

## THE BISHOP'S QUESTIONS

The Bishop of Kensington will carry out a visitation of the Hampton Deanery on Friday, May 10, and in the evening there will be a conference for all members of Church Councils. At this reports will be given on questions previously discussed at one or two special sessions of each Council.

The questions which the Bishop has submitted to us are important ones that concern us all. The Vicar briefly commented on them at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, and we print them here because we think that people not on the Council might also like to consider them and make their views known. The Council will be holding two special meetings to discuss them (on April 8 and 25), and would welcome short memoranda on any points connected with them from anyone interested who would send them in beforehand.

The three questions are as follows:

1. There are twenty-five million people baptised in the Church of England, nine million confirmed, two million who attend Easter Communion.

How do you account for the fact that people sit so loosely to their church membership?

What action might be taken in the parish and in the church at large to make members more aware of their responsibility?

2. One hundred years ago there were 16,000 clergy ministering to sixteen million of the population. The population has now increased to nearly 54 million, but the clergy have increased only by two thousand.

[We have probably not so late figures as the Bishop has, but it is interesting to note that in 1951, the total number of clergymen was about the same as that mentioned — 18,196, of whom 2,134 were over 75: so it is fair to assume that the Bishop's figures may also include a large proportion of "retired" men — or are clergymen regarded as "on duty" until they die? In 1851, the total number was 16,194 (of whom 499 were over 75); in 1901, the highest total yet attained was recorded — 23,670 (1,389 over 75). The average of the clergy has been getting steadily higher.—Editorial Comment.]

Why do you think that fewer clergy offer themselves for ordination, and what can be done to meet the problem?

Are there ways in which the laity could be more involved with the clergy in the work and mission and administration of the church in the parish?

What is the distinctive role of the Christian laity in society as organised outside the life of the Church?

3. At the British Council of Churches' Faith and Order Conference at Nottingham in 1965 it was said that Christian Churches ought to do together everything except those things that they must do separately.

What is the extent of the relationship of your church with the ministers and people of other Christian denominations in the district?

What ought still to be done separately?

What could be done together?

The Churches at Nottingham also covenanted together to work for unity by 1980.

Do you think this desirable or possible, and what might be the effects on society as a whole of such reunion?

## HAMPTON AREA SHELTER GROUP

The meeting held on February 19 at All Saints' Church Hall to launch a local Shelter Group was a great success.

A short film was shown first showing a family who had been re-housed from a dreadful slum into a very pleasant flat. The mother's gratitude for these new surroundings was very moving indeed. Des Wilson, Director of Shelter, gave a stimulating address and questions were freely discussed afterwards. Names were taken of those wishing to be informed of future activities.

We are now able to tell them that owing to the generosity of the Hampton Methodist Church we are starting a monthly meeting in the small hall attached to the Church, Percy Road, on the first Wednesday of every month at 8 p.m. The first is on April 3. Please try to come along to these meetings and bring ideas for fund-raising.

Already a baby-sitting service has been started—the charge is 2/- an hour (minimum) and the number to ring is: 979-2997. Children can be left during the day with responsible "sitters" when necessary. (Same rates apply).

GLENYS SHARPE,  
(Joint Secretary with  
Miss Manley)  
Tel.: 979-4184.

## THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE

There will be a Games evening at Wayside on Tuesday, April 23 at 8 p.m. **COME ALONG AND TRY YOUR SKILL!** There will be something for EVERYONE!

**OUTING TO BEAULIEU.** Hampshire—the home of Lord Montague, on Saturday, May 25. This should provide a wonderful day out for the family—the Palace, house and gardens in a most delightful setting, together with the Abbey ruins. The Montague Motor Musuem, with its large collection of old and historical cars, is a great attraction for fathers and sons! The inclusive admission charge for the above is 4/- adults, 2/- children. There is a model railway, a Pullman coach and various museum pieces. Final details of the outing will be on posters, but it is expected that the coach will leave the church at 9 a.m. and return for about 7 p.m. There are refreshment facilities at Beaulieu, or packed lunches should be taken. Tickets will shortly be available at 15/- for adults and 9/- for children of 16 and under.

R.M.G.

## 1st HAMPTON HILL GUIDES

The Guide Company is small, consisting of about 15 Guides, most of whom are young, and all are enthusiastic. This year the Company should be celebrating its Golden Jubilee, and the Guides are planning all sorts of activities such as an Open Day, a party and outings. We are hoping to make the climax a special church service. Many of these activities will be in conjunction with the Brownies, who are just five months younger than we are.

The whole of the Guide Movement is just on the verge of a new venture in the form of a completely new programme, and we are all wondering just what is in store and how it will work. We are to have a Handbook each (the long awaited publishing date is March 18)

suggesting all sorts of activities to cover the eight points of the programme. The launching of the programme will be an additional highlight to our 50th year.

To dampen the excitement of this year there is, hanging over us the threat of closing down before the end of May, as I am shortly going to Canada for two years and there is no-one in sight to run the Company. If you would like to help (don't be shy, you need very little knowledge, just a little enthusiasm, love of youngsters and the capacity to go mad occasionally) or you know anyone with these talents who might be persuaded to give up one (or occasionally two) evenings a week for at least two years, please let me know as it would be a **GREAT SHAME TO CLOSE THE COMPANY DOWN ON THE VERGE OF THIS EXCITING YEAR.**

R. MILLS (979-6626).

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

Both meetings this year have been interesting. In January Mrs. Monica Heaford brought along a variety of lampshades, some simple, some very pretty, and showed us how to set about making them. At first glance it was most complicated, but the order of work was soon made clear, and Mrs. Heaford gave us many useful hints about types of material and colours which are suitable. She pointed out that this was a "fireside" hobby, therefore relaxing as well as rewarding.

For a successful film evening we have to thank Mesdames Bellingham and Brunt, whose technical skill solved the problems of the projector. The film of the National Trust parks showed us some beautiful stretches of countryside, finishing with the view from the top of Snowdon — if only the sun was always shining! After "Action for Skids," someone commented that similar instruction should be given to all drivers. This apparently can be arranged and if anyone who is interested would let the Chairman know, further enquiries will be made.

The theatre outing for April has been postponed since the local theatre have little to offer on that particular night. We meet at Wayside as usual.

K.B.

### **THE MOTHERS' UNION**

We have had two thought provoking talks given by Mrs. Lambert and the Vicar, both of which led to much discussion among those present.

The Diocesan Festival will be held at St. Paul's Cathedral on Tuesday, April 30, but this year the service will start half an hour later, at 7.30 p.m., instead of the usual 7 p.m. It is hoped that this later time will suit members better, and that many more will try to attend, all members of Branches and Young Wives' Groups are asked to bring husbands and children, and so make this a real Family Service. Mrs. Goymour (All Saints') is trying to organise a coach party from this end of the Deanery, if you have not yet booked a seat please let Mrs. Oliver or myself, have your name.

Our oldest member, Mrs. Button, has recently gone to live in Somerset. Although she has not been an active member for some years she has maintained a keen interest in the Mothers' Union, and it has always been a great pleasure to visit her. We all hope that Mrs Button will have many happy years in the West Country.

Shortly we shall be saying good-bye to Mr. and Mrs. Gilder, both of whom have been most helpful to the Branch. It is to Mrs. Gilder that we owe the idea of an Austerity Lunch on the Wednesday of Holy Week, and she has taken a great interest in Welfare work in both Deanery and Diocese. We shall miss them both, but our loss will be the gain of a Parish in the Midlands, and we hope that they will not sever their connection with St. James's Branch completely.

The Austerity Lunch will take place in Wayside on Wednesday, April 10, from 12 noon until 2 p.m. All profits will be given to Christian Aid, with special reference to refugees in Vietnam. Please come along and support such a worthy cause. I.V.R.

### **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK, MAY 13—MAY 18, 1968**

At a recent meeting of this Committee this year's project was decided "To help relieve distress in Vietnam." We have 7,000 envelopes—there are roughly 7,000 families in the area to be covered—we are trying to connect one envelope to each family—to accomplish this we must have HELPERS on the principle that "many hands make light work," and we are anxious to break down the work to such an extent that nobody is asked to do a great deal. WORK in this connection means people willing to deliver the Christian Aid envelopes and collect them a few days later—full of money we hope!

This house to house collection is organised by the Hampton Council of Churches made up of the Methodist and Congregational Churches combined with All Saints', St. Mary's and St. James'. We do not pretend that this is an exercise of fun and frolic, but we do say that it is practical Christian work in an effort to relieve real distress. About the only qualification is that a 'helper' must have attained the age of 16, beyond this only to be able to walk and to ring a door bell!

**MAKE UP YOUR MIND TO LEND A HAND** in this desperate and urgent cause. Names please to the undermentioned who are the representatives of St. James' on this Committee:

Mrs. Orton, 30, St. James's Road. Tel.: 979-5868

Mrs. D. Warwick, 52, Park Road. Tel.: 979-7004

AID goes to those in need regardless of creed or nationality and is dealt with on our behalf by members of the ASIAN CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE on the spot. It is through these teams that the concern of the Christian churches of the world will be expressed and given practical shape.

D.W.

### **MISSIONARY EXHIBITION & FILM SHOW**

Some of you will no doubt remember the very interesting talk with slides on "Life in Sarawak" given by the Rev. David Johnson, Vicar of St. John's Church, Sibuluan, Sarawak. His work as Vicar means that he is in charge of a Region extending outside Sibuluan which consists of small Jungle Villages often the people speaking a different dialect. He usually travels by Chinese boat as there are very few roads and stays the night either at The Longhouse or with the elder of the village. The next day he administers the Sacrament, hears the report from his Christian representative among the people and then on to the next village or perhaps the long journey home again.

When David came home on leave last year with his family they had been in Borneo just over three years, two had been spent in the

principal town of Kuching, attached to the Cathedral Staff and just over a year in Sibü. All of us who heard his talk were greatly impressed with the work being done in Sarawak and felt we would like to help in some way, and with this in view we are arranging an Exhibition with Film Show on FRIDAY, APRIL 26, at Wayside. This will take the form of a Coffee Morning and Evening, also a Bring and Buy Stall, and the Film will be shown at each Session.

M.J.C.

### SOME DATES TO NOTE

- Apr. 5/6.—8 p.m. Medieval Morality Play 'Everyman' (All Saints' Church).
- .. 6.—2.30 p.m. Young People's Fellowship: Jumble Sale (Hall).
- .. 7.—PALM SUNDAY. Palm Crosses at all services. 5.15 p.m. Y.P.F. lead service at Laurel Dene, and at 8.00 p.m. have their annual Open Evening at Wayside. 6.30 p.m. 'The Crucifixion' (Stainer) will be sung by an augmented choir in church.
- .. 8/9/10/11.—7.30 p.m. Holy Communion and short Address in church every evening.
- .. 8.—8.15 p.m. Parochial Church Council: The Bishop's Questions (W).
- .. 9.—10.00 a.m. Editorial Board (52, Park Road).
- .. 10.—12.00 noon until 2.00 p.m. Austerity Lunch (W).
- .. 12.—GOOD FRIDAY. 10.00 a.m. Children's Service; 12.00 noon until 3.00 p.m. The Three Hours' Devotion: Some Aspects of the Atonement and the Saving Work of Christ (it would help the congregation's meditations if they had Bibles available); 3.30 p.m. United Service in Wensleydale Road; 6.30 p.m. United Service in Trafalgar Square.
- .. 13.—9.00 a.m. onwards Decoration of the church for Easter; gifts of flowers and help in arranging them welcomed.
- .. 14.—EASTER DAY: Holy Communion at 7.00 a.m., 8.00 a.m., and 12.10 p.m.; Parish Communion at 9.30 a.m., followed by light breakfast at Wayside; Children's Service at 11.10 a.m.; Evensong at 6.30 p.m.; Young People's Fellowship at 8.00 p.m. (W).
- .. 15.—Members of the Young People's Fellowship leave in the early morning for their Easter holiday in Scotland.
- .. 22.—8.00 p.m. Committee of the Hampton Council of Churches (All Saints' Hall).
- .. 23.—8.00 p.m. Games Evening arranged by the Social Committee (W).
- .. 24.—8.00 p.m. Young Wives' Group (W).
- .. 25.—ST. MARK.—Holy Communion at 7.30 p.m.; Parochial Church Council at 8.15 p.m.—the Bishop's Questions and any urgent business (W).
- .. 26.—IN SUPPORT OF SARAWAK: 10.30 a.m.—12.00 noon and 8.00—10.00 p.m. Missionary Exhibition, Film (to be shown at 11.15 a.m. and 9.00 p.m.), Coffee and refreshments, and Bring and Buy Stall (W).
- .. 30.—7.30 p.m. Mothers' Union Diocesan Festival in St. Paul's Cathedral.

- May 1.—ST. PHILIP & ST. JAMES: Holy Communion at 7.15 a.m.; Mothers' Union at 2.30 p.m. Miss K. N. Dines speaks on life and work in Africa to-day (W).
- .. 3.—8.15 p.m. Liturgical Committee (33, Beech Way).
- .. 4.—B.P. Guild: Outing to Bulb Fields.
- .. 6.—8.00 p.m. Open Meeting with Speaker to prepare for Christian Aid Week (Congregational Church Hall).
- .. 8.—8.00 p.m. Quiet Evening, sponsored by the Hampton Council of Churches, in St. Mary's, Hampton.
- .. 10.—BISHOP'S VISITATION: 7.30 p.m. Choral Evensong for all members of Parochial Church Councils in St. Alban's Church, Teddington, followed at 8.15 p.m. by Conference in the Church Hall.
- .. 11.—Christian Aid Film to be shown throughout the day in the Congregational Church Hall.
- .. 12.—Christian Aid Film to be shown after Evensong—at 7.15 p.m.—in St. James's Church and at 8.00 p.m. in the Methodist Church.
- .. 13 to 18.—CHRISTIAN AID WEEK: House-to-house collection throughout the area.
- .. 16.—2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union Deanery Festival (All Saints', Twickenham).
- .. 18.—4.30 p.m. Laying of foundation stone of Bishop Wand School at Shepperton by Bishop Wand.

### BAPTISM

- On March 24 :  
Amanda Jane Hobbs, 5A, Staines Road West, Sunbury.

### MARRIAGES

- On March 9 :  
Esmond Nicholas Fernandes to Jennifer Anne Salisbury.  
John William Patch to Margaret Julia Kelly.
- On March 16 :  
Terence John Reddings to Susan Pauline Wells.
- On March 30 :  
Robin John Clarke to Jennifer Stanley.

### BURIALS & CREMATIONS

- On March 15 :  
Edward Harry Western, 35, St. James's Avenue, aged 76 years (at S.W. Middlesex Crematorium).
- On March 22 :  
Winifred Kathleen Una Mills, 79, Hollybush Lane (formerly of Uxbridge Road), aged 80 years (at Kingston Crematorium).
- On March 27 :  
Edith Marion Davies, 2, Newfield Close, Percy Road, aged 88 years.
- On March 27 :  
Edna Neave, 84, Myrtle Road, aged 71 years.  
(A short memoir of the life of Edward Western, former Churchwarden, will appear in the May issue of The Spire.)