

VICAR'S NOTES

MRI: In August 1963, a statement "Mutual Responsibility and Interdependence in the Body of Christ" (now known as MRI for short) was presented to the great Anglican Congress at Toronto. Its importance has more and more been recognised as the months have gone by, and last autumn the Archbishops of Canterbury and York called on us to follow it up by making Lent 1965 a season when in every parish some study of the Church's work in the world would be undertaken. We — and 7000 other parishes in England (as well as 1000 more in Wales, Ireland, Scotland, Africa, Australia and elsewhere) responded to this appeal, and have now been supplied with boxes of material to help us in this effort. The immediate practical problems to be settled in the month before Lent begins are how we may best use what has been sent to us, and on what days we should hold the course. With regard to the former, I and three other members of the Church Council are going to a training session which will help us in guiding the course along — and we are told that "where possible the leader should be a layman" — and we shall be reporting back to the Council as a whole on February 18. But it will then be too late to decide when the course should be held, if the dates are to be given in next month's magazine. We want as many people as possible to come together to tackle this very interesting and worthwhile project at five weekly meetings in the five weeks of Lent before Holy Week, so please let us have your suggestions as to the most convenient days and times.

No small change: The campaign to press home the message of MRI has been given the title of "No small change." This a metaphor from money. Small change — the loose coins in our pockets when we pass the plate for offerings in church, or when the appeal envelope comes through our letter-boxes — is not enough for the work of the Gospel; and not small either is the change that the Gospel will make to us. The Bishop of London says of the change required; "Indeed it is not small; for, taken seriously, this challenge of MRI will affect our whole outlook and influence all our actions — as individuals and as congregations. It is not so much a change as a revolution which is called for"

Other metaphors are also used in calling our attention to different aspects of the message. For instance — "All change." This is a metaphor from the railway. We have come to a junction where we must all get out and start again on another line. That is what Toronto said to the Anglican Churches; and it said it because it is what God says to men. "Change and exchange" is a metaphor from the market. We are to be changed by exchanging gifts and monies and needs with one another. We do not stand alone, but in fellowship. Common to all these phrases — with which we will become increasingly familiar — is the word "change." God is unchanging — firm and sound. But He has made us creatures of change, in a rapidly changing world, and the important thing for us is that we should change and be changed in ways that are in accordance with His will and purpose.

Confirmation: The date of the next Confirmation in our church has now been fixed for December 12 (the Sunday of our Dedication Festival). It will take place at the beginning of the Parish Communion at 9.30

a.m. For those not in the Sunday class, preparation courses will begin after Easter. There will be two "terms," May — July, and late September — December, and candidates will be expected to attend the Parish Communion regularly. I hope that it may be possible to have a strong adult group, as well as the usual junior ones. Though there are special adult Confirmations held from time to time in St. Paul's Cathedral, when the Bishop is coming to our own church in the near future it is good to have as wide a cross-section of the parish presented on this one occasion as possible — young and not-so-young and old together. I have already received some names of people interested, and I should like to have the list complete by the beginning of April.

Thanks: At a moment when the national press is having one of its periodic rashes of news and views about the Mothers' Union, I am glad to acknowledge with thanks another gift of forty hassocks from members of our branch to the church. This brings their total gift up to eighty. The hassocks were made at weekly meetings with materials that the branch had bought with its own funds. People often have bright ideas, but all too often they remain just ideas, because they wait for others to carry them out, and rarely think that it may be up to them to do something. It is to the great credit of the Mothers' Union that they not only saw and spoke of the need, and had the idea how it might be remedied — but they also put in hours of hard and not very interesting work to make the idea bear fruit.

THE HISTORY SOCIETY

"The Birth and Growth of Hampton Hill," the book written by members of the Hampton Hill Local History Society to commemorate St. James's Centenary, is now safely in the hands of the printers. It is very fitting that the firm chosen should be the local one of Knapp Drewett since a great deal of information for the book was gleaned from the back numbers of The Surrey Comet which this firm publishes. The estimate is a most realistic one and the service offered appears excellent.

The book should appear at the end of March, and particulars as to its "launching" and sale will be featured in following issues of The Spire. Local traders are being asked to give publicity by either handling sales on a non profit making basis or by taking orders and displaying copies in their windows.

As only seven hundred and fifty copies are being issued it is advisable, if you have not already done so, to make an application to the editor, Mrs. M. Orton, 30, St. James's Road, to reserve a copy for you. The book will be about one hundred and twenty pages in length and will contain fourteen photographs. It will cost 12s. 6d., which, taking into account the current printing costs, is considered a most satisfactory figure.

M.O.

ONE-O-ONE PARTY

Well over one hundred people of all ages attended the Annual Parish party in the hall on Saturday evening, January 16. This year the Social Committee were able to recruit some new helpers to organise the party, and an excellent job they made of it. In particular congratu-

lations must go to George Brewer and Reg. Thorpe for their varied and non-stop programme of games and dances which were thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The refreshments provided at the commencement of the party and during the interval were also prepared and served by a fresh band of "willing volunteers," and were of the very high standard we always enjoy on such occasions.

Our thanks go to all for a splendid evening which passed all too quickly.

H.E.S.

THE MOTHERS' UNION

The next meeting of the Branch will be at 2.30 p.m. on Thursday, February 4. As both rooms at Wayside will be occupied members are asked to come to 40, Gloucester Road on that day. Transport can be arranged for those not on the 285 bus route. If you would like it, please contact Mrs. Bellingham, TED. Lock 2542, or Mrs. Severn, Molesey 1954. Mrs. Stevens will be talking about work at Mary Sumner House.

Mrs. Oliver, Gardener's Lodge, Laurel Dene has kindly offered to store any household goods, china, babies' and children's clothes (in good condition) which you can spare for the homeless families.

All who were present at our January meeting have expressed their appreciation of St. Mary's Young Wives' Group presentation of "Prelude." Applause seemed out of place at the end of the carol sung so expressively by Mrs. Pat Davies, but the silence was a real tribute to the performers.

At the opening of the meeting "Mary's Boy Child" was most beautifully sung by Mrs. Prentice and there were carols in which we all joined. Thanks are due to all who contributed mince pies.

It was good to have Mrs. Wilcox with us for this meeting. She has been a faithful — and active — member of our branch and it would be a great pleasure to her and to us if someone could provide regular transport for her from Percy House to the monthly meetings.

I.V.R.

ENTERTAINMENT AT LAUREL DENE ON JANUARY 12

" . . . and all you need is an old school hat covered in flowers and veiling, a long skirt and a generous supply of lace, and your costume's complete!" One must not forget the gentlemen either, strutting like long-forgotten photographs of their great-grandfathers in gorgeous waistcoats, stiff collars, side-whiskers and centre partings.

In this fashion the party gathered to entertain the residents with such vocal items as "Sweet and Low," "Westering Home," "The Second Minuet," sung by Mesdames Severn, Prentice, Bellars; Messrs. Gostling and Maddox, accompanied by Mr. Dafforne.

Rosalind Melville and Helen Sutcliffe played some well-known airs on the violin and recorder, and Miss Phyllis Gillingham, who gave a spirited performance of Smetana's "Dance of the Comedians" on the piano-accordion, also accompanied the community singing of such old favourites as "The Honeysuckle and the Bee," "Lily of Laguna," and of course the most well-worn of all pop songs "Daisy, Daisy."

The audience, remembering well the words, joined in the singing with evident enjoyment, and the happy evening closed with the old

song "Goodnight Ladies" and kind words of appreciation from the Matron. L.L.B.

(Whilst talking of Laurel Dene you are reminded of the appeal made by the Matron for voluntary help, especially at weekends by young people who can find time to spare — there has been a response in very "small measure," but this is what we hope will prove a timely reminder to others who would like to lend a hand, and cheer the old folk, at the same time.—D.W.)

THE YOUTH CLUB

A football team was formed last September and has played a match every Sunday. After a not too successful start it is interesting to hear that Denmark Rovers who beat the Club's team in the Twickenham Youth Service Football League on December 6, lost to the Club at another match in January. The club would greatly appreciate support at their matches which are announced in the local press. The Captain of the team is Richard Guildford, and the Secretary is John Ashlee, 21, Holly Road, Hampton Hill — so come along you football enthusiasts! The team plays in scarlet shirts with white facings, and is settling down now that the earlier difficulties in selection have been overcome; the standard of play is steadily improving.

After the Christmas break the Friday club night at Windmill Road School restarted on January 8, and there was a good attendance of around 40, but there is room for more, and young people who have not yet attended might be interested to know that table tennis, snooker, darts, cards and of course the record player are some of the entertainments to be had. A dance was held at the Parish Hall on December 5.

THE SCOUT GROUP

Cubs. At this year's District Swimming Gala at Heston the Cubs were again successful in winning the Shield, but have not been quite so successful in the District Football League so far.

On November 18, an Art & Craft competition was held, resulting in a very fine display, making it difficult to judge. Final results were: Useful article — Robert Hayward; Model — Jeremy Peck; Painting — Paul Bantock; Calendar — Kim Champniss. On the following Wednesday an Open Evening was held and we were glad to welcome so many parents who had an opportunity of seeing the boys at work. Once again "Bev." put his Gym. team through their paces, having previously put on a display for the B.P. Guild County get-together.

As an innovation the Cub's party was held this year two days before Christmas, December 23. The Christmas post box, the carols sung by the boys and the very beautiful rendering of carols by the Shepperton Rovers Team of Hand Bell Ringers made this a truly enjoyable party.

Scouts. On November 21 and 22, three boys attended the District Patrol Leaders' Course at Sunbury, giving a good account of themselves. Congratulations to Stephen Adams, Richard Cox and Robin Hammond who braved the stormy weather of the first weekend in December to undertake their 1st Class Journey in the "wilds of Surrey."

We invite your support for the functions arranged by the Group as follows:—

St. Valentine's Eve Dance, February 13, Parish Hall — tickets 4/-.
"The Normandy Trio."

St. Patrick's Night Dance, March 17, Parish Hall.

Also there is a social evening in the Hall on the first Monday in the month for Table Tennis, Darts, etc. Anyone interested is welcome to come along and join in.

THIS IS YOUR LIFE

A Week in the life of a Vicar — or “What does the Vicar do between Sunday and Sunday?”

'Tis on a Monday morning, a fellow comes to call
To protest re a carpet sale in the Parish Hall.
Then an unexpected contretemps leaves the Vicar in the lurch
And a chap in dungarees calls about the boiler in the church.
Directly after luncheon, the doorbell it rings —
A parishioner is calling to complain about the Choir and what it sings.
Cycle then to widow Gumly to lend an ear to her pains,
Dash back to a meeting to consider Wayside's drains.
Go to bed resolving tomorrow will be better —
“Get a lot of jobs done and write that trying letter!”

'Tis on a Tuesday morning — the Vicar's called to town
To sit in at a meeting or risk the Bishop's frown.
He has a sandwich on the train and back again once more,
Ting-a-ling goes the telephone and ratatat the door!
Tuesday night he'll try to write his notes for The Spire
Before the emergency meeting to discuss the risk of fire.

'Tis on a Wednesday morning, a parishioner comes knocking
To complain that the Vicar's done something she thinks SHOCKING.
Calm her down and send her off with a forgiving blessing —
Dear me! the 'phone is ringing, it's really most distressing.
And so on, and so on until the evening light.
Can he sit down with his family? No, it's Rehearsal Night!

Never mind, on Thursday morn perhaps he'll have a minute.
But he's called away from an urgent task before he can begin it.
It's stewardship and land-appeal and sermons by the score.
One thing gets accomplished — up bob a dozen more.
Comfort a parishioner who's feeling rather worried.
Calm down another one who complains SHE'S feeling flurried!

'Tis on a Friday morning — a funeral first thing,
Then off to the cottage hospital in response to an urgent ring.
In the afternoon he **did** sit down and this is what he wrote —
The first two items only under “Dates to Note,”
For the telephone is ringing, churchwarden's on the line —
“If you don't fill in form 123 the church will cop a fine.”

'Tis on a Saturday morning — a sermon to be written,
Ratatat the door — “Come at once, our grandmama is smitten.”
Be a tower of strength now to someone in distress
And back again to call of bells and glimpse of wedding dress.
Say, “I pronounce you man and wife” and off to fetch the clippers,
And out into the churchyard to join the other snippers!

'Tis on a Sunday morning, the Vicar's up betimes.
His day is regulated by the churchbells' chimes.
After lunch, if he's lucky, he'll take the dog a walk.

But no, a churchyard grumbler engages him in talk.
Evensong is over — perhaps **now** his tasks are done.
Not so — the study light burns late — for some are not begun.

'Tis on a Monday morning, the Vicar **must** be free.
I'LL go along and ring his bell, he **must** have time for ME!

M.O.

(The author is aware that here and there the course of the above is not smooth and easy going, but then, neither is Life for the Vicar!).

SOME DATES TO NOTE

- Feb. 7.—5th Sunday after the Epiphany: 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 am. (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.).
- .. 8.—8.0 p.m. Hampton Council of Churches: United Prayer and Discussion Group—"The Quaker Viewpoint on Unity" (All Saints', Hampton).
- .. 10.—10.0 a.m. Editorial Board (52, Park Road).
- .. 11.—8.0 p.m. Youth Club Management Committee (Vestry).
- .. 14.—Septuagesima: Services and other arrangements as last Sunday, except that there will be **no** late celebrations of Holy Communion at 12.10 p.m.
- .. 17.—8.0 p.m. Hampton Hill Association: Public Meeting (School).
- .. 18.—8.0 p.m. Church Council (W.).
- .. 21.—Sexagesima: Services and other arrangements as last Sunday.
- .. 22.—8.0 p.m. First meeting of Course on "Effective Speaking and Reading" (other sessions on February 24, March 1 & 3).
- .. 24.—St. Matthias: Holy Communion 7.15 a.m.; 8.0 p.m. Young Wives' Group—"Feeding the Family," (W.).
- .. 28.—Quinquagesima: All arrangements as last Sunday (except the only Sunday School will be Rectory at 2.30 p.m.), with the addition of the monthly Family and Parade Service at 11.0 a.m. and Holy Baptism at 4.0 p.m.
- Mar. 3.—Ash Wednesday: Holy Communion at 7.15 and 9.15 a.m. (in church) and at 10.0 a.m. (at Laurel Dene); Mothers' Union Lenten Service at 2.30 p.m.; Evensong (said) and Meditation at 7.30 p.m.
- .. 7.—1st Sunday in Lent; Services and other arrangements as on February 7, with the addition of a Service at Laurel Dene at 5.15 p.m.
- Apr. 7.—8.0 p.m. Annual Vestry & Parochial Church Meeting (Hall).

BAPTISM

Dec. 22.—Nicola Jane Clements, 2, Eastbank Road.

MARRIAGES

Jan. 9.—Lyndon David Bird to Barbara Nina Hamilton.

.. 23.—Paul Johnson to Elizabeth Mary Roberts.

BURIALS

Jan. 14.—Emanuel Henry, 7, Tretawn Park, Mill Hill, aged 59 years (interment of ashes).

.. 16.—Bridget Haran, 54, Park Road, aged 76 years.