

VICAR'S NOTES

Getting Restless — the world's poor.—It has been suggested that, instead of my usual 'Notes,' I should record here the sermon which I preached at our Harvest Festival on Thursday, October 6. I had only headings for this, and much was extempore, so it would be difficult to put here exactly what I said then—and, in fact, there would not be space. But I can put down some of the remarks which I quoted from experts, which I think are very telling—they certainly shook me.

The sermon on this occasion was not meant to be a conventional harvest one. The author of the script of the form of service used, Brian Frost (who was with us in church and at the supper afterwards; we are about the sixth church which has used this dramatic meditation, but it is hoped that it will go on to sweep the country) had laid it down that it should be on the 'politics of development,' and that preferably it should be given by someone of authority in this field. Well, I am no authority, so I had to go to what authorities I could find; I bought several books and began to study them, and then I found almost my complete sermon ready-made in a most unexpected place—on a page I hardly ever look at, the financial page of the Daily Mail. It was the headline which caught my eye, and I have repeated it at the top of these paragraphs. It was their hard-headed City Editor reporting in disgust and dismay on the Conference of Commonwealth Finance Ministers at Montreal. The Ministers agreed that there was an urgent need for gifts and loans to the developing nations. "But the rich Commonwealth countries find themselves unable to do more this year because they are fighting inflation and the Ministers of the poor countries here are angry about it. As a white who is worried about his weight and dying to take his belt in a bit, I suppose the communique is about what I expected and patches over the division between the haves and the have nots mellifluously enough. But as a hungry black in Asia, Africa or the Caribbean with a short expectation of life because I cannot afford medicines, enough food and the tools to work with, I would agree with those here who see the Ministers' findings as a frightful condemnation of the rich countries and the people who run their economies." "About two-thirds of Commonwealth citizens live in developing nations which the truthful would call collapsing countries. Our aid to these countries has levelled off during the past two years, although the wealth of the West has grown faster than ever before." The reduction in imports is hitting the poor countries hard. "All imports are someone else's exports and the consequent fall in exports could be catastrophic for countries close to the breadline . . . the poor countries are becoming increasingly fed up with being told that the rich countries understand their position but can do nothing about it." And after mentioning some of the stupid political and economic things that the rich nations do—that we allow rulers to get away with without protest—this magnificently outspoken City Editor concludes: "I have never really understood why one-fifth of the people of the world should have nine-tenths of its wealth and why the other four-fifths do so little about it. I suppose that while we have the best bombs we can protect our comforts if the hungry hordes come banging at the walls again. But we must not complain if the poor and the backward countries turn away from our democratic capitalistic ways and try other paths."

The Church must enter the power fight.—Another expert, the brilliant Dutch theologian, Albert van den Heuvel, Youth Secretary of

the World Council of Churches, is quite clear about this. In his recently published book "These Rebellious Powers" (S.C.M. Press 9/6) he endorses all that the Daily Mail City Editor says, and adds many more facts unpalatable to Western esteem to them—e.g. "Since we are among the rich nations, the poorer countries will have to tell us some unpleasant stories. We soothe our consciences by parading our programmes of foreign aid. Yet we earn more in the developing countries by paying low prices for raw materials than we give in aid."

If these and other authorities are right, terrible scandals and injustices exist in the world to-day which wise political action could put right—just as the shameful scandals of the industrial England of Victoria were put right as a result of the intense political activity over many years of Shaftesbury and his friends. In a democracy a government can do little unless public opinion has been informed and prepared for action. "A community of Christians, be it large or small, can be the conscience of the nation and prepare the way for political action." "This fundamental element of democracy, that the minority has the chance and the right to convince the majority, is our hope in the whole problem of hunger."

Where do we come in? I think that we would all agree that it is not sufficient to be deeply moved, as many of us were, by this dramatic meditation on the harvest, and to have felt somewhat uncomfortable at our good supper afterwards. Something more sustained is needed—a real effort to love God with our minds, and not just our hearts—to be people of good-mind as well as of good-will. I myself would like to see small inter-church groups really getting down to it with determination and concentration, taking all the necessary trouble to find out the facts and to interpret them aright. The experts are producing plenty of literature to help us in this. For instance, in April this year, the British Council of Churches endorsed a report produced by a very able working-party entitled "World Poverty and British Responsibility," which it hoped would become the basis of a nationwide campaign leading to political and economic action. Little more has since been heard of it, and many unsold copies still litter the booksellers' shelves, whilst another report just published entitled "Sex and Morality" has received enormous attention and is selling like hot cakes. There seems to be something a little wrong with our sense of proportion and values!

THE HARVEST FESTIVAL

On Thursday, October 6, there was a large attendance at the evening service. This year it took a novel form by the presentation of "Bread is made for laughter"—the theme was the hungry half of the world and the need for action, and Mrs. Eustace's moving production, using the voices of young people from the Hampton Council of Churches, showed the very human side of the statistics. Folk songs were incorporated, beautifully and clearly sung by Mrs. Pat Bayliff from Hampton, who has used her lovely voice so often for the benefit of Christian Aid. Congregational participation took the form of responses and the singing of the well-loved harvest hymns.

On entering the church one was immediately impressed by the beauty and profusion of the decorations and it was obvious that many willing hands had worked for many hours to make the church so bright and clean, arranging the flowers, bread and fruit—on all sides

one heard that it all looked more beautiful than ever!

Following the service came the Supper at the Parish Hall and here again one found everything prepared and all the tables looking most inviting laden with the splendid food and flowers and attractive arrangements—in fact this sight in such a cheerful friendly atmosphere following on the thought-provoking production in church produced to many a rather strange feeling. After Grace everyone settled in to enjoy themselves and the Supper was excellent. The choirboys obviously enjoyed themselves (though one wonders if Jack Gostling and “Smoke” Maddox, who were sitting with them, were so happy—still they didn’t look too harrassed).

For our entertainment afterwards M.U. members presented an exceedingly funny play—they had been spending “time and talents” furiously under Mrs. Rockliffe’s direction and surprising talent was discovered.

The Festival continued on Sunday, and on Monday came the distribution of gifts. People came to sort out the parcels, others to deliver to about 65 old and sick people of the parish. We had an even longer list but not enough to go round despite having received more than usual this year, especially tea, sugar and tinned food.

There are so many thank-you’s to be said—to the children and other people including of course the tradespeople, who brought gifts. All may be assured that the recipients are very grateful.

Thanks are due to people both inside and outside the parish for contributing in so many ways to our Harvest Festival—those who decorated the church so beautifully, Mrs. Eustace’s group, all those involved with the Supper, buying the food, preparing it, the hostesses at their tables (some perhaps still trying to sort out cutlery), the washing up; the members of the M.U., the Social Committee of course and many others. Last but not least the friends who came on Monday morning to help with the distribution—we hope no-one caught cold as it was a very wet task in the pouring rain!

L.M., R.M., D.W.

THE YOUNG WIVES’ GROUP

We were very pleased to welcome all the members and visitors who attended our opening service in church on September 28, and the At Home in Wayside afterwards. We have a full and varied programme arranged and look forward to seeing as many members as possible at each event.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 9, in the Parish Hall. This is to be a Fashion Show, clothes supplied by Kempthornes of Richmond, and modelled by Y.W. members. We should like to extend an invitation to the ladies of all the church organisations to come along, and bring their friends or teen-age daughters. The Fashion Show will be followed by a make-up demonstration. Refreshments will be available.

On Wednesday, November 30 in Wayside there will be “Icing and Cookery Hints for Christmas” by Mrs. Joan Whittles.

Subscriptions for the 1966/67 season are due, and we should be grateful if those outstanding could be paid.

J.B.

THE MOTHERS' UNION

On October 5 39 members from five churches in the Hampton Deanery were taken by coach to and from Mary Sumner House. On arrival there each lady worked hard in the Assembly Hall preparing or serving more than three hundred lunches. The Overseas Chairman, Mrs. Lambert, greatly appreciated the help so willingly given by our Deanery, she thanked us too for the tarts and cakes supplied. There was time for all to go to the Sale at Church House, and some were able to visit the Floral Arrangement Display at the Festival Hall. We are indebted to Mrs. Oliver for all the time and trouble she took to arrange the outing.

Our Branch Treasurer, Mrs. Young, will be glad to receive your subscriptions for 1967 as soon as possible. Unfortunately these are to be raised to seven shillings and sixpence, owing to the increased cost of everything—this was announced at the Diocesan Council on October 7 by the Treasurer who pointed out that, even with the increased rate, we still paid less than twopence a week for the privilege of belonging to a world-wide society. The new rate will be allocated as follows:—

Tribute to Centre	1s. 6d.
Subscription to Branch	1s. 6d.
Subscription to London Diocese	4s. 6d.
(this last includes the cost of the quarterly Journals)	

There will be an extra meeting at the latter part of the month—probably a showing of films dealing with the work of the Mission to Seamen (see later paragraph).
I.V.R.

THE MISSIONS TO SEAMEN

Miss Katheleen Pearce, Flying Angel League Secretary, has arranged to come and show her slides of the Mission in Action on the afternoon of Wednesday, November 23, at Wayside at 2.30 p.m. The work of the Mission is held in high esteem by the Bishop of London, who has appealed to us all to support this very vital part of the Church's work, especially in this its centenary year. Please come in large numbers to hear more about a Society which has been supported by this parish for many years, you can be assured of an interesting meeting. This is intended for all those who realise how dependent we are upon our Merchant Navy in time of peace as well as in war.

I.V.R.

HAMPTON HILL OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE COMMITTEE

We chose ~~one~~ of the rare fine days this summer for our Garden Fete at Laurel Dene on September 3. Mrs. Arthur Scott, Superintendent of Brinsworth House, Staines Road, Twickenham—Home for Variety Artists—opened the proceedings. She was very interested in our activities, and in Laurel Dene when Matron kindly showed her around the Home. We raised £140 for the General Fund and Matron, with her own old people of Laurel Dene particularly at heart, raised about £13 at her stall for the Home Amenity Fund. The raffle was won by Mrs. Duckett.

Many thanks to Matron and the Council for allowing us to hold our Fete in their lovely gardens. Thanks also to all the people who did so much work to make the occasion a success and also to those who supported us. The Old People's Welfare Committee hope everyone enjoyed themselves.
L.M.

1st HAMPTON HILL GUIDES

During this year's week of Summer we camped at The Manor House, Weston Turville, about four miles from Aylesbury. The Manor House was built on the site of a Saxon watchtower with two moats, both of which ran through "The Paddock" which was our site. However, time had filled the moats with soil and all that was left were two large, and fortunately dry, indentations in the ground.

Although only 7 Guides could come, and they all worked very hard on the whole, it was voted one of the best camps so far. Open country extended far on two sides of the site and this was explored, some genuine Aylesbury Ducks found, and the field which was the source of all the gliders which kept wheeling silently above us, was discovered. The village churchyard was on our third side. The church, which was very old, parts of it dating back to Mediaeval times with a few Saxon remains, had been thoughtfully renovated, and rededicated.

Having the churchyard so near inspired the highlight of the camp — a midnight, new moon 'spoo' hunt. (What **happened** to the moon by the way?). It must be explained that the friendly spoos of Weston Turville had strayed from the churchyard and all the villagers were worried — some of the spoos are very old and easily get lost. Spoos, although invisible, smell of onions during the new moon, and the Guides, wishing to do a good turn, rose at midnight, sniffing for the onion smell, to trail the spoos back to the churchyard where a specially composed "Spoo Lullaby" was very sweetly sung.

The thrill of this camp to several of us was the determination of everyone to see that it went off well. The shopkeepers were friendly and obliging. The Manor House owners, gardener, etc., were as helpful and friendly as possible. The transport situation was easily(?) overcome by parents and friends willingly sparing their time and cars to carry people and equipment and to help load, unload and store equipment — quite a job! Our special thanks to Mr. Diplock and Mr. Heron, and even more especially to Mr. Brittain who moved mountains (of gear) to get us to camp and back — his nearest connection to the Guides is the Church choir!

Was all this equipment — milk crates, bricks, hundreds of poles — really necessary for ten people for a week? R.M.

A FINE ACHIEVEMENT

We warmly congratulate one of our Sunday School teachers, Ceridwen Roberts, on being chosen to represent Great Britain at the World Youth Forum sponsored by the New York Herald-Tribune. To gain this distinction Ceridwen first had to write an essay on the subject "What do you mean by international understanding? How can Britain contribute to this?" Then the writers of the six best essays were called to the United States embassy for personal interviews, and Ceridwen was finally selected as the representative of this country. She will leave Hampton Hill immediately after Christmas, to spend three months in New York, living in American homes and visiting all kinds of schools, telling the children about life and education in this country and answering their questions.

WE HOPE THAT

— matter still held over owing to pressure on space (including the short biography of Miss Lush) will be included in our next issue, and that we shall then find ourselves—and be able to keep ourselves—up-to-date!

THE EDITORS.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

- Nov. 5.—6.15 p.m. PARISH BONFIRE PARTY (Laurel Dene). Admission by ticket only 3/- (this includes hot refreshments). N.B.—No unaccompanied children, and no parking in grounds!
- .. 9.—8.00 p.m. Young Wives' Group—Open Evening and Fashion Show (Hall).
- .. 11.—10.15 a.m. Editorial Board (52, Park Road).
- .. 12.—3.30 p.m. Old People's Party (Hall).
- .. 14.—6.00 p.m. Wel-Care Conference (Mary Sumner House). 8.00 p.m. Ruri-Decanal Conference. Special Subject: The Work of the Liturgical Commission (St. Mary's Hall, Twickenham).
- .. 17.—7.45 p.m. ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP REVIEW (Hall).
- .. 18.—3.00 p.m. Confirmation in St. Anne's Chapel at the Lady Eleanor Holles School.
- .. 18-20.—Lee Abbey Weekend—"Expanding Christianity"—at High Leigh.
- .. 19.—10.30 a.m.—5.15 p.m. Christ and Technology: A Conduktion on Christian Aid at Holy Trinity, Brompton.
- .. 20.—STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY: Sunday Services and other arrangements as usual, with the addition of a Service at Laurel Dene at 5.15 p.m.
- .. 22.—8.00 p.m. Parochial Church Council (W).
- .. 23.—2.30 p.m. The Missions to Seamen in Action (W); 7.30 p.m. Reception for Men of the Deanery to meet the Reverend Charles Birtles, General Secretary of the Church of England Men's Society (Winchester Hall, East Twickenham).
- .. 25.—8.15 p.m. M.R.I. Group (90, Ormond Drive).
- .. 28.—8.00 p.m. Special Meeting of Ruri-Decanal Conference. Subject: The Sunbury Church of England Secondary School
- .. 29.—8.00 p.m. Joint Meeting of Stewardship Committee and M.R.I. Group (106, Park Road).
- .. 30.—St. Andrew. 9.00 a.m. Holy Communion; 8.00 p.m. Young Wives' Group—Cooking Hints for Christmas (W).
- Dec. 11.—DEDICATION FESTIVAL. 9.30 a.m. Confirmation and Parish Communion.

BAPTISMS

- Sept. 25.—Jane Fitzwater, 167, High Street.
- .. 25.—Darren Kevin Hart, 1A, Sheffield House, Park Road.
- .. 25.—Clare Ruth Nicholls, 227, St. Margaret's Road, Twickenham.
- .. 25.—Samantha Jane Rae, 27, Ringwood Way.
- Oct. 23.—Ann Jacqueline Murrell, 16, Queen's Road.
- .. 25.—Tania Victoria Rydon, 87, Park Road.
- .. 25.—Nigel John Westbury, 15, Winifred Road.
- .. 23.—Jacqueline Louise Small, 38, Ringwood Way.
- .. 23.—Anna Clarissa Trenter, 25, The Wilderness, Park Road.

Correction: Owing to a misprint, the date of one Baptism was wrongly given last month. The entry should have read:

- Sept. 18.—Frances Elizabeth Harris, 33, Beech Way, Twickenham (at the Parish Communion).

BURIAL

- Oct. 7.—Mary Frances Willis, 127, Uxbridge Road, aged 87 years.