

THOUGHTS

Well Lord, your Church is excessively afraid,
Timid to the point of no return.
Braving nothing, bearing nothing, hoping no things at all,
For pastors fear to lose their fattened flock
And will not challenge, will not lead unto unknown ways;
And no one sits uneasy in their padded pew.

Aye Lord, your Church is excessively afraid
Of men.

We seek to bolster up your Church
With covenants restrictive,
Patchwork plans for unity,
And no one looks beyond to starving men.

Aye Lord, your Church is excessively afraid,
And so by turn has lost the world,
And now is salted by the world
Illuminated by men's darkness
And no-one sees above the hovering dove.

And this Church is perfectly afraid
For perfect fear has cast out love.
And fear of men replaced
The fear of God, and twittering,
The Gospel.

And this excessive fear of death,
This tight clutching and withdrawal
And this close guarding of our faith
This fear of losing love
Reveals we have forgot
That hilltop revel.

For we are excessively afraid
Of truth from Calvary :
That he who seeks to gain his life
Must lose it,
And he who seeks to live
Must die.

If only your Church were excessively afraid
Of You.

We would not dare to hold our silence in the world.
Yet we have strapped You to our padded cross
And gagged You, which is worse.
How long before the Third day ?

RAYMOND DRAPER.

IT SHOULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED

A mother with her small son in a pushchair and her niece quietly returning home after shopping one morning and then "IT" did happen. The anguish which Mr. and Mrs. Ives have had to suffer has made itself felt throughout our Parish; conscience has been aroused and we are now determined to take action—pray God our efforts may be successful.

I wrote to our Member of Parliament, Mr. R. Gresham Cooke, C.B.E., asking for his help and guidance as a matter of urgency and received a reply by return of post, making some useful suggestions and

assuring me of his help. I have also written to our Mayor, Mr. David Harris, and Councillor Mr. Tom Scott, both of whom I am sure will do all in their power to help.

Urgent consideration must be given to the following :

- (i) the erection of really effective signs at appropriate points in Uxbridge Road; although there are existing signs these do not adequately attract the attention of drivers. I have in mind "WARNING — ACCIDENT BLACK SPOT AHEAD";
- (ii) Diverting traffic routed to London Airport and the M.4 and in reverse Gatwick Airport and the South to other routes and the removal of the existing signs;
- (iii) a clear statement about the future plans for the use of Uxbridge Road.

G. I. ROBINSON,
Churchwarden.

HAMPTON/HAMPTON HILL OLDER CITIZENS' CENTRE ASSOCIATION

The object of the Association is the provision of a Day Centre which will afford recreation, companionship, comfort and a midday meal at a subsidised price for elderly persons resident in Hampton/Hampton Hill.

The project is wholeheartedly supported by the London Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames who have placed a site at the disposal of the Association. It therefore falls to the Association to raise the money for the erection of the building by public subscription and to manage the Centre when the project is realised. That cannot be achieved without help from you all.

Local authorities and medical opinion hold the view that deterioration in the condition of elderly people, with the accompanying symptoms of reluctance to care for themselves, is arrested if they are assisted to participate in normal activities. Only too often they are inclined to lead a solitary life and slowly withdraw into a world of their own.

There will, of course, always be some elderly people who, by reason of physical incapacity, are literally housebound. The sole solution to their plight is for them to be visited regularly by volunteers and to be served by "Meals on Wheels." It is expected that these services will operate from the projected Centre.

Ours is an Association which includes representatives of Hampton Old People's Welfare Association, Hampton Hill Old People's Welfare Committee, Hampton Tenants' Association, The British Red Cross Society and the W.R.V.S. The Hampton/Hampton Hill Older Citizens' Centre Association is an independent body and in no sense supplants the work done by any of these organisations.

The keynote of the undertaking is the **participation** of you all in a rewarding cause. You can help in many different ways and the more of you there are, the less there will be for each one of you to do.

Establishment of such a Centre will avert the disruption of elderly people's lives and obviate the need for the provision of residential accommodation by the Corporation.

Further information about our project can be obtained from Mr. J. W. Leigh-Hunt (Tel.: 979-2897), or Councillor George Kenton (Tel.: 979-4712).

RICHMOND UPON THAMES CHURCHES HOUSING TRUST LIMITED

EXTRACTS FROM THE SECRETARY'S HALF-YEARLY REPORT, JULY 1969

I am writing to all members and friends to give an up-to-date report on our progress and activities.

In the first place we are very pleased to say that the tenants of our first property (at 2 Park Avenue, S.W.14) are in occupation and seem most happy with their accommodation in four self-contained bed-sitter flatlets, designed by our architect Mr. Paul Gardner. The tenants are four ladies, two of them elderly and two disabled with arthritis.

The search for suitable properties has continued apace and we are now in contract for three more properties and expect to sign a contract for a fourth very soon. We are aiming, with some success, to spread our activities throughout the borough; our new properties are in **Teddington, Richmond, Mortlake and East Sheen**. In addition offers have been accepted for two further houses in **Hampton and Teddington**. All these are older properties, suitable for conversion into flats for elderly couples or single people. Where possible we intend to include some provision for young couples or families, whose need in this area is acute. If all these schemes proceed they will provide **over 30 flats**, for which we have a long waiting list of local applicants in serious housing need.

A bigger scheme is for the purchase of the **Wigan Hall site** in Mortlake, and here we propose to build a block of 18 flats of varying size. Our offer for the site has been accepted and it seems probable that the necessary finance will be forthcoming. This scheme will take much longer to complete but we hope that by the end of the year we shall have something definite to report.

So far we have been able to finance our purchases, but as we expand we shall need increasing cash resources—to pay deposits on properties and interim payments to builders, and to cover the shortfall in cases where we are unable to borrow the full cost. We should also like to set up a discretionary fund to draw on for furnishing necessities in some cases, and for garden improvement.

In view of all these needs we are most grateful to those Churches and individuals who have already helped us financially. We are hoping, however, that now our dreams are becoming reality—of doing something locally to meet housing problems—there will be many more members of our Churches who will wish to become associated with the Trust.

TWICKENHAM AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH: TWO APPEALS

(1) This Association is proposing to run a coach from Hounslow and Twickenham to Springfield Hospital for relatives and friends to visit patients there on Wednesday afternoons.

When the coach arrives at the hospital we will take some of the patients, who have no visitors, shopping or for a drive in Richmond Park, depending on the number of volunteer helpers.

This scheme has been run very successfully by the Ealing Mental Health Association, but this has only been achieved with the help of other organisations in their district.

We are asking whether any of your organisations would be able

to take over one Wednesday afternoon approximately every six weeks. This would require 6 voluntary helpers to go with the bus and then to help with the shopping or drive in the Park.

This is a very worth while service and we do hope you will be able to assist us.

(2) The Association is holding its Autumn Fair at St. John's Ambulance Hall, Park Road, Teddington, on Saturday, October 4, starting at 11.30 a.m. Mrs. Orton, 30, St. James's Road, is running the Jewellery Stall and would be very grateful for gifts of unwanted costume jewellery. Most people have at least one article they do not want and if everyone who reads this gave just that one little item the stall would be furnished. There will be a cup of tea, a biscuit, a sit-down and a chat at No. 30 on the afternoon of Tuesday, September 30, to spur you on to looking out your bits and pieces!

THE FUTURE OF "THE SPIRE"

The Spire, our Parish Magazine, has been presented to you in its present form for a number of years and it has been suggested that perhaps the time has come when we should consider some changes: a change in the design of the cover perhaps?—discontinuing the inset in order to reduce the subsidy in view of the ever-increasing costs of printing; replacing The Spire by a broad-sheet with a view to its delivery to every house in the parish; keeping The Spire much as it is but making a charge for it; all of these are some of the ideas put forward.

What do the readers think? Why not write and tell us what you think and what you may have in mind about The Spire.

We are holding a committee meeting in late September to determine the future of our Magazine and need your help to enable us to make a right decision, so do not hesitate to send your ideas to the secretary, Mr. Peel, 34 Burton's Road, in time for them to be considered by the committee.

ST. JAMES'S OPEN DAY—SEPTEMBER 27

Following the example of many institutions desirous of promoting interest in their buildings, possessions, pursuits and above all their aims, St. James's Church is holding an Open Day on Saturday, September 27, from 2.30—8.30 p.m., in which the entire parish will be invited to participate. St. James's exists to serve God and the community, and this day will provide a special opportunity for those who would like to accept the invitation they will be receiving shortly to come and be "at home" in their parish church.

The church itself will be decorated as beautifully as many willing hands can make it with flowers and fruits, and there will be displays of embroidery, vestments and church plate, pictorial records of events and places important in the history of the village and exhibitions of the various youth activities. From time to time throughout the afternoon there will be organ recitals by the church organist, Mr. R. Dafforne, and teas will be served from 3—5 p.m. in a marquee on the south lawn. There will be a barbecue from 7—8 p.m. to the sound of folk music provided by members of our own Young People's Fellowship and visiting friends.

It will be the pleasure of St. James's Church Council to be the hosts and hostesses and so there will be no charge for admission and the company of all is not only welcome but sought.

SPECIAL APPEAL FOR FLOWERS, FRUIT AND VEGETABLES, ETC.

Mrs. Mills and the organisers of the Open Day are asking for an extra special effort this year from everyone to make the weekend of September 27/28 a great success. Flowers from your gardens or those of your friends, sprays of pyracantha, pampas grass, vegetables from your own plot or from the surplus of your allotment-owning neighbours or acquaintances, citrus fruits, apples (soft fruits are not practical), tins of fruit or vegetables and gifts of preserves, eggs and groceries and anything else suitable to gladden the eye of the beholder and the heart of the ultimate recipients to whom our harvest gifts come as a welcome luxury.

Please bring your gifts as early as possible on **FRIDAY MORNING**, September 26, to the church, or telephone 979-3748 if you would like them collected. Owing to the fine summer some of the flowers we usually rely on may be over, so please do your best to make good the deficiency and accept our grateful thanks in anticipation!

HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICES, SEPTEMBER 28

HARVEST FESTIVAL SUPPER, OCTOBER 2, at 7.30 for 8 p.m.

This year the Services of Thanksgiving for Harvest will be on a different day from the Supper and will be held on the day following the Open Day to take advantage not only of the decorations but the mood of the whole weekend which it is anticipated will be a particularly joyous and enthusiastic one. We are hoping that many who enjoyed the previous day will want to come and join in the thanksgiving.

The Supper will be in the Church Hall the following Thursday evening and tickets are now available, price 5s., from members of the Social Committee. This price not only includes a delicious meal but an entertainment by that unrivalled company The St. James's Drama Group, and it is advisable to get your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

TUESDAY CLUB

Meetings will re-commence on September 16 at Wayside, at 8 p.m. when we shall have an informal social evening and anyone who would like to join us will be very welcome. By then we hope to have the programme arranged up to Christmas.

THE MOTHERS' UNION

We meet again in Wayside at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 1, for a Branch "get together" and a discussion of future plans, including the annual Jumble Sale. Later it is hoped to have a speaker who will tell us about the holiday at Winchelsea organised by M.U. for needy families this summer. And so the year goes on. What would you most like us to do at Christmas-time and afterwards? Please let the Committee know your ideas. Try to attend the Deanery Overseas meeting to be held at 2.30 p.m. on Thursday, October 9, in St. Mary's Hall, Hampton, when I shall be showing transparencies of the World-Wide Conference; these are very interesting.

Six members attended Mrs. West's funeral at Teddington Cemetery on Monday, August 12, and flowers were sent from the Branch. Mr. West and John expressed their appreciation of these and of our attendance. Her M.U. membership always meant a great deal to Mrs. West, and I am so glad that she was well enough to attend the closing

service in July. It was always a pleasure to visit her, despite her aches and pains she was busy with beautifully executed handwork to the last; she had the constant care of a devoted husband.

I hope you all feel better for your holidays, ready to tackle the new session with enthusiasm and ideas to make M.U. a vital part of the Parish life. We shall be responsible for a display about M.U. on St. James's Open Day—Saturday, September 27.

I.V.R.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

- Sept. 15.—8.00 p.m. Drama Group (W); 8.15 p.m. Properties Committee (151, Uxbridge Road).
- .. 16.—8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club (W).
- .. 17.—8.00 p.m. Parochial Church Council (W).
- .. 18.—8.00 p.m. Drama Group (W).
- .. 19.—7.15 p.m. Coach leaves for Son et Lumière in St. Paul's Cathedral.
- .. 21.—5.15 p.m. Service at Laurel Dene.
- .. 22.—8.00 p.m. Ruridecanal Conference. Speaker: Sally Trench (St. Mary's Hall, Twickenham).
- .. 24.—8.00 p.m. Drama Group (W).
- .. 27.—2.30—8.30 p.m. ST. JAMES'S OPEN DAY.
- .. 28.—HARVEST FESTIVAL: 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion; 9.30 a.m. Family Communion & Parade Service, followed by the usual light refreshments at Wayside; 4.00 p.m. Publick Baptism; 6.30 p.m. Evening Service: "Harvest—Then and Now"; 8.00 p.m. Junior Council of Churches (W).
- .. 29.—St. Michael & All Angels: Holy Communion at 9.00 a.m., followed by the distribution of harvest produce to the old and infirm.
- .. 30.—3.00 p.m. Mental Health Afternoon (30, St. James's Road); 8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club (W).
- Oct. 1.—2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union (W).
- .. 2.—7.30 p.m. HARVEST SUPPER & ENTERTAINMENT (Hall).
- .. 5.—6.30 p.m. Evensong, but instead of Sermon, first of three half-hour films in colour: "The Life of Christ."

MARRIAGES

- On August 2 :
Brian Keith Griffiths to Sonia Elizabeth Hewitt.
- On August 23 :
John Gordon Mountifield to Angela Frances Marsh.
Richard Charles Murfitt to Janice Linda Castle.
- On September 1 :
Christopher Weaver to Sheila Margaret Wells.

BURIALS

- On August 8 :
Ellis Alexander Peters, 17, Birch Road, Hanworth, aged 71 years.
- On August 11 :
Rhoda Victoria Taylor, 44, Wolsey Road, aged 81 years.
- On August 29 :
Peter David Ives, 34, Hanworth Road, aged 3 years (at Hampton Cemetery).