

## Vicar's Notes

July was a very active month, and now many of us are looking forward to a short break before beginning another strenuous period in September.

The month began with a very happy social occasion, The Barbecue, described in last month's Magazine. This was so successful that similar events are being considered for the future, including the possibility of reviving the old Bonfire Party of former years on a larger scale.

Mr. and Mrs. Hawkins celebrated their Golden Wedding with a large family party. Many St. James's people joined in a presentation to them, and they are hoping to use the money to buy two armchairs. They ask me to express their thanks and gratitude to all who gave.

Dr. Rodney Bishop was given a stirring send-off at a farewell meeting in "Wayside," at which he told us all he had been able to find out about South India and the work to which he is going. A presentation in token of our esteem and affection was made to him also, which, knowing him, I think will be spent on books!

A fortnight later, an old friend of ours Miss Kathleen Holthusen, who specialises in pioneer work, spoke about the opposite end of the sub-continent, Pakistan. There for a year she has been in charge of a Community Centre, sponsored by the West Pakistan Council of Churches, staffed by fieldworkers of Y.W.C.A. and financially maintained by monies collected during World Refugee Year. This Centre has, in a new township, Korangi, built 10 miles out of Karachi, to house some of the many refugees whose previous homes had been flimsy shacks or the streets of the city. The Centre ministered to as many needs as possible, and even had to teach children how to play—something we think comes naturally to normal children, but theirs just stood or sat about. Miss Holthusen showed us many coloured transparencies of Pakistan as a whole and of the work at Korangi in particular. It

reminded us of the urgent need to go on supporting agencies like Inter-Church Aid up to the hilt.

The Sunday School Examination results did not come out until the end of the Month, so we hope now to have the certificates prepared ready for the Family Service in September. Many of us have mixed feelings about this examination. Some children enjoy it, others are distressed and do not do themselves justice. We feel that it could be improved, and more closely related to the work we do. At a recent Teachers' meeting it was decided not to make use of it next year, and then consider the matter again.

Before the Sunday School re-opens on September 9th, new teachers are urgently needed to cope with the work of the Infants' Department at "Wayside." Mrs. Pyne, who has been Superintendent for the last few years, has had to give up for family reasons, and Miss Rita Malyon, a stalwart of many years' (15?) service, now has to leave because of other heavy commitments. We are very grateful to them, and now must pray that suitable people will be found to take their place.

In the Autumn we hope to develop more fully in the field of "Good Neighbour" work, in the Parish as well as outside. A rota of car owners willing to bring elderly, housebound and handicapped people to Church—and why not also trips into the country?—is one great need. We also need a large rota of people willing and able to help in family emergencies—e.g., by taking children to school during Mother's illness, fetching prescriptions, shopping, and digging up an old lady's garden, etc.—and then, having the list, we have to get the right kind of organisation to make it effective.

In October we want to organise two mass attacks on overgrown vegetation in the Churchyard, to get it in good shape for the Winter.

Yes—there is plenty of work ahead—but I hope that, refreshed by our holiday, we shall face it in good heart.

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## AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about  
people, activities & organisation

### THE MOTHERS' UNION

As usual, there was no meeting during August, and we look forward to seeing you all again, fully refreshed

from your holidays, at our next meeting on Wednesday, September 12th, in Church, and afterwards at "Wayside."

Don't forget that on Wednesday, September 19th, we have a talk and films on "Fire Prevention" by the M.C.C. Fire Brigade. This is at 8.0 p.m. in the Hall and is open to everybody in the Parish.

Please save all your Jumble for a joint M.U. and Y.W. sale on October 20th.

I would like to take this opportunity of stressing the dangers of leaving broken bottles and empty tins lying about in the countryside.

My grandson, Michael, was recently in hospital for a week with a badly cut foot, as a result of rolling on to a broken milk bottle whilst playing at Box Hill.

Surely the small effort involved in taking home your litter is worth while to prevent such accidents as this, which could have been very much more serious than, fortunately, it was. V.R.P.

### **YOUNG WIVES' GROUP**

As the number of members present at our July meeting is always small, we do not invite a speaker, and this year we once again had an informal discussion, interspersed by gramophone records brought along by our members. One record gave rise to a discussion on bad grammar and modern slang. Also discussed were some of the questions not covered by the panel in our recent "Brains Trust," and some interesting theories came to light. So immersed in our subjects did we become that it was past ten o'clock before the meeting closed.

Congratulations to Vice-Chairman Ann Robins and her husband on the birth of their second child, a brother for Jane. Mother and child were "doing fine" when I called on them a few days ago.

Our Entertainments Secretary, Eileen Nuttley, is at present convalescing in Margate after her recent operation. We are pleased to hear she is at last making progress, and hope she will soon be back and planning more excursions for us.

Our next monthly meeting is on Wednesday, 26th September, and starts with a service in Church at 8 p.m. followed by an "At Home" at Wayside. M.S.

### **YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP**

With the holiday season well upon us, outdoor activities have been very prominent among the interests of the

fellowship. We had hoped to make a good use of the Y.P.F. boat "Boanerges" this year as we did last year, but owing to the difficulty of procuring a trolley its relaunching was rather delayed. The worst pessimists' fears were fulfilled when the boat sank as soon as it entered the water! When, however, the water had swollen the wood a week later, it was found possible to float the boat (after an hour's baling!).

Whether fears as to the boat's river worthiness had anything to do with it I don't know, but it is a fact that the weekly swimming evenings have been popular—despite the water temperatures! Shame on the coward who murmured the name of Isleworth!

The outdoor enthusiasts, however, have not had it all their own way. The Sunday evening meetings of course remain the principal activity of the Y.P.F. and its members have been having their annual dose of culture in the shape of weekday evening visits to the proms. A party usually goes up about once a week and they have always found their time well spent.

### **1st HAMPTON HILL GUIDE COMPANY**

The Guide Company is now beginning to settle down, with the aid of a member of the Cadet Company, known by her camp name, "Kanga" (the mother kangaroo). Because of increased numbers, and knowing that there are some Brownies "flying-up" to Guides soon, we have been able to have a new patrol—the "Canaries." Susan Beck has been appointed provisional leader of the Canaries, and Gloria Lansley and Carolyn Wigginton are filling the gap left by Pat Smith and Linda Bunch, who have left the company, by acting as leaders to the Thrush and Robin patrols respectively. These three guides will be on "Probation" as leaders for a few weeks, before their appointments are made permanent.

As the Scouts have decided that they need the Parish Hall on a Thursday evening, the Guides will now be meeting in Windmill Road (from 7.0 p.m. to 8.0 p.m.); their meeting will follow closely after the Brownie meeting. We are hoping that, by this arrangement, closer co-operation between the Brownies and Guides will result.

We went to see the Guide film "Penny for your Thoughts," and

thoroughly enjoyed this film about the movement—with particular emphasis on “Thinking Day”—as well as the main feature film “Bon Voyage” (despite some confusion as to which traffic lights we were meeting at!).

Only one Guide, Jane Perry, was able to go to camp this year; perhaps her enthusiastic stories about how she enjoyed camp life will encourage others to go—if they have the opportunity!

We are very short of funds at the moment, and so we are planning a Jumble Sale. One problem—Storage Space. Has anyone any offers or ideas please? We'll want it only for a few days. R.M.

### A PAGEANT

You may have noticed odd posters here and there saying cryptically—November 24th—Are you keeping this date free? Well, on this day the Churches of the Deanery intend to produce, under the guidance of Mrs. Eustace, a Pageant of Church History and Missionary Expansion. Over a hundred people will be needed to carry the project through—people of all ages, but more in the middle-aged group than any other. We should be able to provide at least six, and perhaps twelve from the parish. They should be prepared to attend five or six rehearsals, and may have to give up the whole day on November 24th. If you are interested, please let the Vicar or Mrs. Rockliffe know.

### GOOD WISHES

We send our best wishes to Barbara Rockliffe as she flies to Canada to a new job. We look forward to an illustrated lecture in “Wayside,” in perhaps two years' time!

### WAYSIDE

Following the suggestion made some time ago, the Young People's Fellowship is trying to furnish the smaller room at Wayside as a lounge, to provide comfortable surroundings for informal meetings, etc. We should like now to express our gratitude to

the people who have already given a settee and some chairs.

We are still in need of long curtains (the windows are rather large), rugs (or a small carpet), armchairs—in good condition. Any offers? If you will contact the Supervisors of Wayside, they will be pleased to see anything offered, to make certain that it is suitable, and if it is, they will then arrange for it to be collected.

### SOME DATES TO NOTE

- September 7.—8.0 p.m. Continuation Committee (106, Park Road).
- September 9.—Sunday Schools re-open after Summer Recess.
- September 12.—2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union Service.
- September 17.—8.0 p.m. Hampton Council of Churches: Open Meeting —“The Problem of Stress and Emotional Disturbance in Modern Life.” Speaker: The Rev. G. C. Harding, M.C., M.A., Organising Secretary of The Churches' Council of Healing (Public Hall, Hampton).
- September 19.—8.0 p.m. Open Meeting; Fire Prevention (Hall).
- September 20.—8.0 p.m. Church Council (W).
- September 26.—8.0 p.m. Young Wives' Group; Service in Church followed by “At Home” at “Wayside.”
- September 27.—7.15 p.m. Harvest Thanksgiving. Preacher: The Rev. J. L. Garrington, Vicar of All Saints', Hampton. The service will be followed by the usual Supper and Entertainment in the Parish Hall. Tickets available from Mr. G. I. Robinson, 36, St. James's Road, and other members of the Social Committee, price 4/-.
- September 30.—Continuation of Harvest Festival.
  - 8.0 a.m. Holy Communion.
  - 11.0 a.m. Family Service.
  - 6.30 p.m. Evensong.

### BAPTISM

July 22.—Robert Leslie Charman, 22, Westbank Road.

### MARRIAGE

July 28.—Malcolm Owen Cotter to Norma Hurst.

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## FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

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### ABOUT BOOKS

There are certain quite deceptively simple books which give the reader an experience of warmth and gladness whilst reading them and of real

regret on laying them down. I found Elizabeth Goudge's delightful novel “A City of Bells” such a one. Browsing contentedly through its pages one can almost hear the chimes of

the bells and smell the scent of the gilly flowers in the sun drenched walled gardens of the old city. Anyone who enjoyed this delightful book will certainly not want to miss this author's new novel "The Dean's Watch." The scene is laid in a historic cathedral city in the 1870's and concerns the friendship between the outwardly formidable but inwardly shy Dean and a quaint anti-cathedral, clockmaking genius, Isaac Peabody. Throughout the book there is a great understanding of character and a feeling of great joy in simple things. There is truth, wisdom and the warmth of love; love of man for man and love of craftsmanship, both in the mighty cathedral and in Isaac's celestial clock which he gave away yet would not have sold for any money. The whole book leaves a picture with the reader of something not quite of this world as we know it; or rather of this world as few writers and few readers have the vision and simple Faith to see it.

Discerning children, of all ages, from eight to eighty, will enjoy the same author's "Little White Horse."

Whilst on the subject of literature I would recommend to your attention a notice in a local public hall. "Ladies using the teapots and kettles should swill carefully and then stand upside down in the sink to drain." I suspect that the author of this notice learned her methods of expression from the Head Mistress who pinned up the following notice, "All girls riding three abreast will be suspended from their bicycles for a month."

M.O.

## **THE THEATRE OF TODAY AND THE WORLD OF TOMORROW**

(Extracts from an article by  
R. J. Walker in The City Press,  
29th June.)

The theatre has always been a mirror of the life and thought of the age. It has also helped to develop new streams of creative thought and experience. The theatre is a battleground for the minds of men.

Plays are more than literary exercises. In the hands of skilful men they are weapons. They can rouse men's passions. They can force them to think.

Or, on the other hand, they can drug their senses and prevent them thinking at all. They can send people

pouring out into the streets sodden with sex, inflamed with bitterness or dull with despair. Or they can send them out illuminated with conviction and dedicated to create a different world.

The theatre can set patterns and standards of life for a whole generation. It can build or it can destroy. Who controls the theatre and the kindred arts will shape a nation.

The Russians know this. That is why they spend 11 per cent. of their national budget to the spreading of their ideas through the theatre and the arts.

They understood it in the great days of the Greek drama. It was part of the civic duty to go to the theatre. You didn't pay to go, you paid a fine if you stayed away.

They knew it in the Middle Ages when our modern theatre was born. Men put plays on in the market square to bring essential truth to people who could not read.

Today the task is to bring essential truth to people who cannot read the signs of the times. This is the purpose of the plays and films at the Westminster Theatre, which instead of glamourising the problems of the world dramatise the answer.

The play which is currently running to packed audiences at the Westminster Theatre is "Music at Midnight," and some of the finest stars of stage and screen are helping in this move to give back to the theatre its rightful destiny.

It is not enough to give audiences "a slice of life." They must be given the secret of life itself. A play like "Music at Midnight" does exactly this. It deals with the normal problems of life that are familiar to all of us; the personal, business, political, diplomatic and ideological problems, which, if unanswered are turning the world closer to moral bankruptcy and cynical disillusionment. Simple and practical solutions are depicted on the stage, showing how our ancient faith as a Christian Nation, lived out, can restore the nation's character and moral fibre once more.

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