

Vicar's Notes

Lee Abbey is becoming a very well-known name. We often hear about it and read about it, and meet people who have been there. But until you have been there yourself, you can get only a very incomplete idea of what it is like. My wife and I have just had the privilege of a week's stay there, at a Holiday Conference for members of the clergy and their wives. There were about 90 of us, including a number of children whose parents could not make other arrangements for them to be looked after, mingling with the 60 or so members of the Community who do all the work in the house and office and on the farm, maintain the electricity and water supply, and do the cooking, sweeping and cleaning. All we were asked to do was to make our own beds and act as orderlies on one day, and there were no fees to pay!

We were able to go because of the kindness of people willing to help at this end. I found priests and a reader free and ready to take charge of the Sunday Services, and Grandma came up to take charge of the domestic arrangements and look after the family. Bernard who did not go back to school until a week later than the other three, took over some of the jobs I usually do about the house, and my wife's school were good enough to give her a few days' extra holiday, other members of the Staff cheerfully taking over her duties so that she could get this break.

So we were able to get away for the first holiday by ourselves for nearly 17 years—and what a refreshing holiday it was! But challenging and stimulating too—for though you are away from it all, you are not allowed to forget that "all," but made to face it in its full gravity and difficulty. But facing it in this atmosphere of worship and fellowship, free from the daily stress and turmoil, with a sense of what a renewed and revitalised Church could be and do in the power God all around you, you see light and victory, where before you perhaps saw mainly darkness and defeat. The Valley of Dry Bones seemed a

pretty hopeless sort of place to Ezekiel. It was possible, of course, that God might do something about it, but extremely improbable. But when Ezekiel had the faith and courage to respond to God's call, the improbable happened, and the whole place was transformed and made full of life. That is the sort of hope and vision that Lee Abbey builds up in you. A number of people from this Parish have already been to one kind of house party or another, and they too are full of enthusiasm for this remarkable place. From my own experience of this delightful week there, I hope that many more of you will be able to go.

We were fortunate enough to be there just in time to have the advantage of Jack Winslow's last few days as Chaplain. He gave some very searching Devotional Addresses. He is now nearly eighty, and is leaving to live with his sister. From his life-long connection, with Hanworth, he knows this district well, and I had a most interesting conversation with him. Read, if you haven't yet done so, his autobiography "The Eyelids of the Dawn," and in June a Revised Edition of his "Lee Abbey Story" will be published.

CONFIRMATION 1962 and 1963

As mentioned before, there will be no Confirmation in this church until December 1963, when the Bishop of London will be visiting us on the occasion of our Centenary. For those who wish to be confirmed before this, we hope to make arrangements to present candidates at a church not too far off towards the end of this year or the beginning of next, and adults can be prepared for one of the Special Services at St. Paul's. I should be grateful if all intending candidates under the age of 18 would attend Evensong on Trinity Sunday, June 17th, and remain behind afterwards so that arrangements can be made for classes to begin before the end of the month. I should also like to hear as soon as possible from any older people who are thinking of Confirmation. Preparation for the Centenary Confirmation will begin immediately after Easter next year.

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about people, activities & organisation

THE MOTHERS' UNION

As an experiment we decided to hold our Annual Party on May 2nd, instead of the winter months, when

there is usually so much illness in the Branch. Despite the altered date, German Measles prevented some members from coming, and our

Enrolling Member was ill with 'flu. We missed her very much, for she always makes the party "go." Early holidays accounted for other absentees, including the Vicar and Mrs. Brunt, and our Treasurer. However all who were present seemed to enjoy themselves thoroughly. Mrs. Casey organised lively games for the younger guests, and Military Whist kept the more senior members entertained. Young and old appreciated the dainty tea which the Social Committee had prepared, and the Secretary would like to thank all those ladies who donated prizes, and all who worked so hard towards making the party a success.

In April we had two very interesting speakers, Mrs. Ecob who spoke to a joint meeting on "Why be Confirmed?"; and Mrs. Parkinson of St. Mary's Hampton, who addressed the Branch on "Seasons of the Church's Year."

On Tuesday, 8th May, the Annual Deanery Festival was conducted by the Rev. W. J. Davies, in St. Mary's Church, Twickenham, when about 300 members publicly reaffirmed their belief in the Three Objects of the Mothers' Union. The Bishop of Kensington preached from the text, "Be still, and know that I am God." Our banner was carried in the procession by Mrs. White, attended by Mrs. Cooper and Mrs. Futter. Later members of St. Mary's Branch served tea to all the visitors in St. Mary's Hall.

We are all glad that Mrs. Lewis is now about again after her recent operation.

Overseas Envelopes should now be returned to Mrs. Casey; and Three-penny pieces collected during the first week in May should be given to Mrs. Uden, our Treasurer, for Christian Family Year expenses. I.V.R.

THE YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

The Group held a meeting in Wayside on 25th April, 1962, the subject was "Fashion."

The speaker, Miss Gladys Cousins, is a fashion adviser for Butterick's Paper Patterns. She gave us some valuable advice concerning materials and styles, also several tips about buttonholes and other details.

Miss Cousins had brought along several outfits made from Butterick's Patterns which were much admired. A beach-suit in stripes was very popular, some members were seen afterwards wondering whether they

would have the nerve to wear it!

The meeting was rounded off with a clothing exchange. J.M.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP

Easter Monday early morning found a motley crowd gathered at 197 to see two vans, laden with assorted luggage and Y.P.F. strapped to the roof, set off for the invasion of Wales. One van soon had to turn back for something forgotten, but all, with Bubblecar as "van" guard, arrived that evening at Arthog on the Mawddach Estuary. The girls' van took a little longer—they had to stop for afternoon tea.

Soon settled we began an intensive assault on summits in sight. Vans were tested on hair pins. We had a go at Snowdon and didn't. Barmouth prospered by visitation, especially Davy Jones Locker—if you are there sometime, try his ice creams. We even drove up the Panorama Walk. But the highlight for ascent was the assault on Cader Idris. Trevor wore his city shoes; Ruth scaled its face; Richard met his Idris. Packed lunches need little comment; Janet lost 3lbs. On the Sunday afternoon a Treasure Hunt exhausted most of what people had left.

We were blessed with really good weather and apart from a few minor ailments, enjoyed a holiday that many of us will remember for one reason or another for quite some time.

THE 1st HAMPTON HILL GUIDE COMPANY

After much discussion, it has been decided that Mrs. Weathers will not become our Captain, and that instead, I shall be in charge of the running of the Company. Mrs. Belcher, the District Commissioner, who has been running the Company since Christmas with my "help," will be visiting us occasionally to see how we are getting on, and to enroll those who are ready. The whole Company are very grateful to Mrs. Belcher and Mrs. Casey, our Brown Owl, who has done so much to keep the Company together. I am hoping that, soon, a member of the Cadet Company to which I belong, will be able to help me in the running of this Company, but, as many Commissioners will tell you, there is a shortage of Cadets who are free to do such things (They have companies and packs of their own!). Also, many of them live in such remote places as Ashford or Chiswick. Cadets, for the many people

who don't know, are members of the Guide movement who are training to be Guiders—Captains, Lieutenants, Brown Owls and Tawny Owls, (and, may I assure you, having great fun doing so!)

We welcome Marion and Margaret Lansley, the twins, whose sister, Gloria, has already been in the company for nearly a year. Marion and Margaret gained their "Golden Hand" in the Brownies, and so were able to "Fly up" to Guides on May 3rd. We hope that they will continue in the Guides as they began in the Brownies.

The evening of May 3rd, was quite eventful, as Carolyn Wigginton was presented with her Second Class Badge, and Shirley Dafforne was enrolled. If she maintains the standard of keenness which she has already shown, Shirley will soon be a Second Class Guide too.

Linda Bunch and Pat Smith had a very enjoyable time in Holland over Easter, with Mrs. Beer, the County Commissioner. Hazel Elliott and Susan Roach enjoyed their long weekend under canvas with Miss Cooper, despite the first three days of rain, which meant that they had to sleep at home on Saturday night only to return on Sunday morning prepared for another dose of rain, which, surprisingly enough, didn't come. English Weather!

R. MILLS

SOME DATES TO NOTE

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

June 6.—Parish "At Home" at the Vicarage, 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.

June 14.—8.0 p.m. Old People's Welfare Committee (School).

June 17.—Trinity Sunday, Intending Confirmation Candidates asked to attend Evensong.

June 18.—Hampton Council of Churches: Public Meeting—"The World Council of Churches at New Delhi, 1961"—(Public Hall, Hampton).

June 20.—3.0 p.m. Garden Party arranged by Young Wives' Group for Babies baptised in the last 12 months, and their Mothers! (Vicarage Garden).

June 27.—8.0 p.m. Joint Meeting of Mothers' Union and Young Wives' Group: "Flower Arrangement (W).

July 4.—2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union Service.

July 7.—7.30 p.m. Parish Social Evening and Barbecue (Laurel Dene).

July 16.—8.0 p.m. Hampton Council of Churches: Quarterly Meeting (St. Mary's, Hampton).

November 24.—Deanery Missionary Pageant (St. Mary's Hall, Twickenham).

BURIAL

May 18.—Elizabeth Perry, 179, Uxbridge Road, Aged 87 Years (at Hampton).

FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

VISIT TO LEOPARDSLEE

"Wasn't it wonderful? I thought those huge white rhododendrons breathtaking!"

"Oh! I preferred those glorious azaleas on the banks."

"Did you notice that giant sequoia? The book says it is 36 feet around the bole."

"Have you seen the wallabies yet? They are over in the field beyond the lakes."

"I say, Camellia Walk is worth a visit, and the rockery garden is the best I've seen."

"And did you see the yellow king-cups, the pale ladies' smocks and the hundreds of wild anemones by the waters?"

"We keep meeting people from St. James's, but we soon get lost again. There are so many paths and gardens."

Yes, these are some of the remarks overheard on our most enjoyable trip to Leonardslee, gardens set in acres of natural beauty, planted with loving care by the owner, Sir Edmund Loder and his family from 1889 onwards. The rhododendrons, camellias, azaleas and magnolias were a sight no one could forget; in a background of old conifers, on woody hillsides, in dells and beside the lakes as nature made them, the planting of these glorious shrubs and flowering trees was a true inspiration.

There was a full coach and some parties came by car. We all enjoyed

the drive through our lovely Sussex; this was just the right week for seeing the clothing of the trees in their fresh spring colours. The trip kept one small boy happy, for he found plenty of interest within the coach; half-way there he said, "Mummy, this coach has a DRIVER!" The youngest member, a smiling baby, was happy all day in her special carry-seat.

In the gardens, the ground was rich with fallen blooms, which some of our Sunday School girls made into garlands. These they skewered on twigs, like Hawaiian leis. We noticed that they had found Mr. and Mrs. Severn's car a fine backcloth to display their art.

The dull weather hardly bothered us—except perhaps those ardent photographers looking for the sun's bright rays. When cars and coaches separated in the final farewells, the cameras clicked in an orgy of mutual cine shots.

We left Leonardslee, awed and perhaps subdued by the grand beauty of it all. Many thanks to Mr. Robinson and the Social Committee for organising such a rewarding venture. We were especially sorry that Mrs. Orton, whose "idea" this outing was, and who helped with much of the spade work, was not quite well enough to join us.

D.M.

ADDITIONAL CURATES' SOCIETY FESTIVAL.

The Annual General Meeting of this Society was held at Caxton Hall on Tuesday, 1st May, when the speakers were the Lord Bishop of Crediton, and the Rector of Stevenage (Rev. E. W. B. Cordingly, M.B.E.) both of whom gave inspiring talks. The Chairman, Sir Eric Seal, reported that 1961 had been a record year, grants paid out amounted to over £47,000 but he appealed for an even greater measure of generosity from subscribers both old and new, in the coming year.

Holy Communion was sung at St. James' Piccadilly on the morning of the Festival. The Bishop of Bedford presided, the sermon was preached by Rev. Canon R. Helby Chambers, and the music provided by the Flammstead Choir.

This Parish contributed £11-3-0 during 1961. I.V.R.

(It was Eric Cordingly who gave me my first lessons in oarsmanship at King's, years ago.—ED.)

FRIENDS OF THE DIOCESE OF MAURITIUS

A Letter from the Chairmn

A Twickenham Branch of the Friends of the Diocese of Mauritius was recently formed with the intention of bringing together all those people in and around Twickenham who knew the present Bishop of Mauritius when, as Canon Alan Rogers, he was from 1949 to 1955 Vicar of St. Mary's, Twickenham and earlier, as Assistant Curate, was on the staff of Holy Trinity, Twickenham.

The Diocese of Mauritius is faced with tremendous difficulties not the least of which is the back-log of the effects of the disastrous cyclones of 1960. As recently as March of this year another cyclone added to the damage caused by the earlier catastrophes. The local community is doing all it can to make good the damage but its resources are limited and outside assistance is badly needed.

It is thought that because of the Bishop's connections with Twickenham there may be those in your Parish who know him personally and would wish to help him in his tremendous task. There will be others who have not met the Bishop, but who would nevertheless like to add their assistance, I therefore feel emboldened to ask you to be good enough to consider giving this letter as much publicity as possible within your Parish and if any members wish to join the Friends of Mauritius they are invited to apply to the joint Hon. Secretaries:

Mr. & Mrs. R. N. Himson,
9, Carpenters Court,
Hampton Road,
Twickenham.

I would also ask you to be good enough to consider whether you could assign part of your extra-parochial giving to the Diocese of Mauritius. All assistance, however given will be gratefully received.

The needs of the Diocese were vividly brought home to me when, in January of this year, I was in Mauritius on business. During that visit I used my camera to produce a considerable number of colour slides and I would be willing to give an illustrated talk to members of your Parish if they would like this.

The Twickenham branch of the Friends of Mauritius is non-parochial and I am sending this letter to all incumbents in the Borough.

EDWARD MORRIS, Chairman.