

UGANDAN REFUGEES IN KENYA.

Many in this parish will know Dr Louise Pirouet, who has stayed locally and has spoken in St. James's on various issues including the refugee situation in the Southern Sudan.

Louise is now in Nairobi, lecturing in the Department of Religious Studies at the University; she is also the organising secretary of the St. Francis Fund, set up recently to help Ugandan refugees who have had to fly for their lives from President Amin's Uganda. They find themselves in Kenya with no money and no work. Kenya has only in recent weeks agreed to recognise them as refugees, and they are undergoing severe hardships.

Louise writes: "A great many of these Ugandan refugees are professionally qualified people, university and seminary students, civil servants and school teachers. The most serious problem is that of accommodation. Uganda households, and many others as well, are already overfull, with people sleeping in all available space. The only places left to which to send people are church halls, where there are bare boards to sleep on, and no food of any kind is provided. Apart, therefore, from Kenya Shs.200, a refugee receives no help. Even if a room is found, a rent deposit is normally required.

Those people who arrived before 1 January 1977 cannot get refugee status, and if they fall out of work, cannot receive even subsistence allowances. Many Ugandans were employed in East African Community services, and have lost jobs and housing. Others are students and their courses are ending. Some can return to Uganda. Others have lost their parents in recent purges and cannot return."

Louise and her friends have started the St. Francis Fund, mainly on Ugandan initiative. Help is given entirely on the grounds of need, without regard to religious affiliation. Money can be forwarded through the Church Missionary Society. Can St. James's help?

Hannah Stanton.

THE HOLY WEEK CANTATA

On Tuesday evening of Holy Week an augmented choir gave a very reverent rendering of J.H. Maunder's sacred cantata "Olivet to Calvary". The solos were shared out among several of the singers, thus providing pleasing variations of style and tone. If at first the sopranos seemed to outweigh the contraltos, who were fewer in number, this was adjusted quite early in the programme.

The congregation was more ecumenical in character than it might have been had this work been performed on a Sunday evening; many present expressed disappointment that they were not invited to join in the three hymns intended for choir and congregation.

The organ accompaniment gave Mr Dafforne every chance to display both his own skill and the range of our instrument. Our thanks go to him and to the choir for all the hard work and preparation which produced such a worthwhile addition to the Holy Week events.

I.V.R.

THANK YOU FOR THE WELCOME SERVICE

Do we want young children in Church? Are they not always too noisy?

True, prayer, penitence, and adoration need quietness. The person actually in charge of a toddler or baby can quite often not concentrate on the service, not hear all that is being said, not feel any reverence or enter into the spirit of a prayer, because the child demands attention in a variety of ways. And there is always the worry that others sitting near are also disturbed. Personally I would therefore not like to have my children with me at every service.

But on the other hand, Church is not a place to be gloomy - worship need not be sombre. A child who is happy and relaxed - and therefore not a statue - is definitely welcome to God. We want our children to like Church. We want them to feel at home in the place where so much of importance happens to us. Trying to enforce too strict a discipline can only alienate them.

For this reason I am pleased about the fact that the Welcome Service at 4.30 p.m. every second Sunday is now a service specifically for families with young children. The message of the service is not aimed exclusively at the children. When they are very young they cannot really follow even the simplest service as a whole. But while these services have something to give to the parents, the best of them also contained something visual that appealed directly to the children. I am thinking for instance of the knight dressing up in the armour of God. These services are short and informal enough not to strain the children or their parents too much. They are a lovely opportunity for young families to go to church altogether; they introduce our children to worship - and we parents usually come home enriched in some way.

On the last two occasions we had to miss the Welcome Service because the children were unwell. Colin was quite upset when he realised we were not going. He cannot explain very well what he likes about Church. Maybe the music, the mystery of the building itself, the strange gowns of clergy and choir, all these have a fascination for children. I am sure they also feel the spirit of love that lives there, and in time they will begin to understand the words that are sung and spoken. The Welcome Services seem to be a very appropriate introduction.

(An excellent leaflet to read in this context is published by the Mothers' Union. It is called 'The Penny Droppers' and among other things contains some useful practical hints.)

H.B.

Since writing the above we went to the Easter afternoon Welcome Service, an occasion worth a mention, if only for its well produced contribution by the Questers. The children sang and spoke beautifully, every word could be heard right at the back of the church. Their presentation made a memorable centrepiece for a well-thought-out hour of worship.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

I enjoyed the concert very much and I was sad when it was the end. I especially liked the dancers, and the Mothers' Union. I thought that the cubs' dragon was very good as well. Our Sunday School poems turned out quite

well, but it was boring rehearsing them. But I enjoyed making them up. I think everyone enjoyed acting and seeing the concert.

Frances Harris

I enjoyed the concert very much. I also enjoyed being an active part of the dragon. The whole show was very good, but the Quartet, the Toy Shop, the Jack the Grasper Sketch, the Ballet Class and the London Songs I thought were excellent. I also think that all the other cubs that saw it enjoyed it very much.

Peter Brittain.

For the last issue of the magazine we had asked the children what they liked particularly about the Parish Concert. We did in fact receive two contributions which unfortunately had to be held over, together with a few other items. As people may remember from the "Editorial Board Meeting" at the Concert, we do get those issues where we start with nothing and end up with too much. Although the Concert is no longer news I am sure you are still interested in reading the two junior opinions about it.

At the the time of going to press for this issue I have not received any "Dream Day with the Queen". Please let me have your ideas for next time. They will then in fact be printed in the June-Jubilee-Issue.

And here is a question for you to answer:

What have Matthew 26, Mark 8 and Luke 24 in common?

Prize: first correct answer received will be published.

Answers to: Hilde Bucknell, 75 St. James's Avenue.

DOES IT MAKE SENSE TO READ THE BIBLE?

We said hopefully at the end of our summary under this head in last month's issue 'to be concluded' because there were so many other points that came up, especially in the questions and discussion, well worth making known to a wider audience. There is no room for these concluding notes (which again cover only a small part of what was put before us) to be included this month, but there may possibly be space in some future issue.

THE MONTHLY PARADE SERVICE

As a result of a long discussion between members of the Liturgical Committee and the leaders of the uniformed groups, who on the fourth Sunday in eight months of the year come in strength to the Parish Communion, certain changes will be introduced from May onwards in an attempt to make the service more meaningful and less tedious to the young people. First of all, the service will be shortened to make it last no longer than an hour. Then the request for greater involvement will be met by encouraging the different sections to present musical items of their own, and on May 22 the Guides will be doing this to guitar accompaniment. . We hope that the older members of the congregation, who like the service as it is, will exercise toleration and patience with regard to these innovations, and continue to make the young people feel welcome and at home - because, as they say, 'we are members of the Church too'.

BRIEF NEWS FROM THE MOTHERS' UNION

March and April has seen us restricted by winter - and other - ills; one committee meeting had to be cancelled because five out of the six members were laid low! Best wishes to all those still recovering and we hope to be all up to strength for our special visit to Blenheim when we hope to visit our new chaplain, the Bishop of Dorchester on route.

Fortunately all seven of our new members were fit and well for their enrolment service in April. The next special occasion in St. James's will be the Deanery service on Whit Monday, May 30, (not a bank holiday this year) when Pat Young will be "installed" as Deanery Presiding Member. All our friends will be welcome to this service. The preacher will be Father John Cotgrove the Rural Dean.

CHB

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

May 16 - 21

1977 doesn't promise to be an easy year for Christian Aid. Added to the general economic uncertainty the Queen's Jubilee Appeal (taking the form of a house to house collection organised by the British Legion) immediately precedes C.A. week!

Naturally Christian Aid is not opposed to the objects of the Jubilee Appeal but we all have to remember that Christian Aid has entered into a relationship with overseas partners which calls for a sustained, continuing commitment. They are expecting a certain amount of money and it must be found.

Christian Aid is a central and official part of the life of the churches. It is partly for that reason that the launching event on May 14 has been rooted in the three major churches along Victoria Street, but more than that, the event is a witness of the determination to continue the commitment and to celebrate what is being achieved with Christian Aid's support. As many people as possible are invited to join the procession down Victoria Street from the Cathedral via Central Hall to the Abbey. Both Cardinal Hume and the Bishop of Kensington have agreed to take part.

As for our own effort, the total for St. James's area (with St. Francis de Sales) keeps rising as thoughtful people are increasing their giving remembering that the needs of the 3rd world are ever growing and our Aid is only a drop in the ocean of want. In considering how much each one of us is going to give, consider also the need, and give generously.

M.O.

RANMORE RAMBLE SATURDAY MAY 14

Yes. You're quite right - we've changed the date! We realised we would not be very popular with the Dads if we took them away from the Cup Final!

So - it's next Saturday afternoon, May 14 that we shall all follow Ron Bridges on his circuit of Ranmore Common, breathing deeply of the good Spring air of the Surrey countryside and giving ourselves that gentle exercise we all need after the long months indoors. Please let Ron know if you are coming, and he will give you the details. You don't have to have a car, just a few sandwiches to keep you going.

RLB

AROUND THE SPIRE

A number of people have been unwell recently with a particularly nasty virus germ. This has kept many of them housebound and poorly for a number of weeks. Hopefully, now that the days are longer, warmer and more cheerful it will help all those who are still "under the weather" to feel better, and we look forward to seeing them back to their normal selves once again.

Our best wishes go to Ruth Gostling, hoping she will make a speedy recovery, and soon be out and about after her recent spell in hospital.

It was pleasant to see Hazel Gubbins amongst us on a recent visit, and interesting to know that she had just completed a three-week working trip in Sierra Leone, West Africa. This was a Church Missionary Society project for a youth group to travel out there and work in the parishes, staying with local people. The group, aged between 18 and 25, had a mixture of professions represented, including Hazel as a student nurse. No doubt we will hear more from her at a later date, and look forward to seeing her again.

Congratulations to Vivienne Prentice on receiving her 60 year badge from the Veteran Motorist Organisation - this is for sixty years of accident - free driving.

As a young girl Vivienne was driving an ambulance in France during the First World War. This obviously stood her in good stead for the many following years of motoring. One incident during the spell of service that is of interest is that she brought in the body of Alcock - of Alcock and Brown fame - the first airmen to fly the Atlantic. Alcock had crashed his plane near Rouen whilst on a flight to Paris and had been killed instantly.

Most of the activities that stopped over Easter have now resumed - these include the Ladies Singing - on alternate Monday afternoons, in the Vestry starting at 2.30 p.m. (and at which **anybody** who just enjoys singing would be most welcome).

The sewing afternoons on Wednesdays at Wayside have now started - beginning at 1.30 p.m. and so too has Keep Fit on Tuesdays at 2.00 p.m. in the Church Hall.

The Badminton for young mothers, held on Friday afternoons at the Hall has stopped for the summer and will be re-starting sometime in September. This has shown to be a need well met, so please watch out for notices as to when we next meet.

SPECIAL JUBILEE SERVICES

We are ordered by the Lords of Her Majesty's Most Excellent Privy Council to use a Special Form of Prayer and Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the protection afforded to the Queen's Majesty during the twenty-five years of Her auspicious reign on Sunday the fifth day of June. We have sent off a cheque for £9.00 to order 100 copies of this form of service, and it will be used instead of Evensong on that day. On the following Sunday there is to be an Interdenominational Service arranged by the Borough to be held on the Sunken Lawn at York House, starting at 3.00 p.m., and we have accepted the Town Clerk's invitation to attend and told him that we expect 50 people from St. James's to be there. Because of this service, the usual Welcome Service normally held in our church on the second Sunday in the month will be cancelled on this occasion.

ANOTHER JUBILEE

Just after Easter in 1952 we invited Sister Simpson of the Church Army to visit our parish. She preached at Evensong on the Sunday, and then on the Wednesday we held a Guest Night in the Parish Hall, and as a result what was then known as a 'News-Team' was formed. This met regularly at the Vicarage for study and prayer, and then began to visit the homes of the parish. The area at first concentrated on was that part 'beyond the Longford', more cut-off then than it is now, because the bridge giving pedestrian access at the end of Longford Close had not yet been built, cars were few and far between, and one had to walk or cycle the roundabout way along Hanworth Road. On Sunday afternoons we held open-air services, all of us shouting and singing at the top of our voices hoping to be heard by at least some of the people who, too shy to come out and join us, we could discern peering at us from behind closed curtains. Our visiting proved more fruitful, and several house-groups were formed, one or two of which continued for over a year; a few people joined existing Church organisations; but the most enduring result of all was the Sunday School which we started in the Rectory School. This has gone on without a break for just on 25 years now, and there should indeed be celebration and rejoicing for all the good work it has done during this time. From the very beginning until now it has had the devoted leadership of Jean Western, who made the long journey every Sunday afternoon, wet or fine, snow or sunshine; sometimes she had helpers - Hannah Stanton was one in the early years - sometimes she carried on by herself. She won the affection of many of her pupils, and some stayed on many years with her as assistant teachers. Sometimes the difficulties were such that a lesser person would have given up - but not so Jean, to her they were challenges to be faced and conquered. As well as the Sunday work and all the preparation involved, she regularly visited the homes of her children, and other homes from which new members might come.

It is sad that now it has to come to an end, at least temporarily. But there are only 6 children regularly attending, and it is unfair to ask the caretaker to give up his Sunday afternoon to open and close the school for such a small number. Provision will be made for them to be transferred to our other departments at Wayside. But in these 25 years the population of the area 'beyond the Longford' has more than trebled, and the need for the Church to exercise pastoral care and concern for young and old alike is even more pressing than it was when Jean Western and the other members of the old News-Team opened up the work there 25 years ago.

JUBILEE CELEBRATION SATURDAY JUNE 4

The big Hampton Hill celebration is getting very close now. St. James's and the Hampton Hill Association are working together to put on a really memorable day for the family and we know that everybody at St. James's will be keen to take part. The posters soon to be on display will give all the details about the procession, fancy dress, children's tea party, sports, barbecue and dance. Please respond as much as you can to the letter of the organisers for the many items which will be required. This will cut the cost enormously and make it a real community effort. Thank you everybody, and see you there.

RLB

P.S. It is hoped that a good number of people will enter decorated cars for the procession. If you are one of these, please let either Mr. Len Doughty (979 2839) or Mr. Eric Carter (979 1166 - know of your intention as soon as possible.

SCOUT GROUP DATES AND NEWS

On Sunday, April 27, the Group will be attending the usual St. George's Day Service and Parade at St. Mary's College Chapel.

The Group are holding their A.G.M. on **Friday May 6** in the Parish Hall. This is an important Meeting as the new outlook on adult support for Scouting will be implemented. All parents and friends are asked to make this a special date. After the business has been attended to, you will be able to enjoy a convivial hour with Scouters and friends over a glass of wine.

GRAND JUBILEE FETE AT 'LAUREL DENE' on Saturday, May 28 1977.

Fun for all the family - come along and support our Jubilee effort.

M.J.U.

YOUNG FAMILIES GROUP ST. JAMES'S BABY MORNINGS

Programme for the Spring and Summer Term 1977

Meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd (and 5th) Thursdays of each month, 10.30 to 12 noon, at Wayside, St. James's Road.

For those who have not been before: Our programme is made up of talks, discussions and practical items of special interest to mothers of young babies. If a particular topic interests anybody else, they are also very welcome. The babies stay with us sometimes, but if we feel we need a creche for any meeting, the Mothers' Union kindly help us run one.

MAY 19
JUNE 2

Keep Fit - the Eileen Fowler way (at last!)
"Why am I afraid to love?"

Discussion about the book recommended to us by Jean Johnson, the marriage advisor

16

Meet Mrs. Nicholls, the Young Families representatives of the Mothers' Union.

30

"Sex Education for Toddlers"

JULY 7

Another morning with Jean Johnson

Bring your own ideas and show us how: making things (soft toys, Christmas presents etc), favourite hobby . . .

21

SATURDAY JULY 23

Pram outing to the Woodland Gardens.

Garden Party with Dads **SPECIAL - BEFORE THE
SUMMER HOLIDAYS**

Hilde Bucknell

OTHER DATES TO NOTE

- May
10 20.00 Stewardship Committee (106, Park Road)
11 07.30 Holy Communion; 20.00 Lecture: 'Does it make sense to go to church?' The Rev. Michael Hollings of Southall (Hampton Methodist Church)
15 No Evensong here, but cars outside church at 18.20 to provide transport to UNITED SERVICE to inaugurate CHRISTIAN AID WEEK at 18.45 in Hampton Methodist Church.
16 10.30 Editorial Board (75, James's Avenue)
17 20.00 Tuesday Club 'Battersea Dogs' Home' (W)
19 ASCENSION DAY 19.15 Holy Communion
23 20.00 Liturgical Committee (63, Park Road)
25 07.30 Holy Communion; 20.00 Discussion of Michael Hollings' lecture (63, Park Road)
29 WHITSUNDAY
30 MONDAY IN WHITSUN WEEK: 07.30 Holy Communion; 14.30 Mothers' Union Deanery Service (in our church)
31 TUESDAY IN WHITSUN WEEK: 19.15 Holy Communion 20.00 Tuesday Club: AGM (W)
- June
5 TRINITY SUNDAY: 17.15 St. James's lead service at Laurel Dene; 18.30 Jubilee Thanksgiving Service
9 CORPUS CHRISTI 19.15 Holy Communion; 20.00 Lecture: 'Does it make sense to hope for life after death?' The Rev. Marcus Ward (Hampton Methodist Church)
11 SAINT BARNABAS THE APOSTLE: 19.00 Celebration of the Liturgy with the Catechumenate
12 15.00 Jubilee Service in grounds of York House (N.B.No afternoon or evening service in our church); 17.15 Members of YPF lead at Laurel Dene.

The Catechumenate meets every Wednesday and Saturday evening in church as arranged. Confirmation and young people's groups meet weekly as notified. Prayer Meetings: on Tuesdays at 75, Burton's Road 20.00 on May 10 & June 7; on Thursdays at 69, St. James's Avenue 20.00 on May 19 & June 2.

BAPTISM

- March
27 Kelly Joanne Burrows, 86, Rectory Grove

BURIAL AND CREMATION

- March
29 Annie Mary Mills, 29, Dean Road, aged 76 years (at South-West Middlesex Cramatorium)
- April
19 John Luck, 25, Bishop's Grove, aged 61 years (at Teddington Cemetery)