



GRASMERE PARISH MAGAZINE

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TRINITY SUNDAY

The Bishop, in this month's Carlisle Diocesan News (enclosed in this Magazine) draws attention to one of the most urgent problems of the Church today, namely the supply of men for the Ministry. On Trinity Sunday, 8th June, the collections in church at all services will be given to the Ordination Candidates Training Fund. The preacher at 10-30 a.m. will be the Archdeacon of Westmorland, the Venerable S. C. Bulley, and the Archbishops' Pastoral Letter, to which the Bishop refers, will be read at Evensong.

" THREE YEAR'S ACTION."

It is proposed, month by month, to record our progress towards the £525 which Grasmere has undertaken to find towards the £60,000 needed for building churches in the new housing areas of the diocese.

In response to the statement issued in May, the sum of £123 has already been received from parishioners.

THE CONFIRMATION

The following candidates from our parish were confirmed by the Right Reverend Bishop Blagden on Sunday, 11th May, in Grasmere Church :—Michael Brown, John Walker, Geoffrey Palmer, Raymond Thompson, Norman Inman, Paul Anthony, Brian Preston, Freda Wilson, Dorothy Benson, Helen Hunter and Susan Hodder-Williams.

CHURCH COLLECTIONS—MAY

4th—£ 6 13	4.	Church Expenses.
11th—£10 10	5.	"
18th—£ 8 11	3.	"
22nd—(Ascension Day)	£1 10 0.	U.M.C.A.
25th—£10 17	9.	Church Expenses.

WOMEN'S OFFERING SERVICE

The Annual Service at which we give our offerings to the Moral Welfare work in this diocese will be held this year at 2-30 p.m. on WEDNESDAY, 16th JULY, at ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, WINDERMERE. All Mothers' Union Members should make a special effort to go to this service.

RAINFALL

Rain fell on 18 days in March, a total fall of 6.41 inches. In April 5.06 inches fell on 18 days.

MOTHERS' UNION.

20th May. A number of members joined the Ambleside members and went to Carlisle to take part in the Festival Service in the Cathedral at which the Lord Bishop of the Diocese was the preacher.

11th June. Will all members and all our friends make a note of this date? and come to our BRING AND BUY SALE at THE WRAY, at 2-30 p.m. Any gifts of cakes or groceries for the sale will be gratefully received and put on the stalls. There will be a small entrance fee, and all who come will be welcome to wander in the garden.

17th September. Our Monthly Meetings will begin again. Mrs. Blagden will be glad to know of any new members, or newcomers to Grasmere who would like to hear about the Mothers' Union.

KINGS MESSENGERS

The trip to Barrow on 10th May to see the "Centurion" was a great success. A very packed bus left at mid-day and as the journey did not take so long a time as was estimated we were able to stop at Furness Abbey for half an hour to see the ruins of the Abbey. Then we went on to Barrow and saw over the "Centurion," the S.P.G. exhibition of pictures and the bookstall. After this everyone went off as they wished in small parties. Some of us visited the "Happy Homes" exhibition in the School Court of which we were one of the Sunday Schools exhibiting children's work, and whilst there saw the technicolor film of the S.P.G. Birthday Celebrations in June, 1951, the blessing of the "Centurion" and some of her ports of call during last summer.

DIOCESAN LEAFLET.

A note which appeared in last January's magazine, about the cost of the leaflet called "Carlisle Diocesan News," has led to some enquiries and a little confusion. It was then explained that; without raising the cost of the magazine, we intend to include a copy of this leaflet each month, in order that news about diocesan affairs may reach every reader. Any subscribers who care to do so may make any additional voluntary contribution they like towards the cost involved: no "charge" will be made. The sum we suggested (2/6 per annum) is actually the sum the clergy are expected to pay for their copies—willingly or unwillingly! No objections, however, will be raised if smaller amounts are offered—either to your Magazine Distributor or to Mr Abbott!

Carlisle Diocesan News

JUNE, 1952.

FROM THE BISHOP

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

This year the Diocesan Conference to be held on 13th June will be even more important than usual, for in the afternoon the lay members will meet by themselves to consider the subject which the Archbishop of Canterbury has specially requested.

The clergy will also meet separately and I welcome the opportunity of addressing them and hearing from them of their work—achievements, problems and plans.

I hope, therefore, that there will be a very full attendance and that all parishes will be represented at the Conference.

On Trinity Sunday there will be an Ordination Service in Carlisle Cathedral and in most of the Cathedrals in England, but there will not be as many men ordained as are needed. We ought all to be seriously concerned about this, for without an adequate supply of men for the Sacred Ministry the whole work of the Church must be imperilled. We need at least 500 men ordained every year to keep up the present numbers and we are falling short. The average in recent years is not above 400 men a year. There is no single cause that can account for this. The war deprived us of many young men, but I think that the main cause is due to the secularism of the age in which we live.

It is true that the financial stringency which has pressed and still presses heavily on most of the clergy and their families has deterred some from entering the Ministry, but I do not believe that, grievous as it has been, it is the primary cause of the shortage.

Every parish must be concerned about the position. Every parish wants an incumbent of its own, but does it ask, "Where do incumbents come from?" "How long is it since our parish produced an incumbent?" All incumbents come from parishes and any parish which has a deep and strong spiritual life deriving from the corporate worship of God in the parish church will throw up men conscious of the call of Christ to serve in the Ministry of His Church.

I set before you the following steps by which all of you can assist in providing our Church with the men she needs for the Ministry.

1. A greater diligence in joining in the corporate worship in your parish church.

2. The due observance of Ember Days—days appointed for special prayers for those who are being ordained or preparing for it.

3. Greater concern to see that your parish priest is set free from financial embarrassment by seeing that he has a modest but adequate stipend. Insist that this is a matter about which the parochial church council has a duty.

4. Every parish should contribute to the cost, which is heavy, of training men for the Ministry. The training extends over many years. I hope that in all churches in this diocese there will be a special collection for this on Trinity Sunday or on some other Sunday specially set apart.

I am sure that if we are faithful to God, conscious of our duties and privileges as members of Christ's Church, deeply concerned for the Church in our land, and the well being of our people, this problem will be solved. May God strengthen us in our faith and service.

Yours sincerely,



P.S.

Since writing the above, I have received notice that there is being issued "A Pastoral Letter from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York addressed to Members of the Church of England."

A copy of this letter is being sent to every incumbent. I direct that this letter be read in every church on Trinity Sunday or on some other Sunday in the month of June.

MEN FOR THE MINISTRY

To Parents

If in other Christian Bodies parents consider it the highest privilege that one of their sons should become a Priest or a Minister, surely the same should hold good in the Church of England, the traditional and historic Church of our land, and parents should be asked, when their advice is being sought on the vital question of their son's career, to keep in mind the high calling of the Ministry.

To Young Men

It should be urged upon young men of adequate educational background who are about to make a decision with regard to their future career that the claims of vocation to serve as a Minister in the Church of God should be considered and examined at least on a level with those offered by other walks of life.

To All Church People

Every parish in the diocese is asked to give collections on Trinity Sunday, June 8th, for the purpose of training ordinands. The cost of training has increased considerably in the last few years and the position is serious. May we hope that every parish this year will take a full and responsible share in the task which faces the whole Church.

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