

PA11/13/2/95

A.

From: The Rev. Donald B. Harris,

St. Paul's Vicarage,
Wilton Place,
S.W. 1.

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copy



11th, April 1967

Dear Mr. Paton,

I understand from the Archbishop of Capetown that you are undertaking a biography of the late Archbishop, Geoffrey Clayton. I will, of course, be of what help I can to you about the earlier part of his life before he became the Bishop of Johannesburg. My only knowledge of him comes, of course, from having been his Assistant Curate at Chesterfield when he was Vicar and Archdeacon there. I lived under the same roof with him for three years.

It will be difficult for you as all his contemporaries, as far as I know, are now dead. The Master of Peterhouse, Cambridge, should be of some help as Clayton was Dean there before the 1914-18 War. In the latter part of his life, on the few occasions he was in England, he looked upon Peterhouse as more his home in England than anywhere else. Geoffrey's only relative in England (that I know of) happens to be a member of my congregation. She is Lady Hare, 43 Albert Hall Mansions, Kensington S. W. 7, and she is related only by marriage-- Geoffrey's mother having been Miss Hare. I imagine Lady Hare's father was Geoffrey's uncle.

You will, of course, have in your possession Geoffrey's printed Charges to his Provinces (1948-57) entitled "Where We Stand".

There is one woman in Chesterfield who may be able to write to you about him; she is a retired High School Mistress - Miss Heather Barclay, 27 Tennyson Avenue, Chesterfield, Derbyshire. There is also a member of Little St. Mary's Congregation (Cambridge) who used to be for many years Churchwarden and he is still living. He goes back to the time when Geoffrey was Vicar (1919-1925 or thereabouts). It is a Peterhouse living and Geoffrey, having been an Academic and Don up to 1914 and having then found the loveliness of ordinary people amongst the troops as an Army Chaplain, after the war was wisely offered this living. In a short time he revolutionized life in that Church, making it a lively Parish Church with a close connection with the University and it has remained a sparkling place ever since. Geoffrey soon gathered around him a band of young men; I don't know whether any are alive today but, if they are, like the ones now dead they will have never forgotten those few years when he was Vicar. Mr. Hawkins, I feel sure will be able to tell you more about those days; unfortunately I do not have his Cambridge address but if you send a letter to him - A.C. Hawkins, Esq., c/O Revd. A. J. Morcom, St. Mary-the-less, Trumpington Street, Cambridge,- it will find him.

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I fear I have no more to add now and I must apologize if this letter is rather untidily expressed. I have simply written down things as they came into my mind!

Yours sincerely,

Donald Harris

TO OPEN SLIT HERE

Sender's name and address:

The Revd. Donald B. Harris,
St. Paul's Vicarage,
Wilton Place,
London, S. W. 1
England.

AN AIR LETTER SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY ENCLOSURE ; IF IT DOES IT WILL BE SURCHARGED OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

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FIRST FOLD HERE



MR. ALAN PATON,
23, Lynton Road,
Kloof,
Natal,
S. Africa.