

## VICAR'S NOTES

I write at a time when we are being surfeited by fierce discussion on the Profumo affair, and its moral and political implications. We are told that the nation is at a low ebb, spiritually and psychologically, and many scapegoats are being sought. The Prime Minister, the Government, the Conservative Party, the affluent society in which we live ("where wealth accumulates, and men decay"), the Church of England, politicians as a whole, the average man with his low standards, the corrupting influence of many books, newspapers, films and plays—these and many more, all come in for their full share of blame and denunciation. But by themselves, blame and denunciation, however justified (and some has been rather hysterical) do not get us very far. Things may be as bad as some of the critics say they are. New leaders and new laws may be needed, and a more resolute tackling of the problems and evils which beset our national and social life. But the present atmosphere of excitement, of charge and counter-charge, with its torrents of clamour and sensation, is not a good one for the taking of wise decisions, which need a background of calmness, quietness and humility. The reading of a little book recently published—"Living Springs," by Olive Wyon (S.C.M. Press 8/6)—would help us all to realise afresh the importance of prayer, solitude and silence, and the power that can be released as a result of these spiritual forces for the healing and renewal of our noisy, divided, turbulent world.

To return to the parochial level, as we approach our centenary year the tempo of life seems to become ever more fast and furious, and therefore there is special need that the items just mentioned should be given their proper place in our plans and programmes. Time for prayer, silence, adequate rest and recreation must be carefully guarded, the more so the easier it becomes to get over-excited and over-burdened. (That some are perhaps over-burdened because others are not burdened enough is a matter for the consciences of the under-burdened to take into account).

We have had several disappointments in replacing those whose resignations we announced last time, when we thought that we had found just the right person. But with regard to the supervision of the churchyard, the Church Council has taken a big step forward in appointing two very capable men as its guardians on the Council's behalf—Mr. Brooks and Mr. Leatherdale. Both are busy men, and were at first naturally reluctant to add to their responsibilities, but once having accepted they have thrown themselves whole-heartedly into the job, putting in hours of hard work, experimenting with different pieces of equipment, and calling in others to help. The very next day after the Council meeting the grass was being cut, and so it has gone on since. The only disappointment was the poor response on the day of the "mass attack." At its next meeting the Council will be discussing in more detail a policy for the churchyard, including how much of its care and maintenance should be done by paid labour and how much entrusted to voluntary effort.

## BARBECUE (Mark 2)

This year's Barbecue will be held on Saturday, July 6, and proceedings—including barbecue-ing—will start at 7.30 p.m. sharp. We are fortunate in again being able to use the lovely grounds of Laurel Dene, where facilities also exist for us to move indoors if the weather is unkind.

An addition to this year's programme is the provision of some sideshows. Admission, price 3/6, including drinks, is by **ticket only**, obtainable from Social Committee members.

We very much regret that car parking within the grounds cannot be permitted.

**TO LET.**—45 berth caravan on small select site near Bognor, available July, August and September. Maddox, Molesey 4795.

## CANTERBURY

It was a bright and sunny morning on May 18th, when a party of modern pilgrims from St. James's set off by coach for Canterbury. The fields, the Spring flowers in the gardens, the acres of fruit trees covered in blossom, and the woods carpeted in bluebells, combined to make us feel that the countryside of Surrey and Kent had never looked lovelier.

During the five hours we spent in Canterbury we could hope to see only a few of the many places of interest. In the Royal Museum the displays of Roman and Anglo Saxon glass and pottery were particularly fascinating, and St. Thomas's Hospital had an atmosphere of being haunted by the poor pilgrims and wayfarers for whom it was built in the 12th century. A long time was spent wandering through the Cathedral, marvelling at its unique architectural interest and the skill of the craftsmen who built it so many years ago.

It has been well said of this historic city—"It is the bounden duty of every English-speaking man and woman to visit Canterbury at least twice in their lives."

The Social Committee is to be congratulated for having organised a successful and enjoyable expedition. It was Mr. Ford's idea that we should visit Canterbury and it was a great pity that he was unable to accompany us. We all hope that he has now fully recovered from his operation.

M.L.

## THE BALLAD OF THE WEEDS

A mass attack was planned  
To clear the churchyard ground.  
A mass of folk was hoped for  
A "small task force" was found!  
Some goodly ground they cleared that day  
And many a weed did fall  
But with twice as many helpers  
They might have cleared it all!

Brooks and Leatherdale they say  
"The Few are not enough"  
For shame, thou laggards, shoulder tools  
And help us with the rough.  
Mothers' Union—where were you?  
Young Wives—we saw you not  
Scouts? and Guides? and Youth Groups?  
Well—it was a trifle hot!  
July thirteenth is next D-Day  
So come along—please do.  
Whoever else eschews the task  
LET IT NOT BE YOU!

M.O.

### THE YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

At the joint Y.W. and M.U. meeting in mid-May, we had a speaker from the Council of Industrial Design, Mrs. Lilian Stevenson. Her subject was "Design in the Home," and was illustrated by colour transparencies of interior decorating, lighting and household equipment design. Mrs. Stevenson closed her extremely interesting lecture by commenting on a number of slides of the interior of Coventry Cathedral, pinpointing a modern stained glass window, a cross, formed apparently by two huge nails, and other unusual designs for items familiar to all Church-goers. We are indebted to Mrs. Warwick for obtaining and operating the projector, and to Miss Ovington-Jones for loaning it to us.

The speaker at our May meeting was Miss Lewis, a lady almoner from the West Middlesex Hospital. She spoke briefly of the various aspects of her work, afterwards inviting questions, enabling her to cover points which were of particular interest to those present. A charming speaker, an interesting subject, and an above-average attendance made this a successful meeting indeed.

We have an open date for our July meeting, so it is proposed to discuss questions which have arisen in committee, e.g. mutual baby-sitting groups, child psychology lectures, etc., and members' suggestions for other subjects for discussion will be welcomed by the committee.

Yet another new baby! this time a second son to Mrs. Mould, one of our newest members. Congratulations and best wishes from the Group.

May I remind members that there will be no meeting in August, and that we shall meet again on September 25th for our usual opening Service in Church, followed by an At Home at Wayside. It is hoped shortly to distribute programmes for our 1963-64 season, but, meanwhile, a happy holiday to you all.

M.S.

## THE MOTHERS' UNION

Instead of an indoor party this year, it was decided to have an afternoon coach outing, and this took place on Tuesday, May 14th. Unfortunately, it was a very wet day, but this failed to damp the spirits of the 31 members and friends who enjoyed their ride through the lanes of Berkshire, followed by an excellent tea at the Old Mill House at Aldermaston. It was good to find that as well as being notorious for C.N.D. activities, this is a charming and picturesque village.

At our meeting on June 5th, we were happy to have Mrs. Stevens with us to give the concluding talk in the series arranged for Christian Family Year on "The Fruits of the Spirit." Owing to the severe winter, we had some difficulty in fitting in all the talks, but after a certain amount of rearrangement of the programme we have heard the full number, and Mrs. Stevens' interesting talk on "Love" made a fitting climax and gave us all plenty of food for thought. As she reminded us, Our Lord said that Love, first of God and then of our fellow men, is the great commandment, and the other Fruits of the Spirit about which we have been thinking during the past months will follow naturally if we keep the ideal of Love always before us.

Our last meeting before the summer break will be a service in church on Thursday, July 4th, at 2.30 p.m., followed by tea at Wayside.

We are glad to hear that Mrs. Wilcox is making a good recovery from her recent serious illness, and we hope she will soon be able to join us at our meetings again.

We shall miss Mrs. Rockliffe during her absence in Canada. We wish her and Mr. Rockliffe Godspeed, and we shall look forward to hearing a full account of the glories of that vast country when they return.

M.U.

## HAMPTON HILL HISTORY SOCIETY

On the eve of going to press we are delighted to be able to report that on Thursday, June 13, at "Wayside," an enthusiastic and well attended gathering decided to inaugurate a research group to be known as the Hampton Hill History Society, "For the object of producing a printed history of St. James' and its Parish to commemorate the Church's centenary."

Work is already in hand! Sample index sheets having been prepared beforehand—members each left with a year's volume of the early Parish Magazines (which date from 1885) to index at home. Other relevant material, such as the Vestry Minutes from 1864 onwards, is also being indexed and when this preparatory work is done the members will separate into teams of three or four, under a team leader, and each team will then be allocated a particular project on which they will ultimately produce a paper. These papers in their turn will provide the material for the final history which will thus be truly a parish-wide effort.

The meeting was most happy to welcome Mr. March, Chairman of Hampton History Group and Committee member of the Twickenham Historical Society, together with Mr. G. Heath of the Hampton Group, who will give help and advice.

Mr. Brunt was unanimously elected President with Mr. Sergeant as Chairman, Mr. Wiggington as General Secretary and Mrs Leatherdale as Librarian. Mrs. Orton, due to the experience she gained through working with the Hampton History Group, under the late Mr. Garside, was elected Research Organiser.

It is not too late to join! The Society meets again at "Wayside" on Thursday, 27th June at 8 p.m. to collect fresh "ammunition" and to hand in details of the projects in which they have a special interest. Membership is open to everyone in the parish—the only requisite being an interest in local history.

M.O.

### MUSIC IN CHURCH

There are two main views on music in parish churches. One attempts to imitate the style of the cathedrals, giving a service of high musical perfection, but in which the congregation is not expected to take much part. The psalms and canticles may be in a complicated musical style, and the responses sung to highly-developed harmonies. The only concessions to the congregation are the hymns. In the second view, the congregation is led in worship by the choir, and is encouraged to take an active part throughout.

The compilers of the book of Common Prayer aimed at producing simple services in which all the worshippers could take their full part. In many cathedrals a high choral tradition has been maintained unbroken, and full congregational participation was probably never possible because of the size and acoustics of the buildings concerned. It was not until the middle of the last century that parish churches all over the country began to introduce surpliced choirs on cathedral lines. Until then, the singing was often accompanied by the sexton on a tuning fork, or by a small group unobtrusively at the back of the church. There were no hymns, metrical psalms were often used, and the responses were usually said. There was no organised group of singers who could look on the job of singing as theirs alone, and be put out if the congregation joined in. At the present time nearly all parish churches have organised choirs of varying abilities. What should be our attitude to the music at St. James's?

The policy of the Commission on Worship is that the congregation be encouraged to take an active part in the worship in church. It follows that the accompanying music must be of the simpler type, and that the job of the choir in this arrangement is to lead the congregation rather than to give a highly polished concert performance. This does not mean that the choir can be excused practice to perfection, but rather that the music used must be limited to that in which the congregation can take a full part. It may be that having mastered the art of pointing a psalm properly,

and of singing hymns, the choir will want to launch into more ambitious ventures. There is plenty of scope offered here in anthems, introits, etc., or even in the full scale performance of an oratoric on suitable occasions, separate from the normal church services. St. James's is not a cathedral, neither is it desirable that we should imitate the more complicated cathedral standards, even if this were considered possible.

How should we attempt to increase the volume of congregational singing? Some people find it difficult to sing a psalm. This is understandable, but it is only really a matter of practice. Pointed psalters should be provided for those who wish to use them, with possibly an occasional article in "The Spire" on how to interpret the markings. This does not solve the problem, however, as even a well known hymn rarely brings much response from the congregation. Here it is a matter of confidence. The choir could be expanded, and a section placed at the rear of the church in plain clothes, or even as individuals planted among the rest of the congregation. If a few people in the body of the church sang at top volume, others could soon be induced to join in, with a rapid snow-balling effect.

### SOME DATES TO NOTE

- July 3.—8 p.m. Scout Group Committee (Hall).
- „ 4.—2.30 pm. Mothers' Union Service.
- „ 6.—7.30 pm. Barbecue and Social Evening (Laurel Dene).
- „ 8.—11 a.m. Editorial Board.
- „ 10.—8 p.m. Prayer and Study Group (Vestry).
- „ 13.—9.30 a.m.—8 p.m. "Mass Attack" in the Churchyard.
- „ 15.—8 p.m. Hampton Council of Churches (Congregational Church Hall).
- „ 20.—3 p.m. Old People's Welfare Committee Fete at Laurel Dene.
- „ 25.—St. James's Day: Patronal Festival.  
7.15 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.  
7.30 p.m. Evensong.  
8.15 p.m. "At Home" in Vicarage garden.
- „ 31.—8 p.m. Young Wives' Group (Wayside).

### BAPTISMS

- May 26.—Simon Doddrell, Eton Lodge, Uxbridge Road.
- „ 26.—Philip Antony Joyce, 28, Seymour Road.
- „ 26.—Linda Ann Meades, 2, Hanworth Road.
- „ 26.—David Alan Munday, 285, Uxbridge Road.
- „ 26.—Tracey Raffaelli, 36, Windsor Court, Sunbury.
- June 2.—Gillian Mary Lewis, 10, St. James's Avenue.

### MARRIAGE

- May 28.—Terence Aubrey Greening to Jean Burnett Cook.

### CREMATION

- May 26.—Eliza Mary Edwards, 22, Seymour Road, aged 85 years (at S.W. Middlesex Crematorium).