

FILMS

Some weeks ago I was invited to go and see "The Bible" in panorama large screen at the Coliseum. Firstly I must say that despite its title the film covers only the very early part of the Bible—the beginning and the flood, and in so saying it is under these two headings that the most impressive parts of the film come. "God made heaven and earth and all that in them is . . ." The making of man was very delicately treated and this is appreciated when one realises what a debacle could have been made over this. Then the "tempting" and the banishing from the "garden"—it was when we came to Noah's building of the Ark that the giant screen came into its own, it really was a worthy Ark, and one gazed in wonderment as the animals went in "two by two" apparently within pat-able distance of Noah and his family, lions, tigers, elephants, chickens, geese, all close upon one another's heels, and all quite happy it seemed. Mrs. Noah in housewifely mashion worried about the feeding of these creatures, but it was to be solved by the milk produced by the cows, and the eggs from the chickens, plus the forage stored in preparation for their long sojourn in the Ark. Of this film one's memory has dimmed and these are the lasting impressions of what at the time was an enjoyable film. It was in colour and its subject was well suited to this medium.

And now I have seen "The Gospel according to St. Matthew," the Italian-made film, spoken in Italian with English sub-titles. The churches of Hampton organised this outing to the Paris-Pullman Cinema—never have I experienced such an atmosphere in a cinema—to cough or sneeze was an embarrassment, one broke the intense silence and concentration which the film demanded right from the start when the screen was filled with a close-up of Mary, and then to Joseph—an inspired actor conveying so subtly his bewilderment at her pregnant condition, and the relief on his face, the re-assurance given him by the angel—and the gentle happiness of Mary at seeing his comprehension. This was just the opening of the film in small screen black and white—this simplicity was the keynote of the whole film. No extravagant sets, clothes, make-up. Some of the translated sub-titles were a little different from the usual biblical phraseology, but the story was there all the time—the grown-up Christ was a compelling character, most unusual in feature (resembling the reproduced painting on the paper-back of the New English Bible to a considerable extent). His face so sad, and then transformed by a slow smile of pleasure. I think a more realistic, more human, characterization than one is accustomed to; a little less gentle, more spirited. His parables and answers to the loaded questions of the High Priests came through to the audience particularly strikingly, to such an extent that their force and significance produced a fresh emotion despite their familiarity. The Agony, the distress of His Mother, the empty tomb and the Resurrection were subtly treated without overstress, in fact I felt they tended to understatement, and then the abrupt ending, sending the audience out into the world feeling stunned and unable even to comment upon this experience they had undergone. It is, in my view, a film to be seen and one that will linger long in one's memory, and prove to be a talking point for many years.

PARISH BREAKFAST

For three years the Parish Breakfast on Sunday morning has been organised on a monthly rota by the Mothers' Union, the Young Wives' Group, the Y.P.F., Miss Western, and on fifth Sundays, Miss McIlwraith. Now in September, we should like to try an eight- or ten-week rota to try to spread the load, and would like people who have been helping in the old rota and therefore know the ropes, to take one week with two new workers.

There are lists on the notice-board at Wayside, please sign for any help you feel able to offer whether you are on the catering list or not.

Many of us value the opportunity to meet together on Sunday mornings and any help with the arrangements for this is good service to the church.

SOME NOTES FROM THE P.C.C.

Would you like to have the use of an Old People's Day Centre—that is if you are over fifty-five?

Mr. Peel represented the church at a meeting of representatives of all local groups of Hampton and Hampton Hill to consider this. The idea is that there should be somewhere as central as possible where older people could meet or take their leisure and be catered for. A minibus would be available for those who needed it. The Richmond Council of Social Service who called this meeting are prepared to co-operate in this venture.

The P.C.C. was wholly in agreement with the principle and glad to hear that Mr. Peel will be a member of the steering committee.

In last month's magazine there was reference to the P.N.D. concern about "Good Neighbour" schemes and it was suggested that some St. James's folk might be able to offer help to the scheme run for some years by St. Mary's, and because they sometimes get calls from this area. Now more news on the same lines comes from St. Francis de Sales who invited us to send a representative to hear Mrs. Leigh-Hunt of St. Mary's discuss the problems and consider setting up a scheme for this area. Mr. Michael Jackson went to this meeting and told us that St. Francis are probably going to plan one for their area, which extends beyond Hampton Hill into Teddington, and that joint effort would probably be more satisfactory after their pilot-scheme had had a trial run.

Mrs. Orton has become—officially now—our "Archivist" and so any scraps, or for that matter reams, of newspaper cuttings or other records that would be of interest to our future historians would be welcomed by her, or by Mrs. Warwick, our very efficient 'Press Officer.'

THE MOTHERS' UNION

On July 5 we held our closing service in church. Mr. Brunt led the service and joined us for tea at Wayside afterwards.

Although our triennial elections do not take place until November we have been asked by Mary Sumner House to let them know now who our Enrolling Member will be for the next three years. The committee is empowered to nominate the E.M., and in view of the splendid work done by Mrs. Rockliffe in her first term of office we had no hesitation in asking her if she would be prepared to undertake a second term of

three years. On receiving her confirmation, this was put to the members at the meeting on July 5 and was unanimously agreed.

We were pleased to receive many contributions to the various stalls being planned for our October 28 Overseas Sale in the Hall. Please remember that all committee members will be pleased to take and keep any items destined for the Sale.

Our opening meeting of the new session will be held on Thursday, September 7, and will as usual take the form of a service in church followed by tea at Wayside. We look forward to seeing all our friends on this date, and would be grateful if everyone could bring some item for the Groceries stall, such as tinned or packet foods, home-made jam or jelly or pickles.

J.B.

THE YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

On June 28 we listened to a talk by the proprietor of "Shay Peter," Mr. Peter Dightam, who told us of his experiences in the hairdressing business—all interesting, many amusing and some even a little frightening. But it was fascinating to catch a glimpse of the picture from the other side, so to speak. There were many questions afterwards, all showing how keenly we had followed Mr. Dightam's talk.

The opening meeting of the new session will be on Wednesday, September 27, and there will be, as usual, a service in church, followed by our "At home" at Wayside. All members and anyone interested in the Group are invited to join us. The Y.W. are running the Groceries Stall at the Mothers' Union Overseas Sale on October 28, and we should be grateful if contributions could be brought along on September 27.

J.B.

HAMPTON HILL FLORAL ART CLUB

This club is holding a Floral Art Show at Hampton Hill Primary School on Saturday, September 9, 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. We did not know a great deal about this club but we understand that Open Classes are held on the first Thursday of each month at the school at 8 p.m. New members would be welcome and a schedule of details is obtainable from 'Phone: 979-4639 or 979-4938.

THE CHURCHYARD

The fine weather during the greater part of the week June 17 to 24 enabled the many volunteers, who answered the appeal to assist in clearing the churchyard, to build upon the foundation laid by the Y.P.F. on the three previous Friday evenings. The gratifying result being that, for the first time, the whole of the area was dealt with—even though the last session took place in pouring rain.

It is noticeable, now that the long grass has been cleared, how many graves are receiving regular attention and it is hoped that more people who have relatives buried in the churchyard may be encouraged to tend graves in which they have an interest.

Our thanks are due to the workers as individuals, and as members of groups, who turned out, and to those who prepared and served refreshments during the period.

This was a most encouraging result and an experiment that may well be worthy of repetition.

R.G.B. and D.W.L.

WHAT IS THE HAMPTON COUNCIL OF CHURCHES?

Many people think of it as just a group of 25 or 30 people who happen to be keen on unity. They don't think it concerns them very much. But of course it does—because if we are members of St. James's or another church in the area, then we are also members of the Council of Churches, and it is very much our concern. To help towards the realisation of this, the ministers of the five churches recently invited the elected leaders of each church to meet together to get to know one another and to talk over matters of common interest. People sat at small tables in inter-church groups, and after refreshments, a most stimulating discussion took place on ways of developing and deepening inter-church action and fellowship in the district. A very rewarding evening—and strong requests that another similar one be held in the near future.

What is usually spoken of as the Council is really the committee of the Council, consisting of the Minister and four lay representatives of each church, and this meets regularly once a quarter. At its last meeting it was stated that £505 had been raised in the area for Christian Aid this year, and tribute was paid to the tremendous work and effort put in by Mrs. Eustace, who has organised this campaign for the last five years or more. This year she would not let up in her endeavours despite the fact that she was far from well, and at this meeting we learnt that very reluctantly she felt that she must now resign as local organiser. She did so, as she put it, only to ensure that this great cause should not suffer from her inability to put into it all that she has done in the past.

There is also a Junior Council of Churches, to which all our young people belong, and their committee is very active in promoting enterprises in which young people from all the churches take part, and the many bright ideas which come from it are welcomed by the senior committee and given sympathetic consideration and support wherever possible.

TWICKEREE

Both Scouts and Cubs from the St. James's Group attended this year's Twickeree, held in Marble Hill Park, June 25-26. All local Scout troops camped, and the Cubs had a District Camp of 48 boys, 2 from each pack. The event was opened by the Mayor—on the Saturday in the rain—and from then on the weather was most unkind. The Mayor—a former Scout—spent the Saturday night under canvas. Despite the weather a large number of arena events went through—Cycle Polo, Trampoline, Cub Pageant of Costume through the Ages, Sea Scout Display of Boats and Boating, and the Scouts' futuristic display—Space Travel. There was a camp fire on Saturday evenings, and many hundreds of visitors went round the various camp sites, where all kinds of Scouting activities were being demonstrated. On the Sunday morning Scout services were held in the arena, and then some Go-Kart races, but while lunch was being prepared the storm burst with a vengeance, and all the activities arranged for the afternoon had to be cancelled. However a collection of about £100 had been made, and the District Commissioner was well pleased with the way in which everybody had stood up to the trials of the weather.

AKELA.

PARISH 'AT HOMES'

Two very successful ones have been held recently in the Vicarage gardens, one on June 23, and the traditional one on St. James's Day, July 25. 'All parishioners invited' was the keynote, and we were glad to see people from other churches, and old ladies from local old people's homes and flats, and one or two people not yet parishioners but hoping to come amongst us in the near future. There were some who had first met us at one or other of the newcomers' parties at Wayside, and of course many old friends. The warm weather and excellent refreshments on each occasion all added to the enjoyment of a very happy parish event.

OVERSEAS EVENINGS

Our young people, joining with those of St. Mary's, had a very successful one recently, when a young priest from Zululand gave a fascinating account of his life and work in this interesting part of Africa, illustrating his talk by some very striking coloured photographs of places and people. He dealt fully and frankly with the great problems that confront the Church in its work, especially those of apartheid and soil erosion. He showed how the mission on which he served, with the help of an agricultural expert on the staff, was dealing with this latter problem in its own locality very successfully, but he made us realise that unless action on a large scale is taken very soon, much of South Africa will become barren desert.

On Wednesday, September 13, just before our Parish Weekend, the Reverend David Johnson, a friend for many years of Michael Childs, our Cub-Scoutmaster, is coming to speak to us about his work in Sarawak. For two years he was on the staff of the cathedral in Kuching, but for some time now he has been in charge of a parish of his own, based on the church of St. John in Sibü. He has to make frequent journeys of 30 or 40 miles to reach outlying parts of his parish, mostly by Chinese motor-launch on rivers, as no other suitable means of transport is available. The area contains people of many races and tongues, and David's task is to weld them into a truly Christian community. The work may often seem difficult and daunting, but David is very enthusiastic about it, and when we have heard what he has to say I am sure that we shall be so too. It only remains for us to turn out in large numbers on the thirteenth.

PARISH WEEKEND

We are fortunate in having secured as our speaker on the Friday night the Reverend Gordon Mayo, formerly Assistant Warden at Lee Abbey, and now Warden of the Lee Abbey International Students' Club in London. Those of us who have been at conferences at which he has taken part know how thought-provoking and invigorating his addresses are.

A questionnaire is being given to all who have so far registered, about times and ways of travel, so that we may know whether a coach is needed to take us and bring us back. There are still just a few vacant places—if you want to join us and share what we are sure will be a most worth-while experience, please get in touch with Mrs. Dawn Harris without delay.

SMALL ADVERTISEMENT

ST. JAMES'S NURSERY SCHOOL, Parish Hall, School Road, seeks DOMESTIC HELP 3 HOURS WEEKLY, term-time only.—Please 'phone 977-4268.

SOME DATES AND ARRANGEMENTS TO NOTE

Services in August: No week-day services. On Sundays, services and other arrangements (except Sunday Schools—see below) will be as usual, EXCEPT ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, WHEN THE ONLY SERVICE WILL BE EVENSONG AT 6.30 P.M., and there will be no Communion or Parish Breakfast on this Sunday only.

Sunday Schools: Now closed for summer recess. The new session will start a little later this autumn because of the Parish Weekend. Family Service, September 24, 9.30 a.m. All departments of Sunday School at usual times on October 1.

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- Sept. 9.—3.0 p.m. Laurel Dene Fete.
.. 13.—8.0 p.m. OVERSEAS EVENING (W)—“Life in Sarawak”
(The Rev. David Johnson).
.. 15 - 18.—PARISH WEEKEND.

BAPTISMS

On June 25:

Simon Daniel Gwilt Cotsworth, 8, The Wilderness, Park Road.
Paul Leonard Dudley, 8, Longford Close.
Martin John and Karen Jane Evans, 26, Laurel Road.
Paul Roderick Glassup, 1, Sheffield House, Park Road.
Caroline Julia and Sarah Ruth Hill, 8, Ringwood Way.
Sharon Jean Miller, 48, Uxbridge Road.
Charlotte Miranda Jane Oliver, 26, Parkside.

MARRIAGES

On June 24: Richard Stanley Heward to Denise Morris.
On July 1: David Tunnicliffe to Pamela Mary Makepeace.

BURIALS AND CREMATIONS

On June 2: Minnie Tomkins, 9, Myrtle Road, aged 92 years (at Kingston Crematorium).
One June 6: Magdalene Violet Blake, 71, High Sreet, aged 71 years.
On June 15: Mary Elizabeth Jane Hughes, formerly of 1, High Street, aged 78 years (interment of ashes).
On June 17: Jessie Louise Straw, 60A, French Street, Sunbury, aged 89 years (at South London Crematorium, Streatham Vale; ashes to be interred later in Garden of Rest in Churchyard).
On June 19: Arthur Edward Hill, 11, School Road, aged 84 years (at South West Middlesex Crematorium).
On June 28: Christabel May Green, Coleman Street, Southend, formerly of 90, Uxbridge Road, aged 75 years.
On July 3: Herbert Gill, 23, Myrtle Road, aged 78 years (at Hampton Cemetery).
On July 7: Annie Elizabeth Chown, Flat 9, 179, Uxbridge Road, aged 88 years.
On July 12: John William Percival Dempster, 91, Uxbridge Road, aged 65 years.
On July 18: Sheila Alice Hedger, Laurel Dene, aged 83 years (at Hampton Cemetery).