

## Vicar's Notes

Advent—the start of the Church's Year. What are we to try to do in this new year now opening before us? We well know one task that circumstances have forced upon us—the raising of a large sum of money to enable the work that is necessary for the preservation and renovation of our church to be done. The Church Council were much encouraged by the enthusiastic interest shown in this by those who came to their "At Home."

It was clear from Miss Lush's account of the early days of our church that big tasks have been tackled before as a matter of course and carried through to a successful conclusion, and she made us feel that what our forbears had done, we could also do. Mr. Hewson, our guest from our mother-church of St. Mary's, made us see the whole project as both a privilege and a responsibility. It was also very stimulating to hear Mr. Councillor Edwards, who spoke as a Baptist, calling upon those outside the Church of England to support this appeal to preserve a church whose exterior beauty appealed to all, whether they ever went inside it, or not. And words were followed up by deeds. We had not expected to receive any donations then and there, but they started coming in thick and fast, some on a most generous scale, and in a very short time we had £65—and we have gone on slowly but steadily from this splendid start, so that the £2,000 needed does not seem so far off as it did.

But it is not only raising money that we have to attempt. We must not let the material swamp the spiritual. Rather, the material must be used to minister to the spiritual, and to convey it. And so another thing we must always be trying to

do is to understand more fully what the Church is and why it exists. Is the Church in a parish just a kind of catering-establishment, an institution arranged to cater for various ages and types at different times? Or is it meant to be a body of faithful people of all ages and outlooks, bound together in a common life and witness in one Fellowship? The catering-establishment idea of the Church dies hard, and it is still very prevalent: it will need a lot of thought and work on our part to supplant it by a better and truer idea, but this is one thing we should certainly be trying to do.

Our Dedication Festival on December 11th can help us to get the two sides, the spiritual and material, into proper relationship. We shall be thanking God for the 89 years of our church's existence, and praying and giving that this life may go on, to continue to bear witness to God before the people of this second half of the twentieth century, the people of the new Elizabethan era, as it has done since that far-off December day that only one or two among us can now remember at all. At the evening service the preacher will be Father Paul Singleton, one of our own men who has become a priest and a religious. He himself has strong links with those early days, for his grandparents were amongst the first worshippers here, his grandfather's brother was the first organist, and other members of the family were pioneer helpers in the Sunday Schools. At this service an opportunity will be given to all who wish to come up to present their gifts in person. Special gift-day envelopes will go out with this magazine, and they will also be available in church and at the vicarage. I do hope that we shall make this service a grand family-occasion, at which everyone who cares for St. James's church, and all that it stands for, will be present—to thank, to pray, to give.

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## FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

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### "CRY, THE BELOVED COUNTRY"

At last, after a long delay, the film "Cry the Beloved Country" was shown in this area on the A.B.C. circuit last week. We are told that

neither of the two larger circuits would show it, as it was considered not to be a good box office draw, and we would like to congratulate the A.B.C. circuit managers on showing

this excellent film even though it may not have been popular with everybody.

Many people went to see the film, and all must have been impressed by its sincerity and with the clearness with which it drew attention to the problem of the white and coloured peoples in South Africa. The filming of the squalid slums on the outskirts of Johannesburg had been taken on the spot, and the horror of seeing the degradation of those coloured quarters must have raised feelings of shame and guilt in many people. It is the white man in his search for gold who is responsible in a very great measure for these frightful conditions in which the coloured people live around the big mining towns, and which were brought before us vividly in this film.

The film is a very sad one, tragedy follows tragedy; but the humility and love which characterise the old coloured priest have a steadying influence throughout the film, and stress the eternal values which endure.

H.S.

#### **YOUNG WIVES RALLY Thursday, 11th October, 1952**

I was fortunate enough to be one of the 3,500 young wives from all parts of the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth and the Dominions who attended the Young Wives' Rally in London, on Thursday, 16th October, 1952 and should like to give you my impressions of a very delightful day.

In the morning we commenced with a service at Westminster Abbey and with such a large and enthusiastic congregation the singing of popular and well-loved hymns sounded truly inspiring. An excellent sermon was delivered by the Rev. J. T. Hughes, Chaplain to the Mothers' Union.

After lunch we reassembled at the Royal Festival Hall where we settled ourselves in with community-singing

led by Leslie Woodgate, the well known conductor. The chairman of the Rally, Mrs. Fisher, then took over the platform, accompanied by Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester who formally opened the Rally and made a short speech in which she stressed the need for a Christian family life. Mrs. Fisher spoke of the great need these days for upholding the sanctity of marriage and concluded with the good news that Her Majesty the Queen had graciously consented to grant us her patronage.

The stage was now cleared for a demonstration entitled "A daily plan for Christian living," which consisted of a series of talks designed to illustrate how Christianity could be brought into the normal daily life of every family. Young mothers and fathers described how it was possible to fit family-prayers into the everyday routine and how to make the telling of Bible stories interesting to children. The Rev. John Williams, who frequently broadcasts in Children's Hour, spoke on the subject of prayers for the younger members of the family, and children's hymns and graces were beautifully sung by the choir of the Archbishop Sumner Memorial School.

Following this demonstration we all joined wholeheartedly in the singing of several well-known hymns and then the Duchess of Gloucester returned to the stage to receive a presentation from members of Young Wives' Groups at home and overseas for her sons Prince William and Prince Richard.

In conclusion, the Right Rev. the Bishop of Croydon gave a very sincere and convincing address in which he stated the necessity for all the members of a family to attend church every week, and stressed that in Christianity, as in other worth-while things, only the best will do.

The saying of prayers brought to a close a very enjoyable and successful day.

I.S.

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## **AROUND THE SPIRE**

being notes and news about  
people, activities & organisations

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### **PRESENTATION TO MISS PHILLIPS**

We know that there are many people who would like to express their appreciation of the great services of Miss Phillips in our Sunday School.

She has taught in different departments for over seventeen years, but for most of the time she has been with the older girls, and many look back with happy and grateful memories to

the time when they were members of her class. We should like to give her something tangible to take with her in token of our gratitude when she leaves this parish to go to her new home. The vicar, the churchwardens, or any of the Sunday School teachers would be most pleased to receive and acknowledge donations for this.

#### C. OF E. CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

I am hoping to arrange a "Bring and Buy" and "Morning Coffee" in the Hall on Friday, December 12th or 19th from 10-12 a.m. in aid of this Society. Since the paragraph in last month's magazine received no response, may I remind you again that this is the Church's own charity? We are proud that, with Dr. Barnardo's Homes, it received in the Curtis Report special mention under various headings for its high standard and approach to its work. Although it has 5,000 children and in 1951 helped 1,209 children who were unwanted or cruelly treated, it receives no Family Allowance and more than ever depends on OUR support. (To maintain its work it spends at the rate of 25/- a minute.)

I should be glad to hear as soon as possible from anyone who would be able to help for all or part of the time.

C.H.B.

#### YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

Mrs. Watson (Burton's Road) has found a way of raising money for the renovation fund from jam-jars. Centres of collection are by kind permission of Mrs. Virgo at 184 Uxbridge Road and of Mrs. Lewis at 50 St. James's Road. Mrs. Weston has already raised £1 in this way.

On October 22nd, we held our second tea party for the mothers and babies of the Baptismal Roll. It was a very jolly occasion and even noisier than last year since to the gurgles and crowing of babies in prams was added the joyful noises of last year's babies who are now flourishingly "grown up" as toddlers and crawlers.

We had almost overlooked that it was also our first birthday celebration until as a complete surprise to everyone Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Carter presented us with a most

beautiful birthday cake, provided and most professionally made by themselves.

#### MISSIONARY NOTES

Miss Cox, the collector of the missionary-boxes in the parish, has handed to Mr. Western the sum of £16 to be divided between the Church Missionary Society and the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. We think that it should be widely known that this sum has been collected by the Sunday Schools, and that £10 9s. 1d. of the £16 came from the Infants' Sunday School alone.

This collection by the youngest group in our church is an example to everyone. We need more people who will have missionary-boxes in their homes. Miss Cox, of Queen's Road, Hampton Hill, will most readily provide a box to anyone wanting to follow the fine example of the Infants' Sunday School.

The British and Foreign Bible Society are presenting a play "Living Waters", to be performed by the London Youth Group, at the Upper Holloway Baptist Church Hall, on December 9th, at 7.45 p.m. One of our congregation is in the cast. We are hoping to go in a coach-party to this, but we need to have more response from people who are interested. Please get into touch with H. Stanton, 63, Park Road, Hampton Hill, Molesey 5821. It is thought that the evening will cost between 5/- and 6/- including fares and tickets.

#### THE JUNIOR DRAMA GROUP

This group has been formed and meets weekly on Wednesday evenings at 7 o'clock, at 63, Park Road, Hampton Hill. Anyone who is interested is most welcome to come along. At the moment we are spending our evenings reading plays. Our future programme is not clear, but we have already thought about some (very cheap) good theatre excursions for next year.

#### THE NEWS-TEAM

The team has been meeting regularly for Bible study and discussion, at the Vicarage once or twice a month, and it has also now begun to do active work in the parish. We

started by making contact with that rather neglected and outlying portion of the parish, the Rectory Estate, where we called on every house. One result of these first visits is the large and flourishing Sunday School that now exists there. It is also good to see that some of the older boys and girls are now coming to the Sunday School held in the church. Recently we had our first "home-meeting" on the Estate, and were glad to meet again some of the people we had met on our first visiting, and to tell them more about the Church.

We have had enquiries about Confirmation from young and old, and the vicar is hoping to start another Adult Confirmation Class in the New Year. Another result of these contacts has been that more people are asking to take the magazine, and we should be able to supply this demand in January, when it is hoped that the number of copies printed each month will be increased.

The team would like it to be known that it would now very much like new members. The present small numbers are a factor greatly limiting the range of its activities. If you would like to join, please come to the next meeting when you hear it announced in church, or speak to the vicar or Miss Chamberlin, who would be glad to give you further information.

On Sunday, November 23rd, three members of our team spoke at St. Lawrence's, Eastcote, after the evening service, and it is hoped that as a result of this visit a team may be started in that parish.

#### SOME STATISTICS

SUNDAY	No. of Communicants	Free-will Offering	Other Collections
Aug. 31st.	18	£2 9 0	£5 5 2
Sept. 7th.	22	£1 12 6	£7 6 4
Sept. 14th.	48	£1 18 0	£8 8 1
Sept. 21st.	36	£2 7 6	£10 0 0
Sept. 28th.	55	£1 9 6	£8 4 4
Oct. 5th.	40	£1 16 6	£14 0 7
Oct. 12th.	34	£1 10 0	£6 5 3
Oct. 19th.	20	£1 16 0	£5 2 2

Oct. 26th. 53 £2 10 0 £8 9 4

At the Harvest Festival Evening Service on Thursday, Oct. 2nd, the collection—for the Royal Agricultural Benvolent Institution—amounted to £6 5 9.

#### SOME DATES TO NOTE

Dec. 3rd.—3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union. Speaker: Sister Simpson, C.A. (Hall).

Dec. 4th.—8.0 p.m. C.E.M.S. Federation Service: St. Stephen's, Twickenham.

Dec. 9th.—8.0 p.m. C.E.M.S., (Vicarage).

Dec. 11th.—Dedication Festival and Day of Gifts for Church Renovation.

7.0 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.

7.45 p.m. Festal Evensong and offering of gifts.

Preacher: Father Paul Singleton, C.R.

Dec. 16th.—8.0 p.m. News-Team Fellowship (Vicarage).

Dec. 12th or 19th.—10.0 a.m. Bring-and-Buy Sale in Hall.

Dec. 22nd.—St. Thomas, Holy Communion 7.0 a.m.

Dec. 25th.—Christmas Day.

11.45 p.m. Midnight Eucharist.

7.0, 8.0, 10.0, 12.15 Holy Communion.

11.0 a.m. Matins and Sermon.

Dec. 26th.—St. Stephen, 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.

Dec. 27th.—St. John, 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.

Dec. 28th. or Jan. 4th.—6.30 p.m. Service of Nine Lessons and Carols.

#### BAPTISMS

Nov. 23rd.—Christopher Simon Harwood, St. James's Lodge.

#### MARRIAGES

Nov. 15th.—John William Straus to June Louise Reed.

Nov. 22nd.—Reginald Charles Chalk to Peggy Winifred Burton.

#### BURIAL

Nov. 3rd.—Elizabeth Foster, 11, Wolsey Road; aged 76 years.

Nov. 12th.—Lizzie Crosbie Farley, 87, Connaught Road, aged 83 years (at Twickenham Cemetery).