

Vicar's Notes

ENDING OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

This magazine records some of the numerous parties which brought our Christmas celebrations to an end. The policy of not anticipating Christmas which we observe here is sometimes not understood, but this year it received endorsement from many quarters, one of the most striking being a vigorous broadcast by Gilbert Harding a day or two after Christmas. The Christmas season goes on long after Christmas Day—but it does not start **before**. This cannot too often be said. As well as our parties for young and old, there were also a series of joyful services, and in particular the traditional service of the Nine Lessons and Carols, at which the old familiar favourites—and others not so familiar—were sung with great enthusiasm by choir and congregation alike. A service such as this needs a good deal of preparation beforehand, and those of us who are prone to complain about the coldness of the church even when the heat is full on do well to remember the long hours of practice which are put in by the choir in a temperature often little higher than 40°.

THE BEGINNING OF LENT

The thought of coldness cheerfully endured is a good introduction to Lent, when we are asked to consider letting some of our comforts flee. It was suggested by a writer in our inset last month that one of these comforts might be that of a warm church. Some may well say that we hardly ever get this comfort now, and it does seem that our aged heating installation is now inadequate to the demands of a really cold winter. And according to the report recently received from our architect, it is of a bad type in itself, unhygienic, causing pollution of the atmosphere and furthering the decay of brick and stonework. We hope that our Renovation Fund will in due course enable us to do something about it. In the meantime, if we could accept this small hardship in the spirit suggested by the writer of

the article, and offer it to God as a link with those Christians who worship in conditions of rigour and discomfort greatly exceeding anything we ever experience, it would add great power and exhilaration to our prayers and services, and also spur us to do something about the plight of those who have been deprived of all comforts and in particular that vast concourse of unhappy people who are known as "refugees." I should be glad to hear of a volunteer who would undertake to organise collections of clothing and other forms of relief in this parish.

When we become aware of the need, we desire to give, but it all has to be organised. It would be good if we could make a start this Lent.

With regard to the discipline of mind and spirit which we also associate with Lent, instead of the mid-week services and instructions courses which we usually have I am suggesting that we try to form little Bible study-groups in different parts of the parish. There will be one at the vicarage on Wednesday evenings at 8.0 p.m. (on Ash Wednesday at 8.30 p.m. after the service in church), and if two or three people would kindly let us have the use of a room in their house on any other evening, members of the News-Team will supply leaders, and also visit some of the houses in the neighbourhood to make the arrangements known.

On the Rectory Estate, we are hoping to show some film-strips from time to time, and the first of them will be shown at an open afternoon for parents and children in the Sunday School on February 8th.

THE CORONATION

So many plans are being made for this by different groups, from the Borough and Local Committees downwards, that it is clear that proper co-ordination of all these activities and avoidance of needless duplication is going to be a great difficulty. In this connection the Church Council would like it to be known that, if the technical help required can be obtained, they hope to make Television facilities available in the hall.

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about
people, activities & organisations

CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Nine parties took place in the first two weeks of the New Year, and a very good time seems to have been had by all.

The Infants' Sunday School, the youngest members of the parish family, had their party at the hall; games were played and a very good time enjoyed by about 40 children. We hear that Father Christmas came and brought each child a present.

The Junior and Senior Sunday School party followed a few days later: 80 children took part in various competitions and were entertained with a film-show to which some of the parents also came.

The Rectory Estate Sunday School also had a party, its first, in the hall at the Rectory School: 45 children were present and were delighted with a film-show provided by a very kind friend. After tea and games, Diana Watkins, David Watkins and Angela Tagg put on a Punch and Judy show. This was most amusing, the children loved the misdeeds of Mr. Punch, and sang for him with enthusiasm.

The Brownies had their party just at the time when the coke had run out and the hall was extremely cold. However, most energetic games were played, a very good tea was provided, and an extremely enjoyable time was had by about 40 children. The evening ended with "Taps" at about 6.30 p.m.

The Cubs party seems to have been thoroughly enjoyed. After a good tea, Kim (Michael Childs) kept the Cubs busy with games while a miniature stage complete with coloured footlights was erected by his colleagues. John Lewis of Tiffin School Scout Group and his two helpers must be thanked for giving a most enjoyable Puppet Show. "Aladdin," "The Circus" and "Bobby the Ventriloquist" were thoroughly appreciated by the Cubs and their parents. Akela wishes to thank Mrs. Goodham and Mrs. Royce for helping with the refreshments.

The Drama Group gave its first Christmas Party in the clubroom and it was a very lively evening. Games and dances were organised by Joan Bassett and Cyril Tarrant. Christmas candles, balloons and decorations helped to make the clubroom most festive.

The Mothers' Union party was held on a cold and foggy night, and this weather and illness prevented several members from being present. After supper, games, dances and competitions were soon in full swing. Great amusement was given by charades acted by members of the Mothers' Union and of the Young Wives group. The fame of "Claribel," the pantomime cow, has spread over the parish. We should like to ask for a repeat performance sometime.

A very enjoyable evening was organised by the Young Wives, for members and for their husbands and elder children. It was an informal party including competitions, games, and old time dances run jointly by Mrs. Weston Mrs. Gloyne and Mrs. Childs.

The last of the parties was the Parish Christmas Party. Again unfortunately the weather was foggy, wet and cold, and kept quite a number of people away. Everyone agreed that it was one of the happiest Parish Parties in recent years. Games took preference over dancing, and the evening was ably organised by John Sumner. Everyone regretted that through illness at the Vicarage the Vicar and Mrs. Brunt were not able to be at the party.

It was very pleasant, on the occasion of the Parish Party, to be able to make a presentation to Mr. & Mrs. A. Nightingale, and to have the opportunity of thanking them for the dances they often organise on behalf of the St. James's Hall Fund. It should perhaps be mentioned here that from the proceeds of the most successful Olde Tyme Dance which Mr. and Mrs. Nightingale ran on New Year's Eve, £20 was paid into our very needy Hall Fund.

It is pleasant to think of parishioners of all ages enjoying themselves at their parties, from the youngest child of 3½ at the Infants Sunday School party to Granny Kingsford and Mrs. Chamberlin, both in their 90's at the Mother's Union Party. Thanks are due to a great number of people who helped to make these parties times of much happiness. A few have been mentioned here, but nothing could have been achieved without the enthusiastic backing of many others, in the provision of refreshments, decorating, organising and planning games, and in a variety of other ways. Thank YOU in the background for your help.

MOTHERS' UNION & WOMEN'S GUILD

Everyone who read the December Journal will have been impressed by Mrs. Fisher's Presidential letter calling us to overhaul our life as M.U. members. Since, however, less than half of our own members take the Journal we are printing as much of her letter as the Editor can find room for. She writes:

"So I believe we have to begin the revival of an evangelistic spirit in the Mothers' Union, **not** with grand plans and programmes of a world-wide character; but with a personal resolution by each one of us that we will try to give more time to our prayers, to concentrate our minds more upon our Lord in quietness, and to come more regularly, Sunday by Sunday, to the Holy Communion—which is the Sacrament our Lord Himself ordained for our spiritual food.

"Sunday worship should be **family worship**; all the family of the faithful Church people should be together in Church on that day. **Now** we may go because it is our duty to do so, but when we really love our Lord we shall go because it is our greatest joy to be with Him and to worship Him.

"We shall, of course, use our Branch meetings also as occasions for united prayer and as places to which we may bring in other mothers. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit we have to think constantly how best to help those others.....all this we shall do gladly if we **care** as Jesus cares."

Miss Gough will be visiting us on March 4th to receive the Zenana boxes and if we can black out the hall sufficiently will show us some pictures.

The Annual General Meeting will be on March 11th in the club-room at 3.0 p.m. Nomination papers for the new Committee will be put out at the Branch meeting on March 4th.

Subscriptions are due in March and can be paid to the Treasurer Mrs. Prentice, 10 Oxford Road, or to your representative: 1/6 and 2/- annual subscription to Journal.

CONFIRMATION

At the confirmation held by the Bishop of Kensington in this church on 26th November, those from our parish and congregation who received the laying on of hands were: Rowan Gloyns, David Thomas, Lesley Barron, Susan Barron, Jeannette Cottrell, Jean Haslam, Mary Hutchins, Rosemary North, Beryl Weston, Jean White, Patricia White, and Joan Virgo.

About the same time Barry McBride was confirmed at Harrow School. At the moment, Brian Peppiatt is preparing for confirmation at the City of London School, and John Murray, Julian Smith and Michael Whitton at St. Paul's School. Let us remember them all in our prayers.

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

Several distributors have had to give up their magazine rounds lately, and we are grateful to them for the very faithful work they have done in the past.

Mrs. Rooney has been a distributor for several years and has also organised the postal magazines; her round has now been taken over largely by Mrs. Ward, and the postal work by Mrs. Virgo.

We regret very much that Miss Phillips is moving and has had to give up her district, and that Mrs. Childs and Miss Mason have felt that they must now hand over their rounds to people who can spend more time on them. Mrs. Cooper, Mrs. Neville and Mrs. Gloyns are taking their places.

Mrs. Cooke is another newcomer among the distributors, and we are also glad to welcome Mrs. Glassup as our magazine representative on the Rector Estate; this round

is entirely new, and has started off with 20 contributors.

If we are going to find homes for the extra 100 magazines we are now having printed we must all do our best to interest new readers who will like to take the magazine regularly. If everyone who takes the magazine would enrol one other person, we should very soon have to order not 100, but 400 extra copies; let us see if we cannot within the next two months absorb 100, and in July be ready to take on another 100.

Names of new subscribers should be sent to H. Stanton, 63, Park Road, Hampton Hill.

Will people who want to offer their services as distributors please also come forward? We have already got 17 distributors, but there is always work for more.

WORKING PARTIES

At the Parish "At Home" in November a suggestion was made that working parties might be set up in various homes in the parish. We have news now of the first working party:

Miss Chamberlin writes "The Working Party will meet at 117 Uxbridge Road on and after February 3rd, each Thursday from 2.30 until 4.30 p.m. Odd pieces of material, balls of wool, reels of cotton etc., would be most gratefully accepted. Orders for socks, garments etc. gladly received."

This example should encourage other working parties to come into being: we would like to see small groups of women coming together all over the parish working in fellowship.

Miss Chamberlin will gladly advise on forming a party, and information on the kind of work done.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

Feb. 8—3.0 p.m. Open Afternoon at Rectory Estate Sunday School.

Feb. 10—8.0 p.m. Men's Society (Vicarage) Speakers: Two Schoolboy-Explorers.

Feb. 11—7.30 p.m. Young Wives' Group Drama Section (at 126 Uxbridge Road).

Feb. 13—8.0 p.m. Social Evening for Men (Clubroom).

Feb. 16—8.0 p.m. Annual Meeting of Men's Society (Clubroom).

Feb. 18—ASH WEDNESDAY, Holy Communion 7.30 and 10.30 a.m.

Evening Service 8.0 p.m. followed by short meeting at the Vicarage.

Feb. 23—8.0 p.m. Young Wives' Group (Clubroom).

Feb. 24—St. Matthias, Holy Communion 7.0 a.m.

Feb. 25—8.0 p.m. Bible Study (Vicarage).

Feb. 27—7.30 p.m. Magazine Distributors' Meeting.

BAPTISMS

Dec. 14—Derek Alan Wilmot, 43 Cross Street.

Dec. 28—Christopher R o l a n d Gutteridge, 1 Albert Road.

Jan. 25—Jane Lindsay Holland, 16 Clonmel Road.

Jan. 25—Julia Karen Williams, 56 Windmill Road.

Jan. 25—John Peter and Linda Anne Buckley, 139 Uxbridge Road.

Jan. 25—Janet Ann Ingold, 66 Fulwell Road.

MARRIAGES

Dec. 16—John Colin Samuel to Eileen Blanche Upstone.

Dec. 22—John Ernest Brown to Eva Gething.

Jan. 10—William George Collins to Kathleen Margaret Holloway.

BURIALS AND CREMATIONS

Dec. 2—Annie Elsie Toze 73 Burton's Road, aged 72 years.

Dec. 9—John William Fowler, 11 Sherwood Road, aged 86 years (at Hampton).

Dec. 12—Kate Davis, 16 Windsor Road, aged 70 years (at Teddington).

Dec. 16—Charles Lovelock, 15 Laurel Road, aged 76 years (at Kingston).

Dec. 23—Hannah Eliza Algar, Laurel Dene, aged 86 years (at Teddington).

Dec. 24—Charles John Eldridge, 64B Laurel Road, aged 66 years (at Kingston).

Dec. 27—Arthur Batten, 44 Myrtle Road, aged 80 years.

Jan. 10—Annie Reed, 17 Fountain Close, Butts Farm, aged 88 years.

Jan. 14—George Singleton, 6 School Road, aged 67 years.

Jan. 17—Elsie Elizabeth Andrews, Red Cot, Telegraph Lane, Claygate, aged 63 years.

Jan. 27—John Campbell, Larkfield Lodge, aged 82 years (at Kingston).