

VICAR'S NOTES

This month the three-year period of Planned Giving inaugurated by the great campaign of the autumn of 1961 comes to an end. Do we now therefore abandon Stewardship with a sigh of relief — or do we try to go ahead under our own steam, as we did in 1957?

There is a very strong feeling amongst us that we don't want to do either. We don't want to abandon any of the great gains of the last seven years, but we do want to go further and deeper. Just as 1961 was a big advance on 1957, so we want 1965 to go beyond 1961.

After long and careful consideration, the Church Council has decided to come into the Diocesan pattern, which has developed greatly in the last few years. Stewardship programmes are now thought of as having at least three phases. In the first, attention is concentrated on the offering of money. Then when the time is ripe, we pass to the consideration of other important factors in our lives, and especially time and abilities. When these steps have been thoroughly worked out in a parish, it is ready to graduate to a very fruitful third phase in which — to quote someone who has experienced its tremendous possibilities — “the power latent in the pews may be released to burst forth and transform the individuals, the parish and the world at large.” Or as that heroic German bishop, Hans Lilje, has said; “To know that with all that we are and all that we have we are God's stewards is the answer to a particularly deep yearning of the time in which we live, namely, the yearning for a ‘vita nova,’ a complete renewal of our life.”

The Diocese makes provision for this third phase by laity training groups and other stirring ventures, by means of which people can be brought into this richer and fuller kind of life, and taught how to impart it to others.

So as the years go by, Stewardship and all that goes with it becomes part and parcel of normal healthy parish life, and no longer needs periodical campaigns to revive the flickering embers. It goes on quietly from strength to strength by virtue of its own essential rightness, encouraged by the guidance and help which the Diocese continues to give, and by the fellowship of many other parishes in which the same process is being worked out.

Though we have gained many insights through our own experience during the last 7 years, we have to enter the new pattern at its first phase, and then it depends on us (and what we have already learnt will help us here) how quickly we pass on to the others. So on January 3, we begin again with another five weeks' intensive programme, similar in some respects to the campaign of 1961, in others markedly different. We have once more that enjoyable function, the Parish Dinner, and we hope that the new pledges will take effect on Sunday, February 21. For the interim three months, we hope that people will continue giving as they are doing now — and what a difference this giving has made! The whole atmosphere of the parish has changed, and things once thought of as beyond our powers have been achieved. And we are able to help good causes in a way that was impossible before — for instance, apart from the house-to-house collection in Christian Aid Week, nearly £40 has gone this year from St. James's to Inter-Church Aid, including the £5-4-0 which was recently offered at the Thursday Harvest Festival.

Another encouraging element in our parish life is the way in which our worship is becoming more alive and meaningful, and more people are attending our Sunday services, and more children coming to our Sunday Schools, than for many years. The Parish Communion is building up around itself a growing and enthusiastic congregation, and more people are joining the pleasant gathering at Wayside for breakfast afterwards. We are grateful to the helpers who have so ably prepared and served this meal during the trial-and-error period, and now everything has been well tried and tested we should be glad to hear of others who would join the catering band. More about this, and about the new creche, which will enable parents of young children to come to the service knowing that they are in safe hands, later in this magazine.

HARVEST FESTIVITIES

The Harvest Supper on Thursday, October 1, was a great success. All 140 tickets had been sold beforehand and the Parish Hall could not easily have accommodated another person.

The supper was preceded by the first of this year's Harvest Festival celebrations — a well-attended Evensong at which the Rural Dean, the Rev. Francis Bale, was the preacher. In the chill autumn evening, the church, bright with chrysanthemums to remind us of the glorious summer days we were still having, was very welcoming and there was a fine display of the season's "mellow fruitfulness" in the Baptistry.

The hall, too, was full of colour with vases of flowers on each of the laden tables. The general commotion while people found their seats was soon replaced by the hurrying to and fro of the men trying to remember who wanted what to drink, and shortly everyone was enjoying the excellent meal prepared earlier by the ladies. After we had eaten the Vicar thanked all those who had contributed to the evening and mentioned that, unfortunately, it was the last function at which Miss Davey, Matron of Laurel Dene, would be with us. As he was saying how much we should miss her, Matron, characteristically, was absent — helping with the washing up!

The evening was rounded off with music. Mr. Eric Tsoi, a law student from Hong Kong, played "Greensleeves" and other beautiful melodies for us on the guitar, and he was then joined by the now famous Fitz Wygram Quartet which, although our drinking had been moderate, appeared to have five members! Soon we were all bobbing up and down and joining in some old songs, adding sheer volume to their subtle harmonies.

And so ended a very pleasant evening for which our thanks were due to the many ladies, led by Mrs. Severn, who, to make it such a success, gave their time and lent crockery — we hope that it all found its way home safely.

R.E.B.

THE REASON FOR A TREE

(Thoughts after the Parish Communion, October 4, and on the great harvest.)

Soaring upwards in the Spring urge, the salty sap reaches the far flung branches through the wooden columns of the tree trunks.

This rich sap, gathered from rain dissolved salts from last year's leaves, changes the stored starch in the branches to sugary sap, now richer still, and bear this into every tiny twig. There at the tips the leaves are built from the buds in the lengthening days of Spring sunshine.

Why does this matter to us? It is beautiful but commonplace. It happens in every tree. It matters because these leaves are part of our lives — because they are part of our breathing life.

Our air is laden with carbon dioxide, the waste gas of our lungs. It is this gas which the leaves use. Every leaf is a machine for releasing the oxygen from this carbon dioxide, and from every tree is borne in the breeze, new fresh air for living things like us, which breathe as we do. Trees are the glory of all the earth's herbs. They conserve the salts of the earth in their sap and release them again in the autumn on to the ground surface where the rain can dissolve again into the deep dark earth the salts for spring growth.

How quickly rain can do this and wash away the riches into underground streams. The dust bowls in America are terrible places. Only tree roots will hold back these salts for our use so effectively.

A.McI.

LOST.—After the last Mass Attack on the churchyard — a lightweight garden fork. Will everyone who brought such a tool please check to see if they have the right one, or one too many, in their toolsheds. Apart from the cost of replacement the article in question belonged to Mrs. Orton's mother and so has a sentimental value.

PRESENTATION TO MISS DAVEY

On Saturday, September 19, many members of St. James's Church were present at Laurel Dene to honour Miss Davey who retired at the end of the month.

Mr. G. Robinson, Chairman of the Social Committee, welcoming the guests, referred to Miss Davey's impending retirement and the desirability of showing in a tangible fashion St. James's appreciation of her willing assistance on all possible occasions over a long period. He then asked the Vicar to present a Royal Doulton tea-set to "Matron."

Mr. Brunt praised the many excellent qualities Miss Davey had shown in her work on behalf of older people. These he had been privileged to witness, both as a visitor to the Home, and as the Vicar of St. James's, which had formed a very close link with Laurel Dene over the years.

Following the presentation, to which Miss Davey responded suitably, Miss E. M. Weaver, Chairman of the Residential Accommodation Committee of Middlesex County Council then added her personal tribute and keen appreciation of all that Miss Davey had accomplished. "One of the best of our 63 residences, and of our Matrons," was her summing up of the situation.

All present then enjoyed the refreshments prepared and served by members of the Social Committee. In his concluding remarks

Mr. Robinson mentioned jocularly that many of the guests had provisionally reserved accommodation at Laurel Dene for their old age, but they had considerable misgivings now that Miss Davey would not be there to welcome them!
L.R.

THE YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

Our new season opened once again with a service in church, followed by a get-together at Wayside, where the large room was crowded. We were pleased to welcome several prospective members, and, from the M.U. Deanery Committee, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Rockliffe and Mrs. Rogers. Everyone seemed to find someone to talk to, which was fortunate as the committee had little room in which to get around.

During the previous week about thirty-five members and friends went to Twickenham Electricity Showrooms for a demonstration of "Automation in the Home." Stuffed breast of lamb, scalloped potatoes, mixed vegetables, and Lavender Apples for pudding were placed into a cold oven of an automatic cooker, whilst an automatic washing machine washed, rinsed and spun dry a candlewick bedcover all with no more attention. The oven switched on and off at pre-set times, and before we left a most appetising meal was displayed for us. Tea and biscuits came as rather an anticlimax, but we had a most enjoyable evening.

Annual general meeting time comes around in November, Wednesday, November 11, to be precise. Three committee members retire and secretary Phoebe Dumper is resigning as she is leaving the district. She has not been with us for very long, but she has worked very hard and we are sorry to lose her, and hope that she and her family will be happy in their new home at Shepperton. However, we need replacements of officers and committee members. At the time of writing, we have some nominations, but would welcome more.

On November 25, we have a demonstration of knitting by courtesy of Sirdar Wools, which should be of interest to all members. This will be our last meeting before Christmas and tickets will be on sale for the Children's Party on January 1, 1965.

The "Toddlers' Club" has reformed, and is meeting at Wayside, at 2.30 p.m., on the first and third Tuesdays in each month. Mothers of "under-fives" are invited to bring along their children to play whilst Mum has a cup of tea and a chat.
M.S.

THE MOTHERS' UNION

On December 2, our meeting will be held in the Parish Hall at 2.30 p.m. Mrs. Trapp, wife of Bishop Trapp, is to talk about Overseas work, she is also showing transparencies of the countries she has visited in the course of her world-wide travels. Our speaker has recently returned from Uganda where the M.U. has just celebrated its Silver jubilee. I feel sure that Mrs. Trapp's talk will be well worth hearing and will be of interest to more than the members of the branch. Ladies of the congregation do join us in the hall on Wednesday, December 2!

We are having two meetings in November—the second is at Wayside at 2.30 p.m. on Thursday the 15th when Miss Lucas is

coming to talk about her work with homeless families. This too is a talk which should be of interest to all in the parish, not only to branch members. Please make it widely known and bring others to hear this speaker. Note also that this is on a Thursday! I.V.R.

SUNDAY BREAKFAST AND CRECHE

Now that we have passed through the experimental period, the future arrangements for the breakfast after the Parish Communion will be in the hands of Church groups for the first three Sundays of the month, but we should be glad to hear of volunteers for the fourth and occasional fifth Sundays. The job has now been completely scheduled and streamlined, and helpers will be given full details — e.g., how long the kettle takes to boil — if they need it.

The way now seems clear to start a creche so that mothers and fathers of children too young for Sunday School can come together to the Parish Communion and leave their children in safety if they don't wish to bring them into church. Mrs. Wadlow has kindly offered accommodation in her garden and play-room at No. 63, Park Road — as near as can be to the church, and on the same side, between St. James's Road and Cranmer Road. Two mothers will be there to look after the children from 9.15 a.m. onwards on November 8 and 15. After that we will need a rota of volunteers. The hope is that the parents who want to use the creche would take it in turn to do the minding. But there may well be others — over the age of 14 — who would enjoy helping in this way, and we should be glad to hear of them too. (Always, of course, we must ensure that there is at least one experienced person over 25 in charge.)

SOME DATES TO NOTE

- Nov. 1.—All Saints' Day: Holy Communion at 8.0 a.m. and 12.10 p.m.; Matins 8.40 a.m.; PARISH COMMUNION 9.30 a.m.; followed by BREAKFAST at 10.40 a.m. (W); Evensong 6.30 p.m.
SUNDAY SCHOOLS: Infants' 9.45 a.m. (W); Junior and Senior 11.0 a.m. (in church); Rectory 2.30 p.m. (in Rectory School).
Young People's Fellowship 8.0 p.m. (W).
- .. 4.—2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union: Discussion on "Pattern for Living" (W); 3.0 p.m. H.R.H. The Princess Margaret opens the new buildings at the Lady Eleanor Holles School, and the Bishop of London dedicates the new chapel.
- .. 6.—7.15 p.m. Parish Bonfire and Fireworks Party (Laurel Dene: Admission by ticket only 2/6).
- .. 6.—7.30 p.m. Stewardship: Publications Sub-committee (2, Hartland Road).
- .. 8.—24th Sunday after Trinity — Remembrance Day: Services and other arrangements as last Sunday, with the addition of creche for children under 5 at 63, Park Road, 9.15 — 10.40 a.m.
- .. 9.—8.0 p.m. United service, sponsored by the Hampton Council of Churches, at the Methodist Church, Percy Road on the anniversary of its dedication.

- „ 11.—8.0 p.m. A.G.M. of Young Wives' Group (W); 8.0 p.m. Hampton Hill Association (H).
- „ 12.—10.0 a.m. Editorial Board (52, Park Road); 8.0 p.m. Youth Club Management Committee (Vestry).
- „ 15.—25th Sunday after Trinity: All arrangements at last two Sundays, including the creche, except that there will be no late Communion at 12.10 p.m.
- „ 16.—8.0 p.m. Hampton Council of Churches: Prayer and Discussion Group. First meeting of new series — “Christ's Intention for His Church; The Anglican Viewpoint” (Congregational Church).
- „ 19.—2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union; Speaker—Miss Lucas: “Caring for the Homeless” (W); 8.0 p.m. B.-P. Guild: Films of Italy (H).
- „ 22.—Sunday next before Advent: All arrangements as last Sunday (except no Sunday Schools) with the addition of the monthly Family and Parade Service at 11.0 a.m. and Holy Baptism at 4.0 p.m.
- „ 25.—8.0 p.m. Young Wives' Group: Demonstration of Sirdar Wools (W).
- „ 26.—Church Council (W).
- „ 29.—First Sunday in Advent: All arrangements as on Sunday, November 15.
- „ 30.—St. Andrew: 7.15 a.m. Holy Communion; 8.0 p.m. Ruridecanal Conference (St. Mary's Hall, Twickenham).
- Dec. 2.—2.30 p.m. The Overseas Work of the Mothers' Union: Mrs. Trapp speaks and shows slides (H).
- „ 11.—DEDICATION FESTIVAL: 7.15 pm. Festal Evensong, with the Bishop of Kensington as Preacher, followed by a social gathering and entertainment to mark the end of the Centenary Year.

BAPTISMS

- Sept. 27.—Paul Andrew Cowderoy, 44, Ringwood Way.
- „ 27.—Caroline Louise Hayler, 8, Hanworth Road.
- „ 27.—Ashton Grant Hayter, 5, Gloucester Road, Teddington.
- „ 27.—Jennifer Anne Lewis, 10, St. James's Avenue.
- „ 27.—Sharon Ann Owlett, 11, Butler's Meadow, Warton, Preston, Lancs.
- „ 27.—Paula Lindy Rushen, 64, Uxbridge Road.
- „ 27.—Donna Maria Walker, 42, St. James's Road.
- Oct. 4.—Robert James McGlennon, 69, Longford Close.

MARRIAGE

- Sept. 26.—Brian Antony Moses to Gillian Florence Martin.

BURIAL AND CREMATION

- Aug. 3.—Charles Edward White, 3, Myrtle Road, aged 77 years (at S.W. Middlesex Crematorium).
- Oct. 2.—Alice Florence Mary Dempster, 91, Uxbridge Road, aged 85 years.