

Vicar's Notes

The storm kept off till just before the end of our Summer Fête, but the hot oppressive weather was perhaps to blame for the smaller attendance than usual this year. It was a pity that the rain prevented the Edwardians from completing their jolly entertainment, and made the taking down of stalls and collecting of chairs a damping experience. But a small group of stalwarts stuck at the job of clearing up, and the last of them did not "knock off" till well after 11.0 p.m. The final financial result will not be known for some time, but we must expect it to be considerably smaller than last year's record figure. But we ought not to be unduly disappointed by this: and it was encouraging to see that the enthusiasm and team-work of the

helpers was as good as, or even better than, ever.

Many of us are now on holiday, or preparing to go, and I hope that everyone will return fully refreshed. Fortunately as it turns out, we had arranged ours later than usual this year, for the last week in August and the first in September, because there is now every chance that our elder daughter, Rosalind, who has had to have an operation on her hip, will be out of hospital by then and fit enough to take the long journey down to Cornwall with us. My wife and I are very grateful for all the kind messages and helpful actions that have flowed in upon us during this trying time, and Rosalind has been much pleased by the many letters sent to her. We are very thankful that she is getting on so well in hospital, and is bright and cheerful.

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about
people, activities & organisations

THE MOTHERS' UNION

My dear M.U. Members,

Our closing Service on July 6th was truly a memorable one. We had looked forward to receiving into our membership five new members, but we had not expected the Service to be preceded by the Funeral Service for one of our oldest and dearest members—Mary Reed. Yet somehow it seemed fitting that it should have happened thus. Mrs. Reed had been greatly missed from our meetings and our prayers and thoughts had been constantly with her during the weeks of her illness. She had wonderful courage and still had a smile when I visited her a short while ago—we had hoped she would return to us but God called her to Himself on 29th June. We shall remember her sweetness in our meetings especially in connection with the Kind Thought Box—how she loved to visit our sick members and take the little gifts to them and she served on the Committee for a long time. Our sympathy has

been with Mr. Reed, Margery and George in their bereavement and the suffering they had to witness for so long. Margery has written to thank us for the beautiful wreath, and wishes me to thank the choir for singing at the Service—she says she felt the Service was full of warmth and special meaning that was just for her Mother.

We welcome the new members and pray that they will be richly blessed as they share in the fellowship with us. We are grateful to our Vicar for his message on this occasion. I wonder if to any of you came a fresh challenge as the Vicar asked the new members the question "Will you try to plan your daily life so that you can be regular in Sunday worship, Bible reading and prayer?" To this question each one of us as members has in her time answered "I will." Perhaps some of us were conscious of failure and maybe we shall see better results from our planning. God bless you each one and bring you back refreshed from your holidays.

Please remember the following dates:—

September 4th—Missionary Afternoon at Wayside. Miss Gough will speak. If you have a C.E.Z.M.S. Box, please bring it for opening.

October 2nd, 3 p.m. at Wayside. Mrs. Garrington (well known as The Reverend Elsie Chamberlain of the B.E.C. Religious Broadcasting Department) will speak.

M.B.

THE WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

This Association, which is always well supported in Hampton Hill, and arranges most interesting and instructive classes, is now making plans for the autumn and winter. Programmes will shortly be available in the local libraries. A series of talks and discussions will be held at Windmill Road School on the subject of "Different Types of Government," in the course of which the good and bad points of democracy, parliamentary systems, dictatorships, republics, etc., will be examined. In other parts of the district there will be courses in Modern Science, Local History, Art, Archaeology and Modern Literature.

CONFIRMATION AND PARISH COMMUNION

On July 14th the church had a large congregation for a Confirmation immediately followed by a General Communion. This was once the universal custom in the Church, and though modern conditions and the pressure on Bishops' time are difficulties, it is slowly being revived. There were 15 candidates from St. Mary's, Hampton, and 17 who had been prepared here — Philip Boclet, Geoffrey Eaton, John Geer, David Nichols, Geoffrey Swatland, Christopher Wren, Penelope Allport, Catherine Atkinson, Susan Baker, Jacqueline Goodwin, Jane Grimm, Mary Jost, Jean McDonald, Judith McMinn, Ruth Mills, Diana Robinson, Delia Shiers.

In all, 150 people received Communion, including the candidates, whose Christian initiation, begun in Baptism, this completed. The Service was beautifully sung to

Merbecke, and as Mr. Bougourd has now trained a good number of people in the singing of this setting, we hope that it will now be possible once again to maintain a regular sung Parish Communion. The Commission on Worship in 1955 recommended that this should be on the second and fourth Sundays in each month at 9.0 a.m. We must continue this arrangement for the moment, but if in fact it is not proving to be a satisfactory time, we can of course consider changing it.

As in 1955, after the Service an excellently prepared breakfast was served at Wayside, and we were only sorry that more people did not come across to enjoy it.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOLS

Smooth lawns, noble trees; a large marquee and an orchestra under the shade of a spreading oak and there is the setting for the traditionally English summer garden party. And at Fulham Palace on June 15th the sun shone brightly and completed the picture for the Diocesan Sunday School Teachers' annual gathering which this year was the special occasion for a presentation to Miss Clarice Knowles who for twenty-seven years has been Adviser in Children's Work to the Council for Voluntary Religious Education. She is retiring at the end of September.

In this Parish we have benefited in many ways from her wisdom and experience. Several years ago she helped in the reorganisation of our Sunday School and our teachers have attended local training courses that she has arranged. Miss Stewart, the Superintendent of the Junior Sunday School, gives part of her summer holiday each year to attend a course organised by the Diocese for Sunday School teachers and so benefit our parish.

We were received on arrival at the Palace, by the Bishop, and Miss Knowles, and later in the afternoon Miss Knowles was presented with a brooch and a cheque. The rest of the afternoon was pleasantly spent with tea and basking in sunshine and music. Later we walked through the trees to All Saints' Church for

special Evensong where it was an experience to be in a packed church where everyone present took full part in the Service and a privilege to hear the quiet wisdom and inspiration of the Bishop of London's short address on the work of Sunday School teachers in these days.

At the end of the Service several teachers were presented with certificates for examinations for which they had been studying.

We came away with strength renewed for another year's work and thankful for the work in our own Sundays Schools. All are adequately staffed at the moment—although this is only a transitory state of affairs because we have no reserves and a prospect of two or three teachers leaving in the next eighteen months. We have good premises and although we are always wanting more equipment—a 'sound-on' cine projector?—we have enough to work with. There is a serious gap in that we have no kindergarten for the 3-5 year olds but are ready to begin one as soon as the opportunity, in the shape of the right superintendent, arises.

The Sunday Schools will attend the usual monthly Family Service at 11.0 a.m. on July 28th, and then will not meet again until September 15th at 2.30 p.m.

At the Service on July 28th it is hoped to present certificates to those who passed the Diocesan examinations which were held in May. Those successful were:—

SENIOR (for those at Secondary Schools): **2nd Class**—Ruth Mills, Rosalind Brunt; **3rd Class**—Pat Stichbury, Raymond Shelton, Barbara Giles, Kathleen Higgins; **Pass**—Graham Peel, Bernard Wigginton, Stuart Rayner, Joyce West.

UPPER JUNIOR (9-11 years): **1st Class**—Ann Harper, Ceridwen Roberts; **2nd Class**—Susan Willmott, Jacqueline Stichbury, Patricia Allport, Heather Gostling; **3rd Class**—Patricia Smith, Mervyn Snook, Elizabeth Walker, Susan Wainwright, Susan Dix; **Pass**—Diane Bridges, Andrew Long, Angela Marsh.

LOWER JUNIOR (7 and 8 years): **2nd Class**—Gillian Howard, Dawn Parry, Janet Cook, Ann

Stuart; **3rd Class**—Linda Giles, Carol Reeves, Bernard Brunt, Sarah Long; **Pass**—Pamela Allport, Gillian Gostling, Constance Newman, Richard Melville.

The outing on June 29th was most enjoyable. We went by double-decker bus to Guildford, and saw the Pageant held to commemorate the 700 years of history since the granting of the town's Charter. The Pageant was very well presented, and full of incident, exciting events—battles, jousting, riots, archery contests—intermingled with humorous ones, such as the clumsy Militia drilling in preparation to resist a Spanish invasion, the Grammar schoolboys' masque in honour of Queen Elizabeth, and the arrival of the first train. We were fortunate afterwards in being able to have a pic-nic tea without being drenched by the thunderstorm which loomed threateningly near.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

- Aug. 7.—8.0 p.m. Standing Committee of P.C.C. (W).
- Aug. 13.—8.0 p.m. Prayer Group (W).
- Aug. 22.—7.30 p.m. Magazines should be ready (V). (N.B.—Thursday, not Friday).
- Aug. 24.—St. Bartholomew. Holy Communion 7.15 a.m.
- Sept. 7.—3.0 p.m. Scout Group Fête (Laurel Dene).
- Sept. 15.—2.30 p.m. Sunday Schools Re-open.
- Sept. 19.—8.0 p.m. Church Council (W).

BAPTISM

- July 11.—Geoffrey Joseph Eaton (of riper years).

MARRIAGE

- July 20.—Joseph James East to Shirley Stagg.

BURIALS AND CREMATIONS

- July 3.—Mary Reed, 9, Westbank Road, aged 66 years (at S.W. Middx. Crematorium).
- „ 15.—Walter James Edward Hyde, 95, Hampton Rd., aged 70 years.
- „ 23.—Adela Lockhart Gordon, 15, Millfield, Folkestone (Interment of Ashes).
- „ 25.—Thomas Ewen, 17, Park Road, aged 84 years (at Hampton).

FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

CATS-EYES AND CHRISTIANS

In the course of an address to the East Asia Committee of the Church Missionary Society in London on May 7, the Rev. John Watanabe, a Japanese clergyman who has been studying in this country said: "Often when riding in a car by night in England the sight of the 'cats-eyes' on the road has made me think of my fellow-Christians in Japan. Although the Christian Church seems to be so small and so likely to be trampled out of existence in the dark and dangerous road of the present times, I believe that it is the Christians who will be able to guide Japan in the right direction by standing in line and displaying the light of Christ."

THE PUREST GLORY

The late Archbishop of Capetown, Dr. Clayton, preaching the Annual Sermon of the C.M.S. of South Africa shortly before he died, said: "Dr. Henson, formerly Bishop of Durham, said in his Gifford Lectures, 'Take away foreign missions from the recent history of Britain, and you will have robbed that history of its purest glory. No one can have any knowledge of religious society in this country without knowing how noble, unselfish, and courageous is the enthusiasm which carries to the end of the earth young men and women, to whom life in Britain is full of promise.' That is true, and a great part of that glory, though of course not all of it, has come through the influence of the Church Missionary Society."

STILL WANTED IN AFRICA MISSIONARIES

In the course of the Africa Bureau Anniversary Address given in London on July 24th, 1956, the speaker, Mr. Tshekedi Khama, uncle of Seretse Khama, said:

"British Africa today makes no less a call to England for missionary enterprise than she made in those early days. In fact, there is a bigger call today for true Christian influences in Africa amongst all races. It is common belief that something has gone wrong somewhere in Africa in the factor of human relationships between different races. Missionaries are men with a strong sense of vocation, and Africa still has open fields for such men—missionary, educationalists, medical missionaries, missionary agriculturalists, missionary engineers, and even missionary politicians. Men of stabilising influence are needed in all phases of her development, if Africa is to grow to maturity with the realisation that there is no country which exists today for the benefit of any one race alone."

Have you seen the new C.M.S. free leaflet "Recruiting—the unfinished task."? It indicates continuing needs in Africa and the East, and gives prayer suggestions. Obtainable from Publishing Dept., C.M.S., 6 Salisbury Square, London, E.C.4.

DO YOU WANT A LIFT?

A. C.M.S. missionary in Africa writes: "Some of my African colleagues here enjoy telling the story of the woman who was carrying a great load on her head—a familiar sight in these parts. A lorry-driver stopped and offered her a lift. She accepted and climbed into the lorry. But some time later, when the driver looked round, he saw she was still carrying the load on her head! Here is a parable for today, applicable in Africa and in Britain. Failing, I suppose, to trust and understand as we should, far too many of us go on clinging to our burdens, even after we claim to have committed our selves and our ways to Jesus."