

VICAR'S NOTES

Most of what would have been written under this head this month will be found in the Centenary Brochure which you, and every home in the Parish, will receive at about the same time as this issue of the Magazine is delivered. Please keep this Brochure by you to remind you of the special events arranged for the next twelve months.

There will be free tickets available for the Centenary gathering in the Hall on December 11, and for the Parish Breakfast on December 15. These may be obtained from Mrs. Orton, 30, St. James's Road, any member of the Social Committee, or myself. Please apply in good time.

At Christmas last year many of us put an empty plate or a jam jar on our dinner table, and everyone sitting round, put a donation in for the hungry. Let more of us do it this year, and then bring the money to Church after Christmas, where it will be offered at the altar, and then sent to help the great work of Inter-Church Aid for those in dire need.

A BRIEF SURVEY OF THE SECOND ANNUAL REVIEW OF CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

About 120 people met at the Parish Hall on Thursday, 14th November, and after chatting with their friends and partaking of the attractive fare provided (waited on by members of the Youth Club and Y.P.F.) settled down to listen to the speakers who were introduced by Mr. L. Melville, Chairman of the Stewardship Campaign. Our hard-working Recorder, Mr. L. Rockliffe, said that the pledge fulfilment position was satisfactory since £6,000 has been received out of the £6,400 due, the only cause for worry being the 36 families who are over 26 weeks in arrears and the 5 families who have paid nothing, causing a deficit on the Church's expected income of £378. He asked people to consider covenanting their pledge over seven years since £66 is repaid on income tax on every £100 covenanted.

Giving a comparative newcomer's impression of the Parish, Mr. Jackson said that he and his wife had been attracted to St. James' by the Stewardship Campaign which gave them the welcome opportunity of regularising their Christian Giving and offered scope for the reviving of all aspects of parish life for which regular support was a necessity. The thing that struck them most about St. James' was the willingness of people to give their time to work for their church, and the success of the Social Committee's work, which had proved that money-raising was not a necessary spur for successful social gatherings. The Jacksons were puzzled that, although obviously a large number of people had been interested to invest £3,500 p.a., in their church, the congregations were comparatively small. "In the North," he said, "we like to come and see that we are getting value for money!" He hoped that as St. James' became increasingly free from financial worry it would be able to concentrate more on its spiritual and evangelical responsibilities and that people would come to use their church more.

Mr. H. Severn, Assistant Treasurer, said that the campaign has changed a fluctuating and uncertain income into a steady one of just over £3,500 p.a.—three times higher than before. (The position was

clearly shown on some excellent charts prepared by Mr. Palk, which will be on show again at the Exhibition on December 11th). Expenses fell into two categories—the normal ones incurred in the everyday running of the church, which tended to increase steadily, being £1,300 in 1962 and probably £1,400 in 1963, and the “exceptional expenses.”

In 1962, after paying the normal expenses and the overdraft of £550, £1,700, remained. Out of this, £500 paid off the balance due to Wells and £1,011 went on dry rot repairs, an enormous item not bargained for in the original estimates, the work having to be done immediately. Relaying churchyard paths cost £79; and £139 was donated to various charities. In 1963 a balance of £3,100 was estimated for “exceptional expenses.” After many frustrations and much hard work on the part of the building committee (Messrs. Gostling, Leatherdale and Robinson) the work is now in hand. An exceedingly attractive offer resulted in the saving of well over £1,500 and thus the whole roof can be repaired and the job need not be tackled in two halves. The timbers have been treated against woodworm and rot, and insulation placed under the slates to conserve warmth, and save on heating bills. These repairs are estimated at £3,600 out of which £1,800 is already paid. In hand is £500 leaving a balance to be paid out of future income of £1,300. Plans are being worked on to rewire the church as soon as is possible. Organ overhaul is necessary, more will have to be spent on the churchyard which, however, was much improved since the appointment of Mr. Brooks and Mr. Leatherdale as Churchyard Guardians. The position of the Magazine which is now a charge on Church funds must be considered, and donations to charity should be increased. There may be a few small expenses incurred due to Centenary Year. In the event of a curate being obtained, his salary would be a regular and substantial item of expenditure. Mr. Severn ended by assuring the “shareholders” that their money was being wisely and carefully spent.

Mr. Melville said that the Church did not only consist of bricks and mortar or the Parish of houses, but of people and their interests. He then introduced Mr. Brooks who spoke of the spread of London as having swallowed up one-time villages such as ours, thus causing a loss of community-spirit and the “feeling of belonging.” “Today,” he said, “families are too apt to live isolated lives, feeling no responsibility for the district which is their home. I think the community-spirit can be revived and strengthened by people taking part in Church activities.” He had found much pleasure and many friends in the short time he had served on the Social Committee and the P.C.C. He asked people to come forward to help the various Church organisations and called for handy-men and “do-it-yourselfers” to organise such work as modifying the maddening book rests in the church, repairing the toolshed against the winter’s elements, clearing and grassing over as much of the churchyard as possible. Mrs. Orton wanted volunteers on behalf of the Centenary History Society to help with reading and abstracting from Local Press Records, also photographs of Old Hampton Hill, on loan, for the December 11th Exhibition. “Many hands do indeed make light work,” concluded Mr. Brooks. “Like Lord Kitchener, We Need YOU to come forward and lend a hand. Believe

me, you'll find a lot of satisfaction in seeing a worthwhile job well done and in feeling this church is really your own."

The Vicar's theme was "Long term hopes and plans." He said that all live churches must always extend their scope, as St. James's had done during its first hundred years, and as we hoped it would continue to do with increasing vigour in its second. St. James's could now hope for a time when, its own house in order, it could attend the many needs outside the parish. "Everyone has the inner need to learn the joy of giving of time, money, talents and energy," he said. "As well as spontaneous development, good planning is necessary as well as the readiness to alter plans to meet changing circumstances." He instanced the unforeseen dry rot expenditure which had necessitated the modification of existing plans to embrace the unexpected element, and the amount of time which had recently had to be diverted to considering building projects which seemed detrimental to the neighbourhood.

It was hoped that St. James's would, in a year or two, have sufficient man-power to follow more highly developed parishes in having a Good Neighbour Scheme, regular parish meetings, and street wardens to welcome newcomers. At the moment services are being considered—their times and forms, and whether or not they needed modification. The Christian Stewardship Scheme would have to be developed further when this present three-year period ended. "We are entering our second century," said Mr. Brunt. "Let us give it a really good send off and show that our church is in as good and responsible hands as it was a hundred years ago, only many more of them, determined to proceed into the second century in a rip-roaring kind of way."

Mr. Gostling, chairman of the committee responsible for the arrangement of the evening, on being thanked, modestly passed the credit on to his organising committee of ladies. "I had only to sit and look helpless," he said, "and they did everything for me." On the strength of this he suggested more coffee and further refreshments. His willing minions flew to obey, amidst considerable laughter, and people stayed chatting comfortably until quite a late hour. "Altogether a very enjoyable and successful evening, was the verdict of many."

M.O.

BONFIRE NIGHT

Please to remember the fifth of November—and the Social Committee made this year's Bonfire Night at Laurel Dene an occasion that will be remembered for some while. Surely the hot, buttery potatoes and delicious soup never tasted so good before and certainly helped to soothe the shattered nerves and ear drums caused by the noisiest bangers of all time. The fireworks were so splendid that one scarcely felt the odd spot of rain, while the huge bonfire cast a cosy glow over all the chattering friendly groups of grown ups, who used the excuse of coming "just to please the children" to have a delightful evening. As for the children, their enjoyment was measured by their "oohs" and "ahs" as one gorgeous pyrotechnic display succeeded another—also by the number of potatoes eaten by each one! It is

reported that the Social Committee scrubbed 340 potatoes the night before and, if so, they deserve medals for this and for organising one of the best Bonfire Nights yet.

P.M.O. & V.M.O.

THE MOTHERS' UNION

We had an extremely interesting afternoon on October 17th, when our speaker was Mrs. Pullenayegum from Ceylon. Dressed in a beautiful silk sari, she told us many things about her lovely island home, and about the political troubles which were the cause of many English-speaking Sinhalese going into exile. Mrs. Pullenayegum's husband, who was a lawyer, has now taken Holy Orders and is a curate at Richmond parish church.

Our Jumble Sale was not quite so successful, financially, as it has been in recent years, probably owing to the number of these events which have taken place in the district this autumn, but the final addition to our funds was £10-2-6, so we hope to remain solvent for some time at least!

The meeting on November 6 unfortunately fell on a very wet afternoon, and only about a dozen members were able to reach Wayside to hear Mrs. Rockliffe's account of her travels in Canada. Those of us who did brave the elements learnt a great deal—I am sure we had very little idea of the vastness of the country with its enormous lakes and thousands of square miles of forest. It was fascinating to hear at first hand of encounters with bears and moose, and the wonders of the Rocky Mountains and the Great Lakes.

We are sorry that our Deanery Presiding Member, Mrs. Brown, will not be able to come and speak to us on December 4, owing to an Enrolment Service in her own branch, but instead we shall welcome Mrs. Cameron from Hampton Court, whose subject will be "Keeping Sunday."
M.U.

YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

At our October meeting we were pleased to welcome Mr. & Mrs. Griffiths, friends of committee member Ruth Allan, who had asked them to come along when our scheduled talk on the Faroe Islands had to be cancelled. They called their talk, "Travels with a Camera in Italy and Yugoslavia," and with a very lovely selection of coloured slides they took us to Pisa, Florence, the Bay of Naples and Pompeii, to Rome and Venice on to Yugoslavia. The rugged Macedonian and Dalmation coastline and the sparseness of the vegetation in the Yugoslavian countryside provided a striking contrast to the lush Italian vineyards. Our sincere thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Griffiths for shewing us their wonderful photographs and for an interesting commentary.

We were pleased to see Pat Mitchell back at a meeting so soon after the birth of her second son, and looking so fit. Congratulations Pat! Our President, Mrs. Brunt, was unable to be present at the meeting, but I am glad to report she is looking much better after her recent operation.

Tickets for the Children's Christmas party on January 3, 1964, will be on sale at our November 27 meeting, or can be obtained later from Committee Members.

Badminton Section Leader, Peggy Farnsworth, tells me they would like a few more players. Anyone interested should go along to the Parish Hall on Wednesday afternoons. A Badminton racquet may be borrowed, and there will be someone to keep an eye on young children whilst you play.

M.S.

3rd HAMPTON HILL SCOUT GROUP

Cub Pack

District Six-a-Side Football on September 21, our Pack were Runners-up.

District Swimming Gala at Heston Bath on September 28, Cub Pack were 3rd.

Congratulations to Sixer Peter Evans on obtaining the Leaping Wolf Badge.

Scout Troop

Our Troop are to be congratulated on winning the Shield at the District Swimming Gala, and two of our scouts being chosen to represent the District at Isleworth and District Swimming Gala—they gained 5th place.

A very enjoyable evening was held on October 31, which took the form of a Tramps Supper. I think the alfresco meal of "fish and chips" on the floor of the Hall, together with a "bottle" to wash it down was much appreciated by tramps and witches alike. We really did celebrate Halloween in good style.

Another pleasing little ceremony took place last Wednesday when Mr. De Graaf, the District Commissioner attended the Cub evening to present Miss Yvonne Bamford with her Warrant as Assistant Cub Mistress.

S. R. CHILDS,
Group Scout Master.

THE MADDISON GERIATRIC CLINIC LEAGUE OF FRIENDS FORMED

A new organisation known as the Friends of the Maddison Clinic has been formed by a group of its voluntary members. They are hoping to organise money-raising events to help pay for extra equipment needed at the Clinic in Church Road which caters so admirably to the special requirements of elderly people.

Much of the equipment already in use has been bought from voluntary subscriptions but, in spite of a recent County Council grant, more is still needed.

Anyone interested in Dr. Maddison's splendid pioneer work and wishing it well is invited to help by becoming a member—yearly subscription 2s. 6d. payable to the Secretary, Mrs. H. A. Knight, 7, Avenue Gardens, Teddington. Mrs. M. Clarke was elected Treasurer and our own churchwarden Mr. L. Rockcliffe, Chairman. Mrs. Molly Saunders is one of the five Committee members.

M.O.

DR. BARNARDO'S DOOR-TO-DOOR COLLECTION 1963

Mrs. Ford wishes to thank all those who supported and helped with this year's collection. The amount collected was £45-5-6.

PERSONALIA

At the Harvest Supper we gave an affectional farewell to the Rooney family. Michael left us some years ago on his marriage and transference to a job in Lancashire; now Mr. and Mrs. Rooney and Bridget have left us for a flat in Surbiton. They were well known throughout the Parish, and members of the family took part in many of our activities, including the Drama Group and Sunday School teaching. We send them our warmest good wishes.

Susan Howard and Janet Mackinnon have settled down happily at the London Hospital as they begin their career in nursing.

We congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Osborne (Mrs.—nee Jennifer Cox) now living at Shepperton, on the birth of their first child (a son); and Mr. and Mrs. David Thompson on the happy arrival of their third—making it three boys.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

- Dec. 1.—First Sunday in Advent.
- .. 4.—2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union (W) Speaker: Mrs. Cameron.
7.30 p.m. Open evening for parents of cubs (Hall).
- .. 5.—8 p.m. Church Council (W).
- .. 7.—3.30 p.m. Old People's Party (Hall).
- .. 9.—11 a.m. Editorial Board (52, Park Road).
- .. 10.—8 p.m. Special meeting of Ruri-decanal Conference and members of Church Council, to consider aspects of the Anglican-Methodist conversations (St. Mary's Hall, Twickenham).
- .. 11.—Centenary Dedication Festival:
7.15 p.m. Service of Thanksgiving in Church.
8.30 p.m. Parish Gathering: Local History Exhibition and slides in the Hall (Tickets—see "Vicar's Notes.")
- .. 12.—8 p.m. Old People's Welfare Committee (School).
- .. 15.—9 a.m. Confirmation by the Bishop of London, and Parish Communion, followed by breakfast in the Hall (Tickets—see "Vicars Notes.")
- N.B. The only other Service in Church on this Sunday will be Evensong at 6.30 p.m.
- .. 24-25.—Christmas Day.
Holy Communion at 11.45 p.m. (Midnight Eucharist);
8 a.m., 9.45 a.m. (Family Communion) and 12.15 p.m.;
Matins at 11 a.m.
- .. 29.—8 a.m. Holy Communion; 9.45 a.m. Children's Service;
11 a.m. Matins; 6.30 p.m. Carol Service.

BAPTISMS

- Oct. 27.—Lisa Caroline Hannam, 26a, Cranmer Road.
- .. 27.—Philip David Lee, 7, Wolsey Road.
- .. 27.—Tracey Ann Manly, 14, Queens Road.
- .. 27.—Brian Stuart Charles McDermott, 227, Uxbridge Road.
- .. 27.—Robin Charles Thompson, 34, Longford Close.