

Vicar's Notes

During the fortnight we are away, the Reverend A. F. Morton and his wife and three children will be living in the Vicarage. Mr. Morton is the Vicar of a large country parish near Retford in my former diocese of Southwell, and also a part-time schoolmaster. He will be in charge of the services on these two Sundays, and ready to help with any urgent matters during the week, but I know that you will spare him as much as possible, and not trouble him with anything that is not really essential. I have every confidence that he and his family will have the happy holiday here which all my previous locums have had, helped by your kindness and thoughtfulness, of which they always speak highly.

The Sunday Services will be as usual, and during one of the evening ones I am hoping that Mr. Rodney Bishop will preach the sermon, which as Reader he has been authorised to do from time to time when need arises. He has to leave the parish shortly for two or three months, as the present stage of his medical studies requires this period of residence in hospital, and before he goes I should like him to have this opportunity to speak to us from the pulpit.

There will, however, be no weekday Services during the last week in August and the first two weeks in September. Though I return from holiday on September 7th, two days later I have to go away again for four days—not for another holiday, but for something much more like hard work, though very interesting, if the London

Clergy Convention at Oxford this year is to be anything like the last one held in 1953.

In the last month further donations have been received, including one of £5, which have raised the net proceeds of the Summer Fête to a figure approaching £160. Though gratifying, this will be far from sufficient to see us through our immediate needs. It looks therefore, as though it will be necessary to have an Autumn Fair in November as well as the Gift Day on our Dedication Festival in December—that is, unless we can get an alternative method of financing our work going in the immediate future, and the Church Council will be discussing the possibilities of this on September 19th. We know one or two people will be away, but as the date cannot now be changed, we hope that all available members of the Council will note it down now and do their utmost to be present.

We have also received a welcome gift of £5 from the Young Wives' Group towards the cost of buying paint for the small hall, the decoration of which is in a very bad condition, and also the offer of both man-power and woman-power to do the necessary preliminary work as well as to apply it. We are very grateful to them for their generosity and initiative. The stripping and scraping is already in hand, and it is hoped to start the actual painting on August 27th. The help of further volunteers would be gladly received any morning or evening. The intention is to complete the work in time for the re-opening of the Nursery School in the second week of September.

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about
people, activities & organisations

THE SCOUT GROUP

Cubs. At the District Cub Sports held at Denmead Sports Ground on Saturday, July 6th, our Pack succeeded in gaining the 3rd Cup. It was very pleasing to see so many of our parents at the meeting.

Both the Cubs and Scouts organizations are now closed for the

Summer vacation, meeting again on September 4th.

Scouts. The Scout Troop will be camping for the last week in August at Ash Vale in Surrey.

Scout Group Fete—This will be held at "Laurel Dene" on Saturday, September 7th. Admission—Adults 6d., Children 3d. It will be opened by His Worship The Mayor of Twickenham.

This is the first large-scale effort organized by the Group Committee in aid of the Building Fund, and we hope it will be well supported.

D.E.C.

PERSONALIA

A long association with our church was strengthened when Miss Daphne Cooper was married here on August 10th. Her grandparents and parents were also married in St. James's, and her grandfather and father both sang in the choir for many years. She herself was both baptised and confirmed here, and also sang in the choir for ten years. She has also been a Sunday School teacher and a very active member of the Drama Group. We hope that she and her husband will continue to reside in this neighbourhood, so that the link with our church may be maintained for many years to come.

We heard recently from Miss Hannah Stanton, who has accepted appointment as Warden of Tume-long Mission, Lady Selbourne. Pretoria, for a three-year term of office not expiring until January 1960, so we cannot hope to see her in Hampton Hill for another 2½ years at least. She encloses a copy of the Annual Report of the Mission, which it is part of the Warden's duty to write, and says "This gives a bit of an idea about the work, but doesn't, of course, give one's thoughts about the situation. It seems to me to be a case of living among the Africans—as far as one can—and trying to understand their problems and difficulties from among them. Also it is important I believe to think of them as friends—and not only people whom one does things for. I am, thank goodness, getting to know some as very valued friends, and I have a great respect for them. Their worship is of tremendous feeling and depth, quite breath-taking. I am afraid Church worship in England may seem rather cold after this . . ."

THE RENOVATION FUND

The "At Home" held at Wayside after the Evening Service on St. James's Day was most enjoyable. Excellent refreshments were served, and then Mr. Melville and Mr. Geoffrey Eaton entertained us

with selections of their own photographic work. Mr. Melville showed us some of the colour-films he has recently taken, including a trip up the Thames, a visit to London Airport, and shots of the last two Summer Fêtes. Geoffrey then projected a large number of beautiful colour transparencies which he had taken locally and whilst on holiday abroad. The most striking and unusual ones were views of the parish as seen from an airliner flying at a height of 2,000 feet. Fortunately the plane took a course that made these views possible, and Geoffrey was seated on the right side, and in the short time available to him he did not waste his opportunity!

A number of boxes were opened during the course of the evening, and the total proceeds came to over £18. Since then a further gift of £5 has been received as a thankoffering from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous.

The church tower will be open regularly to visitors every Thursday evening and Saturday afternoon in August, and the season will end on September 7th. If you have not yet taken advantage of this opportunity of a splendid view, please do so without delay—and make it known to others. The moderate fee charged goes to the Fund.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOLS

The Sunday Schools will re-open on September 15th, and on the following Sunday there will be the usual Family and Parade Service which takes place on the fourth Sunday in the month. For the past year the Junior and Senior Departments of the Sunday School have not met on this day, and the children have received their attendance mark for being present at the Morning Service. It has now been decided to close the Infants' Department at Wayside on this Sunday as well. Some of these younger children have been coming to Matins with their older brothers and sister, and then it has seemed unfair to them that they should be expected to attend Sunday School in the afternoon when the bigger ones have a holiday. In future they will not have this sense of grievance, and though unlike their elders, they

will not receive a mark for coming in the morning, they will be very welcome if they do come, and of course, free to leave the church at any stage of the service they wish. The older ones should be able to manage to stay to the end, and the sermon is specially designed to be within the grasp of junior children.

A question to the parents and God-parents of children who were baptised in the years 1951-52: Have they started Sunday School yet? If not, please look into it. There is plenty of room at Wayside!

SOME DATES TO NOTE

Sept. 4.—3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union—Missionary Afternoon.

Speaker: Miss Gough.

Sept. 7.—3.0 p.m. Scout Group Fête (Laurel Dene).

Sept. 15.—2.30 p.m. Sunday Schools re-open.

Sept. 19.—8.0 p.m. Church Council (W).

Sept. 20.—8.15 p.m. Sunday School Teachers (V).

Sept. 21.—St. Matthew.

Holy Communion 7.15 a.m.

Sept. 25.—8.0 p.m. Young Wives' Group (W).

Sept. 27.—7.30 p.m. Magazines should be ready (V).

Sept. 29.—St. Michael and All Angels.

Oct. 1.—8.0 p.m. Prayer Group (W).

Oct. 2.—3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union. Speaker: Mrs. Garrington (W).

Oct. 3.—7.15 p.m. Service of Thanksgiving for Harvest, followed by Supper in the Hall.

N.B.—No Week-day Services in Church August 26—Sept. 13.

BAPTISMS

July 28.—Philip John Bridgstock, 1, Priory Close.

„ 28.—Karimah Julie Rowena Champniss, 20, St. James's Road.

„ 28.—Robert William McClean, 36, Park Road.

„ 28.—Juliette Ceinwen Morgan, 51, Park Road.

„ 28.—Clive Sillito, 25, High Street.

„ 28.—Glyn Henry Thomas, 15, Laurel Road.

Aug. 18.—Paul Anthony Hayes, 22, Rectory Grove.

MARRIAGES

Aug. 10.—William Alfred Figg to Daphne Joan Cooper.

„ 10.—Trevor Charles Walter Morrison to Margaret Cunningham.

FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

'TRANQUILISERS'

During a recent visit to Canada, the Provost of Derby was surprised (as he afterwards wrote in his Cathedral magazine) to find how many people whom he would not have called hypochondriacs resorted to the new tranquiliser drugs which they seemed to look on as "a normal part of their personal luggage to be almost automatically used on all occasions of overwork, or strain and stress."

He went on to give some sobering statistics. "A recent report of the World Health Organisation expresses concern at the abuse of these drugs. It is reported that 328 instances of physical dangers rose in the treatment of 8,200 patients in the last eight years. Mental changes occurred in 827 emotionally ill patients, and there were 1,700 instances of problems

created in the minds of normal people by the misuse of the drug. The concern is not idle, for although no figures are available for this country, in the U.S.A. 30,000 million tranquiliser tablets were sold in ten months."

Probably most people would agree with the Provost's conclusion: that it is far better and much less dangerous to take one's emotional problems to the priest or the family doctor, or to unburden to a trusted friend, rather than seek to bury them in the oblivion of drugs. That way they may be temporarily banished, but never solved.

LIFE SERVICE

"I spoke recently to one older midwife about retirement, for various reasons" writes a C.M.S. missionary from Eastern Nigeria. "Immediately she turned to me and said 'Do you not know that

long ago I promised to give my life for the welfare of the women of my country, and while I have strength I must do so.' Her scholarship is almost nil, but her love and caring immeasurably great."

YOUTH RESPONDS TO THE CALL

Further news of dedicated lives comes from Western Nigeria, and a C.M.S. missionary tells this story: "Last January, two young government clerks, both with very bright prospects in the service, came to me and told me of their decision to resign from the Government and seek employment as catechists (on half the salary), with a view to later ordination—a decision upon which they have since acted."

THE 'ELEVEN-PLUS' IN KENYA

A party of chiefs and local officials recently visited this country from Kenya to study education, among other things. They expressed great interest in our 'Eleven-plus' examination, and said that children in Kenya primary schools take an examination to decide—not whether they will go on to a grammar or secondary modern school—but whether they will go on to an intermediate school or just return home with no more education. At present only 25% of the primary school children are able to go on to secondary education.

In Kenya, as in many other territories overseas, the educational system today is based on pioneering work of the C.M.S. and other societies. Missionaries are still needed in this sphere of service.

MALAYA : NIGERIA

In two territories in which the C.M.S. has responsibilities, great developments are now taking place.

The Federation of Malaya is to become, on August 31 next, an independent sovereign country within the Commonwealth.

Following the recent Constitutional Conference in London, the Western and Eastern Regions of

Nigeria are to be granted self-government forthwith. The Northern Region is expected to ask for self-government in 1959.

In both these territories, missionaries are still needed and asked for. Prayer is asked, too for those who hold responsible positions in Malaya and Nigeria at these important times in their history.

THE LANGUAGE OF THE COMMON PEOPLE

From Japan, a C.M.S. missionary tells of discussions she has had with a Buddhist priest: "We compared our activities and our aims . . . we opened our sacred writings. He read and explained one of the 433 hymns of Buddhist praise in which the teaching is enshrined: the language is so archaic and difficult that the layman can neither read nor understand it. We showed him our new colloquial translation of the Bible . . . I realised anew how fortunate we are to have the Bible translated into the language of the common people."

THE SCRIPTURES IN 1,108 LANGUAGES

The United Bible Societies say that the complete Bible has been published in 210 languages, the New Testament in 270 more and a Gospel or other whole book in a further 628, making a total of 1,108 languages or dialects in which at least one book of the Bible has been published.

PURCHASING POWER OF THE £

(a) Taking the purchasing power of the £ sterling as 20s. in 1946, the corresponding figures for each of the year 1947/57 are: 18s. 8d.; 17s. 4d.; 17s. 3d.; 16s. 5d.; 15s. 7d.; 14s. 4d.; 13s. 11d.; 13s. 6d.; 12s. 8d.; and 12s. 6d.

(b) £1 in 1911 had the equivalent purchasing power of £4-7-7 in May 1957.

Relate these figures to your missionary giving of the past few years, and see whether in terms of real value you are giving more, or less, now than previously.