

Vicar's Notes

THE DRIVE IS ON

As well as raising money as a result of the gifts that are coming in day by day, the Renovation Fund Drive is also arousing a good deal of interest and attention. The use of the barrel-organ has been especially effective in catching the public eye and imagination, and it has attracted notice far beyond the boundaries of this parish. When I went to a meeting in Westminster this week, I was surprised to find that many of those present had heard of what we were doing, and I was asked how the entertainments business was progressing! We have the good offices of the national as well as the local Press to thank for this, and I think this helpful publicity may bring us a little help from people outside. But it is mainly to the people who live 'around the spire' that our appeal must come home if it is to succeed. The nation can be expected to save Westminster Abbey from falling down, but not St. James's Church: that depends upon the good-will of the people of the parish, and so far their response has been most ready and ungrudging. We have had many interesting and friendly conversations, even with those who would not give (one man, for instance, did tell us that he would have given if it had been the Abbey we were collecting for, but he did not think he wanted to help save our St. James's!), and altogether we hope that something is being done to increase understanding and fellowship and add to the gaiety of life in Hampton Hill.

A COMMON ENTERPRISE

Many of the Clergy in the Dioceses of London, Southwark and Chelmsford are taking part in a co-operative effort to present a series of teaching sermons on the main theme "The Word of God in the Life of Man," from Advent 1953 to Trinity 1954. The series will begin in this church at Matins on November 29th; later, we may change to Evensong. The first titles are as follows.

Advent

"Man and his fulfilment"

1. (Nov. 29) God's purpose in creating man.
2. (Dec. 6) Man's Rebellion.
3. (Dec. 13) Rebellion overcome in the New Testament.
4. (Dec. 20) Rebellion overcome in us.

Christmas and Epiphany

"The Word Made Flesh"

1. (Dec. 25) The unconquered Light.
2. (Dec. 27) Corporate Salvation.
3. (Jan. 3) The Kingdom of God.
4. (Jan. 10) Education.
5. (Jan. 17) Marriage.
6. (Jan. 24) Healing.
7. (Jan. 31) World Peace.
8. (Feb. 7) The World-wide Church.

All these subjects are important for our understanding of life, and for our freshness and happiness in living it. And the fact that the same themes are being considered at the same time in many churches in three great dioceses should help to develop a sense of solidarity amongst us which is not just confined to the parish. Questions arising out of these sermons will be welcomed, and opportunities for discussion gladly given if wanted.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOLS

We often lose children—sometimes to other Sunday Schools, sometimes to nothing at all—because we have not sufficient teachers to give them the necessary attention. If we had more, our Sunday School could soon be very much strengthened: but as things are, it has already more than exceeded its limits of growth. A course of instruction is beginning in April at Hampton Wick, and we should like to be able to send to it a number of intending teachers from this parish. Then, as well as more teachers of the right kind, we should like the co-operation and interest of the parents. The Sunday School Teachers welcomed the recent opportunity given by the Young Wives' Group to discuss together their common concerns: but it was disappointing to them that so few parents, except members of the Y.W.G., came to hear Miss Yanovsky's brilliant talk, though all had received invitations. Her wit and humour were delightful, but her challenge was inescapable.

able. She made it clear that parents could not delegate their responsibilities, and that if they did not care whether their children knew God or not, the work of the Sunday School Teachers was in vain. As the child grows older, the example and influence of father is

enormously important—and Miss Yanovsky gave some amusing hints about the way in which wives might induce their husbands to play their rightful part!

(A summary of her talk is held over until January owing to pressure on space).

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about
people, activities & organisations

AUTUMN FAIR

The Hall took on a very gay and attractive appearance on the occasion of our 2nd Autumn Fair on Saturday, November 14. The stalls laden with all manner of attractive and useful goods were much enhanced by the addition of frames and lightly coloured canopies. These latter having been made under the skilful direction of Miss Davey Matron of Laurel Dene.

There was a large gathering present when at 3 p.m. Mrs. Franklin opened the Fair and business was soon very brisk. During the afternoon £82 10 0d. was taken, and as expenses had been kept down to a very low figure we should have a net profit of at least £75.

Amongst the excellent stalls were the Needlework stall by the Mothers' Union which made £14 4s. the Young Wives Cake Stall brought in £12 4s. 9d., Mrs. Ward's Green-Grocery Stall £8 2s. 5. Mrs. L. Brown's Toy Stall ably assisted by Mrs. Cornish and Mrs. Harwood produced £7 18s. 3d. and Mrs. Bull's Sweet Stall £5 15s. Another attractive stall was the 6d. stall where intriguing mystery parcels were all sold for 6d. This was organised by Mr. and Mrs. Coxon and Mrs. Cox. Miss Stewart looking very attractive with her novel Pick-Pocket Apron obtained £5 11s. 6d. There was a Bran Tub with a sprightly Elf in attendance by the Drama Group, and in another corner of the hall fortunes were told by Miss Robinson. There was also a Book stall, and on the stage Childrens' Toys for the young to play with in charge of some of our friends from Burling-ton House.

As usual the catering arrangements were excellently carried out by Mrs. E. Beckett and the catering committee. Mr. Sumer kept us all well informed as to what was going on announcing results of

raffles etc. The cake making competition sponsored by McDougalls Ltd., was organised by Mrs. Brown and nearly 30 cakes were entered. This was won by Mrs. Gunns with Mrs. Roberts and Mrs. Weston second and third.

During the evening a very successful Whist Drive was organised by Mrs. Bird and the Young Wives in aid of the Renovation Fund and resulted in the splendid sum of £12.

W. F. W.

THE DRAMA GROUP Autumn Play

On Friday December 11th the St. James's Drama Group will present in the Parish Hall a three-act drama entitled "The Paper Chain" by Messrs Cary and Butler. For this show they have been lucky enough again to secure the very valuable service of Mrs. Frances Whitton, and no efforts are being spared by her or the members of the Group to live up to her known high standards of production.

The net proceeds of the play will go to the Church Renovation Fund, so that ticket purchasers will at the same time contribute to the general drive for funds to recondition the fabric of their own church, support the efforts of one of the Church societies and last but not least partake of an enjoyable evening entertainment at a moderate fee.

The play will begin at 7.30 p.m. and tickets at 2/6 each adults; and 1/6 each child, can be obtained from Miss Stanton, Mr. Tarrant (see page one for addresses) or other members of the Drama Group.

Christmas Theatre Outing

At the end of their 1952 Shakespeare Season the Stratford Memorial Theatre tried the experiment of bringing the complete production of "Much Ado about Nothing" to the West End stage. This proved highly successful and the venture has been repeated this year with

"Antony and Cleopatra" which opened at the Prince's Theatre on November 4, for a six weeks run prior to a Continental tour. When this production first appeared at Stratford it met with a somewhat mixed reception from the critics, mainly on account of the feeling that Miss Peggy Ashroft was miscast in the role of "the Serpent of Old Nile." All such doubts have been swept away by the London debut, however, and reports show that the brilliant work of this accomplished actress, ably supported by Mr. Michael Redgrave as Antony and the rest of the as ever first-rate company make the play a "must" for all Shakespeare lovers.

The Drama Group have been lucky enough to secure a block booking for Thursday, December 17, although owing to the heavy demand for tickets due to the limited run, have had to pay more than usual for seats. The cost of the evening, including coach seat to and from the theatre, has been kept down to 10/- per head, however, a real Christmas bargain.

The coach will leave St. James's Church at 6.10 p.m. Bookings can be made with the Hon. Secretary, (see page one). C. A. T.

THE RENOVATION FUND DRIVE

The "Drive" is now well under weigh, and, at the time of writing we are conducting our tour of Hampton Hill with the barrel organ. The "team" includes a 'genuine' Italian barrel-organ grinder complete with moustaches, side-shiskers and complexion dyed deep in the Mediterranean sun; a Victorian gipsy woman in poke bonnet, another in Elizabethan costume, gentlemen in toppers and bowlers, and ladies in ordinary clothes. The response was most encouraging on Saturday, November 14, when the team took up position in the High Street at the bottom of Windmill Road. The Vicar turned the handle, the Press came and took photographs, local tradesmen offered cups of tea and the passers-by responded and contributed most generously to our appeal.

Each day during this week excursions are being made to various areas of the parish: we find that many children have never

heard or seen a barrel-organ before and are very intrigued. Older people are also very welcoming, and find that it revives memories.

We plan another day in the High Street at the bottom of Park Road on Saturday, November 21, with the team at full strength, and hope that the response will be as encouraging as it was last Saturday.

Events Already Completed

Several events have already taken place. Guy Fawkes walked the streets a few days before November 5, and collected donations for the church. A firework coffee-party organised by Mrs. Orton followed, to which guests brought gifts of money and fireworks. November 5, was celebrated with a bonfire and firework party in the Vicarage garden, at which soup, baked potatoes, and toffee apples were served. Great fun was had by all, and Guy Fawkes adventures, from his debut in High Street, Hampton Hill, to his end on the superb bonfire, were financially very rewarding.

Mrs. Harper, of Burton's Road, has run a most successful bottle-drive in aid of the appeal. Mrs. Bird arranged the whist drive after the Autumn Fair most competently, and it also was a great success.

Events to Come

Particulars of these have been circulated to every house in the parish, and we hope there will be a good response. Elsewhere in the magazine attention is drawn to the play "The Paper Chain" which is being produced in the Parish Hall on Friday, December 11, at 7.30 p.m. by the St. James's Drama Group. During the previous week there is an Old Tyme Dance organised by the Gay Nights Old Tyme Dance Club, on Monday, November 30, and a Film Show organised by the Men's Society at 8.0 p.m., on Wednesday, December 2. The Young Wives Group Badminton Club are organising a Dance (Tickets 3/6, Double 6/- obtained from members of the Young Wives Group) on Saturday, December 5, in the Parish Hall at 7.30 p.m.

The House-to-House Appeal will be taking place between the dates of November 23 and December 6. A printed appeal and an envelope

will be left at every house and flat in the parish, and these will be collected later, by visitors who are wanting most sincerely to establish friendly contact with parishioners. During these two weeks prayers will be said in church at 2 p.m. and 7.15 p.m. to ask God's blessing on our efforts.

At the Service of Thanksgiving on Sunday, December 13, Canon A. F. B. Rogers, Vicar of Twickenham, will preach, and we hope many people will come and give thanks with us for the gifts that we shall have received.

MOTHERS' UNION

Mrs. Crabb, our Deanery President, in an inspiring talk on our obligations to the "Second Object" left most of us, I think, in no doubt that our first job in responding to our Central President's call to evangelism among mothers is for most of us one of clearing out, cleaning and polishing our personal membership; of taking a fresh look at our Movement's aims and ideals and reminding ourselves of the promises we made at our enrolment.

The earliest opportunity of doing this together seems to be at the "Any Questions" meeting on December 16. After the last Questions meeting it was suggested that the audience would have preferred to have known the questions beforehand and so have been happier about taking part in the discussion. December 2 would be the time to read out the questions in advance but that doesn't leave much time, so please will **everyone** take out her membership card **now**, read it critically and as soon as possible give in any points or questions they would like to be discussed on December 16.

YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

The Annual General Meeting on November 4, was very well attended. The following members were elected to the committee for 1954: Mrs. Brunt, Mrs. D. Brown, Mrs. D. Childs, Mrs. Cox, Mrs. Gunns and Mrs. Sewern. Mrs. Nichols and Mrs. Weston have been co-opted as representatives.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

November 23—December 6: House-to-House Appeal.
November 29—First Sunday in Advent. 11.0 a.m. Course of Sermons begins.

November 30—7.30 p.m. Old Tyme Dance (in aid of Renovation Fund).

December 2—3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union. "Christmas Communion," illustrated by film-strips. (Hall). 8.0 p.m. Film Show (in aid of Renovation Fund).

December 5—Mile of Pennies (all day) and at 7.30 p.m. Dance (arranged by Y.W.G. Bd. Club), in aid of Renovation Fund.

December 8—8.0 p.m. Men's Society (Vicarage).

December 11—Dedication Festival Holy Communion 7.0 and 10.30 a.m. 7.30 p.m. Play "The Paper Chain," presented by the Drama Group in aid of the Renovation Fund.

December 13—Continuation of Dedication Festival. 6.30 p.m. Preacher: Canon A. F. B. Rogers, Vicar of Twickenham.

December 16—3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union "Any Questions?" (Hall).

December 17—6.15 p.m. Drama Group: Theatre Outing.

December 21—St. Thomas. Holy Communion 7.0 a.m.

December 24—11.45 p.m. Choral Eucharist.

December 25—Christmas Day. Holy Communion 7.0, 8.0, 10.0 and 12.15. Matins and Sermon 11.0 a.m.

December 26—St. Stephen. Holy Communion 10.30 a.m.

December 27—St. John. Holy Communion 8.0 a.m. Matins 11.0 a.m. Children's Service 2.30 p.m., Evensong 6.30 p.m.

December 28—Holy Innocents. Holy Communion 10.30 a.m.

December 30—8.0 p.m. Y.W.G. Family Party.

December 31—8.0. New Year's Eve Old Tyme Dance (in aid of Hall Fund).

January 1—The Circumcision, Holy Communion, 7.30 a.m.

January 3—6.30 p.m. Service of the Nine Lessons and Carols.

January 6—The Epiphany. Holy Communion 7.30 and 10.30 a.m. 3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union: Carol Service.

January 8—7.30 p.m. Magazines Ready: Distributors Meeting (Vicarage).

N.B. No Holy Communion on Thursday, December 10 and 24.

Baptisms, etc., and other items are held over until next month.