

Vicar's Notes

The work in the vestry has now become almost a major operation. While it is in progress, we have to accept a certain amount of untidiness in the church, as much of the material removed from the vestry—and what a lot there is!—has to be stored in the pews. The dry rot, which was quite unsuspected until large fruiting bodies suddenly appeared amidst (and on!) the choir-cassocks, has now been found to extend over a large area of brickwork and timber, and penetration through the wall to the chancel has begun. It is now being radically dealt with. But, of course, the job will now cost much more than the amount we originally had in mind. When the work is finished, with various new improvements added, including better arrangement of cupboards for storage, the vestry will be transformed, unrecognisable as the cold, dreary, dark and cramped place it has been for so long. It will be cheerful, bright, spacious, warm: a good room to meet in, and an excellent song-room for the choir (if anyone would kindly offer us a good piano, we should be most grateful!).

NO DEFEATISM

The Report of the Planning and Policy Committee received excellent publicity in the local press, but I am afraid that the manner of presentation adopted gave it a rather defeatist slant. It suggested a gloom and despair we are far from feeling. "Funds of St. James's are in a bad way." No, they are better than they have ever been. The big advance we have made gives us confidence that they can be much better still. No—it is not that funds are in a bad way, but that responsibilities and opportunities are large, and that funds do not yet measure up to them. But with an increase of responsibility on our part as church members, there is no reason why they should not.

STICKING TO THE BEST WAY

But are we not perhaps making a mistake in putting all our eggs into the one basket of direct giving? Ought we not rather to consider other attractive side-lines—such as launching out into the pools' promotion business, or cashing in on the "Bingo" craze in a big way? These are questions we might well discuss, seriously and

prayerfully. It may be that lack of conviction about our being on what some of us are certain is the right road is holding back our advance along it. It may be possible to make a good defence of other ways—to show, for example, that gambling in moderation is not in any sense an evil, but that the harm and wrong lie only in excess, and so on. Yes, let us discuss these things thoroughly and openly, and come if we can to a common mind and a renewed conviction about the way we have started to follow. Other ways may not be wrong, but they may still be less than the best. It may well be possible to raise large sums of money, and yet weaken rather than strengthen spiritual power and effectiveness. And it does not profit even a church to gain the many desirable things it wants, and to forfeit or reduce its own spiritual life. If then, our way is really on the right road, let us stick to it and press forward along it, refusing to be beguiled down side-paths, however tempting and alluring.

FORWARD AGAIN

After the August lull, things start moving again in September. The Parish Meeting on Wednesday, September 10th, will be addressed by a seasoned Church Army campaigner, Captain Collier, Leader of the Flying Column. We look for a large attendance. As well as telling us about the important and many-sided work of the Church Army and his own personal experiences, he will also put before us suggestions which we may be able to put into effect in our own parish. Early in October we are having a "Missionary Exhibition" in church and in the Parish Hall, and films of the Church overseas will be shown. Also—don't forget the Harvest Festival on October 2nd. We are not having a Gift Day again this year, but this would be an appropriate occasion for anyone who has not joined the Christian Giving Scheme, but would like to play his full part in the work of the church, to make a special thank-offering. After the Service in church the usual supper and entertainment will be held in the Hall—I say "usual," but in no dull sense—and usual is perhaps not the right word to use: there is usually something **unusually** good about it—and this year should be no exception!

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about
people, activities & organisations

THE YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

There was a record attendance at our meeting on June 25th, when we were very pleased to welcome many of the "new mums" we entertained at our Babies' Party. We hope to see a great deal of them in future.

Our Speaker was Miss Wates, "Head Teacher" (as she likes to be called) of Carlisle School, who gave a very lively, entertaining and instructive talk about her school. We were allowed to read the literary efforts of some of her "seven year olds," including the "Story of the War" (!) which caused us great amusement. All these, however, did prove that there is a great deal to be said for the new "Learn while you play" methods for Infant schooling.

At our July meeting we were most fortunate in having a talk by Mrs. Le Gourd, a B.R.C.S. Commandant, on "First Aid in the Home." Pointing out that there are more deaths as a result of accidents in the home than those on the roads, she first gave some practical hints on accident prevention. Besides giving methods of treatment for specific cases, she urged the necessity for a simple First Aid kit ready to hand in all homes; and in dealing with accidents, a calm and confident manner, immediate treatment and speed in passing the patient over to someone of medical competence.

Our September meeting, to be held in the Hall, will be an "At Home," when we hope to welcome many members both old and new to an enjoyable evening.

We must add how very sorry we are to say goodbye both to Mrs. Dunkerley, who is leaving the district to live in Horley, and to Mrs. White, who is going to India for several years. We hope they will both be very happy in their new lives.

I was very thrilled to be one of the fifty Y.W.G. Leaders of the London Diocese to be allotted tickets by ballot for the Mothers' Union World-Wide Conference at the Albert Hall on July 9th, particularly so, as it was hoped that

Her Majesty the Queen would be present. How very disappointed we all were to learn of her illness and inability to attend.

My first glimpse of what I was in for came when from the top of a bus I saw a sea of white hats milling around the Albert Hall. Never had I seen so many women in one place! That, of course, was nothing to what confronted me inside the Hall when I reached my seat high up in the balcony. There were tiers and tiers of women—I wonder if anyone can imagine the sound of thousands of female tongues all wagging together!

The whole scene was like a pageant, with the colours of every hue of the dresses, here and there a dark skin and beautiful sari of a delegate from India, and even the black and white of one or two nuns, all thrown into relief against the dark red of the carpets and curtains of the Hall.

I think the most impressive moment of the whole afternoon was when at 2.30, the time we should have welcomed the Queen—the whole building became so quiet that we could have heard a pin drop, and then the organ started the National Anthem. I have always been moved when hearing the Anthem sung at large gatherings, but never has my scalp tingled so much as when it was sung by all those thousands of women who sang as if they meant every word. It was an indescribable experience.

Mrs. Roberts, the Chairman, read a message from the Queen, also the message of good wishes from the M.U. which would accompany the flowers to Buckingham Palace.

Prayers were led by the M.U. Chaplain, the Bishop of Croydon, and songs were sung by the M.U. Choir, drawn mostly from members in the London Diocese. Then the address was given by Sir John Wolfenden who said he considered himself, a mere father, somewhat of a hero at daring to open his mouth in the presence of so many "militant mothers"! The theme of his address was "Moral standards and the Family." He spoke of the influence that family relationships have on our lives and particularly

THE SUNDAY SCHOOLS

today on the lives of our young people. We as mothers, should do our utmost to preserve the "Family," though it should "never, never be allowed to become an end in itself." It should provide a sure basis upon which our children can build their own lives.

Mrs. Fisher thanked Sir John and after more songs from the choir, the meeting ended, and once again the hum of female voices filled the vast hall.

I was glad I went to the Albert Hall that afternoon—it was an effort as it was extremely hot and the garden looked most attractive as I left to catch the bus, but I felt privileged and thrilled to be among all those women who represented M.U. Groups from all corners of the world, and whose enthusiastic and sincerity in the work of the M.U. must surely help in making the world a better place to live in.

M.F.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP

During the month of August, most of us went away for holidays and no activities were prearranged for this period. However, those who were here organized Sunday evening meetings and other activities as they were required. Work on the Vestry continued and we hope to complete the redecoration very soon. As the Magazine goes to press, we are preparing to present our exhibition, "Hampton Hill—Past, Present and Future," once again (from August 21st to 29th) and a full report of this will appear next month.

We are very pleased to see any young people of the church at our activities, so do come and join us. During the summer holidays, you will be able to find a notice of our activities on the Church notice board in St. James's Road. We restart our regular programme on Sunday, September 14th. Thereafter, there will be meetings every Sunday evening at eight o'clock. On September 20th, we are having an energetic evening in the Hall from 6.30 p.m., and we shall be holding all our usual activities again during the autumn months.

R.E.P.

New entrants will be welcome in all departments when the new session begins at 2.30 p.m. on September 14th. The younger children, ages 4-7, meet at Wayside; those at Junior Day Schools meet in church. There is also a department in Rectory School, which now caters mainly for those in that district too young to come all the way to St. James's Road—aged 4 to 9. Children at Secondary Schools also meet in church for the opening worship, and then go to the Vicar's Bible and Catechism Class in the Vestry. The best arrangement now seems to be that they should stay there for 2 or 3 years, at the end of which time they should be attending the Services in church regularly, and receiving further instruction, not on Sunday afternoons, but in week-day Confirmation classes and Sunday evening meetings of the Young People's Fellowship.

On the fourth Sunday in each month (not necessarily the last—there are sometimes five!) our Sunday Schools do not normally meet, but junior and senior children are expected to come to Family Matins at 11 a.m. with their parents and stay throughout. There is no need for them to "leave before the sermon," because this is addressed especially to them. Younger children are encouraged to come also, but they of course should feel free to leave when they—or their parents—like!

We have recently lost two valued teachers, Mrs. Cliff and Mr. Seymour Harris, and urgently need replacements. We could also do with reinforcements and reserves as well. Year after year the work depends on far too few people. All credit to them—they have brought our schools to a very high standard. But how they would be encouraged by more interest and support! This would help them to make the standard higher still, and reduce the strain on them, which at present is often great. Parents can also help: it is to be feared that some of them too easily send their children to other organizations which have no connection with the Church, without thinking of the effect which this is likely to have on the children themselves or on their loyalty

to the Church. The staff of our Sunday Schools form a real "silent service," the value of whose work is out of all proportion to any notice or praise which they receive—and the whole force of the Church should be solidly behind them.

Fewer children than usual took the Diocesan examination in April, and that is one reason why the number of successes is rather low. The certificates were presented during Matins on our Patronal Festival Sunday, July 27th, when the Mayor and Mayoress of Twickenham were in the congregation.

Those who gained them were:—

Senior: 2nd Class—Patricia Stichbury, Rosalind Brunt; **Pass**—Heather Gostling.

Upper Junior (9-11 years): **1st Class**—Ann Harper, Ceridwen Roberts; **2nd Class**—Patricia Smith; **3rd Class**—Clare Brunt, Gerald Champliss, Susan Wainwright, Raymond Draper; **Pass**—Andrew Long, Jacqueline Stichbury, Lorraine Childs.

Lower Junior (7-9 years): **1st Class**—Gillian Gostling, Angela Berryman; **2nd Class**—Sally Plumbley, Richard Melville, Susan Burrows, Diane Morris, Gillian Howard, Anne Warwick, Ann Stuart, Rosalind Melville, Bernard Brunt; Sian Roberts; **3rd Class**—Rosemary Draper, Shirley Hazell, Pamela Allport, Hugh Roberts, Jennifer Hurst, Linda Hazell; **Pass**—Dennett Kirkwood, Jennifer Campbell.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

From the Young Wives' Group Programme:

- Sept. 24.—At Home (W).
- Oct. 27.—Talk on Fire Prevention (W).
- Nov. 4.—Annual General Meeting and Clothing Exchange (H).
- Nov. 26.—Talk by The Rev. B. L. Treanor (W).

Other Dates:

- Aug. 20-29: Daily 3.0 to 8.0.—Exhibition "Hampton Hill—Past, Present and Future." (H).
- Sept. 3.—8.30 a.m. Mothers' Union Outing.

- Sept. 10.—7.45 p.m. Parish Meeting (W).
- Sept. 11.—8.15 p.m. Sunday School Teachers (V).
- Sept. 14.—2.30 p.m. Sunday Schools Re-open.
- Sept. 14.—8.0 p.m. Y.P.F. Weekly Meetings start again.
- Sept. 16.—8.0 p.m. Prayer Group (Vestry)
- Sept. 24.—2.0 p.m. M.U. Visit to Guildford Cathedral.
- Sept. 26.—7.30 p.m. Magazines ready (V).
- Oct. 2.—7.15 p.m. Harvest Thanksgiving. Preacher: The Rev. F. W. Ross, Vicar of St. Paul's, East Molesey; 8.40 p.m. Supper and Entertainment (H).
- N.B.—No 9.0 p.m. Service on August 24, and no week-day Services August 24-September 7.

BAPTISMS

- July 27.—Debra Clare Hodges, 19, St. James's Road.
- „ 27.—Nicholas Charles Richard Green, 2, St. James's Avenue.
- „ 27.—Richard Charles Scott, 23, St. James's Road.
- Aug. 3.—Stewart Andrew Kirkwood, 15, Dean Road.
- „ 3.—Yasmin Louise Glazier, 47, Wolsey Road.
- „ 3.—Tharlia Mary Toone, 43, Windmill Road.
- „ 3.—Kim Bayton, 1, Butts Crescent, Hanworth.
- „ 17.—Duncan Alexander Stewart, 259, Uxbridge Road.

MARRIAGES

- Aug. 4.—John Arthur Jackson to Audrey Clayton Wilson.
- „ 16.—Michael William Knill to Pauline Rockcliffe.

BURIAL AND CREMATION

- Aug. 13.—Stanley Collin, 56, St. James's Avenue, aged 80 years (at S.W. Middlesex Crematorium).
- „ 15.—Jane Budd, 3, Stanley Villas, Wolsey Road, aged 80 years.