

VICAR'S NOTES

In the past few months reports and books have come out that have "hit the headlines." They follow on in such rapid succession that it is barely possible to digest one before the next one demanding attention appears. We have had the symposium "Soundings," with its more recent sequel by the Cambridge theologians who have been causing such a stir, "Objections to Christian Belief." There have been the controversial booklet "Towards a Quaker view of sex," and the report that has made Christian unity a matter of concern to many people for the first time—that on the Anglican-Methodist conversations. And there has been the Bishop's bombshell "Honest to God." I have no space to review any one of these, but we shall no doubt be hearing much more of at least some of them in the months ahead. The Hampton Council of Churches already has in mind an open meeting, perhaps in June, on the Anglican-Methodist report, at which it is hoped to have one of the signatories as speaker. We are certainly being given a great deal to stimulate thought, and either to arouse enthusiasm or provoke disagreement. To some it seems that a fresh wind of the Holy Spirit is blowing through the Church; others agree about the wind, but look for its source elsewhere!

One good thing that may come out of all this commotion is that the Churches will become less wrapped up in themselves and their own affairs, and more concerned about every aspect of life. Bishop Ambrose Reeves, formerly of Johannesburg, has recently expressed his "alarm at the way the Churches are going in England—terribly turned in on themselves, concerned with themselves as institutions"—and he hopes that the Student Christian Movement, of which he is now General Secretary, will help with the much-needed breakthrough.

Another stirring book which has just come out and which everybody should read, shows this breakthrough actually in operation on the parish level. The parish is (or was) perhaps the most difficult and dangerous in the world—so difficult that most Christian bodies had withdrawn in defeat and hopelessness, and the parish had to be built up from scratch. But built up it was, in East Harlem, New York's festering slum. And as it was built up, action had to be taken on all fronts, from drains and drugs and dust-bins to corrupt politics and a brutal and corrupt police. But as you read the book, you see the Gospel breaking through and affecting the whole of life, as it should break through in every parish, however affluent, however sordid. (The book is "Come Out the Wilderness," by Bruce Kenrick, Collins 25/-).

We hope that our new inset "Outlook" will stimulate thought amongst us and help us in our own breakthrough. We say good-bye, at least for a time, to "The Window," which has served us well for many years, and which has indeed helped the Church to push ahead with such things as Christian Stewardship and Lay evangelism. But the Magazine Committee thought a change might

be invigorating, and as it was not practicable to include in this issue copies of several insets and ask readers to vote for their preference, we intend to carry on with "Outlook" for some months, and then ask readers for their views, and whether they would like "The Window" back.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK: May 13—18

A feature of this year's A.P.C.M. was a short but impressive talk by Mrs. Eustace, our district C.A.W. District Organiser. She explained that once a year all the churches in the British Isles, irrespective of denomination, moved forward together to draw attention to the plight of the hungry and starving. Five years ago this district collected £75, but every year the "Bread for the World" donations have increased until last year the figure raised here was £404.

"Every morning," said Mrs. Eustace, "many, many people know that there will be no food today and probably none tomorrow or the next day . . . if you are thirty-five and live in Asia you are probably not going to live another year, for the average expectation of life there is thirty-six years . . . Between two o'clock this afternoon and now (nine thirty) a thousand people have died of starvation—men, women and children . . . the Christian people of the world are the world's well-fed. Let them remember the definite instruction given by our Lord, feed my lambs, and give generously of their time and money."

This year our target is £560, to buy a tractor for an undeveloped area. Every road in the district must be covered. On April 27th, one thousand posters will go up—ten per road—to bring the plea squarely before the eyes of the public. YOU can do a little to help by displaying a poster and there will be posters in our church; and you can do a little more by volunteering your services as collectors to Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. Warwick or Mrs. Orton, who are our area organisers. M.O.

AVE MATER ANGLIAE

"Hail Mother of England." This is the proud motto on Canterbury's coat of arms, which for Christians has a special meaning, since Canterbury was the bridgehead from which St. Augustine established our faith and from which the Gospel was carried far and wide throughout the island. Here the modern pilgrim may see the ruins of St. Augustine's original abbey, and that later Norman and early English Cathedral which is the Mother Church of England. There is so much to see in Canterbury, so very, very much that those of us from St. James, who will visit it on May 18th, can see only a part of its treasures in the time available. The coach will leave at 9 a.m. and return at 4.30 p.m., so we shall have a maximum of five hours in the City, and some may wish to bring a packed lunch to save time. We feel it would be best if we visit the Cathedral itself in a party, and so suggest that we remain together and make this the first visit, so that we can do it thoroughly with the help of a guide. From then on

it seems best for each to follow his or her own desires as to what else may be fitted in, governed no doubt by age and feet (poor or otherwise). Apart from the attraction of old Canterbury's quaint houses and streets (new Canterbury being confined to that side destroyed by bombing) one should not miss, now or at some later visit, the ruins of St. Augustine's abbey, the ruins of St. Pancras church within the Abbey precincts and St. Martin's Church where Queen Bertha was a Christian worshipper. It was in Queen Bertha that St. Augustine found such a valuable ally. The West Gate of the city was used as a prison, and still contains grim reminders of less enlightened days. Then there is the house of David Copperfield's Agnes, Eastbridge Hospital on Kingsbridge with the houses of the weavers close at hand on the Stour, the Greyfriars, the lengths of city wall in excellent preservation, and the mound of "Dane John." The Westgate gardens provide a pleasant spot in which to relax if the day is good. The Scolds ducking stool still exists on the Stour bank, but twentieth-century husbands are warned that merry quips on this subject are invariably accounted in bad taste by twentieth-century wives.

There is a very handy guide to the city called the "Pilgrim's Guide" which costs 2/-. This may be obtained from shops near the Cathedral and we do recommend its purchase. And now let us hope for a pleasant day for our trip "Home to Canterbury."

J.F.

YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

At our March meeting we were pleased to welcome once again, Mrs. Stevens, who came to talk to us about Easter. She took us through the Easter story, illustrating it with colour slides, many of which were photographed by the Rev. G. Stevens during a visit to the Holy Land. Much of it is very little changed since Biblical times, among the most impressive photographs were those of the wilderness, the house where Jesus visited friends and took supper with them, and of the tomb where His body was laid.

We are sorry to hear that Diane Angus is leaving Hampton Hill, her husband's new job taking them to Grimsby. It has been a pleasure to know her, and her courage and cheerfulness in bearing her disability has earned our admiration. Our good wishes go with them to their new home.

Congratulations to Sybil Barclay on the birth of her third child, a son this time. This must be a record year for new babies in the Group.

The speaker at our May meeting will be a hospital almoner, and our Mother and Baby Baptismal Party will be held on 12th June, in the Vicarage garden.

HAMPTON DISTRICT B.-P. SCOUT GUILD

The third meeting of the Hampton District B.-P. Scout Guild was held in the Parish Hall on Thursday, April 4th. At present there are fourteen members, but the Guild Committee hopes that more people living in the area will join.

Although it was originally intended for former Scouts, Rovers, Guides and Rangers, anyone who is interested in the movement is eligible for membership.

At the last meeting it was decided to meet on the third Thursday of each month. A programme for each meeting up to and including November was arranged. There will be no meeting in July or August.

On Thursday, October 17th, the Guild plans to run a Get-Together at which non-members are invited. Further details of this social evening will be announced later.

Briefly the aims of the Guild are: To keep alive the spirit of the Scout and Guide Movement. On May 16th, the next meeting, members of the Guild will be sworn in and receive their badges.

Anyone interested, or wanting further information should get in touch with the branch secretary, Mr. A. J. Spashett, 24, Laurel Road, Hampton Hill.

3rd HAMPTON HILL SCOUT GROUP

The A.G.M. was held on the 28th March, in the Parish Hall. As a prologue to the Meeting the Cub Pack performed a Pageant depicting the formation of the Union Jack, followed by a Display by the Scouts.

The Chairman opened the Meeting and the Minutes were read by the Secretary. The Treasurer gave a brief report on the financial situation which was very satisfactory. Mr. Edwards gave a report on the Senior Scout activities during the year, followed by Mr. Wren reporting on the Troop. Mr. M. J. Childs gave a very comprehensive report on the progress of the Cub Pack.

Mr. Casey made an official statement of his resignation as G.S.M., at the same time welcoming his successor, Mr. S. R. Childs. He also informed the Meeting he would be carrying on the important job of Hall Secretary and gave an account of the past year's progress.

At this juncture Mr. F. Samuel, the Assistant County Commissioner for South Area Middlesex and Mr. De Graaff the District Commissioner for Hampton were introduced to the audience. The D.C. then presented Mr. S. R. Childs with his Warrant as G.S.M. and Mr. M. J. Childs with the Warrant of Cubmaster.

Mr. Samuel, the A.C.C. then addressed the Meeting emphasising the important part played by the Group Committee in releasing the Scouters to the more important work of training the boys. He then proceeded with the very pleasant task of presenting Skipper Casey with the Medal of Merit and the Long Service Badge.

Mr. Ford carried on with the election of the Committee and the Meeting was closed with Prayers by the Vicar.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP

At Wayside on the 7th April, an open meeting was held to which parents and friends of members were invited. The evening was very successful.

The Friday evening meetings have had a good regular attendance since they re-started in March. The activities include table tennis, billiards, snooker and playing popular records, and coffee and biscuits served. As Easter approaches group studies of the Easter story are being held regularly.

Since last summer the Fellowship's boat "Boanerges" has lain idle in the river at Hampton, but now the season for boating is upon us we hope that this activity, enjoyed last year, will start again.

A.L.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

- May 1.—Ss. Philip and James.
7.15 a.m. Holy Communion.
2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union (W) Speaker: Mrs. Minchin "Love."
8 p.m. Prayer and Study Group (Vestry).
- " 4.—3.30 p.m. Old People's Party (Hall). Guides and Brownies provide the entertainment.
- " 6.—8.30 p.m. Wayside Committee (52, Park Road).
- " 7.—7 p.m. Mothers' Union Diocesan Festival Service (St. Paul's Cathedral).
- " 9.—8 p.m. Archdeacon's Visitation (St. Mary's, Twickenham).
- " 13 to 18.—Christian Aid Week.
- " 13.—8 p.m. Ruri-Decanal Conference (St. Mary's Hall, Twickenham).
- " 14.—10 a.m. Editorial Board.
- " 16.—8 p.m. B.P. Guild (Hall) Church Council (W).
- " 18.—9 a.m. Coach leaves for Canterbury Cathedral.
- " 23.—Ascension Day, 7.15 and 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion
7.45 p.m. Evensong.
- " 25.—6.15 p.m. Service of Dedication in renovated Congregational Church.
7.45 p.m. St. Mary's Y.W.G. present "Ladies in Retirement" (Hall).
- " 29.—7.45 p.m. Young Wives' Group (W). Speaker: A Hospital Almoner.
- June 2.—Whitsunday: Holy Communion at 8 a.m., 9 a.m. and 12.15 p.m. Children's Service at 9.45 a.m. Other services as usual.

Confirmation classes resume as follows:

Adult Group, Thursday, May 9, 8 p.m.; Junior Class "A," Tuesday, May 7, 8 p.m.; Junior Class "B," Friday, May 3, 6 p.m. The Sunday Junior Class continues as usual at 9.45 a.m.

All matter for the June magazine should be sent to a member of the Editorial Board (typed if possible), not later than Monday, May 13.

BAPTISMS

- Mar. 24.—Sharon Longhurst, 57, Windmill Road.
,, 24.—Stephen Douglas Orchard, 2, Cross Street.
,, 24.—Gillian Parker, 35, Ringwood Way.
,, 24.—Trevor Robinson, St. Clare Bungalow, Uxbridge Road.

MARRIAGES

- Mar. 30.—Brian Eric Holloway to Beryl Humphreys.
Apr. 6.—Gordon Richard Scott to Marian Elaine Moaksom.
,, 15.—Barrie Keith Wilson to Ann Margaret Healey.

BURIALS AND CREMATION

- Mar. 22.—Charles Rushton, 46, Weston Avenue, West Molesey, aged 86 years.
,, 25.—Thomas Young Williams, 34, Edward Road, aged 70 years.
,, 29.—Annie Frampton, 68, Myrtle Road, aged 85 years, (at Hampton Cemetery).
Apr. 9.—Nellie Mary Storey, 10, Burton's Road, aged 83 years, (at Kingston Crematorium).

HAS IT OCCURRED TO YOU that, as a heading in a newspaper says, "Growing up is an old business?"

The following facts were then given.

One morning you wake up and you are 14 and suddenly you pay full fare on a bus—and in Cinemas and Theatres.

You can spend the next two years with an air gun (from 14 to 15) and a shot gun (from 15 to 16) waiting for the moment when you can marry (you need your parents' consent) at 16. Overnight at 16 you become marriageable, and as if that were not large enough an instalment of adulthood, you can also march into a Cinema—alone—and see an "A" or "X" film.

It is indeed odd that fully armed, married and an adult film addict you must wait a year before you drive a motor car, (but you can ride a motor-bike), and then another year before you can be served in a public house.

Well, at 18, married, bristling with fire-arms, driving from "A" film to "X" film (you can even fight for your country) you would think that nothing else could be forbidden, but you would be wrong.

There is a 3-year gap until you are 21 to—have a vote, own your own property, freehold or leasehold. Until you are 21—you cannot be made bankrupt and you cannot make your will, but when you are, you can marry without your parents' consent!

D.W.