

VICAR'S NOTES

The hard work of the past eighteen months is at last beginning to bear some tangible fruit. After many discussions, much correspondence, several visits to London and conferences on the site, the work of re-roofing the church is due to begin on August 26. This is a big job, and it is expected to go on for at least eight weeks. If any unexpected trouble comes to light, such as dry rot or damage by beetle in the roof timbers, then it will of course take longer and the expense—provisionally estimated at £3,200—will be correspondingly greater.

A major operation of this type is bound to cause some inconvenience, and interference with our normal use of the church. It will be difficult to hold any week-day services, though special arrangements will have to be made for funerals, and there will be no Saturday work, to enable us to use these mornings for cleaning and tidying up, and the afternoons for weddings. The amount of dust and debris which will have to be cleared each week before Saturday weddings and Sunday services can be held, is at the moment an unknown quantity. It is feared that the vibration may bring down much of the plaster above the nave, and there may well be other complications. But despite the drawbacks we look forward to the fulfilment of many hours of planning and fighting our way through one frustration after another, for in the end we should have a watertight and much warmer and stronger building in which to worship.

Much other work will have to follow. The scheme for re-wiring the church should be finally settled and approved within the next two months, and we hope it will be able to be put in hand immediately the work on the roof is finished. This scheme will be drawn up with a new and much-improved lighting-system in view as soon as we can afford it. The need for other interior improvements to the church, and the renovation of the organ, is also being borne in mind, and advice about these and other matters is being sought. We may not be able to begin our centenary year with our church as we should want it to be—but we hope to end it with a headquarters which is truly a worthy and beautiful centre and setting for the worship of God and a place where many receive strength and inspiration for His service in daily life.

It is this inspiration which we need to keep us from becoming selfish and spending too much money on ourselves. A fine and beautiful church can become merely a whited sepulchre unless there streams forth from it, and from those who worship there, a vigorous supernatural life, expressing itself in loving service for all sorts and conditions of men throughout the world. It was very encouraging to know that Hampton and Hampton Hill rose this year as never before to the challenge of Christian Aid Week, and a record sum of £750 has now been sent to Inter-Church Aid. We must go on from here, and for ourselves we need to pray that a renovated church-building may become more and more a power-house from which renewed Christian life, witness and service may increasingly spring.

THE ABSENTEE'S RESPONSE

Just to let you know Mrs. Orton
Your poem has been a little thought on.
I know that nothing could sound dafter
But some M.U. have kids to look after.
To the Y.W. it might seem unfair
But on Saturdays their old men demand their care.
What of all those wretched choir-boys?
You were better off without their noise!
Working with all those gigantic weeds
Is not included in the Scouts' "good deeds."
The Youth groups were not apparently of "the few"
But even "the few" were young once too.
Me, well I must confess and say
I got up rather late that day.

J.W.

(See "The Ballad of the Weeds"—July issue).

PATRONAL FESTIVAL GARDEN PARTY

Little did I think when, on July 25, 1963, I attended my first Patronal Festival Evensong at St. James's church, followed by a Garden Party in the Vicarage garden, that I should be asked to comment on the latter in "The Spire."

On recovering from the initial shock, I was pleased to have the opportunity of saying how nice it was to meet and talk with other members of the church in such pleasant surroundings on a very beautiful evening. To add to the enjoyment, the catering committee did their usual wonderful job of ministering to our creature needs by supplying very tasty refreshments to suit all palates. I must say the high reputation has been well earned and I would like the committee to know how much their work is appreciated.

Unfortunately, I could only stay for a short while at the party but I came away feeling that a very pleasant evening was progressing and being enjoyed by all.

C.J.

HISTORY SOCIETY

After four very successful meetings during which some of the past history of our village was discussed, the group "broke up" for the summer holidays. Most of the material immediately available has now been indexed and teams are in the process of being formed so that when the Society meets again (at Wayside, September 19, at 8 p.m.), work on the various projects can get under way as soon as possible.

All members, and now there are about thirty, are asked to do their best to attend the first meeting. If you are not already a member it is not too late to join. All that is necessary for membership is an interest in local affairs and the will and determination to work and record the interesting facts which come to light.

To help in its work the Society is asking for the loan of old documents and photographs of village views, buildings, personalities

and social events. Have YOU got a photograph of the water splash for instance? Or perhaps the High Street when the trams were running or before? We want a picture of the old Brewery Tap Inn; of the Crown and Anchor before it was rebuilt; of Windmill Road when the Schools were being built; the two mills; Park Road when it curved round the old wooden railway bridge. We want pictures of properties now vanished and gone; The Fire Brigade and the Manual; the Forges; the beating of the bounds; the great "freeze up" of the 1890's when the Fitzwygram Coffee House was a soup kitchen for the poverty-stricken. We would like photographs of village personalities; of Mrs. Fitzwygram, the Girls' Friendly Society, the Band of Hope and the Men's Bible Class and, indeed, of everything else likely to be of interest. Some records will be copied and returned immediately and others kept for exhibition at the inaugural Centenary Celebration.

Everything lent will be kept carefully and returned in good condition to the owners who should mark their property clearly with their name and address and, if possible, the approximate date of the subject. Mrs. Warwick, 52, Park Road, Mrs. Milns, 71, St. James's Avenue or Mr. Harris, Lindsay Lodge, Park Road, will be pleased to receive them on behalf of the Society.

Furthermore if YOU have any interesting information or memories, please jot them in note form and send them to Mrs. Orton, 30, St. James's Road, who will be really grateful.

So much interest is already being shown in the Society that the whole venture is becoming increasingly stimulating and shows signs of being, not only rewarding for those taking part, but successful from the point of view of the goal set—namely—a printed booklet of the parish's history. So come on villagers of Hampton Hill! This is YOUR history and each one of you is part of it and every little piece of knowledge that comes our way is a necessary part of the whole picture.

M.O.

THE YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

As so many of our members have baby-sitting problems, it was decided to discuss this at our July meeting. Mrs. Ruth Gostling very kindly came along to explain the workings of a reciprocal baby-sitting scheme of which she acted as organiser. Although Mrs. Gostling no longer participates in the scheme, we were pleased to learn that some six years later it is still operating. Mrs. Gostling explained the original scheme and told us of problems which arose, but on the whole it worked out very well. We do not propose to organise a similar scheme for our members, but to encourage them to do-it-themselves. As the Longford Close/Ringwood Way area seems to be in need of such a scheme, Mrs. Guest volunteered to do the preliminary organising, and anyone interested should get in touch with her at No. 10, Longford Close, 'phone MOL. 7319, as she will be arranging a meeting to discuss arrangements.

We went on to discuss holiday travel problems, which were surprisingly few, and we raised the question, "Should Mother have a

holiday away from her family?" The response in favour was shattering, but cheer up families, we were in favour of not more than a long week-end away.

We do not meet again until September 25, when we have our opening service in church, followed by an informal get-together at Wayside.
M.S.

CUB PACK HOLIDAY

On August 3, with rain teeming down, 16 Cubs, together with three Officers and helpers, set off for Artington Camp House, situated in the village of Littleton near Godalming. This old village school has been recently modernised and extended by the Surrey County Council, and to quote a recent entry in the Visitors' Book, "Camping? Country Club more like it."

During our week's stay our activities included a visit to Guildford Cathedral, Bank Holiday afternoon at Guildford Lido, a day at Littlehampton and a visit to St. Catherine's Priory and the old Pilgrims' Way.

On Wednesday we had an open day and were pleased to see so many parents and friends. In addition to points awarded for kitchen and dining-room duties (parents please note) various competitions were held e.g., Nature Study, shelter building, quiz on visit to the Cathedral, etc., and the Camp Competition was won by White Six.

I think when the following Saturday morning came we were all a little sad to leave Artington and the lovely country surrounding our Camp House, but I think that all will agree it was a wonderful holiday.

M. J. CHILDS,

Cubmaster.

WORLD PEACE

The Nuclear Test-ban is now signed; but unless the greatest revolution of all time, whereby the Cross of Christ will transform the world, moves swiftly across the earth, there will be no lasting peace.

Who will bring Christianity to the 700 million Chinese, still increasing by 20 million a year, a task which must be undertaken if peace on earth is to be created in time? Perhaps a group of Japanese students with their play, "Beyond Communism to Revolution," a musical play produced out of their own experience of the power of Jesus Christ to change their own human natures. This play is now travelling triumphantly throughout Japan with such effect that a group of Japanese leaders representing the Prime Minister, two former Prime Ministers, business magnates, ship and mine owners, bankers and railway chiefs, have made available for their use a ship in order that they can take their play to other countries in Asia.

Who will bring Christianity to the millions in Russia and their satellite countries behind the iron curtain? It could be a group of South American students with their play "El Condor," which Pope John was interested to know had helped to prevent civil war in Brazil two years ago, and which is now bringing new faith and purpose back to

the communist districts of Italy, the country which formally gave and spread Christianity to the world. It could be the seventeen-nation cast of the musical, "Space is so Startling," which since leaving the Westminster Theatre, London, has been playing to packed houses in Bonn and Berlin. This play, travelling under German Government sponsorship, has been making headline news in the Press, training for the Army, and material for Television programmes. Such news reaches East Berlin and Moscow.

Who can bring Christianity to the millions in India and Pakistan? It could be the grandson of Gandhi, Rahmohan Gandhi, who, together with a group of parliamentarians from Kerela, South India, is travelling with the play written out of their own experience of unity, describing how they personally found the answer to corruption and division. This true story of change in Ministers and members of Parliament is bringing hope to the top leaders in India in their present desperate predicament.

Moscow and Peking are vitally interested in news of India just now, and India and Japan together could bring hope, peace and a new purpose into the policies of the leadership of both great countries. Such news hits the headlines in Press, Radio and Television, and can reach the millions. People in Britain could help in this world task by exerting every effort to put the Press, B.B.C. and I.T.V. under God's control, in order that they can use their immense powers to bring world peace.

R. T. MELLOR.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

- Sept 3.—8 p.m. Magazine Committee (52, Park Road).
" 4.—8 p.m. Scout Group Committee (Hall).
" 11.—2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union Service (Wayside if Church is not available).
8 p.m. Prayer and Study Group (Vestry).
" 12.—8 p.m. Church Council (W).
" 13.—8 p.m. Continuation Committee (106, Park Road).
" 14.—2.30 p.m. Scout Group Fete (to be held in the garden of Mr. R. T. Adams, 110, High Street).
" 17.—8 p.m. Centenary Committee (30, St. James's Road).
" 19.—2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union Bring-and-Buy Sale (W).
8 p.m. Historical Society (W).
" 25.—8 p.m. Young Wives' Group: Service in Church followed by Reception at Wayside.
- Oct. 2.—2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union. Speaker: Mrs. Warner (W).
" 3.—7.15 p.m. Harvest Thanksgiving Service in Church, followed by Supper in the Hall.
" 6.—Continuation of Harvest Festival.
11 a.m. Family Service, other services as usual.
" 10.—8 p.m. Film of Coventry Cathedral (Hall).

The Editorial Board will meet on Tuesday, September 10, to prepare the October issue for the press, and all copy should be sent not later than the evening before.

Confirmation Classes resume as follows:

Sunday Junior Class, September 15, 9.45 a.m.

Class "A," Tuesday, September 24, 8 p.m.

Class "B," Friday, September 20, 6 p.m.

Adult Group, Thursday, September 5, 8 p.m.

Sunday Schools. The Junior and Senior sections will start again at 9.45 a.m. on September 15, in church. The Infants' Department will also re-open on the same day and at the same time, but until further notice it will be held at 63, Park Road (not Wayside). Arrangements about the Rectory Sunday School will be announced later.

Week-day Services. As explained in "Vicar's Notes," these may have to be cancelled, except when special arrangements are made, until further notice. It may be possible for some to be transferred to Wayside.

BAPTISMS

- July 28.—Christerper John Bridges, 71, Uxbridge Road.
,, 28.—Timothy John Dent, 62, Windmill Road.
,, 28.—Kay Belinda Guest, 10, Longford Close.
,, 28.—Joanne Mary Nixon, 84, Park Road.
,, 28.—Mark Anthony Passmore, 2, Victor Road, Teddington.
,, 28.—Graeme John Ross, 3, Cranmer Court.
,, 28.—Kim Lorraine Taylor, 115, Uxbridge Road.
,, 28.—Philip John Ward, 229, Hanworth Road.
Aug. 4.—Timothy Andrew James Mould, 29, St. James's Road.

MARRIAGE

- July 27.—John Stanley Tunstall to Pauline Elizabeth Mackay.

BURIALS

- July 30.—Walter Manly, 14, Queens Road, aged 77 years (at Fulham New Cemetery, North Sheen).
Aug. 6.—Edith Esther Lovelock, 120b, High Street, Teddington and 3, St. James's Avenue, aged 84 years (at Teddington Cemetery).

ALTERATIONS TO STANDING MATTER

Secretary of Parochial Church Council:

Miss P. M. Stanley, 41, St. James's Avenue.

Tel.: Molesey 4917.

Deanery Wel-care Worker:

Miss D. M. Kemp, 15, Bulstrode Road, Hounslow.

Tel.: HOU. 3594.

Churchyard Guardians:

Mr. R. M. Brooks, 10, Links View Road.

Tel.: TED. 2593.

Mr. D. W. K. Leatherdale, 18, St. James's Road.

Tel.: Molesey 6999.

The new telephone number of Mr. D. House, Garden Contractor, is TWI. Green 1123.