

## From the Archives

### The Parish Magazine, December 1940, Rev D .B. Harris

#### NOTES AND NOTICES

**Further Changes** – Some time in January, Fr. Keith will become an Army Chaplain.

The Bishop of Kensington approached him about this a fortnight after the Declaration of War. His duty then seemed to be clear; many priests with less responsibility than his should go first. The Bishop wrote again a few weeks ago. Now it is perfectly clear where his duty lies. The Army is expanding so swiftly that its need for Padres is great. A few days before the Bishop's letter came, a parishioner, home on leave, told me that although 3000 troops were stationed at..... they had no Chaplain. If that small illustration at all represents the Army's need, then we shall swallow our own personal sense of loss, however great, with good grace.

I will write further about Fr. Keith and the future of S. Edward's Perivale Park, next month. Fr. Hughes will succeed Fr. Keith as Priest-in-Charge.

On December 15<sup>th</sup>, Anthony Mapplebeck will be ordained Deacon at St. Paul's Cathedral, and will come to work with us at the Parish Church. Mr. Mapplebeck is a Devonshire man and was educated at Blundell's School and Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. He will be at Cuddesdon College until his ordination.

Fr. Wamsley was most anxious he should come to Greenford and we need no further recommendation than that.

Mrs. Paterson ceased to be our Verger at Holy Cross on November 30<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Law takes her place. This plan was agreed upon when we hoped to see our New Church consecrated on that date. It was necessary to have someone as Verger whose husband could look after the boiler house and be at hand whenever needed.

Many of you already know Mr. Law whose main job for some years now has been the care of the Rectory garden. I say "main" job, because all who know him, also know that Mr. Law can turn his hand to almost anything. You will remember the trouble we once had with mice in the Church. Mr. Law came to the rescue with a home-made mouse-trap. (This will be on view at the Christmas Fair!) We suspect that he has built a considerable part of our New Church in his lunch hour during the past year.

As his wife had for some years looked after a Church in Southall and as they were both willing to come and live in Greenford the P.C.C. had their problem solved for them.

The Laws now live just the other side of the Church wall and Mr. Law will look after the boiler and no doubt prove himself as invaluable in helping his wife with the New Church as he has proved invaluable to a host of us on the other side of the garden wall.

We dispense with the services of Mrs. Paterson with real regret. Her heart is in Holy Cross and she has always done her work with the greatest care. Nothing within her strength has been too much trouble for her.

**Confirmation** – The Bishop of Kensington is coming at 2.30 p.m. on Sunday December 22<sup>nd</sup> for a Confirmation. This will probably be the last to be held in the little Church and although there are not very many candidates it is an encouraging sign that in these times when Church attendance has been so difficult there are yet some thirty people of all ages who are ready to take on themselves their Baptismal Promises and receive the strength and power of God's Holy Spirit in Confirmation.

**The New Church** – In spite of some narrow escapes the New Church still stands and grows. To our great relief we have discovered that the chairs you are buying for it are not subject to the Purchase Tax and the Ministry of Supply has allowed us the iron and steel tubing necessary for the heating.

The response to appeals for people to give chairs has been most encouraging. So far we have been given enough money to buy a few more than 200 chairs. Subscribers have been found in all sorts of unexpected places ; people in shelters, a warden's post, friends of ours outside Greenford and all the regular supporters of our Church have been most generous.

When the Church is finished we hope to have a little label fixed to the back of each chair on which will be written the initials of the person who gave it but because our faces are set so severely against pew rents or anything of that kind, that label will not entitle one person to sit on any particular chair. There would be complications anyway in this system when a whole family has subscribed to pay for one chair.

Now would you like to help pay for the floor? At the Christmas Fair there will be on show one paving stone which will be a pattern of all the stones with which the floor of the Church is to be paved. Altogether there will be about 4000 of these and we are selling them for 6d each. We hope to have a plan of the floor of the Church on show so that we can see how much of the floor space your generosity will cover.

We still can promise no date for the Dedication of the new building but you can be sure that the happy event will happen as soon as possible.

Rev D. B. Harris,  
Rector, Parish Church of the Holy Cross, December 1940

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Father Harris escorts the Queen as she visits the bomb damaged Medway Estate, 1940