

Vicar's Notes

THE POWER TO REMEMBER

Even small boys regard November as a month of remembrance; and although one has to admit that in their case remembrance is limited to one particular day, they do somehow remind us of remembrance in general, as they parade the streets chanting "Remember, remember, the fifth of November."

Remembrance must surely be one of the most human of all faculties. No one would suggest that animals lack the power to remember, yet the faculty is really developed only in human beings to a less or greater degree. Remembrance is closely associated with thought. It is the power of thought to recall the past. The mind is fully involved in remembrance, whether it arises from conscious effort or not. Pope stresses this when he says:

"Remembrance and affection how allied!

What thin partitions sense from thought divide!"

In this month of November we become more than ever aware of the thinness of some partitions. This is the time when by tradition we remember all those who have laid down their lives in war. The historic fact that the first World War ended at one eleventh hour in this eleventh month has made this a moment for special recollection in subsequent years. All the added memories of the second World War are caught up into this moment.

The alarms and excursions of this twentieth century assure us that the partitions between peace and war are thin indeed. But there is another partition that we should keep in mind, and it is perhaps the thinnest of all. November is "the month of the saints." It has rejoiced in such a name throughout the ages. Now, as we embark upon it, it is good to be reminded of the great cloud of witnesses who encompass us. They are not witnessing how we are getting on with it; they are witnessing to what God meant and means to them. So we are to think of them in their myriads, surrounding the Throne of God, all standing as it

were, on tiptoe and crying at the tops of their voices, "Alleluia!" And yet they are still united with us in Christ, and their worship and praise and prayer must inspire and refresh us on earth. So here again the partition is thin—and in company with the saints we go forward, praising God, witnessing to Him. Here is another fact to remember in November—and always.

NO GUY

We are remembering the Fifth with our usual Parish Bonfire Party, but this year there will be no guy, either on the streets before the day, or on the pyre itself. It has in the past caused understandable offence, and in particular to some of our friendly Roman Catholic parishioners, and it has been very puzzling to some of the younger children. One year one small child was quite convinced that it was the Vicar who was being ceremoniously disposed of in this way, but apparently she was not unduly perturbed about this! Be that as it may, several parents have pointed out the undesirability of linking the Church with the burning of the figure of a man in a child's mind. So this year we hope to have a big warm bonfire, but there will be no guy, whether like the Vicar or not, sitting on the top!

SOME RESULTS

The paragraph "Some Needs" in these notes last month did fortunately suggest to someone's mind the very person for the position of Secretary to the Church Council. This suggestion was speedily followed up, and the result is that Mrs. Warwick has been co-opted on the Council, and accepted its invitation to act as Secretary. She is admirably qualified for this, and we are most pleased to have her with us. It is not often a need meets with such an effective response.

Many unexpected results have come from the mention in the September magazine of our Prayer Group. This item has been developed in much more dramatic and sensational dress in various newspapers, and one result has been that letters have poured in from

far and near asking for the help of our prayers. Many reveal cases of desperate and heart-rending need, and there is far too much for our small group to cope with. We shall do what we can to help, and I hope in time to arrange for all the letters to be answered. I have also had many inquiries, not only from the Press, but from other Parishes, for further details about our Group. I have asked the Press not to sensationalise it any further; we do not claim any miraculous results; we do not even claim that our telephone-scheme, still in its infancy, is original. But we do believe that prayer, in the widest sense—and not only for the sick—is of the utmost importance.

We want to learn more about it, and we should like to have many more with us in our learning and practising.

While we are speaking about results, I hope that we shall all do our best to make the result of the Autumn Fair on November 19th the "best ever"—because many financial calls wait to be answered before the end of the year. We have already begun to plan for next year's Summer Fete, which we also want to be another "best ever" in every way.

The Gift Day on December 11th, will be for the renovation of the church dedicated on this day in 1863, and now at its point of greatest need.

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about
people, activities & organisations

PERSONALIA

We are glad that Mr. Hawkins, after a relapse, is now making good progress in West Middlesex Hospital. He had not been there long when his brother-in-law and fellow-worker in the churchyard, Mr. Chown, was suddenly rushed in too. But though they are in the same hospital, they are at opposite ends, a quarter of a mile apart. At the moment of writing, Mr. Chown's condition is far from satisfactory, but he is keeping remarkably cheerful. I do not need to ask for your prayers for these two fine men who have served our church so well.

It is good to know that Miss Hannah Stanton will be able to come from Oxford to open our Autumn Fair, and many will look forward to having her amongst us again, even if only for a very short time. Miss Stanton has apparently now come to the most difficult part of her theological course, but she is apparently taking it all in her stride, as she has taken so many things before.

Mrs. Bevis, who has just died after many trying months of suffering at the age of 93, was one of those rare souls whose religion keeps them perpetually young and fresh, and able to have a tonic influence on all who come in contact with them. She was devoted to her Church and even when bed-

ridden was constantly working for it, praying for it, and giving to it. She will be much missed by those who knew her, and we send our deep sympathy to her niece, Miss Moore, who nursed her so devotedly to the end.

SMALL ADVERTISEMENT

Garage to Let. One of the two garages at Wayside is now vacant. Please apply to Mr. Melville, 106, Park Road, for further information.

ALTERATIONS AND INFORMATION

Organist and Choirmaster

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

Parochial Officer

Mrs. Warwick, 52, Park Road. Tel.: Mol. 7004.

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

- Nov. 5.—6.30 p.m. Bonfire Party in support of Renovation Fund (Wayside). Admission by ticket only.
- Nov. 6.—10.55 a.m. Service of Remembrance.
- Nov. 7.—7.30 p.m. R.D. Conference.
- Nov. 8.—8.0 p.m. Planning Committee (Laurel Dene).
- Nov. 9.—8.0 p.m. Young Wives' Group: Annual Meeting (Wayside).
- Nov. 10.—8.0 p.m. Men's Society (Vicarage).
- Nov. 13 and 20.—Retiring Collections for Ordination Candidates' Training Fund.
- Nov. 15.—8.0 p.m. Properties' Committee (Wayside).
- Nov. 19.—Autumn Fair, to be opened at 3.0 p.m. by Miss Stanton (Hall). 7.45 p.m. Grand Whist Drive. Tickets 2/6 (Hall).
- Nov. 25.—8.30 p.m. Meeting for Teachers in Infant Dept. of Sunday School (Vicarage).
- Nov. 27.—First Sunday in Advent.
- Nov. 30.—8.0 p.m. Young Wives' Group: Brains Trust (Wayside).
- Dec. 2.—7.30 p.m. Magazine Distributors (Vicarage).
- Dec. 11.—Dedication Festival and Gift Day.
- N.B.—Drama Group's Play postponed until January.

BAPTISMS

- Oct. 9.—Michael William Pope, 9, Malvern Drive, Hanworth.
- „ 9.—Stephen Derek Michael Hallt, 306, Fishponds Road, Bristol 5.
- „ 16.—Jane Louise Campbell, 7, Pickering House, Windmill Road, Ealing.
- „ 23.—Julie Ann Wilmot, 44, Sparrow Farm Drive, Feltham.
- „ 23.—Diane Pamela Cadwell, 21, Windmill Road.
- „ 30.—Robert Edward Hitchman, 77, High Street.
- „ 30.—Alison Joanna McLean, 36, Park Road.

MARRIAGES

- Oct. 15.—Derek Alfred William Moores to Ann Janette Williams.
- „ 29.—Gilbert Gordon Hill to Constance Ivy Willis.

BURIALS AND CREMATIONS

- Oct. 11.—Martha Cowley, 48, St. James's Avenue, aged 77 years.
- „ 20.—Helen Hancock, 50, Myrtle Road, aged 81 years (at Hampton).
- „ 22.—Sarah Ann Benbow, 171, High Street, aged 86 years (at Twickenham).
- „ 26.—Emma Duncan Bevis, 198, Uxbridge Rd., aged 93 years (at Woking).

FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

CHURCH OVERSEAS

“OH TASTE AND SEE”

“I took a supply of powdered milk to the village with me,” writes a C.M.S. missionary in West India; “and was given permission by the local authorities to distribute it to the children. It takes a long time to convince some people that we are not trying to ‘put something over them’ which will cause them to break their caste, by giving them something which is not genuine cow's milk.

“But once we succeed in getting the children to taste it, they love it! I have often been reminded of the verse—‘O taste and see that

the Lord is good.’ How often we treat Him, and the gifts He offers us, with the same suspicion and ignorance with which these folk treat the milk!”

WHERE IT COSTS SOMETHING TO BE A CHRISTIAN

A C.M.S. missionary who has been taking the Gospel into a Japanese prison has reported that several prisoners have been converted. Life on leaving prison has not been easy for any of them. Here is the story of one:

“He is in the mountains working with a gang in a lumber camp where he is the only Christian. There are many difficulties. After

two months he had saved his fare to come in to Church for the first time. It cost him about twelve shillings and took two hours by bus and two hours by train. He needs much prayer, that he may continue to witness faithfully for Christ in this lonely and difficult situation."

"A THRILLING BOOK"

"When our evangelist went to Singapore," writes a C.M.S. missionary in Malaya, "she left behind a group of young men who were just beginning to be interested in Christian things. I was most anxious to keep the group together, so for the first week I borrowed a film which I showed to them. The following week I was unable to get a film, so I gave them a Bible reading on the Temptations of Christ. At the end of the meeting I said 'Shall I get another film for next week, or shall we have a Bible reading again?' With one accord the reply came: 'Oh, have another Bible reading!' I think we often forget what a thrilling book the Bible is."

GOOD NEWS FROM KENYA

A letter from the Bishop of Mombasa, Kenya, tells of a spiritual 'turn of the tide' in a women's Mau Mau detention camp, where a team of Christian rehabilitation officers have been working.

"Yesterday," he writes, "at a Service in a vast banda (a large rectangular building of poles and reeds and thatch) two hundred women were called by name and stood up and professed their desire to seek after and to follow Christ. They confessed that they had taken Mau Mau oaths, that they desired to be freed from them, that it was their intention, by the grace of God, to learn the

things of Christ and to witness for Him in their daily lives whether those lives be spent behind barbed wire or beyond it. I came away with a deep sense of gratitude to God for this clear evidence of the working of the Holy Spirit in what must be one of the most difficult parts of the Church's work in this country."

THESE THINGS ARE WORTHWHILE

Patricia Barden, a missionary in South India, has given this sidelight on her life and work: "Close by where I lived was a small hill. Often in the cool of the evening I would go up to the top, and climbing into a tree growing out of some ruins (and inhabited by snakes) I would spend time in prayer for India. The view in front of me was a striking contrast—flat country to the left and small hills to the right. Villages were dotted about here and there, with smoke rising from the fires kindled to cook the evening meal. People would be carrying loads on their heads and making their way home. Little boys would be driving obstinate cattle back to the threshold of their homes. My heart was moved with compassion as I thought of all the human suffering, of women without freedom, of all the sinful practices of a people without Christ. Then perhaps an utter sense of hopelessness would grip me as I thought 'What can I do?' But as my heart and eyes were lifted to God my Father to Whom nothing is impossible, my strength was renewed and my faith restored as I remembered that 'it is not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts.' He needs His instruments.