

LENT 1973

The Hampton and Sunbury Council of Churches wanted to follow up its two well-supported and most worthwhile courses — Forum on Faith, and Faith and Life — with one on Prayer, but despite many letters and telephone calls, it was impossible to secure the kind of speaker and leader we were seeking. So instead of this, a series of films showing different aspects of the Church's work at home and overseas has been booked, and these will be shown on Thursdays in Lent from March 8 until April 12, in St. Mary's Parish Hall, Hampton, and on each occasion there will be ample opportunity for questions and discussion about what we have seen.

At our own church, there will be a number of special events on Sunday evenings. After Evensong on March 11, there will be an opportunity to learn more about the background of our Lent Old Testament lessons, and especially how the book Genesis came to be. If enough people wish to pursue this fascinating subject further, other meetings could easily be arranged, perhaps at fortnightly intervals. Then on March 18, instead of Evensong, members of the Young People's Fellowship will lead a service of their own devising (this was to have been held in February, but preparation for the Parish Concert on March 3 necessitated a postponement). April 1, the Fourth Sunday in Lent, is still widely observed as Mothering Sunday, though the liturgical reformers hope shortly to transfer the Festival of the Transfiguration to this Sunday, which is of course its logical place. We shall have a special form of Family Service that evening, at 6.00 instead of 6.30 p.m., so that younger children will be able to come, and refreshments will be served in church from 5.15 p.m. onwards. On Palm Sunday, April 15, again instead of Evensong, an augmented choir will sing 'From Olivet to Calvary'.

We begin Lent with an evening Parish Communion at 8.15 p.m. on Ash Wednesday, celebrated according to Series 3 (which became fully authorised and legal from February 1), and from then on there will be services according to this new rite every weekday morning in Lent at 7.30 a.m., except on Mondays and Saturdays. The service will have been used for the first time in our parish on Sunday evening, February 25, with the Archdeacon as President on the occasion of his postponed visit (we originally expected him, as stated in last month's magazine, on February 6). After this, its regular use on Sunday mornings will depend upon the decision taken by the Church Council after they have had time for full consideration and consultation.

JUNIOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

For some time we have been wondering whether 11.00 a.m. is the best time for the Junior Sunday School to meet. Although we have a small group of children who attend as regularly as they are able, there are children who do not have the opportunity of joining us. Some come with their parents to Parish Communion, and it would obviously be too long a morning, or inconvenient for the

family, for them to stay on for Suuday School. Some go out with their parents later in the day, and some have other interests to pursue — swimming, horse-riding, walks, etc.

We think that by meeting earlier, more children may be able to come. Beginning on Sunday, March 4, as an experiment, we shall meet at Wayside at 9.20 a.m. for our usual activities, and then come over to Church shortly after 10.0 a.m. We shall come in to Parish Communion at the time of the offertory processions, when those whose parents are present, will join them, and others will sit wherever they are welcome. We hope members of the congregation will invite children to sit with them and take them to the altar. If you are willing to do this, please leave a space at the end of the pew.

New methods of teaching are used in Sunday Schools today, but our aim in all we do with the children is still the same — that with them we worship God and come to know him in Jesus. Please welcome us as an essential part of the Body of Christ, and if you have children between the ages of seven and eleven years, encourage them to come to Wayside at 9.20 a.m. on every Sunday except the fourth in each month.

B.S.

NEW DIMENSIONS

Do you remember the garden party we had in 1968 when some of the Overseas representatives of the Mothers' Union came to St. James's and added their warm smiles and bright fashions to the gaiety of the summer sunshine? They were in London for the World-Wide Conference. Whatever happens at World-Wide Conferences? One of the things this one did was to respond to the disquiet that was being felt by a wide section of the Movement. It drew up terms of reference for the Commission that was to be set up under the chairmanship of the Bishop of Willesden to look into the whole question of the policy of the Movement — objects, membership, administration — and where necessary, to suggest changes.

Four years, several tons of written evidence and 57 oral witnesses later, the Commission's Report has come out under the title "New Dimensions", and our efficient Enrolling Member immediately got copies circulating round our Branch.

Many suggestions have been made, and on most of these the ten members were agreed, but there was a clear split over the revision of membership rules: three in favour of one line of thought and six of another and Lady Gorell Barnes, unable to agree to the report, has given her own "dissenting" report which has been printed as an appendage to the rest.

The time has now come for the Central Council to decide which, if any, of the Commission's proposals shall be implemented and before doing this they have asked the opinion of every member by means of a questionnaire. At our February meeting Mrs. Morris of our London Diocese came to put before us the main alternatives. It is most unfortunate that her visit had to be so near the deadline for

returning the answers, there has been no time for our branch to discuss this very important matter more fully before we made up our minds about it.

The alternatives boil down to what we think is the best way to spread and uphold the Christian principles of marriage and of family life in the second half of the twentieth century, and in particular, whether a divorced woman who has remarried is able to witness to this. It may sound a little extraordinary that, in order to simplify the aims of the movement, the Commission decided it was necessary to state 5 objects in place of the famous three of 1892 which replaced the two of 1888 which followed Mary Sumner's implicit one in 1876! On this subject, the "dissentient" report suggests, and in my opinion rightly, having only one, and that simply "To strengthen and support Christian Marriage and Family Life", but this was not one of the choices open to us to vote on.

As far as the National Press was concerned, the matter of divorce and membership was the only matter of interest in the report, but I was fascinated to find that even from its earliest days, the Central Council saw fit to concern itself with parliamentary legislation about women and children. Its modern concerns are briefly listed each month in "M. U. News" — relevant extracts from Hansard, mention of social work undertaken by committees and branches for harrassed Mums, invalids, overseas students, unmarried mothers etc.

At this moment there is a lot for an alert and active World Wide Mothers' Union to be about. Let us hope that as a result of the Commission we may shake free from undue dependence on the style of our forebears, and with new inspiration get on with the modern job that is crying out to be done.

G. H. B.

THE ORGAN RECITAL

"An organist is a one-man band!" said Mr. Stanley Westcott to the large audience that nearly filled the church on Friday February 9. The occasion was the recital to mark the completion of the rebuilding of our organ; it was a friendly and almost festive evening for the parish and for our guests, who included representatives of Bishop's, the firm who did the rebuilding.

Mr. Westcott's introductory remarks made clear not only his own enthusiasm for the organ and pleasure in organ music, but also his eagerness that we should share his enjoyment. His programme was not designed to demonstrate his own superb skill but rather to show us all the potential of the magnificent instrument we now have in our church. If any of us had doubts about the long and costly rebuilding of the organ the recital would have dispelled them.

The programme contained ten very varied pieces of music including some jolly Handel, Bonnet's Romance sans Paroles which had the character of a vocal duet, and some less well-known works. The centre-piece was the majestic Chorale in A Minor by Cesar

Franck, and the programme ended with Bach's "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" and finally his Toccata and Fugue in D Minor, surely one of the most exciting yet elegant organ works ever written.

We are always indebted to Mr. Dafforne for his own skill and hard work; we know we have much pleasure in store for us in the years to come from his music. We are further indebted to him for arranging this splendid recital by his old personal friend Mr. Westcott.

The vicar voiced our thanks to the recitalist in his concluding speech, and ended the occasion with a prayer of thanksgiving.

R. W. W.

ELECTORAL ROLL or BLACK LIST?

I wonder if some people think that the Electoral Roll is like the Mikado's "little list" and that if they allowed themselves to go on it something dreadful will happen to them and "they never will be missed"!

What leads me to think this? Just because quite a few people who show an interest in the doings of the church, in its activities and worship, do not put their names forward to go on the electoral roll.

If you are one of these please think again, because you really are missed:

"missed"—because without you St. James's cannot produce a true representation of its membership. Therefore we cannot have as many representatives on the deanery synod as we could have.

and "missed" because you, as part of the family, aren't signed on and we may miss you out of our activities.

"Ah! there's the rub," you say, "I don't want to be committed." Well, no one is going to chivy you into things, but it would be sad if you were left out of activities you might enjoy. So, if you have an interest and already take part, or even if you would like to take part in the life of the church, please sign on the dotted line. It would help all of us.

Please contact the Vicar, Mrs. Milns, Mrs. Brooks or Mrs. J. Robinson not later than March 18.

HAMPTON HILL OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE COMMITTEE

Christmas started for us with a party for the Forget-me-not-Residents of Laurel Road Flats in their own Lounge, on Dec. 11. A resident brought his record-player and they very much enjoyed their afternoon Disco. Then the Forget-me-not Club, which holds its weekly meetings at the Reformed Church Hall, had their party on Dec. 14. For the Talent Competition they were required to decorate hats depicting T.V. programmes. Judging was very difficult! The entries were excellent but the biggest difficulty was, the judge didn't know all the T.V. programmes — I think she really is not a

dedicated viewer, but eventually she arrived at a conclusion. The ones she liked best were:—

Funniest — Mr. and Mrs. Townsend — On the Buses.

Most Original — Mrs. Hedger — Stars on Sunday.

Prettiest — Mrs. Thompson — Love Story.

Then, to get everyone involved, we were given a playing card, and when the card was called, we were expected to entertain with a song, dance or recitation, not so bad as it sounds, for everyone was willing, even eager, to help out with forgotten words or tunes. We sure have a marvellous amount of talent! Both the Clubs had a competition for the best table-decorations, all entries had a prize, we were surprised at the number of entries, and they looked extremely nice when we used them for the New Year's Party on Jan. 6, when about 160 people were present at St. James's Hall. After a few mishaps, such as presents not being delivered, mini-bus not turning up for transport, Secretary and several Committee members unavoidably absent, the afternoon was very enjoyable. Present were the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress, Mr. and Mrs. Bligh, our President, Ald. and Mrs. Harris, our Chairman, Mr. Hunter, the Vicar, and members of the general public who are in the habit of lending a helping hand when called upon to do so. After a lovely tea, at which the committee sat down with their guests and were waited on for a change, we were entertained by the Gillette Drama Group.

Many thanks to the YPF for the Christmas Eve Carols and tea at St. James's Hall. It was a splendid idea, and much appreciated by our elderly people who were entertained — such a pity there were not more present, and yet nice to know that they have other arrangements for Christmas.

Several of our friends enjoyed Christmas Day at Laurel Dene and Hampton Court House, by the kind invitation of the Matrons concerned, and each received a present.

PERSONAL

Vera and Leonard Rockliffe would like to express their gratitude for all the kindness they received during his recent stay in Teddington Hospital. They were upheld by the prayers offered on their behalf, appreciated the many gifts sent to Leonard, also the cards and letters received. Thank you all.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

February

- 25 6.30 p.m. Holy Communion, Series 3: The Archdeacon will preside and preach; 7.45 p.m. the Parochial Church Council meets with the Archdeacon for discussion of the Bishop's questions (W).
- 27 8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club (W).
- 28 Deanery Synod: 7.30 p.m. The Bishop presides at Communion in St. Augustine's Church, Whitton, and the meeting with the Bishop and Archdeacon follows in the Parish Hall.

March

- 2 **WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER:** Services in the Church of St. Francis de Sales at 2.30 and 8.00 p.m.
- 3 7.30 p.m. Grand Parish Concert and Musical Evening (Hall).
- 4 5.15 p.m. Senior members of St. James's lead service at Laurel Dene.
- 5 10.30 a.m. Editorial Board (Vicarage); 8.00 p.m. Stewardship Committee (106, Park Road).
- 7 **ASH WEDNESDAY:** 2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union Service (W); 8.15 p.m. Parish Communion (Series 3).
- 8 7.30 a.m. Holy Communion; 9.00 a.m. Holy Communion in St. Anne's Chapel (L.E.H.S.); 8.00 p.m. Film 'Sound Barrier' (St. Mary's Hall, Hampton).
- 9 7.30 a.m. Holy Communion (and on every weekday in Lent except Mondays and Saturdays).
- 11 After Evensong, a meeting in church to explore the background of the Old Testament.
- 12 8.15 p.m. Properties Committee (Vicarage).
- 13 8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club: Miss Bowden — 'The Black Sea' (W).
- 14 8.00 p.m. Parochial Church Council (W).
- 15 8.00 p.m. Film 'Free to Grow' (St. Mary's Hall).
- 17 2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union: Jumble Sale (Hall).
- 18 6.30 p.m. Instead of Evensong, members of YPF lead an act of worship of their own devising.
- 22 8.0 p.m. Film 'City of Bees' (St. Mary's Hall).
- 26 **THE ANNUNCIATION:** Holy Communion at 7.30 and 10.00 a.m.
- 27 8.0 p.m. Tuesday Club (W).
- 29 8.0 p.m. Film 'Calling Mission Control' (St. Mary's Hall).

April

- 1 6.00 p.m. Instead of Evensong, a Mothering Sunday Family Service, preceded by light refreshments.
- 11 8.00 p.m. **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING** (Hall).

BAPTISMS

January

- 28 Rosemary Jane Gee, 4, Grenville Mews.
Alexander George Constantine Koukourakis, 100, Windmill Road.

BURIAL AND CREMATIONS

January

- 23 Catherine Louise Allsopp, 75, Burton's Road, aged 58 years (at South-West Middlesex Crematorium).
- 31 Thomas Harold Slade, 8, Sherwood Road, aged 76 years (at South-West Middlesex Crematorium).

February

- 5 William Alfred Vanner, 21, High Street, aged 86 years.