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Anglican Group for the Ordination of
Women to the Historic Ministry of the
Church.

Annual Report
1938—1939

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ANGLICAN GROUP FOR THE ORDINATION
OF WOMEN TO THE HISTORIC MINISTRY
OF THE CHURCH.

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Vice-Presidents:

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THE DEAN OF CANTERBURY.

Advisory Council:

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DAME SYBIL THORNDIKE, D.B.E.

DEACONESS MARIANNE TURNER, Sunday School Organizer, Diocese of Derby.

HERBERT UPWARD, Esq., Editor of the "Church of England Newspaper."

Executive Committee:

Chairman: MISS H. C. ESCREET.

MISS M. ATTLEE	MISS E. S. HOLLIS
MISS E. M. BATTEN	MISS HOPE JOSEPH
MISS G. M. I. BLACKBURNE	MISS H. KNIGHT
MISS GRACE BRADFORD	MRS. ROBERTS
MISS A. M. DANIEL	CANON GUY ROGERS
MISS J. B. DICKSON	MISS UNA M. SAUNDERS
THE REV. DEACONESS HARGOOD-ASH	MISS M. E. J. TAYLOR
THE REV. G. H. V. HART	DR. TURNER WATTS.

Hon. Treasurer: MISS HELEN TOOBY,

Storrington School, Westcliff-on-Sea.

(War-time address: The Fir Hill, Colan, St. Columb, Cornwall).

Secretary: MISS EVELYN W. HIPPISEY,

26, Grey Coat Gardens,

Westminster, S.W.1.

Victoria 9916.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1938 - 39.

In December, 1938, Mrs. Ronald Best resigned her post as Secretary, owing to pressure of work, and the present Secretary was appointed to take her place. Mrs. Best's work for the Group is well-known to all its members, and our thanks are due to her for all she has done during her three and a half years of office.

The Annual Meeting was held in the Assembly Hall, Mary Sumner House, Tufton Street, S.W.1, on Thursday, November 24th, 1938, at 6 p.m.

Miss Escreet was in the Chair, and 24 members were present.

The Secretary presented the Report for 1937-38, and drew special attention to the record of the debates of the Convocations on the status and functions of deaconesses, to the fact that Miss Tooby had kindly undertaken to be Honorary Treasurer, and to the new pamphlet ("The Mission Field and the Ordination of Women") by Mrs. Marston Acres.

Miss Tooby presented the accounts for 1937-8 on behalf of Miss Bradford, to whom a vote of thanks for her ten years of devoted service as Hon. Treasurer was carried by acclamation.

The Chairman reported that Mrs. Best had been obliged to resign from the Secretaryship, and that Miss Hippisley was taking over the work as part-time Secretary. The following paragraph was then moved from the Chair:—

The aim of the group is to secure effective recognition of the Christian principle of spiritual equality between men and women by urging upon the Church the admission of women to the threefold ministry.

The Draft Constitution was considered in detail, and, after amendments, was agreed to by the meeting.

Officers and Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee (see p. 4) was elected to serve for the year 1938-9, with Miss Escreet as Chairman. During the year, Miss Belfield resigned from the Committee, and Miss G. M. Ireland Blackburne was co-opted.

The Year's Work.

The work of the Group has been going on quietly. The Secretary has been in touch with a number of people at home and abroad, and has sent out considerable quantities of literature.

In order to strengthen the Group, an Advisory Council has been formed. The names of the members appear on page 3 of this Report. We are fortunate to have secured the support of so many distinguished and representative Churchmen and Churchwomen.

The membership form has been revised, and a clause inserted to show that the Committee, while pressing for the admission of women to the full ministry of the Church, nevertheless welcome all opportunities of lay-work by women. In this connexion, a letter to the Press, signed by representatives of the Anglican Group, the Society for the Ministry of Women, and the Fellowship of Equal Service in the Church of Scotland, was issued in September, 1939. An appeal was made "to women who have worked and prayed for the admission of their sex to the Ministry to show themselves worthy of that Ministry by giving to the lay-work of the Churches at this time the fullest service which it is possible for them to render."

The Committee was interested at its last meeting of the year to hear from Miss Una Saunders of a development since the outbreak of war in connexion with lay work by women among women. Deaconess Belfield had invited her co-operation in bringing forward the possibility of a wider lay-ministry of women, hoping that the great need of service to the women serving with H.M.'s Forces would open out new avenues.

With this in view a small group of representative women had been formed (known now as the Liaison Group). Its first action had been to draw up a letter to the Archbishop endorsing these aims, and saying it believed that women well-qualified for such work could be found. Although for the time being there seemed, however, little chance of obtaining openings for full-time workers of the calibre desired, an interesting development of a rather unexpected character had grown from this. The Archbishop had called together an inter-denominational Committee of women to find speakers on religious subjects who could give part-time help to the women working in the national services. On this Committee, besides the representatives of the Anglican and Free Churches, there were those who represent the Liaison Group, the S.C.M., and the Y.W.C.A.

Since this first account was given, Miss Saunders had reported that the Committee had met twice at Lambeth, and had been asked to find a panel of well-qualified women who would be acceptable as speakers or leaders of discussion groups, if invited to help in that way.

The difficulties of the Army Chaplains in meeting the needs of the women workers as well as the men make it likely that there will be a demand for such people, and that a real contribution to spiritual life may be made through this, with results impossible to foretell.

Three new pamphlets have been published, one by Mrs. Marston Acres on the results of the missionary enquiry in China, which were not included in her previous pamphlet, and a second by the Secretary on women's work in the Church.

In the third pamphlet, "Girls and the Church," is the long-delayed Report on the results of the Questionnaire to Headmistresses sent out in 1937. It has been circulated to all members, and it is hoped to send copies to all Headmistresses, as well as to others interested in education and religion, including the Archbishops.

It had been resolved to make a forward movement in view of the meeting of the Lambeth Conference in

1940, and a special donation of £25 was contributed for this purpose by a member; but the tragedy of the war caused the cancellation of the Conference, and the consequent postponement of our special effort. Still, if our work is to go on, it is necessary for members to continue to support it, in spite of the many other claims in these difficult days; and we are very grateful to those who are doing so.

Finance.

Grateful acknowledgement is made to the honorary auditor, Miss A. M. Currie, and also to all those whose generous support has enabled us to show again a satisfactory balance sheet.

Promises covering the coming war period have been most encouraging and only a small percentage of members is obliged regretfully to reduce or suspend subscriptions.

For many members the three year promises will expire in 1940 and it is hoped that all these pledges will be renewed if possible in order to stabilise the finance of the Group.

GROUP LITERATURE.

- MEMORANDUM ON WOMEN AND THE PRIESTHOOD, presented to the Lambeth Conference of 1930.
WOMEN IN THE SANCTUARY.
THE MISSION FIELD AND THE ORDINATION OF WOMEN, by E. Louie Acres.
GIRLS AND THE CHURCH: a report on a Questionnaire to Headmistresses.
Price 3d. each. Postage id.
- TO-DAY, TO-MORROW AND THE DAYS TO BE, by Deaconess Dorothea Belfield.
WOMEN AND THE PRIESTHOOD, by E. M. Chrystal.
WOMEN AND THE PRIESTHOOD, by the Rev. Paul Gibson.
THE PRIESTHOOD OF WOMEN, by the Rev. Canon T. Shimwell.
THE ORDINATION OF WOMEN TO THE PRIESTHOOD, by Ursula Roberts.
THE NEED FOR WOMEN PRIESTS IN THE MISSION FIELD.
WHAT CRIME OR IMPEDIMENT?—AN APPEAL TO THE CLERGY.
THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE. (Revised Edition.)
A QUESTION FOR CHURCHWOMEN.
THINGS NEW AND OLD.
A MEMORANDUM TO CLERGY ON THE PLACE OF WOMEN IN THE LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH.
STATEMENT ON THE REPORT OF THE ARCHBISHOPS' COMMISSION ON THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN.
A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE OXFORD CONFERENCE, 1933.
REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE AT BIRMINGHAM, September, 1936.
WOMEN DEACONS IN THE EARLY CHURCH, by the Rev. Canon C. H. Norton.
WOMEN AND THE PRIESTHOOD, by the Rev. Canon C. H. Norton.
WOMEN'S WORK FOR THE CHURCH, by Evelyn W. Hippisley, S.Th.
ANNUAL REPORTS.

Free. Postage id.

To be obtained from the Secretary.

ANGLICAN GROUP FOR THE ORDINATION OF WOMEN.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1939.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Cash at Bank, October 1st, 1938:							By Secretary's Salary	100	0	0			
General Fund	6	11	7				,, Petty Cash Disbursements, per Hon.						
Special Fund	17	4	8				Treasurer				1	18	11
							,, Petty Cash Disbursements, per Secretary:						
							Postages	8	0	11			
,, On Deposit with Post Office:	87	9	4				Typing	9	15	6			
,, Petty Cash in Hand:							Stationery	2	15	3			
Hon. Treasurer		5	7				Travelling	1	17	9			
Secretary		3	1				Telephones and Sundries	1	6	7			
							Storage of Literature ..	1	0	0			
,, Subscriptions and Donations:				111	14	3					24	16	0
To General Fund	103	8	3				,, Bank Charges, less recovery of cancelled						
Transfer of Office							stamps duty						10
Fund	9	5	0				,, Printing, Stationery and Office Expenses	43	14	1			
Congress Fund	8	5	0				,, Hire of Room, etc., at Exhibition, Rent						
							of Offices and Assembly Hall ..	22	15	11			
							,, Affiliation Fees				2	2	0
To Special Fund	92	15	0				,, Teas				1	14	6
							,, Cash at Bank:						
							General Fund	26	17	5			
On behalf of Lambeth							Lambeth Conference	25	0	0			
Conference	25	0	0				Special Fund	9	19	8			
,, Sundry Receipts:				238	13	3					61	17	1
Sale of Literature	1	13	5				,, On deposit with Post Office	88	0	1			

10

11

Sale of Teas	1	2	6			
Interest on Post Office						
Deposit Account	1	10	9			
				4	6	8

,, Petty Cash in Hand:							
Hon. Treasurer		6	7				
Secretary		7	8	2			
				157	11	11	

£354 14 2

£354 14 2

I have examined the foregoing Accounts with relative books and vouchers and find same to be in order.

13th November, 1939.

A. M. CURRIE,
21, Churchill Avenue,
Kenton, Mddx.

