

VICAR'S NOTES

On December 11th our Church attains the respectable age of 92 years. This is not old as churches go, but unfortunately ours has become prematurely aged. It had a bad start in life, and there were many defects in the original construction that did not become fully apparent till later. The whole situation tends to make us envious of those who inherit a well-built church and a fabric fund that has been slowly accumulated over the course of the years in preparation for the repairs that are sooner or later sure to be needed. We unfortunately have inherited neither, and the need for renovation has come sooner, not later. Such is the situation—but it is no good bemoaning it; we must do what we can to put it right, and we have cause for great thankfulness for what has been achieved in the last three years. But when everything seems to be wearing out at once, including the lighting and heating systems, we have to face the fact that years of work may still lie ahead, and that several thousands

of pounds may still have to be raised. It would be good if we could complete the main work by the centenary year, 1963 — then what a celebration we could have!

Included in this magazine will be found a Gift Offering Envelope, and I hope that you will fill it as generously as you can, and bring it to one of the Services on the 11th, or as soon after as possible. At the Evening Service there will be the usual opportunity for those who wish to present their offerings in a more personal way than putting them in the collecting-plate. We hope that as a result of the Gift Day we may shortly be able to proceed to the next stage in the work of renovation—the repairs to the interior of the steeple.

We are grateful to those who made the Bonfire Party such a happy affair; for all the hard work that made the Autumn Fair the best ever we hoped it would be. There were fewer stalls at this than usual, but some of them had record results — and Miss Stanton's presence and opening speech were a real tonic to us all.

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about
people, activities & organisations

PERSONALIA AND VARIA

We are very glad that Mr. Hawkins, after being very seriously ill, has now improved so wonderfully, and is convalescing at Bournemouth. We are looking forward to seeing him amongst us once again. It is with regret that we record the death of his great friend, and the friend of us all, Mr. Chown. His heart had been failing for some years, but he would still persist in doing a full day's work whenever possible. He found idleness irksome and was far happier working than resting, and so he went on until his strength finally gave out and he had no reserves left. Who would dare say that for a man of his spirit this was not the best way? For years he had been a well-known and greatly-loved figure in our community, and by his quiet and faithful service and by the strength and reliability of his character he had won a place of

honour and high regard in all our minds. He will be much missed.

Mrs. Rockliffe is now back at home after her severe operation, and we are glad to see how much better she looks. We are sorry that her mother, Mrs. Thomas, has been having so trying a time. Amongst others now in hospital and in special need of our prayers are Mrs. Tarrant, faced with a second operation on her head and eyes; and Mr. William Lewis. Mrs. Bassett is ill at home, and expecting to have to stay in bed until Christmas.

We were sorry to hear about Mr. Western's unfortunate accident, and the way in which it was caused. Good work was being done at last—to improve the dismal lighting in our part of the Borough, but as in the case of those other long-needed improvements in Uxbridge Road, it was accompanied by dangerous negligence. In the latter case the white line was left in its original

position, even though the kerb had now come out to meet it, and a serious accident was caused; in Park Road a hole was left unlighted and unfenced, and Mr. Western fell in and injured his leg most painfully. It often seems that the authorities wait for accidents to happen before taking steps to remedy the danger—a notorious instance of this is, of course, that of the traffic lights, at the junction of Park Road and the High Street, about which Mr. Findlay has been waging a valiant battle for years. I have had several narrow squeaks there when cycling, and through these experiences can see that Mr. Findlay is right in his diagnosis of the trouble—but how slow the powers—that-be have been to see it!

Mr. Findlay, as well as being a fighter for public safety, has also filled with courtesy and quiet efficiency a prominent place in our community, and this month he leaves us for well-earned retirement in a house built to his own design at Hampton. As manager of the Bank at which our church accounts have been deposited, he has shown us every possible consideration, and often gone out of his way to help us, as in receiving the proceeds of our fetes and bazaars late on Saturday evenings. We wish him every happiness in his retirement, and are glad that he will have the joy of a garden once again.

The prospect of heating the church this autumn looked rather grim at one time. Certain fittings had worn out, and though replacements were on order, it might be several months before they could be delivered; and the illness of Mr. Hawkins had deprived us of a reliable and skilful stoker. But Mr. Melville and Mr. Rockliffe spent a whole afternoon making skilful temporary repairs, putting back a previously-discarded fitting not so worn-out as the existing one and patching it up (fortunately it had not gone for scrap!); and this expedient worked very well until the new fittings arrived. Mr. Christie also kindly came forward to do what stoking his regular work permitted until someone could be found to undertake the job regularly, and his work is be-

ing supplemented by Mr. Melville and the Vicar. It has not always been possible to have the church warm for choir-practices, and they, like the small mid-week congregations, have had to endure some unpleasant conditions; but on Sundays the church has been warmer than for many years. And now that the new lighting has come to Park Road, and will shortly come to St. James's Road, two excuses for non-attendance at church on winter evenings—the darkness of the way to church, and the coldness of the building when you get there—have been taken away together!

It has not yet been possible, however, to do much about the churchyard, which through the absence of regular gardeners is becoming progressively more untidy. And I am afraid that some few of those who looking after individual graves do not help as much as they should—broken glass has been found scattered in the footpaths, and litter dumped anywhere, while often the watering-cans are left for others to find and take back to the stand. Geoffrey Eaton has been supplementing his bell-ringing by giving time to deal with some of the most pressing matters, but other voluntary help would be welcome.

Mr. Frank Sargeant has compiled a short historical guide to the church, and copies are now available. He has drawn his information from many sources, and especially the old Vestry Minute Book, and the result is a booklet full of interest and of facts not otherwise easily accessible. Whether you consider the church beautiful, or whether you agree with the authority on the County who described it as 'the ugliest church in Middlesex,' you cannot help learning much from Mr. Sargeant's compilation, and it may cause you to revise your opinion! And the proceeds from its sale will help to preserve the church, and do something towards increasing its beauty or removing its ugliness (whichever way you look at it!)—for the whole 6d. will go to the Renovation Fund. Mr. Sargeant has most kindly borne the whole cost of printing and publication himself.

MOTHERS' UNION AND YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

We are extremely fortunate in having as our speaker on Wednesday, December 7th, Professor S. H. Hooke, one of our leading Biblical scholars. His special field of study has been concerned with the Old Testament, but he will be talking to us about some of the parables of Jesus. The meeting will be at Wayside and we shall be pleased to welcome any visitors who would like to come.

Both Branch and Group are to be congratulated on their efforts for the Autumn Fair. The combined cake stall produced over £7 the Mystery Parcel over £15 and the "Olde Shoppe" £28. Mrs. Wiggins's evening Whist Drive added another few pounds (the exact amount is not yet to hand) and an enjoyable evening for those who attended.

The new programmes are now available, price 3d. If you missed getting yours at the last meeting please ask your Committee member.

The Annual General Meeting of the Group was held on Wednesday, November 9th, at Wayside, and was, as usual with this Group, very well attended. Notes of the business will appear in the January magazine as also will the actual dates that are left blank in the programme.

The new Committee meets under the chairmanship of Mrs. Dunkerley, 24, St. James's Avenue; Vice-Chairman, Mrs. Roberts, 48, St. James's Avenue; Secretary, Mrs. Ford, Park Road; Social Secretary, Mrs. Southon, 17, Cranmer Road; Treasurer, Mrs. Robinson, 36, St. James's Road; Catering Secretary, Mrs. Davies, 11, Westbank Road; Members' Secretary, Mrs. Heaford, 251, Uxbridge Road; Mrs. Johnson, 97, High Street.

THE DRAMA GROUP

After a number of rehearsals, ably directed by a guest-producer from the Teddington Theatre Club, the Christmas comedy which the Group was hoping to present in January has now had to be abandoned. The main reason was the difficulty in completing the cast. The Group is now very small, and the shortage of mem-

is proving a great difficulty. Appeals for new members, such as have often been made in this magazine, seem to fall on deaf ears, and as old members leave the district, they are not being replaced.

The Group is now going to concentrate on a Passion Play which it is hoped will be presented in church in Holy Week.

THE MEN'S SOCIETY

Like the Drama Group, the C.E.M.S. is also suffering acutely from a shortage of man-power, and at several recent meetings there have been only three or four members present, and Mr. Bayley's long-awaited talk on the Post Office, of which he has given us many interesting foretastes, has had to be postponed again and again. The death of Mr. Chown, one of the most faithful and regularly-attending members of the Branch, was a sad loss to us all, and he will be greatly missed.

The Branch hope that the visit of Mr. Roberts, the General Secretary, will stimulate renewed interest in the Society. He will preach at Evensong on December 11th. After the Service the Branch is holding an 'At Home' at Wayside for all men of the congregation, at which Mr. Roberts will speak on some aspects of the Society and its work. Please take this as a personal invitation addressed to yourself, and do your best to be present.

SMALL ADVERTISEMENT

For Sale.—Golf Club—eight irons, two woods, good condition, with bag, patent tripod attachment, £12-12-0. Ice Skates and Boots, figure size 8, good condition, £3.—Apply 36, Acacia Road, Hampden (Molesey 470).

ALTERATIONS AND INFORMATION

Organist and Choirmaster

Mr. R. E. Bougourd, 214, Stanley Road, Teddington. Tel.: Mol. 3342.

Parochial Officer

Mrs. Warwick, 52, Park Road. Tel.: Mol. 7004.

Wayside

There is now no separate Wayside Committee—it has been incorporated into the Properties Committee, which now assumes the oversight of the house. The Parish Rooms at Wayside are

now in use, and Mr. Geer has been appointed by the Committee to act as General Supervisor on its behalf. All inquiries, and applications for use of a room, should be made to him at 4, School Road. Tel.: Mol. 4744.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

- Dec. 7.—3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union. Speaker: Professor S. H. Hooke, D.D. (Wayside).
- Dec. 11.—Dedication Festival and Gift Day. Holy Communion 8 and 9 a.m. Matins 11.0 a.m. Evensong and Presentation of Gifts, 6.30 p.m. Preacher at Evensong: The Rev. R. L. Roberts (Gen. Sec. Church of England Men's Society). 7.45 p.m. 'At Home' for Men of the Church (Wayside).
- Dec. 10.—3.0 p.m. Scout and Guide Bazaar (Hall).
- Dec. 21.—St. Thomas. Holy Communion 7.15 a.m.
- Dec. 24.—11.45 p.m. Midnight Eucharist.
- Dec. 25.—Christmas Day. Holy Communion 7.0, 8.0, 9.0 a.m., and 12.15 p.m. Matins 11.0 a.m. Evensong (probably said only) 6.30 p.m.
- Dec. 26, 27, 28.—Holy Communion on the Three Days after Christmas at 9.0 a.m. only.
- Dec. 29.—Holy Communion 10.30 a.m.
- Dec. 30.—3.0 p.m. Y.W.G. Children's Christmas Party (Hall).

Dec. 31.—7.30 p.m. New Year's Eve Old Time Dance.

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- Jan. 1.—2.30 p.m. Children's Carol Service. 6.30 p.m. Festival Service on the Nine Lessons and Carols.
- Jan. 4.—3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union Carol Service. Collection for Church of England Children's Society (Hall).
- Jan. 6.—The Epiphany. Holy Communion 7.15 and 10.30 a.m.
- Jan. 7.—7.45 p.m. Parish Christmas Social (Hall).
- Jan. 13.—7.30 p.m. Magazines ready: Distributors' Meeting (Vicarage).

BAPTISMS

- Nov. 27.—Andrew John Pope, 35, Park Road.
- „ 27.—David John Burston, 35, Park Road.

MARRIAGES

- Nov. 2.—Thomas Frederick Feltham to Doreen Patricia Martin.
- „ 5.—Geoffrey Walter Oldnall ... to Faith Marjorie Davey.
- „ 12.—Timothy Alec Ingham to Alison Ward Fay.

BURIALS

- Nov. 8.—Norris Edward Chown, 131, Uxbridge Road, aged 76 years.
- „ 26.—Louise Ellen Maunder, Chaldeyne, Esher, aged 85 years.

FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

THE CHURCH OVERSEAS

Answering the Call

“In the presence of a large congregation, ten of our students pledged themselves to a life of missionary service. They have a real sense of dedication. . .”

No, not a group of English students, but Indian students, who have answered the call to missionary service. Indian missionaries are serving today as far afield as Papua.

The Proof of Fellowship

“Our gardener became a Christian about a year ago,” writes a C.M.S. missionary in South India. He changed his name to ‘Isaac’ when he was baptised because he wanted to have the same name as

the one who digged wells and planted trees.

“Last month he was Confirmed. He told us that the thing which impressed him most about his reception into the Church was the common use of the Chalice in the Holy Communion Service. To him this represented the overwhelming proof of the reality of our Christian profession of fellowship and brotherhood.”

The missionary concludes: “Three months ago Lawrence became ill again, and after two days he died. But we are grateful for the year that he was spared to us when he was so wonderfully used to set alight a flame of the Gospel which is now spreading beyond this School to other Schools.”