

ROAD MANNERS

The late Archbishop of York often stressed the fact that courtesy, careful driving and good manners on the road were a Christian duty, rightly to be expected from Church people — and that they should give a lead in these ways. I was reminded of this a few days ago when I saw the contrast between good manners and bad. I was at a pedestrian crossing: on my left the road was clear, approaching traffic on my right—a line of three cars—pulled up. And then came the man who wouldn't do this, the man with some resentment presumably against ever allowing mere pedestrians a favoured or superior position. He overtook the stationary cars at high speed, flashed across the stripes, and disappeared in the distance, tooting derisively. I stepped back just in time, but my anger was aroused by the thought—"Suppose it had been children crossing?" I am told that this kind of road hoggerly is on the increase. I hope that Christian public opinion will in the end force it off the road; but in the meantime, children ought to be told that

there are drivers who cannot be trusted, and that even when beckoned across the road at a crossing by a courteous driver pulling up, they must still be alert for the occasional rogue who delights in showing his scorn for such things.

A HURRIED CLOSE

I did my best to get most of the magazine matter prepared well ahead this month. It was fortunate I succeeded, because I had to have two days in bed last week, and then, just as I was preparing the final matter, last week's symptoms recurred, and I found myself in bed again, apparently not just for two days this time, as I had hoped, but, according to the doctor, until after Easter. This means that I shall have to bring the magazine to a hurried close, and leave some of the things I wanted to speak about until next month. It also means that there will be difficulty about keeping to the plan for Good Friday and Easter Services. I am sorry for all this inconvenience I am causing, and heartily ashamed of myself for falling ill at such an awkward time.

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about
people, activities & organisations

THE ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

The Twenty-seventh Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held for the first time on the Council's new property, Wayside, on March 14th. It was preceded by the Vestry, at which Mr. Wigington and Mr. Melville were warmly thanked for their service, as Churchwardens, and asked to continue in their responsible office, which fortunately for us they consented to do. Mrs. Warwick, as Secretary of the Council, presented her report on its work during the past year, and paid tribute to her predecessors, Mr. Lloyd, who had held the position for only seven months before moving from the district, and Mr. Forrow, whose efficiency over many years had set such a high standard as to make it difficult for anyone to follow him—and yet in one way easy, because everything was in perfect order. Others besides Mr. Lloyd

had had to resign from the Council, and in particular the Council—whilst felicitating her in her marriage—missed Miss Joan Bassett, who had done such good work as Secretary to the Renovation Committee. Her report showed the ramifications of the Council's work, and the large responsibilities it carried. It also gave evidence that the tradition established by Mr. Forrow would be worthily carried on.

The Church Accounts on the whole presented an encouraging picture. The total Free-Will Offerings were slightly higher than in 1954 (£148 instead of £132), just as 1954 had been an improvement on 1953; and there was a big increase on the Gift Day (£68 as against £32). But Collections were almost exactly the same—£505 in 1955, £507 in 1954.

The net proceeds from the Summer Fête were £194 in 1955, as compared with £149 in 1954; cor-

responding figures for the Autumn Fair were £80 (1955), £92 (1954).

The Renovation Fund became exhausted in 1955, and some expenses it should have borne had to be met out of the General Fund. The Hall Account had lost only £33 on the year's working, not so much as had at one time been feared, but this was possible only because repairs and renewals had been kept down to the minimum, and work on the roof, which is urgently needed and may well cost £200, further deferred. It was pointed out that much consideration had been given by the Council and its Committees to this problem of making the Hall pay its way, and outside advice had been sought. At the moment, if the Hall were to continue in use, the only solution seemed to be to find a steady additional income of at least £100 a year—but where this was to come from was not quite clear!

The Vicar, in his report, said his remarks could be summed up in the title of a recent bulletin of a famous Missionary Society — "Wanted Now." What we wanted now was more manpower and more money. Both are urgently needed for the Church's work, both on a national and international plane, and on the Parochial level too. The Vicar reviewed all the various commitments and organisations of St. James's, mentioning the strong and weak points of the latter. It was clear that much good work was being hindered and frustrated by a shortage of people able and willing to do the jobs that needed doing. The burdens of service and leadership rested on the shoulders of too few people, and many Church members gave only a half-hearted loyalty. The question of evangelism, or more simply, the getting in touch with the people of the Parish in ways of love, service and friendship, and so bringing them into contact with the Church and its Gospel — remained a pressing one. The population of the Parish continued to increase rapidly, though it seemed that soon most of the sites available for building would have been used up. The Street Wardens were doing yeoman service, but there were not enough of them, and there was a great need for an in-

crease in lay visitation.

With regard to money, the Vicar said he had put forward suggestions in recent issues of the magazine, and he hoped these would be taken seriously, and improved on. The need was for a certain adequate income, independent of such uncertain factors as the weather on the day of the Summer Fête, and this could be provided if members of the Church would regard their giving in a responsible way.

The Vicar said that it might be considered that his remarks had been on the discouraging side that evening, but it was better to face these facts than pretend that everything in the garden was lovely; and despite them, he remained an optimist, and believed that all these problems of manpower and money could be solved if we made them a real concern, matters of faith and hope, thought and prayer.

The highlight of the evening came with the presentation of a gift-cheque for £11-5-0 to Mr. Stephen Forrow from his fellow-members on the Council and other friends, in appreciation of his long and outstanding service to Church and Parish. The Vicar expressed something of the admiration and warm affection that all who have been privileged to know him feel towards him, and spoke of the great work he had done, without fuss or bother, so wisely, so efficiently, so lovingly and so well. Mr. Forrow made a reply utterly in keeping with his fine and modest character.

When the time for elections came, there was the large number of twelve vacancies to be filled, because of resignations in addition to the three-year cycle of retirements. The number of years of service therefore varied, and after sufficient candidates had been nominated, the problem was solved by some volunteering to serve for one or two years instead of the full three.

Not till the meeting was over did we realize that we had overlooked the fact that Mrs. Warwick, our Secretary, had not been elected — everyone had forgotten that she was a co-opted member. The Council will no doubt make speedy amends by co-opting her

for another year at its first meeting!

The members elected or re-elected to fill the vacancies were: Mr. Bishop and Miss Hall (R.D. Conference); Messrs. Bougourd, Forrow, Rooney, Smith, Thomas; Mesdames Bougourd, Gloyns, Taylor, Ward; Miss Rooney.

To the new members we give warm greetings; to those who have left us, affectionate thanks.

A full list of all the members of the Council will be posted on the Church porch in due course.

THE SUMMER FETE

The Fête this year will be held on Saturday, 7th July, again at Laurel Dene, thanks to the kindness of Matron and the Middlesex County Council. After several early disappointments, we have now had better fortune in arranging the entertainment side. The star attraction will be "The Skating Meteors," a show with an international reputation, and then we shall have help from local friends such as the Twickenham Sea Cadets and Miss Mollie Haynes' School of Dancing. There will also be an exhibition of coloured hamsters.

The financial success of the Fête depends mainly on having as many as possible well-stocked stalls. This year we are arranging these on a different basis. Instead of asking a particular society to be responsible for a particular stall, we have made a list of the stalls we hope to have, and appointed where possible someone to receive the stock for each. We ask everybody who can make or provide anything for any particular stall to get in direct touch with the persons named below, who have volunteered to be at the receipt of custom:

Mrs. Prentice, 6, Oxford Road (Cane-Work); Mrs. Bougourd, 214, Stanley Road (Fancy Needlework); Mrs. Bird, 37, Uxbridge Road (Plain Needlework); Mrs. Orton, 30, St. James's Road (White Elephant); Mrs. Rockcliffe, 40, Gloucester Rd., Teddington (Holiday Needs); Mrs. Thomas, 40, Gloucester Road (Novelties); Miss Stewart, 152, Stanley Road, and Miss Western, 35, St. James's Avenue (Children's Books, Toys, Games, etc.); Miss Tarrant, 31,

Anlaby Road (Ice Cream); Mrs. Allport, 55, Park Road, Green-grocery).

The Committee also plans other stalls—Cakes, Preserves, Sweets, Mystery Parcels—but names of those willing to receive gifts cannot yet be given.

Offers of gifts of food for refreshments, and of help in serving it on the day, should be made to Mrs. Beckett, 35, Wellington Road.

Mr. Rockcliffe, 40, Gloucester Road, Teddington (Tel.: Mol. 4909) has kindly undertaken the onerous job of Secretary, and would gladly give any further information.

Next meeting of Committee and Helpers—Thursday, April 12th, 8.0 p.m., at Laurel Dene.

JUMBLE SALE

The Jumble Sale organised by the Mothers' Union will take place on Saturday, May 5th. If you are unable to keep your casts-off as long as that, please let us know and we will receive them earlier.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

- April 7.—8.0 p.m. Parish Easter Party (Hall).
April 8.—No Service at 9.0 a.m.
April 10.—The Annunciation.
Holy Communion at 7.15 and 10.30 a.m. 3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union Deanery Festival Service, St. Mark's, South Teddington. 8.15 p.m. Church Council (Wayside).
April 11.—N.B.: No Service at 7.15 a.m. 8.0 p.m. Joint M.U. and Y.W.G. Discussion (Wayside).
April 12.—8.0 p.m. Summer Fête Committee (Laurel Dene).
April 14.—7.30 p.m. Scout Group Entertainment—"Our Show" (Hall).
April 18.—2.45 p.m. Mothers' Union Committee (Wayside).
April 19.—7.45 p.m. Scout Group Beetle Drive (Wayside).
April 25.—St. Mark. Holy Communion 7.15 a.m. 7.0 p.m. Scout Group Annual Re-Union (Hall). 7.45 p.m. Young Wives' Group (Wayside).
May 1.—SS. Philip and James. Holy Communion 7.15 a.m. 7.0 p.m. Diocesan Mothers' Union Service, St. Paul's Cathedral. 8.0 p.m. Scout Group Annual General Meeting (Wayside).

- May 2.—3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union
(Wayside).
May 4.—7.30 p.m. Magazines
ready. Distributors' Meeting
(Vicarage).
May 8.—8.0 p.m. Prayer Group
(Wayside).

BAPTISM

- March 18.—Andrew Michael Har-
rison, 120B, High Street.

MARRIAGES

- March 31.—Reginald Albert John
Hutchins to Gwendoline Jean
Sullivan.
March 31.—James William Strong
to Sheila Ann Hankin.
March 31.—David Harry Brad-
street to Patricia Humphrey.

FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

The Sisters of the Love of God

(A member of our congregation has a friend who is a Sister in this Order, and she has been sent by her a copy of their Building Appeal, and asked to do what she can to arouse interest in it. We insert it here in the hope that some of our readers may feel moved to respond. We know that there are those who feel that monks and nuns are just wasting their time. Someone made this complaint during the war to a General, and was surprised when he said: "You thank God that there are such men and women. It would have been disastrous for our troops had there not been at the time of Dunkirk those who spent themselves in prayer." When the objector went on to say that the people in the monasteries and convents might at any rate have been doing some useful work as a result of which goods could have been exported to the troops, the General remarked: "They were producing what was the most valuable export of all—the Power of God." With these thoughts in mind we might read the Appeal which follows.—Ed.).

"The Community of the Sisters of the Love of GOD, an Enclosed Contemplative Order, whose spiritual aim is the offering of a life

of Prayer, Worship, Reparation and Intercession in union with the offered Life of our Divine Saviour King, prays for you daily and after the Night Office at 2 a.m.

"The Community has bought the two houses in Fairacres Road adjoining the Convent. This will give the requisite space for an infirmary and for extra cells which are both needed.

"The Community would be most grateful for any help however small, towards the Building Fund. Any contributions may be sent to the Reverend Mother, S.L.G., The Convent of the Incarnation, Fairacres, Oxford. Cheques should be crossed "Building Fund" and be made payable to the Reverend Mother, S.L.G.

"The Sisters have been much cheered by the kindness of the Bishop of Oxford, their Visitor, who at their request has just held a Visitation at the Mother House, with the Dean of Wells and Dom. Godfrey Stokes, O.S.B., as his assessors. The appreciation of their life and of their faithfulness to the teaching of Fr. Cary and Mother Mary Frances shown by the Bishop and his assessors has given them much encouragement. Especial mention was made of the unity and vigour of the Community under the new Mother and of their confidence that the Sisters will continue to fulfil their special vocation loyally and confidently."