



The SPIRE

JR. DANE

THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE of ST. JAMES'S CHURCH
Volume LXXIV HAMPTON HILL JANUARY, 1958

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

CHURCH OFFICERS

Vicar

The Rev R. H. Brunt, B.A.,
A.K.C., The Vicarage, St. James's
Road Tel. Molesey 2069.

Parochial Readers

Mr. W. Thomas, 40, Gloucester
Road, Teddington. Tel. Mol. 4909

Mr. R. P. Bishop, 197, Uxbridge
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Churchwardens

Mr. W. F. Wigginton, 9, Oxford
Road, Teddington. Tel. Mol. 440

Mr. L. Melville, 106, Park Road.
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Organist and Choirmaster

(Awaiting Appointment)

Parochial Officer and Sec. of P.C.C.

Mrs. D. Warwick, 52, Park Road.
Tel. Molesey 7004.

Secretary of Christian Giving Scheme

Mr. H. R. Whiteley, 192, Ux-
bridge Road.

Magazine Secretary

Mr. C. W. Smith, 59, St. James's
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Hall Secretary

Mr. F. W. Nightingale, 29, Holly
Road. Tel. Molesey 3572

Wayside Secretary

Mr. J. Geer, 4, School Road.
Tel. Molesey 4744

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
7.15 a.m.; Holy Days 7.15 a.m. or
9.0 a.m., as announced; Thursdays
10.30 a.m.

No collections are taken at Sun-
day or week-day Services except at
Easter and Christmas. Christian
Giving envelopes and other offerings
should be placed on the plates pro-
vided before the Service begins—
also the Oblation of Bread on the
paten before the early Services of
Holy Communion on Sundays.

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 ar-
ranged.

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 addi-
tion, Parish Meetings, open to all,
are held monthly, and smaller
groups are encouraged to meet in
people's houses in different parts of
the Parish.

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.

Vicar's Notes

We enter on the New Year with confidence that the way to break out of our financial strait-jacket and become a generous giving church has been made clear to us. Fifty-seven forms of promise have been returned, and the amount promised is over £15 a week, or £750 a year. This is almost exactly equivalent to the total amount raised by all kinds of direct giving in 1956—that is, by means of general and special collections in church (excluding those at Christmas and Easter, which will still be taken), gifts through the Renovation Fund, Free-Will Offering Scheme, the Gift Day, and so on. This is indeed an encouraging send-off to what we have envisaged as a five-year plan. There are cautious people who like to wait and see how a new scheme goes before they take action themselves; several people have said that this is their attitude to the Christian Giving Scheme, and there may be many in the parish who feel like this. I would say to them: The Scheme has indeed started well, but it depends on you whether it continues to go well or not. But I should like you to decide on the merits and principles of the Scheme, not on whether you think it will succeed or fail. Is the Scheme right? Is it wise? Is it Christian? These, I think, are the questions we have to face. If we can answer "Yes" to them, then there is no need to wait to see if others will join—we can go ahead, and help to blaze the trail. I hope that in the next month many more Forms of Promise will come in, and that what is already a strong river will become a mighty flood of giving.

ALMS AND OBLATIONS

To offer some of the money of which we are stewards in the service of God, and to offer bread, wine and water at the Holy Communion, are significant and important acts. But their significance is often obscured by the way in which they are done. We have now returned to a way which is more in accord with their importance; money is no longer collected from us in a distracting way while we are trying to sing a hymn, but we place it on a plate as we enter the church, having determined quietly beforehand how much we will give. Then what

we have all offered is presented at the Altar by sidesmen or other representatives of the congregation while we all stand and pray that our offerings may be used in the best way, according to the Will of God; again there is no hymn to distract our attention from this important act—this comes afterwards. We concentrate on one thing at a time: each part of our worship must receive its due attention. At the Communion, as well as placing our alms in the plate, we also make an oblation of bread on the paten, and this, representing our life and labour, is, together with the wine and water, presented at the Altar in the same way, in solemn procession from the west end of the church. It may take some time before these new methods (which are really a return to good old ways) seem fully natural to us, but before very long we shall wonder that we ever did these things differently.

SOME PAST AND FUTURE EVENTS

Owing to our lack of a Choir-master and Organist, our Carol Service this year had to take a different form from the traditional "Nine Lessons and Carols"—but it was a notable occasion. An augmented choir, including many members of the Young People's Fellowship, sang with great verve and feeling. We have still no candidate for this important office, but Mr. Rodney Bishop as temporary Choirmaster, Mrs. Wigginton at the organ, and Mrs. Melville at the piano, have stepped into the breach very gallantly and efficiently, and the whole Choir has co-operated with great enthusiasm, and a situation which might well have become disastrous, has been turned into a fine achievement. We are very grateful for the united effort, which has made this possible.

The Christmas Parish Party was most enjoyed by those who were there—but there were not enough of us! The programme was well devised to suit all ages, and Mr. Holt kept everything going with a swing. The next similar occasion will be on the evening of Shrove Tuesday, and we hope this will be better supported. Many people bemoan the lack of social life in the Parish, yet when such splendid occasions of remedying this are provided, they

fail to take advantage of them, and often the organisers wonder whether the work involved in preparation is really worthwhile.

We were looking forward to a second visit from that first-rate concert party, "Any Moment Now!" at the end of this month, but after accepting the engagement they had to cancel it as owing to loss of some of the original members of the Company they have had to disband—temporarily—we hope.

Our own Drama Group, which has not been in a position recently to present any plays of its own, is now co-operating with the group gathered together by Mrs. Eustace from the churches affiliated to the Hampton Council. This group is now busily rehearsing the old English morality play, "Everyman," and its first performance, sponsored by the Hampton Council of Churches, will be in our church on the evening of Ash Wednesday. The play still has its fresh and forcible message which time cannot dim, and it serves as a good introduction to Lent.

The monthly Parish Meetings have made a good start, with plenty of discussion by ourselves, and with

two good speakers—Mr. Bryan Johnson in December and Miss Lily Best on January 9th. At the moment we are changing the day of the week from month to month, to give everyone a chance, as some people have regular weekly engagements which are difficult to miss. We have already had Wednesday and Thursday! The next one will be on Tuesday, February 11th.

The Confirmation this year will be at St. Mary's, Hampton, on Wednesday, July 16th, at 8.0 p.m. I have already had a number of inquiries from intending candidates, both young and not-so-young, and I hope to start classes in February. Older candidates may, if they prefer, be presented at a Confirmation for adults only in St. Paul's Cathedral in May or July. All candidates are, as part of their preparation, required to attend Sunday worship regularly. I should like to meet all those interested after Evensong on February 9th, so that we may make arrangements about the formation of classes.

The next United Service will be held at 6.30 p.m. on January 26th at the Methodist Church. Evensong will be said here at 5.30 p.m.

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about
people, activities & organisations

MOTHERS' UNION

Dates to remember:

Jan. 15.—Carol Service, Parish Hall 3 p.m. Mothers' Union and Young Wives' collection for "Church of England Children's Society."

Feb. 5.—M.U. Supper at **Parish Hall**, 7.30.

March 19.—Parish Hall at 7.30.
Sound Service Film: "Housewives' Own Film Programme."
Refreshments. (Collection will be taken).

Here is a letter, written by a black African lady, and printed as written, sent to Mrs. Bassett, whose son, Fr. Paul Singleton, is now serving in the Parish of Christ the King, Johannesburg, with the Mothers' Union Branch of which our Branch is now linked:—

1716 Fetsha Street,
Western Township,
Johannesburg,
South Africa.
19th Nov., 1957.

Dear Madam,

Father Singleton has told us that you wish to know how we are getting on with the Mothers' Union. In the name of the Mothers' Union of Christ the King we wish to give you the conference reports.

Unfortunately the reports are not yet out, but immediately they are out we shall sent you one.

We care out ours in this manner. We have a special book for the Mothers' Union in which we have a prayer, then the Chairlady address us. By choosing words from the Bible.

Before we had a help society, came Mrs. Wood who introduced to us the Mothers' Union. She found us with a uniform that we were on the day we have our meeting. In

the whole of South Africa we have a uniform. She was very much impressed with the uniform.

I think you have seen it in the photo that father took us. We have also seen you in the photo which you sent to Father Singleton.

In the name of the Mothers' Union you wishing to be happy and grow young.

Your loving child,
AMELIA MALUNGA.

P.S.—The new chairlady is Mrs. Moreme. Address to Christ the King.

THE SCOUT GROUP

The Cubs next meet on January 8th at 5 o'clock when they are holding a party. The Scouts start again the week after, January 15th. There is plenty of room for new blood in both the Pack and the Troop.

The Scout Group Carol Singers performed on December 23rd and due to their valiant effort £6-5-6 was added to the Group Building Fund.

Lastly an Old Thought for a New Year:—

“Be Prepared.”

KIM.

Dates:

Bingo Drive, Tuesday, January 21,
Parish Hall.

Fete at Laurel Dene, Saturday,
May 17th.

THE CHURCH LADS' BRIGADE

With the National Physical Laboratory as a neighbour, my thoughts turn to the ways and means they have for measuring time, speed, etc., to the greatest accuracy that man can devise. How very much more difficult it is for us to measure our progress, our advances, our standards, and the result of our actions.

This was my immediate problem when I set about these notes of the Church Lads' Brigade Company. A year has passed and another anniversary has slipped by. The Battalion Colours have passed into the keeping of All Souls, St. Margaret's. Another annual camp is now a memory; no gales this year, and you may be shocked when I say that there was no shop-lifting by the lads in Sandown this year. Oh yes! it did happen in 1956, but a lesson was learnt by both the camp officers and the boys by this un-

happy experience. One lad found this too much to hide . . . he had let his Company down, and so he wrote his miserable confession, slipped it in my letter-box, and there it lay until I returned from my holiday. He could not retrieve this condemning letter; they must have been punishing days, waiting for my return, and the anxiety of what was to happen must have been a great trial. It led to admissions by other lads, but I am not going to satisfy idle curiosity by detailing the punishment, etc., what is of prime importance is to report that it did not recur. The lad has left the district, and yet I am sure that he and others have learnt one of the many lessons they have to learn in the art of living.

This leads me on to think of the lad that came from Ashford for his last parade. He also has had some of the bitter experiences of life, a spell away from home, not of his own making, his family had inadequate accommodation. He is off to start afresh at Hastings; I do so hope he fares well. It takes a lot of grit and loyalty to stir yourself and travel from Ashford to Hampton Hill for a Church parade.

These thoughts cannot be measured against a scale or meter, it all depends on what interpretation you place on each case. Some will blame camp discipline, the shop keeper, the lads, the parents, the housing shortage, the schools, and so on; but I sincerely suggest that it is a remedy that is wanted, and not a scapegoat.

There is such a lot to be done and nothing must hinder the work of the youth organisations. This problem is one that needs your earnest thought, not your money. I have found that games played with primitive equipment but with the right sense of sportsmanship have given more pleasure and done more good, than games played in the wrong spirit and with expensive elaborate equipment. A word of encouragement costs nothing, and if one of the lads can be of service that gives the opening for that word of praise and encouragement. Do you know of an old person who needs a shelf fixed, a garden dug, or an odd job that will make life just that little more pleasant? Let us know and the lads will do their best to help. Service that will give

such pleasure, and sow the real seeds of charity in the hearts of lads.

In these momentous days I am convinced that this new generation is the only hope for the world. There is something sinister and insidious seeping into every facet of our lives—give it what name you will. The time has come to give a deal more than thought to this problem. It is not my place to preach, but I would like to quote the first paragraph of the principles of the 'Brigade Spirit.'

"The Brigade lad is loyal to his leaders and his comrades. He never asks for an advantage that he would not ask for others."

Do we get that spirit, To a very large degree we do, but human nature does not allow for 100% in such matters, but a small measure of success will be a very worthy contribution to the years to come.

I would take this opportunity to thank everybody that has helped the Company along a very rough road, and wish you all on behalf of the officers and lads, a Happy New Year. B.A.H.

The Brigade Prayer

Grant O God that we, Thy sons, may never be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified, and manfully to fight under His banner, against sin, the world, and the devil; and to continue His faithful soldiers and servants unto our life's end, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.—Amen.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP

Programme for next few weeks—
Sunday Evening Meetings at 8 p.m.
Jan. 12, 19, 26.—Study from David's Life.

Feb. 2.—Quiz.

Feb. 9, 16.—Gospel Methods in Acts.

Feb. 23.—Vicar's Evening:

Canticles.

Other activities include:—

Feb. 2.—8 a.m. Communion and Breakfast.

Feb. 9, 23.—5.30 p.m. Old People's Service, Laurel Dene.

March 2.—8 a.m. Communion and Breakfast.

The "Strenuous Evening" recently held in the Hall was most successful, and the energies of the most lively were given opportunity for full play. The Christmas Party

brought about 28 members and friends together to Wayside for a most enjoyable evening on January 10th.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

Feb. 4.—8 p.m. Prayer Group (W).

Feb. 5.—7.30 p.m. Mothers' Union Supper (H).

Feb. 7.—7.30 p.m. Magazines should be ready (V).

Feb. 9.—11.0 a.m. Instead of Sermon, recording of Address: "Why We Need Priests."

6.30 p.m.—Intending Confirmation candidates asked to be present.

Feb. 11.—8.0 p.m. Parish Meeting (W).

Feb. 18.—7.30 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Parish Party (H).

Feb. 19.—Ash Wednesday.

7.15 and 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.

8.0 p.m. Short Evening Service, followed by Presentation of Morality Play, "Everyman," sponsored by the Hampton Council of Churches.

BAPTISMS

Dec. 22.—Elizabeth Anne Clack, 25, Laurel Road.

MARRIAGES

Dec. 14.—Reginald Robert Roberts to Beryl Margaret Stacey.

" 26.—Stanley Gordon Major to Margaret Elizabeth Christie.

BURIALS

Dec. 6.—William Charles Chandler, 14, Westbank Road, aged 74 years.

" 13.—Richard Ewen, 115, Burton's Road, aged 83 yrs.

" 18.—Agnes Fisher, 7a, St. James's Road, aged 81 years.

" 30.—Frederick Albert Srodzinski, 10, Laurel Road, aged 59 years.

" 31.—Catherine Mary Iles, 1, Westbank Road, aged 58 years.

" 31.—Florence Forsdick, Laurel Dene, aged 79 years (at Hampton).

Jan. 3.—Walter Frederick Wilcox, 12, Eastbank Road, aged 72 years.

" 6.—Robert John Charles Wales, 14, High Street, aged 78 years (at Hampton).

" 9.—Elizabeth Stacey, 46, Myrtle Road, aged 86 years.