

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 1971

It is regretted that information about Richmond Borough's special project was not available in time for the last issue of the Spire, but the Editors think that readers would like to know a little more about how their contributions are to be spent. You will all know that this year's project was entitled Water for Madras. Madras is a city that has grown too fast. Its 400 slum areas are vast shanty towns of dirt, rubble, rubbish, stench, and decay, and in them a conglomeration of sick humanity—refugees from flood and fire. Few have employment. Skeletons remain of State-built huts, walls reduced to mud and rubble by the rains—quite uninhabitable. Open sewers into which children and animals have fallen . . . shacks made of rotten rushes, bits of tin, strips of filthy sari . . . no light, no water, and of course no sanitation. An Indian latrine consists of a hut with a central hole in the ground. Where there are any they are never visited because **there is no water to cleanse them**, each cabin piled high with human excrement—the stench like a foul enveloping wave. (Not nice reading—but imagine **yourself, your family** living in such conditions!)

Here is an example of a New Sanitation Unit—(Our C. A. Project). A unit consists of four cabins for men and four for women . . . it actually has a well with clean water . . . places for washing clothes in this dirt-begrimed area . . . most magical of all, it has water running all the time through the latrines themselves, constantly cleansing them.

It seems a GOD-FORSAKEN place. There are only FOUR such units serving 4,000 people in TWO slums alone of FOUR HUNDRED such areas. Forty more are planned to serve thousands more people. Indian Christians from Madras visit the units teaching about their proper use and helping move rubbish—work of high devotion in conditions of extreme degradation.

In 1969 the Bishop of Madras approached the World Council of Churches to build the sanitation units and the Council of Southern India started to organise the enormous job. Actual administration is in the hands of Madras Council of Churches—an ecumenical body including Roman Catholics. Where now there is one tap for 50,000 people, a sanitary unit for 20,000 is planned . . . plentiful water night and day . . . an education campaign to help people think about how they can destroy the enormous health hazard of dirt . . . and instil hope for future improvement in their children.

On Sunday, May 16 at 2 p.m. the tenor bells of all churches in the Borough tolled for all those dying of hunger in the world all the time—one every second of every minute of every hour of every week of every year of our lives. So Christian Aid Week 1971 was inaugurated.

A list giving the contributions from all the roads in our area will be posted on the church notice board for all those

interested. Our thanks go to all the people who collect every year for Christian Aid. Most of them have been doing this for many years.

AROUND THE SPIRE

Scenes reminiscent of 1947—ladders up the Spire and Steeplejacks inspecting it for damage. Let us hope that their findings will not be too ruinous!

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Men at Work. Three muscular gentlemen of the Properties Committee wrestled with the enormous tree trunk on the churchyard lawn. It was determined to stay put, but Messrs. Brooks, Gostling and Leatherdale were equally determined that it should not, and they won!

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Passing on from their decorating labours in the Vestry, the indefatigable Properties Committee have provided excellent storage cupboards in the West Porch. We are indeed fortunate in having such a hardworking body of men to look after St. James's interests.

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Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Ian Robinson—Coryn Severn made a lovely bride, the weather smiled and a great many friends came to celebrate the wedding of this daughter of St. James's. (Hal and Eila will appreciate that this is just a figure of speech!)

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Ann Warwick has just returned to Athens after a short visit home, and next month we will give details of her new job there.

THE LATEST NEWCOMERS' PARTY

Although not really a newcomer to Hampton Hill, having lately returned after 16 years away, I hoped very much to be invited to this party and was most happy when I was. Newcomers to the district had been invited through personal visits from the members of St. James's Church congregation, but it was made clear from the start that there were no church strings attached, and that all newcomers were welcome. The district is a friendly one, and it was hoped that new residents would feel this.

On the evening of April 29 the Vicar welcomed the guests at St. James's Hall; coffee and introductions followed. Mrs. Orton then gave a fascinating talk on the history of Hampton Hill, following this up with beautiful slides of buildings and familiar scenes in the village. We shall all look at our pubs and our picturesque old cottages with new eyes now, and remember with nostalgia the ancient trams lumbering up the single track in the High Street, to turn and come back at the Pantile Bridge. It was an evening of great enjoyment, and it is good to know that such parties take place regularly, probably twice a year. It

means a good deal of work to the hostesses, and to the providers of the excellent refreshments which followed the talk. Thank you, everyone, very much.

H.S.

THE PARISH HALL

Eleven years ago the Parochial Church Council found that there was insufficient manpower to run the Parish Hall and no funds available to carry out the necessary repairs and redecorations then needed. The hall was therefore leased to the 3rd Hampton Hill Scout Group who undertook the redecorations and became responsible for running the hall.

The Church Council has now, after a great deal of discussion, and in view of the increased availability of manpower and finance, decided to resume management of the hall as from 1st July.

A management committee, including a member nominated by the Hampton Hill Association to represent the wider interests of the Parish has been set up and schemes are being prepared for redecoration and improvement of the hall which may have to be closed for a short period later in the year.

D.W.L.

THE MOTHERS' UNION

The evening Jumble Sale proved very successful and we are very grateful to all those who helped, in any way, to achieve the result of £26.

This year's Austerity Lunch was better attended; we seemed to have contacted a wider circle of patrons—not just the "faithful few" on whose support we can always rely. We handed the sum of £13 to the Church Treasurer as our contribution to Christian Aid.

At the meeting which followed the lunch Miss Joan Carman gave a most interesting account of the Oberammergau Passion Play and showed slides and other illustrations of this—a fitting subject for the Wednesday in Holy Week. Miss Carman is not an M.U. speaker, so we appreciate the fact that she gave up some of her free time to do this. On her part she found us a "most friendly group" and enjoyed being with us.

On Ascension Day, May 20, Miss Stanton is very kindly displaying her overseas treasures at 63 Park Road to raise funds for M.U. Overseas work: coffee will be served from 10.30 a.m. until noon, and from 7.30 to 9.00 p.m. (this should allow those who work during the morning to attend). All who come—and we expect many husbands and friends—will find this a most interesting event. Unfortunately the date of publication of the May magazine means that any publicity here will almost certainly reach many people too late!

I.V.R.

TUESDAY CLUB

There will be a theatre outing to Leatherhead on May 25 (please note not usual Tuesday Club day) to see Terence Rattigan's play "Love in Idleness". The cost including coach fare is 65p: If you are interested please contact Mrs. R. Allen, 979 1069.

There will not be a meeting on June 1 as it is the Spring Holiday week, but the A.G.M. will be held on June 8.

THE GREAT AARDVAAK HUNT 1971

On Good Friday at 4.45 a.m. in pouring rain, 22 young people said goodbye to Alan Taylor and set out for Pembrokeshire. "The Chugging Novice" and "Cardinal Richelieu", the two vans, made steady time and reached Scleddau at 4.00 p.m. to be greeted immediately by tea and biscuits.

The weather was so good that little walking was done, but plenty of sun-bathing was. On Easter Sunday we went to a Baptist Chapel and furthered inter-denominational relationships. We travelled throughout the county and saw a lot of beautiful countryside.

The fact that Hazel Gubbins was 21 one day was taken advantage of and we celebrated in true fashion.

The evenings were filled with discussions and these proved highly profitable to everybody. Fellowship is something not easy to obtain, but gain it we did, and that is an achievement.

Perhaps the holiday achieved its object, when on asking someone on their first holiday what they thought of it, that person replied that before the holiday, prayer meant very little to him, but now he really feels that he knows how to pray.

M.C.E.

MIDSUMMER MADNESS

Come and enjoy yourself in misummer on Saturday June 19 in the Vicarage garden. Fun and games will be there for you to enjoy. Clock golf, skittles, etc., etc. This is the time of year for frivolity—release yourself and your family in this fine, we hope, Saturday. Admission 5p, refreshments available.

HELP!

Again this year, the rapid growth of the grass in the churchyard has outstripped the efforts of the few regular helpers to keep it cut even reasonably short; and once again we are having a "Mass attack week", during which we shall be grateful for help to cut and trim the grass, particularly on the graves.

In earlier years we have proved that it is possible, by packing a concentrated effort into one week, to clear and tidy the whole churchyard, and this year we hope to do so again.

WILL YOU HELP US PLEASE?

Come when you like, for as long or short a time as you like. Shears, rakes, barrows, and sickles are the best tools, and

we can provide a fair quantity of each; but if you can bring your own, please do—but label them!

The date? June 5 to 12—both Saturdays included.

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS—YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1970

(as presented to the Annual Church Meeting on April 21)

1969 General Fund—Income		1970
1,991	Pledged Giving	1,946
349	Other Giving	292
		2,238
725	Refund of income tax on Deeds of Covenant	722
308	Other income	278
		£3,238
£3,373		

Payments

Repairs and Maintenance:

	General	128
	Bells	280
	Dry Rot—Clock Tower	103
745		511
447	Heat, Light, Cleaning and Insurance	350
692	Vicar, Organist, Choirboys, Music, etc.	872
395	Diocesan Quota	412
510	Donations to Charities	489
100	Parish Magazine Subsidy	80
371	Other expenses	278
		£2,992
£3,260		

Magazine Account—Receipts

281	Advertisements and sundries	270
100	Subsidy from General Fund	80
£381		£350

Expenses

376	Cost of Printing	328
61	Cost of Insert	66
£437		£394

Charities Account

£27	Dividends received on bequests	£27
£30	Payments made for poor relief	£14

“Wayside” Account—Receipts

£339	Rents received from flat and garages, and donations	£358
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Payments

83	Repairs, Maintenance, cleaning, insurance, etc.	50
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62	Electricity and Water Rates	74
122	Diocesan House Maintenance Scheme—Annual premium	102
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	£267				£226
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SOME DATES TO NOTE

May

- 22 7.30 p.m. Hampton Choral Society presents Mendelssohn's 'Elijah' (Thames Valley Grammar School); 8.00 p.m. Super-Supper and Slides, arranged by the Social Committee (Hall).
- 24 10.30 a.m. Editorial Board (21 St. James's Road); 8.00 p.m. Deanery Synod (Hall of SS. Peter and Paul, Teddington).
- 25 Tuesday Club—Theatre Outing; 8.00 p.m. Meditation Group (W).
- 26 8.00 p.m. Stewardship Committee (106 Park Road); 8.00 p.m. United Service of Hymns, Reading and Prayers—'The Fellowship of the Holy Spirit' (Teddington Baptist Church).
- 30 WHITSUNDAY. Sunday arrangements as usual, except that there will be no meeting of the Junior Sunday School. All offerings on plate and in Whitsun envelopes for the re-equipping of the hospital destroyed by bombs in the Southern Sudan.

June

- 5 MASS ATTACK WEEK IN THE CHURCHYARD BEGINS; 3.00 p.m. Old People's Party (Hall).
- 8 8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club—A.G.M. (W).
- 9 8.00 p.m. Parochial Church Council (W).
- 13 5.15 p.m. Members of YPF lead service at Laurel Dene.
- 19 6.30 p.m. Fun and Games on Vicarage Lawn.
- 20 5.15 p.m. St. James's leads service at Laurel Dene.

BAPTISMS

April

- 25 Faye Elisabeth Lindup, 21 Taylor Close.
Mark Arthur Charles Tate, 31 Ringwood Way.
Philippa Susan Brook Williams, 82 Uxbridge Road, Hanworth.

MARRIAGES

April

- 10 Richard Alan Voizey to Frances Needs.
17 Ian Robinson to Coryn Vivienne Severn.

BURIALS

April

- 19 George Tollman, 70 Prior's Walk, Three Bridges, Crawley, aged 79 years.
20 Helen Churton, 1 Regina Court, Gloucester Road, aged 80 years (at Teddington Cemetery).