

## THE HOLY AND THE HOMELY

The question of the relationship of the sacred and the secular, the holy and the homely, has been coming to the fore again in recent years, and it has many practical consequences. A number of books have been written about it, one of the best known and most striking being 'The Secular Use of Church Buildings', by J. G. Davies. An ancient view is gaining acceptance again — that the sacred and secular are integral elements in a unified life, and that therefore there is no need sharply to fence off one from the other. This means, amongst other things, that other activities as well as worship may fittingly be carried out in church buildings — and that worship need not be confined to any particular 'sacred space'. So the church becomes more like a home — and the home becomes more like a church, so that in fact we often hear and speak of house-churches, house-communions.

In this parish, as in many others, we are beginning to think all this out, and are moving slowly and carefully. We shall be hearing more about house-groups and house-churches in the autumn, and we expect to have a house-communion at Hildenborough Hall. We recently held one with members of the YPF Bible Study Group. There is on such occasions an opportunity for more relaxation and spontaneity than in a larger gathering in church. Members of the group contribute their own readings and prayers, the special concerns of the fellowship can be discussed, prayed about and offered to God, and the bread and the wine can be passed round the circle, and each one administers to his friend.

In most church buildings, it has now for long been normal to have from time to time good drama and films, choral performances and certain meetings. But it is now being asked: need we stop there? Should we stop there? What about, for instance, 'They stayed there before God; they ate and they drank' (Exodus chapter 24, v. 12. NEB)? In the past, a fellowship meal has often seemed to be a fitting concomitant to worship. So we have our Parish Breakfast after the Parish Communion — at Wayside: but why not in church? On three occasions this year, when numbers have been too great for Wayside to cope with, we have indeed served refreshments in church, and on one of these many people stayed talking together for over two hours. We were preparing to do this again on the afternoon of our Patronal Festival recently, when a heavy shower of rain just before tea was due to be served caused a hasty evacuation from the Vicarage garden: but the sun came out again, and tables and chairs were set up on the churchyard lawn instead, but within easy reach of the church should another downpour come. Some people are not too happy about all this, and we respect their feelings and have no intention of riding rough-shod over them. Owing to our upbringing, there is something in all of us which feels that the church should be solemnly set apart from all mudane use, and the restoration of the primitive liberty is

not easy for us to accept.

But as well as the wider use of the church on special occasions, there is also the question of its wider regular use to be considered. Here is a great building, used for only a few hours a week: are we justified in spending large sums on its maintenance if its use is so limited? Should it not be a living centre of the parish, used daily by large numbers of people for all sorts of good activities, showing how the worship of God spills over in numerous ways into everyday life? There is need for us to think very seriously about all this, now and in the future, and as we face the challenges involved, we would like to have as much discussion and as many comments and contributions as possible.

## **THE MOTHERS' UNION**

At the closing service of this session three new members were admitted — Mesdames Joyce Brown, Hilde Bucknell and Irene Milns. The Vicar conducted the service and Mrs. Wigginton played the organ.

At Wayside the new members were welcomed to the Branch at a celebration tea — the nearness of the Enrolling Member's birthday provided an excuse for the baking of a cake decorated with M.U. emblems. Incidentally, amid much secrecy, a birthday card was signed by all present, this duly arrived on the correct day and was much appreciated.

We are sure that the three "new girls" have much to contribute to the success of the Branch, representing as they do, three different age groups.

"New Dimensions" in the Commission's Report on M.U., has been published and later in the year we shall have one of the panel of specially trained speakers to explain the proposals in detail. Meantime, please keep an open mind, do not be misled by press reports; wait until we all know more about the subject.

Mrs. Agnes Spooner died in hospital on Sunday July 16. She had been a member of M.U. since 1929 and joined our Branch when she and her late husband moved to Teddington from Norfolk. Following an accident to her hip she went to live in Homemead, from there she was brought to some of our meetings which she always enjoyed. We offer our sympathy to her daughters and son and grandchildren.

The Vicar will be on holiday when we re-open on the second Wednesday in September (13th). The Rev. Jim Cranswick has been invited to conduct the service at 2.30 p.m. in the Church.

Happy Holidays to all our members wherever you may be.

## **SUMMER YOUTH**

The Summer months appear to be a rest period for most of the

church organisations — not so the Y.P.F. At this time of year we seem to organise more than at any other time. Recently we ventured into wild and woolly Wales to climb Cader Idris. The party, ably led by Helen Taylor, all easily made the summit.

Unfortunately we got drenched in the process, but we all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves, so much so that another weekend is planned for mid-September — this time to soaring South Wales — the Brecon Beacons. Also a day trip to Coventry and an evening performance at Stratford is arranged for August.

Our Thursday Bible Study Group is flourishing and the highlight recently was a visit from the Vicar to celebrate Communion in the Taylors' house. More about this subject of House Communion elsewhere in this magazine.

So YPF still carries on in a very strong way through the Summer and comes through into the autumn with renewed enthusiasm. If you are 13 or over and want to know more about us, we meet every Friday in Bushy Park and every Sunday in Wayside.

M.C.E.

## **HAMPTON HILL OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE COMMITTEE**

About 30 people were present at our Annual General Meeting on Thursday July 20. We were sorry the Vicar was unable to attend. This was the only time he has missed our A.G.M. since the Association was formed 18 years ago. The Annual Report was read by our secretary, Mrs. Cox, and commenced by saying "The Committee have had an interesting year working as a team for the care of the elderly. The generosity of interested friends and the help given by the Churches and other organisations has given us the incentive we need and we wish to thank everyone for their support".

We have had a busy year, with monthly parties, weekly club meetings at Laurel Road Flats and Congregational Hall. Various outings, as well as subsidised holidays for 35 O.A.P.s, were arranged. In addition there were many visits to the sick in hospital and to the lonely folk; also many birthday and Christmas gifts were delivered.

Mr. Cudmore, our Treasurer, reported a satisfactory financial year. We were pleased that the Rev. A. E. Hunter, Congregational Church Minister, continues as Chairman, Mrs. Cox as Secretary and Mr. Cudmore treasurer. Mrs. Robinson retired as President after four years good work in office and was added to our list of Vice-Presidents.

Alderman David Harris was warmly welcomed as our new President. We were pleased to add Mrs. Milns and Mrs. Edmonds to our Committee, (both members of St. James's Church).

Mr. Leigh Hunt congratulated the Committee on their good work during the Year. He also reminded us that the Hampton and Hampton Hill Day Centre —which is expected to be built next

year—needs our active and financial support. We would like to thank everyone for their support of our Violet Day collection, which raised £135.

## **HARVEST SUPPER**

It may seem early to start talking of the Harvest Supper, but we know from experience that the tickets for this function go very quickly and sometimes we have had disappointed parishioners, although we do our best to fit everyone in.

The date this year is Thursday October 5, 7.30 p.m. for 8 p.m. Tickets are available from all members of the Social Committee, so get yours now and be sure.

P.S. from the Social Committee: Gentlemen, please may we have your clean, worn-out white cotton shirts, with or without collars. No reason given! Tel: 979 1954 or 6865.

## **KEEP FIT**

Remember Ladies — our Keep Fit date will, for a trial period, be changed to Tuesday, 2 p.m. in the Parish Hall. If you are interested just turn up on September 12 or any following Tuesday to watch or join in as you please. 10p. per session.

P.Y., E.V.S.

## **THE ROUNDERS MATCH**

**Bushy Park — 14 July, 1972**

Justice was done. Furthermore, it was seen to be done, by a fascinated group of spectators, who were witnessing the annual contest between the Y.P.F. and the more mature parishioners of St. James's Church.

The old 'uns batted first, and with an unparalleled display of mighty hitting, blended with some delicate touches acquired by years of experience, they put up the unprecedented total of six rounders. At this stage they declared their innings closed.

When the Y.P.F. took up strike it was immediately apparent that this year they had met their match. Despite the enthusiastic assistance (?) of most of the young 'uns living in the Borough, they never looked like achieving their target. The agility of the fielders, coupled with the impeccable decisions of umpire Jack Ford, finished them off for a paltry three rounders.

A victory cheer, some welcome refreshments, the Y.P.F. to their sackcloth and ashes, leaving the old 'uns to habble home to their armchairs.

See you there next year!

A.E.M.

## HAMPTON HILL OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE COMMITTEE

### CARNIVAL AND VILLAGE FAIR

This will be held at the Holly Road Recreation Ground on Saturday September 2. The Carnival Parade assembles at Holly Road Ground at 12 noon and will consist of decorated floats entered by local organisations and trades people — not forgetting children's cycles, prams and almost anything on wheels. With Windmill Road out of bounds, the procession will probably parade through the High Street and back. We hope the children will come in large numbers and make this parade the best ever. They excel themselves when it comes to decorating cycles and prams. Fancy dress will be very welcome too.

Attractions at the Fair will include sideshows, children's corner, pony rides, Punch and Judy show, novelty races and country dancing. A wide variety of stalls will give value for money and there will be refreshments for young and old — a tea-parlour and a fizz-bar and, of course, ice-cream.

It takes a good deal of manpower to ensure success and if anyone wants to help our elderly friends, please come along on 2 September. You will find a warm welcome there.

L.M.

In connection with this, remember to look out for our own St. James's float. This year, in complete contrast to our past efforts, which have had a humorous note, the theme will be a serious one, and will comprise a tableau depicting the work of Christian Aid. St. James's has also undertaken responsibility for a preserves stall, and gifts for this could be taken to the ground on the day, but it would be helpful if you would contact Mrs. Rockliffe beforehand (977 4904).

### SOME DATES TO NOTE

August

24 ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S DAY: Holy Communion at 10.00 a.m.

September

- 1 7.30 p.m. Choir Practices begin again (augmented choir on Sept. 8).
- 2 1.30 p.m. Village Fair, followed at 6.00 p.m. by Scout Group Barbecue (Holly Road Recreation Ground).
- 11 8.15 p.m. Properties Committee (36, St. James's Road).
- 12 10.00 a.m. - 12.00 noon & 7.30 - 10.00 p.m. Scout Group: Coffee Parties and Bring-and-Buy Sales in support of Parish

- Hall funds (W).
- 13 2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union Service.
- 17 5.15 p.m. Y.P.F. lead service at Laurel Dene
- 18 8.00 p.m. Stewardship Committee (106, Park Road). 19 8.00
- 19 8.00 p.m. Liturgical Committee (68 Park Road).
- 21 **ST. MATTHEW'S DAY:** Holy Communion at 7.30 a.m.; 7.00 p.m. Parish Outing to 'Godspell'.
- 24 **HARVEST FESTIVAL:** Sunday arrangements as usual on Fourth Sunday; 5.15 p.m. Senior members of the congregation lead service at Laurel Dene.
- 25 9.00 a.m. Distribution of Harvest gifts: volunteers to help in this welcome at church.
- 26 10.30 a.m. Editorial Board (venue to be arranged).
- 27 8.00 p.m. Parochial Church Council (W).
- 29 **ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS:** Holy Communion at 7.30 a.m.
- 30 2.15 p.m. Church Army: 90th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service (St. Paul's Cathedral).

#### October

- 5 7.30 for 8.00 p.m. Harvest Supper & Entertainment (Hall).
- 16 7.30 for 8.00 p.m. Deanery Synod (St. Mary's Hall, Twickenham).

#### November

- 10 **PARISH WEEKEND AT HILDENBOROUGH HALL**  
**N.B.** On Sundays August 27, September 3 & 10, there will be **no** service at 8.00 a.m. All departments of the Sunday School reopen on September 10.

### **BAPTISMS**

#### July

- 23 Terry Paul Cook, 103, Uxbridge Road.  
 Philippa Jane Wren, 124 Broad Lane.

### **MARRIAGE**

#### June

- 17 Keith Andrew Gidlow to Gillian Elizabeth Smith.

### **BURIALS**

#### June

- 26 Florence Jessie Burrows, 60 Windmill Road, aged 78 years.

#### Uuly

- 12 Mary Jane Elizaneth Rivers, 45 Myrtle Road, aged 80 years (at Teddington Cemetery).