

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about
people, activities & organisations

PERSONALIA

We shall miss Mr. and Mrs. Bassett, who leave us at the beginning of October to go into well-earned retirement at Worthing. Mrs. Bassett in particular has had a long connection with this Church and parish, and been a member of the Mothers' Union for many years. Her first husband's family, the Singletons, have been in the parish from its first beginning, and her elder son is now doing distinguished work in South Africa. A letter from him appears later in this magazine.

Mr. W. F. Wigginton, our churchwarden, and his family will be moving into Mr. and Mrs. Bassett's house, and so becoming parishioners for the first time. We welcome them into the heart of the parish which they have served so well for so long. Please note therefore that the address under "Church Officers" (this matter is unalterable till next January) is now incorrect. It will henceforth be—18, Cranmer Road: Telephone, Molesey 4596.

Mr. Francis Tandy left this parish some years ago to live at Surbiton, but though he became an active member of St. Mark's Church and Treasurer of the Church Council there, he did not forget his old parish, where he had been churchwarden, but read our magazine regularly, and kept in touch with all that went on. His sustained interest was expressed from time to time in generous giving, though he was also playing a leading part in support of his Surbiton church. It seemed to many that he lived a very lonely life, but he was not a sad man, finding deep joy in his faith and the good works to which it prompted him. He died suddenly and quietly, as he would have wished, causing no fuss or trouble to anybody, and his body now lies at rest in our churchyard.

A pattern of Christian motherhood, Mrs. Sophia Gibson, has just died as she approached the ripe old age of 91. She brought up a large family with very little resources, by sheer love and determination, and these qualities increased in her, enabling her to go on living much

longer than seemed possible, so weak and frail had she become. But the love she had shown to others was fully returned, and her old age was made happy by the devotion of her children. She showed what a charming and beautiful thing Christian old age can be, and one felt it a privilege to know her.

THE MOTHERS' UNION

My dear M.U. Members,

It was a tremendous thrill to be present at the Royal Albert Hall on July 9th and to be among the seven thousand delegates who were gathered as one big family for the World Wide Conference. It was a great disappointment to everyone and not least to Her Majesty the Queen that her visit had to be cancelled. We were told by our Central President that the Queen had said that the message she had intended to give was of such a personal nature that she did not feel able to delegate it to anyone else. The bouquet of roses and lilies which Mrs. Chivanandan of Pakistan was to have presented to the Queen was delivered to Buckingham Palace instead. The presentation of "Thank Offerings" from members far and wide was a wonderful scene. What a thrill to catch a glimpse of our fellow members of many lands. What a presentation of the variety of backgrounds in which our members live—one truly felt the truth of the words "Like a mighty army moves the Church of God." Sir John Wolfenden gave a most uplifting message and began by reminding "this militant multitude of mothers" that "fathers are parents, too," he spoke about the moral standards of family life; that it is within the family that moral values were first learnt and exemplified—in the family life we first learned the lessons of kindness and respect for others, and in a sensible family the tougher virtues of discipline and obedience. I hope his speech will be printed in full at some later date.

Several of our members attended the Central Hall for the M.U. Conference and Panorama—how I wish more of you had made an effort to be there. It was wonderful to

share with our Overseas members all that had been prepared to help us catch fresh enthusiasm for our task of showing to the world why the M.U. exists: namely to help every human family to be domestic and dedicated, happy and holy. We listened to speakers from five Continents. I wish I could adequately express my impressions—yet one felt that running through all the messages that although our homes are all so different in appearance yet they shelter women so alike in their desires to make their homes truly Christian—ordinary women of all races seeking to witness to the teaching of Christ. My own heart has been stirred afresh to press on with courage.

May God bless you each one, and bring you back refreshed by the holidays and more fit to prove our value in an ungrudging service to our Church. I purchased several books at the Conference and shall be pleased to share them with you.

The outing to Worthing at the beginning of the month took place on one of the few good days of the summer, and was a most happy occasion.

The next monthly meeting is at Wayside on Wednesday, October 1st, 3 p.m.—Speaker: Miss H. Gough of the C.M.S. Will members please bring Missionary Boxes for the annual opening? This meeting is an open one and non-members will be warmly welcomed.

MILDRED J. BECKETT.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP

We have had to suspend activity in the Vestry as we have to await the annihilation of the fungus, followed by replastering, etc. A few of us also tried to help Mr. Hawkins in August by clearing the north-west corner of the churchyard. We shall not be able to resume work on the Vestry until the holidays.

The exhibition, "Hampton Hill—Past, Present and Future" was re-presented in the Hall from August 20-29th. Our overall cost of twelve guineas was covered very satisfactorily by an income from sale of programmes, etc. of £25, though the total attendance was only 300. With the profit we intend to make an offertory to the church and credit our negative

fungus. We think that it should be known that the original idea for the exhibition came from Mrs. Pyne, and we would thank her especially. We wish to thank also all the parishioners and friends who kindly gave us information or lent us prints or who showed their personal interest and gave us encouragement.

September 16th marked our second birthday, and as we enter on our third year we wish to assure parents and others that we are intending during term-time to limit our activities to the week-end. The Sunday evening meeting is our main activity and all our other activities are looked upon as extras. (In term time, the Sunday evening meeting ends at 9 p.m. sharp). The extra activities, e.g. energetic evenings, indoor evenings, each one Saturday a month, are offered to those who have time available to take part. We are hoping this season to make our indoor evenings more varied and of a cultural nature, e.g. serious music, play-reading, anthology, special subjects etc.

The programme for each month is to be posted on the board in St. James's Road. It will state the place of meeting.

Sunday evening meetings will be as usual at 8 p.m. The programme for this month is:—

Oct. 5.—The Rev. T. Shepherd (Congregational Minister-Guest Speaker).

Oct. 12.—A prophecy: Jeremiah 31.

Oct. 19.—An allegory: St. John 15.

Oct. 26.—Vicar's Evening: Brief history of the Prayer Book.

Note also—

Communion Breakfast: 8 a.m. on first Sunday in the month.

Laurel Dene Services: 5.30 p.m. on fourth Sunday in the month.

Indoor Evenings: From 6.30 p.m. on Saturdays, October 4th and November 1st.

Energetic Evenings: From 6.30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 25th.

R.P.B.

THE BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP

Annual subscriptions were due last quarter but I forgot to ask for them. The bill has been paid and I should be glad to receive your

2/- this quarter. I should also be glad to hear of anyone who feels able to take over the distribution of the Notes.

They come four times a year and are sent to the distributors at least one month ahead of the required date. Most of the members take their copies from church but a few are left for delivery. The subscription has to be collected once a year and the account paid once a year. Alterations in numbers are also sent once a year with the account so that not much secretarial work is involved. C.H.B.

OFFERINGS IN CHURCH

Part June — End of August

(10 weeks)

	1956	£	s.	d.
F.W.O.	29	8	0
Collections	72	3	10

Total	£101	11	10
Weekly Average	£10	3	2

1957

		£	s.	d.
F.W.O.	33	17	0
Collections	78	8	2

Total	£112	5	2
Weekly Average	£11	4	6

1958

	£	s.	d.
Christian Giving Scheme	155	14	9
Money on Plates ...	63	1	10

Total	£218	16	7
Weekly Average	£21	17	8

SOME DATES TO NOTE

The Young Wives' Group Programme commencing new session:

- Sept. 24.—At Home (H).
- Oct. 8.—Discussion Group Meetings begin. (W).
- Oct. 29.—Talk on Fire Prevention (W).
- Nov. 4.—Annual General Meeting and Clothing Exchange (H).
- Nov. 26.—Talk by the Rev. B. L. Trealar. (W)
- Jan. 2.—Children's Party, 3.0 p.m. (H).
- Jan. 28.—Talk: "Modern Art as related to the Housewife"—by Mr. L. Bradbury (W).
- Feb. 25.—Talk on Health & Health Services, by the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. J. Maddison (W).
- Mar. 25.—Demonstration arranged by the Hudson's Bay Company (H).
- Apr. 29.—Talk on "The Colour Bar," arranged by the W.E.A. (H).

- May 27.—Demonstration and Film: "History and Care of Carpets," arranged by Hoover Ltd.
- June 10.—Mothers' and Babies' Garden Party (V).

OTHER DATES

- Oct. 1.—3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union (W).
- Oct. 2.—7.15 p.m. Harvest Thanksgiving. Preacher: The Rev. F. W. Ross, Vicar of St. Paul's, East Molesey, 8.40 p.m. Harvest Supper and Entertainment—Tickets 3/6 (H).
- Oct. 5.—Continuation of Harvest Festival. Sunday Services as usual, and Children's Gift Service at 2.30 p.m.
- Oct. 6.—7.30 p.m. Rural Decanal Conference (St. Mary's Hall, Twickenham).
- Oct. 7.—7.45 p.m. Parish Meeting: Overseas Evening — Missionary Exhibition and Films (H).
- Oct. 8.—7.0 p.m. Diocesan Overseas Missionary Festival in St. Paul's Cathedral. Preacher: Fr. Huddleston, C.R. (Tickets from Vicar. Coach party leaves approx. 5.15 p.m.).
- Oct. 14.—7.30 p.m. Scout Group Bingo Drive (H).
- Oct. 16.—8.0 p.m. Church Council (W).
- Oct. 18.—St. Luke. Holy Communion at 9.0 a.m.
- Oct. 20.—8.0 p.m. Annual General Meeting of Hampton Council of Churches.
- Oct. 21.—8.0 p.m. Prayer Group. (Vestry).
- Oct. 24.—7.30 p.m. The Bishop of London will speak on the Lambeth Conference at Church House Westminster. Admission by ticket only 1/-.
- Oct. 26.—6.30 p.m. United Service, sponsored by Hampton Council of Churches at Congregational Church. (Evensong will be said in St. James's at 5.30 p.m.).
- Oct. 28.—SS. Simon & Jude. 7.15 a.m. Holy Communion. 8.0 p.m. Consideration of Report of Anglican—Methodist Conversations (W).
- Oct. 31.—7.30 p.m. Magazines should be ready (V).
- Nov. 1.—All Saints' Day. Holy Communion at 9.0 a.m.
- Nov. 16.—6.30 p.m. Preacher: The Rector of Hanworth—"Christian Stewardship."

BAPTISMS

- Sept. 28.—Ian Sidney Bull, 51,
Bishop's Grove.
,, 28.—Susan Jane Rands, 12,
Hampton Road.
,, 28.—Lesley Joan Shepherd,
80, Twining Avenue.
,, 28.—Philip David Thompson,
193a, Uxbridge Road.

MARRIAGES

- Aug. 30.—William Ernest Leonard
Payne to Patricia Ann
Coulling.
Sept. 6.—Burton Brown to Jean
Rose Ada Pallamore.
,, 13.—Gordon Theo Matthews
to Dorothy Sedgwick.

- ,, 20.—Donald Charles Robert
Weston to Betty Genery.
,, 27.—Peter Gray to Margaret
Stiles.

BURIALS

- Aug. 19.—Elizabeth Norris, 5, Wind-
mill Road, aged 64 years.
,, 28.—Elsie May Lencock, 4b,
Windmill Road, aged 52
years.
Sept. 18.—Francis William Tandy,
Oakenshaw Hotel, Sur-
biton, aged 65 years.
,, 25.—Sophia Gibson, 14, Lind-
say Road, aged 90 years
(at Teddington Cemetery)

FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

**Priory of Christ the King, 74,
Meyer Street, Sophiatown,
Johannesburg.**

We have received an Air-mail letter from Father Paul Singleton under the above address in acknowledgement of the £12-10-0 cheque (one of those presented at the altar during our Patronal Festival) which we sent him to support the great work which he is doing. In it he says:

We are more grateful than we can say for the generosity of the St. James' P.C.C. in sending us the cheque for our work here in Sophiatown. Please convey to them our most grateful thanks.

We shall be sending an official receipt by surface mail in a few days time. I cannot tell you at present to which of our branches of work the money will be devoted because our present Priest-in-Charge is leaving here tomorrow and his successor will arrive later this week, and it will be for him to decide.

You may have heard through my newsletters of the long legal battle in which we have engaged against the Resettlement Board on behalf of the property owners of Sophia-

town. You will be glad to hear that as a result of the five Supreme Court actions which we have won, we are now in such a strong position that very much against their will the Board have agreed to negotiate with our people for better compensation than they were originally offered. We have now completed negotiations for 140 of our property owners and the Board have agreed to pay a total of £30,000 more compensation. Some have got nearly £1,000 more for their property than they were offered, so this is a great victory and makes all the toil of the past two years well worth it. Not only have our lawyers obtained better compensation, but also as a direct result of the legal action the conditions attached to the removal to Diepkloof and Meadowlands have had many of their most harsh requirements rescinded. Of course, none of this is more than making the poor best of a very bad job, and the whole removal scheme remains nothing more than legalized robbery.

Thank you again for your help—and not least for the evidence it is to our people that there are Europeans over the seas who are not indifferent to their sufferings.

PAUL SINGLETON.