

THE STEWARDSHIP REVIEW

More than seventy people gathered in the Parish Hall on the evening of Thursday November 19 for the Annual Christian Stewardship Review. Among the familiar faces it was pleasing to see those of one or two old friends who had left the immediate district but were still clearly very well in touch with goings on in the Parish.

After formal introductions and "labelling", a period for consumption of some of those excellent "light refreshments" which appear on these occasions also gave time to note the rapidly narrowing gap between income and expenditure as displayed on a wall chart, and in particular the relentless upward trend of outgoings over the past few years against the more erratic excursions of the income line. The meeting proper began promptly with the Vicar taking the Chair because of Mr. Melville's continuing stay in hospital.

Mr. Rockliffe as recorder of the Stewardship Scheme presented his report for the year, noting that we now had 111 pledges in operation, four of these being recent additions from younger members of the congregation. Income from the scheme over the past year was encouragingly higher than the previous year, but Mr. Rockliffe added the stern reminder that although a lowering of the standard rate of income tax by the present government might be welcome from the general taxpayers' point of view, because of the way in which recovered tax contributed to our income, we shall be at least £72 poorer at the end of the next financial year—a sombre fact indeed.

Getting away from cold facts and figures, Mr. Mills gave his view of the changes that Stewardship had made over the past ten years or so—not just to the Church's income, but in those ways which made the Church a community, the giving of time and talents. He recalled how Stewardship had helped to provide a greater sense of "belonging" in the Parish as well as the Church, and how the scheme had helped to build an atmosphere of friendly co-operation between young and old. In the past appeals for money and helpers were frequent and diverse; now there is but one appeal—"support the Stewardship scheme". Nor were the wider aspects of Stewardship forgotten; the scheme allowed more effective and faster response to situations where need is great and urgent, either locally, nationally, or internationally—the East Pakistan cyclone disaster, a case in point, was still fresh in our minds. With Stewardship, everyone has something to offer, to help make our Church a community of "pillars not caterpillars".

Guest speaker for the evening was Mrs. Campbell from Whitton, who talked of her experiences of life in the West Indies and on Trinidad in particular, where she had spent some nine years. Her talk was illustrated with colour slides which gave us fascinating glimpses of the colourful and exotic scenery and people. The impression that there, despite the fleas, mosquitoes, termite and three-inch cockroaches, was a joyful, irresponsible

people who sometimes quite literally gave all they had in their worship and work, was striking. Image piled upon image; the corrugated-iron showerbath, the obeah man, the servers and the sextons, the enormous number of Sunday School teachers, the turn-out of the school children "collecting their blessings" on Innocents' Day, the Mothers' Union outing to the beach, complete with best hats, ice, rum and roast chicken, the colourful festival costume, the poverty and disease, and the unstinting work of the helpers at the nearby leper colony. For a while it made a dark, damp suburban London seem very far away, and briefly we were part of the congregation of the Church of the Good Shepherd, broken windows and all!

Finally, the evening closed with more of that delicious coffee, and we dispersed, thinking of Carribean sunshine and, of course, that £72 . . .

A.C.

FIREWORKS—POTENTIAL DANGER?

I have always been intrigued by Guy Fawkes' choice of the time of year to make his attempt on Parliament—mid-autumn. Perhaps he was relying on the fallen leaves to cover his tracks as he made his escape from the cellars of Westminster. I suspect that had his attempt not coincided with the annual garden bonfires, he would not have become one of the most well-known characters in history as he has done.

In recent years, however, this traditional festival has itself come under fire. Accusations that fireworks are potentially dangerous have been made by numerous organisations. One cannot deny their dangerous potential, but many people cannot help thinking that the tragic accidents that occur each year are often caused by misuse, and that if only proper precautions are taken then all danger can be removed. This argument is certainly supported by displays like the one held at Laurel Dene in November. This annual event was organised with its usual efficiency by the Social Committee, and the resulting display was enjoyed by a very large crowd; every one of the 250 tickets available having been sold well before the fifth.

The display was of a very high standard, ranging from arrayed catherine wheels that reminded me of the introduction to "Sportsnight with Coleman", to a mortar which hurled hand-grenades far and wide. To be able to enjoy all this and the excellent refreshments at such a low cost was indeed value for money. Thanks are due to Matron for making the amenities of Laurel Dene available for this Parish night-out, and for her yearly contribution towards the cost of fireworks.

If the people who regard all fireworks as highly dangerous succeed in their efforts to ban them, displays of the kind we enjoyed, in perfect safety, may also be stopped. If this should happen, then a great deal of enjoyment will be lost to both young and old. I certainly hope that next year's Laurel Dene Firework Display will not be destroyed by a wholesale ban on their sale.

A.W.

THE TUESDAY CLUB

We had a very pleasant evening when Mrs. Parcutt brought her wonderful collection of dolls. They depicted the various stages in history through the costumes they wore. The first era was the Plantagenets, and the last the fashion of the 1920s. Mrs. Parcutt, in a very witty manner, told us many amusing stories relating to the different modes of dress.

Wayside's meeting-room was packed on the night of Mr. Gerald Heath's talk on Eighteenth Century Hampton. Mr. Heath is an indefatigable local historian, and his fascinating lecture was based on entirely original research. By this means, through painstaking scrutiny of old documents, he had been able to produce an accurately plotted map of Hampton and its fields to which he is adding as fresh information is uncovered.,

Mr. Heath gave many interesting, and at times amusing, details of the numerous illustrious representatives of aristocracy, arts, and business world who lived in this then fashionable district.

More details from Mr. Heath' erudite presentation will be published later, both for the record, and for our readers' information and interest.

Lady Connor is speaking on December 8, and this will be our last meeting before Christmas.

We open again on January 12, 1971, with a Social Evening.

LOST PROPERTY

From time to time various articles are left behind in the Church, Hall, or Wayside and never claimed.

From now on such items will be made available at the Parish Breakfast at Wayside on Sunday mornings. After a certain length of time, if not claimed, they will be disposed of.

EAST PAKISTAN FLOODS APPEAL

The Church Council, meeting a few days after the disaster—actually on the same day as the Appeal was launched—decided to send immediately a substantial sum, and ask for contributions towards this from the people at the Stewardship Review the next day. The Council also unanimously agreed to set aside for this purpose all loose monies in the plates at all services on Sundays, November 22 and 29. A generous response was made, in addition to the personal cheques some people had already sent off direct: £12 was given at the Review, £23 on November 22, and a further £10 on November 29, a total of £45 in all. The Church Council also decided that all the non-pledged offerings at the Christmas services should be for this as well if the need for money to help relief was still urgent: if not, that it should be given to Christian Aid for its general fund, which maintains work which must continue whether disasters and emergencies happen elsewhere or not. (Incidentally, we have just heard that Clare Brunt's agricultural teaching work in Zambia is sponsored by Christian Aid—one of the many such projects it supports in the needy areas of the world. Clare is finding this

work very well worth while, and is only fearful that it might come to a premature end, as she knows it will if the sale of arms to South Africa goes through.)

THE UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS

Mrs. Casey, after years of service in the Guide movement, and after being Brown Owl of the 1st Hampton Hill Brownie Pack for sixteen years, retired from active leadership at the end of the summer. Many girls and their parents will always be grateful to her for all that she did during these years, when hundreds of girls passed through her care. She devoted to them much time and loving attention—altogether a splendid record. She has been succeeded by Mrs. Humphrey, and so the good work goes on without a break. We are also glad that the 1st Hampton Hill Guide Company was at last able to re-open in September when a new Captain, Mrs. Johnson, was appointed and set about her task with great enthusiasm. The Scouts have also gained a new lease of life under the leadership of Mr. Mulberry, and numbers are growing fast. It is good to see all these units, and the others too, in something like their full strength, at our family and parade services once again.

CAROL SINGING

The Parish Carol Singing will be on December 22, starting outside the church at 7.30 p.m., where we will sing a couple of carols to warm up! Our aim is to wish a Merry Christmas to the Parish, but we don't ask for money. If you like to sing carols, please join us, our route will be on the church notice board, so you can catch us up if you are late. We finish our evening fairly early at Wayside with mince pies and "hot" coffee.

PARISH PARTY

The next function will be the Parish Party on Saturday, January 9, which, as we have already announced, will be fancy dress, the theme being Eastern this year. Most people seem to like to dress up, but if you don't, I am sure you would enjoy seeing the others, so do come anyway. Tickets are now available from the Social Committee, price, including substantial refreshments, 5s. adults and 3s. 6d. children.

Social Committee: Mrs. Bridges, Mr. Brooks, Mrs. Carrick, Mr. Edmonds, Mrs. Gostling, Mr. Ford, Mrs. Harper, Mr. and Mrs. Leatherdale, Mr. Maddox, Mr. and Mrs. Severn.

THE CLOCK—AND NOW THE SPIRE

We have now heard that the Borough Council has agreed to meet half of the cost of repairing the second outbreak of dry rot in the clock chamber (see our September issue), thus paying, in all, £102 of the £205 total.

A new problem which has to be faced is the maintenance of the tower and spire fabric: as recommended in the Architect's quinquennial survey, we have asked a firm of steeplejacks for a report and estimates concerning their condition.

A preliminary inspection has shown that some repairs are probably needed to the spire stonework, lightning conductor,

and weathervane, and that the upper brickwork of the tower needs extensive re-pointing; so we have now agreed to have access ladders and suspended scaffolding erected at a cost of around £100 so that a close inspection can be made and detailed estimates prepared.

This money will not be wasted if extensive repairs prove to be necessary, as the same scaffolding will be utilised for both inspection and repairs.

Provisional estimate of the full cost is between £500 and £1,500, depending on what repairs are found to be necessary, but as we have asked for the inspection to be deferred until Spring, we shall not know the precise amount for some months.

THE MOTHERS' UNION

Despite the change of date and the new one being the same as many other local functions, our Jumble Sale raised just over £15 which is a useful addition to our funds. We would like to thank all who helped in any way.

We hope to see many of our members and friends at the Christmas Party to be held in Wayside on Wednesday, January 6, 1971—if you can bring a few mince pies they will be very welcome. We look forward to seeing you all at the Christmas services.

V.R.

THE MAGAZINE

By changing our printers and having the magazine produced in the off-peak period in the middle of the month, we have effected considerable savings. But with this issue the cost of printing the local matter and advertisements is expected to go up by at least twenty per cent. Our new printers explain the reasons for this very fully. Prices have been at the present level since January 1969 in spite of experiments with litho production, three increases in the cost of materials, and two increases in printers' wages (the last in August was fifteen per cent.), so it has been impossible to defer raising the price to us any longer.

The Church Council is still determined to go on as long as possible supplying copies to all who ask for them—free of charge; but this does not mean that voluntary contributions would not be welcomed! There is a box in church labelled "Magazine"—or a donation could be sent direct to the treasurer, Mr. Peel, 34 Burton's Road. We are grateful to those who have already kindly helped in this way, and also for their appreciative words about the magazine itself.

Distributors tell us that they would like the magazine to come out in the middle of the week, as it is easier to get it round to people's houses than at the weekend, and we are discussing with the printers the possibility of this. The idea is that publication should now normally be on the Wednesday (not the Friday) nearest to the 16th of the month; this would mean that copy would have to be in the printers' hands a fortnight before this. We are hoping that this month (if the strike on December 8 does not throw a spanner in the works!) will see a

start by the magazine's appearing on Wednesday, December 16—we have now more typing help on the Editorial Board, and this has spread the load and enabled the copy to be ready in record time!

CONFIRMATION

As well as the junior group which recently began to meet, it is hoped to form an adult group early in the New Year. Several people have already expressed interest, and the Vicar would be glad to hear of others. Joining such a group does not, of course, commit one to being confirmed: this is a personal decision to be made or not made when the facts are known and the position is more clear.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

December

- 21 Saint Thomas: Holy Communion at 9.00 a.m.
- 22 10.30 a.m. Editorial Board (30 St. James' Road); 7.30 p.m. Parish Carol singing.
- 24 CHRISTMAS EVE: 9.30 a.m. Decoration of the church for Christmas; 6.15 p.m. Carol Service at Laurel Dene; 11.45 p.m. Midnight Eucharist.
- 25 CHRISTMAS DAY: Holy Communion at 8.00 a.m. and 12.00 noon; Parish and Family Communion at 9.30 a.m. (All offerings at these four services will be given to Christian Aid and/or The East Pakistan Floods Appeal.)
- 26 Saint Stephen's Day: Holy Communion at 10.00 a.m.
- 27 Saint John's Day: Sunday morning services as usual, but no Sunday Schools; Festival Service of Lessons and Carols at 6.30 p.m.
- 28 The Innocents' Day: Holy Communion at 9.00 a.m.

January

- 1 The Circumcision: (N.B. No Communion).
- 3 Sunday services as usual; in addition, the children of the Junior Sunday School will present a Christmas Play in church: "What on Earth . . . ?" (the story of two space children who land on earth on Christmas Eve) at 11.15 a.m.
- 6 THE EPIPHANY: Holy Communion at 10.00 a.m.; Mothers' Union Christmas Party at 2.30 p.m. in Wayside.
- 9 7.45 p.m. PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY (Hall).
- 12 8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club: Social Evening (W).

BAPTISMS

November

- 22 Angela Jane Eaton, 5 High Tree Close, Ongar Hill, Addlestone.
Timothy Alan Gosling, 170 Uxbridge Road.
Keith Glyn Grainger, 5 Park Mansions, Park Road.
Vincent Peter Inman, 38 Pigeon Lane.
Samantha Page, 8 Laurel Road.
Helen Susan Stiles, 37 Pigeon Lane.
Amanda Clare Wren, 124 Broad Lane.