

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about
people, activities & organisations

THE CHURCH COUNCIL

The problem of maintaining the parish hall has been a constant concern of the Council for many years. Though we have now obtained exemption from rates, this has gone only a little way towards easing the financial strain. Attempts are now being made to settle the matter a long-term basis, and if these are successful, the result will be made known in due course.

The Council decided to hold no summer function at Laurel Dene this year, but if there seems a sufficient interest in the parish, to consider holding various social events in the autumn and winter.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

A great step forward was made this year in the Hampton and Hampton Hill area. Though it was not possible to cover all the streets in a house-to-house collection owing to a shortage of volunteers, those that were visited produced £106. The stall organised by our Young People's Fellowship in the High Street and staffed by their own members and "over-eighteens" from the congregation received over £9. It is believed that the other two stalls raised similar amounts, and the proceeds (after all expenses) of "The Vigil" were nearly the same—£8-15-0. The Hampton Council of Churches also promised a direct grant of £10 from its reserve fund, so the total amount shortly to be sent from this district to support this much-needed service for refugees should be at least £150, about twice that sent last year. I hope that we shall go on in this way, doubling the amount sent the year before, until the conscience of mankind refuses to allow this festering sore of human wretchedness to continue any longer. Then governments will take action out of their vast reserves instead of giving paltry sums as at present, and leaving the rest to voluntary organizations.

THE MOTHERS' UNION

The Deanery Service on April 7th brought a large congregation to our church, and the 14 banners made a brave show. The preacher was the Rev. G. C. Harding. Owing to

a previous engagement in the city, he arrived just two minutes before the sermon was due to begin, and his subsequent advice was much needed by our Vicar, who was preparing to take his place! He preached a memorable sermon on the text "In nothing be anxious," bringing in much of his wise teaching on faith, trust, relaxation and turning cares into prayers which has helped so many people in recent years.

At the May meeting the Vicar did have to take the place of an absent speaker (unwell) at short notice, and though he had had no time to prepare anything he did his best to fill the gap with an extempore address.

On June 3rd Mrs. George is the speaker, and on July 1st there will be the usual service in church.

THE YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

The April talk to the Group was given by a W.E.A. speaker, Mr. Duncan Wood, B.Sc., and his subject was the vexed question of the "Colour Bar." A large audience listened to a most interesting talk, describing how the Colour Bar problem has developed since the 18th century, when it did not exist, to the present day; how it varies in different countries and the many extremely difficult problems which have arisen and which at the moment seem insoluble. After numerous questions had been answered a vote of thanks was given by Mrs. Dowse.

The Theatre visit on the 24th April to see Sybil Thorndike in "80 in the shade" was greatly enjoyed by all who went, and thanks are due to Mrs. Sanders for making all the arrangements.

The President's Evening on May 6th was a most enjoyable and informal gathering, when Mrs. Brunt introduced to Members, Mrs. Charles who is the Mothers' Union President and Deanery Member.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP

Since last we wrote, quite a lot has happened for us to report on. At our A.G.M. on April 25th, Pene Allport, Judy McMinn, Seymour Harris, Kenneth Lapworth and

Richard Palk were elected to the General Committee. Kenneth Lapworth was elected Treasurer. The Committee met the following afternoon and appointed Pene Allport secretary, Ann Swindale and Geoffrey Harding were co-opted to the Committee also.

On Sunday, May 10th we were visited by Miss Baker, the Youth Officer for Twickenham, who took part in our Evening Meeting.

On Ascension Day the Church Council granted our request for ready access to Wayside at weekends.

The preceding Saturday our stall in the High Street collected over £9 for Christian Aid. We thank all parents and friends who helped us with this: a satisfactory effort. The organiser was Geoffrey Harding.

The following Saturday our Summer Season of outside activities opened with the high light of a Hunt for Treasure arranged by Richard Palk. The eleven entrants were split into groups. The all male group claimed the treasure first (carefully locked away to avoid accidents). They then vanished for half-an-hour and re-appeared with resplendent expressions and increased girth. The Hunt was followed in the evening by a "Sausage Sizzle" (Aga style) at 197. (We thank Mr. Hawkins for the use of his shack and his very kind treasure contribution).

On Whit Monday we held our first ramble. Sixteen of us set out for the Leith Hill area, pretending not to notice anyone else doing the same. Leith Hill was surmounted by frontal attack followed by triumphant lunch. In the afternoon under wooded cover we invaded Friday Street. One member proved his aptitude for high altitude tree pruning. Those of us who watched from below had much beam and mote removing to do. Another member would not swim for fear of getting his trousers wet. One lady was unusually permissive in having her photograph taken provided, of course, that the head was enclosed in a plastic bag. And we all learned by the way at least one plant's latin name: *Prunella Vulgaris*, though some could not pronounce it. Most of us walked fourteen miles and all of us enjoyed it.

We look forward to having two visiting speakers in the immediate

future. On Trinity Sunday, Mr. Treanor, Rector of Hanworth, is to speak on "Prayer" and on the following Sunday Mr. Redman, Minister of Hampton Methodist Church is to speak on "Christianity and Politics."

The programme is published on the Church Notice Board. All young people are welcome.

"STEPHEN LANGTON.

THE STORY OF MISS NEVILLE

I have just come across this in a Confirmation candidate's exercise-book which I happen to be marking on the day this magazine goes to press. It is typical of many answers which I have had over the years to the question: Describe how Mr. (or Miss) X kept his (or her) promise of renunciation under difficulties. I include it here, not because it is better than many others, but because, as well as coming to hand when matter is needed for the magazine, it is a vivid little story which deals with a type of situation which occurs very frequently to-day and as well as its challenge it has a touch of humour. Here it is, as told by a thirteen-year-old member of one of my classes:

Through her net curtains, Miss Neville watched the big removal van drive away from the house across the road.

She had seen it arrive too, and had watched the men as they carried in the furniture, but she had not seen the new inhabitants of the house yet. "I will go round to-morrow and welcome them to the parish" she said to herself.

They were Americans.

Nice, friendly Americans.

They were in their fifties—her age.

All three of them soon became close friends. She did not know they were atheists. They did not know she was a Christian, but they soon realised it . . .

It was a Sunday.

It was a lovely day. The sun was shining, the birds were singing. It was a relaxing penetrating warmth, and the birds were very happy. So was Miss Neville, as she put on her "Sunday best."

Then there was a knock on the door. "It must be someone for the magazine, or the Bible Reading Fellowship notes," she thought, as she opened it.

It wasn't. "We're going down to

the sea in the car. Such a lovely day. Gussed you might like to come with us, huh?" The American smiled a warm inviting smile which matched the sunny day. He pointed to his red sports car.

"How very kind . . . !" Oh, what was she saying? The two Americans looked at her. "I . . ." she started again. Well, why shouldn't she miss church just this once? God would forgive her surely. Hardly any other member of the congregation attended as regularly as she did. She could worship God just as well in the car, and see the beauties of His creation all around her as they drove through the countryside.

The church bells started to ring out. They were mellow, sweet and lovely. But they jarred in her heart and set her conscience pricking. "Well?" They were getting impatient.

Her heart was thumping. One half of her said, "Come on, Jane, get out of that rut. Churches are stuffy and gloomy. Get out in the fresh air for once. You're getting a silly little church mouse. Yes, a mouse—that's all you are. Get out and see the world. If you must not leave God out of it, say your prayers on the way."

But her conscience and the bells were saying, "Come on, Jane, stand up for yourself and God. You remember how Moses cried, 'Who is out on the Lord's side?' You are on the Lord's side. God is calling you to come to His church, Jane. How can you pray on that journey to the sea? How can you, when your companions laugh and chat with you? Jane, you know you can't.

Her heart was racing. It was like a tug-of-war. Her friends, and the devil, on one side. Her conscience, the bells—and God—on the other. Soon she felt they would tear her apart. To whom, to what, should she yield?

Then, amid all the struggle and confusion, she heard a "still small voice"—"that I should renounce the devil and all his works, the pomps and vanity of this wicked world . . ."

God's voice! Yes, she was a committed person, she had done her homage, she had sworn her allegiance. Her mind was at rest! Quietly she said, "I go to church on Sundays." Not smugly, just quietly.

As she walked into the church, the bells sang out so joyfully, and she felt like doing the same.

When she came out of church, the sun was hidden. From inside her house she saw that a storm was brewing. Soon the rain was crashing against the window panes. It was a torrent, a deluge. She thought of her American friends, probably sitting on the beach, and suddenly laughed in spite of herself. She wondered if God were laughing too . . .

LOST PROPERTY

Various articles were left behind after the Harvest Supper and Christmas Parish Party which are still unclaimed. Please get in touch with Mrs. Warwick if you think something of yours is there. Many things are left behind in church but they do not usually stay for long. But there are some now which have been with us for several weeks awaiting their owner—some were perhaps left behind after 'The Vigil.' Inquiries to the Vicar.

SMALL ADVERTISEMENT

Nursery School Assistant required in September. Apply by letter to:

Hon. Secretary,

St. James's Nursery School,
12, Hampton Road,
Hampton Hill.

P.4.—Under "Churchwardens' read "Mr. W. F. Wigginton, 18, Cranmer Road." Delete "Ted-dington." All addresses are in Hampton Hill unless otherwise stated.

Supervisors of Wayside:

Mrs. Melville, 106, Park Road, and Mrs. Warwick, 52, Park Road. All applications for the use of rooms should be made to the latter. Tel. Mol. 7004.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

May 31.—8.40 a.m. Parish Breakfast (W).

June 3.—3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union. Speaker: Mrs. George (W).

June 6.—3.0 p.m. Scout Group Summer Fête at Laurel Dene.

June 9.—8.0 p.m. Prayer Group (Vestry).

June 10.—3.0 p.m. Garden Party for Mothers and recently Baptised babies (Vicarage).

June 11.—St. Barnabas. 7.15 and 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.

June 15.—7.30 p.m. Ruri-Decanal Conference (St. Mary's Hall, Twickenham).

June 24.—St. John Baptist, 7.15 a.m. Holy Communion. 8.0 p.m. Young Wives' Group—Cookery Demonstration (H).
 June 26.—7.30 p.m. Magazines should be ready (V).
 June 29.—St. Peter, 7.15 a.m. Holy Communion.
 July 5.—9.0 a.m. Confirmation and Parish Communion.

BAPTISM

May 24.—Elisabeth Ann Dobson, 24 Holly Road.
 „ 24.—Dennis John Meades, 2, Hanworth Road.

BURIALS AND CREMATION

May 2.—Annie Margaret Kingsford, 97, Uxbridge Road, aged 75 years.
 May 15.—Minnie Starkey, 171, Uxbridge Road, aged 65 yrs. (At S.W. Middx. Crematorium).
 May 19.—Vivian Benjamin Hyde, 10, Eastbank Road, aged 66 years. (At Hampton).
 „ 20.—Arthur Henry Highmore, 26, Wolverton Avenue, Kingston, aged 83 years.

FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

“KENYA—hanging in the middle way”

This is the title of a new book by the Rev. E. K. Cole, Principal of the United Theological College, Limuru, Kenya.

At this decisive point in the history of Kenya—that land of violent contrasts—the author reviews the work of the Church and mission there. He draws particular attention to the Unfinished Task of evangelism. A valuable factual summary is included as an appendix.

This is a book you will want to read. It may be obtained, price 5/- from the Manager, Publishing Department, Church Missionary Society, 6 Salisbury Square, London, E.C.4.

A LIVING WITNESS TO CHRIST

“Our local Christian Church is a very small one,” writes a C.M.S. missionary in Bhagalpur, North India. “Yet we have folk in it who are playing their part in the life of their country and giving their Christian witness through it.

She continues: “I think of a local inspector of schools, just retired. As a Christian he has certainly not always found it easy to carry out his job with integrity. Now he is doing what he can to help the Christian boys living near to him with their education.

“One burning hot day, when we were having a particularly busy and rather anxious time with government forms, he came and lifted us by sharing with us a word of hope and encouragement he had read

that morning in the Bible; then after working with us through the day, before he left he prayed with us, committing our work to God.”

A STANDARD OF LIVING

It is well-known that in order to maintain a reasonable standard of health, food of a certain caloric value should be consumed each day. The number varies according to the situation of the country.

The following table shows in each case the **estimated** requirements, and the **actual** level in the countries concerned.

	Calories, per person per day Estimated require- ments	Actual level
U.K.	2,650	3,100
India	2,250	1,700
Japan	2,330	2,100

ENLIGHTENED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD

From Northern Nigeria, a C.M.S. missionary writes: “In the work amongst Nupe women in the villages the Spirit of God is enlightening and guiding in a wonderful way. They have a real sense of community service and in the villages work and join together to pray, visit the sick, keep the Churches clean and read the Bible.

“It is a revolutionary idea in the lives of the people here that husband and wife should work together or be seen about together. As some of our evangelists and their wives go round visiting, they are demonstrating vividly the oneness of Christian marriage. These are just some of the ways in which Christ is at work so vitally here.”