

OUR VISIT TO ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

At 7.30 p.m. on April 26 in the Crypt Mrs. Margery Orton gave a talk on the history of Hampton Hill, illustrated by slides—there was some delay owing to a technical difficulty with the projector, but Mrs. Orton undaunted commenced and soon the slides were illuminated on the white wall of the Crypt—as they say in their “Parish Matters” (the weekly bulletin issued by the Church of St. Francis de Sales) it was “an account . . . delivered with great fluency and amply interspersed with amusing anecdotes and quotations from contemporary records.” There was a most appreciative audience of over a hundred people made up of members of the host church and St. James’.

This was followed by refreshments giving the opportunity for a get-together and a Babel filled the Crypt as people conversed. Father Waldron, having passed a vote of thanks to Mrs. Orton, then invited us to go with him after the interval on a tour of the church. Upon entering one was struck by the simplicity of the building—we sat in the pews whilst Father Waldron explained the origin of the ground on which the church stands, its construction, and its many interesting features. He invited and answered questions and then left us to walk around to see for ourselves.

The villa which had been the priests’ house was originally the Vicarage of St. Michael and St. George, which was bought by the Roman Catholics, and St. Margaret’s was a prefabricated building erected in 1928. Only the ground plans had to be approved of the new church, which was the “brainchild” of Father Waldron and the architects in consultation every step of the way.

The design is one of straight lines leading upwards, its essence is functional and there is little to distract; one’s attention is directed to the focal point—the altar, standing in an unadorned sanctuary (the priest now stands behind it facing the people). There is no ventilation and no waste of the underfloor heating, the church is completely sealed once the doors are closed. The pews are of a warm, soft-looking timber afromosia, with kneelers that fold up; the long strip stained glass windows from floor to ceiling in beautiful colours and abstract designs, broken only by a panelling of pine around the church carrying the Stations of the Cross in simple carvings. A very interesting point was the Tabernacle with its front made from strips of copper which, catching the light, gives a jewelled effect. There is a gallery at the back for the choir that at present houses a small Compton organ until such time as sufficient funds are available to build a full-size pipe organ. On the South side of the church is the Family Chapel, with particularly fine stained glass windows depicting the Divine Plan for the Salvation of Man: (1) Creation out of chaos; (2) The Annunciation, the Marriage Feast, emblems of the Passion and the Resurrection; (3) The Apocalypse, the sacrifice of the Lamb and the descent of the Holy Ghost. This Chapel is used for private prayer, and on Sundays for the Sunday School, also where parents may bring any fractious children from the main church. The Baptismal Font has a splendid copper covering—it is situated North of the entrance lobby. This lobby contains a booth for the purchase of books and other services. There is also the mundane but nevertheless advantageous inclusion of toilet facilities.

This gives a necessarily restricted account of our very pleasant evening and we thank all those who gave their time (and energies) to

welcoming us to St. Francis de Sales. Hampton Hill has gained another beautiful church which is well worth a visit.

D.W.

THE PASSION PLAY
Wembley Stadium, April 28, 1967.

“But what did you go out to see?” A technically brilliant production, imaginatively conceived, moving effortlessly across the bare stage in the vast half-empty arena? A system of lighting that was a marvel of ingenuity and complexity? The remarkably apt timing and placing of a troupe of German actors miming automatically to words recorded in a tongue foreign to all but a few of them? A panorama of beautiful colour and booming sound? A three-dimensional presentation of familiar Biblical pictures?

“But what did you go out to see?” Matthias Kaindl, carpenter of Thiersee, portraying Christ, impressive, noble, but nevertheless rendered puppet-like by the exigencies of his alien setting?—a lay figure mouthing word by word the mellifluous English accompaniment recorded by Tony Britten?—a near-robot moving across the silently manipulated stage with implacable inevitability? A band of Israelites transformed suddenly into mere actors by stepping forward to receive their meed of applause from an audience uncertain as to whether applause was really fitting?

In Lothar Bock's production the warmth and power of the Christian message and of Christ himself was hidden beneath the scientific precision of man's ingenuity. A cold passion, this—but which nevertheless cast the light of speculative imagination on the motives and actions of men. The calculation, the bigotry, the greed and opportunism, the weakness and inability to understand—these were all there, but to one viewer at least, the love, compassion and power to overcome which is to be found in simple black and white in the Gospels was almost entirely missing.

M.O.

PARISH WEEKEND BOOKING FORM

Name (s)

Address

Please reserve place (s) for adults children (under 12) for the Parish Weekend at Hildenborough Hall on September 15, 16, 17, 1967, and I/We would prefer:—

- A room £5 10 0
- B room £4 15 0
- C room £4 5 0
- D room £3 5 0 (reserved for people under 21)

(For details of room differences please see notice board at Wayside).

The prices are only approximate at present, and must depend on the numbers attending the weekend.

I ENCLOSE DEPOSIT (10/- per person).

Signed Date

S.H.

THE PARISH WEEKEND — September 15-17

Hildenborough Hall was built in the 1930's by Sir Oliver Lyle, and evidently no cost was spared. It forms the centre of an extensive estate and is delightfully situated facing South, 700 ft. up in the Otford Hills. It has recently been redecorated and furnished throughout, and has a feeling of spacious comfort. Nearly all the bedrooms have hot and cold running water, and there are numerous bathrooms. Among the many amenities are a 16th century dining hall, a conference lounge equipped with easy chairs, two smaller lounges, spacious terrace, coffee bar, well-stocked shop, a games room and a private chapel. In the grounds are tennis courts and a swimming pool.

The home is well fitted for a conference, and should be ideal for a relaxing and refreshing weekend. It was felt that there may have been too great a concentration of conference sessions at Stoke Poges, so we have tried to provide more leisure time this year so that full use can be made of facilities provided. The cost includes Sunday night accommodation, and breakfast on Monday morning, but transport will be arranged for those who have to return on Sunday. We shall gather for dinner on Friday evening.

A number of reservations have already been made, and the more luxurious accommodation is limited. We shall be glad to receive further reservations as soon as possible. Approximate charges for children were given in the May magazine.

Please send forms and deposits to Mrs. Dawn Harris, 33 Beech Way, Twickenham, Middx., who will also accept small sums of money in instalments towards the final cost.

WEL-CARE

JUST AN AVERAGE YEAR

SHE makes 1,500 telephone calls . . . writes 1,000 letters . . . pays 800 personal visits . . . gives 1,000 interviews . . . all to help an average of 200 unhappy, anxious families, in every year of her hard-working life.

Who is she? Your own local Wel-Care worker. In a typical year—1966—Wel-Care's trained social caseworkers dealt with 2,426 cases of illegitimate maternity, 321 aftercare cases, 135 children and young persons and 157 matrimonial problems—totalling 3,039 cases.

Wel-Care is a vitally important Christian social service, offered by the Church for the benefit of the community. In every borough, the Wel-Care "team" gives the co-ordinated help of a Chairman—usually a Vicar—an Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, one or more Wel-Care caseworkers, and part-time secretarial helpers.

To lighten the too heavy burden of the Wel-Care caseworkers; to help Wel-Care carry on its Christian work; and to maintain its 7 Homes and Hostels in the Diocese, YOUR interest, aid and prayers are needed. Informative literature, with a wealth of ideas on how you can personally contribute, is readily available. Contact your local Wel-Care worker, Miss D. M. Kemp, or Wel-Care's Diocesan Office, St. Andrew's Street, London, E.C.4. Telephone: LUDgate 0910.

THE YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

On April 26 we had a speaker from the Red Cross talking to us on First Aid, followed on May 3 by another Red Cross Speaker whose

subject was Home Nursing. We are grateful to both ladies for giving their time and the benefit of their experience to us. Although attendance was small on both occasions, those of us present had plenty of questions to put.

The Red Cross is organising, in Twickenham, a series of five lectures on First Aid. These will be held once weekly in the evenings, and as soon as dates have been finalised we shall publicise them, as this is a subject of interest to so many people.

Our June 28 meeting will be a talk on Hair Care by a Hampton hairdresser, and we hope to see many more members there than at the last two meetings.

On Wednesday, June 14, we are holding our annual Baptismal Party for mothers of babies baptised during the last year. All members are invited along to meet these mothers and their babes, and to help with the catering. J.B.

THE CHURCHYARD

The Churchyard Guardians invite you to help in a MASS ATTACK on the clearance and upkeep of the Churchyard for THE WEEK JUNE 17 to 24.

This is an innovation — A WHOLE WEEK — COME ANYTIME — IT'S ALL YOURS! BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND RELATIONS and DO SOME GOOD FOR THE PARISH AND YOURSELVES on the Saturdays and week-day evenings.

MEN!!! TRY THE OUTDOOR LIFE!

LADIES!!! INDULGE YOUR TASTE FOR GARDENING!

PARISH GROUPS are asked each to choose their very own SPECIAL DAY(S) and have a grand time together—you'll be AMAZED what you can do.

COME ON THE Y.P.F., THE M.U., THE YOUNG WIVES' (and husbands), THE SCOUTS, THE CHOIR. Let's have a clean sweep of the weeds and long grass.

Do let the Churchyard Guardians know what you intend to do and if a weekday after is preferred this can be arranged.

R.M.B. and D.L.

THE MOTHERS' UNION

With the passing of Mrs. Beatrice Wilcox on April 29, at Hampton Court House, our Branch has lost a very faithful member. In recent years her activities had been curtailed by ill-health, but, at one time Mrs. Wilcox was always to be found presiding over the catering, whether the meeting was held in the old School room, the Parish Hall or Wayside. Admitted to the Mothers' Union in 1923, Mrs. Wilcox was our longest serving member. Her daughter remembers being taken to M.U. meetings as a tiny child and continues: "I am sure the principles of the Mothers' Union were deep in her heart for she gave us such a happy life." Could there be a better tribute?

Mrs. Prentice gathered together a small choir to take part in the funeral service, and this was much appreciated by the family, to whom we extend our sympathy.

A cheque for £4, has been sent to the Overseas Fund, this was received from the Lenten envelopes. Any other envelopes should be handed to the Treasurer, Mrs. Young.

I should like to express my thanks to all members of the committee for the work they did while I was ill recently, and to thank all of you for your kind messages, cards, letters, gifts and visits, they were all much appreciated.

Summer Outing. Mrs. Oliver will be glad to receive names of those wishing to join us on our visit to Chichester on Thursday, June 15. We plan to leave fairly early (after children have gone to school) and take a picnic lunch with us. We shall be stopping for a light tea on the return journey, and getting back by late afternoon. We are to be shown round Shippam's Factory at 1.15 p.m. On arrival we shall visit the Cathedral. Any one interested is very welcome to join us.
I.V.R.

MISCELLANEA

Those of the congregation who sit near enough to them will have been delighted this last few weeks with the new white book-marks: they are of delicate and charming design, most beautifully carried out by Mrs. Milns, who has presented them to the church.

Buildings Span Limited recently had a letter correctly and speedily delivered to them by the postman though it was addressed simply 'No. 20 Holy Hampton Hill.' This opens up a fascinating range of speculation! We know that things are vastly different now from the state of affairs so vividly described by Mrs. Orton in her lectures—"the drink-sodden, unruly, miserable parish with its equally miserable inhabitants" dwelling among their over-flowing or else non-existent cesspools, its gentry fearing that street-lighting would result in an increase of immorality—but we feel there is perhaps some slight exaggeration here of the heights actually attained!

You might think that a cold and wet day in the middle of May was enough to take the joy out of any parish outing. But you would be wrong! Our outing to Rochester was greatly enjoyed by all who went. It is true that the Castle, the Eastgate Museum and, of course, the Cathedral, all provided roof and shelter against the elements, but they were also well worth visiting in their own right, and not even a double burst of thunder could spoil our enjoyment of Evensong, sitting as we did in the chancel surrounded by fine professional singing. The other contribution to our pleasure was the quietly efficient arrangements made by the Social Committee.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

- June 3.—2.30 p.m. Wel-care Garden Fete, St. George's Rectory, Hanworth.
.. 5.—8.0 p.m. "The People Next Door": Meeting to discuss findings and plan the next steps (Congregational Church Church Hall).
.. 7.—2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union (W); 7.30 p.m. Annual Wel-care Service, followed by refreshments and speaker (St. Peter's, Eaton Square).
.. 10.—2.30 p.m. Old People's Welfare Committee: Dog Show

- June 10.—(Fulwell Sports Ground: entries to Mrs. Sheldon, 5, Hampton Road).
- „ 13.—2.30 p.m. Editorial Board (52, Park Road).
- „ 14.—3.0 p.m. Garden Party for mothers of babies recently baptised (Vicarage lawn).
- „ 15.—Mothers' Union Outing to Chichester.
- „ 17.—SEVEN-DAY MASS ATTACK IN CHURCHYARD BEGINS.
- „ 19.—8.0 p.m. Council for Mission: Scheme for Ecumenical Road Stewards (venue to be notified).
- „ 21.—7.30 p.m. PARISH AT HOME: ALL WELCOME (Vicarage Garden).
- „ 24.—3.30 p.m. Old People's Party (Hall).
- „ 27.—8.0 p.m. Parochial Church Council (W).
- „ 28.—8.0 p.m. Young Wives' Group: 'Hair Care' (W).
- „ 29.—St. Peter's Day: 9.0 a.m. Holy Communion; 8.0 p.m. Stewardship Committee — New Members' Party (W).
- July 3.—8.0 p.m. Properties Committee (36, St. James's Road); 8.0 p.m. Hampton Council of Churches: Quarterly Meeting of Committee (St. Mary's Church).
- „ 19.—8.0 p.m. Parochial Church Council (W).
- „ 20.—8.0 p.m. Stewardship Committee (106, Park Road).
- „ 25.—ST. JAMES'S DAY: PATRONAL FESTIVAL — 7.0 p.m. Parish Communion; 7.45 p.m. Parish at Home — ALL INVITED.
- Sept. 15-19.—PARISH WEEKEND.

BAPTISMS

On April 23:

Linda June Byrne, 62, Windmill Road.
 Stephen June Sully, 5, Stem Lane, New Milton, Hants.

MARRIAGES

On March 25: Christopher Wren to Susan Clare Davies.

Terence Peter Hill to Emily Lillian Holliday.

Eric Cyril Bendell to Jacqueline Brenda Elphick.

On April 29: Alan Joseph Armstrong to Anne Marie Bonson.

BURIALS & CREMATIONS

On April 26: Doris May Feron, Rosemary, Point Devoran. Truro and formerly of 39, Park Road, aged 61 years (interment of ashes).

On May 3: Kate Gertrude Brook, Ashford Hospital, and formerly of 56, Myrtle Road, aged 79 years.

On May 5: Beatrice Hannah Wilcox, Hampton Court House, and formerly of 12, Eastbank Road, aged 79 years.

On May 11: Muriel Harriet Shaw Spencer, 1, Cardinal's Walk, aged 69 years (at S.W. Middlesex Crematorium, followed by interment of ashes in Churchyard on May 17).

On May 16: Herbert Edward Dorrell, 42, Myrtle Road, aged 67 years (at S.W. Middlesex Crematorium).

On May 22: Charles Edward Wiggins, 38, Myrtle Road, aged 69 years (at S.W. Middlesex Crematorium).