

Vicar's Notes

THE CORONATION

Many people are eagerly looking forward to the Coronation as providing another opportunity for having a good time. It is a joyous and festive occasion: but it is more The Queen's Coronation—or, more essentially, her Consecration — is not just something personal to herself. Monarchy as we know it today has a strongly representative character: and it is as supreme representative of the whole nation that the Queen goes to dedicate herself to God and to receive His Grace. Therefore "let not the Queen go alone to her hallowing." In these days the ceremony in the Abbey would be quite unreal unless a large proportion of the nation were behind and with the Queen in all that she does there and promises to do. Implicit throughout the service is a theory of the way in which human life should be lived and power and influence exercised—the Christian theory: and this applies to us in our lives and to any power or influence we may possess, just as much as it does to the Queen. There is a great deal for us to think about in this connection, and much of our serious thinking during the next month might well be concentrated on the great themes suggested to us by this service. Some of them will receive attention during the Sunday morning sermons in May, which will deal with different aspects of the service as follows:

May 3—The Background and Setting of the Service.

May 10—The Recognition and the Oath.

May 17—The Anointing.

May 24—The Vestments, Ornaments, and Regalia.

May 31—The Enthronement, Homage and Offertory.

On this last Sunday, Trinity Sunday, which is the Sunday preceding the Coronation, special forms of Morning and Evening Prayer will be used. Special attention is drawn to this fact about them: "The dominant theme is the Church's worship of the Holy Trinity. In that context special intercessions take their place, both for the Queen as she comes to the act of her consecration, to her great office, and for her peoples.

With these intercessions are special prayers for those ordained at this season, and for the increase of the sacred ministry. There is a clear and helpful unity between these concurrent themes, whereby worship of the Divine Majesty is accompanied by the deep verities of vocation, consecration, and ministry among God's people."

Another thing that may be of help is a very good film-strip of 30 coloured pictures entitled "The Meaning of the Coronation." Very shortly we are hoping to purchase this, and also a projector. It should be possible to use it against the wall of an ordinary room until we can afford to buy a large screen for use in the Church and Hall. I should be glad to go to as many homes in the Parish as possible during May to show these pictures and talk about them, and lead family prayers. If on these occasions it is possible to invite friends to make it slightly larger than a family party, it will be an advantage. The News-Team would be very willing to co-operate in "letting the neighbours know," and we have already made arrangements to begin in this way in Myrtle Road, and for those who may not otherwise have the opportunity of seeing it, I should be willing to reserve two evenings at the Vicarage—Thursday, May 21st and Wednesday, May 27th. Please let us know beforehand if you are interested, as accommodation is limited!

ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASSES

I have had a number of inquiries during the past months from people desiring to know more about confirmation, some of them as a result of News-Team visiting and meetings. Immediately after the Coronation I hope to start classes for those interested; in the meantime, I should be glad to hear of any more names.

THE HALL AND CLUBROOM

By the time this magazine appears, the clubroom and the larger property of which it forms a part will have passed out of our hands. The sale was absolutely necessary, but it brings sadness as we think of the many happy meetings that have been held there. Financially we shall benefit by having a capi-

tal sum available to cover at least part of the amount necessary for the building of a more suitable small hall to replace it, but we shall be hard put to it for day-to-day maintenance by the immediate loss of £120 per annum in rent from the lessees of the warehouse portion of the building. Quite frankly, it was this sum that enabled us to keep the hall and clubroom open, and even then there was usually an overdraft of £30 or more on the year's banking. Many people think that the Church must make a considerable profit out of the hall, but actually it is run at a loss and has to be subsidised by the Church, and this year, unless we can somehow find another £150 in income the loss will be a very heavy one. No wonder the Properties Committee is having to think seriously of increasing rental charges. It already asks all Church organisations using the hall to make as large donations as possible, and no longer to take the continued existence of the hall for granted.

There will be difficulties in regard to accommodating everybody, but we are doing the best we can, and preliminary plans are being made with regard to the proposed new small hall, but there are many snags and headaches here!

NEED FOR LEADERS

In these days, when there are so many attractive ways of filling one's leisure time, less and less people are willing to give time to voluntary service. The Scout movement alone needs 26,000 more

leaders in England alone to carry on its work adequately. We in this Parish need at least two of these. I should like to see two keen young men in their early twenties coming along to revive our Scout Troop. It is very sad that in the year when the scouts from all round come to our Church for their St. George's tide service, we should have no Troop of our own to lead the parade. Mr. Casey, as Group Scoutmaster, will supply the mature wisdom that is needed, but the actual running of a Troop is a young man's job, and he does need young men to help him.

Another disquieting fact is the lack of interest shown by the majority of the parents. I have recently been to two social functions organised by the Group especially to secure the interest and co-operation of the parents and to get them to know each other. Out of a total of 70 or more parents, 6 were present on the first occasion, and 12 on the second.

Sunday School Teachers are also needed. In August Mrs. Pope, after years of service in the Junior School, is moving outside the district, and there is no one to replace her. It is good to know that she will continue to help with the Brownies when she can. Her work both with the pack and in the Sunday School has been invaluable.

THANK YOU

I am indeed grateful to all who combined to give me this year's generous Easter Offering. It is a tremendous help and encouragement.

FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

CLOTHES FOR REFUGEES

Several people have come forward with clothes for refugees since reading the article in the April magazine.

No Committee has been formed as yet, but if more people have clothes they wish to send they will be most willingly received during May at 63, Park Road, and it might be possible to fill several sacks.

Clothes sent to the packing station now should reach Europe by the autumn, and be in time for dis-

tribution before next winter. Now is the time to turn out your old clothes and send them off, in order that they can keep someone warm next winter. They should be brought clean and repaired, please.
H.S.

THE MEANING OF THE CORONATION

A report of the address given by Miss Monica Hardcastle on this subject to the Deanery Mothers' Union is held over until next month.

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about
people, activities & organisations

MOTHERS' UNION

When Father Holmes comes to show us a film of the work of the Church of England Children's Society ("Waifs and Strays") on May 6th we had hoped that we should be welcoming members of all the other branches of the Deanery to share this with us.

Unfortunately, we now discover that the other branches are going to St. Paul's that day for their Diocesan service (we are going the following day). This means that there will now be many spare seats in the Hall, and we hope that all members will take the opportunity to bring friends to this meeting.

Those of you who visited St. Mary's Hampton for a similar occasion last year will remember the outstanding quality of the film we then saw. Father Holmes is hoping to bring a new film and possibly a coloured one on May 6th.

In the spirit of our Third Object we all value the opportunity given to us of having a "Quiet Afternoon" in church. The Deanery Quiet Afternoon will be held at St. Mark's, Teddington on May 18th 2.30—4.0 p.m. We hope that all members will attend. Our own branch dedication and quiet afternoon will be held later in the summer.

Enrolment:

On April 15th the M.U. held its annual Enrolment Service and we were afterwards glad to welcome into our branch as new members Mrs. Bird, Mrs. Grayer and Mrs. West, and associate member Miss Girting. At the service the Vicar preached on the Three objects of Mothers' Union, and the vision of wholeness of life—individual, family and social—that is implicit in them. Our Lord came to make men whole: but this wholeness is rarely seen to-day.

Summer Outing

It has been extremely difficult this year to arrange a summer outing since coaches are going to be abnormally busy. After great perseverance Mrs. Beckett has been able to arrange for us to visit Southsea on June 3rd. The Fleet, of course, will be there that week and it will be nice to see the town in Gala Dress. If you are unable to be at the May meeting please tell

Mrs. Beckett or your local committee member if you wish to join the party. The coach cannot hold more than 50 per cent. of our members.

YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

Change of meeting day: Owing to the loss of the use of the club-room it is not at present possible for us to continue having our meetings on a Monday night and we have had to arrange what meetings we can when the Hall is available on a Wednesday. We know that this is hard on a number of members who are already pledged to another engagement on Wednesdays, but there seems to be nothing else we can do for the time being and we hope that before long we shall be able to resume Monday meetings in the new club room for which we have already staked a claim!

In case you are unable to be present at the April meeting may we point out that there will be a "Coronation Party" for members and their children sometime in the week **before** the Coronation and a middle day outing to a Surrey beauty spot on July 15 (St. Swithun's Day!) Please book seats from Mrs. Childs as soon as possible.

1ST HAMPTON HILL GUIDE COMPANY

As a Coronation Tribute the Hampton District of Guides is aiming to raise £60 by the end of May to pay for a Guide Dog to be trained for the blind. All the Guides and Brownies in the District are anxious to do their bit to earn some money, and the 1st Hampton Hill Senior Guides are offering a Baby Sitting Service of which we hope you will take advantage. We suggest 5/- an evening.

Enquiries should be made to:

Miss Wendy Moore,
89 Park Road,
Hampton Hill.

Telephone: Molesey 925.

and we should be glad if you would give at least 24 hours' notice.

The Guides who will be baby-sitting are all over 14, but I am afraid we must make one stipulation, and that is that should their services be required after 9.30 p.m. they must be escorted home afterwards.

The Service will also be available during the day time during any School Holiday.

All of the Guides in the Company are willing to undertake any other jobs, e.g. shopping, taking children and dogs for walks, etc. and enquiries should be made to me at 29 St. James's Avenue, Hampton Hill (Molesey 3911) before Friday evening each week for assistance during the following week.

M. J. CAMPBELL, (Captain).

THE DRAMA GROUP

"The Centurion"

The Group was very thankful that it was possible to put on "The Centurion" during Holy Week in the Church.

Thanks are due to a number of people outside the group for their most willing help. The N.P.L. Dramatic Club lent us the rostrum and lights, particular thanks being due to Mr. Blake and Mr. Williams for their co-operation over this. Mr. Lush helped make the wooden framework for the balcony. Miss Dyball helped with make-up. From among our members, two must be mentioned for their very great contribution: Mr. Rockcliffe, who as our stage manager had all the responsibility of putting up the rostrum and balcony, and devising adequate entrances etc., and Mr. Strawson who managed all the lighting.

We were very glad to have Mr. Frank Lambe with us as our producer, and our most sincere thanks are due to him for the care and the time which he spent over the production.

The silver collection covered expenses, and a small profit went to the Renovation Fund.

"Our Sovereign Lady"

We hope that our next effort will bring in more for the Renovation Fund. The Coronation Play, "Our Sovereign Lady," is to be produced on the evening of Friday, June 12th, and Saturday, June 13th. This is to be held in Councillor Edwards' garden at "The Wilderness," Park Road, Hampton Hill. Councillor Edwards, when he came to the At Home launching the Renovation Fund, kindly offered his garden as a site for a fund raising effort in aid of the Appeal, and we are very happy that we are going to be able to avail ourselves of his generous offer.

Tickets, price 2/-, children 1/-,

will be available from members of the Drama Group in May. We want everyone to come, and to help make this Coronation Play a big success. Mrs. Whitton is producing the play, and Miss Rosemary Andrews is organising the dances which form a part of it. Again, expenses are going to be heavy, and the group would be most grateful for donations towards the cost of the materials needed to make the costumes.

The play is worthy of your support for two very particular occasions; First, it will be one of the special Coronation features in Hampton Hill: a tribute to our present Queen, and to the Queens who have ruled Britain before her. Second, it is fitting that the profit from this special occasion should go towards the Fund which will we hope preserve our Church for generations yet to come.

"Out of the Whirlwind"

Another play given in aid of a Restoration Fund is a religious play "Out of the Whirlwind" to be staged in Westminster Abbey, from June 10th—July 3rd. The play is in aid of the Abbey Restoration Fund and tickets cost from 5/- to 30/-.

The author, Mr. Christopher Harsold, has described it as "a modern version of the Job theme." The central figure is Martha, played by Miss Fay Compton, "an ordinary British woman who is tested by the afflictions which have visited the whole nation. Her life from her marriage in 1914 to her death in the autumn of 1951 is presented in seven scenes."

We are hoping to obtain tickets for this play, and to go in a party from this parish if enough people are interested. In view of the prices quoted, the cost of the excursion may be higher than our usual theatre parties. Please get into touch with Mr. C. Tarrant if you wish to join the party. H.S.

SOME DATES

- May 6—3.0 p.m. M.U.—Film.
- May 12—8.0 p.m. C.E.M.S.
- May 14—Ascension Day: Holy Communion 7.0 and 10.30 a.m. Evening Service 7.0 p.m. Followed by "At Home" in Vicarage Garden: Opening of Renovation Fund Boxes.
- May 24—Whit Sunday: Holy Communion 7.0, 8.0 10.0 a.m. and 12.15 p.m.

Altar Flowers: Miss Mason.