

## ARRANGEMENTS FOR LENT

A request was made over 18 months ago that we should in Lent make a change from our practice of recent years of giving extensive consideration to the wider work and mission of the Church, with perhaps overmuch discussion and too little quiet — such enterprises as No Small Change, People Next Door, etc. — but instead turn our attention towards its inner life — and our own inner life — and see how this might be deepened despite all the pressures and stresses of modern life. To redress the balance, we should now think of being rather than doing, contemplation rather than action, and realise the importance of these former and how they undergird the latter.

The Liturgical Committee agreed that this was an excellent idea, but the difficulty came in trying to find the right person to help and guide us. After much correspondence, the plan had to be put aside for Lent last year, and a scheme of our own devised, in which our friends from the Congregational Church joined us. But for this Lent Sister Audrey, of the Community of the Sisters of the Church, from St. Michael's Convent at Ham, and also a teacher on the staff of The Old Palace School in Croydon, has kindly consented to come to our aid. She will be with us on Tuesdays March 2, 16 and 30, at 8.0 p.m. in Wayside. In between we will be free to make our own plans for meeting in a body at Wayside, or in smaller groups in different houses, to follow up the ideas which she has put before us and to express and practise them in prayer. Many people are restless and unhappy today because of the lack of an adequate spiritual life, or because this life is not growing and developing as it should, and here is an opportunity to begin to put things right of which I hope that many of us will take advantage.

After we had made our own arrangements — apparently well ahead this time, for the Hampton Council of Churches found that we were the only church with our plans settled last October — the Council decided that as we could not agree on the holding of a united mission in the area, we should join together in an ecumenical enterprise as much like this as possible, and hold it in Lent. This would be an alternative kind of attempt to strengthen believers in their faith and to interest enquirers and help them to resolve their doubts and uncertainties. It would consist of a series of open meetings dealing with questions much in people's minds, with distinguished speakers to answer them, and plenty of time for members of the audience to ask for light on any problems worrying them. The list of questions was duly drawn up, but as we had left it rather late, the difficulty came when we tried to match these with the eminent speakers whom we had in mind. But in the end, again after much correspondence and many telephone calls, a very good and able panel of speakers was secured. These meetings will be held in the attractive new hall of St. Mary's, Hampton — very accessible, right on the main road, a few yards from a

bus stop and with good parking facilities — on every Thursday in Lent from February 25 to April 1, beginning at 8.00 p.m. and lasting an hour. It is hoped in the next few weeks to deliver handbills to every home in Hampton and Hampton Hill; these will give full details of subjects and speakers under the general title 'Forum on Faith'. All the churches in the area are supporting this venture, and I hope that, without weakening our own previously-arranged course, people will go down to Hampton on Thursdays taking with them their friends and neighbours, particularly those who have doubts and uncertainties about the whole Christian scheme of things.

The Women's World Day of Prayer is now no longer on the first Friday in Lent but on the first Friday in March. The theme this year is 'A New People for a New Age', and the special form of service which will be used in nearly every country in the world has been drawn up by an inter-denominational group of women from the Caribbean. To study the special Biblical passages as suggested, a group will meet at the Vicarage on February 10 and 17, and the Vicar will also speak about these at the afternoon service at Wayside on Ash Wednesday. At the Mothers' Union meeting on March 3 the findings of the study group will be reported. The services on the day itself — March 5 — will be held at 2.30 and 8.00 p.m. in the Congregational Church, and the special speakers will be Mrs. Eustace and Mrs. Lodder, both of whom left Hampton recently after years of outstanding service. Instead of one of them speaking in the afternoon and the other in the evening, they will set a new pattern, and both speak at each service.

On Mothering Sunday (March 21), members of the Mothers' Union will lead a special Family Service instead of Evensong at 6.30 p.m., and present a small-scale but most impressive Pageant. They will also be arranging the usual Austerity Lunch for the Wednesday in Holy Week (April 7), and at the end of it slides of the Oberammergau Passion Play will be shown.

One question still to be decided is the form our Good Friday observance should take this year. Our main service has always been the Three Hours' Devotion, observed in traditional and many other ways as well, but in recent years more and more churches have been abandoning it, some for a single hour from 2.00 to 3.00 p.m., and this year we hear that St. Mary's is intending to follow suit. The Liturgical Committee and the Church Council will have discussed the matter before this appears in print, and I hope that a wise decision will have been reached. The United Open-Air Service — again the subject of some fierce questioning — will be held as usual at 3.30 p.m., but those who think that it has outlived any usefulness it may have had may come up with suggestions for something different for next year, so this year's may well be the last of a long series.

**Stop Press:** A special preacher in Lent will be the Reverend W. F. Curtis, Home Secretary of the Church Missionary Society — March 14 at 6.30 p.m.

## **ST. JAMES'S PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY**

On the evening of Saturday, January 9, the Parish Christmas Party was held at St. James's Hall, School Road, Hampton Hill.

I think that the party was one of the jolliest occasions that I have ever attended in Hampton Hill. I am told that this Christmas Party is now a tradition, and as a returned member of the parish who has been away 16 years, I do congratulate most wholeheartedly the Social Committee for organising such a lively and enjoyable gathering.

Everyone was made to feel very welcome, and the party went with a bang from start to finish. The "Exotic East" was the costume theme, with Stepney thrown in to ease the worry over costumes if nothing Arabic, Indian, Japanese or Chinese was available. The Mikado stalked about, and a mysterious heavily-veiled lady in black excited much interest. Arabs added the authentic touch. Games, which included young and old, were organised in quick succession: participants hardly had time to recover from the one before. Dancing was included, and in the middle of the evening marvellous refreshments were served. A variety of very welcome drinks were available throughout the party.

Planning and organisation like this takes time beforehand, and energy and enthusiasm on the spot, and the Master of Ceremonies and his very able assistants and all the refreshment helpers are to be most warmly congratulated on the conducting of a very successful evening.

H.S.

## **CHOIR PARTY**

Each member of the choir was asked to invite a guest, and so some forty young people of all ages made merry in Wayside on January 22.

Games varied from the usual to the very unusual, and surprising ingenuity in verse-making was revealed during the interval, while what had looked a formidable quantity of sweets, savouries and mixed drinks rapidly vanished without trace.

Bob Brittain's magic act mystified many, and revealed a talent which must make Tommy Cooper feel insecure, while Dick Wilde was a tireless M.C. with a seemingly endless fund of prizes, and at the end, alas, a somewhat sore throat!

The end came all too quickly, and we went home tired but happy.

J.W.G.

## **THE MOTHERS' UNION**

Twelfth Night coinciding with our M.U. January meeting date, we decided to have a Christmas Party then with games and competitions in which all could join. The Vicar and Mrs. Ogden had birthdays on the previous day, Mrs. Casey ("Queen of Hampton Hill") on January 6 so we had a good excuse to

wish them all "Happy Birthday" and to share in the three-candled cake, appropriately iced, produced for the occasion from the tea fund. We were delighted to have Mrs. Spooner with us again, and several friends from the Parish, and "a good time was had by all".

Many thanks to all those who provided mince-pices, to Mrs. Bellingham for decorating the cake, to Mrs. Edmonds for organising the tea arrangements with her usual efficiency, and to Mrs. Prentice for providing musical accompaniments for carols and games.

We plan to hold a Jumble Sale on the evening of Friday, April 2, so please support us in every way, as we need to have more funds for the coming year — after paying all our dues our bank balance is low.

Start the season of Lent by attending our Ash Wednesday Service at 2.30 p.m. in Wayside on February 24.

I.V.R.

### **TUESDAY CLUB**

At the meeting on January 12, our first in 1971, we had a very merry evening. It was pleasant meeting again after the Christmas break.

January 26 saw us gathered again in Wayside for a very interesting talk by Mrs. Krishna, an English woman married to an Indian. Her subject was — the life of a middle class Indian woman — and with her first-hand knowledge we spent a fascinating evening and were very reluctant to let her stop talking.

On February 23 Mrs. Valerie Butterfield has very kindly agreed to speak to us about her experiences whilst working in a refugee camp in Austria.

Mrs. Parnutt, who brought her dolls to our meeting in November, will be the speaker on March 9. She will be telling us about the time she spent at the Hampton School of Needlework and the types of embroidery done there.

### **YOUTH ACTIVITY**

Beware! The youth of St. James's are starting their activities again!

Soon we shall be bringing you straight from Hollywood, Andrew Z. Wood's production of "Come Fly with Me" with an all star cast. See that glamorous film star, Miss Nikki Hardy! The date? February 21. Where? In the church during our Youth Service.

Another warning, Y.P.F. Jumble Sale, March 20 in aid of the holiday. Get your jumble ready, and come along and buy someone else's.

There will be a period of peace during Easter week, as Y.P.F. will be disturbing the quiet Pembrokeshire countryside.

M.C.E.

## HAMPTON HILL OLD PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE

On Saturday January 16 the Committee entertained their friends at their Annual New Year Party. Over 200 people were present.

The Rev. A. E. Hunter (Congregational) our chairman introduced the special guests — representatives from O.P.W. Committees, Teddington, Hampton and Hampton Wick, Mr. and Mrs. Beard, Landlord and Lady from Broadstairs, where our members spent a most enjoyable holiday last year; the Vicar, who is usually a worker but was a guest this time; Councillors Kenton and Harris and Mrs. Harris, The Mayor and Mayoress. In his speech the Mayor said that this is **The** most exclusive club — one has to wait until age 60 ladies and 65 gentlemen to become a member; he said that he would be eligible next year but that Mr. Harris would not.

I got the impression that the Rev. A. E. Hunter didn't like his fancy hat! The Forget-me-not-Club made all the hats and they really looked very pretty. The Mayor took his home!

The Gillette Company completed the afternoon with a very good concert. They are old friends and we are always pleased to see them. Thank you.

Thanks also to the gallant few who transported the "not too good" to and from the party. We would be pleased to know of anyone else who would be willing to do this service, so that we can make a Rota, as from the 6 February we are putting on a party the first Saturday monthly. We don't forget the people behind the scenes, the washers-up and sandwich preparers and all the ladies who make cakes, mincepies and sausage rolls, and our secretary who did all the organizing. Thank you all very much.

L.M.

## IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE

We have a few vacant spaces in our Magazine for the coming year.

Do you know of a local business, shop, factory, or "do-it-yourself" man wishing to advertise? We have a circulation of approximately 700 per month; the distribution is in this locality. The cost is surprisingly small for this service and it should interest local traders. Interested persons should contact Mr. Peel, 977 7368, or Mrs. Mills, 979 6626.

## SOME DATES TO NOTE

February

- 21 Members of the Y.P.F. lead the Evening Service at 6.30 p.m. and are 'At Home' afterwards at Wayside to members of the congregation.
- 22 2.30 p.m. Admission to Office of the new Mothers' Union Deanery Presiding Member (St. Stephen's, East Twickenham).

- 23 10.30 a.m. Editorial Board (30, St. James's Road).  
8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club (W).
- 24 ASH WEDNESDAY. 8.40 a.m. Holy Communion (St. Anne's Chapel, L.E.H.S.). 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (Laurel Dene). 2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union Service (W). 8.00 p.m. Parish Communion (Church).
- 25 SAINT MATTHIAS. 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion.  
8.00 p.m. Forum on Faith 1: 'What is Man?' (St. Mary's Hall, Hampton).

#### March

- 2 8.00 p.m. Lent Course — 'Spiritual Life in the Modern World' (W).
- 3 2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union: Bible Study in preparation for World Day of Prayer (W).
- 4 8.00 p.m. Forum on Faith 2: 'Is God Dead?' (St. Mary's Hall, Hampton).
- 5 WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: Services in the Congregational Church at 2.30 and 8.00 p.m.
- 6 2.30 p.m. Old People's Party (Hall). 7.45 p.m. Scout Group Musical Evening (Hall).
- 9 8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club (W).
- 11 8.00 p.m. Forum on Faith 3: 'Who is Jesus?' (St. Mary's Hall, Hampton).
- 14 6.30 p.m. Preacher: The Reverend W. F. Curtis (Home Secretary, C.M.S.). After the service he will be a guest, and will speak and answer questions, at an open meeting arranged by the Y.P.F. at Wayside.
- 15 8.00 p.m. Parochial Church Council (W).
- 16 8.00 p.m. Lent Course (W).
- 17 8.00 p.m. Stewardship Committee (106, Park Road).
- 18 8.00 p.m. Forum on Faith 4: 'Why the Cross' (St. Mary's Hall, Hampton).
- 21 8.00 p.m. Family Service and Pageant, arranged by members of the Mothers' Union.

### BURIALS AND CREMATIONS

#### January

- 4 John William Allen Genery, 45, High Street, aged 64 years (at South-West Middlesex Crematorium).  
Anthony John Genery, 91, Edgar Road, Hounslow, and recently of 37, High Street, aged 35 years.
- 5 Norman Vincent Dawson Wightwick, 5, Eastbank Road, aged 78 years (at Hampton Cemetery).
- 14 Hubert Mark Mallett, 21, Longford Close, aged 93 years (at South-West Middlesex Crematorium).
- 25 Gwendoline Jane Gibbs, 16, Park Place, aged 59 years (at Hampton Cemetery).
- 27 Elsie Elizabeth Garratt, 22, Myrtle Road, aged 78 years.
- 29 Winifred Annie Walker, 36, Rectory Grove, aged 74 years (at South-West Middlesex Crematorium).