

October 1955



THE Harvest Thanksgiving Services in both churches were well attended and the decorations were as beautiful as they always are on these occasions. The produce from the Parish Church was taken to the Alms House at Wareham, and from S. Nicholas to the similar institution at Blandford. We have received grateful thanks from both places for the additional gifts to the old people.

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MAY we call attention to the Parish Church Social which is to be held in the W.I. Hut on Friday, November 18th, starting at 7.30 p.m. Admission will be 2/-, children 1/-, and this will include refreshments. The object of the evening is entirely social and not for the purpose of raising funds and we hope that many will come and spend a happy evening and enjoy the varied programme which is being arranged. Needless to say we shall be glad to see others who are not directly connected with the Parish Church because, of course, the Parish Church is the church of the whole Parish and does not belong to any denomination.

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A MATTER which should be of general interest but which does not get the publicity which it deserves, is the meeting of the Houses of Convocation which are taking place this month. Convocation is the Parliament of the Church and its sittings correspond very largely to the sittings of Parliament, and is older in constitution even than Parliament itself. The present discussions concern, among other things, the question of reunion with those who have left the Church and are mainly concerned with Methodism. Except on the point of Holy Orders the Methodists are more close to the Church than of any other non-conforming body—in fact, they use our Prayer Book almost entirely except for the Ordination Service. The name Methodist originated with Charles and John Wesley who attended Holy Communion while at Oxford every day and were nicknamed Methodists because they were so methodical in this respect.

John Wesley, who led his followers, and gave them the name of Wesleyans, said on his death-bed: 'I live and die a member of the Church of England.' His difference, however, was on the subject of Holy Orders and it is on this subject that Convocation is at present holding discussion. The teaching of the Church is quite clear and cannot be weakened in any way, and it is, briefly, that the Orders of the Ministry consist of Bishop, Priests and Deacons, and that the authority and power of this ministry dates back to Apostolic times.

The three Orders of the Ministry have separate functions, and from the first the principle of differentiation of function. A Bishop, therefore, has greater spiritual function than a priest, and a priest greater than a deacon. There are certain things which the historic Church has never felt bound to approve, and one of these is the right to exercise spiritual functions without definite commission and this commission can only be given by the laying on of hands by a Bishop who in turn has received his consecration from an unbroken line of Bishops right back to the Apostles themselves. The clergy of the Church are therefore ordained and become members of an Order with special spiritual authority, and the Sacraments of the Church through the ministry of the Church are definite and real means of Grace and something far more than mere memorials. Those who do not conform to the Church's teaching on the Ministry are therefore non-conformists or dissenters, their ministers do not belong to an Order of the Ministry, and it is this matter of vital importance that Convocation is now discussing and hoping that some day in the not too distant future those bodies who have ceased to conform to the ancient teaching of the Church may return and join in an effort to make the Kingdom of God a reality on earth.

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Register.

Holy Baptism.

September 22nd.

Kim George, son of George and Gwyneth Prudence Hall.

October 2nd.

Andrew Ernest, son of Ernest Walter and Lilian Doris Garner.

Burials.

September 20th.

Edward Lawrence Ridley Thompson, aged 54 years.

September 17th, at Winterbourne Kingston.

Jane Butler, aged 76 years.