

Vicar's Notes

The paragraph on prayer in last month's magazine was apparently quoted in two London evening newspapers, and requests for help have as a result come in from outside the parish, and may continue to do so. An effective ministry of prayer is a great healing force, and is an essential part of the Church's work. But many people also need direct personal and pastoral love and care. Some struggle on for years, fighting a lonely battle, never telling anyone of their troubles until breaking-point is reached, and then it is often too late for the help which could have saved them if asked for earlier. The Church has a cure of souls it should be exercising, and known to be exercising, in every parish, and people should not be afraid of invoking its aid. Instead of trying to fight an impossible battle or carry an intolerable burden alone. More and more people are feeling the stress of life each year, and if the Church cannot make its willingness to help into an effective power, something is wrong.

Some Needs

Sometimes we speak as though all the Church ever needs is money — and sometimes appeals for money loom so large that people are kept away. "It's my money you're after" is the impression of many towards the Church—and sometimes, unfortunately, they are right. Of course, money is needed, even for such mundane affairs as stopping the water from coming through our church buildings—and despite all the money already spent, in certain conditions deluges still occur, and it will be costly to put matters right. And so, immediately after the holidays, a few of us get

down to plans for the Autumn Fair — and this year we have taken a further step, and begun now to make preliminary arrangements for the Fête next July, instead of waiting until a few weeks before. Yes, a good deal of hard sloggish work is involved . . . but this is not what we are most concerned about. What we really want to do is to make the Christian way of life an attractive reality to young and old alike; and to discharge this task we need not only or mostly money, but men (and this of course means women too!). Some specific needs at the moment are: (1) Sunday School teachers — people willing to learn their job and to give of their best; people who can help children to associate God and the things of God with beauty, order, welcome, joy, reliability, firmness, courage, and love; (2) a captain for the Guide Company—they have been over a year without one; (3) a secretary for the Church Council—the Council is ham-strung without one; (4) a chairman for the Youth Club—a keen Christian, man or woman, somewhat older than most of the members and yet young enough to feel one of them (say about 21-25); (5) more men and boys for the Choir, able and glad to turn up regularly to practices, and to play their part as members of a happy and hard-working team; (6) more men for the Men's Society, to help to make it a power for good and for effective witness and service in the parish instead of a small and weak body that has a struggle to keep going.

This is not an exhaustive list—it could easily be doubled—but it is enough for us to be going on with—and by 'going on with,' I mean getting our teeth into it, making these needs a real personal concern and a matter for prayer.

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about
people, activities & organisations

THE SCOUT GROUP

The weather was very favourable for our "Penny Party" at Wayside, on September 10th, and the event was very well supported. Our grateful thanks are due

to Miss Doris Rogers, who so graciously performed the opening ceremony. Despite the very modest coin demanded for the amusements and refreshments provided, enough coppers rolled in to raise

about £30 for the building fund. The event was organised by the Group Committee, who worked very hard to make a success of the afternoon—and they are very grateful to the many local tradesmen who helped with generous gifts.

The Scouts are still collecting newspapers, magazines, books and jam jars for the Wayside funds: to date over £4 has been raised. They will be collecting again in October, and will be pleased to call if you have anything to be sent. A Beetle Drive will be held in the Parish Hall on October 12th, when we shall be pleased to see any friends who would like to join in an evening of fun.

G.C.

MOTHERS' UNION AND YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

For the next three months the M.U. Deanery Banner will be housed in our Church. It will be received by the Vicar at Evensong on Sunday, October 9th, and we hope to have a special Service while it is still in our keeping. This would have been more fully arranged but we knew that the banner had to have some repairs before coming to us and had thought they would take longer.

In the first week of October the Branch paid a visit to Guildford Cathedral. It was inspiring to see rising up for the worship of God, a building in which only the best was good enough, lovely lines, lovely materials and lovely craftsmanship. We paid particular attention to the Altar frontals given by the Mothers' Union and to the embroidered hassocks, each with a different design, made by women in Guildford.

The Bible Reading Fellowship notes for the last quarter of this year cover, in December, the subject that we shall be hearing about at our December meetings, so I have got some extra copies in case any of you who do not take the notes regularly would like to have this set. They cost 4d. and can be had from the Vicarage now.

The Group meeting in September was disappointed of its main item since crabs unaccountably disappeared that week! We had, in exchange and a record num-

however, a useful children's cloth-ber of members present. The Vicar came across later in the evening to speak of the needs of the Infant Sunday School which will be opening for 5-7 year olds at Wayside on Sunday, October 16th, at 2.30 p.m. He asked members to consider offering their services on a rota system so that the Y.W. Group could undertake to supply two teachers each Sunday to help the regular teachers. Several members have offered to do this and other work to help the Sunday Schools.

The Junior Sunday School which meets at the Church is now in need of a new secretary since Mrs. Mills has given up this job in order to work as a teacher with a special group of children.

The November Group meeting will be of the Brains Trust type with a panel of a Headmistress, a Welfare Clinic Doctor, and a Social Worker. What we now need is the questions you would like them to discuss. Will you please put these in writing and hand them in at the October meeting? They may be kept anonymous if you prefer. Also at the October meeting we shall require nominations for the new committee members to be elected at the Annual General Meeting in November.

The Branch and Group are trying to run three stalls at the Autumn Fair: Handwork, Cakes and Mystery Parcel. Please help as much as you can.

PERSONALIA

In the summer we had several visits from Mr. Harry Wells and his wife. Mr. Wells was a boy in our Choir, and he was paying his first visit to his old parish since he emigrated to Canada 41 years ago. He took many photographs of the church to show his friends in Vancouver, and on one occasion he took his place in the Choir again.

At the same time we also had a letter from someone else now living in British Columbia, Lieut.-Commander Patrick Job, a grandson of a well-known Vicar of this parish. Mr. Wells was interested to hear of this, and is hoping to get in touch with him when he returns.

Another bearer of this honoured name, Mr. H. S. Job, has now returned to England after 50 years' service in Egypt, and he and his wife and daughter were in the congregation on a recent Sunday morning. They are now staying in a London hotel, but hope to take up residence in Hampton Road this month. We shall be very glad to welcome them back to a church which owes so much to members of their family.

Mrs. Rockliffe is now convalescing after her operation in the Hospital for Women, Soho Square. She is very grateful for all the cards, letters and flowers she received during her stay there. We are most pleased that she has made such a good recovery.

Mr. Hawkins is still seriously ill in West Middlesex Hospital. He was taken ill suddenly, and it was not long before he had to be rushed into hospital, to the concern of us all, because he is one of the best-known and best-loved men in the whole parish. Please pray for him, and all others who are ill.

It was a great happiness to officiate at the wedding of two young persons who had both "grown up" in our church, and were not just using it as a place to get married in. David Thompson and Joy Cusworth are not leaving the district, as so many do after their marriage, but setting up home in our midst, and so they still belong to our family and we have not had to say goodbye, as we shall shortly have to say to John and Nora Lloyd, whose bungalow at Virginia Water is now almost ready to receive them. They have both given much time, thought and energy to the service of Church and parish, and they will be greatly missed by their many friends.

We have received a long and interesting letter from Mr. and Mrs. Brown, who have now settled down again in New Zealand, and are giving active support to their parish church. The church itself, they tell us, is very insubstantial, like most buildings in New Zealand—it is built of plywood with a corrugated-iron roof (it will have the advantage over ours of being easier to repair when things

go wrong!). They go on to say: "In New Zealand there are many queer religious groups and there are also many 'quack' medical people; the existence of these is causing the Church to reconsider its own healing ministry. A local Presbyterian church employs one minister full-time on this kind of work. One of our friends who is doing a curacy is finding in his ministry that a lot of his work is informally of a therapeutic nature."

SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE. Child's Playpen in good condition. 15/-.

WANTED. Bicycle to suit girl of 10; a portable typewriter.

FOUND. A lady's transparent plastic mackintosh left in coach after Drama Group's last outing.

For all the above apply in the first instance to MOL. 2069.

ALTERATIONS AND INFORMATION

Organist and Choirmaster

Mr. R. E. Bougourd, 214, Stanley Road, Teddington. Tel.: Mol. 3342.

Parochial Officer

This position is now vacant, and the Church Council has not so far succeeded in its efforts to find a successor to Mr. Lloyd. Until one has been appointed, all correspondence on matters concerning the Council should be addressed to one of the Churchwardens.

Wayside

There is now no separate Wayside Committee—it has been incorporated into the Properties Committee, which now assumes the oversight of the house. The Parish Rooms at Wayside are now in use, and Mr. Geer has been appointed by the Committee to act as General Supervisor on its behalf. All inquiries, and applications for use of a room, should be made to him at 4, School Road. Tel.: Mol. 4744.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

Oct. 16.—2.30 p.m. Re-Opening of Infants' Sunday School (Wayside).

Oct. 18.—St. Luke. 7.15 a.m. Holy Communion.

Oct. 21.—7.45 p.m. Youth Club 'At Home' (Wayside).

Oct. 25.—8.15 p.m. Church Council (Vestry).
 Oct. 26.—7.45 p.m. Young Wives' Group (Wayside).
 Oct. 28.—7.0 p.m. Sunday School Teachers' Rally (Church House, Westminster).
 Nov. 1.—All Saints' Day. 7.15 a.m. Holy Communion. 8.0 p.m. Street Wardens (Vestry).
 Nov. 4.—7.30 p.m. Magazine Distributors (Vicarage).
 Nov. 5.—6.30 p.m. Bonfire Party in aid of Renovating Fund — Admission by ticket only (Wayside).
 Nov. 19.—3.0 p.m. Autumn Fair (Hall).
 Dec. 1 & 2.—Drama Group's Play (Hall).
 Dec. 11.—Dedication Festival and Gift Day.

BAPTISMS

Sept. 25.—Julie Yvonne Barclay.

66, Myrtle Road.
 „ 25.—Sally Elizabeth Severn, 9, Buckingham Close.
 „ 25.—Susan Dorothy Shackleton, 10, Holly Road.
 „ 25.—Kenneth Geoffrey Marshall, 43, High Street.

MARRIAGES

Sept. 22.—David Richard Masters to Molly Card.
 „ 24.—Michael Edwin Hughes to Patricia Ann Fox.
 „ 24.—John Charles Patrick Doak to Georgina Young.

BURIALS

Aug. 15.—Edith Clare Moles, 9a, Park Rd., aged 75 yrs.
 Oct. 7.—Archibald Cleghorn Donaldson, 75, Burton's Road, aged 69 years.
 „ 7.—Thomas Seers, 10, Longford Close, aged 71 yrs. (at Teddington).

FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

THE CHURCH OVERSEAS

Please Pray

“During the past few weeks,” writes a C.M.S. missionary in Singapore, “we have had twenty-one adult baptisms. Many of these new converts have come into touch with the Church through the influence of friends, and are the first Christians in their own families. Please pray very much for these new converts as they try to make a stand as Christians among their non-Christian relatives.”

“Please Pray”—Those engaged in the work of the Church overseas continually ask for and are counting on our prayers. But how often do we remember to pray? Are we failing in this responsibility simply because we feel we do not know enough to pray with understanding? The C.M.S. Prayer Paper will keep us in touch with the needs of the Church in the areas of the world where C.M.S. missionaries are working, and will enable us to pray intelligently. The Prayer Paper (quarterly) is obtainable on request from the Manager, Publishing Department, Church Missionary Society, 6, Salisbury Square, London, E.C.4.

II.

“Some time ago,” writes a C.M.S. missionary in Hong Kong, “a Chinese pastor and his wife moved into a little tumble-down shack in a small settlement where most of the residents are refugees. They gradually won the confidence of the residents, and collected round them a group of adults and children whom they could teach. Now there is a regular working and worshipping community. The work is still young, but the beginning promises great things in the future. . . .”

Eager for the Scriptures

“We have been thrilled at the evidence of awakened interest in the Gospel among our patients,” writes a C.M.S. missionary in Pakistan. “It is very common now to see the Scriptures being read by patients and their relatives. Some buy and others borrow copies to take home. Last week one man read right through the New Testament.”

A C.M.S. missionary in Kenya has reported a growing hunger for the Word of God among the Kikuyu in detention camps: “There is a tremendous demand for copies of the Gospels and for Christian literature, which can be nothing but the working of the Holy Spirit.”