

## **FIRST MEETING OF THE DEANERY SYNOD**

At the Church A.G.M. three representatives were elected to represent St. James's but subsequently the Vicar was told that, owing to our small Electoral Roll we were only entitled to two. In consequence Mrs. M. Orton and Mr. L. Melville accompanied Mr. Brunt to the first meeting, and the service which preceded it, on June 21st.

Some churches have a great many names on their Electoral Rolls and therefore are entitled to a correspondingly large representation. This, on the face of it, is reasonable provided that those names give a true picture of the size of the congregation. Although the St. James's Roll is small, most of the people on it are regular attenders and active members of the church. However, there are quite a few who come regularly who, for some reason or other, are not on the Roll. Therefore, on paper we are somewhere at "the bottom of the League" as far as representation is concerned but as far as financial contribution to the Diocese is concerned, we are four or five from the top! If you happen to be reading this and know that your name is not on the Roll of communicant members over the age of 17, then do contact Mr. Brunt with a view to stepping up our representation and helping St. James's to present a truer picture of its vitality.

The Synod got off to a good and lively start. There is every chance that due to the reduced numbers people will be able to get to know one another, and there were signs that this was already happening. To help us to get to know the other churches a suggestion was adopted that instead of meeting in the same place each time we should visit various churches around the diocese. The Synod meeting has two Chairmen, a priest and a member of the laity. Mr. Bale by virtue of his office as Rural Dean is the former and the laity elected Mr. Simpson from St. Mary's, Twickenham, as their Chairman, who, from the showing he made at the first meeting will prove to be an excellent one. Mrs. Orton was elected to the Synod Standing Committee and Mr. Alan Taylor's name was put forward for election to the House of Laity. As news of this new form of Church Government comes in, it will be handed on to our readers in the Spire, from time to time.

## **ST. JAMES'S DAY**

St. James's Day seemed to me very much a family day. Regretting the poor weather and the lack of the Vicarage lawns we arrived rather late at Wayside to find it filled with people and spread with near-empty plates and used crockery. It had been a large cheerful party and everyone was talking contentedly. I was surprised to find how many small children were playing quietly in corners or helping serve or clear tea things away to the tireless workers in the kitchen.

The specially arranged service which followed was a happy

one. A large congregation joined in the hymn singing which alternated with readings about St. James as a disciple and apostle, and his service for the needs of others.

We should like to thank the Liturgical Committee and Mrs. Brunt for carrying on with the arrangements in spite of so many difficulties. Everyone missed the presence of the Vicar and we all wish him a speedy recovery and return home.

K.B.

### **PARISH BREAKFAST**

Every Sunday after 9.30 a.m. Communion there is a Parish Breakfast at Wayside to which everybody is invited. This has been organised of late by Mrs. M. Leatherdale and more recently during her stay in hospital, by two members of the P.C.C. It is prepared and served by a few regular volunteers who would very much appreciate some additional helpers. If you feel you could help, would you put your name on the Rota on the Wayside notice board, or, if you would like to know more about what is involved, 'phone Mrs. Severn at 979 1954.

### **HARVEST SUPPER**

This year the Harvest Supper will be on Thursday, 1st October. We need ladies to provide crockery, flowers etc., to lay the tables and to help with the preparation of the food. Please give your name to Mrs. Severn, 979 1954, if you would like to help.

Tickets for the supper will be available from the Social Committee in September.

### **THE GREAT ROUNDERS MATCH**

This curtain-raiser for the Commonwealth Games took place on the evening of July 10th, at the famous Holly Road Stadium.

A great deal of careful planning has been done by the organisers of this great occasion to ensure strict adherence to the Queensberry Rules\*, but no one anticipated the unprecedented scenes that were to unfold — the word had got around!

From all corners of the globe, as if drawn by some legendary Pied Piper, they came. Every shape and size, all ages from 4 years upwards, each one firmly determined to score a rounder.

Pause awhile here, to acknowledge the heroism of the umpire, our ex-Mayor, David Harris, who, undaunted by such overwhelming odds, stood his ground to the bitter end.

Thanks are due to the Young People's Fellowship and the Social Committee for arranging the "Game" and for the refreshments that followed.

Not exactly as planned, but great fun for a lot of people. (P.S. For the record — a win for the Y.P.F.)

A.M.

\* In the event, it did not actually come to fisticuffs! Ed.

## TUESDAY CLUB

With Mrs. Rosemary Rendall in the Chair as our new Chairman, we shall meet on 15th September for a social evening.

Our speaker on 29th September will be Mrs. Rhoda Hines who will talk about her work in the library of the British Museum.

More than twenty members spent a very happy evening at the Girls' Hostel in St. James's Road on July 14th by the invitation of Miss Burgess, the Warden. On arriving we split up into groups and were shown over the hostel by some of the girls now in residence. We started at the bottom floor and worked our way up to the very top. Natalie, the guide to my party, was a very happy young lady and obviously enjoyed life. After our rather hilarious tour of the house, I **should** say "home", because it is in every way a home to the girls who live in it, we were offered coffee and dainty refreshments (someone had been very busy) and of course plenty of conversation.

Our thanks to Miss Burgess for an extremely pleasant evening.  
M.R.

## HAMPTON HILL OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE COMMITTEE CARNIVAL AND VILLAGE FAIR

at Laurel Dene on Saturday, 5th September

The Carnival Parade assembles at Holly Road Recreation Ground at 1 p.m. and will be escorted by the Twickenham Air Training Corps' Trumpet Band to Laurel Dene. The Parade will consist of various floats by local tradespeople; decorated cars, cycles, shoppers, bath chairs etc. Also taking part will be the Brownies, Scouts and Young People's Fellowship who, we hope, will arrange a Female Impersonation Contest. The general theme will be Hampton Hill Through the Ages. The Parade will be led by the reigning Forget-me-not-Queen who will also open the Fair and crown the new Queen.

The choosing of the Queen will be by popular vote at the Old People's Party on Saturday, 29th August. Those eligible for entry are ladies over 60 years age, living in Hampton Hill.

There will, of course, be various stalls and Side Shows, and in addition a Children's Corner, a Barrell Organ and Staines Silver Band so we are hoping for a Rousing Afternoon at which everyone is welcome — Price 6d.

St. James's Church will be running two stalls, namely:

### 1. CAKE STALL.

Please help the O.P.W. funds by making a cake. We would gladly collect it from you on the Saturday morning if you would contact Mrs. E. Severn at 4 Ormond Drive (Tel. 979 1954) or any member of the P.C.C. Alternatively, you could deliver it yourself at the stall between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. THANK YOU!

### 2. WHITE ELEPHANT.

Everybody must have at least one White Elephant occupying drawer or shelf space in their home. Perhaps a vase which, although in perfectly good condition, doesn't quite fit in with the

decor; china which really won't be used again; a toy perhaps, or a book which you won't use again; a present that somehow doesn't fit or match. Have a good think — remember a White Elephant isn't Jumble — it is a perfectly good thing but . . . YOU don't want it. Mrs. Orton at 30 St. James's Road **does** want it and the person who buys it from the stall will be enchanted with it and the O.P.W. Committee will be delighted with the money it fetches! **GO AND LOOK NOW** — before you forget. If you find two or three— so much the better! **THANK YOU!**

L.M., E.S., M.O.

### **MOTHERS' UNION**

Our closing meeting in July took the form of a discussion on questions which were set by Rev. Elsie Chamberlain at the recent Women's Organisations' Service to commemorate the Centenary of the Congregational Church.

The opening meeting in September will be on Wednesday 9th. We should be grateful if our members and friends could bring along to this meeting any items which they have made for the Overseas Sale, as these have to be collected and dispatched in September.

J.B.

### **AROUND THE SPIRE**

Our thoughts have been very much with our Vicar in Hospital undergoing eye surgery and with his family. May his treatment prove successful and may he soon return home in good health.

As we go to press the Cub Scouts are in camp at Pilgrim's Fort near Caterham but we hear their spirits are not damped by a somewhat wet beginning. The Barbecue held on the Camp Site on July 18th, run by the Supporters' Association netted a useful £12 for funds. A 12 to 15 seater Mini-bus has just been bought by the Group Scout Committee for the transporting of the boys to football and other diversions.

After terrific organisation beforehand a number of the Y.P.F. were packed like sardines into various cars, and sandwiched between camping equipment, duffel bags of assorted "gear" and boxes of food; were transported to Derbyshire for a weekend of camping, walking and climbing. We hear that it was a great success and well worth while all the trouble.

By the time you read this Ruth Mills will be home again with us from her sojourn in Canada bringing with her a Canadian friend to whom we extend a cordial welcome.

Raymond Draper has been spending part of his leave helping Alcoholics Anonymous with their work at Spitalfields.

### **SPITALFIELDS CRYPT**

Spitalfields Crypt is a home for chronic vagrant alcoholics. It aims to minister to men in Christ's name, and to present Christ to them. 18 men live in the converted crypt which is

staffed by two full time Church Army Captains and innumerable voluntary workers, business men, students, housewives, nurses and others. When a man is admitted to the crypt he comes knowing that no alcohol is allowed, and knowing he is entering a specifically Christian Home. For the first few days he will simply want to sleep and eat. He may have been skipping sleeping rough — for months and may have had no solid food for days. All the food is cooked in the crypt kitchen by either women of the parish or by other voluntary workers. The atmosphere is relaxed and he will not be disturbed. In a few days he will come and go as he pleases. Every week he will have a thorough inspection by the crypt doctor who may recommend a course of treatment. His health may well have broken down after months or years of skipping. Slowly he will begin to be built up. The possibility of baths and clean clothes are a new and welcome experience. Twice a day he will notice there are prayers and a talk. Perhaps one of the captains, or the doctor, or the cook, will read a passage of the Bible, say what it means to him or her, and then conclude with some prayers and a talk. Perhaps one of the captains, or the doctor, or the cook will read a passage of the Bible say what it means to him or her, and then conclude with some prayers. These prayers are not compulsory and about half the men come.

H was one such. He had come thus far and one evening carefully watched the Rector (the Rev. D. Downham) during a distressing incident — one of the men returning to drink. Suddenly he realised that the Rector really cared about the man. He really was a Christian. And from then on what the Rector said about Christ H listened to. He is an Irish Roman Catholic. Encouraged by the crypt he began to experience the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. Let me expand; He found a job He found digs and began to work. All this time he was off the bottle. One drink would destroy him and he would have to begin all over again. Then months later the old craving came over him as he walked past a pub. Sweat broke on his face and he felt his legs being pulled towards the pub. His only inner cry was "Lord Jesus, help me", the cry of the psalmist (Ps. 40), the man on the cross, and of all we who know we are sinners; and the only way Christ could help him was by taking H from one pub to the next, to the next until he reached his digs. There H collapsed on his bed exhausted. In the morning he awoke and dared not open his eyes; if there had been one empty bottle he would have known that he had failed. He opened his eyes; no bottle. Christ had won the victory — the Christ who led captive the evil forces on the cross had indeed proved his victory.

(to be continued)

## LATE DAY CHEMISTS' ROTA

### August

- 9 James, Eileen, 205 High Street, Hampton Hill.
- 16 Hall, H., 62 High Street, Hampton Hill.
- 23 Martin, F. G. Ltd., 28b Priory Road, Hampton.
- 30 Martin, F. G. Ltd. 3 Station Approach, Hampton.

### September

- 6 James, Eileen, 205 High Street, Hampton Hill.
- 13 Hall, H., 62 High Street, Hampton Hill.
- 20 Martin, F. G. Ltd., 28b Priory Road, Hampton.

## SOME DATES TO NOTE

### August

- 24 10.30 a.m. Editorial Board (30 St. James's Road).
- 29 2.30 p.m. O.P.W. Party (H).

### September

- 5 2.30 p.m. Carnival and Village Fair, Laurel Dene.
- 8 8 p.m. Social Committee (19 St. James's Road).
- 9 2.30 p.m. M.U. Opening Meeting (W).
- 10 8 p.m. Liturgical Committee (90 Ormond Drive).
- 11 9 p.m. Son et Lumiere, Hampton Court.
- 12 9 a.m. (Windmill Road School) O.P.W. Holiday to Broadstairs.
- 13 Sunday Schools Opening.
- 14 8.15 p.m. Properties' Committee (21 St. James's Road).
- 15 8 p.m. Stewardship Committee (106 Park Road).  
8 p.m. (W) Tuesday Club Social.
- 16 8 p.m. (W) P.C.C.
- 27 Harvest Thanksgiving Service.
- 29 8 p.m. (W) Tuesday Club. Mrs. R. Hines on British Museum Library.

### October

- 1 Harvest Supper (H).

## BAPTISMS

### August

- 2 Armstrong, Nigel, Craig, 4 Vincent Row, Hampton Hill.  
McLean, Robin Peter Dugald, 36 Park Road, Hampton Hill.

## MARRIAGES

### July

- 11 Christopher Martin Ray to Valerie, Jean Wise.  
Michael Edwin Carman to Jennifer Susan Bidwill.

### August

- 1 Jeffrey John King to Jeannie Suddick.