

Vicar's Notes

News about the Annual Church Meeting and the Church Council will, I hope, be given next month. This month there is only room for me to refer briefly to the decisive events we remember during Holy Week and Eastertide. Let us think of them this year, as many of the early Christians did, in terms of victory. "Be of good cheer! I have overcome the world." The decisive victory has already been won, but we have to play our part in its consummation. A familiar illustration which helps us to understand our present situation is this. Just as the Battle of Stalingrad or El Alamein settled the issue of the Second World War, though the fighting went on wearily for some years after it had done so, so the Cross and Resurrection of Jesus settled the issue with all the hosts of evil and the sin that is in men's souls. But the fighting goes on, and may go on for centuries yet. So it is with us. Hard as it may be to believe, the battles against evil are now really in the nature of a series of "mopping-up operations," and the final triumph of Christ, however long delayed, is certain. So we can now face the great evils of the world with confidence, but

not with inaction. No, our very confidence should spur us on to tackle them. Sometimes, we feel there is little we can do, and become defeatist—about an evil such as Apartheid, for instance. But an article printed later in this issue shows there is something very definite we can do. We can support those who are at close grips with this evil, and who are now suffering severely for the stand which they have taken. The giving of money for the cause of good is to-day a very potent factor in the warfare against evil.

This year I propose to experiment with a modified form of what is sometimes called the Liturgical Three Hours' Devotion, and to begin it with Matins instead of having this as a separate Service earlier. I have not yet fully worked out all the details, but there will be the usual well-known hymns, though the number of sermons will be reduced. This arrangement will also enable the Children's Service to be held later in the morning, and should make it easier for more to attend. The Open-Air Service will take place half-an-hour earlier this year, and I hope that a large number of us will assemble at the Church at 4.20 p.m., ready to move off promptly ten minutes later.

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about
people, activities & organisations

THE MOTHERS' UNION

At the April meeting Miss Swinnerford-Edwards gave the last of her three talks on the Sacraments. We have very much enjoyed and appreciated these lectures and the time she has given to them. At the end of the meeting Mrs. Beckett expressed our thanks for the help we had received and Mrs. Allport presented a bunch of Spring flowers on behalf of the Branch.

The fourth and last talk in this series, "Helps by the Way," will be on the Sacraments of Healing and will be given by the Vicar.

Through our connection with Father Singleton, the suggestion has been made that we should "link" with the M.U. Branch in his parish in S. Africa. Nowadays it is not easy to get an overseas

link—we have been waiting for three years for one—and as this Branch contains both black and white members we are particularly glad to have this opportunity of a link and of doing something as a token of our solidarity and Christian fellowship with our M.U. members there. As a first step we are preparing to exchange photographs of our Branches. We should have arranged our photograph last month but for the absence of Mrs. Bassett, who is liaison officer for us. We hope to do it next month.

You will be sorry to hear that last week our old friend Mrs. Chamberlin, now 96, fell and broke her hip. She is in hospital at Brighton. She and Olive are now living at 62, Greenways, Overdean, Brighton 7.

In the last few months we have welcomed to our Branch Mrs. Winch of Seymour Road, who comes to us from Shoreham M.U., and Mrs. Cliff of School Road Avenue, who comes to us from St. Lawrence's, Mansfield, M.U. We hope they will both be very happy in our Branch.

We all send love and God speed to Mrs Beckett in her temporary absence from us.

C.H.B.

THE YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

On Wednesday, 27th February, Mrs. Burge, of the Marriage Guidance Council, came to talk to us about her work. She proved to be a most attractive and lively speaker, with great understanding of the problems of present day marriage. She so aroused interest in her subject that she had many questions to answer. Unfortunately, due to another engagement, Mrs. Burge could only spare us one hour; however, her offer to come again was eagerly accepted. It is possible she may lead a discussion for us on "The Art of Family Life," in April.

The Group held a most successful Jumble Sale, in aid of our own finances, on Saturday, 2nd March. Our grateful thanks are due to Mrs. Pyne and Mrs. Johnson for their organising spade work, and to their many hardworking assistants.

THE NURSERY SCHOOL

There are four vacancies for the summer term which begins on April 30th.

A number of parents whose children become eligible next September have spoken of their starting then, but as we now have only five vacancies for September we suggest that all names should be given to Mrs. Saunders, 82, St. James's Avenue, so that if we have a waiting list that reaches ten we shall appoint our third teacher ready for that term.

At the March meeting of the Young Wives' Group Mrs. Winter asked the President to hand over to Mrs. White a parcel containing the basic parts of the children's percussion band. This was given by the Group as a token of appreciation for the work of the

nursery school committee and Mrs. Brunt added the thanks of the parents.
C.H.B.

THE CHURCH LADS' BRIGADE

The lads are holding a Jumble Sale in the Parish Hall on Saturday, May 11th. If you have any Jumble the lads will be willing to collect it. Please contact Mr. Geer, 4, School Road (Tel.: Mol. 4744); or Mr. Miell, 37, Rectory Grove (Tel.: Mol. 6724).

THE SCOUT GROUP

The A.G.M. was held on Wednesday, February 27th, and it was pleasing to see so many parents present.

The evening commenced with a display of work by the Cubs and Scouts.

Then Mr. Casey gave a short report on the Group and made mention of the various activities which will be held this year to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Scouting.

Mr. Childs gave a report on the Cub Pack. Five Cubs had gained the Leaping Wolf Badge, the highest award in Cubbing, and altogether 36 Proficiency Badges had been awarded.

Mr. Wren then gave a report on the Scout Troop, now numbering 18 boys, and mentioned the help given by the two Sunbury Scouters.

An appeal was made for new Committee members and we are pleased to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Bruce, Mr. Cudmore, Mrs. Ford and Mr. Palmer.

Jumble Sale. This was held on Saturday, March 16th, and resulted in an amount of £17.

Our Show. Saturday, May 4th.
D.E.C.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

April 8.—8.0 p.m. Hampton Council of Churches (All Saints').

April 9.—8.15 p.m. Church Council (W).

April 14.—Palm Sunday. Holy Week begins. 8.0 p.m. Young People's Fellowship Open Meeting (W).

April 15/18.—Holy Communion, daily at 7.15 a.m.; also at 10.30 a.m. on Maundy Thursday. Evensong said daily in Church at 8.0 p.m.

April 19.—Good Friday.

10 a.m. Children's Service.

12.0—3.0 p.m. The Three Hours' Devotion, including Matins and Evensong.

4.30 p.m. Procession of Witness leaves the Church for Open-Air Service in Carlisle Park at 5.0 p.m.

April 21.—Easter Day. Holy Communion 7.0, 8.0, 9.0 a.m. and 12.15 p.m. Matins 11.0 a.m. Children's Service 2.30 p.m. Evensong 6.30 p.m.

April 24.—5.0 p.m. Old People's Dinner (Rectory School).

8.0 Young Wives' Group (W).

April 25.—St. Mark. Holy Communion 7.15 and 10.30 p.m.

8.0 p.m. Fête Committee (Laurel Dene).

April 26.—8.0 p.m. Junior Dept. Sunday School Teachers (V).

April 27.—7.45 p.m. Parish Dance in support of Renovation Fund (H).

April 28.—N.B.: No Service at 9.0 a.m.

May 1.—SS. Philip and James.

Holy Communion 7.15 a.m.

3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union (W).

May 3.—7.30 p.m. Magazine Distributors (V).

May 4.—7.30 p.m. Scout Group Entertainment "Our Show" (H).

May 5.—6.30 p.m. Evensong and Holy Baptism.

May 7.—8.0 p.m. Prayer Group (W).

BAPTISMS

Mar. 24.—Colin Roy Marshall, 45, High Street.

" 24.—Frances Mary Rake, 177, High Street.

" 24.—Sarah Jane Humphrey, 18, High Street.

MARRIAGES

Mar. 2.—Robert Clive William Welch to Jean Ann Randall.

" 9.—Leon James Stephen Prince to Elizabeth Beryl Ward.

" 30.—Michael John Clifford to Georgina Rita Pearl Bishop.

" 30.—Andrew Burnett Brown to Rita Phyllis Keats.

" 30.—Patrick Royston Carey to Maxine Whittington.

" 30.—Gordon William Allen to Pamela Jeanette Townsend.

" 30.—Royston Christopher Crump to Selina Anne Bolton.

BURIALS

Mar. 9.—Florence Annie Lake, Laverstock, Kingswood Road, Tunbridge Wells, aged 93 years.

" 11.—Stanley Gordon Cook, 28, Myrtle Road, aged 58 years (at Hampton).

FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

THIS TREASON IS OUR BUSINESS

One rainy evening in February, a crowd of Londoners, and others who had gone up for the purpose, made their way to Westminster and into the huge Central Hall, which they packed to the doors. At the end of the meeting, collection plates were passed round. The sum raised was £1,400. It is to be used to pay for the defence of 156 leading opponents of apartheid accused of "high treason" on South Africa, and for the support of their families during the trial, which may be expected to drag on for months.

Should one interfere in the "domestic" affairs of another country? Not so long as they are

truly domestic. "I don't think it is accidental," said Mr. Gerald Gardiner, Q.C., who attended the preliminary hearing of the trial as an observer, "that this is the first time the Church of England has organised a fund to defend men and women accused of high treason in a far country, and that the Bar Council has ever been represented at a foreign trial." "But," he added, "there comes a point when it is immoral to be disinterested. The Church and the Bar have always been the last bulwarks for civil liberty."

High treason, he explained, meant something different in South Africa from in this country. It might be "high treason" to suppress information. Ten

thousand documents were being produced against the accused. Father Trevor Huddleston, who spoke later, said that forty-two of these belonged to him. They included his membership ticket of the Conservative party and a letter from Alan Paton, author of "Cry the Beloved Country." Twelve of the men and women on trial were educated at the school at which Father Huddleston was superintendent.

Father Huddleston said that the Treason Trial faced us with a challenge that, as Christians, we could not ignore. It gave us "a supreme opportunity of showing that the conscience of Britain is not dead, that we do desire to be identified with our fellow citizens of the Queen, and are determined to maintain the standards of decency and liberty which the Commonwealth proclaims."

The voice of one of the men on trial—Chief Albert Luthuli, President of the Africa National Congress—was actually heard in the Central Hall, calling on the Church of Christ to be true to her mission and boldly challenge the rulers and peoples to create conditions that would bring about the realisation of Christ's programme, "to preach good news to the poor, proclaim release to the captives and the recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty the oppressed, and to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." The Chief's message was recorded on tape and smuggled out of South Africa, to Canon John Collins, chairman of 'Christian Action.'

It is now reckoned that about £100,000 will be needed to pay for the counsel for the defendants and support their families—many of the accused have lost their jobs because of the trial, and eighty of

them are completely dependent on the money that can be raised. Anyone who would like to respond to the Bishop of Johannesburg's call and Father Huddleston's lead should send his contribution to the Secretary, 'Christian Action,' 2, Amen Court, London, E.C.4. Remember, the trial is likely to go on for a very long time.

NEWS FROM THE MIDDLE EAST

We have recently had a letter from David Swatland, former Chorister and Server, now coming to the end of his period of National Service in the R.A.F. and looking forward to his University career. David writes from Nicosia, and refers also to his time in Amman. He says, "I left Jordan last December for Cyprus, after spending just over a year there. I managed to see a good deal of the country, although to my great regret I did not manage to visit Jerusalem. This was largely the result of peculiar working hours, the misbehaviour of the Jordanians, and the machinations of Colonel Nasser. The mass of the Jordanian people is poverty-stricken and living conditions are terrible. The plight of the refugees is worst of all. Against this huge background of deep poverty it is difficult to excuse the large numbers of sleek American cars which fill the streets of Amman and the opulence of a small section of this Arab people. I have not yet seen very much of Cyprus, but it seems to me that the average Cypriot has a higher standard of living than the average Jordanian. I hope to see most of the places of interest before I leave, but this depends on the activities of Eoka."