

VICAR'S NOTES

Several sad events have happened in the parish in the last month. We have lost by death our old verger, Miss Edwards, suddenly unwell, and unable to come to church on Sunday—and how everyone missed her unobtrusive presence! For a day or two nothing really serious seemed to be wrong; then came a quick turn for the worse, a midnight dash into hospital, and death a few days later. No one knew how old she was until shortly before she died, when she spoke of being 84, and later 85. We know that one of her Christian names was Mary, and that another began with E—but whether this was Eliza or Elizabeth, and which came first, we are still not certain. She was interested in everything around her, but always naturally reticent about herself, and one hesitated to trespass on this reserve, even when it became known that she had never applied for an old-age pension, and one felt she ought (in the end I believe she did, but she must have been over 80 then). It was also found that she had never had a holiday since she came to Hampton Hill in 1937, but again she quietly took her own counsel, and all well-meaning attempts to get her to change her mind failed. She was indeed a "character"—a sturdy individualist, who made up her mind and stuck to it; and one thing she had made up her mind to do was never to fail the Church—and in my twelve years the number of services she had missed through illness, oversleeping or snowdrifts could be counted on the fingers of one hand. We counted so utterly on her reliability that we were once caught entirely unprepared at a funeral, with the church filling with people, no books having been given out, and the heavy coffin-rests not in position—but this was not her fault: the notice sent to her by the undertaker, after I had seen her, had by some error stated the following day, and she took this to be right. She was most conscientious, often arriving an hour before a wedding, funeral or baptism, and doing her work of preparation—as she used to do her cleaning—often in semi-darkness, with no lights switched on—to save the Church money! It was with great reluctance she had to give up her cleaning, but she delighted to continue as verger, and I could not stop her battling through terrible conditions this last winter—only on one occasion, I think, was she defeated and had to turn back. We are glad that her last illness was so short, but it will be a long time before we get accustomed to not seeing her in church.

The other sad news concerns resignations. Mr. Hawkins has now had to give up all but the lightest jobs in the churchyard on medical advice, and so he has had to resign as our gardener. He will try to continue for a time looking after those graves for which he has undertaken private responsibility. It is very sad for him, as he loved his work in the fresh air, and sad for us, because he too was so utterly reliable, and his pleasant character seemed to pervade the churchyard with warmth and friendship. Then Mr. Butterworth—whom we congratulate as a proud father!—has rightly felt

he ought to fill the vacant post in the church in his own road, so that he does not have to spend so long away from his wife, and have all the difficulties with transport that coming here involved. We shall again miss his very pleasant character as well as his delightful playing. Then Mrs. Burton—another most pleasant person!—has gone from Wayside to live with her son in his new house, and we are now looking for someone who we hope will be as good a caretaker as she was.

Our committees and commissions continue hard at work, and we hope that as a result of their labours much interesting matter about the past will come to light, and inspiring plans for the future made.

THE MOTHERS' UNION

On Tuesday, April 23, we joined forces with other branches for the Deanery Festival at St. Mark's Church, Teddington, and were fortunate in having the Bishop of Gibraltar as preacher.

During the winter months many of our meetings were either cancelled or the speakers unable to come, owing to the bad weather. However it gave us great pleasure to welcome Mrs. Minchin on May 1st, when she gave her talk on "Kindness and Long Suffering." What an inspiring talk it was too, it gave us much food for personal thinking.

On May 7th, we again joined forces with other branches to travel by coach to St. Paul's Cathedral for the Diocesan Festival. It was indeed a wonderful sight to see the many branches represented by the banners in the procession.

D.M.C.

THE YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

A programme of films, presented by the British Transport Commission, was shewn at our April meeting. Unfortunately our date clashed with that of the Royal Wedding and our numbers were smaller than we had hoped, but the quality of the films was excellent. The first shewed how mechanisation has improved the behind-the-scenes work of British Railways and how the experimental departments are always searching for ways of adding to the efficient running of the railways. The second film, "Between the Tides," examined the wild life around our coasts, both above and under-water. The wonderful photography and glorious colours made a delightful and memorable film. The show closed with a film of a ride on a Diesel train from London to Birmingham, but speeded up to get us there in about six minutes.

The children's party was held during the Easter holidays, after being postponed at Christmas. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and very little food was left. The games' organisers under the leadership of Heather Severn did a wonderful job, whilst

the Easter Bonnet competition set the judges a hard task, but eventually Gillian Pyatt and Nicholas Olesker were declared the winners of the two main prizes, whilst all the remaining competitors received consolation prizes.

On reading through the new-look May issue of "The Spire," I was interested to find, in "Outlook," an article on "Pre-school Playgroups," which said that more than 100 had been started during the past year by mothers eager to have their under-fives join such a group. It reminded me of the Child Psychology lectures run for our Young Wives' Group some seven years ago, and which led to the opening of a Nursery School in the Parish Hall. Six of our members formed themselves into a committee which, after much hard work opened the school in March, 1957. Today, independent of our Group, but still working on a non-profit seeking basis, and still run by a committee of mothers, it flourishes beyond the wildest dreams of that original committee of six Young Wives. Though primarily intended to help the mothers and children of our own parish, at least a third of the children at the school now come from Hampton, Hanworth, Teddington and Twickenham. This surely illustrates the need for these pre-school groups.

M.S.

AT HOME

Please make a note in your diaries that the Vicar's "At Home" will be held on St. James's Day, Thursday, July 25.

WANTED. St. James's Nursery School is interested in purchasing a second-hand doll's pram and several tricycles in good mechanical order. If you have any suitable for under-fives, please 'phone details to, Molesey 4938 or Molesey 4557.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

This is written at the beginning of C.A.W. and the organisers for St. James's Parish would like to express their appreciation of the willingness with which their helpers have come forward in this work of collecting the monies given in this splendid cause. What a joy it is to find such co-operation!

SOME DATES TO NOTE

- 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.
- „ 5.—2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union (W) Speaker: Mrs. Stevens—"Love."
6 p.m. Cub Sports (Recreation Ground); 8 p.m. Scout Group Committee (H).
- „ 6.—8 p.m. Annual Meeting of Deaneries' Moral Welfare Association. (Parish Hall, Feltham).
- „ 9.—Trinity Sunday.

- „ 10.—11 a.m. Editorial Board.
- „ 11.—St. Barnabas, Holy Communion at 7.15 a.m.
- „ 12.—3 p.m. Party in Vicarage Garden, arranged by Young Wives' Group for all babies baptised here in the last 12 months—and, of course, their mothers!
- „ 13.—8 p.m. Inaugural meeting of St. James's Historical Society (W); 8 p.m. Old People's Welfare Committee (School).
- „ 24.—St. John Baptist, Holy Communion at 9 a.m.
- „ 25.—10.30 a.m. Mothers' Union: Deanery Overseas Meeting and Bring and Buy Sale (All Hallows, Twickenham).
Open to all.
- „ 26.—8 p.m. Young Wives' Group (W).
- „ 29.—St. Peter, Holy Communion at 9 a.m.
- July 4.—2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union Service.
- „ 6.—7.30 p.m. Parish Social Evening and Barbecue (Laurel Dene).

All matter for the July issue should be sent to a member of the Editorial Board in time for their meeting on June 10.

It is known that there will have to be meetings of several committees of the Church Council, and perhaps of the Council itself, in June, but at the time of going to press these dates have not been arranged. This also applies to the arranging of a "Mass Attack," on the churchyard on one Saturday afternoon in June.

STOP PRESS:

Church Council arranged for 8.0 p.m., on Friday, June 21, (W).

BAPTISMS

- Apr. 28.—Kenneth Richard Ball, 31, Burton's Road.
- „ 28.—Nicola Jayne Bowen, 32, Wolsey Road.
- „ 28.—Sally Anne Broad, 6, Cromwell Road, Teddington.
- „ 28.—Paul Josiah Darrell Crandley, 6, Winifred Road.
- „ 28.—Jonathan James Harrison, 8, Links View Road.
- „ 28.—Kevin David Holmes, 33, Ringwood Way.
- „ 28.—Christopher Paul Hunt, 24, Mays Road.
- „ 28.—Kevin John Lewis, 5, Chelsea Close.
- „ 28.—Susan Joy Lipscombe, 21, Bishop's Grove.
- „ 28.—Diane Margaret Rickwood, 50, Ringwood Way.
- „ 28.—Kevin Michael Wentzell, 92, Windmill Road.

BURIAL AND CREMATIONS

- Apr. 17.—Joseph Green, 66, Myrtle Road, aged 81 years (at S.W. Middlesex Crematorium).
- „ 25.—Sarah Ann Endersby, 15, St. James's Road, aged 84 years (at S.W. Middlesex Crematorium).
- May 4.—Nellie Mary Storey, 10, Burton's Road, aged 83 years (interment of ashes).

BARBECUE



JULY 6th., 1963

AT

LAUREL DENE



**RESERVE THIS DATE AND LOOK OUT
FOR THE POSTERS**

CENTENARY HISTORY GROUP

Amongst the plans of the Centenary Committee is the compilation of a History of Hampton Hill Parish to mark St. James's hundredth year. The history is envisaged as a parish-wide project, and to this end a St. James's Centenary History Group is being formed to do local research from the various sources of reference which are available.

This will be interesting and even exciting work and anyone who feels they would like to learn more about what is being planned is invited to come to an inaugural meeting to be held at Wayside, St. James's Road, on June 13, at 8 o'clock.

The group will work on lines similar to those laid down by the late Mr. Bernard Garside for the Hampton History Group (who have signified their willingness to give help and advice). The first simple, but nevertheless rewarding, task will be the indexing of Parish Records. Members will form into small teams under a team leader and each team will then be given a team project for research and will hand in a paper on their project. From these papers salient features will be abstracted to form the final History, which will thus be the work of many willing hands, and as such, a fitting and useful memento of St. James's first hundred years' association with Hampton Hill for the people who come after us to read, and to remember us by, even as we remember those who built up the Church and Parish for us to commemorate.

Below is a list of some suggested projects:

- I. Birth and Growth of St. James's, introduced by brief historical background.
- II. Modern Trends in Church and Parish Life.
- III. The Church in the Social Life of the Village.
- IV. Social Life outside the church—Public houses, local institutions, Victoria Hall, Societies, etc.
- V. The changing face of Hampton Hill.
- VB. Possibly a large map of Hampton Hill at the turn of the century showing where various personalities lived and the extent of the development.
- VI. Personalities: The Vicars and leading Laity.
- VII. The Church and Education.
- VIII. Nursery Gardens.
- *IX. Pictorial Records—Most important—to take photographs of properties before they are pulled down to make way for new development, and to make copies of old pictures, etc.
- *X. Possibly tape recordings of the memories of elderly residents.
- XI. Transport and public services and amenities.
- XII. If not included under Social Life—Societies would prove an interesting project.

* Photographic and recording enthusiasts wanted.