

Vicar's Notes

THE SUMMER FETE

July 5th was indeed a good day. We were most fortunate in every respect—in the weather, in the lovely setting, in our opener Mrs. Kennedy, in the spirit and team-work shown by all the helpers, and in the large number who came to support their efforts. In such circumstances and with such an atmosphere of good fellowship prevailing, it could not have failed to be the great success that it was in every way. The financial picture is still not complete, but we have every hope that when all expenses have been paid, there may be £200 for our hard-pressed funds. This is indeed an excellent result, and a great advance on last year—I have not been back through the records, but it seems this may also beat not only last year, but our previous best. We must now continue the good work, and begin to make plans for our Autumn Bazaar.

THE OPEN CHURCH AND CHURCHYARD

Occasionally things happen in the church that tempt one to feel "It would be better to keep it locked all the time." A few days ago a new Psalter—one of a set of three handsome books presented by Mr. Harper for the vicar's use as a momento of his ministry here—was removed from my desk, and it has disappeared without trace. It leaves a puzzle in one's mind—was it taken by children who were attracted by its shiny cover? was it removed maliciously just to cause annoyance? or by a church music lover with a perverted mind? or by someone who knew where he could dispose of it for money?

Fortunately, these thefts are fairly rare inside the church: but in the churchyard unfortunately they happen frequently, with a complete disregard for people's feelings. The most flagrant of recent misdemeanors was the uprooting and removal of eight rose-bushes from the war-graves. But similar things happen every summer—bedding-plants are removed by stealth, sometimes at the right season by experts who evidently know where they can find a ready market; sometimes at the wrong time, by thieves who have not sufficient

gardening knowledge to take advantage of their crimes. Again, such happenings make one feel that the churchyard gates ought to be kept locked, and a barbed-wire-fence put round. But on a more balanced view, the value of having an open church and churchyard outweighs the risks of sacrilege and misuse that this involves. We usually make only one exception—the church is kept locked during the month of August, when there always seem to be more irresponsible people than usual about—people who are not averse to using their holidays to do mischief.

HOLIDAYS

This reminds me that I also hope to be on holiday in August—but in a responsible way! I am taking a rather longer holiday than usual—four weeks—and during this period the Reverend Rowland Hill and his family will be living at the Vicarage. Mr. Hill is the vicar of a parish in Bolton, and though he is kindly doing duty for me here, he is also on holiday, and I hope that claims upon his time will be reduced to the minimum. Sunday services will continue as usual (except for the children's service), but the only regular week-day service will be on Wednesday at 7.30 a.m., except when otherwise announced (please consult the notices on the church-door.)

WASTE-PAPER

In May, I suggested that we might raise money for the church by the sale of waste-paper. A number of people seized on the idea, and brought their waste to the Vicarage, while Mrs. Prentice kindly organized a monthly collection scheme, which is now producing great quantities. But unfortunately the bottom has fallen out of the market! The price has changed from 12/- to 2/6 per cwt.—but in practice, it seems impossible to induce firms to collect it even at this low figure. They say they are glutted out. The result is that half of our garage is filled almost up to roof-level with waste-paper, but it seems as though, far from getting anything for it, we shall have to pay someone to take it away! I am grateful to all who have helped in this scheme, and particularly to Mrs. Prentice, but it is

clear we must now abandon it. Please don't bring any more waste to the vicarage—burn it or put it in the dust-bin!

STOP-PRESS.—Since the above was written, I have found a firm willing

both to collect and to pay a better price than that quoted—for newspapers only. It may therefore be worth our while to continue the scheme in a modified form. Further details in September.

FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

A VISITOR FROM CEYLON

There will be an opportunity for church people of the Hampton Deanery to meet one of the most striking personalities of the Anglican Communion on Thursday, September 18th, when the Bishop of Kurunagala will address a meeting sponsored by the S.P.C.K. in St. Mary's Church Hall, Twickenham, at 8 p.m. Mr. D. J. Muir, Agent-General for Queensland, has consented to act as Chairman.

The Rt. Rev. H. L. J. de Mel is the first Sinhalese bishop. After graduating at Oxford, he received his theological training at Cuddesdon and served his diaconate in South London. The rest of his ministry has been in his native island of Ceylon. His visit to England for the Lambeth Conference revealed his outstanding ability and he was in great demand as a speaker for all types of audiences. Everyone whose interest was aroused by the "With One Voice" Exhibition should attend.

In view of the interest this meeting is expected to arouse, *admission will be by ticket only*. Please ask your incumbent for a ticket in good time.

A CONFERENCE AT STOKE

148 delegates from England, Wales and other places attended the recent Annual Conference of the Church of England Men's Society, held this year at Stoke-on-Trent, with business-meetings in Fenton Town Hall nearby. Visitors were found lodgings in homes of members, and our dele-

gate was domiciled at Stafford, 18 miles away, which made early attendance at Fenton somewhat difficult.

Besides the business meetings (when the position regarding badges and name of the Society remained unchanged) the highlights were an official reception by the Lord Mayor (for Stoke is an industrial city without a Cathedral, although the Rector is also Archdeacon) and also a procession of 850 men walking in silent witness from Hanley Park, about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile away, to Stoke for the Annual Service, when the Preacher was our Chairman, our own Diocesan.

Dr. Wand was unable to walk with us because of knee-rheumatism, while the Archdeacon suffered slight injury, to his nose when he opened his Rectory door to the Bishop, an obeisance immediate and unexpected following, for he fell flat on his face as he slipped on the mat.

The draft constitution of the Society occupied some time (the minimum age of members at 17 is deleted for example) while an interesting discussion followed a talk by Rev. Dr. W. G. Peck, I.C.F., on the Prayer Book's relation to common life.

The Conference also gave a very valuable opportunity for our delegate (Hon. Secy. of Branch) to mix informally with men from all over Britain, a privilege of mutual enjoyment, and great usefulness in our work for the Master. Both the Bishops of Lichfield and Whitby attended, and walked in the procession. F.H.S.

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about people, activities & organisations

Mothers' Union Womens' Guild and Young Wives Group

There will be no meetings in August, but on September 3rd the M.U. will start its new season's

programme on "Worship". Under the title "Where we worship" Miss Agnes Stops will be talking about Christian churches she has visited in various parts of the world. We are

arranging pictures of various styles of church architecture and the Hall will be open at 2.30 for members to look at these before the meeting if they wish. Among other meetings arranged in this programme is one on Christian art and one on music.

We already have names of some people who wish to be enrolled as M.U. members next March and would be glad to hear as soon as possible from anyone else who is considering membership or associate membership. And may we say again that anyone who is interested to come to our monthly branch meetings is welcome whether or not they belong to the Mothers' Union?

Our Fête efforts produced over £35 (M.U. Stall over £22 and Y.W.'s. White Elephant £12 : 10s.) We slightly regretted that the white mice were eventually sold from the cake stall. This was apparently from the humane necessity, since they were temporarily living in glass jam jars, of putting them in a shady spot and not because of the cakes.

The pretty new table-cloths used for the first time for the Fête refreshments are an addition to our property and to pay for them and one or two other requirements we shall be having a Whist Drive, Sept. 26th, a Jumble Sale, Oct. 11th and a Beetle Drive to be announced later. Please note the dates and support our efforts.

The M.U. Choir will not meet again until September 24th. We are grateful for an anonymous gift of 10/- towards a new A.M. Tune book.

Details of the Guild meetings for September will be in the next issue of the magazine. Meanwhile you might like to know that the meeting on October 15th, will include a flower-arrangement competition. We discovered from the fête that there is an interest in this subject in spite of the fact that all our artistic efforts on that day were blown over.

The Y.W. meeting in September will be a General business meeting, and since it will give us the first opportunity of an elected committee which will want to know members' wishes as fully as possible, we hope everyone will make a special effort to be present. Date and place in September magazine.

THE MENS SOCIETY

Quite a number of articles arrived in time for our stall at the fête on 5th July, and Mr. Strawson very kindly took charge of the stall so that

we were able to hand over quite a useful contribution to the fête treasurer.

Mr. Smith made several journeys with his car to and from the church for conducted ascents of the tower by Leslie Sargeant. All agreed that the effort was well rewarded by the magnificent view from the steeple.

The secretary was delegated to attend the society's National Conference at Stoke-on-Trent, on 15th, 16th and 17th July (a report of which appears elsewhere); he has further received the responsible honour of being elected first chairman of the newly-formed Federation for the S.W. District of Middlesex.

Final assent to the operation will have to come from the Council of the Society which next meets in October, but the General Secretary has given preliminary permission to proceed.

The Reverends A. A. Wade (Whitton), and C. P. C. Knapp (Hampton) kindly consented to be President and Vice-President respectively, while Mr. Channing of St. George's, Hanworth becomes Federation Secretary.

We add our good wishes to Dr. Yelverton on his retirement from the office of General Secretary, while we note with interest that in September 1953, a pilgrimage is to be organised to visit historic St. Albans.

H.H.S.

PERSONALIA

We are glad to know that Mr. Thomas, back at home again now, is continuing to make good progress. He asks us to record his gratitude and thanks for all the kind enquiries received during his time of illness. He is not yet well enough to come to church, but we hope that it will not be long before we have the pleasure of seeing him in his accustomed place.

Two of the Lady Eleanor Holles School boarders who have often been readers of the lessons at Matins may not be returning next term—Pamela Chamberlain and Shirley Thwaites. We were glad to have them as keen helpers at our Fête. One is hoping to become a children's nurse, the other to take up hospital nursing, and our best wishes go with them.

Nurse Gladys Padley, of Teddington Memorial Hospital, who for three years regularly attended this church, has been ill for nearly a year now. She has borne it all with great faith and fortitude. Please remember her in prayer.

MISSIONARY BOXES

Miss Cox has let us have details of the amounts collected in the Missionary boxes.

Please let us know if any more collecting boxes are required. The total of £8 15s. 0d. was made up as follows:—Carried fwd. £3 10s. 11d., Mrs. Neave 19/8½, Miss Stanton 3/7½, Mrs. Ward 9/6½, Mrs. Kingsford 8/1½, Mrs. Cox 10/7, Brian Bowen 6/6, Miss Wertheim 8/6, Boys S. School 10/1, Mrs. Crouch £1/0/7½, Miss S. Baldwin 6/8½.

In addition, the special Lenten boxes have brought in over £5 0s. 0d.

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

Very many thanks to *all* those who gave so generously in the house to house collection recently taken for the above Society—also to the collectors. The total reached was £18 : 14 : 7 which has been forwarded to the Society. A letter of thanks together with receipt may be seen in the church porch. K.J.B.

DRAMA GROUP NOTES

The St. James's Drama Group are putting on an evening of plays on Friday, November 28th. This will be held in St. James's Hall.

The Group needs help with this production: an electrician is needed who will take full responsibility for the stage lighting, floods, spots, etc. Dressmakers who will help with costumes are needed, also scenery artists and those interested in stage make-up. The Group lacks a stage manager, and would like to find one from among St. James's parishioners.

Will all who read this article please think carefully whether they, or someone they know, can take on any of the jobs outlined above. They will be most warmly welcomed as members of the Drama Group.

The Group also wants members who are interested in acting. Meetings are starting again in the Club Room, School Road, at 8 p.m. on Monday, September 15th, and are on alternate Mondays: from October onwards there will be concentrated work on the plays to be produced in November.

This evening's performance of plays is the first attempt at putting on a dramatic performance in public. The cost of production is high, and

as yet funds are very low. It would be sad if all the profits from the evening had to go to meeting expenses. It is hoped in the future to be able to give performances to aid the Church, but this is not possible until the Group has a firm foundation of experience, and some materials in the way of lighting equipment, stage fixtures, curtains, etc. The Group would welcome Patrons who would give a donation to launch the first efforts, and would be glad to see them at all or any of its meetings.

Other activities of the Drama Group include excursions to London theatres, and to cinemas when films of note are being shown. A theatre outing is being planned for the Autumn, and a cinema outing to "Cry, the Beloved Country" when this film comes to Twickenham in November. Non-members are welcomed to these outings. A Drama Group Dance will be held on October 31st.

For further particulars, offers of help and applications for membership, apply to the Secretary, Mr. Cyril Tarrant, 31, Anlaby Road, Teddington. Molesey 4987, or to the President, Miss H. Stanton, 63, Park Road, Hampton Hill, Molesey 5821. H.S.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

August 29th.—7.30 p.m. Magazines ready: Distributors' Meeting.

September 2nd.—8.0 p.m. Newsletter Fellowship (at Vicarage.)

Sept. 3rd.—3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union Meeting (in Hall).

Sept. 7th.—Sunday Schools re-open.

6.30 p.m. Evensong: Confirmation Candidates asked to be present.

BAPTISMS

June 29th.—Graham Edwin Robinson, 51, Hounslow Road, Whitton.

July 13th.—Anne Davida McIlherene, 3, Cranmer Road.

July 13th.—Pamela Booth Moslo, 18, Rowood Avenue, Cheetham, Manchester.

July 13th.—Barbara Susan Brooks, 11, Links View Road.

MARRIAGE

June 28th.—Leslie Arthur Heath to Joan Gething.

BURIAL

July 21st.—Grace Ball, 14, Wolsey Road, aged 60 years.