

VICAR'S NOTES

The work on the interior of the church has started, and is now expected to continue until after Easter. A certain amount of inconvenience is bound to be caused by this. Much dust and debris are accumulating, and though as much cleaning and straightening out as possible is done on Saturdays to get the church in order for Sundays, it may well be impossible to hold any week-day services, even in Holy Week—but if we can, these will be made known on the notice-board.

The Lent course "Raise the Cross" will continue on Tuesdays in the Vestry, and there will be savings boxes in church for Lenten alms, to help meet the special need to which this course is drawing our attention. Half-a-million Africans are being compelled to move to new areas, in which there are no churches. No temporary structures are allowed, and often the building must be completed before the end of this year if the site is not to be forfeited. £600,000 is needed as soon as possible. This is far beyond the resources of the Church in South Africa, so we must help to the uttermost of our capacity.

There will also be boxes for alms in support of another urgent cause, this time in our own country—the housing of the homeless. Leaders in the churches have launched a National Appeal: £100,000 is needed at once. One way in which the money so far raised is being used is in buying old and dilapidated houses, with the intention of renovating them and converting them into flats for letting to needy families at low rentals. I will ask the Church Council on March 5 to approve that all offerings not in envelopes made in church on Good Friday be evenly divided between these two appeals, and sent off as soon as possible after Easter with the monies raised by the Lenten boxes.

VICTORIAN-EDWARDIAN SMOKING CONCERT

Not the least exciting part of this excellent evening was quizzing the new arrivals and admiring their costumes which, for the most part, were marvels of ingenuity and improvisation. The ladies were feminine allure personified. The poke bonnets, mittens, masses of flowers, net and lace; the ribbons and flowing skirts, causing the gentlemen to look—not twice—but many times! The sterner sex themselves were splendid in fancy waistcoats, coloured stocks and lush outcrops of facial adornment; there was a plethora of boaters, one tasselled smoking-cap, a couple of authentic-looking workmen types in Belcher neckerchiefs and slouch caps, a gallant Hussar in scarlet and gold, complete with pillbox hat and mutton-chop whiskers, and even a 'masher' with a surprisingly Edwardian eye to the ladies!

The assembled company being seated, the master of ceremonies (Mr. Robinson—clad in a cut-away coat, high collar, white silk stock, gorgeous waistcoat and silk topper) gave the time-honoured "Gentlemen, you may smoke," and the curtain opened on the "Fitzwygram Four" (Messrs. Severn, Maddox, Brooks and Gostling, accompanied by Mrs. Melville) who rendered a pot-pourri of old songs, the audience joining in enthusiastically in the choruses. Miss Phyllis Gillingham then gave us a versatile recital on the piano-accordion, followed by "Worthy Jack" (Mr. Gostling) looking extremely funny in drain-pipe

trousers, long jacket and flat cap), who treated us to "Albert and the Lion." His north-country accent was most authentic and he miraculously remained completely serious throughout his hilarious performance. The "Devastating, Dazzling, Darling from Kingston" (Miss Ann Cuer accompanied by Mr. Ron. Dafforne) followed with "You made me Love You" and "The Honeysuckle and the Bee" to which she imparted a real Nellie Wallace verve. Perhaps the most delightful part of the whole entertainment followed when "The Fair Ladies" (Mrs. Prentice and Mrs. Uden) sang "Passing By" and "Bless this House," which they did really beautifully.

A substantial repast having been served by impressive-looking Edwardian waiters and waitresses (alias the Fitzwygram Four and the ladies of the Social Committee), we settled down to enjoy the rest of the show, which included the sequel to the story of the unfortunate Albert, which again caused much amusement as did "Aunty Vera's" monologue on Men and Methodism, which was a tour de force of memory and mime (Aunty Vera being Mrs. Rockliffe, looking practically as Victorian as the great queen herself!). To end the evening the Fitzwygram Four and Dilys came to the piano in the body of the hall and everyone joined in singing the old songs. Mr. Brooks' rendering of "Silver locks amongst the Gold" was particularly admired—even being "silvered" with a flour caster in the hand of a poker-faced Mr. Maddox could not distract the singer from his sensitive performance!

And so to bed. Once more the Social Committee have arranged for us a lovely and memorable evening. Thank you, everyone concerned in planning it.

O.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Hampton Methodist Church was chosen for the Women's World Day of Prayer Service held on Friday, February 14. As an experiment there were two services, the first at 3 p.m. and the second at 8 p.m. In the afternoon about 130 women were present to hear Mrs. G. R. Osborn, of Teddington, give an inspiring address on Union with God and our fellow Christians, in love and prayer; the keywords of this service being "united" and "prayer."

The remainder of the service was conducted by a representative from each of the five Churches in Hampton, Mrs. Weir presided at the organ.

The Church was tastefully decorated with Spring flowers. All present welcomed the chance to unite in worship in the newest church in this district, knowing that we were forming a link in the Chain of Prayer which encircled the world on the first Friday of Lent.

Thanks are due to all those who provided transport to and from Percy Road.

I.V.R.

The Evening Service

With our own centenary celebrations a recent memory, the newly opened church impressed with a vivid sense of the continuity of God's work. Concealed modern lighting reflected rich tones from the natural

wooden superstructure above bare, rugged brickwork; in striking contrast to the Victorian architecture of our own church.

When Mrs. Pullenayegun addressed us with quiet serenity, this contrast served to emphasise the message of the unchanging virtue of prayer in unity, no matter what differences of language, race or surroundings.

R.M.G.

CHRISTIAN REVOLUTION

During a recent weekend, four members of the congregation took part in a stimulating Conference held at High Leigh, Hoddesdon, near Hertford.

The Conference, entitled "Christian Revolution," was run by some of the staff of the Lee Abbey Community, led by Gordon Mayo. It was the first time such a course had been held; previously such conferences have been attended by individuals, who on their return home have lacked parochial co-operation in getting any of their new ideas or enthusiasms to be effective in the parish. We had the enormous advantage of going as a Parish Group sponsored by the P.C.C. and with the full weight of the Vicar and the congregation behind us. (No bookings were accepted for a group of less than three, but it was hoped that most parishes would be able to send seven representatives).

The opening talk on Friday evening took a quotation from the recent Toronto Conference as its text, "The keynotes of our time are equality, inter-dependence, mutual responsibility," and it was upon this theme that the rest of the weekend's discussions were based.

Each Parish Group had to answer some very searching questions among itself. For example: "What is the most revolutionary thing the Church is doing in the parish?" and "What is the most effective service the Church is performing as seen by the Man-in-the-Street?" We then discussed this with a similar group from another parish. After a break, the same questions were subjected to a closer scrutiny by studying a relevant Bible passage with yet another group of people, this time from St. Philip's Church, Earl's Court, with whom we became quite friendly.

Saturday afternoon, being free, we went for a long walk in the Spring sunshine before returning for tea and some more Parish scrutiny.

Sunday started with Holy Communion at eight o'clock in the Chapel. After breakfast we had a shortened form of Matins followed by more general discussions than we had had on Saturday. This time we were able to hear some of the activities of other parishes. At one Church there are being held 'experimental Evensongs' when, for example, there might be a series of nine lessons on the teaching of St. Paul. Or another Church whose Men's Society visit a Hostel for evicted families and try to help them with their problems, as well as giving them more practical help in the form of furniture, etc., when they move into their new homes. While we may not wish to adopt any of these ideas ourselves it does show how alive the Church of England is to the everyday needs of the people around it.

In the closing session on Sunday afternoon we discussed the reasons for the success of the weekend and decided that it was the feeling of fellowship which we had between individuals and between the groups from the different parishes.

There is to be a similar weekend Conference in November, and if the chance to attend is offered to you, we would all say, take it, you will have one of the most enjoyable and interesting weekends you have ever had.

H.T.

THE YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

At our children's party on January 3, there were about fifty children present. The games proceeded very smoothly, whilst the food provided for tea soon disappeared with little left for the Mums! The time seemed to go more quickly than the food had done, and Father Christmas arrived to close the party by handing a gift to each child.

A member of the Richmond & Barnes Association for the Advancement of State Education, and on the staff of a Teacher Training College, Mr. C. Fitchett, was the speaker at our January meeting. Very much in favour of Parent-Teacher Associations, he considered that the good Nursery Schools, run on the "play methods," provide a good grounding for the benefits to be obtained during later schooldays, and he advocated the freedom of headmasters to run their schools in their own way. He explained how the Association for the Advancement of State Education began in Cambridge when a small group of parents became dissatisfied with the running of a small school in that area. The Associations' aims are to publicise education and that each branch should encourage education in its own area. Branches have been formed throughout the country, and a member of the Richmond & Barnes Association has been invited to join the Plowden Committee on Primary Schools.

A coach has been booked to take members to the Ideal Home Exhibition on Tuesday, March 10, 1964. We shall leave from the church at 6.30 p.m. (promptly) and the cost of fare and admission will be 6/6d.

On March 25 we meet at the Parish Hall for 8 p.m., to see a film issued by the Hovis/Robertson companies. This will be an open meeting, and we shall be glad if anyone who is interested will come along.

Will members please note that in place of the W.E.A. Lecture shewn on our programme for May 27, 1964, Mr. Hughes, Headmaster of Hampton Hill Junior School, is coming along to talk to us about Junior Schools?

M.S.

ONE FAMILY IN FIVE

- ★ One family in every five will have one of its members affected by a mental disorder sooner or later in life.
- ★ Over four out of every ten beds in all the hospitals are occupied by patients suffering from mental illnesses.
- ★ One out of every ten children will require treatment for some form of mental illness.

The chances are that *you* will know at least one person who has, or has had, some kind of mental disturbance. Yes, despite this, there is still a terrible stigma attached to mental illness. Those threatened by mental sickness, and those recovering from it are often frightened, lonely, rejected people, alone in an uncaring world. Christ said, "Love one another, as I have loved you." Christians can offer warmth, friendship, love and understanding, and practical concrete help to the lost sheep of the twentieth century.

The Richmond Fellowship grew out of an experiment which was started by Miss Elly Jansen in 1959 to make some contribution towards the needs of a few among the thousands who require individual care and group support to prevent breakdown or to promote rehabilitation. To date there are three communities established; at Richmond, Bickley, and South Darenth. A fourth is in process of being started at East Molesey. All the communities work in full co-operation with the psychiatric profession and the churches. All of them depend a great deal on help from people in the locality in both getting the houses decorated and furnished, and in helping the residents afterwards (by simply befriending them, offering employment, starting specialized activities, etc.).

If you would like to know more about this work please contact Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Stowell, 17 St. James's Avenue (Molesey 2263); or if you can spare some time to help with the decorating of the new East Molesey house please ring the Fellowship's headquarters at Imperial 0234 (2 Wells Road, Bickley, Nr. Bromley, Kent).

MORE EXTRACTS FROM A LETTER FROM UGANDA

Mary Stuart Hall, the Women's Hall of Residence at Makerere, is flourishing and is expanding rapidly. Our 101 students of last year has expanded to 123 and we have been hard put to house them all. We now have an Annexe which is extremely popular. In the days when the women students numbered eight, and were accommodated in a wooden house, this hostel was called "the Box"; the name has stuck and Mary Stuart Hall is frequently called "the Box" to this day. Comment in a recent issue of the Makererean, the students' newspaper: "What are we going to have another Box? Never mind, the Warden can't be in both Boxes at once!"

The day is rapidly approaching when we shall have a larger third Box, a second women's Hall to house another 130 students. This is the latest red-hot news from a Conference at Como on the Academic needs of East Africa, and was pushed hard by Dr. Zake, the Uganda Minister of Education. This is tremendously encouraging. Even though we may lose some women students to the new University in Dar-es-Salaam, Uganda girls are coming up to University entrance standard in ever increasing numbers.

HANNAH STANTON.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

- Mar. 3.—8.0 p.m. Lent Course: "Raise the Cross in the Local Community" (Vestry).
- .. 4.—2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union A.G.M. (W).
- .. 5.—8 p.m. Church Council (Vestry).
- .. 9.—11 a.m. Editorial Board (30, St. James's Road).
8 p.m. United Prayer and Discussion Group (Congregational Church).
- .. 10.—8 p.m. Lent Course: "Raise the Cross in the Christian Household" (Vestry).
- .. 12.—8 p.m. History Society (W).
8 p.m. Old People's Welfare Committee (School).
- .. 14.—3.30 p.m. Old People's Party (Hall).
- .. 16.—8 p.m. Hampton Council of Churches: Miss Rosamund Essex speaks on the work of Inter-Church Aid (St. Mary's Parish Hall, Hampton).
- .. 17.—8 p.m. Lent Course: "Raise the Cross in our Daily Lives" (Vestry).
- .. 18.—8 p.m. Annual Parochial Church Meeting (Hall). All whose names are on the Electoral Roll are urged to attend.
- .. 21.—1.45 p.m. Parish Visit to Westminster Abbey:
3 p.m. Festal Evening for St. Benedict's Day.
3.50—5 p.m. conducted tour of the Abbey.
6 p.m. Coaches back in Hampton Hill. (Tickets: Adults 3/6d.; Children 2/6s.).
- .. 22.—Palm Sunday. Crosses distributed at all Services.
- .. 24.—8 p.m. Holy Week Meditation (Vestry).
- .. 25.—8.0 p.m. Young Wives' Group: Open Evening—Hovis Films (Hall).
- .. 27.—Good Friday.
10 a.m. Children's Service.
12—3 p.m.: The Three Hours' Devotion, conducted by the Rev. N. C. Wells, Vicar of All Souls', St. Margaret's.
3.30 p.m. Open-Air Service arranged by the Hampton Council of Churches in Carlisle Park.
- .. 28.—9 a.m.—12 noon: Decoration of Church for Easter.
- .. 29.—Easter Day:
Holy Communion at 7, 8, 9 a.m. and 12.15 p.m.
Children's Service at 9.45 a.m.
Matins at 11 a.m.
Evensong at 6.30 p.m.

HAVE YOU SEEN George, 8-year-old budgerigar, missing from 83, Park Road? If you have, please tell Mrs. Ford (Tel.: Mol. 4556).

BAPTISMS

- Jan. 26.—Brian Arlington Blenman, 109, Hampton Road.
- .. 26.—Amanda Jane Farnsworth, 81, Burtons Road.
- .. 26.—Michelle Ann Short, 85, Hampton Road.
- .. 26.—Terence Edward Taylor, 117, Uxbridge Road.
- Feb. 2.—Andrew John Thompson, 193a, Uxbridge Road.