

Vicar's Notes

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER —

A season which recalls events of the most decisive significance which have ever happened on earth. This was God's D-Day: the powers of evil were met and gloriously defeated. The warfare still continues, and we have our unceasing part to play in this: but it continues towards V-Day, the day of final triumph. But these great historical events about which we shall all soon be thinking are not just external matters which happened long ago. They have made a great difference to us and to the whole world: but they are also meant to make a difference in us. Our Lenten Bible-study has made some of us vividly aware of the deep conviction of St. Paul, that the Death and Resurrection of Christ were not only external things: they must also have their counterpart in the life of every Christian. The rhythm of dying with Christ and rising with Him is something every Christian should know from within, in the depths of his own experience, until finally the risen, victorious, joyful life of Christ possesses him entirely. But we do not have to wait until some remote period after death to taste of this risen life. We can share it in a measure here and now—we

can be "risen with Christ" already and until we know something of this, Easter cannot mean for us what God intends.

But first—the Good Friday experience. Only those who face this can enter fully into the joy of Easter. The Cross and the Crown: not the Crown without the Cross. So do not ignore Holy Week and Good Friday, as so many do, and still hope to know the joy and power of Easter: but come to the glory of the resurrection through the darkness of Good Friday. The Crown through the Cross.

But even that darkness was not entirely dark. The power of a glorious light was still at work—and through that tortured form, scourged and crucified, came a spiritual influence so tremendous that it touched, almost against their will, even the most hardened. This will, I think, be brought home to us in the play to be presented on the Wednesday and Thursday in Holy Week, in which the dignity, love and nobility of Christ in His Passion is shown having its inevitable effect on the most unlikely characters. Men react in different ways: but none can escape the impact of this mighty Figure even though they try. But we would not wish to escape—only to respond more fully, in the right way.

FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

TEN MILLION REFUGEES

This figure is very difficult to comprehend: it is the number of refugees who, now, **at this time**, are crowded into the Western Zone of Germany, into Berlin and into Austria.

Of these 10 million refugees, 3½ million have managed to settle down and have found regular work and adequate homes: they earn enough to clothe and feed themselves and to be able to buy at the shops which to the tourists' eye seem full of delicious unrationed goods. The other 6½ million have no settled homes, they live in over-crowded rooms, in shelters and in camps: work is spasmodic, and often they have to try and feed themselves and their children on the very low welfare

allowance allotted to them from the government, and which is barely enough for food.

Lately refugees have been pouring into the West Zone of Berlin, literally thousands a day. The German Red Cross and Welfare Agencies are doing what they can, but have hardly enough beds, bedding etc., to house these refugees even temporarily in huts and shacks. After a short time most of these refugees are flown out of Berlin to the West, and add to the congestion in living quarters in the West Zone of Germany.

These refugees have fled from their homes leaving all behind them. They are needing clothing desperately. Other refugees have been in Germany and Austria for years in D.P. camps. Their cloth-

ing has been patched and repatched, and there comes a time when the refugee woman, handy though she is with a needle, can patch her family's clothes no longer.

The overcrowding, the lack of privacy, the anxiety over political issues, the shortage of money, the drabness of rags, has a demoralising affect on these refugees. Some rise above their environment, and manage to create a homelike atmosphere of cheerfulness in their corner of a hut or attic. Families help each other, and share food and homes, in a way which would teach many of us a lesson. Many, however, are lonely, hopeless and depressed. The young people have the chance of work, and many of the young D.P's have already emigrated; but the middle-aged, the old and the ill are left with little to which they can look forward.

There are many other refugees in the world:— but these are the nearest to this country. We can help by sending clothes to these people, and the Quakers are still providing the machinery—baling, packing, transport etc.—whereby we can do this. The clothes are distributed by the German and Austrian Welfare authorities, and the Quakers know that the distribution is wisely and carefully carried out on a basis of need.

The organisation of a clothing collection is something which we can do in this parish to help these refugees in **a material way**. Will anyone interested in helping with this piece of service please get into touch with the Vicar?

Not all will be able to contribute by giving help or clothes, but all can remember the refugees in their prayers, and pray for courage and cheerfulness for them. Perhaps we should also remind ourselves again how very fortunate we are in having homes and clothes and food and security, and be thankful.

H.S.

FINANCIAL NEEDS OF THE CHURCH

A gathering of Clergy and Church Officers of the Diocese was held in London last spring, under the Chairmanship of the Bishop of London. The object of this gathering was to place before the Churches the need for increased contributions to the London Diocesan Fund through the Quotas, so that the minimum stipend of £550 for vicars and other increases for curates and deacons could be met. In furtherance of this object, the Rural Dean called a meeting of Church Councillors and others interested from this Deanery. The meeting was held on 20th January and was addressed by Mr. F. Trickey, himself a Churchwarden and also a member of the Diocesan Conference and the Standing Committee. Mr. Trickey stressed the inadequacy of the present stipends of the clergy, the shortage of clergy and the need for funds for training purposes. Owing to lack of money, the London Diocesan Fund were greatly restricted in their activities and Mr. Trickey made the suggestion that out of the 8,000,000 people in the Diocese, there should be at least 150,000 churchgoers. If these 150,000 would each contribute 2½d. (the price of a postage stamp) weekly, additional to their present undertakings, over £75,000 would be raised annually and this would provide the money needed for the increased stipends and also enable 100 extra curates, the minimum need of the Diocese, to be paid.

The meeting learned with pleasure that there had been an increase in the amounts of the Quota payments from many churches in the Deanery and the hope was expressed that every church would pay the maximum amount possible.

—S.V.J.F.

[This has unavoidably been held over since February owing to pressure on space.—E.D.]

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about people, activities & organisations

CHURCH OF ENGLAND MEN'S SOCIETY

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, 14th April, when it is hoped to have a speaker from the Oxford

Mission to Calcutta (Standby: Mr. Smith on "Patents"). On Tuesday, 12th May, Mr. Roberts, the Borough Librarian, will give his postponed talk on the Library. Both meetings 8 p.m. in the Vicarage.

An admission service for three new members, Messrs. Melville, Mills and Smith, was incorporated in the evening service on March 1st, and the Branch extends them a hearty welcome. Good use has already been made of Messrs. Melville and Smith, who had been designated respectively Treasurer and Chairman for 1953 at the Annual Meeting, and have now taken up office. Mr. Sargeant, though burdened with work in other directions, has again consented to act as Secretary this year.

About twenty-five people attended the Open Meeting on March 10th when Mr. Alvey gave a most interesting lecture-recital on the music of the Mikado. His mastery of the subject was such as to merit a larger audience, and it is perhaps unfortunate that at the last moment the date clashed with the Drama Group rehearsal.

Subscriptions (5/-) for 1953 are now due, and it is hoped that members will remember to bring some loose change to the next meeting!

RENOVATION COMMITTEE

Two events in aid of the Renovation Fund are planned for the Spring, the first a film show kindly presented **without charges** by Melford Radio, and the second an "At Home" for the exchange of (it is hoped!) full collecting-boxes for fresh "empties" and the distribution of extra boxes to anyone desirous of joining the scheme.

The film-show is at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 10th April, in the Hall, and will be a full-length programme. In order to avoid legal difficulties as to the showing of a feature film no charge will be made for entry, but a silver collection will be taken during the interval following the main film. It is hoped that this latter will be "Tornado," a recent release starring Chester Morris and dealing with the effect of a hurricane which devastated an American mining-village. There should also be a travel-film in colour and a cartoon. The programme has been selected in consultation with Melford Radio, who thoroughly recommend "Tornado" as having both thrills and a message! By the date this appears in print time will be somewhat short but please do your best, everybody, to publicize the

venture, and come with your friends so that we may play to capacity. If the experiment is successful, we may have Melford Radio to give a further programme or programmes next winter.

The "At Home" will be held on the evening of Ascension Day, Thursday, May 14th, to follow at 7.45 p.m. the usual short Church Service (which it is hoped as many as possible will attend), and will be held on the Vicarage small lawn if the weather is fine or, if not, in the Hall. Refreshments will be served by the Catering Committee, and, if collecting-boxes are handed in promptly between 7.45 and 8 p.m., it is hoped to announce the total taken therefrom before we disband at about 9 p.m. In the meantime the meeting will be open for anybody who so wishes to speak on any matter connected with the Fund. Advice as to methods of raising money will be welcomed, as at the November meeting, all the suggestions made then have been earnestly examined by the Committee. Posters advertising the meeting will be available in the Church in due course, and it is hoped that anybody who can display one to advantage will take one. It is proposed to send all box-holders an individual notification of the event, and any further details will be published in the May magazine.

We acknowledge with thanks an anonymous gift of £1—"a thank-offering" recently received for the renovation fund.

C.W.S.

MOTHERS' UNION AND YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

Since our usual meeting day falls in Holy Week this month we have arranged two meetings, one in the clubroom on April 1st when we shall have readings and hymns appropriate to the day and on April 15th we shall meet in Church for our annual enrolment service and afterwards in the Hall for tea.

The Deanery Enrolling Members have arranged a combined meeting for Branch and Group members at St. Mary's Twickenham at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21st Miss Monica Hardcastle, Principal of St. Christopher Training College will speak on the "Spiritual and Historical Significance of the Coronation." Afterwards there will be

refreshments and then country dancing for all to join in.

At the M.U. Annual meeting on March 11th the following members were elected to the Committee for three years: Mrs. Bassett, Mrs. Beckett and Mrs. Wilcox.

THE DRAMA GROUP

Elsewhere in this magazine the Vicar will have commented on the Passion Play, "The Centurion," which will be given in Church at 7.45 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, April 1st and 2nd. We do most earnestly hope for the support of everyone in the congregation on these days, and friends will be most welcome. We are very fortunate in having the help of Mr. Frank Lambe. As our producer Mr. Lambe, in recent years, has produced religious plays at All Hallows, Twickenham, and previously in the City. We want to show him our appreciation of his kindness in coming to help us, and a good congregation on both nights of the play would be proof of this.

The production will cost money; and a silver collection to cover expenses will be taken. May we ask for your generous support? Any profit will go towards the Renovation Fund.

The Drama Group is hoping to present a Coronation Pageant on June 12th and 13th in the evening. This will be at "The Wilderness" Park Road, Hampton Hill, by kind invitation of Mr. Edwards. More details of this will be given in later magazines, but please book one or other of the dates mentioned.

Mrs. Whitton will be producing this Pageant, and already we are looking forward very much to taking part in it, and working at the production.

H.S.

BRIEF ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many thanks to the holders of Church of England Children's Society boxes and Zenana Missionary Society boxes.

The C.E.C.S. opening realised £ 6 13s. 8d., the C.E.Z.M.S. £8 7s. 10d. Mrs. M. J. Beckett has plenty more boxes!

SOME DATES TO NOTE HOLY WEEK

Holy Communion Monday 7.30 a.m.
Tuesday 7.0 a.m.; Wednesday
7.30 a.m.; Thursday 10.30 a.m.

Wednesday 3.0 p.m. — Mothers' Union (Clubroom): Poems and stories of the Passion.

Wednesday and Thursday 7.45 p.m. — Short evening service followed by the presentation of a Passion play, "The Centurion."

GOOD FRIDAY, April 3rd

9.0 a.m. Children's Service
10.15 a.m. Matins and Sermon
12.0-3.0 p.m. The Three Hours' Devotion. 5.0 p.m. Passion Play (at Laurel Dene). 8.0 p.m.: Passion Music—Organ and Choir.

EASTER DAY

Holy Communion 7.0, 8.0, 10.0 a.m. and 12.15 p.m.

Matins 11.0 a.m. Children's Service
2.30 p.m. Evensong 6.30 p.m.

April 7—8.0 p.m. News-Team Fellowship (Vicarage).

April 8—7.45 p.m. Parish Easter Social (Hall).

April 10—7.30 p.m. Film show by Melford Radio, with silver collection for Renovation Fund (Hall.)

April 14—8.0 p.m. Men's Society (Vicarage).

April 15—3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union Admission Service.

April 21—7.30 p.m. Deanery Mothers' Union and Young Wives' Group meeting, St. Mary's Hall, Twickenham.

April 25—St. Mark. Holy Communion 7.0 a.m.

April 26—3.0 p.m. District Scout and Cub Parade Service.

April 27—8.0 p.m. Young Wives' Group.

May 1—7.30 p.m. Magazine Distributors' meeting, (Vicarage).

BAPTISMS

March 8—Daphne Berry Hicks, 93 Uxbridge Road.

March 11—Brian Chalmers Peppiatt, 107 Burton's Road.

MARRIAGES

February 28—Edward Victor Crips to Eileen Dora Lewington.

March 7—Jeffrey Gordon Raymond to Barbara Alice Haydon.

BURIALS AND CREMATIONS

February 27—Rosemary Highmore, 43 Windsor Road, aged 83 years.

March 3—Arthur Norton Shillingford, Pinehurst Heights, Witley, aged 84 years, (at Mortlake).

March 4—Annie Baker, Alexandra Nursing Home, aged 84 years.

March 5—Elizabeth Hannah Hutchins, 14 Edward Road, aged 86 years.