

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

This will be held on Wednesday, March 20, and more details will be given next month. But one thing which we have to do in preparation is to revise the Electoral Roll, and this has to be done in February. The names of many people who play an active part in the life of our church do not appear on our Roll—and they should! Otherwise the Roll is far from being the 'Electrical Roll' it is popularly misnamed, and it gives an inaccurate record of the number we can count on. As the Rolls of many churches are like our own, and some also need drastic pruning as well as the addition of new names—a pruning which is unfortunately restricted by law—when the statisticians come to use them to assess the active membership of the Church of England as a whole, the resulting figure may be very wide of the mark. Also—people whose names are not on the Roll are disenfranchised, and cannot vote for members of the Church Council, or be elected themselves to any church body. So—those to whom it applies, please take action! The necessary forms are on the bookstall table; fill in the few details required, and be sure to bring them back before the end of February.

IN MEMORIAM: WILLIAM FREDERICK WIGGINTON

The sudden death of William Wigginton was a shock to us all, and brought a deep sense of loss. He had not been well for some weeks, but was hoping to return to work shortly: on the previous Sunday he had attended the Carol Service, and he went out of his way—as he often did—to express his enjoyment and appreciation of it. All his life he had lived in and around this area, and his spiritual home had always been St. James's Church. Many of his friends gathered at the funeral service, and we now print the substance of what the Vicar said to them on this occasion.

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We commend to God to-day, that the mighty powers of resurrection and life might work fully in him, and that God's will for his good and his happiness might come to perfection, a man of noble heart and mind, to whom this church and everything connected with its work and worship were very dear. He served long and faithfully as churchwarden, and the strength of his personality was always exercised in gentleness, courtesy and consideration, never aggressiveness. He was indeed a gentle man, but there was nothing weak about this gentleness. Behind it lay a firm faith and deeply-held principles. He was always quick and generous in noticing and expressing appreciation of the good work of others. A loyal friend, a peacemaker, a reconciler, a man of great creative and artistic ability—we feel it very sad that he should be struck down before his retirement from work: that retirement which would have given him the leisure which he would have so much valued for the opportunity to devote himself more fully and freely to the painting which he greatly enjoyed and which brought much pleasure to others.

Death is an enemy, an outrage—we must not minimise this. It is an enemy, and ultimately will be completely defeated and brought to nothing. But this final victory is not yet ours, and so the sadness and sense of loss that death brings is still here, and has to be faced.

But for those who are in Christ, death cannot in any way bar the gate to fullness of life. The power of God in Christ is stronger than death. The world of the resurrection is open to us, and through the power-in-love of Him who raised Christ from the dead, we can pass fully into it as Christ Himself did. Our faith and confident hope is that he whom we commend to God to-day will be brought by His grace into a life of joy and beauty and enrichment of which we on earth have but the faintest inkling — changed from glory to glory, advancing from one stage of rich and significant life to another. We are confident that He who began a good work in William Wigginton will continue it in that spacious and wonderful world of the resurrection until it is brought to glorious perfection.

PRAYER CIRCLE

Those who attended the September meeting found it so rewarding that it was unanimously decided to hold regular meetings at which the Vicar would again be present to help and advise and to join in discussion of people's difficulties and perplexities and experiences.

Various important matters were raised and discussed at this meeting: the will of God in regard to health and healing, dying and death; deep faith and prayer as channels through which the power-in-love of God could be focussed and brought to bear on human need; the human will in union with God's will as a fulcrum upon which the lever of God's love could find a point of support in its work of raising men to fullness of life and well-being; how to deepen our own life of prayer; the possibility and actuality of miracles to-day — some striking and well-attested instances were given.

The next meeting will be at Wayside on Thursday, February 15, at 8 p.m. If you would like to join the Prayer Circle or just to come and participate you will be more than welcome. A few people have said they would like to have a series of weekly meetings — perhaps in a different house each week — and this will have to be discussed.

THE PARISH PARTY — “ANY OTHER TIME”

It was slushy and wet outside, but good merriment inside the Parish Hall on Saturday, January 13. On entering, a Saxon henchman offered us punch, or the young Edwardians gave us fruit cup. Then the M.C's made us really warm with that stomping march round the room. Next, in a circle we looked at the costumes of “Any other time” — the dainty “olde English” maids, demure ladies from Victorian times, to the flappers of the twenties, delightful children of yesteryear; mountaineer, highwayman, soldier, flower-boy (post hippies), monk, spaceman — in all a wonderful variety. Never will we forget Miss World 1900, dressed in her (?) red satin bloomer suit, with flaxen locks 'neath a mob cap.

We had an evening of dancing, games and refreshments. Waltzes, fox trots, barn dance, invitation and competition dances had the floor filled. The games were not so much a test of intelligence (thank goodness) as of speed; there are marathon runners in St. James's. We regret to tell you that in the game “Find your husband” some blindfolded wives found it difficult to identify the ‘right’ man. The supper was excellent with eats and drinks in good supply. The dexterity with

which those ready-laid tables appeared at a touch of the M.C.'s wand astonished us.

Thank you, Social Committee and numerous other helpers for your tremendous hard work to give us this grand evening at the beginning of 1968!
D.M.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

THE BIG EVENT for February is our St. Valentine's Dance to be held in the Parish Hall on February 17 at 8 p.m. The tickets are 7/6d. each which include refreshments, plus "live" music booked at ENORMOUS EXPENSE! Available NOW!

On Thursday, March 14, we are planning a General Knowledge Quiz between representative teams in the parish. This will be at Wayside commencing at 8 p.m. and admission will be by ticket only — price 6d. — so please get them early!

R.M.G.

THE YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

On February 28 we meet at Wayside for a film evening. Last year there was some difficulty in obtaining the films we wanted, so this year's choice was booked then. There is a wide variety — one film deals with the teaching of "New mathematics" (Nuffield Maths.); another with National Parks, this is in colour; a third is entitled "Action for skids," of interest to both licence holders and back seat drivers. Two travel films complete the programme.

Coffee club mornings are February 8 and 22. Anyone with young children is welcome to join us at Wayside at 10.30 a.m.

K.B.

A TEMPORARY HOME OFFERED FOR YOUR ELDERLY RELATIVE

Mrs. Moses (of 21, Longford Close, Hampton Hill — Tel. 979 6819) will care for your elderly or invalid relatives in her own home whilst you, or your family, are on holiday, or in need of a "break." The fee is 10 guineas per person per week.

SHELTER

With a view to starting a SHELTER group in the Hampton area a meeting will be held at All Saints' church hall on Monday, February 19 at 8 p.m. Des Wilson, the director of SHELTER will speak and show a 15 minute film — this film was recently shown on T.V. in "Town and Around." The local organiser is Mrs. Glenys Sharpe of 8 Barlow Road, Hampton. Tel. 979 4184.

THE MOTHERS' UNION

At our Christmas entertainment on January 3 all present enjoyed seeing pictures of events in the life of St. James—Victorian evening (Centenary year), Pantomime characters at a Parish party, visits to Leonards Lea, Whipnade, Rochester, the River trip to Henley, M.U. outing to Chichester, and—going back several years—Garden Fetes at

Laurel Dene. Mrs. Young introduced the pictures, Mrs. Severn was the projectionist. We were entertained also by pianoforte solos from our Secretary's daughters Siobhan and Nuala, who also contributed a New Year's carol, and Rosemary Oliver sang three unaccompanied carols. Mrs. Prentice, with Shirley Dafforne at the piano, sang a solo and was joined by Eila Severn in a carol duet. Mincepies as usual for tea—altogether a very pleasant afternoon, and we were sorry that owing to the prevalent 'flu' so many had to miss it.

Two meetings arranged for February will be of great interest and we would welcome any ladies in the Parish to both. Mrs. Lawrence's talk "Hiding our heads" on Thursday, February 1, will be about hat-making. On Valentine's day we have booked the Parish Hall for an Overseas meeting to which all M.U. members and friends in Hampton Deanery are invited. The speaker is Miss M. Munro, a C.M.S. worker, recently returned from Eastern Nigeria who knows Owerri Diocese well—so we are hoping that she will be able to give us news of members of our Linked branch at Ife, from whom we have had no news for a very long time, as well as first hand news of life in Eastern Nigeria.

V.R.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP

In October, at the Annual General Meeting, we were sorry to have to say farewell to Raymond Draper to pursue his academic career at Oxford. A new committee, formed under the chairmanship of Trevor Atkinson, has decided to try and make the Y.P.F. more of a fellowship both on Fridays and Sundays. To this end Sundays, we hope, are becoming more invigorating meetings. The annual holiday is again looming up—deposits are urgently required. This year we are braving the Scottish uplands again.

M.C.E.

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

PEMBROKESHIRE (near Newgale). New bungalow to let, fully furnished and equipped, including 'fridge and washing machine. Not available during school holidays.—Please apply Bellingham. Tel.: 977 2542.

HAMPTON HILL ASSOCIATION

Question Time 14.12.67—(concluded)

Mr. Harris, who has served this area with dignity, diligence and integrity for many years, was able to give some lucid and informative answers (and non-answers) and stressed that people with genuine difficulties should first approach their local councillors before hot-footing it over to York House. As far as people en masse are concerned it seems obvious that small areas such as Hampton Hill will have to rely increasingly on such organisations as their local Associations to guard their interests and to voice their opinions to the Council; working in close liaison with the local representatives. Silence and passivity in the vast uncharted seas of the new Richmond Borough will almost certainly lead to stagnation. It is up to the individual to help our councillors to help us and one very effective way would be to see that membership of our local Association is greatly increased, since lack of interest in local affairs will almost certainly lead to lack of benefit.

To turn to realms where more light and cheer is being cast at the moment of going to press, full marks to our Hampton Hill Traders' Committee for brightening the village with a veritable avenue of brilliant Christmas trees. It is to be hoped that they will be rewarded by greatly increased trade to back up the complimentary remarks they have been receiving. One can go a great deal farther afield and fare worse when it comes to shopping than to patronise our local dealers. Good luck too, to their campaign against unilateral parking in the High Street, which carries too much fast, unceasing through-traffic to make such a scheme either safe or practical. The poor pedestrian already has to fight determinedly to cross the traffic moving from North and South without to take into account that moving crab-wise easterly and westerly!

NOTE: The subscription to the Hampton Hill Association is only five shillings and Mr. L. Doughty, Chairman, 228, Uxbridge Road, would be pleased to receive your application for membership.

M.O.

This item has already been mentioned above, but the Editorial Board would like to add this further note about it sent to us quite independently and spontaneously by a reader of this magazine:

CONGRATULATIONS to the Hampton Hill Tradespeople on the Christmas look they gave us. One December morning, almost overcome with the latest news of the £'s failing health, the economic freeze to come and the climatic freeze which had surprised us that day with early snow, we were tremendously cheered to find that our local retailers had thought it worthwhile to go to this trouble to brighten us all up. It gave a chance for a little spark of optimism to flutter. THANK YOU, retailers, and a prosperous New Year to you.

HAMPTON HILL OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE COMMITTEE

Our old people enjoyed a Happy Christmas through the energy and zeal of many good friends. Our sincere thanks to them all.

The King's Own Bible Class of the Free Church gave 50 gift parcels to our folk in the old people's flats, and carols sung by members of their choir. Mrs. Winchester did a grand job of raising funds to provide parcels of Christmas fare for 20 to enjoy. The Young Wives of Ringwood Way sent 4 parcels to be distributed. Richmond Theatre invited 20 to their Pantomime Dress Rehearsal, and our party spent a jolly afternoon and gave the show full marks for its excellent family entertainment. The Matron of Laurel Dene invited six of our members to join in the Christmas Day party there—one of the residents, Miss Bunkall, whose birthday was on this day, was joined by her four sisters who enjoyed a wonderful day together. Matron and her staff worked hard for its success. Whitton Young Conservatives contacted the Welfare Department for names of people to help with gift parcels—there were many lucky recipients. Thirty old people were given £1 each from the Mayor's Christmas Appeal Fund.

Our efforts included the sick in hospital being remembered with a welcome visit and gifts by our hospital visitor and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Newman. There were Christmas cards to all old age pensioners, with gifts of money, house plants and chocolates to those unable to get out.

We have our Christmas party on Saturday, January 20, at the Parish Hall, when we hope to entertain 150 members, together with guests from the Council, the Welfare Department, the churches and old

friends from neighbouring associations.

There is another pantomime treat to come, this is at the London Palladium on Friday afternoon, February 16. There are a few spare seats available—the cost is 6/6d. which covers transport and a seat in the Royal Circle. Names please to Mrs. Cox, 15, Lindsay Road, who will give the necessary information.

L.M.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

- Feb. 6.—8.00 p.m. Quiet Evening (All Saints' Church, Hampton);
8.00 p.m. Stewardship Committee (106, Park Road).
„ 8.—10.30 a.m. Young Wives' Group: Coffee Club morning (W).
„ 9.—11.00 a.m. Editorial Board (52, Park Road).
„ 14.—2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union Overseas Meeting—“Nigeria”
(Hall).
„ 15.—8.00 p.m. Prayer Circle (W).
„ 17.—8.00 p.m. St. Valentine Dance, organised by the Social
Committee. Tickets 7/6. (Hall).
„ 19.—8.00 p.m. Shelter Group Meeting (All Saints' Church Hall);
8.15 p.m. Properties Committee (36, St. James's Road).
„ 22.—10.30 a.m. Young Wives' Group: Coffee Club morning (W).
„ 24.—7.30 p.m. Concert by Hancock Follies, in support of Wel-
care (Holy Trinity Church Hall, Balfour Road, Hounslow).
„ 27.—8.00 p.m. Parochial Church Council (W).
„ 28.—ASH WEDNESDAY: 7.15 a.m. and 7.30 p.m. Holy Com-
munion; 2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union Service; 8.00 p.m. Young
Wives' Group—Film Evening (W).
„ 29.—8.30 a.m. Holy Communion (St. Anne's Chapel, L.E.H.S.).
Mar. 1.—WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: Services for
Hampton Council of Churches' area in St. James's at 3.00
and 8.00 p.m.
„ 14.—8.00 p.m. Quiz arranged by the Social Committee (W).
„ 20.—8.15 p.m. ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING,
preceded by reception and social gathering from 7.30 p.m.
onwards (Hall).

To be arranged: Meetings of the Liturgical Committee.

N.B.—Lenten arrangements are not yet finalised, but will be made known as soon as possible, and details will be given in the March issue of “The Spire.”

MARRIAGE

On January 6:

John Edward Timms to Diane Mary Nicholson.

BURIALS & CREMATIONS

On January 3:

Arthur Frederick Edward Poley, 50, Uxbridge Road, aged 82 years
(at S.W. Middlesex Crematorium, to be followed by interment
of ashes in family grave in the churchyard).

On January 11:

William Frederick Wigginton, 18, Cranmer Road, aged 63 years.

On January 23:

Emily Hughes, 17, Thorpe Road, Egham, and 1, High Street, aged
93 years (interment of ashes).