

Vicar's Notes

Owing to lack of space, there is no room for the last half of my 'Report' to the Annual Meeting, but some of the matters mentioned there will no doubt come up from time to time in these monthly notes. One encouraging feature of 1954 to which I referred was the way in which our domestic finances recovered after the decline of 1953. The Treasurer's figures, given on another page, make welcome reading. But they also show that a great deal depends on our Summer Fête. This may be a good thing, or bad; but is something we have at the moment to accept, and once again the time is upon us to do all we can to make it a great success. By the kindness of Matron and the Middlesex County Council, the lovely grounds of Laurel Dene are again at our disposal on Saturday, July 2nd, and here is an occasion ready to hand when people can enjoy themselves and also do much to free the Church from financial difficulties during the expensive months of winter. For those who would also like to help in a regular and systematic way, the Free-Will Offering Scheme is available, and Mr. Wigginton will be glad to supply information to anyone who asks for it.

But as well as our immediate day-to-day needs, there are the liabilities from the past, and the long-term needs for the future. It is now clear, for instance, that the renovation of the church-building is going to be a much longer and far more costly job than was first anticipated. Essential work, without which the church would soon have become a decayed ruin, has cost us over £1600 in the past 2½ years, and when outstanding accounts have been paid there will be a deficit on the Renovation Fund of £150. This has caused us to defer work which was shortly to have been put in hand on the inside of the tower and the clock (estimated cost £270) for at least another year. The Mothers' Union have recently given £20 to the Fund, the proceeds of their Jumble Sale, and their choir is giving an 'At Home' on June 8th at 3.0 p.m., which will help still

further. Many of you are planning Coffee Parties and similar efforts; visits to the Tower are possible on most Saturday afternoons, and at other times; and we hope for a big increase in funds from the Box-Opening on June 14th. We are undoubtedly faced with a great task, but if people go on helping in their present spirit, there is no doubt about the outcome.

We also, of course, need to raise a capital sum for the Parish Hall and for Wayside: buildings cannot be maintained without big repairs and extensive decorations from time to time. We have already received one gift of £25 for Wayside, and hope others—or interest-free loans—will follow. The plans for the alterations to the house (ably prepared by our own Mr. Coxon, at no expense to us, but at the cost of much time and trouble to him, for which, and for all his skill and care, we are very grateful) are still passing through the various stages of approval by different authorities necessary before any work can be put in hand, but we hope to open the ground-floor for parish use on the occasion of the breakfast after the Confirmation and Parish Communion on July 10th, when we hope that the Bishop of Kensington will be able to bless the house.

It is a matter of great concern to many of us that our own financial needs should loom so large that we are not able to give the support and help to other people and causes that we should like to do. We shall, however, in September, have an opportunity to do something we have often talked about but not put into effect—and that is, to give help to some of the millions of refugees who are in such desperate plight. There is to be a concentrated Borough-wide effort, and our Church Council has pledged its full support.

We welcome as our new People's Warden Mr. Melville. He had the joy of being Churchwarden for many years at Abadan in Persia, where the Church had no financial worries of its own, everything being provided by the Oil Company, and so was able to give all its collections to good causes throughout the world. But he has

already shown that he is very well able to adapt himself to our very different circumstances here in Hampton Hill, and we hope that he will also have much joy as well

as hard work and difficult problems as he discharges the duties and responsibilities of his honourable office—and I am sure he will have the loyal backing of us all.

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about people, activities & organisations

SUMMARY OF TREASURER'S REPORT

COMPARATIVE FIGURES OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENSES

Receipts:	1952	1953	1954
	£	£	£
Collections	398	329	403
Freewill Offerings	93	119	132
Fete net proceeds	192	144	149
Autumn Fair net proceeds ...	68	77	92
	<u>260</u>	<u>221</u>	<u>241</u>
Entertainments, etc.	14	4	11
Churchyard upkeep fees and donations	34	20	29
Miscellaneous receipts	26	9	14
3% Savings Bond interest ...	4	4	4
Burglary claim refund (contra) ...	50	—	—
Collections for Special Objects ... (Missionary, etc.)	£148	£114	£118
Expenses:	£	£	£
Organ and Choir	107	109	122
Vicar's stipend contribution, etc. ...	120	126	115
Annual fees	4	4	7
Fuel and light	86	91	110
Cleaning church and stoking boiler	62	56	65
Communion elements, etc. ...	21	12	21
Insurances (fire, burglary, etc.) ...	25	28	32
Sunday School expenses (including parties and outings)	68	54	57
Churchyard upkeep (wages, etc.)	113	112	115
Printing and stationery	16	12	21
Diocesan Quota	80	94	92
Miscellaneous expenses	18	19	29
Repairs, alterations, etc.	68	13	—
New safe, etc., following burglary (contra)	53	—	—

1954 EXPENSES IN TERMS OF WEEKLY OUTLAY

Expenses:	Cost in 1954	Per week
	£	£ s. d.
Organ and choir	98	1 17 9
Repairs to organ	24	9 3
Augmentation of Vicar's stipend	115	2 4 3
Annual fees	7	2 9
Fuel and light	110	2 2 3
Cleaning and stoking	65	1 5 0
Communion elements, etc.	21	8 1
Insurances	32	12 4
Sunday School expenses (net)	57	1 1 11
Churchyard upkeep	115	2 4 3
Printing and stationery	21	8 1
Diocesan Quota	92	1 15 4
Miscellaneous	22	8 5
Balances and transfer to contingencies ...	135	
Total for A/cs.	£914	
Net £914 — £135 =	£779	or £14 19 8 per week

1954 RECEIPTS IN TERMS OF WEEKLY OUTLAY

Receipts:

	Amount received		per week	
	in 1954		£	s. d.
Collections	403		7	15 0
Freewill Offerings	132		2	10 9
Fete	149		1	17 3
Fair	92		1	15 5
Miscellaneous	58		1	2 4
Total	£834		£16	0 9

THE SCOUT GROUP

The Parents' Committee held their first meeting under the chairmanship of Mr. Baker on May 10th. Our first function was the Reunion Party held last Wednesday, May 18th, when we were pleased to see so many parents. We hope you will keep **Friday evening, June 10th**, free as we are holding a Jumble Sale at 7.0 p.m. in aid of our Headquarters Fund. Anyone wishing Jumble to be collected may ring Molesey 2640.

KIM.

THE MOTHERS' UNION

At our May Enrolment we were pleased to welcome as full members of the Branch Mrs. Allport, Mrs. McClellan and Mrs. Thomas; and also to receive Mrs. Wheeler, formerly of Ham Branch, who has been an active and regular member ever since she arrived in Hampton.

We have most cheerful letters from Mrs. Nicholls. Her address is Bed 6, Annie Zunz Ward, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Smithfield, E.C.1. Few of our members can get there at the right time. She is in our thoughts and prayers.

It was a great pity that more members did not take advantage of the Deanery Quiet Afternoon at All Saints', Hanworth. This was a particularly valuable afternoon and refreshing in the full sense of the word.

Our last meeting this session will be on July 6th when we shall have a service in church and tea in the Vicarage garden (w.p.!).

You will have read elsewhere of the urgent needs of the Renovation Fund and in view of that your committee unanimously voted the whole proceeds of the Jumble Sale—£20—to that fund. Please sup-

port the Choir 'At Home' on Wednesday, June 8th, at 3.0 p.m. in the Hall, because as much as possible from this is also for the Renovation Fund. Tickets are 1/3 for adults and 3d. for children and include tea.

Next year's programme is now under construction and looks like being a very good one: we hope to include all varieties of opinion, so please let any committee member know at once if you have a particular suggestion to make.

If you were unable to give in your contribution for the Fête needlework and handicraft stall at the June meeting it is still not too late and Mrs. Bird and her helpers will be pleased to receive it.

THE YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

We have more than the usual number of engagements this month, so please look at the "forthcoming events" item for date and place.

The Badminton Section is continuing to meet at the Hall at present, although they may also have open air games in July if the weather is suitable.

On June 22nd we have our annual babies' party and as there is some confusion about the new arrangement may we remind you that it will be in the Vicarage garden if fine and in the Hall if wet, and that tea will be provided for members and visitors although contributions of cakes will be welcome. There will be a small clothing exchange for small children's clothes.

Our May meeting was an outstanding one. Mr. Greenacre gave us a brief outline about acceptance of the Christian Faith and then proceeded to answer questions for an hour and a half. We were much indebted to him.

We are to have the cake stall at the Summer Fête and are out to break all records. Please bring your contribution on the day or if this is not possible, arrange for someone to bring it for you.

Although the June meeting is entitled "Under Fives," it is hoped that meeting will be of interest to all members.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

- June 7.—8.0 p.m. Street Wardens' Meeting (Vestry).
 June 8.—3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union Choir "At Home" (Hall).
 June 9.—8.0 p.m. Fête Committee (Laurel Dene).
 June 10.—7.0 p.m. Scout Group Jumble Sale (Hall). 8.0 p.m. Annual Meeting of Deanery Association for Moral Welfare Work. Speaker: The Bishop of Stepney — "Building on Sure Foundations" (St. Mary's Hall, Twickenham).
 June 11.—St. Barnabas, Holy Communion 7.15 a.m. 3.0 p.m. Old People's Welfare Committee Garden Party at "The Wilderness."
 June 14.—8.0 p.m. Renovation Committee: "At Home" to Box-holders (Hall).
 June 16.—7.45 p.m. Men's Society (Vicarage).
 June 17.—11.0 a.m. and 1.0 p.m. Young Wives' Conference (Mary Sumner House).
 June 20.—7.30 p.m. R.D. Conference (Twickenham). 8.0 p.m. Y.W.G. Committee (83, Park Road).
 June 22.—3.0 p.m. Y.W.G. Mothers' and Babies' Party (Vicarage).
 June 23.—8.15 p.m. Church Council.
 June 24.—St. John Baptist. Holy Communion 7.15 a.m.

- June 29.—St. Peter. Holy Communion 7.15 a.m. 2.45 p.m. Mothers' Union Committee (Vicarage). 8.0 p.m. Young Wives' Group (Hall).
 June 30.—8.0 a.m. Mothers' Union Outing to Folkestone.
 July 1.—7.30 p.m. Magazine Distributors (Vicarage).
 July 2.—3.0 p.m. Summer Fête at Laurel Dene.
 July 10.—9.0 a.m. Confirmation and Parish Communion.
 September 1-3.—Flower Show, in aid of Renovation Fund (Hall).

BAPTISMS

- May 8.—David Malcolm Lewis, 14, Hanworth Road.
 „ 8.—Stephen Nigel Bedeman, 11, Lindsay Road.
 „ 8.—Vivienne Pooley, 28, Wolsey Road.
 „ 22.—Geraldine Jill Johnson, 37, Blandford Road.
 „ 22.—Deborah Ann Mason, 188, Uxbridge Road.

MARRIAGE

- May 28.—Robert John Evans to Audrey Noreen Smalley.

BURIALS

- May 6.—Charles William Philpot, 30, Lawrence Rd., aged 85 years (at Hampton).
 „ 6.—Margaret Elizabeth Barter, 15, St. James's Rd., aged 83 years.
 „ 9.—Alice Eliza Lewis, Twickenham Nursing Home, aged 86 years (at Teddington).
 „ 26.—Edith Gertrude Isabella Westrud, 259, Hanworth Road, Hounslow, aged 42 years.

FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

THE CHURCH OVERSEAS

Witnessing in Lonely Places

I.

Writes a C.M.S. missionary in Africa:

"Not long ago I drove one of our evangelists and his wife to a place a hundred miles from their home where they are to work. There is only one other Christian there. I left them to sleep in a borrowed hut by the side of an

uncleared patch of grass where, if their work prospers, they will later build a meeting hall. The place is twenty miles off the main road, and their only visitor will be the African pastor. Their courageous smile as we said good-bye will always be a challenge to me. Please pray for them and for many other faithful Christians who are witnessing in lonely places."

(to be continued)