

## VICAR'S NOTES

The Church of England often seems to swing between the two extremes of somnolence and feverish awakensness. Some people who deplore the former take the latter for health, whereas it is far from being so. The state of excitement is not one in which men can hear the voice of God, but unfortunately it is a state which flourishes today, and one which many forces encourage. It is sad to see our most-read Church newspapers fanning this flame—to read the pages of both the “Church Times” and “The Church of England Newspaper” these days is to get the impression that the Church is in a condition of near-delirium, and one realises how easy it is to become infected oneself. I have often recently composed an excited letter to throw in on one side of this controversy or that—in my head, while shaving or washing the dishes—fortunately I didn't waste time in putting pen to paper!

It is often said that the clergy should urge the laity to read at least one church paper a week (it ought to be at least two, because any one gives a distorted picture), but I could not advise this at the moment. (In any case, a balanced monthly or quarterly, such as “Frontier,” might be much better). Indeed, for some people, it may never be advisable. The great Baron von Hügel found it to be so in his case, and he advised his niece to follow his own practice of never opening a church paper or magazine (v. “Letters from Baron von Hügel to a Niece,” p.62). Some should perhaps extend this even to parish magazines, or at least to their insets—we know, for instance, that some people appreciate “Outlook,” and have found it helpful, whereas a few have been upset and irritated by it: it would be better for these to give its pages a miss.

To return to the Baron (one of the greatest spiritual guides of modern times) again—he used to quote with approval some wise words of one who had greatly helped him. I will paraphrase: “The voice of God does not speak to us when we are excited. Those who have most closely followed the will of God for them would tell us: ‘It was when I was calmest, most master of myself, most recollected, when my life was least agitated, that I heard the voice of God.’”

It is this balance, calmness, breadth of mind, poise and peace in following the will of God for us that we need so much today. May our summer holidays help us to recover these things, and especially their pre-condition—an adequate daily time for prayer and quiet.

I shall not myself be going away this summer, and my wife will most likely have to spend most of her holiday from school in hospital, and perhaps half of next term convalescing. For the sake of all of you who will be able to get away I hope that August will provide the summer weather we have so much missed.

## THE BARBECUE

A "back room" boy's impression.

### LUNAR MAX

Valerie's accurate weather prediction did not stop the Committee from turning up in force early on the morning of the sixth. I found Matron, Molly and Ruth all crying their eyes out over onion peeling in the kitchen, Jacks in plural, Hal, Smoke and Roy enthusiastically doing their best to destroy the lawn with iron stakes and large pieces of timber and secondhand doors from a much earlier age in order to prepare for skittles, darts and what-not! On trying to "advise" I was promptly instructed to attend to my own business—"the lights."

By midday all was ready for the "Met." people to turn IT off. By mid afternoon I was told, whilst they were sorry for us, the farmers wanted rain—who are the farmers anyway and why should their wishes be met? A very impromptu sub-committee of two hurriedly toured Teddington and Hampton Hill for indoor games and found that shops do not sell such things in "the Summer!" A more frantic sub-committee of three then organised an inside "Barbecue" and decided all would be well.

Aprons were tied on sharp at seven, barrels tapped and sampled, and the ladies in the kitchen—bless 'em—ready for anything. If anyone was disappointed I'd like to know, for the noise in the games room was awful, the twist room was always full with those on the floor and those watching or asleep, the cafeteria did not stop serving for two hours, the bar ran dry and the "Treasure Trove" in the corridor was well supported after all.

Phew! Whoa! what an evening—shall we be welcome next year and what is in the crystal for us Valerie? But I did have the last laugh—my lights were used as planned. C.S.C.

For the uninitiated: other back room boys were Messrs. Gostling, Ford, Severn, Maddox, Brooks, and the ladies Matron (of course) Mesdames Ford, Gostling, Severn, and others were "roped in" such as Margaret Robinson, Dennis Leatherdale, etc. ED.

### The impressions of one who went.

My family and I set off in our "macs" at 7.30 p.m. feeling that we, at least, would support this event (imagining that we should be amongst the few). On arrival at Laurel Dene we shed our "macs" and were thrilled to find masses of people everywhere.

First we were ushered to where the food was—and what a delicious spread it was! My husband was soon equipped with a foaming glass, the children disappeared (not to be seen for some time) once they had sampled the "eats." Friendly faces all around, greetings and "natter" exchanged.

We then made our way to the games room where the smaller boys were having a high old time with a race game, and above this din Dennis Leatherdale provided us with darts to try and break the record score. More friendly faces of those sitting around chatting. Then on to the "twist" room (having a "go" at the Treasure Trove in the corridor en route) where teenagers and some well out of their teens were performing the most extraordinary gyrations to the entertainment of those taking it more easily.

Congratulations to the Social Committee who obviously refused to have their spirits dampened by the weather and gave us a really enjoyable evening. I did mention this to the Social Committee's Chairman, but he assured me it was all Matron's doing! D.W.

### **EXTENSION GUIDES**

Spastics, polio cripples, and those people who, like "Thalidomide babies," are born badly deformed or crippled must, because they cannot get anywhere without their wheelchairs, crutches and help from other people, necessarily lead a life with somewhat limited activity. How can these people do the interesting and exciting things that we, who are more fortunate, can? How can they belong to and take a full part in active organisations such as Guiding and Scouting? A description of the "Extension Guides and Rangers' Field Day," should help to answer these questions.

This is an annual event and one to which all the Extension Guides and Rangers in the County eagerly look forward. This year, unfortunately, it was held on July 6—one of the wettest July days for many years. The field day takes the form of a day in camp. The tents are pitched by the "active" Guides, Cadets and Rangers as this is a difficult job to perform from a wheelchair.

As the Extensions are slower in nearly all their activities, most of the morning was devoted to preparing lunch—this year roast chicken. The more active Extensions and most of the active Guides kept the fire going and cooked the food, prepared by the less able girls. Lunch was eaten in the tents and the wooden hut, after which all helped to wash up.

The afternoon, because of the rain, having to be spent in the hut, began with an enrolment. The Guide being enrolled made a special effort to walk, with the aid of her crutches, for this occasion. The rest of the afternoon, until tea was ready, was spent making miniature gardens in tin plates with material collected by active Guides. Great care was taken over this rather muddy pursuit, and the result was four very attractive gardens, and some very happy girls. The day ended in the traditional manner with a camp-fire. This annual get-together, one of the very few occasions the Company can meet each other, was a very enjoyable day.

Normal "meetings" are books. These are made by the Guides—some of whom are themselves crippled—and are sent to the Guides once a month. Each Guide posts it to the next one when she has finished with it. Inspection, roll call, testwork, singing—everything in fact can be included in the meeting. The tests are the same as active Guide tests—slightly modified in places. It is wonderful to see these girls so enthusiastically taking part in activities such as these without becoming depressed or dissatisfied with their own condition. R.M.

### **THE YOUNG WIVES' GROUP**

On Wednesday, June 12, the annual party for mothers, with babies christened during the past year, was held in the Vicarage garden.

After a rather doubtful beginning weather-wise, the sun eventually broke through, the rain ceased and we were able to get organised.

We were pleased to welcome the many mothers and babies. Some of the faces were familiar to us but the newcomers were soon made welcome and everything went along smoothly. The children got along very well together but equally as important so did their mothers and as a result we hope to welcome some new members to Young Wives.

The party eventually finished at about 5 p.m. and we had the feeling that at least some of the newcomers to the district had had an opportunity to meet and get to know other mothers and their children.

Another of our coffee parties was held on June 13, and eight of our members met for a very pleasant evening. We hope that the parties can become a permanent feature as it certainly enables members to get to know one another a little better.

"The Future of Education"—this was the title of the talk at our meeting on June 26. Our speaker was Mr. Evans who came to us through the W.E.A. As you can appreciate from the title, Mr. Evans had a vast subject to deal with in a short space of time. However, he touched on numerous aspects of the problem and as a result engendered much lively interest by the various questions that were put to him, particularly in regard to the problem of "paid" versus State education.

The attendance at this meeting was larger than usual, this being due no doubt to the interest which most people have in this subject. Mr. Evans was a very interesting speaker, the whole evening was most enjoyable and gave us much to think about. A.R.

### **THE MOTHERS' UNION**

We had our closing service on Thursday, July 4, which was very kindly taken by the Vicar. Afterwards we had tea at Wayside—the cakes were made by Mrs. Richins and were really delicious.

We shall not meet again until September 11, when we shall again have a service in Church, followed by tea at Wayside. If anyone would like a lift please 'phone me at TED. 2582.

I hope you all have a very happy holiday.

Although this has nothing to do with Mothers' Union I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Social Committee for arranging the Barbecue at Laurel Dene on July 6. It was most enjoyable and those who were unable to get there missed a very great treat.

V.P.

### **1st HAMPTON HILL GUIDE COMPANY**

We have taken the opportunity to use the fine Thursday evenings to go out to Bushy Park, where we have made plaster casts and practised stalking each other—which led to some practical first-aid experience—dead bracken is very sharp! We are now looking forward to the Swimming Gala.

The afternoon of Sunday, July 7, brought the Hampton District Church Parade at All Saints Church. 18 Guides from 1st Hampton Hill were there and the service was a most enjoyable one. The many Guides and Brownies formed up outside the Church (carefully avoiding the many puddles) afterwards to be inspected by Miss Phillips, the Division Commissioner.

One thing we have been able to do this year is go for a weekend's camp. Five Guides went to camp at "Beveree"—the weather was very kind and, although we all began to realise the meaning of hard work, and we were so near home, the six of us had a wonderful time. Three other Guides and "Kanga," the Cadet who used to help run the Company, spent Saturday with us. We managed to convince one of them whilst preparing the salad that the radishes had to be peeled! By the end of the Camp none of the Guides (only one had camped before) wanted to go home—it was a weekend we shall remember for a long time.

Hathi.

### **THE OLDER FOLK GO ON HOLIDAY**

On Saturday, May 25, 29 members of the Old People's Welfare set off for a holiday at Cliftonville. The sun was shining and they received a good send-off by the Mayor and several members of the Committee.

They had good weather which contributed towards their enjoyment of the beach, and the many things organised—coach outings—a special show put on for Old Age Pensioners, at which the eldest member (91) present received a box of chocolates and a small gift.

They had very comfortable accommodation, and they could not speak too highly of the way their Host and Hostess looked after them.

On the last evening a party disclosed all sorts of hidden talent, and there was a great deal of fun.

One member won a free holiday for September, and as she is due for an operation in August, this should help her to make a complete recovery.

The helpers who accompanied the party were Mrs. H. Trotter (President) and Mrs. Casey

On the Saturday morning they joined in a hymn and a prayer of thankfulness to God for all his mercies during a very happy week.

## ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS TO STANDING MATTER

### Deanery Wel-care Worker

Miss D. M. Kemp, 15, Bulstrode Road, Hounslow.

Tel.: HOU. 3594.

### Churchyard Guardians

Mr. R. M. Brooks, 10, Links View Road. Tel.: TED. 2593.

Mr. D. W. K. Leatherdale, 18, St. James's Road.

Tel.: Molesey 6999.

The new telephone number of Mr. D. House, Garden Contractor, is TWI. Green 1123.

## SOME DATES TO NOTE

Aug. 13.—10 a.m. Editorial Board.

.. 14.—8 p.m. Scout Group Committee (Hall).

.. 24.—St. Bartholomew. Holy Communion at 7.15 a.m. (this will be the only week-day service in August).

The Sunday Schools will not meet in August, but will start again at 9.45 a.m. on September 15.

It is hoped to hold a meeting of the Continuation Committee to make plans for the Annual Review on September 13.

## BAPTISMS

June 23.—Robert Paul Gibbs, 32, Ringwood Way.

.. 23.—Stephen John Homer, 3, Ringwood Way.

.. 23.—Tracey Marie Norman, 5, Graham Road.

## BURIALS

June 18.—Deborah Taylor, 117, Uxbridge Road, aged 10 months (at Feltham Cemetery).

.. 19.—Carole Pamela Craig, 63, Rectory Grove, aged 25 years (at Twickenham Cemetery).

July 3.—Kathleen Isobel Peel, 34, Burton's Road, aged 58 years.

.. 3.—Cyril Cornell, 17, Park Road, aged 59 years.

.. 4.—Henry Edward Lewis, 32, Seymour Road, aged 77 years (at Teddington Cemetery).

.. 5.—Keith Dudley Rendell, 105, Uxbridge Road, aged 31 years (at Hampton Cemetery).

.. 8.—Amy Crosby, Laurel Dene, aged 85 years (at Teddington Cemetery).