

## VICAR'S NOTES

I write this just before leaving with my wife and Francis for a short holiday in Norway — a trip made possible by the maturing of a life insurance policy taken out 30 years ago. I little thought when I did this in those far-off days — to oblige a friend just starting out on his career in the insurance world and finding business rather slack (he was so grateful for my help that I remember he even offered to do without his commission!) — how opportunely it would come to the rescue in 1966. So thanks to this transaction in a little country cottage in the summer of 1936 I am looking forward to my first journey outside the British Isles since 1939, and my first experience ever of air-travel (even though it is in the middle of the night!). No doubt I should have something more interesting to tell you if I were to defer writing these notes until I got there, but as they might not then be received in time for the printer's deadline, the other members of the Editorial Board kindly suggested that I should write some brief remarks before I went, and that they would carry on and do most of the magazine. As I am also trying to clear up all my arrears of paper-work before the holiday, I will indeed be brief, but I do want to say a little more about the coming Lee Abbey Weekend which I mentioned last month.

Its dates are November 18-20, and its theme "Expanding Christianity." Is the Church really losing its grip? If it is, do you seriously think of yourself as sharing responsibility for it? How do you measure "success" or "expansion" where Christianity is concerned? Have you personally ever been a conscious means of Christian "expansion"? If not, do you feel you ought to be? What can you do about it?

Questions like these can get under our skin and make us feel uncomfortable. Yet many people would dearly love to be able to give a positive answer to them — not a ready-made, second-hand one, but a personally discovered one. This Weekend will give those who go full opportunity to get to grips with these questions, to clarify their own thinking, and to thrash out with other people the practical issues involved. So let there be a strong representation from St. James's!

In the next month or two, I hope it may be possible to give you news of our hopes and plans for our own second Parish Weekend in September 1967, and also of "The People Next Door" — the ecumenical study and action course which it is hoped that over a million Christians in England will take part in during next Lent. The Hampton Council of Churches have asked St. James's to take the lead in making local preparations for this, and the MRI Group has already got down to the job. St. James's was given this honour because of the success of our parish Lenten courses this year and the keenness and enthusiasm shown by the house-groups.

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6 :** After the Harvest Thanksgiving Service the Harvest Supper will be held in the Parish Hall at 8.30 p.m.

Tickets, price 5s. are available from the Social Committee. Early application is advised as numbers are limited.

The Mother's Union will entertain you with a one-act play.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29: DANCE IN THE PARISH HALL.** Don't forget to book this date for the Social Committee's first Dance Venture. More details later.

### **DR. EMANUELE SANTI FROM NAPLES**

In Naples Dr. Santi is running an orphanage (non-denominational) founded by his parents for poor children whose need is brought to notice. He himself is a Methodist — for many years he was a minister in America where he worked up a large following and obtained financial support for the orphanage "Casa Materna."

He is visiting this country to make known his work here, and on September 5 at 8 p.m. at the Congregational Church Hall in Hampton Hill High Street he will give a talk to Adults and slides will be shown. On September 7 he will address the Youth Groups at All Saints Hall, Hampton at 8 p.m. He is in fact on his second tour of this country on behalf of Casa Materna and will be speaking at churches, Rotary and Luncheon Clubs, and schools.

Any further information about these talks can be obtained from Mrs. L. Bellars of 16, Nightingale Road, Hampton — Telephone No. MOlesey 4908. D.W.

### **PERSONALIA**

Congratulations to Richard and Dorothy Warder (nee Tarrant) on the birth of a baby daughter Alison Claire.

### **THE PARISH BARBECUE**

It was the evening of a rain-threatening Midsummer's day when the Vicar and Mrs. Brunt kindly opened their garden for the parish barbecue. After passing the steely-eyed gatekeepers unusual sights were revealed.

A pall of smoke, reminiscent of a Red Indian reservation, lifted so that the succulent foodstuffs (lovingly tended by those worthy gentlemen, hitherto known as the Barbershop quartet) could be selected from the well laid-out self-service tables. After choosing rolls, spreading the butter, adding hamburgers, onions and sauces, one passed on to the liquid refreshment section where admirable service was given by parishioners more suited to the other side of the bar. Then much munching, chattering and finally drinking of coffee. There was just time to murmur a word of thanks to the willing workers who made the evening possible before the evening closed with a traditional shower of rain.

### **THE BIBLE IN EVERYDAY LIFE**

**LISTEN:** "As He taught He said. "Listen . . . if you have ears to hear, then hear . . . take note of what you hear . . . the measure you give is the measure you will receive. For the man who has will be given more, and the man who has not will forfeit even what he has." (St. Mark 4, v. 1-3, 9, 24. Bible Reading Fellowship reading for 1.8.66).

In the light of personal experience the writer has found that the more one seeks after God, the more God reveals Himself, and without the consciousness of God's constant presence life can never be what one hopes because it never is whole — for man and God are meant to be as one.

B.R.F. says of the above passage "the opening word 'Listen' may well have been our Lord's reminder to His hearers of a familiar duty. Day by day every Jew was called to repeat the Theme, 'Hear oh Israel, the Lord thy God is one God, (Deut. 6 4); those who really listened were led to a deeper understanding of the love they could offer God, but for the rest the command remained mere words."

Years ago the writer of this article would have laid claim to knowing the Gospels pretty thoroughly since childhood, but now realises that the words were too familiar, too much repeated without listening to their inward message. "In our Lord's solemn command to listen there is a solemn warning that we must be prepared to give our minds seriously to the themes which He illustrates in His parables if we are really to understand His teaching. "Let him with ears be **sure** to listen — we cannot give heed to the message unless we have been first careful to listen to it."

We who say we are Christians and follow the teachings of our Lord left for our continual guidance — how often in the week do we seek His guidance? how often in the day do we ask His guidance? Is our first thought of the day of our Lord whose gift the day is? and our last thought one of gratitude that we have not been alone to act of our own volition. It should be if we are truly conscious that Christ leads us. "If we train ourselves to be alert to God's message ours can be a double reward ("the measure you give is the measure you will receive, for the man who has will be given more.") We are led to understand the meaning of God's message and further, we are enabled to see its implications. The disciple who listens with appreciation 'will receive still more' until **believing** will be strengthened into the conviction of **knowing**. He who seeks **WILL** find, he who knocks, to him it **SHALL** be opened — how should it be otherwise since these are the promises of the Lord? — but the seeker must **really** give himself over to seeking, the one who knocks must keep on knocking to open the many doors between him and the Holiest of Holies. Perhaps in this materially well-fed world we cannot sufficiently appreciate the significance of the words 'to hunger and thirst after righteousness' so that we are unconscious of our real need of Christ's Body and Blood.

"Christianity does not fail because the standards of Christ are too high, but because the average standard of Christian living is too much like the standard of the world" and how can this be if we Christians are **really** heeding and doing Christ's commands. "Come unto me." How often? Once a week on Sunday throughout our daily Christian lives?

When YOU 'travail' do you come in thought to the Lord? If not, why not? for He has **PROMISED** to refresh you. DO you listen for the Lord's guidance when you are perplexed and bewildered? If not,

why not? — you have the gift of the Holy Spirit who ‘ will guide you to the truth.’

The above has been inspired firstly from experience over years and secondly from the Bible Reading Fellowship courses. When I set myself years ago to disciplined ‘ seeking ’ after Truth ’ I did not trust myself to steer my course and was content to let others, wiser than myself, to steer it for me and my reward has been very great for now my craft has been caught up in the strong current and I could not stop it even if I would for the stream I have discovered in that of the water of life, refreshing, comforting, strengthening and nourishing.

The abiding tragedy of the world is that at hand, waiting to be tapped, is such a mighty, never to be exhausted source of love, strength, joy and faith and the world will not seek for it. Too many Marthas are perhaps looking without sufficient understanding on too few Marys. “ First sit at the feet of God and LISTEN and then go out and do according to His word.”

Note: The Secretary of The Bible Reading Fellowship who supply booklets of courses and comment is Miss Ann Stuart, 64 Windmill Road. Editor.

### **YOUNG WIVES’ GROUP**

The Group meets again on September 28 at 8 p.m. when we have a short Service in Church followed by an “At Home” at Wayside. We are looking forward to seeing all our old members (even the Badminton Group!) and hope that anyone who is interested in joining The Young Wives will come along that evening and meet us and get a programme for the new season.

Winter activities begin immediately with the Jumble Sale on 15 October, so please save anything you no longer need, especially household goods. K.B.

### **THE MOTHERS’ UNION**

As already mentioned the new session starts on Wednesday, September 7 with a service in Church, this will be followed by tea at Wayside. We shall be delighted to welcome any ladies who are interested (both to the service and to tea), this applies especially to any “Young Mums”. This year we have planned our Bring and Buy Sale for the Spring, as we want to make it a bigger effort. When you receive the new programmes please look carefully at dates of meetings, your committee have tried to vary these a little; make a note in your diary of all M.U. meetings, and then come along to them.

M.U. Christmas cards will be on show at the first meeting, and orders may be placed. This seems very early to be thinking of such things but, remember, Overseas mail for Christmas needs to be posted in October.

Please remember in your prayers the members of our Link branch in Ife, Eastern Nigeria. There has been no news of them for some time and they are living in a troubled part of Africa.

On July 20 our most senior member passed away at St. Mary's Hospital, Hampton. Mrs. Ashworth was admitted as a member of the Mothers' Union in 1923, and her life exemplified all that we strive to uphold. Although she had not been active in the Branch for some years, owing to failing health, she was always intensely interested in news of our doings, latterly she had derived great comfort from membership of the Invalid Members' Prayer Circle. It was always a joy to visit her, she was cheerful and uncomplaining to the last, one came away feeling better for having been with her. She will be much missed in her own family circle, to her daughter especially we extend our deep sympathy.

I.V.R.

## THE HAMPTON HILL OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE COMMITTEE

With the help of Committee members and friends Mrs. M. Orton (a founder member) kindly arranged a coffee party at her home, 30 St. James's Road on Thursday morning, August 11. The aim was to raise money and collect gifts for the stalls of the Committee's September Garden Fete. Many articles ranging from books and jewellery, to pottery and cut-glassware were generously donated. There was a wide range of groceries and home-made fare for sale, supplied by members and friends, also a raffle was organised.

The morning was a great success despite rainy weather (it had been hoped that we could have enjoyed our coffee in Mrs. Orton's pleasant garden). The sum raised was £19-10-0.

L.M.

### SOME DATES TO NOTE

- Sept. 5.—8 p.m. Talk to Adults (with slides) by Dr. Emanuele Santi from Naples at Congregational Church Hall.
- „ 7.—10.30 a.m. Editorial Board (52 Park Road).  
2.30 p.m. M.U. Service in Church followed by Tea (Wayside)
- 8 p.m. Talk to Youth Groups by Dr. Emanuele Santi from Naples at All Saints, Hampton.
- „ 8.—8 p.m. Stewardship Committee (106 Park Road).
- „ 11.—Sunday Schools recommence; 6.30 p.m. Confirmation candidates asked to attend Evensong and stay for a short meeting afterwards.
- „ 18.—6.30 p.m. Preacher at Evensong from the Missions to Seamen.
- „ 21.—St. Matthew: 9 a.m. Holy Communion; 8 p.m. MRI Group (33 Beech Way).
- „ 26.—8 p.m. Parochial Church Council (Wayside).
- „ 28.—8 p.m. Y.W.G. Service in Church, followed by AT HOME (Wayside).
- „ 29.—St. Michael and All Angels: 9 a.m. Holy Communion.
- Oct. 6.—7.15 p.m. Harvest Thanksgiving: Special Form of Service — “Bread is made for laughter”; 8.30 p.m. Harvest Supper and Entertainment (Hall) Tickets 5/-.

- „ 15.—Y.W.G. Jumble Sale.
- „ 29.—Dance in Parish Hall.
- „ 30.—6.30 p.m. Evensong and “Feed the Minds” film.
- Nov. 18-20.—Lee Abbey Weekend at High Leigh.
- Sept. 15-18.—(1967) Parish Weekend at Hildenborough Hall (room for 68 people).

## BAPTISMS

- July 24.—Julie Patricia Makepeace, 34, Windmill Road.
- „ 24.—Robert Caleb Priestley, 26, The Wilderness, Park Road.
- „ 24.—Alison Deborah Quah, 34, Westbank Road.
- „ 24.—Cheryl Louise Straus, 15, Roy Grove and Washington D.C., U.S.A.

## BURIAL

- July 25.—Clara Ashworth, 11, Westbank Road, aged 84 years.