

THE SERVICE OF PRAYER FOR RACIAL HARMONY

On Wednesday, October 23, the Hampton Council of Churches and the Teddington Christian Council joined together to hold a Service of Prayer for Racial Harmony. This has been held in Britain, in South Africa and in other parts of the world every year since 1970. In many places a Vigil is held, and churches and places of worship are open for several hours, and in some places, all night, for prayer.

Our service took place in the Methodist Church in Teddington, and was led by the Rev. George Osborn. I spoke shortly about racial tension in South Africa, and the Rev. Dass Vincent, an Asian Minister from Southall, spoke on what it is like to be an immigrant in this country. The extract "As Others See Us" from the Parish News letter of St. Francis de Sales, which appears below, shows clearly how much Mr. Vincent's talk was appreciated.

Also greatly appreciated was the singing of two hymns, accompanied by Asian instruments, by the young Asian choir which Mr. Vincent brought with him. These hymns were lively and invigorating.

The evening concluded most happily with coffee and biscuits, and the congregation from Teddington and the Hamptons enjoyed getting to know our friends from Southall very much.

Hannah Stanton.

AS OTHERS SEE US

At the interdenomination service for racial harmony, held on Wednesday, October 23 at Teddington Methodist Church, the congregation was addressed by the Reverend Dass Vincent, an Asian clergyman, who had specially made the journey from Southall with a group of Asian Christians. Introducing him, the Reverend George Osborn, our host minister, told us that Mr. Vincent would describe to us what it is like to be an immigrant in this country. Mr. Vincent was very gentle - I'm sure he could have said many harsh things with perfect justification. Instead, he good-naturedly told stories to illustrate some of our prejudices against our coloured bretheren, and he told us those legendary and and well-worn things about our characteristic British inclination to keep ourselves to ourselves. (Where I come from, they insist that it's merely a South-East British characteristic !)

Well-worn generalisations, perhaps; but to have these things reiterated by a friend from overseas was like being invited to look hard at oneself in the mirror he was holding up before us. "You hide behind your newspapers on the morning trains", he said; "You don't perhaps speak Urdu, but you can smile".

Mr. Vincent made me think a little more carefully about other mirrors that have been held up to me, and what he had to say suggested to me that I should peer much more conscientiously at the reflections. What all too often blurs one's vision is the defensiveness that seems instantly to well up in response to criticism. Recently, some students told me they considered that a piece of work I had planned for them was unsuitable for various reasons. My instant reaction was to seek refuge in my greater experience; but the mirror was held resolutely before my nose - and they turned out to be right.

Sadly, the criticisms one seems most often to brush aside are those coming

from people close to one. Your wife tells you she thinks you've been quite unnecessarily irritable with the children - and your hackles rise that she should question your righteous anger! What we need is a little rhyme like A.A. Milne's King of Peru - this potentate always recited it to himself whenever he got into any kind of a flap; it gave him time to cool down.

Now that I come to think of it, it was probably Mr. Vincent's very gentleness and understatement that made me look hard into his mildly critical mirror - a lesson here for those making criticisms, too, perhaps. "You can smile, can't you?" he asked. His criticism aroused no resentment; it was accepted - no need for the King of Peru's verse. I was still thinking of his words the following morning; so that when the two West Indian girls tumbled panting and giggling into the train as it pulled out of New Malden station, how could I resist joining in their merriment?

T.D.

YOU PONDER FULLY PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

On October 27, Y.P.F. held our fated Youth Service, in which to the embarrassment of all, a light fused right in the middle of 'Genesis' - a drama superbly acted until darkness fell on the earth. May I take this opportunity of thanking all those external to Y.P.F. who helped with this service (including that world-renowned group 'The Bolt Ensemble'). My one wish really is that those who attended came away with some new thoughts on God's relationship with Man.

Since then we have had a slide evening, a free evening (during which 12 people ended up sitting on Ian's lap at once - surely not?) and a disco at which the patented Robertolights had their debut for an hour and a half before going out for the rest of the evening.

Sundays have been occupied with talks on Music and Religion, the Ten Commandments and a guest speaker from Heathrow Industrial Chaplaincy.

Y.P.F. is as reported before alive and kicking with at least 20 persons on a Friday and about a dozen on a Sunday. Next Friday (November 29) we are trusting our luck with the elements by holding a barbeque in the triangle. That soup had better be hot!

Future events lined up include a cinema trip on a Friday and talks by Andy Wood (a stranger to Y.P.F. now) and Helen Taylor.

Christmas then fast approaches with Y.P.F. busy as usual. On December 20, we shall all don our best bib and tucker for the second Annual Dinner - an event so successful last year that it has now become an annual 'do'. On December 22, we are holding our CAROL SING-SONG with the more elderly people of the area, although anyone is welcome to come and sing carols with us. On the 24th, we go out into the Parish for carol-singing by lamplight and refreshed by mince-pies and coffee by obliging adults. Our Christmas festivities with a left-overs Dinner and Disco on Friday 27th, to finish a busy week. Who said young people never did anything in the Hols? I think I'll go back to work for the rest after that lot!

If you want to know why the butler did it and what Y.P.F. is doing next year, read next month's thrilling instalment.

Martin Edmonds,

EDWARDIAN EVENING

On Saturday November 16, many people arrived at St. James's Hall dressed in a variety of Edwardian costumes or similar gear.

By 8 p.m. all the tables were occupied and our worthy Chairman, Peter Bowes-Cavanagh, struck the table with his mallet and opened the proceedings. A very attractive tableau of an Edwardian Family was presented on the stage. This looked just like an old-time photograph.

Many old-time favourite songs were sung and the Mary Sumner Girls put on a great Can-Can display, after which they came round the tables as wine waitresses. This was a difficult task for them as their breath was still coming in short pants.

There was a very attractive parasol and song act by our lovely ladies, which was followed by a touch of cabaret, when they came down to the tables and sat on various males' laps and sang a song with the audience joining in.

It is impossible to name everybody who took part and made this such a happy evening.

The waiters gathered round the piano and put on a good show.

Roger Bucknell did an entertaining dramatic reading while sitting in his make-believe boat, complete with toy dog. Much hard work must have gone into this.

Olive Wright recited a lengthy poem and everyone marvelled at her memory and found it very entertaining.

While all this was going on the audience enjoyed roast beef and cheese sandwiches with lashings of wine, beer or cordial according to taste.

All those who attended this memorable evening were very grateful for all the hard work done by the entertainers, and those who assisted behind the kitchen-door to make this venture such a success.

Well done social committee!

D.A.R.

FIREWORKS PARTY

We were very lucky on Saturday, November 2, the weather managed to clear and it was a fine evening for the annual event which is so popular.

Over 200 tickets were sold and the old people of Laurel Dene had Grandstand seats inside to watch a magnificent and sometimes very noisy display!

Lots of willing helpers were on hand to pass out welcome soup and baked potatoes after the show and it was a most convivial family occasion.

L.C.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The Parish Carol singing will take place a little early this year on Thursday, December 19, starting at the church at 7.15 p.m. We will sing our way round the parish hoping to be joined on route by anyone who enjoys a good Christmas sing. The evening will end at Wayside with all the singers invited to hot mince pies and coffee. Do join us and help to spread a little Christmas cheer round the district.

The New Year Parish Party will be held at 7.45 p.m. on Saturday, January 11. Our theme is Sports and Games and of course this covers pastimes, hobbies, recreations etc., etc. If you are a very industrious fancy dresser you could perhaps come as a chess-piece or dice or domino. If you are less enthusiastic for the clever stuff you could be "just me". Reading or knitting in your carpet slippers could be your recreation, so come as you are if you wish, but do come and bring all the children as we always have a good time at this party - it is a real family occasion. If running or golf are your sport - please don't wear your spikes! Tickets are 50p for adults and 25p for children 16 and under - they are available from all members of the social committee.

We thought you might like to know, as those who attended our Edwardian evening saw, we tried, and largely succeeded, in encouraging a different group of people on to the stage from the usual good folk who have always been willing to appear when asked. But don't go away "good folk" we will need you again!

Y.P.F. EVENSONG

Not being a lover of the Evensong Service I was keen to attend the Young People's Service held in its place recently. I really enjoyed your efforts, Y.P.F. and was very involved with the theme. There had obviously been a lot of hard work put into the Service and I was most upset that it was unforeseeably disrupted. Nevertheless I appreciated this form of worship, and I would like to see this or something similar repeated in the future. Thank you Y.P.F.

C.R.

WAYSIDE

The recent redecoration of the entrance hall and the back rooms rounds off a pretty heavy programme of repairs and maintenance work carried out this year. This included the provision of new entrance gates, extensive surgery to the large tree beside them, complete electrical rewiring of the ground floor, relaying the soakaway drain in the drive, and renewing a lead roof and the skylight.

Thanks in part to our contributions year by year to the Diocesan maintenance fund; and in part to savings achieved by voluntary labour on the gates, the tree and the drain; the costs have been met from the Wayside account without recourse to the Church General Account, which may be a matter for some satisfaction.

Our funds are now low, however, and in order to complete the planned interior re-decoration, the two front rooms will need to be done by volunteer helpers. We hope to do this work during the first quarter of 1975: meantime Denis Leatherdale and I will be pleased to hear from anybody having some ability and experience who would be prepared to help.

Jack Gostling,

AT YOUR SERVICE

I am very pleased to have this opportunity to outline the facilities provided by Richmond upon Thames library service which are available to everyone with the minimum formality; there is a branch library within easy reach of every resident in the Borough.

Public libraries have existed in at least part of the area for almost one hundred years, yet much of what we do is still relatively unknown. All our libraries provide general reading on a wide range of subjects, perhaps less well known is our service of book lists individually prepared for special requests and the interlending system which enables us to obtain specific books, journals and photocopies.

Each library offers a reference and information service, and the staff are pleased to find the answers to enquiries, be they connected with employment, home, studies, travel or leisure activities. Each library also has files of local information including lists of doctors, a register of local organisations and societies, and a monthly diary of local events.

The staff will put enquirers in telephone contact with the Central Reference Library if their own resources cannot meet needs. Alternatively the Central Reference Library can be contacted direct on 940 9125.

Castelnau, Richmond and Teddington libraries have, in addition, sound recordings collections which are available to anyone who lives or works in the Borough; and if one is interested in the history of the area, there are large local collections at Richmond, covering Barnes and Richmond, and at Twickenham.

Please remember that the library service is there to help everyone, whether there is a need to know the time of a train, the address of a local Citizens' Advice Bureau, the name of a good book on do-it-yourself repairs, or how to prune the gooseberries.

The address of your local library is:- Hampton Hill Branch Library, Windmill Road, Hampton Hill, and it is open:- Monday to Wednesday and Friday 9-1; 2-7 (Thursday closed) Saturday 9-1; 2-5.

SCOUTS' OWN - CAROLS ROUND THE CAMP FIRE

The Scout Troop are organising an evening of carols together with the Cub Scouts, Brownies and Guides.

Those of you who enjoy singing carols are invited to come along and join us at THE PARISH HALL on FRIDAY, December 20 at 7.30 p.m.

S.R.C.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

The great missionary societies and other voluntary bodies are increasingly hard put to it to find the staff they need to carry on their work, not only abroad, but right here on our doorsteps at home. Here is another letter from USPG (the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel), a society with great commitments which we support as strongly as we can financially, outlining some of their urgent needs.

November 19, 1974

To Incumbents in the dioceses of London and Southwark

Dear Colleague,

I am writing once again, first to thank you for your cooperation in recommending people who might work on our Home Staff and secondly to ask for your

continued help.

We sometimes advertise in the national and local papers but really prefer to obtain our staff through the introduction of the local clergy. I give below a list of vacancies.

- Housekeepers** At the time of writing we are still seeking a couple who will act as joint Housekeepers and occupy the flat on the top floor of USPG House.
- Administrative Assistant** We want a well-educated man or woman with typing skills who could run the busy Appointment and Training office. Applicants for this post should preferably have some experience in office routine.
- Editorial Assistant** We would like to find someone with journalistic, especially editorial, experience who could assist with the **editing** of Network and produce briefs and pamphlets for our publicity and educational work.
- Addressograph Operator** We have not yet found an assistant to the Supervisor in the Addressograph section, so if you know of anyone who either has experience of these machines or would like to learn, I should be glad to hear from you.
- Packer/Postal Clerk** We need two men to help in the Packing Department where all the mailing for home and overseas has to be assembled, packed and despatched.
- Audio-Typist** Two competent audio-typists are required in the Typing Section. Here a good over-all knowledge of the work of the Society can be obtained which can lead to promotion.

With renewed thanks for your help.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Hardy
(Appointment and Training Secretary)

If you know of anyone who might be suitable for, and interested in, one of these vacancies, please contact the Vicar.

GROWING VEGETABLES AND MAKING HAY

Is this what we should be doing more and more, instead of devoting so much of our gardening to flowers, and trying to keep our churchyards tidy? The shortage of food in the world is becoming increasingly serious, and the recent calls to Christian frugality so that we can send more to the starving overseas go only a little way to help.

Much more food needs to be produced: ought not we to start where we are, as we did with the 'Dig for Victory' campaign in 1939? And our own farmers are desperate for fodder and hay - so to produce the latter from all possible sources, as to collect waste-paper, may now be an over-riding patriotic duty - and as also with paper, profitable for good causes as well. The following letter appeared in the Church Times of November 15:

There is good news for those parishes faced with the problem of large

churchyards. Hay is now £65 a ton, with the prospect of further increase in price.

Away now with the grass-cutters which consume petrol at high cost, and back to the old days when the grass could be made into good hay and sold at a profit. There must be hundreds of churchyards in the country where this economic factor could help the parish finances.

Glebe land and large gardens could also bring in another source of income.

31, Three Acre Drive
Barton-on-Sea, Hants.

E.C. PITMAN

What do our readers think of this proposal?

With regard to the terrible food-situation in many parts of the world, remember that all our Christmas offerings are for Christian Aid, which saves thousands of lives a year. Let us see if we can raise at least £100 this year.

DEANERY INTERCESSION LIST

December

- 22 SS. Peter & Paul, Teddington.
- 29 SS. Michael & George, Fulwell

January

- 5 St. Augustine of Canterbury, Whitton.
- 12 The Bishop, Archdeacon and Rural Deans of the Kensington Area.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

December

- 14 8.30 - 10.30 AM Waste-Paper Collection (W)
- 15 Third Sunday in Advent: Sunday arrangements as usual - also 3.30 PM District Guide Carol Service (St. Francis de Sales) 5.15 PM Senior Members of congregation lead the service at Laurel Dene; 7.00 PM (after Evensong at 6.30 PM), second Teach-in on the Second Isaiah and his Message of Hope, followed by refreshments.
- 17 8.00 PM Tuesday Club: Social Evening (W)
- 19 7.15 PM Parish Carol-Singing
- 20 7.30 PM YPF: Annual Dinner (W); 7.30 PM Carols round the Camp-Fire (Hall).
- 21 SAINT THOMAS, APOSTLE: 7.30 AM Holy Communion
- 22 Fourth Sunday in Advent: Sunday arrangements as usual - also 3.30 PM Christmas Crib and Carol Service for all the family; 3.30 PM Carol Sing-Along for the elderly (Hall) N.B. Baptisms this month-on the fifth Sunday.
- 23 9.30 AM onwards - Decoration of the church for Christmas: gifts of holly and greenery will be much appreciated, also help in arranging them.
- 25 **CHRISTMAS DAY**: 8.00 AM Holy Communion with Christmas Hymn 9.30 AM Parish & Family Communion, followed by light refreshment in church; 12.10 PM, Holy Communion. ALL CHRISTMASTIDE

OFFERINGS FOR CHRISTIAN AID.

- 26 SAINT STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR : 10.00 AM Holy Communion
- 27 SAINT JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST : 10.00 AM Holy Communion
- 28 THE INNOCENTS' DAY : 10.00 AM Holy Communion
- 29 First Sunday after Christmas : Morning arrangements as usual ; 11.15 AM Children's Christmas Service. 4.00 PM Infant Baptism ; 6.30 PM Carols by Candlelight.

January

- 1 THE NAMING OF JESUS : 9.30 AM Holy Communion
- 5 Second Sunday after Christmas : Morning arrangements as usual, but at 6.30 P.M. instead of Evensong, an Epiphany Celebration : CAN YOU TELL ME THE WAY TO BETHLEHEM?'
- 6 THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD ; 7.30 & 9.45 AM Holy Communion
- 8 2.30 PM Mothers' Union Christmas Party (Hall)
- 11 2.40 - 3.00 PM Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer (Vestry); 7.45 Parish Christmas Party (Hall)
- 13 7.30 PM Second Training Course, led by a tutor from the Richmond Fellowship, begins (41 Wellington Road)

The Wayside Monday Centre opens as usual every week - no break at Christmastide - for the normal two sessions 10.30 AM - 2.30 PM and 7.30 - 10.30 PM, and the door is always open in welcome to those who want to stay for only a few minutes or for the whole period.

The Confirmation Groups, the Group for Contact & Welcome, The Longford Close Area Welcome Group, and the Prayer Meeting also continue at regular intervals as arranged. The Justice & Peace Group at St. Francis de Sales continues to deal with issues of great importance, and its days and times of meeting are announced regularly in church.

BAPTISMS

- October 27 Paul James Drewett, 32 Pigeon Lane.
Mark Duncan Edwards, 26 Nelson Street, Norwich.
Sarah Louise Garratt, 19 Ringwood Way.
Emma Louise Hewitt, 4 Sherwood Road.
Peter Andrew Laren Lacey, 10 Eastbank Road.
- November 24 Helen Jeremiah, 99 Uxbridge Road.
Stuart Geoffrey Johnson, 44 Wordsworth Road
Robin Peter Lambert, 1 Upper Lodge, Bushy Park
Karen Wheeler, 13 Wordsworth Road.

BURIALS AND CREMATIONS

- November 8 Albert Reynolds Daines, Ivy Hall Hotel, Richmond, aged 73 years
(at South-West Middlesex Crematorium)
- 14 Monica Anne Mary Ovington-Jones, 54 Park Road, aged 76 years
- 15 Leah Vickery, 62 Uxbridge Road, aged 74 years (at Hampton Cemetery)
- 22 Elizabeth Alice Whitehead, 66 Railway Road, Teddington,
aged 92 years
- 26 Otto William Charles Hirsch, 43 St. James's Avenue, aged 68 years
(at South-West Middlesex Crematorium)