

THE
DIOCESANEXETER
LEAFLET

Editor—THE LORD BISHOP.

Hon. Sec.—E. J. N. WALLIS, ESQ., C.B.E.

All communications should be sent to the Secretary, Diocesan House, Palace Gate, Exeter

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There have been a great number of Institutions and Inductions lately. Recently I instituted in quick succession a Rector, a Vicar and a Perpetual Curate. Each of these titles has its own history: but they have now all come to mean the same thing.

Rector is historically the most distinguished of the titles. The Rector was in full possession of the endowments of his parish, including the tithe. He was responsible for the maintenance of the Chancel of the church. He, and he only, was a "parson," the persona of the Church of his parish.

The Vicar was a deputy, he acted "vice" someone else. Yet he was not what we now call a curate. He came about in this way. In order to encourage and support monastic institutions certain livings were appropriated to Monasteries. Of these the Monastery thus became the Rector. But the Monastery was required to appoint a priest, who should reside in the parish, who should maintain the services and in whom the cure of souls should be vested. This priest was called a Vicar. He was properly instituted by the Bishop, and thereafter he had a "freehold"; that is, he could not be turned out or dismissed, except for grave reasons and after a fair trial and conviction. The Monastery kept the endowments of the parish, but had to allocate to the Vicar a fixed part of them for his maintenance.

Sometimes the Monastery was not required to appoint a Vicar but was allowed instead to look after the parish through its own monks. A monk would be sent to stay in the parish for a certain period and then relieved by another monk. Or, perhaps, a monk would be sent out every week-end. Sometimes there was a room over the church porch in which the monk slept.

When the monasteries were dissolved, and their endowments, including their Rectories, were given to laymen something had to be done about these livings. The new lay owners were required to nominate a priest to act as curate in looking after the parish. The priest so nominated was called a perpetual curate, because once he was licensed by the Bishop he acquired the same kind of freehold as a Rector or a Vicar. He was not appointed curate for a limited period but was a perpetual curate.

But the distinctions are now all a matter of the past. There is no difference in esteem or status or duties between Rectors, Vicars and Perpetual Curates. Nor is there any real difference in the sources of their incomes. None of them is now paid from tithe. For the tithe system has been abolished; the tithes have been exchanged for Government Stock, and the amount credited to each parish is held by the Church Commissioners and the annual income from it paid by them to the Incumbent. But the difference in the amount of the income is sometimes to be explained by the difference between a Rector and a Vicar. The Rector having been entitled to the full tithes and the Vicar only to part, it follows that in general a Rectory is better endowed than a Vicarage. But it does not always follow.

I suppose that these three titles must be somewhat confusing to the laity and that the laity must sometimes make the very natural mistake of thinking that a perpetual curacy is in some way inferior to a Vicarage. And I suppose that since in fact all these titles now mean the same thing, it would be better to abolish two of them and leave only one. And that one, I suppose, would be Vicar, as Vicars are the most numerous of the three. But I do not suppose that

anyone will bother to make this reform, and something, perhaps, might be lost by it.

The three titles are reminders of three different aspects of the parochial ministry. The Rector is one who rules, directs and guides his people. He is the shepherd, set in authority over his flock. He may not forget his responsibility towards them, to be to them a wholesome example.

But if the Rector show any tendency to arrogance, to think more highly of himself than he ought to think, if he begins to lord it over the flock of Christ, he may remember that he is also a Vicar. And that in two senses. First and less importantly, he is the Bishop's Vicar, acting as the Bishop's deputy in his parish, discharging for the Bishop the Bishop's cure of souls in that place. And secondly, and much more importantly, he is Christ's Vicar. It is Christ's authority he wields, not his own, Christ's doctrine that he preaches, Christ's Sacraments he ministers. All that he does, all of his office is in Christ's name. He is Rector only because he is Vicar. Because he is Vicar, he is Rector.

And Rector and Vicar he is perpetual Curate. The cure of souls entrusted to him demands all his time, all his care and thought. He is never not curate. He may not divide his time between on and off duty. He may not limit his week to so many hours or claim over-time for extra work. He may and he should provide for himself leisure to pray and time for recreation that he may remain fit to do his work. But praying and playing he is still curate, has still the cure of souls, and for the sake of that cure prays and plays.

NOTES.

As has been announced, Chancellor McLaren has placed his resignation in my hands. But since he did so his whole situation has altered through the sad fact of Mrs. McLaren's death. Because of this I do not intend to accept his resignation for the time being. I am glad to say, therefore, that he remains Canon and Chancellor.

The Trinity Ordination is being held on Ember Saturday, May 30th, in the Cathedral at 10 a.m. This can scarcely

be very convenient for the laity. It is made necessary because on Trinity Sunday morning the great service in preparation for the Coronation must be held. A Saturday Ordination however has the advantage that it may be possible for some of the clergy to be present who can never attend on a Sunday.

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In the name of the whole Diocese I extend our deep sympathy to Preb. Cox over the death of his wife. Mrs. Cox was very well known to many of us, and she will be greatly missed. Her work in the Diocese, particularly in connection with Moral Welfare, will long be remembered.

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Owing to an error in the Diocesan Directory 1953, Preb. F. G. Green appears as a Prebendary Emeritus. We are glad to say that he has not in fact resigned, and his name should appear in the list of those holding Prebendal Stalls.

TRINITY ORDINATION.

The following will be ordained in the Cathedral on Ember Saturday, May 30th at 10 a.m. :—

Deacons.

- Neil Bertram Hansen. *Title*, S. Peter's, Plymouth.
George Kingcome. *Title*, Newton Ferrers.
Frederick Harold Lockyear. *Title*, Brixham.

Priests.

- Reginald Henry Callard. *Curacy*, Plympton St. Mary.
Alan George Cookman. *Curacy*, S. Peter's, Plymouth.
Peter Henry Symons. *Curacy*, St. Matthew's, Exeter.

APPOINTMENTS.

- To Ermington—The Rev. S. L. Halliday, formerly Vicar of Birchencliffe. *Patron*, The Crown.
To Feniton—The Rev. E. H. Smith, Rector of Zeal Monachorum. *Patron*, W. B. Hart, Esq.

To St. Simon's, Plymouth—The Rev. H. Carson, Vicar of St. Anne's, Bermondsey. *Patrons, Trustees.*

To Clayhanger with Petton (in plurality with Huntsham)—The Rev. J. H. Jones, Rector of Huntsham. *Patron, W. Williams, Esq.*

To Broadwoodwiger (in plurality with Stowford)—The Rev. G. S. W. Yarnall, Rector of Stowford. *Patron, The Bishop.*

CONFIRMATIONS.

Additional : Tuesday, May 12th. Exminster, 6.30 p.m. c. ; Thursday, June 25th. Dartington (Adults), 7.30 p.m. c.

Alteration : The Confirmation arranged for Modbury (originally for July 26th) will now take place on Sunday, July 19th at 3.30 p.m. p.

"Royal Command" Exhibition.

THE CATHEDRAL, JUNE 17TH — 24TH.

In these days when the world, politically and ideologically, is at a turning point of history, it is imperative that the world mission of the Church be appreciated. It is also very important that men and women should realise that "Peace on earth" can with certainty be accomplished only by the Grace of Our Lord through His Holy Church. These are the lessons this exhibition will try to teach, and every church member, and as many others as can be persuaded, are asked to visit "The Royal Command."

The official opening will be at 3 p.m. each day, and the Cathedral will be open until 9.30 p.m. Films will be shown, and refreshments provided. The exhibition itself will occupy the whole of the nave of the Cathedral. Programmes (6d. each) may be had from the Rev. E. J. Moeller, Whipton Vicarage, Exeter, and posters from the Rev. J. P. Henton, St. Thomas Vicarage, Exeter, to whom also other enquiries should be addressed. Many parishes are arranging parish visits. Your prayers are asked for God's blessing and guidance. Donations towards expenses should be sent to Mr. B. R. W. Hill, Barclays Bank, Exeter.

J.P.H.

THE SECRETARY'S CORNER.

In his Notes at the beginning of the April Leaflet the Lord Bishop of the Diocese expressed the hope that the custom of giving the collections on Trinity Sunday to the Fund for the training of Ordination Candidates would be observed again this year despite the fact that Trinity Sunday (31st May) will on this occasion coincide with the day of national dedication before the Coronation. He told us that the Queen herself had consented that the custom should not be interrupted; and he pointed out that the coincidence was peculiarly appropriate because the national well-being for which we shall be praying "is dependent upon a strong Church life in all classes of the community," and it was therefore specially fitting that we should "at the same time pray for a great increase in the number of those to be ordained and give generously to the cost of their training."

I want this month to remind you of some of the facts and figures which prove the supreme importance of an increased rate of recruitment to the Ministry and how essential it is to "a strong Church life" that candidates for Ordination should be helped with the cost of their training.

It is both right and necessary that their training should be as thorough and complete as possible. The course is therefore long and varies from three to five years. It is also expensive and costs from £900 to £1,500. Very few young men can put down such a large sum of money nowadays; and it is often just as impossible for the older married man who must provide for his family during the long period of training. There is therefore a real danger of losing recruits, however strong their sense of vocation, unless they can be substantially helped with this heavy initial expense. The Church cannot afford to lose one single recruit to the Ministry because it is already at least 5,000 Clergy short of the minimum necessary for its task and has been losing ground at the rate of about 200 a year. This is because the annual losses through death and retirement are not being made good. About 550-600 Clergy die or retire every year and only about 350-400 Ordinands come

forward to take their place. In 1914 there were about 20,000 Clergy in the Church of England. By 1951 there were less than 14,000. The number is still falling—and the population is increasing. The situation is in fact so serious that it is essential that no suitable candidate should be deterred from entering the Ministry simply because he cannot find the means to finance his training. In the past many men who would have made first-rate parish priests have been lost in this way. If the shrinkage goes on at its present rate there will be no Clergy at all in about 70 years time and, in the more immediate future, far more parishes will have to share a parson. It is estimated that 600 candidates are needed every year to maintain even the present depleted strength of the Clergy, quite apart from regaining the ground that has been lost.

The problem is of course all part of the wider question of the whole maintenance of the Ministry. Not only must it be made possible for Ordinands to finance their training but they must also be ensured a living wage after they have been ordained—which is one of the reasons why the Laymen's Campaign for a higher minimum stipend is so important.

These facts and figures surely show the vital need for making the path of intending candidates as smooth as possible. Translated into terms of cash it means that in this diocese £3,000 is needed from this year's Trinity Sunday collections. In 1951 the figure was £1,644 and last year, in spite of a very wet Sunday, it rose to £1,793. Is it too much to hope that this year, on the special day of national re-dedication, the diocese will succeed in at least doubling its previous efforts?

E.J.N.W.

Available for Cost of Carriage only. A Lectern Bible. (Authorised Version, No Apocrypha). Size 11¼" x 8½" x 2¼". Owner would like to present (in return for cost of carriage) to a new church faced with cost of furnishing. Enquiries to the Rev. H. C. Alexander, Uffculme Vicarage, Cullompton.

Diocean Education Committee. Children's Committee.

Coronation Material Available.

- (a) Small prayer card for use of children and others. 8/6d. per 100 from Church Information Board, Church House Book Shop, Great Smith Street, S.W.1.
- (b) Coronation Regalia in Detail. Full size pictures in a S.P.C.K. Painting Book, price 2/6d.
- (c) "The Coronation—Its History and Meaning." For teachers. 9d. S.P.C.K.
- (d) Current number of "Child Education" has a Coronation Coach cut-out for small children.
- (e) Coronation Medallion. Messrs. Murrell, 23c, Leconfield Road, Highbury, London, N.5.—quite attractive, 126/- per gross.

34, Velwell Road, O. J. LODGE,
Exeter. S.S. Adviser.

Diocean Parochial Mission.

The Festival of the Parochial Mission will be held this year on Tuesday, June 9th. Please note that we have gone back to the old day. There will be a meeting at 11 a.m. in the Chapter House, and in the afternoon Evensong in the Cathedral Church followed by tea in the Bishop of Crediton's garden. It is greatly hoped that as we have gone back to Tuesday for the Festival, many more of the clergy and layfolk will be able to attend.

This year we are fortunate in having Canon G. Ireson to speak both in the morning and afternoon. He was unable to come last year, but has very kindly consented to come from Newcastle for this occasion. As you all know, he was Diocean Missioner for four years or so, and he will be looking forward to meeting old friends again.

Further notices will be sent out as usual nearer to the actual date.

W.A.P.D.