

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about
people, activities & organisation

PERSONALIA

Miss Hannah Stanton has got her wish—she is back in Africa again! She came to Evensong here on May 27th and said good-bye to as many of her friends as possible. Two days later she was flying out to Uganda and by now she will have been hard at work in her new job for several weeks. She is Warden of Mary Stuart Hall of Residence at Makerere University, and will have opportunities of teaching, and influencing in other ways, most of the 100 women students who include Arabs, Africans, Indians and American. It is a key post, and we must uphold her by constant prayer.

There was a good deal of friendly rivalry between Hannah and Rodney concerning who would get overseas again first. Hannah has won by a short head! But Dr. Rodney Bishop will be sailing for India on July 21st, and hopes to begin his new work in mid-August. He has a three-year appointment, and is taking the place of an Indian Surgeon at the Catherine Booth Hospital, Nagercoil, where he expects that he will have to be prepared to do anything. There are seven doctors on the staff, and a large amount of general and specialist work is carried out—over 3,500 operations a year (that's ten a day!). Rodney expects to have a great deal to do with eyes, as well as specialist work in plastic surgery—and there will of course be midwifery, and out-patient work. The hospital has about 500 beds, and the town of Nagercoil is a fairly large one, 20 miles from the Southern tip of India. They say that the climate is hot for three months of the year—and for the other nine, very hot!

Dr. Bishop has spent most of his time since his return from Canada a year ago taking a course in Theology, but also doing medical work from time to time as occasion arose. We shall miss him greatly as Reader, and as Founder-Leader of the Young People's Fellowship. He will be preaching two sermons before he leaves, at Matins on July 8th, and at Evensong, on July 15th, and after the service on this second occasion there will be a gathering at Wayside

to wish him farewell and bid him Godspeed. We hope that as many of his friends at St. James's as possible will be able to attend.

A few days before, on July 11th, Mr. and Mrs. Hawkins celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary. They have spent all their married life in this Parish, and Mr. Hawkins, after his years as a tram and trolleybus driver, has never retired from work, but gone on for 14 years as a gardener, still putting in a stint that would put many a younger man to shame. He is a well-known figure to all who visit our churchyard, and is very regular in his duties as sidesman on Sunday. We send our heartiest congratulations and best wishes to this grand old couple who have remained so young in heart.

THE HAMPTON COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

The Council again organised the Christian Aid Week House-to-House Collection. The area was divided into five districts, and each of the five Churches undertook responsibility for one of these. The result this year was a record amount of just over £400, and from the district covered by St. James's £58 was raised. There are still a number of people who refuse to give, but they are steadily decreasing. We are grateful to all who helped and all who gave.

The battle against World-Hunger is fierce and terrible and may have to go on for years. The Churches, as is only right, are in the forefront of this, and last year over a quarter of a million tons of food was distributed by Inter-Church Aid amongst the world's worst hunger-spots. All money given during Christian Aid Week will be used either to prevent imminent starvation, or on longer-term plans for agricultural improvement which will in due course greatly increase food-supply and make hitherto barren land productive.

The Drama Group sponsored by the Council is becoming increasingly well-known, not only in this district, but also further afield. As well as the performance in this Church, "Christ in the Concrete City," was presented by the Group during Lent at two Churches in Ealing, one at

West Twyford, and one in Barking-side in Essex. As a result of the latter the Bishop of Barking has become interested and asked for a tape recording of the play to be sent to him.

The public meeting arranged by the Council on Monday, June 18th, was both informative and challenging. It was a pity that St. James's was represented by only two of us. It is easy to say that we are too tired to go, or that we are allergic to such things, or that meetings are a waste of time. Sometimes, of course, they are. Especially when they do nothing to inspire thought or impel to action—but I believe that this one will do both. The speaker stressed both the vital importance, and the real possibility, of "Ecumenical Break-through" in Britain in our time. Indeed, unless this happens, it is difficult to see how any effective renewal can come to the Churches in Britain, or, through them, to the nation. The New Delhi Assembly made it clearer than ever how much the eyes of our fellow Christians across the world are upon these islands, from which have sprung so many traditions of Churchmanship now world-wide. They wait, with growing impatience, for us to take some decisive step towards visible unity. Neither they nor the world-situation can wait much longer. It is far later than we appear to think. This present decade may well prove decisive.

Plans are being made for intensive inter-church study and action, on a wide basis, and also right here in the local situation, during the next few years, as a means which God may use to prepare the way for that break-through which is so urgent. I hope that the Hampton Council of Churches as a whole and each of its member Churches will play its full part in this great effort. Pray that the Council, at its next meeting on July 16th, may be guided to see and accept the opportunity and responsibility offered to it.

THE VICARAGE "AT HOME"

A sure sign that a party is a success is when the guests arrive early and leave late, and this is what happened when about seventy people accepted the Vicar's invitation to be "at home" with him and Mrs. Brunt on June 6th.

From 7.30 onwards a steady stream of summer-clad guests arrived to stay and chat until the cool of the evening reminded them that all good things must end and that the party was over.

The weather was beautiful and the garden looked its best with bright deck chairs dotted around the lawn and people chatting in friendly groups while Rosalind, Clare and Bernard kept them supplied with the appetising snippets and creamy coffee which the Social Committee prepared with some hilarity in the Vicarage kitchen.

Several fairly newcomers were welcomed and went away feeling that they had met and talked with new friends to whom they could now smile in church and when they met around the village. Talking over the party afterwards the general impression was one of friendly enjoyment and of hopes that other similar get-togethers should be arranged in the not too distant future.

M.O.

BARBECUE

This will be held at Laurel Dene on July 7th, 1962, from 7.30 p.m. until 11 p.m.

The programme will include a treasure-hunt, open-air refreshments and dancing on the lawn, weather permitting.

Admission will be by ticket only which must be purchased from members of the Social Committee before the day.

M.O.

THE MOTHERS' UNION

We had our monthly meeting on Thursday, June 7th. Unfortunately the attendance was not quite so good as usual as several members were on holiday.

A word of appreciation is due to Mrs. Harrington who very nobly came all the way from Leytonstone to tell us about the work of the Bush Brothers of Australia (one of whom is Mrs. Harrington's son). They are a band of young clergy who try to keep in contact with people in very remote homesteads all over the country—a very difficult job indeed. They receive no pay, but of course money is needed for the organisation and cost of travel, etc. Their work has to be done by car in very rough country. I am sure our prayers will go a long way to help them in this very fine service.

Our next date to remember is July 4th, when we have an Enrolment

Service in the Church at 2.30 p.m. We hope to have four new members enrolled. The Rev. O. R. Fulljames will be preaching—afterwards there will be tea at Wayside. I hope as many members, and Young Wives, as possible will come to this service.

We are very pleased to welcome Mrs. Spooner to our Branch. She has been a M.U. member for 42 years at different branches, her last one being at Docking, near Kings Lynn.

Please note that sometimes our meetings will be on the first Thursday of the month as we cannot always get a speaker for the Wednesday.

The dates will all be in our new programmes which should be out shortly. V.P.

OLD PEOPLE GET MAYORAL "SEND OFF"

29 old people left Hampton Hill by coach on Saturday, 26th May, for a week's holiday at Cliftonville. Mr. Mann of Wolsey Road and Mrs. Stock of Laurel Road went as helpers.

The Mayor, Alderman J. W. H. Crane, and several members of the H. H. Old People's Welfare Committee were present at the "send off" which was at 8.30 a.m.

They had a week of fine, if cool, weather and from reports received enjoyed a really good holiday.

A FETE is to be held at Laurel Dene on Saturday, 21st July, in aid of this worthy organisation. It will be opened by Miss Doris Rogers (Aunt Florrie of "Life with the Lyons") and the Mayor and Mayoress have promised to attend. There will be music by the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall; a Fete Queen, a Glamorous Grannie, etc., with, of course, all the usual stalls and side shows.

There is to be an outing to Brighton on 16th August, to which those old people who did not go on the holiday to Cliftonville will be taken free of charge.

We have also been asked to draw attention to the Bingo Drives at St. James's Hall, on the 30th June, and 28th July, in aid of the Old People's Welfare Committee.

THE YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

On Wednesday, May 30th, the Young Wives' Group held a Brains Trust at Wayside.

The members of the panel were Mr. McGibbon, Child Psychologist from

the Child Guidance Clinic; Mrs. Brunt, in the role of teacher; Mrs. Ferreira, a School Medical Officer; and Father Royall of St. Augustinès, Whitton. Under the chairmanship of Mollie Saunders, the panel was asked many questions, some amusing, some stimulating and some informative, the answers being in the same vein. One questioner wondered whether Tchikovsky would have composed so well had he attended a Child Guidance Clinic in his youth, while another asked if school medical examinations were adequate.

These and many other questions were very ably dealt with by the distinguished panel and it was felt that it had been a successful and well attended meeting, rounded off as usual with refreshments and a chat.

P.M.O.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP

Recovering from the Easter holiday, the Y.P.F. confined itself to its normal activities for most of the month. On Sunday, May 27th, however, we were very glad to visit Mr. Stevens in his new Church of All Hallows for the evening service and hold our meeting in the vestry. On Whit-Monday the Y.P.F. set off on one of its chaotic cycle rides. What returning trippers thought of Ruth carrying a ten foot pole will never be known! I believe that the ride set up a record for the least number of punctures—there were only two, and those were on the same bike.

The pictures of the Easter holiday in Wales have now all returned and we held a showing of colour slides which we hope to repeat for parents and all those interested sometime in the near future.

Owing to the increasing size of membership, Sunday evening meetings are being held at Wayside instead of at members' houses. Anyone who is interested in joining the Y.P.F. should drop in at Wayside after the Sunday evening service and make himself known. He will be extremely welcome.

THE YOUTH CLUB

The Youth Club have continued to hold their regular Friday meetings.

A group of about 20 young people went for a hike on Easter Monday and a good time was had by all.

Various skiffle groups occasionally come to the Club on Fridays to play music for dancing but we also have

a large number of records which we buy each week.

We are planning to hold another "Hop" in July and at the moment are busy making the arrangements for it.

We were recently given a grant from the Twickenham Youth Committee and used the money to replace an old billiard table. P.A.A.

THE 1st HAMPTON HILL GUIDE COMPANY

Owing to exams, etc., meetings this month have been somewhat spasmodic, however two or three meetings which were nearly cancelled were taken by Linda Bunch, one of the Patrol Leaders. The first one, with Mrs. Casey very kindly present to see that all went well, was held in Bushy Park, and was attended by a tall dark gentleman . . . in his official capacity as a policeman. Fearing for the safety of the park in the hands of eighteen Guides he questioned the reason for their presence but being satisfied with the answers he received he allowed the meeting to continue.

As for normal, meetings (if any Guide meeting could be called "normal!") Mrs. Greenhalgh is visiting us at frequent intervals to teach First Aid, so if any Parishioner wants to help the Guides—perhaps a severed artery—or merely a faint?—it would be good practice! Seriously, if there is anyone who has a particular knowledge or talent which could be taught in sessions of half to one hour, in either one, or a series of evenings, that would be useful to Guides, please contact me—it's not all knots and camping. The Cadet we hoped would come and help is slowly, very slowly, becoming a reality, or rather a possibility! I hope to have more definite news on this subject for next month's report.

It was pleasing to notice that the District Church Parade, held at St. James's Church, this year, was very well attended by 1st Hampton Hill Guides, all of whom were wearing uniform, which was as neat, tidy and correct as it has ever been.

The hike on Wednesday, 13th June, (perhaps it was the date) was very badly attended. However, the three of us enjoyed our stroll over Fetcham Downs, along the bottom of Box Hill, and over White Hill, on which we sat, removing the bark from some neatly sawn birch logs, to use as "punk" on future occasions. "Punk" is the

name given to the dry, easily lightable substance used to set a fire alight. No, we do not use paper . . . well, at least, not when anybody's looking! The part of the First Class syllabus dealing with the reading of a map, and the finding of North, by the sun, was thoroughly learned on this hike. The fact that we originally planned to go to Leith Hill was nothing to do with the inaccuracies of the ordnance survey map, or of the map reading.

To conclude, the Company congratulate Gloria Lansley, Carolyn Wigginton and Susan Beck on becoming Patrol Seconds. We hope they will continue to be a credit to the Company. R.M.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

- July 4.—2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union Service.
- July 7.—7.30 p.m. Parish Social Evening and Barbecue (Laurel Dene).
- July 11.—8.0 p.m. Prayer and Study Group (Vestry); 8.0 p.m. Joint M.U. and Y.W.G. Meeting (W.)
- July 12.—11 a.m. Editorial Board (Vicarage).
- July 15.—6.30 p.m. Preacher Dr. Rodney Bishop; 8.0 p.m. "Farewell Evening" to Dr. Rodney Bishop (W).
- July 16.—8.0 p.m. Hampton Council of Churches: Quarterly Meeting (St. Mary's Hampton).
- July 21.—3.0 p.m. Old People's Welfare Committee; Fete (Laurel Dene).
- July 25.—St. James's Day; Patronal Festival; Holy Communion at 7.15 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.; 8.0 p.m. Young Wives' Group (W).
- July 27.—8.0 p.m. Continuative Committee (106, Park Road).
- July 29.—Continuation of Patronal Festival.
- September 27.—Harvest Festival and Supper.
- November 24.—Deanery Missionary Pageant (St. Mary's Hall Twickenham).

All copy for the August issue of the magazine should be sent to the Vicar, or any member of the Editorial Board, not later than Wednesday, July 11th.

Magazines should be ready for distribution, Friday, July 27th.