

St. John Baptist Children's Home

Newport, Monmouthshire, 1931

A wish has been expressed that a short account of the Children's Home should be published in order that the work may become more fully known.

The Home was founded about 50 years ago, soon after the Sisters of the Community of St. John Baptist-Clewer came to work in the poor part of the town. A great need was felt for a Home in which to help and care for children who would otherwise have been neglected and uncared for and exposed to the evil influences of the slums of our big towns.

The Home began in a small house near St. Woolos Church, and the present building was opened and blessed by the Bishop of Llandaff in 1907, the money for building having been raised by the Sister Foundress and many generous friends.

The Home provides accommodation for 50 children, also for Sisters and Matrons. The children attend the Council Schools of St. Woolos until they are 14, and are then trained for domestic service. Situations are found for them away from Newport, and in families where other servants are kept. They are provided with a good outfit. This year four children have been admitted and three girls gone to service and are doing well.

The greater number of children are sent to us by the Waifs and Strays Society, and their Inspector pays us regular visits, and has always expressed herself satisfied with the health of the children and arrangements of the Home.

The good health of the children in a measure may be accounted for to their holiday each year at the sea. They spend three weeks in the Summer at the old house on the Glamorgan Coast, and delight in the bathing and picnic life. We are grateful for any help towards the seaside expenses. The travelling is a large item.

The Funds of the Home are supplied by voluntary subscriptions and donations, children's payments not covering expenses. The Home has no endowment or grant, and necessary repairs and renewals are a large demand on our resources.

Although it has been found advisable not to take children from the town, we look to the people of Newport for their kindly help and interest in this work, which ensures for the children who have so large a claim on our sympathy a happy childhood with airy dormitories and playrooms, wholesome food, careful training, and Church teaching, enabling them to become healthy and useful members of the community.

Contributions for Jumble Sales are of great value, and the Sisters are glad to receive paying guests and ladies desiring to make Retreats. They are always glad to show visitors the Home.