

Vicar's Notes

THE GREAT DRIVE

This month we begin an enterprise in which everybody can help in one way or another—The Renovation Fund Drive. We must now make a concerted effort, because the cost of the work has been increasing rapidly, and the Fund has not been able to keep pace with it. Not that money has not been coming in steadily—it has. There has been the steady giving of our box-holders; individual and group efforts, such as Mrs. Brown's "at home" in September, which raised £11; collections in church (the total for Harvest Festival Thursday was nearly £10). But the cost has mounted steadily too, and has now reached a total of £614, which will shortly be due for payment. There is a lull at the moment, and the work is at a standstill while a new licence is being applied for. When it is resumed, it will not be long—owing to the great extent of the hitherto unsuspected fungus-rot damage—before the £1,000 mark is passed, and we must have the money in hand to pay the bill. We want therefore to use this lull to the best advantage, and to build up the fund to such an extent that it will be able to meet any demands made upon it in the near future, as the work of saving our church proceeds. We should like to go further than this, and raise enough to cover the whole cost of the necessary repairs, so that we shall not have to appeal again. This may seem a tall order, but it is not so impossible as it looks, and if we all give of our best, it can be done. Details of what it is proposed to do during the six weeks of this intensive effort, and suggestions about ways of helping, will be found below.

The Drive will be set in motion and committed to God at the even-

ing service on Sunday, November 1, All Saints' Day. This was the day mentioned in last month's magazine for the holding of an informal meeting after the service for those especially concerned about the "soul" of the Church as well as about its buildings and fabric, and I should still like to go on with this. To keep the former concern alive when we are having to give so much time and attention to the latter is most important. I also want to make known to any who are interested the work of the Servants of Christ the King. S.C.K. is quite unlike most organisations: it does not make its plans first, and then ask God to bless them; it desires only to follow in a disciplined way wherever the Holy Spirit may lead. It may be that in due course we shall be able to form a company of S.C.K. in this parish.

SPEED IN THE JET AGE

We get accustomed these days to thinking of speed in terms of so many miles per minute. But from time to time we come across instances which take us back to a much more leisurely age. One such happened recently, when a parcel of much-needed Sunday School equipment, packed and sent off expeditiously from a shop in Westminster, did not arrive at Hampton Hill until 15 days later. British Road Services had gone back to pre-stage-coach days, and moved the parcel at the rate of one mile per day!

A PERSONAL NOTE

We are very grateful for all the many acts and thoughts of kindness and affection which have surrounded the birth and early days of our fourth child. He came just before St. Francis's Day, and was born next door to St. James's Church, so his names almost chose themselves!

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about
people, activities & organisations

THE RENOVATION FUND DRIVE

This drive was outlined in last month's magazine, and now the Renovation Fund Committee can talk more definitely about the programme envisaged during November and early December.

On November 1st at 6.30 p.m. a Service of Dedication of the workers for the drive is being held, as it is felt that the whole effort should start with the spirit of prayer behind it.

On or about November 5th Guy

Faulkes may walk the streets, so look out for him! On November 7th the Mothers' Union and Young Wives' Group are combining to organise a super-Jumble Sale. The Autumn Fair is taking place on November 14th: proceeds from this go to church maintenance, but if there is any profit over and above general needs the Church Council is hoping to give a donation towards the Renovation Fund. On November 28th we are organising a mile of pennies: few people realise how much a mile of pennies can bring in: work it out! and come along on November 28th and help us to complete it.

The week starting on Monday, November 30, is a busy and gay one, with an Old-Tyme Dance on the Monday evening organised by the Gay Nights Old-Tyme Dance Club, a film show arranged by the C.E.M.S., on December 2, and a Dance (ballroom) on Saturday, December 5, organised by the Young Wives' Group Badminton Club. On Friday, December 11, the Drama Group is giving a play "The Paper Chain," produced by Mrs. Whitton, all proceeds after expenses have been covered are going to the Renovation Fund.

In addition to these activities there are to be coffee and tea-parties in private houses, and other gatherings such as beetle and whist drives; the list of kind friends who are helping in this way is not yet completed. As far as possible these smaller parties will be included in the programme of events which will be circulated to every house in the parish during the next few days. We want this 6 weeks to be a time of great friendliness in the parish; when we can all work for a common objective: the saving of our church from falling down. Please support as much of the programme as you can, and watch for the barrel organ which is coming to the parish from November 14—21!

During the last week in November and the first week in December we are organising a house-to-house collection. Representatives of the church are calling at every house, leaving an appeal, and calling again in a few days time to collect a contribution. In this way we want to bring home to everyone in the parish a feeling of responsibility for the parish church,

and to give to all an opportunity to help in its renovation.

May we ask for your full co-operation during these 6 weeks? We want your support and your active help. Are you willing to help turn the handle of the barrel organ? to work for a short time on collecting the mile of pennies? to make a cake to aid our many commitments to provide refreshments? to give a small party at home in aid of the Fund? to take a Renovation Fund box and collect regularly from now until our next At Home in early February? to help in the house-to-house collection? to help at the Autumn Fair?

Please send all offer of help to the Secretary of the Renovation Fund, Miss Stanton, 63 Park Road, Hampton Hill, or to Mrs. Beckett, 35 Wellington Road, Hampton Hill. We want at least £2,000; let us make a determined effort to get it.

H.S.

MOTHERS' UNION AND YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

We have arranged three special meetings this month. On Wednesday, November 4, at 3.0 p.m. Mrs. Crabb is coming to speak about the Mothers' Union's big effort to put the Second Object into practice. On November 11, a most distinguished lecturer Miss Yanovsky is coming to speak at 8.0 p.m. on "Helping Children to Know God." Miss Yanovsky is booked up years ahead for meetings all over England, and we have been most fortunate to secure her. We hope for a big attendance of Sunday School Parents, and all who are concerned about this vital subject. On November 18, at 3.0 p.m., the Directors of Oxo are putting on a most attractive film-show in the hall. Help with blacking-out the hall may be needed unless the Hall Committee has been able to deal with the matter—it is largely a question of expense.

There are also our special efforts: our Jumble Sale in aid of the Renovation Drive on November 7, and our stalls at the Autumn Fair. Members of the Y.W.G. are also visiting Mary Sumner House on November 10.

A number of our members went to the Mass Meeting on October 13, Mrs. Mills sends us the following account: Nine M.U. and Y.W.G. members were present at the

Central Hall Mass Meeting, we were sorry that several of our members were unable to go at the last minute. We had a very enjoyable meeting, even though the congregation was not so large as one would have expected, owing, I presume to the morning rain. After the "Queen," Mrs. Eric Coombs dressed in Lime green and looking particularly becoming, introduced our new Central President Mrs. Roberts, O.B.E., M.B., Ch.B., who ably chose as her subject our second object. "To Awaken in all Mothers." This we found to be a very inspiring talk. During the interval Mrs. Kershaw and the M.U. Choirs from the London Diocese, entertained us with a programme of music by various composers, which was very beautiful. Then Canon Tirrell, Director of Religious Education Diocese of London and Southwark addressed us on "Parents and Education." Several of his points we found it hard to agree with, but we decided it was better to disagree than to be indifferent. We closed with the beautiful hymn, "The Saviour of the World" to the tune of "London-derry Air" and the M.U. Prayer and came away feeling the afternoon had been well worth while.

THE DRAMA GROUP

On Saturday September 26, a party of the Drama Group and their friends, including some of the boarders from the Lady Eleanor Holles School, went on a coach-trip to Stratford. We arrived in Stratford just before midday giving us about two and a half hours before the performance. While some had lunch others had sandwiches so as to have more time for sight-seeing though most managed to see at least some of the show places connected with Shakespeare. The main item was the performance of King Lear at the Memorial Theatre. King Lear was played by Michael Redgrave with Yvonne Mitchell as Cordelia and Marius Goring as the fool. After tea in the theatre restaurant we returned home after a most enjoyable and worthwhile day. Our thanks to our Secretary, Mr. C. Tarrant for his excellent arrangements in making a success of this venture.—M.R.

THE SANCTUARY GUILD

The gifts for the service of the Altar were offered to God at the

Holy Communion on Thursday October 8, when a large number of members of the Guild were present and the collection (£2 10s.) was given to the Renovation Fund as part of the Harvest Festival offerings. Here is a statement of the funds of the Guild, and how they have been spent.

Total Receipts from Subscriptions:
£18 10s. 4d.

Expenses:

Fair Linen Cloth £5 12s. 6d.; Blue Sheen Dust Sheet £1 18s. 6d.; White Presentation Stole £5; 5 Long Altar Cloths (laundered) 6s. 9d.; 2 Registered Envelopes 1s. 7d.; 2 Postal Orders 1s. 3d.; 10 stamps 2s. 1d.; 2 Subscription books 2s.—£13 4s. 8d.
Balance in Hand—£5 5s. 8d.

Examined by Mr. E. H. Western and found correct.

BAPTISMS

September 27—Stephanie Carol Miles, 35 Windmill Road.
September 27—Christopher Charles John Pyatt, 113 Burton's Road.
September 27—Brian Robert Doring, 43 Connaught Road.
September 27—Jeremy Richard Hoare, 7 Laurel Road.
October 11—Amanda Lucy Allen, Westlake, Queen's Road, Teddington.

MARRIAGE

September 26—Julian Bernard Campbell to Marion Louise Hitchens.

BURIALS

September 29—George William Stacey, 46 Myrtle Road, aged 81 years.
October 8—Ernest Henry Newman, 13 Seymour Road, aged 80 years.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

November 1—6.30 p.m. Dedication of Renovation Drive and Workers. 8.0 p.m. Meeting at Vicarage (see Vicar's Notes).
November 3—8.0 p.m. News-Team and all Parish Visitors (63 Park Road).
November 4—3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union. Speaker: Mrs. Crabb (Hall).
November 7—Jumble Sale.
November 8—10.50 a.m. Special Service for Remembrance Day. (Parish Communion 8.40 a.m. instead of 8.45 a.m.).

November 10—8.0 p.m. C.E.M.S. (Vicarage). Speaker: Mr. Painter (New South Wales).

November 11—8.0 p.m. Special meeting on "Helping Children to know God." Speaker: Miss E. Yanovsky, Lecturer, Church of England Council for Education (Hall).

November 14—3.0 p.m. Autumn Fair and Evening Parish Social (Hall).

November 18—3.0 p.m. Special Oxo Film Show (Hall).

November 19—8.0 p.m. Confirmation at St. Mary's, Hampton.

November 27—7.30 p.m. Magazine Distributors (Vicarage).

November 28—Mile of Pennies.

N.B.: Confirmation classes continue to meet as arranged. Only Holy Communion at 10.30 a.m. on Thursday, November 5, as Vicar has to attend a series of meetings on the other Thursdays.

FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

INJUSTICE IN AFRICA

Father Raymond Raynes, C.R. wants publicity given to the facts behind the South African Government's Scheme for the removal of the African inhabitants of Johannesburg's Western Areas.

Sophiatown, Martindale and New Clare (the Western Areas covered by this Scheme) have been lived in by Africans since 1905. Now European residents in adjacent areas are agitating for the removal of the Africans, and the present government is determined to compel the City Council to remove some 80,000 Africans from the Western Areas.

Father Raynes points out certain principles involved in this Scheme against which the Church has taken a very firm stand.

First. This is a purely racial Scheme. It forms part of the Malan Government policy that black and white people must not live at close quarters. The fact that the African people lived in the areas first is disregarded.

Second. These areas are the only freehold areas left to the African people in Johannesburg, and the Government has no intention of giving freehold rights in the areas to which it is proposed to move the people.

Third. Although 80,000 Africans are involved, they have not been consulted, and have no representation on the City Council although they are rate-payers.

Fourth. 50,000 African families in Johannesburg need houses. The Scheme contemplates removing an additional 80,000 from their homes.

Fifth. The Government is trying to represent the Western Areas Scheme as a slum-clearance project. Slum conditions exist, but

there are worse slums in the city, and the rehousing programme would in due course automatically deal with them. The proposed area, Meadowlands, to which the people are to be moved is at present open veldt. In exchange for property in which in many cases hundreds of thousands of pounds have been invested in the last 50 years, it is unlikely that the Africans will be given anything more than a plot of ground, and a loan with which to build. The Scheme makes no provision for schools, churches, cinemas and shops.

There is no question but that the Western Areas Scheme is immoral in its conception and totally unjust to the people most concerned.

A committee of protest has been formed in Johannesburg and it is hoped that all Christian people will realise what is happening, and make their opinions felt. This is a question of **human rights**, and will vitally affect race relations in the whole of Africa.

THE SITUATION IN GUIANA

Events in Guiana have moved rapidly since the People's Progressive Party came to power and the future may well be critical. The present situation calls for the urgent prayers of the Church, and S.P.G. supporters are especially asked to make this a subject of intercession.

The Archbishop of the West Indies writes: "With the political unrest of the present time, I call upon all Christians to mobilise action lest the Church at this time of trial be found wanting."

Next month we hope to give some account of conditions in the Colony, and what the Church is doing.