

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about
people, activities & organisations

TIMES OF SERVICES

A Change

The final report of the Worship Commission to the Church Council contains 27 findings, of which as yet only the first three have been at all fully discussed. The chief purpose of these was to help us all to make more use of the service of Holy Communion, and to take steps which will make possible in due course a real Parish Communion, representative of the whole life of the Parish. It was agreed that on the second and fourth Sundays of each month there should be a service at 9.0 a.m. (instead of the present services at 8.45 a.m. and 10.0 a.m.) which should take as much of the form of a Parish Communion as possible. This change will take place on Advent Sunday, November 28th, when there will be a Parish Communion at 9.0 a.m. instead of the present Sung Eucharist at 10.0 a.m. It is hoped that these services, as well as having the form of a Parish Communion, will in time have the support that makes them this in fact as well as in name, and that, as we come to know it and to be at home with it, more of the music of Merbecke might be introduced. It is suggested that short congregational practices should be held after Evensong, and that they should include, as well as Merbecke, new hymns, and all less well-known settings of the psalms and canticles which we use. Such practices take place regularly in many churches, and we hope to try one here on November 14th. At the evening service on that day, the Vicar will preach about some aspects of the Parish Communion.

THE RENOVATION COMMITTEE

The Committee is meeting shortly to make further plans, both for the resumption of the actual work of renovation, and for further efforts to raise funds. There is so much that needs to be taken in hand that, after the beams have been repaired, it is not easy to know what is the most important piece of work to go on to next—and we always have to

watch that no more work is undertaken than there is money in the Bank to pay for.

In the meantime, we are hoping for fine weather again on November 5th, when the Bonfire Party—in support of the fund—will be held in the Vicarage garden at 6.30 p.m. As space is restricted, there is room only for a limited number, and so admission will be by ticket. Children should be accompanied by an adult. Inquiries about tickets to the Vicarage, or to the Secretary of the Committee, Mr. J. E. Lloyd, 106, Park Road.

Miss Bassett would like to thank all who collected and passed on to her their Hedley packet tops. A cheque for £2-17-8 has been received and paid in to the Renovation Account. We are grateful to Miss Bassett for the pains she took over this rather irksome task.

MOTHERS' UNION

It was most disappointing that we were unable to get tickets for this year's Mass Meeting. In other years it has been possible to get extra ones right up to the day before the meeting, but this year—the first, incidentally, that there has been any charge for tickets—they were all sold out when we applied for them with three weeks in hand! We hope that some account of the meeting will appear in the journal, since we hear that many other branches were also unable to get seats.

The Jumble Sale on October 23rd was a great success and £11-10-0 was raised.

Mrs. Bird and Mrs. Mills would be pleased to receive articles for the Autumn Fair Stall.

YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

It is customary for Group members to turn up very well in support of the Annual Meeting. Please note that this year it will take place on November 3rd, at **Windmill Road School**, as it is not possible to book our own room other than for our meeting night. We depend on this meeting, not only for the election of four new committee members, but also for

discussion about our meetings and we like to receive as many suggestions as possible and to find out which are the most popular. We also have one or two matters to take a vote about.

Our November meeting will take the form of a sort of pre-Christmas symposium.

Five of us attended the Parents' Meeting at Caxton Hall in October and heard Mr. Lyon, a former Headmaster of Rugby, and now an adviser in the work of Marriage Guidance Clinics, speak on "The Family of Today and Tomorrow". He included in his address a summing up of the "Family of Yesterday", from which he deduced some of the present trends.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOLS

On Saturday, October 16th, many local people were surprised to see a large red double-decker 'bus making its way along Park Road. Such a sight had not been seen for many years—even the old 152 route consisted only of single-deckers — and besides, wasn't there a strike on? There was indeed, and some of those waiting at the Church wondered whether the 'bus would appear at all, but come it did, with the Rectory contingent aboard, and soon it was almost a question of "standing room only"—though with a great deal of squeezing everyone managed to get at least half-a-seat. On the way to London many hands were raised hopefully at request stops, but we had to be hard-hearted and proceed on our way to the Tower. Here the Vicar and the other Teachers each took charge of a party of ten, and the Tower was thoroughly explored, which involved going up and down many hundreds of steps. Then on to St. Paul's Cathedral, where we joined many other similar parties from Sunday Schools in the Bishop of Kensington's area—but ours was one of the largest: the others had come mostly in coaches, half the size of our 'bus!

Our banner, made at short notice by Mr. Wigginton, and a very fine piece of work, was now proudly displayed. It was fitting that it should be carried, and our procession led, by Christopher Wren, as we entered the great

building of his famous namesake. It took a long time to reach the Chancel, where the Bishop awaited us, and received the offering for Diocese and Cathedral presented, by Ruth Mills. After the Bishop's blessing, with such large numbers, and not much time, it was possible only to make a hasty tour of the Cathedral Crypt—the Whispering Gallery could not have taken the weight of all who would have liked to crowd into it. On then, to tea at the Corner House, and then back with singing to Hampton Hill. It had been a very enjoyable and interesting day.

THE CRIB FIGURES

It has been found possible to purchase a set of Nativity and Epiphany Figures for the amount already raised by Mr. and Mrs. Brown, and to have money to spare to purchase materials, out of which the Stable may be built, by a member of our congregation, who has kindly offered to do this piece of craftsmanship.

Having this made on the spot, and not having to buy it, will be a great saving.

Samples of the figures were shown to the Church Council before final purchase, and they received unanimous approval.

WANTED Bird's cage in good condition. Apply 1, Rectory Grove.

WANTED Child's tricycle in good condition. Ring Molesey 6523.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

Nov. 1.—All Saints' Day Holy Communion 7.0 a.m.

Nov. 2.—8.0 p.m. News-Team Fellowship (Church).

Nov. 3.—3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union (Hall). 7.30 p.m. Young Wives' Group Annual Meeting (School).

Nov. 5.—6.30 p.m. Bonfire Party in aid of Renovation Fund—Admission by ticket only (Vicarage).

Nov. 7.—Remembrance Day. Service of Remembrance and Dedication 10.50 a.m. Holy Communion 8.0 and 11.45 a.m.

Nov. 8.—7.30 p.m. Ruri-Decanal Conference, Twickenham.

Nov. 11.—8.0 p.m. Men's Society (Vicarage).

Nov. 12.—8.0 p.m. Teachers in Junior Sunday School (Vicarage).

Nov. 13.—3.0 p.m. **Autumn Fair**
(Hall). 7.30 p.m. Grand Whist
Drive (Hall).

Nov. 16.—8.0 p.m. Church Council
—Special Meeting to discuss the
Report of the Commission on
Worship (Vestry).

Nov. 24.—8.0 p.m. Young Wives'
Group (Hall).

Nov. 26.—7.30 p.m. Magazine Dis-
tributors (Vicarage).

Dec. 4.—7.30 p.m. Dance orga-
nised by Young Wives' Group, in
support of Renovation Fund,
Tickets 3/6.

Dec. 12.—Dedication Festival, and
Gift Day for Renovation Fund.

N.B. (1) No Holy Communion at
10.30 a.m. on Thursdays 4 & 18.
(2) Drama Group meets every
Monday 8.0 p.m. at Windmill
Road School.

BAPTISMS

Sept. 26.—Jaqueline Clark, 42,
Hanworth Road.

MARRIAGES

Sept. 25.—Thomas, Richard Kilsby
to Brenda Gwendoline
Cole.

„ 25.—John Frederick Toone to
Jenifer Highmore.

FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

THE DIOCESE OF LONDON

3. The Reformed Church

(Continued)

The Restoration of Charles II in 1660 brought also the Restoration of the Church, and such of the clergy as survived returned to their parishes. In London the great Plague in 1665, and the Great Fire of 1666 brought about a change in the parochial life of the City. 89 out of 97 churches perished in the Fire, besides the Cathedral. Of these 35 were not rebuilt. The period of rebuilding was marked by considerable religious unrest. The Popish Plot of 1678 was a symptom of a widespread fear of Roman Catholicism, which seemed later to have some justification when James II suspended Bishop Henry Compton (1675-1713) for not punishing one of his clergy for preaching a sermon against the Church of Rome. In 1688 Compton led those who welcomed William III and it was he who crowned him king. After the departure of James II the diocese settled down to a period of reconstruction and growth.

An ever-present problem was the increase of population. During the Middle Ages the number of people living in and round London had remained static at about 45,000. Under the Tudors this rose from 62,000 to 145,000, of whom half lived outside the City area. By the Plague year there was half a million, of whom 100,000 perished, and in 1700 there were 675,000. The 18th century is often

spoken of as a low ebb in the spirituality of the Church. Certainly many of the wealthier clergy were pluralists—43 City incumbents also held country livings—but it is not generally realised that in order to meet the need, 23 District Chapels were built in the early half of the period. Throughout the century there were daily services in most churches in London, and in addition to incumbents and assistant-curates Lecturers and Readers were provided. Proprietary Chapels were erected by private individuals as a field for popular preachers. Though these were often a commercial undertaking and not subject to Bishop or Archdeacon, they achieved a great deal of good.

In 1801 the population was 900,000 and still rising rapidly, and church building had not kept pace with it. For example, in 1811 in St. Pancras and St. Marylebone there was church accommodation for only a ninth of the population. The situation became a public issue when the Prince Regent in 1818 mentioned the matter in his Speech from the Throne. At once the Church Building Society was constituted, money was raised, work started, and in 1828 Parliament granted a charter. Bishop Blomfield (1828-1856) was the protagonist of the new churches. In 1834 he stated that in the east and north-east districts of the Metropolis there were 10 parishes containing a population of 353,460 persons.

Churches were to be built in Islington, Bethnal Green, St. Pancras, Paddington and Westminster. Much of the money to pay for these new churches was allocated from the estates of St. Paul's by the recently formed Ecclesiastical Commissioners. During Blomfield's episcopate nearly 200 churches were built, and the work continued throughout the century.

During the same period a reduction was made in the number of the City churches. This began in 1834 with an attempt by the City Fathers to abolish 13 churches, but when Blomfield told them that they must erect a similar number in the suburbs, the matter was dropped after 3 had been demolished. In 1860 came a move from the Church itself, when under the Union of Benefices Act, 22 old churches were disposed of. At the same time the diocese, which still covered the area of the old Kingdom of Essex, was reduced in size. Territory in Hertfordshire and the whole of Essex (except for 9 suburban parishes) was transferred to the diocese of Rochester, and in return London was given certain parishes south of the Thames in 1845.

The latter part of the 19th century was marked by a great deepening of church life and a strong attack upon the moral and social evils which mark the life of a great metropolis, but as the Victorian age drew to its close, in spite of all that had been done, there was still the need for more churches and more clergy. The problem was not yet solved.

AN ECUMENICAL WORK CAMP

(The conclusion of the article by Gerald Holmes which he began in last month's magazine).

Besides physical work, we had some thinking to do. We had four Bible studies on the 1st Epistle of St. Peter, and also several lectures and conferences. One on the U.S.A. given by the four Americans, on Iraq given by an American girl teaching there, on Holland by the six Dutch people, on Germany by the three Germans.

The last one was particularly interesting as two of the German girls, came from Berlin. The Mayor of the village gave a lecture on Le-Pont-de-Montvert; it was in this village that the wars of the Cévennes began; a fanatical Protestant, Esprit Séguier, killed L'Abbé du Chayla, an equally fanatical Roman Catholic, who had been instrumental in persecuting the Protestants. The village is very old, and the houses have dates as far back as 1672. The last sentence of the Mayor impressed many of us: "We are proud of being Protestant; we are proud of it." Further lectures were given on the E.D.C. and on French Protestantism in general.

I went with a Dutch girl, and a German, with the Pastor to a small village of only two houses high in the mountains. There we attended a service in a kitchen where there were about twenty people assembled. During the Crusades this village was larger, because it was a leper colony. The Crusaders were put here, out of the way, after catching the disease in Palestine. We were shown a cross, carved on the rocks, dating from the 12th century. The whole camp had another interesting trip down to the magnificent gorges of the Tarn. One could gaze and gaze on the scenery. We stopped in several small villages, where we saw women washing their clothes in the river. From the awe-inspiring gorges we ascended the Causses, a high undulating limestone region. We visited the famous limestone grottoes of Aven-Armand with the stalagmite formations, shaped like a cauliflower, a palm tree, and a gargantuan organ. We were all grateful to the World Council of Churches for providing this outing.

The work camp was a great experience and I think, an ideal way of spending one's vacation. If anyone would like more information, please write to the

Rev. Ed. Patey,

Sec. to Youth Dept.,

The Brit. Council of Churches,
39, Doughty Street,

London, W.C.1.