

## Vicar's Notes

If the weather is fine, the Fête this year should be most enjoyable, as well as helping to build up our finances against the heavy expenses of winter. I myself hope that the day will come when our winter needs will be well covered from other sources, and we can hold the Fête for the fun and fellowship it brings, with financial considerations entirely secondary, and all fears about what may happen if the gamble on the weather does not come off removed. But that day is not yet, and as things are, a great deal does depend on July 7th. We therefore look with confidence for that co-operation and support from the parish which will bring the long and hard work of Mr. Rockliffe and his Committee and helpers to a successful and happy conclusion.

### A COMBINED SERVICE

The Hampton Council of Churches at its Easter meeting asked if a Combined Service might be held in our church on July 22nd at 6.30 p.m. We were glad to approve of this, and decided to have Evensong at 5.30 p.m. on that day. The five Ministers concerned have since met twice to discuss details. These discussions brought to light certain unforeseen difficulties, and in consequence the Service will now be at 8.0 p.m. on July 29th, and Evensong will be as usual at 6.30 p.m. The Service at 8.0 p.m. will be of an informal nature, and one attractive feature is that there will be no collection! The preacher will be the Methodist Minister, Mr. Yeomans, and it is suggested that the singing should be led by a special choir consisting of four or five adult members of the choir of each church taking part. They will meet here for a practice on the preceding Sunday at 8.0 p.m. We hope that members of our own congregation will support this enterprise in force—if you come to Evensong, there will be time for you to go out for a breath of fresh air before you need take your place for the joint Service. Then we can all mix up together — Anglicans, Congregationalists, Quakers and Methodists—in a corporate act of worship which should also help to deepen our knowledge of, and friendship for, one another.

## PIGEONS . . . . AND PLANTS

Amongst the worries of the last few weeks, these have been two of the smaller ones. Pigeons shut out from the steeple sought refuge and nesting-sites inside the church itself, and though usually so quiet during the Services that many people did not know they were there, they made their presence felt in other ways. We could not get them out until they chose to go in search of food, though various attempts—such as pot-shots with a shuttlecock—were made. Even when we thought we had finally got rid of them, they apparently found another opening, and returned—and their final triumph was when they gained access to their old haunts in the tower again. But for the moment we are clear again. Inspector Wilson has kindly done some shooting, which has reduced their numbers; the wire-guards in the spire have been made firmer, and Mr. Rockliffe has put in a new trap-door to pen in the upper reaches any intruders. But all windows in the church have had to be kept tightly shut, which has made the building somewhat airless; wire-guards here would be unsightly as well as costly to fix. We hope that shortly we will be able to begin opening them again for limited periods.

Pigeons cause trouble because they are mobile and persistent; plants are immobile, but trouble and grief come when people who ought to know better dig them up from graves and either take them away to sell, or set them out on other plots in the churchyard. This latter is the more disturbing, because it causes mistrust and suspicion amongst ourselves. Mr. Hawkins and I had to investigate such a case recently which might well have warranted a prosecution, but the people most nearly concerned were anxious rather to have the matter cleared up than to have anyone punished. But if this sort of thing continues the people who indulge in it cannot expect always to receive such lenient treatment. It is a particularly mean kind of theft, and apart from the hurt to deep human emotions it causes, the loss itself is no light thing to widows and old-age pensioners who have saved for many weeks

to adorn a loved one's grave. I should welcome the co-operation of all who use the churchyard in trying to prevent this from hap-

pening, and ask them to respect the graves of others as much as they do those which they look after themselves.

## AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about people, activities & organisations

### GIFTS FOR THE CHURCH

The Renovation Fund has benefited recently from the following gifts, which are acknowledged with thanks:

£1-0-0 from our Company of the Church Lads' Brigade; £7-3-0 from the sale of home-made marmalade by members of the Working Party and others who joined in to make it a very successful enterprise; £10-0-0 from the Mothers' Union, being part-proceeds of a recent Jumble Sale organized by them. These gifts go a good way to meeting our most recent expenditure—£24 for the re-wording and re-painting of the church notice-boards. The main one in St. James's Road is now very attractive, as well as correct and up-to-date in the information it supplies.

The Renovation Fund box in church continues to bring in a regular and steady income of £1 a month, and we are grateful to the anonymous donors who contribute to this. Another regular source of income comes from the visitors to the Tower, whom Geoffrey Eaton and Mr. Sargeant look after with never-failing enthusiasm every Saturday afternoon and Thursday evening—and part of the monies in the box comes from the sale of Mr. Sargeant's little hand-book.

Urgent needs still wait further gifts, and we are intending to set in hand shortly what we hope will be the final series of major repairs to the roof, a project which is a year overdue but which has had to be delayed for lack of funds. No one who has seen the amount of water in the church after the recent rains can doubt its necessity. We hope that the box-opening at Wayside on Wednesday, July 25th, after the Patronal Festival Evensong, will go a good way towards paying for this.

Another gift just received with thanks is a handsome picture of St. Cecilia, Patroness of Music,

from Mr. and Mrs. Job. This has now been hung in the large room at Wayside.

We are promised what should be an exceptionally fine Altar Book, to replace the one now showing signs of wear. This is being given us by the two sons of the late Mrs. Isdell-Carpenter in memory of their mother, who was such a well-known and well-loved figure in this parish for many years.

A small number of people have answered the Vicar's call to give 2/6 a week for the general needs and maintenance of the Church and its work in parish and diocese. Most of these are doing it through the Free-Will Offering Scheme (Secretary: Mr. Wigginton, who will be glad to supply information and envelopes to anyone interested). The happy day when we shall be able to do without all collections and special efforts for church expenses may seem to be a long way ahead—but a start has been made. If **YOU** are not giving—**COME IN AND HELP!**

Mrs. Mills reports that individual subscribers gave her a total of £3 for Moral Welfare work in the diocese. This was presented to the Bishop of London at the People's Offering Service in St. Paul's Cathedral on June 6th.

The Infants' Sunday School missionary box has just been opened, and out of it has come £7-3-8, collected since the box was last opened in February, 1955. This brings the total amount that has passed through this box since it was first brought into use to £57-6-10—an impressive achievement by these young people.

### THE WOLF CUBS

I should like to thank all those parents and friends who supported our various functions to make such a success of the special week commemorating 40 years of the Wolf Cub movement.

The Coffee Party on Wednesday raised the amount of £4-6-7½ where the display of handiwork

by the boys was both varied and interesting, so much so that it has encouraged me to contemplate making this an annual event.

The "Ace Variety Show" on Friday attracted a very large audience, every available chair from both Wayside and the Hall being in use, and true to their name they put on a Show with something to suit everybody's taste.

Saturday started rather disappointingly as owing to a mistake on the part of the Coach people, the boys arrived at Sunbury too late to participate in the main sports events, thus depriving them of the opportunity of winning the District Cup which they were all set to do. Those that went, together with their parents enjoyed a picnic tea ending with a jolly Campfire.

A fitting climax to the week was on Sunday afternoon when the Cubs together with other members of the Scout Group took part in a Thanksgiving Service in our Church, where the preacher was Father Paul Singleton, C.R., who himself had been a Cub in this District.

The total amount we shall be able to hand over to the Polio Research Fund will be announced later.

S. R. CHILDS (Akela).

#### SOME DATES TO NOTE

July 3.—7.30 p.m. Coffee Party in support of "White Elephant" stall (30, St. James's Road).

July 4.—3 p.m. Mothers' Union Service. Preacher: The Rev. E. T. Tipper.

July 7.—3 p.m. Summer Fête (Laurel Dene).

July 16.—8.0 p.m. Hampton Council of Churches (W).

July 17.—8.0 p.m. Confirmation at St. Mary's, Hampton.

July 18.—8 p.m. Young Wives' Group (Hall).

July 25.—St. James: Patronal Festival. 7.15 & 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion. 7.30 p.m. Evening song and Sermon. 8.15 p.m. 'At Home' and opening of Renovation Fund Boxes (W).

July 29.—2.30 p.m. Children's Service (Sunday Schools close for holidays, to re-open September 9th). 8.0 p.m. Combined Service of Praise, under the auspices of the Hampton Council of Churches. Preacher: The Rev. M. H. Yeomans (Methodist Minister).

August 3.—7.30 p.m. Magazines ready: Distributors' Meeting (V).

#### BAPTISM

June 10.—Jacqueline Mary Tanner, 9, Blandford Road.

#### MARRIAGES

June 2.—Leslie John Tolfree to Pauline Elizabeth Thomson.

„ 16.—Eric Percy Ridge to Audrey Elizabeth Howe.

#### BURIALS

May 30.—Winifred Annie Poley, 50, Uxbridge Road, aged 72 years (Interment of Ashes).

June 5.—George Edwin Booth, 11a, Park Road, aged 69 years.

„ 18.—John Albert Lown, 54, King's Road, aged 56 yrs.

„ 18.—Florence Jane Logdon, 5, St. James's Avenue, aged 89 years.

„ 22.—John Smith, 45, Wolsey Road, aged 77 years.

„ 23.—Lucy Emma McGallion, 19, Warfield Road, aged 91 years (at Hampton).

„ 26.—Lucy Staines, Laurel Dene, aged 80 years (at Hampton).

„ 26.—Emma Elizabeth Gunter 3, Windmill Road, aged 76 years.

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## FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

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### NEWS FROM CHURCH OF ENGLAND ZENANA MISSIONARY SOCIETY

#### India

In the light of recent discussions on the entry of missionaries into India, it is interesting to read what a prominent non-Christian has said about mission work.

At the St. Thomas Anniversary Celebration in New Delhi, on the 18th December, 1955, Shri T. T. Krishnamachari, Ministry for Commerce and Industry, Government of India, said:—"If the Ramakrishna Mission (a Hindu Mission) has done very good work, you must also appreciate that it is

the Christian missionaries who have set an example for that good work. They have rendered outstanding service to humanity in providing homes for the sick and wounded and for orphans. Mostly non-Christians have benefited from their activities. So long as Christians do such good work, neither Indian citizens nor foreign missionaries need be afraid of the Government. But I wish that people abroad and foreign papers, who sometimes say in banner headlines that Christian missionaries are being treated badly in India, would realise the value of a meeting like this. Whatever people might say, if there is a place where Christianity has come to stay, it is India.

"India is a place where human values reign supreme and where everything else is subordinated. So long as the Christian missionaries follow the path of selfless service and Hindus, also, work in the same spirit, Christianity will have an abiding place in this country."

Used Christmas cards have been employed with great effect in a revival campaign in South India. Those with religious pictures on them are naturally the most effective for this purpose. A text is written upon them in the local languages, probably Tamil or Telugu, and they are distributed in the villages.

### **Singapore**

Everywhere in the world, politics influence the religious situation. The breakdown of the talks about the future of Singapore creates many difficult problems. Once more, the fate of missionary activity may depend on political decisions. Should Singapore attain complete independence, her policy towards Christian missions

may change, to fit in with nationalist aspirations. Should unrest result in Communism, missionary activity may cease altogether. Prayer is needed for guidance in these matters, in Ceylon and Singapore particularly, where the situation may change rapidly.

### **NEWS FROM THE CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY**

#### **"The Church under the Cross"**

A new book by J. B. Phillips. From reports and letters from many parts of Africa and the East, Mr. Phillips (well-known for his translation of the Epistles, 'Letters to Young Churches') draws a picture of the Church living under the Cross today. He introduces us to people living out their faith—sometimes in circumstances completely alien to our own, sometimes in situations only too familiar to us. This book is obtainable from your local bookseller, price 8/6d.; or from The Manager, Publishing Department, Church Missionary Society, 6, Salisbury Square, London, E.C.4.

#### **Ready to Lose Yourself?**

The Church in the Nyanza Province of Kenya is celebrating its Golden Jubilee. At one centre the speaker was an elderly African who had been the first missionary to take the Gospel to this place nearly fifty years ago. Writes a C.M.S. missionary:

"He used to spend his days walking from village to village, giving the people their first news of Jesus Christ. Sometimes this "house to house visiting" would take him as far afield as thirty miles. On one occasion he lost himself and arrived home at 3 a.m. when the cocks were crowing!"

How ready are you to "lose yourself" proclaiming the Gospel?