

HOW STANDS OUR EASTER FAITH TO-DAY?

For some it no longer exists. Easter to them may still remain as a lovely spring-time fairy tale, but it no longer has any relevance in a world whose God, as increasing voices declare, is either absent or dead.

If any of us feel inclined to yield to this pessimism, we would do well to read what a very old and very wise man has to say. Professor S. H. Hooke, who lived in Twickenham until a few years ago, was well-known amongst us as a profound scholar always ready to make his knowledge available for ordinary simple people. He is now aged ninety-three, and tells us: "Now, at the end of a very long life . . . I have felt strongly moved to examine where I stand, and to discover if possible, in the light of a lifetime's experience, how much of the traditional Christian hope holds good for me as I confront the time of my departure." The result is a great book on the Resurrection, looked at from many angles, and coming solidly down on the side of faith and hope. Hope for the individual, caught up in a Godward movement, with the expectation that the working of the life of new creation will have its consummation in so transforming his mortal body into the likeness of the risen Christ, that he will, at death, be with Christ and be able to see him as he is. Hope for the Church — hope for the world: "Nor will divine love be satisfied until the whole creation which, as Paul says, now groans under the bondage of corruption, is caught up into the Godward movement of this hope, and brought to share the glorious liberty of the children of God."

May our own faith be deepened and renewed this Eastertide. A happy Easter to you all!

Christ is risen — He is risen indeed!

IN MEMORIAM — AMY ELIZABETH LUSH

(Continued)

It was during this period of intense work and study that Amy had to make up her mind about marriage. A young man of whom she was very fond pressed her to marry him, but on condition that she gave up her career and became a full-time housewife. She finally made up her mind and refused his proposal, for two main reasons. First, she was determined to be as fully trained for her work as was possible, and she did not want to be left a widow unable to earn her own living. Second, she felt under deep obligation to her mother, who had sacrificed so much to see her through these years of preparation. There were few or no grants in those days, and everything Amy needed—books, stationery, travelling-expenses, and so on—had to be paid for by her parents. Miss Lush reckoned that the financial cost of her training to her mother was over £200. Mrs. Lush was always of delicate health — for years the doctor's bills were never less than £20 a quarter — and her daughter also felt that claims on her help and time would go on steadily increasing as time went by. It was a costly decision for the young girl at the time, but looking back on it from her old age, Miss Lush had no doubt that what she did was both wise and right. The young man in question was killed not many years later in the Battle of the Somme.

For a long time as a teacher, Miss Lush was concerned mainly with standards 2 and 3 (girls of 8 and 9 years of age). She never had less than 48 children in a class, and was often in charge of three classes

in one room. When the move came to the new school in Windmill Road, Miss Lush, much to the head master's astonishment, asked to be transferred to the infants' department. She had been preparing for some time for this change with her usual thoroughness, attending special courses in the latest methods of teaching younger children, and travelling to London in the evenings to hear experts in this field lecture. She told me that she had been anxious to know what happened to children before they came to her: often they were terribly bewildered and took a long time to settle down. She felt that there was a gulf between the two departments, and she wanted to help to bridge it. And so until she retired in 1945 (a year early because of increasing health difficulties) she taught the top class of infants, doing all she could (and it was a great deal) to make the transition to the bigger school natural and easy for them.

As well as her careful and conscientious teaching, which won the respect of all her pupils and made life-long friends of many of them, Miss Lush had many other interests in life. She was very fond of music, and did much to encourage it at school; she also belonged to various choral societies. When she was in her early thirties, she learnt to play the organ, and then became deputy-organist here for 17 years. She also did what many day-school teachers refuse on principle to do, and taught regularly in Sunday School, being superintendent of the girls' department from 1915 to 1924. She would have liked to travel, having a keen interest in other countries and in world-affairs, but she went abroad only once, to Italy, a holiday of which every incident was vividly remembered. But she had such a bad time on the homeward journey and arrived home so tired and ill that her mother was very upset and made her promise that she would never cross the channel again — and she never did.

Her activities became increasingly curtailed as her parents became more and more dependent upon her. Her father had a bad accident near Twickenham Green as a result of the carelessness of a workmate, and though he seemingly got over it and carried on at work till he was 70, he was then a complete invalid for the last eleven years of his life, and his wife for even longer. So this was Miss Lush's routine for this period: up every day at 5.30 a.m. to do the housework and get her parents settled for the day; back again at lunch-time to see that all was well and give them a meal—and sometimes popping in between classes when they were less well than usual; more house-work and nursing in the evening; never in bed before 11.0 p.m.; regularly up at 1.30 a.m. to get her mother a cup of tea, and always ready for any more calls in the night if needed; and a full day's teaching of a large class on top of this, with all the work and preparation involved. But never for a moment did she waste any time on self-pity — she felt fortunate in having such a happy home and such good parents, and was thankful that God gave her the strength to look after them — which she did most devotedly until they died within three weeks of each other at the end of 1935.

As the first years of her life had been a struggle against ill-health, so the last twenty saw another battle far more severe, which she waged with great valour and a refusal to be defeated. Her influence on those whom she had taught and on her colleagues was very great, and when advice of any sort was wanted, she always found time, she was always available. She kept in touch with a large number of people all over the

world right to the last, though correspondence was becoming increasingly difficult for her — it may well be that over a hundred of her friends received their usual cheerful and newsy Christmas letter from her, not knowing as they read it that she had died peacefully in her chair.

Much more could be said of the life of this remarkable and deeply-Christian woman, and the spirit in which she lived it. All who knew her must thank God for the privilege and pray that the good of her example and the inspiration of her life may long be preserved among us.

THE MOTHERS' UNION

Our congratulations are offered to Mrs. Button, our oldest member, who recently celebrated her 91st birthday.

We met twice last month. On February 1, Mrs. Lewis kindly entertained us, and Mrs. Bowes-Cavanagh spoke eloquently about "Life in Ceylon," illustrating her talk with photographs and beautiful examples of native craftsmanship. On Ash Wednesday the Vicar conducted a service of preparation for Lent and talked on the real meaning of "Fasting."

Our Overseas Representative, Mrs. Edmonds, attended a big Diocesan meeting last month and was much impressed by what is done in many branches for Overseas work. In 1968 there will be a World-wide Conference in London so the usual Overseas Sale will not be held. Because of this we have all been asked to make much bigger efforts in Branches and Deaneries to make this year's total a bumper one. To achieve this in St. James' Branch your committee plans to hold a Sale on the last Saturday in October more details later, but meanwhile please book the date.

An "Austerity Lunch" will be served by M.U. members from 12.30 until 2 p.m. on Wednesday, March 22. Soup, bread, cheese and coffee will be available in Wayside. Make a note of the date, bring as many of your friends as possible, we want to raise an even larger sum for Christian Aid than we did last Year. I.V.R.

THE YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

Because of a rearrangement in our programme we held the Film Night in January. We are very grateful to Mr. Post for coming along and operating the projector for us, and to B.P. Film Library for letting us borrow a selection of interesting and colourful films.

Our February meeting was replaced by an outing to Richmond Theatre to see "The Severed Head." There were 46 people in our party and we all enjoyed our evening out.

On March 29 there will be a Spring Clothing Exchange, so please bring along all the children's outgrown items of spring and summer wear. We have no formal programme planned for afterwards, but hope you will enjoy coffee and refreshments and the opportunity to have a leisurely chat, something which is not possible when we have a speaker. J.B.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Each year the first observance of the Women's World Day of Prayer takes place in the Tonga Islands. It was very fitting that this year's Order of Service should have been prepared by the late Queen of that Kingdom shortly before her death. From the prayers and

readings she had selected it was obvious that Queen Salote was a deeply religious woman who possessed a wide knowledge, not only of the Bible, but also of the works of early theologians.

At Hampton Hill Congregational Church on the first Friday in Lent, Mrs. Marcus Ward in the afternoon, and Mrs. MacLeary in the evening, each spoke eloquently on the chosen theme "And of His Kingdom there shall be no end." Both services were led by representatives of the Congregational, Methodist and the three Anglican Churches.

Earlier in the week a film depicting the observance of the Day of Prayer in all parts of the world was shown in the Methodist Hall, Hampton, to members of the local churches.

I.V.R.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP

There are several events to report. The Junior Council Churches' Youth Service and Barbecue held on September 24 at All Saints', Hampton was hugely enjoyed. We wish to thank the girls who served us with plenty of hot food; Peter Mortimore who again strummed his guitar to a chorus from fire-lit faces, and Alan Taylor for his generous organizing help.

Our A.G.M. was well attended. A new committee was formed: Gillian Howard, Ruth Mills and Ruth Woodhouse, Raymond Draper, Robin Hammond and Richard Melville—Trevor Atkinson stays as Committee Leader. Ann Stuart and Peter Orton have since been co-opted. Lesley Young deserves our special thanks for serving us most efficiently last year as Secretary.

For our carol-singing rounds Ruth Mills put in much hard work in co-ordinating stubborn voices. These practices were well rewarded for there were two lavish receptions (including champagne) laid on for the eager singers.

As a result of the published "Feed the Minds" J.C.C. talk by Mr. S. Boyle, the Junior Council of Churches organized a sponsored walk to Guildford with the following groups participating—Congregational, Methodist, All Sains' and St. Mary's churches, Oldfield Y.C. and our own Y.P.F. The footslog raised the encouraging total of £320, which was handed over to the Feed the Minds campaign at a special joint service at the Congregational Church on Sunday, January 22.

Two dates to note are March 11 when our Jumble sale will be held in the Parish Hall to augment our Annual Holiday Fund (this year we go to Yorkshire) and March 19, our Open Evening, to which all parents and friends are warmly invited.

R.P.M.

ANOTHER NEWCOMERS' PARTY

On Thursday, January 26, the second party to welcome newcomers to the Parish was held at Wayside. Visiting prior to the party had been done by various members of the congregation and included the new houses off Windmill Road.

About twenty newcomers were entertained with refreshments and a slide show—the slides were kindly loaned to us by Mr. March—and Mrs. Orton was our able guide around old Hampton Hill.

It is hoped to hold these parties from time to time and much depends upon the information received about new people moving into our Parish; houses and flats being built, and others "For Sale." If you know someone has just moved in, and if you can possibly find out

their name, and will kindly give the information either to the Vicar or to a member of the Stewardship Committee they will be visited as soon as possible, and eventually invited to one of these parties, enabling them to get to know each other and, as we have found, make new friends. A.T.

HAMPTON DISTRICT GUIDES

This year's District Church Parade was held in church on Sunday, February 19. We were pleased to see so many parents and friends of the Guides and Brownies joining us in our annual act of corporate worship.

The main theme of the service was that of Thinking Day — when Guides and Brownies all over the world think especially of each other. However, the Vicar, in his address guided us along other lines of right thinking as well.

This service was also an opportunity for all members of the movement in the district to renew their promise. It was a pleasure to see all the Guides and Brownies looking so smart although some of them had been soaked by the heavy rain on their way to the church. By the end of the service, however, bright sunshine appeared and a guard of honour made up of the companies' flags and Brownie pennants from the door to the gateway made an impressive exit.

A.P.S.

CHOIR

Applications are invited for the following choir vacancies:

	Age	No. of Vacancies
Boys	7 to 12	3
Girls — Sopranos	14 to 24	4
Contraltos	Any age	3
Men — Tenors	Any age	2
Basses	Any age	2

R.J.C.D.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

- Mar. 19.—PALM SUNDAY: Sunday arrangements, and distribution of palm crosses at each service, as usual. At 7.0 p.m., immediately after Evensong, an augmented choir will present a Cantata of Passion Music from the works of Handel (this will last about 35 minutes). At 8.0 p.m., the Young People's Fellowship have their annual Open Evening (W).
- .. 20-23.—Holy Communion daily on the first four days of HOLY WEEK: on Monday at 9.0 a.m., Tuesday, 7.15 a.m., Wednesday and Maundy Thursday, 7.30 p.m.
- .. 22.—12.30 p.m. - 2.0 p.m., Holy Week Austerity Lunch (W); donations for Christian Aid. 8.15 p.m., First meeting of newly-elected Parochial Church Council (W).
- .. 24.—GOOD FRIDAY: Children's Service at 10.0 a.m. The Three Hours' Devotion begins at noon — this year the theme will be the Passion of Christ according to St. Luke, and members of the congregation may find it helpful to bring their Bibles

with them. The United Service sponsored by the Hampton Council of Churches will be held at the 'triangle' at the junction of Gloucester and Wensleydale Roads at 3.30 p.m., and it is hoped that we may be able to form an informal procession of witness to this leaving St. James's at 3.10 p.m. There is also a United Service in St. Paul's Cathedral at 8.0 p.m., preceded by a procession of witness leaving Trafalgar Square at 7.0 p.m., and as many churches as possible are asked to send representatives.

- .. 25.—9.0-11.30 a.m., Decoration of the church for Easter: gifts of flowers and help in arranging them welcomed.
- .. 26.—EASTER DAY: Holy Communion at 7.0 a.m., 8.0 a.m. and 12.10 p.m.; Parish and Family Communion at 9.30 a.m.; Parish Breakfast at Wayside at 10.45 a.m.; Holy Baptism at 4.0 p.m.; Service at Laurel Dene 5.15 p.m. Evensong at 6.30 p.m.; Young People's Fellowship at 8.0 p.m. (W).
- .. 27.—7.0 a.m., Members of the Young People's Fellowship leave the church for their Easter holiday in Yorkshire.
- .. 29.—8.0 p.m., Young Wives' Group (W).
- Apr. 4.—The Annunciation: Holy Communion at 10.30 a.m.
- Apr. 5.—8.0 p.m., Film Evening—a pictorial record of parish events and outings since 1962 (W).
- .. 6.—2.30 p.m., Mothers' Union (W): Speaker—Mrs. Brown.
- .. 17.—8.0 p.m., Hampton Council of Churches; Open Meeting in preparation for Christian Aid Week, with films (Congregational Hall).
- .. 19.—8.0 p.m. Stewardship Committee and invited representatives (W).
- .. 22.—Annual Diocesan Stewardship Conference.
- .. 27.—2.30 p.m., Mothers' Union Deanery Festival Service (All Saints', Hampton).
- May 1.—SS. Philip & James: 9.0 a.m., Holy Communion: 7.30 p.m., Inter-Church Councils' and Leaders' Meeting and Social Gathering — by invitation (All Saints' Hall).
- .. 7.—After Evensong, the film "Tibetan Story" will be shown in church as preparation for Christian Aid Week.
- .. 14.—CHRISTIAN AID WEEK begins. 8.0 p.m., Commissioning of house-to-house collectors (forecourt of Methodist Church).
- .. 20.—Visit to Rochester by coach, leaving the church at 9.30 a.m., to see the Castle and Cathedral (Adults 10/-, children under 16, 7/6).
- July 8.—Tour of the London Docks.
- Sept. 15.—PARISH WEEKEND at Hildenborough Hall begins.

BAPTISMS

On February 26:

Kevin Edward McCarthy, 136, Hanworth Road.
Stuart Mitchell, 80, St. James's Avenue.

BURIAL

On February 18:

Alice Charlotte Brench, 82, Linden Road, Hampton, aged 90 years.