

FOREWORD

It gives me great pleasure to write a short foreword to this interesting little book.

After consulting many people, as well as looking up many of the past records of the Church, the Author has ably put together the simple story of the-steady growth of the Church of God in this place, from the time when just a mere handful of people met for worship in a converted stable, down to the present day when we worship in a lovely permanent Church, which is only a few months old. The title of the book is, therefore, both apt and attractive.

The Author, who has been a devoted member of our congregation for many years, deserves to be congratulated upon the publication of this book. He has done a splendid piece of work, and many will be grateful to him.

I commend the book to you all.

S. C. BONE.

ST. BARNABAS' PARSONAGE,
SEPTEMBER 1959.

ON 4th October 1906, a very important sale of land in the vicinity of where our present Church stands, took place in Croydon. 11 consisted of no less than fifty-one lots, with their frontages on to Bencombe and Burcott Roads, and three in the Higher Drive itself. This was the beginning of the development into a residential area of this part of Purley. It was originally designated "The Reedham Park Estate" and stretched from Reedham Road (as Old Lodge Lane was then called) to Higher Drive. Five years later a fair number of houses had been erected, furnished and occupied. The roads, however, were still not made up and conditions underfoot, in wet weather were anything but pleasant. To reach Higher Drive from the Caterham Road, one had to pass through an avenue of trees, with an extremely narrow bridge over the railway. There were ditches on either side of the road, and the road itself was of a white sticky substance that made walking very unpleasant. At the other end was a rough track leading to Cullesden Road and so on to Hayes Lane, and owners of houses at that end of the drive had a clause in their agreements that they could drive over this track without 'let or hindrance' at any time of the day or night. The view of the surrounding country was beautiful and was enhanced in autumn by the fields of corn with poppies growing on Hartley Hill.

Old Lodge Lane, as it came to be called was no less rural and one could in summer, pick bunches of wild flowers and gather blackberries in abundance in the autumn.

To any ardent Churchgoers, however, there was one great drawback, and that was that the Parish Church was St. John's, Old Coulsdon, on the top of the opposite hill to where they had come to reside. This meant to any one, especially those advancing in years, a very arduous journey, particularly if they wanted to attend an early celebration of Holy Communion. It was these trying conditions that greatly impressed the Rev. Granville Dickson (who later became Canon Dickson), the Rector of St. John's, when paying a round of pastoral visits to these outlying parts of his parish. "Something must be done," he said, "especially for the older folk, but the great difficulty is, where can we hold services?"

Eventually, however, a disused stable was brought into use at Via, Old Lodge Lane, and here, one has reason to believe, on Christmas Day, 1910, the very first service of the future St. Barnabas Church was held, although the records show that the little place was dedicated on 21st January 1911, by the Archdeacon of Kingston. One can readily understand the eagerness of these pioneers in using the place before official dedication, as the project had been talked about since 1907 and here at long last were hopes fulfilled, and surely it was a most appropriate date and place, for it can be truly said of our Church that like its Divine Master it was "Cradled in a stable".

It is not quite clear whether it was Canon Dickson or not who named the church after St. Barnabas, but surely it was aptly named as it became a source of consolation to many.

At first it was served mainly by laymen with the Rev. G. Dickson officiating at least once a month, but in 1912 a curate-in-charge, the Rev. l'Estrange Burges was appointed. The place, of course, was tiny and would seat about thirty to thirty-six people. There was a little aisle with chairs made of rush seats. On the right hand side as one went in, was a miniature fireplace, thus enabling the place to be warmed in winter. The Altar was formed by a plain table covered by a frontal cloth of red, a gift from Old Coulsdon Church. (Incidentally, this cloth was still in use in the children's church in 1958/59.) The lectern was a gift from another church and was painted in lilac and gold. The little church was lit by hurricane lamps and there was just room for three people to kneel at the altar rail. There is a story current that one Sunday morning a small dog found its way into the little church and hid itself under the small communion table. They also say it was fortunate the sidesman on duty that day was of the slender type, so he was able to remove the intruder without disturbing things.



From all accounts that have come to us, however, it would seem that this smallness was really a blessing in disguise, as an atmosphere of homeliness and friendliness was created and has persisted right down to the present day. The friendships formed in that little church have lasted in some cases, for nearly fifty years.

By 1913, however, the place was far too small for those who wished to attend, and moreover, the population of this district of Purley was increasing, and so a piece of land in Higher Drive was purchased on which a timber and asbestos building was erected and duly dedicated on All Saints Day 1913 by the Bishop of Woolwich. It was, of course, bigger than the one that had been in use in Old Lodge Lane, and would hold about 100 to 120 people. Two of the prime movers in this change of position from Old Lodge Lane to Higher Drive were a Mr. Blackall and a Mr. T. C. Mansfield.

The church had its main entrance by doors facing the Higher Drive with a small but dignified porch and an aisle up the centre, but doubtless the main feature that would catch the eye of a stranger was the blue screen that hung behind the Altar. This was made of hessian and had been painted after the "Burne-Jones" manner by a Mr. Brideson who lived in Burcott Road. It represented a group of angels holding scrolls. The one at the top had the words "Holy, Holy, Holy" and the lower one "Hosanna in the Highest". The furnishings were just a little more elaborate than those used before, additional altar cloths having been presented, and altogether it must have given a cosy, though perhaps not brilliant appearance. The vestry was, of course, the little side room in which, years afterwards, many cups of tea were made and became known as "the scullery".

It was now possible, of course, to organise a choir, and this was duly done, and they occupied the seats at the end of the church where the entrance was. This proved very fortunate on one occasion at least, for a lady entered the church for the first time and sat on one of the empty chairs there, not realising that these were choir seats. However, this lady had a good contralto voice and was soon asked to make that her permanent place. This offer was gratefully accepted and for many years this lady proved to be a valued member of the choir. The choir was not "robed" until about the year 1930.

Though the little community now had a real church of their own, they did not give up the little place in Old Lodge Lane, but used it for other activities.

The outbreak of World War I in 1914 does not seem to have affected the attendance at the little church, but it did increase the difficulties that beset the faithful members in their efforts to raise the necessary funds that were required to carry on, and also to clear the debt on the new building. In this they were later greatly assisted by the minister, Rev. H. C. Sandall and his

wife, but when the war ended, a period of great advance from 1919 to 1929 took place, and by 1930 it became very obvious that an extra building was necessary, and there seems to have been divided opinions on what should be done. Some wanted to build a new permanent church, whilst others were in favour of extending the building already there. The need was met in 1932 by the erection of a further timber and asbestos building at right angles to the then church, which was then put into use as a hall. This new church was dedicated on 2nd June 1932 by the Bishop of Kingston, and in connection therewith there is rather an amusing story told. It seems that the Rev. R. W. A. Ward, curate-in-charge at the time had gone with a party of friends for an outing that day and they did not get back until about 5.30. Nothing was ready, even the shavings left by the carpenters were still on the floor, and it meant that the whole party had to then set to with a will. However, the place was cleared, seats in position and all made ready for the Bishop's arrival about 7.30.

As the church which was erected in 1932 is now the Church Hall, it does not need describing, but there are one or two things about it that should be noted. There is the oak block flooring and the ornamental treatment of the roof trusses, and the panelling on the w-alls. The "trusses" were made by the builder, Mr. Poynter in the workshop at the back of his house in Sunnysdene Road, and brought up to the church via a level crossing over the railway then in use from his road to Northwood Avenue. They were then hoisted into place by pulleys. The floor blocks were placed on cement covered by asphalt to prevent any damp coming through, but this was only done after a lot of "set to's" between the builder and Mr. Mansfield, one of the principal officers of the church at that time. The apse windows were presented to the church by Mr., Mrs. and Miss Bird, and altogether it was a lighter and more cheerful place than the previous church. The pulpit at first was a plain structure, but was subsequently adorned by-panels, beautifully carved, the gift of a parishioner, Mrs. Beckett. These panels are now incorporated in the porch of the present church.

The years 1932 to 1939 were mainly occupied by quiet work without anything spectacular, but when the Second World War broke out in the latter year, with the consequent evacuation from the district of many families and the call-up of the young folk for war service, matters reached a very low ebb. Still the faithful few carried on, but often under great difficulties. These are best illustrated by a story told by one who was present at a Sunday morning service when the total attendance came to seven. This included the minister, one person in the choir, the organist and organ-blower! To make matters even more difficult the organ misbehaved and one note alone would persist above the rest of the music.

The war years must have been very difficult as for instance, Evensong had to be held in the early afternoon, owing to the lighting restrictions, and those who attended must have listened with divided attention in case the air raid siren sounded and they would have to seek shelter somewhere. Fortunately the church escaped actual bombing, though a bomb fell a little way beyond the top of Higher Drive, another on a house near to Woodland Way, and another at the end of Northwood Avenue, whilst a basket of fire bombs fell in the woods behind the church, but which were soon put out by air-raid wardens.

With the war over and with the coming to the church of the Rev. E. W. Harrison, many fresh activities were undertaken, especially among the young people, so that the hall was in constant use on most evenings of the week. The children's church grew rapidly in numbers, so that rooms available at 84, Higher Drive had to be pressed into service.

The work so begun was well consolidated by Mr. Harrison's successor, the Rev. A. A. Allan, so it is not surprising that in 1950, schemes were being formulated for a much larger church. Various plans were made, which even included the building of a parsonage as well. Models were made of the proposed new place of worship, but owing to the rapidly rising costs of materials, some of the more ambitious hopes had to be abandoned.

Meanwhile, a building fund was started and thanks to the generosity of people, gradually assumed a respectable amount. At the end of the year 1952 this stood at £73 5s. 4d., whilst at the end of 1955 it was £5,032 3s. 2d.

The money came from various sources, i.e., Covenants, special collections, and contributions from institutions connected with the church.

The building of the present church was started in March 1958, the foundation stone was laid by the Bishop of Croydon on 7th June 1958, and it was dedicated by the Bishop of Woolwich on 14th March 1959.

The church, though perhaps from the outside appearance not all that some members desire, is nevertheless, very attractive in its interior, and contains some features that are rather unique. The "call-bell" for instance, is controlled by electricity, whilst the roof-lighting is very effective. The church has panel heaters around the walls which should be sufficient normally to warm the place, and also tubular heaters under the pews if extra warmth is required. There are twenty-seven pews, each designed to hold seven people, and these pews are made of afrormosia, an African hard wood. The choir and organ are situated in the gallery, and this means that the splendid acoustics of the church are heard to great advantage. The choir vestry is on the right hand side of the porch, and the clergy vestry at the east end, entered by a door near the lectern. There is also a lady chapel, which has been furnished throughout

from the old church. The pulpit and tower are made of Purbeck stone. The Altar and all the necessary requirements for services in the church are gifts from various people, and have been given in the spirit indicated in the flyleaf to the Bible, which was presented "in memory of one who spent many happy hours at St. Barnabas".

Mention must also be made of the classrooms adjoining the church, where the children's church can meet for instruction after the first part of their service in the church.



THOSE WHO HAVE HELPED

This history would not be complete without a mention of those who, particularly in the early years, assisted the church in varying ways. The list is not by any manner of means a complete one, as, happily, some of those who helped are still with us, and the details of those mentioned are mainly of those who have passed on to their higher award, or have left the district. It should be understood that they convey the impressions left on the writer after talking to various friends who knew them well.

First and foremost stands the name of Canon Granville Dickson, who aided and helped the young church in all possible ways. He was a very lovable and kindly man and it was he who first chose the site of the present church, quoting as he did so "it is on a hill and cannot be hid". He lived in Hayes Lane before a rectory was built near the church in Old Coulsdon for him. This meant, of course, the long journey up and down two hills, with those awful roads on Sundays, whatever the weather, to the services at St. John's. A welcome visitor to any home he went to and all who knew him speak in terms of love and admiration. He never retired but continued to take services until the Sunday before his death, and his last service was at St. Barnabas! There can be no doubt whatever that it was his friendly advice and help that considerably encouraged the young church in the early days. How he would rejoice to see it as it is today! It may, too, be interesting to some folk to know that Canon's Hill, the road leading directly to his church on the Coulsdon side is so named after him. He was followed in the Rectorship of Old Coulsdon by a very different kind of man altogether-the Rev. H. Pegg. He was no doubt a very clever and learned person, but seems to have been of somewhat sterner nature than his predecessor. He would not sanction anything that, in his opinion, was likely to add to the financial burden that the church was already bearing, and his refusal often to lend support to some of the schemes that members had in mind at various times, may possibly, be attributed to this cautious attitude to all financial matters. Some liked him, others did not, but there is no doubt that he used his influence to the benefit of the church when 84, Higher Drive was transferred to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

The first curate-in-charge was the Rev. l'Estrange Burges, appointed in 1912, who had the habit of sleeping out of doors in a tent, much to the interest of the children of the district with whom he was a great favourite as he had the ability to do small conjuring tricks, and also provided them with magic lantern entertainments on weekday evenings. He was succeeded in Sept. 1915 by the Rev. G. P. Browne, a plump little man with a beard who was also a favourite with the children. He encouraged them to call him "Guinea Pig", referring to the "G.P." in his name. Notable also for his "very short sermons", but he was not greatly in favour with some of the officials of the church in his latter days, and in 1920 he was asked to make way for the Rev. H. C. Sandall, appointed April 1920. This gentleman and his wife were very active workers. During his curacy the Literary Society written about elsewhere in this history was formed. The first pipe organ was obtained and the church enjoyed some of the best years of its early days. He was a college friend of Mr. Mansfield who was mainly instrumental in his coming to Purley. Mr. Sandall and his wife had formerly lived and worked in Rhodesia and doubtless felt the difference in

climate of this country. A son (named Roger) was born to them in 84, Higher Drive. They were both inclined to worry unduly over matters.

The next curate-in-charge was the Rev. G. Jepson, appointed October 1923. He was a man who would have made what one in these later days, comes to imagine a typical Victorian country squire would be like. He had a grand manner and the services were beautifully conducted, but he could not in any way be described as a good preacher. However, once again, this couple put in a lot of solid hard work and Mrs. Jepson in particular, with a large house like '84' to live in, and neither of them being very young, found it very difficult. They had lost a son in the First World War, and never really got over their loss. Just as an example of how they worked, one should mention that several times they were seen scrubbing the church floor.

The Rev. R. W. A. Ward came as curate-in-charge in August 1930. He was a bachelor and found '84' much too big for his requirements, so eventually went to live in another house in the district. He possessed a very keen sense of humour, but was also very determined to have certain things in the church which he thought should be there, as for instance, the robing of the choir despite some opposition from the Rev. H. Pegg. During his curacy the third church was erected and a church hall provided, also the children's church started. In March 1934 he was followed by the Rev. Eric Evans, now Vicar of Leigh, near Sherborne, who had the doubtful honour of announcing to the congregation on that fateful Sunday morning in 1939, that we were at war with Germany.

Shortly after this came the Rev. D. E. Evans, now Rector of Cossington, Leicester, who only stayed for a short while.

The Rev. J. W. Daines followed in April 1940 and he was particularly notable for his very strong opinions and his outspokenness in giving vent to them.

In July 1941 came the Rev. A. S. T. Butcher, a delightful personality, who relates the following stories against himself (please do not forget that these were the days of air-raids, doodle-bugs and the like). "I recall that Whit-Sunday always seemed to be my unlucky day-once the sleeve of my surplice knocked over the chalice (fortunately before consecration) putting me into a state of nervous collapse till the end of the service. On another Whit-Sunday I walked two miles from Old Coulsdon for 7.0 a.m. celebration only to find that there was no wine at the church. I had to dismiss the congregation, fortunately only two and walk all the way back to fetch a bottle of wine from my house, just arriving in time for the 8.0 a.m. service. I also recall the wonderful hospitality given me by the rota of families who provided me with breakfast on Sunday mornings, at which I am sure they gave me all their bacon ration. I had a very lively golden cocker spaniel in those days, and once

I was rash enough to take him to an Intercession Service and shut him up in the kitchen. His intercessions to be released, completely drowned the prayers in church, and that was the last time he joined in public worship". The Rev. A. S. T. Butcher is now Vicar of Kemble, near Cirencester.

However, in 1945 with the appointment of the Rev. E. W. Harrison as curate-in-charge, with the help of his very talented wife, the congregations rapidly increased and under their leadership the influence of the church in this district was to become more and more evident. Perhaps the following incident will show the ability Mr. Harrison had of applying himself wholeheartedly to the immediate task in hand. He was coming up Foxley Hill Road with a male friend soon after taking up residence here, when a young girl came coasting down the slope, but somehow lost her nerve and crashed herself and her bicycle in a heap about twenty yards from where Mr. Harrison and his friend were. Without the slightest hesitation Mr. Harrison went over to the scene of the accident, picked up the girl in his arms and carried her to the nearest doctor, about 300 yards away. A lady who witnessed this was heard to say, "If that's the new parson at St. Barnabas, I'm going to hear him".

It should be remembered that the period after the war was a time of great opportunity-families were coming back to reside in the district; new houses were in course of erection, and fresh people were coming to Purley to live, and the church with Mr. and Mrs. Harrison rose to the occasion. Many new institutions were started, especially amongst the young, with the children's church again taking a prominent place. The Scouts and Guides had a new impetus and rapidly increased; the Youth Club grew rapidly so that several excellent performances of pantomimes, concerts and the like were performed. Early in Mr. Harrison's ministry, successful negotiations were concluded whereby St. Barnabas became a conventional district on its own. Hitherto it had been necessary at an annual meeting to elect representatives from the church to attend the parish meeting of St. John's, and any advancement in ideas, or alterations in style of service, in fact any ideas that seemed to the members that would be progressive to the life of the church, had to be submitted to the Rector of St. John's and get his approval, first, before they could be adopted. When Mr. Pegg was Rector, these new ideas were often being frustrated, particularly this one of St. Barnabas becoming a separate parish. It meant, moreover, that the church could appoint direct representatives to the Diocesan Conference and the Ruri-Decanal Conference, and these appointments automatically meant that those so appointed were also members of the Church Council. An Electoral Roll also had to be compiled, containing the names of those entitled to vote at the Easter Vestry meeting where these appointments are made. It is not to be wondered at, that with this freedom thus established, the membership of the church grew

rapidly. It is also not surprising that after six years of intensive work in our parish, Mr. Harrison was appointed as Assistant Diocesan Missioner under the present Bishop of Croydon, then known as Canon Hughes, and subsequently received an appointment in Canada, and is now (at the time of writing) Minister of St. Michael's Church, Sillery, Quebec.

He was succeeded in 1951 by the Rev. A. A. Allan, who, a very different kind of man to his predecessor, nevertheless consolidated by persistent hard work the hearts of all by his kindness and willingness to help in every way the work of the church over which he was now Priest-in-charge. The numbers attending still mounted, and especially was this notable in the children's church, and even' possible sort of room, even to his own drawing room at 84, Higher Drive had to be used to accommodate the children when they separated for classes, after opening together in the first part of their service in the church. The Rev. A. A. Allan is now Vicar of St. Peter, Penhill, Swindon.

The present Priest-in-charge is Rev. S. C. Bone, who came to us from St. Leonard's Parish Church, Streatham. It is his first charge, having in early life been in business. He was particularly fitted to superintend the building of our present church and to look after the church's interest whilst it was being erected. The work of his predecessors is being ably continued. It will be readily seen that over the years there were many occasions when the church had no curate-in-charge owing to the many changes that took place, but there were fortunately "laymen" available to tide over these interregna. First Mr. W. A. Kelk. A saintly man whose very presence and hand-shake made one feel better. He was a great favourite with all and was a welcome preacher whenever he came. One lady said of him, "when he told you God is love, one just simply had to believe it". He had a mass of beautiful white hair and never wore a hat or overcoat.

In the early days of the church was a Mr. Mansfield, who had originally intended to enter the Ministry, but eventually became a director in a large firm of book publishers. He was extremely well read, and in addition to taking the services, gave lectures on various subjects, ranging from astronomy to old world history. Living quite close to the church he seems to have made it his hobby and gave liberally to it, both in service and finance. He took a big part in the extension to the original church, but his ideas were not always practical and sometimes caused a certain amount of friction between him and the builder. There can be no doubt, however, that he was a great help to the growing church as he stayed in this district for quite a number of years, eventually moving to Bath for health reasons. During the ministry of Mr. Harrison, the church has had the welcome assistance of Mr. W. A. Hebditch and his twin brother, and they have been, and still are of valuable assistance

in the conducting of services. Mr. W. A. Hebditch has the Archbishop's diploma as a lay reader.

The "Roll of Honour" would not be complete without the mention of several ordinary members who have rendered yeoman service to the church, but the list is by no means complete as there are several still with us who have earned the right to have their names mentioned, but it has been thought best only to include herein those who have "passed on" or left the district. In the very early days, even before the church in Old Lodge Lane started, there was a Mr. and Mrs. Tucker. Mrs. Tucker even canvassed the district to find out what support would be forthcoming should a church be formed, and Mr. Tucker became one of the earliest churchwardens. With Mrs. Tucker was also a Mrs. Esdaile.

Another couple who worked hard were Mr. Mellor who read the lessons in the first church, whilst Mrs. Mellor was the first organist, a position she held for a long period. There were also Mr. and Mrs. Barklie, keen church workers. Misses Round, who held children's classes in their house in Haydn Avenue. Mrs. Satterthwaite and Mrs. Beckett who lived in Firs Lane-great helpers in the Mothers Union. Mrs. Cooke of Old Lodge Lane. Mr. and Mrs. Nickerson of Higher Drive who lived near the church and whose home seems to have been one of those places where people would call, especially if they had forgotten to bring something they wanted to use in the church. Miss Scott, sister to Mrs. Nickerson, a retired missionary from China. Mr. and Mrs. Bird of Woodland Way and their two daughters. Mr. Bird seems to have been one of those quiet useful workers who served the church as churchwarden for many years.

Mr. and Mrs. Dodkins who also lived near the church and whose house was another port of call in times of emergency. Mr. Dodkins was Treasurer of the church for a number of years and left a history of 84, Higher Drive, from which many extracts have been taken in the story of that house and told elsewhere in this history.

Mrs. Syers, a devoted worker, especially in the way of fortnightly whist-drives which were very popular.

Mr. Blackall, one of the early pioneers in getting the land in Higher Drive. Mr. Sandeman, one of the Trustees of 84, Higher Drive.

Miss Wiltshire, a very devoted worker.

Mr. Franklin, churchwarden for some time.

Mr. Cox, very interested in the garden around the church.

Mr. Holdsworth, a member of the Church Committee, and who gave a good deal of his time to the necessary "repairs", that were constantly arising.

Mr. Steele, an untiring worker, especially in the first church in Higher Drive.

INSTITUTIONS THAT HAVE HELPED

Mothers Union

The first society that the little church in Old Lodge Lane seems to have started was a branch of the Mothers Union. It appears to have commenced with great enthusiasm as we hear of a lady living in Firs Road, a Mrs. Satterthwaite as the enrolling member, but she later left the district for Buxton and her place was taken by a Mrs. Beckett. There is still in existence a member's card dated 1912. A certain amount of activity went on when the church moved to Higher Drive, but there seems to have been great difficulties in the way of obtaining suitable speakers locally, and those that were sent from the headquarters in London did not prove very acceptable to the mothers of those days. Consequently interest began to wane, and the Mothers Union lapsed altogether.

Once again the Rev. H. Pegg comes into the picture, as when attempts were made to revive the movement he said "No!"

However, during the time of Rev. A. A. Allan and Mrs. Allan, the Mothers Union was revived and there is now quite an active branch in connection with the church.

The objects of the Mothers Union are to "Uphold the Sanctity of marriage, and the Christian training of boys and girls in their home life", and so their meetings usually held on the first and third Tuesday evenings of the month at the residence of one of the members, are planned with these splendid ideals ever in mind. Addresses are often followed by questions and discussions. Other events arranged are a Christmas party and summer outing, also a garden party for the members of a Peckham branch of the Union.

There is also a further side to their work in what is known as the "Open Group", meeting in the afternoons on the second and fourth Thursdays, to which all mothers, whether belonging to the Mothers Union or not, are invited to attend, bringing with them any children under school age. The programme here varies from talks on bringing up young children, to cookery demonstrations or even "beetle drives". Other activities include: visits to Netherne, helping the Brownies at Reedham and "baby-sitting". For the latter a small fee is asked which will be used to obtain a "banner" in due course.

St. Barnabas "Helpers"

This is the original title of what is generally known to-day as the "Ladies Committee" or "Helpers". It was started in 1924 with about forty members, a number which, curiously enough, has never been increased. Some of the

Cradled in a Stable

original members are still serving and it is related that at their first meeting, those joining received a shilling (an idea which originated in the mind of Mrs. Nickerson) and with this shilling they were expected to "trade" throughout the year. One of the popular methods thirty-five years ago, was to purchase crochet cotton and then make it up into small articles for sale, but here let me quote from an article received from Mr. Dodkins :

"There was a wonderful body of ladies known as 'St. Barnabas Helpers' who met together once a month at each other's houses, had tea and a chat, and brought things they had made to sell to each other for the benefit of the church. Some made marmalade which their husbands were in duty bound to eat. One lady made tooth-powder! Husbands who were obliged to use it declared it was made of sharp sand and chalk as it wore their teeth down to the gums. However, it was in a good cause and no one complained."

With such hearty goodwill did these ladies work that at their first Christmas sale they raised the sum of £80, and this energy (though, sadly depleted by decreasing membership) has been maintained ever since. They usually held two sales of work in the year and in connection with one of these an interesting story is told by Mr. Dodkins.

The scheme of decoration for this particular sale was that of "Bowery Glades" and the old hall was very tastefully arranged in this way with paper flowers and leaves. The ladies worked hard all the morning, and about midday when all appeared very satisfactory, Mr. Dodkins arrived, and the ladies, rather tired and so on, asked him to mind the place whilst they went home for a short rest, preparatory to the afternoon sale. This he agreed to do, but had not been there very long before the chief officer of the fire brigade arrived and wanted to know what was going on ! "There's going to be a sale of work this afternoon," said Mr. Dodkins. "There isn't, you know," retorted the officer. "Every one of the regulations laid down for fire prevention has been contravened." Then mutual recognition occurred. It turned out that both had been associated together in the Territorials in days gone by, and they started yarning together. The officer departed with the words "That'll be all right this afternoon", and so it was, for about twenty minutes before the sale started, folk were surprised to see the Fire Brigade turn up in full force with their engine and take their stand by the nearby hydrants as a precaution, till the close of the proceedings.

The ladies have throughout, maintained control over the pounds, shillings and pence that they have raised year by year, foreseeing by shrewd feminine intuition that there would be many occasions in the future life of the young church when a little financial help would be of great assistance. Moreover they are not given to be ostentatious in the manner of these gifts and it is often not

till long afterwards, and then only if you make some discreet enquiries, that you learn that the cost of some needed improvement was met by the "Helpers". Perhaps 84, Higher Drive wants doing up and made more habitable for an incoming Minister, or repairs needed to the roof of the church ; new crockery ware may be wanted, Altar cloths, or vases for the church flowers, and in other ways the "Helpers" come lovingly to the rescue. But perhaps what they have loved most of all to do is to help defray the cost of the organs that the church has had, and the present one has been installed mainly by their unceasing efforts.

In the present church, the beautiful kneelers provided for worshippers are a great tribute to their zeal and energy. In this case, however, they enlisted the aid of many other helpers when they formed a "Needlework Guild" for this purpose. Providing the material and defraying the cost was the responsibility of the "Helpers". It is perhaps sufficient to draw attention to the beautiful varying patterns of these kneelers, which must have involved a colossal amount of stitches, and to state that over 200 of them have been provided.

It is difficult to assess the value of this branch of activity in the church, but there can be no shadow of doubt that their work has been, and still is, of untold benefit to the life and community of those who worship at St. Barnabas.

Social and Literary Society

When the church moved to Higher Drive, the little place in Old Lodge Lane was still retained and here a Social and Literary Society used to meet. There is in existence a programme of a Musical Evening given on 15th November 1921. It does not state, unfortunately, where this fine concert was given. The concert consisted of pianoforte solos by Miss Guthrie, A.R.C.M., L.R.A.M., I.T.C., violin solos by Mrs. J. Williams, F.C.V., many present well-known St. Barnabas adherents in trios, duets, and solos, and the choir, which is the first official notice of this organisation one has so far been able to trace. The items the choir rendered at the beginning and ending of each half of the programme were:

"Sweet and Low" - Barnby
"Hail Smiling Morn" - Spofforth
"Oh, Hush Thee" - Sullivan
"The Long Day Closes" - Sullivan

This programme has been set out at length to show the talent that seemed to be available to the church in those days, and also it shows the happy state of affairs that existed just after the close of the First World War.

In addition this programme advertised "forthcoming events" as follows:

26th Nov. Lecture by Mr. T. C. Mansfield on "The early history of London".

13th Dec. Progressive Whist. 7th Jan. Children's Party (afternoon).

Dance at St. Augustine's Hall (evening). (No doubt in aid of the Building Fund.)

Incidentally, providing tea for Children's parties presented the folk with a problem, as there was no means in the little place itself for this, so it had to be prepared at home and carried there in urns, keeping it hot till required by means of a small gas ring.

Happy days indeed those were for the young church, and it is no doubt that by such means as these concerts and dances that necessary funds were raised. This Society, however, gradually merged into a Musical Society and in later years changed its name to the "Higher Drive Musical Society". This ran for at least eight years and in each succeeding year they gave (no doubt at Reedham Orphanage) the concert versions of most of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas, also "Merrie England".

Sprinkled through these programmes are the names of many St. Barnabas church members. The talented conductor was a Mr. H. L. Johnson, M.A., C.B.E., and rehearsals were held in various private houses in the district.

No doubt the "Literary" part of the Society was dropped owing to the formation in the district of a larger similar society with greater accommodation and more funds at its disposal, and the change of name must have been because musical friends from other churches were also taking parts in the various solos and choruses.

The Choir and "Music"

There was, of course, no room in the little place in Old Lodge Lane for a choir, but they had a little harmonium which was presided over by Mrs. Mellor who continued as organist when the church was moved to Higher Drive. Soon after settling there a small choir was formed and eventually a pipe organ, purchased from a church in Chipstead for £50 was installed. This stood on the right hand side of the church as one entered, and the choir sat immediately in front of it. They were therefore, as in the present church, at the back, and as mentioned before, did not wear cassocks, etc. There was quite a number of 'young' voices and nine of these were trained by a Miss Bird, daughter of Mr. Bird, one of the churchwardens, to perform the pantomime "Dick Whittington". This was given in St. James' Parish Hall and realised £9. With this money a small American organ was purchased, and doubtless it was found very useful, especially if no one was available to play the pipe organ, which needed two of course, an organist and an organ blower.

Mention has already been made of the choir's appearance at the Literary Society's Musical Evening.

It was not until the curacy of the Rev. R. W. A. Ward that the choir was 'robed' and then only in face of some opposition. They only had cassocks and these were of red material. During this period also, occurred the first time that they had a "processional", indeed, it is on record that on one occasion the choir started and arrived at their appointed places some time before the minister got to his as he had been detained in the vestry for some reason or other.

The choir has had many ups and downs during its life, though they generally seem to be able to rise to the occasion. There have been times when at the evening service only two members were present, whilst in contrast perhaps one could mention an occasion in April 1949 when they gave with a little outside help, excerpts from the "Messiah".

The pipe organ had, of course, been transferred to the new church and had been erected in the far corner of the building on the left hand side as one entered the place, with the choir sitting just in front. Later they were transferred to seats on either side of the sanctuary.

As the former church had now become the church hall, it was felt that a piano was a necessity there, and the choir undertook the responsibility for this instrument. It so happened that a Mr. and Mrs. Turvey living in the neighbourhood had had a grand piano bequeathed to them under the will of a relative, and as they already had one of their own, and did not have room for two, they agreed to let the choir purchase their old one on an instalment system. The money was provided by the choir giving "musical evenings", etc., and there was great relief when the final instalment was paid, and also great rejoicings as the folk from whom the instrument had been bought treated the choir to a party at their house in honour of the occasion. There is still in existence a copy of the circular showing the terms under which the hall could be let and they included a charge of 10s. for the piano if used, which of course was applied to discharging their debt.

The cassocks were changed to blue on the occasion of this church being dedicated, with surplices added.

The church and choir has been fortunate for years in having a devoted member who could sing, and if necessary play the organ, and her services in this direction have been long and faithful. It is related with delight now, but it must have been anything but amusing at the time, how this lady asked all members of the choir to turn up to a special choir practice as the new curate was going to be there, and she would like to make a good impression. They turned up all right, but one member brought two dogs, a Pekinese and a bull

terrier, whilst one male member, forgetting it was a special night, turned up in the clothes he had been wearing whilst painting his house that day, not troubling to change. With the sniffing of the peke and the snorting of the terrier, and the "appearance" of some of the choir, no doubt the new curate was suitably impressed.

The organ purchased from Chipstead lasted till 1947 when it had to make way for one with an electric action. It was not quite so successful as had been hoped for, and so in its turn in 1955 this had to make way for the present instrument which has an interesting history. It was discovered by the organist, in that year Mr. Guy Oldham, from an advertisement in a musical paper, standing in an old disused church. He went and played on it, liked it and recommended that it be purchased. All the parts could not be used in the old church so they were stowed away in the lofts of various people, and Mr. Oldham himself erected only those which were necessary to sustain the music at the various services. All the parts have now been put together by a firm of organ builders in the present church, and it was dedicated on Whit-Sunday, 1959. The number of organists over the years has been even more than the curates-in-charge, but here is a list of names that may bring back pleasant musical associations to those who knew them:

Mrs. Mellor, Mrs. Green, Mr. Poupart, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Furness, Mr. Walter Marshall, Miss M. Lennox, Mr. Williams, Mr. Brett, Miss Crombie, Mr. Mallett, Mr. A. Thorns, Mr. G. Oldham. The present organist is Mr. Taylor.

MISSIONARY WORK AT ST. BARNABAS

There does not seem to have been a great deal of enthusiasm for missionary work in the early days, though this may be quite excusable in the struggle that those early members must have had in raising funds for a new church and for 84, Higher Drive. However, one has heard of helpers from St. Barnabas going over to St. John's, Coulsdon, to assist Mrs. Pegg, wife of the Rector there, in the missionary plays for children that she liked to produce.

However, sometime in the years 1936-1939 a Miss Helen Scott came to live with her sister Mrs. Nickerson in Higher Drive. This lady had spent many years of evangelistic work in China, going there first in October 1904 and retiring in 1935. She was stationed at Fukien and Lienkong and the Church Missionary Society have a "minute" on their books recording her thirty-one years service, and this "minute" ends with the words:

"The Committee thank God for enabling her to fulfil this long service and they realise that the nature of it must oft-times have been both discouraging and dangerous."

Miss Scott used to gather the children about her in the church and tell them about her work and doubtless the Chinese children, and in addition organised trips for these youngsters to London on the occasions of the Annual meetings of the C.M.S.

One of the girls who attended these classes was Miss Pat Wild, now the Church's representative in India. Pat was trained as a nurse at the London Hospital, offered her services to the C.M.S. and after some further training at "Foxbury", Chislehurst, was sent to Rainawari Hospital, Kashmir.

In October 1948 the Revd. Amritanand came to the church from Gojra, Pakistan, to take the Sunday services, and so impressed the congregation with the great need for help in his district that the church decided to guarantee £60 a year to pay for an extra Catechist to work there. A Missionary Committee was therefore founded to plan the necessary activities for raising this fund. This has now been allocated to where Miss Wild has her headquarters, but often the amount contributed exceeds the sum of £60 promised. Such is the effect of having one's own particular representative in the Mission field.

To round this story-off, it is interesting to note that the first curate-in-charge of St. Barnabas, Rev. l'Estrange Burges came to Purley after work in Kashmir, and now after working in Purley, Miss Wild has gone to work in Kashmir.

Quite a number of the members of St. Barnabas are interested in the Mission to Lepers, an undenominational institution, and boxes are held on behalf of this very worthy cause.

Home Missions are also not neglected and there is a quiet interest in the Additional Curates' Society, especially for those needed in industrial districts.

"84, HIGHER DRIVE"

This house, now known as the Parsonage has had quite a chequered career. It was originally designed by an architect employed on the old South Eastern Railway, and he intended it to be a place for himself to live in after his retirement. Unfortunately after he had been in residence there but a short while, a violent storm dislodged many of the tiles from the roof, and the chimneys being deemed somewhat unsafe, had to be shortened. Later it was decided to sell it, and as the St. Barnabas folk had, with their abundant faith in the future of their church, decided to acquire a permanent house for their Minister, No. 84 was accordingly purchased, the bulk of the money being generously provided by Mr. Mansfield, into whose name the property was conveyed. The previous owner, Mrs. Mannering, also agreed to let a substantial part of the purchase price remain on mortgage. The minister of those days, Mr. Sandall, had been living at 39, Higher Drive, but he found this

too small for his needs, there being no room there, he said, that could be made into a study.

The house stood in Mr. Mansfield's name until 1926 when it was transferred to Holding Trustees nominated by the General Purposes Committee of those days, and a Deed was executed vesting it in their names. When Mr. Jepson came to the district, he and his wife found the place too large for them and Canon Dickson advised that it should be sold and it was placed on an Agent's books. Meanwhile every effort was being made to reduce the mortgage and very active in this respect were that body of ladies known as the St. Barnabas "Helpers".

In 1930, with the departure of Mr. Jepson, yet once again the vexed question arose as to whether the place should be sold, as it might be standing empty until a new curate-in-charge arrived and rates, repairs, etc., had still to be attended to. It was, however, decided to let it and a Mrs. Alien took it over for use as a school. Subsequently this lady found it impossible to maintain and asked the Trustees to allow her to relinquish the remainder of her lease, and so once again the house was empty. Then came the Rev. R. W. A. Ward, a bachelor, who tried living at '84' for a time, but soon found it too inconvenient and obtained his own lodgings, first in Old Lodge Lane, and then in Dale Road. This was when an appeal had gone forth for funds for the third church and St. Barnabas people were appealing for £2,000 for this effort.

The position, therefore, was that the members wanted money for church extension schemes, and here was '84' which they had not been able to sell, and the letting of it had proved rather a failure. It was decided to approach higher authorities and put the case before them, pointing out how much had been raised for '84' and ask them if they could help in the matter. It was estimated that at the end of 1931 the members had raised by their efforts about £1,900, whilst the outstanding mortgage stood at £550.

The Rector (Rev. Pegg) laid these facts before the Ecclesiastical Commissioners with the result that they made an immediate grant of £550, thus clearing off the mortgage, and two further grants of £500 in the succeeding two years, this latter sum of £1,000 being invested to provide a yearly sum towards the stipend of the curate-in-charge.

The property was thereupon transferred to the Diocesan Trust, but owing to lack of funds, the outstanding amount of £350, to complete the amount the church had raised had to be forgone.

When the Rev. R. W. A. Ward left the district, the two succeeding ministers occupied '84'. It was then empty for a considerable time, neither Mr. Daines nor Mr. Butcher resided there, and once again permission was asked for it to

be sold. During the war it was requisitioned by the Military Authorities and used as a base of the Home Guard.

After the war the house was once again occupied by the Rev. E. W. Harrison, although to make it tenable, they had to have an extraordinary "spring-cleaning", removing ammunition dumps, etc. During the occupation of Mr. and Mrs. Harrison the upper rooms were altered to suit their convenience, and the lower rooms given over to make places where the "tiny-tots" of the Sunday School could meet on Sunday mornings. The rooms were also useful for week day meetings such as Study Groups and the monthly meetings of the Parochial Church Council.

Further great improvements were made before Mr. Allan took up his residence there, and to-day '84' is not looked on by the-members of St. Barnabas as a "white elephant" but as a decided asset to the church.

WORK AMONGST THE YOUNG

The first mention of special instruction for children that we have come across is that provided by two maiden ladies by the name of Round, who, when the church first started in Old Lodge Lane, gathered the small children in their home on Sunday afternoons. This was followed a little later by a class for older children in Haydn Avenue, at the home of the Rev. l'Estrange Burgess, and there is still in existence a prize presented by this minister for punctual attendance, and is duly cherished by the owner. When the church moved to Higher Drive, services were held for youngsters on Sunday afternoons, and these continued until the ministry of Rev. R. W. A. Ward, and the extension of the church. Mr. Ward with characteristic energy instituted the first Children's Church. The young people elected their own Council and officers, and allotted various duties. One great ambition of the boys of those days was to ring the bell, and needless to say this was usually done with enthusiastic energy, but without much rhythm, and I'm afraid it must be stated, much to the annoyance of some of the nearby neighbours, from whom a letter of protest was received.

The Children's Church proved very popular and flourished until the outbreak of the Second World War, when, with many children being removed from the neighbourhood it quite naturally declined.

It was revived, however, during the ministry of Rev. E. W. T. Harrison with the additional advantage that all the children were graded into classes according to age, thus the four-year olds up to the age of seven-and-a-half gathered at 84, Higher Drive.

On reaching the age of seven-and-a-half they are then transferred to the services meeting in the church, and so gradually work up through the various

classes until they are in their "teens", and the teacher there has the happy but difficult task of setting the young minds definitely towards Confirmation. The teachers themselves meet regularly one night a week under the leadership of the Priest-in-charge, to prepare for their Sunday tasks. St. Barnabas, at the time of writing this, has a body of capable teachers who are devoted to this branch of the Church's work.

Until the present church was opened, it had been an acute problem where these various classes could be accommodated, all sorts of rooms being commandeered, even to taking the teen-agers into the sitting-room of '84' during the period of Mr. Allan's ministry. It was a frequent sight on Sunday mornings to see a "teen-age" teacher taking twenty or more children there. Nowadays, of course, there are the class rooms, but it is still necessary to use the B.P. Headquarters and the Church Hall for this purpose.

All this, of course, augurs well for the future of the church, but more devoted teachers will be needed if the future of the children's church is to develop still farther.

Recently at the request of the Children's own Church Council, a junior choir was inaugurated, and from its own efforts has provided surplices and cassocks for their use in church, and looks like providing also in the future, recruits for the senior church choir.

A further interesting development is the starting in one of the houses in Old Lodge Lane, of a class for some of the younger children in that neighbourhood who are unable to make the journey at present up to the church, and this class too, is gradually growing in numbers.

THE "B.P." ORGANISATIONS

St. Barnabas is proud of the Baden Powell organisations attached to the church, consisting of Guides, Scouts, Brownies and Cubs. Curiously enough the oldest of these in point of existence is the "Brownies", as there were some of these connected with the church some time before the Second World War. They met in the old church hall, and one of the first Brown Owls was Miss Pascoe. She was succeeded by Miss Phyllis Densham, now Mrs. Fretwell, and her daughter, now married, was a guide and cadet at St. Barnabas. Owing to insufficient numbers, a guide company was not formed before 1939.

There were also a small number of cubs and scouts. The cubs were started by a Mr. Denis Thompson, and they met in a large shed in Highland Road. Miss Betty Skirrow, now Mrs. Napper, was his assistant, and later ran the pack on her own. They all went to camp, joining with other cubs under Miss Bayley. The scouts met first in Highland Road, then in the Church hall. At one time the scoutmaster was Mr. Sutcliffe, a master of Downside School.

Because of the war these units closed down. In May 1945 the brownie pack was reformed by Mrs. Croft and with the enthusiastic support of the Rev. Ernest Harrison, a guide company was started in November 1945 by one of the pre-war brownies, Miss Joan Roberts, now Mrs. Rayner. In 1947 a cub pack was opened by Mr. Harrison, and soon after, Miss Jean Morris became the first Akela. In January 1949 the scout troop had its first meeting under the leadership of Mr. Maurice Rayner, with the able assistance of Mr. Raymond Evans. Although the units started in a small way, brownies four, guides one, cubs one, scouts two, the approximate numbers at the time of writing is as follows: brownies thirty, guides forty, cubs forty in two packs, and scouts forty. It says much for the dogged determination and perseverance of the officers in the early days just after the war that these units have grown so and reached the standard of to-day.

All movements have their difficulties and discouragements, plenty of them, but they have their successes and pleasures too. Since the inception of the company and troop, there have been six Queen's Guides and five Queen's Scouts. There have been summer camps every year for cubs, guides and scouts, and to many of these foreign scouts and guides have been welcomed. In 1954 and 1956 Kerry Dix conducted two very successful tours on the continent. In Centenary year 1957, a member from both the company and troop had the honour of representing their districts at the Windsor International camp, and the World Jamboree. Many are the memories of the visit of the twenty-five scouts from Ghana to homes in the parish for a week or more, during the August of that year, followed by two guides from Ghana in the September. Return hospitality by the Ghana scouts was given to two senior scouts, who paid a memorable visit to Ghana in 1958.

Mention should also be made of two shows given by the scouts, guides, cubs and brownies-"Here we go" in 1950 and "Here we go again" in 1953, a combined effort to raise funds for camp equipment.

This work could not have been accomplished without the active support of a flourishing Parents Association. This Association was launched in September 1947, and proved to be an outstanding success. One of its first tasks was to raise funds for camp equipment and later on when the suggestion was made, chiefly by the scout section that it would be ideal to have a "den", the Parents Association were immediately enthusiastic. The original idea was of a log cabin which the boys could build themselves.

The end product was the magnificent Headquarters which was erected as part of the Church building programme. To meet the cost of the Headquarters the Parents Association organised all kinds of events thereby not only providing entertainments for themselves, but also raising a good sum of money.

A quarterly magazine was started, called appropriately enough "The Left Handshake" and this keeps parents, leaders and others well informed of the various doings of the different organisations.

Every fourth Sunday in the month is set apart as "Church Parade" for the guides and scouts, whilst that for the brownies and cubs is the second Sunday morning, but the Annual Church Parade on Palm Sunday is the finest time to see all these boys and girls at their best, and the District Commissioners must be proud to be able to be present on such an occasion.

THE YOUTH CLUB

"Youth Club was running itself very successfully despite bad weather" (1947).

"Young People's Club has had a lean period, but will be much in evidence at the Revue on April 17th" (1948).

"Youth Club-this is now flourishing in a big way, and the membership has increased enormously-the duty of churchgoing is practised most nobly" (1949).

The above three extracts from the annual reports presented at the yearly meetings of the church during the period of Mr. Harrison's ministry give a picture of the growth of this necessary and important part of church work. Many varied programmes were given ranging from "Boogie Woogie" dancing and games to study of Missionary work; but the "Youth Club" is associated in the minds of the older folk mainly with the successful series of Pantomimes that were presented year after year during the Christmas holiday period. Cinderella, Aladdin, Dick Whittington and so on all had their turn.

During this holiday period, some young people were available who could not, by reason of being away at Boarding School, attend the regular meetings of the Youth Club.

These pantomimes were fortunate in having as their producer, Mr. W. Scopes, an active worker in the church at that time, and he, in his turn, had the good fortune to have a friend who wrote the words of the various scripts. The incidental music was composed by Mr. Harrison. Apart from the great dramatic talent and singing that they revealed amongst the young folk, some of them also revealed great skill in painting the necessary scenery that was required, and also in devising lighting effects, which indeed were remarkable on such a small stage.

When one recalls this tiny stage and the smallness of the dressing rooms in the little old hall, it is a wonder that they did so well, but there is no doubt that for a number of years these performances were the highlights of the winter season.

After Mr. Harrison, the Rev. A. A. Allan took on the task of writing the script for these events, but he did not compose any music.

Incidentally it may be interesting to recall that they led to at least two romances.

Recently the Youth Club has had, what Mr. Harrison called "a lean period", but it is once again recovering under the leadership of the Rev. S. C. Bone.

THE "OVER-TWENTY" CLUB

In March 1954, several of the young people who had been active members of the Youth Club thought the time had come when a society should be formed to cater for those who could no longer claim to be "youths", etc., and so together with several others "young at heart", the above-named society was formed, and up to the time of writing, it has had a fairly successful career. Their motto seems to be that advice St. Paul gave to the Philippian Church-"Whatsoever things are of good report, think on these things". Consequently they have had evenings of music, drama, literature (this latter evening being of articles written by members themselves). There have been visits to a theatre or two, and outings to the countryside. Debates and discussions have proved popular as have periodic talks by members on their particular jobs. From time to time the club has combined with the Youth Club and at one time joint meetings with the Men's Group were found to be mutually helpful.

It is worth mentioning that in 1956, a collection of various pieces written by members was put together into a booklet and found a ready sale.

Their meetings are held fortnightly and are usually held at the residence of one of the members.

THE "FIFTY" CLUB

This represents a group of people who meet in the church hall on the second and fourth Wednesdays from late September to May, as a social circle. The great attraction is a game of whist amongst themselves, a cup of tea, and opportunities for a chat with friends. It was started long before the war by the late Mrs. Syers, who carried on until it became impossible. The name "Fifty" Club was given to it because in the old hall it was not possible to set out more than twelve tables, and so, when these gatherings were resumed early after the war had finished, it was optimistically thought that the number must be limited to fifty-and the name has stuck.

They are very pleasant social afternoons and for the past nine years have resulted in an average yearly profit of £25, which the members allocate to deserving objects in connection with the church.

STUDY CIRCLES

In 1948, a number of worshippers at the church expressed the desire to delve farther into the many problems that the Bible, Prayer Book and kindred subjects presented to seekers after the truth. Something more they felt, was wanted than just listening to sermons on the Sunday, so a "Study Group" was formed. This was in accord with a movement in that direction which was rapidly growing in the Church of England in those days. Amongst those who took part in our own particular group were two people, one of whom was right up to date in modern theological theories, whilst the other protagonist was a lady who held very strongly to the views prevalent in Victorian days, and when these two started arguing, it was, to say the least, both interesting and enlightening.

However, these meetings were very helpful and came into existence to stay, and have recently been used to re-study Confirmation vows.

They are usually held on Thursday evenings at the Parsonage.

Arising from them, a further study group was formed "for men only" and this group usually meets at the home of our talented Lay Reader. Here subjects like Christian problems in business life, and Evangelism in the working day, are discussed. The Men's group also undertakes manual work about the church and grounds on the principle "labore est orare".

But these groups have even a wider circuit still, as they occasionally unite with similar groups from other churches, no doubt illustrating the old saying :

"As iron sharpeneth iron, so does man his friend".

DRAMA, ETC.

A "dramatic group" has been very recently formed and has already had two very successful appearances. Their first performances were of three one-act plays, and the second an extremely funny farce. These were given in the hall attached to Reedham Orphanage, and it looks very much as if this active little group has come to stay.

CLEANING, ETC.

It will be readily understood that over the years it has not been possible to pay a verger or caretaker to undertake the very necessary duties of sweeping, dusting and cleaning the buildings, and so these have been mostly done by voluntary efforts, though sometimes, of course, money has been paid to outside help when an extra scrubbing, etc., was needed. In recent years there has been a small 'rota' of ladies who have given up their time in the afternoon or evening to perform these tasks, and they have been kindly dubbed as the

"Mrs. Mops". The strenuousness of their tasks depended on the weather, which if inclement, made their task harder, but it all seems to have been done cheerfully and also satisfactorily to all concerned.

To-day with much greater premises, this 'rota' must be much larger, but that it is still being done in the same spirit is indicated by a "poem" which appeared in the issue of St. Barnabas Review for July 1959, and I take the liberty of quoting one of the verses here:

"Seldom one finds such peace in work at home,
There daylight shows the more familiar marks,
Here in this House, one's thought may roam
To that first family our Lord did love."

"ST. BARNABAS REVIEW"

The first number of this church newspaper was issued in January 1946, and at the annual meeting in 1947 it was reported that its circulation was approaching 250 copies. They were, for several months, hand-printed on a small printing press kept at 84, Higher Drive, and to produce these issues entailed a lot of time and trouble. Anyone who has seen the process of putting the type together, or even attempted this themselves, will appreciate the labour involved therein. In fact Mr. Harrison estimated, and told the members at the annual meeting in 1949, that it took about thirty-six hours of the spare time of these voluntary printers, whilst in addition there is the fastening of the printed sheets together and sorting them out into various districts in which voluntary helpers distribute them.

Those early numbers make interesting reading nowadays, including as they do, a serial story for children written by a member of the church. Now the youngsters are catered for by a "Newspaper" on their own, and there is also included a circular issued by the Southwark Diocesan authorities.

The magazine is now sent to a printing firm in the country to be typographically produced, but they still have to be fastened together and distributed as before.

The magazine finds its way into many homes in the district, and is a silent influence for good in many ways.

Such then, if you have had the patience to read so far, is the simple story of the growth of our church, from the disused stable in Old Lodge Lane, to the beautiful place that we have to-day. What of the future? Perhaps I may be allowed to quote the following incident that occurred but a few weeks after the new church was opened. A lady who had been actively associated with St. Barnabas many years ago was being shown over the new buildings and was heard to remark "Oh dear! It does make me feel so homesick! "

Could any church wish for a nicer compliment? This is a "come and go" district and one hopes that all who come to our church may find it a home, and if circumstances make it necessary for them to go, they will so look back at their associations with us that they will often be "Homesick".

PARISH ORGANISATIONS

Brownies	Every Saturday	10 0
Choir Practice	Every Friday	8 15
Junior “	Every Thursday	7 15
Church Council	1st Wednesday	8*15
Cubs	Every Tuesday and Thursday	6 30
Dramatic Group .	2nd and 4th Tuesdays	8 0
Guides	Every Friday	6 30
Helpers	1st Tuesday	3 0
Men's Group	3rd Wednesday	8†15
Mothers Union	1st and 3rd Tuesdays	8 0
Over-20 Club	2nd and 4th Mondays	8 0
Scouts	Every Wednesday	7 15
Study Circle	Every Thursday	8*15
Teachers Class	Every Tuesday	8*15
Whist Drive	2nd and 4th Wednesdays	2 30
Women's Guild	2nd and 4th Thursdays	2*30
Youth Club	Every Monday	8 0
* - at 84, Higher Drive	† - At 142, Old Lodge Lane	