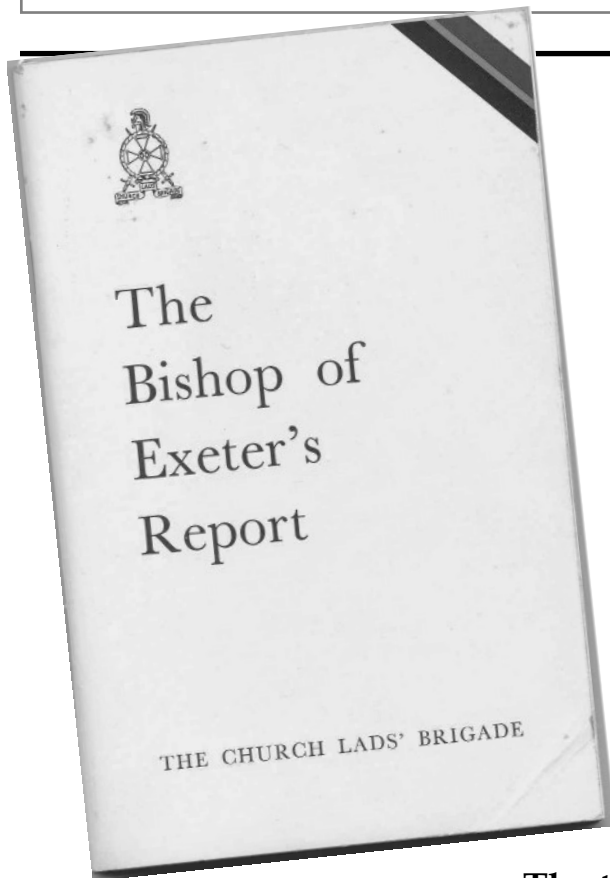
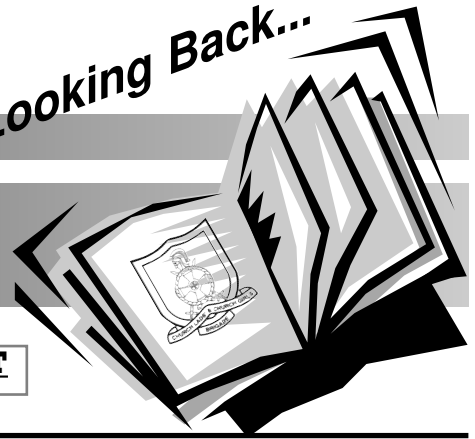


Factsheet

NUMBER 40: THE BISHOP OF EXETER'S REPORT



During the Autumn of 1965, a committee under the chairmanship of The Lord Bishop of Exeter, was established to examine the major issues facing the Church Lads' Brigade.

The Committee comprised the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Exeter; Major H. S. Forbes, MBE, MC (CLB); The Right Reverend Canon G. R. Berriman, MA (CLB); Colonel H. C. Ferens, DCL, JP, DL (CLB). Major D. Goddard, MM, BEM (CLB); The Reverend R. Herbert, (Secretary of the Church of England Youth Council); Dr. M. E. M Herford, DSO, MBE, MC, (Factory Doctor, Windsor and Slough, Member of Church of England Youth Council and recommended by the National Council of Social Service); The Lady Merthyr, (President of the St David's Diocesan Mothers' Union); Mr H. Parker and Mr D. Saunders, (McKinsey and Company, Management Consultants); Mr J. A. Simpson (HMI Staff Inspector of the Youth Service and Liaison Officer with Single Sex Organisations, Department of Education and Science), The Reverend Canon H. V. Whitsey, MA and Dr M. Abrams, (A leading research expert).

The terms of reference To examine:

1. *The reasons for the failure to expand in areas where expansion had not taken place*
2. *The overall decline in the membership of the Church Lads' Brigade*
3. *To make recommendations for strengthening the work of the Church Lads' Brigade*

The committee met six times, on the 9th July 1965, the weekend of the 8th - 10th October 1965, the 8th December 1965, the 3rd March 1966, the 2nd June 1966 and the 20th July 1966. At the first meeting, the committee was divided into six study groups, which covered:

1. **Analysis of loss of strength**
2. **Present day appeal**
3. **Problems of leadership**
4. **Suitability of Programme and Training**
5. **Co-operation with other groups**
6. **Effectiveness of the present organisation**

These groups worked separately by correspondence and specially convened meetings.





The Survey

In October 1965, all the companies in the Manchester, Durham, Ulster and London Regiments were asked to submit the names and addresses of all active CLB Members and the names and addresses of all Lads who had been members in the last two years. Lists of names were received from approximately 25% of the companies, and from these lists a sample of 640 names were chosen. Of these names 440 were active members on the 15th October 1965 and 200 were ex-members. On 6th January 1966, each of the 640 lads were sent a questionnaire and a covering letter to explain what it was about. As an incentive for them to return the questionnaire by the 28th January, the Gillette Razor Company offered each lad a Gillette razor set and the Gillette book of Cricket and Football. By the 28th January, replies had been received from 126 ex-members and 321 members, which represented a response rate of 71%. A detailed report of the findings of the survey was presented in February 1966.

The Recommendations made by the Bishop of Exeter's Committee were:

1. The Church Lads' Brigade programme should be re-planned on the basis of a physical, intellectual, Social, and Spiritual challenge, with more emphasis on service to others. That the programme be broader and more balanced and that the members take a more active part in the planning of the programme.
2. A Full-Time Training and Development Officer be appointed and that an intensified Officer Training programme be introduced.
3. Closer links be encouraged and maintained with other Religious Youth Organisations, such as The Boys' Brigade and the Church Girls' Brigade, and that links with the Local Education Authorities and Industry be strengthened.
4. A new form of Brigade method be set up in a pilot area within one year, which plays down the traditional military method, the result of which will help to form the future Brigade method.
5. The religious observance clauses be brought into line with the current Church thinking.
6. Brigade literature and publicity material be updated to show a progressive youth organisation.

