

Vicar's Notes

I remember an experienced parish priest saying at a conference, "It usually takes at least five years for a parish meeting to become established." When we started here last December, there was such enthusiasm that we thought these monthly meetings (in many parishes they are weekly) would be firmly rooted long before this time. But there has recently been a sad falling off, and it was a pity that so few of us met the stimulus and challenge of the two keen Church Councillors from Molesey in June. The need for knowing our Faith, for defending it and proclaiming it, and for living lives based on prayer, was made emphatically clear. What they said did not fall on deaf ears, but on very receptive ones, as was shown by the vigorous discussion which followed. At the next Parish Meeting on July 9th we shall be hearing something of the history and background of the Lambeth Conference. We also want to prepare suggestions for the Church Council concerning the causes outside the parish we think that we should support financially this year. The money for this will have to come mainly from the tithe allocated from the Christian Giving Scheme, so we warmly invite all contributors to be present and express their opinions.

For the first time for many years a Mayor of Twickenham has expressed his desire to join us in our morning worship, and we look forward to having Councillor Lewis and the Mayoress with us on the

Sunday of our Patronal Festival, July 27th. In the evening we shall welcome the congregations of the four other Hampton Churches as our guests.

The Planning and Policy Committee of the Church Council has been working very hard, just as the Christian Giving Committee did last winter, and I hope that the results of its labour will be equally fruitful. It has now prepared an interim report which is being sent round to all other members of the Council, and which will be fully discussed at the meeting on July 17th. Then it will be necessary to put the policy, as approved or amended, before the whole Parish, and I hope we may be able to start to do this in next month's magazine.

By the time these notes appear in print, the Garden Party will be almost upon us. Leaflets giving details have been sent to every house in the Parish, and I hope that many of you will have applied for tickets and will be turning up in strength to what should be a really happy family party on July 5th.

Stop-Press: In addition to the attractive programme already announced, we have just been successful in engaging the services of a well-known Concert and Television artiste, who will give an hour's entertainment for children, including competitions and games in which they will be invited to join and later, in place of the one-act play which is not now possible, a special performance for adults. This should add greatly to the enjoyment of the afternoon—so remember to apply for tickets before it is too late!

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about
people, activities & organisations

THE YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

Our monthly meetings at Wayside continue to be well attended by members.

In April Mr. Seeman gave a lecture on "The Law as it Affects Women." This was a lecture provided by the W.E.A. in virtue of our associate membership.

In May we had another talk by a member of the Family Planning Association who spoke about the work at the Hampton Wick Clinic in connection with family planning and sub-fertility. This is the only

clinic in this district and is in 20, Seymour Road.

After both these meetings there were opportunities for members to ask questions and to have further discussion.

Our annual "Babies' Party" was held on June 11th. This is the afternoon party to which we invite the mothers of the babies who have been baptised during the past 12 months and their children. Once again we were lucky with the weather and enjoyed a really hot afternoon in the Vicarage garden.

We were delighted to meet the beautiful babies who have been made members of the Church Family, but most of whom in the nature of things and in particular the privacy of Sunday afternoon baptisms, we have little opportunity of knowing. The Mothers' Union keeps in touch by sending cards on the first three anniversaries of the baptism and after that we look forward to welcoming them into Sunday School.

The joint M.U. & Y.W. meeting at Twickenham was this year of special interest to us as the Guest Speaker was our own Mrs. Stevens, who gave a talk on "This is Your Life" and the place of the M.U. and Y.W. in it.

It was also the occasion of presentation of gifts of appreciation to Mrs. Crabb for her nine years of service to this Deanery as M.U. Presiding Member. We in this parish have reason to be particularly grateful for the interest and help she has always shown us. We hope to see her as a visitor to our Garden Party when her husband will be conducting the Orchestra.

A new line of activity started in April with our monthly discussion group. The idea behind this is that at a smaller meeting those members who wish could help each other with problems of a more personal nature than is possible at the big meetings.

At the first of these we decided to discuss the problems arising from answering young children's questions about religion. Mrs. Stevens came to start us talking and chair the questions. We had a helpful evening but as, in the event, a proportion of those present had older children, we went on to discuss problems concerning them.

The next meeting was concerned with "doubts and difficulties" of members themselves which seems to be the problem underlying most of those of dealing with our children.

The last meeting met to discuss "questions from the hat." These proved most stimulating and our discussion of them ranged from Confucius (none of us knew what Confucius really said, so we went home to find out for next time!) to "how to be a good mother-in-law" which is perhaps a bit of more practical homework for us.

We decided not to meet again until October because of the pres-

sure of summer engagements, but we are eager to start again then. There is no reason why the Group should confine itself to one group discussion: any two or three people might well start one on a subject that interested them. The Committee would usually be able to arrange for a visiting speaker to come to help if any group found themselves in need of more expert knowledge on their subject.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP

We enjoyed a talk by the Revd. G. H. Stevens on "My Faith and My Job" (June 15). We hope he will be able to come again to tell us more.

In July after the Garden Party we hope to have a drive on interesting and inviting more young people in the parish to come and try our events. This effort is intended to culminate in an At Home on July 19.

We are intending to hold a special breakfast on the Sunday after Confirmation (July 20) for the newly Confirmed making their first Communion, together with their parents and friends.

In the holidays we have offered to redecorate the vestry.

In August our meetings on Sundays will be informal and we shall start our new season on September 14, the first Energetic Evening being booked for September 20.

R.P.B.

THE SCOUT GROUP

On Saturday, June 14th, the Scout Troop took part in the competition on camping-craft at Walton Pirs. The rivalry was very keen and close, and the result was in doubt until the last minute. It was a creditable achievement on the part of our lads to gain third place in the face of such formidable opposition.

At the District Cub Sports at Denmead on June 21st our boys were narrowly beaten into fourth place. It was a most enjoyable afternoon.

It is hoped to arrange a special evening in July for parents and friends of the Cubs, in the course of which Michael Childs ("Kim"), to whom our Pack owes so much, will be presented with his Warrant as Assistant Cubmaster.

Other Dates: July 1st, 8.0 p.m., Group Committee Meeting (W); July 10th, 7.45 p.m., Bingo Drive (H).

OFFERINGS IN CHURCH
May—Part June (8 weeks)

1956		
F.W.O.	£24 19 6
Collections	£75 1 4

Total	£100 0 10
Weekly Average		£12 10 1

1957		
F.W.O.	£27 12 6
Collections	£75 2 8

Total	£102 15 2
Weekly Average		£12 16 11

1958		
Christian Giving		
Scheme	£121 1 9	
Money on Plates	£51 11 4	

Total	£172 13 1
Weekly Average		£21 11 8

SOME DATES TO NOTE

July 2.—3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union Service. Preacher: The Rev. E. Tipper. 4.0 p.m. Tea in Vicarage Garden.

July 5.—3.0 p.m. until 7.0 p.m. Garden Party at Laurel Dene. Admission by ticket to be obtained in advance. (If wet, entertainment and refreshments in Hall).

July 9.—7.45 p.m. Parish Meeting (W).

July 16.—8.0 p.m. Confirmation at St. Mary, Hampton.

July 17.—8.0 p.m. Church Council (W).

July 20.—8.0 a.m. First Communion of newly Confirmed. 8.45 a.m. Breakfast at Wayside.

July 21.—8.0 p.m. Hampton Council of Churches (All Saints', Hampton).

July 22.—St. Mary Magdalen. 9.0 a.m. Holy Communion. 8.0 p.m. Prayer Group (Vestry).

July 25.—St. James. Patronal Festival. 7.15 and 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion. 7.30 p.m. Magazines should be ready.

July 27.—Continuation of Patronal Festival. 8.0 and 9.0 a.m. Holy Communion.

11.0 a.m. Matins (Monthly Family and Parade Service). His Worship the Mayor of Twickenham will attend.

6.30 p.m. Evensong (United Service, attended by congregations affiliated to the Hampton Council of Churches).

July 30.—7.45 p.m. Young Wives' Group (W).

BAPTISM

June 22.—Roger Mark Weedon, 117 Uxbridge Road.

MARRIAGES

June 7.—Frank Albert Moon to Gwyneth Elizabeth Lewis.
,, 21.—Derrick Beckett to Jennifer Bird.

FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH
MISSIONARY SOCIETY

No Longer Afraid

Writing from Iran, a C.M.S. missionary tells of several who had come to the Church enquiring if they could be baptised. "One was a woman most of us knew. Her brother had been the only Christian in her village for years. She was asked how long she had been thinking about becoming a Christian and replied 'Twenty-five years.' We asked 'Why so long?' and the answer was 'I was afraid.' Of course we wanted to know what had happened and she said 'My fear left me' and her bright smile showed she was telling the truth. She has now been baptised.

"There was a young man, too, whom we did not see for a little while and began to fear he had given up. But he returned and explained that he had told the girl he had been intending to marry that he was now a Christian. She had refused to marry a Christian and when his friends asked whether this was not too hard a price to pay, he answered that it was well worth while.

"Please pray for such as these who are finding out what it means to give up all to follow their Master."

Average Incomes

The average income per head in the U.S.A. is £668 per year; in the U.K. it is £278. In India it is

only £1, and in Pakistan £25, whilst in Japan the average is about £68.

Visiting the Home

House to house visiting is important work for a C.M.S. missionary in Penang, Malaya. She writes: "In the home next door to our Church there lives an old man whose son has been estranged from the father for many years, and whose daughter-in-law has been a neurotic invalid for nearly the same length of time. We were praying with the old man. Outside on the verandah stood the son. When we ceased praying, the son quickly came in, crossed the room and fell crying into his father's arms. The daughter-in-law has now risen from her bed of sickness and attends Church regularly.

"Such experiences and answers to prayer do fill our hearts with great joy, and we do ask that you will pray that the seed sown may indeed bring forth fruit."

Looking to Lambeth

At this time, when the Ninth Lambeth Conference is meeting, the Church Missionary Society's Highway Press is publishing a number of books which are valuable for background reading and understanding of some of the matters which the Bishops are considering.

Refugee problems dominate life in Hong Kong. After a period of service there, the Rev. Eric Hague has written "**In the Shadow of Nine Dragons**," just published by Highway Press, price 3/6d. The author looks with compassion on the men and women around him, and sees in them Christ challenging His Church to love and serve His brethren living "in the shadow of nine dragons"—the nine mountain peaks of Kowloon, on the mainland of China.

The witness of some Kikuyu Christians in Kenya in the face of the terrors of Mau Mau is one of the most thrilling episodes in modern Christian history. Stories collected by Edith Wiseman have just been published by Highway Press under the title "**Kikuyu Martyrs**." These stories, simply told, give the stark facts about men and women

who submitted to torture and death rather than deny their Lord. This unique book costs only 3/6d., is deeply moving to read and is a volume everyone will want to treasure and re-read.

"**Great Venture**" by Horace Dammers is the latest first-hand report on union in action in the Church of South India, one of the greatest ventures of faith of modern times. Written in terms of the people, the Church and the country as the author encountered them. To be published by Highway Press on July 30, price 2/6d.

The author of "The Password is Love" which told the story of the beginning of a new missionary venture in Malaya, has written another book which is likely to prove as successful as the first. It is called "**Come In**," and is a fascinating account of the methods used by the author and her colleagues in "building individuals into the Household of God." To be published July 30, price 3/6d.

Here is advance news of the next C.M.S. Book of the Year. It is called "**Listen to the Wind**," and is No. 5 in the "C.M.S. in the World Today" series. The author is Douglas Webster, well-known for his lucid, vivid style of writing. "Listen to the Wind" is the latest popular survey of the world-wide work of the Church Missionary Society, and costs only 2/6d. published July 30.

Triplets!

In West Nigeria, a woman from Umuahia has recently given birth to triplets, all of whom are still alive. A congratulatory message was sent to her by the Premier of Western Nigeria on behalf of the Government and himself, and she will also receive bounty for mothers of triplets from the Government.

When the famous C.M.S. Iyi Enu Hospital in Nigeria celebrated its Jubilee last year, a pageant performed by African and European members of staff included a scene from the "bad old days" when the birth of twins or triplets was thought to bring bad luck. In those days the hospital rescued many abandoned multiple-birth babies.