

Vicar's Notes

It was interesting that the Rev. D. S. Richardson, in his address to the Mothers' Union chose the same theme as I was speaking about here last month—"No time for Prayer." It is certainly a matter we do need to be reminded about continually until we have taken steps to put it right by finding and making time. A priest whose job causes him to travel extensively throughout England has recently expressed his concern about the prayerlessness of the Church as a whole, and the loss of belief in the power of prayer. It is perhaps the priority of priorities to get this matter right.

HOW TO PRAY

Many people who do pray for an hour or more each day find that it is helpful to use this time in a variety of ways: quietly reading the Bible or a devotional book, praying for others, perhaps saying Matins and Evensong daily, and so on. But more and more it is becoming clear that one way of praying, which used to be thought almost impossible for people outside monasteries and convents, is proving eminently suitable, and is being made widely available by God, for people living busy lives in the modern world. This is the contemplative way of praying. It does not set out to accomplish anything, except to concentrate upon, pay attention to, 'look at' and love God, and yet it is the most 'powerful' (if we can rightly speak of the 'Power of Prayer'), healing and effective of all. It is when some little glimpse

of the open secret of this way of praying becomes known to us that we can begin to see why a hasty few minutes a day are not enough, and why we are called upon to think in terms of an hour or more. Books that many are finding helpful, written with the needs and circumstances of modern people in mind, are "The End of a Golden String," by Robert Nelson (Faith Press, 5/-), and "Reality and Prayer," by John Magee (Hodder and Stoughton, 12/6).

A SUMMER DAY

We are not deserting our accepted policy that the best way of financially supporting the work of the Church is by direct and sacrificial giving. So, though our Summer Fete on July 2nd will have a large number of stalls and side-shows, most of them will be for a variety of societies and 'good causes.' There will be some raising money to help clear the expenses of the occasion, and if they do more than this—as well they might on a good fine day—then the proceeds will be used for a specific object, requested by many people, and now endorsed by the Church Council—the purchase of a further set of new hassocks to replace the old, worn-out ones still in use for want of something better. But the main purpose of the day will not be to extort every possible penny, either from willing buyers or unwilling victims, but to provide plenty of opportunity for fun and fellowship, enjoyment and entertainment. So note the date in your diary now, and try to keep it free.

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about
people, activities & organisations

THE TOWER

Practically everyone living in Hampton Hill is familiar with the outside of the Tower, but few people know much about the inside of it. It is felt that more people, especially Church members, should and would like to learn more about our Tower, and to this end an opportunity will soon be offered to you, the members of the congregation, as you arrive for a service, to climb the 30 stone steps into the clockroom of the Tower where you will see the bellringer in action, as it were, at the chimeboard and also

to inspect the clock mechanism operating the Church clock. There will be no charge and a notice on the inner west porch door as you enter, will indicate the appropriate Sundays and times when this arrangement operates.

For those who will not be able actually to visit the Tower and see for themselves, a few facts about it may be of interest. The Tower was erected to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee of Accession to the Throne. The foundation stone was laid on the 20th of June 1887, and the building was com-

pleted, at a cost of £2,500, in the following January 1888. It is the tallest structure in the Borough of Twickenham, standing 156 feet and is a prominent landmark even from the air for it is frequently seen by passengers in aircraft leaving London Airport for destinations all over the world. From the lower platform in the steeple, which is 83 feet above the ground, a fine view of the surrounding countryside may be seen, including Windsor Castle and Box Hill, both more than 12 miles away. Within the Tower is the Church Clock and 6 bells, fitted in 1893 and 1894. Many people still believe that the clock is electrically wound, as many tower clocks are, but here a large crankhandle is used. The clock consists of a mechanism and three weights, besides its outer faces. One weight controls the actual time-piece while the larger two weights are responsible for the general striking and the hour striking alone. For its striking the clock utilises four of the six bells. The bells are themselves bolted rigid to large timber beams and they are rung, or chimed, in carillon fashion whereby only the clappers are moved.

The above is then a brief history and description of our Tower and having, I hope, stimulated your interest in it I now conclude this article with an appeal. Each bell rope must have a fur handle with suitable backing material, and at this moment the existing handles need urgent attention and replacement.

If anyone has any unwanted fur in a robust condition suitable for new bellrope handles, preferably brown in colour, I should be very grateful if they would inform either the Vicar or myself and I will collect it. Further if anyone will offer their services as needle-girl or needle-lady to fit or repair bellrope handles would they too, inform the Vicar or myself and I shall be further gratified.

G. J. EATON.

THE YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

At our last meeting we had as our speaker the Hon. Mrs. Fox, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Young Wives' Department. She spoke to us about the objects of the Mothers' Union and explained to us how our increased subscription would be used. In an effort to encourage more members of Young Wives Groups to graduate

to the Mothers Union, she felt that a great deal could be done by individual branches in arranging programmes that would have a more universal appeal. As Mrs. Stevens pointed out, this was already being done in our own very live branch of M.U. The Ladybird Club are holding a Jumble Sale on Saturday, April 2nd in the Church Hall. The proceeds are to go to the Pestalozzi Children's Village. Reminders will be sent and collectors will call on you nearer the date. Meanwhile if you are Spring cleaning, don't forget to save your Jumble. The next Young Wives meeting will be held at Wayside on March 30th at 8 p.m. when the speaker will be Mrs. Hanchet, the Diocesan Secretary of Mothers Union, speaking about "Father's Place in the Home."

P.M.D.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP

After a somewhat unsettled period the Fellowship has returned to normal. Sunday evening meetings are held as formerly in the homes of members, the programme being arranged on a two monthly basis. We also meet at Wayside on Friday evenings between 7.30 and 9.30 for activities of a more recreational nature. The main items on our programme will be announced in 'The Spire' and also on the Church notice board. Before Christmas a launch was purchased, unfortunately without a motor, a deficiency which we hope to make good (any suggestions?) This is now resting 'bottoms up' in a garage and is being scraped down prior to repainting. A large number of members and friends are looking forward to a week on the Norfolk Broads in April, and three yachts and a motor launch have been booked to accommodate them.

All young people over the age of 13 are warmly invited to join the Fellowship.

The Vicar has approved the appointment as leaders of Kenneth Lapworth (treasurer), John Mortimore, George Robey (extra activities) and Seymour Harris (chairman of committee).

At a meeting of members, Robert Salisbury (secretary), Ruth Mills, and Ann Swindale were elected to the committee. Rowena Harris was co-opted, and appointed assistant secretary.

James West was appointed junior treasurer.

Mar. 6th—Vicar's Evening.

Mar. 13th—Speaker—"Who crucified Jesus?"

Mar. 20th—The Kingdom of Heaven.

Mar. 27th—Summing up of the parables of Jesus.

Apr. 3rd—Speaker—to be announced.

Apr. 10th—Palm Sunday — Open meeting—Parents and friends invited.

S.H.

THE YOUTH CLUB

The Friday and Sunday evening meetings are being enthusiastically attended. Our second Friday evening meeting was held on March 4th when some very useful and much appreciated dancing instruction was given by Mrs. Pyne to 50 "twinkle-toed" members, whilst our Youth Club leader, Mr. Barnes, arranged an informal Beetle Drive for the second part of the evening, which enabled our "budding Markovas" to regain their poise although the happy, light-hearted atmosphere was by no means lost. And to prove that we are keeping fit R. Baker, D. Judge, C. Rogers, A. Bruce, R. Hammond and M. Blake represent the club in a Cross-Country race organised by the Twickenham Youth Organization on Saturday, 12th March.

The Club, starting from scratch, has at the moment no equipment whatsoever, and gifts of games, such as Chess, Draughts, Monopoly, Scrabble, etc., would be warmly welcomed. Also a half-size snooker table, and cups and saucers.

S.B.

THE SCOUT GROUP

When I visited the Cubs the other night several new boys had joined the Pack, various games were being played and tests for a number of different badges were being taken.

It is hoped that when a boy arrives home from Pack meetings the parents do ask what he has been doing, as I am sure that a little bit of interest shown by parents makes all the difference to the boy's attitude to being a good Cub or Scout. Interests in scouting are many and varied when a boy has completed his time in a cub pack, he has the choice of joining a sea scout group, a scout group, or an air scout group. Sea and Air Scouts have now the official backing of the authorities.

Couple of nights later I had the pleasure of witnessing the enrolling ceremony of two scouts.

During the evening tests of various kinds were being taken and as I was leaving Guv was busy drilling them.

Bob a Job week will soon be with us again. It is hoped that all our readers will find plenty of jobs for the boys.

A. R. COOK.

ADDITION TO ADVERTISEMENT

E. & B. Horne, 143, Uxbridge Rd., are now on the 'phone—Molesey 2744.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

Mar. 24—Annual Parochial Church Meeting (W).

Mar. 25—The Annunciation. Holy Communion at 7.15 and 10.0 a.m. (N.B.—**Not** 10.30 a.m.). Mothers' Union Deanery Service at All Saints', Hanworth, at 3.0 p.m.

Mar. 27—Mothering Sunday, 11.0 a.m. Family and Parade Service. No Sunday School in afternoon.

Mar. 28—7.30 p.m. Meeting at the Central Hall—"South Africa—after the Boycott Month." (Arranged by Christian Action).

Mar. 29—8.0 p.m. Hampton Council of Churches Drama Group (W).

Mar. 30—8.0 p.m. Young Wives' Group. Speaker: Mrs. Hanchet—"Father's Place in the Home" (W).

Apr. 1—7.0 p.m. Coach Party leaves for Passion Play "Christ in the Concrete City" at Southwark Cathedral.

Apr. 2—7.0 p.m. "Freedom"—Moral Re-Armament Film in colour, the first ever written by Africans and presented by an all-African cast. All are welcome. (H).

Apr. 4—8.0 p.m. Hampton Council of Churches (Methodist Church).

Apr. 5—8.0 p.m. Summer Fete Committee (Laurel Dene).

Apr. 6—3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union. Speaker: Mrs. Iorwerth-Jones, J.P. (W).

Apr. 8—8.0 p.m. Institution of the Rev. E. J. Parkinson as Vicar of Hampton at St. Mary's Church.

Apr. 10—Palm Sunday. Crosses will be distributed at all services.

April 15—Good Friday.

10.0 a.m. Children's Service.

12.0-3.0 p.m. The Three Hours' Devotion, conducted by the Rural Dean, the Rev. C. M. Lamb.

3.45 p.m. Open-Air Service in Carlisle Park, arranged by the Hampton Council of Churches.

Apr. 17 Easter Day.

7.0, 8.0, 9.0 a.m. and 12.15 p.m.

Holy Communion.

11.0 a.m. Matins.

2.30 p.m. Children's Service.

6.30 p.m. Evensong.

Every Wednesday at 8.0 p.m.

there will be readings from Dr. W. E. Sangster's book "Give God a Chance," followed by discussion, and ending with the Office of Compline (Vestry).

The Junior Confirmation Class is meeting regularly as arranged, and it is now too late for new candidates to be accepted. A Senior Group will be formed when the names of more adults who are interested have been received.

All matter for the April magazine should be sent to the Vicarage not later than Tuesday, March 29th. We are aiming at publication on Friday April 8. We regret that this issue will not appear on March 18th, as announced last month, but a few days later. Copy received in good time is a great help towards prompt publication.

MARRIAGES

- Mar. 12.—Robert Howard Simmons to Mavis Mary Forward.
" 19.—Brian Elliott to Patricia Ann Osborne.

BURIALS

- Feb. 23.—George James Brown, Laurel Dene, aged 79 yrs. (at Teddington).
" 23.—Susan Ada Hendin, Telscombe Cliffs, Sussex, aged 85 years (at Teddington).
" 25.—George William Cyster, 298, Hanworth Road, aged 90 years (at Hampton).
Mar. 2.—Harold Vaughan Sheppee, 16, Laurel Road, aged 60 years (at Teddington).
" 10.—Harold Reginald Hurst, 12, Evans House, Watermill Way, Hanworth, aged 44 years.
" 11.—Rose Rebecca Simpkins, 41, Dean Road, aged 83 years (at Hampton).
" 12.—Hannah Bates, Laurel Dene, aged 77 years (at Teddington).
" 14.—Mary Batten, 44, Myrtle Road, aged 80 years.

FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH YEAR 1960

As well as still being in World Refugee Year, which began in 1959, we have now also entered World Mental Health Year. This is being observed in many countries as a year of care and concern for the mentally sick and mentally handicapped. The main approach will be medical and social. The Churches' Council of Healing believes that it should also be spiritual. All churches are therefore being asked to proclaim their conviction that true mental health must be based on the recognition of the fundamentally spiritual nature of man.

In this country the passing of the new Mental Health Act means that both preventive treatment and the after-care of mental patients will become an ever-increasing responsibility of the local authority. In

many districts occupational therapy centres, social clubs and hostels, for young patients as well as the elderly, will be set up, and the local churches should be ready to do all they can to help.

There is also much to be done in dispelling the clouds of prejudice and ignorance that still surround this kind of illness. Many people are secretly afraid of it, and shun the company of those who suffer from it. Often they are difficult and demanding, but loneliness may have helped them to become what they are. In fact, much illness could undoubtedly be prevented if there were fewer lonely people and more understanding and love in church and parish life. It is up to us and every Christian community to ponder these matters very deeply, and to prepare ourselves for more effective ways of service.