

SOME NOTES FROM THE VICAR

The magazine is later than it should be this month, as a good deal of space was left for me to fill, and I hoped to do this in the three days available before we left for the fortnight's holiday we had booked just after Christmas. But the traumatic happenings of those few days changed everything, and instead of walking in the mountains and valleys of Switzerland, we spent most of our days in the wards and grounds of a large hospital, listening rather than talking to people who seemed to have no other visitors except ourselves, and to whom we seemed to bring some light and warmth from the world outside.

We were greatly sustained by all the prayer, love and support which our friends both within and beyond the parish gave us all through this trying time, and we are more grateful than words can express. Francis began to improve dramatically at the time of the Parish Communion, when he was being prayed for here and in a church in Nottinghamshire where a very old friend of mine is vicar, and I think in other churches too. My experience over the last few years has strengthened my intellectual belief in God's desire and power to heal, though often in practice faith falls short and then the fellowship of the congregation of the faithful — the mighty energy of the Communion of Saints — makes all the difference.

God's healing grace is assuredly ministered to us in many different ways: through medicine and drugs, the loving care of physicians and nurses, the skill of surgeons and psychiatrists, many ancient remedies and many modern discoveries; through the sacraments and ministries of the church, and through the prayer of faith. I am increasingly conscious of the life-giving energy released by deep prayer, but if we ask for explanations of how and why, we come up against mystery and wonder. It is certainly not a matter of hammering away at God to overcome his reluctance: the reluctance is entirely on our side. 'O God, make speed to save us' really means 'O God, overcome in us all the barriers and obstacles which we erect within us against your healing power'.

One line of approach which I find helpful in thinking about this profound matter is to use the notion of 'focusing'. God's power-in-love is everywhere in the world, as the sunshine is everywhere in the garden on a summer's afternoon. Just as a reading-glass can focus and thus intensify those rays of the sun, so the prayer of faith can focus God's loving concern on areas of special need. When this prayer springs from the heart of a community of people who are becoming increasingly open to God, then miracles of healing and blessing can result. Many are the stories of such mighty acts of God's grace coming to us from different parts of the world today—an inspiring contrast to the daily dose of violence, cruelty and destruction given us by the media.

We are very much hoping to be able to take advantage of the parish's bounty by arranging to visit Greece and the Holy Land just after Easter next year, but the specialist travel-agency which has a tour at that time which would just suit seems as reluctant to give us final details and to accept our bookings as the many building-firms which we have contacted over the last two years seem reluctant to do the dilapidations on the vicarage!

RESTORATION OF THE ORGAN

Work on the restoration of the organ, which commenced on 14 February 1972, is making progress and the first rebuilt components incorporating the new electric action (replacing the old pneumatic action) have been delivered to the church.

As completion of more workshop items is achieved, there will be more activity on the organ itself at the church and we shall be able to see for ourselves how the renovation is proceeding. Messrs. Bishop and Sons — who built the original organ in 1837 for St. Peter's, Eaton Square, sold later to St. James's in 1875 — have been entrusted with the work.

The opening recital has been planned for Friday December 8 at 8 p.m., to be given by Mr. Stanley W. Westcott, formerly of Richmond, who now lives in Suffolk. He has been a very good friend to the writer for many years and will delight you with his selection of music, which will undoubtedly demonstrate the various tone-colours of the rebuilt and revoiced organ and the instant response of the new action in place of the former old inert pneumatic action.

Programmes will be available later but in the meantime please book the date:

8th of the 12th 1972 at 8 p.m. — 100 per cent church full!

R.J.C.D.

THE PARISH HALL

Now that the Parish Hall is so beautifully decorated inside and out; is warm, light, clean and has two very usable pianos, why don't you consider booking it for your wedding reception, anniversary party, dance or whatever function you may be thinking of this winter?

If you would like more information or would like to go and see the hall, please telephone me — Mrs. Eila Severn 979 1954 and I will be pleased to help you.

WINDOW ON KENYA

On July 22 20 young C.M.S. supporters from England and Ireland set off from Gatwick Airport on a trip to Kenya. The purpose of the trip was to see the missionary work being done and it was also a follow-up to the C.M.S. Project Pumwani, run last year.

During the visit we saw the work of the Christian Industrial Training Centres in Pumwani (Nairobi), Mombasa and Kisumu. The Centres in Pumwani and Mombasa are training centres for boys, while the Kisumu is a Secretarial College for girls. All those attending the Centres would not otherwise be able to complete either further education or training for various reasons and would therefore be unable to get a job.

The first week was spent at Kanamai (near Mombasa) on the coast, the next 9 days at Limuru (near Nairobi), then 3 days at Kisumu and 4 days at Nakuru.

Apart from meeting missionaries and visiting local people and getting to know them we spent our time sightseeing in the towns, touring the Game Parks in Nairobi and Nakuru, climbing the hills, and, in Kanamai, sunbathing and exploring the coral reef.

The main impressions gained are of the great spaciousness of the country, the warmth and friendliness of all the people we met, and also of the terrible poverty which is widespread. There are also many needs connected with the missionary work; for example, at the Mombasa Christian Industrial Training Centre a mini-bus is urgently required, and all the C.I.T.C.'s need funds to enable the work to continue and expand.

The three weeks (and 4 days) I spent in Kenya certainly opened my eyes to the way in which people of other countries and cultures live, and the difficulties they have to overcome. It is not possible to put everything into a short article but it was certainly an experience which will be with me permanently, in the friendships made and the lessons learned.

G.M.G.

CHURCH FLOWERS

May we remind you that gifts of garden flowers to decorate the church will always be appreciated — if you have any to spare please take them to the church on Friday morning between 9.30 and 10 a.m. or they can be left at 19 St. James's Road anytime Thursday.

Our Harvest Festival will be held on September 24 and we should like gifts of flowers and shrubs, especially pyracantha on Friday, September 22. Fruit, vegetables and groceries will also be very welcome.

A VIEW OF CHRISTIAN AID FROM THE RECEIVING END.

I have recently been to Malawi, and as our contribution this year through Christian Aid was to go to Malawi, I asked specially if I could have a talk with some of the workers at the Christian Service Committee of the Churches in Malawi — through which organisation the Christian Aid money for that country is channelled.

The Executive Committee of the C.S.C. is chaired by Bishop M. Chimole, Roman Catholic Bishop of Zomba Diocese, aided by the Rev. J. Sangaya of the Presbyterian Church as Vice-Chairman, and is thoroughly ecumenical. It works in very closely with the developments undertaken by the Malawian Government. I was taken round the headquarters in Blantyre by two charming Malawian organisers, Mrs. Mtegha and Mrs. Mangwana, who told me much about the projects they were undertaking.

They are concentrating on assisting rural projects, particularly encouraging self-help schemes in rural communities: building and improving bridges and culverts, protecting wells, building houses for teachers, roofing schools, completing rural dispensaries and clinics. Above all, *water* is needed, good, clean water, and in 1971 50 bore-holes were constructed at a cost of £30,000. Agricultural projects include small irrigation schemes, livestock training-programmes, and settlement clearing projects for bringing new land under cultivation.

Health and Education projects include financing training-courses at Chilema Lay Training Centre. This Centre is at the big Anglican Mission of Malosa and was largely built with Christian Aid money. In the towns there is a very necessary school-lunch programme; also a trade-testing centre and club-leadership training. A special project which has been paid for entirely by Christian Aid was the Mveya Community Service Centre, in Blantyre, which is used all day and everyday by groups of all kinds: play groups, women's groups, youth groups, leadership programmes etc.

Up country at Nkota Kota I was taken to see the local irrigation schemes, and the extensive rice-cultivation areas (all in small-holdings and easily manageable by the local farmers). Chris Wright showed me round and said that another such irrigation officer like himself was needed in the Malange area! Also more tractors are needed! So you see where your money is going, and that it is being put to a very good cause.

H.M.S.

BADMINTON

We hope the young people's and beginners' badminton will resume on Saturday, September 30th at 6 p.m. and will continue on Saturday evenings as available. For further information please phone 979 1954.

THE ANNISQUAM VILLAGE CHURCH

Gradually the old bigotries of creed and denomination which have so bedevilled (I use the word advisedly) the Christian world are fading, except, of course, in one black spot in our own United Kingdom. Nonetheless progress is being made generally, and we all know our Vicar's own feelings and efforts on this subject. Consequently I would like to tell you about the "Village Church" in Annisquam, Massachussets, where I have just had another of many pleasant stays with my friends Peg and Don Usher.

Annisquam is in the county of Gloucester, in that delightful area north east of Boston known as Cape Anne. The whole area is quite glorious, with many old Colonial homes lovingly preserved, and new homes still built in keeping with the charming colonial style. The Pilgrim Fathers settled in this part of the world freely to practice their puritanical religion. Unfortunately they did not accord the same privilege of religious freedom to others, and even consigned the first Quakers to the local Nick. Nowadays things have changed, and the village of Annisquam is a leading example of this. There were not enough Episcopalians, Methodists, Congregationalists etc., to support one of their own churches, so Annisquam decided to have a non-sectarian church, called simply "The Village Church", which all Protestant denominations support and largely attend. The Ministers can be of any Protestant faith, and are usually men who are studying for their doctorate at Harvard. Thus there is a constant supply of youngish ministers, usually with families, who stay an average of five years. The Ushers' daughter, Su, when she got married went first to see the Minister with her husband-to-be and chose her own service, half Episcopalian and half Methodist.

Every fine Sunday morning in summer, and most summer mornings are fine in this part of the world, the villagers wend their way at eight a.m. to a lovely wild, rocky, wooded prominence overlooking the ocean known not unappropriately as "The Pasture". There, with the congregation sitting around on rocks, the simple early service is celebrated in the sparkling New England open air. The temperature is already in the seventies, so the congregation is in shorts and shirts, and the Minister in a short-sleeved shirt also. One hymn yesterday was sung to the tune of "Edelweiss" and what a lovely idea that was. But the treat was yet to come. A fellow-minster from Pidgeon Cone, Mr. Dow, with his charming wife and family consisting of three young daughters (two of whom, if I am any judge, were twins of not more than eight years old), and one young son, sang unaccompanied, and in beautiful harmony, not only several religious songs but also some verses from the Bible which they had put to music themselves. The blend of really beautiful children's voices with those of the adults was very moving in that beautiful setting.

One cannot always have such a beautiful place and weather, of course, but when one has, then the villagers of Annisquam know what to do with it. They worship God in it.

J.F.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

September

30 2.00 - 4.00 p.m. : The Doctor Godfrey Morgan Memorial Room open to visitors and subscribers at Teddington Hospital.

October

- 3 8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club (W)
5 7.30 for 8.00 p.m. Harvest Supper and Entertainment: tickets 35p (Hall).
16 7.30 for 8.00 p.m. Deanery Synod (St. Mary's Hall, Twickenham).
17 8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club (W).
18 SAINT LUKE'S DAY: Holy Communion at 7.30 a.m.
22 No Evensong here at 6.30 p.m., but cars will be available outside the church from 6.15 p.m. onwards to take people to the quarterly United Service at St. Mary's Hampton.
24 8.00 p.m. Annual General Meeting of the Hampton and Sunbury Council of Churches (St. Mary's Hall, Sunbury).
25 7.45 p.m. Newcomers' Party (Hall). If you have recently moved to this district, and have not received an invitation by October 15, please let Mrs. Leatherdale know at 18 St. James's Road — 979 6999.

November

- 1 ALL SAINTS' DAY: Holy Communion at 7.30 a.m.
10 —12 or 13: PARISH WEEKEND CONFERENCE AND HOUSE-PARTY AT HILDENBOROUGH HALL. Application-forms on table in church: BOOK NOW!

MARRIAGE

September

- 2 Geoffrey David Wright to Carole Ann Collins.