

HAMPTON HILL PARISH MAGAZINE.

PAROCHIAL NOTES.

Vicar—The Rev. R. H. Brunt, B.A., A.K.C., The Vicarage, St. James's Road. Telephone: Molesey 2069

The Vicar may usually be seen without appointment between 9-15 and 10-0 a.m., and 6-45 and 7-15 p.m. Messages about people who are sick or in special need should be sent to him as soon as possible.

Churchwardens—Mr. W. F. Wigginton, 9, Oxford Road Teddington
Mr. E. Beckett, 35, Wellington Road, Hampton Hill

Organist—Mr. C. Haydn-Bull M.I.G.C.M.

Parochial Church Officer.

Mr. S. V. Forrow, 68, Sunnyside Road Teddington.

Sunday School.

Held at 11 a.m. every Sunday

In the Parish Hall

Infants—Superintendent—Miss B. Rooney.

Boys—Superintendent—Miss O. Wright.

Girls' Fellowship—Superintendent—Mrs. G. Casey

In the Club Room

Senior Girls—Superintendent—Miss R. Phillips

Junior Girls—Superintendent—Miss B. Stewart

Children's Service every Sunday at 3 p.m. in Church

Missionary Committee.

Hon. Treas.—Miss Cox, 6 Queen's Road, Hampton Hill.

Hon. Sec.—Miss Stanton, 63 Park Road, Hampton Hill.

Mothers' Union.

Monthly Meetings. First Wednesday in each month in the Club Room, 3 p.m., and Quarterly Services. Corporate Communion First Thursday 10.30 a.m.

Enrolling Member: Mrs. Brunt.

St. James's Youth Club.

Meetings in the Club Room, on Mondays and Fridays at 7.30 p.m.

Hon. Sec.: Mr. L. J. Sumner.

Girl Guides. Captain—Miss Cynthia Hayward.

Brownies. Brown Owl—Miss D. Proctor.

Meetings in the Club Room on Thursdays at 5.30 p.m.

Scouts. Scout Master: Mr. G. Casey, 89 Connaught Road, Teddington

Cubs Cubmaster: Mr. S. R. Childs, 126, Uxbridge Road, Hampton Hill

District Nurse—Mrs. S. Shaw, 5, Regina Court, Gloucester Road Teddington

Churchyard.

Contributions towards the up-keep of the Churchyard will be gratefully received by Mr. E. Beckett, 35, Wellington Road, Hampton Hill.

Magazine Committee.

Hon. Treas. and Advt. Sec.: Mrs. H. F. Beckett, 6, Cross St.

Hampton Hill.

Hon. Sec: Miss H. Stanton, 63, Park Road, Hampton Hill.

Vicar's Notes.

OUR CHURCH'S BIRTHDAY.—On Tuesday, 11th December, our church is 88 years old. On this day in 1863 it was solemnly offered to God and dedicated in His name. At our services on this day in 1951 we shall thank God for all that this church has meant to Hampton Hill in the years that are past, and for what it means to us to-day. And we shall also bring birthday-presents to ensure that the work and worship centred in this building are able to continue. What more appropriate day than a birthday for gifts that express our affection and appreciation? Subscribers to the magazine will find in this issue a Gift-Day envelope: there will also be some on the table in church, but I hope that the demand for them will exceed the supply, and that those who cannot obtain a special envelope will use an ordinary one instead. It is not the colour of the envelope that matters, but what it contains inside!

Certainly our church needs generous birthday-presents this year. If our accounts are to balance, over and above our normal income we must raise at least £160 before the end of the year to meet what are in the main, our ordinary unexceptional expenses and obligations. With a whole-hearted response from everybody on December 11th, we should be able to raise this amount with ease.

I should like to be able to announce that, in the traditional manner, I shall be sitting all day in church to receive gifts. It would be a pleasant and restful way of spending the time, and what is more important, would perhaps enable me to meet a number of people in a direct and personal way. But I cannot do it this year, because at the moment there are far too many jobs to be done each day for me to be able to spend the whole time immobile. Also on a day in the middle of the week, there are likely to be long periods in the day when nobody is able to come. I am therefore suggesting that we do here what has been very successfully done in two other parishes in which I have worked, and as far as possible concentrate our time of giving into a few minutes. This means that as many of us as possible bring our gifts to the evening service, and present them personally at the chancel steps. At a service like this I have seen over 150 people come out of their seats to do this, and it is most impressive.

Those who cannot be at the evening service might bring their gifts to any other service that day or on the following Sunday, or leave them at the Vicarage.

If we all do our best, the formidable tasks that lie before us—and not least the financial ones—can be faced victoriously: but we must all do our part, and not leave it to others.

THE MAGAZINE.—Can we continue publication in 1952? That is a burning question. A number of parishes have already reluctantly decided that they must do without a magazine for the time being, and we may have to follow their example. Production costs have risen so enormously, that without a very large circulation it is almost impossible to make ends meet without considerably increasing the price to the people. St. Martin's Review, for example, has had to be raised from 6d. to 1/- per month. In the middle of the year the price of this magazine had to be increased from 3d. to 4d., but we shall still face a large deficit at the end of the year, and our printers have been making no profit for themselves, but actually charging us less than cost.

The magazine committee have been seriously considering this problem in all its aspects, and we have made certain plans, which, if they can be carried out, will save the magazine for another year at least. These plans cannot be successful without the continued support of our loyal advertisers, and an increase in the number of magazines sold each month. We intend to reduce production costs to the minimum, altering the size and form of the magazine: it will be perhaps somewhat smaller, but attractive in appearance, and easy to handle and read. We are going to ask our advertisers if they will kindly agree to an adjustment whereby all advertisements run for a yearly period beginning in January, instead of from a number of different months. This will greatly reduce printing charges. We also hope that instead of increasing the price further, we may be able to bring it down to 3½d. or even to 3d.

We are very grateful to Mr. and Mrs. H. Beckett, who took over the business side of the magazine when it was at a very low ebb indeed, and worked so successfully that it began to pay its way once again. They wish now to hand the work—and worry!—on to someone else. We are still waiting for a successor, as Mrs. Allsopp, who we were hoping might be able to undertake this task, now finds that she has too little spare time in December, the crucial month, to do the job properly. We should be glad to hear of any volunteer, as the work must be done in the next few weeks if the magazine is to continue.

"WAIT FOR IT".—The modern world is very im-

patient; it wants everything now; it cannot bear to wait. One sign of this that is coming out strongly now is the anticipation of Christmas. Christmas decorations and "Compliments of the Season" in shop-windows at the end of October; Father Christmases in all the big stores at the beginning of November; Christmas carols in many places—even in some churches—from the early days of December. . . . and by the time the Day actually arrives, the remark "I'm fed up with Christmas" expresses the sentiment of many people. In the hurry and bustle of shopping and premature celebration, there have been no proper Advent preparation, and the whole meaning of Christmas has been overlooked.

As far as the Church is concerned, the final preparations for Christmas do not begin until the late afternoon of Christmas Eve; no Christmas trees, no crib, no carols, no decorations until then. As far as our church is concerned, the first carols will not be sung until the Midnight Mass; and the Nine Lessons and Carols Service will be held on the Sunday after Christmas, and not on the one before.

The anticipation of Christmas has of late years increasingly spoilt the observance of the Midnight Mass in many churches: so much so that the Convocation of Canterbury this year seriously considered whether some restrictions should not be imposed on the holding of this service. People have often walked in from riotous parties, having made no preparation at all, and often without much understanding of what they were about to do. But the right remedy for these abuses seems to be, as Convocation decided, not prohibition, but the stressing of the need of preparation for this as for every Communion. When people come in the right frame of mind, having spent a quiet and unhurried evening, then the Midnight Mass can be a unique devotional occasion, and such I hope we shall all do our best to make it in our own church this year.

Reports and Announcements

"WITH ONE VOICE."—The Hampton Deanery Missionary Exhibition at St. Mary's Hall, Twickenham, was heralded by a very inspiring evening service at St. Mary's Church, on Monday, November 19th. There were 15 representatives of St. James's in the crowded church. The Right Rev. G. R. Vernon preached, and the service ended with the rousing processional hymn, "Lift high the Cross."

Each afternoon and evening session on the five ensuing days, Nov. 20th-24th, had a formal opening ceremony. Among the speakers were the Lord Bishop of Kensington; the Hon. Lady Smith, President of the Church of England Zenana Missionary Society; Major-General Wilson-Haffenden of C.M.S.; the Rev. Canon Broomfield of U.M.C.A.; and the Rt. Rev. B. C. Roberts, the Secretary of S.P.G. We were very proud that the interest of St. James's parish in the C.E.Z.M.S. prompted the organisers of the Exhibition to ask our Vicar to take the Chair for Lady Smith on the Wednesday afternoon. Lady Smith spoke simply and with great sincerity of the changing mission field, and of the urgent need of workers. She told us of China, where the Chinese Christians are now having to stand alone, as the presence of western missionaries is not tolerated by the regime.

She asked us to remember the Chinese Christians in our prayers. In other areas missionaries are desperately needed, and the work is concentrating on strengthening the native churches.

The Exhibition was arranged in courts; these were interesting and entertaining, and showed every branch of the mission societies' activities. Striking films were shown, and caused enthusiasm and interest.

The Exhibition was a great success. The stewards from this parish showed thorough reliability in taking duty during the week, and another pleasure and privilege was given us when we were asked to put up Miss Shearburn, the C.E.Z.M.S. representative. Miss Shearburn worked for 17 years on the North-West Frontier of India. Her knowledge and experience have made us all feel that we have been in close contact with a great missionary. H.S.

"THE MYSTERY OF CHRISTMAS".—We are planning a Nativity Play to be given in Church on Sunday, January 6th, at 6.30 p.m., and on Monday, January 7th, at 7.30 p.m. Mrs. F. J. Crabb is very kindly producing this for us.

We want this play to be a sincere act of worship and praise. We want as many people as possible to come, and, with their presence, to add to this act of thanksgiving. H.S.

CHRISTMAS PARTIES.—The Sunday School parties take place on the dates in January announced below. In past years, ample refreshments have always been given, leaving us little need to buy anything, and we hope that this good custom may continue. Any contributions towards the cost of presents for the children would also be welcomed.

THE MEN'S SOCIETY.—At our meeting on November 13th, our own secretary, Mr. F. Sargeant, who — amongst many other things! — is a member of the Diocesan Missionary Council, spoke to us of the missionary work and responsibilities of the Church of England to-day. His talk was both an inspiration and a challenge, as he showed us both what is being done by men and women of great devotion and courage, and what more might be done if there were greater awareness amongst members of the Church at home of the urgent need.

DATES TO NOTE

Dec. 4th.—8.0 p.m. C.E.M.S. Meeting—"The History of St. James's Church and Parish".

Dec. 5th.—3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union.

Dec. 8th.—3.0 p.m. Scouts' and Guides' Bazaar.

Dec. 9th.—3.0 p.m. Service of Dedication of Scout and Cub Flags.

Dec. 11th.—Dedication Festival and Gift Day. 7.0 and 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.

7.45 p.m. Evening Service and Presentation of Gifts
Preacher: The Vicar of the Mother-Church, St. Mary's, Hampton. (The Rev. C. P. C. Knapp).

Dec. 15th.—11.30 a.m. Adult Confirmation at St. Paul's Cathedral.

Dec. 16th.—8.45 a.m. Parish Communion: First Communion of those newly-Confirmed.

Telephone—MOLESEY 2110

A. C. YATES Groceries, Provisions, Tobacco, Cigarettes, Green Fruit & Hardware
Late H. S. Gilham Fulwell Stores, 56, WELLINGTON ROAD HAMPTON HILL

Dec. 19th.—3.0 p.m. Women's Guild.

Dec. 21st.—St. Thomas. 7.0 a.m. Holy Communion.

Dec. 24th.—Christmas Eve. 11.45 p.m. First Mass of Christmas.

Dec. 25th.—Christmas Day. 7.0, 8.0, 9.45 a.m. and 12.15 p.m. Holy Communion 11.0 a.m. Matins and Sermon.

Dec. 26th.—St. Stephen. 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.

Dec. 27th.—St. John. 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.

Dec. 28th.—Holy Innocents. 7.0 a.m. Holy Communion.

Dec. 30th.—6.30 p.m. Christmastide Service of Lessons and Carols.

Dec. 31st.—7.30 p.m. New Year's Eve Social: Old-Time Dance.

Jan. 1st.—The Circumcision. 7.0 a.m. Holy Communion.

Jan. 3rd.—3.30 p.m. Infants' Sunday School Party.

Jan. 5th.—4.0 p.m. Junior and Senior Sunday Schools' Party.

BAPTISMS.

Oct. 28th.—Rosemary Joan Hillier, 6, Lindsay Road.

Oct. 28th.—Ann Elaine Lewcock, 8, Windmill Road.

Nov. 11th.—Georgina Mary Clarke, 3, Park Road.

Nov. 11th.—Anthony Leigh Cox, 77, Burton's Road.

Nov. 25th.—Robin Michael White, 31, Windmill Road.

Nov. 25th.—Michael Richard Sly, 19, Cranmer Road.

Nov. 25th.—Jean Caryl Whitehouse, 4, Park Mansions.

BURIALS.

Oct. 2nd.—Clara George, Laurel Dene, aged 76 years.
(at Teddington Cemetery).

Oct. 11th.—John Ernest Stevens, 58, Ladywood Road,
Surbiton, aged 72 years.

Oct. 12th.—Elsie Mary Greig, 1, Eastbank Road, aged
48 years.

Oct. 19th.—Frederick William Hack, St. James's Lodge,
aged 64 years.

Nov. 8th.—Frances Elizabeth Sparks, 8, Cross Street,
aged 77 years.

Nov. 8th.—William Shaw, 32, Cross Street, aged 67
years

Nov. 8th.—Ethel Hurles, 40, Cranmer Road, aged 67
years. (at Teddington Cemetery.)

Nov. 20th.—Ada Maud Toms, Selwyn Road, Eastbourne,
aged 81 years.