

ANNUAL REVIEW OF CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

Our parish owes a great deal to Stewardship. Its introduction has made big changes in the life of our Church, and we hope at our Annual Review this year to hear about those changes from some of those who have known something of the workings of the Church since before the days of Stewardship. The speakers on this subject will be chosen from those who have not previously spoken to us at a Review. The reminiscences of ten and more years ago should prove both interesting and, in retrospect, amusing.

We shall also have, as is usual, a report on the progress of Stewardship over the present year, particularly to inform those involved of the overall accomplishments of the scheme of which they are a part. We hope, however, that all who are interested will come along, whether or not they are involved in the scheme.

Our main speaker is to be Mrs. Campbell, the scientist wife of the Vicar of a neighbouring parish. She will speak from first-hand experience about the work of the Church in the West Indies, which, like much of the work overseas, Stewardship also helps to support. She will be showing interesting slides, and if those who have heard her speak on this subject before are to be believed, we can look forward to this talk with great interest.

The Review will be held on Thursday November 19th in the Parish Hall, School Road, and will begin at 7.45 p.m. with light refreshments. This notice is rather a long time ahead of the event, but try not to forget the date and do please come along. For this one evening, make it Re-View instead of Tele-View!

OUR ORGAN

The Organ at St. James's Parish Church is older than the building. Originally built by Bishop and Son for St. Peter's, Eaton Square, in 1837, it was bought by St. James's Church for £228 and installed in its present position in 1875.

The last extensive rebuilding was carried out nearly sixty years ago, in 1912, when the work was entrusted to Hele and Son, who also installed electric blowing equipment. Minor cleaning and repairs have since been done at approximately twenty-year intervals, in 1931 and 1951.

The question of what to do about the organ has been tossed about like a hot potato for several years, most people recognising that by doing nothing it would eventually cease to function at all, by which time the problem would be worse since organ builders are busy and quote up to two years before being able to undertake substantial repairs.

Alternatives have been considered and two electronic organs have been installed for trial periods, but at £2,000 plus, these were generally agreed to be a poor exchange for the quality instrument we already have, even if permission to instal one could be obtained, which was extremely doubtful.

Advice was then sought from the London Diocesan Advisory

Board who spent an expert on organs to give his opinion. He submitted a detailed report expressing his view that the instrument possessed a fine tonal quality, that the worn out pneumatic action should be replaced with the latest electric action, the pipework should be retained after cleaning and revoicing, the blowing equipment should be renewed, the bellows renovated and the present eccentric console discarded and a new one installed. Unnecessary expenses such as a detached console or moving the organ to the West end of the church were not recommended.

Three organ builders were invited to submit estimates based on these recommendations, and the specification and quotation from Bishop and Son, the original builders, being the most favourable, was submitted to the London Diocesan Advisory Board for their approval. This was duly considered and approved. The order was placed with Bishop and Son in March this year, which entitled us to join the queue and the work is scheduled to start during the Summer of 1971 and will take nine months to complete. Within a few weeks the organ motor failed and Bishop and Son were asked to do this part of the work at once and a completely new fan, motor and silencer has been operating since last April. This work cost us £220; the remaining work will cost a further £3,700, of which one-third becomes due as soon as work commences.

OUR CLOCK

The church clock, which has given almost uninterrupted service since it was first set in motion in 1893, had to be stopped on 7th September, when it was found that the bottom pulley anchorages of the driving weights (which total nearly half a ton) were affected by dry rot.

This was in fact the second outbreak of dry rot affecting the clock: in July, one end of the beam which supports the clock had to be renewed, and the surrounding areas treated with fungicides and preservatives, at a total cost of £115.

Research by the Vicar having disclosed that Local Authorities are empowered to make grants towards the maintenance costs of public clocks—because they do a public service (hundreds of people every week must look up to check the time by our clock as they pass)—an approach was made to the Borough Council, as a result of which a grant of £57 10s. is to be made—a fact which has been noted in the local Press.

The second outbreak was found to have affected the belfry floor, and the renewal and treatment of the timber work had to be done by contractors at a further cost of £90. The pulley anchorages were then renewed this time in steel, and the weights re-hung, by members of the Properties Committee: thus it was that on the evening of October 3 the clock was re-started, and the familiar chimes were heard again.

It is hoped that the Borough Council will again help with

this second set of costs; meantime it is perhaps worth mentioning, in view of a popular misconception, that, apart from certain rates concessions, churches do not receive any financial support from local authorities, and that the recent grant is the only direct payment from the Borough ever received by St. James's.

HAMPTON HILL OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE COMMITTEE

Hampton Hill rose to the occasion of the first Carnival Parade to be held for many years, held on Saturday September 5. The old days of bands and parades were recalled as, to the rousing music of the Twickenham A.T.C. Band, the procession left Holly Road Recreation Ground heading for the High Street and Laurel Dene.

Hundreds of people lined the route and obviously enjoyed this unusual spectacle. With the retired Forget-me-not Queen, Mrs. Denness, leading in a white sports car, the following floats were—3rd Hampton Hill Brownies, The Forget-me-not Club, the Hampton and Hampton Hill Day Centre, Whitton's Community Centre Beauty Queen and Messrs. Alford's Timber Merchants—the latter two we thank for joining this village occasion.

Our thanks to all the Mums and Dads who did a splendid job on the decorated cycles, prams, not to mention their children, and made such a colourful addition to the Parade. Our new Queen, Mrs. Dorothy Casey, completed the parade in an identical car to the leading one.

We were grateful to the police for being there to look after us and to control the traffic, and that Mr. Bert Townsend kept us at a steady four miles per hour with his red flag. I can vouch for the fun the Old People had with their float, "St. James's Sunday-School Treat, 1900 approximately".

The Brownies collected the most money along the route. In fact, the children were all marvellous. The first prize winner, Charlotte Goddard, looked wonderful as a Period 1900 cyclist. I'm sorry she had a few unhappy moments when she found that her spacehopper had been let down, but I understand that her father is a handy man and has put it right for her.

Altogether a very pleasant afternoon enhanced by the truly wonderful weather. We are grateful to Matron for allowing us to use the gardens of Laurel Dene.

The Village Fair was a sell-out in a short time. Our two St. James's Stalls—Cakes and White Elephant—made £12 16s. 4d. and £23 10s. 10d. respectively. The total profit was £275.

L.M.

OLD PEOPLE'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY

Our thirty-seven holidaymakers have now returned, having spent a wonderful fortnight at Broadstairs. Luckily they had good weather with the exception of the first few days. All agree that this holiday was the best ever.

They visited Canterbury, Ramsgate Lights, and the lavender

fields, and at their annual Fancy Dress Evening Chris Hockley won first prize as a scarecrow.

Thanks are due to the helpers in charge, to the people who supplied transport and to Mr. and Mrs. Beard, their landlord and lady, who made them so comfortable. L.M.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Our ANNUAL FIREWORK PARTY will be held as usual at Laurel Dene on Thursday, November 5, at 7.15 p.m. sharp. Tickets including entrance, hot soup and potatoes will be 4s. each. In the interests of safety unaccompanied children cannot be admitted.

We do urge you to buy your tickets early from any member of the Social Committee, as the numbers have to be limited, and tickets will NOT be sold at the gate.

TUESDAY CLUB

At our opening meeting in September, thirty-five ladies came to our Social Evening. We had a very entertaining and amusing time playing "Scrabble".

Dates to remember for November—10 and 24: Mrs. Paracutt will talk on "Fashion through the ages", and Mr. Gerald Heath, Chairman of the Twickenham Local History Society, will be telling us about Old Hampton.

KEEP FIT

It is hoped that within the next few weeks there will be a regular "keep fit" session in the Parish Hall—time and day yet to be decided.

If you are interested or would like to know more about it please telephone Mrs. Pat Young (979 5629) or Mrs. Severn (979 1954).

HARVEST FESTIVAL GIFTS TO THE ELDERLY

On Monday morning, September 28, two or three volunteers delivered gifts to approximately forty elderly and sick people, and although the gifts were small we think they were appreciated as people like to be remembered.

Thank you to all the many who helped to decorate the church on Friday and to all who gave the flowers and produce, especially a box of lovely tomatoes and Mr. Cavan's usual annual Harvest Loaf—the old ladies love it! L.M.

THE HARVEST SUPPER

It has now come to be expected that the Harvest Supper will be a well organised and enjoyable affair, and once again this

year was no exception. The demand for tickets exceeded supply and those who did get one received excellent value for money in the wonderful meal provided by the Social Committee and their helpers, and in the subtle and amusing play put on by a small but talented cast from the Drama Group.

We were pleased to welcome amongst our guests the new Vicar of St. Mary's, the Rev. C. Sellars and his wife, but we were sorry to hear of the illness of his curate, John Welsh, and trust he will soon be fully recovered.

THE CHURCHYARD

More acts of serious vandalism have occurred in the last few weeks, and pictures and articles have appeared in the local Press. As we all know, a large number of children use it as a playground, and in most cases no harm is done, though the more thoughtless do run across graves, and throw things (especially at conker time!), and get excited, and so a good deal of incidental and not deliberate damage and mess are caused. But there are others who go further than this, as in the case of three boys found heaving on a rope tied round a large cross: when asked what they were doing they said that they were trying to pull it over so that they could see if there was a wasps' nest underneath! And there are undoubtedly a few children who simply do as much damage as they can for the fun they get out of it; who give free rein to their delight in smashing things up—as was the case with that group of boys (all under ten, and therefore below the age of criminal responsibility) who caused such widespread havoc two years ago. This time much of the damage may have been caused by persons somewhat older, as some of the monuments overturned and broken were very solid and heavy, and would have needed a good deal of force to move. Our local constable, Mr. Rice, who has given us so much help in the past, would be glad to receive any information which would help him to trace the culprits (his home telephone is 979 7964, and that of Hampton Police Station, to which he is attached, 977 1113.

(The second part of this article is held over until next month owing to pressure on space.—Ed.)

LOCAL CHEMISTS' OUT-OF-HOURS DISPENSING SERVICE

Week beginning:

November

- 1 James, Eileen, 205 High Street, Hampton Hill.
- 8 Hall, H., 62 High Street, Hampton Hill.
- 15 Martin, F. G. Ltd., 28b Priory Road, Hampton.
- 22 Martin, F. G. Ltd., 3 Station Approach, Hampton.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

October

- 25 7.45 p.m. The Young People's Fellowship invites members of the Church Council and other senior members of the congregation to join them in a discussion on "Mission, Evangelism and Worship" (W).
- 27 10.30 a.m. Editorial Board (30 St. James' Road). 8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club (W). 8.00 p.m. Social Committee (4 Ormond Drive).
- 30 8.00 p.m. Stewardship Committee (90 Ormond Drive).
- 31 3.00 p.m. Old People's Party (Hall).

November

- 1 7.40 p.m. Short Meeting in church for all Confirmation Candidates.
- 2 8.15 p.m. Properties Committee (81 Park Road).
- 4 8.00 p.m. Liturgical Committee (90 Ormond Drive).
- 5 2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union: Meeting for election of Officers and Committee, followed by the showing of holiday slides (W). 7.00 p.m. Fireworks Party (Laurel Dene; admission by ticket only).
- 8 Remembrance Day. 5.15 p.m. Members of Y.P.F. lead service at Laurel Dene. 6.30 p.m. Special Form of Service: Remembrance and Dedication.
- 10 8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club (W).
- 15 5.15 p.m. Members of St. James' lead service at Laurel Dene.
- 18 8.00 p.m. Parochial Church Council (W).
- 19 7.45 p.m. ANNUAL REVIEW OF STEWARDSHIP (Hall).
- 22 STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY.
- 24 8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club (W).
- 25 8.00 p.m. Whist Drive (W).
- N.B. Some of the sermons preached during this period are meant to lead to discussion and questions on an evening in the following week to be arranged; see posters and handbills.

BAPTISMS

September

- 27 Mark Charles Kell, 192 Uxbridge Road.
Gareth David Miller, 48 Uxbridge Road.

October

- 4 Robert James Childs, 678 Hanworth Road, Hounslow.

CREMATIONS

September

- 28 William Laverack, 73 Park Road, aged 65 years (at South West Middlesex Crematorium).
- 30 Mary Singleton, 6 School Road, aged 78 years (at South West Middlesex Crematorium; ashes later interred in family grave in churchyard).