

Vicar's Notes

What a July! The heaviest rain-fall and the worst gales for a hundred years—and yet some very pleasant days, such as the Saturday of our Fête. Many now on holiday have had more than their fair share of bad days; those about to go hope for a return of the pleasant ones. I am amongst these latter, and have arranged to be away from August 8th to the 31st. During this period the Reverend Walter Blackett with his wife and daughter will be living in the Vicarage. Mr. Blackett is the Vicar of a new church and parish in Darlington, and a well-known priest in the Durham Diocese. He will be in charge of the Services on the last three Sundays in August, and ready to help with any emergencies during the week, but I know that you will spare him as much as possible, and not bother him with anything that is not really essential. I have every confidence that he and his family will have the happy holiday here which all my previous locums have had, helped by your kindness and thoughtfulness, of which they always speak highly.

A thing that seems to happen fairly frequently these days when you are making a telephone call and waiting for it to be answered is to be plunged into other people's conversation, and to hear things which do not concern you at all. But you have to listen, in case you miss the reply from the person you are calling. It can be intriguing, provocative — sometimes you would like to join in and make a third!—or embarrassing, though usually it is only an exasperating nuisance. We have been told that voices from the Vicarage are often recognised, so that this cannot just be a peculiarity of our own instrument. I mention this here, because it does seem to show that the secrecy of the telephone service, perhaps because of various technical difficulties, is far from perfect at the moment; and as people often wish to consult me about personal and private matters, it would be better, until things improve, not to go into details over the 'phone. All that is necessary is to ask for an appointment, when the problem can be discussed without any risk of being overheard.

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about people, activities & organisations

THE SUMMER FETE

In a period in which most days were affected by rain, the day of the Fête turned out to be one of the best of the summer. And the Fête itself was almost certainly the "finest ever"—quite certainly with regard to the financial result. The gross proceeds at the moment are about £260, £40 more than last year, and the net result, after all expenses have been paid, should be about £210.

Our special thanks are due to Mr. Leonard Rockliffe as Organizing Secretary. He showed an amazing grasp of detail, and let nothing escape his guiding hand. He was well supported by a small committee, and the stall-holders did exceedingly well (the proceeds from each stall will be listed in next month's magazine). Lord Hampton was a kindly and

gracious Opener; the Boy Scouts and Cubs did well in programme-selling; the Church Lads' Brigade formed themselves into a service-squad, and did multitudes of odd jobs all day long; outside organizations came to help and entertain us—The Twickenham (Willing) Sea Cadet Corps; Pupils of Miss Molly Haynes; the Drama Section of the Teddington Afternoon Women's Guild; the Red Cross—and many more. Our grateful thanks to them all. It was indeed a memorable and happy day.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOLS

The new session will begin on September 9th. During this session it has been decided to try the experiment of closing the Schools on the fourth Sunday of each month. At the moment a number of children attend Matins in

church on this Sunday, as members of the Guides, Cubs, or Brownies, and having done so, many of them do not wish to turn out again in the afternoon. This is rather disheartening to a teacher who has a well-prepared and interesting lesson to give, and it also means that the carefully-planned sequence of instruction is broken, and some children get behind the others. What we will do now is to encourage all the other children to attend Matins on this day, with their parents if possible ("Operation Firm Faith"), and then the afternoon will be free, this will also bring some relief to our hard-pressed teachers, though it is not being done on this account, and they have not asked for such a holiday! This new arrangement will not apply in the Infants' Department, which will remain open every Sunday unless there is a special Children's Service in the afternoon; or in the Rectory Estate Sunday School.

Miss Bridget Rooney has asked to be relieved of her work as Superintendent of the Infants' Department. We thank her for her long and loyal service, and hope that after a well-deserved rest she may one day feel like taking on some teaching work again. This Department is now very well organized, with two sets of teachers taking duty on alternate Sundays, but at least one new teacher will shortly be needed. The other Sections are not so well staffed, and the position is becoming increasingly difficult with regard to the over-elevens. Three years ago we had hardly any 11+ children at all, but we are now beginning to hold them longer, if not yet succeeding to integrate them into the life of the Church. We could hold them much better if we had more helpers and leaders; at the moment the Vicar is coping single-handed with numbers far too large, whereas what is really needed are small carefully-graded groups of five or six children, each with its own leader, the whole Section meeting together for recreational and other activities.

On July 29th the present Session was brought to a close by a

Parents' and Children's Service in church. At this Service a book-token was presented to Marion Young, who has just completed nine years in the Sunday School; to mark this long period of regular attendance, Marion is now leaving us to become a Sunday School teacher herself in her own parish of Fulwell. As will be seen from the list below, she ended her career with us by gaining a good result in the Diocesan Religious Knowledge Examination.

At the close of the Service the Vicar presented certificates to those who had passed the examination just mentioned, which was held in May. Those successful were:—

SENIOR: 1st Class—Marion Young; **2nd Class**—Ruth Mills, Madeline Taylor, Margaret Gunns; **3rd Class**—Susan Davies; **Pass**—Stella Johnston, James West, Virginia Pestrige, Patricia Saunders, Evelyn Voizey, Wendy Allport.

UPPER JUNIOR (9-11 years): 1st Class with Distinction—Rosaling Brunt; **1st Class**—Pat Stichbury, Kathleen Higgins; **2nd Class**—Mary Taylor; **3rd Class**—Raymond Shelton, Graham Howard, Ann Harper, Carolyn Green, Susan Wainwright, Susan Willmott, Bryan Edwards, Barbara Giles, Pat Allport; **Pass**—Wayne Champniss, Anne Goddard, Graham Peel, Susan Howard, Margaret Bartlett, Richard Gunns, Diane Pestrige, Mervyn Snook.

LOWER JUNIOR (7 and 8 years): 1st Class with Distinction—Jacqueline Stichbury; **2nd Class**—Ceridwen Roberts, Heather McCauley, Brian Young, Clare Brunt; **3rd Class**—Pamela Makepeace, Angela Marsh, Sarah Long, Keith Prince; **Pass**—Raymond Thorpe, Sandra Aylott, Lee Hanson, Gillian Howard.

THE WOLF CUBS

I am very pleased to report that as a result of the Cubs' 40th Anniversary Week I was able to hand over to the District Treasurer for the Polio Research Fund the sum of £30.

Through the kind co-operation of Mr. James, our Cubs had a very enjoyable evening last Tuesday at Denmead Sports Ground where a friendly sports contest took place between the two Packs.

The Pack will not meet during School holidays and will resume on September 5th.

S. R. CHILDS (Akela)

THE MOTHERS' UNION

The July Meeting. It was very nice to have Mr. Tipper back with us for our last Service in July and members were pleased to meet him afterwards at tea at Wayside.

Our Finance. Many years ago when I was staying in a small village in the North of Holland I was considerably embarrassed on the first Sunday because at the Morning Service there were three—or was it four?—sermons each followed by a collection and I, all unsuspecting, had put all my contributions, and, incidentally all the money I had in my purse, into the first round!

I was reminded of this at our last meeting by the number of things to which we seemed to be contributing. Your committee has since then discussed ways of cutting these to the minimum and suggested that it might help if I were to put down in writing a small explanation of it all.

In the first place every member pays an annual "tribute." In this Branch this is due before March 1st. A shilling of this is divided between Headquarters and Deanery funds and, in the past, sixpence to our own funds. Now, however, we find it quite impossible to pay for heat, light, rent for our meetings and speakers' travelling expenses and postage out of this sixpence a head, and we are solvent this year only by £5 from the Jumble Sale. We think we should not have to raise funds in this way and, as Mrs. Prentice told you at the June meeting, we shall in 1957 be making 2/- the sum for "tribute"—i.e. 1/- for Central funds and 1/- for our local needs.

If you want the Journal, which comes out four times a year, this will be another 2/-.

Then we ask members who attend the meetings to pay 4d. for a cup of tea and a cake or for the whole tea on the three occasions of the year when this is provided. All the eatables for our refreshments are given by committee members so that we feel sure that

other members will readily agree to this increase in rate: you still get very good value!

When there is a Church Service a collection is taken. I understand that originally this provided the funds for the tea, but in more recent years it has been given back to the Branch funds and the Vicar suggested that as it is not suitable that in this case the money should be offered as alms at the altar we should not take this collection in church, but at our meeting afterwards. Your committee, however, made the unanimous decision that the collection should still be taken in church and that it should be for the work of the Church. Most of them, and probably most members too, were unaware of the old arrangement. Of course, any members who feel that through free-will offering they are already contributing fully to the upkeep of the church will do as they wish about this collection.

Next there is the penny a month that all members are asked to give for the Overseas work. A few members pay this as 1/- in September but it has been customary to pass round the box for pennies at each meeting. Since Miss King's talk to us in June about her work in Africa the value of the actual work being done overseas by M.U. workers I hope that no one will begrudge the less than ½d. a week that it costs us and I am going to ask everyone to pay 1/- in October and then we shall not have the box at every meeting.

Then lastly there is our own "Kind Thoughts" box, kept for so many years by Mrs. Reed, into which at every meeting members are asked to contribute something towards "comforts" or "remembrances" to those who are ill in hospital or at home for some time, and thus prevented from being with us at the monthly meetings. Mrs. Mills now looks after this box and its distributions, so please let her know if there are any members who are ill—she may not have heard about them.

To sum up then:—

February: 2/- for membership
(1/- H.Q. and 1/- Branch);
September: 2/- for Journal, 3d.
for Programme of Meeting;

October: 1/- Overseas (1d. a month);

At each meeting: 4d. for refreshments, "Kind Thoughts" box; Collection at Church Services for the Church.

It is part of the Central Rules that no money for any other cause can be collected at meetings and no raffles are permitted. The principle behind these rules, which sometimes seem to bear hardly, is that no one should be kept away from meetings for fear of the number of things to which they will be asked to contribute!

Our Future. During the last months we have found that two Enrolling Members is no more successful than eleven, and for much the same reason, and so I am very glad to tell you that when Mrs. Beckett finishes her afternoon work for the deaf and dumb children at the end of this term, she has agreed to become the full Enrolling Member and will take office after her special installation at the October Service. I am sure that she can rely on the prayers of all members to uphold her in her work in what is going to be a very heavy year both for the Enrolling Member and for the rest of the committee, because in common with many other Branches throughout the world, we have thought that we should make this 80th anniversary a real re-dedication of our membership. More details of this will be given in the September magazine.

Meanwhile, will you remember that October 1956 will be a very good starting point for possible new members and invite along any of your friends who may be interested. C.H.B.

NO MORE WASTE PAPER!

The collection of waste paper and its sale has until recently been worth the time and trouble involved, and we are grateful to those people who have carried heavy packages to the church or Wayside, and to the Scouts for their help in calling on those who could not bring it themselves. The Scouts recently intimated that they must now suspend their work in this connection, and we had asked the Youth Club to take their place. But the present prices

make it wasted labour. 12cwt. of paper and books have just been taken from Wayside, for which we have received the paltry sum of 12/-. Not long ago we were receiving 5/- per cwt., but at 1/- per cwt. the game is emphatically not worth the candle. So we advise everybody to dispose of their own paper in the way most useful to themselves: we need no longer clutter up Wayside with it.

AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER ARRANGEMENTS

The only week-day Service until the first week in September will be at 7.15 a.m. on St. Bartholomew's Day, Friday, August 24th.

The Sunday Schools will reopen on September 9th at 2.30 p.m. Sunday Services in church will continue unchanged.

Some other Dates to note:

- Sept. 5.—3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union. Speaker: Miss Gough (W).
Sept. 6.—3.0 p.m. Coach Outing to Bramber Castle, in support of Renovation Fund (tickets from Mr. Geer).
Sept. 8.—3.0 p.m. Scout Group Penny Party (W).
Sept. 11.—8.15 p.m. Church Council (W).
Sept. 14.—7.30 p.m. Magazines for September ready (V).
Sept. 16.—3.15 p.m. Open Air Harvest Service in Carlisle Park, arranged by Hampton Council of Churches.
Oct. 4.—7.15 p.m. Harvest Thanksgiving. Preacher: The Archdeacon of Middlesex. 8.40 p.m. Harvest Supper and Entertainment (Hall).

BAPTISMS

- July 1.—Gillian Longhurst, 59, Windmill Road.
" 1.—Sarah Lindsay Melissa Beatrice White, 189a, Uxbridge Road.
" 8.—Gillian Margaret Pyatt, 113, Burton's Road.
" 8.—David George Frampton, 69, Clarendon Crescent, Twickenham.
" 22.—Petrina Babette Danielle Langford, 132, Uxbridge Road.
" 2.—Carole Ann Maughan, 116, High Street.
" 22.—Geoffrey Josiah Clarke, 3, Park Road.