

## Vicar's Notes

One of the difficulties in a parish the size of ours is to see that no newcomer moves in unwelcomed. I am afraid that this does often happen now, because many streets have no wardens to keep an eye on such matters, and also it is not always easy to find people at home even when we know that they have arrived. People often come to church and slip in and out unnoticed for some weeks, or even months. It is obvious that the parish badly needs a curate, as the Church Council has agreed. But curates are not too easy to come by these days (they are just having a new one, after a year's interval, at Hampton), and there is also a financial problem to settle before we can start looking for one. We should need to find at least £400 a year towards his maintenance, as well as provide free accommodation. But with the dry-rot repairs and re-laying of the churchyard paths just completed, and the much heavier expenses of the re-roofing, re-wiring and re-lighting of the church still to come, our finances are being strained

to the hilt. Though we are able to get loans and overdrafts because of our greatly increased and steady income, there is obviously a ceiling beyond which we cannot go, and that will be reached this autumn. It therefore appears that, urgently needed though he may be, the financial situation will rule out the help of a curate for some time to come. In the meantime, we must do our best to rebuild our warden-system, and get as much lay visitation going as possible, but I also hope that newcomers will not wait to be contacted but make themselves known to me by phone, or by calling at the Vicarage, or by waiting behind after a service in church, or in any other way that comes to hand.

Another way is by coming to a social function, and on Wednesday, June 6, my wife and I warmly invite you, old-established parishioner as well as most recently-arrived newcomer, to call on us at the Vicarage between 7.30 and 9.30 p.m. to renew old acquaintance or to begin a new one.

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## AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about  
people, activities & organisation

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### THE MOTHERS' UNION

As these notes are written, Mothers' Union members throughout the world are looking forward to Christian Family Year, which begins on May 16th with a special service of re-dedication in Westminster Abbey. Since only a few members from each Diocese will be able to attend this, other services will be held in Dioceses and Deaneries. At our own Deanery Service at 3.0 p.m. on Tuesday, May 8th, in St. Mary's Church, Twickenham, we shall be able to renew our promises. The newly-consecrated Bishop of Kensington will give the address. (St. Mary's Branch has kindly offered to serve tea after the Service, and thus members will have a chance to meet friends from other Branches).

The Diocesan Festival, in St. Paul's Cathedral on Tuesday, 15th May, will give us the opportunity for thanksgiving and the renewal of our marriage vows. The Preacher will be the Right Reverend J. W. C. Wand (former Bishop of London). A coach

has been booked, at a cost of 3/3d. per head, and will leave Windmill Road about 5.0 p.m. on that day. Mrs. Casey (TED. Lock 5041) will be glad to have the names of all who wish to go to St. Paul's.

On Friday, June 1st, a Deanery Overseas Meeting, to take the form of a Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy Sale, will be held in the garden of St. Philip and St. James's Church, Whitton, by kind permission of the Vicar, the Rev. D. B. Lott. Mrs. Brown, Deanery Presiding Member, hopes that a large number of people will make their way there, by 73 'bus, which stops immediately outside the church.

"This is to be a Family Year, presenting the Christian Family to the community as a unit of paramount importance and the means through God's grace of strength and joy."—So wrote Mrs. Roberts, the former Central M.U. President, in her farewell letter.

"It is unquestionably right and proper that the Mothers' Union, through the Church to which it be-

longs, should initiate this endeavour and provide urgently needed leadership under the patronage of Her Majesty the Queen, and also His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury. First by our example, and then by our service, we can impart to the secular community, as well as to Church Members, the Christian precepts of family life, the family's dependence upon marriage as a 'life-long partnership,' and its indispensable role as the sheet anchor of society." "Therefore, let C.F.Y. be a year of action to spread enlightenment and knowledge, to raise national standards as well as to maintain our own. What each one of us can achieve by individual acts of kindness and self-sacrifice, or by collective action in our communities, may seem small indeed, but it is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness, and if half a million women dedicate themselves to the task, the fire which they will kindle can lighten even the darkest shadows." (Quote from the Official Workers' Paper. October 1961).

I.V.R.

### JOINT M.U. and Y.W.G. MEETING

On Thursday, March 15th, the Mothers' Union and Young Wives' Group held a joint meeting. The Rev. Elsie Chamberlain gave us a most interesting talk on Mothering Sunday. — Explaining that originally the Daughter Churches visited the Mother Church on that day, she brought us up to date with the Mothering Sunday we know now, with cards and flowers for our own mothers. Miss Chamberlain described how the Americans had brought about this change and reminded us not to forget the religious significance of Mothering Sunday and become too materialistic in this and other ways.

B.V.H.

### THE YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

"The Mothers' and Toddlers' Club" formed recently by a number of Young Wives with children under school age has been holding regular meetings at "Wayside" on the second and third Wednesday afternoons of each month.

On March 14th we met for our usual chat and cup of tea and were pleased to welcome several new members. "Wayside" begins to look like an Infant Welfare Clinic

on these Wednesday afternoons with the row of prams and pushchairs outside.

On the afternoon of March 21st, Mrs. Molly Ford, a Beauty Counsellor, was kind enough to give us a demonstration in skin-care and make-up. This was thoroughly enjoyed by us all.

"HOME DECORATION" was the subject of the informative and amusing lecture given to the Y.W.G. on March 28th, by Mr. Frank Walker. We met in the Hall and were soon taking notes as hints were given on preparation, tools to use and materials suitable for the amateur who does his, or her, own decorating. Mr. Walker had brought along samples of brushes, paints and wallpaper and we were able to compare prices and quality. After the lecture we were shown a film, in colour, made by Crown Wallpaper.

Looking forward to our meeting on May 30th we would welcome questions for the Brains Trust, which will be composed of a Teacher, an Educational Psychologist, a Doctor, and a Parish Priest. Written questions should be given to any Committee member as soon as possible.

On June 1st the Y.W.G. and husbands and friends are going to see "MY FAIR LADY." The price of the outing (including the fare) is fourteen shillings (14/-). Coaches will leave the Church at 6.30 p.m.

B.V.H.

### 1st HAMPTON HILL GUIDE COMPANY

The Saint James's parishioners must, by now be sick and tired of hearing the seven or so years old plea for a Captain for the 1st Hampton Hill Guides. I am very pleased to tell you all, that we now have a Captain—Mrs. Weathers of Windmill Road, who has been a warranted Captain before.

The Company congratulates Lesley Young on becoming a Patrol Leader. Our other two Patrol Leaders have been busy obtaining proficiency badges which they are hoping to wear when they go to Holland at Easter with other Guides from the county.

Camp is one "Guidey" activity on which much stress is laid. This Easter, a local Captain is taking several companies to camp at Beveree, Hampton. Two of our Guides are going to this camp; it is unfortunate that there could not be

more, but I am sure that they will enjoy themselves.

You may have been a "victim" of an enthusiastic Guide selling programmes for the district's "Spring Fair" in which we are joining the Brownies in representing Australia and selling groceries. Thank-you those of you who bought programmes.

After an Easter holiday of two Thursdays, we hope to produce a really good company based on our present enthusiastic core of Guides, with, we hope, the indispensable help of all their parents.

R. MILLS,  
(Lieutenant).

### SOME DATES TO NOTE

May 12.—11.0 a.m. Parish Outing to Leonardslee.

May 15.—Mothers' Union Diocesan Festival Service in St. Paul's Cathedral. Coach leaves at 5 p.m.

May 16.—8.0 p.m. Prayer Group (Vestry).

May 17.—8.0 p.m. Young Wives' Group Meeting at St. Mary's Hampton. Speaker: Mrs. Stevens. 8.0 p.m. Old People's Welfare Committee (School).

May 21.—8.0 p.m. Ruri-Decanal Conference at St. Mary's Hall, Twickenham.

May 29.—4.0 p.m. Service in St. Paul's Cathedral to celebrate Tercentenary of the 1662 Prayer Book.

May 30.—8.0 p.m. Young Wives' Group: Brains Trust (W).

May 30.—No Holy Communion at 7.15 a.m.

May 31.—Ascension Day. Holy Communion at 7.15 and 10.30 a.m.

Evensong at 7.45 p.m., followed by meeting of the Parochial Church Council at Wayside at 8.30 p.m.

June 3.—3.0 p.m. District Guide Parade Service.

June 6.—Parish 'At Home' at the Vicarage from 7.30 to 9.30 p.m.

June 7.—2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union: Overseas Work (W).

June 10.—Whitsunday. Holy Communion at 8.0, 9.0 a.m. and 12.15 p.m. Children's Service at 9.45 a.m. Other Services as usual.

### BAPTISM

Apr. 22.—Maria Jane Hill, 326, Hanworth Road.

### MARRIAGES

Apr. 14.—Douglas James Osborne to Jennifer Elizabeth Cox.

„ 21.—George Richard Edwin Warrder to Dorothy Alice Tarrant.

### BURIALS

Apr. 6.—Emily Sarah Newman, 13, Seymour Road, aged 89

„ 19.—Ada Florence Woodward, 2, Eastbank Road, aged 76 years.

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## FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

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### SPRING CLEANING

My windows need spring cleaning; my dark corners want dusting out; it would be a good idea to wash the curtain linings; and what about that glory-hole?

So we house-wives have our spring-time urges to make all fresh and sparkling in the house. Might it not be beneficial to do a little inner spring-cleaning now?

Do we clean our own windows, and look out to see what we can do for others? Then there are those forgotten corners; we should visit old Mrs. X., and remember our promise to give a helping hand to Mrs. Y. with her young children, and that job I put off doing because I do not like it.

And our own curtain linings? A little introspective study of our own dustiness might reveal such cobwebs as smugness, pride in material possessions, and selfishness in giving all our time to ourselves. Oh! and heaps more.

Out with our brooms and pails, and let us, this Easter-tide, sweep up well within ourselves. It might surprise you what goes in to our own dustpans!

D.M.

### SPARE TIME!

You know it makes you think! Like me I expect many of you belong to some Committee or other, and at some time at an evening meeting, attended by men and women, volunteers have been slow to come forward for the numerous jobs that crop up in these voluntary organisations.

The men of course are occupied during the day, busily earning the money to keep their families—the womenfolk having all day to spare come forward (abeit sometimes reluctantly) and offer to do this extra little task—after all it is for a good cause, and we should not wilt in the doing thereof.

I have been busy looking for that spare time that we women have—first of all let's take a typical day which in our house starts around 7 a.m. Father gets up and brings me a cup of tea (alright, some do, some don't, I'm one of the lucky ones). He then goes to the bathroom whilst I get the children up and prepare breakfast—about one hour later, to the accompaniment of "Perhaps you could ring and hurry up the delivery of that boiler fuel!" "Don't forget the lawn mower comes back today!" "That fertiliser should go on the lawn soon!" "If you have time, those two new rose bushes should go in!" and similar bright observations Father is waved farewell.

Shortly the children are off—a packed lunch for one. "Have you a clean handkerchief? Satchel? Homework? "Can I have some money to buy the School Magazine? The felt rabbit I made? Lunch money?" "Don't forget my shoes have to be repaired, please." "Oh, yes and get a card and present for me to take to Mary Green's party." Of course there are many mothers who still have to take younger offspring to school—I have about half an hour's advantage over them.

When breakfast is cleared away and washed up, cat fed, and the few routine chores started, whether it be washing day, bedroom day, kitchen day or some such—interspersed by calls from that charming Insurance man, the milkman, the baker; then a dash to the shops with the shoes—don't forget the toothpaste (the last scrap was squeezed by somebody ahead of you this morning), dog food, cat food, mice food, present for somebody's birthday, etcetera! (This is not real shopping, just urgent essentials).

Home again, a quick cup of tea, a cheese sandwich (sometimes even a scrambled egg), take the dog for his walk (hurry, hurry—we have that meeting at half past two for the Old People, the Magazine, the Clinic or

some such) or we have that call to make on a sick friend, magazines to deliver, or to ensure that the fire will be lit in good time for the meeting tomorrow night.

We dash home shortly after 3.30 to get in before the children come home, then perhaps a visit to the Dentist with one, to the Baths for a practice swim for the Gala next week, leave the key for the one who is staying for netball (football or something). Before you go don't forget to see to the boiler, or it will be sure to go out on you. Then joy of joys home again to a nice "cuppa" and a warm sit down—that can't be the time? Must get weaving with the evening meal—urge the children to stop playing and concentrate (ha! ha!) on their homework. Six-thirty or so we have managed to get the food ready when Father's arrival is announced with shouts of "Hello, Daddy." "Hurry off that table—so that I can get it set for the meal."

We enjoy this family reunion—a check up ensues, not to forget tomorrow we have to go to have those "pricks," the strap has come off somebody's shoe (another trip to the shoe repairer in sight), well you know, don't you—I don't have to tell you all these dear little intimacies of family life.

After the meal, my husband often does the "washing up" for me (you see I have a gem!) after a few tussles with the children, "Oh, do just let me see that one programme on the 'telly,' or "just finish this paragraph" they are persuaded to feed their mice (I don't mind the cat and the dog—but I put my foot down about the mice) and continue with their homework.

Of course there are those occasions when you had it all planned to take a day off, but somehow then it's German Measles or Chicken Pox!

Mind you, I wouldn't change anything, but I do wonder sometimes where all that spare time has gone to.

#### **The Mother** (with apologies):

Teacher, tailor, listener, adviser, Nursemaid, chauffeur, laundress, chef.

(Plus hairdresser, secretary, gardener).

D.W.