

## Vicar's Notes

During the latter part of August, the work of renovating the Church was resumed. At the moment everything is being concentrated on saving the roof-beams in the north and south aisles. The ends of some of these joists are rotten, and are having to be cut out: while this is being done the roof will have to be propped with scaffolding. All the beams, including those that so far seem unaffected, will then be treated with a special preservative against wood-rot. The trouble has obviously been caused by the damp that has been seeping through for years as a result of the poor quality and defective laying of the roof-leading. This new work, which was not thought necessary when renovation began, will add to the total expense: but it is fortunate that the rot was discovered as soon as it was, for in a year's time it might have become really serious.

When we have 'stopped the rot' and repaired the decay, there will

still be much to do that is positive and constructive. What we need to keep in mind is a vision of a church that is in good order, dignified and beautiful within and without, the centre of a vigorous Christian life and witness, a home of fellowship and worship: and then, having such a vision, to peg away until its realisation is achieved.

The Church Council, after a long discussion at its August meeting, decided that it was not in a position to take any immediate steps concerning the building of a new small hall to replace the old club-room: the issues were far too complicated. The matter was deferred for 6 months, by which time we should have more facts at our disposal upon which a decision might be based. In the meantime, we must do our best to make the large hall pay its way, and put up patiently with any inconveniences caused because our meetings, socials, and church societies cannot always find the accommodation they would like.

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## AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about  
people, activities & organisations

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### MOTHERS' UNION AND YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

We now have our year's programme in permanent form. You can get a copy of it price 3d. from your Committee member or at your next meeting.

By the time this magazine appears we shall have had our joint "Open Forum" meeting. It has only been possible to choose questions for that which could reasonably be answered by the panel in a few minutes. We have a number of questions about confirmation and communion services and these we have put together to be answered at a special meeting on September 23. According to the Central Rules of the M.U. members do not have to be communicants, although Branch Committee members do, but they do have to have been baptized and the normal and inseparable consequence of that is confirmation and communion.

The Vicar will be holding adult confirmation classes early in the Autumn in readiness for the Adult

Confirmation to be held at St. Paul's Cathedral later on, and so we felt that these questions and any others that occur to you, should be dealt with as soon as possible. Please make the meeting known to anyone else who is interested in confirmation either for adults or young people.

In response to the suggestion made at the A.G.M. there will be a short outing arranged for M.U. early in the Autumn. If you miss particulars of this at the September meetings please enquire at once from your committee member.

**The M.U. Mass Meeting** is to be on October 13 in the Guildhall, Westminster.

We now have our allocation of tickets for this. Please ask for them as soon as possible. There are only a few for each branch and it is essential that every ticket is really used. We are just starting on the year that Mrs. Fisher asked us to devote specially to considering our faithfulness to the "Second Object." For us it seems to boil down to the question "Does it

make any difference to Hampton Hill that there is a band of nearly a hundred Christian Mothers working and praying within its borders?" An honest answer to that question should lead us to some pretty humble heart-searching. This year's Mass Meeting has been planned to help us to see what we can do about it so it is most important that as many of us as possible get there.

It was a great shock for us to hear of the sudden death of Mrs. Gubbins on August 4. She was a loyal and regular member of our Church and branch and we shall miss her smile and her forthright attitude to our doings.

C. B.

### ALTAR GUILD

Arrangements for flowers:

September—Mrs. Bull.

October—Mrs. Futter.

November—Mrs. Bassett and Miss Chamberlin.

December—Mrs. Thompson.

### THE LOSS OF TWO VALUED PARISHONERS

Everyone is missing very much Mrs. Gubbins who died suddenly on August 4.

Mrs. Gubbins always attended church regularly, she had a cheery smile for everyone, and it was always a pleasure to meet her in the neighbourhood of the Church and Uxbridge Road.

In talking of her lately the tribute was given that she never made any unkind criticism. We shall remember this and also the loyal love and sense of cheerfulness which she gave to our parish.

We grieve to hear of the death of Mr. Jack Osborne. Mr. Osborne was, for several years, a member of St. James's Church Choir, and since leaving the choir has been a worshipper with us. May we extend our sympathy and love to Mrs. Osborne in her great loss.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTING

August 27 proved a day of sunshine, and all were glad that the excursion to Brighton took place in brilliant weather. The Vicar and Mrs. Brunt came over from East Dene to meet the party, and Miss Stewart also came from the neighbouring seaside resort where she was spending her holiday.

Several parents came from the Rectory Estate who were strangers to us. They were most welcome and we hope we shall see more of them.

Thanks are due to Mr. and Mrs. Casey for organising the outing.

### PRESENTATION TO MISS PHILLIPS

On September 1 Mrs. Beckett and Mrs. Ward, as representatives of the parish, took our farewell gift to Miss Phillips to where she is now living, in Sunbury.

Lately, it was luckily discovered that Miss Phillips wanted an electric fire, and with the money collected, a very nice one was bought. We hope that this will remind Miss Phillips for a long time of our love for her, and of our gratitude for all the work which she carried out most devotedly when she lived in the parish.

Not only has the Sunday School, where Miss Phillips taught for many years, reason for gratitude, but the church congregation, of which she was a regular worshipping member, most sincerely regret that through moving, she is no longer in Hampton Hill.

### DRAMA GROUP

Regular meetings will be resumed from Monday, September 14, fortnightly at the Windmill Road Primary School at 7.30 p.m.

New members welcome.

As already announced in the August magazine, a coach trip will be run to Stratford-on-Avon on Saturday, September 26 at 8 a.m. from the church.

We are going to see "King Lear"—an excellent production, with Michael Redgrave in the part of Lear—at the Festival Theatre in the afternoon, followed by tea in the Theatre Restaurant.

Cost 18/., inclusive of fare, seat for the performance and tea.

Names to Cyril Tarrant,

31 Anlaby Road, Teddington,  
Molesey 4987.

### NEWS OF FRIENDS

May we offer our most sincere congratulations to Miss Campbell, the Captain of the St. James's Girl Guide Company, on her marriage to Mr. Terence Fay on August 29. All best wishes for a very happy future.

Everyone is delighted and most thankful to hear of the excellent progress Mrs. Tarrant has made after a very tricky operation. We are very happy to know that she is at home again.

Hugh Virgo is to be congratulated on obtaining an Honours Degree in Geography at Hull University.

We hear that he is going on now to take his Teacher's Diploma. Best wishes for his next undertaking.

It has been very pleasant to see David Thompson in Church lately, at home on leave from the Army in Germany. We hope it will not be too long before he is with us again permanently.

#### • BAPTISM

August 23—Richard Anthony Harries, 103 Park Road.

#### MARRIAGES

August 1—Edward Ellwood Turner to Audrey Inez Elsie Muckle.

August 15—John Walter Everett to Hilda Margaret Waters.

August 22—Jack Wallace Greene to Gwendoline Rae Gilchrist.

August 29—Arthur Frederick Sullivan to Daisy Edna White.

August 29—Kenneth Charles Wadge to Audrey Lillian Margaret Maskell.

August 29—Terence Fay to Marjorie June Campbell.

#### BURIAL AND CREMATION

July 28—Jack Edward Osborne 154 Uxbridge Road, Aged 53 years.

August 7—Annie Gubbins, 157 Uxbridge Road, Aged 74 years, (at Kingston Crematorium).

#### SOME DATES TO NOTE

Sept. 16—3.0 p.m. Young Wives' Group: "Babies Tea-party" (Hall)  
Sept. 23—3.0 p.m.—M.U. and Y.W. Group "Confirmation" (small Hall).

Sept. 26—Drama Group Outing to Stratford-on-Avon. 8.0 a.m. C.E.M.S. Pilgrimage to St. Alban's 1.0 p.m.

Sept. 30—8.0 p.m. P.C.C. and News Team (63 Park Road). 8.0 p.m. Y.W.G. "When to call the Doctor" (Small Hall).

Oct. 7—3.0 p.m.—M.U. Quarterly service. 7.15 p.m. Harvest Thanksgiving. Preacher: The Rev. C. M. Lamb. 8.30 p.m. Harvest Supper.

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## FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

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### A HOLIDAY AT ABINGDON

This year we spent ten days of our holiday at a Conference for members of the Anglican and Orthodox Churches, organised by the Fellowship of Saint Alban and Saint Sergius. The Conference was held at Saint Helen's School, Abingdon which was an ideal place for the hundred people, who ranged in age from three months to over 70 years. The families lived in rooms of four or more beds, and everyone else slept either in single rooms or dormitories. The school is well equipped with tennis courts, swimming bath, swings, a see-saw and beautiful grounds to walk in; also a beautiful little chapel which was the centre of our activities there.

Each morning we had either an Anglican Communion or an Orthodox Liturgy (which is their communion service), and on alternate evenings we had Evensong and Orthodox Vespers. It is thought

that through worship we can best learn to understand our different approaches to Christianity. One interesting thing about Orthodox practice is that a baby is baptised, chrismated (which corresponds to our confirmation) and receives his first communion when he is eight days old. They argue that understanding by the child is not necessary before God can work in him through the sacraments. At each celebration of the Orthodox Liturgy at the conference the first communicant was a small child of three months.

Later in the morning we had either a lecture or a discussion; the afternoons were free and we had another lecture after supper. The lectures this year were concerned with either 'Vocation' or 'Christian Initiation,' and the discussions helped the Anglicans to learn about the Orthodox faith, and the Orthodox to learn of the Anglicans. During the talks the older children

played quite happily together while the younger ones slept.

The Anglican members of the Conference came from all parts of Britain, but the Orthodox came from Britain, France, Germany, Greece and Rumania. Some of the people from France were Russians who had left their country during the first or second emigration. The largest centre of the Russian Orthodox Church in the West is in Paris where they have a theological college. Language was a slight difficulty to those who knew only English or French; but there were always plenty of willing interpreters. During the Conference the Orthodox Liturgy was celebrated in Russian, Greek, Serbian and English.

The Fellowship aims to promote understanding between the Anglican and Orthodox Churches and besides holding an annual conference, it owns Saint Basil's House in London where there is a library, an Orthodox chapel and some accommodation which is used by members visiting London. Anyone at all interested in the work of the Fellowship is always welcome there.

D. B.

### THE NEW PILGRIM PLAYERS

At the recent Religious Drama Society Summer School at Worcester it was very interesting to meet the New Pilgrim Players:— a small group of actors and actresses, 5 men and 4 women, with their producer, Miss Pamela Keily.

The New Pilgrims tour industrial towns, so unfortunately we may not have the opportunity of seeing them locally. In the near future they are travelling to Cardiff, Leeds and Newcastle, and anyone with friends or relatives in these places should tell them not to miss seeing the performances which the New Pilgrims are giving in churches, in parish halls and in factories.

The New Pilgrims put on religious plays, and they put them on well. The actors are professionals, and Miss Keily's standard of production is high. The whole company feels the responsibility for getting across the Christian message. "Holy Family," a play in their repertory, which we saw at Worcester, is a beautiful modern version of the Christmas story, in

verse. "The Dragon and the Dove," is brilliantly done, and is very amusing. But the play in which everyone is most interested is "T'other Shift," a 20 minute play to be acted in factory workshops in the lunch break, on the floor among the machinery, with the workers standing round, and with a background of workshop noise. The play is about workmen in heavy industry; Mrs. Baxter who wrote it, went into a Sheffield factory and asked advice from the workers themselves on both the subject matter and the language for her play. The actors are made up to look identically the same as the worker audience standing round them. The play is absorbing and dramatic and makes a direct impact. One worker, after the play was over, said to one of the actors, "It's about the every-day things that happen, which need to be put right, and you can't do it without God."

We felt at Worcester that religious drama was getting to people to whom the Christian message was perhaps unfamiliar, as well as to congregations in churches and in parish halls.

H. S.

### THE HAMPTONS PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

This Society holds its rehearsals at the Windmill Road School, Hampton Hill, every Tuesday evening from 8 till 9.30. It is under the Musical direction of Mr. William D. Reid, B.Sc., L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., A.R.C.O. The first rehearsal of the new season will be on Tuesday evening September 15, when any new members will be welcomed—there are vacancies in all sections—Tenor, Bass, Contralto and Soprano. New members can enrol at the school on September 15, or further particulars can be obtained from the Hon. Sec. Mrs. Hoskins, 5 Manor Gardens, Hampton. Tel. : Mol. 3079.

### A PRAYER

O Love, from whom all love doth spring, grant that we may be so conscious of the love from which we came, that we may ever be mindful of the love to which we go, and in that love abounding may ever abide.

Amen.