

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about
people, activities & organisation

THE MOTHERS' UNION

Our Closing Service on July 4th had more of a family atmosphere than usual since our Enrolling Member's brother, Rev. O. R. Fulljames, preached to us from the text: "Walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called." His address was applicable to all present, as well as to Mmes. Burton, Edmonds and Harries whom the Vicar had admitted as members of Mothers' Union, earlier in the service. Later, at a social gathering in Wayside, Mrs. Prentice officially welcomed the new members and presented them with M.U. badges. We are grateful to Mrs. Uden for providing the musical part of the service.

Next session's programme is now complete, we shall be having a course of six special Christian Family Year talks on "The Fruit of the Spirit." Each talk will be given by a specially trained speaker, and it is hoped that some interesting discussions will arise.

Our re-opening date is Wednesday, September 12th when a service will be held in Church at 2.30 p.m. Tea and a "Bring and Buy" Sale at Wayside will follow.

In the Hall at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, September 19th, an officer of Middlesex County Fire Service will be giving an illustrated talk on "Fire Prevention." Since this is a subject of vital concern, to old and young alike, we hope for a very large audience. Please make it known amongst your friends and neighbours.

In my capacity as Secretary of the Deanery Committee, which is arranging a Brains Trust to be held in St. Mary's Hall, Twickenham at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, 16th October, I should be glad to receive questions on family problems—the more questions you send in, and the sooner I receive them—the better.

Happy Holidays to all our members. Do wear your M.U. Badges whilst on holiday—its surprising what contacts are made by this means.

Let us see you back in September brimfull of energy and ideas.

I.V.R.

THE YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

Our Babies' Party this year had to be held later in June than has been usual, and unfortunately our customary good weather was lost to us also, and we had to entertain our guests at Wayside. The number of young mothers and babies who were able to come along was rather small, as many were away on holiday, and some must have been frightened away by the lack of sunshine. However, one thing remained as in earlier years—the unflinching charm of the babies present. We enjoyed meeting those mothers whom we had not met before, and were pleased to welcome several of our members who brought along their newest babies.

At our monthly meeting in June, we were joined by the Mothers' Union for a talk on "Floral Arrangement" by Mrs. Nelson a M.U. member from All Hallows, Twickenham. Mrs. Nelson gave us some very useful tips about keeping cut flowers fresh, and about colour blending. She showed how to arrange flowers and foliage, using such varied containers as a silver cup, a seashell, a baking tin, and a lovely old tureen. We were all inspired by her delightful arrangements, and I heard of at least one husband who arrived home next day, to find floral masterpieces, but no lunch!

There is, as usual, no meeting during August, and on September 19th, we join the Mothers' Union at 8 p.m. at the Parish Hall for the meeting on "Fire Prevention."

Our meeting on September 26th, once again starts at 8 p.m. with a short service in Church, followed by a get-together at Wayside.

We hope you are saving all your jumble for our Jumble Sale at the Hall on Saturday, October 20th, and offers of assistance will also be appreciated.

M.S.

THE BARBECUE

(1) The Low-Down on Preparation.

Your Social Committee is nothing if not practical. To answer the burning (oh dear!) question of how much food and drink would be needed to feed one hundred and fifty people of unknown appetites the Committee were unanimous in considering that

the best way to find out was to feed a group of brave volunteers and work out quantities and cost proportionally. Zealous in your interests as ever, they nobly offered themselves in this capacity! Accordingly, not one but two dress rehearsals were held; the first at the Severn's and the second at the Maddox's. A dozen people were fed each time and thus valuable data was obtained. Our earnest researches showed that the Committee were (a) hungry, and (b) thirsty, and starting from scratch, i.e., no supper beforehand, consumed on an average three barbecued items with varying amounts of garnish. Their consumption of liquid refreshment seemed to be fairly considerable (Barbecuing and brainwork both being thirsty occupations), but we hope that our estimated allocation was considered suitable.

The necessary heat of the charcoal and time of lighting had to be assessed against the average speed of consumption. The Committee in this respect seemed hungrier and thirstier and therefore quicker in moving along the line than the general public were thought likely to be and timing was adjusted accordingly, but actually events proved that if another barbecue is held, cooking must be accelerated to keep pace with demand. At the post-barbecue meeting Mrs. Severn stated that "If we do it again there must be at least four men cooking!" We had thought that a repetition of the menu as before would be acceptable but naturally in the light of Mrs. Severn's suggestion, if any gentlemen in the parish consider that they would make especially tasty morsels we hope they will not hesitate to apply!

M.J.

(2) A Visitor's Impressions.

Instead of the Garden Party which is usually held at this time of year, the Social Committee arranged a Barbecue in the grounds of Laurel Dene on Saturday, July 7th. We were favoured with a fine evening and a company of about 150 parishioners of assorted ages arrived to sample the "burnt offerings." All the tickets were sold in advance and the Social Committee tender its apologies to those who were unable to obtain admission.

Before the serious business of eating got under way, Mr. Geoffrey Eaton gave the youngsters some food for thought in the form of a General

Knowledge Quiz. Peter Orton proved to be the most knowledgeable contestant, with Rosalind Melville a close second.

To stimulate any flagging appetites a Treasure Hunt concocted by Mr. Maddox had a large number of people racing hither and yon, muttering mystic couplets and trying to record the right letters in the right order. The final clue was provided by "a well-known figure in our midst"—the Vicar—and the first competitor to obtain it and win the handsome treasure was Mrs. Uden, who was noticeably short of breath for some time afterwards!

Meanwhile, most activity had also been going on around the barbecue, and we were invited to approach with our buttered rolls at the ready, to receive either sausage or hamburger filling. The notice-board said "repeat three times if able"—a number of the younger ones were not only able but eager, and Messrs. Gostling, Maddox and Severn were kept busy distributing their offerings. It must be recorded that a few of these were of the burnt variety, but the majority could fairly be described as "done to a turn." Mr. Robinson and Mr. Brooks competently dispersed liquid refreshment, and apples and sweets were also available to complete the repast.

Incidental music throughout the evening was provided by Mr. Ted Watson at the piano, and later there was music on records for dancing.

We hope the residents of Laurel Dene were not kept awake too late by the sounds of our revelry; judging by the success of the first St. James's Barbecue we may well be seeking their indulgence on summer evenings in other years.

M.U.

A LETTER

Mrs. Slade of Sherwood Road who is in the Nelson Hospital, Wimbledon, after a severe accident, writes as follows:

Dear Vicar,

My very good friend, Mrs. Moses, told me when she visited me yesterday that you had included me in your Church prayers—thank you all very sincerely . . . I just cannot speak too highly of the excellent nursing and quite extraordinary kindness received since my arrival here. They did undoubtedly save my life. I think if people who are so quick to shout out against Jamaicans (and of course all coloured people) knew

what it is like to lie, unable to move, wracked with pain and unable to sleep—the healing power and comfort of a low, soft, kindly voice saying “Can’t you sleep dear? I shall make you a cup of tea”—this at about 3 a.m.—and even though the tea has to be lukewarm and out of a feeder—you do sleep afterwards from sheer gratitude. In this Hospital I have been attended by Doctors — Anglo-Indian, Australian, Egyptian and English; Nurses—British Guianan, Jamaican, Chinese, Pakistani, Scots, Irish, German and English—there is “no colour atmosphere,” they all work side by side equally. How many of our hospitals would have to close down I wonder, were it not for these good people. It is indeed a sobering thought!

I can truthfully say (with a strong flavour of Irish humour!) it was a lucky accident which brought me in here.

I will hope to come round and see you soon, in the meanwhile thank you for your kind thoughts and prayers.

The Hospital Padre came and gave me Holy Communion too.

Yours sincerely,
WINIFRED SLADE.

(We give publicity to this letter, in accordance with Mrs. Slade’s own wish, as a tribute of gratitude to a very fine hospital and its staff, and also to remind us of what we owe to our many neighbours from overseas for whom things are not always made too easy in England.

—Ed.)

SOME DATES TO NOTE

Sept. 9.—Sunday Schools reopen after Summer recess.

Sept. 12.—2.30 p.m. Mothers’ Union Service.

Sept. 17.—8.0 p.m. Hampton Council of Churches: Open Meeting—“The Problem of Stress and Emotional Disturbance.” (Public Hall).

Sept. 19.—8.0 p.m. Open Meeting: “Fire Prevention.” (Hall).

Sept. 20.—8.0 p.m. Church Council (W).

Sept. 26.—8 p.m. Young Wives’ Group: Service in Church followed by ‘At Home,’ at Wayside.

Sept. 27.—7.15 p.m. Harvest Thanksgiving. Preacher: The Rev. J. L. Garrington, Vicar of All Saints’, Hampton. The service will be followed by the usual supper and entertainment in the Parish Hall.

There will be no week-day services in Church during August or early September.

The Vicar expects to be on holiday August 11–25. During this period the Revd. Frank Leonard and his family will be staying at the Vicarage. Mr. Leonard, who is chaplain to the Royal Marines at Exmouth, will be responsible for the Sunday services, and available to deal with urgent matters during the week, but as he is also here on holiday it is hoped that parishioners will defer anything that is not pressing until the Vicar’s return.

BAPTISMS

May 27.—Christopher William Gwynn, 52, Uxbridge Rd.

„ 27.—Ian Tolfree, 178, Hanworth Road.

June 3.—Paul Robert Jackson, Flat B, Oxford Court, Anlaby Road, Teddington.

„ 3.—Robin David Wasun Lane, 3, Hartland Road.

June 24.—Kim Rowena Ball, 31, Burton’s Road.

„ 24.—Clive John Germany, 4, Belgrade Road, Hampton.

MARRIAGES

June 2.—John Henry Short to Edith Patricia Edwards.

„ 9.—Paul Anthony Marshall to Doreen Milns.

„ 16.—Ian Edward Gale to Anne Phyllis Biggs.

FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

A THOUGHT FOR TODAY—

AND FOR EVERY DAY

Resentment is a thing which we allow to possess us all too easily. Often we even nurse it and take pleasure in it until it becomes a canker that festers and spreads and poisons. Resentments, both private and national, are really what lie at the bottom of much of the trouble

and strife in the world, and each one of us has it in our power to tackle this problem at its source—our hearts. Resentment mars friendships, business and race relationships, worship, marriages and whole lives. Every one of us, quite easily, can get to grips with, and conquer our private resentments and if we each do this the way will be opened for tackling wider resentments.

Each one of us should remember constantly that resentment is **always** an evil thing. Even when we are as certain as we mortals ever can be that it is we who are in the right and the other person who is wrong we should never forget that the faults of others are no excuse for us to do wrong also. If we are honest with ourselves we have to admit that we often say, "Oh well! if that's how they feel, why should I bother," or "I'm right, so why should I put myself out," and before we know where we are, we have got ourselves into an unpleasant position of ill-feeling and ill-will from which it is very hard to extricate ourselves without the lack of face which is all too important to us.

We must always remember that it is not **who** is right that really matters a jot but that the real importance lies in doing **what** is right. We very often know, deep in our hearts that we are wrong even when we persuade ourselves and others that we are right, but when we are in doubt God will show us the way if we listen to Him and really want to please Him and not ourselves.

M.O.

EAGER TO READ

A C.M.S. missionary at a Teacher-Training College at Mbale, Uganda, wrote recently describing how some of the students had gone into the villages, during their holidays, to sell Bibles and Gospels. They were thrilled with the response and are eager to do this again.

She continues: "Recently some of our Demonstration School staff—who are old students of the College—and I also had a day out during the holidays selling Bibles and Gospels at a Cattle Auction. It was thrilling to get the Word into the hands of folk who normally wouldn't come near a church; people who, for example, go to the markets selling "magic" bits of bones, bits of stick, feathers, etc.

"Of course, we know that a lot of people buy the Gospels just for something to read because there is so little for them. Do remember often in your prayers the people working to provide more good literature in simple English or the local languages for Africa."

MILLIONS IN INDIA CANNOT READ

Almost every person in Great Britain who goes to vote can read or write. Of the 210 million people who

are eligible to vote in India, 160 millions (76 per cent) are illiterate. This is not because Indians are less capable than Englishmen or Scotsmen or Welshmen. It is because they have had less chance.

NIGERIAN PREMIER ACKNOWLEDGES DEBT TO THE CHURCH

Western Nigeria's political stability is due largely to the influence of Christian missions, said the Premier of the Region, Chief S. L. Akintola. He was addressing the members of the Diocese of Ibadan on the tenth anniversary of the inauguration of the Diocese.

The Premier stressed that instability and conflict in some politically free nations today was due to the absence of God in their lives; real freedom could only be obtained through the presence of God. Chief Akintola described the diocese as "a living diocese" known for its "dynamism," spiritual devotion and leadership." He also paid tribute to the entire Anglican mission which, through its educational programmes had produced many of the men of ability and integrity now running Western Nigeria.

THEY ARE PRAYING FOR THE NEIGHBOURS

"The women's work here is roughly divided into visiting with the Bible-women during the week, and in encouraging the Women's meetings in the congregations on Sundays," writes a C.M.S. missionary who is in the Madurai-Ramnad diocese of the Church of South India.

In one town there has been a great working of the Holy Spirit amongst the Christians. A small group of converts from Hinduism realised that their neighbours were disparaging Christ and the Christian faith, saying that it was only for women, and not for men. This challenged them, and a group arranged to meet in church every Friday afternoon to pray especially for their Hindu families.

"This was a spontaneous prayer meeting started by the Christian women themselves. The pastor's wife sometimes joins them, but the initiative is entirely with the women themselves. Do pray for their leader: she came to know Christ about ten years ago, and has been the means of bringing many to her Lord. And pray, please, for these women that they may have the joy of winning their husbands and families for Christ."