

THE HAMPTON COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Three things are happening under the auspices of the Hampton Council of Churches this month.

The first is an effort to raise money for relief work in the Congo, and in particular to help our fellow-Christians there. As in the Mau-Mau troubles some years ago, African Christians are the worst sufferers. When things go wrong, Christians are often the first to be made scapegoats, and reports reaching missionaries tell of Christians having their eyes put out and their limbs chopped off in a recrudescence of pagan savagery.

To raise funds, Mrs. Eustace, on behalf of the Council, is conducting a continuous Bring-and-Buy Sale of good garments, and so far by this means over £40 has come in. Clothing in good condition can be sent direct to her at 25, Chestnut Avenue, or to Mrs. Wigginton, 18, Cranmer Road. Unsold garments can be inspected on most days at Mrs. Eustace's house between 9.30 a.m. and 4.0 p.m., and she is also bringing a selection to Wayside on March 29th at 3.45 p.m., to give more opportunity to give, inspect and buy to those in this district.

The Council is also arranging the usual open-air service in Carlisle Park on Good Friday at 3.30 p.m. Processions of Witness will leave St. Mary's and All Saints' at 3.10 p.m., and members of our congregation are asked to join one of them at the starting-point if they can—it may be possible to have some cars available for transport at the end of the Three Hours. If not, try to join one of the processions on the way, or else proceed direct to the Park.

The last play which the Council sponsored was a Nativity Play in St. Mary's—now we are to have a Passion Play in St. James's once again, at 8.0 p.m. on March 21st and 22nd. "Christ in the Concrete City" is a modern play, first presented in Hinckley Parish Church in March 1953. It is written for a cast of 6, though some of us saw it presented very effectively in Southwark a year ago with one of about 16. But those who have seen it done in both ways

seem to think the smaller cast is better—and it fits very well into the rather limited space available in our church. The author acknowledges his great debt to Henri Ghéon's "The Way of the Cross," a play now very widely acclaimed, though when it first appeared in England in 1940 it was criticised by a Roman Catholic writer who might have been expected to be sympathetic with a co-religionist as "giving nothing to the mind and leaving the will untouched. Such art is not indicative of a virile Catholicism." Philip Turner's play may also perhaps be criticised for not giving as much to the mind as it might, but there is no doubt that it constitutes a great challenge to the will. Come and see if this is not so.

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

No-one would accuse us of being stereotyped in any of our parish activities and the Christmas Party is no exception.

The mixture—games, dancing and refreshments—as before, but never "the same old party." It can't be easy to think up new games each year or to amuse and entertain all ages from eleven upwards but this year, once again, it was done.

And one might not think there were many new variations on the refreshment theme, but once again it was done—this time it was a cheese and beer bar with French loaves and lots of butter and a sandwich an patisserie buffet. Very good too!

Once again we all enjoyed ourselves immensely and are very grateful to those who put in the arduous work in an already busy season to provide this family party.

Perhaps one reason for its recurrent success is the fact that each year a few new members join with a few old hands to form the arrangement committee. Our thanks to all of them.

SPRING-CLEANING

Apart from its weekly cleaning, the church usually get an extra 'going over' either before Christmas or Easter. This year Mrs. Mills, 40, Oldfield Road, Molesey 6626, has been appointed general foreman (or perhaps we should say forewoman!) She plans to get started at 9.0 a.m.

on Thursday, March 23rd. There is work for everyone—some sedentary jobs, plenty of scrubbing and polishing, and—for strong men only—cobweb sweeping with our special extending cobweb brush.

There is a paper on the table in church where those who would like to share in this job can sign on for a time that suits them.

THE CARE OF CHILDREN

This subject has been much in our minds lately, and was brought before us in several ways last month.

On February 1st, the Mothers' Union had as their speaker Mr. Allen, the Area Children's Officer. He spoke in detail of the great responsibilities for the welfare of children placed on his department, and how these were being discharged. There are 67 homes in Middlesex for children whose parents are not able to look after them, and 2,600 children under care at any one time—but during the course of a year many thousands more are helped for short periods. There is a constant need for people of the right kind who are willing to become foster-parents. As we listened to Mr. Allen, we all felt grateful for the devoted work done for deprived children on behalf of the community by the officers of the Children's Department.

Then on Sunday, February 26th, we heard of the Church's special contribution in this field. Mr. Durden, of the Church of England Children's Society (formerly Waifs and Strays), spoke of the work of his Society in church, and then showed a striking colour-film to illustrate what he had said at Wayside. Most people are easily moved by pictures of small and helpless children, and pictures of lovely babies call forth an immediate response. This film steered clear of any false sentimentality while showing pictures of healthy, lively children in small homes quite different from "institutions"; of young orthopaedic patients and other disabled children receiving efficient professional help and love to train them to lead useful and happy lives; and of special schools and homes for backward, spastic or mentally-disturbed children. This work is done in our name, on our behalf. It depends on the constant support of the Church. At any one time over 5,000 children are being looked after—and looked after in that complete sense which

includes being brought up in the knowledge and love of God, and the joy of fellowship in His Church. No help comes from any public funds. As a result of this evening, we shall no doubt resolve to send support to this great work, from our Christian Giving Scheme.

Many homes also have their own collecting-box—and our local secretary, Miss Olive Wright, 15, School Road, would be pleased to supply anyone else who would like one.

For further reading—"The Shorn Lamb," by John Stroud (Longmans 1960, 16/-). This gives a vivid account of the work of a Child Care Officer in a not-too-salubrious part of a big city. It is touching and often pathetic, but also extremely funny.

I also recently saw two films which I hope it may be possible at some future time to show in this parish. One, "Grief—A Peril in Childhood" was a heart-rending documentary of the great harm caused to healthy, normal infants by prolonged separation from their mothers. The other, "A Feeling of Rejection," was made in Canada by the National Society for Mental Health and showed how much damage can be caused by well-meaning parents in an outwardly happy home by actions and attitudes that make a sensitive child feel rejected and undermine her confidence. After seeing it, one feels that it should be made compulsory viewing for young couples, either just before marriage, or at any rate as part of their preparation for their baby's baptism. Also, many hospitals and maternity homes still seem not fully aware of how much young children need constant contact with mother (the moral of the first film) and harsh restrictions on visiting and strict routines of feeding and nursing still persist, doing untold harm.

After seeing these films, I had the opportunity of a long conversation with a lady I know who does voluntary welfare work on behalf of the Church in a part of Stepney where conditions are very bad for children, and normal home and family life is almost unknown. Hundreds of children in areas like this have no idea who their real parents are, and the odds against their growing up without deep interior wounds are very high. To put things right in districts like this, nothing less than an all-

out effort of slum-clearance and rehabilitation, in which Church, State and Local Government work together will be any good—and so far the two latter have not shown many signs of being aware of the gravity of the situation and the urgent need for tackling it before it gets completely out of hand.

The Young Wives' Group at their meeting in February also discussed the needs of children whose upbringing has left deep psychological scars, and what can be done to help them—further mention of this appears elsewhere.

THE YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

For our February meeting we were fortunate in having Mrs. P. Macmillon as our speaker who is the Psychiatric Social Worker for the area. She concentrated her talk mostly on children and from it, it became apparent that in the majority of cases they are not really problem children at all, but a child's problems have a direct link with the parents' attitude towards them and their family history—perhaps reaching back to a previous generation. This extremely interesting and far-reaching subject prompted many of the Mothers present to speak after about their own 'problems.'

It is hoped that we shall be able to ask Mrs. Macmillon to return at a later date to give us more guidance in this subject, which is of great importance to family happiness.

The next meeting will be on March 29th, when Mrs. Stevens will be the speaker.

A. McN.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP

Our visit to the Youth Club on Friday, February 17th was very enjoyable and fairly well supported. The Y.P.F. won all the table-tennis matches.

We hope that all those interested in the Y.P.F. will keep Palm Sunday, March 26th, free to come to our Open Meeting at Wayside.

We are still homeless as far as the boat is concerned, so please don't think that any suggestions for mooring spaces are too late.

The Easter Holidays will soon be here. Perhaps most of the Y.P.F. parents are looking forward to this as they will be rid of their offspring

for a whole week while the holiday on the Lakes is in progress. We can, therefore, wish them and all other parishioners a very Happy Easter.

R.M.

THE YOUTH CLUB

The Club has now bought a new stereophonic record player; this provides a pleasant change from the previous record player which had an unfortunate habit of collapsing from exhaustion when it was most needed.

Encouraged by the success of our dance last November, we organized another one on February 10th, from which we gained more profits. Ann Buck, our refreshment organizer, would like to thank Mrs. Walden, Mrs. Johnson, and Mrs. Light for their help on the catering side. Richard Baker ran a successful raffle.

Pat Allport managed the unmanageable when she organized a net-ball team which beat St. Margaret's Youth Club 14-3 (though how I shall never know).

The Y.P.F. paid us a visit on February 17th; I think they enjoyed it. We are still waiting for a return visit!

David Judge, our Vice-Chairman, is running a Jumble Sale at the Parish Hall. This will have taken place by the time these notes appear in print, and we hope that we shall be able to announce its success next month, as we need money to pay for our new record-player.

For future attractions in the Club we have: some fencing instruction every week from now on, an evening of films, and a visit from the Gideon Society.

New members from 15 years of age will be very welcome.

THE CHAIRMAN (G.H.)

FOR SALE.—A child's desk, adjustable height 16 inches to 2 feet. Apply at the Vicarage, Mondays, 12 noon—1.0 p.m. or 5.0—6.0 p.m.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

March 21.—8.0 p.m. Passion Play: "Christ in the Concrete City," presented in Church.

March 22.—No service at 7.15 a.m. today. 5.30 p.m. Service of Thanksgiving in St. Paul's Cathedral in commemoration of the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of The Lady Eleanor Holles School. 8.0 p.m. Second performance of 'Christ in the Concrete City.'

March 23.—9.0 a.m. Spring-cleaning of the Church begins (N.B. No service at 10.30 a.m. today) and will continue until Maundy Thursday. 8.0 p.m. Parochial Church Council (Vestry).

March 24.—3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union Deanery Festival Service, St. Alban's, Teddington.

March 25.—The Annunciation. 9.0 a.m. Holy Communion.

March 26.—Palm Sunday. Crosses will be available at all services. 11.0 a.m. Family Service.

March 27.—9.0 a.m. Holy Communion.

March 28.—9.0 a.m. Holy Communion. 8.0 p.m. Prayer Group (Vestry).

March 29.—7.15 a.m. Holy Communion. 3.0 p.m. Holy Week Service (Mothers' Union). 3.45 p.m. Sale of Garments for Congo Relief (W). 8.0 p.m. Young Wives' Group, Speaker: Mrs. Stevens (W).

March 30.—Maundy Thursday. 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.

March 31.—**Good Friday.**

10.0 a.m. Children's Service.
12.—3.0 p.m. The Three Hours' Devotion, conducted by the Rev. Douglas S. Richardson (St. Mary's, Hampton: Vicar-Designate of West Twyford).

3.30 p.m. Open-Air Service in Carlisle Park, arranged by the Hampton Council of Churches. Processions of Witness will leave St. Mary's and All Saints' at 3.10 p.m.

April 1.—Decoration of the Church for Easter. Gifts of flowers brought to the church before 9.45 a.m. would be much appreciated.

April 2.—**Easter Day.**

7.0, 8.0, 9.0 a.m. and 12.15 p.m. Holy Communion.
9.45 a.m. Childrens' Service.
11.0 a.m. Matins.
6.30 p.m. Evensong.

April 6.—10.30 a.m. Holy Communion. (This will be the only week-day service in church this week).

April 12.—3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union (W).

April 15.—2.30 p.m. Jumble Sale, organised by O.P.W. Committee. (H).

April 17.—8.0 p.m. Hampton Council of Churches (St. Mary's).

April 18-19.—Clothing Drive for Refugees in this Borough.

Wayside open as a Reception Centre 2.0-5.30 p.m. on both days.

May 8-14.—Christian Aid Week. House-to-house collection for Refugees organised by Hampton Council of Churches.

The Adult Confirmation Group and the Junior Confirmation Class continue to meet as arranged. It is now too late for any more members to be accepted, but it is hoped to form a new group in the autumn at which they will be welcome.

It was not possible to bring out this issue of the magazine as early as expected, but the April magazine should be ready either immediately before or just after Easter. We are several distributors short, and the Vicar would like to hear of any volunteers.

BAPTISMS

Feb. 26.—Gwyneth Brown, 30, Longford Close. (Received into the Church).

„ 26.—Alison Kay Emery, 24, Longford Close.

„ 26.—Jane Robins, 132, Uxbridge Road.

MARRIAGES

Jan. 21.—Royston Lake to Gillian Rita Buxton.

Feb. 25.—Kenneth Edward Raffaelli to Mavis Brewster.

BURIALS AND CREMATION

Jan. 19.—Nellie Maud Harrison, 4, Chelsea Close (at Teddington).

„ 28.—Rosa Kathleen Morley Horder, 34, Old Deer Park Gardens, Richmond, and until recently, 34, Park Road, aged 89 years (at S.W. Middx. Crematorium).

Feb. 10.—Amelia Mary Seers, 10, Longford Close, aged 80 years (at Teddington).

„ 21.—Ruth Mary Vanner, 35, Uxbridge Road, aged 94 years.

Mar. 6.—Emily Trill, Laurel Dene, aged 86 years (at Teddington).