

VICAR'S NOTES

Lent 1968.—The Church Council felt (though not unanimously) that this year, especially as it had not been possible to make any plans for a united ecumenical series for the area, the Lenten course should give us the opportunity for learning more about the Christian Faith and its application to life from men of experience and authority, rather than just from discussion from amongst ourselves, as in 'People Next Door' and 'No small change'. (Not that this discussion was valueless—much could and can come of it if the way forward is not perpetually blocked by strong conservative forces: see the excellent and challenging PND Report 'Agenda for the Churches,' SCM Press 4/-).

It was easier to feel that this would be a good thing than to arrange it, but in the end—though rather late for publicising it beforehand—we have been able to arrange what should be an excellent course, through the kind co-operation of the Chaplains of the Guild of Health, Canon H. Wallace Bird and the Reverend Lewis Maclachlan, both of whom will be coming to speak themselves. Canon Wallace Bird, vicar of St. Mark's, Kennington, for over fifteen years before his 'retirement,' has recently come back from a tour in the U.S.A.: a much-travelled man and a brilliant speaker, he, like his colleague, is now some way into his vigorous seventies, though you wouldn't think it to look at him—or hear him speak! Mr. Maclachlan, a distinguished Presbyterian minister with a dry sense of humour, is the author of a number of excellent little books on Prayer which could well be on our bookstall—and will be if there is any sign of a demand ('Intelligent Prayer,' 'The Teaching of Jesus on Prayer,' 'How to Pray for Healing,' 'Commonsense about Prayer,' etc.). Another speaker later in the month will be Mr. Dan Pilkington, now helping at St. Mary's, Twickenham, after years of service in the Church overseas.

The general theme of the course is 'The Lord's Prayer in Today's World,' and it will run on six consecutive Thursdays from February 29 to April 4 at Wayside. Coffee at 7.30 p.m. Address starts at 7.45 p.m.; questions and discussion 8.30—9.00 p.m.

We hope that Wayside will be packed to the doors for the whole course—but this depends on you!

Parish Weekend 1969.—After the success of our two previous efforts, we all felt that, after a reasonable breathing-space, we must have another, so Hildenborough Hall has again been booked from May 9 to 12 next year. We want you to note the dates now, and mark them in your diary. Booking-forms will shortly be available, and it will be possible to pay the fees by monthly instalments. The Liturgical Committee (taking over from—or rather, incorporating—the MRI Group,) has already begun to work and plan to make the weekend as fully helpful and inspiring as we know how to make it, and we would welcome any suggestions (preferably in writing!) about the general theme and form of the conference, special points to be raised in discussion, and any other relevant ideas people might have. We should also like to fill the whole 68 places this time.

Parish Holiday 1970?—There are a number of people who feel that by 1970 we ought to be able to manage something rather more ambitious than just a weekend together, and think instead of a week or even longer of conference, holiday or pilgrimage. One idea that immediately presents itself is of course a visit to Oberammergau for the Passion Play. Brochures and leaflets are already coming to hand

about this, and if we want to go we have only a few months in which to decide, or all the places will be taken. The Church Council has discussed the matter, but made no decision: they want to know what the general feeling and demand is—in other words, what *you* think. Please therefore write and tell us (a) whether you think the scheme a good one, and if so (b) what time of year you would prefer to go and (c) for how long.

The brochures quote, for instance: ‘Oberammergau by coach, combined with a tour of seven countries: 8 days 50 guineas (47½ if a minimum of 40 persons); 12 days 57—59½ guineas’; ‘Oberammergau combined with the Austrian Tyrol, with travel by train—7 days 39½ guineas, 10 days 46 guineas’; and so on.

If the interest warrants it, the Church Council, or one of its committees, will immediately after Easter get on with the task of finding out further details and formulating definite plans. So please let us have your reactions as soon as possible.

Distress 1968.—None of us can now isolate himself from the knowledge of distress, suffering and injustice in the world. Modern mass media bring the sights and sounds of war and violence into our very living-rooms in a way which was unknown to our grandparents. The sobs of orphaned children, the grief of the widowed mother of the starving child, the anguish of the horribly wounded soldier or maimed civilian—all is made vividly real for us. It is little use just being harrowed and depressed by all this: we must be fortified by grace to face it and do something about it. (Writing in this way, I wonder if I was justified in writing the previous paragraph. Is it right in times like these to think of spending upwards of £50—supposing that we can by an effort of scrimping and saving afford it—on a trip to Oberammergau, however spiritually profitable this might be—let alone more than twice this amount on one of those pilgrimages to the Holy Land which we are constantly being invited to take? I suppose it can be justified only if—among other things—we actually increase our giving for the relief of the world’s poor, at real cost to ourselves, instead of—as we might well be tempted to do in order to raise the money—cutting it down.)

With regard to the urgent need for food, clothing, medical supplies and help of all kind in Vietnam, the Church Council at its last meeting decided to make an immediate gift, and it is just being sent off as I write. All proceeds from the Holy Week ‘austerity lunch’ on April 10 will be for the same purpose, and also all offerings (apart of course from envelopes) on Good Friday. A good discipline for all of us during Lent would be to spend less on some luxury which we have come to regard as normal, and give the money saved to the relief of distress.

Memorial Funds.—We should be grateful for any more contributions for memorials (or it may have to be, if those concerned agree, a single joint memorial) with respect to the late Mr. Stephen Forrow and Miss Amy Lush, as these funds will definitely close at Easter. A credence table is what we have in mind; it will be constantly used, and also an adornment to the church, as the present rickety and makeshift arrangement is not.

SUNDAY DISCUSSIONS

Our last Sunday evening discussion—on the subject of heaven—was not so well-attended as the first, but again the groups had almost

forcibly to be stopped from continuing their lively arguments long after the specified time. No general conclusion was reached, but most felt that heaven must be a place of some kind as well as a state—but if we ask where, then the conception of a system of more dimensions than our own cramped world of space and time is probably most useful. It was thought that hell, though a reality, could not be everlasting: it was hard to believe that God's love could ever be finally defeated, and heaven could surely not endure the existence of a perpetual concentration-camp on its door-step, even if those who lived there seemed to enjoy it in some warped fashion. We talked about the glorious conception of the Vision of God, and the fullness and richness of life that God intends for his children as they become able to receive it. But the final word is—as one of those taking part said—that of a wondrous mystery beyond our present understanding.

The next discussion evening on March 10 is being run entirely by members of the Young People's Fellowship, and the question they have in mind to put to us is given under 'Dates' at the end of this magazine.

NEWCOMERS' PARTY

Another newcomers' party was held at Wayside on January 30 (thanks to the efforts of various members of the church)—over three dozen newcomers to the district accepted the invitation and were entertained by "older-newcomers and old-comers."

The guests were welcomed by the Vicar and Mrs. Brunt and were soon chatting easily whilst regaled with excellent refreshments and coffee. At the proper time the Vicar, reassuring his congenial audience firstly that there was "no catch" (he said that often when the Vicar gets to his feet people think that this means a collection or some such!) but that the slides would now be shown and he gave an introductory outline of the history of Hampton Hill which the slides would cover, with a commentary by Helen Taylor. It proved very interesting and we saw the history of the area from over 100 years, most of it documented by the photographs. It was surprising (or is it?) that so many of the landmarks are public houses which we still see.

Afterwards coffee and conversation again flowed freely and all too soon a pleasant "get together" drew to a close with we hope new friends made.

M.R.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

THE GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ date is now **TUESDAY, MARCH 12, NOT** March 14 (as previously announced) at Wayside. Three teams of four, from the P.C.C., the Mothers' Union/the Young Wives' and the Y.P.F., will compete. There are only 36 spectator tickets, price 6d. each (inclusive of refreshments!!!) **SO APPLY EARLY.**

THE BATTLE COMMENCES at 8 p.m.!! Question Master: Mr. Jack Gostling. Referee: Mr. Brian Reep.

On April 23 a stupendous **GAMES EVENING** will be held at Wayside. Every conceivable game which can be played in the space available will be there for your amusement and entertainment. Fuller details in the April magazine.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

May 25. Coach outing to Beaulieu Abbey and Montague Motor Museum.

June 29. Barbecue in the Vicarage Garden.

R.B.

THE MOTHERS' UNION

The title of our February meeting was to be taken literally. "Hiding our heads" proved to be a most informative talk on millinery by Mrs. Lawrence, who not only gave us useful hints on how to make our own hats, but also brought a variety of samples in all colours, shapes and sizes. To our great pleasure we were afterwards invited to try them all on, and this offer was very quickly accepted. As every woman knows, the next best thing to buying a new hat is to "just try one on"! We were very pleased to welcome visitors to this meeting and hope they will come and support us again in the future.

On February 14 Miss M. Munro, a C.M.S. worker who has recently returned from Nigeria, came to talk to us. We held this event in the Hall and made it a Deanery occasion, with representatives from about 10 parishes attending. In all about 80 people heard Miss Munro's most interesting talk, which was illustrated with coloured slides. We were given a picture of a country of most vivid contrasts—we saw the very rich and the very poor; the educated families and the illiterates; the modern hospitals and the medicine man with his heap of bones and feathers. Just imagine the difficulty of working in a country with so many different tribes and over 250 dialects! We, from St. James', were very pleased to see a slide of the church at Ife to which our linked Branch is attached.

Miss Munro suggests there are three ways in which we can help:

1. By prayer.
2. By helping stranded students who are in this country and have not received any money from Nigeria since the civil war started.
3. When the conflict is over we can help by allowing our young people to go out there and work, possibly through V.C.O. or the Missionary Societies.

Our next meeting is on March 6 when Mrs. Lambert will speak on "Why should it happen to me?" This is a talk on death and bereavement and should help us in our attitude to this problem. If any non-members would care to attend they will be most warmly welcome.

There will be our Mothers' Union Corporate Communion in church on Lady Day, March 25, at 10 a.m., and we hope all members will try to attend.

G.H. and P.Y.

THE CHRISTIAN AID WEEK COMMITTEE met in January and made plans for publicising the appeal. Although Christian Aid week does not commence until May 13, it is apparent that many more collectors will be required, and if you feel that you could, and wish to, help this worthy cause by delivering and collecting envelopes in your road (or part of a road) during that week, the Area secretaries for our church (Mrs. M. Orton, Tel. 979 5868 or Mrs. D. Warwick, Tel. 979 7004) will be very pleased to hear from you at any time.

The increase in the number of houses and flats in our area adds to the work each year and the more assistance we get the lighter the work for all concerned.

Thank you in anticipation of your response to this call for help!

Extracts from letters from Athens (where Anne Warwick is working and living in the Hilton Hotel).

. . . . in our room the great big floor to ceiling window is open I can see across Athens to the Parthenon floodlit. I cannot describe the Hotel, it is fantastic! We dance right at the top of the Hilton, all the walls are glass, ceiling to floor sliding windows and one can walk out on to the marble balcony where there are fountains and gardens all the way round, with the most beautiful views across Athens to the sea. In Summer the roof slides back so that the roof is the sky

We started the Christmas Eve show just after 12 p.m. so it was really Christmas Day, all the tables were full, lit by candles with baubles and holly crossed with red ribbons when we came to our rooms the Manager gave us little bottles of perfume, and Champagne and cake arrived we met the members of the Australian band who are here for 10 days—they told us about their voyage on a ramshackle boat to Greece, and about Australia. I finally got to bed about 5 a.m. and was up at 10 to go to church. I found the Anglican church but it was closed, I was so upset So I went into a Russian Orthodox, which was beautiful and ablaze with candles and when I thought of you all at home I just wanted to be there with you. I came back through a beautiful park where they were playing the besuchi, the national instrument, and little children were running around with presents from one of the Father Christmas's who looked strange in the bright sunlight we looked for a Taverna—a cheap restaurant—around the Plake, this is the old part of Athens, below the Acropolis, where the people are not allowed to change their houses in shape or colour so that they will always look the same. There were shops full of magnificent wood carvings and intricate gold work for churches we went into a Greek Orthodox Cathedral and were given a white nylon posy, inside were sugared almonds.

New Year's Eve is fantastic here, we rehearsed from 3.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. a large stage had been erected dark blue velvet and silver icicles we practised getting in and out of boxes 2ft. 6in. x 2ft. 6in. I think well over 1,000 people were coming. At 12 a recording of Big Ben was played, we got in our boxes and were carried on—it was a strange sensation. Then I heard our music I pushed the lid up and wriggled out as quickly as I could to find I was the opposite end to where I was supposed to be—at first I thought I was the wrong way round. We really surprised the audience because all they saw was four boxes. It was a super show, the audience went mad

I had a super birthday a beautiful cake with 18 candles alight there was a card and present from everyone a gorgeous string of "worry" beads—every Greek I have met has some, they are just something to fiddle with instead of smoking or chewing your nails—mine were on a thin gold chain with pale turquoise misty beads We went to a famous club in the Plake where a well known man was playing the besuchi nearly all the Greek tunes we hear played were written by him we listened to this strange but beautiful music there was a famous Greek dancer there and after an hour he felt in the mood to dance and on a small stage performed marvellous turns and jumps. In appreciation the audience threw plates on the stage which seemed strange

SOME DATES TO NOTE

- .. 10.—6.30 p.m. Evensong, followed by discussion and refreshments at Wayside. Topic for discussion (chosen and introduced by members of the Young People's Fellowship): 'Is Church Unity likely to be a shot-gun marriage?'
- .. 12.—8.0 p.m. General Knowledge Quiz (W) (N.B.—Changed from 14).
- .. 14.—1.45 p.m. Lenten Meditation (L.E.H.S.); 7.30 for 7.45 p.m. Third talk in Lenten course by the Reverend Lewis Maclachlan (W).
- .. 17.—8.00 p.m. Junior Council of Churches (All Saints').
- .. 20.—8.15 p.m. ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING, preceded by reception and social gathering from 7.30 p.m. onwards (Hall).
- .. 21.—10.30 a.m. Young Wives' Group Coffee Club morning (W); 1.45 p.m. Lenten Meditation (L.E.H.S.); 7.30 for 7.45 p.m. Fourth talk in Lenten course by the Reverend D. H. Pilkington (W).
- .. 24.—MOTHERING SUNDAY: Parish Communion at 9.30 a.m. will be the monthly Family and Parade Service, and it is hoped that many families will make a special point of worshipping on this occasion.
- .. 25.—The Annunciation: Holy Communion at 10.00 a.m.
- .. 27.—8.00 p.m. Young Wives' Group: 'Wine-making' (W).
- .. 28.—7.30 for 7.45 p.m. Fifth talk in Lenten course by the Reverend D. H. Pilkington (W).
- .. 31.—5.15 p.m. Members of Y.P.F. lead service at Laurel Dene.
- Apr. 2.—8.00 p.m. Hampton Council of Churches: Quiet Evening in St. James's Church.
- .. 10.—12.30 - 2.00 p.m. Holy Week Austerity Lunch (W).

BAPTISMS

On January 28:

Robert Simon Gosling, 170, Uxbridge Road.

Lisa Jane Fisher, 41, St. James's Road.

John Wapshott, 198, Hanworth Road.

On February 25:

Vanessa Louise Jones, 18, St. John's Road, Hanworth.

MARRIAGE

On February 24:

Brian Reginald Cullern to Sandra Rush.

BURIAL

On February 26:

Alice Maud Hoggett, 216A, Uxbridge Road, aged 93 years (at Teddington Cemetery).