

VICAR'S NOTES

The Church is for CARING, SHARING, DARING: This is to be the theme of our fourth Parish Weekend, to be held at Hildenborough Hall, in the Otford Hills of Kent, from Friday evening November 10 to the following Monday morning (though no doubt most of us will have to leave after tea or dinner on the Sunday). We had originally asked for an earlier date when we thought the weather might be better and the countryside more alluring and less muddy, and we thought we had secured it, but there was a slip-up in the Hall office which resulted in double-booking, and to avoid difficulties our PCC did not press our claims for the October dates but agreed to accept these later ones. We confidently expect this conference to be the best yet—though 'conference' is an inadequate name to cover all that we intend to do. The programme—more details of which will be given later—should appeal to a wide range of age and interest, and there is sure to be a big demand for places, so I would advise you to reserve yours without delay by dropping a note to Mrs. Helen Taylor, 68 Park Road.

Our new colleague: We give a warm welcome this month to the Reverend James H. Cranswick as he officially begins to discharge the commission given him by the Bishop with us and amongst us. He will work out with us a new approach to mission—or perhaps it would be more correct to say an old approach now revived and modernised. We and nine other parishes are involved in this three-year experiment, and have promised our support. Jim Cranswick and his family will be moving from Raynes Park to live in South Road, Hampton, and the Bishop wants him to be licensed to this parish, and the PCC has agreed. A number of us have already met this friendly Australian priest, and soon he will be known by many more. For some months he has been working closely with the Liturgical Committee in making plans for the Parish Weekend, which will provide us with ample opportunity to explore some of his ideas and methods in depth, and to discuss how they might be implemented in our own local situation.

Holy Week and Easter: The Plays of Dorothy Sayers certainly wear well and still make as great an impact on those who read or hear them as ever. They were written for broadcasting, and so it was entirely fitting that no visual impression should be attempted: they were read from the back of the church, the congregation sitting in semi-darkness facing the illuminated altar. Miss Hannah Stanton had welded her large casts (about 25 people took speaking parts in the two plays, as well as the enthusiastic group producing the realistic sound effects!) into united teams who put their whole heart into it. On Maundy Thursday, we were joined by some of our friends from the Congregational Church, and after the play dealing with the events of that night—'the same night in which he was betrayed'—we too celebrated the Supper in our modern Series 2 way, the Gospel being read with full congregational participation, and felt very much

at one with those who had sat in that upper room. Then for the second time we held a fellowship meal, an Agape, in the church itself, and 80 of us shared coffee and hot-cross buns together.

On Good Friday we followed the example set by Westminster Abbey last year in having a lady lead us in the Three Hours' Devotion—and wonderfully and inspiringly she did it. Then on Easter Day there seemed more life and joy (and certainly more communicants) than for many years past—all of which moves us to say from the heart 'Laus Deo!'

It has been a great help in recent months to have Seymour Harris administering the chalice Sunday after Sunday at the Parish Communion, and particularly so, of course, at the Festivals. In this we have the full approval of the Bishop in response to the unanimous request of the PCC that such permission be granted. By the summer we hope that he will be qualified for admission by the Bishop to the Office of Reader, and then in the autumn he begins an arduous and demanding course of training which lasts for three years under the auspices of the Southwark Ordination Course, having passed with flying colours all the necessary selection procedures. At his own request he has been accepted for training as an auxiliary priest, which means that all through his course and after ordination he will continue to carry on his responsible secular work as a Boots' manager, and indeed to exercise a good part of his ministry there, as well as being an even more valuable and well-equipped contributor to the life and welfare of our parish than he is at present (one of his recent much-appreciated pastoral services has been in the formation and guidance of house-groups, a form of action we shall be hearing much more about in the near future).

HADRIAN VII

On 8 March a large band of St. James's theatre-goers were transported, courtesy of the Social Committee, to the Thorndike Theatre, Leatherhead, to see the award-winning play "Hadrian VII" by Peter Luke. It was a great pleasure for many of us to be able to inspect for the first time this impressive new theatre. But it was even more of a pleasure to see a production which quite equalled its surroundings in spirit and imagination.

"Hadrian VII" is the bizarre tale of an embittered yet remarkable Englishman who dreams of becoming Pope. The biographical details are those of the author of the novel on which the play is based—the Victorian writer Frederick William Rolfe. A converted Roman Catholic who was twice rejected for the priesthood, Rolfe was obsessed by his utter lack of success in life. Not surprisingly, therefore, his work bristles with caustic attacks on his Church and faith and proud assertions of his own brilliance. But

despite the bitterness and arrogance it reveals a striking individual who deserves not only a large measure of sympathy, but also admiration.

Both production and cast were impressively strong. The audience was swiftly transported to the corridors of the Vatican with the help of chanting priests and liberal sprinkling of incense. Gloriously clad cardinals processed through the auditorium bringing with them all the pomp and ceremony of the Papal court. But the highlight of the evening was the memorable acting of John Warner as the ebullient Rolfe.

To judge by the approving murmurs on the way home, the evening was an unstinted success.



THE MAY DANCE

Come and join Alderman and Mrs. Harris, the Vicar and Mrs. Brunt and the rest of the parishioners to celebrate the re-opening of our Parish Hall on May 6 at a Grand Dance. Tickets are now available from the Social Committee at 75p each including refreshments. Admission is by ticket only.



HOW THE CHURCH HALL CAME TO BE

During the recent decoration activities at the Church Hall, when the "St. James's Male Voice Choir" had temporarily downed their paint brushes to snatch a welcome cup of coffee, the range of discussion disclosed that it was not generally known that the Church Hall was originally the St. James's Church of England Boys' School. As an ex-alumni of the 1918/24 class it was suggested that I might throw some lights on its earlier years.

'The Birth and Growth of Hampton Hill' records that the school was founded by the Vicar of St. James's, the Rev. Fitzroy John Wygram, in 1867. I entered its portals in 1918 at the tender age of 5, joining the Infants' School, which together with the Girls' School were housed in the building opposite the Hall and now taken over as a warehouse. The Infants' occupied the three end rooms which until fairly recently were used as the Church Club Room. The headmistress was Miss Williams and her deputy, Miss Melliush; I forget the name of the third teacher. Mother Williams, as we called her, was a strict disciplinarian whom we regarded with great awe. Her particular ritual was to start the day by opening her Daily Mail and reading out the weather news, together with the times of sunrise and sunset and the phases of the moon.

At the age of 8 I moved across the road to the Boys' School. The education provided was a rudimentary three "Rs" with minimal

equipment, most of our exercises were done on slates which we cleaned with a judicious application of saliva and jacket cuff. The main hall was divided in half by a folding wood and glass screen, which was folded back during prayers and assembly. The two halves were then further divided into two classes each by cloth screens. These had the advantage of making it possible to listen to the adjoining class if one's own lesson wasn't particularly interesting. They also provided a valuable supply of tin-tacks to place on the seats of the boys in front.

The four classes in the main hall were taught respectively by Mr. Basey (he headmaster), Mr. King, Mr. Willis and Mr. Russ, who was also the church organist. What is now the ladies' loo housed a class taught by Miss Paine, the sister of the local butcher and the present kitchen was the classroom of Mr. Evans, one of the churchwardens.

Mr. Basey, known as "Gaffer", was also our captain in the Church Lads' Brigade, for which role his very upright carriage and fierce waxed military moustaches befitted him admirably. Miss Paine was renowned for her lusty hymn singing and a fiendish passion for fresh air; her declaimed aim in life was to replace all windows by iron grilles. She always insisted that we sat with our arms folded behind our backs, instead of the normal front position, in order to increase our air capacity and improve our posture. "Charlie" Evans, as one might suspect, was a fervent Welshman who taught me the Ash Grove and much Welsh mythology; he also displayed a cunning under-arm lob on the cricket field, now Holly Road Recreation Ground.

In 1928 the Church School came to its end to be replaced by the present Council School in Windmill Road.

The pitched roof of the main hall was subsequently replaced by a flat one and a new ceiling and floor installed; the primitive lavatories at the rear were removed and an extension built on the front to form an entrance lobby and a gentlemen's cloaroom and in 1930 the old Boys' School entered into a new lease of life as the Parish Hall.

E. Gubbins.

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS—YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER

1971

1970	General Fund—Income	1971
1,946	Pledged Giving	2,114
292	Other Giving	343
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722	Refund of income tax on Deeds of Covenant	2,457
278	Other income	761
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3,238		452
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	Payments	
	Repairs and Maintenance:	
	Heating	165
	Spire Survey	113
	General	150
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511		428
350	Heat, Light, Cleaning and Insurance	277
872	Vicar, Organist, Choirboys, Music, etc.	630
412	Diocesan Quota	444
489	Donations to Charities	494
80	Parish Magazine Subsidy	80
278	Other expenses	441
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2,992		2,794
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	Magazine Account—Receipts	
270	Advertisements and sundries	348
80	Subsidy from General Fund	80
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350		428
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	Expenses	
328	Cost of Printing	373
66	Cost of Insert	65
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394		438
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	Charities Account	
27	Dividends received on bequests	27
14	Charitable payments made	10
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	Wayside Account—Receipts	
358	Rents received from flat & garages, & donations	375
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	Payments	
50	Repairs, Maintenance, cleaning, insurance, etc.	72
75	Electricity and Water rates	65
102	Diocesan House Maintenance Scheme—Annual	
premium		102
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227		239
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SOME DATES TO NOTE

April

- 26 7.30 p.m. Reception, Exhibition and ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (Hall).
28 7.00 p.m. Mothers' Union: Jumble Sale (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. (If you would like transport from here, please get in touch with Mr. Alan Taylor, 68 Park Road, 979 7042.)

May

- 1 SAINT PHILIP & SAINT JAMES'S DAY: 7.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
2 7.30 p.m. Mothers' Union Diocesan Festival Service (St. Paul's Cathedral).
3 2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union Branch Meeting: Important Domestic Session (W).
5 8.00 p.m. House Group (47 St. James's Road).
6 3.30 p.m. Old People's Party (Hall); 7.45 p.m. GRAND PARISH DANCE (Hall).
9 8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club (W).
11 ASCENSION DAY: 7.30 a.m. Holy Communion; 8.50 a.m. Holy Communion in St. Anne's Chapel (L.E.H.S.); 7.45 p.m. NEWCOMERS' PARTY (by invitation: if you would like to receive one, please get in touch with Mrs. Leatherdale, 18 St. James's Road, 979 6999).
15-21 CHRISTIAN AID WEEK.
17 7.45 p.m. United Service (St. Alban's, Teddington).
19 8.00 p.m. House Group (47 St. James's Road).
21 WHITSUNDAY: Sunday arrangements as usual, with additional celebration of Holy Communion at 12.10 p.m.
22 MONDAY IN WHITSUN WEEK: 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion; 2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union Deanery Festival Service (St. James's Church).
23 TUESDAY IN WHITSUN WEEK: 7.30 a.m. Holy Communion; 8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club (W).
24 2.30 p.m. Trustees' Meeting (Vicarage).
28 TRINITY SUNDAY: Sunday arrangements as usual on fourth Sunday.

June

- 3 Annual Diocesan Stewardship Conference: Parish Outing to Brighton; Old People's Party (Hall).
5 8.15 p.m. Properties Committee (21 St. James's Road).

November

- 10-12 or 13 PARISH WEEKEND CONFERENCE AT HILDENBOROUGH HALL (revised dates).

BAPTISMS

February

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

March

- 26 Adam Skinner, 8 Ringwood Way.
Faye Ann Taylor, 55 Windmill Road.
Paul Ian Tyrrell, 185 High Street.
Lynn Caroline Wride, 12 Vincent Row.

MARRIAGES

February

- 12 Sidney Tom Hamaton to Thelma Lunt.
Trevor Lewis Atkinson to Pamela Granger.

March

- 4 Richard Pooley to Mary Elizabeth Light.
18 John Edward Leonard Sharp to Jennifer Ann Hurst.
David Ernest Day to Janina Luck.
25 Clive Martin Morris to Joy France Manning.

April

- 1 Graham Stuart Douglas to Ann Patricia Stuart.
3 Malcolm David Chester to Rosalind Melville.