

LAY TRAINING, MISSION AND RENEWAL

This autumn will provide various opportunities for helping us to become better equipped for mission and ministry, and to take our part in the much-needed renewal of the Church.

There is a course at Hounslow Centre for Adult Education (Hounslow Manor School, Holloway Street, off Hounslow High Street) on Tuesday evenings from September 30 to November 4, on Christian Unity, with distinguished lecturers from the Roman Catholic, Anglican and Methodist Churches. The fee is 12/6.

Lee Abbey, after its year of 'Mini Weekends' in different parts of the country, is returning to the old pattern of larger gatherings in well-known conference centres. The first one will be at High Leigh from November 21 to 23. It is intended to be a time when people can really get to grips with the Christian's main enigma — how to keep the two great commandments in tension: how to love God with everything we have, but also to love our fellow men as much and as practically as we care about ourselves. The Weekend is being called 'Up and Out' — not 'Down and Out,' which might sound a little more familiar! It will concern itself with the deepening of our own individual fellowship with God, and also what we can do in our own local situations to give more vital evidence of the fact that we are Christ's Body energised by His Spirit.

It may be that this Lee Abbey venture will clash with a non-residential weekend to be arranged locally (non-residential in the hope that more people, especially those with young children and family claims, might be able to come than if we went away to some pleasant house in the country). The main purpose of this gathering will be to inaugurate an ecumenical renewal group in this area. The Hampton Council of Churches accepted its mission committee's recommendation that such a group should be set up, and asked each member-church to give serious consideration to the matter and decide whether it would co-operate or not. Our Church Council has already done this and approved, but we may not know what some of the other churches think until the end of September.

The Diocesan Council for Mission and Unity is also making its plans, and we quote from a letter recently received entitled 'Stewardship and Mission':

'We have considered carefully the way in which Stewardship parishes might go on to develop their programmes after the phase concerned with money and, while we have established a clear pattern for parishes just launching programmes, more attention needs to be given to those who began some time ago.

'Our experience in lay training shows that the best use of our staff is in building up a team of people who can help us to develop training-groups at the local level, and as a first step in this process we intend to arrange a course in the autumn which will be concerned primarily with functions of leadership and processes involved in personal relationships in small groups. We shall aim to see that those taking part are helped to become increasingly aware of the needs of others and more sensitive to the position they occupy as leaders in this kind of programme.'

The provisional dates are for five successive Mondays from October 6 to November 3, and the subjects expected to be covered are: How

small groups work; functions of leadership; dealing with pressures and opposition; how to examine problems; the use of role-playing; using biblical resource-material; studies in personal relationships within groups. It is hoped that at the end of the course people will be in a position to build up a programme in their own or other parishes in which lay people may consider such issues as the mission of the Church today, the place which lay people have in this, plans for future action, and so on. Such courses as this are not new, but most of them hitherto have been residential, and this one—to be arranged at an easily-accessible centre (or centres)—should meet a long-felt need.

I think that the fact that there are all these opportunities—and others which have not been mentioned: there are enough here to be going on with!—is most encouraging, and is evidence of an awakening in the Church and that it is beginning to face up to the fact stressed at Uppsala, that it desperately needs renewal. Let us at St. James's play our full part in all this—and if you feel that you would like to attend one of these courses, please talk to the Vicar or one of the members of the Stewardship or Liturgical Committees.

Since writing this, we have heard that a group of our young people who have been meeting regularly amongst themselves, now want to open their meeting to all in the parish who are concerned about renewal and the deepening of the spiritual life and who would care to join them. They will be meeting every Wednesday from 8.00 to 9.30 p.m. for prayer and bible study in the vestry.

ANGLICAN-METHODIST UNITY

At its meeting on July 15, after a good discussion, the following resolution was unanimously passed by our Parochial Church Council:

‘This Council, regretting the insufficient majority in favour of the scheme for Anglican-Methodist unity, wishes to associate itself with that majority, and would urge that the Church of England should without delay officially extend an unrestricted invitation to Methodists and other baptised Christians to the Holy Communion at Anglican altars whenever they desire.’

We are far from alone in taking this position, and though we do not want to follow the example of some parishes and act independently and uni-laterally in this matter—because we are under authority—we do hope that authority will act speedily, for otherwise we can see that a great strain will be put on the loyalty of many. Copies of the resolution are being sent to the Diocesan Bishop and the Bishop of Kensington

IN MEMORIAM: EDWARD VINCENT BECKETT

Edward Beckett was a man of high principle and honour, with great devotion to duty, who made his mark as churchwarden at a very difficult period: the old vicar's health was failing, and he was frequently unable to officiate. Many unexpected responsibilities piled on him, and he did a great deal to keep up the morale of the congregation and hold them together to welcome and help the new vicar when he came.

He had a bad heart-attack a few years ago, and a second one, on Tulse Hill station, proved instantly fatal. We have assured his wife and daughter of our great sympathy, and offer thanks with them for

one who was not only a wonderful husband and father, but also one who fought a good fight and kept the faith and has now finished his course.

ENTERPRISES NEEDING HELP

SUNDAY SCHOOLS will re-open on September 7.

The Kindergarten is under-staffed for its present methods. A neighbouring Sunday School has 40 teachers who meet regularly for preparation as well as for class work on Sundays.

I should be glad to hear of confirmed members of the parish who could help with group work or with puppets. And can you suggest anyone who could be approached to take charge or share charge of this section? It is really necessary to do quite a lot of preparation for each of the three sessions and a monthly teacher's preparation meeting is essential.

WEL-care, SHELter and SAve-the-Children Fund (WELSHELSA!)

If you are moved to compassion by someone's telling you about the work of Save-the-Children you are probably similarly moved about Wel-care and Shelter. All three of these have been very much in the minds of M.U. and Tuesday Club these last few months. If we are to have separate working-parties and appeals we are likely to find some overlap of plans. So I thought it would be a good idea if we could make a joint effort.

I have spoken to the parish organisers for the three and they have agreed. At present there is a plan for a one-day effort to start things off. It has been difficult to fix a suitable date but this will probably be Wednesday, September 10, in the Vicarage Garden where morning coffee, afternoon tea and possibly evening coffee will be served and information will be available. There will be stalls for out-grown children's clothes and for second hand children's books. IF you can offer to help, please ring 979 2069.

CHILDREN'S CRECHE AT WAYSIDE: If you would like to see this revived (during the Parish Communion) and would be willing to take your turn on a rota of helpers, please get in touch with Mrs. Corner, 12, Cross Street (979-8542).

C.H.B.

THE THIRD HAMPTON HILL BROWNIE-GUIDE PACK

The last six months have been full of activity, and the pack has been kept busy with badges and ventures. It is now at full strength, and has a waiting-list. On June 7, all the packs in the Hampton District, in the guise of peaceful Red Indians, piled into buses and went singing all the way to Heyswood for the fun and games of the annual Brownie Revels, honoured by a visit from the County Commissioner, Mrs. MacDonald. At the swimming-gala at Hampton Baths the pack did very well, coming second in all events.

The pack has been regular in its attendance at the monthly parade service, and its main venture was to entertain the Forget-me-not Club:

the poem which follows was sent as an expression of thanks. (N.B. Meetings begin again in the Hall on August 28, at 5.45 p.m.).

Once more Thursday came along
and off we went to Hampton Hill
This day to listen to some song
Sung by Brownies with a will,
Their Brown Owl ranged them in a ring!
upon the floor they squatted down
and one and all began to sing
their voices going up and down,
How nice to see their fresh young faces
full of laughter, full of glee
as they were put through their paces,
of nerves and shyness so free.
Songs and rounds and little plays—
it was so beautiful to see
how their eyes gave out the rays
of sunshine which all children have.
Brown Owl too was very sprightly —
never once did she look grave as
on her feet she danced so sprightly.
Looking round the old folk there
I felt that this was really grand
that even little ones could share
the joy that filled this little band.
How nice to know that young ones too
came from their homes to give their time
to give some pleasure to a few
By song and dance and a little mime.
The end came to us all too soon
but in between we must remember
the lady who with voice so strong
even though not a member
had volunteered to come along.
Her monologues were very sweet,
One wondered how she learned them all;
they held us all glued to our seat —
to her perhaps a service small,
But to us who'd lived so many years
the songs and tales from young and old
had been sweet music to our ears,
and so I feel it should be told;
for after all the song and fun
the Brownies without any fuss
brought along tea and a bun
for each and every one of us.
So to show our thanks for a time so jolly —
one we will not soon forget —
we all say Thanks to Brown Owl Ollie
for the best afternoon we've had as yet!

THE TUESDAY CLUB

It was a fine evening for our outing on 1st July, and the mystery tour took us round Windsor and on to Runnymede. Here, with our husbands, we climbed up through the woods to see the Kennedy Memorial and the Magna Carta Memorial, or merely strolled along the river bank. It was surprising how many of us admitted it was our first visit.

Then off we went to the Edwardian splendour of the Moore Place Hotel in Esher where supper had been ordered (no mystery about that!). We had a very enjoyable meal and returned very contented, if rather late, to Hampton Hill.

That was the last meeting for the summer. The next will be on September 16. The Tuesday Club is now a recognised Church Group and plans are going ahead for the winter. K.B.

SAINT JAMES'S TIDE

The Sunday of our Patronal Festival was very enjoyable. A beautiful warm summer-day, just right for 'Family Afternoon Tea' on the Vicarage lawn — and what a sumptuous repast it was! There seemed to be nearly a hundred people present, including children of all ages and sizes whose presence added greatly to the liveliness and gaiety of the scene. The day was rounded off with Evensong, joyously sung, and a striking sermon by the vicar on the Christian's apostolic vocation to be salt, not sugar or jam, to the world.

ROUNDERS MATCH

The Rounders match held at the School Road Recreation ground on June 20 between the young people and the rest of the Parish proved very entertaining. The youngsters won by 12 rounders to 6, the chief scorer for the Parish being their captain, Mr. Maddox, who understood the rules! The other members of his team were somewhat hampered by the "help" of their offspring, but one of the umpires made a good catch when a younger player landed in his lap.

Excellent refreshments provided by the Social Committee were most welcome, particularly the coffee, on a very chilly and un-June-like evening. P.W.

SON ET LUMIERE

Tickets for "Son et Lumière" at St. Paul's Cathedral on September 19, are going fast: the coach will leave the Church at 7.15 p.m. and the cost inclusive of admission is 17/-. Please contact any member of the Social Committee for tickets.

HARVEST SUPPER

The Harvest Supper will be held on Thursday, October 2. As there will not be a service beforehand this year, the supper will start earlier — time to be announced later. We have booked those talented artistes "The St. James's Drama Group" to entertain you after the supper — a grand evening for 5/- only. R.M.G.

SERVICES IN AUGUST

There will be no meetings of the Sunday School in August, but the Young People's Fellowship will meet as usual at Wayside on Sunday evenings. Other arrangements will be as usual except on Sundays, August 10 and 17. On August 10 there will be Parish Communion at 9.30 a.m., followed by the usual light refreshment in Wayside, and Evensong at 6.30 p.m., but no service at 8.00 a.m. On August 17 the only service will be Evensong at 6.30 p.m.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

- Aug. 5.—8.00 p.m., Liturgical Committee (90, Ormond Drive).
.. 13.—Visitors' Day at Cub-Scout Camp on Hayling Island.
.. 25.—10.30 a.m., Editorial Board and Magazine Committee (34, Burton's Road).
.. 25.—29: Children's Holiday Week (Teddington Baptist Church).
Sept. 6.—3.00 p.m., Old People's Welfare Committee: Market Medley and Garden Fete (Laurel Dene). N.B. St. James's has undertaken to supply a cake stall, and if you can supply some home-made cakes for this occasion we shall be glad if you would let Mrs. Orton or Mrs. Rockliffe know.
.. 7.—Sunday Schools re-open.
.. 10.—'WELSHELSA' in Vicarage Garden; 2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union service in church.
.. 12.—10.30 a.m., Editorial Board (34, Burton's Road); 8.00 p.m., Stewardship Committee (106, Park Road).
.. 15.—8.15 p.m., Properties Committee (151, Uxbridge Road).
.. 16.—8.00 p.m., Tuesday Club re-opens (W).
.. 17.—8.00 p.m., Parochial Church Council (W).
.. 19.—7.15 p.m., Coach leaves for Son et Lumière at St. Paul's Cathedral.
.. 22.—8.00 p.m., Ruridecanal Conference: Speaker — Sally Trench (St. Mary's Hall, Twickenham).
.. 27.—2.30-9.00 p.m., ST. JAMES'S OPEN DAY.
.. 28.—HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICES.
N.B.—Every Wednesday evening, from 8.00 to 9.30 p.m., a Prayer and Bible Study Group, open to all, will be meeting in the Vestry.

BAPTISM

On July 27:

Miranda Charlotte Rebecca Bunce, 222, Uxbridge Road.

INTERMENT OF ASHES IN CHURCHYARD GARDEN OF REST

On June 8:

Jessie Louise Straw, 60a, French Street, Sunbury-on-Thames (died June 1967), aged 89 years.

On July 25:

Bertha Elizabeth Drew, 18, Cranmer Road (died October 1965), aged 84 years.