

Vicar's Notes

August comes as a welcome respite before we continue in September with the heavy programme we have set ourselves. Interim reports from the Commissions are now coming in, and it is obvious that the consideration of their recommendations and, if agreed upon, their carrying out, will entail a good deal of time and work. Many big questions concerning worship and education inside the Church, and witness and service in the Parish outside, are involved.

The tradition of fine weather for the Fête let us down this year, but the showers were allowed to make little difference, and everything went on more or less as planned. Certainly little difference was made to our financial result—so far about £187 gross, £147 net—which was a little larger even than last year's. A statement showing how these amounts are made up will be found inside the church porch. These figures, realised in such adverse conditions, reflect great credit on all who helped, and in particular the stallholders, from whose well-filled stalls most of our income was, as usual, derived. Much sympathy was felt for our energetic Organising Secretary, Mr. Cyril Tarrant, who, after his masterly handling of all the multifarious details involved in preparation, was smitten with mumps a few days before the event itself. He was therefore unable to see the final successful result of all the weeks of planning to which he himself had contributed so much. His place on the day was taken by Mr. Leonard Rockcliffe, who rose to the occasion in the manner born, and saw that everything went most smoothly.

While on holiday, we hope to be able to visit the Guides in camp near Bexhill, and to say good-bye and thank you to their Captain, Miss Simmons. Her going will

be a great blow to the Company, for her year of leadership has been a memorable and invigorating one, and great advances have been made. The finding of the right successor is not going to be easy. We have no direct responsibility for this, as the Company is not yet officially "attached," but I wish the Parish could help. If we were in a position to take more responsibility for the Company, the authorities would be only too pleased to consider making it an attached one, but at the moment we cannot provide it either with accommodation or leadership. It is a sad fact that the number of people in the Parish who are prepared to give time to any kind of regular voluntary service, or to train for it, is so small. Television may have a lot to answer for here. Please think about these needs for help which we cannot meet—and pray—and ask yourself if there is not some form of service you might give.

For the first fortnight of our holidays, the Reverend R. J. Spencer, who was here for the same period last year, will be living in the Vicarage with his wife and three of their four children; for the second fortnight the Reverend H. Grundy, Vicar of Sutton-on-Sea, will be here with his wife and two young daughters. I hope that both old- and new-comers will have the happy holiday here that you have always helped my locums to have. I am always glad to hear how highly they speak of your kindness. These two priests will be in charge of the Sunday Services during the period August 10th to September 5th, and ready to help with any emergencies during the week, but I know that you will spare them as much as possible, and not bother them with anything that is not really essential. The only week-day Service after the first week in August will be on St. Bartholomew's Day.

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about
people, activities & organisations

THE RENOVATION FUND

The Renovation Committee are once more planning their Autumn and Winter programme and they

very much hope that parishioners will once again support them by continuing to hold coffee-parties and other social gatherings in their own homes

Toward the end of September the Committee are arranging to hold a Flower and Vegetable Show in the Parish Hall. Here is a chance for all gardening enthusiasts to show us the fruits of their hard labours throughout the year. The schedule containing rules, classes and entry forms will be ready shortly, but in the meantime here are a few items for which you might consider entering: ripe fruit, cabbages, tomatoes, marrows, curiously-shaped vegetables and home-made jam. With regard to flowers, there will be classes for specimen blooms of roses, dahlias and chrysanthemums, and a posie competition for the younger ones. The only rule is that all exhibits are to come from your own gardens.

At the beginning of September the builders will re-start work on the church and this phase—the completion of the work on the beams—should not take more than a few weeks to complete. We shall then have to decide what is the next most important piece of work to put in hand—it may well be external and internal pointing—and whether we shall have sufficient money for it to be done straightaway, or whether it may have to be deferred.

Amongst recent efforts for the Fund we would note especially the children's effort on July 21st, when a rollick—"The Story of William Taylor"—was presented in the beautiful garden of Mr. and Mrs. Melville. Parents and friends helped by providing refreshments and wonderful clothes for the children to dress themselves up in, and a hilarious afternoon was brought to a close with £2 in the collecting-bag.

Another effort, on a larger scale, was the Shilling Trading Scheme organized by Mrs. Gloyns. This has just drawn to a close, and as far as we know at the moment, the profit will be over £20, a very commendable piece of work on the part of all concerned.

A final word—Please remember to go on saving Hedley tops, and let Miss Bassett have them in good time so that they can be sent off before the end of the month.

MOTHERS' UNION AND YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

We have four tickets for the Parents' Meeting at 8.15 p.m. on October 5th at Caxton Hall. Mr. Hugh Lyon, M.C., M.A., a former well-known Public School headmaster, and now a Marriage Guidance Council lecturer, will speak on "The Family To-day and Tomorrow." The tickets, price 1/- each, can be obtained from the Vicarage. It may be possible to get more later.

The Y.W.G. is holding a competition to obtain the best design for an embroidered table-cloth to be used at meeting of the Group. Entry is not limited to members of the Group, but is open to anyone interested.

Despite the rainy summer and adverse weather forecasts, two occasions on which risks were taken were abundantly justified. There were beautiful sunny afternoons for the Y.W.G.'s party to the mothers of the newly-baptised babies, and for the tea after the Quarterly Service on July 14th. On both occasions it was grand to see the Vicarage lawn full of children, prams and push-chairs, with tricycles and toys galore, while their mothers sat round gaily-decorated tables, and many made new friends.

THE GUIDE COMPANY

This month brings us to the climax of the year's Guiding. For many weeks now we have been planning and working for our Summer Camp when sixteen of our own Guides and twelve from the 5th Hampton Company will be spending a week together at Bexhill.

I am particularly pleased to have had such a good response for Camp, as this will be my last activity with the Company.

May I take this opportunity of thanking all parents and friends for the interest they have taken in our activities and for the many ways in which they have helped us.

During the past year we have more than doubled our numbers and now have twenty-eight Guides. Twelve new badges have been won and three of the Guides are working for the 1st Class Test. The

Company has four very capable Patrol Leaders who by their work and enthusiasm have been largely responsible for the progress we have made.

To all members of the Company I send my best wishes for Good Guiding in the months ahead.

S. E. SIMMONS (Captain)

FETE REFRESHMENTS

Mrs. Beckett thanks most warmly the many parishioners who so kindly sent gifts of money and food for the Fete teas. Several cake tins were not claimed and are still at Laurel Dene.

NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN

The Secretary thanks the collectors and all those parishioners who gave so generously to enable the sum of £21-12-0 to be sent for the work of the above Society. A letter of thanks together with receipt will duly be found in the Church porch. M.B.

SMALL ADVERTISEMENT SERVICE

WANTED. Child's Carrier-seat for Bicycle.—Molesey 6523.

FOR SALE. Cream and Black Pram, good condition, £3-10-0, Smith, 52, St. James Road.—Molesey 2757.

AUGUST ARRANGEMENTS

After August 8th the only week-day service until the second week in September will be at 7.30 a.m. on St. Bartholomew's Day, Tuesday, August 24th.

The Sunday Schools will be closed until September 12th.

Sunday Services will be as usual.

Copy for the September magazine should be sent to Miss Stan-

ton, 63, Park Road, by August 16th. Magazines will be available to distributors at this address at 7.30 p.m. on Friday, August 27th.

ALTERATIONS TO STANDING MATTER

This year, the standing matter inside the cover had to be set up for the whole year. Some of it inevitably becomes out-of-date. Here are some corrections:—

Delete items "Secretary of Social Committee," "Senior Server," and "Secretary of C.E.M.S."

New Secretaries:—

Church Renovation Committee: Mr. John Lloyd, 106, Park Road.

News-Team Fellowship: Miss Jean Western, 35, St. James's Ave.

BAPTISMS

June 19.—Louise Barbara McLean, 36, Park Road.

July 11.—Christine Jane Alexander, Lavernock, Albert Road.

„ 11.—Sally Jane Brewer, 16, School Road.

„ 11.—David Maddox, 104, High Street.

„ 11.—Cheryl Lindsey Van Hoorn, 130, High Street.

MARRIAGES

July 3.—David John Banks to Mavis Mary Leadbeater.

„ 3.—Lucas John Sumner to Beryl Rose Childs.

„ 10.—Frederick James Beale to Iris Patricia Phipps.

BURIALS

June 24.—Bertha Eleanor Knight, 25, Bushy Park Gardens, aged 82 years (at Teddington).

July 21.—Ellen Elizabeth Wooldrige, 8, Burton's Road, aged 73 years (at Teddington).

FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

HAMPTON HILL—ATHENS RETURN 1954

Until 1952, Gertrude, a 1939 Austin van, led a quiet life delivering fish in and around Kendal. Then she was bought cheap by a friend of mine, proved to have a reliable engine, and this year we planned to drive her to Greece and back. We heard such appalling

accounts of the roads in Jugoslavia and Greece that we hoped dear Gertie would manage it and that we would not have to leave her with a broken back axle in the wilds of Macedonia or Montenegro.

For six weeks Gertie was our home; we slept in her, washed and dressed in her, prepared and

cooked our meals and ate them in her, sheltered from the sun and from violent thunderstorms in her. We went at a considerable speed through France, Germany, Austria and north Yugoslavia, and then picked our way slowly through the pot-holes to Athens. Six days later two of us (the third friend had had to leave us in Athens and return home more quickly) retraced our steps and returned by the Dalmatian coast, Italy, Switzerland and France.

We have brought back many impressions from the trip—of the loveliness of Strasbourg Cathedral, the efficiency of the Germans on their Autobahn; the pine-woods and meadow-flowers in Austria; the friendliness of the Yugoslav peasants who stood round fascinated as we prepared our tent and camp-beds and cooked—camping in this central part of Yugoslavia, south of Belgrade, is quite unknown and we were regarded as most peculiar. There was very little traffic here in Serbia: it was an event when a private car went through a village, and a special event when Gertie went through with three women in her; everyone waved and we waved back. We admired the hard-working Yugoslavian peasants: we were woken at 3 and 4 o'clock in the morning by people on their way to work in the fields or leading their flocks to pasture. The shepherds and swineherds knew their animals by name, and each individual animal came at their calls. The women sat spinning by the road-side and the people wore largely home-spun materials. We felt we had stepped into a past age. We saw communal farms, a good deal of military activity, a very ambitious road-repair programme, and the people seemed to be backing up these projects with a will. What little there was in the shops was shoddy and expensive, but the village markets at which we bought our supplies of salad, eggs, cheese, bread and fruit for the day were enchanting, and the peasant pottery most attractive.

To our regret it appeared as if religion was largely ignored. The Roman Catholic churches in the north were open and used, but

further south the Orthodox churches were locked, unless there was a particular tourist attraction inside and then they were opened for us. However, a little Orthodox church near Tito Veles in South Serbia had had its morning service when we visited it on a Sunday morning. Most of the Moslem mosques and minarets had fallen into disrepair.

In Greece we visited Thessalonika and saw the lovely little Byzantine church of the Twelve Apostles. We thought of the centuries of worship which had gone on in that town, ever since St. Paul preached there and was thrown out and went to Berea where he was made more welcome. We also went to Berea and felt that the mud-huts with holes in them for shop windows, the crowded narrow streets and overhanging houses might almost have been there in St. Paul's time.

On our way to Athens we passed through the area which had been shaken by earthquakes earlier this year. The shattered mud-huts were pathetic, but the Army were housing the people temporarily in wattle huts and tents, and had already started to repair their homes.

In Athens, a large sweltering city, we loved the Acropolis and the Parthenon (Temple of Athena), calm and detached from the noise and bustle below. We thought again of St. Paul speaking from Mars Hill about the Unknown God. Beyond Athens we visited Corinth; Mycenae with its 1400 B.C. fortress; Nauplion—a beautiful small seaside town in the Aegean; Epidaurus, with its perfect example of a Greek theatre, and Delphi, awe-inspiring with its towering mountains in a storm. We wished we could stay longer in Greece.

The Orthodox churches seemed flourishing, and on Sundays were crammed with men and women who stood from three to four hours while the complicated Orthodox Liturgy was beautifully sung.

(The final paragraphs of Miss Stanton's account of her adventurous holiday have had to be held over until September.)