

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP ANNUAL REVIEW

Nearly a hundred people turned out on the evening of November 17—a chilly, blustering and damp one—abandoning, for a time at least, their various other activities to attend our Fifth Annual Review and to give some thought to how they had acted, and should act, as stewards of all the possessions, time and talents which God had entrusted to them.

After being welcomed at the Hall by the Vicar and his wife and Mr. Melville, our Chairman, we were soon intrigued by a number of charts prepared by Mr. Jackson. These showed how Stewardship is organised in the parish, and illustrated vividly the finances of the Church of England as a whole and of the parish in particular and what changes could be expected in the next few years.

The first speaker to be introduced by Mr. Melville, after we had enjoyed a splendid buffet supper, was our Recorder, Mr. Rockliffe, who reported on the pledged giving on which so much depends. In the nine months of the present cycle, some £1,600 had been contributed—about £300 below the amount promised and nearly £200 less than the amount given in the same period of the previous year. On a more cheerful note, Mr. Rockliffe told us that, as a result of covenanted promises, over £550 tax had been recovered in respect of the last tax year—more than double the previous year's figure.

Mr. Jackson, with the aid of his charts, then explained what we did with our money and forecast how much is likely to be available up to 1970. The balance between income and the day-to-day costs of keeping the church going, which was around £2000 in 1963, was now down to £1300, and, unless our income rose with the cost of living, could fall to £800 by 1970. After allowing for small repairs, it seemed that between now and 1970 a **total** of £1,500—£3000 might be available for special projects. During the last five years much had been spent on major repair work: should we now spend what is available on our own church—that would be easy enough—or should we share what we have much more with those in physical and spiritual need throughout the world? We, as a church, already gave away about £300 a year, but was that really sufficient?

One of the organisations we do contribute to is Wel-care, which was Mrs. Gilder's subject. She told us of the excellent work being done by Miss Kemp, the Deanery worker, amongst unmarried mothers and fathers, and of the rising costs (including the new Selective Employment Tax) of providing this service. The Deanery was soon to take in Hammersmith and Chiswick (a bed-sitter area with special problems) together with a home for girls in moral danger, and there was to be a second case-worker. There was, however, to be greater cooperation with other Deaneries and more involvement of other denominations and legislation, now under consideration, would establish a state case-worker service for the unmarried mother with which Wel-care would cooperate. In the meantime, we could help by continuing our financial support and by giving baby clothes, prams, etc.—and we should never miss an opportunity to befriend any lonely young person.

Helping with Wel-care is one of the other activities of our parishioners to which I have referred—and there are many others as Mrs. Orton, our Assistant Recorder, told us when she spoke about our new Time and Talents scheme. Some 600 offers had been received from around 200 families to help in many different ways with the running of the church and in the community generally. She had been interested to learn that over 50 people had already been giving time regularly to visiting hospitals and the Star and Garter Home, caring for children, providing Meals on Wheels and helping many other good causes such as Christian Aid. It was especially pleasing to see what useful work was being done by the younger participants—some of whom were helping the many older ones concerned in the running of the review itself. Mrs. Orton went on to warn against complacency. She reminded us of our promise “to offer a worthy proportion of our time in Worship, Prayer and Study” and appealed to us to fight all that is bad and dangerous, and to let the light of our belief shine forth.

Stewardship, the Vicar said in the concluding speech, was to him—as to us all—a continuing personal challenge to get priorities right. To the parish, it was a great stimulus to growth and enthusiasm. The parish had become more alive and had a new sense of purpose. Stewardship brought to light and life new resources of every kind so that more and more of the things that ought to be done could be done. It created an atmosphere of hope and exhilaration and opened up an era of expansion which would never otherwise have been possible.

When the time came to go, after another cup of coffee, we left for home, encouraged by what was being done but also mindful of the issues to be faced in the coming years. R.E.B.

BONFIRE NIGHT

The gloom cast by the weather forecast perceptibly lightened as dusk approached and the promised rain held off. So we arrived—all 200 of us—at Laurel Dene, in a mood of happy expectation which was more than fulfilled.

The children with their sparklers provided a prelude to the magnificent display which followed. Roman candles, cascades, catherine wheels and rockets in a seemingly never-ending kaleidoscope brought involuntary gasps of admiration from the adults as well as the children.

Finally, the set piece bathed everything in brilliant light and only as it finished did we realise that the rain had come, but this was soon forgotten as we stood before the bonfire, soup cup in one hand and baked potato in the other.

Our sincere thanks are due to all those who gave their time and energy to setting up and running the display, in preparing food and washing up, and to Laurel Dene having once again extended to us the hospitality of their grounds. We hope they enjoyed the evening as much as we did. J.B.

HALLOWE'EN DANCE

This evening at the Hall again showed us the great popularity of these events in the social calendar. The Hall was extremely well filled and the time, apart from being carefully kept by the Max Castelli Trio, who provided the music for dancing, passed only too quickly. Its motion was carefully assisted by Messrs. Severn, Gostling, Young and Heaford, who spared no dry glasses in the service of liquid catering, ably assisted by Master Young, who dispensed tickets with equal effect. The refreshments disappeared with such alacrity that I am unable to comment, but obviously they were first rate. Certainly the evening was.

A.D.W.

THE BOOKSTALL

From time to time there will be appearing on the bookstall a series of paperbacks published by Fontana. These books are very modestly priced and as their sale is by way of an experiment our whole-hearted co-operation is requested by the publishers.

The first two are now available—one is entitled "The Prayers of Peter Marshall," priced 3/6d., and as well as prayers for special occasions such as Easter, Mother's Day, etc., it contains prayers for more specific happenings "The estrangement of a friend" for example. As Peter Marshall was an American some of the prayer requests may sound strange to us, e.g. a prayer for Lincoln's birthday, nevertheless there is plenty here to attract.

The other is by the well-known author William Barclay and is called "Prayers for young people," price 2/6d. This contains straightforward prayers for each week throughout the year, one for morning and one for evening, and can be recommended for use by young people who may have difficulty in forming their own prayers adequately, and indeed for adults who may also find this a problem.

A REMINDER — it would be a great help if purchasers of books would, when putting their money into the place provided, also put in the small ticket to be found on the inside cover, otherwise it is difficult to know which book has been sold — thank you!

H.T.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE — FORWARD EVENTS

CHRISTMAS. The Social Committee are arranging a party of Carol Singers to tour the Parish just before Christmas, and spread the Christmas spirit with a few well-known Carols. To save parishioners' ears Mr. Dafforne will hold a couple of rehearsals beforehand. (It does help to know the words — and the tune). Full details will be given on the notice boards in December. Roll up and sing.

NEW YEAR. The New Year Party will be held on Saturday, January 7, commencing 7.45 p.m., in the Parish Hall. As before Fancy Dress will be optional, and the theme is "International". Come dressed as a visitor from a foreign land, or, if this is not possible, as a native of Great Britain; but do come and enjoy yourself. Games, dancing and jollification will be the order of the evening, with all refreshments thrown in, for the knockout price of 4/6d. per ticket. Numbers will be limited by the size of the Hall, so please apply early to members of the Social Committee to avoid disappointment. R.M.B.

THE MOTHERS' UNION

Our members are very grateful to Miss Doris Pryor of Sydney, New South Wales, who came to the rescue when the Deanery President was unable to talk to the Branch this month because she had lost her voice. Mrs. Brown now plans to visit us on the first Thursday in May, 1967.

Miss Pryor spoke about life in Australia, and drew a vivid picture of conditions there, and answered the many questions put to her. We all wish her a pleasant voyage home at the end of November, incidentally she is travelling on the same ship as Audrey Hunt (née Childs), and her family, sailed last November.

This month we have received two letters from our Link in Ife, it is nearly two years ago since we last had news. May the Christmas Festival be a very happy time for all our members. I.V.R.

THE YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

On October 26, we had a talk by Mr. Jelley, from a Teddington antique shop, on Antique Glass. Mr. Jelley concentrated on antique drinking glasses and had brought with him quite a large selection from his own private collection, telling us that this was one of his hobbies and that he does not sell such glasses in his shop. He spoke to us about the history of glass and its making, and how various styles and shapes of drinking glass came into being. It was a very informative and interesting talk.

On November 9, we took over the Hall for our Fashion Show. This was very well attended and we all thoroughly enjoyed seeing some of our members modelling a variety of fashions. We are very grateful to Kempthornes of Richmond for their help and co-operation in making this evening possible, and they have shown very effectively how they can suitably dress almost any woman, irrespective of age or size. I should also like to thank our models who managed to look quite professional, and appear so cool and collected despite the rush and bustle behind the scenes.

The Fashion Show was followed by a talk on cosmetics by a local Avon representative, Mrs. McQueen, and the Hall must have smelt like a flower garden after we had all sampled various perfumes, colognes, lotions and creams.

Will you please make a note in your programmes or diaries that the date of the Children's Party has been changed to Friday, January 6? Tickets will shortly be available from committee members.

J.B.

THE HAMPTON HILL OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE COMMITTEE

held their A.G.M. on Thursday, October 27, when the President, Mrs. L. Mills, welcomed old friends from neighbouring associations together with those who had shown great interest in the work of the Committee.

The report and accounts revealed a good year for the old folk with parties, outings and the annual summer holiday, but there was still the urgent need for more help and support if future work was to be successful as the "family" had now grown to 350.

Mr. R. Cook (chairman) appreciated the present survey being carried out by Hampton Grammar School's Social Services to find the elderly and the handicapped in the area.

Mr. J. D. Elliott, Chief Welfare Officer for the Borough of Richmond, gave a very interesting talk on the work of his department and said he was concerned at the reluctance of old people to seek advice and the help offered by the Welfare Service.

Mrs. Newman of 172, Uxbridge Road will be pleased to receive any odd balls of wool for our old ladies who like knitting and do such a lot for various sales of work. We find difficulty in getting sufficient oddments and the ladies like to feel that they are doing something useful.

L.M.

MUSIC FOR PASSION WEEK

Singers to augment the choir are invited to attend the first practice on Friday, November 18, and subsequent Fridays at 8.15 p.m. in the vestry.

It is planned to commemorate Passion Week next year by the singing of Handel's "Lenten Cantata," being extracts from the composer's "The Passion of Christ" and "The Messiah." Although a comparatively short work (about 35 minutes) the music will demand an exacting approach if a meaningful interpretation is to be presented.

By commencing practices earlier it should be possible to gain a good knowledge of the music before Christmas, and continue later in January to concentrate on expression.

R.J.C.D.

THE HAMPTON JUNIOR COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

This Council is arranging for an evening on "Feed the Minds" at the Congregational Church Hall after evening Services on Sunday, December 4. There will be a talk by an expert, a film-strip, and discussion. As a result of this meeting it is hoped to form inter-church groups and working parties which will do their best to raise funds for the Campaign in as many ways as possible during the Christmas holidays.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

- Dec. 1.—8.0 p.m. Drama Group (40, Gloucester Road).
.. 4.—7.45 p.m. Hampton Junior Council of Churches: "Feed the Minds" (Congregational Church Hall).
.. 5.—8.15 p.m. Properties Committee (37, St. James's Road).
.. 7.—2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union: Mr. Gilder—'The Prison Service.' (W).
.. 9.—10.30 a.m. Editorial Board (52, Park Road).
.. 11.—DEDICATION FESTIVAL. 9.30 a.m. Confirmation and Parish Communion.
.. 18.—5.15 p.m. Y.P.F. lead service at Laurel Dene.
.. 21.—St. Thomas: Holy Communion at 9.0 a.m.
.. 24.—CHRISTMAS EVE: 6.15 p.m. Carol Service at Laurel Dene; 11.45 p.m. Midnight Eucharist.
.. 25.—CHRISTMAS DAY: 8.0 a.m. Holy Communion; 9.30 a.m. Parish & Family Communion; 10.35 a.m. Parish Breakfast (W); 12.0 noon Holy Communion; 6.30 p.m. Festival Service of Lessons and Carols.
.. 26.—St. Stephen: Holy Communion at 9.30 a.m.
.. 27.—St. John: Holy Communion at 9.30 a.m.
.. 28.—Holy Innocents: Holy Communion at 9.30 a.m.
Jan. 1.—The Circumcision (New Year's Day); Sunday Services as usual. 11.15 a.m. Combined Sunday Schools and Children's Service: Nativity Tableaux.

BAPTISMS

At the Parish Communion on November 6:

Eleanor Janet Robinson, 42, Station Road, Hampton.
Ruth Elizabeth Taylor, 90, Ormond Drive, Hampton.

BURIAL

Nov. 21.—Olive Eugenie Mackay, 3, Orleans Court, Seymour Gardens, Twickenham, aged 86 years.