

VICAR'S NOTES

I had an unexpected response to what I wrote here last month. I received a special letter from a former parishioner who writes to me regularly each month asking me to send her a magazine, and enclosing sixpence in stamps. This procedure makes each magazine cost her 8½d., but she finds it easier to pay like this than pay a year's subscription all at once. And no wonder—she is an old-age pensioner. But now she produces an extra 2½d. stamp to say that she is so concerned about the financial difficulties of the Church that she intends to send half-a-crown in addition to her magazine subscription in her monthly letter, and her only regret is that she cannot make it 2/6 a week. This is indeed a challenge from one whose means must be very slender, and I hope that it will be taken up.

THOSE COLD CHURCHES!

As is now well known, our present heating arrangements are not able in very cold weather to keep the church at a reasonable temperature without very frequent stoking both day and night; and it is humanly impossible to give the boiler this constant attention it needs to keep it working at its maximum capacity. But what coke and a human stoker cannot do, oil, a time-switch, and an electric motor can. Though all the necessary estimates are not yet in, it seems that this change could be effected for about £300. It could be done by Christmas if we had the money and could give the order now. And here comes another challenge. An offer has been made to lend the Church Council £50 for this purpose, free of interest, if five other people will do the same. If the change-over from solid fuel to oil is to be made before really severe weather can be expected, action must be taken immediately. If you are therefore moved to respond to this challenge, please let me or one of the Churchwardens know as soon as possible. Then we hope that, for a few years at least (until the present boiler wears out!), we may be able to establish the reputation of St. James's as a warm church without further

heavy capital expenditure. But of course we don't want to stop with providing warmth and comfort for ourselves. The thought of the many thousands who lack these simple things, live in unheated huts, worship in unheated churches, will be constantly in our minds and prayers. An opportunity will shortly be given to us to help through the U.N.A. Appeal for Refugees, and I hope that we will respond with the utmost generosity.

SOME FUTURE EVENTS

We tend to get so wrapped-up in our immediate parochial difficulties that we often forget the great issues facing the Church in other parts of the world. To help us to realise that we are members of a World-Wide Church, Mr. Kee, of the S.P.G., will be visiting us on the evening of Thursday, October 25th, and showing some striking films of Africa and India at Wayside. Please support this.

The United Service held here on July 29th was a great success, and it was good to see the church so full, and to hear the vigorous congregational singing. The second such Service arranged by the Hampton Council of Churches is to take place on Sunday, October 28th, at 8.15 p.m. in the Methodist Church, Percy Road, and I have been asked to be the preacher on this occasion.

Classes in preparation for the Confirmation to be held in this church next summer will be beginning soon. I should be glad to receive the names of those who are thinking of offering themselves.

A Bible Study Group for young people (16-25) already confirmed has just been started, and is meeting every Sunday after Evensong at 197, Uxbridge Road. New members would receive a warm welcome.

There will be no Autumn Fair this year—we put our best into the Summer Fête, and feel that we cannot call on our willing workers again so shortly afterwards. But we hope to make the Gift Day on December 9th a much bigger thing than ever before, and not to confine it to the Renovation Fund, but to use the proceeds for our most pressing and urgent needs in every sphere.

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about
people, activities & organisations

THE CHOIR

The Choir is in great need of both men and boys. By the very nature of things, replacements are constantly needed.

We have nine boys at present, who are virtually carrying the whole burden on their young shoulders. Parents, can you help us by encouraging your youngsters—provided they have a reasonable voice—to join the Choir?

In almost all Churches men find it difficult to give the necessary time for regular practice and attendance on Sundays. In the last few months we have lost an Alto (most valued of voices in any Choir) and a Bass. The latter, Harry Nash, was a fine character and most loyal and willing. We have missed him sorely these last few weeks and he will be hard to replace.

Surely amongst our parishioners there must be some whose voices are good enough to be used "in consort" in the service of God. A "prima donna" type of singer is not required. Provided (1) that you have a reasonable voice; (2) you can read music moderately well; (3) you are willing to practise and attend Services regularly—you can do a wonderfully satisfying job of work.

It is marvellous what just ordinary folk can do if they will get together, determined to make the best of the talents given to them. Do you feel you can do anything about this? If so, I shall be happy to make your acquaintance after any Service.

R. E. BOUGOURD,

Organist and Choirmaster.

N.B.—Practices:

Boys: Monday 6.15 p.m.; Friday, 7 p.m.

Full Practice: Friday, 7.30 p.m.

THE SCOUT GROUP

Our "Penny Party" held on September 8th at "Wayside," was once again a great success and our building fund has now increased by 10,080 pennies or £42.

This splendid result is due to a lot of hard work from all our committee members and to the wonderful generosity of our local

shop keepers and to many kind friends. It would be impossible to mention all gifts received but we feel we must make known a gift of 249 various kinds of packet sweets from an anonymous donor.

We were sorry that Miss Doris Rogers, owing to a business engagement, was unable to open our "Penny Party," but the job was taken over, at very short notice, by Miss Johanna Hendel, a German Guider, who is at present residing at the Vicarage. To her and to all who helped us, in no matter how small a way, we should like to take this opportunity of expressing our most sincere thanks.

By the time this goes to print we regret to say we shall have said "Good-bye" to Michael Childs or "Kim" as he is known to us, but at the same time we shall have said "Congratulations," as it is owing to his recent success in examinations that he is entering the college of St. Mark and St. John, as a resident, where he will be training for the teaching profession. We are only partly saying "Good-bye" as he will be home for holidays and we are quite sure he will remain as keen on Cubbing and Scouting as he has always been—and so we say "Good Luck, Kim."

"GUV," Scoutmaster.

THE YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

Last May the Reverend R. T. Greenacre, B.A., spoke to us about our Christian beliefs—calling his talk "By What Authority?" This was a sequel to his talk on "What do we Believe?" last year; he talked with the same fluency and easy lucidity as he did before.

He described the three levels of authority accepted in the Church of England: The Words of Our Lord, the Scriptures and the Historical Body of Experience of the Catholic Church. To many of us his talk was illuminating and profoundly satisfying, but for others with serious difficulties in Belief he had no formula to bridge the gap. Whether it is possible for any ecclesiastic to give a lead across the gulf between doubt and

faith is problematical. It may well be, that, for all who wish to cross, it must be as Saint Christopher, fording the river and carrying the bitterly heavy burden of a stranger upon his back. It was not until he safely reached the other side that the Stranger was revealed to him as the Christ-child, we will remember.

At Wayside in the afternoon of 13th June we held our Garden Party for babies newly baptised (in the past year) and their mothers.

There were several members with their new babies but barely five new guests. A goodly turnout of other members and their children helped to make it a gay and successful party and the sun shone for the duration of it—or very nearly!

Our June Meeting was held in the Hall for a Lecture and Demonstration in "Keep Fit." Alas! We had billed this meeting as "Deportment," and apparently frightened away half our members. Such a pity!—because Mrs. Sturgeon, Games Mistress at St. Catherine's Convent and "Keep Fit" Instructress for Middlesex County Evening Classes in Hampton, was one of our most delightful speakers this year. Her Demonstration was both instructive and enjoyable. The evening was really great fun.

At the Church Fête in July, members of the Group helped at various stalls and in divers ways but mainly by the volume of cakes and provisions for the Provision Stall and toys for the Bran Tub, also by organising and serving the free teas for performers. To readers of this paragraph outside the Group it may not be amiss to remind them that, although a large Group, the "Young Wives" is not a committed Group, and for many of our members it is the only connection they have at present with the Church.

Mrs. Melville, one of our own members, organised for us a musical evening for our July meeting. Two groups of singers—all Young Wives (with the exception of two German maidens)—sang very sweetly a choice of Folk Songs of several countries, all good and, to most of us, quite new. Mrs. Melville played delight-

fully on the rather brash Hall piano. Thank you, Mrs. Melville, and all your charming singers for a very refreshing and stimulating evening.

We started our new 1956-1957 programme on the last Wednesday in September with a SPRY Cookery Demonstration. It was an instructive and lively meeting with somewhere around 70 people present. The Demonstrator was excellent and of her samples and products only very few crumbs remained.

As the magazine goes to press we start this week on 3rd October the first of our Six-Lecture Course in Child Psychology, with Miss Beatrix Tudor-Hart, B.A., under the auspices of the W.E.A. The lectures will be held every Wednesday at 8 p.m. at Wayside. They are open as well to non-members and visitors for the charge of 2/6 for the Syllabus (members 1/-).

D.M.D.

PERSONALIA

We have wished Bon Voyage to two people well-known and loved in this parish, Miss Hannah Stanton and Father Paul Singleton. Miss Stanton sailed from Southampton on September 6th to join her brother in South Africa, and Father Paul left a week earlier for his important work in that same divided and unhappy land.

Geoffrey Eaton, recently travelling to Paris by air, was fortunate enough to be on the right side of the plane to take some striking and beautiful colour photographs showing a large portion of this parish, with the sun shining on the roofs and green open spaces, and the church standing boldly out in the centre.

We send our deep sympathy to Mrs. Nash on the sudden death of her husband, a loyal member of our choir; and to Miss Betty Stewart, the Superintendent of our Junior Sunday School, whose father also died suddenly whilst engaged in his daily work. Please also remember in your prayers, Mrs. Lewis, who is receiving intricate surgical treatment in Harefield Hospital; and Mrs. Reed, waiting to go into Mount Vernon Hospital.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

- Oct. 15.—8.0 p.m. Annual Meeting of Hampton Council of Churches (Methodist Church, Percy Rd.).
- Oct. 16.—1.30 p.m. Mothers' Union Coach Party to Mass Meeting.
- Oct. 18.—St. Luke. Holy Communion 7.15 and 10.30 a.m.
- Oct. 20.—2.30 p.m. Jumble Sale (Hall).
- Oct. 21.—Education Sunday. 8.15 p.m. Choir Practice for United Service (Methodist Church).
- Oct. 25.—8.0 p.m. Missionary Films and Address (W).
- Oct. 26.—8.0 p.m. Junior Dept. Sunday School Teachers (V).
- Oct. 27.—8.0 p.m. Dance in support of Renovation Fund (Hall).
- Oct. 28.—SS. Simon and Jude. United Nations Sunday. 8.15 p.m. United Service at Hampton Methodist Church Percy Road.
- Oct. 30.—7.30 p.m. Finance Committee (V); 8.15 p.m. Church Council (W).
- Nov. 1.—All Saints' Day. Holy Communion 7.15 and 10.30 a.m.

Nov. 2.—7.30 p.m. Magazines ready; Distributors' Meeting (V).

BAPTISMS

- Sept. 23.—Martin Casmev Rands, 12, Hampton Road.
- „ 23.—Celia Anne Harris, 31, Duke's Ave., Wealdstone.
- „ 23.—Adrian John Gambling, 22, Longford Close.

MARRIAGES

- Sept. 22.—Kenneth James Ure to Phyllis Dorothy Andrews.
- „ 22.—Brian Harold Lewis to Marion Joyce Maskell.
- „ 22.—Anthony Victor Arthur Harbor to Enid Elizabeth Williams.

BURIALS

- Sept. 26.—Jane Peacock, 39, Windmill Rd., aged 84 years.
- Oct. 6.—Henry William Wright, 15, School Road, aged 84 years (Interment of Ashes).

FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND ZENANA MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

Delhi.

The Indian Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, made some interesting remarks recently re. the adoption of the Hindu Succession Bill. We quote from **India News**:—India "could progress only if there was a social revolution." The Prime Minister discounted fears expressed by some members about effects of this legislation on women. He said women of India gave him hope for the country's future. Whatever advances the country was going to make would come largely through women.

The Church in India, particularly in the south, has already recognised the importance of women in its policy of training Christian women and incorporating them into the active service and life of the Church.

Ceylon

The revival of Buddhism in Ceylon and the attack on the alleged privileged position of Christianity, arouses fears lest this should hinder Christian work. The influence of Christian schools is specially deplored, though it is the Roman Catholic schools which are chiefly attacked. The allegations made in the Report of the Buddhist Committee of Inquiry need careful consideration, as they raise serious questions re the educational policy of the Church. The strongly leftist and nationalist trend of the newly elected Government supports the movement towards the restoration of Buddhism as a national religion. It is even suggested that Colombo should cease to be the capital, but that a new site should be chosen free from the undesirable features of Western influence. The Buddha Jayanta year this year is thought to be a fitting time in which to make Ceylon a Republic within the Commonwealth.