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St. James's Church, Hampton Hill, Middx.

CHURCH OFFICERS

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Wayside Secretary

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CHURCH SERVICES

Sundays :

8.0 a.m. Holy Communion.

9.0 a.m. (Second & Fourth Sun-
days in month). The Parish
Communion.

11.0 a.m. Matins and Sermon.

12.15 p.m. (First and Third Sun-
days). Holy Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evensong and Sermon.

Holy Baptism is administered
after notice on the Fourth Sunday
at 4.0 p.m., and at Matins or Even-
song once a quarter.

Weekdays :

Holy Communion: Wednesdays
& Holy Days, 7.15 a.m.; Thursdays,
10.30 a.m.

Various arrangements are made
for Religious Education. Sunday
Schools and Bible Classes are held
at 2.30 p.m. in the Church and
Vestry, at Wayside, and at Rectory
School. Confirmation Classes for
adults and young people are
formed from time to time, and
Study and Discussion Groups arranged.

There are a number of clubs and
societies attached to the Church.
These include branches of the
Church of England Men's Society
and the Mothers' Union; Young
Wives' Group; Prayer Group,
Drama Group; Young People's Fel-
lowship; Scouts and Cubs, Guides
and Brownies, and a company of the
Church Lads' Brigade.

In most of the streets in the
Parish there is a representative of
the Church (displaying the sign of
the Spire) from whom the full in-
formation which it is not possible
to provide here may be obtained,
or direct approach may be made to
the Vicar.

The Vicar may usually be seen
without appointment at 9.30 a.m.
and 7.30 p.m., and by appointment
at other times. Arrangements
about Baptisms, Marriages, etc.,
should be made with him, and
messages (preferably in writing)
about people who are sick or in
special need should be sent to him
without delay.

He is always ready to help with
any spiritual or personal matter,
and to give pastoral counsel.

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Vicar's Notes

As we start the New Year there are many voices to warn us that it is not going to be an easy year. It is likely indeed to make very high demands on the courage, wisdom and steadiness of our nation. But this difficult world in which we live still belongs to God, and not to the Devil, and His Will of good can be done here if men will pray and seek for it. The trouble is that on the level of prayer and thought we Christians are often lamentably weak. In this parish there is an opportunity provided for us to increase our knowledge of prayer in fellowship in the monthly meetings of the Prayer Group. This was first intended mainly for street-wardens, who brought to it the needs of different sections of the parish. But its scope has now changed, and it has become a group of people seeking to learn more of prayer for its own sake, and we invite all who wish to deepen their own prayer-life to join us. We begin with the reading and discussion of a chapter from a book of prayer, then we

spend some time in putting into practice in intercession and meditation what we have been thinking about. The next meeting of the Group is on Tuesday, February 5th, 8.0 p.m., at Wayside.

There has so far been little response concerning Confirmation. Unless there is more it may be necessary to cancel the Service arranged for this church later in the year. I should like to meet all who wish to be prepared for Confirmation after the Evening Service on February 3rd.

The Hampton Council of Churches made good progress in 1956, and has started the New Year with a United Service at the Congregational Church. This is the first in a new series of such Services, which will not be "inter-denominational" as in the past, but in the tradition of worship of each member-church in turn. We wish God-speed to Mr. Tripp, the Congregational Minister, who now goes into well-earned retirement after a wise and faithful pastorate of 27 years. Hampton Hill is a better place for having had such a devoted ministry exercised in its midst for so long.

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about
people, activities & organisations

THE MOTHERS' UNION

My dear M.U. Members,

A very happy New Year to you all. May it prove one of Christian progress. I wonder if you have been "checking up" on yourself as you enter the new year—it does such a lot of good (especially at the end of a year) to stop, think back, take stock and try to discover whether or not progress has been made in the Christian life. How I long for sincere Christian progress in our Branch. Are we still keeping in mind our Vicar's talk about the warmth radiating from our lives? Shall we each resolve to give God "Our Best." We must not allow defeat and frustration to hold us back from all that God has purposed for us in 1957.

Thank you for all your lovely cards and wishes—one member's message written to me on her card brought me my biggest thrill this Christmastide, she said

"Thank you for all the comfort and happiness I have found in the afternoons spent with the M.U." Such a message urges one to press on. I so want our Branch to be a useful one in the life of our church. I can tell you of many ways of helping if you are trying to discover how best you may serve.

Please continue to pray for Mrs. Reed and Miss Coe.

The New Year lies before you
Like a path of untrodden
snow,

Take care how you tread upon
it,

For EVERY mark will show.
M. J. BECKETT.

THE SCOUT GROUP

On 5th December the Cubs held their "At Home" for Parents when I was pleased to welcome several new members. During the evening each Six demonstrated one item of Cub work. The Sixers gave a very able demonstration of

first-aid, followed by a camp-fire item by the Seconds. Several Proficiency Badges were then awarded, followed by a very pleasing little Ceremony, when I asked the Vicar, as our President, to present the Shield to Michael Sanders, he having proved to be the most worthy Cub in the Pack.

On November 24th the Group held its first Social and Dance when "The Troop Trio" did much to add to the evening's enjoyment. Akela acted as M.C., and the ladies of the Committee were responsible for refreshments. This function resulted in an addition of £10 to our Group Fund.

On the Wednesday before Christmas a party of Scouters, Scouts and Committee members accompanied by "Guv" and his Concertina went Carol Singing, thereby collecting £4-5-6 for our Headquarters Fund.

RENOVATION FUND

On December 19th the Mothers' Union and Young Wives arranged through Sound Services Ltd. to give a film show including the famous film of "A Great Discovery" and to take a collection for the Renovation Fund. Unfortunately this turned out to be the foggy night in December and so only a very small audience was able to attend. We hope to have better luck when the second film show is held on February 13th, when the main attraction will be from Crown Wallpapers "A Design for Living" and will be of practical help to all those who "do it themselves" when it comes to home decorating.

On the Friday before Christmas a small group of Young Wives' members under the guidance of Mrs. Melville, went out carol-singing with their Renovation box and brought home nearly £4.

I have heard that some people missed the summer meeting for the opening of boxes and now have full ones; I should be pleased if they would take them as soon as possible either to the Vicarage or to Mr. Geer.

There has been no New Year's Party this year owing to a mistake about dates, but I hope that as many of you as can, will take tickets for the entertainment on January 26th, when a Concert

Party with a great reputation in South London are paying their first visit to this area and presenting the latest edition of their well-known show "Any Moment Now!" Tickets are now available —3/6 and 2/6.

THE YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

The Course in Child Psychology —run under the auspices of the W.E.A. and given by Miss Beatrix Tudor-Hart in six weekly lectures during October and November— was well attended. It can be judged a great success because it has stimulated discussion about methods of rearing children and has made many of us re-examine our attitudes. Some are staunchly for Miss Tudor-Hart's methods and some vociferously against.

On Wednesday, 14th November, we held our Annual General Meeting. There was a Clothing Exchange at 7.30 p.m., followed by an Extraordinary General Meeting at which it was proposed and carried by general consent that the Young Wives' Group should have a President and that she should be Mrs. Brunt, the wife of the Vicar and the originator of the Group five years ago. The main purpose of creating the position is to maintain continuity of Aim and Purpose in the Group, in view of the regularly changing Committee drawn from our rather large membership of about eighty members. The position is to be held for an indefinite period to be reviewed at subsequent Annual General Meetings.

The President then took the Chair and the business of the A.G.M. proceeded. There was an address from the retiring Chairman, thanking the retiring members of the Committee for their services and expressing the hope that as there seemed to be some thirty members interested in religious subjects that the Programme for 1957-58 would include more Religious Sessions either as monthly meetings or in special courses. She regretted having failed to do this in the new Programme.

There were reports on the year's activities from the retiring Secretary and on finance from the Treasurer, Entertainment and Catering from these two retiring

officers and discussion about starting again the dress making section if there were new members.

This year there were no elections. The following new members were nominated unopposed:

Mrs. Winter, 126, Uxbridge Rd.
—Chairman.

Mrs. White, 189a, Uxbridge Road—Vice-Chairman.

Mrs. Johnson, 95, High Street
—Secretary (2nd year on Committee).

Mrs. Holland, 16, Clonmel Road, Teddington.

Mrs. Houghton, Sunbury.

Mrs. Pyne, 32, St. James Road.

Mrs. Smith, 4b, St. James's Rd.

Mrs. Robinson continues in the office of Treasurer for the second year on the committee.

In order to re-balance the yearly retirement of only half the Committee, two of the new members not elected to offices are to serve on the Committee for one year only. This is to be arranged at a Committee meeting.

For the November monthly meeting on 23th a Film Show was held of three French Films.

The first was "Gospel in Stone." The Gospel story told through the interpretation of mediaeval church sculpture which was movingly beautiful. But the film was marred by a mawkish and unceasing commentary in English which prevented the sculpture from making its own impact on the individual.

The second film was called "Man on the Move" and some fine architecture from Roman through mediaeval to modern times was shown as a continuous theme of the pilgrimage of man—differing from a tramp in that a pilgrim knows where he is going and a tramp, presumably, does not. The commentary for this also dubbed English, was restrained and unobtrusive. The third film of a ballet danced by the Paris Opera Company seemed to those of us who could not follow the French commentary rather long. The theme was a Provençal Christmas Carol and the groups and characters were based on statuettes made in the town of Sautons. The ballet was charming and pretty. The inclusion, in peasant manner, of local characters in peasant dress was strange and new. The

show was quite well attended and our Group was grateful for the support of other members of the Parish and our visitors.

A Film Show however, is now a costly business and it does not appear from recent experience that there is adequate support for any more ventures of this sort.
D.D.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

Jan. 21.—8.0 p.m. Hampton Council of Churches (Congregational Hall).

Jan. 25.—Conversion of St. Paul. 7.15 a.m. Holy Communion.

Jan. 26.—7.30 p.m. "Any Moment Now!"—an original Concert-Party entertainment in support of the Renovation Fund (Hall).

Jan. 30.—8.0 p.m. Annual Meeting of Old People's Welfare Committee (School).

8.0 p.m. Young Wives' Group (W).

Jan. 31.—8.15 p.m. Church Council (W).

Feb. 2.—The Presentation. 7.15 a.m. Holy Communion.

Feb. 3.—7.45 p.m. Confirmation Candidates (Church).

Feb. 4.—8.0 p.m. Drama Group (W).

Feb. 5.—8.0 p.m. Prayer Group (W).

Feb. 6.—3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union (W).

Feb. 8.—7.30 p.m. Magazine Ready—Distributors' Meeting (V).

Feb. 9.—8.0 p.m. Dance in support of Renovation Fund (Hall).

Feb. 13.—8.0 p.m. Film "Design for Living" in support of Renovation Fund (Hall).

MARRIAGE

Dec. 15.—Alan Alfred Haig Mills to Audrey Jefferson.

BURIALS AND CREMATIONS

Dec. 6.—Harriet Styles, 3, York Road, aged 86 years (at Teddington).

" 7.—James McRae, 113 King Charles Road, Surbiton, aged 87 years.

" 15.—Emily Ada Powney, 70, Myrtle Road, aged 74 years (at Teddington)

" 18.—Daisy Florence Cecilia Hammond, 15, Burton's Road, aged 74 years (at S.W. Middlesex Crematorium).

Dec. 22.—May Sophie Rushton,
46, Weston Avenue, W.
Molesey, aged 75 years.

„ 22.—Florence Ellen Vanner,
21, High Street, aged 66
years.

Jan. 9.—Ada Sarah Fitzgerald,
Heathcote, St. James's
Road, aged 88 years (at
Teddington).

„ 11.—Elizabeth Pedder, 24,
Mays Road, aged 83
years (at Teddington).

FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY

New Life in Montgomerywala

Montgomerywala in West Paki-
stan, founded as a Christian vil-
lage many years ago, has recent-
ly experienced a spiritual revival
resulting in the transformation of
the village and of many lives.

The Pakistani clergyman in the
village has written: "On Sunday
a band of young men rises up be-
fore dawn and sings round the
village, awakening the people
that it is the Lord's Day and that
they ought to go to Church and
keep it holy We go every
Sunday to the villages in our
neighbourhood to show the slides
by magic lantern, and also we
hold open-air meetings and preach
the word of God among the Chris-
tians as well as the non-Christi-
ans. In one of the villages when
we finished our film strips, one
Muslim young man declared that
he was pleased to see that our
people have been changed. He
said that whenever they go to our
village they see people singing
and praying and talking about the
word of God instead of gossiping
about wicked things."

"It Is Like That"

The first woman to be baptised
in one Malayan village said to the
C.M.S. Missionary who had taught
her: "Please go on teaching me.
I am the first Christian here;
everyone will look at me and say
—'It is like that to be a Chris-
tian.' I must be a good Christian."

People are looking at us who
go to Church and are saying—
perhaps unconsciously—"It is
like that to be a Christian."

Reaching the 'Nominal Christian'

Five ordinands and a member
of staff from a theological College
in Uganda accepted an invitation
to take Services and give Chris-
tian teaching at a boys' private

school nearby. Gradually the con-
fidence and interest of the boys
was gained, and in the course of
the past year about fifteen of
them surrendered their lives to
Christ.

"That school," writes a C.M.S.
missionary, "typifies a large part
of East Africa. Practically all the
boys are baptised as Christians
and they all possessed Bibles of
their own and had been brought
up in Church Primary Schools;
but that did not mean that they
knew Christ.

This month a three months dio-
cesan-wide mission is to begin in
Uganda. The first since 1936, the
mission will be directed largely
towards the many nominal Chris-
tians in the diocese in the hope
that they will be drawn into vital
and active Church membership.
Prayer is asked that this may
be so.

Evangelism in the Cinema

A C.M.S. missionary in Ceylon
writes:

"Most of our regular evangel-
istic work is done with a projector
and film strips. I don't think
people would listen to roadside
sermons, as they have so many
other interests, but they are keen
to see pictures. We have a
weekly picture showing in the
market by the invitation of the
permanent shopkeepers. Last Fri-
day a group of schoolchildren
acted the story of the Prodigal
Son in the local cinema. We had
a full house, and the cinema
authorities had to send away the
late comers as there was no more
room. The crowd was very at-
tentive."

Do You Know?

that for the first time since 1917
the Bible has been printed in
Russia, with a first edition of
100,000 copies.