

PC/1132/85

HOMES OF S. BARNABAS,
DORMANS,
LINGFIELD,
SURREY.

FROM THE REV. C. W. HANDFORD.

8 March 71

Dear Mr. Paton,

You probably know that we have had a postal strike for days in England, which has only ended today. Thus my stuff which has been waiting to go to you has not been sent, and I am very sorry, but there is nothing I could do about it. Now I am sending it off as soon as possible in reply to your letter of 31 December last. There was a lot of back clearing up after Christmas, and I had just got all the stuff ready for when the iron curtain came down! I hope what I have copied out will be of some use in showing you what GHC thought about the Revised Prayer Book. I have been thinking a lot of him with his year's mind yesterday.

As to your question No. 5 in your letter re the vellum scroll, I do not remember anything about it, but presumably he took it with him to Africa. My own feeling is that GHC was outwardly a very unsentimental man, though I always think that deep down there was a considerable affection for example to his clergy, but he seemed afraid of showing it. Thus I doubt very much if he would have had a sentimental attraction to the scroll, and may have destroyed it after a while when he had to move from Joburg to Cape Town. We all know how we are apt to destroy things when we have the upheaval of a move. I have done the same with things I had hitherto kept for years and years when I retired from my last parish, finally when I retired altogether and came here.

As to your question 6, as far as I remember he only wrote to me after he went to Joburg, and that was to ask if I felt inclined to go there and work under him. But I did not feel that Africa was my vocation.

especially as by then he had installed me in a benefice, and then of course the war came with all the problems at home. He did come to me and I gave him lunch when we was at Chesterfield during the Lar Conference in 1948, and was as charming and delightful as usual, and full of amusing quips about his successor, and the fact that the number of communicants were not as good as in our time !! But of course there had been a war and all the upheaval and loss of men to the Forces, people doing 7 day work, and so forth. However I think he was always very proud of his staffs, and certainly nothing could have been kinder than his reference to me and others in turn in the mag when their time came to leave for work elsewhere. No doubt he had plenty to do in Africa and would not have found it at all easy ~~xxx~~ to keep up correspondence with his former clergy. It might have been easier if he had been in England and accessible to us. But it seems that in the interests of his work he did more or less, as you say, wipe out the past so far as letters were concerned though when he came to see me at Calow in 1948 he was full of interest in what was going on, and, as I said, pride in what we had all achieved together in his time, so that at heart he had not at all forgotten his Chesterfield work and those who had helped him with it.

If you do come to England of course I should be very happy to meet you either here or in London, which is only an hour by train from Dormans with trains each way every hour. I could always give you a meal. We have a guest room, which one may be lucky to book if one has notice but of course one cannot be sure of that.

All best wishes,

yours sincerely,

