

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ANNUAL REVIEW

A warm welcoming hall, beautiful flowers arranged with care and skill by Mrs. Bridges and Mrs. Long; tables laden with delicious food prepared by many willing hands under the able leadership of Mrs. Leatherdale and Mrs. Severn, a dozen or so young parishioners to wait on the guests and to clear everything away silently and efficiently under the competent generalship of Mrs. Mant; a hundred or more parishioners of St. James' chatting in friendly good fellowship.

Even the business part of the evening was enjoyable and informal. Mrs. Helen Taylor told us of her first impressions of our church and parish. As a comparative newcomer she had been struck with the rural nature of the village and the friendliness of its people. The changing population of the Tottenham Court Road area from whence she had come had hampered the formation of the deep and lasting contacts that are possible in our more static community. Her initial disappointment with the spiritual life of the Parish had been alleviated by the restarting of the Circle of Prayer, the Parish weekend and the implementation of the fuller principles of Christian Stewardship.

Jack Gostling emphasised the importance of the word "movement." "Nothing in Nature is static — we cannot stand still, we either grow or decline." The Wells campaign of 1961 had been successful in its object in raising money to enable us to set our house in order materially; it had arrested our decline and made our growth possible — now this parish had committed itself to the principle of the stewardship of our whole lives so that impetus can be given to our progress by the spread of "active Christianity." "Make no mistake," said Mr. Gostling, "this is going to be the biggest thing that St. James's has ever tackled . . . and the way that we deal with it will affect our future for a very long time to come." An "opportunity list" was being prepared and all in our stewardship scheme, whether they had made a financial promise or not, would be visited and asked whether they were willing to give their time and talents. "How we shall move" concluded Mr. Gostling "will depend on YOU. If we regard our stewardship in terms of money only we shall be in danger of retrogression; with the manpower potential of the parish willingly harnessed through real, active Christianity to the opportunities presenting themselves there can be literally no limit to our future movement and growth."

Mr. Robinson, with the aid of a most impressive chart gave a succinct account of the financial situation and the actions which had transformed the decrepit church of five years ago into the well-found building of today. By next year it was hoped to decrease the overdraft by half and soon we should have accomplished most of the material improvements we had set out to make. In 1957 the income had been £870, today it had reached £3,800. We had accepted the challenge of our position and the courageous way in which we had tackled our seemingly insuperable difficulties had been an example in self-help to surrounding churches.

High spot of the evening was the spirited dialogue between the Vicar and Mrs. Brunt, he illustrating with statistical detail the steady decline in attendance at Christian worship and Sunday Schools (a failure in stewardship with regard to our own use of time and the care of the children entrusted to us?), she criticising outdated and incomprehensible forms of service which might be partly responsible for this. All

our excuses for not coming regularly were trotted out — the sermon was too long, the chanting unpleasant, the hymns too high or too low, too old or too new. But the Church was the People of God — Catholic, embracing all — all kinds of people, all kinds of opinions and tastes, likes and dislikes, and the people who came allowed for this and were glad to have it so, each putting up with things he didn't like for the sake of those who did.

In spite of her criticisms Mrs. Brunt said that she was drawn to her church because of this. In daily life there was so much frustration, resentment and bitterness. The news announcements screamed of the thirst for prestige, wealth and power, and she found herself asking "where, oh where, are the People of God? Where are the humble and meek, the loving, the men and women of faith and good will?" She found them in her church, and was glad to be with them, and hoped that some of their discipleship might rub off on her. As a biologist she had learned that there were many good reasons for man's having been set within a family and the Church, after all, was the best sort of family to which to belong.

Plenty of food for thought in this evening, plenty about which to congratulate ourselves, and plenty at which to aim our aspirations. Such was our 1965 Annual Review. M.O.

AROUND THE SPIRE

There will be a BRING AND BUY sale at 8, Ormond Avenue on Thursday, December 9, in aid of two projects of the Hampton Council of Churches. Firstly to raise a contribution towards the cost of the British Council of Churches' proposed stand at the Ideal Home Exhibition, and secondly to start a fund for the purpose of buying a film projector for us by the churches in Hampton.

Morning Coffee	} 1/-
Afternoon Tea	
Evening Coffee	

Home-made cakes, Christmas puddings, jams, chutneys, Christmas gifts, including "stocking fillers," will be on sale. Your orders for home-made cooking will be appreciated (Molesey 2575).

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS EFFORT.

H.T.

THE CHOIR urgently requires enthusiastic singers to fill the under-mentioned vacancies. One of the remarks made by the special Commissioners of the Royal School of Church Music who recently visited us was that we were top-heavy — not that we had too many trebles but rather that they tended to overpower too few contraltos, tenors and basses.

May I look forward to having your enquiries?

Vacancies:

Gentlemen, 2 bass and 2 tenor (any age).

Ladies: 3 contralto (any age).

Girls: 2 soprano (14 to 18 years of age).

Boys: 4 (7 to 12 years of age).

R.J.C.D.

As referred to in last month's magazine, it is intended to organise a party of CAROL SINGERS to tour a number of roads in the parish on one or two evenings immediately before Christmas, ending up at Wayside to replenish lost warmth with hot drinks.

Everyone will be welcome and if you can only sing in your bath we shan't mind if you bring that too.

Practices will be at Wayside on Fridays at 8.30 p.m. commencing on December 3, when the carols to be sung will be selected.

R.J.C.D.

Bookings for our PARISH WEEKEND (January 21-23) are coming in quite well now and we are nearly half full. If you feel you would like to come and join in frank discussions on our parish way of life and how we can best serve our Master, fill in the form below and send it with your 10/- deposit per person to Mrs. Dawn Harris, 33, Beech Way, Twickenham (TWickenham Green 6468).

Cut along here

To Mrs. Dawn Harris, 33, Beech Way, Twickenham, Middlesex.

Please reserve places for the Parish Weekend, January 21-23, 1966. I enclose deposit of (10/- per person).

Name

Address

At the Old People's Welfare Committee's A.G.M. recently, our Mrs. Mills was elected President — they have made a worthy choice, and we wish her a very happy year in office. One thing that would contribute towards this would be a good response to her appeal for wardens, there are many roads in the parish not covered. You know this is not really asking very much, it is often a matter of keeping in touch with the elderly folk in **your** road, an opportunity to make friends if you are lonely and the satisfaction of supplying a real need. Mrs. Mills does a tremendous job, and has done so for years, for the Committee, and, in case you do not realise it, does a great deal for our church — **every** Friday morning you will find her at St. James's ensuring that the floral decorations are ready for the weekend services, and seeing that any other jobs that require doing are done — it would take too much space to detail her many good works — she has a family to care for too — so why not answer her appeal? Give her a ring (as early in the day as possible if you want to catch her) at Molesey 6626, or advise any other member of the Hampton Hill's O.P.W. Committee whom you may know.

D.W.

WOOSH! lit by the Vicar, a wonderful rocket zoomed into the sky beginning another bonfire party but this was only the prelude to a most colourful and exciting evening.

A crowd of us had gathered in the grounds of Laurel Dene to watch the display, by kind permission of the Matron, Mrs. Fletcher, and were

soon dazzled by the many rockets and set pieces, especially the effect of the waterfall which brought the brilliant display to an end.

Though it was cold weather we were soon warmed by the really hot soup and baked potatoes which most of us ate round an enormous bonfire which the Vicar had lighted.

We all had a most enjoyable evening and give appreciative thanks to the committee and all concerned for all the hard work needed to make "our bonfire party" go with such a "bang!" P.H.

Was it due to unfamiliarity with the new ovens, or reduced gas pressure, or the spuds being too many, or too large? Whatever the reasons a red-necked Social Committee chairman offers sincere apologies to all who either failed to get a baked potato, or worse, got a half-baked one! J.G.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP

Since our last report we have done a variety of things, of which, undoubtedly, the highlight was the Barbecue. Thanks to the careful arrangements and the weather, about 20 members were wined and dined with hamburgers, sausages, potatoes and soup. We should like to thank Mrs. Cooper for allowing us to use and decorate her garden, also Mrs. Casey for helping us, and letting us use her kitchen.

As there is a Confirmation soon we should like to extend a special welcome to any of the candidates, who would like to attend our meetings and join the Y.P.F., and of course to any other young person in the parish.

The programme for Sunday evening meetings at Wayside at 8 p.m. is as follows:—

- Dec. 5 Guest Speaker: Mrs. Stevens.
- „ 12 Bible Study: St. John, Ch.I.
- „ 19 Problem Box.
- „ 26 Christmas—a feast? a birthday? a beginning?
- Jan. 2 The Witness of John the Baptist.
- „ 9 Bible Study I: Struggles of the Early Church.
- „ 16 Bible Study II: Struggles of the Early Church.
- „ 23 Competition and Discussion.
- „ 30 Christian Deviations.

L.Y.

THE YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

• A large number of members crowded into Wayside in October to hear Mrs. Pat Yallup give an illustrated talk on Modern Art—a most interesting evening.

At the A.G.M. in November the following were elected to the Committee:

- Mrs. Manns, School Road.
- Mrs. Gunn, Hanworth Road.
- Mrs. Gibbs, Ringwood Way.

The children's Christmas Party will be held in the Parish Hall on December 30 at 3 p.m. Tickets available from the Committee at 1/6d. K.B.

THE MOTHERS' UNION

After our A.G.M. on November 3, at which Mrs. Bellingham gave a report on the previous session, and Mrs. Young gave a satisfactory report on the Finances of the Branch, we were given a first hand account of a visit to the Holy Land which our secretary made whilst

living in Cyprus. Mrs. Bellingham presented a vivid picture of life and customs in Palestine, and showed a film of the journey and many coloured transparencies. On show were articles made and sold in the Holy Land. It was pleasing to have so many visitors on this occasion and they obviously enjoyed the programme. We hope that even more ladies will come to hear Mrs. Shaw of the Federation of Women Zionists talk on "Modern Israel" of which she has first hand knowledge.

I.V.R.

We were saddened to learn that Louisa Hillyer passed to her rest on All Saints' Day. Although she was 91 she appeared much younger, leading an active life almost to the end. She had a very up-to-date knowledge of all that was taking place in the world. From the age of 30 Mrs. Hillyer was handicapped by deafness, an affliction she overcame with amazing courage. After living in a world of silence for some forty years, modern science gave her back her hearing and she was once again able to enjoy music and to take part in conversation.

Louisa Hillyer read her Bible daily, thereby gaining great comfort and faith which she was ever ready to pass on to others. Of late she had been unable to attend our meetings regularly, but when she did come we were enriched by her presence amongst us. We shall miss her very much and wish to convey our sympathy to her three daughters.

A.L.

THE SCOUT GROUP

At the Parade Service on September 26, Sarah Jane, daughter of Akela and Hathi, was baptised.

On November 10 the Cub Pack held a Parents' evening. It was gratifying to welcome so many parents, and the boys gave a full programme of their work, including a gym display.

Then a very pleasing ceremony took place when the G.S.M. presented two Thanks Badges. The first to Mr. Moses for all the help he had given the Group by the various articles he had made for the boys. The second to Mr. J. Cudmore, a member of our Committee for the past 9 years and our very efficient Treasurer for the past 7 years.

The death of Mr. Moses so soon after this happy occasion came as a great shock to us all, but he will be remembered with appreciation for the work he so willingly carried out for the Group. G.S.M.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

- Dec. 6.—8.0 p.m. Hampton Council of Churches: Prayer and Discussion Group (W).
- .. 9.—Hampton Council of Churches: All-day "Bring and Buy" Sale (8, Ormond Avenue).
- .. 12.—DEDICATION FESTIVAL: 9.30 a.m. Confirmation and Parish Communion, followed by Parish Breakfast at Wayside. other arrangements as usual.
- .. 13.—11.15 a.m. Editorial Board (52, Park Road); 8.0 p.m. Deanery "No Small Change" Course: Liturgy and Life III — Rome, Second Century.
- .. 19.—5.15 p.m. Y.P.F. lead service at Laurel Dene.
- .. 21.—St. Thomas: Holy Communion at 9.0 a.m.
- .. 24.—CHRISTMAS EVE: 6.15 p.m. Carol Service at Laurel Dene; 11.45 p.m. Midnight Eucharist.

- .. 25.—CHRISTMAS DAY: Holy Communion at 8.0 a.m., 9.30 a.m. (Family), and 12.0 noon.
- .. 26.—ST. STEPHEN: Sunday Services as usual, but the Sunday Schools will not meet, and there will be the monthly Family Service at 11 .0 a.m. At 6.30 p.m., instead of Evensong, there will be the traditional SERVICE OF THE NINE LESSONS WITH CAROLS.
- .. 27.—St. John; Holy Communion at 9.30 a.m.
- .. 28.—The Innocents' Day: Holy Communion at 9.30 a.m.
- .. 30.—3.0 p.m. Young Wives' Group—Children's Christmas Party (Hall).
- Jan. 1.—New Year's Day and the Circumcision of Christ: Holy Communion at 9.30 a.m.
- .. 2.—Sunday Services and other arrangements as usual, with the addition of a service at Laurel Dene at 5.15 p.m. At 6.30 p.m. Evensong will be said only, and immediately afterwards (at about 6.50 p.m.) the Hampton Council of Churches' Drama Group will present the Nativity Play "THE FIRST CRIB." (Other performances at Feltham Borstal Institution on December 29, at 7.0 p.m. and at All Saints' Church, Hampton, on December 30, at 8.0 p.m.).
- N.B.—Baptisms in December and January will be on the THIRD Sunday in the month instead of the usual fourth—viz. December 19 and January 16, at 4.0 p.m.

BAPTISMS

- Oct. 24.—Vincent Roy Lawry, 10, Ringwood Way.
- .. 24.—David James Morgan, 19, Rectory Grove.
- .. 24.—Tracy Ann Owen, 6, Hampton Road.
- .. 24.—Michael James Steel, 191A, Uxbridge Road.
- .. 24.—Angela Tracie Keenan Williams, 14, Rectory Grove.
- .. 24.—Shane Richard Graham Williams, 14, Rectory Grove.

MARRIAGE

- Oct. 27.—Malcolm Jarvis to Freda Mildred Lovelock.

BURIALS AND CREMATIONS

- Nov. 5.—Louisa Harriet Hillyer, 109, Gloucester Road, Hampton.
- .. 10.—May Hillier, Laurel Dene and 24, Hanworth Road, aged 79 years (at S.W. Middlesex Crematorium).
- .. 12.—Eliza Maud Painter, 62, Harlington Road East, Feltham, and formerly of 70, Windmill Road, aged 75 years (at Hampton Cemetery).
- .. 18.—Edward Jolliffe Moses, 21, Longford Close, aged 54 years (at S.W. Middlesex Crematorium).
- .. 19.—Frank Albert Bishop, 57, Wolsey Road, aged 53 years (at Teddington Cemetery).
- .. 22.—Gladys Murell, 44, High Street, aged 49 years (at S.W. Middlesex Crematorium).