

Vicar's Notes

People rose to the occasion in Hampton, as elsewhere in the borough, for Christian Aid Week. The amount raised in the area covered by the Hampton Council of Churches was £450, with only £6 of this needed for expenses—"a truly magnificent result," as Mr. Richardson, this year's Chairman, says. Of this, £353 came from the house-to-house collection (£95 was our parish's contribution), and the remainder from special efforts, such as the Refugee Evenings at the Public Hall. We must also record the "bring-and-buy" sale organised by Mrs. Smales at her house in Cranmer Road, which brought in nearly £7. Mr. Wigginton and I spent a large part of one afternoon counting and preparing for the bank the proceeds from this district, and all those who gave of their time and money in carrying the enterprise through must rejoice with us that there was so much to count!

MUCH IN DEMAND

Since her return from South Africa, Miss Hannah Stanton has indeed been much in demand. She has been inundated with letters and requests of all kinds, and yet amidst it all she has kept gay and unruffled. This month there are two occasions when we shall have the opportunity of seeing her and hearing her speak. The first is a large public meeting, sponsored by the Churches of the Rural Deanery and various local associations, to take place at St. Mary's Hall, Twickenham, on Tuesday, July 12th, at 8.0 p.m. Our Member of Parliament will be in the chair. The second will be more intimate and homely, when she comes back to her old parish church on St. James's Day. She will speak in church at 7.45 p.m. but not just repeating what she has said on the 12th, she assures me—and then there will be an opportunity for her old friends to have a personal word with her at an "At Home" at the Vicarage afterwards. It would help with catering if you would kindly tell us whether you hope to be present.

HELPERS NEEDED

We are asked to supply at least

6 stewards for the Deanery Missionary Exhibition in October. The next training session is on September 14th.

The Old People's Welfare Committee appeal for more visitors for old people, especially the house-bound, many of whom live very lonely lives, and long for someone to take an interest in them. I will gladly pass on the names of any volunteers to the secretary.

THE MAGAZINE

The Printers now require a rather longer time to produce the magazine, so I hope that copy will now come in promptly at least a fortnight before publication is due. But even if it does, I still cannot guarantee that the magazine will appear on the day announced. The following paragraph, prepared for the May issue, but held over in type owing to lack of space, may help to explain why.

A HOPELESS TASK

Well, it often appears to be—the effort to get this magazine out at the expected time. Sometimes it is thwarted by one thing, sometimes by another. Sometimes, as on this occasion, the hitch occurs on my side; sometimes there is a delay at the printer's, and the magazine has to take its turn in the queue. But readers must rest assured that we do really do our best. This month there seemed a very good chance of getting everything ready in time for the magazine to appear promptly on the date announced. I was full of optimism—I would get everything together early to allow the printer well over the minimum amount of time normally required. I would set aside a whole continuous period, afternoon and evening, to get the job done. I did—but what happened? The afternoon was almost completely cut away by no fewer than eight interruptions, unforeseen, unavoidable, and some of them lengthy—matters requiring immediate attention. A few more came in the evening, and though I worked on till after midnight, and rose next day at 6.30, I could not make up the ground that had been lost. Other duties came crowding in, the magazine had to be put aside, except for odd moments, for sev-

eral days—and then held back further by a stop-press item—and now, I expect, it will appear on May 6, a week later than anticipated.

If only there were an extra day in the week, guaranteed free from interruptions! But we go on hoping . . . Perhaps the June issue We shall see!

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about
people, activities & organisation

THE MOTHERS' UNION

The Bring-and-Buy Sale of May 25th was a very pleasant affair though not so well supported as we should have liked. Nearly £5 was raised. On June 1st we were privileged to have as our speaker Mrs. Lambert, the Diocesan President, when we had as our guests a number of members from St. Mary's Branch and several from our own Young Wives' Group. Mrs. Lambert spoke about the Mothers' Union Prayer, which many people to-day find difficult and old-fashioned. Mrs. Lambert gave illustrations which helped to bring its meaning home. Her talk was so illuminating that many of us felt that it would be good to have a permanent tape-recording available, so that prospective members could hear it in the course of their preparation.

The meeting in July will be the usual quarterly service, followed by tea at Wayside. At the beginning of the next session, in September, we hope to enrol a number of new members.

The Branch has undertaken the catering at the Summer Fete, and we are grateful for the way in which members have offered their services.

We have been invited by St. Mary's to attend a meeting of their Branch in the Public Hall on Tuesday, July 19th, at 3.0 p.m., when Mrs. Marcus Knight will be the speaker.

All invalids appear to be making progress. Mrs. Childs is now back at home.

THE YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

On Thursday, 19th May, Mrs. Plumbley and I spent a very enjoyable day at Porchester Hall for a Y.W. Assembly arranged by Mrs. Fox.

Following two gay songs by a Y.W. choir the Assembly was formally opened by prayers and a very interesting talk by the Bishop of Stepney, who told us in an

understanding and humorous way the importance of bringing children to God. Our second talk was from Miss Bather, O.B.E., the Chief Superintendent of Women's Metropolitan Police, who told us of some of the duties of women police. She related some of the really tragic cases they have to deal with, and in particular she referred to the work they do in trying to prevent young people under 18, in particular girls, from taking the wrong road. It seems that 95% of juvenile delinquents are from broken homes of one sort or another.

The afternoon session opened with a talk from Mrs. Christopher Soames, J.P., about the importance of taking children to church. She considered that if they went regularly with their parents they would not grow out of religion, but in fact, grow into it. I only wish I could write here all the things Mrs. Soames said as her talk was so very interesting and helpful, but I am afraid that is not possible, so I will just hope that some day maybe you may have the opportunity of hearing her.

The last item on the programme was a forum designed to answer the usual questions raised by Y.W. about the M.U. Unfortunately time was running short and the answers the M.U. gave were rather rushed but nevertheless they were interesting and in the short time available made their point quite clear. The answers were given by leading members of the M.U.

For our May meeting we had Mrs. Bhaska to tell us of her tour of countries "Behind the Iron Curtain." We all found her talk most interesting, but I'm sure we felt very glad we lived in England.

On June 15th we had our Baptismal party in the Vicarage garden. It was as usual a great success and the weather was wonderful. We had fourteen new mothers

with their babies as well as a number of Y.W. members and their children. The children were sufficiently quiet to enable Mrs. Brunt, our President, to tell all the mothers what the Y.W.G. does and most of them seemed keen to join us. After the mothers had gone home, the committee settled down to a nice quiet cup of tea, while two unsuspecting husbands who had come to find their wives returned the chairs and tables to Wayside! We do thank them very much and also all the Y.W.'s who turned up and helped.

Our July meeting will be a discussion. E.V.S.

THE YOUTH CLUB

Friday, June 10th, Windmill road School, 8 p.m.—in the main hall over 40 young people playing table tennis, concentrating on chess, jiving, listening to music and just talking; in a classroom down the passage, members of the committee shuffling uneasily on chairs made for 5-year-olds. "It doesn't look as if anyone else is coming." This is an indication that time is getting on and the meeting had better start anyway. Minutes are read. Memories of the Borough Youth Week and of the Fish and Chip Supper we had in Bushy Park on June 3rd. Membership: There are now nearly eighty people holding provisional membership cards introduced last month. Chairman announces that ratio of boys to girls is nearly four to one and proposes a waiting list for boys. Suggestion shouted down by girls. So everyone between fifteen and twenty-five is welcome to come and join us. Appointments: Chairman proposes sub-committee to take the weight off the shoulders of the General Committee. General Committee agree unanimously. For the information of parishioners, the following are at present officers of the club:—

General Committee: Members' representatives: Pene Allport, Susan Baker (Hon. Sec.), Geoffrey Eaton, Geoffrey Harding (Vice-Chairman), Richard Palk (Chairman).

Adult representatives: Mrs. A. Harding (Hon. Treas.), Miss D. Tarrant, Mr. W. Wigginton.

P.C.C. representative: Mrs. G. Johnson.

Vicar of St. James's Church: Rev. R. H. Brunt.

Executive Sub-Committee: Pat Allport (Hon. Sec.), Pene Allport, Susan Baker, Ann Buck, Susan Coe, Alan Bruce, Mike Cox (Hon. Sec.), Robin Ford, David Judge, Bruce Roebuck (Chairman).

Leader: Mr. B. Barnes; **Assistant Secretary:** Brenda Walden; **Asst. Treasurer:** Richard Baker.

The members of the Executive Sub-Committee each have their own sphere in the activities for which they are responsible. "Have we got much more to do?" comes the plaintive cry. Secretary announces that the Vicar of Hampton will address the club on Sunday, June 19. Mr. Barnes announces that the club's monthly social will be held on June 24.

And for the future? We compete in the Borough Youth Athletics Meeting on June 25. We are running a number of stalls and sideshows at the Church Fete on July 2. We continue to meet regularly on Sundays and Fridays until July 22nd. Thereafter, there will be no meetings on Fridays, but we shall continue to meet on Sundays, whenever possible. The club will re-open on September 9th (provisional) and—members, please note—the first A.G.M. will be held, subject to confirmation, at the Windmill Road School on Friday, September 23rd, at 7.45 p.m.

The time is nearly 9.45, no one has put the light on and we can hardly see across the room. Meeting adjourned.

Later News:

Richard Palk, our Chairman, who wrote the above, has now gone to France for two months, to help at a holiday-camp for school-children. He has taken his camera with him, and we look forward to seeing some interesting colour-photographs when he returns. Our Vice-Chairman, Geoffrey Harding, had to be rushed to hospital with acute appendicitis at Whitsun, and has had various complications since. We are glad to hear that he is now convalescent, but we shall not be seeing much of him until the middle of July.

Under the auspices of the Hampton Council of Churches, an Association of Church Youth

Clubs is now being formed. Susan Baker is our representative on this Committee.

On June 12, two most interesting films of "Woodlarks" were shown. This is the camping-centre for handicapped people in Surrey, and there they do things that not long ago would have seemed utterly impossible. But to enable this to happen, many able-bodied volunteers are needed, and if more were forthcoming, more camps for 'handicaps' (the word 'cripples' is now never used) could be held. David Judge, one of our members, is going to help at a camp in August.

On June 19th, we were privileged to welcome Mr. Parkinson, the new Vicar of Hampton—and what an enthralling talk he gave us! He spoke mainly of his work in Limehouse, and we seemed to be in an entirely different world from the cosy one we know. But in this setting of flick-knives and the smashing up of youth clubs, where the church was thought by many to be a museum, there is now a flourishing Christian community, which has taken up the challenge. The Church now counts for something—and something very worthwhile.

STANDING MATTER ADDITIONS & ALTERATIONS

Magazine Secretary:

Mr. C. W. Smith, 9, Carlisle Road, Hampton. Tel.: Mol. 1956.

Organist and Choirmaster:

Mr. C. G. Welling, A.R.C.O., A.R.C.M., 16, Clive Road, Twickenham. Tel.: Pop. 5958.

Addition to Advertisement:

Messrs. E. & B. Horne, 143, Uxbridge Road, are now on the 'phone: Mol. 2744.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

July 11.—8.0 p.m. Hampton Council of Churches (W).

July 12.—8.0 p.m. Public Meeting sponsored by Hampton Rural Deanery at St. Mary's Hall, Twickenham. Miss Hannah Stanton will speak on the present position of Missions in South Africa.

July 14.—8.0 p.m. Parochial Church Council (Vestry).

July 17.—8.0 a.m. First Communion of the newly-confirmed, followed by a breakfast at Wayside arranged by the Young People's Fellowship.

5.30 p.m. Evensong (said only).

6.30 p.m. United Service sponsored by the Hampton Council of Churches, in the Hampton Hill Congregational Church.

7.45 p.m. Young People's Gathering in the Congregational Church Hall. The Vicar will introduce a topic for discussion: "Alternatives to War?"

July 22.—St. Mary Magdalen.

7.15 a.m. Holy Communion.

July 23.—3.0 p.m. Scout Group Fete (Laurel Dene).

July 24-25.—**Patronal Festival.**

On the Sunday, services will be as usual. On Monday, St. James's Day: Holy Communion at 7.15 and 10.30 a.m.; Evening Prayers and Meeting in Church at 7.45 p.m. Miss Hannah Stanton will give an address. After the meeting there will be an informal "At Home" at the Vicarage.

July 27.—No Holy Communion at 7.15 a.m.

8.0 p.m. Young Wives' Group (W).

The first Harvest Thanksgiving Service this year will be a week earlier than usual, on Thursday, September 29, at 7.15 p.m., followed by the customary Supper and Entertainment.

The Deanery Missionary Exhibition takes place in St. Mary's Hall, Twickenham, from October 19 to 22.

It is hoped to publish the August issue of the magazine on Tuesday, August 9. Copy should be sent in not later than a fortnight earlier, July 26.

The last meeting of the Junior Confirmation Class will be on Friday, July 22. A Group for adults will begin in the autumn.

BAPTISMS

June 26.—Graham Percival Hyde, 65, Longford Close.

„ 26.—Jane Lindsay Moon, Cransford, Storrsdale Rd., Mossley Hill, Liverpool.

MARRIAGES

June 11.—Robert John Riches to Beryl Weston.

„ 18.—John Vousden to Iris Joan Wickenden.

„ 18.—John Edward Germany to Pamela Ann Coalter.

„ 25.—David Alfred Clement to Anne Marion Chandler.