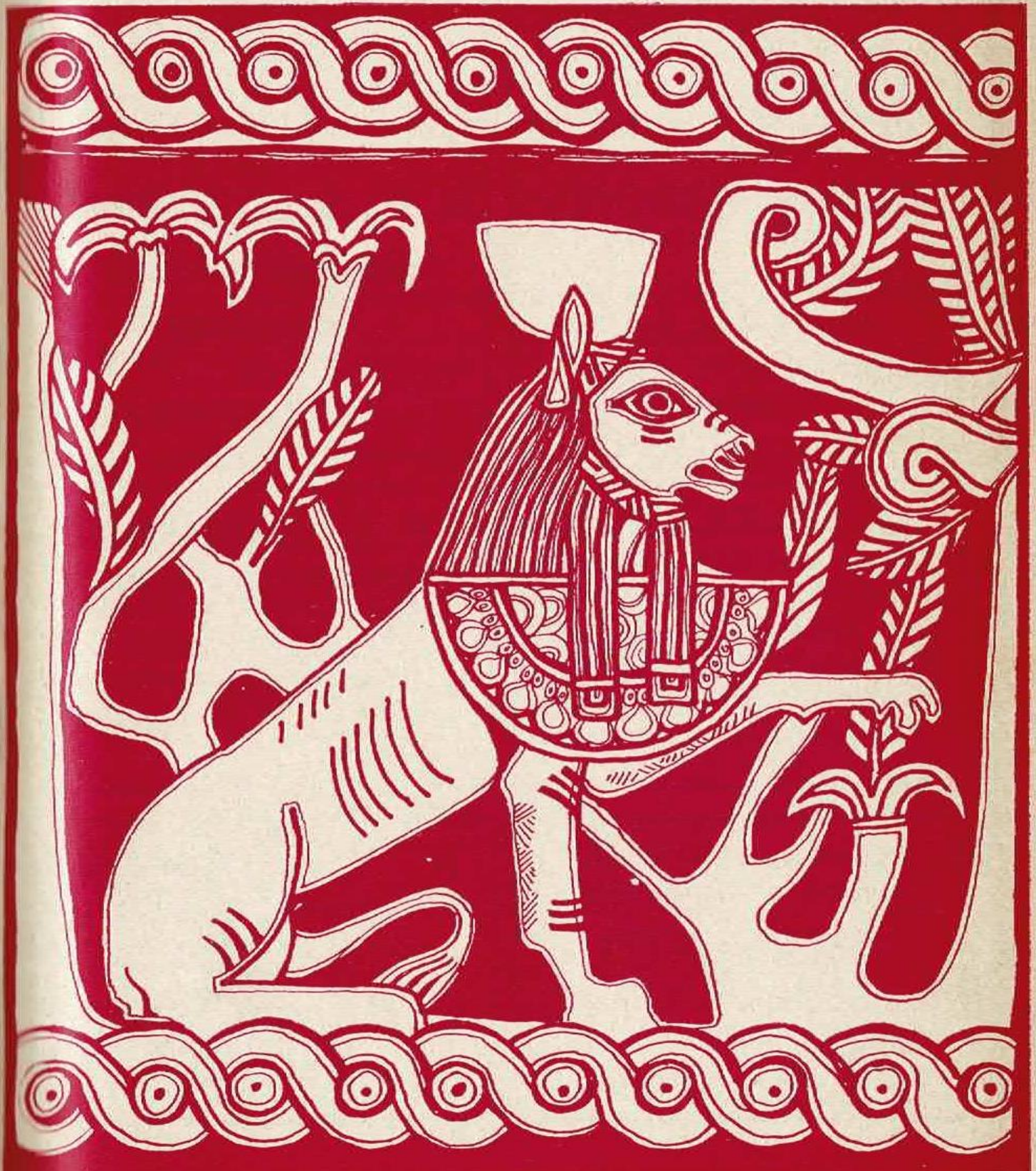


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St. Paul's Church News

MARCH, 1969

Price Sixpence

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Advisory Editor: The Vicar

Assistant Editor: Mrs. E.M.A. Withstandley, 67 Northumberland Pk., Erith

Secretary: Mr. J. Waddup, 95 Edendale Road, Barnehurst (Erith 39897)

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Lay Reader: Mr. R. F. Parker, 85 Chessington Ave., Bexleyheath.

(Erith 34417)

Churchwardens: Mr. Norman Weeks, 24 Hengist Road, Erith

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Erith (38675)

Organist Emeritus: Mr. J. Crane

SUNDAYS AT ST. PAUL'S

Holy Communion 8 a.m. (11 a.m. second Sunday and 6.30 p.m. fourth Sunday in month)

11.00 a.m. Family Service (with Nursery and Children's Classes)

(Parade Service first Sunday in the month in School terms; Parish Communion, second Sunday)

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer (fourth Sunday, The Lord's Supper)

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE (Contact the following)

Sick Visiting: Mrs. I. Carrier, 22 Hengist Road, Erith (32360)

Sharing Scheme: Mrs. A. L. Clarke, 18 Heathway, Erith (33898)

Flower Rota: Mrs. A. L. Clarke (as above)

Church dusting, etc.: Mrs. G. Newlyn, 262 Belmont Road, Erith (37709)

Transport to church: Mr. R. G. Twitchen, 38 Langdale Crescent, Bexleyheath

Sunday School Teaching: Mr. McGinley

OTHER CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Something of special interest most Sundays after the Evening Service.

Mid-week Holy Communion on certain Wednesdays in the year.

Home Meetings, mid-week Prayer Meeting, Bible Studies (details in Church Notices)

Social Group (2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings in month)—a chance to meet new friends.

For Men The Men's Association Wednesday evenings 8 p.m.

For Women

'Meeting Point' for all women, at the Vicarage, 2 p.m. each Tuesday in School terms and 8 p.m. 3rd Tuesday in month.

Mothers' Union at 2.45 p.m. on second Tuesday in month (Hall)

Womens' Fellowship at 2.45 p.m. each Wednesday (Hall)

For Young People

Sundays, 3 p.m. at 113 Belmont Road. Saturday, 7.30-10 p.m. Club (Hall)

Pathfinders (ages 11-14 years) Sunday mornings 9.45 a.m. and Thursdays 7 p.m. (Hall)

For Children.

Children's Classes each Sunday, 11 a.m. (Nursery, Infants and Juniors up to 11 years) and 3 p.m. (Infants and Juniors) in the Church Hall

Occasional mid-week and holiday activities

Also (in Church Hall): Scouts—Fridays, 7 p.m. Cubs—Mondays, 6.30 p.m. and Tuesdays, 6 p.m.

Guides—Tuesdays, 7 p.m. and Wednesdays, 6 p.m.

Brownies—Tuesdays; Wednesdays and Thursdays at 4.00 p.m.

WHAT'S ON IN MARCH

March

2 **SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**

Series Two Holy Communion at 8 a.m., followed by breakfast together. No Parade Service at 11 a.m. (postponed to March 16)

7 3.0 p.m. **WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**. Service at St. Paul's

9 **THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**

PARISH COMMUNION at 11 a.m.

10 7.45 p.m. Church Council Meeting

11 2.45 p.m. Mothers' Union Lenten Service in Church
8 p.m. onwards. St. Paul's Social Group (Committee Room)

15/16 Members of the 'MAN ALIVE' Team will be with us in the Parish.

16 **FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

MOTHERING SUNDAY FAMILY AND PARADE SERVICE at 11 a.m.

6.30 p.m. 'MAN ALIVE' Team

18 8 p.m. 'Meeting-Point' for Women (Vicarage)

23 **FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

THE LORD'S SUPPER at 6.30 p.m.

25 8 p.m. onwards. St. Paul's Social Group (Committee Room)

26 10 a.m. Holy Communion ('Annunciation of Mary')

30 **PALM SUNDAY**

HOLY WEEK (March 31-April 4). Northumberland Heath Churches unite for the following:

Monday 8 p.m.—'To set the scene'—at the Baptist Church

Tuesday 8 p.m.—A Service at St. Paul's led by the **ICHTHYAN SINGERS**, followed by a Reception in the Hall

Maundy Thursday 8 p.m.—United Service of **HOLY COMMUNION** at Baptist Church

Good Friday 2.45 p.m.—Open Air Service, Northumberland Heath Recreation Ground

7.30 p.m.—'MESSIAH', Part 2, sung by our united choirs at St. Paul's

Also **Good Friday** at St. Paul's—10.30 a.m. Morning Service

April 5 Saturday 10 a.m. We decorate the Church for Easter

April 6 **EASTER DAY**

7 a.m. and 8 a.m. Holy Communion (Series Two). Shortened Holy Communion (Series One) at 12 noon and 7.30 p.m.

EASTER DAY FAMILY SERVICE at 11 a.m.

Evening Prayer at 6.30 p.m.

Our **HOME MEETINGS** and our special **SPRING/LENT** Series of subjects at 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. on Sundays continue throughout Lent until Palm Sunday (see Church Notices for details—You are warmly invited to join us at any of our Home Meetings).



FROM THE VICAR

Have you ever felt let down? No doubt, most of us have at some time or other. The shattered image of someone we thought to be all but perfect. A friendship which has come to nothing. Or life itself has let us down. Some ambition has come to nothing, a longed-for experience vanished into thin air. Our hopes are dashed.

No one could feel more disappointed than the followers of Christ in those last few days before His death. They must have felt just about as let down as any of us can imagine. Utterly despondent. 'Here is the one person who has made sense of life, who gave us a reason for being alive, the one person who could be relied upon—and now look at Him, taken away in disgrace to be killed.' 'Could we not have done something to stop it?' And so guilt is added to despair. 'Could HE not have done something?' Resentment creeps into the disappointment. 'He allowed this to happen. He knew what was happening all along, and He did nothing to prevent it.' In the death of Jesus, the hopes of His disciples died with Him.

It was at this point of despair and hopelessness that God raised Christ from the dead. God brought hope out of nothing, life out of death, joy out of sorrow. The pattern is still the same. In the power and grace of God Easter still follows Good Friday. 'God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by His power.' (1 Corinthians ch. 6. v 14.)

Holy Communion. Parish Communion on the 9th and The Lord's Supper on the 23rd will follow the new Alternative Order of Holy Communion (Series Two). Series Two will also be used for the mid-week Communion and for the first Sunday in the month at 8 a.m. Holy Communion at 8 a.m. on the other Sundays will follow the 1662 Order (Series One). On Easter Day at 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. we shall use Series Two, but a shortened form of Series One will follow the Morning and Evening services.

For details of regular Church services and activities, see page 1. Initial arrangements about Baptisms (Christenings), Churchings, Banns of Marriage and Weddings should be made at Church on:

Wednesdays	2.30- 3.30 p.m.
Fridays	7.00- 8.00 p.m.
Saturdays	10.00-11.00 a.m.

The Vicar is also in Church on Saturday evenings between 7.30 and 8 p.m. to discuss personal matters with anyone or to make an appointment for another time.

LETTER FROM SIERRA LEONE

P.O. Box 28
BO Sierra Leone
January 8, 1969

Dear Friends,

The first light of a new day could be seen behind the hills as the M.V. Aureal slipped into Freetown Harbour. Our second tour in Sierra Leone had begun!

Still fresh in my memory were the visits to our Link Parishes; St. Paul's, Northumberland Heath; St. Leonard's, Bilston; St. Michael and All Angels, Lower Sydenham; St. John's, Dormansland; St. Peter's, Aberdovey; and St. Michael and All Angels, Appelby Magna. Jane was sorry that she was unable to accompany me, but baby Deborah kept her fully occupied!

The next day we drove the 168 miles to Bo, the former Protectorate capital, and now fast becoming an educational centre. It is quite a cosmopolitan town with most of the different tribes represented, as well as various countries. There is virtually no industry, however, which is one reason for the considerable number of unemployed who sit around during the day.

By the following week 18 men with their wives were busy in the classrooms of the Bible Institute, and learning, in the process of living together, what it means to be a Christian. Our task is to help to make the Bible live and speak for the students.

We could hear the sound of drums, dancing and singing coming through the dense forest. Suddenly the single-file path opened out and we were in the village where they had been celebrating throughout the night. It was the first of several villages we visited that morning, wading through a number of streams and swamps on the way. John James, one of the BTI students, goes to these villages every week-end to conduct a short service and encourage the Christians, as well as seeking to introduce Jesus to the many Muslims. Each student is given an area in which to work at week-ends during the term so that he will learn to put into practice what he has been taught, and be trained for the work he will do when he leaves BTI.

In November we left our temporary home on the Bunumbu Press Compound (although we still share their P.O. Box because there is not one available for us at present) and moved into the Church House next door to St. Paul's Church in the town. The Vicar of St. Paul's is a fine Mende Christian, Archdeacon Michael Keili, who is married, with eight children. He has just been given the O.B.E. for his services in education. We are hoping to conduct a stewardship workshop with the Methodists as a result of an excellent course held by Dr. Paul Lindholm at the BTI in December. We do hope that this workshop will encourage the church members to think out their faith and make their own efforts to reach those outside the Church.

While on the subject of the church, we would ask you to pray that more SLC students will be forthcoming, as at present there are only three at the BTI.

Last April we left Sierra Leone at the time of the Army mutiny and over-throw of the NRC Government. Since then the National Government under the Prime Minister, Mr. Siaka Stevens has been established. Nevertheless, just prior to several by-elections, the headlines of the 'Daily Mail' dated November 21st read as follows:—

'The declaration of a state of emergency,' the Prime Minister told the Nation, 'has been necessitated by a recent wave of violence in some parts of the country; vandalism, destruction of peoples' property, murder and anti-Government activities by disgruntled elements.'

A little trouble occurred in Bo and was followed by a number of arrests, but things seem to be fairly peaceful now.

One reason for the delay in sending you our Christmas greetings and our best wishes for the New Year was the work involved in moving house, and another was Jane's health. The hay fever attacks which we associated on the previous tour with her pregnancy, returned as soon as she came back to Sierra Leone and have been regular and severe. One serious result has been an ear infection, the right ear becoming perforated. We are hoping that an ear nose and throat specialist, who will be visiting the country at the end of the month, will be able to see her. Meanwhile she is having ear and nose drops, anti-biotics, and a special course of drugs for hay-fever. It is our hope and prayer that these may prove effective. We thank God that Deborah keeps very well and continues to give us much joy.

Thank you for sending us your parish magazines and for your faithful prayers. We will endeavour to be more regular in our prayers for you. May we all experience the truth of Philippians ch. 4 verse 13, this New Year.

'I have the strength to face all conditions by the power that Christ gives me.'

With Christian Love,

Tony and Jane Swann

PARISH ROUNDABOUT

1st ERITH BROWNIES. Congratulations to the Brownies who have gained the following badges:

Animal Lover: Rebecca Thomsett. **Cook:** Annette McDonald and Lynne Gordon. **House Orderly:** Annette McDonald. **Swimmer:** Debra Creasey. **Writer:** Debra Creasey.

A.R.W.

MOTHERS' UNION. At our meeting on January 14th we were very pleased to welcome once again as our speaker Mrs. Day from St. Augustine's, Slade Green. Her subject was 'Women of the Bible.'

On Tuesday, 25th March (Lady Day) at 2.30 p.m. there will be a Deanery Quiet Afternoon at St. Martin's, Barnehurst, conducted by the Rev. A. E. Speers.

We are having a Jumble Sale on Friday, 21st March. If you have any jumble you would like collected please contact one of the

committee. May I remind members that we are responsible for decorating the church at Easter.

The meeting on March 11th will be our Lenten Service in Church.

Corporate Communion 26th March.

A.K.T.

ST. PAUL'S SOCIAL GROUP. These notes are being sent in a little too early to report on our events for February, but I can tell you about our programme in January last.

Now the Old Kent Road is celebrated, or notorious if you wish, for many things, among them the fact that just clear of this end of it the present writer came into being, and near the other end is the pub — 'The World turned upside Down' which the writer must have passed on so many occasions, and duly noted.

It is said that what is in the blood must come out, and so far as I am concerned it came out on Tuesday evening the 28th January. We had a very representative and interesting slide show, enlivened right from the start by the way the writer, beating 'enry Cooper, who also trains in the O.K.R., by turning Canada for Mrs. Lily Shoveller upside down, sideways, etc., etc., with no effort at all.

To be a little more serious we had twenty-four people there, and we did not have enough time to do real justice to the galaxy of sheer sun-drenched scenic beauty ranging from Canada, Somerset, Switzerland, Greece, Isle of Wight and so on. We certainly seem to get around a bit, don't we?

The previous Beetle Drive was, as always, a winner and requires no further comment.

Now for March—John permitting—Mr. McGinley is visiting us on the 11th with one of his cheerful chats, and on the 25th we are welcoming a few representatives from each of the other St. Paul's groups to a pot-pouri of our activities. Would like you all, but our Committee Room will not stretch that far.

See you then.

L.T.O.

PARISH PROFILE

The second of a series in which Len Hollingsworth finds out about people in the parish.

'... and thanks also to Ron Handy and his helpers, who erected the Christmas tree and made the Church look so attractive at this time.' ... 'collections in Christian Aid Week in our parish, which were arranged by Ron Handy with a team of assistants ...' 'If you wish to become a regular reader of the Church of England Newspaper, please see Ron Handy ...' These three announcements by the clergy, which have been made in church fairly recently, show the wide variety of opportunities for service in the church. But further, they typify the dedication of Ronald Arthur Handy. Ron, now 27, has been a member of St. Paul's for about six years and in October 1966 married another of the congregation, Joan (nee Roper).

By no means a gay socialite, Ron gets his satisfaction from

personal service and an utter dependability. A member of Erith A.C., he is one of the rare breed of humans who derives a real kick from doing cross-country runs every Saturday afternoon, in events up to the Parliament Hill Fields race standard. As a luxury he may cycle, and has toured Wales and France in this way. Suffering severely from the 'do it yourself' disease, Ron nevertheless admits to being an 'indiscriminate goggler' — 'the television's all right as long as it's switched off', he says. His bearded figure ('I like it—it grows on you' says Joan, ambiguously) is often seen as a sidesman and may have been the one who delivered the magazine you are reading. In addition to helping with the Thursday evening Pathfinders, Ron has done some quietly efficient, superbly dependable work on the Houseparty Committee as its treasurer. I myself have had great reason to be very thankful for this.

Ron started work as a post-boy in an office in London. After eight years, he left as an accountant and is currently in charge of the installation of a computer at a small engineering works in Plumstead. It's not surprising that he likes working with figures, and found the task of Houseparty Treasurership no worry ('except for the night when everyone paid in and I had £600 in the house over the weekend').

'What is your reaction to the currently fashionable idea that the future of the Church is in the home?'

'I wouldn't like to see the church building disappear, but I like the idea of meetings in the home. They, and events such as houseparties (I remember the Pitlochry houseparty particularly) provide a special atmosphere of fellowship. We try to use our own home for this purpose.'

'And what brought you into the Church?'

'It was through my brother, and coming to the Youth Club. It wasn't a sudden change; it was gradual, over a period of 3 or 4 years, through such events as Tom Rees rallies and houseparties.'

'Lastly, it sounds as though it was the result of a great deal of searching. So what advice would you give to anyone in that position?'

'To get guidance from someone of similar age and outlook and then to make up one's own mind from it.'

PARISH REGISTERS

We welcome into the fellowship of the Church in Baptism:

Jan. 19 Lucy Sarah, daughter of Barry and Penelope-Jane Parker.

We congratulate on their Wedding:

Jan. 25 William John Gilbert James Anderson and Linda Maisie Prior.

We extend our sympathy to the relatives of:

Jan. 15 William John Warren, 61 Luddesdon Road, aged 78 years.

17 Gertrude Mary Skelton, 15 Lochmere Close, aged 77 years.

23 Edith Sybil Mary Beadle, 41 Hurst Road, aged 73 years.

29 Alfred Henry Steel, 144 Bexley Road, aged 74 years.

Feb. 3 Ellen Matilda Maycock, c/o 48 Colindale Ave., aged 70 yrs.

7 Alfred William Dudley, 55 Plaxtol Road, aged 73 years.

Flower Guild for March: March 1st: Mrs. Waddup; 29th: Mrs. Shoveller. April 5th: Mothers' Union (Easter).

Contributions towards flowers on the other Sundays of this month will be greatly appreciated.

Shoveller. April 5th: Mothers' Union (Easter).

SIDESMEN'S ROTA FOR MARCH 1969

March	8 a.m.	11 a.m.	6.30 p.m.
2	D. Ablett	Miss Ayleward, P. Ayres	H. Holmes, S. Holmes
9	L. Hollingsworth	C. Giles, R. Handy	E. Hobbs, R. Lindridge
16	J. Loveley	M. Murphy, R. McFar-	A. Mills, F. Martin
		lane	
23	A. Meinertzhagen	J. McGhie, Mrs. Moken-	Mr. & Mrs. Newman
		storm	
30	John Waddup	W. J. White, D. Ablett	P. May, Miss Ayleward

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12	£9 18 11	£20 1 0	£29 19 11
19	£9 3 11	£11 2 0	£20 5 11
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Jan. 26 Churches Ministry among the Jews £12 1 6

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Phoenician Lion, eighth century BC. From an ivory plaque found at Nimrud: lion wears a royal collar and a cobra headgear in Egyptian fashion. C692/P36

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