

EDITORIAL NOTE

We are now adjusting ourselves to some changes which will become fully operational with the May issue, but which we are feeling our way to now. One of the most important is that the date of publication of *The Spire* will be always in the middle of the month, to avoid the peak printing-periods at the beginning and the end, and to give us the advantage of more favourable printing-charges. We take the middle of the month to mean the Friday nearest the sixteenth. Publication has to be on a Friday, as it normally has been in the past. We know that this may mean that some distributors will not be able to deliver until the following week, as they find the week-end a difficult time for getting the magazine out. But we hope that as many as possible will make an effort to put it through people's letter-boxes on the Friday night or Saturday morning.

We shall also have to watch carefully 'Some Dates to Note.' Events under this head will normally have to be notified from about the twenty-first of one month to the twenty-fourth or so of the next, if there is to be adequate cover.

Another important point: we shall be working to a very tight schedule, with a strict deadline. A day's delay in delivering the copy will mean a week's delay in publication. So we shall have to stop holding back, as we have often done up till now, for late contributions to arrive, but send the matter in by the date specified whether complete or not, hoping to avoid blank pages by having a reserve of articles (which we sadly lack at present) on general subjects of interest, book-reviews, etc., which do not need to appear in any particular issue. The last day for receiving copy for the April issue will be March 19: for the May issue April 23. It is possible that the May issue will be with the printers a week longer than usual and not appear until May 22, as this is the first issue of the new printing-year, and all standing-matter and advertisements have to be set up for the next twelve months, which is a job that takes up a good deal of time.

THE ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING ON MARCH 18

This will be the first to be held under the new rules and regulations for Synodical Government in the Church of England. If this new system is to succeed, we must all do our part—it is no longer now a question of leaving all the important matters to the 'high-ups' at the centre, but of 'going along the way together' (the literal meaning of synod)—so that we here at the local level will have a real share in the decision-making of the whole Church. If your name is on the Electoral Roll it is your duty and privilege to come to this meeting: the business starts at 8.15 p.m., but an interesting programme for your entertainment has been planned from 7.30 p.m. onwards.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK APRIL 13 — 18

Christian Aid can never in present circumstances have too much money, and until Governments increase their help to the impoverished countries of the world, voluntary agencies must strain every sinew to build up their income so that they can develop long-term projects where they are most needed. Last year we as a church gave £75 to Christian Aid, and hope to give more this year. But this special week

gives an additional opportunity to us all as individuals to give directly by means of the envelope which will come to our own home. Let us give as generously as we can.

LETTER FROM CANADA

Dear Everyone,

I thought that if I didn't start a letter to you now, you might not get another one before I see you all in the Summer. I have very little to tell you for Edmonton, Alberta, is a deadly dull sort of place.

One thing I have managed to achieve though, is to make my mark on Edmonton history. I'm feeling rather proud of myself although really I was not entirely responsible for the events. At St. George's—my parish church—a plea was extended for volunteers to read lessons and/or assist with Communion. Naturally, despite the problems that Canadians have understanding English, I volunteered for both. A short while later I was informed that "The Vestry had recommended me to the Bishop as a Lay Reader." When I had recovered from the forty fits thus induced, I realised that I probably had to be a Lay Reader to assist with Communion. I was even more relieved to find that this responsibility was to be shared with 11 other people from our church (one other woman). Some time after this I received an invitation to a service for the "Presentation of Licences to Lay Readers of the Diocese," at the Cathedral, followed by a lunch to which I could, if I wished, bring my wife! The "Cathedral" is, like most Canadian cathedrals, merely a large (not much larger than St. Jim's) parish church—a little extra in the way of halls and storage space, but the main difference of course, is that it's there that the Bishop has his centre.

Well, I duly arrived at the Cathedral to find men all over the place—some putting on robes, some in lounge suits; one of the "radicals" of St. George's in a smart sports suit and brown shirt, etc., was about the most "way out" may be vieing for position with the chap who wore an "Up with People" button. The few women who were around were stray wives and disappeared fairly quickly. I knew that the other woman from St. George's wasn't coming—she was afraid we'd be the only ones. As it happened she was right, as out of 108 Lay Readers in the Diocese of Edmonton, 53 were there and 52 of them were men! Our Rector said that he thought that there were other parishes sending women but it looked as if they'd "chickened out" too! The Archdeacon said how nice it was to have a bit of colour and he was very glad they were now allowing female Lay Readers.

We had to process into the Cathedral and I was very glad to be surrounded by people from St. George's which reduced the self-conscious feeling to almost nothing. At the meeting afterwards the president addressed us as "Lady and Gentlemen" and one way and another there were comments all round (none adverse—as far as I heard!) The worst part was after lunch, when the Bishop made me stand up to show everyone who I was—as the first female Lay Reader in the Diocese. He said that the first woman to be ordained in Canada a few weeks ago was also a Mills, and he felt pretty sure it was Ruth!

Things are really warming up here now. We've had about a week above freezing and there's even grass showing through the snow. However, the weather can vary enormously from one day to the next and February is alleged to be pretty cold here, so we've still a chance

of returning to 30°F. Actually we've had very little cold weather. It was 35°F. on one day, but apart from that, the worst has been the two weeks when it was between -10°F. and -20°F. Mostly, since the snow fell in October, it's been above 0°F. Here, that is quite warm, as there's usually very little wind, and it stays very dry.

One day last week was "Ground Hog" Day — really a U.S.A. "festival" when the "Ground Hog Society" or whoever they are, go out and poke a ground hog (like an overgrown Guinea Pig) out of his hole. If he sees his shadow he'll go back into his hole and winter goes on for another month or so. If he stays out then "Spring is just around the corner." This year, he wouldn't even come out. The Ground Hog Society gave up and agreed that as he didn't see his shadow, spring must be approaching rapidly — I'd have put it down to another three months of winter, but then, I'm not an expert on Ground Hogs, Spring or shadows.

One of the students here says I should tell you what a nice guy he is. I couldn't! Actually most of the people here are a nice crowd which makes Edmonton really worth living in. The other thing is that it's possible to get out to the Rockies occasionally which is lovely. We saw some Elk last time.

Love to all from Ruth.

(Written by Ruth Mills in Edmonton, 9.2.70)

THE MOTHERS' UNION

During Lent a working party will meet in Wayside at 2.30 p.m. each Monday, preparing articles for the "Housewives' Choice" Stall at the Overseas Sale in October. At the March meeting (Wednesday 4) Mrs. Church was going to tell us about the Holidays for Needy Families which M.U. members have financed and organised for the past few years, but snow prevented her arrival — so we had a spontaneous gathering of our own!

For the fourth year in succession we are organising an Austerity Lunch on the Wednesday in Holy Week. All **profits** are given to Christian Aid so we need the whole-hearted support of all members of the Parish. Do come and join us, we want to see Wayside filled to overflowing — and the collecting bowl, likewise!

As the Feast of the Annunciation falls in Holy Week this year the celebration has been transferred to Tuesday, April 7. This is the most important day in M.U. Calendar: members all over the world will be attending a Communion Service on that date. The Vicar has arranged to hold a Corporate Communion for us at 10.00 a.m. (non-members are welcome to join us), after this service we shall go to Wayside for coffee and "get-together." This will take the place of an April meeting, so please arrange your chores so that you can attend — you have plenty of notice! (It's amazing what a little planning ahead can achieve. If your children are still on holiday, then bring them too).

Following on the showing of the slides of the World-Wide Conference by the Enrolling Member at the February meeting, Miss Dines will talk on, "How the Overseas money is spent." This will be on Ascension Day, May 7, please make a note of the change of day, **THURSDAY** not Wednesday.

Two new members have been welcomed to the Branch — Mrs. Smith, who has moved here from Bristol, and Mrs. Leatherdale, who was admitted in January
I.V.R.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP

In the last few months we have been very pleased to see quite a few new faces in Y.P.F. and we welcome especially to our fellowship three members, Linda, Anthea and Clare. (It would be nice to have some more lads though!).

At the moment we have just finished collecting Jumble for our Sale, and are now practising for the concert in April, so life's pretty hectic.

On Saturday, March 28, at some unearthly hour in the morning, we will be leaving Hampton Hill for our annual holiday, this time to be spent in the village of Kettlewell, Yorkshire. We would value your prayers during this week that we may enjoy the beauty of the scenery and in our evening discussions that we may discover the Lord in a completely new way.

Our Sunday meetings follow their normal pattern of talks, bible studies, discussions, etc., and on January 18, we had an extremely interesting talk by the Rev. B. H. Lewers, the Industrial Chaplain at London Airport. We are planning to go to 9.30 communion at the Airport if some of us can get up in time!

A list of our future meetings can be found on the notice-board in Wayside and any young person (and with respect to our leader, the young in heart) will be received with open arms!

HAZEL GUBBINS (Secretary).

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1969

To be presented to the Annual Church Meeting, March 18, 1970			
1968	General Fund — Income		1969
£		£	£
2,003	Pledged Giving	1,991	
294	Other Giving	349	
			2,340
650	Refund of income tax on Deeds of Covenant		725
199	Other income		308
<u>£3,146</u>			<u>£3,373</u>
Payments			
98	Repairs and Maintenance Expenses during year	245	
600	Reserve for future expenses	500	
			745
349	Heat, Light, Cleaning and Insurance ...		447
597	Vicar, Organist, Choirboys, Music, etc. ...		692
406	Diocesan Quota		395
472	Donations to Charities		510
90	Parish Magazine Subsidy		100
244	Other expenses		371
<u>£2,856</u>			<u>£3,260</u>

Magazine Account — Receipts					
288	Advertisements and sundries	281
90	Subsidy from General Fund	100
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£378					£381
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Expenses					
276	Cost of Printing (13 months)	376
55	Cost of Insert	61
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£331					£437
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Charities Account					
£27	Dividends received on bequests	£27
£30	Payments made for poor relief	£30
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“ Wayside ” Account—Receipts					
£329	Rents received from flat and garages, and donations				£339
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Payments					
107	Repairs, Maintenance, cleaning, insurance, etc.				83
51	Electricity and Water rates	62
122	Diocesan House Maintenance Scheme—Annl. premium				122
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£280					£267
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LOCAL CHEMISTS' OUT-OF-HOURS DISPENSING SERVICE

Week Beginning:

- Mar. 8 Mrs. E. James, 205, High Street, Hampton Hill.
 .. 15 H. Hall, 62, High Street, Hampton Hill.
 .. 22 F. G. Martin, 28B, Priory Road, Hampton.
 .. 29 Mrs. C T. Lea, 193, High Street, Hampton Hill.
 Good Friday, March 27 — F. G. Martin, 28B, Priory Road, Hampton.
 Hampton.
 Easter Monday, March 30 — Mrs. C. T. Lea, 193, High Street.
 Hampton Hill.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

- Mar. 16.—8.00 p.m. Parish Communion, followed by ecumenical Lenten study in the Vestry.
 .. 17.—8.00 p.m. Liturgical Committee (90, Ormond Drive).
 .. 18.—8.15 p.m. ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING, preceded by reception, refreshments, and showing of slides of recent parish events from 7.30 p.m. onwards (Hall).
 .. 22.—PALM SUNDAY (Palm crosses, made in three mud villages in the Diocese of Masasi in Tanzania where the income for each mud hut is approximately £15 a year, will be distributed at all services).
 .. 23/24/25.—Holy Communion each day at 10.00 a.m.
 .. 24.—8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club. Speaker: The Mayoress of Richmond upon Thames (W).
 .. 25.—12.00-2.00 p.m. Austerity Lunch (W).

- .. 26.—**MAUNDY THURSDAY:** 8.00 p.m. Parish Communion, followed by ecumenical Lenten study in Wayside.
- .. 27.—**GOOD FRIDAY:** 10.00 a.m. Children's Service; 12.00 noon until 3.00 p.m. The Three Hours' Devotion, conducted by the Reverend David Rogers, Rector of Hanworth: The Passion of our Lord according to St. Matthew: 3.30 p.m. United Open-Air Service in Wensleydale Road. (N.B. all offerings on Good Friday are given to good causes outside the parish).
- .. 28.—Members of the Young People's Fellowship leave in the early morning for their Easter holiday in the Yorkshire dales: 9.00 a.m. onwards—Decoration of the church for Easter: gifts of flowers and help in arranging them welcomed.
- .. 29.—**EASTER DAY:** Holy Communion at 7.00 a.m., 8.00 a.m. and 12.15 p.m.; Parish Communion at 9.30 a.m., followed by the usual light breakfast at Wayside; Children's Service 11.15 a.m.; Evensong at 6.30 p.m.
- Apr. 5.—5.15 p.m. St. James's lead service at Laurel Dene.
- .. 6.—8.00 p.m. Committee of Hampton Council of Churches (Congregational Church Hall).
- .. 7.—The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary: 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (Corporate Communion for Mothers' Union members, followed by refreshments and short meeting at at Wayside).
- .. 10.—7.30 p.m. Parish Concert, sponsored by the Young People's Fellowship (Hall). Admission by programme 3/6: light refreshments free of charge.
- .. 12.—8.00 p.m. United Service in the Methodist Church, Percy Road, to inaugurate **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK**, and to commission collectors.
- .. 13 to 18: House-to-house collection for **CHRISTIAN AID**.
- .. 15.—7.45 p.m. Newcomers' Party (by invitation—if you know of any people new to the parish who have not received one by April 7, please let the Vicar know) in the Hall.
- .. 19.—5.15 p.m. Members of the Young People's Fellowship lead service at Laurel Dene.
- .. 20.—8.15 p.m. Properties Committee (81, Park Road).
- .. 27.—8.00 p.m. Ruri-Decanal Conference: Open Meeting. Speaker: The Head Master of The Bishop Wand School (St. Mary's Hall, Twickenham).
- .. 28.—7.30 p.m., Mothers' Union Diocesan Festival Service in St. Paul's Cathedral.
- May 2.—7.45 p.m. Parish Dance (Hall).
- N.B.—**The newly-elected Parochial Church Council will arrange its first meeting to take place as soon as possible after the Annual Church Meeting on March 18.

BAPTISMS

On February 22:

James Douglas Sloan, 3, Grenville Mews.

On March 1 (at the Parish Communion):

Alexandra Carrick, 1, Edward Close.