

Vicar's Notes.

It is indeed sad to know that unfavourable circumstances have compelled Mr. Aldersea to resign from his post as organist and choirmaster. He has found the difficulties of travel and the inadequacies of public transport a heavy strain as well as exceedingly time-wasting in a very busy life. Often he has been obliged to walk very hurriedly from Teddington to church and back, arriving with very unequal energy for the work to be done. Sometimes failure of train or bus service has made it impossible for him to arrive at all, with all the upset that this involves. He has wanted to give more time to the choir and to establishing contacts, but these difficulties have made it impossible. So, very reluctantly he feels he must leave us; and very sorry we are to see him go.

It has been a privilege to have a musician of his talents amongst us. He has brought the touch of a master to the playing of our unsatisfactory organ, making it sound a first-class instrument as it has never been made to sound before. It has been a great delight to the music-lovers amongst us to hear him play, and his voluntaries have been deeply appreciated. He has worked according to a well thought-out and long-term policy to build up the beginnings of a well-trained choir. He has not stinted the time he has spent in teaching boys with little or no knowledge of music who had never played or sung before. And with all his great musical and teaching abilities, he has none of the temperamental quirks that sometimes accompany these gifts, but is possessed of such a very pleasant and well-balanced personality that it has been a joy to work with him.

The appointment of a successor may not be easy. I was fortunate to get in touch with a musician very similar in ability and temperament to Mr. Aldersea, but unfortunately he lives much further away still, and because of this factor we both had to admit it did not seem to be any use proceeding further. After the first-rate standard that Mr. Aldersea has set, it would be tragic to have to descend to the second or third-rate, just to keep things going.

Another loss to the parish will be the departure of our Quaker friends, Mr. and Mrs. Woodward, to Molesey. Doughty fighters for righteousness and peace both of them have been, a shining challenge to the fear and inertia which hold many of us back. I have worked with Mrs. Woodward on the Hampton Council of Churches, where she has made a notable contribution. Her final call to us there was to do all that we can to make known the need for foster-homes for mentally-handicapped or defective children. These thrive so much better in the loving atmosphere of a home than in the best-run institution, and even if they have to go back to an institution later, they never lose the benefit of what a private home and family has given them.

It also looks as though Mrs. Woodward is going to get something done about the notorious Park Road traffic-lights, which have been a danger to the community for so many years. I myself have had many narrow escapes at this point, especially through drivers starting on the amber. There have been many bad accidents as well as others not so bad—one cyclist was knocked down by one car, remounting, she was knocked down by another, but got up and rode dauntlessly away—but the authorities until now have remained stupidly obdurate. More power to Mrs. Woodward's elbow!

The danger at the traffic-lights is made worse by the low standard of driving in these parts, to which the "Richmond and Twickenham Times" has—recently and repeatedly—been rightly drawing attention. I notice frequent instances as I cycle about—they are mostly committed by strangers, not by any parishioners! One of the commonest faults is bad cornering—very few motorists seem able to take a corner properly. Very often they swing within a few feet—sometimes even inches—of the wrong curb. The cyclist on his rightful side must save himself as best he may—I have often thought 'If I were in a car, what a smash-up there would have been!

I am glad that Mrs. Rockcliffe has kindly consented to take over the secretaryship of the Bible Reading Fellowship. All inquiries or applications for notes should be

made to her at 40, Gloucester Road, Teddington (Molesey 4909). And though I know by so doing that I will incur the displeasure of the modest young lady concerned, I

cannot let this magazine pass without mentioning how glad we all were to hear of the 'Character and Ability' prize gained at college by her daughter Barbara.

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about
people, activities & organisations

THE YOUNG WIVES GROUP

On June 10th the Annual Babies Party was held in the Vicarage garden. The weather was very kind to us in spite of a rather doubtful start to the day, and we were very pleased to welcome some ten mothers and their delightful babies. It was good, too, to see so many young wives present. We look forward to seeing our guests again at our monthly meetings.

A most instructive and enjoyable demonstration of cooking with electricity was given by Mrs. Robinson of the South Eastern Electricity Board at our meeting on June 24th. Mrs. Thomas was the lucky winner of a delicious strawberry meringue which was raffled at the end of the demonstration.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP

Many of us have been attempting to satisfy our examiners. Their satisfaction or dissatisfaction will not be revealed till the end of August. But some do not have so long to wait.

On Sunday, 5th July eight of our members were confirmed.

Our Summer Party for Confirmation Candidates and their friends was held on Saturday, 18th July. Various ideas were in mind for this when someone alighted on the suggestion that we enquire whether we might hold it at Laurel Dene. Matron was very helpful and so it came to be fixed. And then vision took flight. If it were to be a Garden Party, what about a military band. How much, said the treasurer. We wouldn't have it if it cost anything, said the Chairman. But it failed to materialise.

Still, thanks to many helpers, the party did materialise and was a successful occasion. We were glad of the space—there were forty-five of us. We record our special thanks to Matron and her staff at Laurel Dene.

Anne Bishop was the organiser and Hostess. Barbara Rockcliffe so

ably helped us with the catering. Richard Palk arranged the treasure hunt which was won by Pene Allport and Richard Baker. The last named, Richard Baker, did a lot of the work towards the progressive games. Many other stalwarts helped with the catering and helped with the clearing up. Ruth Mills did the useful notices "Y.P.F. No Entry."

In August our Sunday Evening meetings will continue on their usual informal basis.

Our new session begins on Sunday, September 13th.

CONFIRMATION and PARISH COMMUNION

On July 5th the church had a very large congregation for a Confirmation immediately followed by Communion, in accordance with the once universal practice which is now being revived. This was the third occasion on which it has happened here, the first being four years ago. There were 20 candidates from St. Mary's to be presented to the Bishop of Kensington, and another 20 from this parish. The St. James's candidates were—John Mortimore, Robin Ford, Anthony Galler, Raymond Harries, Christopher Rogers, Michael Sanders, Peter Smith, Patricia Allport, Wendy Beasley, Rosalind Brunt, Jane Crocker, Margaret Greenhalgh, Sally Hannett, Rowena Harris, Susan Howard, Shirley Moses, Hilary Nash, Dianne Pestridge, Mary Scott, Susan Willmott.

Immediately after the Confirmation, Terence Doolan who had been baptised and confirmed in another branch of the Church, after making the necessary affirmations, was received by the Bishop into the Church of England.

The Bishop administered their first Communion to those whom he had just confirmed, and then he was helped by the Reverend D. S. Richardson from St. Mary's, Prebendary Duval, and the Vicar. In all, 215 people received the sacrament, the largest number at one

service for many years. As they came in there had been tables set up, at each of which two people at a time could make their oblation of bread from large plates on to the patens, and also offer their alms. At the Offertory, these were presented at the altar by members of the Young People's Fellowship. It was a very warm day, the temperature soon exceeding 80 degrees, so both inner and outer doors were able to be opened wide to receive the constant stream of people queuing up outside, and to be kept open for coolness during the service. The service was beautifully sung to Merbecke, and the choir gave an excellent lead all through.

At 10.30 a.m., about 100 people gathered for breakfast in the garden at Wayside. This had been prepared by the House Group which meets at Mr. and Mrs. Whiteley's, and we are very grateful to them for the splendid meal they produced and distributed so efficiently.

It is always difficult to know how to support the Bishop's Pastoral staff during the Communion. He wants it from time to time—at the Absolution and the Blessing—so it must be near at hand, but in a secure place. Seymour Harris, our senior server, solved the problem by designing and making a stand which could be placed right beside the altar, and which held the staff firm from slipping or falling. We are indebted to him for his skill and ingenuity with only a short time to spare.

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.

Small Advertisement

Garden Produce Show and Fete, on Saturday, August 22nd at Hampton Water Works. For details see leaflet enclosed with this magazine.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

July 30.—8.0 p.m. Church Council (W).

August 6.—The Transfiguration.

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.

August 24.—St. Bartholomew.

7.15 a.m. Holy Communion.

Sunday Schools will re-open at 2.30 p.m. on September 13.

Week-day Services will be as usual until August 24—after that they will be suspended until Wednesday, September 9, but Sunday services will continue as usual.

Owing to holiday arrangements, it is hoped to bring the September magazine out early again this year. Unless any unexpected hindrance arises, magazines should be available for distribution at the Vicarage on Thursday, August 20.

Harvest Thanksgiving services this year will be held on Thursday, October 1 and Sunday, October 4.

BAPTISMS

June 28.—Wayne Robert Charles Cole, 23, Hamilton Close, Feltham (Received into Church after Private Baptism).

July 2.—Patricia Anne Allport and Rowena Mary Harris. (Both of Riper Years).

BURIALS

July 11.—Ethel Ada Keattch, 100, Uxbridge Road, aged 69 years.

„ 15.—Winifred Mary Dye, 62, Gloucester Road, aged 59 years (at Hampton).

FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

A LETTER FROM THE BISHOP

As the "London Churchman" is unable to appear owing to the printing dispute, the Bishop has sent a duplicated letter to every parish. He speaks of various matters to which he desires us to give our attention, of which I mention the most important here.

The Bishop is very anxious that we should do some hard thinking, prayer and work about the appeal (see last month's magazine) to concern ourselves as never before with the world-wide task of evangelism to which every Christian is committed. "So many problems in our parishes and in our own country

confront us that there is, I think, a danger that this, our primary business, may slip into the background."

Then the Bishop urges us to play a worthy part in the observance of World Refugee Year. Christian Aid Week in May was a preliminary to this—Christian Aid Week next year can be a grand climax. There will also be the special Christmas Appeal to the Churches. In our Borough the Mayor is doing all he can to stir up local interest in the Year, but he is sure to be aware that Inter-Church Aid and Refugee Service is the largest agency for relief in this country as well as being the Churches own special channel. It is committed to projects much wider than the limited objectives of the Year, and its work will go on long after the Year is over. So the Bishop advises us to concentrate our support for the Year through Inter-Church Aid. It is encouraging to note that the amount to be sent to this from the Hampton Council of Churches as a result of the efforts made earlier in the year—"The Vigil," house-to-house collections, special gifts, the stalls in the High Street, etc.—was over twice that collected in Christian Aid Week last year—£151 as against £75. Let the good work continue until the whole ghastly social evil is abolished!

A CHIEF AND HIS BIBLE

"A village chief and his counsellors, all pagans, had received a course of instruction in Fetish rituals from one of the Fetish institutions in the district," writes a C.M.S. missionary working in Western Nigeria. "Yet on receiving advice of our visit as evangelists, and although he had a strong attachment to the worship of his Fetish, this chief gave us a hearty welcome; he even sent his bellman round to call the villagers to meet us.

"Whilst the open-air preaching was in progress, he asked me to tell him again about the Bible passages quoted by me (John 10). Then he confessed that he had a copy of the Bible which he read by day and

night, and which he would not part with for anything. We asked to see it; he sent his son to get it and read us a portion himself. He said he wished to become a member of Christ's Church, but was afraid lest the people killed him.

"But before we left, we went into the church for prayer, accompanied by the chief and his counsellors. The presence and power of Christ were very real as we knelt there, and it was obvious that the chief had made his great decision."

VILLAGE SUNDAY SCHOOLS IN UGANDA

A C.M.S. missionary teaching in a girls' school in Uganda, sends an account of the beginning of Sunday School work in nearby villages:—

"We have started a new venture this term, which I am sure is of God's leading. For many years we have had a Sunday School here in the parish church with a few of our senior girls as teachers. We have been wondering recently how we would help the little tiny churches in our area; then one of our African teachers suggested that perhaps we could start a class for the small children at these churches.

"Now I have twice taken a pair of girls to two churches. In one, particularly, we had a very warm welcome. Crowds of little children came and thoroughly enjoyed their time in a classroom by the church. We are very pleased now to find that some of the adults there are willing to try to carry on and teach the children. That is what we hope for in each place where we go. It is still a new idea that small children need anything more than to sit through a long service. Please pray for us as we go round to other churches."

BIBLE TRANSLATORS

To translate the Bible into the languages of the world is an immense task. More than 800 people are engaged today, in different parts of the world, on translation or revision work in more than 200 languages, 50 of which have as yet no kind of literature in them.