

WORLD VIEWPOINT

There is an increasingly widening gap between the rich industrialised countries of the world and the poor under-developed countries. The rich are becoming richer and the poor becoming poorer, and this and its dangers are being increasingly realised on a world-wide scale.

There is a growing awareness that in this global village of ours we, who are rich, have a responsibility towards the Third World. We in Hampton Hill contribute to Christian Aid, and the money which we collect is devoted to objectives such as paying a salary for an agricultural officer and supplying a necessary tractor in Malawi, and these items are needed and are welcomed with gratitude. But more needs to be done quickly on a bigger scale, and we all need to be awakened to the responsibility of helping to alleviate world poverty.

With this in mind the Greater London Churches' Consultative Group recommend that during this Lent a study of the needs of World Development should be undertaken in the Greater London area. This is the motive behind the series of films run by the Hampton Council of Churches on Thursday evenings at Hampton, and the meetings organised by the Twickenham Council of Churches at the Methodist Church in Twickenham on Wednesday evenings.

I hope that these encouragements to think beyond our own needs will result in a serious wish to come together to study World Development and consider what recommendations we can make to our Government on these issues. In the words of the Church circular: "Only national intervention can halt the injustice of this increasing poverty in time. Our own Government is waiting with a firm and practical response to increased public demand in this respect. What is required now is for all thinking Christians to open themselves to the problem with the knowledge that through enough prayer and by enough discussion there will arise a consensus of opinion able and ready to press for a more reasonable, rapid and realistic attitude towards alleviation of world poverty, through more effective aid programmes and improved trading relations."

On May 3 I have been invited to a Rich World, Poor World Dinner, organised by the Barnet and District World Development Action Group. There will be 60 guests, and as they go in to dinner they will draw tickets entitling them either to a Rich World dinner, four courses, wine and coffee, or to a Poor World dinner, a bowl of rice. If I draw a ticket for a four course dinner I shall not be able to say to my neighbour who may have a bowl of rice, "Oh, my dear, I simply can't sit by while you only have that; let's share my meal." No, I shall only be allowed to give my neighbour one pea, approximating to Britain's 0.3% of her Gross National Product, which is our contribution to the needs of the Third World at the moment. How I hope I get a bowl of rice!—but then you see I can come home and fill up afterwards, which the majority of the poor people in the

under-developed countries can't do.

We may be able to start up some World Development Group in this area. Do get into touch with the Vicar if you would like to be involved.

H.M.S.

TUESDAY CLUB

The Tuesday Club which meets twice a month at Wayside has now firmly established itself. We have a fairly steady attendance of 20 to 24 members at each session. Our speakers this year have been very varied, one very interesting speaker was Mr. Brenner, the Mayor's Mace Bearer; he brought the mayoral mace with him and very beautiful it was. In January our home-beat policeman, Mr. Rice, came to tell us some of his duties around the village. It is comforting to know one's "own" policeman.

Mrs. Rockliffe and Ruth Mills showed us slides of Alaska and brought many exhibits which they had acquired whilst there. Miss Bowden gave us a very interesting and informative talk of her visits to cities around the Black Sea, with asides from Miss Apthorpe who was with her on the trip.

We shall be having Miss Livermore, a retired hospital Matron, coming to tell us how she ran a Jewish founded hospital. For "something completely different", on May 15, we are having a coach tour of the East End of London, seeing the sights which one usually misses or doesn't realise exist.

The Committee are always open to suggestions for speakers or for "do-it-ourselves-evenings". Finally, newcomers are always welcome. Tuesday Club is a friendly one, membership is open to all ladies in the parish.

M.R.

FORMS OF WORSHIP—OLD AND NEW

In March, there were a number of special services which attracted large congregations. These services arranged in connection with the Women's World Day of Prayer stressed the need to be alert to what is actually happening *now*, not what we think is happening or would like to be happening, or what was happening thirty years ago. Women were reminded that they formed more than half of the population, and that they should use the power that God gave them—for good, and where possible, from a strong Christian base. Next year it will be the turn of our own church to be the venue for these services—and there is a move to make it just a *World* Day of Prayer, for both men and women (of course, for Christians every day should be such, with deep prayer arising from every Christian heart and home, and such special occasions serve a useful purpose in reminding us of this). The special form of service arranged by members of our Young People's Fellowship involved some effective

modern techniques, such as a skilful use of coloured lighting. The stress here was on our involvement in the great evils and sufferings of the world, our guilt and need of forgiveness—things which young people today seem to see and feel far more keenly than we older ones do. The mood at the special Mothering Sunday Family Service was more buoyant and optimistic, helped partly by the jolly tea-party we had just come from, but also because the theme of the service—‘Christ the Light of the World’—brought home to us very strongly the truth that there is a Power at work which can match and roll back the rising tide of evil, and that we can be lights kindled by the Light and used by him to dispel the deepening darkness and gloom.

The visit of John Hughes and his young people from St. Stephen's also struck a very lively and hopeful note. Some people found it too intense and emotional, others were deeply moved. Some were impressed and stirred by the Houston ‘action-songs’ and other forms of spontaneous worship, while others were irritated and upset. But apart from these ‘demonstrations’, John had a great story to tell. Several people said to me afterwards that the deepest impression made upon them by the whole evening was his account of the healing miracles he witnessed brought about through the ministry of Kathryn Kuhlman, and especially the story of the bringing of speech and hearing to a little boy deaf and dumb from birth. As a result, there has been a request that we should try to obtain copies of her books for our bookstall. But his main theme was what he found in the parish of the Holy Redeemer, Houston, and how it came to be what it is today. Houston is the kind of place everybody leaves unless they are trapped by poverty, and nobody goes to. Yet in the last five years, 150 families have moved there, led by the Spirit of God. Eight years ago there was only one minister, with two full-time janitors to guard the buildings against vandals. Now the staff consists of six ordained ministers and thirty-eight full-time lay pastors. The parish is divided into 42 communities, some of them living a common life in one large house, and all of them giving light and life and power and love to a depraved and deprived neighbourhood.

In contrast to the success of these ‘special’ Sunday evening ventures, there is the rather dismal spectacle of ‘ordinary’ Sunday Evensong. It seems that the average muster on these occasions is 22 of us—vicar, reader, organist and 19 choristers—in the chancel, and 20 of us as congregation scattered all over the nave. Some of these staunch people say that they value Evensong highly, still find it meaningful both in terms of edification and worship, and are able to find God through it. But what seems to be a growing number, even of those who attend fairly regularly, feel like one of the correspondents in the March inset, and say with him that they find it ‘dull and boring’. Does this mean that we should now seriously consider scrapping Evensong altogether, as many churches already

have done, and either have nothing in the evening—'I just stay at home and watch the telly' one vicar said to me recently—or else experiment with new and perhaps far more meaningful forms of worship?

To help us make up our minds about this, we should take advantage of the opportunities provided by the 'Festival of New Forms of Worship', with its sub-title 'That's the Spirit', which is being held from June 3 to 10 at 10 famous London centres of worship. There are over 50 events, involving drama, dance, music, poetry and the visual arts, and many well-known personalities are taking part. A poster giving full details on front and back is on display in the church, and I hope that it will be possible for us to arrange several coach-parties in the course of the week. Further details will be announced in church when the PCC has discussed the matter.

NEW WAYS TO BETTER MEETINGS

A five-session course has been arranged beginning on April 30 at 8.0 p.m. and ending on June 4. It will be held at Wayside. Two similar courses have already been held, and five members of our congregation attended the second one. This will be the third and final one for 1973. The project for permanent mission action which the Bishop is encouraging, and which has started in ours and nine other parishes, involves working together in small groups with definite tasks. This course is specially designed to help those taking part in these and similar action groups.

The leader will be Deaconess Yvonne Simmons, an experienced lay-training officer of the Diocese of London. If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity right on our own doorstep—others will be coming from parishes several miles away—please get in touch as soon as possible with Brother Jim Cranswick, 19 South Road, Hampton. Tel. 979 3631.

A CHANGE OF TYPE!

The rest of the magazine, sent to the printer in a separate envelope, has seemingly gone adrift, and as it has not come to light by the deadline for the return of proofs, one article meant to be included here will now appear next month, and I have hurriedly retyped Dates, etc., and pasted them directly on the page-cards for photographing. Hence the untidy, motley character of this issue!

SOME DATES TO NOTE

April

- 23 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 24 7.30 a.m. Holy Communion..
- 25 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion at Laurel Dene.
- 28 SPRING-CLEANING OF PARISH HALL BEGINS:
Volunteers will be made very welcome..

May

- 1 ST. PHILIP & ST. JAMES: 7.30 a.m. Holy Communion (provisional arrangement, as Vicar may be away); 8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club (W); 8.00 p.m. Social Committee (249, Uxbridge Road)..
- 3 ST. MARK: 7.30 a.m. Holy Communion (provisional arrangement)..
- 4 7.30 p.m. Borough Service in preparation for Christian Aid Week in St. Margaret's Roman Catholic Church..
- 5 3.00 p.m. Old People's Party (Hall)..
- 6 5.15 p.m. Members of YPF lead service at Laurel Dene..
- 8 8.00 p.m.. Whist Drive (W).
- 9 7.30 for 8.00 p.m.. Deanery Synod: our church acts as host for the first time, and the meeting is in our hall in School Road.
- 11 7.15 for 7.45 p.m. Repeat performance of some of the items from our recent Parish Concert, especially intended for the enjoyment of our senior citizens (Hall).
- 13 5.15 p.m. Senior members of our church lead the service at Laurel Dene..
- 14 - 19: CHRISTIAN AID WEEK: house-to-house collections throughout parish..
- 14 8.15 p.m. Properties Committee (36, St. James's Road).
- 15 Tuesday Club: Visit to East London
- 17 7.45 p.m.. NEWCOMERS' PARTY in our hall in School Road (by invitation: if you

have not received one by May 9, please get in touch with Mrs. Leatherdale, 18, St. James's Road, 979 6999); 8.00 p.m. Annual General Meeting of the Old People's Welfare Committee (W).

- 21 7.30 p.m. Mothers' Union: Diocesan Festival Service in St. Paul's Cathedral.
- 23 7.45 for 8.15 p.m.. Vice-Chairman of the Methodist Conference pays an informal visit to Hampton Methodist Church, and friends from other churches are invited to be present.
- 24 2.30 - 5.00 p.m. Garden Party in support of the British & Foreign Bible Society (All Saints' Vicarage, Hampton).
- 26 2.30 p.m.. Scout Group Fete in the gardens of Laurel Dene.
- 31 ASCENSION DAY: Holy Communion at 10.00 a.m. & 7.45 p.m. - also at 9.00 a.m. in St. Anne's Chapel (L.E.H.S.); Parochial Church Council (W).

June

- 2 10.00 a.m. Coach leaves church for parish outing to Windsor Castle & Safari Park.. Tickets £1.10 (adults) 80P (children under 15), inclusive of lunch.
- 3 6.45 p.m. United Service in our church, followed by refreshments.

BAPTISMS

March

- 25 Leanne Garbutt, 67, Pigeon Lane
Wayne Paul Humphrey, 65, Burton's Road..

MARRIAGE

March

- 31 Graham Raymond Bentley to Carol Anne Ponsford