

THE HAMPTON HILL AND HAMPTON COMMUNITY-CARE GROUP

I have already written about the formation of this group in the February, April and June issues of the Spire.

This week, June 17 - 21, has seen the opening of our C.C.G. office in a room adjoining the United Reformed Church in High Street, Hampton Hill. We started at 9.30 on Monday, June 17, and within a very short time had work to do. We have arranged visits and shopping for disabled and housebound people; we have arranged transport for the handicapped. We are being asked to locate helpers with cubs and scouts in the area; this need will be passed over to the group of concern which is dealing with children and young people. We have provided helpers for Violet Day collecting. We have provided gardeners for some old people.

We have a rota of 23 volunteers who attend to the 'phone in the office and who are ready to answer queries and solve problems: office hours are from 9.30 - 11, and 11 - 12.30, Monday - Saturday, and from 2 - 4 Monday to Friday. We hope in due course to have our rota filled with two workers in each session. Instructions are clear, and people are always popping in for coffee! We need more offers of help in the office; with 17 sessions, we need 34 helpers altogether.

We also need drivers, who will be able on occasion to provide transport for disabled or elderly people. We would be grateful if people will submit names, 'phone numbers and times at which they will be available.

We need the services of visitors who will do shopping for senior citizens and who will visit the housebound at intervals for a chat. Many elderly people are lonely; if people will volunteer to be on a list of visitors of the elderly they will be providing a very needed service.

We have been turned to by organisations who want helpers; we have been asked to provide speakers on cooking, gardening and other interests to Girl Guides and other groups; so if you have a hobby which you would like to share please send us details of it. Offers of any sort of help will be welcome.

We will be asked about organisations which people will like to join, or go to for help and advice; so please send all details of group activities with details on how to apply, how to be a member, etc.

Information can be sent either to the undersigned, or be given in at the office.

And do come and see us; call in and see the Community office, and have a cup of coffee with us.

Our telephone number is 979 9662

Hannah Stanton.

CHRISTIAN AID

Christian Aid helpers had a very pleasant evening at Hannah Stanton's - by invitation of the Hampton Council of Churches - Wednesday June 19. Not only was it an appreciative gesture but it gave a welcome opportunity for helpers over a wide area to meet each other and Mr. Paddy Conway (our Area Supervisor - one of the few paid organisers of the organisation) and to hear stated very concisely and interestingly just how C.A. works and what its aims are.

Mr. Stratton (our able, bicycle-born voluntary organiser) in welcoming Mr. Conway told us that the area total had risen from £659 last year to £672 this year. St. James's own area was up from £164 to £170 - a tribute to the hard work done. Of course we all realise that the money will not go so far but also we bear in mind that the givers are not so well off, and by and large more people gave more.

Christian Aid is a "Universal Institution of Compassion", called Christian Aid because of its origins amongst Christians and its motivation of Christian caring. People are learning gradually about C.A. but all of us should act as ambassadors for the cause when the occasion arises; much more effective publicity and much cheaper than expensive printing which more often than not does not get read!

C.A. raises about three million pounds a year, half from C.A. Week and half from church collections, donations, covenants and legacies. It does send money immediately to disaster areas but basically it believes in long-term development and tries to tackle the causes rather than merely to allay the effects of ignorance and poverty. "Give a man a bowl of rice and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to grow the rice and you feed him for life."

C.A. is entirely non-political, paying for relief and rehabilitation regardless of creed or colour. It asks nothing in return. It is a department of the British Council of Churches, operating as its relief and service arm although its finances are entirely separate from those of the parent body. Christian Aid does not have personnel abroad. It works through the National Christian Councils of the countries concerned and these councils are made up of specialised committee of local churches, not as a rule clergy, but laymen with special experience in agriculture or health services or adult training schemes. They decide what needs to be done, they recruit the people to do it. The money is spent responsibly and all projects are costed in detail in advance. Local purchase of materials and skills help the economy and save on costs. As regards costs in this country **OUT OF EVERY £ COLLECTED 86p GOES STRAIGHT TO THE AID PROJECTS.** Only 14p in each £ is needed for administration, staff, fund-raising materials and advertising and other essential overhead expenses. C.A. is a registered charity, bound by the regulations governing such, and receives income-tax relief.

Contrary to my understanding up until now - Christian Aid does not supply the main costs of the programmes. The National Christian Councils have decided on their countries' priorities, and collected a lot of the money necessary **before** they contact Christian Aid for help. Projects from all over the world are sent in for consideration and divided into three categories:
A - for immediate help (this year's income has already been committed);
B - next in urgency and likely to be dealt with out of anticipated income and
C - projects to be dealt with if income from all sources exceeds expenditure -

and the Board is often able to approve grants to this last category of need.

Mr. Conway illustrated a typical project in Mindanao where people are being helped by education and loans through local banks out of their hopeless subsistence cycle into not only keeping themselves healthily, but planting over and above their needs to expand their economy. Details of this and other projects can be found on the information table in church in a booklet entitled "Grass Roots 1973". Copies can be got from C.A. for 10p. Also take a look at "Record for a Year" and then be prepared to tell people the real truth about Christian Aid when challenged.

As might be expected, Mr. Conway said many questions met him about the World Council of Churches' Programme to Combat Racism. A great deal of misunderstanding has arisen, largely from ill-informed articles (and some might think mischievous articles since the paper concerned did not publish letters of protest and accurate information which were sent to them) in the national press, and also it would seem from poor dissemination of information by the World Council of Churches itself. Their project to combat racism which was conceived to help maintain essential services, health, education etc., in war-torn areas, was never paid for out of the W.C.C. general fund but was a **specialy subscribed fund** raised from donations given by those anxious to protect the sufferers in the disturbed areas. Christian Aid does not, and indeed could not, support such a fund because as has been said it always supports **specific** projects and by virtue of its standing as a charity could not donate its money in any other way.

M.O.

CONTACT WITH WUPPERTAL, WEST GERMANY

People interested in our planned exchange visits and other contacts with the parish in Wuppertal will by now be wondering whether there has been any progress at all. Well, there has, although as yet not very tangible. My friends have been "canvassing" their parishioners, with very positive results. One of the keenest supporters of the scheme is their youth leader, who incidentally took his youth club to Paris for Whitsun. They travelled in two minibuses, one of which belongs to the parish and is extensively used for ferrying all sorts of people to all sorts of functions.

I had hoped my friend and her husband might come to see us in June. Their visit will now take place later in the summer, probably in the second half of August. No doubt we will then find opportunities for all those interested to meet the Klosterkötters and to carry our plans a stage further.

In the meantime the German youth club leader has been put in touch with the leader of our Young People's Fellowship, and I have also asked for addresses of young people who might be interested in English penfriends. I would be very pleased to have the names and addresses of our local "candidates" for penfriendships.

We have also been exchanging parish magazines for some time now, and in a recent copy of their "Parish Letter" I found a little write-up about choir work at the Wichlinghausen Church, which I think might interest. It is perhaps known that the Lutheran church does not have a robed choir as a set feature of any service. Choirs vary in size and standards and their participation in services is random. The following is an approximate translation of

the report which was written by a choir member:

We meet for choir practice once a week: about 35 people of all ages who get on extremely well together. Our work in and for the parish costs energy, time and willingness to serve. Its fruits, however, are fellowship and joy. With gratitude I think of our singing in old people's homes or, a few years back, in the prison (Borstal remand home?) of L; most important however, is the singing in Church; it does not only "enhance" the service but helps to give emphasis to the message of the Word of God.

Concerts in Church are the highlights in the life of our choir. They do require additional practices, which are partly made up of one weekend during the year which the choir spends together in a hostel near-by where hard work has its place just as well as fun and companionship.

We also have a children's choir, which is split into various groups for instrumental and vocal music. At the moment we have 75 boys and girls between 6 and 14. Apart from church music we sing other lighthearted songs and play recorders and Orff instruments. Main features in our work are a parents' afternoon and Christmas. We also sing in old people's homes and in the Old People's Day Centre. After Easter this year some children joined a regional musical holiday camp where among other things some quite ambitious vocal and instrumental works were practised and then incorporated in a church service at the end of the stay.

H.B.

LOOKING BACK

On the evening of Sunday June 9 the congregation of St. James's was invited to 'think small' by the Rev. Charles Tett, Overseas Director of the Intermediate Technology Development Group. In his sermon and the discussion which followed, he emphasised the very pressing need to rethink our attitudes towards the sort of aid required by developing nations. Since man in the affluent developed world has fouled his own nest by employing advanced technological processes, he must ensure that those countries atill in the throes of development should be spared the dangers inherent in 'progress' of this type. Hence the need to support an 'intermediate technology'

Mr. Tett gave several examples of cases where the application of more advanced technological knowledge or machinery had worsened an already parlous situation rather than improve it. How much better in some situations to buy a man an ox with which to plough his fields than a tractor! The ox was not only a strong, reliable working companion but also provided valuable manure. A tractor, on the other hand, if it broke down, could cost so much to repair that the farmer might make no profit on his crop - or even suffer a loss. But what came over most clearly was not so much the necessity for a reappraisal of how we spend our aid, but the crying need for man in the developed world to put his own house in order. We must reconsider our priorities and values, adopt a more modest attitude to purely material demands and in this way help to prevent the 'pollution' of developing nations by our greedy, consumer-orientated concept of an advanced society.

A line of the opening hymn - 'O praise ye the Lord, all things that give sound' - summed up exactly the joyous singing and playing of Mrs. Loma Bellars and friends which replaced the usual evening service on Sunday June 23.

We were treated to a varied programme of solo items, duets, an organ prelude and fugue and Bach's ever-popular 'Air on the G String'. Many people commented afterwards on how nice it had been to hear a violin in church - and played so excellently! We are very grateful to Mrs. Bellars for arranging such an enjoyable recital and hope that the many visitors from outside the parish will be tempted to come and participate in future Sunday evening events.
L.M.

TUESDAY CLUB

The Tuesday Club met on June 4 for their A.G.M. - the attendance was good. The Chairman, Secretary, Outings Secretary and Catering Officer have another year to serve. The Treasurer, having served more than her allotted time asked to be relieved of her post and Miss I Wills volunteered to fill the vacancy. We have had a most successful year with a very varied programme and look forward to an even better year to come. We welcome new members and I am pleased to report that the membership is growing.
M.R.

CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The Ladies Choir Meeting on Thursdays in Wayside and the Keep Fit classes in the Hall on Tuesdays will both rest during August. Watch for the starting dates in the next magazine.

The Wayside Monday Centre has been in action now since April. It opens every Monday from 10.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Several people who have felt fed up, depressed, anxious or just in need of a chat have come to visit us during this period. However, we are very sorry, but owing to holidays we will have to close during August and will re-open in September. The date and more information will appear in the August magazine.

THE CHURCHYARD CLEARANCE

About 40 people took part, and to judge by the volume of cuttings overflowing both compost areas, a very thorough clearance was made, even if, sorely missing Denis, we didn't quite finish it all.

In such a corporate effort, it would be wrong to mention individual performances: suffice to say that Connie and Rupert inevitably bore part of the Brunt, while Dick and his family showed Wilde enthusiasm in clearing an entire section almost unaided. Seymour Harrised the weeds, and Hilde soon Bucknelled down with shears (Roy would Brook no female use of machines), while an awkward gap in our ranks was Bridged by Ron and Roland. (Vernon came later with several Y.P. effervescents!)

Informality was the keynote - Alan was casually Taylored, and Hannah didn't Stanton ceremony. The birds enjoyed it, and Bill had Robinson his shears at one time. David finished the week Nunn the worse, perhaps because at intervals Ruth supervised some restorative Guzzling, but Len and Marjorie suffered from afternoon heat - they Orton to have come until evening!

Many thanks to all who helped, especially those not in the congregation (including four volunteers from the Borstal at Feltham).

And a special thank you to Ron Metcalfe for a fine job on cleaning, restoring and varnishing the churchyard seat, giving it a new lease of life.

J.W.G.

THE SCOUT GROUP

The Spring Bank Holiday Saturday certainly seems a good choice for our Annual Fete at Laurel Dene. Again we had good weather and the number of people attending was well up on last year. The pony rides proved a great attraction for the children and the numerous Stalls and Sideshows were well patronised. By this effort we have added £220 to our Headquarter's Fund, and I would like to thank everyone who supported us in any way.

S.R.C.

WELCARE

Do you know what Welcare Social Workers do? Do you know they are employed by the Church of England in much the same way as the Clergy (although grant aided by the Local Authority)? Just as the Church congregation have to maintain their churches and buildings, they are responsible for maintaining part of the Welcare office. The Welcare Workers are therefore part of the staff of this parish, they work within this parish and indeed the whole of the Borough of Hounslow, Hampton, Twickenham and Teddington.

Do you think that Welcare only concerns unmarried mothers and illegitimate babies? If so, you are wrong. Welcare helps **any** parent alone be they unmarried, divorced, separated or widowed, from pregnancy onwards.

Do you realise the loneliness of these parents - when the child is put to bed, a long evening, with no-one to discuss the day, the problems, the anxieties - not for today but tomorrow and the next day and the next. The worries over money, making ends meet on a limited income, even when he or she works - what if they are ill, or the child ill, the needs of the child from babyhood through to adolescence - the long future alone.

If you know someone bringing up children alone, perhaps your neighbours - pause and consider a while. Why not tell them about Welcare?

Welcare is a Christian Social Service offered to all, regardless of creed.

Local Office: 15 Bulstrode Road, Hounslow - 570 3594

Office hours: Monday to Friday 9 - 1 p.m. (or by appointment)

BAPTISM IN THE SPIRIT

This was mentioned in our interesting discussion after Evensong on Whitsunday. Seymour Harris in his sermon had led us into the depths of the Church's experience and doctrine of the Holy Spirit, and we felt that we ought to be manifesting far more of his love and power than we do. Our friends in the charismatic movement often speak of baptism in - or with - the Spirit: is this what we lack? Is our sacrament of baptism only baptism in water, and therefore defective in some way? Some would answer 'yes' to these questions - but there is another way of looking at it.

This would be to say that there is nothing wrong with our baptism, but that we fail to realise its potentiality. Baptism is a 'being begun', not a 'being done' (a pernicious and misleading phrase which we still sometimes hear). It is like the planting of a seed. The seed can remain a seed, but this is not what is intended - it is meant to grow and come to fulfilment in a

plant bearing flowers and fruit. So the new supernatural life implanted in us at baptism is meant to grow in us as we grow older, manifesting the gifts and graces and fruit of the Spirit. We should therefore speak rather of a 'manifestation' or 'flowering' of baptism, rather than look for a second baptism of a different kind. In some people this happens with moving and dramatic suddenness and decisiveness, and they naturally tend to think of it as a completely new act and experience. But with most of us it happens much more slowly and gradually - but of course it should happen!
The gift has been given - let it happen to us!

If you want to know more about this important and fascinating subject, I would recommend two books, both published by Darton, Longman and Todd - 'The Charismatic Christ', by the Archbishop of Canterbury and others (75p), and 'Did you receive the Spirit?' by Simon Tugwell, a Dominican Friar (£1.70).

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH CLOCK TOWER

The Clock tower was raised in 1887 to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria's reign. It was to be a landmark to put Hampton Hill on the map. The spire was added some nine months later as money given by public subscription came in. It was not until 1893 that enough money was raised to complete the project by the installation of the clock and bells. The beautiful clock with its four dials was made by the same firm who built the great clock of St. Paul's. It has struck and chimed the quarters with very few pauses, since its dedication. Its bells inscribed respectively "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with Praise". "Glory to God in the Highest", "On Earth Peace", and "Good Will to Men" must have helped many thousands of parishioners through the years to regulate their days.

What a pity it would have been if, as nearly happened, the Parochial Church Council had decided that they could not, or ought not, to find so much money for the purpose of restoration and had regretfully decided that the work could not be undertaken. The Parish would then have been deprived of what is not only part of its heritage but also an undoubted area-amenity. Perhaps the residents of Hampton Hill today may once more feel that they would like to give donations to help the Parochial Church Council with the cost of the repairs and improvements. If this is the case, Mr. G.I. Robinson, Treasurer to the Church Council, 36 St. James's Road, Hampton Hill, would be very happy to receive such good-will gifts.
M.O.

DEANERY INTERCESSION LIST

- July
21 The Bishop, Archdeacon and Rural Deans of the Kensington Jurisdiction.
28 The Lay Chairman and Members of the Deanery Synod.
- Aug.
4 The Mayor and Corporation
11 Hospitals in the Deanery.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

July

- 9 8.00 P.M. Hampton Council of Churches (W)
10 8.00 P.M. Stewardship Committee (106 Park Road); 8.00 P.M. Liturgical Committee (63 Park Road)
12 Community-Care Group: Bring & Buy Sale and Garden Party: 10.30 - 12.30; 2.00 - 5.30; 8.00 to 9.30 Donkey-Rides for the children! (63 Park Road)
14 6.30 P.M. Shortened Evening Prayer: Theme - 'The Forward-Looking Ministry'. Sermon by Dr. Una Kroll, followed by questions and discussion. Refreshments will be served in church at 8.00 P.M.
15 10.30 A.M. Editorial Board (63 Park Road); 8.15 P.M. Properties Committee (21, St. James's Road)
16 8.00 P.M. Tuesday Club: Social Evening (W)
17 7.30 A.M. Holy Communion
18 2.30 P.M. Forget-Me-Not Club: Garden Party at Vicarage; 8.00 P.M. Annual General Meeting of the Old People's Welfare Committee (W); 8.00 P.M. Social Committee (113, Queen's Road)
19 - 21 Chiddingfold Parish Festival - details on posters and handbills
21 PATRONAL FESTIVAL (in anticipation of St. James's Day); Morning arrangements as usual but instead of Evensong, a special FAMILY SERVICE at 4.30 P.M. followed by Family Afternoon Tea.
25 SAINT JAMES'S DAY: 7.30 A.M. Holy Communion.
29 Last day of Wayside Monday Centre until mid-September.

August

- 6 THE TRANSFIGURATION: 7.30 A.M. Holy Communion.

BAPTISMS

- May 26 Mark Richard Andrews. 11 Vincent Row.
June 23 Gary James Francis, 101 Uxbridge Road.

MARRIAGE

- June 15 Ernest Arthur Hoare to Pamela Ivy Arnold

BURIAL AND CREMATION

- May 28 Frederick Penn, 19 Longford Close, aged 70 years (at South-West Middlesex Crematorium)
June 14 William Francis Waite, 7 Willow Way, Twickenham, aged 70 years (interment of ashes in family grave.)