

## VICAR'S NOTES

**Feeding Minds and Bodies:** As we enjoy good food at Christmas in happy surroundings, we remember those who have little to eat and live in poverty, misery and squalor. It has become a regular custom amongst us now to have an empty plate or jar on our Christmas dinner table, and for everyone present to put in a contribution towards this great work of immediate relief and long-term planning that is carried on by Inter-Church Aid. I hope that we shall all do it again this year, and bring the result in an envelope — marked “Inter-Church Aid” or “To Feed the Hungry” — and bring it with us when we next come to church.

But as well as this need, there is another very urgent one — the need to feed the minds of the millions throughout the world who are now learning to read. 700 million people in the world are still illiterate, but the United Nations are carrying out a big campaign whereby it is expected that the number will be halved within the next few years. Millions of new readers — but what shall they read? They will eagerly devour anything to hand, good or bad. The presses of the political propagandists, with great financial resources behind them, are producing books and pamphlets by the ton, often inciting to hatred and violence. The printing-houses of the pornographers and the producers of cheap and sensational magazines are also working over-time in order to cash in on this new and rapidly expanding market. There is a deep and growing concern that people with this hunger for books and knowledge should be fed with something better than this corrupting stuff. The Feed The Minds Campaign has now been launched to co-ordinate all the efforts being made to provide good Christian literature, and to enable them to be vastly extended. By the time this magazine appears we shall have sent £40 from St. James's to help in this (£10 to S.P.C.K., for long a valiant pioneer in this field, and £30 to the newly formed Archbishop of York's Fund). We shall be hearing — and I hope doing — a great deal more about this in the next twelve months; in the meantime, here is also something we might like to remember at Christmas. Just mark any envelopes “Feed The Minds.”

**Laurel Dene:** Mrs. Fletcher, the new matron, is anxious that the already good co-operation between the local churches and the Home should be increased and intensified, and that we should do all that we can to help make the old people feel that they really “belong.” So often they feel isolated in a little world of their own, completely outside the local parish family and community. I had a long talk with her recently, and we discussed the possibility of finding regular visitors for the lonely ones, ways of ensuring that birthdays are remembered, and funerals not forsaken (how good and fitting it was that there was such an unexpectedly large congregation when dear old Annie was committed to the keeping of God — including many from the church she loved to attend! But it has often not been like this). The staff at the Home do a grand job, but there is always room for voluntary help, and young people especially who could give this, would be very welcome. The need is greatest at week-ends, when staff is short.

One immediate change that Matron wants to see is the transferring of the present week-day service to Sunday afternoon at 5.15 p.m. A number of churches would share in this, and she would like a dozen or so people from each particular church to go along with their minister

(instead of his going all on his own as at present) and sit and sing among the residents — and stay for a short chat with them afterwards. Our Young People's Fellowship have already been doing this on one Sunday a month for several years, and the new scheme would incorporate them into it — but as an additional group, not in place of the rest of us! With 5 churches and the Y.P.F. co-operating, this would mean a visit from each every 6 weeks — services of Holy Communion would of course be in addition to this.

Matron has also asked us if we could provide some kind of entertainment for the old folk during the Christmas season. We have gone there before when we had something on the stocks — from a Passion Play to a humorous sketch. We may be able to answer Matron's request by repeating some items from our Centenary Finale on December 11 — but there is now such talent in the parish that even if we have to start from scratch, it should not be beyond us!

Here then at Laurel Dene another field for service seems to be opening up — and I am sure that as a result of the Stewardship Campaign there will be many more!

### **THE ANNUAL FIREWORK DISPLAY AND BONFIRE PARTY**

This was held on November 5th at Laurel Dene and was greatly enjoyed by everyone present. The weather was unusually perfect; clear, dry and not too cold, and the grounds made a beautiful setting. There was a fine display of rockets, Roman candles and Catherine wheels which everyone thoroughly appreciated, and a particularly pretty finale of fireworks in the trees. The children always seem to enjoy the giant sparklers as much as anything and there were plenty for all.

Everyone was ready for soup and potatoes near to the enormous bonfire and our thanks must go to everyone concerned in the entertainment and in particular to Matron for allowing the display to be held, and to Mr. Robinson and his helpers for working so hard, both at setting up the fireworks and for letting them off. Our thanks are due too to those who worked so hard in the kitchen.

B.G.

### **CENTENARY FINALE**

To bring Centenary Year to a close there will be a special service in Church at 7.15 p.m. on Friday, 11th December, and this will be followed by an evening of entertainment, preceded by refreshments, in the Parish Hall at 8.30 p.m. A mixed programme of "song and drama" is in course of preparation.

To help with catering arrangements, tickets are being issued, although there will be no charge for the evening's entertainment. These will be obtainable from members of the Social and Centenary Committees and should be applied for in good time, to avoid disappointment.

M.O.

### **THE HISTORY SOCIETY**

At one time it seemed certain that the Centenary book, "The Birth and Growth of Hampton Hill" would be ready for issue on 11th December, as was the hope of the Society. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, this is not now possible. At the time of writing, printers' estimates are being considered, and the final arrangements are taking longer than was anticipated.

By the time you read this, however, the book will be safely in the hands of the printers and should be ready for issue early in the New Year. Details as to price and distribution will appear in the January issue of the Spire.

M.O.

### **THE MOTHERS' UNION**

We were privileged to have Miss Lucas, London Diocesan worker, speak to us about her work at the L.C.C. Reception Centre at Morning Lane, Stoke Newington. She gave us a vivid description of the way of life of the families who are accommodated at the Centre. Many of them have become homeless through no fault of their own, some as the result of their house being burnt out.

At the Centre, formerly a factory, each family has a bed-sitting room for the parents and the young children; the older boys and girls will be in separate small dormitories on the same floor as their parents. All meals are taken in the Canteen, each mother is expected to keep her own family room in order, and to take her turn in keeping bathrooms, toilets and staircases clean.

Welfare workers do all they can to deal with the problems which arise in this communal life, and try to get each family fixed up with permanent homes. Usually after a stay at the Reception Centre they go on to Short Term Hostels from which they may be found suitable flats or houses where these are available, the value of Housing Associations in this connection was stressed.

Most of the families received are pitifully short of those things most of us take for granted in our homes, Miss Lucas appealed for any china, pots and pans, household goods and furniture, and children's clothes which we can spare. Our speaker is going to let us know how we can render more help, meantime she asks for us to remember this work for the homeless in our prayers.

I.V.R.

### **THE YOUNG WIVES' GROUP**

We had two meetings and a jumble sale in October. Mrs. Scott-Joynt was unable to speak at our first meeting owing to illness, but Mrs. Parkinson came along from St. Mary's, Hampton to talk to us about "Children's Ailments" and "Visiting children in hospital." Not many people were present, but we had a lively discussion and exchange of experiences of our children's illnesses.

The Jumble Sale was not quite so profitable as in the last few years, but we received some good jumble, and our finances and those of our M.U. are much sounder as a result.

On October 22, the Young Wives' Deanery Festival Service was held at St. Mary's Church, Twickenham. I should have liked to have seen more of our members there, but those of us present will not soon forget the happy congregation in the lovely old church.

Mr. Hurst, of Surbiton, came to our meeting on October 28, to demonstrate Autumn Flower Arrangement. Well-known in Surrey floral circles, he gave us some delightful arrangements of roses, irises and carnations, which could only be grown in a hot-house at this time of year, but the general favourites were an all-green arrangement, and a table centrepiece of bits and pieces such as we might gather in our own gardens during the autumn. Mrs. Ford thanked Mr. Hurst for coming along to give us such a pleasant evening and for passing on to us some of his knowledge of flower arranging. Mr. Hurst expressed his willing-

ness to come again, and we hope to take him up on that in the near future.

We do not meet in December, so anyone who has not had tickets for the Children's Party on January 1 may obtain same from any Committee Member.

We next meet on January 27 when Mr. & Mrs. Rockliffe will show us slides of their Canadian holiday of last year. Having seen a few of these I predict another good evening in "glorious Technicolour" and the colours of the Canadian scenery really are glorious!

M.S.

The Annual General Meeting was held at Wayside on November 11. As usual we had a good attendance.

Among the reports given the Badminton Section gave notice that they have vacancies for new members at the hall on Wednesday afternoons at 2.15 p.m. Children are catered for.

The new Toddlers' Club is running under the auspices of Mrs. Rickwood and meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 2.30 p.m. at Wayside. New members and their children will be welcome.

The following were elected as new members of the committee:—  
Vice-Chairman: Mrs. Joan Bellingham, 43, Wellington Road. Ted Lock 2542.

Secretary: Mrs. Helen Taylor, 2, Hartland Road. Mol. 7042.

Treasurer: Mrs. Mabel Anthony, 52, Ringwood Way.

Registrar: Mrs. Veronica Scott, 33, St. James Road. Mol. 7142.

Second Catering Officer: Mrs. Pamela Rickwood, 50, Ringwood Way. Mol. 5011.

**They Join:—**

Chairman: Mrs. Kathleen Brooks, 10, Links View Road. Ted Lock 2593.

Catering Officer: Mrs. Audrey Hunt, 24, Mays Road.

Entertainments: Mrs. Joy Keogh, 11, Windmill Road. Mol. 3174.

It was suggested that some former members and some others in the neighbourhood would like to attend some meetings but were shy of doing so as they were not subscribers. These visitors would always be welcome, and if they liked to make a donation of 1/- (including refreshments) this would be appreciated.

A.C.

## THE SUNDAY SCHOOLS

Shortly after Christmas, the Junior Department of the Sunday School, hope to produce a series of tableaux consisting of short Nativity scenes and Carol singing.

It is hoped that as many as possible will attend to support the children.

Further details will be announced later.

C.V.S.

## THE HAMPTON COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

**Secrerar'y Report for 1963-64 Presented to the Annual General Meeting 19, October, 1964**

Once again it is time to pause and review the growth and progress of the work of the Council over the past year.

In January, we sent a delegate, Miss Barbara Gill, to the Putney Conference organised by the British Council of Churches as a follow up to New Delhi. Miss Gill proved a most able representative and

during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity she gave us an interesting and inspiring report on the conference.

In July, a School Leavers' Conference for the pupils of the Commercial School, Upper Sunbury Road, was organised by the Council and took place in the Methodist Hall. The day was divided into three sessions, each with film speaker and discussion, and the 28 students who attended all expressed their thanks and appreciation for the opportunity given them to talk over the problems arising at this stage in their lives. Our very grateful thanks are due to Mr. and Mrs. Robinson who so ably carried through an enormous amount of work in preparation for the conference.

Another new venture this year, was the formation of a Prayer and Discussion Group led by Mr. Booth and Mr. Bellars. There have been difficulties in fitting in a regular free day for the meetings, but the opportunity to meet together has proved very valuable.

Christian Aid Week was once again a major effort. A preliminary meeting held in March was addressed by Miss Rosamund Essex. The 120 street collectors were a greater number than ever before, and all were very keen. A bread-and-cheese week was well supported, but, as happened nationally, total receipts were slightly down. Mrs. Eustace was filled with a tireless enthusiasm which inspired all the helpers, and promoted interest among all to whom she spoke.

In September, Mrs. Watkin again organised Princess Elizabeth Day, and we are most grateful to her for her hard work. She personally collected from a large number of streets herself as there is difficulty in getting enough helpers.

The Good Friday Service was well attended. It is still a grief to many that united services are not held as frequently as in past years, but the Prayer Group is helping to fill the need, and over the past year, without any doubt, there has been a development within the Churches of our consciousness of fellowship and interdependence.

In the year we have been glad to welcome Mr. Cotgrove, and sorry that Mr. Shepherd has left Hampton. He has always played a full part in Council activities and we shall miss him.

Finally, I should like to record our very great thanks to our Chairman, Mr. Brunt, whose quiet and steady support of the Council and concern for its aims is always a source of strength and encouragement. For my part, I want to thank you all for your unfailing kindness and friendship to myself.

A. B. LODDER.

### SOME DATES TO NOTE

- Dec. 2.—2.30 p.m. The Overseas Work of the Mothers' Union: Mrs. Trapp speaks and shows slides (H.).
- „ 4.—8.0 p.m. Stewardship: Publications Sub-Committee (2, Hartland Road).
- „ 5.—8.0 p.m. Youth Club Dance (H.).
- „ 6.—Second Sunday in Advent: 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.).

- 9.—10.0 a.m. Editorial Board (52, Park Road).
- 11.—**DEDICATION FESTIVAL:** 7.15 a.m. Holy Communion; 7.15 p.m. Festal Evensong, with the Bishop of Kensington as Preacher, followed by a social gathering and entertainment (H.) to mark the end of the Centenary Year.
- 13.—Third Sunday in Advent: Services and other arrangements as last Sunday, except that there will be no late celebration of Holy Communion at 12.10 p.m.
- 14.—8.0 p.m. Hampton Council of Churches: Prayer and Discussion Group — “The Methodist Viewpoint on Unity” (St. Mary’s, Hampton).
- 17.—8.0 p.m. Youth Club Management Committee (Vestry).
- 20.—Fourth Sunday in Advent: Services and other arrangements as last Sunday.
- 21.—St. Thomas: 9.0 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 24.—**CHRISTMAS EVE:** 6.15 p.m. Carol Service at Laurel Dene; 11.45 p.m. Midnight Eucharist.
- 25.—**CHRISTMAS DAY:** Holy Communion at 8.0 a.m., 9.30 a.m. (Family Communion), and 12.0 noon.
- 26.—St. Stephen: Holy Communion at 9.0 a.m.
- 27.—St. John: Services and other arrangements as last Sunday (except no Sunday Schools) with the addition of the monthly Family Service at 11.0 a.m. and Holy Baptism at 4.0 p.m. Note also that at 6.30 p.m., instead of Evensong there will be a **FESTAL SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS.**
- 27.—The Innocents’ Day: Holy Communion at 9.0 a.m.
- 30.—10.15 a.m. Holy Communion at Laurel Dene.
- 31.—2.0 p.m. Sunday School Outing to “Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves.”
- Jan. 1.—New Year’s Day and the Circumcision of Christ: 7.15 a.m. Holy Communion; 3.0 p.m. Young Wives’ Group—Children’s Party (H.).
- 3.—Second Sunday after Christmas Day: Services and other arrangements as on December 6. **STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN BEGINS.**
- 4.—8.0 p.m. Church Council (W.); 9.15 p.m. Stewardship Steering Committee (W.).
- 25.—**PARISH DINNER.**

#### **BAPTISMS**

- Oct. 25.—Nicholas Philip Bennett Campbell, 53, Yardley Court, Hemingford Road, North Cheam.
- 25.—Gary Terry Glazier, 59a, High Street.
- 25.—Caroline Anne Elizabeth Hale, 40, Ringwood Way.
- 25.—David John and Andrew Clive Snelling, 25, Laurel Road.

#### **MARRIAGES**

- Nov. 7.—Keith Arthur Morris to Kathleen Ingrid Watt.
- 15.—Terence Alan Nicholls to Mary Patricia Taylor.

#### **BURIALS AND CREMATION**

- Oct. 29.—Bernard Hastings Long, Laurel Dene, aged 90 years (at Teddington Cemetery).
- 30.—Philip Denny Quah, 34, Westbank Road, aged 18 days (at Teddington Cemetery).
- Nov. 19.—Annie Tittles, Laurel Dene, aged 76 years (at S.W. Middlesex Crematorium).