

**HAMPTON COUNCIL OF CHURCHES:
SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 1964-1965**

(As presented to Annual General Meeting, October 18th, 1965)

Once again, the annual report is an occasion for reviewing the activities and progress of the past year, and for taking stock.

First a brief account of activities.

We have renamed the quarterly meetings as meetings of the committee of the Council.

Four united services have been held; the first at the Methodist Church in November, a prayer service in the January week of prayer, the open air Good Friday Service (this time held at the junction of Wensleydale and Gloucester Roads), and lastly a youth-organised service in Christian Aid Week.

The Prayer and Discussion Group, ably organised by Mr. Bellars, met regularly for nine months, and every meeting was addressed by an excellent speaker from a different denomination. There was an average attendance of 24.

Christian Aid activities included a procession in Richmond, talks to schools and a Schools' Quiz. The total collected was over £600. The energy and enthusiasm of Mrs. Eustace is largely responsible for this good result.

The house-to-house collection for Princess Elizabeth Day raised £81 6s. 7d., and we are greatly indebted to Mrs. Watkin for her organisation.

This year also we have been raising money for the "Feed the Minds" campaign. All Saints' Church arranged a coffee morning, raising £17 10s. 0d., and in the next six months Mrs. Taylor organised a Saturday morning market and Jumble Sale bringing in over £60. This involved her and her helpers in giving up most of their summer Saturday mornings and we are very grateful to her.

There were two School Leavers' conferences in July, attended by over 50 young people. The task of fitting in with the schools, arranging 7 speakers, 2 chairmen and 10 group leaders is not easy, but under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Robinson everything worked to an exact timing, and a happy and, we hope, valuable conference was held each time. We are very grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Robinson.

The Drama Group staged a Nativity tableau on a float for three nights at Christmas, with carols from All Saints', and "Christ in the Concrete City" was performed at Easter.

Thus we can look back at a year in which the activities of the Council have been wide and varied, and faithfully carried out. But we must recognise that it is the same few people from each of the churches who attend the meetings and carry out the work. The majority of the people in the pews are indifferent. To them we are seen as a separate organisation, not as their own church joining with other local churches in working out the pattern of Christian living to-day. The average Sunday worshipper does not feel involved. That this is true is seen in the poor attendance at the preliminary Christian Aid meeting, addressed by Brian Frost, the London Organiser, which he found disheartening, and the poor attendance at the discussion group in July when the Eastern Orthodox priest, accustomed to congregations of 500, found the handful in the hall disappointing. The initial response to the latest Drama Group project has been small, the Saturday

Market devolved largely on Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Eustace, and a stronger working committee for Christian Aid would ease the burden on the organiser. The members of this Council are faithful to the vision of the one Church, united in love and understanding in the Unity of the Spirit, but our problem is how to spread this vision to all the church-goers in Hampton.

This perhaps is a purpose to which we must give thought in the coming year.

We are grateful to our Chairman for all his work during the year.
D.L.

STEWARDSHIP

It has been decided that Sunday, November 21, should be observed in the Diocese of London and throughout the country as Stewardship Sunday—a day on which all involved in Christian Stewardship can join together in prayer and in reconsideration of its principles.

Our own Stewardship Programme has now been running for some 9 months and we would like to see a large congregation at both the Parish Communion and Evensong on that day. The day will, of course, be especially significant for those who have joined the scheme but we hope that those who have felt unable to join will nevertheless lend their support by coming to the services and that others who may know little about Stewardship will come along to learn something of what it is all about. Stewardship Sunday should become a major event in the Parish calendar—let us start well by doing all we can to make this one a big occasion.

On the Thursday before Stewardship Sunday, we are to hold an Annual Review with a Buffet Supper in the Church Hall. Members of the scheme will be receiving personal invitations to this but any other parishioners who are interested to learn more about Stewardship will be very welcome. All we ask is that they should try to let Mrs. Leatherdale (Molesey 6999) know—if possible, a week or two beforehand.

The Stewardship movement is already improving the spiritual life of the parish but we are as yet in the early stages. We must keep up the good work we have started and seek guidance and strength as we endeavour to advance to a deeper involvement.

R.B.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cubs. The Pack's team at the Twickenham District's Swimming Gala came away with the trophy for first place—congratulations to all the cubs who achieved this.

The Young Wives' Group bid farewell to their very competent catering officer, Mrs. Audrey Hunt, as she departs with her family to Melbourne. Do not miss the A.G.M. on November 10 at Wayside; also the meeting on November 24 which is Christmas decorations by Bentalls.

The Mothers' Union members enjoyed a pleasant visit to Mary Sumner House on October 11. Mrs. Bellingham is to show her slides taken during a visit to the Holy Land at Wayside, November 3, at 2.30 p.m.—everyone interested will be welcome.

The Churchyard. No. further mass attacks are planned at present, however, our churchyard guardians will appreciate YOUR assistance on fine Saturdays—there is still a great deal to be tackled, so come along with your clippers, etc.

(apologies! space did not permit the full accounts sent in by the the organisations. Ed.)

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Harvest Festival produce was distributed to 40 O.A.P.'s—thanks to all of you, including the children, who contributed and helped with the distribution; also for the lovely flowers, and to those people who arranged them and made the church look so beautiful in readiness for the Evening Service which was well attended.

The Harvest Supper at the Hall followed—an excellent meal was served and the tables looked very attractive—again thanks to so many who must have worked hard to achieve this, especially the Social Committee. The hitherto hidden talents of our entertainers were most enlightening and enjoyable.

OBITUARY

The Mothers' Union learned with regret of the death of one of its senior members on October 11. Mrs. Drew was admitted as a member of the M.U. in the Diocese of Guildford in 1928 and was for many years Enrolling Member of E. Molesey Parish Church branch. When she came to live with her daughter in Hampton Hill Mrs. Drew became a well-loved and much respected member of this branch to whom one could turn for help and advice at all times.

It is only in the past year that she has not been amongst us so frequently, but her interest in all church and M.U. activities was maintained to the last. The St. James's branch is the poorer for her passing. Heartfelt sympathy is extended to Mrs. Wigginton and her family in their bereavement.

I.V.R.

THE CIRCLE OF PRAYER

“Thy Grace nourishes all things according to the desire of them that have need.” (Wisdom 16, 25).

As a result of the article which appeared in *The Spire*, July 1965, the author has been asked if any steps were being taken to weld the circle of prayer, which started spontaneously as an emergency measure, into the structure and foundation of our daily life.

It is not known how many people prayed regularly for Mollie Ford and her family at 9 a.m. every day in the privacy of their own homes or in the train or at the office, but it is known that the circle of prayer was a very wide one, the bounds of which stretched farther afield than our own parish and congregation. It was made up of people who felt the instinctive need to turn to God in their desire to minister to the needs of others and to seek comfort and strength, both for themselves and for those whom they knew were praying with them. Some were praying regularly for almost the first time in their lives, others geared their time of prayer to the general need.

Many people have spoken of the feelings of strength and companionship which they received from being part of this great circle of fellowship and Christian service. They definitely knew that they had indeed come closer to God and to one another, proving Dean Inge's challenging statement that "Faith begins as a conscious experiment and ends with an experience" to be "a true saying and worthy to be believed." So many people are beset with worldly worries that they do not normally allow themselves the time to make the one experiment so necessary for their well-being; but the people who took time off to seek their God in this instance found Him.

Would YOU like to join this Circle of prayer and dedicate a regular time at the start of each new day to join in prayer for yourselves, your family and friends remembering that "whosoever fails to pray for one he loves . . . withholds love's best help" and "We never help our dear ones so well as when we pray for them."* Pray also as need arises for your neighbour and for the Church and the world which is its parish.

In order that the circle may be effective it is necessary that we know the names and addresses and telephone numbers of its members. Just give this information to Mrs. Mills (Molesey 6626), Mrs. Orton (Molesey 5868) or Mrs. Warwick (Molesey 7004). If you need help do not hesitate to ask for it because you fear it may be necessary to confide your intimate affairs. All the Circle needs to know is that you desire their prayers.

If you would like to meet other members of the Circle from time to time for discussion, Bible Study, assistance in any problem or merely because you feel drawn to them—for corporate prayer is a great uniter as we have already found out—let us know and we will arrange house meetings.

For thought: "If any of you falls short in wisdom, he should ask God for it for God is a generous giver who neither refuses or reproaches anyone." (James I, 1, v. 5).

M.O.

* "Help for the day" by J. R. Miller, D.D.

THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Bonfire Party. The Vicar will light the first firework and, later, the bonfire at Laurel Dene on Saturday, November 6.

To avoid disappointment please remember that

- (1) cars cannot be parked in the grounds,
- (2) the display will *start* at 6.30 p.m. prompt.
- (3) admission is by ticket only, price 2/6d. including soup and "spuds" and,
- (4) neither unaccompanied children, nor any person carrying fireworks can be admitted.

Ludo Drive. What IS a Ludo Drive? We are not quite sure ourselves, but it will certainly be fun finding out! Come to Wayside at 8 p.m. on Thursday, November 25. Dice, boards, prizes, refreshments—all for 1/6d., tickets from the Social Committee.

Carol Singers Unite! We hope to organise a really large party of carol singers to tour the parish on one or two evenings immediately before Christmas. Arrangements are very tentative at present but it is

hoped to arrange rehearsals in church after choir practice on Fidays from early December.

Have You Got Your Act Ready? Just a reminder that there will be a Parish Entertainment on February 19 in which it is hoped that all church groups will participate by providing a programme item. Group leaders stand by for an approach from the Social Committee!

“TEN LITTLE CHURCHMEN”

Ten little churchmen went to church when fine,
But it started raining, and then there were nine.
Nine little churchmen stayed up very late,
One overslept himself and then there were eight.
Eight little churchmen on the road to Heaven,
One found the way too steep, so then there were seven.
Seven little churchmen heard of Sunday “flicks,”
One thought he’d go there then there were six.
Six little churchmen kept the place alive,
One bought a television, then there were five.
Five little churchmen seemed loyal to the core,
The Vicar upset one of them and then there were four.
Four little churchmen argued heatedly,
Over all the changes, and then there were three.
Three little churchmen sang the service through—
Got a hymn they didn’t know, then there were two.
Two little churchmen disputed who should run,
The next social evening, and then there was one.
One faithful churchman, knowing what to do,
Got a friend to come to church, and then there were two.
Two sincere churchmen each brought in one more,
So their number doubled, and then there were four.
Four sturdy churchmen simply couldn’t wait,
But went to find four others, and then there were eight.
Eight eager churchmen at Communion every week,
Soon encouraged others, troubled souls to seek.
All the seats in church were filled — not an empty pew;
O God, supply this grace and zeal in our parish too!

(There are a number of different versions of the rhyme printed above. This one is quoted with due acknowledgments from a recent issue of Hampton Parish Church News. — Ed.).

SOME DATES TO NOTE

- Nov. 1.—All Saints’ Day: 7.15 and 10.0 a.m. Holy Communion; 8.40 a.m. Holy Communion in St. Anne’s Chapel (L.E.H. School); 8.0 p.m. Hampton Council of Churches: Prayer and Discussion Group (Methodist Church).
- .. 3.—10.0 a.m. Holy Communion at Laurel Dene; 2.30 p.m. Mothers’ Union—“The Holy Land” (W); 7.45 p.m. Billy Graham film “The Restless Ones” (York House: tickets 1/6).

- „ 6.—3.0 p.m. Induction of new Minister, Hampton Hill Congregational Church; 6.30 p.m. Bonfire Party at Laurel Dene (tickets 2/6).
- „ 8.—8.0 p.m. Deanery “No Small Change” Course: Liturgy and Life II—Corinth A.D. 49 (St. Mary’s Hall, Twickenham).
- „ 10.—8.0 p.m. Young Wives’ Group: Annual General Meeting (W).
- „ 12.—8.0 p.m. Commissioner from Royal School of Church Music visits choir.
- „ 15.—8.0 p.m. Ruri-Decanal Conference: “Christian Education” (St. Mary’s Hall, Twickenham).
- „ 16.—10.0 a.m. Editorial Board (52, Park Road—N.B.: It would be of great help if all matter intended for inclusion in the December issue of *The Spire* could be sent to this address *before* the meeting).
- „ 18.—8.0 p.m. ANNUAL REVIEW AND BUFFET SUPPER (Hall).
- „ 20.—10.30 a.m.—4.0 p.m. Christian Aid Conference (Kew Road Methodist Church, Richmond).
- „ 21.—Sunday next before Advent — “Stir-up” Sunday and STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY: Services and meetings at usual times—also Y.P.F. lead service at Laurel Dene 5.15 p.m.
- „ 22.—8.0 p.m. Church Council (W).
- „ 24.—8.0 p.m. Young Wives’ Group: “Christmas Decorations” (W).
- „ 25.—8.0 p.m. Ludo Drive (W).
- „ 28.—First Sunday in Advent.
- „ 30.—St. Andrew’s Day: 9.0 a.m. Holy Communion: 4.0 p.m. Holy Communion in St. Anne’s Chapel (L.E.H. School).
- Dec. 1.—10.0 a.m. Holy Communion at Laurel Dene; 2.30 p.m. Mothers’ Union: “Modern Israel” (W); 8.0 p.m. Stewardship Committee (106, Park Road).
- „ 6.—8.0 p.m. Hampton Council of Churches: Prayer and Discussion Group (W).
- „ 12.—DEDICATION FESTIVAL: 9.30 a.m. Confirmation and Parish Communion, followed by Parish Breakfast.

BAPTISMS

- Sept. 26.—Sarah Jane Childs, 30, Church Grove, Hampton Wick.
- „ 26.—Sarah Louise Blowers, 1, Hartland Road.
- „ 26.—Maxine Beverley Davis, 5, New Broadway, Hampton Road.
- „ 26.—Mark Richard Grinsell, 20, Ringwood Way.
- „ 26.—Peter Martin Gwynn, 52, Weybridge Road.
- „ 26.—Beverley Ann Winifred McDermott, 227, Uxbridge Road.
- Oct. 17.—Neil Anthony Webster, 9, Chelsea Close.

CREMATION & BURIAL

- Oct. 14.—Bertha Elizabeth Drew, 18, Cranmer Road, aged 84 years (at S.W. Middlesex Crematorium).
- „ 20.—Albert George Lewcock, 148, Broom Road, Teddington aged 61 years.