

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about
people, activities & organisations

THE MOTHERS' UNION

The meeting on September 23rd appointed a small committee to work with the Vicar to settle outstanding problems and plan for the future. This committee has already met several times and a policy and programme for the branch are being arranged. The position so far reached will be explained to members on November 5th. (We had to change the branch meeting to this date as Wayside was already booked on the 4th). The next meeting will be on December 9th, but after this we hope to return to the usual first Wednesday in the month. It is not intended to appoint an Enrolling Member until the next triennial elections in 1961, but Mrs. Stevens, the Deanery secretary, has kindly consented to act as branch chairman. Other officers appointed by the committee are: Mrs. Rockcliffe, secretary; Mrs. Cliff, treasurer; Mrs. Palk, sick visitor (in charge of the 'Kind Thoughts' Box); Mrs. Wilcox, catering supervisor.

The YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

Our Autumn programme began with a very enjoyable evening on September 30th, when we held our annual 'At Home.' The high-light of the occasion was a one-act play entitled "Ladies, like Princes . . ." This was performed for us by Joan Sanders and her friends of the Teddington Evening Townswomen's Guild Drama Group.

An account of the meeting on October 28th, when an illustrated talk about the Pestalozzi villages, was given (Christmas cards in support of these can be obtained from Mrs. Dowse, 253, Uxbridge Road), and the names of the new committee members elected at the A.G.M. on November 4th will be given in next month's magazine.

THE PRAYER GROUP

The Group, after trying different times and forms for its meetings, has now decided to revert to the pattern of a year ago. Meetings will now be held monthly in the Vestry, and last for about an hour. Each meeting will begin with the reading and discussion of a chapter in a chosen book, and end with prayer and intercession. A small

'Reading Committee' has been appointed to select the book to be studied during the next year, and it is hoped to have copies available at the next meeting on November 24th.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP

We have had two speakers in the past month. Mr. Cheyne gave us a talk on "The Purpose in Life," and Mrs. Stevens showed us a film of "Oberammagau"—the Passion Play which takes place every ten years in Austria.

Club nights are now firmly established and our knowledge of photography is increasing under expert guidance. The standard of our table tennis playing has improved and we hope to meet the Scouts' parents on the 27th November. We also hope to field two teams in the Twickenham Youth Club's public speaking contest on the 20th November. We are being successful in collecting jumble and the jumble sale will be in the Parish Hall in Saturday, 21st November.

R.H.S.

THE SCOUT GROUP

On Saturday, October 3rd, T/L Wren with P/L's Baker, Bruce and Ford, went on a 1st class hike and initiative test on Ranmore Common. A distance of 14 miles was covered. Results are not yet to hand, but it is hoped that a successful day was had.

A number of new boys have joined the Cubs. It is hoped that they will benefit greatly from the guidance that they will receive from the officers.

Our Bingo drives are still going strong. Please make a note of the following dates: November 3rd; December 1st and December 15th.

December 15th Bingo will be an extra special one for it is to be a Christmas Bingo—prizes to be Chickens and Christmas goods. A turkey will be raffled, so make a note of the date.

A Jumble Sale is being held in November. If any of our readers have any jumble would they kindly contact Mrs. Bruce, 8 Cranmer Road, Mrs. Wren, 18 Links View Road, or myself at 11, Myrtle Road.

A. R. COOK.

THE PARISH HALL

For a number of months past negotiations have been taking place with a view to leasing the Parish Hall to the Scout Group Committee for a period of ten years. It now seems that agreement has practically been reached between the three parties concerned—the London Diocesan Fund, the Church Council and the Scout Group Committee themselves—but certain legal formalities still wait to be completed. In the meantime, the Scout Group Committee have now taken over the administration and letting of the Hall, and Mr. Casey is acting as secretary and organiser for this. Under the terms of the agreement the Church and its societies have a certain number of nights allotted for their use, and applications for any of these should be made through Mrs. Warwick. The existing heating system is being improved and converted to oil-firing, but it is unlikely that this work will be completed before the end of November. In the interim period the only heating will be from the stove in the small hall, but this will be worked to full capacity, so we hope that users of the premises will not have to shiver too much!

PERSONALIA

Two men who had served this Church for many years recently died. Mr. Jakeman, though he left here in 1936, to live at Reading, will be remembered by older members of the parish as a leader in local affairs before the war, and a churchwarden who set a very high standard.

Mr. Frank Nightingale shared with Mr. Forrow the record for the longest continuing period of service on our Church Council. He was active in support of many good causes, and he lived the kind of life which made many people say to me after his unexpected death—"He was such a good man." His sudden passing came as a great shock.

Mr. Forrow continues to write cheerful letters from the Devonshire Royal Hospital, Buxton, where he has now been for two months. When he will return to us depends on how successful the different treatments meted out to him prove to be. But, as always, he is making the best of things. This hospital seems to

be a most interesting place—originally constructed as a range of stables for 110 horses, it has the largest domed roof in the world, 16 feet wider than St. Peter's, Rome. This re-echoes every sound, and makes sleep difficult at night.

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:

Mr. H. Stephens, M.A., B.Mus. (Oxon), F.R.C.O. (CHM), A.R.C.M. A.D.C.M., 17, Thornbury Avenue, Osterley.

Secretary of Christian Giving Scheme

Mr. L. Rockcliffe, 40, Gloucester Road, Teddington. Tel.: Teddington Lock 4909.

Hall Secretary:

Mr. G. M. Casey, 89, Connaught Road, Teddington. Tel.: Teddington Lock 5041.

N.B.—Bookings of the Hall by Church organisations to be made through Mrs. Warwick, 52, Park Road. Tel.: Mol. 7004.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

Nov. 4.—2.30 p.m. Old People's Sale of Work (W); 8.0 p.m. Young Wives' Group: Annual General Meeting and Clothing Exchange (W).

Nov. 5.—3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union (W); 6.30 p.m. Parish Bonfire Party (106, Park Road).

Nov. 7.—3.0 p.m. Brownies' Party (H).

Nov. 8.—Remembrance Day. Morning Service begins at 10.55 a.m., in preparation for the Silence at 11.0 a.m.

Nov. 9.—7.30 p.m. Ruri-Decanal Conference (St. Mary's Hall, Twickenham.) Speaker: Mrs. Rosamund Fisher (wife of the Archbishop of Canterbury).—"The Family in Modern Society." N.B.—The Conference now has a 'Public Gallery' open to all members of our congregations as observers.

Nov. 12.—8.0 p.m. Annual General

Meeting of the Old People's Welfare Committee (School).

Nov. 15.—6.30 p.m. The Mayor hopes to attend Evensong.

Nov. 16.—7.0 p.m. C.M.S. Delegates Conference at the Central Hall, Westminster.

Nov. 17.—8.0 p.m. Film Show, arranged by the Association for Mental Health about the problem of Young Children in Hospital, and their need to have Mother with them. (The Albany Hotel, Old Station Yard, Twickenham).

Nov. 19.—8.0 p.m. Church Council (Vestry).

Nov. 21.—2.30 p.m. Jumble Sale arranged by Young People's Fellowship (H).

Nov. 24.—8.0 p.m. Prayer Group (Vestry).

Nov. 25.—8.0 p.m. Young Wives' Group: Talk by Miss Elmslie, Head Mistress of a Comprehensive School (W).

Nov. 27.—8.0 p.m. Old People's Welfare Committee meets representatives from Hampton (M.W.B. Social Club).

Nov. 21.—First Sunday in Advent.

Nov. 30.—St. Andrew. 7.15 a.m. Holy Communion.

Dec. 6.—11.0 a.m. Preacher from the Missions to Seamen.

Dec. 9.—3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union (W).

Dec. 13.—Dedication Festival.

Rehearsals of the York Nativity Play (to be presented in St. Mary's, Hampton, on December 29, by the Drama Section of the Hampton Council of Churches) take place every Wednesday evening in Wayside or the Vestry (when Wayside is booked for other meetings).

An attempt is being made to get a regular sequence for Choir practices. At the moment the arrangement is: Boys only on Thursdays, 6.0 p.m.; Full practice Sundays 9.45 a.m.—but if this does not prove satisfactory a change will be made.

The Parish Magazines for December should be published on Friday, December 4, and be available to distributors at 7.30 p.m. at the Vicarage. All copy for this issue should be sent to the Vicar not later than Monday, November 23. This month hardly any copy was ready by the date mentioned. As a result the publication of this November issue has had to be delayed, and the December issue will also be a week behind schedule.

BAPTISMS

- Oct. 4.—Jacqueline Susan McIlherene, 3, Cranmer Road.
" 25.—Susan Hazel Barnes, 218, Uxbridge Road.
" 25.—Robert Frank Brooks, 10, Links View Road.
" 25.—Julian Philip Peter Gambling, 22, Longford Close.
" 25.—Brian Steven Giles, 3, Park Mansions, Park Rd.
" 25.—Max William Harrison, 8, Links View Road.
" 25.—Marianne Patricia Hughes, 35, Shillinglee, Purbrook, Portsmouth.
" 25.—Elaine Humphrey, 114, Fulwell Road.
" 25.—Ruth Joanna Lambourne, 47, Uxbridge Road.
" 25.—Jane Elizabeth Weston, 74 Myrtle Road.
" 25.—Howard Martin Wright, 286, London Rd. Mitcham.

MARRIAGES

- Oct. 3.—Jack Mackrell to Margaret Threder.
" 10.—John Herbert Bradbury to Vivienne Marie Cox.
" 24.—Jeffrey Bernard Owen to Elizabeth Hopkins.

BURIAL AND CREMATORIUM

- Oct. 9.—Frank William Nightingale, 29, Holly Road, aged 60 years (at S.W. Middx. Crematorium).
" 24.—Christopher Jakeman, 16, Bath Road, Reading, aged 83 years. (Interment of Ashes).

FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

HOW DOES THE PARSON FARE?

The Church Commissioners have once more produced their little booklet (an abbreviation of their Annual Report) giving an account of their stewardship in the past

year. They managed their affairs so wisely and well that their income for the year again increased, this time from £12.3 million to £13.2 million. They are doing their utmost to use this money to improve the financial position of the

parish priests of the Church, but in many cases this still 'verges on the desperate.' One reason for this which the Commissioners emphasise is that the great majority of incumbents have to pay out of their already not-over-large stipends most of the expenses of their office. In a business these would be paid by the firm concerned, but the Church expects her officers to pay for them out of their own pockets. In connection with his official duties a clergyman may well have to spend anything from £100 to £200 a year, a big slice out of an average income of £718. In effect, it often means that the harder a man works, the less money he has. So, say the Commissioners, we have this problem: "The Rectors and Vicars of the Church of England have to pay these unavoidable expenses out of a remuneration which is in itself inadequate in comparison with their responsibilities in the community. The Church Commissioners will continue to do all in their power, in conjunction with the dioceses, to increase the stipends of all clergy. But both stipends and the repayment of expenses of the parish clergy is a matter for the people of each parish in co-operation with the diocese."

HANGING IN THE MIDDLE WAY

This is a fitting description of Kenya today, torn between the old and the new ways. There are still many tribal villages in which people live exactly as their forefathers have lived for thousands of years—practically Stone Age villages. The only change is that, with the abolition of the stimulus of tribal war, many of the men are turning to the stimulus of alcohol, as their main diversion, while the women still do all the work just as they did when the men, instead of drinking, had to guard the village. Then there is the pull of a modern, materialistic civilisation, with its promise of a fuller life, but often leading the African in the opposite direction, so that he becomes a corrupted, detribalised piece of driftwood, or a criminal or drug addict, in the festering slums and shantytowns that surround Nairobi. There is the Church, the great centre of healing, reconciliation and true fellowship, and by a result of her work, new Christian villages, led by

African councils, are springing up, and Christian farmers are pioneering a better system of agriculture; whilst in the towns, school-leavers are being trained to take their place and find suitable jobs within the framework of Western civilisation and technology. Here is the path of hope for the future, and the Church needs to be strengthened so that she may be able to lead many more along it.

It was sad that only sixteen people from this parish took the trouble to come to see the excellent and arresting film with the above title which showed us these things. One felt that Wayside should have been crowded to the doors! Well, for those who do not like coming to meetings of any sort, there is a book—"Kenya: Hanging in the Middle Way"—which can bring to them much of the challenge of the film at their own firesides. It costs only five shillings, and I hope many will buy it.

THE MISSIONARY CHALLENGE ON OUR DOORSTEP

But it is not only by striking films and books that the missionary challenge is brought home to us today. It has come very close to us by the presence of so many visitors for overseas in our midst (36,000 students, and at least 250,000 others). Many of them come here as Christians, but all too often they are disillusioned by what they see and hear, and cannot withstand the dead-set made upon them by the Communists, who seek to use them as tools for the conquest of Asia and Africa. A bishop who has just returned to Africa after a short stay in England said of these visiting strangers: "In a sense the missionary challenge has come right to the doorstep of the Church of England, and much of the success or failure of the Church in the countries from which these men and women come and to which they will return, many of them as leaders, will depend on what they make of the Church and the Church makes of them during their stay in England."

I hope that in the near future, we in this parish may be able to do something concrete in the way of giving friendship and hospitality to some of these lonely strangers in London.