

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

The first aim of Stewardship Sunday is to remind us of the principles of stewardship:

As STEWARDS, we recognise that we own nothing, but are responsible to God for the use we make of all our time, abilities and money.

As CHRISTIAN STEWARDS we recognise that in order to show forth love for God and our neighbour we set aside some part of these possessions as a first priority.

The second aim of Stewardship Sunday is to help us to put these principles more fully into practice year by year:

First, we must see just what resources God has entrusted to us and just how we are using them now.

Second, we must be honest and see whether we really do consider that these things are God's or ours.

Third, we must pray and ask for guidance on the amount set aside to show our love.

Finally, we must act to meet the call of love.

SOME QUESTIONS :

What do I really mean when I say 'I haven't time'?

Do I consider that the way I use my money is my own business?

Do I think that the Church should not talk about money? That it isn't good?

Do I grumble?

Am I really a cheerful giver?

How do other people know that I am a Christian?

What difference to my standard of living has my giving made so far this year?

(The above is taken with grateful acknowledgements from the leaflet produced by Mr. H. Roy Whiteley for the St. Alban's Diocese. Many of us are eagerly looking forward to having him with us for the Annual Review on November 21, at which he will be the main speaker: we well remember the sterling work he did when we first began to approach Stewardship through our own home-made Christian Giving Scheme eleven years ago. Mr. Whiteley became so interested in the development of Stewardship that not long after he had left this parish to live in Hertfordshire he gave up an important and well-paid scientific post to accept a much lower salary as full-time Stewardship Adviser in the Diocese of St. Alban's, an office which he still holds.)

GIVING

In making our Stewardship assessment, some of us do not pledge to the hilt, but leave a margin for spontaneous giving in answer to urgent calls to which the Church itself may not have sufficient funds in hand to be able to respond immediately. There have been a number of such urgent calls recently one of the latest being that for the relief of the survivors of the Persian earthquake. But when the appeal is made, we still sometimes have a struggle with ourselves such as is described by the writer of the following lines:

The Vicar said "There is a plate
upon the table to receive your gifts
for the unfortunate, please give."

I thought, "I will—don't let me forget." I
nearly forgot but caught a glimpse
of the plate on leaving and was reminded.

(So lightly touched by tragedy)

was I to forget so easily.)

“What shall I give, a half-a-crown?

Many people will give nothing so I will be more generous than they.”

“Big Deal!—does it *hurt* you then, half-a-crown?

It *hurts* to be starved, flooded out, deprived.”

“I’ll give ten shillings—that’s a *lot*.”

“It is—two packets of fags and two thirds of your next hairdo.” “Not a *pound*?”

“Beginning to smart a little? How much was your new hat? that flask of wine?”

A pound then, given for shame at last.

A sacrifice? No fags, hair tended to at home, no hat, no wine no food, no limbs, no home, no love, no learning, no hope

“Feed my sheep harder for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven” Jesus said.

(The writer knows that to some people 2s. 6d. presents more sacrifice than £1 to others—the parable of the widow’s mite was set down to instruct us all.)

THE HARVEST CELEBRATIONS

October is always the month when we celebrate the Harvest Festival with a supper in the Church Hall. This year, after attending a Thanksgiving Service, over a 100 people enjoyed a meal of cold meat, salad, fruit with mousse, and a choice of cold beverage, followed by coffee. Then as we sat at our tables we were entertained by four talented friends of Mr. Jack Ford. A pianist, guitarist and two singers, who were much appreciated and also had no difficulty in getting us all to join in some ‘old favourites.’

Once again the organizers of this evening are to be congratulated, with thanks also to the ladies who prepared the tables and acted as hostesses. J.L.

The service this year took an unusual form, following a pattern of readings, hymns and anthems similar in structure to the service of lessons and carols at Christmas. Some of the readings were from the Bible, others from poets and sages down the centuries, and the climax came with extracts from a striking, bang-up-to-date leading article in the *New Christian*. The effect of it all was both moving and challenging: thanksgiving leading to a resolve to greater commitment to the fight against world poverty.

The produce and flowers with which the church was beautifully decorated by a hard-working band of ladies was distributed by some of the same untiring group to a number of sick and old people in and around the parish or in hospital on the following Monday.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE NEWS

We are holding a “Beetle” Drive in Wayside on Wednesday, December 4, at 8 p.m. Tickets will be available shortly, price 1/- (including refreshments).

The usual Carol Singing round the Parish will take place on Friday December 20. This will be followed by hot drinks and mince pies at Wayside. Further details will be on posters.

R.M.G.

ST. JAMES'S TUESDAY CLUB

Quite a number of people attended the coffee evening on 1st October to launch the Tuesday Club, and everyone seemed very interested in the plans made for our new venture.

It has been decided to meet on alternate Tuesdays, with a speaker invited once a month and the other meeting being kept free for discussion or a programme of current or topical interest.

On October 15, our first meeting proper, we were very pleased to have Mrs. Holly Champion come and talk to us about the work of a woman councillor. She gave us an insight into the work involved, right from the time a candidate stands for election, and when we realised that a hard-working councillor spends five nights a week at committee meetings, official functions and so on, we felt quite honoured that Mrs. Champion was able to fit us into her packed engagement book. Apart from other council work Mrs. Champion is, of course, chairman of the Education Committee in the Richmond upon Thames area. Many questions were asked, ranging over a wide area of Council work, and I think we all ended the evening with a little more understanding and even some admiration for our often maligned councillors.

November 12 will be a discussion evening. On November 26 a party has been invited to sit in on a Council meeting at York House. Those interested in going should hand in their names on the 12th November. A programme will be arranged at Wayside or elsewhere for the remainder.

HAMPTON JUNIOR COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Thirty members of the Junior Council of Churches spent the weekend of September 20/22 at New Park, Cranleigh, a 500 year old house given to Help the Aged for use as part of an old people's home. They cleaned and decorated six bedrooms. Here follows an account of the week-end by one of the workers, Caroline Reynolds, from All Saints.

What a Weekend!

It was a real A.1 O.K. jigsaw puzzle picture of a country mansion: thick stout timber beams freckled with woodworm, and creamy plaster walls inside—outside coated with your genuine honeysuckling ivy creeper.

Yes, I'm spouting about the J.C.C. mob that wended their whizzing tyre tracks to renovate this wonderful place that will be opened as an Old Folks' home in June of next year.

It was fun, fun, fun, selotaped together with work, work, work—interspersed with minor hair-tearers, i.e. dead, squashed mice, stiff as lollies if held by the tail! Ugh!

Ever tried scraping distemper off a wall with nothing but a button?—don't bother. Luckily there was an airlift of real, live scrapers the following day.

Ann, our cook, did a magnificent apron flurry and conjured up some jolly, groovy grub, midst spoon banging, dish clanging, fist thumping howls of starvation and Trevor singing.

Our psychedelic cooker caught it when a sky shifting storm ripped out overhead and sent the carrots rattling and the cooker picked up its skirts and fused.

And meanwhile . . . in the garden, two gumbooted maidens were pruning the branched bone corset of the umbrella sycamore tree—with the hailstones falling around them. Ever felt you were cutting away the wrong end of the branch you're standing on? Not nice, especially

when moist autumn tumbles its soggy leaves in russet, brown, ochre and rouge and the sky rumbles in thunderous roars and spits flame.

But in the garden—full of dainty twirled iron gates, stairways leading nowhere, aisles of red rose bushes, and squares of green—I wished I had a parasol and a bustle and could mince lightly to a tea party on the lawn, in a flower besotted bonnet—. . . Yet the silence, the rain filled beds, windtorn red ragged roses, and half hidden stairs gave it a “secret garden” atmosphere, almost melancholy.

Midst dimly pink lit panelled rooms, with old gold After Eight clocks, and Granddaddy clocks with dangling silver pendulums, we had our Sunday morning service, an island on the hustle bustle, rush and tumble of a somersault weekend—

Crescendo swooped as white paint struck, striped and zipped across the scraped polyfilled walls, first one, then more, then the last sheet white, omo-dazzling, razamatazzling coat, midst the merry cheers of transistors and people dropping off trestles.

Sad as it was, our work was finished and the gangs drawn from the local churches youth groups were packed in cars and posted away. It was the finale of a hardworking couple of days, that included tripping over John's camera leads and giving Heinz souperday smiles as you were photographed with spaghetti worming and wriggling in the corner of your mouth.

Hard work and good fun knit the two together and
Seconds please!

HAMPTON HILL OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE COMMITTEE FETE

It was unfortunate that the Fete coincided with the return of the holiday party from Broadstairs. They were expected back at 2 p.m. and we were worried when they had not arrived at 4.15 p.m.! But, of course, it was the traffic that had held them up—I had forgotten that it was Bank Holiday week. The holiday-makers were relieved and grateful that the volunteer car drivers were still waiting, after more than two hours, to take them home with their cases. The Committee took 27 elderly ladies and 5 gentlemen—they had an enjoyable week and, fortunately, lovely weather. They suffered a few minor casualties (unprintable) but they were well looked after and soon recovered. The hotel, with a sea view, was most comfortable.

They were sorry to miss the Fete at Laurel Dene. Matron, as usual, made us very welcome. We raised the net sum of £160, which we considered very good, as we are a small committee.

We were supplemented by some Local Associations—Mrs. Williams of the Congregational Church ran the Stationery stall. The Brownies manned two side-shows. The B.P. Guild—Raffles, White Elephant. Mrs. Rockliffe and friends of St. James', who made £13 on the Cake Stall. Mrs. Cudmore and Mrs. Harries ably supervised the Children's Corner which was greatly appreciated by children and parents alike. Mrs. Curry and Mrs. Trotter, members of the Committee and O.P.W. members in their own right, being of pension age, with Mrs. Ogden, also an O.P.W. member and a very good saleswoman, who might have served her apprenticeship in Petticoat Lane; made a record £40 on their needlework and gift stall. Mrs. Wiseman, organiser of the Darby and Joan Club for many years, put on the Toy Stall. We were pleased to see so many of our friends which, when added to the Kneller Hall Band and Jackie Clarke's dancing display, completed a pleasant after-

noon in the sunshine in the lovely gardens of Laurel Dene. Thank you all very much.

L. MILLS, President.

WALK-IN

On Sunday, July 21, at 10.15 a.m., nine Y.P.F. members left the church armed with a cross, to attend a Walk-In from Trafalgar Square to St. Paul's Cathedral for a "Service of Dedication to the Cause of Human Rights and Racial Freedom" proposed by the Bishop of London. As the service was not until 6.30 p.m., we decided to walk all the way.

Fortunately it was a nice day as we strolled along the towpath from Teddington to Richmond, where we joined the roads until we came to the river again at Barnes. From here we walked to Hammer-smith where we stopped for lunch.

After our refreshment, one of our party was recognised (by his green socks!) by a member of another group also going to the Walk-In. So the other group joined us, enlarging our contingent considerably.

A few miles later we were joined by the Police Force who decided that they ought to support, or at least escort, our steadily growing group of about two hundred. It was great fun having to stop at red traffic lights, zebra crossings and the like.

Eventually we joined the main body of the Walk-In, and we walked, still Police escorted, to St. Paul's, which was crowded with people of many races and countries. The fellowship in the service was so great that the service was almost irrelevant. The hymns were very varied — from "Jerusalem" to "We shall overcome" and "Guide us, O thou great Redeemer" to "If I had a hammer." There was an address by the Bishop of London and a short talk by Simon Dee. Long John Baldry, Madeline Bell and an American group called the Forerunners sang songs in the service.

The service was followed by a rally in Paternoster Square. A.P.S.

THE GARDEN OF REST

Work on this is now proceeding apace. The new pathway has been laid, and the area in the middle has been thoroughly cleared of weeds and will soon be turfed. It should not then be many months before the turf is strongly-enough established for the interment of ashes to begin.

On June 23, a beautiful Book of Remembrance, given by Mrs. Childs and her sister in memory of their parents, was dedicated in church, and in this, for a small fee, the names of those whose ashes will lie there can be entered. A case for the book is in process of being made, so that when ready it may be permanently on view in church.

TOGETHER IN PRAYER

"I wish you could feel the heat for a day," wrote a CMS missionary and college chaplain in Central India experiencing 'the force of that spiritual disintegration which tends to come in with the heat.' "During that time I received the monthly newsletters and material from CMS. One letter in particular, from the General Secretary, John Taylor, brought home to me the fact that when we here are too exhausted to pray—too lacking in energy to feel even the inclination to pray save to drag our thoughts to God—then in cooler England and elsewhere you and others are praying for us and with us, and with more energy than we feel capable of! I know the thought of it alone gave me energy to pray and I hope to continue praying in spite of everything. The will to do God's Will is itself a prayer of the Holy Spirit which is being offered in and through us when even the capacity to pray seems far removed from us."

SOME DATES TO NOTE

- Nov. 20.—7.45 p.m. Concert in support of the Older Citizens' Centre Association (All Saints' Parish Hall).
- .. 21.—7.45 p.m. STEWARDSHIP ANNUAL REVIEW — by invitation (Hall).
- .. 23.—2.30 p.m. Service in church in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of Hampton Hill Guides and Brownies, followed by reception in the Parish Hall; 2.30 p.m. Christmas Fair in support of the Older Citizens' Centre Association (St. Mary's Parish Hall, Hampton).
- .. 24.—STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY: Services as usual, but it is hoped to use a special form at 6.30 p.m. instead of Evensong.
- .. 25.—8.00 p.m. Sixth and last meeting of course on "Belief and Life" (W); 8.15 p.m. Properties Committee (151, Uxbridge Road).
- .. 26.—Tuesday Club — special arrangements for this evening.
- .. 28.—8.00 p.m. Parochial Church Council (W).
- .. 29.—8.15 p.m. Liturgical Committee (90, Ormond Drive).
- Dec. 1.—After Evensong, about 7.30 p.m., a discussion in church led by members of the Young People's Fellowship on 'Why do people find Evensong boring, and what can be done to improve matters?', followed by refreshments at Wayside at about 8.30 p.m.
- .. 2.—8.00 p.m. Stewardship Committee (106, Park Road).
- .. 3.—8.00 p.m. Solemn Eucharist at the church of SS. Michael & George, Fulwell, to mark the completion of 30 years' service as vicar by the Reverend L. C. Gillam. All who know Fr. Gillam are cordially invited to attend. The preacher will be the Rural Dean.
- .. 4.—2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union: Talk on 'Drugs and drug-addiction' (W); 7.30 p.m. Anglican-Methodist Union: Speaker—a Methodist member of the Commission (Methodist Church, Hampton); 7.30 p.m. Did anything really happen at UPPSALA . . . ? — several distinguished speakers (Nottingham Ecumenical Centre, 7, Denbigh Road, W.11); 8.00 p.m. Beetle Drive (W).
- .. 10.—8.15 p.m. Tuesday Club (W).
- .. 20.—Parish carol-singing.

BAPTISMS

On October 27 :

Justin Damon Hart, 27, Chelsea Close.
Keith Michael Holmes, 33, Ringwood Way.
Sonia Dawn Levenson, 2, Ringwood Way.
Alexander Douglas Miller, 3, Ringwood Way.
James Miller Wodehouse, 20, Parkside.
Sally Jane Zimmer, 169, Uxbridge Road.

MARRIAGES

On October 19 :

Nigel Bruce Martin to Jennifer Makepeace.
Charles Edward Banks Horenz to Mary Linda Scott.

CREMATION

On October 9 :

Jane Evelyn May Lucas, 34, Wolsey Road, aged 75 years (at S.W. Middlesex Crematorium).