

Vicar's Notes

Most people's holidays are now things of the past, though some have a second period to which to look forward, and we hope that those whose first period was one of bad weather will fare better this time. Gerald Holmes's account of his membership of a work-camp, which appears later in this issue, may suggest to some of our younger people a really worthwhile way of spending their own holidays in future years. It brought back to my mind happy experiences at similar camps (organized then by that splendid pioneer body, International Voluntary Service) way back in the 'thirties. Since the devastation of the War, the need for such camps has become far greater, and volunteers have a wide range of countries to choose from. One camp this year was held on a new large housing estate in the Midlands, only a few miles from my last parish, helping the local people who are building their own church, and volunteers came from most of the countries of Europe.

Our own scheme for voluntary service within the parish is making headway slowly, but many more volunteers will be needed before we shall be able to give help in all the various ways we have in mind. Many of those who have already volunteered are particularly interested in meeting the needs of old people, and their services should soon be called upon when the Old People's Welfare Committee gets into its stride. This Committee was most successfully and happily launched at the meeting convened by the Church Council on September 21st. We were most fortunate in our speakers, including one of the great authorities on the care of the old, Dr. Marjory Warren. We learnt many things from them: for instance, the importance of the little neighbourly acts which, though small in themselves, may make all the difference in enabling an old

person to carry on at home instead of occupying a hospital bed. One fact, which was stressed again and again, was that the best service of the old is often not to do things for them, but to do things **with** them, and in particular to help and encourage them to do as much as possible for themselves, for other people, and for the Church.

From the service of the old to the service of the young. Here at the moment we are having to retrench, to retreat in order later to advance. We have not sufficient teachers in the Sunday Schools to cope with the numbers of children we have had in the past, so instead of increasing the size of class as we have done up till now, we are fixing a strict maximum, and keeping classes a manageable size. There will be a waiting-list, if necessary, for those for whom there is no room—and irregular attenders and rule-breakers (if any) may, after due warning, find that their place has been lost! In the Kindergarten we can no longer admit children under five. Later we hope to start a proper Nursery Sunday School. We are also making plans for the recruitment and training of new teachers. Another item of Sunday School news—on October 16th a double-decker 'bus will be taking a party of the older children to St. Paul's Cathedral for a special service in connection with the 27th Jubilee of the Diocese. We are combining this with a visit to the Tower in the morning, and tea at a Corner House to end with.

“Young men and maidens, old men and children, praise the Name of the Lord: for His Name only is excellent and His praise above heaven and earth.”—That was the theme of our Evening Service on September 19th, and we were glad to have so many of our older parishioners with us, helping us to put the psalmist's words into act. We should like this to be more than just the theme of one isolated occasion—we should like it to be the inspiration both of our work and worship in the months ahead, young and old all playing their part, and growing in fellowship with God and one another.

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about
people, activities & organisations

THE FLOWER SHOW

After much hard work our first attempt at a Flower Show materialised on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, the 9th, 10th and 11th of September. By 8 p.m. on Thursday the Parish Hall was completely transformed by the array of flowers, fruit and vegetables. The Judges, Mr. G. B. Bassett, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Turner of Winchmore Hill, and Mrs. M. O. Brandt toured the Show and after much 'heavy concentration' finally gave their verdicts. Special mention was made of the children's section and it was a pleasure to see so many entries from the boys.

On Friday the Hall was open to visitors all day and refreshments were provided by Mrs. H. M. Thompson and the Catering Committee. On Saturday the Hall was again open and in spite of a very heavy downpour of rain just before the Prize Giving the Hall was crowded with Exhibitors and visitors.

Bouquets were presented to the ladies by Julia Brandt, Anne Warwick and Peter Orton, and then our own Mrs. Brunt gave away the prizes.

Mr. and Mrs. Thompson, who were towers of strength throughout, presented us with a huge box of tomatoes and visitors to the Show were invited to guess its weight. Mrs. Orton of St. James's Road guessed the weight to within an ounce, which in fact was 19lbs. 7½ozs. and received as a prize—a box of tomatoes.

The sale of the exhibits, which included the wonderful display of flowers and plants so kindly given by Messrs. Collins and Thompson, was a great success. Indeed, long before 5.30 p.m. all the vegetables, the fruit and the majority of the flowers were sold. The few flowers that remained were taken to Laurel Dene and Teddington hospital.

The winning lucky number was 99 and if the holder will contact Mr. John Lloyd he or she will receive the special prize that was given for this purpose.

In all a grand total of £16-6-8 was handed to the Renovation Fund after all expenses, including hire of the Hall, had been paid. To all those who helped, both exhibitors and visitors, and not forgetting the ladies of the Catering Committee, we say a big "Thank you," and please don't forget to enter next year.

Here is the list of prize-winners.

Section 1.—Class 2 (Vegetables): Mr. Coomer, Mr. F. Smith; Class 3 (Ripe Fruit): Mrs. H. M. Thompson, Miss H. Stanton, Mrs. R. H. Brunt; Class 4 (Cabbages): Mr. A. Burrows; Class 7 (Home-made Jam): Miss M. Gahbler, Miss A.E.Lush, Miss E. Thompson.

Section 2.—Class 2 (Chrysanthemums): Mr. A. Sibley; Class 3 (Dahlias): Mrs. Feron, Mr. Hawkins; Class 4 (Plants from Seed): Mrs. Brandt; Class 5 (Rose): Mrs. Ward, Mr. Hawkins; Class 6 (Children): Alan Bruce, Jennifer Sibley, Peter Brandt, Peter Orton.

Section 3 (Flower Arrangement).—Class 1: Mr. J. M. Lake, Mrs. Weston, Miss M. Gahbler, Mrs. Brown; Class 2: Mrs. J. M. Lake; Class 3: Mrs. Orton, Miss Lewis, Mrs. Waters.

J. L.

THE DRAMA GROUP

Will all members of the Drama Group please note that there is to be an Extraordinary General Meeting at 7.30 on October 18th at the Windmill Road Schools? It is important that all members of the Group should be present if possible.

A party of 20 are going to Ibsen's "Hedda Gabler," with Peggy Ashcroft as Hedda, on Monday, October 25th. The party is meeting at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, at 7.20. Tickets are five shillings, and there are still a few unsold. Please contact Cyril Tarrant, 31, Anlaby Road, Teddington, Mol. 4987.

THE CRIB-SET for CHRISTMAS

A most successful fruit, flower and vegetable stall was held at 38, St. James's Avenue, on Friday, September 17th.

Our thanks are due to all who most generously gave fruit, flowers and vegetables and home produce, and also to those who came and bought.

Proceeds amounted to £15. It is hoped that we shall be able to buy a very nice crib-set with this money, but it may cost more. If anyone would like to make further contributions towards buying the set, they would be gratefully received by Mrs. Brown, 38, St. James's Avenue. H.S.

MISSIONARY BOXES

The following missionary boxes have been collected and opened:—Mr. Neave £1-3-10, Mrs. Crouch £1-1-6, Mrs. and Miss Cox 6/4½, Miss S. Baldwin 14/9½, Brian Bowen 5/10, Miss H. Stanton 8/11½, Miss Wertheim 8/10.

This amounts to £4-10-1½. The Kindergarten Sunday School collected £7-18-0, and the Lent Savings Boxes brought in £1-15-0.

The total amount available for distribution to missions is therefore £14-3-1½. This money is being divided between the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, and the Church Missionary Society.

Miss Cox who for many years has been collecting the boxes annually feels now that, owing to pressure of work, she can no longer carry out this duty. We thank her very much for what she has done in the past. A new worker is needed who will collect in the missionary boxes every year, and act as secretary for the work for foreign missions in this parish. The Vicar would be grateful for volunteers. H.S.

PARISH OF HAMPTON FUEL ALLOTMENT TRUST

At a meeting of the above Trust held on 17th June, it was decided that the allocation of coal for 1954 would have to be at the rate of 1 cwt. to each recipient and not 2 cwt. as in previous years. This is regretted by the Trust, but the continual rise in the price of coal makes it impossible to issue more on the existing income.

FRANCIS C. E. ATKIN,
Clerk to the Trustees.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

- October 5.—8.0 p.m. News-Team Fellowship (Church).
- October 6.—3.0 p.m. M.U. and Y.W.G. Quarterly Service.
- October 7.—7.15 p.m. Harvest Thanksgiving. Preacher: The Rev. Prebendary H. Harris, Rural Dean. 8.40 p.m. Harvest Supper (Hall). Admission by Ticket 3/-.
- October 10.—Continuation of Harvest Festival. 2.30 p.m. Children's Gift Service.
- October 12.—7.30 p.m. Finance Committee; 8.15 p.m. Church Council (Vestry).
- October 13.—7.30 p.m. St. James's Badminton Club opens its season; 8.0 p.m. Old People's Welfare Committee (Small Hall).
- October 16.—Sunday School Children's Visit to the Tower and St. Paul's.
- October 18.—St. Luke. Holy Communion 7.0 a.m.
- October 19.—8.0 p.m. Church Street Representatives (Vestry).
- October 20.—8.0 p.m. Young Wives' Group (Hall).
- October 21.—7.30 p.m. Education Conference, St. Mary's Hall, Twickenham.
- October 22.—8.0 p.m. Bishop of London: "The American Conferences" (Westminster School) Admission by Ticket 1/-.
- October 23.—2.0 p.m. M.U. and Y.W.G. Jumble Sale, in aid of Renovation Fund (Hall). Mrs. Prentice will collect jumble — ring Mol. 382.
- October 25.—7.30 p.m. Diocesan Youth Rally (Church House); Drama Group Theatre Party.
- October 27.—Mothers' Union: 2.45 p.m. Prayer Group (Baptistery); 3.0 p.m. Committee.
- October 28.—SS. Simon and Jude. Holy Communion 10.30 a.m. only. 11.0—12.30 Coffee Party (24, St. James's Avenue).
- October 29.—7.30 p.m. Magazine Distributors (Vicarage).
- N.B.—No Holy Communion at 10.30 a.m. on Thursday, October 21, or at 7.30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 27.

BAPTISMS

- September 5.—Terence Humphreys, 157, Uxbridge Road.
September 5.—Karan Mabel Stening, 20, St. James's Road.
September 12.—Gerald Andrew Collins, 77, Queen's Avenue, Hanworth.
September 12.—Kevin Thirkettle, 14, Dean's Cottages.
September 12.—Judith Maryan Townsend, 34, High Street.

MARRIAGES

- September 4.—Dennis Leslie Philps to Jean Violet Coulling.
September 11.—Peter Sidney Nutley to Eileen Thelma Ireland.
September 18.—Martin Richard Green to Margaret Holloway.

September 18.—Reginald Dennis Stiles to Jean Laura Ashton.

BURIALS

- August 24.—Ada Rose Rudland, 143, Uxbridge Road, aged 70 years.
August 26.—Lilian Williams, 5, Albert Road, aged 79 years.
August 26.—Edward Reinholt Filber, 2, Roy Grove, aged 74 years (at Hampton).
September 3.—James William Dalamore, 78, Myrtle Road, aged 45 years.
September 14.—Agnes Elizabeth Cook, 28, Myrtle Road, aged 74 years (at Hampton).
September 21.—Francis William Cleghorn, 6, Edward Road, aged 55 years.

FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

AN ECUMENICAL WORK CAMP

August 1954

When I applied to Geneva for a place in a work camp, I did not realise what an interesting and rewarding time I should have. I did know that I was going to be a member of a Christian Community working together for the glory of God.

Our task was to finish a parish hall started by the Pastor, André Bourbon, and his parishioners, in a village named Le-Pont-de-Montvert in the Cévennes mountains. I met two girls in the Gare de Lyon in Paris, quite by chance, who were travelling to the camp, and so we made the twelve-hour journey together. Everyone in camp and in the village was friendly from the very first. I have rarely met such a welcoming people. We started work immediately, on the construction of two exterior concrete staircases. This meant erecting an understructure of poles and planks, covering them with crossed metal bars, putting the wooden steps in position, and filling up with concrete. The hall where the parish could meet together had to be levelled, and rocks, earth and then cement laid down. An outside platform was concreted, and for that we mixed four tons of cement in one six hour day. On the second floor were eight rooms, which were going to be let, to pay for

the money borrowed to construct the building. The walls of these rooms had to be cemented, the windows scraped and painted, similarly all the woodwork and doors round the house.

The work was not arduous as we liked working together. It did a lot for the unity of the camp to pass rocks in a chain for a few hours to shovel earth morning after morning. The tasks were usually arranged so that the different nationalities worked together. We worked, worshipped, studied and played together in a common unity as Christians.

We had services morning and evening usually led by a camper, perhaps in his native tongue, or in French as that was the official language of the camp. At 10.30 a.m. we had a time of personal meditation, with a common subject about which to pray: Evanston, the Village, etc. Every Sunday we had the service in the Protestant church at 2.30 p.m. This afforded a great chance to speak to the villagers who turned out in force always to the service. We had Holy Communion there on the first Sunday, and at the end of camp, we had it in the dining room, dressed in our working clothes.

(This is only half of Gerald Holmes's article; the remainder has had to be held over until next month.—ED.)