

VICAR'S NOTES

We were hoping to announce this month that at the end of April we were putting into operation the new plans for Sunday morning services on which the Commission for Worship and its working party have been engaged for so long. These plans centred on the establishment of a Parish Communion at 9.30 a.m., but there is not yet sufficient agreement amongst us about either the main principle or the details, so that we shall have to wait until something much nearer to a common mind emerges. At the moment some people would like the Parish Communion, but only once a month; others favour a combined Matins and Communion service; others feel strongly that the whole point of the Parish Communion is to have it every Sunday; then comes the problem — what to do with Matins and the Sunday School? Some think that Matins is now so poorly supported as to be almost dead, and that it should be written off, or, as in many churches, replaced by a said service at 7.30 or 8.30 a.m. (Originally Matins was, in part, a preparation for Communion, and so always preceded the main service.) But others of us would hesitate to kill anything that still had life in it, and would like to continue Matins as it is as long as it fulfills a need. It seems harsh suddenly to deprive people, who may have been attached to sung Matins for many years, of something which means a great deal to them, even if they do not come every Sunday. When a service no longer fulfils a need, it usually dies a natural death — Matins may be on the way to this, or it may not, but should we try to speed up the process?

The Sunday Schools also are very much of a going concern, although not as strong as they used to be, and we do not want to take any action that will injure them. If a Parish Communion were established, some of the children would undoubtedly wish to come with their parents to that, and might not want to come to Sunday School either before or after. It would be up to the parents to see that they get the instruction which they would be missing. But many other children will still need the help that the Sunday Schools are now giving. In some places, children have half-an-hour's instruction in classes, then come into the Parish Communion (those whose parents are there join them) during the Offertory hymn, but we cannot do this here because of lack of accommodation.

One suggestion put forward at our last Church Council meeting which may perhaps prove to be the best compromise was as follows:

Holy Communion as at present every Sunday at 8 a.m.; the Parish Communion every Sunday at 9.15 a.m. (perhaps followed by a light buffet breakfast in one room at Wayside at 10.30 a.m. — if this will not interfere with the Sunday School — so that we can get to know each other better); Sunday School every Sunday, except the fourth in each month, in Church and Wayside at 10.30 a.m.; Matins every Sunday as at present, and on the fourth Sunday the usual parade service, but at 11.15 a.m. instead of 11 a.m.

By the time this magazine appears, this matter will have been discussed at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on March 18; but as many people have not yet expressed any opinion, and may not do so

there, we should be glad to know what you who read this think. Please drop a short note to me or any member of the Church Council or Editorial Board.

Many suggestions have been made concerning the form which the Parish Communion should take, but these are not yet final. In general, it is proposed that the service should be as congregational as possible, with no robed choir, but a group of adults in the body of the church to lead the singing as long as it is necessary. To begin with, parts of the service will be sung to Merbecke, as at Christmas, and the service may centre round an altar at the chancel step, much nearer the congregation than the High Altar. Undoubtedly we shall have to try various experiments, discard those that prove unacceptable, and continue those that prove their worth.

HISTORY SOCIETY

Our progress has born a close resemblance to the Grand National in that the club got off to a good start with a full field, but obstacles of one kind and another have reduced the going to a hard core of about fifteen "stayers." Two new "willing horses," Mr. and Mrs. Brooks, have nobly volunteered at this very late date, to take over "The Birth and Growth of St. James's Church" project, which has been one of the most serious casualties of the course.

Many hours of interesting work have been put in at Kingston Library by the Comet Abstract team (Mesdames Coxon, Leatherdale, Milns and Orton) and they are most appreciative of the help given by both Kingston and Twickenham Reference Libraries.

Some fascinating "snippets" are coming to light on varied aspects of the past of our village. Some, such as the almost incredible reports on the sewage and water supply question, and on the state of the roads — which became quagmires in the winter and dust baths in the summer — fill one with a kind of horrified mirth; but others which show the great community spirit of the people and their determination to make their village a decent place to live in, together with their pride and joy in their new church, inspire in the reader nothing but pride and admiration.

In the latter category, and appropriate to this season, are the following abstracts from a description of St. James's Easter decorations in 1875. Headed "A Labour of Love" and saying that the decorations were much the most beautiful in the district, the article tells us that "a profusion of flowers, moss and ferns ornamented the beautiful new font . . . devices in evergreens and wreaths of arbor vitae twined the gas brackets and encircled the handsome pillars supporting the new wing . . . richly worked texts and mottoes in red, mounted on white cloth adorned the pulpit, reading desk, choir stalls and altar — all pointing the joy and praise felt." There were also "devices in violets, white tulips, lilies, cyclamens and other choice exotics too numerous to describe."

This is only one of the many reports of St. James's having been beautified in a like manner. Doubtless the numerous nursery gardens and also the conservatories of the "gentry" had much to do with "the profusion of flowers" available.

Between now and April 30, when the project papers are due in, there will be a lot of extremely hard work done and, all being well, and the willing horses not "refusing" at this last biggest obstacle, the Centenary Booklet (for which we have already many applications) should be ready for issue in December, after about a year and a half's research — not nearly enough to find out all we should have liked, but enough, we hope, to interest our readers and to mark St. James's first hundred years in a not unworthy manner.

M.O.

OUTLOOK

As you will have read in last month's magazine, the publishers of our inset recently invited representatives from their subscribers to a conference in London. I arrived a little late (owing to the inevitable car parking problems). The programme began with a welcome and general introduction by the owner and editor in chief, followed by a summary of a recent questionnaire put out to find what subjects were popular and what subjects were not favourably considered, also inviting suggestions.

Then came a general discussion and a brains trust panel — it was first of all pleasing to find such a number of churches had taken sufficient interest to send their representatives along, and, as is so often the way, far from a reluctance to ask questions or air their views, hands were continually up clamouring for the attention of the chairman, and it was found that the same or similar magazine problems were experienced in many parishes. It appeared that most churches made a charge for their magazine, also local advertisement rates were much higher than ours. Whilst the general view was that "Outlook" should have more provocative articles on matters of nation-wide interest (non-religious), the editor explained that this was only possible when the subject was likely to be with us for some time, and not immediately topical, as the matter had to be prepared too far ahead. This we can appreciate for the reason that with our own parochial news it is difficult not to have it out of date as we have the contents ready for the printers about the middle of the previous month.

I am sure that had it been possible for non-churchgoers to be present at this discussion amongst, in the main, churchmen they would have been surprised at how lively and "with it" the clergy can be. In fact due to the great interest shown and expressed by everyone the chairman had on two occasions to postpone the break for lunch.

After lunch there was a talk by Col. Robert Hornby chief information officer to the Church Assembly, on the Church's use of the Press, followed by discussion. Colonel Hornby began by putting us in the picture as regards modern methods of communication, whereby ten

minutes after an important statement has been made it can be put out in countries all over the world. He told the story of the Bishop who travelled to the United States in one of the "Queens," and when the ship docked was inundated by reporters, one of whom asked him whether he would be visiting any night clubs, the Bishop hesitated then said, "Are there any night clubs here?" When he came ashore headlines in the newspapers said, "Bishop's first question, 'Are there any night clubs here?'" Despite this little bit of levity he did recommend those responsible for parish magazines to make friends with the editors and journalists of their local papers and ask for their co-operation. He even knew of one journalist who regularly dashed up the M.1. to a midlands town to help them with their magazine.

The Colonel gave his audience an outline of his work, arranging radio and television appearances and talks, etc., keeping the Press informed on matters within his scope. Helping parishes with their magazines where possible. A number of questions were then put to him and willingly answered, and the conference came to a close with the editor thanking people for having come such long distances (as some had done) to be present, and assuring them that much had been gained from this get-together and that they (the editorial board) would try their best to use the suggestions made.

D.W.

THE THREE DEANERIES' MORAL WELFARE ASSOCIATION

The national report on unwanted children being born to immature parents is reflected in our own area (where the three deaneries combine to support a welfare worker) where the number of cases has risen in like manner and where the worker must have working funds to save disaster (suicide, etc.).

At a recent special meeting (held unfortunately at the same time as our P.C.C. so that only one delegate could attend), the association appealed for each parish to help, either in gifts of garden produce for stalls, or by personal attendance, at a Garden Party to be held at St. George's Rectory, Hanworth, on the first Saturday in June (Date to be confirmed later).

The working fund is £200 in debt and it is essential to clear this amount so that our special worker can be kept in this area. Offers of help for the day will therefore be gratefully received and can be forwarded either through the Vicar or the P.C.C. delegates or sent direct to Miss Kemp (address in magazine).

F.H.S.

YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

At our February meeting Mr. McGibbon gave the first of six lectures on child psychology, arranged for us by the W.E.A. starting with a short talk and discussion to find what ages of children we would like the course to cover, Mr. McGibbon went on to explain the needs of children, both physical and psychological, and to show how the lack

of affection and security can cause frustrations, thus retarding development. The remaining lectures will be given at fortnightly intervals.

The Group met for Corporate Communion at 9 a.m. on February 23, followed by breakfast at Wayside. On this cold morning the coffee and tea made by Mrs. Brunt, and the hot rolls, sausages and home-made marmalade, were really delicious.

On April 29 we are to have a talk by a representative of the Energen Foods organisation, preceded by a clothing exchange. Will members please note the change of programme for May 27 when, in place of a W.E.A. lecture, Mr. Hughes, Headmaster of Hampton Hill Junior School, will be our speaker.

M.S.

MOTHERS' UNION

At the Annual General Meeting on March 8 the following Officers and Committee members were elected:—

Enrolling Member: Mrs. Rockliffe.

Secretary: Mrs. Uden.

Treasurer: Mrs. Cliff.

Committee: Mdmes. Casey, Edmonds, Futter.

An afternoon drive in Surrey, visiting Shere, has been arranged for Wednesday, April 8. (This is instead of of the annual party). The coach fare will be five shillings, tea will be provided at Box Hill.

St. Mary's Hampton Branch are arranging to let us travel on their coach to St. Paul's for the Festival Service on Tuesday, April 21, our members will board the coach at the traffic lights at the junction of Park Road and Hampton Hill High Street.

Will all those who wish to travel by coach on April 8 or April 21, please give their names to Mrs. Rockliffe.

AN APPEAL FROM THE OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE COMMITTEE OF HAMPTON HILL

Do you know any lonely old people in your road? This committee was formed some years ago to meet the great need of helping the elderly of Hampton Hill, and it has been doing sterling work. Do you realise — that there is an elderly man left to fend for himself, his wife having been taken away for medical attention? that an elderly lady fell and lay all one night with a broken hip? that when sickness comes to a lonely older person the great need is for someone to call in and offer to make a cup of tea, call the doctor, get some shopping or just a cheery word to let him or her know they are not forgotten?

We all know when we feel "under the weather" what a joy it is to receive a helping hand.

The committee want to augment the number of wardens so that there is one in every road in Hampton Hill. Will you be a warden in

your road or one nearby?

Enquiries or offers of help should be made to the Secretary, Mrs. Stops, 17, St. James's Road.

Any odd balls of wool will be appreciated by the Committee. Babies' cot covers, shawls, etc., are made by the members to be sold at the Annual Fete.

Most of us keep left-over wool from knitting thinking they may "come in useful" — now is the time!

Mrs. Warwick of 52, Park Road, will be pleased to receive your wool and ensure that it is put to good use.

Thank you!

D.W.

SOCIAL EVENTS

April 18. An entertainment by Church groups in the Parish Hall, at 7 p.m. (Tickets 1/6d.). Do come and join in the fun!

May 23. All day coach trip to Coventry Cathedral (Tickets 12/6d.). Please apply for tickets from the Social Committee as early as possible.

June 19. This is an advance notice about the River Trip from Maidenhead (some may wish to proceed to Maidenhead in their own cars, but there will be a coach from the Church). The tickets for the River Trip will be 10/- (approx.) plus 7/6d. approximately for the coach from the Church. Further details will be given in the May magazine.

Be sure to enter these dates in your diaries and please obtain your tickets as soon as possible so that you may not be disappointed, and to assist the Social Committee in making final arrangements.

OTHER DATES TO NOTE

Mar. 30.—Young Peoples' Fellowship leave for week's holiday in Derbyshire.

Apr. 7.—11 a.m. Editorial Board (30, St. James's Road).

.. 8.—2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union outing to Shere.

.. 10.—8.30 p.m. Choir Committee (Vestry).

.. 13.—8 p.m. United Prayer and Discussion Group (Methodist Church, Percy Road).

.. 18.—7.00 p.m. Entertainment by Parish Groups (Hall).

.. 20.—8 p.m. Hampton Council of Churches (W).

.. 21.—7.30p.m. Mothers' Union Diocesan Festival Service (St. Paul's Cathedral).

.. 24.—8 p.m. Church Council (W).

.. 29.—8 p.m. Young Wives' Group "Energen Food" (W).

BAPTISMS

Feb. 23.—David John Edward Bonfield, 60, Princes Road.

Feb. 23.—Mark David Fitzwater, 167, High Street.

Feb. 23.—Mark Andrew Saunders, 255, Uxbridge Road.

BURIALS

Feb. 21.—Annie Stout of Watford, aged 70 years (interment of ashes).

Mar. 13.—John Haddon Jennings, 37, Burton's Road, aged 78 years.