

VICAR'S NOTES

“Mummy, he didn't give me one!” — So an aggrieved four-year old to one of his parents at the altar-rail recently. Other children turn to the adults with them and ask why **they** should be left out. Even if they do not put it into words, many children feel strongly about this, and I sympathise. I think that they have a strong case. Why should they be passed by? We may give them a blessing as some kind of substitute, but is this good enough? Will it make them look forward eagerly to their Confirmation and the day when at long last they will be able to receive in full? Or will it have a quite different effect?

The Church must consider these matters — and we must press for this, otherwise nothing will happen in our own life-time. But things are beginning to move. The Bishop of Woolwich points out that the revolution associated with the Parish Communion is indeed causing many to think again, and he writes: “My own experience as a boy contrasted with that of my children illustrates sufficiently the change that has come over the scene. When I was confirmed I was taken by my mother the Sunday before to ‘the early service’ to see what it was like. Our own children were present at the Parish Communion virtually every Sunday of their lives from the carry-cot onwards. As they continued to come up to the altar-rail with their mother, the question became more insistent: why should they not partake, with the rest of the family of God? They were not nearly ready for Confirmation, but they were ready for Communion. ‘Mummy, it would help if I could have the bread and wine too.’ But by now the child who said this has, for the time being at any rate, lost the desire both for Communion and for Confirmation. A theology of non-communicating attendance condemned for adults is being imposed on our children with most unhappy results.” (Meeting, Membership and Ministry, page 2).

It is encouraging to read that the Congress of Evangelical Churchmen held at Keele in April pressed very strongly for recognition of the Lord's Supper as the main service of the people of God, and this not in the form of a number of small Communion services, but in that of what we should call the Parish Communion, at which the whole local church comes together at the Lord's Table. They also want the question about the admission of children which I am raising here to be gone into. They say in their Report: “We call for further theological study as to whether the age of discretion is always the right time for admission to Holy Communion. Some would want the children of Christian families to be admitted as communicants at an early age, provided that there is adequate baptismal discipline.”

What then about Confirmation? — It is interesting to note that the Roman Catholic Bishop Julton J. Sheen has taken a step forward here in his diocese of Rochester, New York, by raising the age for the reception of this sacrament from the usual 9-13 to 17-18. If we can have admission to Communion from an early age, then I think that this later age for Confirmation is much better than our present practice in many respects. So often to-day children of 13 receive their last systematic instruction in the Christian Faith, and many then try to make it last the rest of their lives — but it is a very inadequate groundwork, and so much more is needed. Preparation at the age of 18 could be much more deep and thorough: Christian doctrine and prayer, and the application of Christianity to life, could be treated at a much more adult

level, using much more adult methods, and leading to an involvement in lay ministry in the course of which training would go on from Confirmation instead of, as in so many cases to-day, ending with it. So let us do all we can to speed on these reforms, say I!

THE PARISH WEEKEND

Below you will find a booking form for the Parish weekend, which takes place the weekend commencing September 15 — as you will have already read this is being held at Hildenborough Hall, near Sevenoaks, in the Otford hills — a very luxurious house, extremely well equipped with beautifully laid out grounds, a swimming pool, and with every facility that anyone could wish for.

We can now tell you of the special arrangements for children on this weekend.

Children under 12 will be cared for at a centre specially equipped for them, this is situated about five minutes journey by car from the main conference centre.

It is anticipated that there will be a complete programme of activities and games, etc., provided by the resident staff. This centre is in course of completion, to be opened on July 1, 1967, and anyone wishing to do so is welcome to visit after that date. It is hoped that additional information will be available very soon.

Approximate charges are:

Children up to 6 years	£2 2 0
Children 6 to 12 years	£3 3 0

Please send forms and deposit to Mrs. Dawn Harris, 33, Beech Way, Twickenham, Middlesex, who will also accept small sums of money in instalments towards the final cost.

PARISH WEEKEND BOOKING FORM

Name(s)

Address

Please reserve place(s) foradultschildren (under 12) for the Parish Weekend at Hildenborough Hall on September 15, 16, 17, 1967, and I/WE would prefer:—

A room	£5 10 0
B room	£4 15 0
C room	£4 5 0
D room	£3 5 0 (reserved for people under 21)

(For details of room differences please see notice board at Wayside)
The prices are only approximate at present, and must depend on the numbers attending the weekend.

I ENCLOSE DEPOSIT (10/- per person)

Signed Date

A.T.

CHRISTIAN AID

At a meeting held at the Congregational Church Hall on the evening of April 17, Christian Aid Week helpers had a chance to see a most interesting film on how other areas tackle their collections; to have refreshment and to meet each other and to hear Mr. Brian Frost of the British Council of Churches talking on the work of the Council in this relevant field. The Council fully realised, and were working hard to make realisation general, that more and more world involvement is needed at Government levels to bring alive the necessity for the rich countries, which are mainly white, to help establish the poor countries of the world, which are mainly coloured. Not until world economy is stabilised will there be a chance for world peace. Individual Christians also must be ready to give material aid as well as prayer and Christian concern. The Archbishop of Canterbury had seen the Prime Minister last June but the "freeze" had prevented Mr. Wilson from increasing Britain's very substantial — the third highest in the world — contribution at this time. The Roman Catholic Church also, for the first time this year, is actively engaging in world-wide Christian Aid side by side with the other denominations. World Council of Churches H.Q. is in Geneva and Inter-Christian Aid is treated on a global plane. Each country participating submits four projects for consideration of the Council.

In 1963 Hampton area sent a tractor to Korea and the following year seeds and cattle; in 1965 we paid for 3 lines of pipes for a water supply to an Indian village; last year we built a house in Macedonia as part of a rebuilding scheme for a village totally demolished by earthquake.

THIS YEAR our target is £600 to support THE FERGUSON GULF FISHERY SCHEME. In the far north of Kenya, by the Lake Rudolph, live the Takarna tribe who cannot market their catch of fish because they are over two hundred miles from a railhead, roads are very poor and the climate hot. Three thousand Takarna are still in Relief Centres as a result of the failure of their former agricultural way of life because of prolonged drought, although Christian Aid has already contributed £31,000 to buy boats and to build a canning factory to help the tribe begin to be self-supporting again. Before this can be finalised twenty new boats are needed. They cost £150 each, complete with outboard engine. HAMPTON IS GIVING FOUR SUCH BOATS. Also a further £36 is needed for the second year of the five years for which we undertook to feed, clothe and educate our Nairobian ward, Joseph.

Dates to note: During Christian Aid Week, May 15-20, five local schools are mounting an open air Art Exhibition in Hampton Methodist Church Forecourt. The themes are "More Fish mean New Life," and "Boats from Hampton to North Kenya," and "Meet a World of Human Need with Christian Aid."

May 7, 6.30 p.m. Evensong at St. James's will be followed by a film "Tibetan Story" which tells of Tibetans who managed to escape to India where they are endeavouring to keep together and not to lose identity.

May 14. Open Air Service, 8.15 p.m., Methodist Church, Hampton, to commission the area helpers.

Will anyone who has helped with Christian Aid collections before, or who would like to help and has not yet been contacted, please get in touch with Mrs. Orton (979-5868) or Mrs. Warwick (979-7004)
M.O., D.E.W.

FILM EVENING AT WAYSIDE

On Wednesday evening, April 5, the Social Committee's latest brainchild was unleashed on the unsuspecting parish, a show of cine films and slides taken by parishioners at past social events and outings.

To a packed "house" Ron Bridges, our intrepid projectionist, commenced with scenes of Laurel Dene fetes in 1957 and 1960, which must have brought back many memories, especially to those who were little girls then. The films were silent but the audience was definitely not—the ten year old fashions evoked much comment, also the youthful appearance of many of those now of more mature years. Shots taken from the church spire to all points of the compass gave an excellent record of the area in 1958.

The visits to Leonards Lee gardens in 1962, to Canterbury and Coventry Cathedrals, the Barbecue—even the Bonfire Party (a little dim in the dark) evoked gasps of admiration. The "piece de resistance" was the River Trip to Henley, which could almost be described as an epic!

After refreshments the slide projector, operated by Hal Severn, with Eila giving a commentary on each slide, provided a nostalgic and, often, hilarious finish to the evening. An aerial photograph of the parish was most interesting and should be added to the church archives. Scene after scene of Harvest Supper, Victoria/Edwardian party, visits to Greenwich and Whipsnade, and Y.P.F. holidays were flashed on the screen, many faces being identified by the audience amid much comment. The presentation ended with photographs taken at the Parish Weekend in January 1966 at Stoke Poges.

The Social Committee thanks all who kindly loaned film and slides, and Ron Bridges for his work in splicing the various films into one presentation. The Committee feels that there must be more slides and films in the parish which would make another evening's entertainment, and will be pleased to hear of them.

THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES

Visit to Rochester, Saturday, May 20. The coach will leave the church at 9.30 a.m. prompt and will return by 7.30 p.m. A tour of the cathedral is being arranged, and there is a Norman castle to see. Coach tickets are available from the Social Committee—adults 10/- each, children (under 16) 7/6d. each.

The Committee regrets that the River Trip around London docks proposed for July 8 has been cancelled, as the cost is considered too high.
R.M.B.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP

The Jumble Sale held in aid of our annual holiday fund was most successful with the sum of £70 being realised and we are indebted to parents and friends for their help.

Our Open Evening attracted over 50 people who came along to hear about our past year's activities.

Ah!—the memorable holiday—each day something new happened. Even the journey to Burley in Wharfedale was eventful—Seymour lost his "big end," so Alan was in for a long drive. The weather was

kinder to us than last year's Scottish snowstorms. Besides going up the Yorkshire moors and mountains, we went down the caves and caverns. The more intrepid of us finished a 25 mile hike across Pen-y-Ghent and Ingleborough, whilst others, including baby Frances strapped to Seymour's back, visited Bolton Abbey. Other trips embraced York Minster, Ilkley Moor and Malham—even Ruth's van, Habakkuk, came with us in fine style. The evening discussions were most interesting and thought-provoking, contributing to an altogether enjoyable week.

The tone of our holiday was well-maintained the following Friday by Richard Cox who organised an excellent Folk evening, in which he, together with a friend Douglas Holland, and Shirley Dafforne and Rosalind Pyne, entertained us in a first-rate manner.

We really do welcome all young people in the parish to our meetings, on Sundays they are held at Wayside (opposite the church) at 8 p.m.

Our Sunday programme for May and June is:

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| May | 7. | Bible study—Romans. |
| „ | 14. | Bible study. |
| „ | 21. | Guest speaker. |
| „ | 28. | Bible study. |
| June | | Bible studies from Romans. |

R.P.M.

THE MOTHERS' UNION

On March 1 Mr. Gilder was good enough once again to give us his time and spoke on Juvenile Delinquency and its causes. On March 22 the Committee organised an Austerity Lunch, which raised about £7 10s. 0d. for Christian Aid. Very many thanks to all the people who donated food for this occasion. Mrs. Brown, an old friend of our Branch, spoke to us on April 5 on the Second Object of the Mothers' Union.

Future dates to note.

The Diocesan Festival at St. Paul's Cathedral on Tuesday, May 9, at 7 p.m. We are sharing a coach with other Hampton Branches, and members wishing to go please contact Mrs. Oliver. The fare will be under 5/-.

The Branch Outing will be on Thursday, June 15, when we are visiting Chichester to see the Cathedral and tour Shippam's Meat Paste factory. The coach will leave at 9.15 a.m. and should be back by 6 p.m. Price 7/6. All members and friends are welcome to join us. Names to Mrs. Oliver, please.

There is to be a garden party in aid of Welcare on Saturday, June 3. Mrs. Gilder will be pleased to give details and accept any contributions for stalls.

The next Branch meeting will be on Thursday, May 4, when we hope to discuss and make plans for our October Sale. Please do try to come and bring any ideas and suggestions which may make our efforts a real success.

V.R.

THE SCOUT GROUP

The A.G.M. of the Group will take place on Friday, May 12, at 7.30 p.m. at The Parish Hall, School Road, and I would like to extend a very special invitation to all past and present parents of the boys also any friends interested in the Scouting Movement in this District.

The Scouts and Cub Scouts will be putting on a small entertain-

ment and Akela hopes to show some Films of past events in the life of the Pack. As usual refreshments will be served.

In view of the re-organisation of the Scouting Movement and one of our obligations is to form a Supporters' Association of past and present parents of the boys and any interested friends who would like to help our Group in any way possible. I hope to inaugurate officially this Organisation at this meeting.

S. R. CHILDS,
Group Scout Leader.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

- May 1.—SS. Philip & James: 9.0 a.m. Holy Communion; 7.30 p.m. Inter-Church Meeting for Councillors and Leaders—by invitation (All Saints' Hall).
- .. 3.—8.0 p.m. Young Wives' Group: Home Nursing (W).
- .. 4.—ASCENSION DAY: 7.15 and 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion. 2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union (W).
- .. 7.—At 7.0 p.m., immediately after Evensong, the film 'Tibetan Story' will be shown in church as a preparation for Christian Aid Week (it lasts about 35 minutes).
- .. 9.—7.0 p.m. Mothers' Union Festival Service in St. Paul's Cathedral.
- .. 10.—10.0 a.m. Editorial Board (52, Park Road).
- .. 12.—7.30 p.m. Scout Group Annual General Meeting (H).
- .. 14.—WHITSUNDAY: Sunday Services as usual, with the addition of Holy Communion at 12.10 p.m. Sunday Schools will combine in church at 11.0 a.m. for a service to which parents and friends are invited. At 8.15 p.m. there will be a united open-air service in the forecourt of the Methodist Church (Percy Road) in the course of which the collectors for Christian Aid Week will be commissioned. (All offerings in church to-day for Welcare and the Training of Ordination Candidates).
- .. 15-21.—CHRISTIAN AID WEEK.
- .. 20.—9.30 a.m. Parish Outing to Rochester.
- .. 21.—5.15 p.m. St. James's leads service at Laurel Dene.
- .. 24.—8.0 p.m. Newcomers' Party (W)—by invitation.
- .. 25.—8.0 p.m. Parochial Church Council (W).
- .. 31.—8.0 p.m. Annual General Meeting of the Young Wives' Group (W).
- June 5.—8.0 p.m. 'The People Next Door': Meeting to discuss finding and plan for action (Congregational Church Hall).
- Sept. 15-19.—PARISH WEEKEND.

CONFIRMATION

On March 15, by Bishop Kenneth Sansbury, at St. Mary's, Hampton: John Graham Jackson.

BAPTISMS

On Easter Day, March 26:

Andrew Mark and Kevin Paul Austin, 1, Grove Villas, Hampton Road.

Sharon Ann Dunham, 9, Barnlea Close, Hanworth.

Mark Christian Powell, 7, Hathaway Road, Shirley, Solihull.

Diane Sylvia Skinner, 31, Winifred Road.

Claire Stephens, 10, Park Place.