

VICAR'S NOTES

An Encouraging Campaign.—The big parish news this month concerns the Time and Talents programme, which Mrs. Orton, the Assistant Recorder, has written about on a later page. The facts are certainly most encouraging, and this account of our latest advance is good to read. We are very grateful to those who put in such long hours of work and planning to make it so splendid a success.

Personal Involvement.—A criticism sometimes levelled against Stewardship parishes is that, though giving has greatly increased, involvement has not. A person can give regularly and in large amounts without thinking very much about where his money goes. The Church itself can distribute a generous proportion of the income it receives from its pledged givers to good causes without taking any of them really to heart. The Time and Talents phase of Stewardship should of course help us to remedy this. We are challenged to step forward and use some of our time and abilities in becoming involved in worthwhile service. There has been a very good response so far in our parish to this challenge, but we still need more people ready to be involved in personal ways—in visiting, serving and caring for other people. There are not yet enough of us to greet newcomers, to visit the lonely, the sick and the housebound, to make life a little easier for the elderly, to welcome strangers and to offer hospitality to those far away from their own homes.

Personal Concern in Wider Fields.—Looking beyond the parish, we need people who will give time and thought to grappling with some of the great issues that confront the world to-day and haunt the minds of all men of good-will. There are documents and pronouncements about the situation in Vietnam which some of us ought to read and ponder. There is the spectre of world poverty and starvation on a vast scale about which thought and action are urgently needed. There is much that can be done, especially by Governments, but they will not do it unless pressed by public opinion which we should be helping to form. The British Council of Churches commends to our attention the report by its International and Christian Aid Departments entitled "World Poverty and British Responsibility": but unless a large number of Christians really get down to studying this seriously, it will just lie on the table and lead to nothing.

Are there any in our parish willing to give their time and intelligence to becoming experts in matters of concern such as this, so that they can guide the rest of us and help us to see what should be done?

And then there are the great societies through which so much of the pastoral care of the Church is carried into wider spheres. They are glad that we should give them money; but they would like a greater participation and commitment than this. They would like to know that in every parish there were small groups of people with their heart and soul—and mind too—in their work, building up an informed enthusiasm which they can transmit to others.

None of us, of course, can be equally concerned about all the things which the Church as a whole should be concerned about. We shall have to choose our own priorities, we shall have to specialise to a large extent, the field is so big. Using another metaphor, we could say that the Church has too many good irons in the fire for the individual Christian or small group to give adequate attention to them all. But

between them, individual Christians and groups should cover the whole vast area of concern, each concentrating on his own particular iron or irons, and glad that others have different ones.

Lee Abbey Weekend.—Many of us saw the Meeting Point programme about Lee Abbey on July 17, and it is hoped that some will want to go on a Lee Abbey weekend. The next one is at High Leigh from November 18 to 20 on the theme "Expanding Christianity." There is no room to give details this month, but I hope to say more about it in the next issue. Leaflets and application forms will be available from members of the M.R.I. Group. All I will say now is that a Lee Abbey weekend is a happy way of learning how to become more deeply involved!

Holidays.—During the next few weeks, many of us will be thinking mainly of relaxation and recreation, and putting thoughts of further involvement into the background for a time. It is right that we should. We must withdraw and get away from it all for a while in order to advance. We at the Vicarage hope to be away from August 6 to 20, and during this time Canon C. F. Goodchild, vicar of Tong Parish Church, Bradford, will be living here with his wife and son. He will be taking charge of the Sunday services, and available to give emergency help during the week: but he too is here for a rest and a change; to get away from the heavy demands of his very large parish, and so I know that you will not call upon him unless it is absolutely necessary.

Good and refreshing holidays to you all!

A REVIEW OF THE TIME AND TALENTS CAMPAIGN

It seems difficult to believe that, after so many months of planning, and latterly, weeks of hectic activity, the Time and Talents phase of the Stewardship Campaign is over save for a few delayed visits to holiday makers. Now we are busy compiling and checking records and seeing that all the many offers of service are used to the best advantage.

This phase of the campaign has aroused parish-wide interest, enthusiasm and approbation. The conception seemed so ambitious, the actual task so great and in the event, the execution of the mechanics of the campaign so expeditious, that people were stirred; but chiefly it was the aspiration itself, the vision of Christian Service that moved people to response.

The thirty or more visitors — and it was a moving sight to see so many people lined up before the altar and all down the centre of the church at their commissioning — finished their duties in record time and the parish owes them a debt of gratitude for coming forward in such numbers and for putting their hearts and souls into what was not an easy task.

As a result, over six hundred separate offers of service have been received, at the time of writing, from over two hundred families. The great majority of those visited pledged themselves to service and those refraining, in all but a few cases, were those of advanced years, or those with young families or other pressing family commitments.

The final results have been far in excess of the Stewardship's Committee's most sanguine hopes. The offers lie in all fields — practical service to church properties; active participation in the caring for the ever-present but sometimes overlooked "neighbour"; prayer and intercession at home through the Prayer Circle. Above all, everyone who

pledged, promised "a worthy proportion of my time in worship, prayer and study" and in consequence there has been a noticeable increase in the congregation.

The MRI (Mutual Responsibility and Interdependence) Group has been working hard on a scheme by which all newcomers to our parish are to be welcomed. An excellent brochure has been brought out setting forth the sundry parish amenities and it is planned that the Church shall, as well as extending a welcome to the parish, follow up the young couples which it marries to make sure that they are not lonely in our midst, visit the parents of the babies it baptises and call on the bereaved to find out whether they have someone to lean on and to help them in their time of trouble. St. James's is a CARING church with great confidence in achieving, through the will of God, an ever widening understanding of how it can serve its people and the ability to do so effectively.

Within, at the most, forty-eight hours — and often within twelve — everyone offering a fresh service was contacted and thanked and in specific cases where it was felt that discussion would be useful, asked to attend a meeting or meetings. In other cases they were assured they would be contacted shortly or as need arose. The plans for this aspect of the campaign had been carefully prepared beforehand by Mrs. Eila Severn who made sure that no meeting clashed and that every query had someone ready and able to give it an immediate answer.

The first meeting was for those interested in reviving the Parish Drama Group and the evening was passed in miming practice. By the time you read this the group will have met again — but there are not enough committed members. Several people have been heard to say, "Oh well, I didn't put my name down, but I'd always be willing to take a part if asked." Now this is NO GOOD! How can poor Mrs. Rockliffe find a suitable play if she does not know her potential actors and backstage personnel? All you would-be (or could-be) actors **please** have the courage of your inclinations and send in your name. The parish as a whole could well do with a Drama Group — an excellent vehicle for the fostering of community spirit. Come on you men particularly — you never know what you can do until you've tried — or what fun it can be trying!

Those who offered their needlework abilities have already made plans for the future. There is such a lot of work to be done and there are to be regular fortnightly meetings — it is never too late to join, by the way. There is fine needlework for the experts to do with altar furnishings, etc., general needlework in taking care of choir robes; knitters and needlewomen will enjoy themselves in various charitable fields — for example in making layettes and young children's clothes for Welcare.

Owing to the many offers of secretarial help, the P.C.C. is well on the way to finding a new Secretary, and the parish needs should now be adequately catered for in other ways. In the Publicity field several of those offering their services as Distributors found their offer taken up within a few hours in delivering the many letters arising out of the present campaign. We can still do with more help, however. How about it, you young people with bicycles?

It will be easier now to make the parish as a whole conscious of what St. James's is doing as we have a team of poster artists and a number of excellent notice-board sites and display windows — also

the people to make notice-boards! People have also offered themselves as copy writers and also their skill with tape recorders and film projectors.

A great many people have offered practical work in connection with the church properties and for the service of their neighbours in a practical way when necessary. A small group under the leadership of Mr. W. Leatherdale are going to deal with the back log of book mending and an ambitious scheme of book binding. Is there a skilled instructor please, to give hints in bookbinding to enthusiastic volunteers? — if so, please contact Mr. Leatherdale, Senior, at 51 St. James's Road.

As well as a substantially increased band of church cleaners and flower arrangers and suppliers (and in this last field anyone with garden flowers can fall — bring them to Mrs. Mills at the Church early on Friday mornings) there have been many encouraging offers of decorating and stonework cleaning, hence much money will be saved for other needs. In future too, such properties as boiler, lights, organ and bells will be regularly inspected and reported on to the Properties Committee for appropriate action.

The Churchyard Guardians report that they are "extremely gratified" by the progress made in ensuring a much improved standard of churchyard maintenance. Close on fifty graves are now going to receive regular attention and there are many firm promises of attendance at Mass Attacks. Mr. Leatherdale had spent many hours in preparing careful plans of the churchyard and graves and so was able to allocate work in order that the results be seen to the best advantage.

With regard to offers of hospitality Mr. Peel reports that he is visiting all those who could not attend the meeting and that he has been, and is, corresponding with a number of organisations who may be interested in availing themselves of the facilities which the parish is now in a position to offer. He will be pleased if anyone knowing of such institutions would get into touch with him — all Dioceses report that loneliness, particularly amongst those visiting us from overseas, is a great social problem.

There is not time or space to mention all the other ways in which people have pledged themselves. Catering and help with Social Functions leaps to mind as receiving many offers to help. It remains for all of us now to bear in mind Mr. Churchill's great words which spurred us on to victory in the past — "Give us the tools and we will finish the job."

M.O.

PERSONALIA

Congratulations to Rodney and Ann (née Swindale) Bishop on the birth of a son (James Rodney).

Seymour and Dawn (née Berry) Harris have been blessed with a baby girl (Frances Elizabeth) — every happiness to them.

WEL-CARE COFFEE MORNING & BRING AND BUY SALE

Mrs. Rockliffe and Mrs. Gilder thank all who helped to make the Wel-care coffee morning on July 12 so successful. Sum of £10-10-0 will be sent to help the work in this Deanery.

D.G.

PLEASE KEEP THESE DATES OPEN!

Thursday, October 6:

Harvest Supper in the Parish Hall. Tickets Price 5/-.

Saturday, October 29:

Dance in Parish Hall. Full details will be given in the September Magazine and on Notice Boards.

LETTING OUR HAIR DOWN, OR A RETURN TO THE GOOD OLD DAYS (WAYS)

The Vicar counted thirty-nine of us and sent us off with his silent blessing; not this time to plod from door to door or tramp the wet and dismal streets, but to enjoy ourselves and this we did. A very pleasant ride on a glorious early evening in June to the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, Guildford. Arriving with nearly an hour in hand the party partook of refreshments liquid and were soon ready for the fray. Just before 7.30 we were invited to take our seats, throw inhibition to the winds and re-create the atmosphere of the Victorian Music Hall.

We sang with gusto! "Fall in and follow me" — "I'm Enery the eighth I am" — "I saw the old homestead and faces I loved" — and many other old favourites. We were reminded of red-coats, pill-box hats — swagger canes — jolly jack tars and an England of past glories, of gas-light and perhaps a few dreams.

An interval afforded the opportunity to appreciate a little more the clever manner in which the theatre has been sited and built to get the maximum benefit from a really wonderful setting—the old mill.

At last we were ready for home but not thirty-nine of us but forty — Vicar your flock grows in the most mysterious ways.

G.I.R.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP

After the lull of the examination period, Y.P.F. has now become its usual vibrant self. There are great hopes as to the success of the Junior Council of Churches meeting on July 17 when we are the hosts for a folk singing and discussion evening. Over the last two months we have had some interesting and instructive meetings, two of which were led by the Rev. K. F. Toovey and the Rev. A. E. Hunter.

We extend a welcome to all young people in the parish and would be pleased to see them at our Sunday evening meetings held at Wayside at 8 p.m. The programme for the next two months is as follows:

- Aug. 7 "Ruth."
- 14 "Esther."
- 21 "Apocrypha I."
- 28 "Apocrypha II."
- Sept. 4 Man's fall.
- 11 Murder.
- 18 Attitude to Sin.
- 25 Faith or Organisation?

L.Y.

HAMPTON HILL OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE COMMITTEE

wishes to thank everybody for their generosity and support towards our Violet Day on July 2. The collection reached a record £65, which will help to swell the funds.

A party of our old people had a very enjoyable afternoon at Wisley Gardens on Wednesday, July 6. Again, many thanks to our good friends who loaned us their R.H.S. tickets to help to lower the cost of the outing.

We hope that our Fete at Laurel Dene on September 3 will be equally successful. If you would be willing to give a little of your time to help man the stalls and sideshows, the Committee members will be glad to hear from you.

L.M.

NOTICES AND DATES

Services on Sundays in August will be at 8.00 and 9.30 a.m. (N.B. no 12.10 p.m. Communion on August 7) and 6.30 p.m. It is hoped to have Parish Breakfast every Sunday as usual at 10.35 a.m. No Sunday Schools—these re-open on September 11. No Confirmation classes: candidates are asked to attend Evensong on September 11 and stay for a short meeting afterwards when dates for the autumn session will be arranged. The Editorial Board will meet at 10.00 a.m. on August 10 at 52, Park Road, to plan the September issue, and all matter intended for inclusion should be sent in by then.

Some advance dates:

- Sept. 8.—8.00 p.m. Stewardship Committee (106, Park Road).
- .. 18.—6.30 p.m. Preacher at Evensong from the Missions to Seamen.
- .. 26.—8.00 p.m. Parochial Church Council (W).
- Oct. 6.—7.15 p.m. Harvest Thanksgiving; Special Form of Service — “Bread is made for Laughter”; 8.30 p.m. Harvest Supper and Entertainment (H).
- .. 30.—6.30 p.m. Evensong and “Feed the Minds” Film.
- Nov. 18-20.—Lee Abbey Weekend at High Leigh.
- Sept. 15-18.—(1967): Parish Weekend at Hildenborough Hall (room for 68 people).

BAPTISMS

- June 19.—Huw Anthony Taylor, 90, Ormond Drive (at the Parish Communion).
- .. 26.—Michael John Mack-Habes, 3, Garside Close.
- .. 26.—Peter Andrew Rhoades, 73, Longford Close.
- .. 26.—Anita Jane Roberts, 19, Wolsey Road.

BURIALS & CREMATIONS

- June 28.—Nellie Miller, 71, Burton's Road, aged 84 years (at Teddington Cemetery).
- .. 29.—Agnes Rayner, 50, Hampton Road, Teddington, aged 90 years (at S.W. Middlesex Crematorium).
- July 1.—Stella Margaret Gardiner, 91, Burton's Road, aged 62 years (at S.W. Middlesex Crematorium).
- .. 9.—Frederick William Paines, 22, Ormond Avenue, aged 66 years (interment of ashes)