

Vicar's Notes

The Garden Party was a very happy occasion. The weather, in a summer that is proving one of the wettest on record, though not cheerful, was tolerably kind, and though drizzle threatened from time to time, the programme was carried through as planned. One highlight was the exhibition organised and arranged by members of the Young People's Fellowship, "Hamp-ton Hill — Past, Present and Future." There was so much there on view, that few people had an opportunity to see more than a small part. I am therefore glad to hear that the exhibition is to be re-assembled in the Hall for ten days in August. This will give us all the chance we did not have on July 5th, to browse through it at our leisure.

Unfortunately, the Garden Party did not, as hoped, clear expenses. The receipts (including a generous donation of £8 from the Mothers' Union) came to £38-16-0, but the expenditure was £45-2-9, a loss of £6-6-9. Yet we may well feel that such an enjoyable afternoon was well worth this slight deficit. But there are people who think that such events cost little or nothing, and should therefore be free of charge. It is true that many people do give much service and hard work without any fee—this alone makes such occasions possible: but though we cut expenses to the bone this year, we still had them—and on the whole, most people thought that 2/- was not too much to pay for all that was provided in return.

From small financial matters we pass to large, with the Planning and Policy Committee's Statement, now endorsed by the Church Council, below. We feel that this should be made as widely known and be as fully considered as possible. The gist of the matter is that our present estimated annual income is £1,165, £10 more than estimated expenditure. To carry out the work needed on the church, and to maintain the hall, we need to increase this figure to £2,000—and I believe it can be done, and more. The statement, of course, is concerned only with our own domestic financial policy—but there is great need of generous giving to the Church's

work beyond this parish. We are making a small advance this year in such giving, and on the Sunday of our Patronal Festival four cheques will be dedicated at the Altar, two of which immediately afterwards will be sent to help forward the great work in South Africa of Miss Hannah Stanton at Tumelong and Father Paul Singleton at Sophiatown. The other two will be sent to the Additional Curates' Society, to help the work of the Church to be carried on in large under-staffed industrial parishes at home, and to the Church Missions to Jews, whose Editorial Secretary, Mr. Stevens, is a neighbour and friend of ours. Later in the year we hope to dedicate four more such cheques, to be sent to other people doing important and worth-while work for God in the world. But this is only a start; the amounts we are sending, though better than we have done before, are not large, and we should much like to increase them—and if we all do our part, there is no reason why we should not.

An encouraging movement amongst us is the increase in voluntary work which is being done. Mr. Salisbury and members of the Young People's Fellowship are putting up a new portion of fencing in the churchyard. It is good to see this good constructive work being done in a place which seems to make some young—and not-so-young—people think only of destruction and damage. Then the repair and redecoration of the Vestry is now also well in hand, and the energy of our enthusiastic young people is bringing about a transformation there. Such work not only saves the church a great deal of money but increases morale all round.

Some time ago the Church Council decided that it would be a good thing to have a parish diary in some easily-accessible place which secretaries of all Church organisations could consult before arranging meetings. It was hoped that this might prevent some of the clashing of important events which has happened in the past. As it has not yet been found practicable to carry out this resolution, I hope to include under "Some Dates to Note" fixtures further ahead than

the present month as and when they are arranged. If people would note these down in their diaries, we

are less likely to be torn between two interesting gatherings arranged for the same time.

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about
people, activities & organisations

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POLICY

With regard to the church building itself, the major works which need to be taken in hand during the next five years are, in order of priority, as follows:—

(1) The repair and redecoration of the Vestry. (This is already in hand, a good deal of the work being done voluntarily by members of the Young People's Fellowship. But some professional assistance may be needed, and there will be a good deal of material to buy. But there should be enough money to pay for this in the Renovation Fund).

(2) The repair of the roof.

(3) The renovation and, we hope, improvement of the organ, which is a far from satisfactory instrument at the moment.

(4) The renewal of the electric wiring in the church (which is about 50 years old) and improvement of the lighting.

(5) The repointing of the interior of the tower, and parts of the external walls of the church.

Where is the Money to come from?

The money for these works cannot possibly come out of current income at its present level. For instance, the estimated surplus of income over expenditure for 1958 is £10. **We need at least £700 a year over and above our present income**, if these works are to be carried out. The Policy and Planning Committee believe that **this increase could be achieved, if all members of the congregation would give in a responsible and sacrificial way.** At present the 66 individuals or families in the Christian Giving Scheme are providing a total of £860 a year, where well over 100 families or individuals who are on the Electoral Roll or who are regular worshippers are contributing only £265. A further source of income suggested is through the Covenant Scheme, which could bring in £300 a year at no cost to anyone.

The Committee also recommend:

(1) That all spending should be subordinated to carrying through this plan, and should be carefully scrutinised.

(2) That during the Centenary Year, 1963-64, if all the urgent work is completed, the interior of the church should be taken in hand, and the necessary redecoration and refurnishing carried out.

(3) That regular worshippers should be asked to buy their own hymn and prayer books. Arrangements for purchase could be made through the bookstall, and provision should be made for storage in church of private books.

(4) That the £200 which is due to parishioners who kindly made interest-free loans to enable oil-heating to be provided should be repaid during the next three or four years from the surplus of estimate of fuel (£150 per annum) over actual cost.

(5) That as soon as possible, money should be set aside each year for the maintenance of the fabric.

But it is not only the church building and churchyard we have to be concerned about in framing our domestic budget—there is also

Church Property

This comprises Wayside and the Parish Hall.

With regard to **Wayside**, the Committee has agreed that a loan of £250 only, not £500, as was originally suggested, should be sought from the Diocese. This would make the total debt £1,793, which will be reduced to £893 as soon as the sale of the land in School Road is completed. The interest on the loan will be 5½% per annum, and we are asking the Diocese to accept repayments at £175 per annum, which will clear off the debt in just over 6 years. The financial position of Wayside on a long view is a healthy one, but the pinch will be felt until the loan is repaid—and to repay the loan quickly, as the Diocese desires. We are indeed scraping the bottom of the barrel dry. The church's general

funds have already provided £193 for Wayside, which in due course Wayside's own income should make it possible for repayment to be made. The use of Wayside should be limited to the church and its organisations, but any present arrangements which may be an exception to this will be allowed to continue for the time being.

The Hall—here the financial position is far from satisfactory. The Hall account owes the church general funds £150. The bank overdraft at the beginning of this year was £54, and the estimated loss in 1958 is £96. The position, of course, would be far worse if it were not for the letting to the Nursery School—but it is bad enough to make us consider the possibility of drastic measures. In effect, the Hall is at present being subsidised by the Church, which cannot afford to do more than meet current expenses. In effect, if the Hall is to be kept open, at least another £100 a year must be found for this purpose.

The Church Council propose to approach organisations using the Hall to find out which of the following suggestions for meeting the present situation they wish to adopt:

(1) That the Hall should be closed completely.

(2) That the letting charges to all users, including Church organisations, be considerably increased.

(3) That organisations encourage all their members to join the Christian Giving Scheme, on the understanding that part of their contributions will go to the Hall.

(4) That the Hall should be reserved solely for Church organisations, who would be responsible for its upkeep and cleaning.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP

Exhibition: Hampton Hill

A number of factors have induced and encouraged us to consider re-presenting this exhibition in the Hall from Wednesday, 20th to Friday, 29th August inclusive. An inducement is that the initial cost of the exhibition was £10 and we hope to recover this by making a small charge (6d. and 3d.) for entrance. An encouragement was the interest the exhibition evoked in its short three hour presentation at the Garden Party.

We wish to thank the many people who have lent us pictures and old prints, etc., and for this period in August to request their help again.

We should welcome information or ideas which parishioners feel would improve our effort. Also we should be glad to have offers of adult assistance in the management of the production.

Summer holiday activities

Notices will be posted on the Church Notice Board in St. James's Road concerning any arrangements made for swimming, work in the Vestry and Churchyard, and the place of the Sunday evening meeting week by week. We hope also to arrange tennis and visits to the Promenade Concerts. We welcome anybody to join us who is home temporarily for the holidays.

On the week-end of July 13th the flowers were gathered and arranged under the direction of Susan Baker for the altar.

On Saturday, July 19th, we had a pleasant French flavour to our At Home in the form of three mademoiselles. Most of us tried mystifying French charades; some tried French tongue twisters: others did not. However, we had a pleasant sunny time and were glad to see a number of new faces.

Despite squeamishness we have swam in the Thames twice when the baths were over-populated.

On Sunday, July 20th, we welcomed most of the newly confirmed to breakfast in Wayside. We thank Mrs. Beckett and Mrs. Bird for managing it so well on our behalf.

THE SCOUT GROUP

As the Summer Holidays are now approaching the Scout Troop will be ceasing their activities for the Summer, giving the Scouters a well earned rest so as to be fit for the very busy season they have ahead.

On Wednesday, 16th July, the Cub Pack held an open evening, various activities were carried out by the Cubs, some to the great amusement of their parents.

A very welcome guest was the D.C., Mr. De Graaffe, who presented Kim with his warrant as Assistant Cub Master.

Mr. Bailey presented our D.C. with a photo of himself presenting the cup to S/Sixer A. Long. He

also gave each member of the team who competed in the Cub Sports a group photo. Also ten Cubs were invested and given their badges.

Note to Parents

To all parents, whether Scout or Cub, please come along to these evenings as it does show that you are interested in your child's activities and it does make him proud to feel that he can show his parents off to the other boys. So to all parents may I say PLEASE come along when your child invites you to an open evening. As it was rather disappointing this evening to see so few parents present.

Dates to Remember:

August 19th—Bingo Drive (St. James's Hall).

September 2nd—Group Meeting (Wayside).

A. R. COOK

(Group Press Representative)

GARDEN PARTY

CAKE COMPETITION

Thanks are due to Mrs. Gloyns and to Mrs. Taylor for organising this event. We are indeed very grateful to Mr. Cavin for the tremendous task of judging the 36 really beautiful cakes; he spent almost two hours complete with scales and tape measure—so the standard was a very high one and the winners to be congratulated. The first prize was gained by Mrs. Nichols, second Miss A. Harper, third Mrs. Wright. It is of great interest and value for future occasions to note how the marks were allocated—Volume 15, Crust Colour 10, Crumb and Brightness Colour 15, Texture 15, Softness 15, Aroma 30. Total 100 marks.

The cakes were given for the teas and greatly enjoyed.

M.V.B.

CONFIRMATION 1958

At recent Confirmations, candidates from this parish have been presented as follows:—

Mr. Derrick Beckett at St. Paul's Cathedral on May 17th; Mrs. Edna Salisbury at the Chapel Royal, Hampton Court, on June 22nd; Mr. John Bullock, Dr. Kenneth Lapworth, Richard Baker, Roy Frampton, Geoffrey Harding, Robert Salisbury, James West, Robert Weston, Wendy Allport, Barbara Giles and Ann Swindale at St. Mary's, Hampton, on 16th July.

We welcome them as full members of our Church, and pray that they may find rich joy and fellowship as they "daily increase in the Holy Spirit more and more."

Two other candidates are under preparation for a Confirmation later in the year, and then in January new classes will be formed to prepare for the Confirmation which will be held in our own church next summer.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

- Aug. 20-27.—Exhibition "Hampton Hill—Past, Present and Future" (H).
 Aug. 21.—7.30 Magazines ready (V).
 Sept. 3.—8.30 a.m. Mothers' Union Outing to Worthing.
 Sept. 10.—7.45 p.m. Parish Meeting. Speaker from the Church Army (W).
 Sept. 14.—2.30 p.m. Sunday Schools re-open.
 Sept. 16.—8.0 p.m. Prayer Group (Vestry).
 Sept. 24.—2.0 p.m. Mothers' Union Visit to Guildford Cathedral.
 Oct. 2.—7.15 p.m. Harvest Thanksgiving. Preacher: The Vicar of St. Paul's, East Molesey; 8.40 p.m. Harvest Supper and Entertainment (H).
 Oct. 5.—Harvest Festival continues. Missionary Exhibition in Church.
 Oct. 7.—7.45 p.m. Parish Meeting. Missionary Evening — Exhibition and Films (H).
 Oct. 28.—8.0 p.m. Meeting to discuss Anglican-Methodist Reunion (W).
 Jan. 3.—7.45 p.m. Parish Christmas Party (H).
 N.B.—No Sunday Schools in August; No. 9.0 a.m. Service on August 24th.

BAPTISM

July 15.—Wendy Margaret Allport (of Riper Years).

MARRIAGES

- July 5.—Anthony Passmore to Mary Rose Christie.
 ,, 5.—Kenneth Herbert Harold Peacock to Patricia May Biggs.
 ,, 12.—Brian Richard Sykes to Maureen Ruth Mills.
 ,, 19.—William Arthur George Craig to Carole Pamela Howe.
 ,, 19.—Whitney Ian Gerard to Ann McMinn.