

VICAR'S NOTES

There is much to enjoy in the world; there is also much to put right. In October the world and some of its problems will be put fairly and squarely on our agenda. "Bread is made for laughter" — but there are many who have little joy in the ordinary things of life we take so much for granted.

"It's a funny old world we live in
And at times it's mighty hard.
Why should some people eat
While others round them starve?"

So we shall sing on October 6 — and amid our thanksgiving for harvest there will be the reminder that, though things are getting better in many parts of the world, they are getting better with us much faster. It has been pointed out that the economy of the underdeveloped countries is expanding — but two and a half times more slowly than that of the developed ones. We are already far ahead of them — every year we are getting further and further ahead. What can we do to help? What steps can we take to bring about conditions in which happiness and real fun can become part and parcel of human life again?

On October 17, the Bishop of London will inaugurate project NAIL, which gives to us in this diocese a new opportunity to take positive and practical action in the Church's mission to the world. It looks as though this meeting will be one of the most stirring to be held in London for many a long day, but as space is limited unfortunately only six representatives from each parish can go — but it will be laid upon them to make the details of the great plan known as widely as possible. The backbone of the enterprise is the linking of London with New York and dioceses in Africa and India in an on-going scheme of mutual help, goodwill and co-operation from which much good and much joy should come to many in the months and years ahead.

Then on October 30 the mighty task being tackled by "Feed the Minds" will be brought before us. Here is an opportunity to give people the mental nourishment they need if they are to live really full and worthwhile human lives.

It is indeed "a funny old world" — and it must remain on our agenda until it is as ordered and healthy and joyful as God intends His world to be.

HARVEST FESTIVAL — FLOWERS AND GIFTS

Have YOU any flowers or berries or could you possibly obtain some from a neighbour or friend for the Harvest Festival on Thursday October 6?

We will be at the church — for certain all the morning! — and will be pleased to see you, but if you haven't time in the morning, come some other time and arrange a vase yourself, or leave your flowers in water for someone else to arrange.

We are also hoping for gifts of groceries, fruit or vegetables for Harvest gifts for the old and sick people of the parish. Tea and sugar particularly are very welcome.

If at any time YOU would like to be responsible for the flowers — perhaps you have flowers in your garden — or would like to arrange them for a special occasion, please write your name on the Altar Flowers List which you will find on the church door. Each Friday

morning a small group of us are at the church doing the flowers and dusting and polishing. We would welcome anyone who could spare an hour — either regularly or occasionally.

L.M.

PARISH "AT HOME"

This traditional annual event was held in the Vicarage garden on our Patron's Day, July 25. After the evening Patronal Festival Service the Vicar and Mrs. Brunt welcomed old and new parishioners on the lawn, where refreshments provided by the Social Committee were dispensed by willing volunteers. Many new faces — and all, new and old, members of the Parish were soon engaged in lively conversation.

Whilst so many were gathered together the opportunity was taken to present Miss P. M. Stanley, the ex-Secretary of the P.C.C. with an ornamental bird bath for the garden of her new home. The Vicar and Mr. G. I. Robinson spoke glowingly of Miss Stanley's long service to the P.C.C., and asked her to accept this tangible and solid memento of her work for our church.

The shades of night were falling fast when the last groups, still talking, moved slowly away from the Vicarage, and the lawn was left to darkness and the echoes of happy chatter.

R.M.B.

REFLECTIONS ON THE CHURCHYARD

Nature takes no account of man-made institutions and aided by the damp conditions of the recent holiday season vegetation in the churchyard had made particularly luxuriant growth. It was therefore gratifying that so many people gave their time on Saturday, September 10, to effect a clearance of a further large area of the grounds and one that has not received attention for some time. It was particularly pleasing to see new faces (somewhat redder by the end of a hot and weary day than at the beginning) and it can only be hoped that the rather virulent breed of ants encountered have not dampened the enthusiasm with which the work was carried out.

It must be many years since the holly hedge flanking Park Road has received the treatment recently meted out by the local firm of Nurserymen, Messrs. Thompson and Collins. Our grateful thanks are expressed for this magnificent voluntary effort which saved many hours of hard work and which will ensure a greatly improved hedge in the future.

Thanks must also be expressed to Mr. Nunn who has undertaken the time consuming task of repairing the Lych Gate, a job that has been outstanding for some time. Mr. Nunn's work is all the more appreciated by the fact that he was only asked to make an inspection in the first place and to report on condition and possibility of repair.

By the time these notes appear the border adjacent to the Vicarage will have been prepared for the planting of shrubs and rose bushes in the Autumn, and plans are in hand for the clearing of the older portion of the churchyard and the formation of a Garden of Rest therein.

The presence of so many fine trees certainly enhances the appearance of the grounds but the leaf fall in the autumn does create a great deal of work and **help at this time would be greatly appreciated.**

D.L.

PERSONALIA

Congratulations and very best wishes to:

Doreen and 'Bob' Brittain on the birth of a third son. The score of junior Brittains is now four.

Helen and Alan Taylor on the arrival of Ruth Elizabeth—a strapping sister for Huw.

Yvonne and Michael Childs, who with their little daughter Sarah Jane were present at the Parish Communion on Sunday morning, September 4, and were happy to find themselves parents of a son, Stephen John, before the evening.

Dr. Kenneth Lapworth and Miss Ann Jennings, former leaders of our Y.P.F., who were married at Christ Church, Richmond, on September 10.

Miss Amy Elizabeth Lush, regarded with warm affection by her former pupils, who write to her from many parts of the world, and by all who know her in this parish, on reaching the 80th anniversary of her birthday on September 9. (A special article has been written in honour of this occasion, but pressure on space has necessitated its being held over until next month.—Ed.)

CASA MATERNA

It was most unfortunate that Dr. Emanuele Santi's talk with slides at the Congregational Hall on Monday, September 5, had to be cancelled owing to an error in the bookings for his visit to this country. Some adults, however, joined the meeting organised for the youth clubs at All Saints' Church hall on Wednesday, September 7, but of course its situation no doubt prevented many who would have been interested from attending.

The speaker was introduced by Mrs. Bellars who told us that Dr. Santi was a professional violinist and spent a considerable time in the United States in this capacity. He delighted us with playing his Stradivarius, his selection including a Brahms waltz and also one of his own compositions. His audience was composed mainly of boys and girls and it was quite remarkable how his music converted them from a giggly group into an obviously appreciative one.

Dr. Santi then told us how his father had a "religious experience" at the beginning of the century when he found two children—a boy of seven and a girl of six—begging. (Naples of course is mainly Roman Catholic, although the Santi family is Methodist, and it was commonplace for families to include fifteen children). Dr. Santi's father talked to the two children and they were taken into the Santi home and from this start, all those years ago, grew the home "Casa Materna," comprising seven buildings including living accommodation, classrooms and workshops; the whole, of course, situated just a short distance from the Mediterranean beaches with Vesuvius in the background.

People of the church in Naples helped with the work and a Royal Villa was put at the home's disposal. Two hundred children, aged from 3 to 16 years are now accommodated and a further two hundred and fifty come daily by school bus. To date, some ten thousand children have been through this home and have gone out into the world equipped to do something for themselves and the Christian influence has thus spread to thousands more who have learned of this instance of God's work being done. Because of the large numbers in the home two

services are held each morning and over the arch of the main building is the biblical text, "Come unto Me."

Dr. Santi showed us many coloured slides giving evidence of the beauty both in and around Casa Materna, including pictures of happy-looking, healthy children. We saw others, too, showing the poverty of other less fortunate children sorting refuse heaps for what little they could find, and we were told many harrowing stories of circumstances when applications are made for children to be taken into Casa Materna — 2000 requests a year — more not less.

Dr. Santi's father lived to the age of ninety, a son who helped in the early days was killed in an accident and now the home is run by Drs. Emanuele and Teofilo Santi. In Great Britain, Casa Materna is represented by the Bible Lands Society, 33 Museum Street, W.C.1., should you be moved to send a contribution to this work.

D.W.

SEWING AND HANDICRAFT GROUP

Having started on Thursday, September 8, this group is now meeting fortnightly at Wayside, St. James's Road, at 2.30 p.m.

Articles are being made for a Sale of Work in aid of local Welfare — a cause desperately in need of funds — even to the extent that sometimes there is barely enough to pay the Welfare Worker striving to meet the demands of her area.

The group plans to provide attractive, useful things which will make desirable and inexpensive Christmas presents. Just because YOU may not have pledged needlework as part of your Time and Talent offering does not mean that you will not be welcome. If you can sew, knit, do basket work, lampshades, or indeed, any other fancy work, or are willing to try, or if you just have some good ideas — come along, take some work away with you, have a cup of tea and a chat, and help make this worthwhile extension into the work of the wider Church a really successful part of our Christian Stewardship.

E.S.

THE YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

The next meeting of the group will be held on Wednesday, October 26, at 7.45 p.m. for 8 p.m. in Wayside. There will be a talk on Antique Glass by Mr. Jelley.

On Wednesday, October 5, a coach will be going to London in the morning to the Overseas Sale organised by the Mothers' Union and held in Church Hall, Westminster. All Y.W. members and friends have been invited, and the coach will leave London at 3.30 p.m. This is an excellent opportunity to get up to town and do some early Christmas shopping. The Overseas Sale offers a great variety of goods from many foreign countries, and the shops in Victoria Street are just around the corner. Further details from Mrs. Bellingham (TED. Lock 2542).

On Saturday, October 15, the annual combined Young Wives' and Mothers' Union Jumble Sale will take place in the Hall, starting at 2.30 p.m. Contributions are needed and everything will be welcomed. Please contact committee members about collection of jumble.

We are very pleased to send congratulations to Judy Mitchell and her husband on the birth of their second son, Stuart, on July 28. We have also heard that Audrey Hunt has had another baby, a daughter, born in May. Audrey, her husband and children emigrated to Australia last December and seem to be settling down very well.

Congratulations also to Helen and Alan Taylor on the birth of a daughter on September 7.

J.B.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP

On July 17, Wayside was crammed with young people from Hampton and Hampton Hill for a Folk Evening led by Peter Mortimore on the occasion of the first meeting of the Junior Council of Churches. This Council has been set up under the Chairmanship of our own Raymond Draper to promote joint activities between the church youth groups of our area. We hope that many such successful evenings will follow this one. A youth service and barbecue has already been arranged for Saturday, September 24, at All Saints, Hampton.

Our activities are not only confined to the Hamptons! September 3 saw 11 eager young men take up their positions in a cricket match against the Shepperton Crusaders. The weather and good fortune were with us — we won by six wickets.

We find that one of the major problems in our Old People's Scheme is to keep gardens looking as such, and not as wildernesses. Two major assaults have recently been made, one on Mrs. Cooper's garden and the other on Miss Lush's, to add to a long list of weeding and lawn-mowing around the parish.

Unorganised Friday evenings are now abolished — instead we plan to have visits to concerts, theatres and cinemas, swimming parties, musical evenings, debates — anything, in fact, that arouses enthusiasm. A magazine will be coming out shortly with Ruth Woodhouse as editor, and Ruth Mills will be getting us in tune for Christmas with carol practices on alternative Fridays.

A date not to be forgotten is Friday, October 28, when we hold our Annual General Meeting. All members are asked to attend if possible.

The Sunday evening meetings for the next 3 months will be as follows:—

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| Oct. | 2 | Christ's attitude to the family. |
| „ | 9 | Christ's attitude to his hearers. |
| „ | 16 | Christ's attitude to foreigners. |
| „ | 23 | Book Review. |
| „ | 30 | God is my career (Guest Speaker). |
| Nov. | 6 | James Ch. I. |
| „ | 13 | James Ch. II. |
| „ | 20 | James Ch. III. |
| „ | 27 | Guest Speaker. |
| Dec. | 4 | James Ch. IV. |
| „ | 11 | James Ch. V. |
| „ | 18 | Favourite verse. |

There will be no meeting on Christmas Day.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

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| Oct. | 5. | Coach to Mothers' Union Overseas Sale at Church House, Westminster. |
| „ | 6. | 7.15 p.m. Harvest Thanksgiving: Special form of service — “Bread is made for Laughter”; 8.30 p.m. Harvest Supper and Entertainment — tickets 5/- (Hall). |

- „ 9.—Continuation of Harvest Festival: Sunday Services as usual, but instead of Sunday Schools, a special form of Children's Service at 11.00 a.m.
- „ 10.—8.00 p.m. Hampton Council of Churches: Prayer and Discussion Group—Open Evening, with film or special speaker (All Saints' Hall).
- „ 11.—8.00 p.m. Stewardship Committee (106, Park Road).
- „ 12.—10.00 a.m. Editorial Board (52, Park Road).
- „ 13.—8.00 p.m. MRI Group (35 St. James's Avenue)
- „ 15.—2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union and Young Wives' Group: Jumble Sale (Hall).
- „ 16.—5.15 p.m. Young People's Fellowship at Laurel Dene.
- „ 17.—7.45 p.m. Bishop of London's "PROJECT NAIL" Meeting (Central Hall, Westminster: six representatives from every parish).
- „ 18.—St. Luke: Holy Communion at 9.00 a.m.
- „ 20.—8.00 p.m. First of a series of "At Homes" for newcomers to the parish (W). By invitation.
- „ 21.—8.00 p.m. Parochial Church Council (W).
- „ 24.—8.00 p.m. Ruridecanal Conference (St. Mary's Hall, Twickenham).
- „ 26.—8.00 p.m. Young Wives' Group: "Antique Glass" (W).
- „ 29.—8.00 p.m. Halloween Dance—tickets 6/- (Hall).
- „ 30.—6.30 p.m. Evensong and "Feed the Minds" film.
- „ 31.—8.00 p.m. Hampton Council of Churches: Annual General Meeting (W).
- Nov. 1.—7.15 a.m. All Saints' Day: Holy Communion at 7.15 a.m.
- „ 3.—2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union: Mrs. M. R. Brown—"The Second Object" (W).
- „ 5.—6.00 p.m. Parish Bonfire Party (Laurel Dene). Admission by ticket only.
- „ 17.—7.45 p.m. ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP REVIEW (Hall).
- „ 17—20.—Lee Abbey Weekend at High Leigh.
- „ 20.—STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY.

BAPTISMS

- Aug. 28.—Scott Alexander Bentman, 36, Westbank Road.
- „ 28.—Ellen Mary Cheney, 12, Hartland Road.
- „ 28.—Sarah Julie Harding, 1, Myrtle Road.
- „ 28.—Adrian Richard Levenson, 2, Ringwood Way.
- „ 28.—Richard Michael and Robert William Wye, 43, Rectory Grove.
- Sept. 19.—Frances Elizabeth Harris, 33, Beech Way (at the Parish Communion).

MARRIAGES

- Aug. 21.—Robert Anthony Jones to Marion Ann Bowler.
- Sept. 3.—Brian Geoffrey Empson to Audrey Hankey.
- „ 3.—Sidney George Parsons to Pamela Joyce Taylor.
- „ 24.—Geoffrey Michael Stacey to Maureen Sheila Moore.