

VICAR'S NOTES

One criticism of the growing stress laid on the Parish Communion as the centre of Christian worship, recently reiterated by a contributor to PRISM, is that it often leads to a disparagement or impoverishment of preaching. "The place of preaching" says this latest critic "is not taken seriously in the Parish Communion strongholds." One reason, of course, is the time-factor: to keep the service within reasonable limits, the sermon is usually the first item to be curtailed, often to ten minutes, sometimes to only seven. To the critic in PRISM this is disastrous, and he develops his argument thus:

"'You cannot drop the big themes and create great saints' said J. H. Jowett. And you cannot develop the big themes in 10 minutes either. So what happens? You either drop the big themes or you skate over the top of them. And isn't the result just what P. T. Forsyth forecast—'a Christianity of short sermons is a Christianity of short fibre?' And when he added that 'those who say that they want little sermon because they are there to worship God and not to hear man, have not grasped the rudiments of the first idea of Christian worship' was he just being uncharitable or had he got hold of a vital truth?"

It is the old problem of keeping important things in right proportion and balance. There is in Christianity a fourfold cord of Word, Sacrament, Prayer and Fellowship which is all-too-easily broken. We need them all, in full strength, not in frayed bits and pieces. So, if the Word is in danger of being edged out of the Parish Communion, it must be emphasised at other services, such as Evensong, with longer and meatier sermons than are perhaps now usual; and the preacher must be excused some of the many other duties that press upon him, so that he may have time to prepare both himself and his material properly. And/or there should be week-night meetings, when people could give an hour or more to wrestling seriously and deeply with the mighty themes of the Gospel and their application to life to-day.

Then Prayer: our Sunday worship assumes a background of daily prayer and meditation, and sometimes it may mean little to us because this is lacking. I suggest that 40 minutes a day is the least amount of time an adult should normally set aside for this. It is not always easy to find the conditions of quiet and freedom from disturbance that we should like, and to help in this we hope to be able to devise ways and means of keeping our church open for longer periods than we dare do at present.

Fellowship: many people falter and fail today because they do not have a sufficiently rich experience of this essential ingredient of full human life. In the Church it should be freely available to all—the lonely, the shy, the sophisticated, the awkward, the sociable and the unsociable, the introverted and the extraverted, and everyone else in whatever category, alike. Many people find it at the deep level which answers their need and builds them up, not in large congregations or social gatherings, but only in small groups of not more than ten or twelve, meeting regularly in freedom and frankness—and how difficult it is to find such groups!

RIVER TRIP FROM MAIDENHEAD TO HENLEY

At 9 a.m. on Saturday, June 20, some 30 of us were conveyed by coach, steered by a driver of great volubility, to Maidenhead. The short drive took us through the old-world, picturesque village of Colnbrook and we arrived at Maidenhead 40 minutes after leaving the church. Here our numbers were swelled to about 70 by those who had made their own way by car. We then proceeded to the famous Boulter's Lock and whilst we awaited the arrival of our craft volleys of camera clicks and the whirr of cinematographs resounded in the air, as the assembled party posed in small groups.

At length our antiquated bark, the Marlow, chugged gallantly into the lock, and we stepped nimbly on board. The steamer pulled into the open waters and after halting to pick up our provisions we passed along the lovely Cliveden Reach, where the river twists serenely between high wooded banks sloping steeply to the water's edge. Dominating the scene was Cliveden House, renowned amongst other things, for the first performance of "Rule Britannia." The first lock to which we came was idyllic Cookham Lock, set in the open fields and leafy hills. We proceeded to head gaily upstream to modern Bourne End, headquarters of the Thames Sailing Club, and Marlow.

The pleasure which the scenery afforded during the initial stages of the voyage was a little tempered by the fact that, although we had set out in promising warm sunshine, as soon as we were in mid-stream a nippy wind besieged those seated on the decks, resulting in a proportion of the party beating a retreat into the nether regions of the vessel, whilst those who were bold enough to brave the elements, these forming the majority, were prompted to don several layers of thick pullovers or retire behind a barricade of rugs which defied the gale, leaving the occupants wellnigh invisible.

Soon after negotiating Marlow Lock we found ourselves the centre of excited, cheering crowds gathered on the river bank. After wondering for a brief space what we had achieved to warrant such unmitigated admiration, we soon realised that the loud acclamations were directed, not to us, but to racing craft participating in Marlow Regatta, the view of which must have been most effectively obliterated by our boat's bulk. We were afforded a first-rate, if temporary, grandstand view of the proceedings.

Beyond Marlow we passed through additional locks in quick succession and then journeyed along another very rural stretch, charged headlong into the wooden approach of a further lock, and emerging, slightly battered, swung into the celebrated straight mile of the Henley regatta course, with the town itself appearing in the distance.

A 50 minutes break allowed passengers and crew a welcome opportunity of stretching their legs with a brisk walk round the town, and what a delightful, typical old English town this is!

At 3.30 sharp we again boarded our bark for our homeward voyage. As we were speeding down the course marked out for the Regatta which was to take place 10 days later, the word was passed that we had left behind two of our number, last seen strolling round

the streets of Henley. After much anxious frowning of brows, it was resolved to turn about and go in search of them. This operation called for a good deal of delicate manoeuvring and coaxing on the steersman's part, as the antique craft manifested by its snorts and grunts of disapproval. The quest unfortunately turned out to be fruitless, and we had no alternative but to abandon all hope of recovering the lost sheep. So once again we made for home, the homeward voyage was, perhaps, the most enjoyable part of the whole trip as the soft late afternoon light and the type of weather which we were enjoying — or perhaps enduring — sharpened the contrasts between light and shade in the surrounding countryside, and made for beautiful cool tints transforming every scene into a Constable landscape.

One of the most pleasurable features of the trip was lunching and tea-eating on the boat, where two efficient, if a little harassed, caterers pursued their task of nourishing the multitude with diligence and good heart.

As we were entering Marlow Lock, peacefully savouring our food, there was a shuddering thud and there were fears expressed, founded on the arctic weather conditions, that we had perhaps struck an iceberg. No greater calamity had befallen, however, than the boat, carried away by an unwanted burst of energy, had crashed against the lock side.

We finally reached Maidenhead again at about 7 p.m., an hour behind the scheduled time, consequently meeting with vehement protests, uttered in semi-bantering vein from the coach driver who had been waiting one and a half hours there. He was soon pacified, however, condescending to transport the remnants of the party back to Hampton Hill with good faith and much conversation.

So ended an eventful and enjoyable day's outing. We are indebted to the Social Committee for their efficient planning of this ambitious and excellent excursion. B.W.

THE CHOIR

Andrew Cliff and Richard Melville have retired from the boys after many years of staunch service, and have joined the men, singing tenor. Michael Severn has been appointed head boy. Barry Pullen and Peter Harbor have passed a singing test and are promoted from probationers to Junior Choir boys.

Vacancies exist for three contraltos, one soprano and one tenor. I should be pleased to hear from any young people who would be interested to apply to fill these gaps.

The Parish Communion Choir for singers of all age groups has met twice for practice; I should be pleased to welcome at least a dozen more volunteers who would enjoy the opportunity to further the musical contribution to the Parish Communion.

R. J. C. DAFFORNE.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP

This article does not mean that anything particular has happened but that we got chivvied into writing it! A reluctant goodbye must be said first of all to Boanerges — our boat. Bought for five pounds, much work was done on it while it lay in Mr. and Mrs. Swindale's garage being

repaired and painted. The Vicar of Hampton kindly lent us the landing stage belonging to his front garden at which to moor it, and besides giving much pleasure on many a summer's afternoon it has also taken us up (and down) the river to Windsor on two weekend trips. Now unfortunately we have had to demolish it as it was too old and too leaky to serve us another summer.

During the last few months the most outstanding activity has, of course, been the Easter Holiday. Sixteen enthusiastic members set out for Litton Mills, Derbyshire, to stay for a week. Although the accommodation did not rival the Hilton Hotel — there was central heating but no fuel — the novelty of catering for ourselves (the first time for the greater part of us) was great fun and extremely successful.

No matter what comments were made when a certain navigator took us two miles out of our way through deep snowdrifts, the days were enjoyably spent (after chores and breakfast) walking and climbing on the moors. The evening bible study was followed by a night-cap and then we wearily climbed into bed.

We will be showing slides of the holiday to parents and friends later on (the exact date will be announced in Church) and anyone is welcome. The Y.P.F. will be pleased to see anyone at their meeting after evensong.

T.C. & N.S.

THE MOTHERS' UNION

Our June meeting was aptly described as "Using our Talents." Opening prayers were read by Mrs. Brunt, and the Gospel by Mrs. Drew. Mrs. Uden sang two Schubert songs delightfully, then followed the true story behind the making of a lampshade in parachute silk by Mrs. Harries. Our senior member, Mrs. Hillyer, showed a shawl she had crocheted in coloured wool, Mrs. West and Mrs. Cliff each showed their lace work and bobbins, Mrs. Futter ecclesiastical embroidery, Mrs. Saunders a patchwork quilt, and several members brought examples of their skill in embroidery and knitting. Mrs. Edmonds recited, as well as providing the cakes for tea. During the tea interval Mrs. Ogden gave a demonstration of paper flower making. Mrs. Oliver and Miss Wertheim showed their craftsmanship in cake and jam-making. Mrs. Brunt and Mrs. Rockliffe each read humorous verses.

There was so much to see and examine that it looks as if on some future date the Branch will need to hold an exhibition demonstrating the cleverness of its members!

On July 1, Mrs. Rockliffe was admitted to the office of Enrolling Member. Following the Admission service, the Vicar gave us a most inspiring talk on the lessons we could learn from St. Peter's life — Faith, Power, Service for others.

At a social gathering at Wayside, later, Mrs. Uden was presented with a Gift Token as a small appreciation of her work for the Branch. We are all sorry to be losing such an active and talented member, but must console ourselves with the thought that our loss is Maidstone's gain.

There will be no more meetings this session, the next meeting will be our opening service in Church on Wednesday, September 9.

I.V.R. }

THE SCOUT GROUP

FETE

At the kind invitation of Mr. & Mrs. Adams our Fete was once again held in their lovely garden on June 13. It was opened by our President, the Rev. R. H. Brunt and until about 4.30 p.m. when the rain teamed down it was a very pleasant afternoon. One of the highlights was the Ladies' Ankle and Men's Knees Competitions, very ably run by Mr. Plumbley. The amount raised to add to our Building Fund was £38, and I would like to thank all those parents and friends who came along to support this annual event. S.R.C.

DISTRICT CUB SPORTS

These were held at Nursery Road School Playing Field on Saturday, June 27. Our Pack came second with 24 points against the winners, 1st Halliford Pack with 32 points. Miss I. Lock, Akela of 7th Hampton, who is retiring after many years, presented the Trophies and Certificates and Simon Johnson received the Rose Bowl on behalf of our Pack. M.J.C.

SCOUTS

The Scout Troop will be in Camp from August 1 — 8, at Littleton, near Guildford. Open Day August 5, when all parents and friends will be welcome. S.R.C.

PERSONALIA

The parish has reason to be proud of Robin Ford on the occasion of his being presented by the Police with £5 and a letter of appreciation and thanks for going, in company with another ex-Hampton Grammar School boy, to the aid of two police constables who were in obvious difficulties, and aiding them in the arrest of three violent men at Richmond.

We are pleased to report that Bernard Wigginton is enjoying a month's vacation in Spain — resting we trust from his prodigious labours on "The Changing Face of Hampton Hill" which he handed in to the History Society the day before he left.

Rosalind Brunt and Graham Peel, who have taught regularly in the Junior Department of the Sunday School for four years and given excellent service, have recently left. They are spending their last few months before going to college in the autumn in various ways. Rosalind, after an office job, is now acting as "English nanny" to three small children in a chateau in a remote corner of France, and apparently finding the French method of bringing up young people rather difficult to adapt herself to — "Madame keeps encouraging me to smack them, because "they must obey." "When I was left alone with them while the parents went out, Madame offered me a small cat-o'-nine-tails to keep them in order. I was horrified! Actually perhaps I could have done with it — when they are good they are very very good, but when they are bad"

Another great loss to the Sunday School is the departure of Heather Gostling, who has been a real stalwart in the Infants' Department for two years, hardly ever missing a Sunday and showing herself to be exactly the right kind of person for helping the little ones. She spends her time before going to college in a work-camp in Germany.

SERVICES IN CHURCH

- Aug. 2.—Holy Communion at 8.0 a.m. and 12.15 p.m.; Matins 11.0 a.m.; Evensong 6.30 p.m.
.. 9.—Holy Communion at 8.0 and 9.0 a.m.; Matins 11.0 a.m.; Evensong 6.30 p.m.
.. 16.—Holy Communion at 8.0 a.m. and 12.15 p.m.; Matins 11.0 a.m.; Evensong 6.30 p.m.
.. 23.—Holy Communion at 8.0 and 9.0 a.m.; Matins 11.0 a.m.; Holy Baptism 4.0 p.m.; Evensong 6.30 p.m.
.. 24.—St. Bartholomew: Holy Communion at 9.0 a.m.
.. 30.—Holy Communion at 8.0 a.m.; Matins 11.0 a.m.; Evensong 6.30 p.m.

BAPTISMS

- May 24.—Astley Jane Shilton Barlow, 22, Cranmer Road.
.. 24.—Tonya Ruth Prince, 25, St. John's Rise, Woking.
.. 24.—David Alan and Karen Mary Sandys, 196, Uxbridge Road.
.. 24.—Deborah Ann Timpson, 40, Laurel Road.
June 13.—Amanda Louise Marshall, 71, St. James's Avenue.
.. 28.—Susan Ann Baker, 2, New Broadway.
.. 28.—Philip Alan Cull, 19, Barlow's Road, Tadley, Hampshire.
.. 28.—Lesley Karen Sirmon, 30, Laurel Road.

MARRIAGES

- June 6.—Robert John Gilkes to Anne Curry.
.. 13.—Peter Anthony Robinson to Carol Palmer.

CREMATIONS AND BURIAL

- June 2.—George William Rivers, 45, Myrtle Road, aged 70 years (at S.W. Middlesex Crematorium).
.. 9.—Amy Lizzie Emily Banks, 3, St. James's Avenue, aged 79 years.
July 7.—Cyril Dixon, aged 74 years, and Muriel Cooper Dixon, aged 75 years, of 155, Uxbridge Road, (at S.W. Middlesex Crematorium, followed by interment of ashes in Churchyard on July 11).