

# AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about  
people, activities & organisations

## THE PRAYER GROUP

This Group has been meeting regularly once a month for some years now, but it has rarely gathered together more than a dozen people, and usually less. Sometimes it has been literally "two or three," meeting together in the Name of our Lord to pray for parochial and individual needs. As well as a time of prayer, there has also been study and discussion. Members of the Group would be glad if more would join them, and to try to make this possible a new scheme is being tried in July. Every Tuesday Evensong will be said in church at a different time each week, in the hope of finding out which is the best time for most people. After Evensong there will be a further quarter-of-an-hour for silent or spoken prayer, intercession and meditation. We shall occupy the choir-stalls for this, and everyone will be welcome. On the last Tuesday we shall meet in the Vestry as usual, review the experiment, and in the light of the results obtained make plans for the future.

The times arranged are: July 7—6.0 p.m.; July 14—7.0 p.m.; July 21—7.30 p.m.; July 28—8.0 p.m.

## THE DRAMA GROUP

St. James's Drama Group has been depleted again, by the recent removal from this district of Mr. Michael Rooney, who has held the offices of both Secretary and of Treasurer. At present only four of the original group remain active, three members have acted in the Hampton Council of Churches' Drama Group's productions of "Everyman" (1958) and "The Vigil" (1959). By doing so, they have upheld the function of the Drama Group formed after the successful Nativity play, performed in the Church in January 1952.

The Group now has quite a number of assets—a substantial Bank balance, an apron stage, a good wardrobe, and several other useful properties. It is to be hoped that enthusiasm for acting will arise again in the Parish, and that full activities can be resumed, in which case the aforementioned assets will prove valuable. Early members of

the group know only too well how difficult it was to produce plays with no capital, save members' small annual subscriptions behind the venture.

## THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP

During May we have welcomed two visiting speakers to our Sunday evening meetings, Mr. Treanor, the Rector of Hanworth, who came on Trinity Sunday, and Mr. Redman, the Minister of Hampton Methodist Church, who came a week later. Mr. Treanor, whose subject was "Prayer," gave us both colourful illustrations of the power of prayer and helpful suggestions for ourselves on how to pray. Mr. Redman chose a controversial topic "Christianity and Politics," and this talk was usefully provocative giving rise to lively discussion.

A competition was held on Sunday, June 14th, with subject matter ranging mainly over Bible study and other topics treated during the last year, and we now await the result of this.

As this is examination season for many members, there has been little demand for, or emphasis on, extra activities during the last month, although Friday evening swimming at Hampton Baths becomes increasingly popular with temperature rise.

Next month we look forward to a visit from Mr. Stevens, who is coming on July 5th to tell us about his recent trip to Tunisia. On July 18th we hope to hold a garden party at Laurel Dene, by kind invitation of Miss Davey, the Matron, entertaining young people who have been newly confirmed. J.A.S.

## THE SCOUT GROUP

Despite the damp and dismal weather, a fairly large crowd greeted Captain C. C. Jerromes, D.F.C., Flight-Captain, Comet Fleet, B.O.A.C., who kindly declared our Fete open on June 6th.

Accompanied by his wife and family, Captain Jerromes recalled that as a boy, he looked in wonder at that comparatively new mode of transport, the aeroplane, then a thing of wires and fabric. Now he flew a jet airliner at speed approaching that of sound.

"That is a measure of the progress that has taken place and for which the present generation must fit itself," he said, "I have no doubt that British youth will be equal to the challenge—the Boy Scout Movement is one that is seeing to it."

Councillor E. Tapsell introduced Captain Jerromes.

A very entertaining programme was given by The Valcheros, Carlos and Ilona, Continental Singers, Hampton Mobile Police, with a Road-Safety Demonstration; and Rivermead Junior Entertainers, with singing, dancing and acrobatics.

A big "Thank You" to Matron for kindly allowing us to use the grounds of Laurel Dene and for the help and advice that she so kindly gave.

Grand Draw result:—

1st Prize (Spin Drier): Ticket No. 4319—Mrs. B. Gear, 60, Southwell, Portland, Dorset.

2nd Prize (Record-Player): Ticket No. 4030—Mr. M. R. Potter, 60, Leyborne Ave., Ealing, W.13.

3rd Prize (Electric Shaver): Ticket No. 7386—Mr. F. Bradshaw, 9, Goshawn Gdns., Hayes, Middx.

Lucky Programme No. 500: Prize—2lb. Box Chocolates.

I would like to thank on behalf of the Committee all the good people who kindly helped on the stalls and with the refreshments; they all worked very hard.

Watch the posters for our Bingo Drives at the Parish Hall.

H. R. COOK.

### STANDING MATTER— CHURCH OFFICERS

P.4.—Under "Churchwardens" read "Mr. W. F. Wigginton, 18, Cranmer Road." Delete "Teddington." All addresses are in Hampton Hill unless otherwise stated.

### Supervisors of Wayside:

Mrs. Melville, 106, Park Road, and Mrs. Warwick, 52, Park Road. All applications for the use of rooms should be made to the latter, Tel.: Mol. 7004.

### SOME DATES TO NOTE

July 1.—3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union Service.

July 5.—9.0 a.m. Confirmation and Parish Communion. 11.45 a.m. Matins (said); 12.5 p.m. Holy Communion; 6.30 p.m. Evensong; Preacher: The Rev. G. H. Stevens, of C.M.J.  
N.B.—No Service of Holy Communion at 8.0 a.m.)

July 7.—6.0 p.m. Evening Prayer and Intercession.

July 14.—7.0 p.m. Evening Prayer and Intercession.

July 16.—4.0 p.m. Service for School-Leavers at St. Mary's, Twickenham.

July 18.—Young People's Fellowship: Garden Party at Laurel Dene.

July 19.—6.30 p.m. No Evening Service here — United Service sponsored by the Hampton Council of Churches at All Saints' Church, Hampton.

July 20.—8.0 p.m. Hampton Council of Churches (All Saints').

July 21.—7.30 p.m. Evening Prayer and Intercession.

July 22.—St. Mary Magdalen. 7.15 a.m. Holy Communion.

July 24.—7.30 p.m. Magazines should be ready (V).

July 25.—St. James. 7.15 a.m. Holy Communion.

July 26.—Sunday of Patronal Festival.

July 28.—8.0 p.m. Prayer Group (Vestry).

July 29.—8.0 p.m. Young Wives' Group (W).

### BAPTISMS

June 21.—Jeanette Anne Riddle, 52, Park Road.

„ 28.—Stephen Trevor Burge, 20, Seymour Road.

„ 28.—Stephen James Marshall, 61a, High Street.

„ 28.—Deborah Anne Page, 41, Burton's Road.

### MARRIAGES

June 6.—Anthony Gilbert Adams to Pauline Mary Rogers.

„ 6.—Colin Edgar Jones to Janet Rosemary Hollands.

# FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

## THE APPEAL TO EVERY VICAR IN ENGLAND

All the eleven Missionary Societies of the Church of England have joined together to send out an urgent appeal. They ask the parishes of England to send out men and money and to pray as never before. In a menacing and divided world, the number of doors of opportunity opening for the Word of Reconciliation is truly amazing—but these doors will not remain open indefinitely.

"We put the question therefore to you," they say to me and every other parish priest, "as leader and representative of the faithful in your parish:

"What answer is to be given to the evident call of the Holy Spirit to our Church at this time, to send its messengers into all the world with the Gospel Message, on a scale and with a degree of sacrificial backing never before envisaged or attempted?"

May we in this parish rise to meet the challenge of this question! The answer does not just rest with me, but with all of us together. We shall be thinking and praying about it a great deal in the coming months.

## THEIR JOY IN GIVING

A C.M.S. missionary nurse in Eastern Nigeria, writes:

"Last week brought one of those heart-warming occasions when one forgets all the problems and frustrations and just feels so grateful to be here. It was Monday morning, and I was settling down to the routine work of the office when I heard singing—women's voices getting nearer and nearer. I went out and there, coming down the drive was a procession. Each woman was carrying (on her head, of course!) mats, soap, the locally made sweeping brushes and one even had a can of oil.

"They moved in rhythmic procession, singing their way till they reached the main stores. There they put down their loads and continued singing and dancing. When they stopped, their leader handed to us an envelope containing a consider-

able sum of money. Then we discovered that they were from a Church about five miles away, and these were their Mothering Sunday gifts brought to us. They had walked, of course, singing all the way. We led them into one of the wards and introduced them to a very poor patient whose fees would be paid with their money. What a lovely scene it was. The women surrounded her bed and sang to her, then danced in the middle of the ward, several patients joining in. Finally, the leader led us all in prayer and they sang a hymn. When each ward had been visited, they made their way home, still singing."

## MONEY SPENT ON GAMBLING

The Churches' Council on Gambling in their report for 1958, give the following figures:

	1958	1957
Horse Racing*		
	£350,000,000	£350,000,000
Greyhound Racing		
	£121,000,000	£122,000,000
Football Pools		
	£85,000,000	£73,000,000
Premium Bonds (Interest Lottery)		
	£6,000,000	£4,000,000
Other Forms (Fun Fairs, etc.)		
	£6,000,000	6,000,000

\*Possible margin of error £50 million either way.

## YOUNG CONVERTS IN JAPAN

From Japan, a C.M.S. missionary sends the following stories of those who have become Christians. The first is about a young woman, whose husband is a professor of Economic History.

"The young wife, living opposite the church, has scarcely missed coming a single Sunday since the new building was finished just over two years ago. Recently she came to me and said: "Every time I sit down in our living room, I can look up and see the cross on the church gable. I'm sure it is more than mere chance that the church was built in front of our house. My husband is the eldest son of his parents; they are dead and the ancestral tablets are in the shrine in our home; the Buddhist priest comes every month to recite prayers. But I have found that I must make

up my mind to become a Christian. I have made that decision today. Not only my own life, but the life of my family depends on it."

The other story concerns a young man, a repairer of teleprinter machines, who came to the English Bible Class in search of God.

The missionary writes: "I don't think I have ever known anyone with such a clear and earnest idea of what he wanted. He had sat up all night and read the New Testament right through. For five weeks he met with us, studied, talked, asked questions and listened. Then he was posted to the north for a year. He took his Bible and a book of Daily Readings for a year, and we gave him an introduction to the Church.

"A few weeks ago he came back, quiet but radiant, his book of Daily Reading well marked. "I have found out that God IS. I know Him now!" Later, in the Bible Class, miracles were being discussed. The young man listened quietly for a while, then he pointed to himself and said: "This is a miracle! That I have come to know God and that He has made this change in me!"

### WILL YOU PRAY?

The C.M.S. Prayer Paper will keep you in touch with the needs of the Church in the areas of the world where C.M.S. missionaries are working. Here is the opportunity to be kept informed of prayer needs—we must not fail in our responsibility because we do not know what to pray for.

If you do not already receive the Prayer Paper, it is obtainable free, on request from the Manager, Publishing Department, Church Missionary Society, 6, Salisbury Square, London, E.C.4.

### REAL CHRISTIAN WITNESS

From Bombay State, in India, a C.M.S. missionary tells of a young Hindu who became a fearless witness for Christ.

"Christians are often afraid to witness, but we have heard of one who is quite fearless. He was a young Hindu, who saw a real difference in a Christian school, and eventually because of what he learnt, decided to be a Christian

himself. Disowned by his family, he went to a nearby town where Christian friends helped him to go to College.

"Recently his former caste leaders threw his father—who was not a Christian—out of his caste because, they said, his son had become a Christian. There was a Court case about it; the son went to Court to defend his father, giving such a bright testimony as to what he had done and so lacking animosity that the Judge as well as the caste members were very impressed and asked for Christian literature.

"If only other Christians were as fearless! The Indian is always impressed by a real Christian."

### FAMILIES UNITED IN CHRIST

Working in a girls' school in Hong Kong, a C.M.S. missionary educationist writes of the different ways in which they respond to the message of the Gospel:

"We continue to take boarders to church on Sundays, and to encourage the day girls to join us there. All the years I have been here, it has been possible to see girls responding in many different ways to the challenge presented by the Church. Some of them warmly welcome Christ, even from the first moment of hearing about Him. I think of one who came only a short time ago; after a bare six months she joined the Baptism class at Church. Yet before coming to Hong Kong and into our Boarding House she had scarcely heard the name of Jesus.

"There is another girl, from Bangkok, who is deeply interested, but had to leave the Baptism class after her elder sister had reported this to her family. But, praise be, the elder sister herself is now becoming interested, and I pray that soon both will be the happier for knowing Christ.

"It would be easy to be submerged by the unhappiness and wrong-doing here, but in the power of Christ, I have seen Christian families united and happy; I have seen an ex-prisoner become a most loyal servant, through our Lord's saving grace; and I have seen students fired with an enthusiasm that is bringing others to Christ."