

## EDITORIAL NOTE

Owing to pressure on space, mainly due to the large amount of matter which had to be held over from the April issue, we have not been able to include in this issue the account of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting or the in memoriam biography of our greatly esteemed former churchwarden Mr. E. H. Western.

### WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

For the whole 24 hours of Friday, March 1, the day on which the Immigration Bill against Asian holders of British Passports became law, women the world round kept international and interdenominational Day of Prayer with a Service that had been drawn up some months before by Christian women of Asia. It was their turn and they had asked Mrs. Rathie Salvaratnam of Ceylon to interpret their ideas and write for them. The theme chosen was, "Bear ye one another's burdens" (Galations 6:2) and there are a few remaining copies left at the back of the church for anyone to read what they wrote.

It was St. James's turn to hold the service for this area and a large congregation gathered in the afternoon to take part and hear Mrs. Rogers of Hanworth speak about the theme for the day. Most of this congregation belonged to one or other of the Anglican or Free Church Women's Meetings and needed no reminder that, explicitly or implicitly, the subject of the theme is in the nature of their calling and so Mrs. Rogers gave us a timely reminder that the will to do is not all. "Three times a year," she said, "we in our family have a problem about getting the boys' school trunk down the Rectory stairs," and she went on to use this trunk as an analogy for the burdens we meet.

Her youngest son would very much like to help but he wasn't strong enough and even with her assistance they would only bring disaster to the trunk, the staircase and probably themselves. With her next son the thing could be managed provided she took most of the weight and gave the directions. With her eldest son she could take the smaller part because he could take the weight and needed no directing. On the other hand her husband, if he were free, could do the whole job alone. The way with other people's burdens was to make sure that we were sufficiently equipped to help, that the help was directed to enabling the bearer to stand more firmly on her own feet, independent of our help (an idea already familiar to teachers and mothers) and particularly we should avoid getting in the way of the person's self-fulfilment in Christ.

Mrs. Rogers, a Rector's wife, is a Marriage Guidance Councillor and a Justice of the Peace, and I think we all felt the weight of experience and knowledge behind her remarks.

At the evening service Sister Siebold, a Deaconess of long standing now working at the Methodist Study Centre, gave us another aspect of this theme and one which proved complementary to what we had heard in the afternoon. She spoke of the insights required; the sharing of the burden by "sympathy" — the real "feeling with," not the words, the understanding, the involvement even when everything inside us said, "walk on the other side." She was talking about LOVE, the love that we have because it was first given to us by Christ who bore our sorrows and was acquainted with grief.

Even apart from Sister Siebold's personal contribution, her visit probably made an ecumenical landmark for this parish: it was the first

time that (a) a woman, and (b) a Methodist had had the Bishop's permission to preach from the pulpit of St. James's Church (I think that in fact, she would probably have preferred, as Mrs. Rogers did, to speak from the chancel steps, but some of us felt that such a chance to make history could not be lightly thrown away!).

### **AN OPEN LETTER TO THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

Halfway through the Valentine Dance as I was sitting at a table in the beautifully decorated Church Hall, which was almost unrecognisable with the soft light and hundreds of paper flowers in pinks, mauves and blues, interspersed with silver and gold hearts, I thought with real affection and gratitude of those who so faithfully and joyfully work for our enjoyment. Any newcomers must surely have thought "what nice, friendly folk these people of St. James's are, how plainly they like each other and how willing and delighted they are to extend friendliness to all comers."

I want to say thank you to all of you — for your success goes much farther than the obvious appreciation of the entertainment you provide — it touches the heart that so many cheerful, willing people are ready, so often, to spare no effort of thought, ingenuity and sheer goodwill for enjoyment. I felt happy to be a member of such a joyful fellowship, and I am sure I speak for many. Thank you — and God bless you!

An appreciative parishioner.

### **READ ALL ABOUT THE QUIZ**

On Tuesday, March 12, the Social Committee put on a new entertainment at Wayside. There were three teams representing the P.C.C., the Young Wives and Mothers' Union (for brevity described as "Mums"), and the Y.P.F. There were four members to each team.

There was a good audience which settled itself comfortably and with bated breath awaited the store of wisdom which would emerge from the eager contestants. Jack Gostling was in the Chair and put the questions to the teams, and Brian Reep who had devised the questions was scorer.

The questions covered a wide range of subjects and the first group quickly revealed who had read their Spire and who had not. Spelling confirmed that most of the teams were at least of "O" level standard, and there were few casualties under this heading. Nearly all the teams were pretty poor on sport and obviously do not share the same enthusiasm for this as Brian. However, who would have thought that an elegant Young Wife would be able to give the result of a Rugby International, and that the Vicar takes an avid interest in the fortunes of Leeds United? At this stage there was little in it between the P.C.C. and the "Mums" with Y.P.F. struggling valiantly in third place. Questions on entertainment, as one would expect, helped the Y.P.F. to narrow the gap and so the contest pursued its relentless course. All the time muttered interjections from the spectators indicated their ignorance or knowledge — one fairly glowed with satisfaction when the Question Master gave the answer and it coincided with your own.

At the beginning of the last round "Mums" were in an unassailable position, with the P.C.C. next and the Y.P.F. third, and this was the order of the result. The audience warmly applauded the teams, the Question Master for presiding, and Brian for the amount of research he had put into the questions. Tension was now at an end and all partook of coffee and chat together, which rounded off a very enjoyable evening.

R.W.

# **EMERGENCY HELP**

If you are in difficulties with no one to turn to,

telephone **977 1602**

**979 3666**

“Emergency Help” is a voluntary organisation offering free help

## **WILL CHRISTIAN UNITY BE A SHOTGUN MARRIAGE?**

This was the title of the lively Parish Discussion at Wayside on Sunday, March 10, organised by the Young People's Fellowship.

Seymour Harris introduced the subject, giving us an outline of the work that has been done to initiate Christian Unity over the last decade. Many of the churches are in conference and reports are continually being issued.

While we all have Christ as our axis, why are we all revolving around Him in our own concentric circles, where even churches of the same denomination do not always want to work together?

Where intercommunion is concerned, there are two schools of thought; one whose opinion is that intercommunion should be a result of Christian Unity, and the other who feels that intercommunion would be an aid towards unity.

We wondered if Christian Unity is being forced from outside the churches—are we too small and weak to continue on our own? Statistics show that congregations are getting smaller by tens of thousands every year.

Many people felt that they would not welcome a change in the routines and services to which they were accustomed. The majority of people wanted Unity but not Uniformity. A.P.S.

## **IN SUPPORT OF SARAWAK**

The ‘Missionary Event’ of April 26 gave us fresh insight into the lives of the people of Sarawak. It was most encouraging to see from the striking film how they were improving their lot and emancipating themselves from the grip of the money-lender by the formation of village-cooperatives. But they still have not much money to spare for the building of a church which can be the centre of Christian influence over a wide area, and this is a project dear to David Johnson's heart. It is to help him in this that the money we raised is to be used. David writes about it in a letter sent at the end of March;

We are well settled down again and work is progressing as well as can be expected with the shortage of manpower. I have visited 5 new longhouses since coming back and must somehow work out how I am going to minister to the people properly. Not so easy with all the other work.

About the church. It is to be built in a small chinese bazaar down river from Sibü. The bazaar is called BINATANG. It is too small to call a town but it is called such here. The population, including near by farms, is around 8,000. Some years ago the Govern-

ment gave land to the Anglican Christians for the purpose of building a church and a priest's house. The land has had nothing done to it since then through lack of money. The land is in a good position being just a little way from the shopping centre. The snag is that it is very swampy and is at the moment being used to grow padi (rice) on. You have probably seen pictures of rice farms before and will realise how wet it is. Owing to the land being so swampy the building of a church is going to be very costly. The swamp will have to be filled in with solid earth before any foundations can be laid. A provisional estimate is that the church will cost approximately £6,250. I hope we will in fact be able to build it for less than that, because I cannot see where on earth we can get that sort of money from.

Once the church is built it will serve the Chinese population of Binatang and if possible, services will be held in Chinese language. The church will also serve Sea Dayaks from nearby longhouses and may turn out eventually to be an important centre for many miles around. One day we hope to have a priest living in Binatang but so far there seems to be no possibility. There just aren't enough of them, or for that matter enough money to pay them if we had! We just go blindly on in faith and so far THAT hasn't let us down.

It is extremely good of the people of St. James' to make the effort they intend on behalf of the people of Binatang.

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So far we have raised about £11-10-0, but should like to make it up to at least £20 before we send off our first gift.

### **EMERGENCY HELP**

In the Magazine this month you will see for the first time a notice about an Emergency Help Service.

The Stewardship Committee has been thinking about the best way for St. James's to ensure that such a service is available in the Parish. Mrs. Leigh-Hunt has run a Service in Hampton most successfully for a number of years and has been most helpful in advising us.

The Stewardship Committee feels that it would be best to join the new Scheme covering part of Teddington and all Hampton Hill, which is organised by Mr. and Mrs. Williams.

The service's main aim is to provide help in emergencies, such as sudden illness of a parent of young children or of an elderly person, domestic upheaval, accident or the like. It can also help the old, handicapped and the lonely. Any help provided is of course free and confidential.

It is planned to distribute a card giving full details to every house in Hampton Hill.

The Stewardship Committee are very grateful to Mr. Williams for giving us the opportunity to join in this scheme and hope that in the future if the need should occur anyone who wants to will use the Service.

Mr. Williams feels that at the present they have enough voluntary help, but if anyone is particularly interested in helping they can obtain further details from Mrs. Severn or Mr. M. Robinson.

M.G.R.

## WHAT ARE OUR MOVIE MAKERS UP TO?

Having read some reviews of the X certificate film "Here we go round the mulberry bush" I was under the impression that it could prove interesting and perhaps worth seeing. Although I had not gained the idea that it was a film I MUST see, I allowed myself to be inveigled into accompanying a teenager.

On leaving the cinema upon enquiry I learned that the teenager had enjoyed it, but I had to say that I had not, in fact I thought it was a film "better left unmade"—the response to me then was "I didn't think you would like it," which left me wondering whether, contrary to my own opinion, I was just an old "fuddy-duddy"!

Now I must state that the cast consisted of virtually unknown youngsters who proved their acting ability without any doubt. Furthermore whilst their convincing performances created in me a fear for the susceptibilities of the young, the fictional creations of two sets of parents worried me even more—how true is much of it?

This last question is mainly the basis of my objection to this kind of permissive film. The view seems to be taken today in journalism, films, television that if things are known to happen in life, then why not portray it? It seems to be assumed that we do not want entertainment as such, or escapism (despite the fact that life today more than ever would seem to call for a little escapism for an hour or two). Must we have the worst kind of realism all the time? There are still real love romances, beautiful things all around us to see, family unity—oh, yes, these things still exist, but for entertainment (?) the most sordid, and otherwise unheard of sides of life are exploited, really crude language is accepted (as in this film, and others; Alf Garnett, etc., often in quite unnecessary situations). Such films are seen by young people at their most impressionable age, and one man said to me of this film "if young people are made to think that this is the way to live their lives they are heading for disaster!"

If realism is the order why not close-ups depicting people's less pleasant private and personal habits unrelated to sex—this too would be realism but not very commercial! No, sensationalism, the Box Office and misdirected "one-upmanship" is the objective. How much better to emphasize happy girl and boy romance, happy marriage—the beauty all around us, Nature in its changing seasons and its beauty all over the world—yes it is there, God-given, not to be depraved. If only it could be "got over" there is abundant happiness to be found in these things, as against the products of the much publicized permissiveness, unwanted children, disease, mental illness, insecurity, violence of all kinds which are encouraged by the present lowering of moral standards.

D.W.

### SOME DATES TO NOTE

- May 5.—8.00 p.m. Hampton Junior Council of Churches (Congregational Church Hall).
- .. 6.—8.00 p.m. Open Meeting "The Work of Christian Aid." Speaker: Miss D. Eeles, North London Area Organiser for Christian Aid (Congregational Church Hall).
- .. 7.—8.00 p.m. Stewardship Committee (106, Park Road); 8.15 p.m. Properties Committee (31, Wellington Road).
- .. 8.—8.00 p.m. Quiet Evening, sponsored by the Hampton Council Churches, in St. Mary's, Hampton.

- 9.—10.00 a.m. Editorial Board (52, Park Road).
- 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 a conference in the Church Hall.
- 11.—Christian Aid Film "The Hungry People" to be shown frequently throughout the day in the Congregational Church Hall, beginning at 10.30 a.m., with a late evening showing in All Saints' Church Hall.
- 12.—Film "The Hungry People" to be shown in St. James's Church after Evensong at about 7.15 p.m., and then in the Methodist Church at about 8.15 p.m.
- 13 to 18.—CHRISTIAN AID WEEK: House-to-house collection throughout the area.
- 15.—St. James's will be prayed for at all services in St. Paul's Cathedral: let us remember the Mother Church of the diocese and its work in our own prayers.
- 16.—2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union Deanery Festival Service in All Saints', Twickenham.
- 17.—8.00 p.m. Annual General Meeting of the Scout Group and its Supporters' Association (Hall).
- 18.—The Bishop Wand Church of England Secondary School, Sunbury-on-Thames, 4.30 p.m. Dedication and laying of the Foundation Stone by Bishop Wand.
- 21.—8.00 p.m. Parochial Church Council (W).
- 22.—8.00 p.m. Meeting of the Hampton/Hampton Hill Old People's Day Centre Association (Methodist Church Hall, Percy Road).
- 23.—ASCENSION DAY: 7.15 & 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion; 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion in St. Anne's Chapel (L.E.H.S.).
- 24.—8.00 p.m. "Towards Unity": Open Meeting sponsored by The Teddington Council of Churches (Baptist Church Hall, Church Road).
- 25.—Annual Diocesan Stewardship Conference (Holy Trinity Church Hall, Brompton); Outing to Beaulieu, arranged by the Social Committee; coach will leave the church at 9.00 a.m.
- 26.—6.30 p.m. Intending candidates for Confirmation are asked to attend Evensong and stay behind for a very short meeting afterwards.
- 28-31.—BISHOP OF KENSINGTON'S CLERGY CONFERENCE: All clergymen from the Kensington area of the diocese will be attending this conference at Bognor Regis, and emergencies will be dealt with by clergymen from the Willesden area.
- 29.—8.00 p.m. Young Wives' Group: Annual General Meeting (W).
- 30.—6.15 p.m. Coach leaves for USPG Rally in Albert Hall.  
Tickets 8/-
- June 2.—WHITSUNDAY: Sunday services as usual, with the addition of a Children's Service at 11.00 a.m., and a service at Laurel Dene led by members of the Young People's Fellowship at 5.15 p.m.