

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about
people, activities & organisations

THE DRAMA GROUP

On Wednesday 21st April the Drama Group are holding another Theatre Outing. We are going to see "A Question of Fact" starring Pamela Brown, Paul Scofield and Gladys Cooper, at the Piccadilly Theatre.

The coach will leave St. James's Church at 6.15 p.m. and the inclusive charge is 8/6 per head. Our Secretary Mr. C. Tarrant, 31, Anlaby Road, (Mol. 4987) will be pleased to accept bookings from church members and friends.

Rehearsals have now commenced for our next production, "The Shadow of the Eagle"—a religious drama which is being produced by Mrs. Crabb. Once again we invite church members who are interested to come and join us and may we take this opportunity to remind you that acting is only one part of a production—just as it takes a large number of men to make it possible for a Pilot to fly an aeroplane a large number of people are required behind the scenes in order that one actor may perform on the stage! —J. L.

THE GUIDE COMPANY

The past month has been a very promising one for the 1st Hampton-Hill Guides. On January 21st Dr. Frayn (District Commissioner) Miss Whisker (District Secretary) and Mrs. Casey *(Brown Owl) visited the Company. Dr. Frayn enrolled Wendy Strawson and presented a 2nd Class badge to Ann Squire who has been appointed the new leader of the Swallow patrol.

We were very pleased to welcome four new recruits Susan Baker, Mary Jost, Gillian Martin and Pat Bullock. We now have 19 Guides and hope the Company will continue to grow.

On February 18th we celebrated "Thinking Day" with an International meeting ending with a short ceremony at which each Guide stood the flag of another country round our world flag and sent greetings to Guides in all parts of the World. We collected pennies for the World Association and were able to send 3/6d. to the Guide World Bureau to help the growth of Guiding throughout the world.—S. E. SIMMONS (Captain).

EASTER OFFERING

The Churchwardens desire to remind all parishioners that the Easter Day collections (the "Easter Offering") form part of the Vicar's stipend and ask everyone to contribute as generously as possible.

The occasion affords an opportunity for both the practical expression of regard for the Vicar and appreciation of the generous hospitality always available to his parishioners at the Vicarage.

Those who will be away at Easter or who are otherwise prevented from attending any Easter Day services are asked particularly to send their contributions to one of us, and will everyone please give all they can?

E. H. Western and W. F. Wigington, Churchwardens.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND CHILDREN'S SOCIETY (Waifs and Strays)

The annual Box opening has recently taken place and a cheque for £8 18s. 11d. has been sent to the Society. A letter of thanks together with Receipts from the Society and Box Holders' amounts may be seen in the Church Porch. Mrs. M. J. Beckett the Secretary, will gladly supply Boxes to any one interested in this worthy cause.

JUMBLE SALE

Many thanks to the Parishioners who sent their "Jumble"—The sum of £23 12s. 6d. was taken at the Sale on March 13th and has been donated to our Renovation Fund. Mrs. Prentice and Mrs. Beckett will gladly collect Jumble at **any time** and store for future sales. —M. J. B.

MOTHERS' UNION AND YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

We have just heard that our Diocesan President Mrs. Coombs is to travel to U.S.A. as the only woman member of the Church Assembly to go to this year's meeting of the World Council of Churches. A distinction of which we may all feel proud.

She is speaking in Twickenham on April 27th when the M.U. branches of this Deanery give a combined party for members and Y.W. groups at St. Mary's Hall at 8.0 p.m. In former years about a dozen of us have gone and enjoyed the

meeting so much that we have wished more of our own members had been there. After Mrs. Coombs' talk there will be tea and then Old Time Dancing until 10.30. Mr. Horsefall will be M.C.

The M.U. Lent services and study group have maintained a good attendance. On the first occasion the Vicar spoke of Our Lord's use of his deep knowledge of the Bible during the period of His preparation for His Ministry. On the following week Mrs. Brunt spoke about the original sources and compilation of the Old Testament which Mr. Thomas continued in his talk on the third week when he spoke from his experience of the help and value that a real knowledge and love of the Old Testament can be to modern faith and life. He called it the book of "spiritual morals" that could prepare us for the consummation in the message of Christmas.

It looks as if we may now alter the course a little by combining the two studies of the New Testament into one and adding one on the relation between the Prayer Book and Bible. Part of the collection taken at these meetings will provide flowers for the Easter decorations in the Sanctuary for which the M.U. is taking responsibility this year.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOLS

Children 8 years old and over from the Rectory Estate Sunday School joined with those from our main School at a Party in the Hall on February 27th. The infants from the two Schools are similarly combining after Easter. The occasion was considerably enlivened by the coming of Mr. K. Taylor and his band from the N.P.L. The children greatly enjoyed the entertainment they provided, and the hearty community-singing.

Our Junior School is shortly losing two teachers who have given most valuable and loyal service, Mrs. Pope and Mr. Moilliet. We shall greatly miss them. The departure of Mr. Moilliet will mean that the last man-teacher will have gone from our junior department. The Rectory Sunday School was staffed by Miss Western and four school-girls until Mr. John Stride came to help with the boys last summer. He and his wife have shown great interest in the

work, and have presented the school with new hymn and chorus books.

The "over-elevens" now meet on their own as a separate Catechism and Bible Class taken by the Vicar. Their work is mainly a long course in preparation for Confirmation.

The Junior S.S. Teachers now meet monthly at the Vicarage and the Rectory Teachers at 35 St. James's Avenue, for prayer, discussion, and planning for the month ahead. They are finding this of great value.

A matter of concern to all the teachers is the casual and unruly way in which many of the children tend to behave from time to time. As a large section of the Sunday School has to meet in the church itself owing to lack of accommodation elsewhere, it will do more harm than good to the children if they think that they can behave in the house of God in such ways as they would surely never dream of doing in their own homes. The co-operation of the parents in helping to improve matters would be greatly appreciated.

TWO IMPORTANT EVENTS

There were large attendances at both the Renovation Fund "At Home" on March 2nd and the Annual Church Meeting the following week. We want to say more about these next time, and what it is hoped will follow from them as the newly-formed Church Council and its new Renovation Committee get going.

PERSONALIA

Mr. C. Jakeman is writing a short memoir of Mr. Harvey, which we hope to be able to publish next month. Apparently Mr. Harvey had been seriously ill for some time, but he kept his pain and discomfort to himself, and would not admit it to anyone until matters came to a head. This was typical of him, as his friends all know. Many were able to come to his funeral on February 23rd.

We are all sorry to know that Mr. Frank Sargeant, on doctor's orders, is having to spend the next year as quietly as possible. This means he has had to resign from all the committees on which he served—19 in all, I think. We hope that next year, fully restored to health, he may be able to take up

some of his valuable voluntary work again.

Mr. Virgo seemed to be well on the way to recovery when he had a relapse and died suddenly. His was an ideally happy home, and his passing was therefore all the more keenly felt. Mr. Virgo was also a man who had a job (with Messrs. Dove Bros.) which he found absorbingly interesting, and which he found no difficulty in doing happily and conscientiously—the difficulty was to keep him away when he was really too ill to go.

At the Adult Confirmation in St. Paul's Cathedral on March 6th, Mrs. Mercy Bird and Mrs. Dilys Melville were presented from this parish. Mrs. Bird's sister from Shepperton was also confirmed with her. Mr. Bayley unfortunately had to carry on his work in the Post Office, as owing to the illness of several of his colleagues he could not be released. His Confirmation has therefore had to be postponed till April.

A large number of new members will now take their place on the Church Council as a result of the elections at the Annual Meeting. These are: Miss J. Bassett, Mrs. D. Strawson, Mr. J. Swindale (on R. D. Conference); Mrs. C. Brunt, Miss O. Chamberlin, Mrs. M. Orton, Mrs. V. Prentice, Mrs. E. Severn; Messrs. B. Harper, J. Lloyd, M. Rooney, C. Tarrant.

New sidesmen appointed were Messrs. H. Hawkins, N. Chown and A. Coxon.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

April 4—Passion Sunday, 6.30 p.m.
Preacher: The Rev. R. W. Carter, Vicar of St. Peter's, Staines.

April 6—8.0 p.m. Men's Society: "International Aspects of Civil Aviation," Speaker: Mr. J. Ford (Vicarage).

April 8—8.0 p.m. News-Team Fellowship (35 St. James's Avenue).

April 10—6.0 p.m. Adult Confirmation Westminster Abbey.

April 11—Palm Sunday.

April 12-15—Holy Communion Monday and Wednesday 7.30 a.m., Tuesday 7.0 a.m.; Thursday 10.30 a.m.; 3.0 p.m. on Wednesday: Mothers' Union Service. Daily at 8.0 p.m.; Compline and Address (illustrated with Film-strips).

April 16—Good Friday. 9.0 a.m. Children's Service; 10.15 a.m. Matins and Sermon; 12.0-3.0p.m. The Three Hours' Devotion, conducted by the Rural Dean (The Rev. Prebendary H. Harris); 8.0 p.m. Sacred Music—Organ and Choir.

April 18—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 21—6.15 p.m. Drama Group Theatre Party.

April 28—8.0 p.m. Young Wives' Group, Speaker; Mr. L. Brown (Hall). 8.0 p.m. Sunday School Teachers' Deanery Lecture Course on "Child Study and Teaching Method" begins (every Wednesday until June 9 at the Ronayne Hall, Hampton Wick).

April 30—7.30 p.m. Magazine Distributors (Vicarage).

May 5—8.0 p.m. Parish Easter Social (Hall).

BAPTISMS

February 28—Lesley Ann Farnsworth, 30 Wolsey Road.

February 28—Jane Marilyn Lonn, 9 Holly Road.

BURIALS

February 23—Frederick Pearce Pope Harvey, Streatham House School, Great Crosby; Vicar of Hampton Hill 1923-1950; aged 76 years.

February 24—Frederick George Virgo, 184 Uxbridge Road, aged 54 years.

March 5—Ada Mason, 49 Shuttleworth Road, Battersea, aged 85 years.

March 11—Frederick Howes, 51 Wensleydale Road, aged 69 years.

FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

THE CHURCH OVERSEAS

Evangelism in India—I

"I took part in the annual week of preaching in the villages. Nowhere did we meet with the

slightest opposition—on the contrary we were eagerly listened to in bazaar and village alike and our literature was sold out very quickly."

Evangelism in India—II

"Not long ago the Government sent two experts in leather work to teach the trade to young agricultural labourers of the coolie class in our area, and thus give them a start in life. The senior of these two experts was a Christian. I am glad to be able to report that during the time that they worked together he and his wife led the junior man and his wife to accept Christ."

Evangelism in India—III

"Our gardener's wife has recently been converted," reports a C.M.S. missionary in South India. "She was a Hindu, but our girl cook has been visiting her every evening for some time now and has taught her with the help of Bible pictures. The gardener's wife and her baby have now been baptised. If our humble girl cook could be used to bring another to Christ, dare any one of us claim that evangelism is not our personal responsibility?"

Each in His Own Tongue

A special Yoruba Anthem was composed for use during the recent centenary celebrations of the Church in Ibadan, Nigeria, and was sung at the final Service in St. James' Pro-Cathedral. A Yoruba setting to the Te Dum was also used.

One missionary has commented: "This is surely a step in the right direction. English music does not fit in with Yoruba, the language of the local people, and often spoils the meaning of the words. The people's voices are more suited to the Yoruba music, which, though limited, has a great fascination; and further, it is their own expression of worship and not something foreign."

Standing Alone

Throughout the world there are Christians who, from the human point of view, are standing alone.

"Before leaving this district," writes a C.M.S. missionary in East Africa, "I paid a last visit to a young African schoolboy who was baptised in July. His father has twelve wives, and he is the only Christian in the family. Your prayers for him will be very valuable."

Worshipping Together

"It was a striking demonstration of unity in Christ overcoming barriers of race, language and

denomination," writes a C.M.S. missionary describing an informal Service in a military camp in North India.

"About eighty men were present belonging to various tribes and denominations, and many of them only fluent in their mother tongue. I conducted the Service in English, while a local pastor read the lesson and translated my sermon into Hindi. The hymns were sung as far as possible by each man in his own language."

PRAYER BOOK

The clergy are often asked to recommend a prayer book for adults which will not only provide prayers but, by use, teach people to pray. Such a book has just come to hand, and I should be very glad to buy copies for any members of the congregation who are prepared to spend 10/6d. This may sound rather expensive, but it is not much for a book which might well become a treasured guide, and lead to what many desire but find hard to attain—real fellowship with God in daily prayer. The book is "My God My Glory" by Eric Milner-White, Dean of York. The author believes that "it may assist some Christians better to see prayer than to hear it described in book or pulpit."

Here is a searching prayer from the first section—"Prayers Before Prayer" — with the heading "Before Service in Church.":

Let me come into the church of God to meet the Spirit of God.
Not to give religion an hour, but to live in the eternal;
Not to maintain a decorous habit, but to bow in the holy place before the Holy One;
Not to judge the words of a preacher, but to draw life from the Word and Truth everlasting;
Not to be moved or soothed by music, but to sing from the heart divine praises;
Not that mine eyes roam over architecture or congregation, but that my soul look up to the King in his beauty, and my heart plead the needs of thy children;
Not that my thoughts escape out into the world, but that they may be still, and know that thou art God.
Let me go, and go again, into the house of the Lord, and be glad, and give thanks, and adore my King and my God.