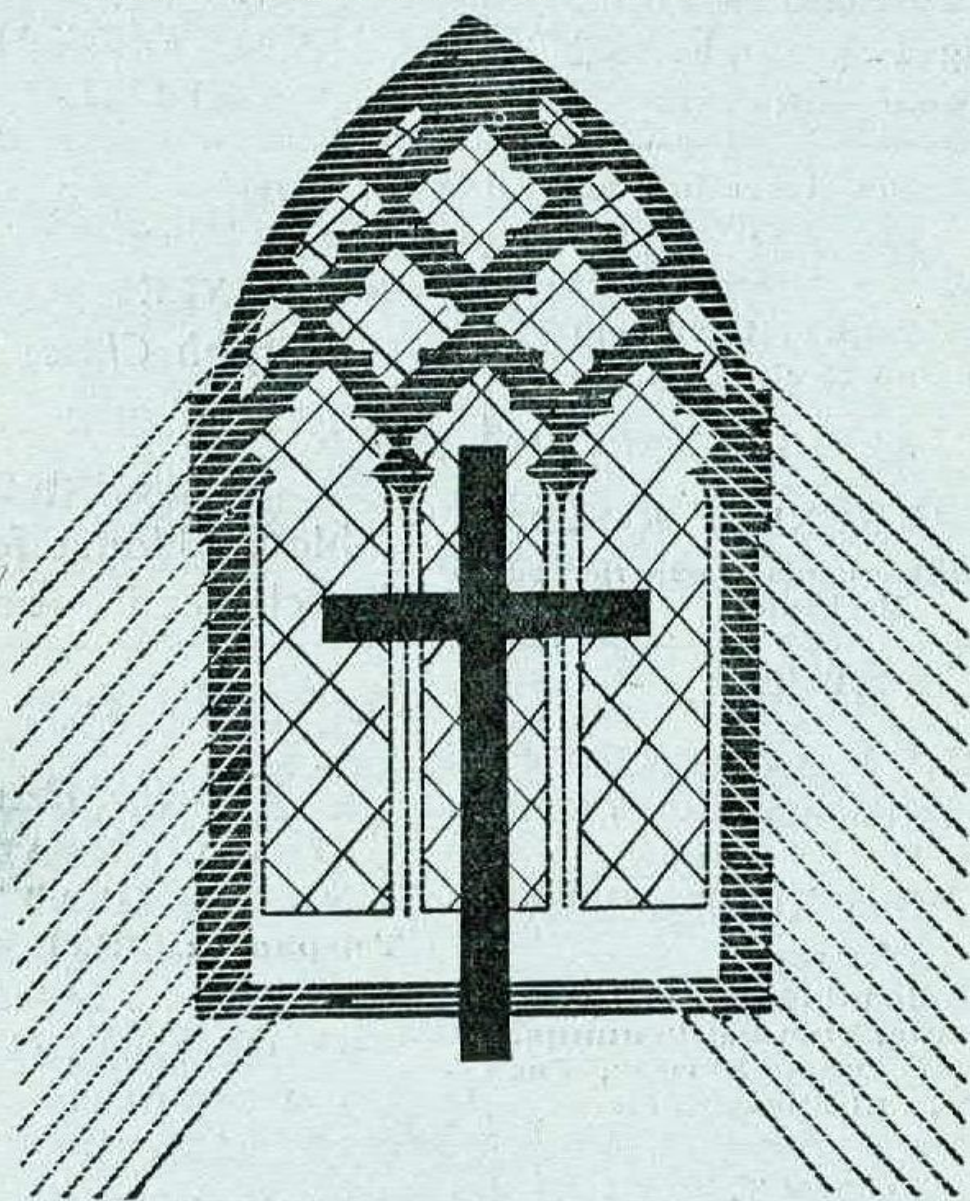


ST. PAUL'S CHURCH NEWS

NORTHUMBERLAND HEATH.



Vicar—REV. PETER SWINBANK, M.A., The Vicarage,
Colyer's Lane. Tel.—Erith 2809

Curate—

Vol. 6. No. 56.

FOURPENCE

MAY, 1953

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CALENDAR FOR MAY

- May 3. **4th Sunday after Easter. HOME MISSIONS SUNDAY.**
Holy Communion, 8 a.m.
Morning Prayer & Holy Communion, 11 a.m.
Children's Festival Service (Christ Church), 3.15 p.m.
Evening Prayer, 6.30 p.m.
Preacher : Rev. E. G. H. Saunders, M.A.
6. Wednesday
Bible & Prayer Fellowship, 8 p.m.
9. Saturday.
Annual Sale of Work (Community Centre), 3 p.m.
10. **5th Sunday after Easter. FOREIGN MISSIONS SUNDAY.**
Holy Communion, 8 a.m.
Morning Prayer, 11 a.m.
Evening Prayer, 6.30 p.m.
Preacher : Rev. W. K. Lawson, M.A.
13. Wednesday.
Bible & Prayer Fellowship, 8 p.m.
14. Thursday (Ascension Day).
Holy Communion, 10 a.m.
17. **Sunday after Ascension**
Holy Communion, 8 a.m.
Morning Prayer & Junior Parade Service, 11 a.m.
Evening Prayer & Family Communion, 6.30 p.m.
20. Wednesday.
Bible Prayer Fellowship, 8.0 p.m.
24. **Whit Sunday.**
Holy Communion, 8 a.m.
Morning Prayer & Holy Communion, 11 a.m.
Children's Service, 3 p.m.
Evening Prayer, 6.30 p.m.
31. **Trinity Sunday. CORONATION SUNDAY.**
Holy Communion, 8 a.m.
Morning Prayer, 11 a.m.
Baptisms, 4.15 p.m.
Evening Prayer, 6.30 p.m.
- June 2. **Tuesday. CORONATION DAY.**
Holy Communion, 8 a.m.

Requests for Baptisms and for the calling of Banns of Marriage should be made to the Vicar, and at least 7 days' notice given.

Material for inclusion in the June issue of the Magazine should be handed to the Vicar not later than Sunday, 17th May.

THE VICAR'S LETTER

My dear Friends,

There are two other letters to be included in this Magazine, so mine must be necessarily brief.

Naturally our thoughts will be centring this month on the approaching Coronation of our gracious Queen, to which the Bishop refers in his letter below. May I remind you of these words of Her Majesty: "At my Coronation next June, I shall dedicate myself anew to your service. I shall do so in the presence of a great congregation, drawn from every part of the Commonwealth and Empire, while millions outside Westminster Abbey will hear the promises and prayers being offered up within its walls, and see much of the ancient ceremony in which kings and queens before me have taken part through century upon century.

"You will be keeping it as a holiday: but I want to ask you all, whatever your religion may be, to pray for me on that day—to pray that God may give me wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promises I shall be making, and that I may faithfully serve Him, and you, all the days of my life."

Thank God for such a Queen.

The Services on Sunday, May 31st, will be special Coronation Services, and Coronation Day itself, Tuesday, June 2nd, I am giving you an opportunity to begin that day with God in prayer for the Queen with a Communion Service at 8 a.m. I hope many of you will take this opportunity to fulfil the Queen's request for your prayers on that day.

Will you also remember in prayer this month Mr. Dudley-Smith as he starts work at the Cambridge University Mission, and Mr. Peter Barton as he prepares for his ordination on June 7th, prior to beginning his ministry here as Assistant Curate.

Finally I want to thank you all very much for your generous Easter gifts and offering. These prove a very considerable help on the material level, apart from being a much-appreciated token of your kind support and good-will. Your continued kindness encourages me in my ministry. Thank you so much.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

PETER SWINBANK.

A LETTER FROM THE REV. T. DUDLEY-SMITH

Tel. BER. 3788

Cambridge University Mission,
43, Jamaica Road,
Bermondsey, S.E.16.

Dear Friends,

I would like to have thanked each one of you personally for your magnificent present to me as I leave Northumberland Heath; but that is not really possible, so will you please accept my thanks through this letter, and be assured that they are none the less warm because they have to come to you in print. The case for my robes is a delight and one that I shall always treasure; and the money with it I have tucked away to buy some piece of furniture for my rooms here.

Thank you all, too, for many kindnesses in my two years with you. I shall hope that it won't be too long before I see you all again; and if any of you are ever passing this way, make a note of my address above and come and see me; I hope you will.

Yours very sincerely,

TIMOTHY DUDLEY-SMITH

A LETTER FROM THE BISHOP

My dear People,

FOR GOD, QUEEN, AND COUNTRY.

In her Christmas broadcast, our gracious Queen asked us to pray that God would give her wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promises at her Coronation, and that she might faithfully serve Him and her people all the days of her life.

I have no doubt that on Coronation Sunday, May 31st, all Churches will be crowded out with Her Majesty's praying subjects; or that we shall all pray for her as we view or listen-in to, the Coronation itself.

But if our prayers are to be availing, we must make our own promises, together with the Queen; and like her pledge ourselves to the service of God and of our Country, "all the days of our life."

When at her Coronation, 115 years ago, the Orb with the Cross was placed in the hand of the girl Queen, Victoria; she asked: "What am I to do with it?" "Your Majesty is to carry it, if you please." "Am I? It is very heavy."

The Orb symbolises world dominion, and when it is delivered to Queen Elizabeth, the Archbishop will bid her: "when you see this Orb thus set under Cross, remember that the whole world is subject to the Power and Empire of Christ our Redeemer."

To hold the British Empire in trust for Christ, is indeed a heavy responsibility; and it is one in which we all have our part to play, by our Christian thinking and upright living.

The Coronation, therefore, calls upon all loyal subjects of the Queen to dedicate themselves afresh, with her, to the worship of God and the service of mankind.

Then shall the new Elizabethan age, that now opens, richly fulfil all the bright promise of its happy beginning.

Ever your affectionate Friend and Bishop,

CHRISTOPHER ROFFEN

HENGISTBURY HEAD, 1953.

"Third time lucky" would be a good description of our visit to Hengistbury Head this April. It was the third time a party had been down to Point House, the Hotel we take over on the edge of the sea and the headland; and though both the last two years' visits have been profitable and happy weeks, I thought this year's visit the best to date.

We were lucky in our weather; the only rain we saw, apart from an occasional April shower, was on the Sunday morning, and since we were in church during most of it, did not matter. The day that we made our coach trip was the best of the week, and as we walked along the grassy cliff-top above the Channel from Dancing Ledge to Swanage the sea was an almost mediterranean blue, and the sun was hot for walking.

We were lucky in having Mr. Lucas for our guest speaker for the week, lucky in finding a very reasonable field for hockey and other games just up the headland; lucky in having Point House to go to—and lucky in many other ways.

We had a full week. On Tuesday morning we had our first game of hockey, and this set the tone for the week's games, the spirit of the game being thought much more important than the mere rules of play! On Tuesday a small party went out along the coast to Milford and Beaulieu, and Wednesday was occupied with our day's outing which took in Poole, Wareham, Corfe, Studland and Sandbanks as well as Dancing Ledge and Swanage. On Thursday afternoon we visited Hurn Airport, but saw rather more fire-engines and foam-pumps than aeroplanes. Friday was spent mainly shopping, though I gather there was a certain amount of boating, golfing, tennis, walking in the New Forest, and patronising of restaurants as well.

But an account of 'Hengistbury Head' would not be complete without reference to the daily prayers and short talks which are such a special and essential feature of these house-parties and which many of those who have been during these last three years would readily admit add to the happiness and helpfulness of our week together, and really make 'Hengistbury Head' what it is—a place where we come to understand more clearly what it really means to be a Christian.

By the time you read this, it will be only eleven months till next year's Hengistbury Head. You had better start saving now, in case you are invited again . . .

T.D.S.

CHURCH NOTES

Annual Sale of Work. May I remind you that our Annual Sale of Work and Missionary Market will take place in the Community Centre on Saturday, May 9th. Our Opener will be Mrs. Howard Hooker who is Principal of the Ridgeland Bible College, Bexley. Admission will be by programme, price 3d, and these will be obtainable from all church officials and leaders of organisations, or at the door on the day of the Sale itself.

The Societies that will benefit from the Sale are as last year:— Church Missionary Society (and Always Mission); Church Pastoral-Aid Society; Church Missions to Jews; Church of England Zenana Missionary Society.

Whatever we send to these Societies will reap a spiritual harvest in many parts of the world, as well as in our own land. So please give us your support, and make this Sale as great a success as last year. If you cannot attend, but would like to make a donation, this will be added to the total proceeds.

B.C.

Annual Meeting of the Local Auxiliary of the British and Foreign Bible Society will be held on May 19th in Christ Church Hall, Erith, at 8 p.m. Your presence and support is earnestly requested.

United Meeting of P.C.C.'s. The next meeting will be held at Christ Church Hall, Bexleyheath, on Tuesday, May 26th, at 8 p.m. The Rev. H. Wallace Bird, Vicar of St. Mark's, Kennington Oval, will speak on 'A New Approach to Christian Living.' We hope that this meeting will be well-supported by members of the P.C.C., and also by other members of the congregation.

D.E.B.

An Urgent Need. Is there any nurse in the Diocese who will find her sphere of work at Oakhurst Mother and Baby Home and Residential Nursery, Erith? There are beds for 24 ante- and post-natal cases and 10 cots for infants between 3 and 12 months. Whitley scale of salaries is paid. There are vacancies for a Deputy Matron and for children's Nurses. Full details can be had from the Diocesan Organiser for Moral Welfare, 162 Borstal Rd. Rochester.

An Anonymous Gift of £5 has been gratefully received by the Treasurer towards the repairs and improvements to the Parish Halls. May we remind you all that our need in this direction is still great?

We also gratefully acknowledge an anonymous gift of £1 towards Church Expenses. *

PARISH ORGANISATIONS

Mothers' Union. Our meeting on April 9th was held at the Community Centre, when we welcomed members from neighbouring branches, and also several members of our Young Wives' Group and of the Women's Fellowship. The Vicar presided and introduced the speaker, the Rev. T. Dudley-Smith. His talk on how we should grow in our Christian life gave us much to think about and ponder over in our hearts. At the close of the meeting Mrs. Robinson on behalf of the members asked Mr. Dudley-Smith to accept a writing case as a token of our appreciation of his work here in this parish and wished him God's blessing in his new work. After the meeting the visitors were entertained to tea.

A coach has been booked for our visit to Rochester on June 11th, the occasion being the Diocesan Festival Service in the Cathedral at 2.45 p.m. A nursery will be arranged for the children, and tickets for tea are 1/6 each.

Our grateful thanks to members and friends who sent goods for the Jumble Sale on March 20th, the amount realised being £13-12-6. L.R.

Women's Fellowship. This has been a quiet month as the weeks around Easter always seem. Whereas before Easter we have the last sad days of Lent, afterwards one seems overawed by the wonder and glory of it all.

Miss Manning came to speak to us on April 8th. "The Time between Easter and Whitsun" was her subject, and so interesting did she make it that we felt quite sorry when she ended.

By the time you read this there will still be a day or two left in which to buy sweets for our stall at the Sale of Work, if you have not already done so. Of course, there is no need for us to say how we hope that folks will come in great numbers to refresh themselves at our counter, and support our, and indeed every, stall at the Community Centre on May 9th.

Young Wives' Group. On May 5th Mrs. Gill will be speaking to us on "The Hallowing of the Queen." This talk will be of great interest to us all, and I do hope many will try to come along to hear it.

On May 12th a coach trip has been arranged to visit Cobham. We hope to leave from outside the Church at 7.45 p.m., and to return about 9.15 p.m. when refreshments will be served.

There will be no afternoon meeting held in June, but we hope to have a social evening on June 16th to be held at the Vicarage at 7.45 p.m. B.M.S.

The Discoverers. Meetings began again on April 24th, and for the first few weeks will be concentrating on the Sale of Work. After that we hope to have a series of talks on the work of the church overseas. For this series we will have a number of outside speakers covering many of the countries in which C.M.S. is working. Also, in the not too distant future, there will be another enrolment service for several new members of our Discoverers' Group. D.M.

Sidesmen's Rota

May 3.	8.0 D. G. Alcock; 11.0 R. Baker; 6.30 W. Barrett, J. Bayley.
10.	8.0 P. Brown; 11.0 F. Collihole; 6.30 B. Cotter, R. Downes.
17.	8.0 C. Giles; 11.0 J. Lovely; 6.30 H. McCabe, A. G. Manning.
24.	8.0 D. G. Mathews; 11.0 J. B. New; 6.30 G. H. Simmonds, J. W. Waddup
31.	8.0 L. Weeks; 11.0 N. Weeks; 6.30 J. Williams, D. G. Alcock.
June 7.	8.0 R. Baker; 11.0 W. Barrett; 6.30 J. Bailey, P. Brown.

PARISH PRAYER BULLETIN

The following districts of the parish will be remembered in prayer at Church during the weeks commencing on the dates given below. It is suggested that church members might make a point of coming to the 8 a.m. Communion Service on the Sunday of the week allotted to their district.

- May 3. **Bexley Road**, Park Crescent, Ling Rd., Emes Rd., Hurst Rd.
10. **Ramsden Rd.**, Hind Crescent, Buxton Rd., The Avenue, Colyers Lane Birling Rd.
17. **Heathway**, Northumberland Way, Fairford Av., Barnehurst Av., Coniston Rd., Erith Rd.
24. **Rydal Drive**, Alberta Rd., Swanbridge Rd., The Green, Heversham Rd.
31. **Belmont Rd.**, Dalmeny Rd., Langdale Crescent, Nurstead Rd., Swanton Rd., Bedonwell Rd.

PARISH REGISTER

In Welcome

- Mar. 22. Paul Leonard Brackstone.
29. Marilyn Irene Cutler.
Rosemary Joy Wynne.
Malcolm Richard Wood.
Lizbeth Ann Farnham.
Susan King.
Keith Grahame Wright.
Keith Charles Crouch.
Apr. 20. Marian Joan Carter.

Baptisms

In Congratulation

- Mar. 28. Ronald Alfred DILLY to Joan Winifred AVERY.
Apr. 18. William John LIMAN to Barbara Jean LEE.

Weddings

In Sympathy

- Apr. 1. Jessie Louisa Bussey, 54 years, 38 Horsa Road.
7. Cuthbert James Robert Clace, 70 years, 7a Camrose Av.
22. Mary Hollingworth, 54 years, 45 Hind Crescent.

Funerals

Sunday Offertories

Mar. 29—£8 8s. 9d.; Apr. 3 (Good Friday)—£5 5s. 6d.; Apr. 5—£16 16s. 0d.; (Easter Offering); Apr. 12—£5 3s. 8d.; Apr. 19—£9 5s. 4d.

Flower Guild

May 2—Mrs. Coleman; May 9—Miss Hilder and Mrs. Wooton; May 16—Mrs. Cotter; May 23—Young Wives' Group; May 30—Mrs. Williams.

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