



LAST month we wrote about the ministry of the Church and pointed out that the ministry consisted of three Orders of Bishops, Priests and Deacons which receive their authority in unbroken succession from Apostolic times. A bishop incidentally is not a superior kind of Moderator whose ministry is administration but a bishop, through his Consecration, receives a spiritual authority to which is added his administrative authority. His function is therefore primarily spiritual.

What may be described as the administrative side of the Church's work is as follows. The country is divided into two Provinces of Canterbury and York and each Province has its own Convocation consisting of two Houses—the Upper House of Bishops and Clergy and the Lower House of Laity—this latter being elected by the laity. Convocation is older than Parliament itself and deals almost entirely with doctrine and practice, whereas all matters concerning diocesan and parochial organisation is dealt with by the National Assembly. The two Provinces are divided into dioceses over which a bishop presides and has his Seat or Cathedra in his Cathedral. Again each diocese is divided into Archdeaconries over which the Archdeacon presides, and those archdeaconries are divided into Rural Deaneries over which the Rural Dean presides, and each rural deanery is divided into parishes in charge of Rector or Vicar. It should be noted that there can never be more than one Vicar or Rector in any parish, Great Britain was divided into parishes by Archbishop Theodore in the year 667 and such institutions as Rural Districts and Parish Councils are of quite modern invention.

The result of all this is the fact that every resident in Great Britain lives in a parish, and has a right to, and a duty towards, the ministrations of a Parish Church.

We may perhaps add two notes. 1. An Archbishop of Canterbury or of York is at times called upon to make announcements on matters of widespread interest and importance. In so doing they are not giving their personal or private opinions but speaking for the Church in England as a whole. A clear understanding on this point would remove much ill informed opinion which so often appears in the cheap Press.

2. No Bishop or other church dignitary and none of the clergy are paid by the State or from public funds with the exception of Chaplains to the Forces and in some instances hospital chaplains. The income of the average clergyman is about the same as a competent bricklayer and often less.

ADVENT Sunday is Nov. 27th and marks the beginning of the Church's New Year. On this Sunday we start the new Register of children who attend the afternoon services, and again we urge parents to see that their children attend. The Sunday School at S. Nicholas is held every Sunday afternoon and Mrs. Sheppard is always glad to welcome new children. We have attendance records of the Parish Church going back over 19 years and the average has always been remarkably good. Several whose names are in the early registers are now married.

Without the co-operation of parents we can do little and we rely on them. This also applies to choir boys. We want more, and regular attendance, please.

Register

Holy Baptism.

Oct. 16th, Wendy Ann, daughter of Jack and Olive Edith Pickering.

Nov. 2nd. Peter Raymond, son of Raymond Victor and Gladys Nora Bennett.

Burial.

Oct. 31st. Rose Cobb, aged 64.