

VICAR'S NOTES

Hampton Hill Goes On: A number of people have been concerned a great deal in the past 18 months with "The Birth and Growth of Hampton Hill," and now the fascinating result of their researches is available to a wider public at the modest price of 12/6d. The reading of this book will help us all to feel that we belong to a community which counts for something and is worth preserving. It also makes us realise that the utmost vigilance will be needed if the established pattern of life, built up over the course of years, is not to be changed out of all recognition, and if the best of what has come down to us from the past is to be carried on into the future.

It is that future which many now view with some apprehension, as we become Greater Londoners, and our parish becomes a small unit in the vast new London Borough of Richmond upon Thames. Will Hampton Hill get a better deal under the new council than it did under the old? Or will it have to continue to contend with the seeming lethargy and indifference of the authorities every inch of the way? One of the first acts of the new council, the cancelling of the much-needed children's playground, is a far from hopeful sign, and makes us fear the worst. But community-sense and community-spirit are now alive and strong in Hampton Hill as they have not been for years (and I think that our centenary and the writing of the book, with the renewed interest in local history that these have caused, as well as the formation of the Hampton Hill Association, have all played their part in this) — so Hampton Hill will go on!

Rates and Taxes: At the moment there is growing indignation amongst us against the large increase in rates under the new council — as indeed there is in most of the other wards; but stronger here than elsewhere perhaps because of the deep-seated feeling that Hampton Hill always has been, and seems likely to continue to be, the "Cinderella of the borough"

It is a great pity that the new order in local government should come into being amidst such an atmosphere of resentment and bitterness as now prevails. But the councils, old and new, have largely themselves to blame: the whole matter has been handled ineptly, and the posturing and manoeuvring of certain members and groups has created a very bad public image which it will take a long time to change.

So we have had our local protest-meeting, and a well-known Roman Catholic Priest in another part of the borough has attacked the council from his pulpit — and I am sure that many people would like me to follow suit here! It is all to the good that public opinion should be brought out into the open and make itself felt. It is all to the good that our elected representatives should be urged to represent us and not just a party or caucus. It is all to the good that spending on lavish accommodation and other luxuries should be strictly scrutinised. But then it may be well that expenditure on certain items should be increased — and if so, we should be as eager to press for this increase as we are for a decrease in other directions. For instance, education comes readily to mind: we know that more and better schools are needed, with smaller classes, and more and better-trained (and better-

paid!) teachers to staff them — can this be achieved without a steep rise in rates? One danger of the present agitation, as I see it, is that it may lead to cuts and delays in this field, and in that of other vital social services.

Then there is that other unpopular matter — taxes. How we would all like to see the Chancellor reduce them! But yet again, what of the spheres where far more money is needed, not less? Think of the horror and suffering of life in Korea (depicted vividly in Dewi Morgan's paperback, "The Seeds of Peace"). Christian Aid is doing a valiant job in this and other unhappy lands, but the need is so vast as to be far beyond the resources of the Churches. The help of Governments on a massive scale is urgently needed — and could this be given without greatly increased taxation?

Thanks: To that kind member of our congregation who, some months ago now, enabled me to have a new cassock to mark our Centenary Year. A good cassock is an expensive item these days, and I should have had to go on for a long time in my old tattered and patched one if it had not been for this act of thoughtful generosity. Thanks also to our local councillors, who, despite what we have said above, and may be thinking about them at the moment, do in fact put in an enormous amount of time and trouble trying to serve the community.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday, March 5, was Women's World Day of Prayer and this year the services, which had been prepared by Mrs. Jesse Jai McNeil of California, U.S.A., were held in All Saints' Church, Hampton.

The evening service opened with an explanation of the meaning of the day, and we were reminded that if we are to make our Christian witness effective in these revolutionary times the Church cannot be content with being merely an unimaginative and conventional force for peace and freedom, justice and righteousness. The Church must now become deeply involved in the affairs of the world, and involvement must be our earnest prayer.

In her address, Miss Hotchin, headmistress of Kneller Girls' School, spoke of the need and importance in the world for justice, for mercy and for humility. There can be little doubt that if the peoples of the world would think deeply of the true meanings of these three words much bitterness and resentment could be avoided and many of our present day problems might be solved.

M.L.

HISTORY SOCIETY

The "Coffee Morning and Evening," held on February 25, at 30, St. James's Road in aid of the "Book Launching" was a great success, both financially and socially. It was particularly pleasant to welcome quite a number of new faces amongst the eighty or ninety people who attended, not to mention the unusually large number of husbands who lent a smoking concert air to the evening session. The Society benefitted by the sum of £17 1s. 0d. after deduction of £2 5s. 6d. to cover cost of refreshments and tickets.

M.O.

OUR BOOK IS LAUNCHED

The day for the launching of "*The Birth and Growth of Hampton Hill*" was unfortunately, very rainy and cold, so that one thought, "Oh dear! very few people will be keen enough to turn out on a day like this," but doubts were dispelled as *Wayside* was approached. Bowls of Spring flowers by the porch struck the right note at once, and inside there was a cheerful bustle. Smells of coffee came from the kitchen where Mrs. Gostling and her helpers were at work, tables with gay cloths and flowers were ready to welcome book-buyers with free refreshments, and, in the selling room, there were piles of our book, on which we gazed with delight and pride. Gathered there, at 10 a.m., were our distinguished visitors, the Deputy-Mayor, Councillor D. G. Harris, Mr. T. V. Roberts, the Borough Librarian, Mr. Wendon Webb, the well-known local photographer and Mr. March, Chairman of the Hampton branch of the Twickenham Local History Society. The Vicar and Mrs. Orton, Editor of the book and Chairman of the Hampton Hill History Society, flanked by the Committee, were there to welcome the guests.

The Vicar opened the proceedings with a short speech on behalf of the Parochial Church Council of St. James, the publishers of the book. He warmly welcomed the Deputy Mayor, and said that many had had doubts as to whether such an ambitious project could ever reach fulfilment. The enthusiasm, inspiration and hope of the Editor, Mrs. Orton, had achieved the seemingly impossible.

Mrs. Orton then added her welcome to the distinguished guests. She paid tribute to the influence of the late Mr. Garside who, by his lectures and books, had awakened an interest in local history. One of his greatest friends, Mr. March, had been a tower of strength to our very amateur researchers, and to him, and to Mr. Wendon Webb, were due the book's pictures which they had created from old, and often not very good, photographs. Mr. Roberts had provided facilities for copying maps, had made possible the reproduction of the Ordinance Survey map and had given much help in his capacity as Borough Librarian. Mrs. Orton ended by asking Councillor Harris to present copies of the book, elegantly inscribed by Mr. Wigginton, to these three stalwart helpers. This done, the Deputy-Mayor bought the first copy of (we hope) the first edition.

Waiting "in the wings" was Colonel J. Ford with another inscribed copy, signed by all the members of the Society, for Mrs. Orton; and Mrs. Brooks presented a bouquet of Spring flowers. Visibly surprised and moved Mrs. Orton made a short speech of thanks.

The launching ceremony was over.

Eager buyers were seen approaching, and selling soon became brisk. Despite heavy showers which continued throughout the day nearly three hundred copies were sold and, by the next day, fewer than half the number printed (750) remained.

We know from many comments that "*The Birth and Growth of Hampton Hill*" is being read with great interest and enjoyment, and that the pictures are giving great pleasure. "It's just as it was, it has brought the village to life," said one delighted elderly reader. Its making has fostered the growing community spirit of Hampton Hill,

and the satisfaction that "something accomplished, something done" can bring. The greatest credit must go to those who conceived, fostered and contrived the achievement of this success, to whom all members of the Hampton Hill History Society, and all readers of this book, will wish to pay tribute.

H.M.D.

THE YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

The Young Wives greeted the New Year with the Children's Christmas party. The guests were rather younger than usual and enjoyed some energetic games organised by Mrs. Keogh. A large tea soon disappeared and then Mrs. Bellingham showed some movies. The silent films at first puzzled the tiny ones, but the older children read the captions and soon everyone was laughing at Donald Duck's antics on the ice. Finally Father Christmas arrived with a sack full of parcels. Thanks are due to everyone who helped with the party and the catering and, of course, to Father Christmas.

At the January meeting Mr. & Mrs. Rockliffe gave us a delightful evening showing us slides of their Canadian holiday, Mrs. Rockliffe supplying the travelogue and both dressed in cowboy shirts and belts. We were impressed with the magnificence of the scenery; the mountains, glaciers, endless forests and lakes. The clean "picnic areas" with stoves, log piles and toilets gave us much to think about, while the miles of empty highways made us realise how scattered the population is in the rocky foothills. At the end of the evening we felt vaguely dissatisfied with prospects of trips to the coast, but, as Mrs. Rockliffe pointed out, "when the children are grown up, you never know!"

K.B.

Did you know that bread dough would rise in a refrigerator? This surprising fact was told to the Y.W. Group at their February meeting by Miss Wilson from the Flour Advisory Council. Dough kept overnight in a refrigerator then given half an hour at room temperature will make fresh bread for breakfast. We also learned that brown flour does not require kneading.

Bread was claimed to be indeed "the staff of life" and some two dozen varieties of loaf are baked in this country, many of which were on show for us to sample. Some flours on the market are "strong" and ideal for bread making, while others are more suitable for cakes. If fruit should drop in a cake a change of flour might correct the fault. So perhaps we should indulge more in our fads when buying flour and resist the temptation of the brand with 3d. off!

THE MOTHERS' UNION

On February 4 the Branch meeting was held at 40, Gloucester Road, in the warmth and comfort of Mrs. Rockliffe's drawing room. We listened to Mrs. Stevens telling us of the work at Mary Sumner House—apart from the many offices there, it may not be generally known, among facilities available to members are the use of the restaurant, lounge and writing room, and bedrooms for short stays. The restaurant is open to the general public, and offers extremely good meals at very reasonable prices.

Following Mrs. Steven's talk, and in view of the interest shown, a visit to Mary Sumner House has been arranged for October 11.

In our M.U. programmes May 5 has been reserved for our annual outing, but this year we have decided not to have an outing, and to keep this date free in the hope that we can arrange to entertain some of the families from Morning Lodge Reception Centre, the L.C.C. hostel for the homeless. This is still being discussed, and if plans are finalised details will be made known in good time.

On March 3 we held our Ash Wednesday service at Wayside. The Vicar conducted the service and took as the theme for his address the Collects for that week.

Mrs. Edmonds represented our Branch at a Watch and Social Problems Conference held at Mary Sumner House on March 8.

We are to be hostesses at the Deanery Party for Mothers' Union and Young Wives' groups, to be held in the Hall on May 10.

J.B.

PERSONALIA

Everyone will sympathise with Mrs. Prentice and her family in the sudden loss of her husband.

Diana Robinson and Geoffrey Eaton have now set May 1 for their wedding.

We also learn that the marriage of Ann Swindale and Rodney Bishop will be taking place in July.

We rejoice with Michael and Yvonne Childs in the birth of their little daughter.

HAMPTON HILL OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE COMMITTEE

As in previous years the Committee are taking about 30 able-bodied pensioners on holiday this year to Cliftonville for the week commencing May 15.

This is a wonderful opportunity for those ladies and gentlemen who would not normally be able to afford to go away to have a week by the sea with pleasant company. This holiday is available to ALL old people of Hampton Hill.

The cost for those who have not had a holiday for two or more years (because in these cases the Council makes a grant) can be as low as £2-5-0. For those who have been before and want to go again, including those who went last year, the full charge of £6-6-0 applies. This includes everything — transport by coach on May 15 to Cliftonville, a week in a Guest House to which we have been before and can thoroughly recommend, and by coach home again on May 22.

If you are interested and can afford to pay even a small part of the cost we shall be pleased to have you, contact your Street Warden or Mrs. L. Mills, 40, Oldfield Road, Hampton.

Two members of the Committee go along with you to see that you are well looked after and to arrange outings, etc. This holiday is made possible by Hoteliers and Guest Houses making special reductions early and late in the Season for O.P.W. Associations; furthermore the respective Corporations make special concessions for your stay, such as cheap deck-chair rates for the week, theatre and cinema seats, etc.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

- Apr. 11.—PALM SUNDAY: Holy Communion 8.0 a.m.; Matins 8.40 a.m.; Parish Communion, 9.30 a.m., followed by Breakfast at Wayside, 10.40 a.m.
 Infants' S.S., 9.45 a.m. (W); Junior and Senior S.S., 11.0 a.m. (in church); Rectory S.S., 2.30 p.m. (in school); Evensong 6.30 p.m.; Young People's Fellowship (W).
- .. 12.—14.—Holy Communion, 9.0 a.m., daily.
- .. 14.—Passion Play, "Christ in the Concrete City," presented by the Hampton Council of Churches' Drama Group, at 8.0 p.m., in All Saints' Church, Hampton.
- .. 15.—MAUNDY THURSDAY: Holy Communion, 7.15 and 10.0 a.m. *8.30 p.m.*
- .. 16.—GOOD FRIDAY: Children's Service, 10.0 a.m.; The Three Hours' Devotion begins at noon; United open-air service on Wensleydale Road "triangle," 3.30 p.m.; "Christ in the Concrete City," at Sunbury, 8.0 p.m.
- .. 18.—EASTER DAY: Holy Communion, 7.0 and 8.0 a.m.; Matins, 8.50 a.m.; Parish Communion, 9.30 a.m.; Breakfast (W), 10.45 a.m.; Children's Service 11.10 a.m.; Holy Communion, 12.10 p.m.; Evensong, 6.30 p.m.; Young People's Fellowship, 8.0 p.m.
- .. 25.—LOW SUNDAY: Holy Communion, 8.0 a.m.; Parish Communion, 9.30 a.m.; Breakfast (W), 10.40 a.m.; Matins (Family and Parade Service), 11.0 a.m.; Rectory S.S., 2.30 p.m.; Holy Baptism, 4.0 p.m.; Service at Laurel Dene, 5.15 p.m.; Evensong, 6.30 p.m.; Young People's Fellowship (W), 8.0 p.m.
- .. 26.—Hampton Council of Churches, 8.0 p.m., at Methodist Hall.
- .. 27.—ST. MARK: Holy Communion, 9.0 a.m.; Mothers' Union Diocesan Festival Service in St. Paul's Cathedral, 7.0 p.m.
- .. 28.—Young Wives' Group: Talk on "Modern Israel," 8.0 p.m. (W).
- .. 29.—Youth Club A.G.M., 8.0 p.m. (W)..
- May 2.—Second Sunday after Easter: Services and other arrangements as on April 11 with addition of Holy Communion 12.10 p.m.
- .. 10.—15.—CHRISTIAN AID WEEK.

BAPTISMS

- Feb. 28.—Robert John Bell, 66, Laurel Road.
- .. 28.—Christopher Bruce Homer, 3, Ringwood Way.
- .. 28.—Graham Roy Saunders, 48, Ringwood Way.

MARRIAGE

- Mar. 20.—Dennis Sidney Gilbey to Joan Hilda Mitchell.

BURIAL & CREMATIONS

- Feb. 24.—Elizabeth Kate Livermore, 64, St. James's Avenue, aged 75 years (at S.W. Middlesex Crematorium).
- Mar. 1.—Dorothy Alice Lloyd, 35, Park Road, aged 75 years (at Twickenham Cemetery).
- .. 18.—Robert Prentice, 14, Oxford Road, age 72 years (at S.W. Middlesex Crematorium).
- .. 18.—Alicia Amelia Styles, Laurel Dene, aged 84 years (at S.W. Middlesex Crematorium).