

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about
people, activities & organisations

THE ELECTORAL ROLL

You are a reader of the Parish Magazine. It is hoped that you are also a regular worshipper at St. James's Church, but are you entered on the Electoral Roll of the Parish?

The Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1921 made provision for the self-government of the Church by conferring on Councils such powers as the Church Assembly determined. The basis of the scheme is the Electoral Roll. This is a roll of persons who are qualified electors in the Parish. They are lay members of the Church of England, of 18 years of age and upwards, of either sex, who are baptised and declare that they are members of the Church of England and do not belong to any religious body which is not in communion with that Church. Application for entry on the Roll is made by the completion of a prescribed form. A person cannot be a qualified elector unless he or she resides in the Parish, or is entered on the electoral roll as a non-resident elector. He or she cannot in any case be a qualified elector in more than one parish in the same diocese. It is also necessary for non-resident electors, that they have for six months preceding the date of application habitually attended public worship in the Parish on whose roll they seek to be entered.

The qualified electors, resident and non-resident, elect the lay parochial church councillors, who must be actual lay communicants of 21 years of age and upwards and qualified electors in the Parish. If you are on the Electoral Roll of St. James's, are you taking an active part in the work of the Parish and do you exercise your right to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting?

IF YOU ARE NOT ON THE ROLL AND HAVE THE QUALIFICATIONS MENTIONED, YOU SHOULD, WITHOUT DELAY, COMPLETE THE NECESSARY FORM OF APPLICATION WHICH CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE PAROCHIAL OFFICER OR FROM THE SIDESMAN ON DUTY IN CHURCH. The

completed form should be deposited in the box provided for that purpose at the back of the Church. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting of this Parish will be held on 10th March 1954 and the revision of the Electoral Roll which takes place annually, must be completed not less than 15 days or more than 28 days before the Annual Meeting. No name must be entered on the Roll between the completion of the revision and the Annual Meeting.

The present Electoral Roll of the Parish contains some 300 names. Of these persons, a number are seldom seen in Church and others have left the district and their whereabouts are unknown. Some no longer worship with us and presumably have lost interest in their Church. The Council would welcome help in the full revision of the Roll and it is hoped that those who so generously devoted their time to visiting in the Parish in connection with the house-to-house collection for the Renovation Fund and others, will assist by undertaking to call on those now entered on the Roll. Their task will be to restore interest where it has been lost and to ascertain the position regarding the others. By this means it is hoped to make the Roll truly representative of the regular worshippers of St. James's Church. A meeting of helpers is being called. You will help? Thank you so much.

—S.V.J.F.

THE RENOVATION FUND

The "At Home" in March

The Renovation Fund "At Home" is going to be held on Shrove Tuesday, March 2nd, at 7.45 p.m. in St. James's Parish Hall. Reports on the progress of the Fund will be made, and an account given of the work being carried out in the church. Future plans will be outlined. There will be an opportunity for box-holders to bring in their collecting-boxes and to be given new ones. During the evening there will also be refreshments and entertainment.

Everyone is welcome to this At Home, so please make it widely known among your friends. Letters reminding people of the At Home

will be sent to all box-holders. The parishioners who helped with the visiting for the Renovation Fund Drive will have reminders to distribute to people who they know are interested. But please come even if you haven't had a reminder. **Everyone** interested in the renovation of the church is very welcome indeed. We want to regard the evening as an opportunity when we can get to know one another.

The draw for the Old Royal Blue China Tea Service, very kindly presented by D. P. Campbell Esq., will take place at the At Home.

Other Future Events

Mrs. Futter is giving a Valentine dance on Saturday, February 13, in St. James's Parish Hall, from 7.45-12. His Worship the Mayor hopes to be present. Tickets are available price 3/6 single, 6/- double, from Mrs. Futter, 36 St. James's Avenue; Mrs. Orton, 30 St. James's Road, and from Mrs. Severn, 6 Oxford Road, Teddington.

Mrs. Fraser is holding a series of three whist drives in the last weeks of January. H.S.

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

There have been several changes among the magazine distributors this January. The editors wish to thank Miss Edwards and Mrs. Neville particularly for their help in recent years: Miss Edwards has distributed magazines over a wide area of the parish for many years, and her "round" has now been taken over by three new helpers. Mrs. Neville has distributed magazines for a shorter period of time, and we are sorry that, through ill-health, she does not feel able to continue longer. Mrs. Bird was kind enough to fill a gap for a few months.

We now welcome Mrs. McCarthy, Mrs. Prentice, Mrs. Sendell, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. White and Mrs. Wilcox as new distributors; which means that we have 21 in all. The distribution of the magazine is growing slowly, and it is hoped that when all the visitors have smaller areas to cover they will be able to visit and find yet more contributors to the magazine.

Mrs. Mills this year took on the task of calling on all the adver-

tisers and finding out whether they were willing to continue supporting the magazine with their advertisements. This is a long piece of work, and the editors thank Mrs. Mills most warmly for undertaking it.

Thanks are also due to the advertisers for their continued support. The magazine would not pay for itself if it did not have their help behind it.

Mr. Strawson, our Treasurer, keeps our finances straight. All payments for magazines should be brought to him at the magazine distributing meeting on the last Friday of every month.

—H. S.

THE GUIDES

The 1st Hampton Hill Guides are now holding Company meetings on Thursday evenings from 6.30 to 8.0 p.m. at Carlisle School, Broad Lane.

We should be pleased to have some new members so if you are 11 years or over come along on Thursday and you will be made very welcome.

S. E. SIMMONS,
(Captain).

THE CUBS

The Party took place on January 20th, from 5 p.m. to well after 9.0 p.m. 36 boys who are or have been members of the Pack during the past year were present, including six or seven who have recently left to form the nucleus of the revived Scout Troop. The fun was fast and furious, and though the games played were mostly very energetic, the boys came up as fresh as ever for more. At 7.0 p.m. it was good to see a large number of parents arrive. Alan Bennett, of the 2nd Teddington Scout Troop, presented some intriguing conjuring tricks, and John Lewis, of Tiffins School Scout Troop, made everyone laugh with his amusing puppets. Through the careful planning of the Committee and the kindness of many parents, there were stacks of food for everybody.

THE BROWNIES

When the Brownies had their party on January 2nd, they had as their guests another Pack from Hampton which has been co-operating closely with ours lately, and which has been of great help to our new Brown Owl, Mrs. Casey. Un-

fortunately the weather was cold and foggy, and illness kept a large number away. To make matters worse, there was no heating in the Hall, the second year running that this has happened. Last year it was due to a failure in coke-supplies, this year the coke was there, but our coke-heater is apparently too small for its job, like the boiler in the church: it soon gets clinkered-up, and has to be let right out and cleaned before it can be relit. The heat thus lost takes some time to replace. This process had unfortunately to be put in hand on the day of the party, and this is the explanation of a situation which caused a good deal of unfavourable comment from some of the parents. The Brownies however did not let these adverse conditions damp their party-spirit: they kept their overcoats on except when they were playing strenuous games to keep warm, and Alan Bennett did not allow the coldness of his hands to interfere with their skill and quickness in his conjuring-performance.

PERSONALIA

We are sorry to hear that Miss Stanton expects to spend February in hospital, and may not be able to attend the "At Home" in March. We have often feared that she may have been over-doing things in the last few strenuous months, when she added to her other duties the work of Secretary of the Renovation Committee, and with great enthusiasm and amazing energy piloted the six-weeks' "Drive," to its successful conclusion. But her stay in hospital is not apparently connected with this, and we all hope and pray that the operation will be completely successful, and that she will benefit from her weeks of enforced rest. In the meantime, Mrs. L. Brown and Mr. Forrow will be carrying on her work for the Renovation Committee.

We were very glad to see David Thompson take his old familiar place in the choir again at Evensong on January 17th. He could not get leave at Christmas this year, but he now has 21 days at home before returning to Germany to finish his time of service. In a few months he should be home for good, and we look forward to a full account of all his interesting experiences.

On the other hand we shall not now and for some time be seeing so much of Michael Futter, who has rarely missed his server's duty. He is now stationed at Cambridge with the University Air-Force Squadron, and can no longer manage to get week-end leaves. We are now rather short of servers, and we should be glad to hear from any young men who would be willing to give regular help in this way.

At a service in St. Margaret's Church, Uxbridge, at 3.0 p.m. on December 6th, the following girls from the Lady Eleanor Holles School who are boarders at Burlington House, and regular worshippers with us every Sunday morning during term-time, were confirmed by the Bishop of Kensington:

Mary Woodliffe, Christine Rissen, Katherine Cameron, Gillian Murray, Ann Squire, Avis Warren, Jennifer Rissen, Sylvia Kelland, Joan Hopkins.

They made their first Communion here on January 17th.

DATES TO NOTE

- February 2—Purification B.V.M.
Holy Communion 7.0 a.m.
8.0 p.m. C.E.M.S. Annual Meeting (Vicarage).
- February 3—3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union Party (Hall).
- February 5—8.0 p.m. Junior Sunday School: Teachers' Monthly Meeting (Vicarage).
- February 23—8.0 p.m. Church Council (Vestry).
- February 24—St. Matthias. Holy Communion 7.30 a.m. 3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union Annual Meeting (Hall). 8.0 p.m. Debate: Young Wives Group V. C.E.M.S. (Hall).
- February 26—7.30 p.m. Magazines Ready: Distributors Meeting.
- March 2—7.45 p.m. "At Home" (Hall).
- N.B.—No Holy Communion on Thursdays 11th and 25th.

BAPTISMS

- January 3—Gillian Park, 119 Uxbridge Road.
- January 10—Kevin Richard Jackson, 8 Coleshill Road.

FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

THE SITUATION IN GUIANA

(Concluded)

Foot-Note on Colour Bar

Bishop Coleridge on reaching the diocese in 1826 found that a custom had grown up of leaving a marked interval between the administration of Holy Communion to the Europeans, and to the non-Europeans who waited to follow them. The Bishop strongly condemned this discrimination and supported his clergy who were attacked for ignoring the custom and teaching "doctrines of equality." A law suit was initiated and the action of the Church in treating black and white alike was fully vindicated. The S.P.G. from its inception has accepted as fully as possible its responsibility both to bond and free of all colours.

THE SITUATION IN RHODESIA

The position about the colour-bar in Southern Rhodesia is not so satisfactory as it is in Guiana. The Bishop of Mashonaland referred to this recently when he deplored the fact that many white people were reluctant to receive Communion from the hands of African priests.

"If, as it should be, all European communicants were prepared to accept the ministrations of African as well as European priests and recognize our priests as one fellowship regardless of colour, it would be much easier to meet their needs. But this is not the case. Europeans, who refuse, must be prepared to contribute more generously to the funds of the Church to enable it to increase the number of European priests."

HOPE IN INDIA

"We reached the village in the evening. There is no school. No child under twelve years could read at all. A few older people had learned elsewhere as children, but only three or four could read the Bible intelligently. They have no Church building....."

An isolated Indian village, one of many such; but not without hope. For the C.M.S. missionary describing her visit to it continues: "With-

out the power to read the Bible there are many difficulties. But the Gospel has come to this village and some have received the Word and believed. There are now ten Christian families."

HOPE IN KENYA

"We have a new African tutor on the staff," writes a C.M.S. missionary from a Theological College in Kenya, "he is a padre and a valiant Christian man. About six months ago he was attacked by the Mau Mau whilst asleep in bed; he was beaten and badly slashed, and left unconscious, but not before he had bravely testified to his attackers. He still limps badly and can show the scars on his arms spelling Mau Mau.

"Give praise for men like this. He has no bitterness in his heart but has dedicated his life more completely to his Master."

PERSONS—NOT STATISTICS

At a United Christian Hospital in Pakistan during the past year nearly 1,000 operations have been performed, 2,366 patients admitted, and some 30,000 out-patient treated. A C.M.S. missionary reports; "These are just statistics. The task of the Christian Hospital is to make them more than that. Here we have one of the finest plastic surgeons in Asia, highly trained doctors and nurses, the most up to date equipment and plant, ideal surroundings; and all this has to be interpreted in terms of Christ's infinite care for the individual. It is so easy to bypass this, because it is at this very point—in meeting with particular people—that missionary work becomes difficult and all-demanding."

HELPING US TO PRAY

How often we are urged to pray for the overseas work of the Church—but how often we fail to do so because we feel we do not know enough to pray with understanding. This is where the new C.M.S. Prayer Paper will help us. The first issue of the new quarterly series was issued in January. There are thanksgivings and intercessions for each day of the month corresponding to the subject headings on the new C.M.S. Prayer Cycle.