

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about
people, activities & organisations

THE FINANCIAL ADVANCE

The financial statements presented to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on March 17th show that the advance anticipated last year has actually taken place. The question now before us is—can it be maintained, or better still, improved?

But first, let us look at a summary of the facts. The main direct giving in connection with the church in 1957 was as follows:—

	£
Ordinary Collections ...	415
Special Collections ...	106
Free-Will Offering Scheme	213
Sunday School Collections ...	14
Renovation Fund Donations	52
Total	£800

The main indirect giving (by means of the Summer Fête, efforts for the Renovation Fund, etc.) brought in an additional £225.

The corresponding figures for 1958 are:—

	£
Ordinary Cash Offerings ...	321
Special Offerings ...	75
Christian Giving Scheme ...	871
Sunday School Collections ...	16
Renovation Fund Donations (including Special Clock Appeal) ...	84
	£1367

The main indirect giving in this connection appears to be no more than £15 (from Socials, the Bonfire Party, etc.).

To compare them:—

	1957	1958
Direct Giving	£800	£1367
Indirect Giving	£225	£15
Totals	£1025	£1382

These figures speak for themselves, and there is no need to point any moral.

The Vicar in his report quoted an extract from the report made by the Vicar of Mansfield to his annual meeting, which was held at the end of January this year.

The latter said:

“1958 has seen the biggest change in policy that we have made for many years, the change from haphazard giving and money-raising to direct and planned giving by the vast majority of the congregation. It was not to be expected that such a step could be taken without disagreement and there were those among us who were bitterly opposed to what we were attempting. Their right to oppose I would defend at all times and in all circumstances. We can rarely expect to be unanimous either in our beliefs or practices in this life when there are so many different forces playing upon us. We are a family, however, and more than that, a family of God in which charity and love should be the dominant characteristics. We have done what the majority of us believed to be right and necessary.

“The campaign has had a tremendous effect upon the life of our church—not only financially in that it has lifted from the shoulders of all of us concerned with the day-to-day running of the church the constant anxiety about finance; but perhaps even more it has generated fresh spiritual incentive and interests and brought many people into closer contact with their church.”

The Vicar went on to mention some of the results. The formation of various groups within the parish; the sending of children's garments, made by people who used to sew and knit for the bazaars no longer necessary, and worth at least £40, to refugee camps in Austria; a gathering of 60 or 70 men meet together frequently, and recently spent two hours with the Bishop to try to discover in what ways they could best serve the Church. “And perhaps the most significant of all, more and more people are meeting week by week at the Altar to offer themselves, their life and their work, for God's blessing and in His service.”

Our Vicar commented: “I know this parish well, as I served it for

9 years, exactly one year more than the 8 years in this parish which I completed yesterday; I know well many of the people who have carried this big change through. Their income from pledged direct giving alone is now over £6,000 a year, and they can expect £800 a year from other monies directly offered. But they have had professional help in bringing this result about, and would be the first to admit that they could not have achieved anything like this by themselves. What we will have to consider very carefully in the future is—can we advance any further, or even maintain our ground, without such help? Already we know that the promises made through the Christian Giving Scheme are £100 less than at this time last year. We are therefore losing ground. Other parishes have tried to do what we have done, some on a much bigger scale, but the conclusion everywhere seems to be—'To do the job properly, you must have professional help from outside!' I should like to hope that we could prove the exception to this. We have made such a good start on our own—cannot we continue from here? On the other hand, it does seem to need the dedicated expert from outside to get across this idea of the blessedness of giving, to communicate effectively the call to give and to inspire and train others to communicate it. It is in communication, getting the challenge across, rousing people to the joy and adventure of it all, that we seem to fall when we do it on our own. Can we get round this obstacle without the expert? This is what we must consider and reconsider. There is no doubt at all that when the call of Christ to give is communicated by men who have answered it themselves and have been given expert training to do the job, the spiritual and evangelistic impact is enormous. Our neighbouring Parish of Hanworth bears witness to this just as much as the Parish of Mansfield of which I have been speaking."

Other matters connected with the Annual Meeting will be mentioned in next month's magazine.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP

Dancing. This matter was reviewed extensively in committee on February 28th when a report was presented proposing a suitable form of organisation for the activity. There followed a discussion ranging on the question "Can dancing be considered as a suitable activity in our organisation?" The tenor of the discussion showed two main differences of opinion. The Chairman thought the matter best determined at present from above committee level (i.e. by the Leader). This was agreed with one abstention. At the moment the Leader considers it inadvisable to bring dancing into the activities of the Fellowship. The Committee unanimously passed a vote of confidence in the Leader's action.

The magazine does not seem to be the place to go into arguments for and against this activity in our situation, nor is there space to give an adequate presentation of the problem. However, the Leader wishes to express his readiness and eagerness to meet and discuss the matter with any person or persons who are interested in the decision reached.

R. P. BISHOP

Dates:

- Mar. 8.—King Hezekiah.
- " 15.—Choose a Psalm.
- " 22.—Open Meeting for Parents and Friends, Wayside, 7.45 p.m.
- " 27, 28, 29.—St. John ch. 18-20.
- Apr. 5.—St. John ch. 21.

- Mar. 14.—Indoor Evening, 7 p.m.
- " 15.—Laurel Dene Service, 5.30 p.m.

THE YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

Dr. Maddison, the Medical Officer of Health, was the speaker at our February meeting, which was very well supported.

He gave us a most interesting lecture illustrated by coloured slides. Among the subjects covered were "Diets and the effects thereof," "Air Pollution," and "Bunions."

The Discussion Group meeting for March has had to be cancelled, as the postponed Parish Meeting could be arranged only on this date.

A Theatre Outing has been arranged for April 24th when we shall be going to see Sybil Thorne-dike's "Eighty in the Shade." Tickets are available at 11/- each incl. from Mrs. Sanders, 30, Cranmer Road.

A most successful Jumble Sale was held and the Young Wives would like to thank all the people who so kindly helped.

THE SCOUT GROUP

We are very pleased to welcome back to the Troop Mr. D. Chapman after doing his national service.

On February 11th five Scouts were invested; we wish them every success in their Scouting and may they benefit greatly under the guidance of their officers.

Also on February 11th Mr. de Graffe visited the Troop.

The Cub Pack extend a hearty welcome to a Cub who has been transferred from a Pack in Jever, North Germany, and also to another Cub who has joined us from South Australia. We wish them every success and may their stay be long and happy.

Despite the 'flu epidemic quite a good crowd turned up for our February Bingo Drive. These drives are proving very popular, so why not make it a regular date. Watch for our posters.

Don't forget the Annual General Meeting. All Scout and Cub parents are invited. This date has now been altered to April 18th. After the business in hand a social evening has been arranged, so don't forget to come along.

Arrangements for the Garden Party at Laurel Dene on June 6th are going ahead. More details later.

A.R.C.

"THE VIGIL"

The Hampton Council of Churches are presenting "The Vigil," a play in three Acts by Ladislav Fodor, in our church on 15th and 16th, at 7.45 p.m. prompt.

The play is in the form of a trial, and the Counsel for the Prosecution attempts to prove that "the Gardener snatched the body of Jesus of Nazareth, buried it in an unmarked grave, and by this malicious scheme perpetrated the greatest fraud of mankind."

Witnesses to the events of Good Friday and Easter Day are called by both the prosecuting and defending Counsels, and the play ends with the Judge's summing-up. The congregation, acting as Jury, are then called upon to deliver their verdict.

Programmes will be available beforehand at all churches (price 6d.) and there will be plates for offerings—after the expenses have been paid, these will be given to Inter-Church Aid and Refugee Service.

CORRECTION TO STANDING MATTER

P.4.—Under 'Churchwardens' read "Mr. W. F. Wigginton, 18, Cranmer Road." Delete 'Ted-dington.' All addresses are in Hampton Hill unless otherwise stated.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

- March 18.—Parish Meeting.
Speaker: Miss Clare Lawrence, Founder of The Tumelong Mission (W). N.B.—This meeting was not held last month because of fog.
- March 22.—Palm Sunday. Holy Week begins. Palm Crosses at all Services. 7.45 p.m. Young People's Fellowship Open Evening (W).
- March 23.—9.0 a.m. H.C.
March 24.—9.0 a.m. H.C.
March 25.—7.15 a.m. H.C.
8.0 p.m. Compline and Reading (Vestry).
8.0 p.m. Young Wives' Gp. (H).
- March 26.—10.30 a.m. H.C.
- March 27.—**Good Friday.**
10.0 a.m. Children's Service.
12.0—3.0 p.m. The Three Hours' Devotion conducted by The Rev. B. L. Treanor, Rector of Hanworth.
3.30 p.m. Open-Air Service in Carlisle Park, arranged by the Hampton Council of Churches.
- March 29.—**EASTER DAY.**
7.0, 8.0, 9.0 a.m., and 12.15 p.m. Holy Communion.
11.0 a.m. Matins.
2.30 p.m. Children's Service.
6.30 p.m. Evensong.
- March 30 & 31.—9.0 a.m. H.C.
- April 1.—3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union Annual Meeting (W).
- April 3.—7.30 p.m. Magazines should be ready (V).
- April 7.—The Annunciation. 7.15

and 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union Deane-
ry Festival Service. Preacher:
The Rev. G. C. Harding, M.C.,
Priest-in-Charge of St. Mary
Woolnoth.

April 15 and 16.—7.45 p.m. Pre-
sentation of the Play, "The
Vigil," in St. James's Church.

BAPTISMS

Feb. 15.—Kay Maureen Hamblin,
41, Cross Street.

„ 15.—Lesley Carol Stagg, 18,
Myrtle Road.

„ 15.—Matthew John Tracy,
11a, Park Road.

BURIAL AND CREMATION

Feb. 18.—Amy Dorothy Howard,
5, Sherwood Road, aged
71 years.

„ 20.—Ada Hilda Brown, 10,
Park Place, aged 77
years (at S.W. Middx.
Crematorium).

FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

THEIR CHANCE OF LIFE

Since 1946 well over 1,000 mil-
lion babies have been born into
this world. Of this vast total, be-
tween 150 and 200 million died be-
fore reaching their first birthday.
Of the survivors from this 1,000
million, between 600 and 650 mil-
lion were exposed to hunger and
to diseases such as malaria, yaws,
trachoma, tuberculosis and lep-
rosy; they were thus threatened
with premature death, disfigura-
tion, blindness or debility, con-
demning them, if and when they
grew up, to a bare subsistence
livelihood and incapable of con-
tributing to the common good.

Of the original 1,000 million,
only between 150 and 250 million
have received a fair start in life
to fit them as future citizens of
their countries and of the world.
During the next 12 years, it is
estimated that over 1,500 million
more babies will be born.

BUDDHISM INCREASES IN BRITAIN

More people are taking up
Buddhism in Britain than ever be-
fore. There are already about
2,000 British Buddhists and new
converts are coming in at the rate
of about 50 to 60 a month. Budd-
hist literature sold in Britain to-
day reflects the rising interest;
more than 100,000 copies of a re-
cent low-priced book on Buddhism
were sold, and it is to be reprinted.

“I THE CAR —

JESUS . . . THE DRIVER”

“I want to be the car and Jesus
Christ the driver.” These were
the words of an African school-
master in Uganda, to a C.M.S.

missionary. She told how radiant-
ly happy he was and that he said
that for some months his desire
has been to join the Church and
to become a lay reader.

“He is willing to give up his
teaching and go into training for
this if the Lord leads the way; he
wants to be willing for any way
that the Lord leads so that he can
show his gratitude for what his
Saviour has done for him.”

PUTTING CHRIST FIRST

A C.M.S. missionary in the
Ruanda area of Uganda, East
Africa, writes:—

“Recently I had a note from a
schoolboy who was admitted this
year. He said ‘I want to ask
your forgiveness because I lied to
you about my age. I was born in
1942 (the age limit was for boys
born in 1943). The Holy Spirit
has helped me to repent, and I will
go home tomorrow. Even though I
want education very much, I would
rather have salvation, than educa-
tion without Jesus.’ He meant, of
course, that has education could be
without Jesus, if obtained by false-
hood.

“We were puzzled to know what
to do, but eventually decided to
allow him to stay on for the year
if he wished, but knowing that he
would not be able to take entrance
exams to any other school at the
end of the year. But he decided
himself that he ought to leave.

“The sad thing in our schools
is that so many want education at
any price, and only want Christ if
He can take second place. It is
so encouraging and yet so humbling
to see exceptions to this.”