

13804-5

DICING FOR BIBLES - Probably the strangest of
all old customs, observed at St. Ives.

-Huntingdonshire-

Picture.:- Here's a "how-do-you-do" ! Talk about sweeps --
--and raffles ! In this Church gambling takes place--
--on the Communion Table ! Children throw dice with
bibles as prizes ! Never--
--did a double-six yield --
--a better return. Twelve children play, but only six--
--can win a bible.

The children are chosen from poor families of any
denomination and after the dicing six humble sideboards
are--

--decorated by six beautiful gilt edged volumes.

The custom is part of a charitable bequest --

--made in 1688. A number of--

--poor elderly people receive clothing, blankets etc,
while the youngsters learn how--

--to throw -- er -- the bones for a high score !