

## Vicar's Notes

Last month I rashly said that I would try to give a brief sketch of the financial position of our Church as this was presented to the annual meeting. Well, here goes!

It is remarkable how slight the change is from 1959, which was a decline from the record-breaking year of 1958, but still well up on 1957. St. James's seems now to have settled down at just over the thousand-a-year level, the figure at one time considered the hall-mark of success for a professional man. But the continued fall in the value of money, which results in constant demands for pay increases, means that a larger income is needed each year just to stay in the same place. (It is difficult to say how rapid the fall now is—but from cautious figures given in Parliament on two occasions we can make the following table:

The value of the £ in 1911—20/-; in 1937—12/6½; in 1946—9/7; in 1953—6/7½; in 1960—5/9. This means that though £1 today is the equivalent in purchasing power of only 12/- in 1946, the rapid decline of the 'forties was considerably slowed up in the 'fifties, which is an encouragement to think in terms of advance rather than of just keeping where we already are.)

This is how the main receipts came in for:—

	1959 £	1960 £
Loose offerings at services in Church and Sunday School ... ..	298	280
Offerings made through the Christian Giving Scheme ... ..	798	797
Covenant Scheme ...	9	—
Special Events— (Fetes, Parties, etc.)	11	69
Donations and Payments for upkeep of graves	42	13
Hampton Charities (for maintenance of Fabric)	25	25
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	£1183	£1184

In addition, there were special offerings for special purposes on such occasions as Miss Stanton's visit, Easter and Christmas.

The total amount given on these (to be given away again) was £104, and from the above £1184, £99 was also taken, to be sent to various good causes — missionary societies, the Church Army, Additional Curates'

Society, Moral Welfare Work, Inter-Church Aid, etc. (Additional money was, of course, also given to Inter-Church Aid from the house-to-house collection in May—which last year reached a record figure. There were also similar collections for many other good causes which, of course, are not included in these accounts but which should be remembered when considering the general level of giving in the parish).

Out of the £1184 was also paid our contribution ('Quota') to the Diocese—£181. This amount varies from year to year, and is assessed (on a percentage basis) on the income, not of the previous year, but of the year before that. In 1960 it was the highest we had ever paid, because in 1958 we had a record income. This year, based on the 1959 income it will be £153; in 1959 it was only £118.

### THE CHRISTIAN GIVING SCHEME

As will be seen from the figures given above, this continued to be the backbone of our financial arrangements. Though there may still be some people who conscientiously disagree with it, it is difficult to see how we could manage without it, or what could be put in its place except a more comprehensive and expanded form of the same principle. The covenanting of a few members of the scheme is also now beginning to bear fruit, and we have just received from the Income Tax Commissioners a cheque for £77 in respect of the year ending April 5, 1960. This came at a time when we were 'in the red,' and it shows the additional benefit that thoughtful people paying the full rate of tax on part of their income can bring to the Church.

### THE HALL

On May 25 last year, after many months of negotiations, the hall was finally leased to the trustees of the Scout Group for a period of 10 years. The Church Council, of course, still remains the owner, and the London Diocesan Fund the custodian trustee; but all letting and administration are in the hands of the Group. The first result of the agreement signed in May has been a joint enterprise in putting the hall in good order—making it indeed, according to some unprejudiced observers, perhaps the best hall in the district. Neither the Church Council nor the Scout Group

could have achieved this splendid result on their own, but their combined resources carried it through. The Church Council, for instance, paid £193, the Scout Group £269, towards the cost of converting the heating system to oil-firing. For re-wiring the hall, and other necessary electrical improvements, the Church Council paid the whole cost, £176; and for providing new doors to help keep in the warmth, £30. These large amounts have exhausted our Property Account, which has now been closed henceforth, any 'Landlord's expenses' will have to be paid out of the general income of the Church as a whole. But the expense we all feel, have been worth it, in helping to transform the hall from the rather dingy, neglected-looking place it was becoming, to the attractive centre of social activity it is today. The Scout Group have added to this attractiveness by improvement to the lighting and by much voluntary work done by their members in interior decorating and re-curtaining. They have, therefore, been enabled to end the first year of their tenancy with a hall in excellent condition which is in great demand for booking.

The Church, through its Council, or any of its organisations, is entitled, under the terms of the agreement, to one free booking a week; but this must be arranged at least 3 months ahead. This time-factor has tended to be overlooked, with the result that Church organisations have sometimes failed to gain the advantage which could have been theirs by making their plans further ahead. Bookings by Church Groups should not be made to Mr. Casey direct, but through Mr. Wigginton, who will also receive bookings for Wayside too. The Church Council thought it very fit-

ting that Mr. Wigginton should continue the work which Mrs. Warwick had begun so well, and thus maintain his long connection with the hall even though his post as Treasurer had come to an end after many years with the closure of the Property Account.

### OTHER EXPENSES

The hall, of course, was not the only item on which money had to be spent last year. There were the usual expenses of the maintenance of the Churchyard (£131); Organ, Choir, Music, etc (£215); The Sunday Schools (£64); Lighting and Heating (£161). The main cost of the dry-rot repairs and renovation will appear in next year's balance-sheet. Local expenses are heavy, and will undoubtedly get heavier, but we should not be so bemused by them that we fail to give more money away. No one can read such a leaflet as "The Mean are Damned," enclosed in this issue, without receiving a severe jolt. In a world where such conditions exist, and many of our fellow-Christians can afford only one meal a day, or every other day, is it right that such enormous sums should be spent every year by churches in England on such luxuries as bigger and better organs and more elaborate heating-systems? Christian Aid Week, which is part of the Churches' effort to bring help to the world's hungry, will be over when this magazine appears; but if any people were missed in the collection, or now feel that they did not give enough, it is not too late for additional contributions to be sent to the Treasurer of the Hampton Council of Churches, Mr. S. V. J. Furrow, 68, Sunnyside Road, Teddington—or to me, and I will pass them on to him.

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## AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about  
people, activities & organisation

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### THE YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

At the meeting on March 24, Mrs. Stevens was our speaker, she started by saying that there are different ways of dealing with unwelcome callers at the door and gave some amusing personal examples. She went on to describe the origins of Jehovah's Witnesses, who were created by Charles Russell, a somewhat unsavoury character, in America. He started a Bible study group in 1872 at which they chose pieces out of

their context from the Bible to suit their own beliefs. On Russell's death, a Judge Rutherford took over, founded a publishing firm and published "Watch Tower" for the first time, after which they went from strength to strength.

Their beliefs, that Christ returned to earth in 1914, that Christ is not the son of God, that 144,000 will be saved, and many others, are directly opposed to those of true Christians. They are also against all other

branches of the Christian church, thinking they are the work of the Devil.

Mrs. Stevens then said that to deal with Jehovah's Witnesses who come to your door, you must be equipped and in practice to answer their enthusiasm and persistence, by knowing your Bible and expressing your beliefs in an equally enthusiastic way so that they see you have something better to offer. Do not just buy a magazine from a Jehovah's Witness and be apathetic. P.M.J.

At our April meeting, Mrs. Latey (Vice-President of the London Diocese, and a prominent member of the Mothers' Union) had the difficult task of speaking on that very important subject 'Adolescence.'

Throughout her talk she stressed the importance of parents having a close relationship with their child, as an infant, schoolchild and adolescent. This close relationship is vitally important for the child's development both mentally and physically, and the subsequent personal relationship with other people throughout their life.

It was emphasised how vital it was for the parents to have the complete trust of their child throughout its development, by answering all questions truthfully, particularly in the matter of sex education, before they hear garbled versions.

Mrs. Latey pointed out that during and immediately after wars discipline slackens and the result is that adolescents become unsettled. Therefore discipline, to be effective must be applied through all stages of the child's life from the parents in unison, which gives the child a sense of security.

Parents must also prepare themselves for adolescence and accept the trend towards independence. Because of the earlier maturity and more opportunities of today, the adolescent is prey to many more temptations than the older generation experienced. Again the speaker stressed that a basic strength of mutual understanding and trust can help to counteract many difficulties and problems that beset the adolescent of today.

This interesting talk prompted an animated discussion of personal experiences of members of our group.

The next meeting will be held on May 31st in the Parish Hall with a "Bird's Eye" foods demonstration. All visitors will be welcome.

M.G.

## THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP

### Lake District Holiday

The main party arrived by Dormobile (lent by Ann Jennings' brother) and car at Fallbarrow Hall on Tuesday, 4th April at about 6.30 p.m. It was snowing fairly heavily but this had nearly all melted by 7.00 a.m. on Wednesday, when the other three girls arrived to wake all the inhabitants of Fallbarrow. Fortunately we were the only people staying there at that time apart from one or two Scouts who, judging by the overhead noise, were already awake. The morning was spent partly in settling in, and partly in shopping. Some of us went to Ambelside, one of the larger villages and there we saw the Stock Ghyll Falls nearby. This was a beautiful series of waterfalls and, like all the streams, rivers, etc., that we saw, was in full glory owing to the rain and the previous day's snow.

In the afternoon, the first walk of about 12 miles was arranged. We walked from Shelwith Bridge, along the Little Langdale to Sleat Tarn and back along the Great Langdale. This walk exhausted most people, especially as it rained all the time and we were soaked through.

Supper was more than welcome that evening, and the good food which was given to us cheered us up no end. After the Epilogue, those with enough energy went to the Coffee Bar at which we could buy coffee, Horlicks, Milk Shakes and minerals as well as sweets and crisps.

Thursday was dry, and therefore a more cheerful and pleasant day to go along the Honister Pass (at some places the gradient was 1 in 4) to Buttermere and Crummock Water. The geographers in the party explained that the beautiful valley, sweeping down on either side, that we had just come through was a U valley. This, and other explanations about the structure of the countryside ensured that we did not return uneducated.

We were very pleased to see that Robert, who could not join before because of some dreaded disease, had been able to join us on Thursday evening.

On Friday we went for a not-very-energetic-walk to Hawkshead, via Wise Ean Tarn and one or two other tarns equally as beautiful. Some of us went to Tarn Hows while others went back to Bowness over Long-

barrow, which they declared, had a gradient of at least 1 in 1. nevertheless, we all staggered in time for supper, very pleased that the sun had actually shone once or twice.

Saturday was the great day for eight of us because we went up Helvellyn. Kenneth took us to Patterdale in the Dormobile which we decided not to take up to the top as we were afraid of puncturing a tyre on a rock. We struggled up a foothill and reached Striding Edge which we clambered along, keeping to the path when it appeared, and being careful not to fall down the steep rocky drop to Red Tarn, or down the other side which was just a steep rocky drop. We had our lunch on the top of Helvellyn and collected various souvenirs, e.g. snow and pieces of rock. We made our way back to Grasmere over the Nethermost and Dollywaggon Pikes where Kenneth met us.

Those who were not so energetic went boating on Lake Windermere, which many of us did also on Sunday besides going to Church and also went shopping. I wonder if Boots of Bowness sold out of plaster for blisters.

On Sunday afternoon there was a short walk round Grasmere for those who wanted it. At the end of the walk we were treated to tea by Robert, who had found a 10/- note at the beginning of the journey. We allowed him to keep the 5d. change.

Monday was our last full day, and, after seeing Anne off as she had to go back to school on the Tuesday, we set off for Stickle Tarn. We had an enjoyable, if muddy, walk there and back via Easdale Tarn. Those who took the short cut caught up with the others fairly quickly.

The three returning by train and Hester saw the occupants of the Dormobile and car off the premises on Tuesday in fine weather. We spent our last p.m. boating on the lake and Bruce, Dorothy and John, three of the four people in charge of the Hall, joined us for a very pleasant supper.

The Dormobile and car were thoroughly cleaned and polished by the Y.P.F. members on Wednesday, which accounts for the rain which we had that day.

R.M.

### SOME DATES TO NOTE

May 18.—8.0 p.m. Church Council (Vestry).

May 21.—Whitsunday.

Holy Communion at 8.0 a.m., 9.0

a.m. and 12.15 p.m. Children's Service at 9.45 a.m.

Other services as usual.

May 25.—8.0 p.m. Fete Committee (Laurel Dene).

May 28.—Trinity Sunday.

Family Service at 11 a.m.

May 29.—8.0 p.m. Moral Welfare Association Annual Meeting (All Saints' Church Hall, Twickenham).

May 30.—5.15 p.m. Coach Party leaves for Mothers' Union Diocesan Festival Service in St. Paul's Cathedral.

May 31.—8.0 p.m. Young Wives Group—Open Meeting (H).

June 7.—3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union Speaker: Mrs. Latey (W).

July 1.—Summer Fete at Laurel Dene. Suggestions and offers of help will be welcomed by the Organising Secretary, Mrs. Warwick, 52, Park Road, Tel.: Mol. 7004.

July 9.—9.0 a.m. Confirmation, followed by Parish Communion.

Copy for the June magazine should be sent to the Vicarage not later than Tuesday, May 23. If all goes well, magazines should be ready during the first few days of June. We are sorry that the date of publication of this current issue will now have to be about a fortnight later than announced last month.

### STANDING MATTER, ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS

#### Secretary of Parochial Church Council

Miss P. M. Stanley, 54a, St. James's Avenue.

#### Church Officer for Bookings of Hall and Wayside

Mr. W. F. Wigginton, 18, Cranmer Road. Tel. Mol. 4576.

#### Supervisors of Wayside

Mrs. S. D. Harris, 82, Park Road. Tel. Mol. 1283.

Mrs. D. E. Warwick, 52, Park Road. Tel. Mol. 7004.

#### Organiser for Church Flowers

Mrs. L. Mills, 40, Oldfield Road. Tel. Mol. 6626.

Mrs. Mills would be pleased to hear from people willing to arrange flowers on any particular Sunday.

### LOST!

The top of a large dining-room table, recently given to the church and kept at Wayside, has disappeared. If anyone has any information concerning its whereabouts, please let Mr. Harris or Mrs. Warwick know.