

## Vicar's Notes

The Christian Stewardship Campaign lasted for five intensive and exhilarating weeks. The target mentioned in the Brochure was £10,500 over a period of three years. There was a feeling of deep thankfulness and a sense of "something attempted, something done" on the last day of the canvass when, with the help of covenantants, this figure was achieved. (Net amount promised £10,050; gross £10,501). This is more than two-and three-quarter times as much as all the giving to and through the church over the last three years, and a four fold increase of the pledged giving figure for the same period. The brake that has been clamped on so hard for many years, and kept us from doing so many things that needed to be done, is off at last. *Laus Deo!*

### "63 PER CENT.—OR WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?"

This is the title of a little booklet published by the Diocese and available free to anyone who wants it. It explains fully the Covenanting method referred to above. As it says, it is really very simple, and if you are paying the standard rate of income tax it is well worth considering, for the benefit to the Church is great—7/9 for each 12/3 you pay, or 63%. In other words, for every 1/- you put in your weekly envelope, St. James's would get back £1-12-0 a year, in addition to the original 52 shillings. So if this appeals to you please ask Mr. Rockliffe for any further particulars.

### THE UNEXPECTED

With a building such as ours, it is never easy to plan ahead. The unexpected so often intervenes. What had seemed to be in good condition is suddenly found to contain defects calling for immediate action, just when we wanted to tackle something else. We knew that certain things needed urgent attention, and listed them in the Campaign Brochure—Roof, wiring, lighting, organ—but we thought the floor was fairly safe. Several fruiting bodies of the dry rot fungus had just made an ominous appearance in the Nave. But we hoped that the damage underneath was only slight. On investigation, however, it was found to be far more extensive and serious than recent

outbreaks in Chancel and Vestry, spreading for fifteen feet down the whole North side of the Church. Then, in the Aisle, where dry rot ended, wet rot took its place—and a similar strip of rotten wood-work was later found to stretch the whole length of the South Aisle as well. A month of intensive effort and very skilled work in putting the damage right is now coming to an end, and we hope that there will be enough days left for our own keen volunteers to move in and get the Church clean and tidy for Christmas. Already some members of the Y.P.F. have started to give the pillars the cold water treatment, with good results. The cost of the work carried out by the specialists is expected to be more than a thousand pounds. Obviously we shall have to think of getting together a large contingency reserve, to keep in hand for unexpected emergencies like this, which cannot be budgetted for. In this case we shall have the satisfaction of knowing that faulty original work and bad construction has been replaced by a much better job, which should remain sound for a much longer period.

### SOME CHRISTIAN PLANS

When Christmas Day falls on a Monday, as it does this year, it is difficult to avoid some anticipations of it. The Church for instance, will have to be decorated on the Friday and Saturday, when it still should be in its Advent sombreness until the Sunday afternoon. But we try to keep anticipation to a minimum. So often to-day the Christmas Season is made to begin in November and end on Boxing Day, whereas it should really begin on Christmas Eve and continue until the Feast of the Presentation on February 2nd—forty days of Christmas, just as there are forty days of Lent and of Easter. Advent, a shorter period, is meant to prepare us for Christmas, because without some preparation of mind and spirit, Christmas cannot be properly understood or appreciated.

The Christmas Services are listed in the Diary on a later page. An innovation this year is a service of Holy Communion at 9.45 a.m., instead of at 9.00 a.m. This is meant for everyone who finds this time the most convenient, but especially to give families the opportunity to worship together, and on this occasion children not yet confirmed will be

welcome at the Altar Rails to receive a blessing.

The Christian play to be presented at All Saints is similar in style to "Christ in the Concrete City." It isn't the usual cosy and colourful Nativity Play, but something more stark and challenging, making great impact on player and audience alike. It would not be appreciated by chil-

dren. As All Saints' is difficult of access, and the approach is dark and muddy it is hoped to run a coach from St. James's leaving at 7.30 p.m. on Friday, December 29th.

The Twelfth Night Party in the Hall on January 6th, should be a most enjoyable affair, and we hope that it will be attended in numbers similar to those at the Loyalty Dinner!

---

## AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about  
people, activities & organisation

---

### THE MOTHERS' UNION

We are glad to report that our Enrolling Member has made a good recovery from an operation to her foot, but Mrs. Prentice will not be mobile again until after December 22nd. Meantime, she is as cheerful as usual!

Once again the Guild Singers are to be responsible for the programme at our Carol Service on the first Wednesday in the New Year, in the Small Hall. Their choice of music items gave us much pleasure at our 1961 service. We look forward to having members of the Young Wives Group, and their children, and those of our Members too, with us then to join in the singing of some of the old favourites.

Mrs. Brown, Enrolling Member of St. Philip & St. James's Church, Whitton, has been appointed to succeed Mrs. Charles as Presiding Member of the Hampton Deanery. Many of you will remember her as a very efficient Deanery Secretary. She is also, like our own Mrs. Stevens one of the Speakers specially trained for Christian Family Year.

We hope that all our Members will spend a very happy time at Christmas, with their families, whenever this is possible. We hope to see all those who are fit and well, at one of the many Christmas celebrations of Holy Communion. Ideally, we should be "a band of praying women."

I.V.R.

### THE YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

At the A.G.M. on 25th October, Members heard the President, Mrs. Brunt, thank the retiring Chairman, Mrs. E. Severn, and the Committee for the hard work they had done during the year. Mrs. Severn reported a very satisfactory year, with the number of members being steadily maintained, and thanked all who had worked with her on the Committee

during the past two years; she said she had thoroughly enjoyed her term of office.

The new Committee is as follows:—  
Chairman: Mrs. Mollie Saunders.  
Vice-Chairman: Mrs. Anne Robins.  
Secretary: Mrs. Dorothy Lambourne.  
Treasurer: Mrs. Betty Harrison.  
Registrar: Mrs. Heather Severn.  
Entertainments: Mrs. Eileen Nutley.  
Catering: Mrs. Pat Olesker and

Mrs. June Manns.

The Annual Childrens' Christmas Party will be held in the Parish Hall on Friday, 29th December, 1961 at 3 p.m. Tickets, 1/- each, available until 20th December, from Eileen Nutley, Park Road.

### THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP

Our boat has now been removed for the winter from its moorings at Hampton and resides in honour "bottoms up" in Dr. Bishop's garden—we hope to attend to minor repairs during the coming months.

At the A.G.M. Margaret Hester was elected as a leader in place of Ann Jennings who, unfortunately, has moved out of the district. We would like to thank Ann for her interest in and all that she has done for the Y.P.F. and look forward to seeing her in December. On to the Committee were elected Ruth Mills, Ann Swindale, Alan Swindale and James West.

November 4th went off with a bang and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves—including the local residents, and another enjoyable evening was had by all who went up to the London Bible College to attend an At Home held there. Sunday evening, November 19th, saw us at the Amyand Park Chapel, St. Margaret's, where a small group of—singers?—took part in the service in singing two hymns for the

congregation. A large number of the Y.P.F. attended the youth meeting held afterwards, where we were warmly welcomed.

A. J. SWINDALE.

### THE PARISH DIARY

#### CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve, Sunday, Dec. 24th.

6.30 p.m. Evensong and Carols.

11.45 p.m. Midnight Eucharist.

Christmas Day.

8.00 a.m., 9.45 a.m. and 12.15 p.m.

Holy Communion.

11.00 a.m. Matins.

St. Stephen's Day, December 26th.

9.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

St. John's Day, December 27th.

9.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

Innocents' Day, December 28th.

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.

Sunday after Christmas Day, December 31st.

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

9.45 a.m. Sunday Schools.

11.00 p.m. Matins.

6.30 p.m. Service of Lessons and Carols.

Wednesday, January 3rd, 2.30 p.m.

Mothers' Union Carol Service (Hall).

#### OTHER SERVICES

The Circumcision, January 1st, (New Year's Day).

9.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

The Epiphany, January 6th.

9.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

United Service at Congregational Church at 6.30 p.m. on Sunday, January 28th, (Evensong said here at 5.30 p.m.)

### CHRISTMAS PLAY

"Sons of Adam," a dramatic meditation on the Christian Story, will be presented by the Hampton Council of Churches' Drama Group at All Saints' Church, The Avenue, Hampton on Thursday and Friday, December 28th and 29th, at 8.00 p.m.

### PARTIES AND OUTINGS

December 28th, 12.40 p.m.

Sunday School Outing to Bertram Mills Circus.

December 29th.

3.00 p.m. Young Wives' Group Children's Party (Hall).

January 6th.

7.45 p.m. Parish "Twelfth Night" Parry (Hall).

### BAPTISMS

Sept. 17.—Keith Michael Weston, 74, Myrtle Road.

„ 24.—Rosemary Elizabeth Adams 3, Parkwood Grove, Sunbury.

„ 24.—Julie Ann Carter, 6, Ringwood Way.

„ 24.—Mark Richard Barnhurst Davies, 93, Park Road.

Oct. 8.—Tracey Jane Petter, 1, Arundel Close.

„ 22.—James Robert Barnes, 55, New Road, The Causeway, Staines.

„ 22.—Keith Findlay Betton, 27, Park Road.

„ 22.—Stuart David Hodges, 8, Longford Close.

„ 22.—Alan Saunders, 26, Rectory Grove.

---

## FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

---

### GO WELL—STAY WELL

By Hannah Stanton. Hodder and Stoughton, 16s.

This moving documentary on life in South Africa during the years 1956-1960 is a book that everyone in this country and indeed everyone in South Africa should read. While making enthralling, lively and often entertaining reading it never fails to make its point. It is written with a simple sincerity that it would behave many modern chroniclers of their times to emulate. We are fortunate in this parish in as much as many of us know the author personally and are therefore able to read this book with a special confidence that we are being introduced into a picture of life in South Africa in which the various

shades are understated rather than overstated. This book is no emotional outburst. It is the reasoned conclusions of a very human woman of wide education and interests and of complete integrity. While Miss Stanton writes with considerable tolerance and restraint and does not fail to draw attention to the various liberal movements amongst the white people, and comments on the embarrassment felt by some officials in carrying out Government instructions she nevertheless comes out quite clearly on the side of the African. She does not, however, lose sight of the many and difficult problems consequent to his complete emancipation.

The author tells us how she arrives in South Africa on a holiday to visit

her brother. She admits that she is raw and largely ignorant of conditions there and when the post of warden of the Tumelong (Place of Faith) Mission in the African community of Lady Selbourne is offered to her she has grave doubts as to her willingness to do missionary work and her fitness for it. Stirred to indignation by the brutality and injustice of the police towards some of the population of Lady Selbourne she stays and gradually, serving a Church that is to give her a new conception of Christian Worship, she gets to grips with the problems and challenges of life in a coloured community, and of this community in the Apartheid state.

Miss Stanton writes of her experiences and impressions in an easy, yet at the same time, matter of fact, style, and through her day to day picture of life and worship in the Mission and in the coloured community and of her excursions outside it we are introduced to Africans of charm and culture and of simple and moving Faith. We also meet the shiftless, the dirty and the ignorant. We are introduced to bigotted, violent White South Africans, (both Africans and English-speaking), and to white South Africans who are, though frightened of the consequences to themselves, sympathetic and well-disposed to the coloured population. We hear of the constant indignities and injustices and brutality to which even the most cultured Africans are subjected by the calculated policy of Apartheid. We are constantly made to share the author's indignation and grief at the plight of the helpless; at the callousness of expedient thinking and often at the abysmal ignorance of the "master race." She fears desperately for the future when the frustrations of the Bantu system of education are more fully felt. All at Lady Selbourne and at the Mission know that in a few years their community will exist no longer and that it will become increasingly difficult for white people to visit African locations. To meet the urgent necessity for African women to be trained for church and social work, Cholo-felong (Place of Hope) grows into being under the teaching wing of the Mission, and willing students are prepared to bring light to the darkness of the future.

Even when the cell key is inevitably turned on herself and she in her turn

suffers wrongful arrest and detention, Miss Stanton is only too aware that her plight is yet immeasurably better than if her skin had been black and if she had not had influential friends to plead for her. When the time comes for her to leave South Africa and to exchange the dignified Sesuto farewells, "Tsamea pila," Go Well, May God protect you on your journey, and "Sala pila," stay well, May God remain with you; the quality of the author's love and grief and hope for that unhappy country is obvious, and the intimate knowledge gained from her life and worship there makes this a book that can not lightly be laid aside.

M.O.

### THE BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the faith and correcting error, for re-setting the direction of a man's life and training him in good living. The Scriptures are the comprehensive equipment of the man of God, and fit him fully for all branches of his work." II Timothy, 3, 15-17. (Trans. by J. B. Phillips.)

In these perplexing days we need God's guidance as never before, and one of the ways we can find it is by reading the Bible. With the publication of the New English Bible and the vivid translations of J. B. Phillips or James Moffatt reading the Bible now can be a stimulating and challenging Christian experience. The regular use of the Bible Reading Fellowship Notes encourages us to form the habit of Bible reading, a discipline which has been a source of strength to great leaders and ordinary men for centuries.

The booklets cost 2/- a year and are published in quarterly form. There are four different series:—

- A For adults who have some background knowledge of the Bible.
- B For adults requiring something simpler and shorter than A, with the actual Bible text printed.
- C For children or those wanting very simple notes.
- Y For Youth.

Any new readers who would like to receive these notes next year, please apply to Mrs. G. A. Mellor, 52, St. James's Road, Hampton Hill, as soon as possible.