

## SOME IMPRESSIONS OF THE ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

To put first things first I was very much impressed, before I even got to the meeting, by the excellent document embracing Agenda, Accounts and Annual Reports of Committees and Associations which was the forerunner of the evening. How many Churches, I wondered, are fortunate enough in being able to enlist so much skill and expertise as was exemplified in its production and in its content?

The meeting this year opened in an atmosphere of subdued glee and excitement because of the impending presentation to our Vicar and his wife. The secret had been well kept—the response, so greatly exceeding even our very ambitious expectations, showing clearly the warmth of affection, esteem and gratitude with which we regard Rupert and “Connie”. It was a great pity that Mrs. Brunt was prevented by illness from being at her husband’s side—as she so loyally and inspiringly has been through the years—but she was very much in our thoughts.

It is difficult to express adequately the kind of feelings which prompt such a presentation, but Mr. Brunt can have been left in no doubt as to the quality of the regard his parish feels for him and his wife. Not surprising that he appeared moved—I know I was!

The Arrangements Committee had produced a well set-out and comprehensive exhibition of Parish happenings during the last twenty years and congratulations are due to them, and to our hard-working churchwardens who were re-elected to office by general warm acclaim.

The Hall itself can never have looked so smart since its opening, Its appearance reflecting the imagination, hard work and forward-looking of all who have worked so hard on it.

The first and only disappointment of the business part of the evening—and it was a big one—was the poor response to the revision of the Electoral Roll. Only 164 names when Mr. Brunt had expected at least 250. This low figure does not truly represent the active, committed congregation of St. James’s. WHY do people fight shy of being on the Roll? Mr. Brunt is Vicar of one of the most go ahead, well found, prosperous and forward-looking churches in the Deanery and yet this truth is misrepresented by the numbers actually on the Electoral Roll. WHY? If YOU are over 17 and confirmed and not on the Roll please ask yourself why—and take steps to rectify the omission for next year. (By the way—you do not have to be resident in this parish so long as you worship with us.)

By contrast, the Treasurer's report was highly satisfactory. The recent Stewardship Campaign and the increase in Income Tax Refund on covenanted pledges has materially increased our income and due to hard work and know-how the church properties are in good order and where necessary maintenance is being regularly carried out; major projects this year being the Spire and the organ.

An unforeseen hitch to the evening's proceedings was the time it took for the Tellers to come up with the names of the new P.C.C. members. An intricate vote had to be taken due to the unprecedented number of people—many of them newly aspiring to election—who put forward their names. The delight of welcoming new names to the P.C.C. was mingled with the regret at hearing that several familiar friends are bidding us a temporary adieu. But what a change—people anxious to serve and failing to be elected owing to press of numbers—26 nominations for 20 places—rather than having to be drummed to the colours as in the past!

Reading the reports of the Church Committees and Bodies gave one a warm feeling. What a lot of hard work, what a lot of enjoyment, what a gratifying measure of success and hope for the future is to be found in these pages! I expect, in listening to the names minuted to receive special thanks, we could all have thought of many more deserving of our appreciation and this is a good sign. A lot of people working, a lot of involvement but still need and scope for many more. How right Mr. Brunt has been in insisting from the beginning that the Church's strength lies in individuals like each one of us. Individuals joining together in worship and service, speaking the truth together in love (as he urged us to strive to do so long ago at our first Parish weekend) who can confidently expect to see the kind of rewards we are beginning to see and who can look forward ever more hopefully and confidently to the future.

## **UNITED SERVICE—HAMPTON COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**

Sunday April 30 saw the second of what is hoped to be a regular series of United Services under the auspices of the Hampton and Sunbury Council of Churches. The service was held at the Methodist Church in Percy Road and started at 6.45 p.m. to enable worshippers to reach the service in time even if by mistake they had gone to their own church first. St. James's was closed of course and transport was laid on for anyone who wanted to take them down to Percy Road.

Mr. Brunt preached on Isaiah 30, v. 21 "This is the way: follow it" and he spoke about Christianity as not providing a set of rules or regulations to try and cover every facet of life—which is virtually impossible—but which gives the way of Christ to follow and asks us to assess every situation with compassion and love as our guide.

Mr. Davy and Mr. Tickner read the lessons, Mr. Booth led the prayers and intercessions and Mr. Mundy conducted the service.

Our thanks to Mr. Mundy and his congregation for welcoming us so warmly and for providing the refreshments afterwards. The cause of ecumenism will be greatly served by services such as these and the fellowship that will surely ensue.

## **THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP**

### **EASTER HOLIDAY**

Nineteen of us set off in two Ford Transit vans at 9.30 a.m. on Monday April 3 and that evening we settled into our expedition centre at Beal on the N.E. coast of England. From there, we visited Holy Island with its old priory and rolling sand-dunes, Bamburgh Castle and its vast beaches, the Farne Islands and their multitudes of wild life including rare seals and puffins, Jedburgh with its interesting ruins, Edinburgh and its never-changing beauty. We also went on walks around the Cheviot and some even reached the top of it (2681 feet). In the evenings we had discussions as we usually do on Sundays. The rest of the time, apart from when we were cooking our own meals or washing them up, we spent getting to know each other. At the end the atmosphere and fellowship were unique.

V.R.B.

## **SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

Come and join St. James's at Brighton on Saturday June 3. The coach will leave the church at 9.30 a.m. and return not later than 7.00 p.m. This is an ideal day out for all ages as there is plenty to do and see at Brighton. The price of the tickets includes a picnic lunch which we have found to be great fun. Tickets will be about £1 for adults and 75p for children under 14 and available from the Social Committee.

Following the few Latin-American dancing classes enthusiastically supported in the Parish Hall in April we are holding two more classes on Thursday June 8 and 15 to bush up our Cha-Cha. Whether or not you came to the first classes do come along this time as previous knowledge is not necessary to enjoy this dance.

For those who have not yet mastered the waltz, quickstep, etc. we are also holding three classes on Thursday June 29, July 6 and 13 at 8 p.m. also in the hall for beginners of all ages. The charge for all these classes will be 20p per session per person.

We are endeavouring to book 40 seats to see "Godspell" on Thursday September 21—watch for further notices.

## THE CHURCHYARD

This year (as last year) we shall make a week's "mass attack" in early June.

This year (as last year) we aim to trim and tidy the whole churchyard.

Last year, the July "Spire" reported: "heavy rain . . . prevented work on three evenings . . . (but) nearly the whole area was cleared . . . disappointment was tempered by appreciation of the . . . help given by a small band . . . working long and hard to make up for lack of support."

This year, the "attack" will be from June 10-17 inclusive. Help at any time will be welcomed, but especially on the first Saturday, to give us a good start.

May we have YOUR help, this year?

J.W.G.

## HAMPTON HILL OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE COMMITTEE

The Forget-me-not Club was three years old on May 1, and members celebrated the occasion with a Birthday Party which was held at Hampton Hill Congregational Hall on Thursday, April 27. Seventy-two members sat down to tea with our special guests, Mrs. H. Harris, Mrs. V. Rockliffe and Mrs. E. Forrow, Mrs. E. Read and Mrs. F. Hill from Teddington O.P.W. together with Rev. A. Hunter, and Cllr. G. Kenton. Our Vicar and Mrs. C. Brunt, Mrs. L. Mills and Mr. L. Rockliffe were unable to come but sent us birthday greetings and good wishes.

The stacks of goodies provided by the members were soon demolished and then the moment came to cut the birthday cake, resplendent in blue and white icing and of course, with three candles. Mrs. Harris did us the honour and gave us a little poem to digest at the same time.

"Forget-me-nots are blue, the oceans are bluer,  
Ladies' hearts are true but the gentlemen's are truer."

With the ladies there in the majority, you can guess the response! Mr. Hunter, in his address, thanked Mrs. Cox on her leadership and said he felt the club's success was due to everyone's willingness to join in all the activities. Mrs. Cox gave Forget-me-not badges to her guests making them honorary members which made the membership stand at 117.

After tea, members gave a dress rehearsal of their float's coming entry into Whitton's Carnival on Saturday, May 13, called "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland", we had the Mad Hatter (Mr. Townsend), White Queen (Mrs. Blunden), King of Hearts (Mrs. Blandford), the Duchess (Mrs. Cox), and Mock Turtle (Mrs.

Townsend). We felt if the rest of the cast looked as good, we ought to walk away with one of the prizes!

Miss C. Hockley and Mrs. L. Collins entertained with recitation and song and Mrs. Read led the community singing to bring the party to a close.

We would like to say a big "thank-you to Mrs. Rotter for escorting most of our members from the old people's flats at Laurel Road by car to and from the party. Mr. L. Mills and Mr. G. Casey helped with their cars, too. Thank you, Forget-me-nots.

### **RETIREMENT OF MISS COATES**

As you may already know, Miss Coates, Headmistress of Carlisle Infants' School, Broad Lane, Hampton, is retiring in July after 19 years of dedicated service to the children of Hampton and Hampton Hill. It has been proposed that she be given a gift in appreciation of this service and it is thought that parents of children who have passed through the school may care to participate. Contributions may be sent c/o Barclays Bank, High Street, Hampton Hill or to Mrs. MacMaster, Deputy Headmistress, Carlisle Infants' School, Broad Lane, Hampton.

### **SOME DATES TO NOTE**

June

- 3 9.30 a.m. Coach leaves for Parish Outing to Brighton; 10.30 a.m. Annual Diocesan Stewardship Conference (B.P. House); 3.00 p.m. Old People's Party (Hall).
- 5 8.15 p.m. Properties Committee (21 St. James's Road).
- 6 8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club: Annual General Meeting (W).
- 10-17 **MASS ATTACK WEEK IN CHURCHYARD—MANY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**
- 12 8.00 p.m. Liturgical Committee (68 Park Road).
- 15 8.00 p.m. Wel-Care: Service of Thanksgiving and Intercession (Holy Trinity Church, Brompton).
- 17 3.00 p.m. Episcopal Area of Kensington: Festival Service, followed by Tea (St. Peter's, Staines).
- 19 8.00 p.m. Parochial Church Council (W).
- 20 8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club: Miss Apthorpe—'Flower Arrangement' (W).
- 21 8.00 p.m. Committee of Hampton and Sunbury Council of Churches (All Saints', Hampton).

26 7.30 for 8.00 p.m. Deanery Synod (St. Mark's Hall, Teddington).

29 ST. PETER'S DAY: 7.30 a.m. Holy Communion.

July

1 3.00 p.m. Old People's Party (Hall).

2 5.15 p.m. Members of YPF lead service at Laurel Dene.

4 8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club: Members' Slides (W).

23 PATRONAL FESTIVAL SUNDAY: Details of special arrangement to be announced later.

November

10-13 PARISH WEEKEND at Hildenborough Hall.

### **BAPTISM**

April

23 Toby Laurence Feltham, 5 Holles Close, Hampton.

### **MARRIAGES**

April

29 Peter Norman Watson to Linda June Eady.

May

7 Peter Roberts to Isabella Wewyss Thomson.  
Keith James to Geraldine Oldham.

### **BURIAL AND CREMATION**

April

26 Walter Oliver Leatherdale, 51 St. James's Road, aged 89 years (at South-West Middlesex Crematorium: ashes later to be interred in Chudchyard Garden Of Rest).

30 Henrietta Annie McGowan, 43 Sharman Crescent, Leicester (interment of ashes in Churchyard Garden of Rest).