

Vicar's Notes

There is space only for something brief under this heading this month, so I will just mention one or two points.

We were able to open the Kindergarten section of the Sunday School on time after all. Three lively schoolgirls—Heather Gostling, Ceridwen Roberts and Sarah Long—came forward in response to the appeal for volunteers, and my wife left her post in the Junior department to take on the leadership. There is great enthusiasm and interest, and prospects are bright. But my wife has already such piles of work to do, and though she finds this additional pile very enjoyable, I sometimes wonder how long she can go on without something toppling!

Great keenness in the juniors too—teachers gladly taking on larger classes (as well as my wife's transferring, Susan Willmott has had to give up—pressure of A-level!) We have been glad to welcome new faces, and hope for more. Best time to join is now, at the beginning of the session. My own senior (11 plus) group is also booming, and has grown to more than twenty strong. Most of them are eager to be confirmed at the end of next year, so their basic instruction will be given here, and they will not be expected

to join a week-day class—at any rate, not until shortly before their Confirmation. For other young people not in this group, week-day classes will be arranged early in the new year. I am all in favour of long, calm, unhurried preparation, instead of the short, feverish few months we sometimes see. A good example here is set by St. Paul's School, with its thorough two-year scheme.

An increasing number of people are now coming forward for confirmation in adult life, anywhere between the ages of 19 and 90. I already have the names of ten such, and we shall shortly be meeting as a group to explore the mysteries of the Christian Faith. This can be a rich and rewarding experience, and if any more would like to join us, please let me know.

Other matters are going forward—some of them too slowly for our liking. Schemes for re-roofing and re-painting the southern portion of the church, and for a complete re-wiring of the electrical circuits, have been agreed on after much discussion, but when it comes to getting them approved by higher authority and carried out, snags of various kinds arise, causing long delay. A full report on all these programmes and plans will be given to all interested at the Annual Review in November.

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about
people, activities & organisation

PERSONALIA

After treatment in hospital and a week's convalescence in Sussex it was good to see Mrs. Margery Orton looking, and feeling, so very much better. Better, in fact, than she has been for some time. As I write she is having a holiday with her family and I am sure we all send her best wishes and hope that she will now be really well set up for the coming winter.

We hear that Mrs. Dilys Melville is back in her teaching profession and enjoying it. Here we have an example of the great benefits of a good education to a woman. Once obtained it is there to be called upon when necessary or when, perhaps, one's family is more self-reliant. Sometimes it is difficult to make the

young realise this. We wish Dilys success and happiness.

Mrs. Rickwood, of Ringwood Way, who is at present in hospital in London is having a very difficult time in her early pregnancy. We ask you to remember her in your prayers that she may receive the comforting knowledge of God's presence with her.

We sent our congratulations and greetings last month on behalf of the parish to two well-known and highly esteemed members of our congregation, Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Job, on the occasion of their Golden Wedding anniversary. They were married here on September 10th, 1912, by the then Vicar, Mr. Job's father, assisted by the famous Bishop Gwynne of Egypt and the Sudan.

countries in which Mr. and Mrs. Job lived for many years until their return not long ago to the old house in Hampton Road, from which Mrs. Job went to her wedding.

As this magazine goes to press, we have just heard with deep regret of the death of Miss Phillips. She was for many years a Sunday School teacher and superintendent here, and those whom she taught—most of them now grown up, and with children of their own—will remember her name with gratitude and affection. For the past few years she had been living at Walton-on-Thames, but she maintained her interest in all that happened here, and was a keen reader of "The Spire."

WAYSIDE

Thanks are extended for the generous gift of a carpet for the room at Wayside, in response to our appeal. It is beginning to look really cosy and the Y.P.F. has now embarked on cleaning and lightening the paint work.

Seymour Harris is now on the trail of a vacuum cleaner or carpet sweeper. Any offers? We are most grateful for the gift of some curtains which should prove adequate for the large windows.

1st HAMPTON HILL GUIDES

The return from the Summer Holidays saw us meeting in Windmill Road School Hall, sorting out the Company and Patrol equipment. The major event for September is, however, the Jumble Sale on the 29th. The many preparations needed for such a project are now under way.

On Thursday, 15th September, two Brownies, Anne Johnson and Christine Stuart, will be "flying up" to Guides. Brownies who have passed their "Golden Hand" go through this ceremony when they receive their "Wings," which they wear on their Guide uniforms. Also on this day, Ann Stuart, Christine's older sister will be enrolled and so allowed to wear her Guide uniform for the first time.

R.M.

THE MOTHERS' UNION

Although the falling of September leaves heralds the approach of Autumn, most people's holidays are still fresh in their minds. Our holiday with the M.U. of the London Diocese held at Stover School will

linger in our memory for a long time.

Stover School is situated between Newton Abbot and Bovey Tracey—on the edge of Dartmoor, within sight of the famous rocks of Hay Tor. It has beautiful grounds, seven tennis courts and an outdoor swimming pool. The amenities provided offered wonderful facilities for a communal holiday. Boys aged seven to twelve were segregated into one dormitory, likewise the girls. The pranks and capers perpetrated by these two dormitories upon each other provided a great deal of amusement.

During our first meal together each family introduced itself to the others, and for the first few days name tags were worn enabling each and every one of us to get know each other more readily. Quickly we seemed to be one big happy family. A small army of volunteer helpers looked after our every need. A nursery staff to care for the very young—cooks, etc., and quite a number of enthusiastic teenagers to wait on tables.

As is customary in our English summers we had our quota of wet days but these were well catered for by indoor amusements, table tennis, film shows, fancy dress competitions etc.

We had two family outings, one touring Dartmoor, and another along the Devon coast. Both days were very enjoyable, the weather excellent and the scenery exquisite. An interesting motor rally was held on another day.

Sports Day was the climax of two weeks' keen competition, incidentally my husband carried off both prizes for Lawn Tennis and Table Tennis.

Some most interesting discussions were held each morning after family prayers. One of our favourite speakers was Mrs. Rawlinson, widow of the late Bishop of Derby, and mother of the famous mountaineer. Mrs. Lambert of St. James' Piccadilly, Chairman of the M.U. for the London Diocese, was another interesting speaker; her colour slides of M.U. activities in Nigeria were really excellent.

An enjoyable family party was held on the Friday before we left, and we are all looking forward to the reunion party which is to be held in London early in 1963. G.H.

3rd HAMPTON HILL (ST. JAMES'S) CUB PACK

The Cub Camp this year was held at Pilgrim's Fort, near Caterham, Surrey, and on Saturday morning, August 18th, 16 excited boys set off by lorry. I am afraid we have not yet discovered whether Pilgrim's Fort has connections with the old Pilgrim's Way, or, as some maintain, is a relic of Napoleonic times.

As I was only able to go down for the week-end the Camp as usual was organized by Kim, very ably assisted by Bev. The various activities included an 8 mile hike, an outing to Redhill Swimming Baths and several good Camp fires. We were pleased to see so many parents on Open Day, when the Camp Sports took place. The Camp Competition was won by Green Six with only a two point lead over their nearest rivals.

I would like to thank Skip who amongst other jobs acted as "stoker in chief" and Mrs. Casey (Cookie) who was very ably assisted by Yvonne otherwise known as "Harty." We were visited by the District Commissioner for that area, also a member of the Croydon Educational Authority who both seemed well pleased with our efforts.

Altogether the Pack has had a very good year. On June 23rd at Sunbury Park we won the District Football Six-aside competition, in the District Sports we gained 3rd place and came first in the District Swimming Gala held last September.

Any parents who have boys in the Sunday School and are interested in putting their names on the Waiting List would be welcome to call at the Parish Hall any Wednesday, about 7 o'clock.

S. R. CHILDS—Cubmaster,
60b, French Street,
Sunbury-on-Thames.
Sunbury 4182.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

- Oct. 3.—8.0 p.m. Prayer and Study Group (Vestry).
Oct. 4.—2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union (W).
Mrs. Osborn speaks on "Horder Help for Arthritics."
8.0 p.m. Church Council (W).
(Meeting postponed from September 20th.)

- Oct. 5.—6.30 pm. First of four weekly Bible studies on "Christ's Healing Ministry," to be given by the Rev. Douglas Webster, Theologian Missioner of C.M.S. in St. Martin's-in-the Fields.
8 p.m. Public Debate—"The Christian and the Bomb." Chairman: The Vicar of Twickenham (St. Mary's Hall, Twickenham).
Oct. 6.—10 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Mass attack on overgrown vegetation in the Churchyard.
Oct. 9.—8.30 pm. Social Committee (Laurel Dene).
Oct. 12.—10 a.m. Diocesan Synod of Clergy.
Oct 15.—8 p.m. Ruri-Decanal Conference. The Provost of Southwark speaks on "The Shape of Tomorrow's Church."
Oct. 16.—8 p.m. Brains Trust in connection with Christian Family Year. Panel: Mrs. Chad Varah, George Cansdale, Mrs. Hilary Halpin, Stuart Snell (in St. Mary's Hall, Twickenham).
Oct. 18.—10.30 a.m. St. Luke—Holy Communion.
Oct. 19.—8 p.m. Executive of Continuation Committee (106 Park Road).
Oct. 20.—2.30 pm. Mothers' Union and Y.W.G. Jumble Sale (Hall).
Oct. 22.—8 p.m. Annual General Meeting of Hampton Council of Churches (Methodist Church, Percy Road).
Oct. 25.—2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union. Mrs. Naylor speaks on "Faith" (W).
Oct. 31.—8 pm. Y.W.G. Unilever Film Show (Hall).
Nov. 1.—7.15 and 10.30 a.m. All Saints' Day—Holy Communion.
Nov. 3.—6 p.m. Bumper Bonfire Party at Laurel Dene. Tickets 2/- incl. light (hat!) refreshments. Children under 12 must be accompanied by parents. (Tickets strictly limited.)
Nov. 7.—2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union. Mrs. Brown speaks on "Temperance."
Nov. 8.—8 p.m. Parish Fellowship Supper and Annual Review (Hall).
Nov. 10.—10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Second mass attack to get Churchyard in order for winter.
Nov. 11.—Remembrance Day.
Nov. 24.—Deanery Missionary Pageant (St. Mary's Hall, Twickenham).

BAPTISMS

- Aug. 19.—Tracey Corinne Bradstreet, Fife, Scotland and 1, Cannon Close.
„ 26.—Stephen Christopher Cox, 12, Ringwood Way.
„ 26.—Jeremy Neil Humphrey, 18, High Street.
„ 26.—Ian Antony Kempson, 89, Hampton Road.
„ 26.—Paul Ross Killick, 134, Fulwell Road.
„ 26.—Martin John Murrell, 16, Queen's Road.

Aug. 26.—Christopher Charles Thompson, 193a, Uxbridge Road.

MARRIAGE

Aug. 19.—Kenneth Allport to Sally Ann Brewer.

BURIAL

Aug. 27.—Ellen Nash, 53, Wolsey Road, aged 92 years.
Sept. 12.—William Hassell Cook, 136, Uxbridge Road, aged 80 years (Interment of ashes).

FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

LETTER FROM INDIA

I suppose if you had been at Euston on Saturday, 21st July, at 9 a.m., you would not have witnessed much out of the ordinary; a boat train leaving for Liverpool; many people returning to their own country; the usual whistle blowing, goodbye and train departure. Actually I nearly was not there myself; we ignored the alarm clock that morning.

Episodes in life seem to merge into each other. A train departure marks a point in time. I suppose this story had its beginning in Winnipeg in November, 1960, when a Salvation Army plastic surgeon came to speak about his work. I did little more than talk with him afterwards and take his address which subsequently I lost anyway. So the departure from Euston fulfilled a rather insignificant occasion in an unexpected way. Also the departure marked the end of a very happy year with you.

Transit took 23 days, out of which twenty were spent on the R.M.S. Circassia. A small one-class passenger vessel of slow cruising speed. Twenty days make a long time on a ship, but, following on the rush and fullness of the preceding weeks, it was a pleasant and welcome opportunity for idleness. A storm in St. George's Channel removed all hope and ideas of inherited seamanship, though by the time we reached Bombay, most of us had learned to take less notice of our semi-circular canals. We saw Gibraltar dimly through the fog and later we saw the North African coast, Port Said, the Canal and Suez, Aden and Karachi. We did not see Malta or Mount Sinai as we went by at night.

At Gib. a couple of local rowing boats full of merchandise came out and gave us our first experience of Eastern bartering, this being followed up to a greater extent at Port Said and Aden. We stayed 12 hours at Port Said and entered the Canal after dark. Some of us went ashore and were followed by some distance by persuasive and persistent Arab merchants. Weather in the Canal was very hot and in the Red Sea, where also one day we were on the end of a sandstorm from the desert. At Aden everyone went buying and at Karachi we were met by the Salvation Army representative who showed us round all the slums. We saw porpoises in the Med. and flying fish in the Red Sea. Just off Suez, as if to give greeting to the East, a shark raised itself out of the water. The Arabian sea had too much swell to be interesting. I found that taking rice followed by water made a good cork to the oesophagus.

On board were a few missionaries including one American who always sent the bar-boy off to get "Cokes." A Scot confided that he had half a trunk full of oats in the hold. Another American had even brought his T.V. Many passengers were students returning from full time study in England. A group of friendly Somalis soon showed me how uninformed I was about African affairs. Others Adenese or Indian. Their impressions of England were informative—I think they found us too insular, which I suppose means we were not interested enough in, or did not have insight enough into, their own concerns and problems.

(To be continued in next issue)

RODNEY BISHOP.