

PLAYS DURING HOLY WEEK

In the early 1940s Miss Dorothy Sayers wrote a sequence of 12 plays for broadcasting; she describes it on the title page of the *Man Born to be King* as "a play cycle on the life of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ". The plays were broadcast at monthly intervals from December 1941—October 1942, and have often been repeated during Lent and Holy Week in subsequent years. They are naturally plays for voices. The Evangelist introduces and describes the scenes and the writing carefully introduces the characters who are speaking.

This year during Holy Week at St. James's we are proposing to read two of the plays: the first, "Royal Progress", on Palm Sunday, March 26, at Evensong at 6.30 p.m., and "The King's Supper" on Maundy Thursday, March 30, when the Church commemorates the Last Supper in the Upper Room, at 8 p.m. in the evening.

In "Royal Progress" we realise that the net of intrigue is closing round Jesus: the ploy of the Zealots who hope they can manoeuvre Jesus into being the pawn of their political party, the jealousy and the treachery and the very complicated character of Judas, and the planning of the arrest and trial by Caiaphas the High Priest. In the middle of the play Jesus rides into Jerusalem on the donkey, with the palms waving, shouts of hosanna and acclamation, a fitting reminder of Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week.

In the play "The King's Supper" the underlying note is crisis, a feeling of urgency and expectancy is apparent, and central to this are the scenes in the Upper Room: the washing of the feet and the last discourses and prayers surround the great moment of the Institution. The play finishes with the betrayal in Gethsamene and the arrest.

In both plays the theme of a contrast of values between this world and the Kingdom of Heaven here and hereafter is stressed.
H.M.S.

HAMPTON DISTRICT GIRL GUIDES THINKING DAY SERVICE

We were so pleased to get together for our annual Thinking Day Service at St. James's Church.

It is on occasions like this when we realize the true value of our movement and its meaning to so many, which was evident by the wonderful turn-out and smartness of appearance.

This was a good occasion to welcome our County Commissioner with her Standard which was carried by 1st Hampton Hill guides—this was admired by all with its beautiful hand workmanship.

Also present were our District Commissioner, Mrs. Devo, Mr. Derek Stevens, Twickenham District Commissioner for scouts, and our own Scout leader, parents and friends.

Lessons were read by the 1st Hampton Hill Guides. Two brownies and two guides renewed the "promises".

Collections taken were in aid of the Church of England

Children's Society — the amount was £14.36.

We would like to thank all who took part in any way in this service, not forgetting the Vicar, and Mr Dfoce who so kindly played the organ for us.

B. M. Oliver, Brown Owl.

THE MOTHERS' UNION

The meeting on Candlemas Day dealt with M.U. work Overseas and was of special interest because the Enrolling member had received an air-letter than morning from our "Link" in Ife, Owerri Diocese, Eastern Nigeria. As no news had been received from that Branch for over five years, we all rejoiced to be in touch with the members again. Incidentally, ours is the first London Branch to have heard from Nigerian members since the war. The very latest transparencies from Sierra Leone of the opening of M.U. Headquarters there, in December last, were shown and we saw pictures of the gifts to which we had all contributed. These, together with pictures of the Home at Iyi-Enu, which M.U. is sponsoring for Nigerian war-orphanas, were on view; all present could see where the money raised by the Ascension Day Coffee Parties had been sent (and spent!).

On Ash Wednesday, Mrs. Brunt started our Lenten preparation for Women's World Day of Prayer with an inspiring talk.

It is becoming a tradition that we hold an Austerity Lunch in Wayside on Wednesday in Holy Week. This will be held on March 29 from 12 to 2 p.m. Please make it known far and wide, as the more people we have, the more money will be raised for Christian Aid. Following the lunch at 2.30 p.m. Mrs. Brunt will give an illustrated talk on "A visit to Italy". This will take the place of the April meeting.

I.V.R.

THE DAY CENTRE PROJECT

The idea of building a Day Centre for Old Age Pensioners is now an established fact. The committee have raised over £5,000 towards it. The Borough Council have contributed a valuable building site, and have offered £20,000 to enable building to be started in April of this year.

It is to be situated near the level crossing at Hampton Station, but is to serve the parishes of both Hampton and Hampton Hill.

At the Day Centre the older citizens of the area will find warm, comfortable rooms; a full mid-day meal, as well as light refreshment, will be available. There will be facilities for mutual entertainment and activities, or a chat with friends, also a library. The whole scheme will enable local welfare workers to have contact with the old people, and help and advise them.

While it is admitted that the site is not easily accessible from Hampton Hill, we find that many pensioners get about very well, and the centre would be a possibility for some of them. In addition we have several times had verbal assurances from the Welfare Department of the Council that transport would be made available

for some of the less able people.

Since this Department cannot set up a centre in every part of the Borough, it seems only common sense to support this venture and get as much benefit as possible from it.

When our Centre is built, as it will be later this year, the committee will still be required to find money to furnish and maintain it. Voluntary helpers will also be needed, to work on a rota basis, doing the various jobs that will be necessary to keep everyone comfortable and happy. But what is most urgently needed at the moment is the assurance of financial support. The furnishing and fitting it out with equipment, books, and a host of small extras will be costly, as we want to make it as homely and attractive as possible. If you who are reading this, or any association to which you belong, are willing to help, please get in touch with our Hampton Hill representative — Mrs. Cox, 15, Lindsay Road. One financial project already in being is the 'bring and buy' bookshop at Hampton Station — please support this if you can.

L.M.

'LIGHTEN OUR DARKNESS'

On Sunday February 13 the lights went out some minutes after 6.00 p.m. owing to a power-cut. We had not expected this, as the Vicar had been informed by the Electricity Board that we were in group D 12 (actually the power-circuit in the vestry was, as we found out later), but someone had apparently transferred most of the church and part of the district round to C7.

Nothing daunted, on we went with Evensong. The only 6 candles available at short notice were allocated as fairly as possible: one for the organist isolated at the piano in the north aisle, one for the vicar to read by (later I was most kindly given, by one who saw my difficulties on this occasion, a splendid illuminated magnifier, which was a great help in other services, including two funerals, which I had to take in semi-darkness, as well as necessary reading during black-outs.—Ed.), and the two altar candles were set up on flower-stands in the nave for the congregation. The two small candles from the children's altar were put on the table by the door, to help guides us in and out.

All the congregation sat well up to the front of the church, as near to the two candles as possible; there was a wonderful feeling of friendliness in adversity. "Who are you in the darkness? " "Can you see anything? " "Shall we share my torch? "

"Now," said the vicar, "which hymns do we know best? We want some we know my heart, that we can manage if we can't read our books." So we sang with great enthusiasm 'Praise my soul the King of Heaven', 'All things bright and beautiful', and 'Love divine'. "Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord" we prayed; as the vicar commented, it was indeed topical! Then the vicar stood in the flickering candlelight and preached from memory the sermon which he had prepared — "We love because he loved us first".

It was altogether a very lively and cheerful service. Getting ready to go to church I thought 'I'll be really clever and take along my own candle!' I remembered to take matches, but alas not my specs: as my neighbours profited I meditated on 'pride cometh before a fall', and felt justly humbled.

H.M.S.

FROM HAMPTON HILL TO WHITMORE VALE

I think this article should be entitled "God moves in a mysterious way", for in my life his promptings have certainly led me into some strange situations. Many of you will already have heard of Whitmore Vale House at Hindhead in Surrey as our Y.P.F. and other youth groups in the area have spent many weekends there chopping down trees. The house is being used as a transitional hostel for men who in their youth (sometimes childhood) were wrongfully put into mental institutions and until recent legislation were unable to get out. Most of them are older men who whilst having a slightly lower than average I.Q. have been badly handicapped by the poor standards of education made available to them in hospital. These men all have jobs, e.g. coalmen, dustmen, labourers and earn fairly good wages and would like to get flats or rooms of their own. They are fed up with the over-crowded conditions and the stigma attached to being in a mental hospital. Having spent all of their lives in institutions they don't know how to look afterwards themselves and so the aim of Whitmore Vale House is to teach them basic things like simple cookery, washing, mending, etc., over a period of about 12 months.

On one of the working weekends Mr. and Mrs. Brock-Gunn (the wardens) invited me to join them in this venture for 8 months and after much prayer I felt that God was leading me there. I shall stay until September and then I am hoping to go to college to take a Diploma in Social Administration.

Please remember in your prayers the men who come and also pray that Mr. and Mrs. Brock-Gunn and I may have the strength and patience necessary to be able to help them.

Hazel Gubbins.

UNITED SERVICES

During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January this year, St. James's invited other churches in the district to join with us in a united service at 6.45 p.m. on the Sunday: no interdenominational hotch-potch of a service, but traditional Anglican Evensong, with special intercessions for unity and the Congregational minister preaching a very challenging sermon. Some churches closed their doors, others held services as usual but encouraged people to attend, and over 260 people came, of whom 150 stayed behind afterwards for refreshments and conversation. The innovation of serving refreshments in the church itself (made possible by careful planning and the help of a number of people) was very successful and enthusiastically commented on. Large boards

were laid across the tops of pews at strategic points to serve as tables, and the loan of a thermos-urn made it possible to supply piping-hot coffee with no delays. People stayed on chatting until late in the evening, and seemed loth to leave such a pleasant and friendly occasion.

The success of the evening sparked off discussion at the committee of the Council of Churches shortly afterwards, and a strong desire was expressed that we might revert to the pattern of the 'fifties, and hold such united services once a quarter. This was unanimously commended to the controlling bodies of each of the member-churches, and in the meantime, while this is being discussed, the Methodist Church has invited us to be their guests on April 30, and our vicar to be the preacher. Meanwhile, as often in the past, our friends from the Congregational Church will be joining with us for Communion on the evening of Maundy Thursday, and on this occasion there will also be a reading of one of the plays of Dorothy Sayers, and the evening will close with an Agape meal in the form of hot-cross buns and coffee.

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

This will be held in the Parish Hall on 26 April, when a new and larger P.C.C. is to be elected. Please make sure that your name is on the new Electoral Roll, so that you can attend and vote.

The theme of the pre-meeting gathering, from 7.30 p.m., will be "The Post-War years in the Parish" and we hope to show a series of display panels recalling events and personalities over these years.

If you can lend any old photographs, cuttings, posters or other matter which would be of interest, please contact Mr. R. E. Bridges at 19 St. James's Road, preferably before the end of March.

"GODSPELL"

So many people have expressed an interest in this production that it is the intention of the Social Committee to make a block booking as soon as these are available. The date will probably be some time in the Autumn and the tickets will be about £1 (balcony) and £1.60 (circle) including the coach fare.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

March

- 20 10.30 a.m. Editorial Board (63, Park Road).
21 8.00 p.m. Parochial Church Council (W).
22 7.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
23 8.00 p.m. Final Meeting of Lent Course: The Reverend Richard Hall (Moderator-Secretary, London Congregational Union) speaks on 'The Christian and This World' (St. Mary's Hall, Hampton).
25 THE ANNUNCIATION: Holy Communion at 10.00 a.m.
26 PALM SUNDAY: Sunday arrangements as usual on fourth Sunday. Palm crosses made by Christians in Tanzania will be distributed at all services. At Evensong, instead of a sermon, the play 'Royal Progress' will be presented.
27 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
28 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion. 8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club: 'A Visit to Greece' (W).
29 7.30 a.m. Holy Communion. 12.00 - 2.00 p.m. Austerity Lunch (W). 2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union Open Meeting: 'A Visit to Italy' (W).
30 8.00 p.m. Play 'The King's Supper'; Parish Communion; Agape (coffee and hot-cross buns): our friends from the Congregational Church will be joining with us.
31 GOOD FRIDAY: 10.00 a.m. Children's Service. 12.00 - 3.00 p.m. The Three Hours' Devotion, conducted by Miss Hannah Stanton: 3.30 p.m. Annual United Open-Air Service (this year, if permission can be obtained, it is hoped to change the venue to the gardens by the Pantile Bridge at the beginning of Uxbridge Road).

April

- 1 9.30 a.m. onwards — Decoration of the church for Easter: gifts of flowers and help in arranging them will be much appreciated.
2 EASTER DAY: Holy Communion 7.00 a.m., 8.00 a.m., and 12.10 p.m. Parish and Family Communion 9.30 a.m. Children's Service 11.15 a.m. Evensong 6.30 p.m.
3 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
4 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
5 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion at Laurel Dene.
11 8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club: Speaker: Mrs. Priestley (W).
17 7.30 a.m. Holy Communion. 8.00 p.m. Junior Council of Churches Commission (1, Jillian Close). 8.00 p.m. Liturgical Committee (68, Park Road). 8.15 p.m. Properties Committee (81, Park Road).
25 SAINT MARK'S DAY: 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion. 8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club: Mrs. Mudge speaks on 'Shopping Around' (W). 8.00 p.m. Committee of the Hampton and Sunbury Council of Churches (Church of St. Ignatius, Sunbury).

- 26 7.30 p.m. Reception, Exhibition and ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (Hall).
- 30 No Evening Service here, but at 6.45 p.m. UNITED SERVICE at the HAMPTON METHODIST CHURCH, Percy Road, at which the Vicar will preach.
- N.B. *Services at Laurel Dene* led by Members of St. Jame's: Sunday April 16, 5.15 p.m. (Y.P.F.); Sunday April 23, 5.15 p.m. (senior members).

BAPTISM

February

- 13 Kenneth William Dallass, 17, Chelsea Close (at the Parish Communion).

MARRIAGES

January

- 22 Peter Read to Patricia Dorothy Thorpe.

February

- 12 Sidney Tom Hamaton to Tylma Lunt.
Trevor Lewis Atkinson to Patricia Granger.

March

- 4 Aichard Pooley to Mary Elizabeth Light.

BURIALS AND CREMATIONS

January

- 25 Rose Annie Aird, 30, Cranmer Road, aged 84 years (interment of ashes in family grave).
- 31 Leslie Lancelot Shepperd, 10, Westbank Road, aged 53 years.

February

- 8 Percy Malcolm Rivers, 29, Windmill Road, aged 76 years.
- 15 Mary Maud May Place, Clayponds Hospital (formerly of Park Road), aged 88 years (Hampton Cemetery).
- 21 Henry Barrell, 88, Park Road, aged 71 years (at South-West Middlesex Crematorium).
- 25 Elizabeth May Rebecca Drew, Brookwood Hospital (formerly of 18, Walsey Road), aged 78 years.

March

- 7 Annie Doughty, 50, Wolsey Road, aged 84 years (at Kingston Crematorium).