

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about
people, activities & organisation

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

This function which was held on February 21st (by inadvertence in the small room, alias kitchen) at the parish hall, was a friendly and well-attended gathering and it would be fair to say that all present had an enjoyable, as well as an informative evening. It seems a long time ago now and some of the "highlights" have already "shone" in the two previous magazines in the form of the Vicar's report and interesting accounts of the activities of the Mothers' Union, Young Wives' Group and Young Peoples' Fellowship. The Vicar described the Electoral Roll as not presenting a true picture of the numbers of the Church Family as many interested in St. James' were not represented on it and others who had no affiliations with the church were. He asked people to take steps to see that their names were included and the audience laughed when he said he had heard it alluded to as "The Electrical Roll" and gave his assurance that people adding their names would be in no danger of suffering any shock or any form of twist either!

The new Parochial Church Council was elected as follows: R.D.C. Representatives: Miss M. E. Hester, Mrs. G. Pile, Miss P. Stanley, Mr. S. Harris, Mr. F. Sargeant. Parochial Representatives: Mr. G. Eaton, Mrs. M. Ford, Mr. J. W. Gostling, Mr. D. W. Leatherdale, Mr. A. H. Maddox, Mr. and Mrs. L. Mills, Mrs. M. Orton, Mr. G. I. Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. L. Rockcliffe, Mrs. M. Saunders, Mr. H. Severn, Mr. C. W. Smith, Mrs. K. M. Virgo, Mr. D. N. Wadlow, Mrs. D. E. Warwick. Church Wardens: Mr. L. Melville, Mr. Wigginton. Sidesmen would be the gentlemen of the Council and Mr. Swindale and Mr. Hawkins. Thanks were given to Miss Stanley for the admirable way she has carried out the exacting duties of Secretary to the P.C.C.

Mr. Melville, having served seven years as joint treasurer and churchwarden asked that he should be relieved of the onerous duties of treasurer and at the recent P.C.C. meeting these were undertaken by

Mr. G. I. Robinson. Both gentlemen deserve our hearty thanks. (Also at this meeting of the P.C.C. Mr. J. Ford was co-opted as a member).

We have heard with satisfaction of the large cheque which has 'put paid' to our dry rot problems, and arising out of a comprehensive report on the state of the church roof given most ably and succinctly by Mr. Gostling the Vicar has already reported on work to be done in the near future. Mr. Brunt had the sympathy of the meeting with him when he described this as the most encouraging year of his vicarship in Hampton Hill and spoke of passing from the penury of the fifties to the progress and perhaps even prosperity of the sixties.

Mr. Melville in presenting the accounts—full details of which may be seen on the table at the back of the church—said that the income during the year of 1977 shows a substantial jump over last year's amount of £1184. This reflects the Campaign's success arising from the initial giving and the seven weeks after its start. Consequently we have been able to pay off about two-thirds of the all-in Campaign expenses while only being £629 down on the year. Except for the Campaign, expenses were average, while normal charity donations were maintained. We are confident that with the new rate of giving our aims will be achieved one by one. As for Wayside, after exceptional payments on dry rot repairs and full exterior painting we still find £132 in the balance. The account is healthy. £150 of the Diocesan loan was paid off and we should be able to pay back the remaining £214 and interest within two years.

Mr. Rockcliffe reported that £10,667 has been pledged by 213 people up to date, including an amount of £450 covenanted and therefore extending for 7 years. He explained that covenanting means a large increase to the church on the original pledge by virtue of rebate on income tax allowed by the authorities in cases of seven year pledges to charities. The increase amounts to 63% where the donor is paying tax at the standard rate.

Mr. Robinson gave a lively ex-temporary account of the rigours of the Stewardship Campaign. Instead of the 48 men and women envisaged as hostesses and canvassers, the job was tackled by about 18 women and 28 men and in spite of the double duties involved, within a week from the end of the canvass the target was in sight. Although the canvassers had not initially relished the thought of their duties they had been well received and had found people anxious to support the church. "If we keep on pushing and trying" Mr. Robinson said, "We can get ever increasing interest in Church affairs." The wider distribution of the magazine and formation of a Magazine Board would help the spreading of parish news and the newly formed enthusiastic Social Committee would arrange a steady programme of social events.

We learned with sympathy that Miss Edwards has entered into well-earned retirement from her duties of cleaning the church, but she is still our verger. Mrs. Brunt paid tribute to Mr. and Mrs. Mills, who for the last three months have been working early and late to keep our church bright for us and the audience broke into spontaneous appreciation. Mrs. Brunt called for Volunteers for 'Operation Cleaning.' Teams could be formed and here indeed 'many hands could make light work.' Here is an opportunity for real service!

Dr. Bishop told us of the Y.P.F.'s monthly visits to Laurel Dene and also of the monthly breakfasts following Communion. We have heard a lot about the Fellowship's boat, and were shocked to hear that a lot of the work put into it by Robert Salisbury has been ruined by vandalism and it is now in dry dock in Dr. Bishop's front garden.

St. James's Youth Club has lost their popular chairman Geoffrey Harding who is at Exeter University and their new chairman is C. Rogers. The latest news from this club is featured elsewhere in this issue.

In looking round the Hall it is easy to realise that the Scouts have spent about £700 in improvements since their "take-over bid" in May 1960. Most of the societies who were regular users continue to enjoy its amenities including two organisations for old people who pay a purely nominal rent. The Church continues to enjoy certain regular facilities.

Mr. Sargeant was in fine voice as he delivered an impassioned obligato on choir affairs. The many changes of choir masters—no two alike in their interpretation of music; the revised hymn book; the difficulty of obtaining choirboys to whom the financial side was no longer an inducement and whose voices broke earlier than of yore; not to mention the disconcerting behaviour of the organ which occasionally produces resounding notes when none are pressed on the keyboard; made the choir's task difficult indeed. He suggested, not unreasonably, that those who complained they could not hear the choir would be more likely to do so if they sat nearer the front of the church instead of congregating modestly in the rear seats!

A delightful note was introduced into the meeting's proceedings by the reports on the work of the Sunday Schools. It is not generally realised that Miss Stewart has been a Sunday School teacher since her confirmation which, as Mr. Brunt gallantly put it, was a few more years ago than her youthful looks would lead us to suppose. With the exception of the absence made necessary by her serious accident she has hardly ever missed a teaching Sunday. Miss Western, who with Mrs. Harries runs the distant Rectory School Sunday class, the original intention of which was to cater for the 5-8 year olds of this outpost of our parish, now has many older pupils who would otherwise leave rather than make the long journey to the church. The shortage of teachers is felt even though one or two of the older students are anxious to play an active part. Space permitting, Miss Stewart's report on the Junior Sunday School will be included as she delivered it to the A.G.M. as it is felt it will give the parish at large the pleasure and information it afforded the meeting.

Miss Western told us that the attendance at meetings of the Prayer and Study Group fluctuates from twelve to two or three, and these are usually held fortnightly on Wednesday evenings in the vestry. Never has man lived in a time when study of God's will for us, and prayer to Him, is more necessary, and this group prays for the work of the Church, Christian affairs in the national and international spheres as well as individual cases of sickness and distress. The Group is planning

to meet weekly during Lent and hopes that people who do not usually attend will come.

Some people say "A.G.M's are dull affairs," but this one was certainly not. As we turned out into the cold of School Road I think each one of us took with us a little of the warmth and friendliness and family feeling that we had experienced during the evening. I know I did. M.O.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Early in December of last year I was asked by the Vicar to arrange a programme for the year 1962. I was greatly encouraged by the ready response of the following who agreed to serve on a Committee.

Mr. & Mrs. Ford—Mol. 4556
Mr. & Mrs. Maddox—Mol. 4526
Mr. & Mrs. Severn—Mol. 1954
Mrs. Orton—Mol. 5868
Mr. Gostling—Mol. 2661
Mr. Brooks—Ted. Lock 2593

We agreed that as many activities as possible be arranged in which you all could participate. We also agreed that whatever expenses we incurred would have to be met by making a small charge to those of you who attended any activity, but on no account would we ask for any money from the general Church Fund; in other words we must be self-supporting. Although it is not our intention to make a profit, we have so far paid our way and have a small surplus, which will be taken into account when deciding what charges to make for future events.

Below you will find details of a visit we are arranging to Leonardslee. We hope to arrange an "At Home" at the Vicarage early in June, a "Barbecue" at Laurel Dene early in July, and a Harvest Supper in the Hall at the end of September.

G. I. Robinson,
(MOL. 2426)

Outing to Leonardslee—

May 12th, 1962

May 12th has been chosen so as not to clash with the Cup Final the week before! A coach (or coaches, depending on demand) will leave St. James's Church at 11 a.m. Packed lunches should be brought as Leonardslee, being a private residence, has no catering facilities other than for tea, cordials and biscuits. It is envisaged that the party should be back in Hampton Hill not later than 6 p.m. The charge per

seat, inclusive of entrance fee, will be 8s. per head.

Obviously the Social Committee will want to know, as early as possible, how many of you would like to come on what promises to be a memorable excursion so do, please, contact any of the Committee members mentioned above for tickets or information SOON.

Beetle Drive

This function which was held at Wayside on February 24th, under the amiable M.C.-ship (to coin a phrase) of Mr. Smoke Maddox, was voted a great success by all those who attended. Eight full tables 'beetled' energetically and hilariously and prizes were won by Mrs. Gostling and Miss Syrell and Master Saunders and Micky Ford. It was an occasion for a lot of laughter and chatter and provided an excellent opportunity for renewing old acquaintances and making new ones.

M.O.

MOTHERS' UNION

On Wednesday, February 14th, we had a joint meeting of M.U. and Y.W.G., the subject being "Valentines." Unfortunately we had no speaker arranged, but Mrs. Rockliffe stepped into the breach at very short notice and had to put in a great deal of hard work visiting libraries and consulting any books for information.

Mollie Saunders who took the meeting managed to produce some very lovely old valentines. The meeting, although not well attended was most enjoyable.

On March 7th we had our quarterly service in Church conducted by the Vicar and Mrs. Wigginton kindly played the organ for us. Afterwards we went to Wayside when we listened to a talk by Mr. Stevens about the Christian Family Year and how we can all help to bring Christianity into homes where there is none, by our prayers, example, witness and practical help. This applies not only to M.U. members but to every Christian, man, woman and child. You will hear much more about it later.

We had tea, then a short A.G.M. conducted by Mrs. Rockliffe who with her usual efficiency had all the notes which I had failed to make.

I could never do this job of enrolling member without the wonderful help of Mrs. Rockliffe as secretary, Mrs. Uder, treasurer, Mrs.

Casey, overseas representative, Mrs. Futter who deals with the journals, Mrs. Wilcox who copes with the tea, Mrs. Lewis who has charge of the 'Kind Thoughts box' and buys flowers etc. for our sick members. She herself is in hospital at the moment but is expected home shortly. Mrs. White has been co-opted to the committee in place of Mrs. Stevens who as you all know is going to the Parish of All Hallows, Twickenham. Mrs. Allport is our representative on the Watch and Social Problems Committee.

Our next meeting will be April 4, when Mrs. Parkinson will speak to us on "Seasons of the Churches Year."
V.P.

THE YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

At our joint meeting with the M.U. on February 14th, Mrs. Rockliffe nobly volunteered to address us on the origins and customs of St. Valentine's Day. She traced it back to 270 B.C., when the death of a Roman priest was commemorated. In his Diaries, Samuel Pepys several times mentions the sending of Valentines. It was a costly business to be the recipient of a Valentine in those days, as a material acknowledgement was expected. Pepys anticipates £5 as the cost of a gift for his wife. Modern husbands—please note!! A small attendance, coupled with a speaker from our own M.U. Branch, made for a very friendly meeting. As someone remarked later there is a lot to be said for small meetings. This was confirmed the following week, when I dropped in on the Toddlers' Club at Wayside, and found a few young mothers having a cup of tea and a "natter." Their several children, also, were getting to know each other, and the only note of discord came when a bouncing baby boy sat down upon the not-so-bouncing baby girl sharing the play-pen with him. Happily, no damage done.

For our February Y.W. meeting, we arranged a film show. Two of the films, about the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were in lighter vein, and were very enjoyable. Our principal film, "A Feeling of Rejection," unfortunately broke, and we were able to see only the latter part of it. This film showed the unhappy consequences during young womanhood, following the setting of abnormally high standards of behaviour by her parents, when she

was a small child: of her being deprived of the chances of self-expression in her play, in case "she hurt herself," and of her frustrations when the arrival of a young sister robbed her of the attentions of her parents. Teenage unhappiness, and failure to achieve longed-for popularity, lead to psychiatric treatment, and the emergence of a normal young woman. The Vicar filled in for us the part of the film which we missed, and then conducted a short discussion. Our sincere thanks go to Mr. Rockliffe for operating the projector under unforeseen difficulties.

M.S.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP

Seeing the unusual spectacle of a nun riding on a penny-farthing, a bishop commented "Vergin' on the ridiculous." Some Y.P.F. members waxed eloquent and privately recorded a number of jokes during the pancake party. Richard thought Kenneth's very funny. But that was only a side-line. We had 60-70 visitors during the evening and our expert pancakers, Mrs. Salisbury and Mrs. Swindale, reckon that they must have made about 200 of them, and very good ones too. No evidence left on the ceiling. The pancake race was won by James, and Trudy won the big Easter egg—hope she keeps some for Easter Monday morning! The identifying voices competition was won by Mr. Graham Marshall. An auction rounded off a very good evening and £22-10-0d. was realised. Our grateful thanks to all.

Whether Trudy has any Easter egg left or not, on Easter Monday we set off for Wales. Our medical officer thinks it wise to advise vaccination now (members don't, the cowards!)

A word about the Fellowship. Its aim is to help young people towards a better understanding of the Christian Faith. The Fellowship is open to all young people and we warmly welcome any who like to come. We meet on Sunday evenings after Evening Service and on Fridays. Frequent other activities are arranged according to interest and desire.

THE YOUTH CLUB

The St. James' Youth Club, which meets on Fridays from 7.30 - 10 p.m. at Windmill Road School, continues to draw new members and now numbers about 65. The Club are planning to buy a new miniature

snooker table, and have made an application to Middlesex County Council for a grant to help with the payment.

At Christmas the sum of 26/- was raised by carol singing and there was also a Jumble Sale earlier in the year. It is hoped to hold another Jumble Sale this year, as the last was very profitable.

On March 3rd a very successful dance was held at the Church Hall, with music provided by "The Strollers," a jazz group who are all either past or present pupils of Hampton Grammar School. There were about eighty people present, who came from many other clubs in the Borough, and it is hoped to hold another dance during the summer.

During Youth Week in April, we shall have an Open Night on 6th April and we hope many people will visit us at Windmill Road Primary School, whether parents or prospective new members.

Daphne J. Light.
(Leader).

ST. JAMES'S CROSSBEARERS (Junior Sunday School)

At the present time, we have thirty eight children in the Junior Sunday School, between the ages of 7 plus-11 years, and we are fortunate in having a good group of six teachers—four are young people and two are not so young! We meet in Church at 9.45 a.m. with the exception of the 4th Sunday in the month, and we have found that this is the most satisfactory time.

Our aim is to build the children into the Church by teaching them about our faith and by giving them the experience of fellowship with each other. We endeavour to achieve this in the following ways:—

(1) In the ordinary Sunday School sessions, when we try to teach the children to love to worship God and to train them in the faith by building on Bible stories taught in Day School.

(2) We supplement our Sunday School teaching by the Crossbearers' Scheme in which the children work for tests on their own and earn bookmarkers, stripes and badges as they progress.

(3) Last year we experimented with a library, which consisted mostly of books with a religious background. Two older children acted as Librarians and this was a great success.

Although we are only doing this on a limited scale at present, we hope to expand it again.

(4) To help the children to realise that they are part of the great Church family, we join the Family and Parade Service on the 4th Sunday in each month. We hope that we shall soon have a Sunday School banner, so that we may join with the Scouts and Guides, when they take their colours to the altar.

During the autumn we invited parents to an 'At Home,' which gave us an opportunity to meet each other and to talk about what we are trying to do. We were able to show some charts and pictures which we use and some of the children's work. At Christmas time we had an enjoyable outing to Bertram Mills Circus, and on this occasion also, some parents joined us.

Each year we enter for the Inter Diocesan Examinations and many of our children are awarded certificates. Although we do not have an extraordinary large Sunday School, we have a group of keen and interested children, who are a joy to teach.

B.S.

1st HAMPTON HILL BROWNIE PACK

We have a flourishing Brownie Pack in Hampton Hill, which is always full and it is necessary to have a waiting list. The training in the Pack is in preparation of the Brownies becoming future Guides, which most of the Pack join when they are old enough. Unfortunately their future in the Guide Company is not too certain, as for a long time there has been no captain. So the Brownies would like to support the Guides appeal in the 'Spire' last month, and ask for someone to come forward and take over the Guide Company.

D.M.C.

THEATRE OUTING

The Young Wives' Group is organising a visit to see "My Fair Lady" at Drury Lane Theatre on Friday evening, May 25th—tickets are 14/- each (including return journey by coach). This musical play needs no recommendation, and enquiries for tickets should be made to Mrs. Saunders (Tel. Molesey 4938) or any member of the Y.W.G. Committee.

CONFIRMATION

Alan Swindale and Trevor Atkinson, two keen members of our

Church and the Y.P.F. who are pupils at St. Paul's School, were confirmed at a special service for the school in St. Paul's Cathedral on March 14.

There will be no confirmation at St. James's this year, but to mark our centenary next year the Bishop of London will be coming here on December 15 to confirm and celebrate Parish Communion. Many candidates will no doubt want to wait for this special occasion, but those who wish to be confirmed this year can be prepared for a confirmation at a neighbouring church towards the end of the year, and classes for this would have to start in May. The Vicar would like to have names of intending candidates as soon as possible. People over eighteen years of age can be prepared for one of the special services for adults only held in St. Paul's Cathedral.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

April 2.—8.0 p.m. Film in preparation for Christian Aid Week—"The Hungry People" (Public Hall).

April 4.—2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union. Speaker: Mrs. Parkinson—"Seasons of the Church's Year."

April 6.—8.0 p.m. Church Council (W).

April 9.—8.0 p.m. Hampton Council of Churches Study Group (20, Cranmer Road).

April 10.—8.0 p.m. Institution of the Rev. G. H. Stevens as Vicar of All Hallows, Twickenham.

April 11.—8.0 p.m. Joint Meeting of Mothers' Union and Young Wives' Group. Speaker: Mrs. Ecob—"Why be Confirmed?"

April 13.—8.0 p.m. Magazine Distributors' Meeting. All willing to help in this useful piece of work warmly invited (106, Park Road).

April 15.—**Palm Sunday.**

Crosses will be distributed at all services.

6.30 p.m. Evensong. Instead of sermon, a simple presentation of the Passion play "Christ in the Concrete City."

April 16.—9.0 a.m. Holy Communion

April 17.—9.0 a.m. Holy Communion

April 18.—7.15 a.m. Holy Communion.

8.0 p.m. Prayer and Study Group (as on every Wednesday throughout Lent, in Vestry).

April 19.—**Maundy Thursday.**

7.15 and 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.

April 20.—**Good Friday.**

10.0 a.m. Children's Service.

12.0—3.0 p.m. The Three Hours' Devotion.

3.30 p.m. Open-Air Service in Carlisle Park, arranged by the Hampton Council of Churches.

April 21.—Decoration of the church for Easter. Gifts of flowers brought to the church before 9.45 a.m. would be much appreciated.

April 22.—**Easter Day.**

7.0, 8.0, 9.0 a.m. and 12.15 p.m. Holy Communion.

11 a.m. Family Service.

4.0 p.m. Holy Baptism.

6.30 p.m. Evensong.

April 25.—8.0 p.m. Young Wives' Group (W).

April 26.—10.30 a.m. Holy Communion. (This will be the only week-day service in church this week, and there will not be another until Thursday, May 10).

April 30.—8.0 p.m. United Service in Methodist Church, Percy Road, in preparation for Christian Aid Week.

May 2.—4.30 p.m. Mothers' Union Party (H).

May 5.—3.30 p.m. Old People's Party (H).

May 7.—8.0 p.m. Hampton Council of Churches (Congregational Church).

May 8.—3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union, Deanery Festival Service, St. Mary's, Twickenham. Preacher: The Bishop of Kensington.

May 9-14.—Christian Aid Week. House-to-House Collection to help the world's hungry people organised by the Hampton Council of Churches.

May 12.—Parish Outing to Leonard-slee.

All matter for the May issue of the magazine should be sent to the Vicar, or any member of the Editorial Board, not later than April 9. It is a great help if this is typed; next best, very legible writing or block capitals. Notification of future events arranged by Church Groups would also be appreciated.

A leaflet is enclosed giving details of a course of training in First Aid. Though the opening day (April 2) will have passed by the time this magazine is published, we understand enrolments will be accepted up to April 16 or 23.

BAPTISMS

- Feb. 25.—Katharine Elizabeth Pethick, 35, St. James's Road.
,, 25.—Stephen John Toone, 43, Windmill Road.
Mar. 25.—Jacqueline Ann Cruse, 7, Laurel Road.
,, 25.—Mark Austin Lelliott, 14, Burton's Road.

MARRIAGES

- Mar. 3.—Ronald Thomas Westbury to Brenda Marie Royston.
,, 3.—Lionel Edward Read to Pauline Ann Edwards.
,, 24.—Brian Alfred Bowen to Jean Knight.
,, 31.—David Michael Creed to Margaret Elaine Dallamore

BURIALS AND CREMATIONS

- Feb. 23.—Alice Maria Rutter, Laurel Dene, aged 93 years (at Teddington).
,, 27.—Arthur Rolls, 130, High Street, aged 86 years (at Hampton).
Mar. 22.—Margaret Covell, 126 High Street, aged 77 years.
,, 27.—Clara Trimber, Rycroft Nursing Home, aged 86 years (at S.W. Middlesex Crematorium).
,, 29.—Charles Edward Hodge, 17, Denning Road, N.W.3, aged 84 years.

FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

ABOUT BOOKS

The Fox in the Attic. By Richard Hughes. Pub. Chatto & Windus. 18s. This author has already an established reputation as a writer of exceptional ability and versatility. His novels "High Wind in Jamaica" and "In Hazard" have been described as minor classics. He has also published drama, verse and children's stories.

"The Fox in the Attic" is the first volume of a long historical novel of the author's own times, culminating in the Second World War; the whole work to be entitled, illuminatingly, "The Human Predicament." The period described in this first volume is that of the early twenties, five years after the signing of the Armistice, and the action takes place in an England relieved that the carnage is over and in a Germany seething with political unrest and ravaged by inflation. The author has the power of getting right into the minds of his characters. Certain passages seem Proustian in their exploration of ego; far transcending psychoanalysis and penetrating the sphere of metaphysics. The great importance in the work lies in the illuminations of meaning and it is written with a great understanding and insight into Man's particular and universal predicament and in the motivation of Man's thoughts and actions. The style and the writing is impressive and beautiful and the treatment of the characters and situations sensitive, certainly beyond the ordinary.

The Bishop of Bangor has said of this book, "If you have any doubt what is meant when you hear of the Layman's Ministry, Richard Hughes' novel will settle it for you," and from amongst the secular critics the "Listener" says that it is "Likely to prove the major fictional event of the sixties."

Go Well, Stay Well (Hannah Stanton) Banned in South Africa.

The author had anticipated that her book would be banned in South Africa and expressed herself as being "really astounded" that this had not proved the case. In fact, she says, some of her best sales figures came from that country and also one of the "nicest reviews" appeared in the Cape Argus, Cape Town's leading paper; the writer of the review advocating a wide readership in South Africa.

Perhaps it was the threat of this which awoke the authorities after an extraordinary initial laxity and they have now banned the book and the Afrikaner is not to be allowed to have a glimpse and understanding of the teeming, vavacious life to which Miss Stanton came so close. In her love for the African—quite incomprehensible to the White Man in Africa—she has recorded things to South Africa's shame which it would be dangerous for a Government committed to a policy of Apartheid to allow its followers to read, and more important, to follow up and to think about.
M.O.

FURTHER NEWS OF MISS STANTON

The Teddington Women's Citizens Association were fortunate enough to get Miss Hannah Stanton, a past Secretary of the Association, as the speaker after their Annual General Meeting on February 28th. Miss Stanton had the difficult task of assessing the position in South Africa today by piecing together items of news she had obtained from friends by means of letters and from published material and conversations with Progressives who are being driven out of South Africa in ever increasing numbers by the restrictions imposed upon them.

The mission at Tumelong is still there, but since no Africans are allowed to own property in town areas, in two years the thriving native community of Lady Selbourne will be a mass of ruins and the mission ended, with no possibility of its European members being allowed to continue their association with it. Soon probably even missionaries and priests will be forbidden entry to African areas.

There was great unrest at the time of the formation of the Republic last year. Friends had written to Miss Stanton of how Government helicopters and tanks and searchlights were at the ready to quell any protest. House searches were made for hidden weapons and even forks and table knives were confiscated. Some native servants had to borrow these from their white employers. People went in fear of political informers, and in schools spies amongst the staffs reported colleagues on how they were acting with regard to the enforcing of the Bantu Education Act. Questionnaires were given to pupils to fill in to inform on their classmates. As far as actual education was concerned in 1961, owing to the Bantu Education Act, there had been more failures in examinations and many less students were passing the Bantu "matric."

Fears were growing of informers amongst the white South Africans, who were wondering how much longer it would be possible to talk in confidence. However, the National Council of Women had invited an African speaker to one of their meetings and on his suggestion had carried out a "courtesy campaign" towards black South Africans. They had shown a multi-racial play to a multi-racial audience without loss of one member. Another encouraging sign was that a prominent Afrikaner Professor at Pretoria University had become a Progressive and was speaking throughout the Union.

Dr. Verwoerd had admitted that South Africa's unpopularity in the world was cause for anxiety and various measures, sincere or otherwise, had been taken or discussed; mainly the latter. Afrikaner Dutch children had been instructed to be courteous to coloured South Africans and a questionnaire had been issued to gauge Afrikaner opinion. Fifty million pounds were said to be going to be spent during the next five years in Bantu areas, possibly for factories. All in all the situation was fluid and uneasy.

Miss Stanton brought her talk to a close by mentioning Chief Latuli's book "Let My People Go." He is full of goodwill but also full of indignation at the repressive legislation and frightened of where the continued display of Government force may lead. M.O.

DUTY OF PRAYER

The parent who does not pray for a child, whatever else he may do for him, sins against the child. Whosoever fails to pray for one he loves, fails in the most sacred duty of love, because he withholds love's best help. A prayerless love may be very tender, and may speak murmuring words of sweetest sound, but it lacks the deepest expression and the noblest music of speech. We never help our dears ones so well as when we pray for them.

(With acknowledgements to "Help for the Day," by J. R. Miller).