

Vicar's Notes

The visit of the Reverend Jim Wilson was a great stimulus to us, and from it we learnt a great deal. We are trying now to build on what we learnt, and slowly to put it into practice.

This month another call will come to us—this time the call of evangelism. Sister Simpson, of the Church Army, will give the address at Evensong on the first Sunday after Easter, and there will, I hope, as on the occasion of Father Wilson's visit, be an opportunity for questions and discussion afterwards.

On the following Wednesday there will be a Parish Guest-Night, to which Sister Simpson hopes to bring a News-Team from another parish, and we shall have the opportunity of deciding whether we wish to form such a team here.

The outline of services for Holy Week and Easter Day is given under "Some Dates to Note". It will be noticed that members of our Drama Group are hoping to read a Passion Play in church on the Wednesday in Holy Week as an act of worship, and as a way of conveying to us something of the greatness and dignity of our Lord in His Passion. On Maundy Thursday, Masfield's great poetic drama "Good Friday" is being presented in St. Mary's, Hampton, by the St. Cross Players. St. Mary's Fellowship, who are paying all the expenses, have arranged this primarily of course for the people of their own parish, but I am assured that they will be glad to welcome members of our congregation. But we must remember that it will be our privilege to take second place on this occasion if there is any difficulty about space and seating.

On the evening of Good Friday, Mr. Bull will give an organ recital of sacred music from the works of

Handel, Bach, Walton, Sibelius, and other composers, and Miss Thelma Boles, of the Royal College of Music will sing excerpts from "The Messiah" and other works. Programmes (price 1/- to cover the expenses) will shortly be available.

This month Mr. Edward Beckett lays down his office of Churchwarden, which he has discharged with exemplary devotion, love and efficiency since 1946. In his place as People's Warden we welcome Mr. E. H. Western, who has already taken over the treasurership. Since his coming to live in the parish in May last year, he and his family have been wholehearted in their support of the worship and work of our church, and Mr. Western has been an active member of the committee of our Men's Society. Mr. Western has served as deputy-warden in other parishes in which he has lived, and we wish him every joy as he now takes over the duties of this honourable and responsible office on our behalf. We are glad to say that we are not losing the energetic services of Mr. Beckett, for he has now the big job of being secretary to the Special Purposes Committee appointed by the Church Council, the main work of which will be to deal with the important matter of the repairs and renovation of the church fabric, and the raising of the large sums of money that will be required. The Church Council unananimously felt that he was the right man for this great task, and though he must have felt that he deserved a little leisure after his years of bearing what has at times been a very heavy and unrewarding burden, he did not hesitate to shoulder this new load. I personally am most grateful to him for this, and also for the great help he has given me right from the moment I accepted the living.

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about
people, activities & organisations

HAPPY EVENTS

Many members of the congregation will remember Miss Hazel Child, daughter of Mr. C. A. Child, M.M., who for some years was Church-

warden of this parish. Hazel was a Sunday School Teacher and later played the organ for about two years at the end of the war.

She is now getting married on

March 29th, at St. John's Church, Sandown, Isle of Wight, to Mr. Eric Edwards, of Fulwell.

Two members of the Church Council, Miss Blackmore and Miss Phillips, are going to the wedding, and we are very glad that there will be two representatives of St. James' Church there.

We send our very best wishes to Miss Hazel Child and to her future husband, for great happiness in their married life.

Mr. and Mrs. N. E. Chown were married at St. James's Church, on March 22nd, 1902. They are celebrating their Golden Wedding, and as a Parish we wish to offer them heartiest congratulations.

Mr. Chown has lived in Hampton Hill for 53 years. He is a member of the Church of England Men's Society in this Parish.

It is very pleasant to have Mr. Cornish and Mr. Christie back among us again, after long weeks in hospital. We all hope they will keep very well indeed now.

THE MEN'S SOCIETY

We were glad to welcome Commander Paul Coombe as our speaker in February. He told us a thrilling story of his work and experiences as harbour-master in Iceland and North Africa during the last war, and his talk led to many questions. In March we were looking forward to having the Borough Librarian with us, but he was under medical orders and unable to come. So one of our own members, Mr. S. R. Childs, kindly stepped into the breach, and told us about the mysteries embodied in the wonderful designs of Persian carpets, and what can be learnt from them.

The branch held its Annual General Meeting in January, and Mr. Wigginton was elected chairman for the ensuing year. Mr. Cornish, our first chairman, who had worked so conscientiously for the branch since its beginnings last summer, was unable to continue in office owing to uncertain health, but we were very glad to have him with us again at our last meeting.

Our secretary has been busily working on the future programme and arrangements for most of the meetings up to the end of the year

are well in hand. In the next few months we are to have visits from representatives of the Missions to Seamen (with films), the Community of the Resurrection (with film-strips illustrating aspects of their work amongst the native population of Johannesburg), and the National Police Court Mission. In the summer we are looking forward to having members from the C.E.M.S. branch at Bethnal Green as our guests for the day one Saturday.

Copies of the C.E.M.S. magazine and of "The London Churchman" (to which our secretary recently contributed an article on the history of Christmas Carols) are displayed on the table in church, and may be borrowed by arrangement with the churchwardens.

We rejoice with one our members, Mr. Chown, on the occasion of his golden wedding. Thanksgiving for this was offered in church on the occasion of the C.E.M.S. Corporate Communion, when Mr. Chown was present as he always is. Mr. Chown and his brother-in-law Mr. Hawkins do excellent work one day a week in the churchyard, and a number of people have commented recently—sometimes with surprise!—on its well-kept appearance.

But in the summer months, when the grass grows rapidly, one day a week is not really sufficient to maintain this position, and so Mr. Chown's fellow-members have volunteered to come and help in the evenings, and have asked him to supervise their efforts.

MOTHERS' UNION & WOMEN'S GUILD

It was with great sorrow that we heard of the death of Mrs. Bridson so soon after hearing that she was making progress after her recent operation. Before coming to live at Hampton she had been an enrolling member for a parish in the North and although of late she had been unable to get so far as the club-room for meetings she had come regularly to the church services. It was because of all her work and interest in the Mothers' Union, that our choir was given the privilege of leading the singing of her favourite hymn "He who would valiant be . . ." and of singing the 23rd Psalm as the coffin moved down the church at

the funeral on March 20th. Our sympathy goes to her daughter and Mr. Bridson.

On March 19th, we only managed to get through half the business of the Annual Meeting before it was time to adjourn. We shall therefore be holding the second half on April 23rd and since this will include the part where members give their views on the future conduct of our affairs we hope you will be kind enough to turn up again on that day.

For our April 2nd meeting we shall have the privilege of having Mrs. de Vere, one of the Diocesan correspondents. This is obviously going to come in the middle of a great spring-cleaning week, but please take an afternoon off, for this will be an important meeting for our branch.

On Wednesday, April 9th, the Vicar will conduct a "Quiet Afternoon" for dedication of M.U. work. This is specially planned for the committee members just taking over, but we hope other members will join us that day at 3.0 p.m. in church.

YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

Our March meetings have been concerned largely with the more social events. For the second half of the Monday meeting we enjoyed a Beetle Drive, when the hour passed all too quickly.

At a Tuesday afternoon we and our children were entertained by a country dance team from All Saints' (Twickenham) Y. W. Group, who first demonstrated some very graceful dances and then helped us to join in. It was a most enjoyable afternoon, and we mean to take this up more seriously when there is space on our programme.

The dressmaking class will not meet on April 3rd or 10th, as the room is engaged, but we hope to have a final meeting on April 17th with a display of work (or that part of it which the children have not already worn out!) a mannequin parade, and some more of Mrs. Gloynes much appreciated "hints", so please bring pencils and notebooks.

Before our next meeting we shall have said our good-byes and Bon Voyage to Mrs. Biles, who was one of our first members. We shall all

miss her enthusiasm and support and wish her and Mr. Biles, Timothy and Josephine, all joy and success for their new venture.

We hear that Mrs. Whitehouse of Park Road has left for Geneva, and we remember Mrs. Smith of St. James's Avenue, who was "called" to Rhodesia on the eve of our first meeting.

Mrs. Parker and her family are expecting to go to Washington shortly. Much as we dislike these departures from our ranks we can at least say that there is no lack of enterprise and the spirit of adventure among our members!

There will be a special meeting for members of local groups at St. Mary's Hall, Twickenham, at 7.30 p.m., on April 22nd. One of the speakers will be Mrs. Eric Coombes, the London Diocesan President of the M.U. We hope that as many as possible of our group will be able to attend.

THE DRAMA GROUP

Regular meetings are being held at the president's house in Park Road, and a junior section has also been formed for members under the age of 17. Both sections are feeling their way slowly, and we are not likely to put on any public performances for some time. At the moment our main activity is the reading of one-act plays, under the guidance of our more experienced members, who have been formed into a producers' panel. These readings, sometimes with simple actions and movements, are both enjoyable and instructive, and as a direct outcome we are hoping to read a simple Passion Play in church after the evening service on the Wednesday in Holy Week. The quality of the short play we have in mind is such that even when only read and not acted, it does convey in a vivid and challenging way the impression which our Lord in His passion made upon men.

On Saturday, March 15th, members of the Group and friends—40 of us altogether—went by coach to the Academy Theatre, Oxford Street, to see the film version of T. S. Eliot's poetic drama "Murder in the Cathedral". We had been warned

by newspaper criticisms that this film had its defects: it was too long, it lacked movement, it had very dull patches. So we went knowing that we might have to endure a good deal of boredom for the sake of the excellent features that would perhaps make this seem worth-while. But, to our surprise, the worst we feared did not happen. The good points of the film were so strong that they greatly outweighed everything else. Certainly the film makes few concessions to human weaknesses; there is little or no light relief, as there was in the original play (e.g. the ironic speeches of the knights at the end, and a certain amount of buffoonery on their part; the characterization of one of the priests as a fat, rather comical figure, and so on)—but the impression it makes upon you is tremendous, it gives you something, and at the end you are left in that silence which is natural after experiencing the presence and the pressure of something great.

This first venture was so successful that it has whetted our appetite for more. We are very grateful to our president, Miss Stanton, for organizing it for us, and for persisting in spite of the difficulties that kept cropping up.

THE CHOIR

We have been glad to welcome Mr. Rosam and his son as members. At the same time it has been sad to lose our two ladies, Mrs. Keen and Miss Cooper, who have given such devoted service since the war-years. Now that the choir is approaching full strength again, they have felt it right that this period of service, undertaken 'for the duration', should be brought to a close, and the choir become entirely male again. But we cannot let them go without a warm expression of thanks from us all, vicar, choir and congregation alike. Their contribution to the music of our church has been greatly appreciated.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

Mar. 31st.—8.0 p.m. Young Wives' Group. Speaker: Mrs. Bligh.
 Apr. 1st.—7.30 p.m. Drama Group.
 8.0 p.m. Social Committee,

Apr. 2nd.—3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union.
 Apr. 3rd.—7.30 p.m. Drama Group.
 Apr. 6th.—Palm Sunday.
 Apr. 7th.—7.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
 8.0 p.m. Compline and Address.
 Apr. 8th.—7.0 a.m. Holy Communion.
 8.0 p.m. Compline and Address.
 Apr. 9th.—7.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
 3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union: Quiet Afternoon.
 8.0 p.m. Compline, followed by the reading of a Passion Play.
 Apr. 10th.—Maundy Thursday.
 7.30 & 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
 8.0 p.m. John Masefield's "Good Friday", presented by the St. Cross Players, in St. Mary's, Hampton.
 Apr. 11th.—Good Friday.
 9.0 a.m. Children's Service.
 10.15 a.m. Matins and Sermon.
 12.0—3.0 p.m. The Three Hours' Devotion.
 8.0 p.m. Recital of Sacred Music.
 Apr. 13th.—Easter Day.
 7.0, 8.0, 9.45 a.m., and 12.15 p.m., Holy Communion. Other services as usual.
 Apr. 14th.—10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
 Apr. 15th.—8.0 p.m. C.E.M.S. Meeting.
 Apr. 16th.—7.30 p.m. Easter Social, in the Hall.
 Apr. 17th.—7.30 p.m. Young Wives' Dressmaking Class.
 Apr. 18th.—8.0 p.m. Beetle Drive, in aid of Scout Funds.
 Apr. 20th.—6.30 p.m. Address by Sister Simpson, C.A.
 Apr. 22nd.—7.30 p.m. Young Wives' Groups, St. Mary's Hall, Twickenham.
 Apr. 23rd.—3.0 p.m. Second part of Mothers' Union A.G.M.
 8.0 p.m. Parish Guest Night, to hear about News-Teams, in Hall.
 Apr. 25th.—St. Mark.
 7.0 a.m. Holy Communion.
 7.30 p.m. Magazine Distributors' Meeting.
 Apr. 28th.—8.0 p.m. Young Wives' Group.