

Vicar's Notes.

Without going into the rights and wrongs of the printing dispute, we are glad that our magazine has been able to continue without a break, and not fallen a victim as have so many other papers and periodicals of all kinds. Things are slowly getting back to normal again now, but most likely we shall still be without our inset "The Window" this month as we were last, and the diocesan magazine "The London Churchman" will not be appearing again until October.

Since 1957, I have found it preferable to have the September number of our magazine published a week or a fortnight earlier than usual, and this should be happening again this year. This spares me from having to work at it whilst on holiday, as I did at one time. The older I get, the more I feel the need of a holiday which is as complete a one as possible while it lasts, and I try to make plans accordingly. This year, during the fortnight we are away, the Reverend S. Bell will be living in the Vicarage. He now works in Tyne-mouth but was formerly Head Master and Chaplain of the Gordon Boys' School in Surrey. Mr. and Mrs. Bell hope to spend much of their time here looking up old friends and also showing their fourteen year old daughter the sights of London, for what I have said above applies to them too. Though Mr. Bell will be available to deal with any emergency that may arise, as well as being responsible for the Sunday services, he and his family are essentially here for a holiday, and we want it to be as good and complete a one as can be managed. I know that you all understand this, and that you will make no unnecessary demands upon them, but save up as much as possible until I return.

TESTIMONIAL TO MR. ALDERSEA

I wrote in last month's issue, and I have also spoken in church, about the debt which we owe to Mr. Aldersea for his services during the all-too-short a time he was amongst us. The Church Council feel that many people, both in the choir and congregation, would like to acknowledge this debt and express their appreciation in some tangible form.

Mr. Bishop, as a member both of the Council and the choir, and one who is also in close touch with the congregation, has been asked to take charge of this matter, and he has gladly consented. All donations should be sent to him as soon as possible. Mr. Bishop was away on holiday when the Council met, but he sent a letter to be read at the meeting expressing all that the choir felt about Mr. Aldersea, and their regret that circumstances made it impossible for him to carry on. I quote one passage: "Since his appointment fifteen months ago he has worked quietly and steadily with obvious skill and ability. He has set out to establish strong foundations with the good sense not to be concerned about immediate appearances. If he had lived nearer we could have expected his good work to continue. His having to leave is tragic, but the effects of his work to date will long continue. St. James's has been fortunate to have him . . ."

We hope that in due course we may be able to appoint a new organist and choirmaster of a calibre similar to that of Mr. Aldersea. In the meantime James West, who has been a member of the choir, and head boy, for a long time, and who has recently been tackling with great enthusiasm the whole business of organ-playing and choral work under Mr. Aldersea's tuition and guidance, will be mainly responsible for the organ and for choir-practices. We are glad to know that Mrs. Wigginton, Mrs. Melville and Mr. Bishop will also be giving valuable help, as in a similar situation not long ago.

ANOTHER LOSS

It seems that we keep on having to report that people we can ill afford to spare are leaving the parish. Certainly we would have wished to have Mr. and Mrs. Whiteley with us for many years to come. Few people can have done so much for our church in so many ways in so short a time as they have done. They have been pioneers in the promotion of parish meetings and house-groups; active in the work of the Prayer Group and the Church Council; Mrs. Whiteley served on the committee of the Mothers' Union, and Mr. Whiteley made a notable contribution to the deliber-

ations of the Policy and Planning Committee: it is a great pity that so far so few of its recommendations have been carried out, because work of the utmost importance for the future of the parish was done here. Mr. Whiteley's suggestions, both in regard to financial and evangelistic planning, were most sound and far-reaching. But it is perhaps with the Christian Giving Scheme that their names will always be most closely associated. Without their enthusiasm, their very hard work, their determination, and their refusal to be deterred by difficulties and rebuffs, the Scheme would never have got going as it has, and we might still have been in the financial doldrums. We owe them a great debt of gratitude for all their Christian work and witness amongst us, and we wish them well as they move to their new home at Hitchin, and Mr. Whiteley starts his new job in the new town of Stevenage.

As from September 1st, the administration of the Christian Giving Scheme will be carried on by Mr.

Rockliffe, with the assistance of his wife. We are grateful to them for coming forward so readily to put their shoulders to the wheel—a wheel which, we hope, will go on turning with increasing power and velocity.

SOCIAL EVENTS

The Church Council has decided that for the year beginning September 1st, the number of social events organised by, or on behalf, of the Council, should be five, viz., the Harvest Supper, the Bonfire Party, Christmas and Easter Parish Socials, and a Summer Garden Party. An Autumn Fair was not included, as it was felt that this had little social value and was purely a money-making function. The venue for the Bonfire Party is causing some difficulty, as the patch of lawn at the Vicarage which was burnt up last year is now occupied by hens, and there is no other suitable site near at hand at the moment. Any offers from parishioners with sizeable gardens?

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about
people, activities & organisations

THE MOTHERS' UNION

After completing three years in office, Mrs. Beckett has asked that she should not be re-appointed to her position as Enrolling Member. We are grateful to her for her devotion and service and for all that she has done while leader. The burden has become an increasingly heavy and difficult one, and she has had to seek relief. No successor is yet in sight, and to add to the complication, all the members of the recently-elected Committee have resigned too. The Branch obviously cannot function without any officers or committee, and if it is to continue, things must be put on a proper footing as soon as possible. In order to discuss the whole situation, and to see what can be done to put it right, the Vicar is asking all members to come to a special meeting at Wayside on Wednesday, September 23rd, at 3.0 p.m.

THE YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

Those of us who were at the July meeting thoroughly enjoyed having Mollie Brandt with us again to

demonstrate and talk about flower arrangement. We were given some very helpful hints and ideas as to how to make use of the "odds and ends" in the garden.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 30th, when the Committee will be holding their usual "At Home" to commence the new session.

Because of the queries so often arising on the subject at our discussion meetings, we have from time to time considered the possibility of having a meeting for parents of older children on the subject of adolescence. Now we hear that the Women Citizens' Association have been fortunate enough to secure the services of Dr. Hemming of London University to speak to them on Monday, September 28th, at 8.0 p.m. at the Methodist Hall, Teddington. The title of his talk is "Adolescents: problems or people?" which suggests that it will be helpful along the lines we have sometimes considered. We are therefore glad that the Women Citizens invite us to join them that evening—

admittance 1/-—and hope that as many as possible of our members, whatever age their children, will take this opportunity to hear a first-rate authority.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP

The Young People's Fellowship extends a warm welcome to all newly-confirmed young people to join with us in our various activities. The new session will start on Sunday, September 13th. Notices concerning our activities are posted up from time to time on the notice-board facing St. James's Road.

K.C.L.

WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION, 1959-60

Programme of Classes

at
Percy Road School
(unless otherwise stated)

Wednesdays:

"History of London," Mr. F. H. Micklewright, M.A., F.R.Hist.Soc. 12 meetings. Commencing 23rd September, 7.30 p.m.

Thursdays:

"Twentieth Century Society and its Problems," Bernard Garside, M.A., B.Sc.(Econ.). 24 meetings. Commencing 24th Sept., 8.0 p.m.

Thursdays:

"Astronomy," Mr. L. J. White, F.R.A.S. 12 meetings. Commencing 24th Sept., 8.0 p.m.

Fridays:

"Listening to Music," Stephen Dodgson, Broadcaster and Composer. 12 meetings. Commencing 25th September, 8.0 p.m. at **80, Ormond Avenue, Hampton.**

Mondays:

"Appreciation of Ballet," Miss Joan Lawson (of Sadlers Wells Ballet School). 12 meetings. Commencing 11th January, 1960, 8.0 p.m.

"Art Appreciation," Peter de Francia, commencing September 28th.

"Literature," Dr. E. F. Ludowyk, M.A., commencing Sept. 23rd.

(Both these classes are full and cannot enrol new members)

15/- 12 meeting — 10/- members
20/- 24 meetings — 15/- members

OPEN MEETING

at

Windmill Rd. School, Hampton Hill
Saturday, October 10th, 1959,
at 3.0 p.m.

Lecture-Recital: "**Words and Music**," Stephen Dodgson and Mary Harper (to stimulate discernment in listening to Music and Poetry).

5.0 p.m. Tea Interval.

Talk: "**Astronomy**," J. L. White, F.R.A.S. (the planets, satellites, radio astronomy).

For further information, apply to the Secretary, Mrs. L. Vine, 60, Speer Road, Thames Ditton. The W.E.A. has always been well supported from this parish, and this attractive programme should attract people who have not joined a class before.

STANDING MATTER— CHURCH OFFICERS

P.4.—Under "Churchwardens" read "Mr. W. F. Wigginton, 18, Cranmer Road." Delete "Teddington." 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.

Organist and Choirmaster:

Position now vacant. Keen Churchmen with good musical qualifications and teaching ability are invited to apply.

Secretary of Christian Giving Scheme

Mr. L. Rockliffe, 40, Gloucester Road, Teddington. Tel.: Mol. 4909.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

August. 24.—St. Bartholomew.

7.15 a.m. Holy Communion.

N.B.—No weekday services after this until Wednesday, September 9, 7.15 a.m.

Sept. 13.—2.30 p.m. Sunday Schools in Church, Wayside and at Rectory School begin again.

Sept. 15.—Magazine copy due in. 7.30 p.m. Evensong and Intercession.

Sept. 21.—St. Matthew. 7.15 a.m. Holy Communion.

Sept. 22—7.30 pm.. Evensong and Intercession.

Sept. 23.—3.0 pm.. Mothers' Union (W).

Sept. 25.—7.30 p.m. Magazines should be ready (V).

Sept. 28.—8.0 p.m. Evensong, Intercession, and Discussion.

8.0 p.m. Young Wives' Group at Women Citizens' Meeting (Methodist Hall, Teddington)

Sept. 29.—St. Michael and All Angels.
 7.15 a.m. Holy Communion.
 8.0 p.m. Hampton Council of Churches' Drama Group (Methodist Hall, Hampton).
 Sept. 30.—8.0 p.m. Young Wives Group 'At Home.' (H).
 Oct. 1.—7.15 p.m. Harvest Thanksgiving. Preacher: The Reverend Selwyn Cox, Vicar of Hampton Wick.
 8.40 p.m. Harvest Supper and

Entertainment. Tickets 3/6 (H).
 Oct. 4.—Harvest Festival continues.
 Oct. 14.—8.0 p.m. Parish Missionary Evening: Speaker and Films (W).

BAPTISMS

July 26.—Linda Mary Passmore, 2, Victor Road.
 Aug. 9.—Anne Margaret Overell, 37, Wellington Road.

MARRIAGE

Aug. 15.—Victor Richards to Barbara Coulling.

FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

THE POWER TO CHANGE A LIFE

A C.M.S. missionary in Malaya writes: "A night school student—the first to come out as a Christian from a large heathen family—held back from baptism because of the fear of ridicule from his friends. But this year he made his decision.

"At an open air gathering where there were some hundreds of people listening, this boy gave his testimony to the saving power of Christ. He told that the day of his baptism was the happiest day of his life; he said he had proved that if a man came to Jesus, He **had** power to change his life.

"Christ's power over fear and ignorance has been seen in the tremendous change in this New Village, once one of the worst places in the state; a centre of guerilla activities and noted for its numbers of murders, ambushes and communist infiltration. It is now a flourishing community with a number of churches, and a 'white area'."

CHRISTIAN LOVE

From Northern Nigeria, comes a story of a practical demonstration of Christian love, sent by a C.M.S. missionary:

"At a village I visited there was a one-legged widow, a baptised Christian. Because of her inability to walk, she found it hard to make a living and she took to brewing 'peto'—a locally brewed beer from corn. This sometimes gave rise to noisy parties at her house.

"The local pastor and his wife did not think this was a good witness in the village, so they invited her into their own house and gave her a room. They promised her

her daily 'bread,' if she would prepare and cook small bean puddings which would sell for ½d. each to the school-children at their 'elevenses' each day.

"She found great satisfaction in doing so and was saved from a shady trade and given a new outlook and vision in life."

LET'S GET ON WITH THE UNFINISHED TASK!

Pakistan is the largest Muslim State in the world. 86% of the population are Muslims; Hindus form the largest religious minority with 12.9%, while Christians of all denominations number less than 1%.

In Iran, 98% are Muslims. Christians number a small fraction of 1%.

In Japan, the Christian population is about half of 1%.

In India—next to China the most populous country in the world—the majority are Hindus. 2% are Christians.

It is against this background of a great and challenging Unfinished Task of evangelism that all the Church of England Missionary Societies have issued a statement calling the Home Church to "send its messengers into all the world with the Gospel message, on a scale and with a degree of sacrificial backing never before envisaged or attempted." Each of the Societies is issuing details of new opportunities and needs "representing programmes of expansion additional to present commitments, and urgently needing to be undertaken."

In the coming months we must substantially increase our concern for, and support of, missionary work.