

RUNNING OUR CHURCH—AND YOU!

“Why don't they have 'brighter' services?”

“Why should (or shouldn't) they spend £5,000 on an organ?”

“What are they doing to welcome newcomers to the district?”

One often hears questions of this sort, usually in a more or less critical way, about any one of dozens of the things which go to make up the running of our parish Church. The odd thing is that many of the critics seem not to know (sometimes not even to want to know!) who 'they' are.

THEY, of course, are the Parochial Church Council, or P.G.C. comprising the Vicar, two Churchwardens, and 19 lay-people, men and women, who together are responsible for policy decisions affecting the day to day running of the parish. Five of them represent the parish at the conference of the Rural Deanery, and thus also have a say in wider Church matters.

THEY are elected by the members of the Electoral Roll: simply, the parish Church's list of voters. Anybody can be on the Roll who is

(a) over seventeen years old.

(b) a member of the Church of England,

(c) either resident in the parish, or has for the last six months habitually attended worship in it.

THEY are elected for a term of one year at the Annual Church Meeting. At the A.C.M., in addition to the election of the P.C.C., full reports on the fabric and finances of the parish Church, and of its work in the preceding year, are presented. (To help discussion, full written reports, and the Accounts, are available a week or so before the meeting.) In addition, matters of parochial or general Church interest may be raised and discussed.

So much for “them”—what about YOU?

Well, if you're interested, and not too timid (“will it commit me to something?”) and not too apathetic, you could put your name on the Electoral Roll. You have to fill in a form (of course) and to have a say in this year's P.C.C., you'll have to do it before the end of February.

Then you *could* come to the A.C.M.—it's on Wednesday, March 19—and help decide *who* will run things, and *how*. And if you're *really* interested, you might even accept nomination to the P.C.C.: apart from being over 21 and a Communicant member of the Church, no other qualification is needed.

From one of 'THEM'—Over to YOU!

SHELTER

It was in April of last year that we had our first meeting of the Hampton-area Group. This area includes Hampton Hill and Teddington. We expressed our hope that we might be able to house one family by the end of the year, i.e. collect £325. We are very happy to announce that by the end of our last meeting in January of this year we had just passed the £975 mark which means that we have been able to house 3 families. This had been collected in many different ways throughout the year, through coffee parties; garden-parties; whist-drive; musical evenings; a Youth Walk (which happened to be on the very Sunday when the “floods” started but which nevertheless collected £104). The House-to-House collection in Shelter Week brought in £500 from this area and finally in December, carol singing, a children's play-group while mothers went Christmas shopping, and the sale of Christmas Cards brought in over £87. Friends have sent generous gifts

and by the time this goes to print I think it will be safe to say that we will have reached the £1000.

The Baby-sitting Rota brought in a steady "income" for Shelter and is now well known in Hampton and also the one which operates in Teddington. Can anyone help us by offering to come on the rota? Saturday evening is an especially difficult evening. Mrs. Williams is now taking the requests by phone over the next three months. (Tel.: 979-7341).

Our members from Surbiton are now starting their own Shelter group in Surbiton and we are going over to help them in their first meetings to tell them of our experiences.

There is a Shelter Youth Campaign being organised for 1969 by the Shelter Headquarters. It consists of competitions and schemes and appeals especially for schools but also families and clubs could collect halfpennies or be a "tycoon" and start with 2/6 capital and enlarge it. What about it? A group of school-children in Surrey raised £600 this way in a fortnight!

Young people, we need you! Can you come and join us and support us with your ideas and enthusiasms? Please contact me, Belinda Manley—Tel.: 979-2732.

(Editorial Note: St. James's sent £20 direct to Shelter in 1968).

HAMPTON JUNIOR COUNCIL OF CHURCHES STUDY WEEKEND

From January 3—5 we held our first study weekend entitled 'Living with Christ.' Despite the appalling frost and fog, we all arrived on the Friday evening at New Park, the old house near Guildford which the J.C.C. have almost 'adopted.'

As soon as everyone had established himself and his bedding (no beds—just the floor), we saw the extraordinarily moving film by Paolo Pasolini "The Gospel according to S. Matthew." During the first discussion session next morning we discovered the varied impacts this film had made upon us. Many were pleased to see Christ portrayed as young, and lacking the usual flowing beard. He was a human being—a man capable of anger, albeit an anger which was emphatic and controlled. We also saw that Christ was a man among other men but alone and possibly proud in several ways. With these ideas in our minds we could easily see what sort of reception Christ would get if he walked into our churches now. After all, in his time Christ was a revolutionary and a pest to the authorities. What happens to us if we follow his example?

In the second session Mr. Mackinnon, from the Congregational Church, Hampton Hill, talked about Christ in our working lives and how our reactions to work and the way we treat other people in our jobs is a test of faith.

In our discussion everyone agreed that it was far easier to be a Christian among Christians but that as soon as one got to work one did not feel able to talk about the faith except when asked.

After all this exhausting chat and a hearty meal we had a free afternoon and took to the country around, on foot.

The evening session was led by Raymond Draper who we must also thank for organising a marvellous bookstall. His talk was concerned with 'Christ in our private lives.' He told us that before everything we must want to be forgiven for our sins. Then we must be willing to allow Christ to enter our lives with complete acceptance.

Before breakfast on Sunday morning we all gathered to take part in a Communion service taken by the Methodist Minister of Godalming.

The session in the morning was led by Janet Lodder and Peter Woods and was about 'Christ in our Social Lives.' Between them they managed to pose many difficult questions. Our discussion produced lots of clashing ideas, especially about the morals of today. We all thought that the Church and the older generation were wrong in claiming that morals today are worse than they have ever been. We felt that they are just the same but are talked about more openly and more often.

We unanimously decided that our first priority was to God, although there was doubt as to whether we really do put God first.

In the afternoon we had a summing up session but we must have talked ourselves to a standstill for there was little left to say except that it had been very worthwhile and, we hope, the first study weekend of many.

CAROLINE EUSTACE,
Chairman H.J.C.C.

Communion Together

Early one winter morning,
A garden carved in hoar-frost
Under a cold moon;
In an old half-timbered house
Young people meet for worship,
Worship that is sadly called
"Inter-communion."
Very little "between" these :
Here they have stayed together,
Eaten and worked,
Talked, played midnight games,
Come as one in prayer.
Tyres crunch on frosty gravel,
Voices greet the celebrant
Who has come to serve
This well-assorted band.
In a panelled room,
Soft lit, a little dingy,
They sit in readiness.
The minister wears white bands,
His Wesleyan gown is dark against
The pale light through the lattice.
All clasp hands in peace,
All receive the bread and wine.
In such a place as this
It is not hard to hear
Hoofs upon the gravel,
A priest in Popish dress,
A little door left open
To aid a quick retreat,
No fear now, for
Though no bishop gave his blessing,
The State no longer cares.
But in this meeting, too,
Perhaps some flouting of intolerance.

J.H.R.

Child's Comment at Communion:

She looked up at the tiny window high above the arch. "Is that an angel up there?"

"No, it's a dove pointing downwards. It's supposed to be the Spirit of God."

"I see. It's diving down, and it's going to crash upon the altar, break into pieces and fall upon all the people at Communion and make them good."

K.R.

THE SCOUT GROUP

Instead of the usual Christmas Party this year, about 50 Scouts, Cub Scouts and helpers practically took over the front stalls of the Richmond Theatre on New Year's Day. The boys thoroughly enjoyed the Pantomime and signified their approval and otherwise of the various "relations" of Aladdin in no uncertain manner.

This month the Group attained its majority, and to celebrate same a 21st Birthday Party was organised. Invitations were sent to people who had had connections with the Group over the years, present members of the Organisation and their parents, members of the Supporters' Association and the B.P. Guild. Although a Programme had been arranged it was almost impossible to adhere to it, people just wanted to renew old friendships and talk to one another.

We were very pleased to have with us Derrick and Doris Stevens; our present District Commissioner and his wife, also Freddie De Graaf, our D.C. in the old Hampton days. Grey Wolf (Doris Stevens) presented Thanks Badges on Akela's recommendation to three parents who had helped him considerably at the last 3 Camps, i.e. Mr. & Mrs. Lambert and Mrs. Olesker.

A super Birthday Cake was made by Hathi (Yvonne Childs), but unfortunately even after a search party had been sent out, our first G.S.L. George Casey could not be located, so to everyone's relief the Cake was cut by Skip assisted by the smallest Cub.

From reports received the party was a great success owing no doubt to the efforts of Mollie Saunders and her ladies who so admirably dealt with refreshments, Geoff Dorsett and his helpers at the Bar, not forgetting our M.C. Les Lambert. Also the C.W.F. Drama Group from Sunbury who put on a very pleasant entertainment.

GUIDES' 50th ANNIVERSARY

Guiding in Hampton Hill celebrated its Golden Jubilee in 1968, and to mark this important occasion the Guides and Brownies of 1st Hampton Hill held a thanksgiving service in church on Saturday, November 23. A large number of parents and friends, representatives of other companies, also past and present District Commissioners, and of course the Guides and Brownies themselves attended the service.

In an appropriate and thoughtful address the Vicar congratulated the Company on its long and successful career, and spoke of the ways in which the Christian spirit of jubilee had spread in the past 50 years, bringing greater freedom to girls and women; Guiding itself had been part of this great liberating movement.

After the service a tea was held in the Parish Hall. The birthday cake was cut by the newest Brownie and short speeches of congratulation were made by visitors. A cable from a former Brown Owl, Mrs. D. Pope, now resident in Australia, was read, and also a cable from Ruth Mills, now working in Canada.

Our thanks to all who helped make the afternoon such a success, including the Mums who prepared the tea, and the Brownies and Guides for the way they looked after their guests during tea.

THE MOTHERS' UNION

Our meeting on January 1 took the form of a Christmas Entertainment, and we were delighted to welcome many visitors. We began with some carols, and this was followed by a puppet show put on for us by Mrs. Brunt and her helpers from the Kindergarten Sunday School. We saw some puppet children learning the meaning of Christmas, and in another scene being told by the Vicar (puppet!) about Epiphany. This was very much enjoyed by everyone (including the puppeteers by the sounds from off-stage!) Our grateful thanks to everyone who helped to make the afternoon such a success.

PARISH PARTY

The annual Parish Christmas Party was held in January, and was a happy and light-hearted affair, patently enjoyed by all present. This event is becoming more and more a family occasion and it was good to see everyone joining in, from the young to the not-so-young.

The refreshments and supper were much appreciated, and congratulations and thanks to our hard-working Social Committee for a very pleasant evening.

IN MEMORIAM

The passing of Mrs. Dorothy Coxon is the loss of a good friend—one of her greatest attributes was that she could be relied upon to be always kind—no moods—always ready to listen. She was courageous, never really complaining, although over several years now she had suffered considerably. These qualities brought out the best in others—her many friends willingly helped her for she never “expected” anything, gave generously of affection, and was grateful for kindness shown to her.

Her passing reminds one of her husband (Alf) and his good work for St. James's. Those whose memories go back far enough to when he was a member of the P.C.C. know of the expertise he brought to the benefit of the church.

Dot's Lincolnshire accent was pleasant to listen to: she will be greatly missed by all who knew her well and our sympathy goes out to her one sister.

D.W.

Members of our congregation were shocked to learn of the sudden death of Mr. J. H. M. Whitton whose funeral service took place on Thursday, February 6th. A wonderful tribute was paid to his memory by the Rev. N. S. Pollock, a friend of long standing, who gave the address. He spoke of Mr. Whitton as a gentleman in the real sense of the word, who took his Christian principles into the world of business, and was highly respected everywhere.

In this parish we knew him as a devoted son, husband and father, very proud of a young grand-daughter. Of late he had appeared on the Readers' Rota, and it was always a joy to hear him declaim the Lessons; he was well known as an accomplished amateur actor. His sidesman's duties were carried out most punctiliously. His smiling presence will be missed by all who came into contact with him.

Our sympathy goes out to Mrs. Whitton and Michael in their great loss.

I.V.R.

EDITORIAL NOTE

The publication of this magazine has been greatly delayed because of shortage of copy—a number of expected articles failed to arrive. The situation has only now (Feb. 11) been remedied after much telephoning and other time-consuming efforts by the members of the much-depleted Editorial Board. It would be a great help if people who have promised articles, or want particular items included in the magazine, could get them written in time for the monthly Board meeting, or at the latest four days later (in this case a note to the Board that they are on their way would be appreciated). We hope that the March issue will be published at the right time—about a week after the appearance of this!—on Friday, February 28. But we cannot guarantee dates of future issues without wider support and more reliable cooperation!

SOME DATES TO NOTE

- Feb. 17.—8.00 p.m. Hampton Council of Churches: Meeting with Mr. Foster Murphy, Secretary of the Youth Department of the British Council of Churches, about Youth Mission. All who care about young people and the Christian Faith warmly invited (All Saints' Hall, Hampton).
- .. 18.—7.45 p.m. Newcomers' Party—by invitation (W).
- .. 19.—ASH WEDNESDAY: Holy Communion at 7.15 a.m. in church; 8.30 a.m. in St. Anne's Chapel (L.E.H.S.); 10.00 a.m. at Laurel Dene. Mothers' Union Service in Wayside at 2.30 p.m.; Evening Meeting to introduce the Lent Course 'Live with Style' at Wayside at 8.00 p.m.
- .. 23.—5.15 p.m. St. James's leads service at Laurel Dene.
- .. 24.—St. Matthias: 9.00 a.m. Holy Communion; 8.00 p.m. Drama Group (40, Gloucester Road).
- .. 25.—8.00 p.m. Parochial Church Council (W); Tuesday Club (W).
- Mar. 7.—10.30 a.m. Editorial Board (43, Wellington Rd.); WOMEN'S WORLD OF PRAYER: Services at 3.00 and 8.00 p.m. in the Congregational Church.
- .. 19.—8.00 p.m. ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (Parish Hall, School Road).

BAPTISMS

- On January 26 :
Andrew Joseph Chatterton, 56, Myrtle Road.
Martine Amanda Jane Luff, 46, Myrtle Road.

BURIAL AND CREMATIONS

- On January 10 :
Jack Winnington Clark, 33, Cranmer Road, aged 64 years (at S.W. Middlesex Crematorium: ashes interred in the churchyard on January 14).
- On January 15 :
Ronald Arthur Parker Hogbin, Firlie House, Park Road, aged 60 years (at S.W. Middlesex Crematorium).
- On January 23 :
Dorothy Primrose Coxon, 33, Wellington Road, aged 65 years.
- On February 6 :
Joseph Henry MacKay Whitton, 55, Burton's Road, aged 60 years (at S.W. Middlesex Crematorium).