

Vicar's Notes

It is easy, and often interesting and enjoyable, to be a spectator. The trouble is that many of us still remain spectators when we ought to be actors. A recent newspaper correspondence blamed television (so often today's scape-goat) for this. A number of instances were given in which people just stood and watched to see what would happen next when action was called for. A woman fainted in a crowded 'bus; a man had a mishap; some teddy-boys knocked someone down, and people gazed as though they were watching something on a T.V. screen. Yes—T.V. may have encouraged this, but the spectator - attitude is no new thing. There were many spectators on that first Good Friday ("the people stood beholding") just as there are to-day. They just stood and watched. They had no wish to become involved themselves, but they did want to see what would happen next. They didn't want to miss anything. How this attitude eased the way of those who planned the evil deed and carried it through! And how it helps the triumphs of evil to-day!

SPECTATORS AND ACTORS IN SOUTH AFRICA

One of the tragedies of South Africa is that so many kind-hearted white people, including many good Churchpeople, just look on while injustices, indignities and even outright cruelties are inflicted on their black brothers and sisters. They do not want to become involved, or they are afraid of what might happen if they did. Like the priest and Levite, they come and look on the wounded man, but that is all they do. Perhaps most of us would do no more if we were in their place: with us too, fear is so often much stronger than love.

But not so with our dear and brave Hannah Stanton. She could never be just a spectator, however kindly, in circumstances like these—she had to act. Not in bitterness, not fanatically, not in rashness and frenzy—but quietly, wisely, calmly, out of love for God and her poor suffering neighbours. The wounded man she saw in Africa was not a victim of rob-

bers or bandits, but of the Government and the Police themselves.

Now Hannah is in their hands herself, a prisoner for righteousness' sake. We know the brutality of which these hands are capable. We may hope that her British nationality and white skin will be a protection to her against it. I can imagine that Hannah would hate to feel that she is privileged solely as a result of these extraneous things in ways that most of her fellow-prisoners are not. But that does not mean that we here in our security can just sit back and acquiesce in her suffering, because others are perhaps suffering much more than she is. We must do all that we can for them all. But Hannah is a priority. St. Paul himself admitted priorities—as I often say at the Communion, "While we have time, let us do good unto all men; and specially unto them that are of the household of faith." (Galatians 6, 10). Hannah is of our household and in the past she has done much for our growth in faith and love: she is still concerned about us, and a generous contributor to the Christian Giving Scheme. She is one for whom we must be specially concerned, whilst not forgetting the others.

BUT WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP?

Many of us have tried the usual means, letters to M.P.s, the High Commissioner for South Africa, and so on, so far without tangible result. As I write, a week after her arrest (some of these urgent matters have had first claim on my time, and no one will mind if as a result the magazine is a few days late again), I have just received a reply from Father Trevor Huddleston, in which he says:—

"We are doing everything humanly possible to get pressure upon the South African authorities by our High Commissioner, but up to now, no one has been allowed to see Hannah, not even a priest. We are totally in the dark, and her brother himself has been unable to make any contact with her."

By the time the magazine is published, the situation may have changed, and contact been estab-

lished. As soon as this happens, I hope to be able to send to her a message of admiration, encouragement and support in the name of us all.

If and when she is brought to trial, large sums of money may be needed for her defence. Help for this would come from National Defence and Aid Fund administered by Christian Action, which has been helping those under unjust arrest and their families for several years now. With many more in this position, funds are urgently needed now (cheques payable to Christian Action, should be sent to the Treasurer, Defence and Aid Fund, 2, Amen Court, London, E.C.4), and I know that all who read this will remain steadfast in prayer for Hannah and her fellow-prisoners, that their faith and love and courage do not fail.

BECOMING INVOLVED OURSELVES

The play, "Christ in the Concrete City," which some of us saw powerfully presented by the Southwark Cathedral Drama Group, was a tremendous attack on the attitude of those who do not want to get involved, but only to stand and watch at a safe distance and quite uncommitted. We were made to feel how much of this attitude still remains in ourselves. Good Friday and Easter are the right occasions for dealing with it and doing it to death. Let us not by-pass Good Friday, as so many do, and concentrate only on the joy of Easter. This joy will be far more real and deep if we have also been with Christ in His suffering, and allowed this to do its work in making us "dead indeed unto sin": then on Easter morning we can indeed enter more fully into

the inheritance of those who share Christ's victory and are truly "alive unto God" through Him.

WORLD REFUGEE YEAR

The effort for World Refugee Year will reach its climax in Christian Aid Week, May 7-14. Details of this will be given in next month's magazine, but I should like to hear as soon as possible of more volunteers to take part in the house-to-house collection; also of people willing to help erect and staff a Refugee Hut for the Week. A fortnight before this there will be a Clothing Drive throughout the Borough, and Wayside will be a Reception-centre on April 26 and 27, morning and afternoon. Again, I should be glad to hear of people willing to staff the centre, perhaps in 1½ hour shifts.

We have recently sent £25 from the Christmas Day offerings to Inter-Church Aid and Refugee Service (the remaining £13 was given to our own Parochial Charities). The Guides and the Young Wives' Group have also sent donations. A Jumble Sale has recently been held for Pestalozzi, and a coffee-party is in the offing. Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Western and their daughters arranged a bring-and-buy sale at their house in St. James's Avenue in March, and raised £21 for the Adoption Committee for Aid to Displaced Persons.

It is not only the financial help that counts, but also the thought behind it. One refugee recently wrote in halting English: "Also mentally the support means a lot for us. The faith to human goodness and the hope that at last the goodness will triumph over the force and terror in the world prevents from sinking into hopeless despair."

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about
people, activities & organisations

THE MOTHERS' UNION

The Annual Deanery Festival Service of the Mothers' Union was held at All Saints' Church, Hanworth, on Lady Day. Eighteen banners were carried in procession at the beginning and end of the Service. The Vicar of All Saints', The Rev. Leslie Chadd,

conducted Evensong. The sermon was preached by The Rev. Philip Case, of St. Hilda's, Ashford. The Mayoress, Mrs. Bostock, was present at the Service. Tea was served later by the members of All Saints' Branch.

Our Branch has been asked to be responsible for providing teas

at the coming Garden Fete (July 2nd). The Secretary would like the names of those willing to help in this, to be given to me at the meeting on Wednesday, May 4th. On that date Mrs. Stevens, our Chairman, will be speaking on "Jehovah's Witnesses." Reports of the Branch's activities since September of last year will be presented also at that meeting.

Other dates to note:—

(1) Deanery Young Wives' and Mothers' Union Party at All Souls' Church, St. Margarets, 7.45 p.m., Tuesday, April 26th. Admission 1/-. (667 bus to Mogden Lane, and then cross over to Northcote Road). Our M.U. Choir has been asked to sing.

(2) Diocesan Festival Service in St. Paul's Cathedral on Tuesday, May 10th, at 7 p.m. Preacher: The Bishop of Lancaster, Rt. Rev. Hoskyns Abraham. Mrs. Fisher will be present.

(3) May 17th in Caxton Hall: 70th Birthday Celebrations of London Diocese M.U. afternoon and evening, 2/- per session, or 3/6 double session.

V.R.

THE YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

The last Y.W. Meeting was most interesting and thought-provoking when Mrs. Manchet, Diocesan Secretary of the M.U., came to speak to us. Her theme, "Father's Place in the Home," was a great help as to the part a Father and Husband can play in Family life, one point being that if only we, the wives, would sometimes "play helpless" a little more we might find husbands would help much more. The chief aim being, as St. Paul said, that the Husband should be head of the Family. We were well pleased to have with us some friends from the M.U.

For our next meeting in April we are having a Speaker from the Consumers' Advisory Council, who will conduct a Quiz, when we shall be very pleased to welcome any visitors.

An outing was arranged on the 14th March to the Ideal Home Exhibition when a small party went; they thoroughly enjoyed themselves, though maybe were slightly "foot weary."

Through the very kind efforts of Mrs. Benet and Mrs. Ford, the Scottish dancing was arranged for

Wednesday afternoons so that some members were able to enjoy themselves learning all the intricate steps. These members are very keen and the dancing has proved most successful so that it is held now every Wednesday in the Parish Hall.

We are hoping in May to have an outing to the Theatre of which you will hear more in the future.

P. HUMPHREY

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

SOME DATES TO NOTE

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.

April 16.—Decorations of the church for Easter. Gifts of Flowers brought to the church before 9.45 a.m. would be much appreciated.

April 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.

April 18 and 19.—9.0 a.m. Holy Communion.

April 20.—10.30 a.m.—12.30 p.m.

Coffee Party arranged by the Ladybird Club of the Young Wives Group in support of the Pestalozzi Children's Villages. All will be welcome (Vicarage).

April 23.—7.45 p.m. Parish Easter Party and Social Evening (H).

April 26.—St. Mark.

9.0 a.m. Holy Communion.

7.45 p.m. Deanery Party for members of Mothers' Union Branches and Young Wives' Groups, at All Souls' Hall, St. Margarets.

8.0 p.m. Youth Club Committee.

April 27.—8.0 p.m. Young Wives' Group: Quiz arranged by Consumer Advisory Council—"Your Money's Worth" (H).

April 28.—8.0 p.m. Church Council (Vestry).

April 29.—5.45 p.m. Junior Confirmation Class begins to meet again after Easter Recess (Vestry).

Wayside will be open to receive Clothing for Refugees from 10.0 a.m. to 1.0 p.m. and 2.30 to 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 26 and 27.

BURIALS

Mar. 21.—Florence Ela Carter, 39, High St., aged 74 years.
„ 23.—Mabel White, Laurel Dene, aged 81 years (at Teddington).

BAPTISMS

Mar. 27.—Timothy Duncan Adam, Blackmore Farm.
„ 27.—Bridget Jane Frost, 194, Uxbridge Road.
„ 27.—Andrew James Hartland, 141, Burton's Rd.
„ 27.—Karen Stiles, 55, Hamilton Close, Feltham.

The May issue of the Magazine should be published on Friday, April 29.

FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

DEANERY MISSIONARY EXHIBITION

St. Mary's Hall, Twickenham
October 19—22

October seems a long way ahead, but we have all got to do a lot of serious, hard, concentrated praying if the Missionary Exhibition from the 19th to the 22nd of that month, in St. Mary's Hall, Twickenham, is to do its job. That means starting now and keeping it up. Of course if we mean business about God's business we shall pray daily with this intention at our ordinary devotions. But we all know, on Our Lord's authority that the most effective Christian praying is done together. So we are all going to tackle this as a deanery. Every parish is going to do its part and we are all going to pray together for the Exhibition at three special Deanery Intercession Services at St. Mary's Church, Twickenham.

If on these evenings we have a particularly attractive engagement—perhaps with our television set—we shall gladly sacrifice it to make sure of being at St. Mary's on our Master's business. In fact the more delectable the treat we are giving up the more grateful we shall be for the chance of offering prayers which have cost us something. Doing things the hard way is a Christian privilege, especially when the reward is to help in making more Christians.

That is what the Exhibition is all about. And nothing in the whole world is more colossally important. That is why two great missionary societies, the C.M.S. and the S.P.G. are going to combine the treasures of their vast experience and valiant history to make this exhibition a

great united effort. That means that nearly every country in the world will be covered. At the end of it we shall have a more vivid idea what staggering opportunities are just waiting to be seized. If we do not take them soon they may be gone for ever. Here is our great chance to do something about it. But first we must learn enough to kindle afresh our zeal for God's missionary work. It must burn in every Parish of the Deanery as brightly as the evangelistic passion which brought the first Christian missionary to Britain more than a thousand years ago.

We owe our faith, our civilisation, our moral standards, all that makes life worth living to those intrepid venturers for Christ. Thousands today are looking to us for the chance to learn about Him and to ensure that their children too shall have the blessings of being born into the heritage of a Christian Country. We cannot all be missionaries—though more of us probably could—but we can all pray and work for this exhibition. Do not let it be said we failed them.

J. G. N. MORLEY,
Press Secretary for
the Exhibition.

(N.B.—The first of the Intercession Services mentioned above will have been held before this magazine is published, and details concerning it have been withdrawn from the article. Information about the next will be given as soon as known. This parish has been asked to provide twelve stewards, for whom some preparation will be necessary. Names of volunteers should be given to Dr. Lapworth or the Vicar as soon as possible).