

Vicar's Notes

A TIME FOR THOUGHT

Lent will soon be upon us, and it is very much hoped that as many people as possible this year will make full use of it as a time of constructive thought. The Schools of Religion, referred to in the last issue, have been arranged to take place in this diocese to help us to do this. In partnership with St. Mary's, Hampton, we hope to cover at least three of the four general courses which have been planned, as follows:

Sunday mornings, 11.0 a.m. (beginning March 2nd):

Course I. :— "Great Words of the Bible."

Wednesdays, 8.0 p.m., at St. Mary's (beginning March 5th).

Course II. :— "The Sacraments."

Fridays, 8.0 p.m., at St. James's:— "The Christian in Action."

Enrolment forms and further details should shortly be available.

THE MINISTRY OF HEALING

There is another special matter about which it would be good for us to think deeply about in Lent, and that is our prayer for, and ministry to, the sick and suffering. Some months ago I wrote to the Rev. J. Wilson, a former vicar of St. Mary's, Somers Town, and now Warden of the Guild of Health, asking him if he would kindly come and help us. He is an expert on these matters, and believes so strongly that there are resources available which the Church is neglecting to use that he is now devoting nearly all his time and energy to work for a revival of the full Ministry of Healing within the Church. The earliest Sunday on which he is free to come, happens to be the second in Lent, March 9th, and

on that day he will preach both morning and evening, and after the evening service. I hope to be able to arrange an informal meeting for questions and discussions and to plan how we may in this parish make our own ministry to the sick more helpful and effective.

The visit of Father Jim Wilson comes at a time when we are feeling much in need of guidance on this matter. A number of us were much disturbed and challenged recently by the case of a charming and clever little girl, a newcomer to this parish, who was full of life in the fancy dress parade at the summer fete, and then, not long after, stricken by a most deadly and distressing malignant disease, which she bore most bravely. She was a keen member of the Baptist Church, and had a good knowledge of the Bible: she had skilled and devoted medical attention, and many prayers were said for her, but she died before Christmas. The way she faced her terrible trial was certainly fine and splendid: but surely the disease itself was not God's will, though her own reaction to it was? If our own faith had been stronger, might we not have been able to help her more? What are we to say about such a testimony as that of Agnes Sandford in the inset enclosed in the January issue of "The Spire"? Read, and re-read, her article on "God works through us." Can we be as confident as she is that it is *always* God's will to heal, and that, if healing does not come, there is something on our side that hinders the outpouring of God's power? And any rate, let us this Lent give some time and thought to such matters, and not just let them "lie on the table."

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about people, activities & organisations

MOTHERS' UNION & WOMENS' GUILD

Our own Carol Service on January 2nd — planned especially for the children and those who cannot attend an evening service—was an innovation for which we have received much encouragement, and we are glad to be able to send £2 15s. 0d. to the C. of E. Children's Society.

The following week the choir en-

joyed a visit to Laurel Dene and sang carols and solo songs to the old ladies. We hope to visit again soon with some specially requested "old favourites."

We are grateful for the hard work our new choir has put in during this winter, and for the help it has been to our worship.

To try to keep in touch with our

large membership and to answer that pitiful cry of "I didn't know there was a meeting," (our meetings are announced in church and in this magazine) we are trying to send a monthly notice to everyone. For various quite good reasons your name may not be on the list. If you haven't yet received a notice please tell anyone who has, and they, in good-neighbourly fashion, will see that you do in future.

WANTED.

1. For the working party: any pieces of material, small or large, old felt hats or berets, old leather handbags. Any of these can be returned if not used.
2. For the Mothers' Union: your Christmas cards, which will be sent to workers in Transvaal and West Indies.
3. For Dr. Barnardo's Homes, your clean milk tops. Would any cubs or brownies help to collect?

FILMS.

At a recent meeting about "Children and the Cinema," it appeared that the Board of Censors' classification caused some confusion to parents and I wondered how many of us knew of the excellent work done in this connection by the Mothers' Union. A list is published each month, giving guidance about the suitability of the current films for "family visits," "adolescents" or "adults only." We will try to remember to pin these in the church porch for those who are interested. Perhaps, later on, we may be able to co-operate with the local managers to be even more helpful.

M.U. branch meeting, February 6th, in clubroom.

M.U. Corporate Communion, February 7th, 10.30 a.m. in church.

Womens' Guild meeting, February 20th, 3.0 p.m. in hall.

YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

The dressmaking class is now held on Thursday evenings, at 7.30-9.15 p.m., in Windmill Road School, and so there is now room for a few more students.

The group meeting will be on February 25th, at 8.0 p.m., in the clubroom.

THE MEN'S SOCIETY

In December, we heard of the history of Hampton, and how our parish of New Hampton, or Hampton Hill, came to be formed. Mr. Atkins, churchwarden of St. Mary's, Hampton, dealt with the earlier history, and then our own Mr. Forrow traced the development of our district from the sixties of last century onwards, illustrating his remarks with extracts from the Vestry Minutes Book. Some of these were so interesting that we hope it may be possible to incorporate them in a booklet we hope to publish later about our church and parish.

In January, we heard from Sister Simpson, of the Church Army, what News-Teams are, and how they are formed and trained. The Vicar of Whitton followed and gave details of how the News-Team actually worked in his parish. It seemed to be the general opinion of the meeting that it would be an excellent thing to build up such a team in this parish, and it is intended to bring the matter to the notice of the Church Council

THE SUNDAY SCHOOLS

The Infants' Party was held in the Parish Hall, on Thursday, January 3rd. A shadow puppet show was given by Miss Tarrant, and later on Father Christmas arrived and gave each child a present.

The Juniors and Seniors combined for their party on the following Saturday. After an excellent tea, the children enjoyed a film show, and then presents were distributed to all.

The Sunday School staff wish to thank all those who so kindly gave gifts for their Christmas Parties, and helped to provide and prepare the teas.

P.S.—A fawn velvet hat, greatly valued by its owner, was lost on Saturday, January 4th, either at the Party, or on the way to it. Please has anyone found it?

CONFIRMATION

At the service held at St. Mary's, Hampton, on November 29th, the following young people from this parish were confirmed by the Bishop of Kensington: Brian Alfred Bowen, David Grayer, Gerald Percival Holmes, David John Swatland, John

Bentley Ward, Janet Sylvia Austin, Audrey Elizabeth Cracknell, Joy Rosemary Cusworth, Rita Ann Foskett, Marian Elaine Moaksom, June Kathleen Nankivell, Valerie Nichols, Pauline Rockliffe, Pamela Jean Swane, Angela Joyce Tagg, Barbara Elsie Turner, Elizabeth Beryl Ward, Diana Watkins, Janice Heather Whyley.

Most of these made their First Communion at the Parish Communion on December 16th.

On December 15th, two adults were confirmed by the Bishop of London, at St. Paul's Cathedral — Elizabeth Dixon and Kathleen Mary Nichols.

“Defend, O Lord, these thy children with thy heavenly grace, that they may continue thine forever; and daily increase in thy Holy Spirit more and more, until they come into thy everlasting Kingdom. Amen.”

The vicar hopes to start another adult class (or classes) in February, in preparation for an Adult Confirmation in St. Paul's Cathedral or Westminster Abbey, in April or May. He has already received some enquiries, and would be glad to receive more. Classes for young people will begin again at the end of June, in preparation for the Confirmation to be held this year in our own church in November.

INVALIDS

There are at the moment at least four of our parishioners in hospital, and they have been much in our thoughts and prayers — Mr. Albert Christie, Mr. James Cornish, Mrs. Ada Brown and Mrs. Round. Mr. Cornish's illness prevented him from being able to take his part in the Christmas Play, and from carrying on his duties as chairman of our Men's Society. Mr. Christie, who has been our clock-winder and bell-ringer for many years now, hopes to be able to continue to ring the bells when he comes out of hospital, but he will definitely not be able to do the really heavy work of winding the clock two or three times a week. At the moment the vicar is doing this, assisted from time to time by Michael Futter and Leslie Sargeant, who are also looking after the bell-ringing—it was the latter who saw to it that the Old

Year was duly rung out and the New Year properly welcomed in. But the vicar would be glad to hear of anyone who could take over the work of winding the clock as a regular and definite responsibility and piece of service. At the beginning of his period of duty, the vicar several times got the clock striking midnight at sunrise, but, after various experiments — some of them rather alarming! — he found out how to remedy this, and of late things have been going almost as smoothly as when Mr. Christie was on the job — and we hope that this will continue! It was a striking tribute to Mr. Christie's devotion to duty, that when in great pain, and expecting to be rushed off to hospital at any minute, he could still think of the clock, and have a message sent to the vicar to see if it could be saved from running down.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The vicar acknowledges with thanks the following gifts: For books and veils for Confirmation candidates, from Miss Stanton, Mrs. Rockliffe, Mrs. Casey; for the Choir outing, from Mr. Western, Mr. Lewis and Laurel Dene; for the Sunday School Party, from Mr. Sporing and Mrs. Thomas; for the churchyard, from Mr. Ewins; towards replacement of the loss incurred by burglary, from Mrs. Head.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

Feb. 5th. P.C.C. 8.0 p.m. in Vestry,

Feb. 8th.—8.0 p.m. Annual Church Meeting. (Please attend in force!)

Feb. 12th.—8.0 p.m. C.E.M.S. Musical Evening arranged by Mr. Alvey.

Feb. 13th.—7.30 p.m. Scout Troop Birthday Party.

Feb. 18th.—7.30 p.m. R.D. Conference.—“The Place of the Laity in Evangelism.”

Feb. 25th.—St. Matthias. Holy Communion 7.0 a.m.

Feb. 27th.—Ash Wednesday, Holy Communion 7.30 and 10.30 a.m.

8.0 p.m.—Compline and Address, Feb. 29th.—7.0 p.m. Magazines ready, and Distributors' Meeting.

Mar. 2nd.—First Sunday in Lent. The “School of Religion” begins.

WORK THAT ACHIEVES SOMETHING

It is being increasingly realised that there is need in every parish for a deeper interest in Moral Welfare Work. In the past, far too many people have regarded this work merely as an agency dealing with persons or marriages which have already come to grief. It is important that we forge a closer link between this work and the Parish Priest and the various parochial organisations who have dealings with individuals. We must come to see that this is the concern of the whole parish, and until this happens our work will suffer and we shall continue to be misunderstood.

That our work is beginning to be understood and valued is shown by the fact that this year the Middlesex County Council has made a grant of £50 per annum towards the Worker's salary.

It is hoped from time to time with the permission of your editor to give you a short account of the Association's activities in this part of the diocese and county.

From January 1st — September 30th, 1951, there were 243 visits paid to the Office; 375 visits made by the Worker, including 39 to various Hospitals, Homes and Clinics; 605 letters were written and 333 received; 9 private agreements signed and one Court Order obtained. We dealt with 74 new cases; 13 girls were sent to Maternity Homes; 4 girls were found situations with their babies; while 2 other girls obtained situations, foster mothers being secured for their babies; 9 girls returned home with their infants. Another child was placed in a residential nursery.

Applications for help should be made to the Out-Door Worker, Miss K. Bradbury at Holy Trinity Vicarage, Twickenham Green, whose Office Hours are Monday—Thursday, 9.30 - 10.30 a.m., Wednesday, 6.30 - 7.30 p.m., or by appointment, or through your Parish Priest. Our efforts are dependent largely on church collections and private subscriptions. Please help this work by giving generously when a collection is made for this work in your Church, or by sending a donation to the Secretary-

Treasurer of the Hampton Deanery Association, Mr. R. H. Hiller, 36, Maswell Park Road, Hounslow.

L.C.G.

BAPTISMS

Dec. 7th.—Jane Frances Bessey, Linden, Albert Road.

Dec. 23rd.—Alan David Butler, 53 Queen's Road, Teddington.

Dec. 28th.—Grahame R o b e y Tomes, Archmore Terrace, Holywood, Co. Down, N. Ireland.

BURIALS

Dec. 12th.—Anne Simcock, Laurel Dene, aged 96 years (at Hampton Cemetery).

Dec. 14th.—Mary Armes, 9, Pantile Cottages, aged 88 years.

Dec. 17th.—Elizabeth Frances Gillett, 77, High Street, Hampton, aged 67 years.

Dec. 19th.—Susannah Mildred Rachel Barber, 1, Laurel Road, aged 72 years (at Teddington Cemetery).

Dec. 20th.—Eliza Marion Harver-son, 113, Fulwell Road, aged 85 yrs.

Dec. 29th.—Josephine L o u i s e Pauline Elsdon, 22, Royal Road, Teddington, aged 71 years.

Jan. 2nd.—Emily Jessie Rivers, 29, Windmill Road, aged 85 years.

Jan. 8th.—Emily Jane Parker, 9, St. James's Road, aged 90 years (at Teddington Cemetery).

Jan. 22nd.—Florence Dunkerley, Laurel Dene, aged 81 years, (at Hampton Cemetery).

Jan. 28th.—Florence Card, 24, Myrtle Road, aged 81 years.

Jan. 24th.—George Pitt, 9, Albert Road, aged 80 years.