

Vicar's Notes

JOY

Despite the cold, windy, showery and altogether unseasonable weather, the time of Coronation passed as one of devotion, joy, hardships cheerfully endured, and lots of fun. Never can the nation have been so still and quiet as it was on that Tuesday, and for so long. Millions of the Queen's subjects stayed at home, or sat for hours in halls, cinemas and schools, viewing the noble and dignified ceremony and the processions. Many of them must have had their consciences stirred and tried to join their own act of self-dedication to that of the Queen. It is to be hoped that many lapsed communicants, hearing again words that used to be familiar to them, felt a sense of shame and penitence, and resolved humbly to take up their part again in the Church's life and worship. If things like this do happen, then the Coronation will have proved a great blessing to many and to our country in its second Elizabethan era.

In this parish, 19 of us met around the altar at 7.0 a.m. Others who would have liked to be with us were by this time taking up their seats in various stands, or had already spent more than twelve hours on wet and cold pavements along the processional route. Later, the streets became deserted as people gathered round television sets. Those of us who spent the morning in our Hall (about 85 members of the Darby and Joan Club, and some 35 other parishioners) were very grateful to Councillor Futter for the time and trouble he had been to in securing the provision and installation of the sets, and to Mr. Childs and his small band of stewards—Mr. H. Beckett, Mr. Sargeant and Leslie—who arranged the chairs and rigged up the improvised black-out to stave off the glare of the windows from the screens.

The parties began in the afternoon, and soon our Hall was packed with children from Roy Grove whom the unkind weather had driven indoors, and the days that followed, even for those who had to stay in Hampton Hill, and missed the thrill and excitement of the lights of London and other attractions, seemed full of zest and interest.

. AND TRAGEDY

In the midst of all this joy and the uplifting of men's hearts to God, there came the sudden stark reminder of the hideous strength of the forces of evil. The 'principalities and powers' St. Paul called them, for he well knew the extent of their operations on all levels of life, and the many disguises they assume; sometimes casting their shadow over whole nations, sometimes narrowed down to one single impulse in the mind of one individual man. Two girls, one a parishioner with a brother in our choir and a sister recently married in this Church, had been brutally done to death. At a time of rejoicing in goodness, at a time when most people's hearts were filled with kindness and goodwill, came a terrible victory for evil. Yes—but like all such victories, a partial one; for "Neither death, nor life . . . nor principalities, nor powers . . . shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Whatever else they may do, the powers of evil cannot separate us from the love of God, who desires and can bring to pass, our full development to perfection and bliss in His Glory. Jesus himself spoke striking words about this: "Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do." The powers of evil have their limit, and beyond that they can do no more. But with God there is no 'no more,' there is *far more* that He can do. In that we see one gleam of light in this dark situation.

And out of it comes a challenge to all who believe in goodness, all who would seek first the Kingdom of God and his Righteousness. We are often far too complacent about the 'principalities and powers.' We are not concerned enough about the corrupting influences of too many modern films, novels and so-called 'comics.' A great deal of time, skill, energy and money is put into the glamourising of violence and brutality and we think too little about it. Or perhaps we do—but we feel there is little we can do. But we are wrong. In our recent Coronation Pageant, the Tudor man exclaimed with fervour "With Good Queen Bess on the Throne, there's nothing we can't do." The early Christians felt similarly. "With Christ sitting at the right

hand of God, there's nothing we can't do." We need to recover this confidence. There is no form of evil to which there is no answer. The power of Christ is still mighty for the casting out of devils, until the day of final victory comes.

RENOVATION OF THE CHURCH

The work has lately been resumed, and now the new specially-made drain-pipes are in position, and they are certainly a great improvement on the old, badly-constructed ones which they replace, and which had done more harm than good for many years. The many leaks in the roof have been repaired, though some of this work had unfortunately to be done again owing to damage caused by unruly lads who clambered over the roof not long ago. As well as knocking down a stone balustrade, they damaged or misplaced more than 40 slates. The work of renovation has also brought further unsuspected decay to light, which will add to the total cost. The damp walls have caused fungal growth to attack the roof timbers on the South aisle, and the wooden benches in the North. The damage seems fortunately not to have spread far as yet, but it will

have to be dealt with as soon as possible to prevent its becoming dangerous.

Next month we hope to print a statement of the position of the Renovating Fund, and a summary of where the money has come from. The recent Box-opening was most encouraging, over £52 coming in, and various splendid group-efforts have been made or are in course of preparation. A report on these will be given in the August magazine.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE FETE

I expect to have retired into hospital a day or two before this great event on July 4th. I am extremely sorry about this, but in any case I should have been only a passenger and unable to offer any physical help. To stand there and do nothing would have been very irksome. But I do ask that all who can will do their utmost to make the Fete all that it has been in past years, and more than all, if possible. The Mayoress is most kindly coming to act as opener, and the Mayor hopes to be able to join her later in the afternoon. Programmes giving full details will shortly be on sale.

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about
people, activities & organisations

While we have time, let us do good unto all men; and specially unto them that are of the Household of Faith.

(This Article is by one of the younger communicant members of our Church. We welcome such contributions.—ED.)

These are striking words which we hear often as the sentence before the offertory in the Communion Service. This passage from Galatians is only one of many that can be used here; and it is, I feel, the most arresting as it stirs in us a sense of urgency. Let us examine it phrase by phrase.

While we have time

The opening words have in them a warning—we will not always have time or opportunity. Unless we do good today, tomorrow makes today the past. It is so easy to put things off, and then wish when our friends and relations move away or die that we had done more for them; but

the time has gone. If we considered the twenty-four hours of each day as given to us by God for His will, we should not then be mean about the amount of time we offer back to Him.

Let us do good unto all men

Notice here the inclusive pronoun 'us' and the active word 'do'. We are not to be passive and just think, or wish for, or even hope for good; but to do it. Now the overworked word *good*; has that lost all meaning today? Remember Christ when asked 'what good thing shall I do that I may inherit eternal life,' told the man: 'Thou shalt not murder, thou shalt not commit adultery, thou shalt not steal, thou shalt not bear false witness, honour thy father and thy mother, love thy neighbour as thyself;' and also because he was rich to sell what he had and give to the poor. This is what Christ expects of us when we do good. One practical suggestion for us here in Hampton Hill. Let us be really good

friends not only to the people whom we like; but also to the many lonely people, old and young, who live in our streets and are in great need of friends. It is only necessary to scratch slightly below the surface of our society to find real loneliness and unhappiness.

Especially unto those that are of the Household of Faith

This is a very old idea of the apostolic Church, that a Christian's first duty to his neighbour was to his brothers in Christ. We are to do good to all men as the phrase before says; but the first call on our time is to those of the household of faith. And is it not true that people who once belonged to the Church have drifted away, mainly because they found no spirit of love and friendliness among the Christian congregation to which they belonged? This is our challenge—it is the layman's job.

DRAMA GROUP

We have been very happy to have been able to put on "Our Sovereign Lady" on June 12th and 13th.

At the end of these notes in the magazine there is a comment by one who is not a member of the Group on this Coronation play: here we wish to thank many people for their help in making this production possible. Mrs. Frances Whitton was our producer, and it was the greatest pleasure to work under her direction. Our first thanks are due to her for her inspiration, and for her very hard work on our behalf.

We thank Councillor Fuller very much indeed for his great help over the music. Ella Bruce again helped by stencilling programmes. Joan Dible and Janet Campbell aided our make-up efforts. Mr. Childs, Roger Grayer and John Lloyd were on the gate. Mrs. Dronsfield headed a list of many willing helpers who knitted and sewed indefatigably. Marjorie Orton helped with painting. These friends are only a few of the people contributing to this team effort.

From among our own members, Norah Lloyd must be thanked most sincerely for her splendid work in designing and making up the costumes. We feel that few people realise the hours and hours of work which this entailed, and we want to express our gratitude and appreciation most wholeheartedly.

Mrs. Melville and Mrs. Moore offered hospitality to us in preparing for the play.

"The Wilderness" provided a perfect setting for "Our Sovereign Lady," and we again must express our thanks to His Worship the Mayor, Councillor F. J. Edwards for his kind offer of his garden as a background for our effort to be made in aid of the Church Renovation Fund. Miss Rosemary Andrews arranged a charming dance. Although the sun did not shine, we were thankful that it was dry and warm enough to be able to have the play in the garden. The state of the weather caused much anxiety on both evenings, but all was well in the end.

It is not yet known what profit has been made; we hope there will be a note of this in next month's magazine. H.S.

A brief comment.

It was a cool, cloudy night on Friday night when I joined the audience seated in a close crescent before the raised circle framed by the garden that was to make the perfect setting for the Drama Group's pageant "Our Sovereign Lady." Our expectations were heightened by a delay due to a technical hitch in the sound effects. It only seemed to remind one of the extremely efficient stage management and technicalities which characterize the Group's productions. At last the characters moved on to the platform and began their say.

The production was comely and flowing and the costumes showed fresh and clear in the half-light offset by the dark green of the tree, the natural "proscenium." The play itself was attractive with some unusual moments isolated in History—The pathos of Elizabeth of York—and the amusing family argument between Mary and Anne with the lovely crowns nodding—so reminiscent of the drawing of the Kings in "When we were very young" by E. H. Shephard. What fun Elizabeth Tudor's make-up—the "painted" queen.

The unity of the large cast was admirable and great credit goes to all the attendants, trumpeters, soldiers, people and others who kept so still when the central characters held the stage and worked so well to make the pageant and the picture memorable. D.D.

THE YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

Proceeds from the Jumble Sale held on May 9th, and donations received from members, made it possible to hold a Coronation Party for the children on May 27th in the Parish Hall.

In spite of their varied ages the children enjoyed themselves immensely. Playpens were placed on the platform for the youngest guests, from where they could watch the fun of the older children, while the toddlers derived great enjoyment from the toys provided, including a rocking-horse.

The response made by members for cakes resulted in a wonderful display. Grace was said by Joanna Cheal. After the children had finished, tea was served in the kitchen for the mothers, while members of the Committee endeavoured to keep the children amused in the hall.

Just after five the Mayor and Mayoress (Councillor and Mrs. F. J. Edwards) arrived and were welcomed by the Vicar. The Mayoress cut a Coronation cake and then helped by the Mayor presented each child with a Coronation spoon. Before they left Coryn Severn handed the Mayoress a box of chocolates.

A film-show brought the party to a happy conclusion, and as the last members left the hall seemed strangely quiet.

P.S.—Members' children not at the party will have their gifts taken to them.—D.A.W.

SANCTUARY GUILD

Mrs. Bull, the Secretary, has gathered together a large membership, and received many contributions for the adornment of the altar. The total amount up to date is £15-10-0. The Vicar and the Secretary are examining the condition of the linen now available, and later a decision will be made about what replacements may be necessary. A list of names of ladies who have kindly undertaken to arrange the altar flowers for the year will be found on the notice-board inside the church. Any others who wish their names to be added are invited to get in touch with the Secretary.

ALTAR FLOWERS

July 5—Mrs. Mills and Mrs. S. R. Childs.
July 12—Mrs. Western.
July 19 and 26—Mrs. Casey.

MISSIONARY BOXES AND COLLECTIONS

The Missionary Treasurer acknowledged with thanks the following amounts:

Junior Sunday School, Dec., 1952
£1-11-11; Mrs. Ward 6/-; Mrs. Kingsford 1/11½; Mrs. Neave 12/2½; Mrs. Cox 8/7; Mrs. Crouch 16/11; Miss Wirtherm 9/0; Girls S. School 12/8½; Kindergarten S. S. £7-4-7½; Brian Bowen 5/6; Miss S. Baldwin 9/5. Total £12-18-10½d.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

July 1—3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union Service in Church. Preacher: The Rev. W. S. Pears, Curate of Hampton. Tea afterwards in Vicarage Garden.

July 4—The Summer Fete, Laurel Dene, to be opened at 3.0 p.m. by the Mayoress.

July 14—8.0 p.m. Y.W.G. Committee (249, Uxbridge Road).

July 15—Y.W.G. Outing to Runnymede and Windsor.

July 22—8.0 p.m. Y.W.G. Meeting, small Hall.

July 26—PATRONAL FESTIVAL.
8.0 a.m. Holy Communion; 10.0 a.m. Sung Eucharist; 11.0 a.m. Matins and Sermon; 2.30 p.m. Children's Service; 6.30 p.m. Evensong and Sermon.

July 31—7.30 p.m. Magazine. Distributors (Vicarage).

N.B.—No week-day services after Thursday, July 2nd, until Thursday, July 30th. Holy Communion 8.0 a.m. only on Sundays, July 5th and 19th; at 8.45 a.m. only on July 12th. No Baptisms in July. Other Sunday services as usual.

BAPTISMS

June 14—Wendy Starck, 42, Princes Road.

June 14—Susan Jean Haley, 8, Regina Court, Gloucester Road.

BURIALS

June 5—James Chandler, 6, Roy Grove, aged 82 years. (At Twickenham).

June 8—William Ballard, 70, Crown Road, Twickenham, aged 68 years.

June 13—John Burney, The Drill Hall, aged 43 years. (At Hampton).

June 15—Henry William John Church, 79, Uxbridge Road, aged 82 years. (At Hampton).

June 18—Christine Rose Reed, 15, Roy Grove, aged 18 years. (At Hampton).