

VICAR'S NOTES

I write on the eve of Whitsun, and a week before our visit to Coventry. The Holy Spirit—and Coventry. What have they in common? A great deal, as Stephen Verney's little paper-back "Fire in Coventry" clearly shows. I have recently been recommending it in church as a book which many of us—and not only Coventry pilgrims—would find very helpful and encouraging. It is an account of what God is doing in His Church to-day. It describes how the Holy Spirit blew in gale-force power through the whole diocese of Coventry, preparing a consecrated people to live round their consecrated cathedral. And what happened in Coventry can happen anywhere—and in fact is happening, in various degrees, in many dioceses and parishes up and down the country.

Here are four short quotations from Stephen Verney's book (it is published by Hodder at 3/6, and most booksellers have it in stock—but if you would like a copy and will let me know, I will gladly get one for you next time I go to a meeting in London):

"Rather nervously we had asked, 'What does it mean to be a consecrated people? And what, O Lord God Who created the universe, do You want us to do now?' 'One question at a time,' replied God, 'and let us begin with the second. I command you, now, to love one another with the love of Jesus. The meaning will be revealed to you later.'"

"As we had begun to explore that love, climbing off our pedestals and out of our entrenched positions, meeting one another, listening, learning—as we had groped together towards a united prayer around the Cross—God had revealed to us the meaning of consecration. The Holy Spirit had grasped hold of us. We had begun to know a fire of love burning inside us, and a rushing, mighty wind of prayer blowing through our towns and villages."

"But our most overwhelming experience of the Spirit of Truth was that He led us into **reality**. 'We have seen **reality** break through, like the sun through a fog,' I wrote at the time, 'sweeping away the pretences. People have been set free, to become what they really are.'"

"When the Spirit of Reality began to blow through the diocese, He made religiosity look ridiculous. For He is like laughter. He says very tenderly 'Try not to take yourselves so seriously.' This hurts at first—it is a rather unexpected thing for God to say. But once you get used to it, and relax, and become yourself, then our Lord the Spirit of Reality says again, 'Let me come and be in you your true self. For what you really are is a person of love and prayer. You have it in you to be a Son or Daughter of God, full of generous self-giving love of Jesus, and gloriously free because you are utterly at His disposal.' And then with a great gust of laughter the Holy Spirit of Reality cries out, 'And let other people be themselves.'"

What Stephen Verney writes about the work of the Holy Spirit in Coventry is very relevant for us in Hampton Hill in this our Centenary Year. We are giving thanks for the consecration of a building 100

years ago, and in a sense we are trying to renew and relive that consecration. We are doing all we can to make our church all that a consecrated building set apart for the glory of God, should be. But we know that this by itself is not enough. We want to become ourselves more deeply consecrated and effective people, both within the building, in the reality of our worship, and outside, in the loving purposefulness of our work and witness.

As a step towards deepening our worship and making it more corporate, we plan to have a weekly Parish Communion at 9.30 a.m., beginning on Sunday, September 20. The months till then will give us an opportunity to learn something of the significance of the service, and then to explain this to the many others whom we want to join us. If you have a voice you would like to use to the full in the worship of God, you might like to join others in forming a group to help lead the singing at the service — not as a robed choir sitting aloof and apart, but from within the body of the congregation. There is a meeting to explain the music we shall use, and to arrange further practices, in the vestry on Friday, June 19, at 8.30 p.m.

The Church at worship — and the Church in the parish. What is the Church in the parish really for? What are its mission and function? What are its priorities? What are the primary things to which we should be giving our attention, our time and talents, our energies and money?

As the Holy Spirit prompts the question, He will also surely provide the answers, if we are prepared to do our part. This involves putting ourselves at His disposal, and doing some hard thinking, both in groups and on our own, under His direction and leadership.

PARISH CONCERT

On Saturday, April 18, the Parish “entertained itself” when an audience of some 200, in rollocking mood clapped and cheered and cheered again at the various turns presented by the various St. James’ organisations, Brownies, Cubs, Scouts, Y.P.F., Young Wives, Mothers’ Union and Choir, the whole held together by those two inimitable comperes, “Smoke” Maddox and Jack Gostling. The Parish Hall, with its attractive and effective stage curtaining and lighting, provided a pleasant setting for the fun, and the players responded happily to the mood of the audience who played no small part in the success of the evening. We were delighted by the polish and grace of the Brownies, followed by excellent turns from the Cubs and Scouts. The Y.P.F. contributed the pantomime Cinderella in potted form, during which Cinderella’s leg stole the show by getting much more into the limelight than its owner intended, and Seymour Harris made a particularly repulsive stepmother.

Then the lighting was dimmed, the mood changed (but not for long!) as the Greek Maidens looking very Vestal and, frankly quite ravishing, went into their Greek dance routine which proved to be a really delicious burlesque. The Mothers’ Union Follies was a little less refined, and caused many a chuckle, especially the verse in which Mrs. Brunt declared to the world her ambition to change her present

calling for that of a barmaid. The Social Committee have taken due note of this desire.

The "Cox and Robinson" Group gave us a delightful musical interlude and the Choir's contribution covered a selection of hymns sung in the modern "with it" style. We are lucky in our choir now-a-days. The unsung kitchen staff assisted by the players fed the multitude in the interval. There is, however, a regrettable rumour that having seen Smoke Maddox's artistic master-pieces, the Vicar is adamant in cancelling his commission to execute murals in the church. J.F.

RIVER TRIP

Maidenhead — Henley, June 20

This outing is the main social event this year — there will not be an annual fete or barbecue at Laurel Dene.

Join in and make it a real "Centenary" Parish affair. G.I.R.

THE CHURCHYARD

Eighteen months ago ill health forced Mr. Hawkins to retire and we were deprived of the regular sterling work he had put into the churchyard for many years. However, Messrs. Leatherdale and Brooks agreed to take on the onerous task of caring for the Churchyard, (and a great deal of their "leisure" time has been spent in doing that) — the idea being that they would gather round them a band of willing helpers to keep the church grounds as attractive as possible.

In recent months the overgrown flower beds on the West and South sides of the Church have been dug out and turfed, and a start made on the work of levelling some of the open spaces. A very efficient machine has been bought which is narrow enough to cut the grass between the grave stones, but there is no substitute for hand labour on the graves and in those places where the stones are very much cheek by jowl. It is for this work that help is now urgently needed.

At this time of the year grass and weeds grow with amazing rapidity, so a mass attack on the Churchyard is being organised for Saturday, June 13. As many volunteers as possible are needed to cut and rake grass to the compost heap, etc. So please come and help for a few hours, and if possible bring your own tools. To keep your spirits up coffee will be served during the morning, and a picnic tea will be provided during the afternoon.

We would also mention that if those people who are able to tend their family graves would also keep the graves on either side tidy, this would be a great contribution to the Guardians' work. M.L.

YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

Miss Ryves, of Energen Foods Ltd., was the speaker at our April meeting. This is the season of trying to shed those unwanted inches, although most of us are not as successful as we would wish. Sugar and starchy foods such as bread, biscuits and cakes, are the arch-enemy in the battle of the bulge. Starch-reduced rolls and crispbread can be

a great help in cutting down the starch intake, and these are produced in ever-increasing quantity, but we are warned to look for the words "starch-reduced" on the labels and not to be misled by cunning advertisements for "slimming" breads, etc. Energen Foods process flour to extract the starch but to retain the vital proteins, and the starch-reduced flour is then made into rolls etc., whilst the starch which has been extracted is sold to manufacturers of laundry starch and custard powders. Miss Ryves did not confine her talk to Energen products, but gave many helpful ideas for sustaining, but slimming, diets. Very generous samples of Energen foods were distributed at the end of the meeting, and we went home determined to try again!

In June we have our Baptismal party in the Vicarage garden on the 10th, and our monthly meeting on the 24th, when Mrs. Ackroyd will tell us of the Mothers' Union's work among Young Wives overseas.

M.S.

CUB PACK REPORT TO SCOUT GROUP ANNUAL MEETING, MARCH 1964

The Pack is now 30 strong, all boys being invested, 14 having 1st stars, 5 having 2nd stars and four boys holding Leaping Wolf badges. The Pack also holds 39 Proficiency badges. This is a very pleasing situation and must be very largely due to the fairly regular Thursday evening badge meetings. Pack evenings on Wednesday must be mainly devoted to training so that a separate evening for testing is very necessary. I have been fortunate in having 5 young helpers in running these and other meetings, and Hathi was presented with her warrant as A.C.M. last November.

Last year the boys earnt £25-10-0 towards the B-A-J total and I hope that they will be able to do even better this year to swell the group funds. The District St. George's Day church parade was held last April at St. Mary's, Hampton and some boys had to come from the week-end camp to attend. All the pack took part in the Group Show, the profit from which was given partly to the Church for the "Freedom from Hunger," and partly to "Woodlarks" home for crippled scouts. Two boys made presentations to Ray Martine and company at the Old People's Fete in July and each Six ran a Penny in the Bucket at the Group Fete in September. The Pack have run three competitions in the past year. Parents' evening in December was most successful and I was very pleased to see so many visitors interested in what the Pack was doing. The Pack party was held on January 15. There have been outings to Oxshott, Bushy Park, Hampton Court, Crane Park and Chobham Common: also there have been two District Cub Gatherings. The Rovers ran a week-end camp last April, and 16 boys spent a week at the Artington Camp in August.

After being runners up at the District Six-a-Side the Pack football team has won 2, drawn 1, lost 2, games. The Pack has been very lucky in always finding willing Dads to referee or transport the boys to matches. The Pack sports were won by White six and the Pack came 3rd at both District Sports and Gala. Gym classes have been running since November.

As you can see there are many and varied activities needed to satisfy the Wolf Cubs of the Pack and my assistants and I look to the parents for support and understanding in all these activities. We have been fortunate in the past and I am confident this situation will continue in the future. AKELA.

PERSONALIA

Congratulations to Gwen Pile and her husband on the birth of a son, Andrew. She will be remembered as Gwen Johnson, for a long time our efficient secretary of the P.C.C.

We are pleased to see Miss Leighton and Mrs. Coxon about again after their spells in hospital and wish them well. Also Mrs. Wilcox is home again after hospital treatment for her broken leg — she is not very able yet and will be very pleased to see any of her friends who can pop in to see her — it gets very lonely just sitting at home when you are incapacitated.

Rodney Bishop has been welcomed home once more and is now working as a locum at Newbury, and has been called upon to attend the races as the jockeys' doctor.

Congratulations are also in order to Pauline Knill (nee Rockcliffe), and her husband, who had a baby boy, Andrew Michael, on April 9. Congratulations to Grandpa and Grandma too! Pauline's sister Barbara has become engaged to Alan Stover of Vancouver and we wish them every happiness.

The news has just come in that a second son has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Michael Jackson — best wishes to all four of them.

Michael Childs was married at Holy Trinity Church, Hounslow, on May 16, we hear from his mother it was a very pretty wedding and that Michael and Yvonne have a flat at Hampton Wick, it was because of this "find" that their wedding originally arranged for August was brought forward. We wish them both every good fortune.

WANTED! Discarded spectacles by the Missionary Optical Service.

"Repairable frames with usable lenses are washed and reconditioned. The lenses are neutralised, marked, and made up into spectacles which will, with reasonable care, last some time. Frames have to be sorted with regard to size, bridge width, etc., to fit the facial characteristics of people in different parts of the world.

Approximately 5,000 pairs of spectacles can be sent and used abroad each year."

Aim of the M.O.S. (which was founded in 1950 by Mr. Horace Thompson, a British Optometrist) is to help the poor of other lands to see better and thus have the opportunity of reading, for themselves, God's Word.

Please hand any spectacles you no longer need to Mrs. Rockcliffe, or any member of the Mothers' Union. I.V.R.

You will have noticed that some stalwart volunteers have put in screws on which to hang the hassocks in our Church — so now there is no excuse for not replacing them — is there? Thank you.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

June 1.—8.0 p.m. Deaneries' Moral Welfare Association Annual General Meeting (Feltham); 8.0 p.m. Institution of the Reverend E. J. Cotgrove as Vicar of All Saints', Hampton.

- .. 2.—8.30 p.m. Centenary Committee (30, St. James's Road).
- .. 3.—2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union: "Using our Talents" (W); 8.0 p.m. Scout Group Committee (H); 8.0 p.m. Old People's Welfare Committee (S).
- .. 6.—2.30 p.m. Garden Party in support of Wel-Care Work in the Three Deaneries (St. George's Rectory, Hanworth).
- .. 7.—Second Sunday after Trinity: Holy Communion 8.0 a.m. and 12.15 p.m.; Sunday Schools 9.45 a.m.; Matins 11.0 a.m.; Evensong 6.30 p.m.
- .. 8.—11.0 a.m. Editorial Board (52, Park Road); 8.0 p.m. United Prayer and Discussion Group (St. Mary's, Hampton).
- .. 10.—3.0 p.m. Garden Party for Mothers and Babies (Vicarage).
- .. 11.—St. Barnabas: Holy Communion 10.30 a.m.
- .. 13.—Mass Attack on Weeds and Grass in the Churchyard; 2.30 p.m. Scout Group Garden Party (110, High Street).
- .. 14.—Third Sunday after Trinity: Holy Communion 8.0 and 9.0 a.m.; Sunday Schools 9.45 a.m.; Matins 11.0 a.m.; Evensong 6.30 p.m.
- .. 18.—7.0 p.m. B.-P. Scout Guild: Mystery Tour.
- .. 19.—8.0 p.m. Stewardship Committee (106 Park Road).
- .. 19.—8.30 p.m. Meeting for all interested in forming an Adult Choir for the Parish Communion (Vestry).
- .. 20.—9.0 a.m. Coach leaves Church for Parish River Outing at Maidenhead; 2.30 p.m. Old People's Party (H).
- .. 21.—Fourth Sunday after Trinity: Holy Communion 8 a.m. & 12.15 p.m.; Sunday Schools 9.45 a.m.; Matins 11.0 a.m.; Evensong 6.30 p.m.; 8.15 p.m. Dramatic Readings by Four Actors in support of Inter-Church Aid (St. Mary's Hall, Hampton).
- .. 24.—St. John Baptist: Holy Communion 10.30 a.m.; 8.0 p.m. Young Wives' Group. Speaker: Mrs. Ackroyd (W).
- .. 25.—8.0 p.m. Parochial Church Council (W).
- .. 26.—8.30 p.m. Commission on Worship Working Party (Vestry).
- .. 28.—Fifth Sunday after Trinity: Holy Communion 8.0 and 9.0 a.m.; Matins (Family and Parade Service) 11.0 a.m.; Holy Baptism 4.0 p.m.; Evensong 6.30 p.m.
- .. 29.—St. Peter: Holy Communion 10.30 a.m.

BAPTISMS

- Apr. 26.—Caroline Ann McCarthy, 39, Bishop's Grove.
- .. 26.—Ian Douglas and Stuart James McCulloch, 235, Uxbridge Road.
- .. 26.—Roy James Williams, 31, Cross Street.

MARRIAGE

- May 16.—Michael John Childs to Yvonne Blandford (at Holy Trinity Church, Hounslow).

BURIALS

- Apr. 22.—Spencer Ernest Kingsford, 97, Uxbridge Road, aged 86 years.
- .. 29.—Clarence Garnet Smalley, 6, Seymour Road, aged 68 years, (at Teddington Cemetery).
- May 16.—Gertrude Ethel Bowling, 45a, Gordon Road, Ealing, aged 78 years, (interment of ashes).