

SNORING — OR SEETHING?

While some of us were at home on a recent Monday evening watching the 'Panorama' feature on the Church of England, others of us were at the Deanery Synod, where the second half of the meeting was given up to an Australian priest who is persuasively advocating a way of life for the Church which could remedy the malaise apparently so strongly emphasised on the BBC programme. The Bishop of Leicester says the programme left the Church of England 'seething with anger'; the Bishop of Stepney, Trevor Huddleston, doubts this, but adds 'if it has, so much the better: it is altogether healthier to seethe than to snore — the usual reaction'. Yes indeed — but there are better things to seethe with than anger — love, for instance — and Mr. Cranswick showed us how we might do this in constructive and out-going ways. He is in Europe doing research into the methods of the Church of the first three centuries — in the British Museum Library, in Germany, and in particular in the diocese of Lyons in France, where these methods in modern dress have been put into practice for 16 years, with striking results: they really do work! There seems to be no reason why they should not work equally well here, if a group of parishes would combine in developing them: one parish on its own is too small a unit, and would not have the manpower needed.

For many years now, the Church in Western Europe has expected to be continually reinforced by people who have been baptised in infancy, and then trained through a long period in Sunday Schools or catechism classes to take on responsible adult membership. Though our teaching methods are much better and more interesting than they have ever been before (and this is certainly true of our parish, as the Vicar emphasised at the Annual Church Meeting), the numbers who take advantage of them has been steadily declining since the last war, whilst an increasing number now approach the Church for the first time as adults. It seems likely that this may be the pattern for the future: more and more adults with a sense of need in their lives, who are really, consciously or unconsciously, in search of God, diffidently approaching the Church to see if they can find what they are looking for within its fellowship. But the Church is not at present rightly orientated to give them the welcome and help and training that they need: but the early Church was, and Mr. Cranswick believes that by adapting its methods we can be too.

A short report of what happened at the Synod will be presented to the meeting of the Church Council on June 9, but Mr. Cranswick is coming here in person on June 27, to preach at Evensong and then be our guest at Wayside afterwards, when, complete with his fascinating charts, he will go further into this important matter and answer questions, and there will also be opportunity for full discussion. We should like to see Wayside packed to the doors with young and old on this occasion.

THE MOTHERS' UNION

M.U. members have reason to be grateful to two ladies this month, both of whom have helped the branch very much. First, Miss K. Dines who at short notice, took the place of Lady Latey who was convalescing after a minor operation. Miss Dines divided us into three groups, gave each group a pertinent question on the subject "Our Immigrant Neighbours" to discuss. Later the leaders summarised the findings of their groups, this provoked further discussion — we all worked hard, even the shyest amongst us ventured to give their ideas on the subject.

Our Coffee Morning and Evening on Ascension Day proved very successful and nearly £16 was raised for M.U. Overseas work. Miss Stanton made everyone welcome to her home, and all the visitors enjoyed looking at the numerous interesting African articles which were displayed to advantage. We are all grateful to Miss Stanton for giving us the chance to see so many unusual and beautiful examples of African craftsmanship.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 22, at 40 Gloucester Road, in the garden we hope! All members are asked to bring some examples of their leisure crafts with them.

The July meeting will be held on Thursday, July 8, and will be a service in Church.

I.V.R.

KEEP FIT

Providing the Hall is available, the Keep Fit sessions will continue through July and will stop only for four weeks in August, resuming on Friday, Sept. 3, at 2.00 p.m. sharp. For information phone 979 1954 or 979 5629.

SUPPER AND SLIDES

Once again the Social Committee can record a "Hit" for their new-style entertainment.

The showing of the slides was preceded by a magnificent buffet-type dinner. The menu of soup, meats and salad (what an interesting assortment of goodies to choose from!) — some people I noticed visited every dish in turn! The wine waiters worked extremely hard in an attempt to quench our thirst. Finally, exotic fruit flans, and cheese and biscuits, and last but not least the delectable creamy coffee. How hard the helpers must have worked to prepare not only the food but also the attractive tables!

A small committee had spent hours selecting for our amusement and delight the most interesting pictures of events held in connection with St. James's starting as far back as 1956, all of

course in beautiful technicolour. One of the first slides shown depicted the "daughter of St. James's" (see May Magazine) in a very wistful pose, with her mother looking as youthful as her daughter does today. Oh the comments that could be heard as the pictures flashed before our eyes!

A most delightful evening and congratulations to all including the raconteur and projectionist Messrs. Brooks and Leatherdale.

R.G.T.

TUESDAY CLUB

On May 25 a party of 40 members went to the Thorndike Theatre at Leatherhead to see Terence Rattigan's play "Love in Idleness".

We shall be having Miss Bowden on June 22 showing some of her holiday slides. On July 6 Mrs. Christine Fraser will speak on "The Remedial Teaching of Children". Our last meeting of the summer will be a Social evening on July 20. We meet again on September 4.

HAMPTON HILL FORGET-ME-NOT CLUB

On Saturday May 20 you ought to have seen the Club turn out for Whitton Carnival Procession. Our theme was "Piccadilly" — chiefly because someone supplied a statue of Eros! We felt we could really let ourselves go. I was surprised at the various people one could expect to see in Piccadilly. Tourists? Yes, from all parts of the world; Hippies, Flowersellers, a very pregnant gypsy girl with a baby: poor girl — she was afraid to stand up! Chubby barrow boy with oranges, leeks etc., which she aimed with amazing inaccuracy at any likely gentleman. A sandwichboard man advertising Bert's "Thursday Club" teas and our forthcoming September Fête; two ladies of very unconvincing easy virtue. A sweep I thought was a bit incongruous — perhaps he was a millionaire in disguise — the two "ladies" hoped he was! Mrs. Oliver — I'm so glad she had an "L" plate up, else people might have been led to believe that she was an authentic Bunny Girl and Edie — well, there are some things that just cannot be put into the Parish Magazine! You must see the snaps some time. We had a hilarious time and I think we added something to the parade. The Whitton people seemed very pleased to have us. We came second in our class. Mrs. Cox, our chairman, insists that we lost by only one point. Never mind! We had a wonderful, "never-to-be-forgotten" afternoon; we didn't get a first, but we had the most fun.

L.M.

SERVERS

Whilst they are clearly not essential for the conduct of the services of the church, it has been the custom at St. James's for many years now to have servers in attendance at the main services, and to many people their presence helps to enhance the dignity of the service. Over the years many young men have carried out their duties regularly and conscientiously.

At present we are short of servers and this can put rather a strain on those who are available, especially at festival times. If any young or not so young man feels that he could help as a server, whether or not he has had any previous experience, even if only occasionally, the Vicar or Seymour Harris would be glad to hear of it.

The only basic requirements are that a server should be regular in attendance and prepared to offer his best in the performance of his duties.

S.H.

FROM AROUND AND BEYOND THE SPIRE

We hear that Anne Warwick has now settled down in her new job at the Athens Hilton as what might be described as a P.R.O. This entails meeting people from all over the world — a predominance of Americans — many promoting their commodities, holding conventions, etc. Our Chelsea football team was there when they re-played Real Madrid.

The rendezvous for these people is around the Hilton's swimming pool and, as Anne is on the go for quite long periods in temperatures in the 80's, she usually ends her working day with a swim.

She is taking advantage of training by the Chef, and all that goes with the methods of high-class catering and entertaining, and is finding her, by now, pretty good command of the French language (with a smattering of German and Italian) very advantageous.

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We have very much missed our energetic Churchwarden, Mr. Leonard Rockliffe, who is having a course of treatment for his leg in West Middlesex Hospital which is proving to be very protracted and long drawn-out. He was allowed home for the Whitsun week-end, and on the Sunday was driven right up to the church door by his fellow-warden, Mr. Robinson, and then was able to walk right to the front of the church for the mid-day Communion. He is still doing a great deal of work for the church from his hospital bed, but this is not the same for any of us as having him actively amongst us, and we hope very much that this happy return to his full vigour will now be soon.

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A good many items from our Edwardian Evening were

repeated for the benefit of the old people of the district at their monthly party in May, and a very large audience much appreciated the diverse programme of song and dance presented to them. It would be invidious to pick out any one piece as better than any other, for all were extremely good, but two that struck many as indeed outstanding were 'Parasals' and 'Cruising Down The River'. The finale, as indeed the whole production, showed that the cast enjoyed themselves as much as did the audience, and everyone felt that the description given to them by Mrs. Cox of 'professional amateurs' was thoroughly deserved.

The 1st Hampton Hill Guides took part in a District Challenge at Beverre on Saturday May 22. Five companies entered the competition, which was in five parts: map-reading, observing, tent-pitching, wide game and collage-making. Our Company took third place with a total of 72 points. The event finished with a sing-song round the camp-fire, and this was a happy ending to a very enjoyable day.

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We have received by post a touching anonymous letter, obviously written by one of our 'older citizens', appealing to everyone to help to bring our dilapidated parish hall up to the standard of the other amenities of the district. The importance of the hall is stressed, and then its present defects are listed: broken tables, and too few for the large number who use the hall on many occasions; an inadequate stage, and no dressing-rooms for the entertainer who bring so much enjoyment to the old people at their monthly parties; curtains which have to be pinned together before they can be used and which have become a 'musical joke'; a general atmosphere of clutter, dinginess and disorder. 'Surely we can do better than this.' The writer appeals to all organisations that use the hall to make some tangible offer of financial help to our new Hall Management Committee, the members of which are indeed determined to take all the necessary steps to make our hall one of which the whole neighbourhood can be proud.

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The final figure for the Christian Aid Week collection in our area is not yet to hand, but the response to the collectors seems to have been a good one. The offerings in church on Whitsunday for the re-equipping of the bombed hospital in war-ravaged Southern Sudan came to £17.36, and as many people were away on holiday and there was an almost all-time low attendance at Evensong, we hope to receive many more Whitsun envelopes over the next few Sundays, which should increase greatly this amount.

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Some feats of 'derring-do' are not to be commended, but seem irresistible to a certain kind of youthful hot-head. One youth in the early hours of a recent Sunday morning risked the dizzy heights of the tower and spire by way of the steeplejacks'

inspection-ladders to fasten an enormous flag at the highest point. It waved there proudly all day, and no one was foolhardy enough to attempt to remove it. Various were the speculations about what it represented, Tanzania (or some other African Republic) and the I.R.A. being the hottest favourites, but later research established the more mundane and less romantic truth: it was in fact the colours of a local golf-club! Late that evening, when many people were out with their dogs, another youth climbed up, took it down, ran off with it under his jacket as a trophy, belting through the churchyard as though a lynch-mob of irate parishioners were at his heels! Though in fact he was not pursued, and the identity of both young men is now known to a few of us, we hope that this will be the last of such highly-dangerous exploits.

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The ladders referred to above have of course not been put up just for fun, and investigations so far carried out from them and from a bo'sun's chair have brought to light damage and wear-and-tear that may well cost over £1,500 to put right. In addition to this, if we want a warm church next winter, something like £170 will have to be spent on repairs and replacements in the boiler-house. And with the renovation of the hall and the rebuilding of the organ looming up, we seem to be entering a period of heavy domestic expense once again.

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We are very glad to have young children with us at the Parish Communion, but sometimes it is too much for them to stay for the whole service, and looking after them becomes a strain on their parents and distracts their attention from the service. With this in mind, several young mothers have said that they would gladly come in with others on a rota system to staff a nursery from 9.25–10.25 a.m. at Wayside. To make the project feasible, at least another 6 volunteers are needed, because there should be at least two on duty at a time: so offers of help will be gladly received.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

June

- 18 8.00 p.m. Scout Group Annual General Meeting (Hall).
- 19 7.30 p.m. Fun and Games on the Vicarage Lawn.
- 20 5.15 p.m. St. James's leads service at Laurel Dene.
- 22 10.30 a.m. Editorial Board meets to prepare July issue (30, St. James's Road); 2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union Garden Meeting (40, Gloucester Road); 8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club: Holiday Slides (W).
- 27 The Reverend J. Cranswick preaches at Evensong 6.30 p.m., and at a Parish Meeting at Wayside 8.00 p.m.: 'People in search of god . . . making Adult Christians'.
- 29 Saint Peter's Day: Holy Communion at 10.00 a.m.