

VICAR'S NOTES

As I look through old parish magazines from time to time, and read the essays of the members of our History Society as they are prepared for the printer, I am struck by the fact that some problems which engaged a great deal of people's time and energy in past years hardly cause us a moment's thought to-day. For instance, year after year for many years a real battle was waged in this parish—as in many others—against “the great enemy Drink, and the evils of intemperance.” We smile to-day at the passion and ardour of these doughty fighters and the crusading songs they sang, and think that perhaps they got things rather out of proportion—anyhow, this problem has long ago been settled. And yet, when we consider the number of accidents on the road, and the crimes of all kinds, in which alcohol plays a part, as well as the big increase of the disease of alcoholism itself, we may well have second thoughts.

But there are problems which caused concern 90 years ago and still cause concern to-day. One local problem which evidently has always been with us and never been satisfactorily solved is the constant misuse of the churchyard. An impassioned piece of Victorian prose in the parish magazine for May 1888 speaks of the way in which the rising generation treats “God's acre.” “Trampling over the well-kept graves, breaking of the shrubs and thefts of flowers are frequent; in the church, the destruction of books, obliteration of pew cards, and disarrangement of the furniture seems to be as a matter of course. Where so many parents show their contempt for the services of God's House by, month after month, and year after year, turning their backs upon them, it is, perhaps, not to be wondered at that the children should behave in this way. We wish any words we could utter would induce such parents to show a better example. Perhaps if they are plainly told how their example bears fruit, they may be induced to consider the matter.”

Two years later, things had got so bad that the Vicar had to speak out again. “Attention has been called from time to time to the acts of wanton mischief and theft of flowers, by which our churchyard has been disgraced, and the feelings of many have been distressed by the want of respect shown to the dead. The churchwardens are doing their utmost to put an end to the desecration of God's acre, and have offered a substantial reward of £5 to anyone who shall give such information as shall bring any offender to justice and secure their punishment according to law. May we take the opportunity of asking the co-operation of all parishioners, and ask them to consider themselves the guardians of the sacredness of their churchyard, and to give immediate information if they observe anything amiss.”

We might not word matters in exactly the same terms to-day, but each year, to a greater or less extent, the same things still occur. In a sense it is a comfort to know that in the supposedly godly Victorian era, when parents were accounted to be able to control their children better than we can to-day, exactly the same things happened as happen now. And of course, it is not only children who do them, but also adults acting in childish (or worse) ways.

Members of our church who went to the Lee Abbey Training Weekend in February, were inspired and helped by it. There is another

one entitled "What the Church Believes" at High Leigh from November 20 to 22, and I hope that many more will be able to go this time — the cost is £2-17-0. I have leaflets and application forms.

LAMENT FOR BOANERGES*

Next time we travel to Windsor or Staines
It will be by buses or by trains.
It's sad — no longer can we date
Our wooden, water-loving mate.
For the trouble with our boat
Was that it wouldn't stay afloat.
Supporting twenty people's weight
Hastened its inevitable fate.
It loved the river-bank to an incredible extent
Which was witnessed by so many a dent.
Still, the fishermen can now afford to smile —
Their rods will not be removed a-half-a-mile.
So please, when in the Thames some rotten wood emerges
Don't throw a stone at it, it might be part of Boanerges.

J W.

(*The Y.P.F's. boat—Ed.)

THE HARVEST SUPPER will be held on Thursday, October 1, in the Parish Hall, School Road (after the Church Service) at approximately 8.30 p.m. Admission will be by ticket only — 4/6 inclusive — obtainable from the Vicar, Mr. G. I. Robinson or any member of the Social Committee. Please apply early, as numbers are limited.

A DATE TO RESERVE IN YOUR DIARY. The Bonfire Party will take place at Laurel Dene on Thursday, November 5, commencing at 7.15 p.m. prompt. Here again admission will be by ticket only at 2/6 each (including the usual sustenance!) and application should be made to members of the Social Committee. **MORE FIREWORKS THAN EVER!**

BY WAY OF SAYING THANK YOU

Perhaps only a few of us have been privileged to really know Matron Davey, although she has been with us for 21 years. She came to Laurel Dene from West Middlesex Hospital, where in fact she had done her training — she came for two years and stayed 21 and still we (and no doubt the Middlesex County Council) would like to keep her. However she is to take a well earned holiday and then live with her sister in Newcastle-upon-Tyne where, without doubt, she will find more good works to do.

Miss Davey (born in Yorkshire) has been closely associated with the Church all the time and I believe gained permission for St. James's to hold its first garden fete in the beautiful grounds of Laurel Dene in 1945, and a date in July was reserved every year for that function. The willing help she gave was unstinting — her object was always to help others — her purpose two-fold, to help the Church and to provide pleasure for her residents. In her work over the years she must at times have felt very weary but never too tired to help the Church workers with catering, both at Laurel Dene and at the Hall for Harvest Suppers and other social events. She has supplied the flowers for the Church

for a month each year — in fact one could go on and on and then omit some of the many ways she has helped individuals and the church.

During her years at Laurel Dene the number of patients has increased from 41 to 73, new buildings have been erected and recently a really splendid corridor between the old and new buildings incorporating a sun lounge and terrace where the guests may sit and enjoy the view of the pleasant grounds, where Matron's love of flowers is apparent — this is also shown in the lovely floral decorations which give much pleasure inside. The decorations for Christmas have to be seen to be believed!

The local Old People's Welfare Association has always been able to rely on Miss Davey's help and co-operation when they have held Summer functions there. Many years ago when our Y.P.F. was started the young people were encouraged to go to Laurel Dene on a Sunday evening to lead a short service for the residents — this is continued once a month now.

It is indeed "sad parting" when a friend such as Matron has to leave us, but we are assured that she will come and see us from time to time — and we very sincerely wish her every good fortune, good health and happiness — and say a really big THANK YOU.

D.W.

PERSONALIA

We are sorry to learn that Mr. Robert Bridson, one of our regular communicants, has had to leave the district owing to failing health and go into a nursing-home to be looked after.

Heather Gostling is now settling down in the Cheshire County Training College at Crewe as she begins her preparation for teaching.

A few weeks ago Dr. Rodney Bishop escorted his sister into church for her wedding to a former fellow-student at Keele, John Kane, who has been teaching classics for a year. As we go to press we are very happy to hear of his own engagement to Ann Swindale, and send them both our sincere congratulations and felicitations. Ann has still another year at university before taking her finals in Social Science, and Rodney is now thinking that his vocation and ministry may find expression in the life and work of a G.P., in close contact with people in their various needs, rather than in concentrating on surgery.

And while we are talking about weddings — Seymour Harris and Dawn Berry will most likely be beginning their honeymoon when this magazine appears. Their marriage is to be on Saturday, September 26, at All Saints', Twickenham, and they will make their home on the Rivermeads estate, just across the golf-course, so they will not have too far to come to continue the vigorous part they play in our parish life and activities.

A HOLIDAY IN GERMANY

It was thought you might be interested to have the impressions of a family holidaying in Germany. On one of the many lovely summer days we have had this year we set off in a small car and crossed from Dover to Dunkerque — an odd twist of fate that this was the only route available — Dunkerque will always be a name to live in the memory of those of us old enough to remember. We found docking there was quite a performance and took about half-an-hour — locks being used, etc.

We immediately went into Belgium and proceeded to Liege (with one overnight stop) and so across the border into Germany and Aachen. One was faced with the different road signs and appreciated the much improved state of the roads. Due to pressure from the younger members of the family we had done a longer stint than usual to get into Germany and we arrived in the centre of the town at about 8 p.m. We asked some young German students where we could park and where the hotels were — we were immediately taken in hand and fixed up in a very pleasant modest hotel — then escorted to a typically German restaurant (we were starving), and after a really generous meal at a reasonable price we were returned to the hotel and “ auf Wiedersehens ” said. So we had a good start.

We visited Cologne with its famous cathedral, not noticeably damaged — the temperature was in the 80's so we drove by the Rhine southwards making for Konigswinter, across the River from Bonn. It was Saturday and we found that we had made for a Rhine resort, a little like Brighton on a Saturday night, with all hotels full — however this turned to our advantage because we were directed to a private house in a village up in the hills where we settled in for a few days, and were met with friendliness and a very warm welcome. From here we took a steamer trip down the Rhine seeing the fairy-tale castles and pretty riverside resorts. It may not be known that these resorts are developed rather like our seaside, with excellent swimming pools, boating facilities, beer gardens, shops, cafes, etc. We found everyone very kind and helpful — in particular waiting staff and shopkeepers.

When we reluctantly had to move on we made our way to the banks of the Moselle where one is immediately struck by the hills covered with vines for miles and miles, laden with grapes not yet ripe — they grow right down to the roadside and as high as the eye can see. In every village you have the wine bars where you may have a glass of wine or buy a “ Flasche ” to take away to have with your picnic lunch at very small cost. After a one night stop we moved on to Berncastel — the connoisseurs will recognise this name as a famous one to Moselle wine drinkers — this is a very attractive place with a famous ancient square (cameras clicked incessantly here). This was our last stop in Germany and we easily found very comfortable bed and breakfast accommodation at reasonable cost for a few days.

We then headed for home, via Luxembourg, to Ostend, and only then booked our return passage to Dover which gave us this last day on the sandy Belgian beaches.

One item that may be of particular interest is that “ money-wise ” it is a shock to come back to Belgium and French francs after the German mark — our £ bought us more in Germany.

D.W.

HAMPTON HILL OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE COMMITTEE

The Committee have recently held two most successful events to round off a year of hard work. The first was a most enjoyable Garden Tea Party held in the grounds of Laurel Dene in warm sunny weather. All the residents of Laurel Dene were invited to take tea with the usual number of folk from Hampton Hill, and a most happy occasion resulted. The entertainment was provided by Max Castelli's Accordion

Band, and everyone agreed that the whole afternoon was a great success. Matron was warmly thanked for all she has done for us on this and many other occasions, and wished happiness for her well-earned rest from work with a gift from the committee.

Only a week later the same hard-working folk held a Fete in the playground at Windmill Road School. On this occasion the weather was once again most kind, with the result that a clear profit of £60 was made. Stalls were manned by the old folk and committee members, under the experienced and hard-working chairman of the Entertainments Committee Mr. A. Cook. The Dog Show was a very popular event — much more so than the Baby Show, but nevertheless the babies were a real credit, especially Donna Walker, Anthony Garrod, Lucy Bellars, Stuart McDermott and Philip Lee, who were the winners. There were ten classes in the Dog Show, but space is too short to mention all the doggy winners. Once again the committee were well pleased with all the hard work put in by those who helped in any way, and hope to put the money to good use for the older folk amongst us.

The next event is the Party to be held on October 24, in the Hall in School Road. Any new helpers to swell the ranks of the faithful few? Please call at 17, St. James's Road or Phone Mol. 6880.

Thank you!

J. STOPS,

Hon. Sec. H.H.O.P.W.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

- Oct. 1.—7.15 p.m. HARVEST THANKSGIVING EVENSONG:
Preacher—The Rural Dean, the Reverend Francis Bale;
8.30 p.m. Harvest Supper and Entertainment at the Hall:
Admission by ticket only 4/6.
- .. 4.—19th Sunday after Trinity—Continuation of HARVEST
FESTIVAL: Holy Communion at 8 a.m. and 12.10 p.m.;
PARISH COMMUNION 9.30 a.m.; Breakfast at 10.40 a.m.;
no Sunday Schools; FAMILY HARVEST THANKS-
GIVING SERVICE 11 a.m.; Holy Baptism 12.40 p.m.;
Evensong 6.30 p.m.
- .. 6.—10.30 a.m. Editorial Board (52, Park Road).
- .. 8.—8.15 p.m. Centenary Committee (30, St. James's Road).
- .. 11.—20th Sunday after Trinity: Holy Communion at 8 a.m.;
Matins 8.40 a.m.; PARISH COMMUNION 9.30 a.m.;
Infants' Sunday School 9.45 a.m. (W); Parish Breakfast 10.40
a.m. (W); Junior and Senior Sunday School 11 a.m. (in
church); Rectory Sunday School 2.30 p.m. (in Rectory
School); Evensong 6.30 p.m.; Y.P.F. 7.45 p.m. (W).
- .. 12.—8 p.m. Ruri-decanal Conference at St. Mary's Hall, Twicken-
ham: Speaker—Leslie Paul, Esq. (author of the famous
report: "The Deployment and Payment of the Clergy").
- .. 13.—8 p.m. Young Wives' Group: Speaker—Mrs. Scott-Joynt:
"Music and Worship" (W).
- .. 14.—7 p.m. London Diocesan Overseas Missionary Festival
Service in St. Paul's Cathedral; Preacher—The Bishop of
London: "Mutual Responsibility and the Diocese of
London."
- .. 15.—2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union; Speaker—Mrs. Brown: "Pattern
for Living" (W).

- „ 17.—2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union and Young Wives' Group: Jumble Sale (Hall).
- „ 18.—St. Luke: Sunday services and other arrangements as on October 11.
- „ 19.—8 p.m. Annual Meeting of Hampton Council of Churches (Congregational Church); 8 p.m. B.-P. Guild: Films of the Antarctic (Hall).
- „ 24.—B.-P. Guild: County Gathering.
- „ 25.—22nd Sunday after Trinity: Sunday services and other arrangements as on October 11, with the addition of Holy Baptism at 4 p.m. (N.B. No Parade Service — next one on November 22 at 11 a.m.).
- „ 27.—Mothers' Union: Quiet Morning in Hampton Court Chapel, conducted by Prebendary W. G. Cameron.
- „ 28.—St. Simon and St. Jude: Holy Communion at 9 a.m.; 8 p.m. Young Wives' Group: Demonstration of Floral Arrangements (W).
- „ 29.—8 p.m. Church Council (W).
- „ 31.—7.30 p.m. Presentation of Haydn's "The Creation" by the Hampton Philharmonic Society (in church).
- Nov. 1.—All Saints' Day: Sunday services and other arrangements as on October 11, with the addition of Holy Communion at 12.10 p.m.
- „ 4.—2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union: Discussion on the subject of the talk by Mrs. Brown last month.
- „ 5.—7.15 p.m. Parish Bonfire and Fireworks Party (Laurel Dene: admission by ticket only).
- „ 20.—22: Lee Abbey Training Weekend at High Leigh.

BAPTISMS

- Aug. 23.—Duncan Peter and Vanessa Jane Adam, 78, Wellington Road.
- „ 23.—Leslie Ronald Foreman, 115, Uxbridge Road.
- „ 23.—Jacqueline Zoe Elizabeth Glazier, 47, Wolsey Road.
- „ 23.—Ashley Ann Rowell, 15, Winifred Road.
- „ 23.—Susan Jane Small, 38, Ringwood Way.

MARRIAGES

- Aug. 29.—Martin Edward John Curzon to Jennifer Anne Hall.
- „ 29.—Francis Diani to Jean Carol Ison.

BURIALS AND CREMATIONS

- Aug. 29.—Sarah Ethel Hilda Brewer, Roseacre, Priorsfield Road, Godalming, aged 83 years (interment of ashes).
- Sept. 2.—William Taylor, 34, Seymour Road, aged 76 years (at Teddington Cemetery).
- „ 8.—Albert William Christie, 20, Seymour Road, aged 67 years.
- „ 10.—Maud Weatherhill, 99, Burton's Road, aged 63 years (at S.W. Middlesex Crematorium).