

Vicar's Notes

THE SUMMER FETE

This month we shall be working hard and making our final plans for the fete in the grounds of Laurel Dene on Saturday, July 5th. Mrs. Kennedy, of Hampton Court Palace, is kindly coming to open it for us at 3.0 p.m. Some of the efforts which people are making are mentioned later in this magazine. Other stalls which would also welcome gifts from anyone who has suitable things to give are: The Toy Stall (the Sunday School—gifts to Miss Phillips, 82, Park Road); the Grocery Stall (Mrs. Orton, 30, St. James's Road, or Mrs. Mills, 14, Uxbridge Road); the Greengrocery Stall (the Misses Western, 35, St. James's Avenue); the Cake Stall (the Girl Guides—Miss Campbell, 29, St. James's Avenue); the Old-Fashioned Stall (the Drama Group—Mrs. Lloyd, 25, Park Road). Mr. Harry Beckett (6, Cross Street) would be glad to receive on loan any interesting objects for the 'museum' he is arranging, and Mrs. Beckett (35, Wellington Road) and Mrs. Rooney (17, St. James's Avenue) would like to hear from people who can provide food for refreshments. There is still time for anyone with original ideas with regard to stalls or side-shows to bring them forward and help to carry them out. But there is not much time, because the printing of the programmes will shortly have to be put in hand, and we should like them to contain details of everything that has been planned.

We are sorry to hear that Mr. Christie, who has so ably organized the children's fancy-dress parade in

recent years, will not be able to do it this year for reasons of health. We are grateful to one of our Sunday School superintendents, Miss B. Stewart, for very kindly undertaking this task at short notice.

Our fete is looked forward to by many people as a most enjoyable social occasion. The beautiful and well-kept grounds of Laurel Dene form a delightful setting, and we are grateful to Middlesex County Council for the privilege of using them, which they so readily grant. But as well as being a very pleasant occasion in its own right, the fete is also one of the means by which we bridge the gap between current income and current financial obligations. We hope that this year, as well as doing this, it will also enable us to start building up the fund for the much-needed repairs and renovations to the fabric of our church.

YOUTH WORK

As will be seen in a later page, we are hoping to make certain alterations in our Sunday School arrangements in the autumn. We also have in mind the formation of a Youth Fellowship, to be more closely attached to the Church than the old youth club used to be. We should like to form one affiliated to the Anglican Young People's Association, which has four principles—Worship, Work, Fellowship and Edification—and definitely expects loyalty and high standards from its members. But there is no reason at all why these should lessen the fun: indeed, they should help to strengthen it. If any young people who read this are interested, would they let me or the Parochial Youth Officer, Mrs. Casey, know?

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about
people, activities & organisations

THE MEN'S SOCIETY

On May 13th, we held our first open meeting, and were pleased to have with us a number of friends and members of the congregation. The speaker was the new organising secretary of the Missions to Seamen, and with the aid of a somewhat

refractory film-strip projector he gave us an interesting account of their work in all the great ports of the world. They badly want good magazines (a bit of a blow to our waste-paper drive!), as seamen in their off-duty hours are voracious readers, and we hope to be able to send them

some from time to time. But it is not only social and welfare work that is carried on under the sign of the Flying Angel: a great deal of spiritual upbuilding is done by the chaplains as well. For instance, many lads and men are prepared for Confirmation: but the instruction begun in Liverpool may be completed in San Francisco and the man finally presented to a Bishop in Australia. Some men in the course of their preparation receive instruction from as many as eight or nine different chaplains in ports scattered across the world.

The work of volunteer parties in the churchyard has now begun, and though the effect on the encroaching jungle may not be too obvious to the casual observer, a good deal of overgrown grass and vegetation has been removed. We hope that anyone who has an hour to spare from his own garden will feel free to come along at any time and carry on the good work.

On June 21st, we are acting as hosts to members of a Youth Guild from the parish of St. Matthew, Bethnal Green. We hope to show them Hampton Court and other places of interest in the neighbourhood. It is the young people from Bethnal Green who are coming, and not the men, as we first expected, but we are informed that there are very few men in this hard-pressed church, and it is on the youth that the Church in East London generally now mainly depends. This Guild is not just a social club, but has high standards with regard to worship, work and fellowship, and we shall look forward to meeting these keen young Christians.

The Men's Society is also hoping to play its full part at the Summer Fête. Members have already undertaken various duties, and in addition we are hoping to have a really good men's stall. To stock this we rely on the generous support, not only of our own members, but of all the churchmen in the parish. If you have a suitable gift, please let Mr. Wigginton know.

**Mothers' Union, Womens' Guild
and Young Wives Group**

At the Mothers' Union enrolment service on May 7th, Mrs. Brooking,

Mrs. Gloynes, Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. King, Mrs. Mills, Mrs. Watts, Mrs. Weedon and Mrs. Wigginton were admitted as members; Miss Phillips and Miss Hopgood as Associate Members and Mrs. Claverly, Mrs. Cheal, Mrs. Pocklington and Miss Wertheim were received into our fellowship from other branches. After the service the committee provided tea in the Hall and to help us to get to know each other now that we are such a large gathering, members were provided with name labels. These seem to have achieved some success and we shall continue to wear them at future tea meetings, so don't forget yours at the tea meeting in July in the Vicarage Garden (if fine).

Dates of June meetings will be found under "dates to note" but we should like to draw attention to the meeting on June 4th, when Mrs. Bligh, who is Children's Worker for the Middlesex section of the Board of Moral Welfare, will be speaking about her work. Her subject will be of interest to most women and all mothers and since we shall be meeting in the Hall for more accommodation, we shall be glad to welcome all who can come. The "People's Offering" to be made at St. Paul's Cathedral on June 25th at 7.0 p.m. supports Mrs. Bligh's work and Mrs. Forrow, who is our parish representative for this, will be glad to receive contributions.

ALL PARENTS — mother and father—are invited to a meeting at the Friends' House, Euston Road, at 8.0 p.m. on Wednesday, June 18th, when the Headmistress of a girls' public school and the Bishop of Willesden will speak on "Parenthood, its privileges and problems". A convenient train would be the 7.12 p.m. from Twickenham and in case you should feel overwhelmed at the thought of making such an effort on a summer evening we have reason to believe that it will, in fact, be one well worth the making.

Our Fête preparations:—

1. **THE WORKING PARTY** met for the first time on May 21st. It was a lovely summer's day and a happy party overtaxed the Vicarage supply of chairs so that at least one

group was to be found accommodated with cushions on the door steps. (But please don't let this put anyone off coming: we have found an extra source of supply for the next meeting!) Merchandise is piling up very satisfactorily, although we shall still be glad to receive more from all of you who are unable to come to these meetings.

2. THE WHITE ELEPHANT STALL has not such satisfactory news, as we go to press there is still only our three original objects in evidence. Please advertise the needs of this stall to your friends, especially if you happen to have any who are moving house. "White Elephant" is all inclusive and can cover anything not catered for at other stalls—even white mice!

3. Prizes will be offered for the best arrangement of garden-flowers in a pudding basin. The judges will be the public, who will pay—not too dearly—for the privilege.

There will also be prizes for children who show the best collection of wild flowers in a 1 lb. jam-jar. Entrance Tickets for these two competitions at 6d. (Children 2d.) can be obtained from Mrs. Western or from the Vicarage, or at Laurel Dene itself between 11 a.m. and 12 a.m. or 2 and 3 p.m. on the day of the Fête.

THE DRAMA GROUP

The coach-outing on May 27th to the Phoenix Theatre to see, "Much Ado About Nothing" was most successful, and a great tribute to the organising ability of our secretary, Cyril Tarrant. The play itself was brilliantly acted and produced, and we enjoyed every minute of it. Earlier in the month a number of us went to Hampton Wick to see what amateurs could do, and we came back greatly impressed by the very high standard of Mrs. Whitton's production of "Lady Precious Stream."

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

The Secretary gratefully acknowledges the following Box Subscriptions for the Church of England Children's Society (Waifs and Strays) an official receipt may be seen in church porch:—

Mrs. Wetherell 17/-, Miss Lush 5/-, Post Office £1 0s. 1d., Miss Coe 4/6, Mrs. Tozer 6/-, Mrs. Tozer 13/10, Mr Vincent 10/1, Mrs. Upton 3/10, Vestry Box 5/6, Miss Wright 7/8, Miss Robinson 11/1, Miss Carter 6/2, Mrs. Burstall 5/4, Mrs. Childs £1 0s. 0d., Mrs. Beckett 4/6, Miss Phillips 10/-, Mrs. Chamberlain 12/1, Mrs. Faraway 4/11, Richard Paulk 2/11, Valeria Nicholls 3/1, Mrs. Tyler 3/11, Rosemary Atkins 1/8, Sylvia Smith 3/3, Jean Wynd 5/1, M. and G. Dallimore 5/4, Miss Stewart 10/1.

As a result of the meeting held in St. Alban's Hall on May 26th, a committee has been formed to consider ways and means of gaining more support for this splendid society in this district.

"SERVICE, NOT SELF"

Is any member of your family an ex-serviceman or woman? If so, is he or she a member of the British Legion? In Hampton and Hampton Hill there is quite a strong branch of men's and women's sections, and although unfortunately, we are not yet in possession of a headquarters, our various committees meet regularly to administer branch affairs, give help in cases of hardship and distress, and to give advice to any ex-serviceman who may need it. A variety of entertainment is organised for the benefit of members and a welcome waits any newcomers.

If you are interested, why not call on the secretary or any member of the committee for further particulars?

Hon. Sec.: Mr. T. H. Armes, 28a, Upper Flat, Priory Road, Hampton.

Assist. Sec.: Mr. R. Bennett, 4, Myrtle Road, Hampton Hill.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

For some time it has been felt that to hold our Sunday School classes in the morning at the times we do is not entirely satisfactory. It means that none of the children or teachers can ever attend the mid-morning service—they lose something by this, and the Church as a whole loses too. It also means that the vicar has never been able to visit the Sunday School since he came, and if present arrangements continue, will perhaps

never be able to do so. He therefore has very little contact with many of the children, and cannot get to know them as he would like to do.

It is therefore proposed that from the start of the new school-year next September the Sunday School should be held in the afternoon. Another advantage which we hope may in time follow from this change is an increase in the number of teachers. The present afternoon Children's Service would not then be held every week, but from time to time there would be special services in church for all members of the Sunday School.

This change cannot of course be successfully brought about without the good-will and co-operation of the parents. We know that some parents will find it somewhat inconvenient, but we feel that if we can hold the Sunday School early enough—say at 2.30 p.m.—it would still leave time for family-outings afterwards. In any case, we should like to know what their reactions are to this suggestion by Sunday, June 15th.

It may be that some parents have had experience of teaching in the past, and would be willing to consider starting again. If so, we should be glad to hear of them, for our present band of teachers is too small for the important work in hand. And in September we are hoping to open at least an Infants' Sunday School on the Rectory Farm Estate.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

June 2nd.—Whit-Monday. 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.

June 4th.—3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union (in the Hall). Speaker, Mrs. Bligh.

June 5th.—6.0 p.m. Public Meeting at St. Martin's to mark the opening of Edward Wilson House.

June 8th.—Trinity Sunday.

June 9th.—7.30 p.m. Drama Group (in Club-room).

June 11th.—St. Barnabas.

June 14th.—3.30 and 7.0 p.m. S.P.G. Pageant at the Royal Albert Hall.

3.0 p.m. Scouts' Jumble Sale (in Club-room).

June 16th.—8.0 p.m. Sunday School Teachers and Youth Leaders (at Vicarage).

June 18th.—2.30 p.m. Working-Party (Vicarage).

June 18th.—8.0 p.m. Parents' Meeting (at Friends' House).

June 21st.—C.E.M.S. are Hosts to St. Matthew's Guild.

June 24th.—St. John Baptist.
8.0 p.m.—News-Team Fellowship (at 35, St. James's Avenue).

June 25th. Mothers' Union Outing.

7.0 p.m. People's Offering Service at St. Paul's.

June 27th.—7.30 p.m. Magazine distributors' meeting (Vicarage).

June 28th.—3.0 p.m. Sunday School Teachers' Garden Party at Fulham Palace.

June 29th.—St. Peter.

July 2nd.—3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union Service.

July 5th.—3.0 p.m. The Summer Fête at Laurel Dene.

BAPTISMS

May 11th.—Pamela Margaret Brewer, 56, Uxbridge Road.

May 11th.—Richard Edwin Mason, 93, Hampton Road.

May 18th.—Richard Douglas Greening, 11, Walpole Road.

May 25th.—Veronica Lilian and Josephine Maureen Irwin, 52, Rectory Grove.

May 25th.—Malcolm John Trump, 49, Rectory Grove.

May 25th.—Peter Phillip Smith, 18, Longford Close.

May 25th.—Graham William Sandys, 60, Stanley Gardens Road.

BURIALS

May 6th.—Percy Edwin Allen, 85, Park Road, aged 89 years.

May 7th.—George Herbert Elsen, 22, Royal Road, aged 79 years.

May 28th.—Ellen Potter, 8, Albert Road, aged 78 years (at Hampton Cemetery).