

ST. JAMES'S NINTH NEWCOMERS' PARTY

Between 70 and 80 Newcomers to Hampton Hill accepted the Vicar's invitation to the 9th Newcomers' Party in the Parish Hall on Thursday April 16.

These events, held two or three times a year, have now become part of parish life. The first one was held in order to extend a welcome to the many people of all denominations who come to live in what the older-established residents term affectionately as "the village".

Those who have attended these meetings in the past have always left expressing an awakened interest in their new surroundings, and pleasure in the warmth of their welcome and the genuine concern for their well-being which prompted it.

After being greeted by the Vicar and Mr. Melville (Chairman of the Stewardship Committee) the guests were served with light refreshments by the various hosts and hostesses who had previously visited them and they were able to meet their fellow newcomers.

Mrs. Margery Orton (Editor and Co-author of "The Birth and Growth of Hampton Hill") gave, as is the usual custom, a most interesting and informative talk on the history of the village, which, with the help of a fascinating collection of slides, vividly brought to life its early days. This collection of slides (which cover the period from the turn of the nineteenth century showing the flour mill and the windmill to the centenary of the church of St. James; the growth of the village in the 'nineties; the coming of the first trams in the early nineteen hundreds to last year's Christmas illuminations in the High Street) is constantly growing, but was started at the time of St. James's Centenary Celebrations in 1963 and has given much pleasure in the past to both older residents and those just entering the parish.

If any newcomer reading this did not happen to receive an invitation and would like to come to the next party, would they please contact the Secretary of the Stewardship Committee, Mr. R. Bridges, 17 St. James's Road, or the Vicar? They will be warmly welcome on the next occasion.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

The amount paid in so far for the Hampton Area is £503 — less than last year, but one has to take into account the steep rise in the cost of living which is affecting people's giving, and the withdrawal of the convenient half-a-crown piece (if only four people give two shillings who before would have given two and sixpence there is already a loss of two shillings) pretty thought-making over a wide area! However, on the credit side there were more £1 notes and ten shilling donations than

ever before and very few refusals. There does seem to be a slight tendency on the part of some people to think the donations are in aid FOR Christians rather than aid to a needy world BY a Christian nation. Perhaps 'World Aid' would be a less confusing title.

St. James's parish contribution (not counting the roads collected by the Congregationalists) is so far £117 — a not inconsiderable percentage of the whole. A detailed list of the amounts contributed by the various roads is in the church for anyone interested. Several people voiced the opinion that the only effective aid in the face of the huge need would be for the Governments, as well as the people of the more fortunate nations, to give much more aid than they do.

Thank you to all who contributed and to all who went out collecting — and do so cheerfully year after year — and to the people who have already offered their services for next year!

M.O.

THE MOTHERS' UNION

We are very grateful to all those who helped in any way to raise the profit from the Austerity Lunch in Holy Week to £7 11s. 0d. This amount has now been sent to Christian Aid.

On Wednesday June 3 we are invited to join in one of the many events arranged to celebrate the Centenary of Hampton Hill Congregational Church. The Reverend Elsie Chamberlain will conduct the service and give an address, and there will also be speakers from seven different churches, each of whom will answer a set question. Mrs. Brunt will be our spokesman in reply to the query 'How can the Bible be helpful to-day when it was written so long ago?' (Rather a difficult task to put this over in one minute — the time allotted to each speaker!) Our own meeting will be on the following day, Thursday June 4, 2.30 p.m. as usual, but we hope that the weather will be kind enough for us to have it in the garden of 40, Gloucester Road, Teddington. Please make an effort to come: if you need transport, this can be arranged. Bring any articles for the Overseas Sale with you — and Lenten envelopes for the Overseas Fund can be handed in at any time now.

I.V.R.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Have you ever visited Old Portsmouth, the harbour, the Victory, the castle, etc., etc., not forgetting the fun fair? If not you have the opportunity to do so on Saturday June 13. The tickets for this parish outing are 15s. (adult) and 10s. for children under 15. This includes the cost of the coach and a picnic lunch.

We will leave the church at 9.30 a.m. sharp and return before 8 p.m. Tickets are now available from the Social Committee.

Last December Mr. Martin Edmonds joined the Social Committee and this month Mrs. P. Carrick, 1 Edward Close, has joined. Both will now hold tickets for all social functions.

E.S.

TUESDAY CLUB

The talk given by Mrs. B. Harris, the Mayoress, was extremely interesting. We were especially intrigued when we were shown the various coats of arms depicted in the badge of her chain of office.

Miss Burgess came to us on the 21st April. We had a very good attendance to hear her talk on being the warden of a Girls' Hostel.

We have meetings on June 16 and 20; the programmes have yet to be arranged and notices will be sent out.

M.R.

CINDERELLA RE-WRITTEN

On Friday, April 10, the Young People's Fellowship arranged a Parish Concert with guest appearance by the Cubs, Brownies, Drama Group, and Mothers' Union — whose act enhanced their local reputation for originality and dramatic art.

After the interval the Y.P.F. "tried" to perform a re-written version of Cinderella which, in the event, proved to be pretty chaotic. However, everybody seemed to enjoy it — not least the performers themselves!

More than 100 people attended — there was standing room only at the back, and to add to the general satisfaction came the news that the concert had raised £10 towards the Hampton and Hampton Hill Day Centre for elderly people.

Our thanks go to everybody who helped to make this a very enjoyable and profitable evening.

M.C.E.

THE OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE COMMITTEE **The Forget-me-not Club**

Our Club is now one year old. Many Happy Returns, Forgetmenots! On Thursday, April 30, we had our Birthday Party and entertained some of our friends who have entertained us during the year. Thank you all! Thanks also to the Congregational Church where we hold our weekly meeting on Thursday.

We now have 68 members, many of whom attend weekly. Our "Special Project Savings Club" is useful for the members who are saving for their holiday at Broadstairs, which is costing them £10 inclusive for a fortnight. The Old People's Welfare Committee is paying the balance.

During the year we have had several outings — one to the Surrey Ceramics at Greysshot near Hindhead on April 23, where we had a conducted tour and saw a lump of St. Austell clay transformed into a beautiful vase — fascinating for us but, surely, so boring for the work-people when the job entails only putting a line around the side of something, or scraping the drips off the bottom, or even putting the transfers on; but the result — pleasing! An enjoyable afternoon — all we lacked was sunshine.

THANK YOU GENTLEMEN!

Many thanks to the two gentlemen from St. James's Church who so competently mended the O.P.W. seat in the High Street, an act much appreciated by both Committee Members and the elderly people themselves who enjoy resting here and watching the world go by.

L.M.

AROUND THE SPIRE

Scene of great activity — the gentlemen of the Properties' Committee tackling the Herculean task of felling the dead beech tree in the Churchyard and carting it away. Strong Arm Stuff! (This could well have saved the church between £50 and £70.) Add to this the results of the Wayside Decorations Week-end, and the sum saved recently by voluntary labour is quite considerable.

The Easter Decorations in the church were beautiful as usual. Congratulations, everybody concerned.

It's good to hear the clock chiming again and to be summoned to worship by the pealing of the bells, silent these past weeks while maintenance work has been carried out. No excuse for being late now!

Some passers-by as a hearse drew up for a funeral recently wondered why the coffin was draped with the Red Ensign. The vicar did too, because he did not hear the full story until afterwards — and an interesting story it was. In the early years of this century, the daughter of a churchwarden and one of the sons of the vicar fell in love, and so it was that young Mr. Job and Miss Griffiths were married. Not many years afterwards,

Captain Job was killed on the Somme: old Mr. Job, now retired, never really got over this, and old parishioners who kept in touch with him tell how every evening he used to go down to the pier of the seaside resort where he spent his last years to watch for his son's coming home. His daughter-in-law spent the long 54 years of her widowhood with her only son, at first looking after him, and then being devotedly cared for by him in her declining years. The son, Commander Patrick Dalzel Job, made his home in one of the wildest parts of Scotland, Wester Ross, and became a daring sailor. His mother also developed a great love of the sea, and when her son built — largely by his own skill and effort — a topsail schooner, his mother accompanied him on all his voyages in the northern seas and beyond the Arctic Circle, until the boat was sunk by the Germans in the Second World War. So this valiant lady qualified to be buried under the colours of the Merchant Navy. Because of her own past connections, and those of her family, with this church, the Parochial Church Council, which some years ago made a rule that in future, because of the shortage of space remaining, no non-parishioner could be buried in a new grave, made an exception in her case, and so the long journey was made from Scotland to bury her in one of the last few places remaining, and her son, in accordance with Scottish custom, acted as one of the bearers to the graveside.

We were very glad to hear that Raymond Draper, after going through all the necessary selection procedures and interviews, has been recommended for training for Ordination. After taking his degree at Oxford this summer, he hopes to do a year's work in a steel-mill in Sheffield before going to a theological college. He will also be in close touch with the Sheffield Industrial Mission, and give part-time help in a parish where the vicar is a member of this team. While at college, Raymond has passed all his Readers' Board examinations — one of them, we understand, with the highest marks gained by any candidate.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

May

28 8.00 p.m. Old People's Welfare Committee: Annual General Meeting (W).

June

- 1 10.30 a.m. Editorial Board (34, Burton's Road).
- 2 8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club: Annual General Meeting (W).
- 3 3.00 p.m. Congregational Church: Special Centenary Women's Meeting.
- 4 2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union (40, Gloucester Road).
- 8 8.15 p.m. Properties Committee (36, St. James's Road).
- 9 8.00 p.m. Liturgical Committee (90, Ormond Drive).
- 13 9.30 a.m. Parish Outing to Portsmouth.

- 15 8.00 p.m. Stewardship Committee (106, Park Road).
- 16 8.00 p.m. Social Committee (14, Church Grove, Hampton Wick); 8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club (W).
- 17 8.00 p.m. Parochial Church Council (W).
- 20 3.30 p.m. Old People's Party (Hall).
- 21 5.15 p.m. Members of Young People's Fellowship lead service at Laurel Dene: 6.30 p.m. United Service in the Congregational Church (Centenary Celebration); the Vicar officiates and preaches (N.B. No Evening Service in St. James's).
- 22 8.00 p.m. First meeting of the Deanery Synod (Service in St. Alban's Church, Teddington, followed by business meeting in the Church Hall).
- 28 5.15 p.m. Members of St. James's congregation lead service at Laurel Dene.
- 29 St. Peter's Day: Holy Communion at 9.00 a.m.; 10.30 a.m. Editorial Board (34, Burton's Road).
- 30 8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club (W).

BAPTISMS

On April 26:

John Mark Bailey, 28, Cranmer Road.
 Ruth Sara McClenaghan, 44, St. James's Avenue.
 Michel Wilfred Patric Rogers, 30, West Bank Road.
 Colin Godfrey Rydon, 87, Park Road.
 Jason Webb, 28A, Russell Avenue, Bedford.

On May 3:

Oliver Robert Taylor, 90, Ormond Drive.

MARRIAGE

On April 25:

Andrew Clifford Pead to Carol Ann Blake.

BURIALS

On April 16:

Ethel Elizabeth Job, Nead-an-Eoin, by Plocton, Wester Ross, Scotland, aged 88 years.

On April 23:

Alice Henrietta Bean, 98, Uxbridge Road, aged 88 years.