

Vicar's Notes

An encouraging item at the Annual Meeting was the increase in regular giving. The Freewill Offering Scheme produced £183 in 1956, whereas the figures for 1955 and 1954 were £148 and £132. Total collections were also slightly higher: £516 in 1956, £505 in 1955, £507 in 1954. The Gift Day in 1956 was the best so far, and brought in £98, if we include £23 given at the same time specifically for oil-heating. The corresponding figures for 1956 and 1955 were £68 and £32, but last year we had no Autumn Fair, which in 1955 brought in £84—this was partly countered by the fact that our Summer Fete was also a "best ever", bringing in £210 as against £180 in 1955 and £148 in 1954. But undoubtedly the main source of hope for the future is the steady, unspectacular rise in direct giving. If this increase could be stepped up a little it would solve many of our problems. We must not ignore discouraging items, such as the fact that the hall made a loss of £77 on running expenses and £303 had to be spent on capital expenses for repairs on the roof. It was possible to pay this only by

borrowing from other funds, and by a short term loan from the Diocese which we hope will shortly be replaced by a direct grant from an Ecclesiastical Charity. We also had to borrow from some of our own public-spirited parishioners for installing the oil-heating system, which at this moment is causing some anxiety, because although it maintains an even temperature it cannot apparently raise it as high as coke fuel did, and it may not be adequate in really cold weather. We are now told that the only solution is a new and larger boiler, but before we could have this we should have to provide a larger boiler-house, and the whole process would be very costly and far beyond our present means.

In parochial administration we are now experimenting by combining our Parish Church Council Committees into one Standing and General Purposes Committee. This should be an advantage, inasmuch as matters dealt with by separate committees were often found to be closely interconnected. Now one committee will deal with all major concerns, and plan general policy and concrete proposals for submission to the whole Council.

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about
people, activities & organisations

THE SUMMER FETE

This will be held as usual on the first Saturday in July—the 6th—at Laurel Dene. Preparations are already well in hand with Mr. Rockliffe, 40, Gloucester Road, Teddington (Tel.: Mol. 4409), again skilfully and enthusiastically piloting things along. Anyone who has any bright ideas, or who would like to know how best to help, should get in direct touch with him.

Others who can supply articles or goods appropriate to any of the following stalls should get in touch with the convenors whose names and addresses are given in brackets:—

Canework (Mrs. Harding, 84, Park Road; Mrs. Ford, 83, Park Road; Mrs. Saunders, 30, Cranmer Road).

Children's Toys, Books, etc. (Miss Western, 35, St. James's Avenue; Miss Stewart, 152, Stanley Road).

Fancy and Plain Needlework (Mrs. Bougourd, 214, Stanley Road; Mrs. Bird, 37, Uxbridge Road).

Greengrocery and Flowers (Mrs. Allport, 55, Park Road; Mr. Hawkins, 7, Burton's Road).

Handkerchiefs (Mrs. Rockliffe, 40, Gloucester Road).

Provisions, Cakes, Preserves, etc. (Mrs. Winter, 126, Uxbridge Road).

Novelties (Mr. and Mrs. Palk, 15, Kent Drive).

Bottles (Mr. and Mrs. Farrow, 68, Sunnyside Road).

"White Elephants" (Mrs. Orton, 30, St. James's Road).

Men's Needs (not yet definitely fixed).

THE YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

At our meeting on Wednesday evening, March 27th, we had one of the best attendances of recent months. This was fortunate, as our speaker, Woman Police Constable Laws, held her audience's attention from the beginning. Her interesting and amusing account of the training and subsequent work of a member of the Women's Police Force provided many questions and much laughter. Not all the speaker's jokes were intentional, and the remark that "brought the house down," was the statement, following an account of work amongst women and girls, that there were not many "wanted women" in this area!

This was W.P.C. Law's first experience of talking to women's organisations. She was deputising for her sergeant. We found this difficult to believe, because she spoke so well, and she was warmly congratulated by many members, including one or two wives of members of the Police Force.

M.H.W.

THE SCOUT GROUP

"Our Show," Saturday, May 4th, at 7.15 p.m. in the Church Hall.

Tickets: Adult 2/-, Children 1/-, obtainable from Mrs. Childs, 126, Uxbridge Road; or Mrs. Wren, 15, Links View Road.

On Saturday, May 18th, the Scout Troup are giving a party for the old people of the district, when excerpts from "Our Show" will be performed. Also in the evening we are holding a "Bingo" drive.

The St. George's Day District Parade was held on Sunday, April 28th, at St. Mary's, Sunbury, and the Group attended this instead of coming to our own church in the morning.

MUSIC IN OUR CHURCH THE RESPONSES

By the time you are reading these notes I hope we shall have been able to introduce the Tomkins setting for the Preces, Versicles and Responses at Matins and Evensong.

Just a word about Responses. They are "the replies of the Congregation — or Choir representing

the Congregation—to the Preces or Versicles intoned by the Priest during the course of the service." Please note words in bold!

Traditional settings are ancient Plainsong, adapted by John Merbecke at the Reformation. Shortly afterwards, Thomas Tallis made two settings, one harmonised in four parts, the other in five parts. These are the Festal Responses, which have the Plainsong in the Tenor. How happily have Congregations been singing the top line in blissful innocence and error for ages!

The Ferial Responses have the Plainsong in the Treble, the setting we use normally being an example. It is published by the Church Music Society, for which many scholars of the calibre of Dr. Fellowes of Windsor have carried out years of patient and painstaking research.

There was a time when the basic idea of Plainsong was almost lost, submerged in a tidying-up process. Instead of the natural flow of the words imposed upon the melody of the Chant, every syllable or word was given a definite note value. As a result, the flow was lost, through false values being given. To-day, we are getting back to something nearer the originals, and for general use these are satisfying enough.

There are times, however, when Choirmasters and Choirs (and I dare to believe—Congregations too) welcome a change from the dignified austerity of the Ferial Setting. The two great Festival Seasons, Christmas and Easter, provide us with the opportunity to launch forth.

We are blessed in this country with a wealth of fine material from which to choose. The late 16th and early 17th Centuries gave us such composers as Tallis, Byrd, Morley, Smith and Tomkins (and a host of others). These men have left a mass of material which is being slowly and carefully re-edited. One of the debts we owe to broadcasting is the opportunity given to hear some of the finest of our Cathedral and Collegiate Choirs sing some of this Music. When possible, for instance, do you take part (not just listen to) the mid-week Evensong on Wednesdays?

The Tomkins Setting was, like most of its time, written for five voices, and it has been necessary to reduce it to four. It gave me 'homework' of an absorbing and humbling nature for some weeks. I wish to acknowledge the help received from two very good friends during the final stages of revision.

I hope the Congregation will take a liking to the Tomkins, and find them an added inspiration to worship. With our extremely limited resources, they are an adventurous attempt to add 'something' to the services, and I hope it will succeed even perhaps to the extent of inducing more men and boys to join us. How desperately we need them, to back up the great work done Sunday by Sunday by the faithful, hard-working and most patient few.

The Vicar asked me to provide a note about Thomas Tomkins. He is a most interesting character, and will be dealt with in the next issue. I trust that you have not been too bored by this miniature lecture to read the next instalment, which will deal with T.T.!

R. E. BOUGOURD

BAPTISMS

- Apr. 28.—Keith Leslie Lambert, 16, School Road Avenue.
 „ 28.—Richard Martin Green, 165, High Street.
 „ 28.—Ingrid Tallent, 43, Hampton Road.

MARRIAGE

- Apr. 22.—Frederick Alfred Reading to Joy Georgena Mary Saville.

BURIALS

- Apr. 16.—Florence Rivers, 29, Windmill Road, aged 62 years.

- Apr. 20.—Lucy Crawford Duval, 28, St. James's Avenue, aged 76 years.
 „ 25.—Winifred Bremridge, 19, Grove Park Gardens, Chiswick, aged 81 years.
 „ 26.—George Henry Guyott, 1, Buckingham Villas, aged 79 years. (At Hampton).

SOME DATES TO NOTE

- May 4.—7.15 p.m. Scout Group Entertainment, "Our Show" (H).
 May 5.—6.30 p.m. Evensong and Holy Baptism.
 May 6-11.—Christian Aid Week (for Refugees and the Under-Privileged) throughout England. "The Needs of Man" Exhibition (until May 16) daily except Sunday, 12.0-9.0 p.m., Central Hall, Westminster. In connection with these Films sponsored by the Hampton Council of Churches will be shown in the Public Hall, Hampton, at 8.0 p.m. on Wednesday, May 8.
 May 6.—7.30 p.m. R.D. Conference, Twickenham.
 May 7.—8.0 p.m. Prayer Group (W).
 May 8.—8.0 p.m. Films of Christian Aid Work (Public Hall).
 May 11.—2.30 p.m. Jumble Sale organised by C.L.B. (H).
 May 18.—4.0 p.m. Old People's Party (H).
 May 23.—8.0 p.m. Fête Committee (Laurel Dene).
 May 24.—8.0 p.m. Junior Dept. S.S. Teachers (V).
 May 29.—8.0 p.m. Young Wives' Group (V).
 May 30.—Ascension Day. 7.15 and 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion. 8.0 p.m. Evening Prayer and Sermon.
 May 31.—7.30 p.m. Magazines ready. Distributors' Meeting (V).

FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

MILLIONS OF HOPES ARE FIXED ON YOU

In the world to-day there are thirty million men, women and children abandoned in strange lands by a world that has turned its back. In Europe, the Middle

and Near East, South East Asia and the Far East they lie in their huts or tents or in their hovels and gutters. We call them refugees and forget them.

There are millions more who suffer as deeply, but less drama-

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ZENANA MISSIONARY SOCIETY

tically. They have a country in that they are Africans living in Africa, but racialism has stolen their birthright. Their skins are black.

And there are others who suffer from terrible natural disasters—earthquakes, floods and famine. Because their plight is none of man's doing, that should not mean that its alleviation is none of his business.

In all these places Christian men and women are there to help. Nearly all the churches have combined in a global, interdenominational organisation called the World Council of Churches. It is one of the biggest agencies carrying out the United Nations' refugee relief and re-settlement schemes. But its programme of practical Christianity also includes educating and training the underprivileged in South Africa and Kenya, and giving emergency help to those stricken by natural disasters.

Wherever people suffer they turn to the churches for assistance and comfort. But they will turn in vain unless you help us, for the resources of the churches are already stretched to their limit.

From May 2nd to May 16th a great exhibition showing us something of the need and what we can do to meet it is being held daily in the Central Hall, Westminster. It is appropriately called "The Needs of Man." In association with this, efforts are being organised by local Councils of Churches throughout the country in the week May 6-11, which is being called "Christian Aid Week." The main event in this district will be the showing of Films depicting Christian relief work in action. This will be at 8.0 p.m. on Wednesday, May 8th, when there will be a collection for Inter-Church Aid. If you cannot be present then the Vicar would be pleased to receive and forward your donation—or you could send a cheque direct to the British Council of Churches Inter-Church Aid and Refugee Service, 10, Eaton Gate, London, S.W.1.

The key-note of this news-letter is prayer. All branches of missionary work are affected by political events, nationalism and unrest in many parts of the world. Some missionaries are in actual danger. The Church at home must support them in prayer.

Items of missionary interest this quarter include the following:

General

Prayer is needed for all missionaries in India and other countries, where feeling over the international situation is running high. We must remember particularly those in Singapore and Penang, where Communist influence is causing unrest among students, as well as among the general public, and where rioting and strikes make the routine of ordinary life difficult.

Pakistan

The hospital at Bollophur is threatened with closure unless a doctor is forthcoming. This hospital serves a wide rural area in East Bengal, where mobile work is carried on by three missionary nurses, but they cannot go on indefinitely without a doctor. Urgent prayer is needed for medical help, either British or a national.

China

No missionary work is possible in China now, nor is it likely that missionaries will be welcome there in the future. The Chinese Church still needs prayer, however, for constancy in the faith, and for grace that it may evangelise its own people effectively. Reports from China say that Chinese Christians are now finding it easier to come closer to their own people, now that they are free from Western influence.

If you would like further information, please write to the Editorial Secretary, C.E.Z.M.S., Cromwell House, 104, Highgate Hill, London, N.6.