

THE HAMPTON COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Christian Aid. At a recent meeting of this Council it was learned with regret that Mrs. Margaret Eustace had found it necessary to resign as Christian Aid organiser due to ill-health. Mrs. Eustace has done sterling work for this cause over many years, and she expressed in her letter of resignation the hope that the work would continue with enthusiasm. It was decided that a committee be formed from members of the churches affiliated to this end. On Thursday, November 2, a meeting was held to establish such a committee — two representatives from each church was desired, plus two from the Junior Council of Churches — such representation was not fully realised at this meeting, and the election of a chairman was therefore postponed, but Mr. Lester (St. Mary's) agreed to take on the duties of Secretary, Mrs. D. Warwick (St. James's) became press officer, and Mrs. A. Russell (St. Mary's) accepted the responsibility for the house-to-house collections, and distribution of envelopes, etc., during Christian Aid Week 1968. From this it will be seen that the committee "got a little way off the ground." The two members for St. James's are Mrs. M. Orton and Mrs. D. Warwick.

The Combined Service arranged for Sunday, October 29, by the H.C.C. proved a pleasant and successful innovation so far as St. James' and All Saints' churches were concerned — the service was held at All Saints' Church and a large contingent of the St. James' congregation was conveyed in many cars from the church (in fact more transport was available than was actually needed). The service did not commence until 6.40 p.m. to ensure that nobody should arrive for the service at St. James' and be disappointed — they had cars available up to the last minute.

The J.C.C. had desired that this combined service be made the opportunity of offering to God the outstanding amount of money which it had raised on the sponsored walk which had eventually realised £1,200. After the service, over coffee in the hall, monies were handed over to the various representatives of the Children's charities for whom it had been raised. It was unfortunate that for one reason or another the other member churches of the H.C.C. had found themselves unable to participate on this occasion.

At the **Council's A.G.M.** on October 30, most members expressed again their recommendation for occasional combined services with all member churches participating and closing their own churches, say once a quarter, to come together in unity of worship and prayer, but a strongly held minority view made a common mind on this impossible.

The War on Want Clothing Drive on October 26, sponsored by the H.C.C., proved successful beyond all expectations, and thanks were expressed by the organisers to the collectors and the donors for the particularly good quality of the clothing handed in — a rather amusing aside was that the two volunteers for the morning arrived armed with little jobs to do for themselves whilst they waited for the goods to arrive — in fact they were kept busy from the moment they arrived until noon — those who took over subsequently were similarly occupied. This of course was what was hoped for, but not really anticipated!

D.W.

BONFIRE NIGHT

The firework and bonfire party held at Laurel Dene on November 4, proved to be a delight for young and old alike. The men and women from the Home viewed the activities from their recreation room, while the children, armed with gigantic sparklers and well-muffled, watched eager-eyed from the perimeter of the demonstration. After an initial very colourful firework display, the bonfire was lit and this was watched by parents and children, now well sustained by hot soup and jacket potatoes.

All credit must be given to the organisers for producing such a creditable exhibition, especially since the weather prior to the party was so wet.

THEY'LL WANT TO FORGET THIS EVENT

Headlined the Richmond Times on their Remembrance Day news item. In fact they were referring not to the Day but to the way in which it has been kept in Twickenham this year. It would, however, have made reasonable comment to a lot that we heard and read during the following week.

It was not by design but of necessity that the first occasion of the new experiment to replace the Evensong sermon by group discussion fell on Remembrance Day. In the event this seems to have been a fortunate arrangement, for it gave us a chance to begin to think things out for ourselves before the torrent of comment, outcry and counter-comment that burst on us from press, radio and T.V. the following weeks, and schools debated "Is war glorified?"

At the Wayside discussion it was clear that many would like this day to be used to further movements towards International understanding and peace as well as commemorating the sacrifices of the two World Wars. And this not only to avoid the horrors of future wars but because anything that brings people together for the common good is in itself worthy and right. Suggestions were made that peace organisations such as U.N.A.; V.S.O.; Pilgrims Trust; Anglo-Soviet, etc., should be represented as well as Old Comrades' Associations and that military sights and sounds should now be played down a bit: war is no longer solely the affair of armies and navies. All civilisation is involved.

Although no one supposed that one day in the year could on its own do very much, it could be used as a spur to greater effort to support organisations that already exist or even to begin new ones or just a reminder to keep alert in the daily skirmishes for tolerance and fairminded understanding of other people's point of view.

It was encouraging that 50 people took part in this discussion which was arranged on similar lines to those at the Parish Weekend.

The Vicar introduced the subject briefly and referred to the discussion on the subject by the Church Assembly a few days previously. We then divided into 5 smaller groups for discussion — and incidentally to make the acquaintance of members of the congregation we don't normally have the opportunity of meeting — and then reported back. The Vicar gave a summing up. Members of the Y.P.F. served coffee and biscuits to those who wanted to discuss further or just to chat.

The next such meeting will be on January 14.

SHELTER

Cathy Come Home, the film which exposed the housing problem in our larger cities is to be shown in All Saints' Church Hall on Monday, December 18, at 8 p.m.

Shelter, a registered charity, uses gifts of money to buy houses, converts them into simple homes, and lets them at reasonable rents to those whose need is the most urgent.

Within three months of the start of the campaign 750 people who spent last Christmas in slum conditions were re-housed. There are now 100 Shelter groups spread over the country.

As gifts to Shelter are multiplied by improvement grants, etc., it takes only £325 to provide a home for a family; with £100 an old person can be given comfort and security for life.

If you are concerned about this problem, come and see "Cathy."

KINDERGARTEN SUNDAY SCHOOL AT WAYSIDE

Because of the exigencies of approaching public examinations this department is losing three teachers at the end of this term. I should be pleased to hear of anyone who is a confirmed member of the Church who would like to come and help us after Christmas. The qualifications most needed are a liking for small children and a conviction that this job is worthwhile.

Our new venture this Autumn was the Puppet Theatre and without a full complement of puppeteers we shall not be able to continue this popular feature. If there are people over twelve who could help with the Puppets I should like to tell them what is involved and would be glad if they would get in touch with me at the Vicarage or 'phone 979 2069. If we had extra people to help with puppets we could manage the teaching with fewer teachers.

C.H.B.

THE MOTHERS' UNION

October was a very busy month for the Branch, and a highly satisfactory one, financially. The Jumble Sale, held on October 14, held jointly with the Young Wives' Group, raised the sum of £25, and we were able to send goods to Welcare. War on Want Clothing Drive, and to Hambro House.

On October 28, our months of hard work were well repaid by the fact that the parish responded so well to our invitation to "Come and do your Christmas shopping early and support a good cause at the same time." Those who braved the dreadful weather found the goods on the various stalls both attractive, and reasonably priced. As a result, a cheque for £100 was despatched to the special fund for bringing delegates from Overseas to the World-Wide Conference next summer. Acknowledging our gift, Miss Renée Norris, the Overseas Secretary, writes: "It would not be possible for many of the delegates to come to England next year without financial help, and therefore your members will feel that they have no small part to play in helping

to bring these delegates over from all parts of the world to meet together and exchange ideas, and to discuss current important matters." Everyone is surprised that such a comparatively small Branch should have raised so much.

I should like to express my personal thanks to my very active, hard-working committee who were behind this venture, and without whose co-operation and drive this result would never have been achieved. I am grateful to all who helped us in any way, and especially to those of our menfolk who rallied to our aid.

I.V.R.

THE YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

It is always pleasant to have an ex-chairman back with us, so we all enjoyed having Molly Saunders as our speaker last month. In no time at all Wayside was full of delightful flower arrangements and in spite of hasty note taking some of us are still wondering how it was done. If anyone is interested in classes for beginners as well as for practised hands, get in touch with Mrs. Saunders, 28, St. James' Avenue.

There is no Children's Party this year but Christmas arrangements are being circularised round members.

The Coffee Club will meet on December 14 and the discussion subject will be Christmas Traditions.

K.B.

THE FIRST IN HIS FAMILY

AUTO-SKILLS is the name of an industrial training centre on the outskirts of Nasik in western India. It was started in 1963 by C.M.S. missionary Malcolm Warner to provide training and trade for boys leaving school in relation to the needs of the industries developing round Bombay some 100 miles away. In April 1965 Auto-skills turned out its first batch of students, who went on to employment in transport and engineering workshops, or as field service mechanics. "Their jobs," writes Malcolm Warner, "should be seen in the context of the overall employment situation in India where, every year, thousands of graduates are turned out of the colleges and are faced with unemployment or tasks unfitted to their abilities."

As an illustration of what it can mean to these young men to be given a place at Auto-skills we are telling the story of one student who recently completed his course.

Shankar is one of seven children of village parents living in a one-roomed mud built home. His father was a casual labourer in the fields, earning Rs30 to Rs60 per month when there was work, but when he died his wife and four of the children were left without any means of support. Shankar's eldest brother is also a casual labourer — when he was small there was no school so he had no opportunity for learning.

Shankar's father and mother were converted from Hinduism when Shankar was three and their children brought up in the Christian community. Shankar was able to attend a mission school which had been started near his home and was later given help to go to a boarding school where he finally obtained his secondary school certificate.

But when he left school there was no work for him and no money for training. He had often watched the jeep driver of a nearby mission hospital and wished he could become a driver or mechanic. Then he heard about Auto-skills and he asked his church to support his application for entrance. He took an aptitude test with 100 others but was not selected for one of the 20 places — though top of the waiting list. Shankar was so disappointed and disheartened he seriously considered reverting to Hinduism and this greatly distressed his mother who spent much time in prayer for him. Then he heard that as an accepted student had failed to turn up he was to be given a place. The whole family spent a day rejoicing in prayer for this opportunity.

Shankar has just come to the end of his two years' training. His first year's expenses were met by a repayable church loan, his second was on an Auto-skills scholarship. On completion of his course he was to join Auto-skills staff as a junior mechanic on a starting salary of Rs100/- per month. Out of this he has three main expenses to meet, his own food and living expenses, repayment instalments of his church loan, and supporting his mother and younger brothers and sister.

“Shankar,” writes Malcolm Warner, “is the first person in his family to face the future on a regular wage and he has put every effort into his work, overcoming the difficulties of studying in English, sleeping in a bed and learning to live, work and play side by side with students from widely differing social backgrounds. His ambition is to see that his two younger brothers and sister also have a chance to get out of the circle of poverty, sickness and casual work which is the life of so many villagers today.”

(A news item from the Church Missionary Society).

SOME DATES TO NOTE

- Dec. 8.—11.00 a.m. Editorial Board (52, Park Road).
- „ 10.—Second Sunday in Advent and our DEDICATION FESTIVAL: Sunday services and other arrangements as usual.
- „ 12.—Quiet Evening, sponsored by the Hampton Council of Churches, in the Methodist Church, Percy Road, beginning at 8.00 p.m.
- „ 18.—Film, “Cathy Come Home,” in All Saints' Church Hall at 8.00 p.m.
- „ 21.—St. Thomas: Holy Communion at 9.00 a.m.; Parish Carol Singing from 7.00 to 9.30 p.m.

- .. 24.—Fourth Sunday in Advent and CHRISTMAS EVE: Sunday Services and Parish Breakfast as usual, with these additions and modifications: Baptism will be administered next Sunday afternoon instead of to-day; Evensong will be a short said service at 6.30 p.m. in quiet preparation for Christmas, and our observance of the Festival will begin with the Midnight Eucharist at 11.45 p.m. The Y.P.F. lead service at Laurel Dene at 5.15 p.m.
- .. 25.—CHRISTMAS DAY: Holy Communion at 8.00 a.m. and 12.00 noon; Parish and Family Communion at 9.30 a.m. — but **no** Parish Breakfast afterwards.
- .. 26.—St. Stephen: Holy Communion at 10.00 a.m.
- .. 27.—St. John: Holy Communion at 9.30 a.m., and at Laurel Dene at 10.00 a.m.
- .. 28.—Innocents' Day: Holy Communion at 9.30 a.m.
- .. 31.—Sunday after Christmas Day: Sunday Services and other arrangements as usual, with these additions and modifications; No Sunday Schools, but instead a Children's Christmas and Mime (parents and friends warmly welcome) at 11.00 a.m.; Baptisms at 4.00 p.m.; the adult members of St. James's lead service at Laurel Dene at 5.15 p.m.; and instead of Evensong there will be the traditional Festival of Lessons and Carols at 6.30 p.m.
- Jan. 1.—The Circumcision: Holy Communion at 9.0 a.m.
- .. 3.—2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union Christmas Entertainment (W).
- .. 13.—7.30 p.m. Parish Christmas Party — "Any Other Time" (H).
- .. 14.—6.30 p.m. Evensong, followed at 7.10 p.m. by discussion and refreshments in Wayside.
- .. 20.—5.00 p.m. Sunday School Outing to Pantomime "Give a Dog a Bone."

BAPTISMS

On October 22:

Claire Louise Garrett, 8, Links View Road.

Clare Maria Hewitt, 4, Sherwood Road.

Lance Richard Wintle, 167, High Street.

MARRIAGE

On October 28:

Alan Peter Thanisch to Margaret Elaine Bryant.

BURIALS

On November 6:

Bert William Want, 62, Windmill Road, aged 76 years (at Hampton Cemetery).

On November 23:

Ellen Mary Green, Flat 21, 179, Uxbridge Road, aged 83 years.