

VICAR'S NOTES

The extensive external work on the church has now finished. Before very long, the brickwork and more of the stonework will need attention, but for the moment let us rejoice in a good job well done. The church has been entirely re-roofed, and many of the omissions and defects of the original structure remedied. We now have a better and sounder building than at any time since its foundation.

There is a good deal we want to do to the interior—rewiring, relighting, cleaning, decorating, and so on. While the builders have their scaffolding up making good the cracks and disturbances caused by the work outside we hope to do a little pioneering in this respect. A limited scheme of cleaning and painting, and bleaching of dark timbers, will be carried out (if we get the necessary permission and approvals) as an experiment and this will guide us with regard to the major scheme we want to put in hand as soon as we can afford it. Our church has suffered from a dingy, drab and dark interior for far too long, and though everything cannot be put right, much can be done to lighten and brighten it, and bring out the good features in the original design which are at present obscured.

This interior work may occupy the whole of February and will again make it difficult for any weekday services to be held, though we are hoping to have Holy Communion at 7.15 a.m. (also Compline, but perhaps in the Vestry, at 9.15 p.m.) on Ash Wednesday.

On Wednesday evenings in Lent we usually have a special course of worship and study, but this year it will be on Tuesdays, lasting for at least 5 weeks, from 8 p.m. to about 9.15 p.m. in the Vestry. (The reason is that a number of Wednesdays will be difficult for me as I have now started a series of classes on touch-typing to make things easier, in due course, for the recipients of my letters, also to speed up the process of dealing with an ever-increasing mountain of correspondence and other written work). The course has been devised by S.P.G. and includes film-strips and recordings, and questions for discussion. It deals with some very vital matters, from the situation in apartheid townships in South Africa to burning problems on our own doorsteps, and challenges us to think about them and take action. It should be a good follow-up to the Lee Abbey Training week-end at High Leigh from February 7-9, on Christian Revolution, which a small group from this parish is attending.

We are grateful to Mr. Gostling for ending what has been a minor source of irritation for years — the fact that the small book rests in the pews had no ledge, and books continually slid off. By skilful and patient work he has now remedied this in the main body of the nave, and the thud of a falling book is now a rare instead of a frequent occurrence. Our young people have also done a useful service in fixing hooks for the hassocks (their number increased by 40, thanks to the good needlework of the Mothers' Union, who provided the material and did the whole job).

We were very sorry to say goodbye to Mr. Michael Anderson, a young organist of outstanding ability, but he felt he had to live near his work, and the difficulties of travelling out here for practices and services proved greater than he had thought. We now welcome an organist and choirmaster of long experience, Mr. Ronald Dafforne, who also has the advantage of living within a mile of the church, and his enthusiasm and friendliness have already made their impact.

CENTENARY PARTY

The Centenary party on January 18 was greatly enjoyed by grown-ups and children alike. It may have been frosty outside but after a glass of punch, and a snowball dance which grew less genteel as balloons tied to ankles offered tempting targets to stiletto heels and big feet, we were all very quickly warmed up.

After another game, in which the Vicar displayed great mental dexterity and fleetness of foot, we were very ready for the excellent refreshments prepared by the ladies. Whiskered Victorian gentlemen of the Social Committee treated us to a splendid music hall song and then re-appeared, to adulatory screams, as the Beatles. The natural break in between gave us an opportunity to admire the very handsome decorations which had been kindly loaned to us by Matron Davey from Laurel Dene.

Another snowball dance found the ladies doing the Can-can, and the men, trousers furled, a Morris dance. A few more dances and, all too soon, it was time for the evening to be brought to a close. The Vicar expressed the thanks of us all to those who had put in so much hard work to make the evening such a success and there was a special round of applause for the M.C. "Smoke" Maddox, who only dropped his clanger once.

E.B.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

It has now become traditional that the first Friday in Lent—February 14 this year—shall be kept by Christian women the world over as a day of Prayer. It is usual for a group of women of one country to be asked to prepare a form of service which, translated into the necessary languages, is used first, as the day begins, in the Far Eastern countries, and then round the world as the day ends in the Americas.

This year the service has been prepared by one woman, Dr. Maleleine Barot, of the World Council of Churches, Geneva. And appropriately enough to that origin and this Year of Grace, the key words of the service are "United" and "Prayer." So, with this in mind, the representatives of the Hampton Council of Churches who make the arrangements in this part, felt that it was most important that no one should be unable to attend because of the time of service. This is always a tricky problem and they have boldly decided to hold two services: an afternoon one at 3 p.m. when Mrs. Osborn will be the speaker and an evening one at 8 p.m. when Mrs. Pullenayegum will be the speaker.

Both services will be at the newly opened Methodist Church at Percy Road, Hampton. The handsome building is itself an added attraction to the service.

I will put a map of how to get there in our church porch. Some kind car-owners have offered lifts which will in the first place be offered to those who could not otherwise make the journey, but there may be spare seats for others who find it difficult. If you wish to take advantage of this, please contact Mrs. Rockliffe for the afternoon service and me for the evening service as soon as possible.

And please every woman reader keep this date. This is a practical bit of unity that we can all take part in.

C. H. BRUNT.

PERSONALIA

We welcomed to our parish and congregation recently two young and gifted artists, Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Stowell. They are living in the house in St. James's Avenue where our old friends the Rooney family used to be. Most of their work is done directly or indirectly for the Church, and covers a wide field—illustrating for various periodicals and brochures, designs for book-covers, and posters. Some of Gordon's drawings appear in this quarter's B.R.F. Notes (Series C.), and a number of churches are already displaying his new "Come to church on Sunday" poster.

Sylvia (Anne) Bishop has now started work, and is temporarily attached to three Child Guidance clinics in Lincolnshire. She has been lent a car to help in her work, and is living with her uncle and aunt at their Rectory at Newton, near Sleaford.

Rodney Bishop expects to be back in Hampton Hill on April 10. He is returning to England to continue further medical and surgical studies. Whilst in India he has become increasingly involved in leprosy work, and he sends us an account and several striking photographs of a visit recently paid to his hospital by the Governor of Madras State, who was very anxious to see their leprosy programme. His mother has now joined him, and they will be leaving India at the end of February, visiting Egypt and the Holy Land on their way home. It may well be that they will be in Jerusalem at the same time as Hannah Stanton—extracts from a long letter received from her are given on a later page.

There has been a good deal of illness amongst us. Mrs. Orton has had a serious setback in health which we fear is mainly due to her great exertions on behalf of the History Society and Centenary Committee. As a result the reshowing of the slides of local history has had to be postponed until sometime after Easter. We hope that her full recovery will not be long delayed, and that when she resumes her active life she will strictly ration her output of energy and keep well within the limits of her strength.

Miss Leighton and Mr. Christie have had major operations in St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington. Miss Leighton is still there, very gravely ill—the first operation was not entirely successful, there had to be another, and finally a third emergency one. Please remember her—and the other invalids—in your prayers.

Mrs. Cooper has had an operation in West Middlesex Hospital, and Mrs. Tarrant is having treatment in King's College Hospital. Mrs. Futter is away nursing Ivan and his family, all ill with mumps.

Congratulations to Bernard Wigginton on winning an Award to Oriel College, Oxford. As his main subjects there will be Spanish and French, he is now arranging to go to France and Spain for some months before his university course begins.

THE MOTHERS' UNION

We began our 1964 programme with an enjoyable afternoon of carols and Christmas music performed by the Guild Singers, and we were glad to welcome on this occasion a number of ladies from Hampton Hill Congregational Church, also Mrs. Brown our Deanery Presiding Member. After the recital, tea and hot mince pies served by Mrs. Edmonds and her helpers were much appreciated.

Some months ago, it was arranged for our branch to be put in touch with the one at Ife in Nigeria and several letters have been sent to them. No reply had been received, but correspondence is evidently difficult for a lot of African branches as so few of the members are able to read or write. However, a letter came recently, with a photograph of such a happy-looking crowd of members, so now we can really feel we know something about our "link-branch." This is an extract from the letter, written by Alice Ene the Enrolling Member:—

"Our branch in Ife Parish consists of 221 admitted members, and 45 yet to be admitted. The branch is divided into four sections, each of which organises monthly meetings. During the year, the whole branch has four meetings, one in any station in each of the sections. Contributions are collected during the meetings to help the poor and also the young Churches in need; we also visit the sick and bereaved. At the meetings, anthems and Bible lessons are taught by two Pastors' wives."

Please note the following in your diary, and make every effort to attend. This is a bad time of year for illness, and some will be unavoidably prevented from coming, but if you can possibly venture out, we shall be delighted to see you.

February 5.—Mrs. Jennings was to be our speaker, but owing to her husband's severe illness she will be unable to come, so Mrs. Rockliffe will be showing pictures of her Canadian Tour instead.

February 12.—Ash Wednesday Service in church, 2.30 p.m., followed by tea at Wayside.

February 14.—Women's World Day of Prayer. Services afternoon and evening at the new Methodist Church in Hampton.

March 4.—Annual General Meeting, and Triennial Elections. All officers and committee retire every three years and new ones have to be elected. PLEASE give this matter some thought, and come along and vote for your representatives—this is YOUR branch, and each member should be active in running it in the best possible way.

M.U.

EXTRACTS FROM A LETTER FROM UGANDA

Mary Stuart Hall,
Makerere University College,
Kampala, Uganda.

I am writing on the eve of Kenya's Independence Day, and shall probably be sending off these letters on December 12, THE DAY, as we have a holiday on that day. All our Kenya students and Kenyan members of staff and many non-Kenyans have dashed up to Nairobi for the Celebrations. I am one of those left holding the fort! It will be a momentous day. Dr. Margaret Keay and I passed through Kenya just after the elections in June when we went down to Tanganyika on holiday. We very soon learned how to give the Kanu sign, one finger up for unity, and passed through enthusiastic crowds on the way down from the Uganda border, through Eldoret and Nakuru to Nairobi, with everyone milling around and giving the sign. Margaret had often been to Kenya before during and after the Emergency, and said that this was the first time that she had visited Kenya without being aware of bitterly antagonistic feelings towards Europeans. I got an impression of great friendliness. We were made much of by Margaret's former agricultural students, now agricultural officers on the job in Kyambu. They treated us to lunch at the Brackenhurst Hotel — very posh — and where a year or two ago we should not have been allowed to take them. We were shown all the thriving agricultural projects of that fertile area, and were very impressed with the hard work and drive of the Kikuyu people.

I remember that I asked last year for your prayers for Kenya; please may I ask for them again? It is so very important that everything should go peacefully and well there. If all goes well it will have a very re-assuring effect on countries to the south. Writing from a country where there is very little if any racial feeling, I long to re-assure peoples who are afraid. Africans are running Uganda competently and well. Every month which passes they learn more about responsibility and the importance of stable government. They attach great importance to the Declaration of Human Rights and to the freedoms embodied in that Charter. These Africans are able, they are friendly; they are fascinating to sit down with and to try and get to know. Several friends have written that they do not see much about Uganda in the newspapers; I am rather relieved that they don't, newspaper headlines so often mean disruption and that things are not going well. Everything is going on very steadily here.

The year seems to have raced past, and in very little more than three months time I shall be going on leave for three months! I am planning to return via the Holy Land and be in Jerusalem for Easter; the term comes to an end on the Saturday before Palm Sunday and I am hoping that Jean Cunningham, whom I was with at Oxford, will join me. It will be so tremendously thrilling that I can't really imagine that it will come true.

HANNAH STANTON.

FORTHCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS

On **Tuesday, February 11**, at the Parish Hall, there is the unusual social evening with a Victorian/Edwardian flavour.

Dig into that old trunk and bring out your grandparents' Victorian or Edwardian clothes, and come and join us!

Full details will be given later — so please watch notice boards.

On **Saturday, March 21**, coaches are being organised for a visit to Westminster Abbey — leaving St. James's Church at 1.45 p.m. and returning at 6 p.m. (approx.) Tickets will be Adults 3/6d., Children 2/6d. Your early application will be appreciated so that the organisers may know how many coaches will be required.

OTHER DATES TO NOTE

- Feb. 2.—Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas). 9.45 a.m. Sunday School, followed by a short Children's candle service.
- „ 4.—8 p.m. Commission on Worship: Working Party (Wayside).
- „ 5.—2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union. Pictures of Canada (Wayside).
- „ 11.—11 a.m. Editorial Board (52, Park Road).
- „ 12.—Ash Wednesday. Holy Communion at 7.15 a.m., Mothers' Service (Wayside) at 2.30 p.m. Compline (in Vestry) 9.15 p.m., Short address to introduce Lent course, "Raise the Cross."
- „ 14.—Women's World Day of Prayer. Services at 3. pm. and 8 p.m. in Methodist Church, Percy Road, Hampton.
- „ 18.—8 p.m. Lent Course: "Raise the Cross in the World today" (Vestry).
- „ 24.—8 p.m. Ruri-decanal Conference (St. Mary's Hall, Twickenham).
- „ 25.—8 p.m. Lent Course: "See the Cross as the Bible sees it" (Vestry).
- „ 26.—8 p.m. Young Wives' Group: Knitting Demonstration, (Wayside).
- Mar. 3.—8 p.m. Lent Course: "Raise the Cross in the Local Community." (Vestry).
- „ 4.—2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union A.G.M. (Wayside).
- „ 18.—8 p.m. Annual Parochial Church Meeting (Hall).

BAPTISMS

- Dec. 22.—Jenifer Ann Freemantle, 18, Myrtle Road.
- „ 22.—Kevin Royston Westbury, 15, Winifred Road.

MARRIAGE

- Dec. 21.—Victor Richard Bowles to Margaret Passmore.