

## THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

“In all my forty years of attending annual church meetings I have never been to one so lively and so business-like — or with such lovely food provided.” Thus a newcomer in our midst!

It certainly was a pleasant evening, starting cheerfully with about fifty of us chatting as we partook of our choice of refreshment; wine, coffee, french bread and biscuits — all provided from the “involuntary profits fund” of the Social Committee. There was also entertainment in the shape of slides of our recent fancy-dress ventures — these called forth some surprisingly frank comment!

Then briskly to business on the stroke of 8.30 p.m. Our stalwart churchwardens — Mr. G. I. Robinson and Mr. L. Rockliffe — were re-elected with general acclaim after sincere tribute had been paid to the excellent way in which they had filled their posts in the past year, executing the authority vested in their office with “enthusiasm, courtesy and a certain amount of craft.”

There has been an extensive review of the electoral roll this year, ten new names have been added but a number of “obsolete” entries have been pruned out and the number now stands at 199 — not as high as it should be. People still seem wary of putting their names forward and it is difficult to understand **why**. Were the church a Club or Society its adherents would have no hesitation in adding their names to the members’ list so why the hesitation in enrolling as voting members of the church?

The past year has been a very rewarding one, bringing with it an ever increasing sense of responsibility and an understanding of the meaning of real Christian Fellowship — and stewardship. The Parish Weekend itself was a successful project which would not have been possible a few years ago, also the well-attended Lenten courses. The Book Stall has been a progressive and live innovation and the Social Committee, resourceful and hardworking and cheerful, has offered friendship and entertainment to an ever-widening circle. The Sidesmen (and women) have done their best to extend a friendly welcome to newcomers and regular congregation alike. The Properties Committee have acted as a skilled team; the roof of the church is now in a condition to last for years and the boiler, having done thirty years service, has been replaced by a larger and more efficient one; the Diocesan Repairs scheme for Wayside is well under weigh but interior decoration of the two meeting-rooms is to be done by “Self-Help” (“Volunteers forward” said Mr. Brooks, paint and paper provided free to suitable applicants!); the fabric of the Baptistry and Porch requires attention and it is hoped that these jobs can be tackled by “self-help,” also the spire, last overhauled in 1947, will soon need re-inspection by steeple-jacks. The Liturgical Committee has worked hard, their aim the constant improvement of our services; a rota of readers has been prepared and already appreciative comments have been passed; the uniformed groups have been encouraged to present their colours at the Family Communion Service, thus entering the church fellowship more fully; the Parish Breakfast continues to be well attended and provides an excellent opportunity for the making of friends. The Stewardship Committee has given many hours to the implementing of the Time and Talents operation and to plans for the future embodying the full principles of Christian Stewardship. The Choir has gone from strength to strength and constantly delights the congregation with the high standard and

scope of its singing and accompaniment. Tribute was paid to the successful programmes of the various Church Societies which time did not permit our hearing. Mothers' Union, Young Wives, Youth Fellowship — who have had a particularly lively and rewarding year — Scouts, Cubs, Guides and Brownies; all have been functioning strongly and the Sunday School Teachers have been hardworking and diligent. The MRI Group and the Prayer Circle have done much to add to the spiritual life of the church.

It would be difficult to give enough praise to the hard-working churchyard guardians, Dennis Leatherdale and Roy Brooks; a programme of rules for the churchyard has been drawn up and been in force since March 1. The oldest part of the ground has been practically cleared and is kept mown; a shed to house the newly-acquired tools and equipment has been erected through the efforts of Messrs. Leatherdale, Gostling and Bridges and rose beds planted on the south side of the church. Strong-arm tactics were again employed by the same gentlemen augmented by Mr. Taylor and others to remove the unsightly and damp conservatory at Wayside and to level the site.

Two individual tributes were paid — one to Mrs. Mills for her indefatigable efforts in making the church both clean and beautiful — aided by her team of helpers — and for the many other self-effacing, ungrudging services she gives to the community; and one to our Secretary Miss Stanley, for the many hours of 'busman's holiday' overtime work she gives to the church "so smilingly and charmingly done."

The Church Council was described as having been "a truly united team," resolved to support the Vicar in his hopes for the Parish, to the utmost of its capabilities. Next year, the Parochial Representatives of the Council are to be reduced from 19 to 14, with, as far as is possible, equal representation of the sexes. In addition the Council will have power to co-opt up to one fifth its numbers if necessary, but its aim will be to encourage the manning of the church committees largely by non-council members, thus ensuring active "congregation participation" and the spreading of effort. A list of this year's council will be found at the end of this report.

Detailed accounts are to be had for the asking so it is enough to mention here a few points of significant interest. Pledged and other giving is down — £2,801-12-1 as against £2,868, the refund of income tax on covenanted money is up — £247 as against £234. The debit balance stands at £2,447-5-7 out of which £872-14-2 was paid for the expenses of the Diocesan Christian Stewardship Campaign on which the foundation of our solvency is based. It is intended to reduce this debit balance considerably during the coming year but the Council has considered the cleaning, making good and beautifying of our church a sound investment. In Mr. Brunt's words, "We can now feel delight when we come to church, instead of having to fight to rise above depression at the drabness and dinginess of the surroundings." Moreover, newcomers are now saying "What a lovely church, what enthusiastic friendly people, what a lovely choir, etc." Our efforts have indeed paid dividends in more ways than one.

The Parish Magazine has had to be subsidised to the tune of £130. A suggestion that it should be replaced by a news-sheet brought forth parish protests and so the subsidy will continue as the Council also considered The Spire to be of benefit and interest to the church

community. Mrs. Warwick, Mrs. Mills and Mr. Peel of the Magazine Committee have been working hard, doing everything they can — short of levying a charge — to reduce where possible.

“The Birth and Growth of Hampton Hill” is practically sold out in its first year and the cost of production is well on the way to being recovered.

Altogether the account was held to be an excellent one and Mr. Robinson and Mr. Severn received well deserved praise.

Because of the advanced hour the Vicar was left with only a few minutes for his comments but with foresight and optimism had come prepared to talk “for anything from five to twenty-five minutes.” From what he was able to say it was felt a great pity that he had had to curtail his remarks and he was persuaded to produce them in last month’s Spire and thus the encouragement and inspiration they contained has been made available to a much wider circle than was gathered in the Hall. If you have not already read them you are strongly recommended to make yourself the richer by doing so.

Another A.C.M. is over and St. James looks forward confidently to continuing and increasing “the good work” in the coming year.

M.O.

**Church Council:** Lay members are as follows:

Churchwardens: Messrs. G. I. Robinson and L. Rockliffe.

Representatives on the Ruridecanal Conference: Messrs. S. D. Harris, L. Melville, A. R. Taylor; Mrs. Jackson and Miss P. M. Stanley.

Parochial Representatives. Messrs. R. E. Bridges, R. M. Brooks, J. Gilder, J. E. Gostling, D. E. Leatherdale, F. E. Peel, R. Salisbury, H. E. Severn, W. F. Wigginton; Mesdames C. H. Brunt, D. Childs, I. Gilder, R. Gostling, I. Milns, M. Orton, I. V. Rockliffe, M. Saunders, D. Warwick, P. Young. At the Council’s first meeting, Colonel J. L. Ford, chairman of the Social Committee, was co-opted.

### **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK MAY 16 — 21, 1966**

Christian Aid Week will soon be upon us, and this year the Hampton Council of Churches have adopted two projects as follows:

- (1) The building of a simple house in Macedonia for a family who are living at present in a mud and wattle hut which is barely water-tight. There are 160 families to be housed. The World Council of Churches have, in answer to the pitiful appeals of these people, visited the area, and have decided that the unhappy lot of these people cannot ever be improved without help. Consequently they have already built 350 houses, leaving 160 to be erected as and when the money is forthcoming. The people of Hampton are invited to contribute £600 during C.A. Week to build one house.
- (2) In addition we have agreed to raise a further £36 to feed, clothe and educate a boy of 12 — destitute — who has been living out of dustbins in Nairobi for some years. We hope to renew our pledge annually for five years to complete the task of educating and feeding him. His name is Joseph.

Helpers are needed to collect the C.A. envelopes, and on behalf of the family in Macedonia and Joseph we ask you to volunteer to do even half a road — if you can see your way to give this assistance to our aim will you please advise Mrs. Warwick, 52, Park Road — Molesey 7004 — thank you!

On the final day — Saturday, May 21 — there is to be a children's stall in the front garden of 52, Park Road, proceeds from which will be given to the above project so come along and buy, and if you have any children's toys, books, jewellery, novelties, in good condition perhaps you will be good enough to let Anne and Jeanie Warwick at this address have them before May 21. Again thank you!

D.W.

**Stop Press.** On May 22, instead of a Sermon at Evensong, "I am the world's surplus man," a series of dramatic readings with music by our Young People, will be presented. It makes clear how great a need there is for Christian Aid and Compassion.

### **THE PASSION OF CHRIST (Arthur Somervell)**

I should like to record my appreciation to those members of the Choir and to those who augmented it for their kind support, which enabled us to contribute, on Palm Sunday evening, this musical interpretation of the story of Holy Week. Unfortunately many practices were not fully attended because of illness, but the enthusiasm which was demonstrated in an effort to achieve an acceptable offering was really most encouraging.

R.J.C.D. (Organist)

### **"TO THE LAOS OF ST. JIM'S"**

15th April, 1966.

Dear Laos,

Apart from sustaining minor injuries to a thigh, and ankle, a head, a

Having an enjoyable holiday and stimulating time at Kirk Newton. wrist, a second finger, a knee, and a back door of the van, we are all well. Two trips have been made to the snow-covered Pentland Hills, and one to Edinburgh.

All love — Y.P.F.

### **TWO OUTINGS**

Tickets for the outing to Whipsnade Zoo on Saturday, May 21, are now available. The cost is 8/6 for adults and 5/6 for children of 16 and under. In addition there will of course be the reduced party entrance fee to the Zoo — 3/6 for adults and 1/9 for children under 14. By the time this magazine appears it is expected that there will be only a few places left — so book right away if you want to come!

The Social Committee has been able to book a block of 41 seats at the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre at Guildford for a performance of Victorian Music Hall on Wednesday, June 15. Tickets can now be obtained, price 10/- each, from the secretary or any other member. It is hoped that transport arrangements can be made by sharing cars, but if this proves impracticable, a coach will have to be booked, and this will add about 5/- per head to the cost. It will be necessary to leave Hampton Hill at 6.30 p.m.

R.M.G.

### **TOWARDS CHRISTIAN UNDERSTANDING**

As a result of conversations between some local clergy and ministers, a number of questions have been agreed, which they and members of their churches will answer before members of other congregations. It is hoped that this will help us to understand the practice and discipline, customs and traditions, of other Christians, and draw us nearer together. To begin with the questions are mainly concerned with the actual way in which we do things, and weighty matters of doctrine and church order will not come in until later. The first series of meetings has been arranged at Teddington Baptist Church at 7.45 p.m. on Wednesdays, April 27, May 25 and June 22, when those questioned will

be in turn Roman Catholics, Methodists and Anglicans, and members of other churches are warmly invited to attend by our Baptist friends. There will be time for open and free discussion after the questions themselves have been dealt with—these are as follows:

1. How many services, and what kind, do you hold on Sundays—what is a normal weekly programme of your church fellowships?
2. What are your main avenues of Christian Education?
3. Whom do you regard as 'members' of your church, and only members of the congregation?
4. What kind of Church discipline do you maintain? Do you remove from the list of members—deny communion to any who had been in Fellowship? If so, on what terms?
5. What is the place of laymen in your Church? What part can they play in:
  - (i) The government of the Church?
  - (ii) The worship of the Church?
  - (iii) The more general activities of the Church?
6. If I came to a service at your church, and you knew I was in 'good standing' in my own, what would you do:
  - (i) Welcome me?
  - (ii) Invite me to share in the Sacrament of the Holy Communion?
  - (iii) Try to win me over?

#### **A LETTER FROM THE BISHOP OF KENSINGTON**

19, Campden Hill Square,

London, W.8.

My dear Incumbent,

I have been asked to lead a party to the Holy Land in September this year under the auspices of the Church Pilgrimage Association, sponsored by Church Illustrated.

It would give me immense pleasure to be able to include in the party clergy and laity from the Kensington area, and it occurred to me that you might be able to let your people know about this through your parish magazine. The party will leave London on September 7 and return on September 21.

The basic cost per person is 115 guineas—not cheap, of course, but none the less a remarkably low figure for all the transport, itineraries, guides and hotels reserved by the reputable agents concerned. In particular, the party will not be using charter or night flights but going by the normal scheduled day service jet flight direct from London Airport. The cost for individuals undertaking such a visit on their own would be £147 (economy rate) for the air fare alone. I very much hope that the Pilgrimage will appeal to many in the diocese.

In order to avoid confusion, please address all enquiries and bookings to The Holy Land Secretary, Church Illustrated House, 29, Tufton Street, London, S.W.1—not to me direct.

Yours sincerely,

✕ RONALD KENSINGTON.

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

A little girl once said "When my Mummy was a lady she was a teacher" and last month when Miss Crerar came to demonstrate Elizabeth Arden products we learned how beautiful we could look if we were still in that happy state, or time and the housekeeping money

could be elasticised. There was much sound advice on grooming given.

There will be another coffee morning at Wayside on May 3 at 10.30 a.m. when all members and friends will be welcome. The next meeting on May 25 is the Extraordinary General Meeting, followed by a discussion evening.  
K.B.

### SCOUT GROUP NOTES

Our first social function this year is being held on Wednesday, May 11, at 8.30 p.m. in the Parish Hall and will take the form of a Wine and Cheese party. Mr. Lambert, who is an expert in this sort of thing, is organising the event, and will be talking about some of the wines and will do his best to answer questions. Tickets 7/6d. obtainable from Mr. Lambert, 74, Uxbridge Road, or Mrs. Childs (Sunbury 4182).

The A.G.M. is on May 20 and we hope that all parents of Cubs and Scouts will make a special effort to attend. The Pack and Troop are each putting on an item beforehand and there will be refreshments.  
S.R.C.

### SOME DATES TO NOTE

- May 9.—8.0 p.m. Parochial Church Council (W).  
.. 10.—7.30 p.m. Deanery Party for members of Mothers' Union Branches and Young Wives' Groups (All Souls' Hall, St. Margaret's).  
.. 11.—10.30 a.m. Editorial Board (52, Park Road); 8.0 p.m. Young Wives' Group: Mr. Stevens' second talk (W). 8.15 p.m. Properties Committee (36, St. James's Road); 8.30 p.m. Scout Group: Wine and Cheese Party (Hall).  
.. 15.—8.0 p.m. Hampton Council of Churches: United open-air Service and commissioning of Christian Aid Week collectors. Preacher: The Rev. A. E. Hunter (Forecourt of Methodist Church, Percy Road).  
.. 16.—CHRISTIAN AID WEEK BEGINS; 8.0 p.m. Hampton Council of Churches: Prayer and Discussion Group (Methodist Church).  
.. 18.—8.0 p.m. A.G.M. of Hampton Hill Association (Hall).  
.. 19.—ASCENSION DAY: Holy Communion at 7.15 a.m. and 7.30 p.m.  
.. 20.—8.0 p.m. A.G.M. of Scout Group (Hall).  
.. 21.—9.30 a.m. Parish Outing to Whipsnade Zoo.  
.. 22.—6.30 p.m. Evensong; 7.0 p.m. "I am the world's surplus man": a series of dramatic readings and music. (N.B.—The Parish Communion at 9.30 a.m. is also the monthly Family and Parade Service).  
.. 25.—7.45 p.m. The Methodists answer questions (Teddington Baptist Church); 8.0 p.m. Young Wives' Group: Extraordinary General Meeting (W).  
.. 26.—2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union: Deanery Festival Service (All Hallows, Twickenham).  
.. 29.—WHITSUNDAY: Sunday Services and other arrangements as usual, with the addition of a Children's Service at 11.0 a.m. and another celebration of Holy Communion at 12.10 p.m., but none of the Sunday School departments will meet. (N.B. All Whitsun Offerings are for good causes and Charities Wel-care, etc.)  
June 8.—Wel-care A.G.M.  
.. 15.—6.30 p.m. Outing to Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, Guildford.