

## VICAR'S NOTES

The question arose in a committee recently whether people really read the magazine or not: and if they did, how did they read it? Just a quick rush through, a glance here and there; or something more thorough? We have all met parishioners who said "I didn't know anything about it," and when we have replied, "Don't you have the magazine?—it was mentioned fairly fully there," the retort has been, "Well, I didn't notice it!"

We should like to know many things from our readers: how they read the magazine, what they appreciate most, what criticisms they have, what they think about "Outlook," and so on. We make these points now, because we have only a few months left in which to work out a policy for the future of the magazine. We have to answer such questions as: should the magazine continue much as it is now, or should it be radically altered? Should we make a token or fully economic charge for each issue? Should we increase the circulation and distribute it free to every house in the parish? To what extent should it be subsidised by the Church Council?

We know that the costs of production are bound to rise year by year owing to the settlement about printers' wages and other factors, and before long they may become so high as to make anything like the present type of magazine a financial impossibility. We have to bear this in mind all the time. In face of this problem many experts advise a drastic reduction in local matter, and getting more and more items from central sources which are mass-produced and therefore much cheaper. But if the local touch goes, the word "parish" might as well go too. It would be just another church magazine, very good, no doubt, but lacking in that local human interest that only a parish magazine can give.

We do, of course, need to keep ourselves informed of what is happening throughout the Christian world, and not only on our own door-steps, and so we cannot really do without an inset which will give us some of this essential information, and stimulate us to think about it and, if necessary, spur us to action. It is so easy to settle down in a parochial backwater, and forget the larger issues: but a lively parish magazine maintaining a proper balance between matters of local interest and those of wider concern can help the parish to become the reverse of a backwater. That is why the general feeling of the Magazine Committee at the moment is that we should endeavour to keep the magazine going much as it is for as long as possible, yet with constant efforts after improvement. There must be many parishioners who, unknown to us, wield the pen of a ready writer; let us have contributions from them! Keep us informed of matters of personal interest—we need more news of people, what they are doing and thinking, their interesting experiences, their examination successes, their new jobs, their achievements, their moving to a new home, the birth of a child . . . . Yes, the magazine can be greatly improved, made much more interesting—but not without your help! And we may then feel it well worth-while to pay out £100 a year or more from parish funds to keep it in existence.

## HELP!

**A Magazine Distributors' Meeting** is to take place at 106, Park Road, on Friday, November 8, at 8 p.m., at the invitation of Mrs. Melville. It is hoped that all magazine distributors will make every effort to attend. Whilst on this subject we would mention that the invitation is extended to everyone who feels that he or she could find time to distribute a few magazines each month—the task only becomes arduous if left to a willing few.

So do come—Dilys Melville always gives you a warm welcome (and, who knows, perhaps a cup of coffee!).

## HARVEST SUPPER

### A Visitor's Impression

Having worked in the Parish of St. James' for the past three years I have heard and seen some of the activities of the Social Committee. Never having been to such a gathering as a Harvest Supper I asked if I might be permitted to obtain a ticket and be allowed to help in the preparation of a table.

At 2 p.m. I was collected plus crockery, cutlery, glasses, tablecloths and floral decorations. On arrival at the hall there was a small army of willing workers coping with the preparation of the food. We all heaved a sigh of relief when at 5 p.m. we viewed our efforts and found everything had worked out according to plan.

After attending the Thanksgiving Service in the beautifully decorated church in which Mr. and Mrs. Mills and a team of willing helpers had been busy for the best part of the day, we proceeded to the church hall to partake of the Harvest Supper. This excellent and attractively served meal was greatly enjoyed by all judging by the clean plates and the faces showing satisfaction.

The performer this year was "Deputy Marshall Bunny Bernard of **Tombstone, Arizona**" (obtained for us through the good offices of one of our **churchyard** wardens!). He had a pleasing personality and as well as singing and yodelling, performed some mystifying magic which included tying a somewhat apprehensive Mr. Wadlow into knots. The younger members of the audience sat enthralled in amazed admiration at his rope tricks and the entire company must have admired the courage of young Ian Brooks who volunteered to hold a taper between his lips for the whip lash to cut in half.

The hour was growing late and the last number "Rock me to sleep in my saddle," came as an apt ending to the performance, and I'm sure I speak for everyone when I say that "a wonderful evening was had by all."

M.M.B.

## FILM SHOW

The Ministry of Works' two impressive films which were shown at the Church Hall on October 10th, were greatly enjoyed by the large audience.

The first film dealt with the building of the new Queen Elizabeth stands at Ascot. Started in July 1960, the site construction had to be completed within ten months and in spite of heavy winds and one of the

wettest autumns in history, the work was finished on schedule. Time spent in planning and prefabrication had made possible an almost impossible task. This film was a vindication of many of the criticisms levelled at the building industry and its allegedly old fashioned methods.

The second film entitled "The Sacrifice and Resurrection," told the story of the new Cathedral at Coventry. Bombed in 1940 the original cathedral, which had taken one hundred and twenty five years to build, suffered irreparable damage and lay open to the sky after five centuries.

The new cathedral, designed by Sir Basil Spence, took only seven years to build. It is the first cathedral in history at which the Bishop of the Diocese has been present at both the laying of the foundation stone and the consecration.

All the arts and crafts of our time have combined in the building of this House and the film is the story of dedicated craftsmen. Men such as stone masons, metal workers, artists, weavers, architects, have together raised in glory a church which was destroyed in anguish.

I would like to thank the Social Committee and Mr. Cummings of the Ministry of Works for a most interesting evening.

M.L.

**(Stop-Press:** For those who missed the above, there will be another opportunity to see the Coventry Cathedral film at 8.0 p.m., on November 13, at the Baptist Hall, Teddington, with a film about refugees entitled "No More Strangers." This is sponsored by Twickenham U.N.A. in aid of funds for resettlement grants for refugees in Austria. Admission by programme 2/6.—Ed.)

## THE MOTHERS' UNION

The opening service of our winter season could not be held in church this year owing to the roof-repairing operations, but the Vicar conducted our usual form of service in Wayside and gave a helpful address based on the Parable of the Wedding Guest from St. Matthew Chap. 22. Afterwards, we exchanged some of our holiday experiences over the teacups.

One of our annual money-raising efforts took place on September 19, when a Bring and Buy Sale realised the useful sum of £4-4-0 for our funds. Produce from several members' gardens had a ready sale among those whose horticultural efforts had not been quite so successful.

Our meeting on October 2 was particularly well attended, which was gratifying as our speaker, Mrs. Warner, had travelled from Dorking for the occasion. Those of us who heard her speak at the Deanery meeting last year had been looking forward to another inspiring address and were not disappointed. Mrs. Warner's subject was "Angels," and she gave us a most interesting discourse on the references in the Bible to these "ministers of grace."

Unfortunately, Mrs. Hanchet who was to have been our speaker on November 6, is unable to come, but Mrs. Rockliffe has offered to fill the gap by telling us of some of her experiences in Canada, and I am sure we shall find she has much of interest to tell us.

Please note that on Tuesday, November 12, there will be a Quiet Morning (10 a.m. to 12 noon) at St. John's Church, Hampton Wick. This is a valuable opportunity for a short spell of withdrawal from the cares of daily life, and if you have never been to anything like this before, do make the effort this time. You will find it well worth while. The 285 bus will take you to within a short distance of the church.

M.U.

### **YOUNG WIVES' GROUP**

We once more opened, after the summer break, with a service in church. The address was given by the Vicar, who spoke about taking an adult attitude towards religion, and continuing to grow up to God, even to the end of our lives. A mature outlook on religion should lead to a growth of love and understanding and help to achieve settled convictions, but the Vicar warned us against becoming too broad-minded and the danger of becoming a waverer. After the service we went across to Wayside for refreshments and a chat.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at Wayside on Wednesday, November 13, and there will also be a toy and clothing exchange. It is hoped all members will try to be there to elect the new Committee, and any nominations should be notified, beforehand, to the Secretary.

The requested course of lectures on Child Psychology has been arranged, and the first lecture will be given at our monthly meeting on February 26, in place of the knitting demonstration which we were unable to obtain. The remaining lectures will be given at fortnightly intervals at a cost of 6/- for the course of six lectures. Non-members will be welcome to join the course if numbers will permit. Enquiries to Secretary, Mrs. Irene Hodges (phone MOL. 3753) please.

On October 8, the last Coffee evening to be held by the present committee was given and six members met, and, I hope, came to know each other a little better. Judging by the response from members, it seems these evenings have been successful and have achieved the object for which they were started.

M.S.

### **FIRST HAMPTON HILL GUIDES**

The Guides have been on holiday during August and September, broken only by a weekend camp in the middle of August. This was held at Abinger, and all six of us thoroughly enjoyed ourselves although it was very wet. This was the first experience of camping in the rain for all but two of us.

This year we will be very busy. I hope there will be many more badges won, including some First Class. We are hoping to have a Jumble Sale to raise money for camp equipment so that we can go to camp next summer, for, although we have enough equipment other than tents, for six of us, we are hoping to have a camp for all the Company next year. If anyone has anything they think might be some use to us, which they do not want, please let me know. We need

kitchen equipment of all sorts. Notices about the Jumble Sale will be sent round, and we ask you to save all your jumble for us, please. Our eternal problem again crops up—can someone lend us a garage or some form of storage space for about a week please?

HATHI.

### HISTORY SOCIETY

We have now settled down in our Autumn Session and the projects for research are well under way. Mr. March from the Hampton History Group is very kindly making slides for us but we need more ammunition for him! Now is the time to look out those old photographs—even the not so old ones of past church and parish activities will be welcome. Mark them with your name and address and let Mrs. Orton, 30, St. James's Road, have them as soon as possible.

Interesting and sometimes amusing details are coming to light. The study of the early ordnance survey maps is yielding much useful information and the early Vestry Minutes and Parish Magazines show some of the busy excitement of the building of a new community a hundred years ago.

It is not too late to come along and join in—we'll find a job for you! We meet alternate Thursdays at Wayside, at 8 o'clock.

M.O.

### PERSONALIA

Mrs. Wilcox continues to make good progress and is always pleased to see you as she is considerably house-bound.

We are pleased to hear that Ruth Mills is entering her second year as a student in radiography (therapy) at the Middlesex Hospital.

Anne Bishop is about to launch upon her career having obtained her Social Science degree.

Another Ann, Swindale this time, is very much enjoying life at St. Andrew's University where she is in her second year, also studying Social Science.

Robert Salisbury is working at Civil Engineering at Edinburgh University (Third Year). During his "Long Vacs." he is still a staunch supporter of the Y.P.F. His sister Jennifer, after three years at Cambridge, is in her second year at St. Thomas's Hospital, training to be a doctor.

Best wishes to Richard Palk on starting his business career after obtaining a History Degree at Reading University.

We are glad to hear that we may expect to see Mrs. Brunt about and amongst us shortly. Congratulations to her family for "holding the fort" so well during her long incapacity.

At Wayside you will be pleased to hear that we shall shortly have a new care-taker, Mr. Thomas.

The Vicar introduced our new organist, Mr. M. H. Anderson at the Harvest Supper—so we give him a big welcome and wish him a happy time during what we hope will be a long stay with us.

Our very best wishes go to Diana Robinson and Geoffrey Eaton on the news of their engagement.

We are always glad to get news of you all, as the Vicar says in his "Notes," so please let us hear of your activities.

## SOME DATES TO NOTE

- Nov. 5.—7 p.m. Fireworks and Bonfire Party. (Laurel Dene. Admission by ticket only 2/6).  
.. 6.—2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union. Speaker: Mrs. Rockliffe—"A Visit to Canada."  
.. 8.—8 p.m. Magazine Distributors' Meeting. (106 Park Road).  
.. 10.—Remembrance Day. Morning Service begins at 10.57 a.m.  
.. 13.—11 a.m. Editorial Board. All matter for the December Issue to be sent in before the meeting.  
8 p.m. Young Wives' Group Annual General Meeting, Toy and Clothing Exchange (W).  
.. 14.—8 p.m. Parish Fellowship Supper and Second Review of Christian Stewardship (Hall).  
.. 25.—7.30 p.m. Ruri-Decanal Conference (St. Mary's Hall, Twickenham).  
.. 27.—8 p.m. Young Wives' Group: Christmas Recipes and Decorations (W).

## BAPTISM

Sept. 22.—Peter Donald Barnhurst Davies, 93, Park Road.

## MARRIAGES

- Sept. 21.—Antony Leslie Carroll to Doris Marion Taylor.  
.. 28.—Roger Charles Skelton to Valerie Stiles.  
Oct. 5.—Brian Anthony Campbell to Carrolyn Winnifred Nettley Howard.

## BURIAL AND CREMATION

- Aug. 19.—Frank Shaw, 10, Links View Road, aged 84 years (at S.W. Middlesex Crematorium).  
Aug. 22.—Florence Amelia Turner, 32 Pope's Grove, Twickenham, aged 76 years.

## ALTERATIONS TO STANDING MATTER

### Secretary of Parochial Church Council :

Miss P. M. Stanley, 41, St. James's Avenue.  
Tel.: Molesey 4917.

### Deanery Wel-care Worker :

Miss D. M. Kemp, 15, Bulstrode Road, Hounslow.  
Tel.: HOU. 3594.

### Churchyard Guardians :

Mr. R. M. Brooks, 10, Links View Road.  
Tel.: TED. 2593.

Mr. D. W. K. Leatherdale, 18, St. James's Road.  
Tel.: Molesey 6999.

The new telephone number of Mr. D House, Garden Contractor, is TWI. Green 1123.