enriched by our communion in Christ. It is a giving to God of ourselves at our best in, and with, Christ. If God is good to us we may find in such worship nothing less than a foretaste of heaven. A door is opened in heaven and sometimes God allows some men to look through that door. But we must not worship God for the joy we may win from it for ourselves. These who look for joy for themselves in worship fail to find it. Worship is, and must be, a giving to God. It is only as we give to God, and forget ourselves, that sometimes God gives us a glimpse through the door. We cannot claim it and the vision may be with-held, the reward is not the really important thing.

When we deliberately, or even without thought, absent ourselves from public worship we inflict injury in three ways. First we do wrong to ourselves for we are not being what we are meant to be. Hence the guilt which inevitably follows our absence (I know I ought to have been in Church on Sunday, Rector, : But you know how it is". Unfortunately, I do know how it is and wish that I didn't. Apology should be made to God, not to me. I am the guardian and dispenser of God's mysteries in this parish, not the Creator).

Second, we do wrong to our fellow-men for we are withholding the contribution which we have it in us to make to the common effort. We may be weak, and unsatisfactory members of the Body, but we are nevertheless members, and if we do not take our part, the Body is maimed and the offering incomplete. Third, and most important of all, we do wrong to Christ for we are with-holding from God the tribute won for us by Christ, as sharers in His Redemption, and failing to offer for His service what He himself has given. We are worse than the man in the parable who made no use of his talent. He, at least, gave back his one talent to the Giver. We try to keep ours to ourselves.

True worship then is the giving of ourselves at the very best that we can make of ourselves to the highest we know in the Lord's own House, on the Lord's own day, at the Lord's own service.

Yours sincerely,
J.H. RANSOM.

CHURCHYARD. The cost of cutting the grass in the Churchyard and Cemetery has been heavy lately, so the Treasurer will be very grateful if those who have not yet given their annual donations to the Churchyard Fund could do so shortly. New subscribers of 2/6d. upwards will be most welcome.

VILLAGE HALL SALE. This will be held in the Hall on November 13th. Mrs. Biddis wishes all concerned to be reminded that Working Parties for the Sale will start again in the Rectory on September 10th at 2.30 pm.

P.C.C. Tuesday, September 3rd. 7.30 pm at the Rectory.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING. Thursday, October 3rd. Sunday, October 6th.

ALTAR FLOWERS.

1st and 8th. Misses Nicholl
15th and 22nd. Mrs. Sutherland
29th. Mrs. Harding.

SERVICES AT S. GEORGE'S CHURCH, GT BROMLEY

Sundays: Holy Communion 8.00 a.m.
Matins 10.45am Evensong 6.30 p.m. i
Weekdays: Holy Communion: Tuesdays ' 7.00 a.m. Thursdays 8.00 a.m. Saints' Days 7.00 a.m.
SERVERS :

Sept. 1st. Leslie Francis 8th. Derek Brinkley 15th. Geoffrey Turner
22nd. Derek Brinkley 29th. Robert Harding

HOLY BAPTISM

July 28th. - Philippa Rand
Aug. 4th. Richard Edward Sowman. (Lt.Bromley)

HOLY MATRIMONY

Aug. 3rd. Alan Reilly and Susan Margaret Ransom.

FUNERAL

Aug. 10th. Leonard Marshall Payne. aged 58. (Lt.Bromley)

SERVICES AT S. MARY'S CHURCH LITTLE BROMLEY

Sept. 1st, 15th, 29th.
Holy Communion 9 a.m. Evensong 6.30 p.m.
8th, 22nd.
Holy Communion 7 a.m. Matins 11 a.m.

P.C.C. Lt. Bromley. September 12th. 7.30 p.m. at New House.

GREAT & LITTLE BROMLEY MAGAZINE

No. 132 DECEMBER, 1972 Price: 1½ p

My dear Friends,

Last month's Magazine ended with the promise to continue the instruction on the nature of the Church and this I intend to do, but in the meantime I came across a copy of a sermon preached recently in a Manchester Church, which I think may serve as a 'buffer' article which may make both of us think, both you and me, about our separate roles we must play in the maintenance of this church and whether we consider it is worth maintaining. I quote:-

"My job is threefold, to be priest, pastor and prophet. The role of prophet is the most difficult and demanding. By 'prophet' I do not mean to conjure up a vision of a sort of wild man who can foretell the future by gazing into a crystal ball or by examining the entrails of birds. A prophet is simply one who tries to see what will be the consequences of our actions and attitudes now. He tries to encourage people to ask deep and searching questions about themselves, about their attitudes and actions, about society and the factors which help to shape the world we live in. "What will be the effect in the future of what I am or am not doing now?"

But the future is not determined, it is not all laid out and prepared for us. It is we who help to shape it. Hence the importance of the prophet who is concerned that the future will bring forth good things. So for a brief moment let us be prophetic.

The Church as we know it is dying- .By "the Church as we know it" I mean the visible body of people who are bound together by their beliefs about God in Christ, and who meet together regularly for worship and prayer, and who try to acknowledge God by the way they live their lives.

The Church as we know it is dying. People are becoming increasingly less interested and concerned with it. 'When a body is dying, unless something is done about it., one day the body will be dead. The life will have finally gone out of what was once a person and is now a corpse. So, unless something is done about it one day the Church as we know it will be dead. The life will have gone out of what was once a living body of people and is now a decaying corpse.

Let us move from generalities to something specific. Me, your priest, pastor and prophet. In 10 years time this parish will not have a full time rector. There will not be enough cash to pay one for a start. And because very few young men are prepared to become parsons by the time my generation has reached retirement there will be few clergy left. Whether we like it or not the clergy are leaders of local churches. I and my kind are members of a vanishing species.

Now let us turn from me to you, the people who make up the Church. You, too, are members of a shrinking society. There are full and thriving churches and there are empty and desolate ones. But taken as a whole fewer people are coming to church. Fewer people are bothered with what the Church stands for. So take a good look at each other. .As Church people you, too, are members of a rapidly declining species.

Is all this inevitable? Is there nothing we can do about it? Are we simply prophets of gloom, predicting a future society impoverished without the church? Decidedly not. 'We can do something about it. And here let me echo the voice of the prophets down the ages. Times are bad, but by our efforts we can help to shape a better future. Not our unaided efforts, of course, but by the grace of God, as the saying goes. And by the grace of God we are given the immense privilege and responsibility of co-operating with God in his purpose for people. "Fellow workers for God", as St. Paul puts it.

It took the disaster of Dunkirk and the prophetic voice of Churchill to rally an almost despairing nation. So with the Church today. Let us stop whistling in the dark trying to keep our spirits up, or hoping that by ignoring it the problem will go away from us, or that God is going to send down a mighty thunderbolt to shake people to their senses.

Each one of us has a degree of responsibility in shaping the society of the future. Men will get the society they deserve. And if we want a society enriched by the life of a flourishing church then we must work hard now for that end. Let us all be prophets and tell people that unless they act quickly the Church they have taken for granted for so long will be gone. All the good things it has stood for down the ages will be no more.

"Good riddance", say some. But what do you say? The Church is dying. Do you want to be an assistant at its funeral or do you want to be an instrument of its resurrection?

Yours sincerely,

J.H. RANSOM.

NO Altar Flowers during Advent.

SERVERS.

December 3rd

10th. Maurice Pleasance _ '

17th. Geoffrey Turner

24th
31st. Robert Hauling, _

ADDITIONAL SERVICES _ CHRISTMASS

Little Bromley

Christmas Eve -- Midnight Mass - 11.45 pm
Christmass Day - Holy Communion 9.00am.

Great Bromley.

Christmas Day - Holy Communion – 7.00 a.m. and 8.00 am.
Matins - 10.45 a.m.

There will NOT be Evensong in either Church on Christmass Eve or Christmass Day.

Decoration of both Churches on Saturday, December 23rd;

HOLY BAPTISM

Oct. 29th. Kevin Andrew Wilby

HOLY MATRIMONY

Oct. 28th. Eric Soames and Pauline Hindwell ,

FUNERALS

Nov. 3rd Charles William Davis - aged 28 years

20th. Frank Meadows – aged 75 years

GREAT & LITTLE BROMLEY MAGAZINE
No. 169 January 1976 Price: 2p

My dear Friends,

One of the pleasures, and there are not very many, of writing a monthly magazine, is to hear the reactions of the readers. Quite often no comment is made and one wonders whether the magazine is read at all, but sometimes, criticism and compliment is made. Last month's paper brought a bit of each both with the quotation from the Church Catechism. Some thought that the summary of man's duty was quite comprehensive and suggested that if we measured up to the demands, the society in which we live would be more acceptable. The summary stressed particularly "to hurt nobody by word or deed: to be true and just in all my dealings; to bear no malice or hatred in my heart: to keep my hands from picking and stealing and my heart and my tongue from evil-speaking, lying and slandering; to keep my body in temperance, soberness and chastity ; not to covet nor desire other men's goods; but to learn and labour truly to get mine own living and to do my duty in that state of life into which it shall please God to call me".

With all these directions, I feel, there can be no disagreement and I have re-printed them deliberately for I believe that it is good for you and for me to re-consider them, not as a piece of satisfying prose, but as being essential for our living together happily. To take but one of them, "to keep my hands from picking and stealing". I understand, planned bank robberies etc. apart, the prices of all commodities in our super-markets are fractionally increased to compensate for expected thefts! It is not one of my weaknesses to steal from display cabinets and some may say that because of this I should be disqualified from making comments, but surely not all thieves, caught or not, are sick. We must learn not to covet or desire other men's goods and to keep our hands from picking and stealing.

This brings me to the criticism. In general this is concerned with the sentence "to submit to all my governors, teachers, spiritual pastors and masters; to order myself lowly and reverently to all my betters". It seems that the prospect of submitting and ordering oneself lowly and reverently is not acceptable and seems to some to smack of feudalism, It is old-fashioned and suggest that the Church of England is in fact the Conservative part at prayer, I am told. The idea that any modern man should be told what to do is abhorrent. This applies equally to God and man. Modern man is not directed either by God or man, nor will he be subservient to anyone. No masters - or men,

It is sad that this attitude is taken, for where there is no authority there is no personal responsibility. By constantly abdicating authority and by constantly resisting it, we have allowed the "System" to take over. What puzzles me more than a little is the idea that the "System" is some kind of a magical independent organism - a crock of gold. We behave, industrialists and workmen alike, as though the System was a bottomless pit of wealth from which we can be constantly taking, without any responsibility for putting back. I cannot believe we are as stupid as that, but the events of the past few months have tested that belief sorely. The consequence of all this, is that we have become greedy people, blind to reality, living in a fool's paradise.

"Can the blind lead the blind? Shall they not both fall into the ditch" says Our Lord. Has this happened? "The disciple is not above his master; but everyone that is perfect is as his master". What's wrong with the master-disciple relationship, if each is striving for perfection? I recall that Our Lord everlastingly acknowledged the sovereignty of the Father, that He took a towel and washed the disciples feet, that He said "I am among you as He that serveth". and was never ashamed of this position, that He advised us that when hidden to a party to take the lowest seat. So in ordering ourselves lowly and reverently to all our betters we are following the good example.

It is the duty of churchfolk to assert the authority of God in their personal relationship with Him as well as in their relationship with others. Perhaps the difficulty most of us encounter is knowing exactly where the spiritual and material divide. At what point the moral principle and the practical consideration are in conflict. The uncertainty is of the essence of indecision. The Holy Bible will have nothing of indecision, "Come unto me all ye that travail and I will give you rest". "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and all these things will be added unto you". There is no doubt here, but the first movement must be with us. We are hidden to come and to seek. This involves a submission, first that we have gone astray and wish to return, and secondly that we are unhappy with things as they are. To come and to seek might be a sufficient resolution for 1976.

But to implement this we must be humble. In fact to submit ourselves lowly and reverently - to acknowledge the authority of God and His Church. The Church is the body of Christ and is human and fallible, but when She holds dear and promulgates the teaching contained in the Creeds, the Holy Bible and the Sacraments She is standing in the place of God and as such merits, deserves, demands our reverence and obedience. We must pray then, in 1976, for humanity above all else. To mean what we say in the general confession, "We have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost Sheep?" and in the Magnificat when we sing "He hath put down the mighty from their seat; and hath exalted the humble and meek".

Best wishes for 1976. Yours sincerely, J. H. RANSOM.

THANKS

I am most grateful to Mr. and Mrs. E. Nicholls who assembled 400 Christmas cards and letters and delivered some 250 of them by hand. Also to Mr. Baxter for the many jobs-he has done for us and is still doing. You may have noticed, or you may not have noticed so skillfully was the work carried out that the Altar in the South Chapel had been restored - this was one of Mr. Baxter's jobs. Also to an anonymous donor who has given a pair of glass cruets and a wafer box for use in S.Mary's. In selecting these three I am not unaware of and not ungrateful to the many people who give week by week of their time, money and talents in the service of the Church. These, I am sure, know that they have their reward and look for no reminder from me

The P.C.C. at Little Bromley will meet on January 20th at 7.45 p.m. in New House.

The Diocesan Quota for 1976 has been increased to 59 ½ % of assessable income. This means in practice, that of every £1 given to the Church, over and above our essential expenses of lighting, heating, repairs etc. we shall retain only 40 ½ p. The extra money the Diocese requires will be used to raise clergy Stipends to £2,200 or just over £42 per week. I will explain this more fully next month. In the meantime, the advantage of a Covenant becomes so much Clearer. For every £1 you give the church receives £1.54p. will you please think of a Covenant and ask me for a form. One Covenant was made last month with effect from 1st January.

Holy Baptism

Dec. 14th. Edward James and Sarah Jane Wild. -

Funeral .

Dec. 2nd. William .Edward Notley aged 75 years.

ALTAR FLOWERS

S. George

Jan. 4th. Mrs Ransom

11th- Miss Skeet

18th. Mrs. Jolly

25th. Mrs. Clapham

(S.Mary's List is not yet complete)

SERVERS

John Clapham

Maurice Pleasance

Geoffrey Turner

Robert Harding.

Services at S.George's Church - Great Bromley.

First Sunday each month - Parish Communion 10.00 a.m.

Other Sundays: Holy Communion 8.00 a.m.

Matins 10.45 a.m.

Evensong 6.30 p.m.

Weekdays: Tuesdays 7.00 a.m.

Thursdays 8.00 a.m.

Saints Days 7.00 a.m. or 8.00 a.m.

Sunday School: 10.00 a.m. every Sunday excepting first.

Services at S.Mary's - Little Bromley

Jan. 4th. Holy Communion 9.00 a.m.

Jan 11th. Matins 11.00 a.m.

Jan 18th. Holy Communion 9.00 a.m.

Jan 25th. Matins 11.00 a.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4th

CAROL SERVICE IN CHURCH 3 p.m. .

by .

S . ANDREW'S SINGERS

There will be no Evensong on this date.

GREAT & LITTLE BROMLEY MAGAZINE
No. 170 February 1976 Price 2p.

My Dear Friends,

We have now received a copy of the Diocesan Budget for 1976 and the apportionment on each parish to pay for this. Our share of this for 1976 is Great Bromley £807 and Lt. Bromley £181. As promised in last month's magazine I will try to explain the reason for this enormous increase (last year's figures were Gt. Bromley £341 and Lt. Bromley £59). But first the Church Commissioners. This is a small body of men, each expert in his own field. which is charged with the responsibility of conducting the church's financial resources. These resources are mainly endowments made to individual churches in the past, from which the incumbent's stipend (wages) is paid. The fact that they are one of the three richest organisations in the country is repeatedly misunderstood and it seems will for ever be so, for when I try to explain their function, together with figures to demonstrate the point, the final remark of my questioner is, "You can say what you like, but the Church is the richest organisation in the Country and should pay the parsons more and not ask me to give more".

There's none so blind as those who won't-see. The fact is, and this is recognised in every other instance except that of the Church, that wealth can only be assessed in relation to the obligations and responsibilities that go with it. The first responsibility of the Commissioners is to pay the incumbents' stipends from the accumulated wealth, without reducing the capital. Let me illustrate this simply; Suppose that 100 years ago the Commissioners or their predecessors, held for the benefit of Gt. and Lt. Bromley £100 of endowments. They invested this sum at 3% and paid the incumbent £3 per annum. The average wage of everybody at this time being £2 per annum. The person was then able to keep his big house in some sort of repair and his wife could act as Lady Bountiful to parishioners less well off. I am reminded of a parishioner at Lt. Bromley, long since dead, who said to me on one occasion "the Rev. Wood (then Rector of Bromley), whenever he came to see me pressed (I like that word) a ten-shilling note into my hand". This was fine whilst it lasted, but then the average wage, and thanks be to God for it, began to increase, but the endowment was at a fixed interest for a period of years - so the parson's wage remained at £3 per annum. Some sort of equality was achieved and maintained for a few years, but in the last few years the average wage has increased at a tremendous rate, and the parish-endowment is still at a fixed rate of interest over a stated period. The Commissioners are constantly manipulating their capital and seeking more profitable investments, but they are quite unable to keep pace with increasing wages and inflation.

So, to put it bluntly the roles are reversed. I can appreciate that it is difficult to believe this, but this is the reality of the situation. Some older parishioners, not only find this hard to accept, but feel embarrassed that they are now in the position of helping financially their parish priest. This obligation must, however, be accepted if the ordained ministry is to survive. Whilst this is something new for members of the Church of England, the Roman Catholics and other Non-Conformists have always provided stipend, housing and full working expenses for their priests and ministers.

The fact that the Chelmsford Diocesan Board of Finance requires £340,000 this year to enable all clergy to receive £2,400 from April 1st, 1976 of which our contribution from both parishes is £988. The total budget for the year is £554,356. I hope you will help me to expose the myth of modern society that the church with its millions is rich. I find the words Dickens put into the mouth of Mr. Micawber helpful and relevant viz: "Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure, nineteen, nineteen six, result happiness. Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure twenty pounds ought and six, result misery."

Yours sincerely,
J.H. Ransom;

PROVISION FOR THE CLERGY (Extract from Budget)

Stipends. The Church Commissioners as the Central Stipends Authority recommend that from 1st April, 1976, the minimum stipend for an incumbent be £2,400 per annum and that the scale for stipends of curates and lay workers be increased by £300 per annum. The Bishop's Council and the Finance Committee have already authorised an increase in the minimum stipend for an incumbent from £1,910 to £2,100 per annum and in order to bring Chelmsford into line with the National Scale in force from 1st April, 1975, an increase of £150 for curates and lay Workers: all to be effective from the 1st October, 1975. The increase recommended by the Central Stipends Authority is to be effective from the 1st April, 1976 and will be in addition to this interim increase. The additional annual cost to the Diocesan Stipends Fund will be:-

Incumbents and equivalent	138,000	
Curates and Lay workers	<u>56,000</u>	
		194,000

Estimated increases in income:-

Church Commissioners' allocation	55,500
Proportion of curates, etc., increases - passed on to parishes.	20,000

Others, including income from sales of property	<u>9,000</u>	84,500
Net deficit		109,500
Existing amount on Budget		<u>85,000</u>
Total for 1976 Budget -		194,500
Housing of Clergy		<u>145,500</u>
Total		£340,500

The P.C.C. at Gt. Bromley will meet on Tuesday, Feb 17th, at 7.30 p.m. when the Diocesan Budget will be considered. In addition to the regular Monday Sewing meetings there will be meetings on Thursdays Feb. 5th & 19th at 7.30 p.m.

SERVERS

Feb. 1st. John Clapham
 " 8th. Maurice Pleasance
 " 15th. _ Geoffrey Turner
 " 22nd. A.N. Other
 " 29th. Robert Harding.

SCOUTS AND CUBS.

This year is Diamond Jubilee year for cub Scouts and any Cub who is a Cub or who joins this year will get a special Jubilee Badge.

We will be having a Cubs Own at the end of February to honour Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting.

The Scout Leader arranged a trip to Wembley to see Dick Whittington on Ice. It was a beautiful Show and I would like to thank Mr. Chatters for taking the trouble to arrange this trip and for inviting the Cubs, it was a great success.

On the 15th December the Frating and Thorrington Cub Pack had a Parents Evening, the theme was China. The Cubs performed a Chinese Play "The Five Chinese Brothers" and they all passed their Gold Arrow Entertaining. Afterwards the parents and Cubs were entertained by a Conjuror. The evening was very well attended by the parents and friends and enjoyed by all. The Hall was decorated with lanterns which the Cubs had made and real Chinese kites which were very kindly loaned to us. There was a collage of a Dragon and some Chinese writing on scrolls with the English translations. The Cubs made their own Chinese cooley hats and the costumes were made by me.

The Cubs attended the Carol Service at Thorrington Church, it was not very well attended by the Cubs and Scouts which was a pity because it was a lovely candlelit service. Mark Kerr read the lesson for the Cubs and Stephen Creasey for the Scouts.

Cubs meet Monday 6.30 p.m. to 7.45 p.m. and Scouts on Fridays 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. both at the Memorial Hall, Frating.

AKELA

S.A. Creasey. '
 Cub Scout Leader

ALTAR FLOWERS

S. George.	S. Mary
Feb. 1st. Mrs. Sparling	Mrs. Rant-
8th. Mrs. Wright)
15th. Mrs. Biggins	Mrs. E. Cooper)
22 nd & 29th. Mrs M. Rowe	Mrs. L. Lennox

Services at S. George's Church - Great Bromley

First Sunday each month - Parish Communion 10.00 a.m.'

Other Sundays: Holy Communion 8.00 a.m. Matins : 10.45 a.m. Evensong '6.30 p.m. .

Weekdays: Tuesdays' - . 7.00 a.m. Thursdays 8.00 a.m. Saints Days - 7.00 a.m. or 8.00 a.m.

Sunday School: 10.00 a.m. every Sunday excepting first.

Services at S. Mary's -Little Bromley '

Feb. 4th. Holy Communion 9.00 a.m. Feb 8th. Matins .. 11.00 a.m.

Feb 15th. Holy Communion 9.00 a.m. . Feb 22nd. Matins 11.00 a.m.

Feb 29th. Holy Communion . 9.00 a.m.

My Dear Friends,

We have been using the teaching of the Book of Common Prayer in Church to prepare ourselves for the observance of the holy season of Lent. On Septuagesima Sunday, we learned from the story of the vineyard that as Christians we are all called to labour. This is the very system of God's Church on earth. We are called to enter a vineyard, and labour in a vineyard with others and for others. The salvation of the individual soul is to be wrought out not in isolation, but in Communion with others. There is in fact "no admittance except on business". On Sexagesima Sunday we learned from the story of the sower that as Christians we are all called upon to sow the seed. Christ was the first Sower and without Him all others sow in vain. The whole Church of Christ is intended to be one great machine for sowing the heavenly seed by every possible agency and every possible effort. This is the object of its existence and the purpose of its continuance. On Quinquagesima Sunday we learned from S. Paul's psalm of love that whatsoever we do and wheresoever we do it, if it is done without love it is nothing worth.

If you have been in church regularly for the past three Sundays, and many of you have, and have learned these lessons, I hope you will forgive their repetition, but it is important that we all learn. Look again at the teaching and note how positive it is.

We are apt to think of Lent as chill, cold and unattractive, a time for giving up things. Our Church teaches that it should rather be a season in which increase and growth should be our great objective. Of course, it is a time of self-denial, but even this is positive for we give up sin in order to achieve virtue, we give up weakness in order to be made strong.

Traditionally we are told that our Lenten observance should be based on Prayer, Almsgiving, Fasting. I offer you a simple, but definite rule on this foundation.

- 1.) To make my communion once every week; to attend an additional service; to strengthen my daily private prayers; to read daily a part of S. Mark's gospel.
- 2.) To give more money to the collection; to increase my giving at least by the same percentage that my wage has increased since last Lent; to seek more Opportunities of befriending others (vineyard labour) and to bring them to the worshipping community (sowing seed).
- 3.) To deny myself one item of personal pleasure; to call down the help of the Holy Spirit to overcome one particular weakness.

A copy of this magazine will go into some 180 homes, and if one person from each home took this simple rule and kept it for the 40 days & 40 nights of Lent it might be that the church building will be full for most services and that the collections would be more than adequate for all our needs, BUT this is a bonus. What matters above all else is that your Lenten discipline (discipline, meaning way of living - not corporal punishment) shall help you to know yourself better and to know God more nearly. The Quinquagesima gospel contains the sentence "Jesus of Nazareth passeth by". So He does this Lent. Don't miss out.

ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3rd.

Yours sincerely,

J.H. Ransom.

The Fete at Seven Rivers will be held this year on June 12th and the ladies of the parish of S. George's have decided to decorate the Church with flowers for that week-end. A choir of school children from Manningtree School will give a concert in Church on Friday Evening, June 11th and the children of our own school will provide the music on Sunday Evening June 13th. The theme of the decoration is "Stories and incidents from the Old and New Testaments". There will be a meeting of all interested on March 10th at 7.30 p.m. in the Rectory and a Coffee Evening on April 29th. All will be welcome.

*

No Altar Flowers during Lent.

*

SERVERS

March 7th. John Clapham

" 14th. Maurice Pleasance

" 21st. Geoffrey Turner '

" 28th. Robert Harding _

Clocks will be put forward 1 hour on March 20th.

In addition to the Monday meetings of the sewing party at 2.30 p.m. there will be meetings on March 4th & 18th at 7.30 p.m.

Retirement

Basil Bantick has retired from the choir after more than 50 years service. Since he retired from work Basil also swept the church path and attended to the flower beds. This job too, he has been compelled to give up because he finds the journey from Balls Green too much, particularly during the winter months. He had a

short spell in hospital recently following an operation and is presently receiving medical treatment. We are very grateful to Basil for his long service and wish him better health in the future. '

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FRIDAY, 5th MARCH, 1976

Ardleigh Parish Church at 3.00 p.m.
Address by Sister Mary Dunningham.

Services at S.George's Church * Great Bromley

First Sunday each month - Parish Communion 10.00 a.m.
Other Sundays: Holy Communion 8.00 a.m. . Matins 10.45 a.m. Evensong 6.30 p.m.
Weekdays: Tuesdays - 7.00 a.m. Thursdays - 8.00 a.m. Saints Days 7.00 a.m. or 8.00 a.m.
Sunday School: 10.00 a.m. every Sunday excepting first.

Services at S.Mary's - Little Bromley

March 7th. Holy Communion 9.00 a.m.
" 14th. Matins 11.00 a.m.
" 21st. Holy Communion 9.00 a.m.
" 28th. Matins 11.00 a.m.

GREAT & LITTLE BROMLEY MAGAZINE
No. 172 April 1976 Price 2p.

My Dear Friends, ,

This is being written just before Mid-Lent Sunday, Mothering Sunday, a good time to make an assessment of our Lenten observance. What spiritual progress you have so far made may be known only to you and to God. I, as parish priest, am able to see the efforts made publicly to draw nearer to God. I can report that a few people are trying very hard and are at the Altar each Sunday as well as during the week. I am never so happy as when I am feeding my people with the Blessed Sacrament. If my heart leaps for joy when one more is to be found at the Table and fed, how much more must it please God. It must be our ultimate objective to be at the Altar on the Lord's Day in the Lord's House at the Lord's Service. Not because I say so, not because more and more people do this, but simply because God says so. "then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Who so eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood hath eternal life".

This is a categorical statement and allows for no half-measures. It means that those who neglect the blessed Sacrament of the Altar, merely to exist and do have no life in them. Many will disagree with this conclusion, despite what Christ so clearly says. But the fact that we do not accept such a statement, in no way whatsoever affects the truth of it. All our judgements are subjective and tempered by practical considerations. So that if an ideal is difficult to attain, we decide it is impossible and therefore not to be accepted as true. This of course is the work of the Devil. "I am the truth" says Jesus and this remains fact whether you accept it or not.

Perhaps, the Church has recently (recently in church terms can be 100 to 200 years), in an effort to bring back into the fold the erring sheep, neglected to teach this, so that she has whittled down the truth to the point where man can accept it without too much effort. The effect of this is to make the great virtue of obedience, superfluous. I am not required to be obedient in a situation where I have moulded and reduced the doctrine to an acceptable level. This is perhaps the sin of this generation and must affect our Lenten observance for if this is accepted, anything that is difficult or inconvenient can be discarded.

To say we live in difficult times, is to repeat what man has been saying from the beginning of time. I'm sure it wasn't easy in the Garden of Eden after the Fall, but each generation has its own sin. This is because as man evolves and becomes cleverer, he creates new areas of human weakness, or at least human weakness is demonstrated in different areas, for sin is one thing as S. John says "Sin is lawlessness" and this lawlessness has many aspects.

There are two very strange notions around, which show this. First many present day moralists, and we are all moralists to a certain extent in that we make moral judgements, seem to suggest that the atmosphere in which we are brought up and the circumstances of our every day living, affect truth and proven doctrine of the Church. The Christian stand, must be, that the truth once delivered to the Saints is the truth for ever and that it cannot be altered or manipulated to fit into any set of circumstances. "In these days" seems to have a moral validity. Because of the environment in which we live, because there is inflation, because there is unemployment, because the government is looking for a new leader, because Cyril Smith is attempting to lose weight, the absoluteness of truth is challenged. This must be seen for the silly nonsense it is.

The plain and demonstrated truth is that apart from God and the influence of the Christian community, man is wayward, sinful, selfish, lost. "Steady on Rector," I can hear you saying, "this might have been true in the past, but not in these days, with more education, better conditions, more money, more leisure".

None of these things affect the truth. They may and do affect our response to the truth. Jesus says except you eat His Body and drink His Blood, ye have no life in you. This can never be gainsaid nor altered by environment. This is a pronouncement by God and man's response can be none other-than obedience. So in your assessment of progress this Lent ask how obedient you have been to this guidance from God.

The second strange notion is, in a way, an extension of the above, in that it puts man and his response first. The notion is, that Christianity properly presented, preferably in modern English, with no liturgical or ceremonial restraints, will attract men into church. This also is nonsense. The Gospels show that Jesus Christ attracted some men and repelled others. The few verses following the above quotation from S. John about eating His flesh and drinking His blood, contain one verse "from that time many of His disciples went back, and walked no more with Him". Jesus, because He is what He is, must divide the good from the bad. A striking illustration of this is given on the hill of Calvary at the time of the crucifixion when one thief was attracted and asked that he might be with Jesus in His Kingdom, the other was quite unmoved and died in silent isolation. We cannot truthfully take refuge in the fiction that if things were different, if the presentation were simpler etc. we would be found in the worshipping community. This again is making the Infinite to fit into the finite.

In your assessment of your Lenten observance then, for those of you already committed, look to your Communion, for without the flesh and the blood of Christ ye have no life in you, and for those of you who come to Church occasionally, or not at all, let me say there is no salvation outside the Church.

Here is the way of salvation, the Church has the goods necessary for man's salvation. Come and get them or die unmoved in silent isolation.

Yours sincerely, J.H. Ransom.

DATES TO NOTE THIS MONTH

April 6th. S.George's Annual Church Meeting – Rectory - 7.30 p.m.

" 7th. W.I. 7.30 p.m.

" 8th. Playing Fields Annual General Meeting -8.00 p.m. Village Hall.

Pantomime Committee - 7.30 p.m. Cold Hall.

" 12th - 17th. Holy Week. Celebrations of Holy communion each day.

" 15th. Maundy Thursday 8.00 p.m. Recital of Holy Week and Easter music by S.Andrews Singers.

" 16th. Good Friday Matins Litany & Ante-Communion at S.George's 10.45 a.m.

Evensong 7 p.m.St.Marys's.

" 18th. Easter Day Holy Communion 7.00 a.m. & 8.00 a.m.

Matins 10.45 a.m. Evensong 6.30 p.m. S.George's.

Holy Communion 9.00 a.m. and Evensong 6.30 p.m. at S.Mary's.

" 26th. Deanery Synod - Bradfield 7.30 p.m.

" 27th. Annual Church Meeting - S.Mary's New House 7.45 p.m. .

" 29th. Coffee Evening 7.30 p.m. Bring & Buy, Competitions, in the Rectory. Profits to help with expenses of Flower Festival.

Lilies for the Altars at both Churches for Easter Day will be bought in bulk. Donations should be given to Mrs. West, Mr. Kent od the Rector and we would welcome help in decorating the Churches on Easter Eve: (Easter Saturday will be too late!)

Servers

April 4th. John Clapham

" 11th. Maurice Pleasance

" 18th. Geoffrey Turner

" 25th. Robert Harding

Altar Flowers

April 18th and 25th. Easter Lilies at both Churches.

Services at S.George's Church - Great Bromley

First Sunday each month - Parish Communion 10.00 a.m.

Other Sundays: Holy Communion 8.00 a.m. Matins 10.45 a.m. Evensong 6.30 p.m.

Weekdays: Tuesdays . 7.00 a.m. Thursdays ' 8.00 a.m. Saints Days 7.00 a.m. or 8.00 a.m.

Sunday School: 10.00 a.m. every Sunday excepting first.

Services at S.Mary's - Little Bromley

April 4th. Holy Communion 9.00 a.m.

" 11th. Matins 11.00 a.m.

" 18th. Holy Communion 9.00 a.m. Evensong 6.30 p.m.

" 25th. Matins . 11.00 a.m.

My Dear Friends, .

The Annual Church Meeting of Gt. Bromley was held on April 6th. Under Synodical government rules, this meeting is somewhat different. Formerly we had what was called a Vestry Meeting at which the Churchwardens were chosen - I nominated the Rector's warden and the people elected the peoples' warden. The new rules require that the churchwardens shall both be elected by the full meeting and that they shall be known as churchwardens and not Rector's warden and Peoples' warden. This makes a nonsense of the figure heads of the churchwardens wands. One, the former rector's warden, bears a mitre, and the other, the peoples' warden, a crown. I am delighted to report that despite this change in procedure, the Churchwardens for the coming year are Mr. Biddis and Mr. Kempster. It was reported that there are 106 names on the Electoral Roll. This is kept up to date by Mr. E.Nichols, the Electoral Roll Officer.

The treasurer, Mrs. West, presented the accounts for the year, and stated that assuming no great change in our expenses, we require £40 per week to remain solvent. To achieve this amount weekly we must all give more, but not a very great deal if we covenant. I guess, and it is only a guess, that our collections throughout the year equal some £20 per week. If the whole of this amount were covenanted the church would receive £30-80 per week and this with the money already covenanted by some 20 people would amount to more the £40 per week. I wonder if there is some misunderstanding about the covenant scheme. When I ask you to covenant, I do not mean necessarily, in addition to your regular collection. Of our present covenanters, some give also in the weekly collection, some give a token offering, say a 10p piece, and some give nothing at all in addition to their covenant. If you now give 40p per week say, I would ask you to covenant that amount, and put perhaps a 1p piece in the collecting bag or even mutter "season" to the sidesman and put nothing further in the bag. By this means the P.C.C. would get nearly £11 per year extra from your offering. I have covenant forms and I hope you will consider taking advantage of the scheme, but let me assure you the church is not a savings bank, we don't want money at all, except to meet the running costs of the church building, the expenses of office of the Incumbent and our Diocesan quota. We do not want money to hoard, what we do want more than anything else is people. Perhaps you! We want you not to exploit you, but because we believe that within the Church and Her Worship lies the only hope of man's redemption. This is the good news that we are called upon to share with all men everywhere.

I have just re-read an article by Desmond Moorse Boycott written in 1935, the title being "the sin of staying away from church". I quote from it "A friend tells me it's a sin not to go to church, but I hold it as a sin to go the sin of hypocrisy - unless you mean to live up to it. The first false idea to dispel is the theory that if you go to church on Sunday you are labelled beyond recall; that you have got to give up being a sinner and become very very good. Most people desire to improve their lives and to give up sinning, but they are afraid of labelling themselves churchgoers because they know their own weakness - they have a horror of being hypocrites. It behoves the church therefore to make plain that churchgoing no more commits a man or woman to live piously than their entry into a shop commits them to make a purchase. The church wants a hearing; it wants the people to have their spiritual appetites whetted by worship; it wants to calm and soothe them by its age-long message.

The Church is a Hospital for sinners, with people at all stages of recovery from the sickness of sin. It is also a school for Saints, but Saints are trained not born".

This must surely be the attitude of churchgoers to those outside the worshipping community. Come and join us in the hospital, because there is no other way of getting better. Dear me, all this diversion to persuade you to give a little extra!

Now back to the meeting. I was able to report that the church fabric is in a good state of repair, that the damage caused by rain penetration in the South Aisle following the theft of lead has been made good, that the Sunday School and choir are maintaining their numbers and that the latter have benefitted by Gregory Frostick's guidance, that Basil Bantick has retired from the choir after more than 50 years service; that the sewing party has started the last batch of hassocks, which when completed will bring the number to 100 - that Mrs. Tilbrook has been appointed deputy-head of the Day School; that Mr. R. Geary has replaced Mr.A.Carden as church Architect, that Mr. R. Brinkley has agreed to cut the grass in the cemetery and church yard and that I was grateful to all who in any way have helped during the past year. Miss Skeet who for many years represented the parish at the Ruri-decanal Conference and laterly at the Deanery Synod tendered her resignation, this following Miss Thomas's resignation, created 2 vacancies - these were filled by the election of Mr. John Watts and Mr. Peter Rowe. Mrs. Pirie retired from the P.C.C. and the members are Messrs. Bantick, Brinkley, Clapham, Culley, Harding, Rowe P., Watts J., Watts S.D., Mesdames Biddis, Biggins, Deere, Hall, Rowe M., Rowe P., Sutherland, West, Misses Kempster, Orman and Skeet. .

Messrs. Adams, Brinkley, Culley, Pleasance, Rowe P., Rowe M., were elected sidesmen. I hope the people who were present at the meeting will bear with this repetition.

Yours sincerely, J.H. Ransom.

NOTES

I am grateful for your Easter Offerings. I will report on Lt. Bromley A.G.M. in the next magazine.
May 23rd is Rogation Sunday. We shall meet this year at Badley Hall at 10.45 a.m. for our usual procession and blessing of crops.

May 6th. Archdeacon's Visitation - Thorpe. .

May 8th. Over 60's Sale. .

May 11th. Village Hall Committee.

The Pantomime group will produce the farce "Big Bad Mouse" in the Village Hall - July 2nd & 3rd. Tickets 50p adults 25p children;

Holy Baptism .

April 4th. Richard Gordon George.

Servers

May 2nd. John Clapham

" 9th. Maurice Pleasance

" 16th. Geoffrey Turner .

" 23rd. Robert Harding 7

Altar Flowers

S. George

May 2nd. Mrs. J. Hudson

" 9th. Mrs. R. Stennett

" 16th. Mrs. H. Fairley

" 23rd. Mrs. P. Rowe

" 30th. Misses Nicholl

S. Mary

Mrs. Kent

Mrs. Kent

Mrs. B. Gladwin

Mrs. B. Gladwin

Mrs. Cobbald

Services at S.George's Church - Great Bromley

First Sunday each month - Parish Communion 10.00 a.m.

Other Sundays: Holy Communion 8.00 a.m. Matins 10.45 a.m. Evensong 6.30 p.m.

Weekdays: Tuesdays - 7.00 a.m. Thursdays 8.00 a.m. Saints Days 7.00 a.m. or 8.00 a.m.

Sunday School: 10.00 a.m. every Sunday excepting first.

Services at S. Mary's - Little Bromley

May 2nd Holy Communion 9 a.m.

" 9th Matins 11 a.m.

" 16th Holy Communion 9 a.m.

" 23rd . Matins 11 a.m.

" 30th Holy Communion 9 a.m.

S. GEORGE'S
June 11th - 14th .
FLOWER FESTIVAL

Friday June 11th
Concert in Church given by
Manningtree County Secondary School
trained by Anna Rendell.
7.30 p.m.
Tickets 25p. including coffee.

* * * .

Saturday June 12th
Seven Rivers Fete '
Church open all day: Bring & Buy stall.

* * * .

Sunday June 13th
Holy Communion 8.00 a.m.
Matins 10.45 a.m.
Evensong 6.30 p.m. with music and speech rythm by our School Children.
Tea and Biscuits available during afternoon

* * *

My dear Friends,

The annual Church Meeting at St. Mary's took place on April 27th at New House. This meeting is an opportunity for the Rector to thank all who help in the parish with the work of the Church. It is important to recognise that it is the work of the Church within the parish we are privileged to undertake and not the work of the parish within the church. There is a move afoot to abolish all parish boundaries, indeed to abolish the parochial system altogether. The purpose of this, claim the supporters, is to help us realise that the church is a living growing organism and cannot be confined within man-made boundaries. I thought, perhaps, we knew this, and that we are the church and that the building in which we meet to worship, to pray together, to sing together, to be quiet together, to cry together, to laugh together, because of these very activities, takes upon itself the name church. It is Holy because it is of God, it is Catholic because it is for all men everywhere all the time, it is Apostolic because it teaches and is based upon the doctrine delivered to the Apostles. .

It is the biggest organism in the world and by God's injunction is destined to grow even bigger until all men are within the sphere of salvation.. Because of its vastness it needs some organisation and consequently every square foot of English soil is in somebody's parish and we at Gt. and Lt. Bromley are charged with the care of 4,839 acres and some 1200 souls. We are a little bit of a bigger thing and whilst it is important to do our duty where we are, we should be aware always belonging to something bigger. If it were not for this knowledge one could easily despair at Lt. Bromley. There is so little response and no growth and the few who are faithful are overwhelmed with the responsibilities laid upon them. But we must not lose our sense of proportion. The church building at Lt. Bromley may be abandoned because we have insufficient money to keep it in repair, but I think not, the parish may be united with another parish in the near future, but I think not. (At the moment the benefices of Gt. and Lt. Bromley are united, but not the parishes.) If all these things happened we, some of us that is, would still be the church, a part of a bigger unit existing in Lt. Bromley parish.

So we must not lose heart. But this is not to say that we must not try harder. I am not really at this moment concerned with who is to blame for the state of affairs as they now exist. I will take my share of the blame, but no more than my share. You don't come to church worship because I ask you and you don't stay away because I don't ask you. It may be useful to be reminded of the "job Specification" of a priest which you will find in your Prayer books under "The ordering of Priests" viz.

"Receive the Holy Ghost for the office and work of a priest in the church of God, now committed unto thee by the imposition of our hands. Whose sins thou dost forgive, they are forgiven and whose sins thou dost retain they are retained. And be thou a faithful dispenser of the Word of God and of his holy sacraments." This I have always tried to be.

My late father-in-law when he wished firmly to make a point always began his sentence with "You don't tell me" and it was quite impressive. So "you don't tell me that you don't know where your duty lies, you don't tell me that you don't wish to be a better person, you don't tell me that you don't believe in God, you don't tell me that you don't know that those of us who do worship ache for your presence with us, you

don't tell me that you don't want to start again, you don't tell me that in Lt. Bromley we can't raise the £7 per week which the Treasurer stated at the meeting we require to remain solvent." I'm sure you know what to do and I can assure you from the A.G.M. that always you will be welcome to worship with us and share God's blessing.

Mr. G. Kent and Mr. E. Gladwin were appointed churchwardens, the P.C.C. and sidesmen were re-elected en bloc.

The Fete which will be held on July 17th was discussed. The Treasurer in presenting the accounts stated that the expenditure for the year had been higher than the income. This led finally to a decision to inaugurate an envelope scheme. A member of the P.C.C. will soon visit you with a note explaining the scheme and will tailor arrangements to meet your particular wishes. You can contribute weekly, monthly, quarterly, half-yearly - annually. You can also covenant whatever you give thereby ensuring that for each £1 you give, the Church Treasurer receives £1.54.

All present at the meeting wish and pray for a revival in worship and concern for the welfare of the village - should this revival begin with you.

Yours sincerely,

J. H. RANSOM.

HOLY BAPTISM: May 16th Carly June Fursse

HOLY MATRIMONY: May 1st - Leslie Fouracres & June Hawes

SERVERS: June 6th. John Clapham.

" 13th. Maurice Pleasance

" 20th. Geoffrey Turner ,

" 27th. Robert Harding

ALTAR FLOWERS:

S. George

June 6th Mrs. P. Rowe

" 13th Mrs. Biddis

" 20th Mrs. Sutherland

" 27th Mrs. Moy

S. Mary

Mrs. T. Fairley

Mrs. L. Lennox

Mrs. Nicholson

Mrs. Rant

SERVICES AT S.GEORGE'S CHURCH - GREAT BROMLEY

First Sunday each month - Parish Communion 10.00 a.m.

Other Sundays: Holy Communion 8.00 a.m. Matins - 10.45 a.m. Evensong 6.30 p.m.

Weekdays: Tuesdays . 7.00 a.m. Thursdays 8.00 a.m. Saints Days 7.00 a.m. or 8.00 a.m.

Sunday School: 10.00 a.m. every Sunday excepting first.

SERVICES AT S.MARY'S - LITTLE BROMLEY

June 6th. Holy Communion 9.00 a.m.

" 13th. Matins 11.00 a.m. .

" 20th. Holy Communion 9.00 a.m.

" 27th. Matins 11.00 a.m.

DATES FOR JUNE:

June 2nd. Flower Festival Meeting in Church 7.30 p.m.

" 8th. Parochial Church Council S. George's 7.30 p.m.

" 11-14th Flower Festival and Seven Rivers Fete.

" 15th. Managers Meeting 7.30 p.m. .

" 21st. Synod Meeting. '

" 22nd. Parochial Church Council S. Mary's 7.45 p.m.

GREAT & LITTLE BROMLEY MAGAZINE

No. 175 JULY 1976 Price 2p.

S. MARY'S CHURCH

ANNUAL FETE - NEW HOUSE

(by kind permission of Mr. & Mrs. W.H.C. Walker)

Saturday, July 17th

To be opened at 2.00 p.m. '

by

DAVID VALLA , .

(Bill Warren of Cross Roads T.V.)

STALLS

COMPETITIONS

REFRESHMENTS

First appearance in Little Bromley of local "Wombles".

Please note early starting time. All profits for Church Funds.

My Dear Friends,

The Flower Festival was very successful as the appended statement of accounts indicates, and on behalf of the P.C.C. I wish to thank all who in any way helped. The theme of "Scenes and Sayings from the Bible" was interesting and called for 35 arrangements to illustrate the various items. I spent a long time in church during Saturday of the Festival and was interested and proud to hear peoples compliments. The most consistent remark was that all the arrangements were genuine and proper. One, perhaps, exaggerated, comment was that all had been done with "heart and devotion as well as with eyes and hands".

Being married to one of the arrangers, I know that the work was not always done in such a romantic environment, but by Friday evening the church looked beautiful and the frustration didn't show. Our church building is one of the most beautiful in the county, but she is incurably vain and just loves to be dressed up and responds magnificently.

This is not to belittle the work of the arrangers, but to inform them that their hard work in this wonderful setting was appreciated by all who visited the church. We are grateful to the Headmaster for allowing the Manningtree County Secondary School Choir and Instrumentalists to come on Friday evening. Again, not detracting in any way from this performance, I thought the contribution of our own school under the direction of the Headmaster, was a little jewel. I thought it was absolutely right in content and the execution extremely commendable. Altogether a very happy occasion. .

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT

INCOME

Coffee Evening and Whist Drive	£ 55.46
Friday Concert	23.63
Collecting Jars	
Saturday	56.54
Sunday & Monday	26.41
Stalls	55.56
Teas	2.40
Church Collection	21.02

£241.02

EXPENSES ' .

Sandwiches, soft drinks etc.	£ 4.61
Coffee, Milk, Beakers	3.48
Posters	6.80
Duplicating Paper	1.76
E. Anglian Advert.	3.30
Concert Transport	17.00
Village Hall hire of crockery etc.	2.00
Geraniums for Church Porch	2.50
Donation to Seven Rivers . .	25.00
	£ 66.45
Balance	174.57
	£241.02

As you will see from the front of the magazine, Little Bromley is to have its Annual Fete on July 17th. I hope that next month I may be able to report on this as favourably as on the Flower Festival at Gt. Bromley. The object I fear, is the same, namely to raise money in order to maintain the buildings and expenses of Clerical Office. This plea for more money will be with us for a long time, indeed for as long as it takes us to face up to the reality of the present situation. We have just received the suggested figures for the assessment of the Diocesan Quota under the "Parish Potential Scheme". The figures are for Gt. Bromley £3,983 and for Little Bromley £599. These are by no means final figures and much more information is still required which will be given in subsequent issues of the Magazine. My only purpose in introducing these figures now is to inform you that the Diocesan Authorities expect that each family in a parish will

give at least 75p per week in the collection. This figure is arrived at and supported by the experience of the Stewardship Office. If we accepted this, our collection, at say, the Parish Communion would be in the region of £30 and this together with the Covenants would bring our weekly collections to the £40 the treasurer tells us we require to remain solvent. Of course quite the easiest and cheapest way is to covenant for 50p per week, £26 per annum, and this with tax repayment of 54% would be more than 75p per week. I have forms, and I would ask you seriously to consider this method. In the meantime, think realistically about the church's finances. Acknowledge that inflation affects church costs just as much as our private costs, ask yourself whether your contribution to church collections has increased with your increased wage or pension. Once we settle upon a realistic proportion we need never mention money matters again. This alone is some sort of incentive surely.

I hope we may have a lot of people at Lt. Bromley Fete. The 2.00 p.m. opening time has been accepted to accommodate the opener, David Valla, who is appearing in a summer show in Felixstowe and will need to leave early.

Yours sincerely,

J.H. Ransom.

HOLY BAPTISM June 6th. Eleanor Ruth Terry.

HOLY MATRIMONY May 28th. James Fairley & Christine Luckie.

CREMATION May 28th. Thurza Wilkes - aged 94 years.

BURIAL June 4th. Evelyn J. Sage - aged 87 years.

SERVERS

July_4th. John Clapham

" 11th. Maurice Pleasance

" 18th. Geoffrey Turner

" 25th. Robert Harding

ALTAR FLOWERS

S. George.

July 4th. Mrs. A. Dunt

" 11th. Miss Y. Kempster

" 18th) Mrs C Wenden

" 25th) '

S. Mary

Mrs. E, Cooper.

Mrs. Kent '

Mrs J Fairley

SERVICES AT S. GEORGE'S CHURCH - GT. BROMLEY

First Sunday each month - Parish Communion 10.00 a.m.

Other Sundays: Holy Communion 8.00 a.m. Matins 10.45 a.m. Evensong 6.30 p.m.

Weekdays: Tuesdays 7.00 a.m. Thursdays 8.00 a.m. Saints Days 7.00 a.m. or 8.00 a.m.

Sunday School: 10.00 a.m. every Sunday excepting first.

SERVICES AT S.MARY'S - LITTLE BROMLEY

July 4th. Holy Communion 9.00 a.m.

" 11th. Matins 11.00 a.m.

" 18th. Holy Communion ~ 9.00 a.m.

" 25th. Matins 11.00 a.m.

GREAT AND LITTLE BROMLEY MAGAZINE
No. 176 August 1976 Price 2p.

My Dear Friends,

The Fete at Little Bromley was a very pleasant and successful affair. The profit was in the region of £130 not £150 as originally announced. We are grateful to Mr. & Mrs. Walker for allowing us full use of their grounds and barn, to David Valla for opening the Fete, and to the many who helped in any way. It is surprising and encouraging to find the continued interest in the Church by many who live outside the parish. The Applebys, Miss Colyeer, the Felixstowe Group, Bill Jaggard and others all turn up each year without any prompting and not seeking for any reward save that knowing that they are helping the Church in Little Bromley.

There is an immense store of Good-will not only in our two parishes but throughout the country toward the Church and we exploit this to the utmost. I wonder, however, quite seriously whether it is right to do this. When an appeal goes out from the Church, be it for money or for a return to church worship, this is considered by most people along with many other claims - some of you might say of equal worth. For example few of us would fail to help Cancer Research Fund, Sunshine Fund for the Blind, Seven Rivers, Hamilton Lodge, Earl Haig etc., and these same people will always, most generously help the church financially. So the church becomes one amongst many, competing for a part of our money, a part of our skills and a part of our time and since as we say, quite rightly we can't do and support everything. We make assessments and give what we can. Now, if I were a professional fund raiser I would be satisfied with such a response and would have no right to expect more. But the Church is different. So different as to be unique. There is only one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church - Holy because it is of the nature of God, Catholic for it is for all men everywhere all the time, and Apostolic because it enshrines and teaches that taught by the Apostles. Because the Church is what it is, it is never in competition. You may think this unrealistic. I know one parishioner who insists that the church is in competition with television, the motor-car, Sunday sport etc. This cannot be so, because they differ so greatly in their natures. It is the aim of television to entertain, to distract to relax, to offer spectacle etc. and a very good and necessary aim this is. But the aim of the church is to guide and lead men into truth, to bring them through redemption to salvation, and good-will, generosity, kindness, fellowship, friendliness are all by-products of this process. The church must never be seen to be in competition, but must always be first and all else second. If God and the Church come first and all other good things come second, let the good things be content to be second; for if the Church is disowned and each puts self as his prime consideration there will be no good things at all.

Perhaps a nearer to home illustration might be used. The church is the guardian of the Sacraments and the Catechism says that two sacraments generally are necessary to salvation, Baptism and the Supper of the Lord. By generally is meant for everyone, all within the genus, so everyone in order to be saved must be baptised and confirmed. The god-parents at Baptism are told "to see that this child be brought to the Bishop to be confirmed by him" and they solemnly vow to do this. You may ask me then "if I am not confirmed then, I cannot be saved." I don't know. I am not God, but I believe that it is the will of God that all men should be saved, but in this one particular the will of God is not paramount. God has limited Himself in that he gave to us free-will and if a man's will does not accord to God's will there is little that God can do. The Bible tells us that "he that hath the Son hath life and he that hath not the Son hath not life" and since life is offered in the Body and Blood of Christ in the Holy Communion, if you are absent from that service you are not receiving life into your soul.

This is good sound Biblical teaching and no pet theory of mine. So our illustration then, supposing it is your Communion time (I am assuming that you have a rule about making your Communion, an assumption which perhaps I ought to examine. I was talking with someone recently on this subject and he said there were rules which told him when to go work and when to leave work, what to do when he was at work. There were rules which told him how to drive his car, rules as to when he could have a glass of beer etc. and he was damned if he was going to make rules about worshipping God. He insisted that going to church must be a free and relaxed and relaxing exercise and that he went to church when he felt right, because it was hypercritical to go when he didn't feel right. There was a lot more, but he ended by inviting me to put all that he had said into my pipe and smoke it. Dear God, where do I begin? This is not putting God second, it is not giving Him any real identity at all. Everything else is real, but not God. Man's condition is the only important factor. The Church is a hospital with patients at all stages of sickness and health. Some are in a better condition than others, but all need treatment. The Church is not only for those who feel right, but for those who don't feel right. If our lives are to be governed by feelings, not much will be done. We feel right when we obey certain rules. Some rules we have observed for so long that they have become almost part of our nature, such as washing, cleaning our teeth etc. and we follow them automatically, the rules are nevertheless, still there and necessary. I would prefer that one came to Sacrament, said one's prayers, automatically, than that they should be subject to one's feelings.

I am not sure how much space is left so I will continue this theme next month on:

1. The necessity of a rule.
2. Giving the illustration promised.
3. Correcting the bit about putting in my pipe and smoking it.

Yours sincerely,
J.H. Ransom.

I expect to be on holiday from August 9th to the end of the month. The services of Holy Communion at 8.00 a.m. and Matins at 10.45 a.m. at Gt. Bromley will be taken by Rev. A.C. Waldock. There will not be Evensong after August 8th. At Little Bromley there will be a Parish Communion at 9.00 a.m. on August 8th and then no further services during August.

The Treasurer of Great Bromley P.C.C. wishes to acknowledge an anonymous gift of £50.

HOLY BAPTISM

July 18th. Claire Louise Twilley

" 25th. Wendy Louise Riches -

SERVERS

Aug. 1st John Clapham

Aug. 8th Maurice Pleasance

" 15th Geoffrey Turner

" 22nd Derek Brinkley

" 29th Robert Harding

ALTAR FLOWERS

S. George

S. Mary

Aug. 1st Mrs. Pinkey

Mrs. Cobbold

" 8th Mrs Deere

" 15th Mrs J.Pirie

No other services

" 22nd Mrs M.Pirie

" 29th Miss Orman

SERVICES at S. MARY'S - LITTLE BROMLEY .

Aug. 1st. Holy Communion 9.00 a.m.

No other Services in August.

SERVICES at S. GEORGE'S CHURCH '- GT. BROMLEY

First Sunday each month - Parish Communion 10.00 a.m.

Other Sundays: Holy Communion 8.00 a.m. Matins 10.45 a.m. Evensong 6.30 p.m.

Weekdays: Tuesdays 7.00 a.m. Thursdays 8.00 a.m. Saints Days 7.00 a.m. or 8.00 a.m.

Sunday School: 10.00 a.m. every Sunday excepting first.

GREAT AND LITTLE BROMLEY MAGAZINE
No. 177 September 1976 Price 2p

My Dear Friends,

To continue last month's theme firstly on the necessity of a rule for our prayer and Sacramental life. All will agree that the pace of life becomes quicker year by year and despite the many aids given to us such as motor cars, washing machines, vacuum cleaners, life seems too short to fit in all that we desire and indeed too short to fit in what we need. The rational person faces the problem and admits it by having a system of priority, secondary and so on. So in offices, shops, factories, and farms there is a basic discipline which insists that certain things shall be done at certain times and in certain ways. In the home also there are rules, such as Mondays washing, Tuesdays baking and so on. This is done to ensure that these things which appear to be less enjoyable than others, but are vitally necessary, are done as they ought to be done.

What we must recognise is that our religion and our religious Observances are vitally necessary. That without them we do not live. Baptism and the Supper of the Lord are generally necessary to salvation, that is that you cannot be saved without them, therefore these are vitally necessary. Unfortunately, there is no recognisable disadvantage when we neglect our religious duty or at least this is what the Devil would have us believe. Don't be deceived. To use a modern expression - it shows. The person who regularly uses the means of grace inevitably becomes full of grace - graceful, and as such is recognisable and the converse is equally apparent.

We must then begin to make our rule with the knowledge that our religion and our religious observances are vitally necessary. So every other activity is subordinate to it, therefore there is no competition. Our worship comes first and we fit other things around it. If this is not your idea of coming to church, then you have still a long way to go and a lot to learn. (By "coming to church" I mean only your coming to Sacrament). Nothing is as important in this life as your presence at the Altar Throne of God in response to His call "come for all things are now ready".

We all, rightly, desire peace, happiness, prosperity and the good things of life, but we must appreciate that these things are not essential, not of the esse of our existence. We can live at war, unhappily in poverty etc- Peace, happiness, prosperity are extras, a bonus, given permanently, only to those who obey God. This again is not a pet theory of mine, nor an ingenious argument to get you into church, but an interpretation of "seek ye first the Kingdom of God and all these things will be added unto you". Your rule must then put your worship first. Here is a sample.

1. I will attend Holy Communion - weekly, fortnightly -monthly - when I feel like it.
2. I will read my bible ~ weekly, fortnightly, monthly- when I feel like it.
3. I will say my prayers weekly, fortnightly - monthly- when I feel like it.

Be serious about this. Take a piece of paper and write these things down and tick off the one you desire to observe. This can be the most important thing you have ever done.

In 1928 my Golf Handicap was fixed at 24, in 1976 it is still 24 simply because I play Golf when I feel like it.

In the meantime I have done nothing to improve my own position nor have I helped the game in any way. This is sad, but it is not fatal, because Golf is not generally necessary to salvation. It is possible and indeed probable that many people give as much time and thought to their religion and religious observances as I give to golf with the same result, viz. that there is no personal improvement and the cause has not been helped in any way. This is more than sad, and is fatal, because Baptism and the Supper of the Lord are generally necessary to salvation. It is fatal because "he that hath not the Son hath not life". I would urge you then to make a rule about your Communion, your prayers and Bible reading. The illustration I promised you, now seems to be superfluous. It was simply that if it is your Communion time nothing short of illness or death should prevent you being present. I would remind you. that the Master in the Bible who had invited people to his feast, on being rejected, said, that "none of those who were bidden shall taste of my supper". The feast is prepared that your hunger may be satisfied and for no other purpose.

This brings me to the third point from last month's magazine, "put that in your pipe and smoke it". The suggestion behind this remark was as if I had been trying to get this fellow to join my club and that his admission and membership fee would keep the club going. He was trying to suggest that I was the loser. Perhaps if I hadn't been wearing my collar he might have used more direct language and told me to be off. This is totally to misunderstand the duties of a priest. I am simply a minister and steward. I take of the things of God and offer them to you, I take of your needs and aspirations and offer them to God. Success or failure have no place in my vocabulary when administering sacraments. The result is all the work of the Holy Spirit. I end with two short quotations from a book by Dr. Melville Scott concerning the priesthood:
"A. In relation to Christ they are ministers.

They are not their own masters, but the servants of Christ. They are sent to do His business in the world and not their own. To Him alone they are responsible. They are not ministers of congregations, but ministers of Christ and of men for Christ's sake. Your Rector is only a minister, therefore he is not to be thought of beyond his due; but he is Christ's minister and therefore is not to be despised.

B. In relation to Christ's people they are Stewards.

The treasure they are called upon to dispense is not their own. The pardon they announce, the Gospel which they preach, the sacraments they are called to administer are effective only by Christ's commission and authority. Only their faults are their own and for these they are responsible to Christ alone. What matter who condemns if Christ approves or who approves if Christ condemns?"

I would hope you see my job as described above. It means, in awful present day prose, that it's no skin off my nose when you don't come to Sacrament and I do not get a star in my crown when you do come. You lose when you are absent, you gain when you are present. "It" was all done and finished for you - the Incarnation, the Crucifixion, the Resurrection, the Ascension, the gift of the Holy Ghost, all for you. Dare you not respond?

Yours sincerely,

J.H. Ransom.

The Annual collection for the Church of England Children's Society is now being made. Please give generously to Mrs. Kempster and Mrs. Raut. [*ed. Rant?*]

Holy Matrimony

Aug. 7th. Derek Cobbold & Yvonne Kempster

Servers

Sept. 5th. Maurice Pleasance Sept. 12th John Clapham

" 19th. Geoffrey Turner " 26th Robert Harding

Altar Flowers

S. George

S Mary

Sept. 5th. Mrs. Hall

Mrs. Nicholson

" 12th. Mrs. Gould

Mrs. Kent

" 19th. Mrs. Brown.

Mrs. Kent

" 26th. Mrs. Palmer

Mrs Walker

Dates to Note:

Sept. 7th. P.C.C. 7.30 p.m. S. Georges. *

" 12th. British Legion Rededication Service 10.45 a.m.

" 15th. Harvest Supper meeting 7.30 p.m.

" 22nd. P.C.C. 7.45 p.m. S. Mary's

" 27th. Deanery Synod - Mistle - 7.30 p.m.

" 29th. A.G.M. P.T.A. 7.30 p.m.

SERVICES AT S. GEORGE'S CHURCH - GT. BROMLEY

First Sunday each month - Parish Communion 10.00 a.m.

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Weekdays: Tuesdays 7.00 a.m. Thursdays 8.00 a.m. Saints Days 7.00 a.m. or 8.00 a.m.

Sunday School: 10.00 a.m. every Sunday excepting first.

SERVICES AT 3. MARY'S CHURCH LITTLE BROMLEY

Sept. 5th. Holy Communion 9.00 a.m.

" 12th. Matins 11.00 a.m.

" 19th. Holy Communion 9.00 a.m.

" 26th. Matins 11.00 a.m.

S. GEORGE - HARVEST THANKSGIVING

Sept.- 23rd. Evensong 7.30 p.m. Salvation Army Band.

Preacher: Major J.W. Birtwistle.

" 25th. Harvest Supper - Village Hall Tickets £1.10

" 26th. Holy Communion 8.00 a.m.

Matins 10.45 a.m.

Evensong~ 6.30 p.m.

The Choir-will sing a Harvest Anthem.