

## SPRING-CLEANING OF THE CHURCH

As I write, this is still in progress, but it is proving to be the most thorough cleaning that has been undertaken for a long time. The inky-black water pouring from washing-machines as curtains were cleaned makes one wonder how many years ago it was since some of them had their last wash. We now see them again in their original colours, and it is an amazing difference. Some parts of the church had apparently not been touched for nearly 60 years, but they were reached this time! Seymour Harris found two tattered pages of "The Daily Telegraph" for Saturday, March 14, 1903, keeping out the draught from a ventilator shaft under the west window, where they had been doing their job undisturbed all these years. The first article on the 'Page for Women' is entitled 'Superfluous Wives,' and deals with a remarkable decree issued by the Ameer of Afghanistan, "The people of His Highness's turbulent capital," we read, "on an early day in February last, were astonished by the appearance of criers who, by beat of drum, proclaimed it as the Ameer's will that in future no Afghan should have more than four wives." In another column there are descriptions of some of the most beautiful dresses worn at their Majesties' first Court of the Season. And then, strangely enough, on the next page, among the small advertisements, two items concerning our own district:—

Hampton-on-Thames.—To be Let or Sold, eight very attractive, newly-decorated, modern Villas, each containing two reception, four bedrooms, bath, and usual offices. Quiet and select. Close to station, electric trams, and Bushey Park. Rents £36. Price £500 each, 99 years' lease.—Hughes and Hughes, Estate Agents, 23, Coleman-street, E.C. Tel.: 1417 London-Wall.

Hampton Hill.—To be Let, Semi-detached Villa, pleasant open situation, near Bushey Park and Thames. Five bedrooms, bathroom (H. & C.), two reception rooms, kitchen and offices. Garden, with lawn. Rent 40 guineas.—Apply: 1 Chester-villas, Uxbridge-road, Hampton Hill. Thames

Valley Line (L. and S.W.) or Tube and Tram.

These two advertisements are interesting side-lights on the change in property and land values in this area since the days of Edward the Peacemaker, and the difference in the worth of money.

Churches, as well as accumulating dust and dirt, also acquire a vast amount of junk as the years go by, put aside because 'it might come in useful sometime.' The spring-cleaners have been rightly ruthless in disposing of most of this.

We are grateful to them all for this magnificent effort, and especially for the leadership and direction of Mrs. Mills.

## THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

We have been asked to print the Balance Sheet as presented to this meeting in the magazine, so that those faithful parishioners who would have liked to be at the meeting but were prevented by reasons of health may have the opportunity of studying it. Fortunately or unfortunately our accounts are now so lengthy and complicated that to include them in full would take up all the space available, and without many additional notes of explanation (such as are given verbally by the treasurers at the meeting) much might well be misunderstood. What we hope to do next month is to give a brief summary of the accounts and general financial position, and also a report of the other matters brought up at the meeting, so that everyone will be able to see the wood without bothering too much about the trees. For those who would like to see the trees as well, Mr. Melville has a few spare duplicated copies of the audited accounts which he would be glad to give to anyone interested, and we hope also to have some on the table in church.

## "CHRIST IN THE CONCRETE CITY"

This is a Passion Play performed by people who wear ordinary working or sports clothes, putting on cloaks when they re-enact historical episodes. The past and the present are very skilfully woven together by the author, so that the past is seen

to be very relevant to what is happening to-day. The author is out to challenge the uncommitted, spectator, 'couldn't-care-less' attitude of so many people in the modern world, and he does so in many striking ways. In one scene the alternatives are clearly put: either to worship the god made in our image, who winks a tolerant eye at our adultery, or the acknowledgement of the true God, who seems to us an interfering, meddling God, because He will not let us rest content with the shoddy and second-rate. The Christ of Calvary and Galilee becomes a very present contemporary, pressing on us to take notice of Him for our own good, not His.

The play was received with great attention on the two evenings when it was presented in St. James's, and the Crucifixion scene was so realistic that many people were deeply moved. Those who were present felt that it was a great pity that many more had not made the effort to come.

£15-10-0 was raised in the two nights, and after the cost of the production has been met, the balance will be given to Inter-Church Aid for the relief of homeless and starving people.

The play is also being presented in Sunbury and Richmond in Holy Week.

### **THE OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE COMMITTEE**

The Hampton Hill Committee was formed nearly 7 years ago. The 'Wider Church Commission' of the Church Council felt that such a committee should be formed in the district, and the Church Council endorsed the recommendation and proceeded to put it into effect. Mr. Forrow wrote many letters to different organisations inviting them to send representatives to the inaugural meeting which was held in the hall on September 21, 1954. The late Dr. Marjory Warren was the main speaker. On the previous Sunday there had been a special service for old people in church. (I record these facts now because there are different versions current about the way in which the Committee came to be, and some people have forgotten that the whole initiative came from the Church).

Since its formation, the Committee has worked steadily to "promote the general good of all old people in Hampton Hill," and the lives of

many have been made much brighter. There are wardens in every street to whom any old person can go for advice or practical help. There are frequent parties and entertainments in the hall, and every year some old people are taken for a week's holiday by the sea. This year a party of 30 is going to Cliftonville at the end of May. The Borough Council pays a proportion of the cost of these holidays, and the old people themselves like to pay as much as they can, but many of them just cannot afford the whole amount. To help meet these expenses, a Jumble Sale is being held in the Hall on April 15. Mrs. Beckett will be glad to arrange for the collection of articles to sell at this.—Please 'phone Teddington Lock 2421.

### **THE MOTHERS' UNION**

There was a good attendance at the Annual General Meeting which was held on March 1st. The Secretary reported on the events of the past twelve months, and recorded the deaths of three regular members, the enrollment of the Chairman of Young Wives' Group as a Mothers' Union member. There were now forty members. The Birthday Scheme had been inaugurated, a Banner Carrier had been ordered, and new china for Wayside purchased jointly by Mothers Union and Young Wives.

The Branch was deeply grateful to Mrs. Stevens who, since September 1959, had acted so efficiently and sympathetically as Chairman, despite her many commitments in the Deanery, and in the Diocese. Thanks were also expressed to Mrs. Cliff for her excellent work as Treasurer; to Mrs. Allport and Mrs. Lewis who had shared the work of administering the Kind Thoughts Fund; to Mrs. Wilcox for her untiring work as Caterer and to Mrs. Rockliffe as Secretary.

Mrs. Stevens stressed the need for a new approach—this might involve changing the day and time of meetings. The necessity for this had been emphasised at the recent Deanery Training Day, as was the need for regular church worship by all members.

Mrs. Broady was presented with a flower vase on the occasion of her departure for Buxton.

The following were subsequently elected, Mmes. Allport, Casey, Futter, Lewis, Prentice, Rockliffe, Stevens and Uden.

At a subsequent meeting of the Committee, Mrs. Stevens consenting to remain as Chairman, Mrs. Prentice was elected as Enrolling Member. (We are now in the unique position of having mother and daughter holding office as leaders of Mothers Union Branch and Young Wives Group). Other appointments: Treasurer, Mrs. Uden; Journal and Publications Secretary, Mrs. Futter; Programme Secretary, Mrs. Rockliffe; Kind Thoughts, Mrs. Lewis; Watch and Social Problems Representative, Mrs. Allport; Overseas Representative, Mrs. Casey; Catering, Mrs. Wilcox.

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At the Deanery Festival held in St. Alban's Church, Teddington, our Branch was well represented. The Banner was carried by Mrs. Prentice, with Mrs. Casey and Mrs. Uden in attendance. Mrs. Futter was present in her official capacity as Mayoress.

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### PERSONALIA

We regret the passing of Mrs. Morley Horder in her ninetieth year. Her body had become very frail, but her mind and spirit were keen and lively to the end. It was a joy to talk to her, she spoke so well on many subjects, and had penetrating insight and judgement. She had read widely in theology, and thought deeply on what she had read. She combined wisdom and love to a remarkable degree, and her personality was most gracious and attractive. In her last years she showed what a beautiful thing old age can be when the love of God is its central feature.

Who could think of St. James's without thinking also of Miss Edwards? Often unobtrusively in the background, but always there and always ready to do what needed doing if no one else was available, it is hard to imagine the church without her. But she now wishes to retire—in fact, she has officially retired: her notice has been given in and regretfully received by the Church Council. But she is still there almost as much as ever she was—she voluntarily came forward off her own bat, and quietly started doing again nearly all that she had done before, when she found that the

Council had been unable to find anyone to replace her. I think it was as long ago as 1936 or 1937 when she began her work as cleaner, adding to this the duties of a verger, but without the title, in about 1942. One characteristic has been her utter reliability—always there in good time on the many occasions when her services are required. The only time when she did not turn up was not her fault—she had been sent a wrongly dated funeral notice by an undertaker. And only twice in the last ten years has she been later than 7.40 a.m. in opening up the church on a Sunday morning, whatever the weather. It would be a splendid record for someone half her age, and we are very grateful. It has been impossible to persuade her to have a holiday—now I hope she will think of it! We would like to show our appreciation of this faithful service in some tangible form, and donations for this purpose would be gladly received by the Vicar and churchwardens, or any members of the Council.

It was interesting to see Gerald Holmes, one of the original members of our Drama Group, and now a professional actor, taking the part of a young doctor in "Emergency—Ward 10" recently. We hope that we shall see him again before long.

We are trying to remember the name of a lady who, a long time ago now, said that she had lost a cameo-brooch which meant a great deal to her. What may well be it has now come to light in an obscure corner of the church. We should be pleased to restore it to the owner if she would kindly make herself known, though we fear that she may have left the parish.

Talking of obscure corners—we often hear of church mice, though perhaps rarely see them, but Miss Edwards tells me there are plenty about in St. James's, and at one time many used to be caught in traps. It now seems that a cat has also taken up residence—perhaps because of the attraction of these other guests. When attempts are made to catch her, she quietly retreats to an inaccessible spot behind the organ. We hope that she doesn't do anything to put it out of tune! Perhaps we shall be able to persuade her to transfer to a more suitable abode in the course of our springcleaning.

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## SOME DATES TO NOTE

- 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.—Twickenham Borough Clothing Drive for Refugees. Wayside open as a reception centre on both days 2.0—5.30 p.m.  
April 25.—St. Mark. Holy Communion at 7.15 a.m.  
April 26.—8.0 p.m. Young Wives' Group (W). Speaker: Mrs. Latey—"Adolescence."  
May 2.—"Faith in Africa." Exhibition at Greenford.  
May 8-14.—Christian Aid Week. House-to-House collection for Refugees, organised by Hampton Council of Churches.  
May 18.—8.0 p.m. Church Council (Vestry).

The Adult Confirmation Group will start to meet on April 18, and the Junior Class on April 21.

Copy for the May magazine should be sent to the Vicarage by Monday, April 17. Magazines should be available on April 28.

Volunteers to staff Wayside on April 18-19, and to help in Christian

Aid Week, are urgently needed. Please send names to the Vicarage.

## BAPTISMS

- Mar. 26.—Christopher John Everett, 69, New Road, Hanworth.  
" 26.—Alan Perry Glazier, 47, Wolsey Road.  
" 26.—Michael Richard Johnson, 16, Hartland Road.  
" 26.—Elaine Wendy Munden, 54, Myrtle Road.

## MARRIAGES

- Mar. 18.—Kenneth John Alexander Bevan to Audrey Ellen Florence Smith.  
" 25.—Arthur Charles Barber to Elizabeth Marie Saunders.  
" 25.—Douglas George Bell to Barbara Joyce Avery.  
Apr. 1.—Donald Arthur Lipscombe to Valerie Patricia Brown.  
" 1.—Anthony Cecil Burrows to Jeanette May Avery.  
" 3.—David Stuart Prentice to Sandra Elaine Atkinson.

## BURIALS

- Mar. 22.—William Charles Faber, 118 Uxbridge Road, aged 74 years.  
" 29.—Morley Punchen Taylor, 44, Wolsey Road, aged 83 years.

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# FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

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## A COUNTRY CHURCH IN UGANDA CELEBRATES EASTER

A C.M.S. missionary educationist in Kenya, East Africa, writes of a visit with a friend to a tiny church in Uganda:

"On Easter Sunday we went to one of the little local churches where my friend was teaching. We took with us a local African teacher who was to act as interpreter.

"The church, a little building not more than 20ft. x 30ft., with walls of poles and clay, and a roof of thatched grass, was in the centre of an open field. When we arrived most of the congregation had already assembled; quite a number, especially mothers with their children were sitting on the ground outside.

"Inside, the chancel was a slightly raised part of the beaten earth floor

and on it was a simple table covered with an embroidered cloth. The children sat in front, with the grown-ups behind—men on the left and women on the right. There was no organ, piano or choir to lead the singing, but everyone was more or less familiar with the tunes and sang heartily. The sermon, in English, was interpreted in Luganda by the teacher we brought with us.

"Afterwards, we inspected the school-children who had been lined up for the occasion. Then off for a meal with the local chief and others.

"What a joy it was to be there; even if some of our churches are somewhat primitive and our singing and worship somewhat unpractised, we are members of the Communion of Saints who love the Lord Jesus, and look forward to his re-appearing."