

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about
people, activities & organisation

THE SUMMER FETE

What a scorcher! It seemed more like Kuwait than Hampton Hill. We have, of course, had occasions like this before—the Confirmation in 1959, and one previous Fête, when the heat kept many people away. But the remarkable thing this time was the way in which the weather was ignored. People wandered about in semi-tropical kit and all kinds of strange headgear; special precautions had to be taken to keep cakes, butter, ices, etc., from melting. But there were no short tempers, and everything went like clock-work. Mrs. Warwick, the organising secretary, on whom so much depended, gave a fine example of unruffled poise and calm all through the hours of preparation in the morning, when point after point was brought to her for decision, as well as during the busy afternoon. We are very grateful to her for the way in which she bore the burden and heat of the day—and of many days previously as well. The result was a Fête that went like clock-work.

P.C. Lauderdale and his colleague gave us a splendid start, and their obvious enjoyment set the tone for the whole afternoon.

The Young Wives' Drama Group from St. Mary's were hard put to it to convey us in imagination to a wintry snow-swept country station, but they succeeded very well.

Many people worked hard behind the scenes, in sweltering conditions in tents and kitchens, while others worked in the full glare of the sun for our pleasure and entertainment, but the spirit of friendliness and good-will never flagged.

A most worth-while Fête—and though profit was far from being the main aim, the £62 that has come in to our funds is a useful addition at a time when we face several heavy expenses.

THE CONFIRMATION

This year, perhaps for the first time, the candidates presented were all from our own parish. This meant a somewhat smaller congregation than usual, and not so many communicants, which in some ways was an advantage, as on some oc-

casions the large numbers receiving communion has made the service so long as to be something of a strain to the younger people present. Seymour Harris had made two processional candlesticks, which were used for the first time at this service. Another new feature, in keeping with the joy and solemnity of the occasion, was the wearing of appraised albs by the two servers attending the Bishop.

After the service, the usual breakfast was held at Wayside, but for the first time uncertainty about the weather caused us to play for safety and set up the tables indoors. When the weather finally made up its mind to stay fine, it was too late to transfer everything to the garden, and so we made the best—a very pleasant best, thanks to Mrs. Brunt and her helpers—of where we were.

The following were confirmed and received their first Communion:—

Adults: Royston Brooks, Gilbert Mellor, Halford Severn; Peggy Farnsworth, Marion Nickols, Mary Saunders, Pauline Willmott.

Junior candidates: David Adams, Bernard Wigginton; Janet Cook, Ann Harper, Sarah Long, Angela Marsh, Christine North, Sally Plumbley, Patricia Smith, Katherine Swaine, Susan Swaine, Barbara Thorpe, Patricia Thorpe, Pauline Townsend, Sheila Wells.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOLS

The Sunday Schools have now ended their session, and are closed for the summer recess. They will re-open again on Sunday, September 17th. Shortly after this we are hoping to arrange an "At Home" for parents, at which we shall tell them what we try to do for their children, and show them some examples of work done.

Certificates were presented at the Family Service in July to those who passed the Diocesan Examination in May. The Diocesan authorities, as last year, duly signed the certificates, but left it to us to have them inscribed. Mr. Forrow very kindly undertook this arduous job again, and his beautiful penmanship gave an added distinction to them. We are very grateful to him for so generously giving of his time and skill.

This is the list of names of those who were successful:—

GRADE 1 (Ages 7-9)

1st Class with Distinction:

Elaine Hunt, Jane Bessey.

1st Class: Jane Smales, Elizabeth Woodward, Jeanette Warwick, Barbara Brooks, Mary Plumbley.

2nd Class: Gillian Cohen, Anne Saunders, Michael Sly, Rosalind Pyne, Ian Kirkwood, Rhian Roberts.

3rd Class: Richard Cooke, Francis Brunt, Barbara Plumbley.
Eight failed.

GRADE 2 (Ages 9-11)

1st Class: Anne Warwick, Rosalind Melville.

2nd Class: Sian Roberts.

3rd Class: Edward Wright, Julia Rowe, Gloria Lansley.
Two failed.

GRADE 3 (Ages 11+)

2nd Class: Ceridwen Roberts, Michael Farnsworth.

3rd Class: Lorraine Lansley, Gillian Howard, Coryn Severn.
Three failed.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP

Sunday afternoons have been the time when Boanerges has been used most often. Those who have used it have had great fun, but no-one has had a ducking yet. Mr. Parkinson, the Vicar of Hampton, has allowed us to moor at the bottom of his garden, for which we are very grateful.

Rodney has now returned from Canada and told many of the Y.P.F. about his trip, and shown us some of his many slides. We were very pleased to see him back, but it became a case of "doctor, heal thyself" when he got chickenpox.

Anne (Bishop) and Jennifer have now returned from their Universities and John Mortimore is back from his long period in hospitals, etc., having operations on his feet.

We are hoping to hold an "At Home" soon, for all the newly confirmed. This year there were no Y.P.F. members confirmed as generally occurs. A few girls arranged the flowers for the Confirmation. These flowers were donated by many members' parents, who, although most of them had very few, gave us what they had. Consequently we had many flowers for which we thank those concerned.

Numbers at meetings now will probably be reduced, as people will be going on holiday. Meetings will be continued though, on Sundays, Fridays and swimming on Thursdays.
R.M.

THE CUB PACK

The District Cub Sports were held this year at Nursery Road School, Sunbury-on-Thames, on Saturday, 10th June. Our Pack was successful in winning the 4th Cup, the 1st Shepperton Green being the winners with Shepperton 2nd and Denmead School Cub Pack 3rd.

We are hoping to arrange a Pack Holiday this year at Wanboro' Camp House near Guildford to take place the first week in September.

S. R. CHILDS,

Cub-master.

THE YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

Although I am writing this in July, I am afraid I have not yet reported on our May meeting when we had a demonstration of Bird's Eye foods. This was, I think, enjoyed by all, especially those who won the demonstration packs of food. We hope to fix a coach party to visit Bird's Eye in the near future as they are able to give a much fuller demonstration of how to use their foods if you go to them.

We had our usual Baptismal party in June when we were very pleased to entertain about 12 young mothers and their babies in the Vicarage garden. The weather was, as usual, quite perfect. I think about seven of these mothers were new to us, but we hope they will be joining and enjoying our group in the future.

We welcomed some new members to our June meeting when the Rev. G. Stevens told us about his tour of the Holy Land last Easter. We all found his talk very interesting, and also very humorous at times. It was sad to hear what a divided city Jerusalem now is, but very wonderful to hear first-hand how real all these Biblical places are.

I would like to thank all of you who in spite of the very hot day made your cakes for the fête. We managed to make just on £5. I would like also to thank every one who turned up to help either on our stall or on one of the others.

In August of course we don't meet so we hope you all have a good holiday. See you in September when

we are thinking of having a short service in church before the usual "At Home" in the hall.

E.V.S.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

- Aug. 24.—St. Bartholomew. Holy Communion at 10.30 a.m.
Sept. 17.—9.45 a.m. Sunday Schools re-open.
Sept. 20.—Hampton Council of Churches: Study Group begins, 8.0 p.m. (W).
Sept. 21.—St. Matthew. Holy Communion at 10.30 a.m. Harvest Festival Service at 7.15 p.m.; Supper at 8.30 p.m. (H).
Sept. 24.—Continuation of Harvest Festival. 11.0 a.m. Matins (Family and Parade Service). Other Services as usual.
Sept. 27.—7.45 p.m. Young Wives' Group: Service in church followed by "At Home."
Sept. 28.—8.0 p.m. Church Council (Vestry).

The Tower will be open to visitors as follows:—

- Sat., August 19, 2.30 p.m.
Thurs., August 31, 6.15 p.m.
Wed., Sept. 6, 6.15 p.m.
Sat., October 14th, 2.30 p.m.

After August 24 there will be no week-day Services until Sept. 21.

SMALL ADVERTISEMENT

Sat., Aug. 26.—Hampton M.W.B. Works Welfare Group: Garden Produce Show and Fête, 2.0—7.30 p.m., at the Water Works, Upper Sunbury Road. (See leaflet enclosed for fuller details).

BAPTISMS

- July 16.—Henry Neville White, 189½ Uxbridge Road.
„ 23.—Julie Anne Passmore, 115, Uxbridge Road.

MARRIAGES

- July 22.—Richard Paul Darrell to Pauline Ann McCarthy.
„ 29.—Arthur Rupert Weston to Gladys Eva Brooks.
„ 29.—Christopher Godfrey Wellington to Jill Rosemary Simcock.

BURIALS

- July 17.—George William Hatch, 2, Arundel Close, aged 71 years (at Twickenham).
„ 24.—Charles Henry Cusworth, 5, Somerset Road, Teddington, aged 63 years.

STANDING MATTER, ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS

Secretary of Parochial Church Council

Miss P. M. Stanley, 54a, St. James's Avenue. Tel. Mol. 6065.

Church Officer for Bookings of Hall and Wayside

Mr. W. F. Wigginton, 18, Cranmer Road. Tel. Mol. 4576.

Supervisors of Wayside

Mrs. S. D. Harris, 82, Park Road. Tel. Mol. 1283.

Mrs. D. E. Warwick, 52, Park Road. Tel. Mol. 7004.

Organiser for Church Flowers

Mrs. L. Mills, 40, Oldfield Road. Tel. Mol. 6626.

Mrs. Mills would be pleased to hear from people willing to arrange flowers on any particular Sunday.

FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

IN THE VILLAGES OF INDIA

A sudden little gust of wind; the sound of a woman's song; the whirling of a grindstone. Then a cock crows, the distant shrill monotone of the Muslim leader is heard as he calls his people to prayer. Farmers lead their oxen to the fields. Women are busy with their water pots at the well. A new day has begun in village India.

In the Aurangabad area the village is the centre of our present enterprises. No longer do mission-

aries live apart in a veritable mansion; but in the simple way that villagers live, staying for at least six months in any one village.

I have had a variety of houses during the time I have worked in this way. Each has had a mud floor which necessitated re-spreading cow-dung over it weekly, to give it a good firm surface for sweeping. Mostly there is but one small window which can be closed only with a wooden shutter. This means that one is always in the public eye, or else in total darkness!

Living like this, there grows up a familiarity and a brotherhood which would not otherwise exist. It is not really easy; my room is always occupied. There are children by the score, people who come to gossip, people who come to look, and those who come for genuine reasons. There is everlasting noise.

But I am convinced that this is the way to do evangelistic work, as it is the means whereby we really contact the Hindu villagers. I have a very full day indeed, but I always hope that it is not so full that folk will feel that I have not time for them; otherwise my mode of living would be meaningless. It means opportunities also of helping the Christians really to live the Gospel.

In this area of the Nasik diocese, we have about three hundred villages with perhaps ten pastors to shepherd them. So each has perhaps twenty or thirty villages for which he is responsible, and wherever I am working I am the colleague of the pastor of that district. Five thousand Christians in widely scattered parts, ten pastors, three catechists, and one district itinerating missionary—what are these among so many?

One answer is voluntary service. There is no future in any of the organisations if they stop when I move on. Take Vishwas; he has a bishop's licence as a lay worker and is happy to serve in the church by taking prayers, Sunday school and congregational worship. He was at school to Standard II only, but has read so much Scripture since to improve his reading. Now he uses that knowledge to keep the light of the Gospel bright in his own village. And there is Malti-bai. When she has done her day's work—in the fields, in the home—she sets off to take the Mothers' Union meeting.

The true, the faithful Church is taking shape, made up of men and women like these—witnesses because they have the true Light within.

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This, very briefly is what one C.M.S. missionary writes of what she is doing to live out the Gospel in village India. More women are needed for such village evangelism; to work amongst the poor and largely illiterate peoples; to seek and train national leaders under the direction of Indian clergy. Under its

Opportunity Plan the Church Missionary Society wants to send this help. Can you help to make it possible?

AN INFUSION OF YOUTH

The "bulge"—when those children born during the sharp rise in the birth rate at the end of the war and just after, reach school-leaving age in 1962—ought to be regarded by Christians as an opportunity, not a problem.

This view is expressed by the Church of England's Boards of Education and Social Responsibility in "Opportunity at its Peak," published recently. "What better thing could happen to our population, growing top-heavy with the aged, than this infusion of a large generation of youth? Here on the threshold of adult life we shall have 930,000 future parents, workers and citizens."

Concern for young people at work, the report continues, is the "duty and privilege of every Christian." Every adult worker has powers of persuasion and example to use. The parish, too, could help in many ways.

AN EXPERIMENTAL FARM AT VIDYANAGAR

Many of the Christians in the Krishna diocese in South India are landless peasants from the depressed classes. In addition to spiritual and medical care, these people need economic help. A promising experiment on waste land has been initiated at Vidyanagar, and there are now a small tannery, a poultry farm and several agricultural plots where new crops are being tried.

Young people from the village will be brought into the farm for short courses as the experiment develops. But it is hindered by lack of working capital, and at least £3,000 is needed.

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This is just one of the "opportunities" in the Church Missionary Society's Opportunity Plan, which offers you a personal part in our Church's latest and greatest venture towards world evangelism.

If you would like to know more, write to the Home Secretary, C.M.S., 6 Salisbury Square, London, E.C.4., for a copy of the free "Opportunity" folder.