

The first Mission which our College fathered in South London took the form of a Boys' Club in Peckham, in charge of the Rev. J. Maunders who was the Parochial Curate. In 1910 the Vicar made several demands to which our Committee could not agree.

The result was that we decided to leave Peckham, and to start a Club somewhere else only if we could be assured of complete independence of any Parish: we were convinced that Undergraduates could not be expected to show keenness in fathering a definitely Parochial Club.

We put our case before Bishop Talbot, who thoroughly agreed: with the result that we started a new Club at 47 Rotherhithe St., after securing the express agreement of the Bishop and the Vicar of Christ Church that we should have complete independence of the Parish, though we undertook to work, as far as possible, in cooperation with the Vicar and to make him a member of our Committee, as well as inviting him to visit our Club whenever he wished.

The first Missioner at Rotherhithe was a lay man, Mr Myers Grace. In 1912 he was succeeded by the Rev. John Kingdon - He, while keeping complete independence for Queens' House, had our consent and the Bishop's in becoming half time Curate to the Vicar at a stipend of £100 a Year: and that has been the normal practice of the Missioner ever since. We have never for a moment deviated from our assertion of complete independence for Queens' House, though we have always tried to be loyal to the Vicar:

A large majority of the members of Queens' House has always been drawn from outside the Parish of Christ Church: so that the Vicar has no logical claim to dominate the Club.

In December 1923 when the Rev. P.J.Heaton left Queens' House, we made an innovation by selecting as his successor a city clerk, Mr Youles, who had no previous connexion with the College. As he had little previous experience in organisation and particularly in financial management, we invited the Vicar of Christ Church, Rev.E.H.Ashman, who is a Queens' man, to undertake a general superintendence as "Warden" of Queens' House, at a stipend of £25 a year. This arrangement with Mr Ashman was strictly personal, and was never intended to make any change in our independence of the Vicar as such. It continued as long as Mr Ashman stayed in Rotherhithe, even when the Rev.V.Copestake and the Rev.E.N.Vanston were Missioners: but Mr Ashman never tried to dictate a policy or claim anything more than the function of an adviser, particularly in the management of finance.

When Mr Ashman left, we decided that there was no reason to appoint his successor, the Rev.L.Hills, as Warden of the House, Mr Vanston as Missioner, having had ample experience.- Mr Bache has never been in anyway under Mr Hills.

What we would emphasise is that, in making Mr Ashman "Warden" of the House, we did not deviate from our original position of independence - Mr Ashman was "Warden" of Queens' House, as Mr Hills himself is Chaplain to the Princess Club which is outside his Parish; i.e. the appointment was personal, not official.

It is our settled conviction that, if a College merely adopts some Parochial organisation, members of the College will never look on it as their own responsibility. We are clear that if Queens' House is to continue, at any rate in its present state of marked efficiency, it must have independence - This contention gains strength from the fact that our present Missioner is a layman - Even if in the future the Trustees of Christ Church were to appoint as Vicar in place of Mr Hills, a Queens' man of whom we had expressed our approval, still we should deprecate the transference of Queens' House, with its majority of members from other Parishes and other Denominations to the control of the Vicar as such.

The future -

We therefore recommend

1. that the Governing Body of the College shall accept general responsibility for Queens' House;
2. that they shall appoint such representatives as they think fit to serve on the General Committee of the Mission:
3. that all questions of general policy (such as the appointment of a Missioner or questions of his relations with the Vicar) shall be referred to the Governing Body.

C.T.Wood.
A.D.Browne.
E.A.Maxwell.