

HAMPTON HILL PARISH MAGAZINE.

PAROCHIAL NOTES.

Vicar—The Rev. R. H. Brunt, B.A., A.K.C., The Vicarage, St. James's Road. Telephone: Molesey 2069.

The Vicar may usually be seen without appointment between 9-15 and 10.0 a.m., and 6.45 and 7.15 p.m. Messages about people who are sick or in special need should be sent to him as soon as possible.

Churchwardens—Mr. W. F. Wigginton, 9, Oxford Road Teddington
Mr. E. Beckett, 35, Wellington Road, Hampton Hill

Organist—Mr. C. Hayda-Bull M.I.G.C.M.

Parochial Church Officer.

Mr. S. V. Forrow, 68, Sunnyside Road Teddington.

Sunday School.

Held at 11 a.m. every Sunday

In the Parish Hall Infants—Superintendent—Miss B. Rooney.

Boys—Superintendent—Miss O. Wright.

Girls' Fellowship—Superintendent—Mrs. G. Casey

In the Club Room Senior Girls—Superintendent—Miss R. Phillips

Junior Girls—Superintendent—Miss B. Stewart

Children's Service every Sunday at 3 p.m. in Church

Missionary Committee.

Hon. Treas.—Miss Cox, 6 Queen's Road, Hampton Hill.

Hon. Sec.—Miss Stanton, 63 Park Road, Hampton Hill.

Mothers' Union.

Monthly Meetings, First Wednesday in each month in the Club Room, 3 p.m., and Quarterly Services: Corporate Communion First Thursday 10.30 a.m.

Excolling Member: Mrs. Brunt.

St. James's Youth Club.

Meetings in the Club Room, on Mondays and Fridays at 7.30 p.m.
Hon. Sec.: Mr. L. J. Sumner.

Girl Guides. Captain—Miss Cynthia Hayward.

Brownies. Brown Owl—Miss D. Proctor.

Meetings in the Club Room on Thursdays at 5.30 p.m.

Scouts. Scout Master: Mr. G. Casey, 89 Connaught Road, Teddington.

Cubs Cubmaster: Mr. S. R. Childs, 126, Uxbridge Road, Hampton Hill

District Nurse—Mrs. S. Shaw, 5, Regina Court, Gloucester Road Teddington

Churchyard.

Contributions towards the up-keep of the Churchyard will be gratefully received by Mr. E. Beckett, 35, Wellington Road, Hampton Hill.

Magazine Committee.

Hon. Treas. and Advt. Sec.: Mrs. H. F. Beckett, 6, Cross St.

Hampton Hill.

Hon. Sec.: Miss H. Stanton, 63, Park Road, Hampton Hill.

Vicar's Notes.

THE POSITIVE SIDE.—I often wonder what sort of impression Christianity and the Church make upon the general public. They hear news of us, certainly, but is it news of the right kind? Think of one recent headline which has been the cause of lively interest and controversy: "Vicars boycott Methodist stone-laying ceremony". It has a very negative tinge. And usually, when we hear much of the Church, it is from a negative aspect: the Church calls on men to fight against Communism; the Church condemns this or that; the Church speaks out against divorce; and so on. The Church gets the wrong kind of publicity. Perhaps it is largely our fault. Perhaps there is too much stress in the negative side, the "fighting against" instead of the "fighting for"; the emphasis on what Christianity is not, rather than on what it is; the bringing into prominence of the things that divide more often than the things that unite, and so on. It does seem that we need a renewed emphasis on the positive side, on what Christianity is, on what the Church is and does. We are not just fighting against things and forces considered to be evil: we are engaged in building up something utterly worth-while and splendid and of the greatest importance for all men. We are not just fighting against divorce, we are asserting the joy and grandeur of true Christian marriage, and trying to prepare and educate people for this wonderful thing. We are not just fighting against Communism; we stand for a conception of man and society which is far richer and truer than this, and we must demonstrate it more and more in our whole manner of individual, family and corporate life. As members of the Church of England, we are certainly not fighting against the Methodist or any other Christian body. We are loyal to our own great tradition, which we believe to be the fullest, most balanced and most mature and adult form and expression of Christianity that there is, though we in the practice of it so often fall far short of the ideal. The Methodists and the Congregationalists also hold firm convictions about the value of their own great traditions, and they may more often come near to the ideal behind them than we do to the ideal behind ours. The things that unite us as Christians are deep and strong. The things that divide us are still there, and must be faced. But on these we differ in friendship, not as enemies, or as those who believe that all the right and truth are exclusively on their own side, and they have nothing to learn from anyone else. Here

again it is the positive side that needs emphasising—not the negative one, as though we Christians spent most of our time quarrelling or 'boycotting' one another, and being unco-operative and uncharitable. And what is the positive side in this case? That we are all trying to be as fully loyal as we may to the truth, in love, and praying and working that one day God may fully unite us in truth and in love at the very highest level, with nothing cheapened or watered down.

THE FINANCIAL SIDE.—Another side of Church life that is all too often given undue emphasis is the monetary one. But it is given this emphasis by the few because the many scarcely think of it at all. Or if they do, they say: "If only the Church would do its spiritual work, the money side would come right of itself." This saying has been well called "one of those pieces of pious humbug which the devil puts on to the lips of men to stay the Church's work". We might as well say: "If only Twickenham Corporation got on with its job, it needn't bother about the rates!" Twickenham Council knows that things don't work out like this, and so it bothers about the rates a great deal.

So the 'spiritual work of the Church' and the 'financial affairs of the Church' are not two separate compartments, the one calling for the interest of some, the other of others. The Church is in the world—and in the world it must do its work, for the Glory of God and the great benefit of man. It must have its full-time living agents; it must have its plant—its churches, colleges, schools, halls, and so on. Its spiritual work could not go on without them, and they in their turn cannot be maintained without worldly wealth. What is true of the Church in the whole wide range of its redemptive work is true also of the Church in the smaller sphere of the parish. The Church in the parish needs steadily accumulating reserve-funds to meet the big capital expenditure that has to be faced from time to time: it also needs an adequate day-to-day income reserve. We in this parish have not inherited the former: we must see that we do our best to build up such a reserve for our successors. Because in the past no large reserves have been put aside, in the course of 1952, we shall have to try to raise nearly a thousand pounds to do urgent work, some of which must be done immediately, unless as our architect says, "the church is soon to be allowed to rot away". More about this later. In the meantime, we are holding a Gift-Day on our Dedication Festival on December 11th, and for this special envelopes will be available in the church and distributed

with the next issue of the magazine. A new Organ and Choir Fund has been set up by the Church Council: this will be used to build up a reserve-fund against the day when the organ will need further major repairs, and also to pay all the current expenses of maintaining it, tuning it, and providing for the needs of the choir-music, new surplices, and so on.

In the future, perhaps, "outings" may also be included in the terms of this fund: but as there is no money available this year, I am asked to appeal to those who appreciate the services of our choir-boys to make donations towards the cost of their Christmas visit to the Circus and Fun-Fair. I know this could perhaps, come out of our general church funds, but I know also that people *do* like to make a direct contribution for things like this. Also perhaps in regard to two other matters: we need to have a larger stock of veils for Confirmation candidates (it seems there are no more than 6 at the moment and we must have at least 6 more before the end of November—they cost 7/7d. each). And then I should like to give to those confirmed a really good book (or books) of prayers, and good books are not cheap these days. I should like to be able to buy these last items without having to draw on our hard-pressed church funds.

Reports and Announcements

WITH ONE VOICE.—A Deanery Missionary Exhibition will be held at St. Mary's Hall, Twickenham, from Tuesday, November 20th, to Saturday, November 24th. The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, the Church Missionary Society, the Church of England Zenana Missionary Society, and the Universities Mission to Central Africa are uniting to put on this Exhibition and it promises to be extremely interesting.

The days will be divided into two sessions, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., and from 7.30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Each session will have an official opening, and special talks. Missionaries will be there, and people from the lands in which the Societies are working. There will be films, and courts arranged by the various missionary societies showing fully their work in pictures, maps, models and illuminated landscapes.

St. James' is concentrating on the Church of England Zenana Mission, and has already promised 14 stewards to help on different days during the Exhibition. A study group is meeting regularly, and on October 29th we are having a talk on day to day life in India, in order to make the background of the mission field more living.

During the first days of November, we are hoping to have a missionary from the Zenana Mission to speak to the group. If any other people would like to join in, we will gladly welcome them. We need more helpers as we have made ourselves responsible for stewarding on three days—possibly more. H.S.

A GOOD EFFORT.—WELL DONE, INFANTS' SUNDAY SCHOOL! Miss Cox the treasurer of the Missionary Committee in this parish, has reported that on opening the box from the Infants' Sunday School, she found it contained over £12. This is really a magnificent effort, and merits a special mention and much praise.

An extra payment is being made to the S.P.G. and C.M.S.: these societies will be allotted half £13 10s. 0d.

which is the amount collected from boxes during the past half year. H.S.

YOUNG WIVES' GROUP.—On Wednesday, November 14th, will be having a tea-party in the Parish Hall for mothers and their babies who have been baptized in St. James'.

N.B. In this connection you are a "Young Wife" as long as you still have children of School age. If you can think of a better title we should be glad if you would tell us! This one is only useful because it is well known in this context: there are now Young Wives' Groups in nearly all the dioceses in the British Isles and in those parts of the World where there is an Anglican Community. We recently heard of one in India which was so successful that fathers applied to the London Headquarters to know if they could join the association as "Young Husbands."

The main concern of the groups is with understanding and learning about Christian homes and about bringing up families in the Christian tradition. This is topical for several reasons and one is that in this generation we are again coming to understand that the *family* is the real unit of the community (CF. "Peckham Experiment" etc.) and that Christian communities are only soundly based on Christian families.

As in other groups, we hope to have recreational and social activities as well because so many mothers of young children find it very difficult to join in these things elsewhere. The really important thing, of course, is to let husbands know well ahead the nights on which their presence as baby-sitters will be appreciated!

We shall be discussing all this and planning a programme one evening later in the month and if you or your friends are interested please watch the church notice boards for details of time and place. C.H.B.

BAPTISMAL ROLL.—If parents of children now under five years old and baptized at St. James' before March, 1951, would like to have the names put on the Baptismal Roll, please will they tell Mrs. Brunt at the Vicarage before the end of this month.

(I am sorry that this sounds like a form obtainable at the Post Office.)

THE WOMENS' GUILD.—The meeting in October was remarkable for the very high standard of the bottles of fruit for the competition. We think everyone enjoyed this meeting but that we hope will be our common experience.

The next meeting on November 21st, is at present arranged as a very miscellaneous programme—part of which will be an exchange of ideas for the working Party which will soon be preparing for next year's fete.

(The washing demonstration previously announced has had to be postponed until January 15th).

The sale of preserves has added more than a guinea to the Baptismal Roll Fund.

The profit on the sale of photographs of the Font will, at the request of Mrs. Bull, who arranged for it, be given to this fund. We should also like to thank Mr. Webb, who took these and other pictures of the church and is kindly allowing us his profit on all of them.

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