

Vicar's Notes

I was able to go into hospital on July 2nd, confident that everything in the Parish was in good hands, and that nothing would suffer as a result of my absence. And so it has proved. I am grateful to all who carried on as usual, and those who took on extra jobs and responsibilities, so that everything could be properly covered. It was a comfort to know that the Sunday services were being so ably led by Mr. Snell, Mr. Morton and Mr. Thomas; that members of the choir servers, sidesmen and Sunday School teachers would be discharging their duties with their usual efficiency; and that inspired team-work, great individual effort and good organisation would once again make the Fête both a very enjoyable occasion and also a financial success.

Those of us who will be going away in August are sorry for those who have had to take their holidays amidst the rigours of this exceptionally wet and stormy July—but we can't help but hope we may have better luck! I have planned to be away from August 10th to September 7th.

For the first fortnight of this period, the Reverend R. J. Spencer, Vicar of Forest Town, Mansfield, Notts., an old friend from my former diocese of Southwell, will

be living in the Vicarage with his wife and four children; and for the second fortnight, the Reverend J. R. Bennion, Curate of Tamworth, Staffs., with his wife and a friend. They will be in charge of the Sunday services and available to give help in the week, but as they are here on holiday, I know that, as in previous Augusts, you will make as few demands upon them as possible.

This year we are again returning to the custom of having the Sunday School outing during the Day-school holidays, instead of on a Saturday in term-time. We are doing this for several reasons: first, it was almost impossible to book a coach on a Saturday this summer unless one did it a year ahead; secondly, Saturdays are more expensive than week-days and thirdly, last year's Saturday outing was poorly supported, and we had to cancel one of the coaches booked at the last moment. We are therefore trying a Thursday at the end of August, and though many people may still be on their own holidays then we hope that there will be enough available to make it worthwhile. I shall be able to go over to meet the party at Brighton, but I have not yet found anyone free to take charge of it from this end. It would be a great relief to me to hear of someone who would take on this responsibility.

FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

A SCOTTISH YOUTH CENTRE

Dalmahoy Youth House welcomes young people of the Episcopal Church (Anglican Church) in Scotland; members of the Church in England are also welcome. It is in lovely country, 7 miles from Edinburgh, within easy reach of Glasgow and is also accessible from North and South Scotland, and from England.

The house is an ideal holiday home. It is in a large old Rectory; there is a lawn and field for games, a hall for socials, and shrubberies and woods available for wild games of indians and cowboys for the younger children. The freedom of the place is one of its features. There are games of all sorts provided, and newcomers are en-

couraged to learn to play these games properly, but games are seldom "organised." Excursions are planned, into Edinburgh or up onto the nearby moors. Leaders bringing their own youth groups generally plan group outings. Other young people at Dalmahoy for their holiday can go off on their own or in small groups.

The warden, the Rev. E. Longdon has a wonderful way with young people and seems able to put up with any amount of noise and turmoil. His flower garden is his delight and any small boy who prefers simple gardening to the wild games of other boys has a happy time. The house-keeper, Mrs. Allsop, has unending patience with young people pounding in and out of the

kitchen, provides second and third helpings of good food for everybody, and is an indispensable cheerful and welcoming figure in the background.

There is a small chapel in the house and Holy Communion is celebrated daily. The evening ends with Compline, and thus the Youth House life is centered in Church worship.

I have recently spent a week at Dalmahoy with a friend in charge of 10 young people, from 12-14 years of age, from the Episcopal Church of St. Michael in Glasgow. For most of these children it was the only holiday of the year, looked forward to with enthusiasm, and enjoyed with an intensity which was noisy and rapturous. Our youngsters met others from Inverness, Falkirk, Edinburgh and Chester.

We went on excursions to Portobello, Edinburgh's popular sea-side resort, to the Edinburgh Zoo and

to the Forth Bridge. These were enjoyed immensely, but we felt that the children loved even more the freedom to do what they liked in the garden and in the country round Dalmahoy. After the restraint of crowded homes and dirty streets this complete freedom was a joy to them.

Two children, George and Elizabeth, belonged to a family consisting of father, mother and 7 children. They lived in 2 rooms, and Elizabeth explained to me in detail how they all fitted in. George came to me while we were still at the Youth House, and said "When do I have to tell Miss Graham that I want to come next year?" I said "Well I should say something to her at about Christmas time, George," and was glad that he could have this week of happiness to look forward to, although there was a year to wait for it.

H.S.

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about
people, activities & organisations

MOTHERS' UNION AND YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

There are two special things to note about our first meeting in September: first, it will be on the **second** Wednesday of the month i.e. September 9th at 3.0 p.m. in the Hall. This is because the schools are still on holiday the previous week and because a lot of our members will be holidaying then.

The other thing is that it will be in the form of a "Town Forum" and is to be a joint meeting with the Y. Wives' Group. To enable as many group members as possible to come in the afternoon we are planning a well-staffed nursery in the Small Hall. Children coming from school at 3.30 can be met and taken straight to the nursery where there will be refreshments for them.

The Hall will be open at 2.30 and we suggest that toddlers are brought well before 3 o'clock so that they can be happily settled and acclimatized before their mothers want to go to begin their **meeting**.

We shall also be making this the occasion of the Quarterly tea because the shorter days do seem to make it more difficult for people

to come back to the Hall after the October service.

We hope to produce a printed card of the year's programme for both groups and it should be available at a small cost by the beginning of September.

Some extra events this summer which were planned to raise money for our Church gave us so much pleasure that we hope the organisers will treat us to more next year.

On June 24th the M.U. choir gave an "at-home" with a concert which was very much enjoyed and afternoon tea. The occasion left an impression of music and the scent of the summer flowers and the very gay appearance of the Hall. £6 10s. 0d. was raised for the Renovation Fund. Seventeen shillings had already been handed in for "tea-money" collected at choir practices.

On June 23rd at very short notice Mrs. Strawson and Mrs. Dowse arranged a Beetle Drive in the latter's garden and provided us with a very pleasant evening and £2 12s. 0d. towards the miscellaneous stall's jam-making fruit.

On June 26 Mrs. Gloynes and her helpers gave us afternoon tea

or evening coffee in her garden where among the flowers and gay umbrellas—not to mention the canaries—we enjoyed what must have been the hottest and sunniest day that there has yet been this summer. With the Bring and Buy Stall £8 19s. 0d. was raised to towards the Fete effort.

Y.W. OUTING TO RUNNEYMED AND WINDSOR

Surely ours is the only St. James's outing that begins by packing seven push chair and folders into or under the coach, and whose members will sit happily in the car-park for their babies to finish morning or afternoon nap. But the babies are equally accommodating and on this occasion found that rain at lunch time even added to the enjoyment when it meant dining in the bathing shelters and that a substitute was quite acceptable while our Mother took her turn to view Windsor Castle or Chapel.

For the last two hours of the stay at Windsor the sun shone its best and we enjoyed relaxation in the gardens and along the tow-path to Boreney Lock and then a lovely drive through the great Park and Virginia Water.

We arrived home by 6 o'clock ready for Junior's bed-time and Senior's meal-time and felt that we had had a real holiday due partly to the fact that in spite of the weather we had enjoyed such variety, in so leisurely a fashion and yet in so short a time.

RENOVATION FUND

The total amount now in hand is £270. Some recent efforts have helped us tremendously, amongst them the following:

Junior Drama Group: (Christmas Carol singing)—£2 19s. 6d.

Men's Society: (Musical evening)—£1 5s. 0d.

Melford Radio: (Film Show: collection £6 14s. 0d; expenses for publicity £2 5s. 0d).—£4 9s. 0d.

Young Wives' Group: (Sale of jam jars, and other efforts)—£6 0s. 0d.

Mothers' Union: (Choir's Musical "At Home")—£6 10s. 0d.

Bring-and-Buy Sale: (arranged by Mrs. Bassett)—£5 5s. 0d.

Concert of Sacred Music: (by organist and choir on Good Friday: sale of programmes £10 5s. 0d. collection £4 5s. 0d.)—£14 10s. 0d.

Television of Coronation: (Collection in Hall)—£5 7s. 9d.

Rectory Sunday School: (Collections since January)—£4 3s. 3d.

Girl Guides: (Donation)—10s. 0d.

Drama Group: (Passion Play: collection £11 3s. 5d., expenses £10 4s. 0d.; Coronation Play—net proceeds £9 11s. 1d.)—£10 10s. 6d.

The initiative and enterprise that lie behind these figures are most commendable, and we hope that our different organisations, having shown what they can do once they get down to it, will continue this very good work.

THE SUMMER FETE

Again our various organisations proved their mettle, and the result was a great triumph of team-work.

Here are some more figures, showing what was achieved, (these are net amounts—expenses, if any have been deducted).

Girl Guides: (Cake Stall)—£2 6s. 8d.

Burlington House: (Treasure Hunt)—£1 11s. 0d.

Wolf Cubs:—£2 5s. 9d.

Mothers' Union:—£24 17s. 6d.

Young Wives' Group:—£36 9s. 8d.

Men's Society:—£9 0s. 6d.

Choir:—£10 2s. 6d.

Mr. & Mrs. Wigginton: (Hoop-La)—£2 11s. 9d.

Mr. & Mrs. Forrow: (Bunty)—£12 10s. 6d.

Sale of Ice-Cream:—£10 0s. 0d.

Teas: (receipts £16 8s. 3d., donations £7 2s. 0d.)—£23 10s. 3d.

Fancy Dress:—£1 7s. 6d.

Evening Dance:—£6 1s. 7d.

Dance in Hall: (organised by Mr. Nightingale)—£6 1s. 7d.

It is hoped that, when all expenses have been paid, the net proceeds may amount to £150.

Mrs. Beckett thanks most warmly the many friends who gave gifts for the tea, and those who lent the large umbrellas which made the tea-lawn so gay. She was supported by a large band of helpers, to whom she is very grateful. Various articles were left behind, including a table-cloth, a basin, and several cake-tins, which Mrs. Beckett will be glad to return if the owners will get in touch with her.

Telegrams of good wishes were received from Mr. and Mrs. Harvey, and from David Thompson in Germany. It was good to know that, though unable to be present, they were thinking of us.

THE N.S.P.C.C.

The sum of £15 10s 6d. has been collected for the above Society from this Parish. Very many thanks to those who collected the envelopes and to those who gave so generously. A letter of thanks together with a Receipt will be found in Church Porch.

M. J. B.

WASTE NEWSPAPER COLLECTION

We have just received a cheque for the Renovation Fund for over two hundred weight of paper that has collected in the Vicarage garage since the last load. Please go on saving but don't bring to church (or Vicarage) until after the middle of September because we must leave some space for our visiting priest's car! Newspaper takes up a lot of room especially if not tied up. It is a great help when the donors can tie up their parcels of paper: it all has to be done before collection and does take a lot of time (and string).

THE DRAMA GROUP

"Our Sovereign Lady"

As a result of the Drama Group's Coronation Play a sum of £9 11s. has been handed to the Churchwardens for the Renovation Fund.

Proofs of photographs of members of the cast will become available on August 3rd and Mr. Rooney should be contacted after that date.

Theatre Outing to Stratford-on-Avon:

A coach trip will be run to Stratford-on-Avon on Saturday September 26th, leaving the Church at 8 a.m. Price per head will be 18/-, including seat on coach, matinee at Memorial Theatre ("King Lear") and afternoon tea in Theatre Restaurant. Names and remittances to secretary.

Future Meetings:

Regular meetings will be held on Monday September 14th and thereafter once fortnightly at the Windmill Road Primary School. Please note that the starting time will be 7.30 p.m. prompt.

C. A. TARRANT,
Hon. Secretary.

An umbrella and a triangular scarf were left after a rehearsal and are at the Vicarage.

"Out of the Whirlwind"

This Play, "Out of the Whirlwind", by Christopher Hassall, the

opening of which is dull, slowly grows more interesting and brings out very vividly the stirring fact that a firm faith in God, and the Cross and all that it stands for, can overcome any powers of evil that may assail one.

The Author's idea of a modern parallel to the "Book of Job" with Martha as the central figure, so admirably portrayed by Miss Fay Compton, is a difficult theme, but appears to be crowned with success judging by the acting and by the crowded Abbey.

A sense of satisfaction and a thrill, perhaps, was experienced by all of us, i.e., members and friends of the St. James's Drama Group, who went to Westminster Abbey on Tuesday, June 23rd, to see this special Play enacted on the very dais that was erected for the crowning of our dear young Queen on June the 2nd.

The use of the special seats too, and a view of some of the beautiful decorations in the Abbey for that memorable Coronation Day, was a pleasure which was enhanced by the visit of Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, to see the play also.

C.M.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

August 5—7.30—9.0 p.m. Sale of Tickets for Sunday School outing (Hall).

August 6—8.15 p.m. Church Council (Vestry).

August 24—St. Bartholomew. Holy Communion 7.0 a.m.

August 27—8.0 a.m. Sunday School outing to Brighton.

September 8—8.0 p.m. Men's Society (Vicarage).

September 9—3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union and Young Wives' Group: Open forum (Hall).

September 11—7.30 p.m. Magazine Distributors (Vicarage).

September 13—2.30 p.m. Sunday Schools re-open. 7.45 p.m. News-Team Fellowship (Vicarage).

N.B.—Sunday services as usual. No week-day services after August 6th until September 9th, except on August 24th at 7.0 a.m. No Baptisms until September 13th, and Sunday Schools closed.

BAPTISM

June 21—Diana Elizabeth Adams, 21, Oxford Road.

MARRIAGE

July 11—Ronald Edward Clarke to Vera Iilian Fisher.