

PERSONALIA

On the sad side, we have heard of the death of Geoffrey Francis Sturt, at Yeovil on May 12. He was 76 years of age, and came of a well-known Teddington family. He was for many years a chorister and active member of our church before he retired to the West Country. On the afternoon of April 26 a large company of us gathered for the funeral service of our very dear old friend, Walter Oliver Leatherdale, who had died suddenly in hospital completely happy and at peace at the age of 89. Most of us had known him only in his eighties, but we could well imagine what he must have been like as a younger man. He often said that one of the best things he ever did was to come to Hampton Hill—and it was good for us too. As the Vicar said in his address: 'He took us to his heart, we took him to ours. He gave richly to us—we gave to him in return: there was mutual affection, esteem, loyalty and love'.

Other sad occasions for us have been the departure of families who had come whole-heartedly into the life of our church, and whom we were hoping—and in some cases they too were expecting—to be with us for years. We think of the Dallas family, suddenly whisked away to Edinburgh a month after moving into a new house; the Meyer family moving to Chessington, the Carrick family to Stafford, and several more. And of last year's seven adult confirmation candidates, there will soon be only one still worshipping with us. But our loss is others' gain: we have had enthusiastic letters from the vicars of parishes to which some of them have gone, saying what a splendid contribution they are making to church and community life. With the increasing mobility of population, this is the pattern to which we shall have to try to get accustomed. And as old friends move out and are sadly missed, potential new ones come in. At least 200 new families moved into the parish in the course of the last year, and they were all visited and invited to the Newcomers' Party on Ascension Day. Over a hundred people came to this, nearly all of them recent arrivals, and it was a very happy occasion indeed.

Other recent happy occasions have been the weddings of young people who have been members of our YPF, and most of whom met each other for the first time within its company. We think especially of Trevor Atkinson and Pamela Granger, Graham Douglas and Ann Stuart, Malcolm Chester and Rosalind Melville, and Tony Hillier and Nicola Hardy. Most of these, we are glad to say, are still near us, and Tony and Nicola still sing in the choir, but expect to move to the Reading district in the autumn.

We hope soon to have comprehensive lists on our church notice-boards of members of our various committees and leaders of our organisations and activities, of whom there are far too many to name in this magazine, much as we should like to acknowledge their good work in this way. But the names of members of the Parochial Church Council should be made known here, though there is no room to list them month by month in the standing-matter, which would really be

the most fitting thing to do. The Council consists of the Vicar and the two Churchwardens; a representative elected by lay members of the Deanery Synod to serve on the Diocesan Synod, and therefore ex-officio on the Deanery Synod and the PCC—Mr. A. R. Taylor; the two people whom we are entitled to elect to represent us on the Deanery Synod from 1970 to 1973, Mr. L. Melville and Mrs. M. Orton; and twenty parochial representatives elected for one year only, viz: Messrs. P. Bowes-Cavanagh, R. Bridges, R. Brooks, A. Brittain, M. Childs, M. Edmonds, J. Gostling, D. Leatherdale, A. Loyd; the Misses R. Mills and H. Stanton; Mesdames P. Atkinson, K. Brooks, M. Leatherdale, L. Mortimer, J. Robinson, V. Rockliffe, E. Severn, P. Young. Brother Jim Cranswick, when licensed by the Bishop as Missioner and nominal Assistant Curate in this parish, will also be entitled to sit on the Council, as will Mr. Seymour Harris, shortly to be licensed by the Bishop as Reader, we are glad to hear. Seymour has, of course, served on the PCC for many years, but did not stand for election this year because of his other heavy commitments, and in particular his course of training for Ordination which begins in the autumn. Miss Hannah Stanton is away for two months: still not allowed to re-enter South Africa, she is meeting old friends in Uganda and Malawi. Just before she left, the last issue of 'The Spire', which she had helped to produce, came out, but the copy she received was without the inset 'Church News' (for some reason our printers were 160 copies short), so she did not see the poem about her by Sylvia Norton. As others have inquired about this, we reproduce it here:

Hers a face for Botticelli:
 An angel in our midst she stood;
 Serene, apart, yet bound in love
 To Africa's sad brotherhood.
 She spoke of cruel wrongs that
 shame
 The white man in this alien land
 No trace of anger in her voice
 She tried to make us understand

She laughed at her imprisonment
 —Upon what charge she did not
 know—
 Her fears and hardships set at
 nought
 Beside the dark man's hour of
 woe.
 She gave us hope that hour
 would pass
 And dawn break slowly in the
 sky
 And justice reign in Africa
 For tyranny at last must die.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Tickets are now available for "Godspell" on Thursday September 21 at 80p balcony seats and £1.45 circle; the price includes the coach fare, and tickets are obtainable from Mrs. Leatherdale and Mr. Edmonds.

We are pleased to welcome Mrs. Pailthorpe, Mr. Bucknell and Mr. P. Bowes Cavenah on the Social Committee so please make a note of the names

A PERSONAL NOTE FROM THE VICAR

The article in the last issue about the Annual Church Meeting, speaking of the presentation, said that I appeared to be moved. Yes, I not only appeared to be, I indeed was, and very deeply, and so was Con when I told her all about it later, and the effect goes on and always will. Here was something that one just had to accept with tremendous gratitude, apart from any question of desert or merit, and however unworthy one felt. For here was something entirely good, an expression of love to be accepted humbly and with deep thanksgiving and appreciation. The atmosphere was indescribable, and I have never experienced anything quite like it. The preparation that this must have involved, without any hint of what was happening coming to our notice; the response of so many people and groups; the speeches on the evening itself, and the many reminders in the expertly-arranged exhibition of our twenty-one years in your midst and a host of other things all contributing to this heart-warming climax make us feel how inadequate words are to express what we feel and how we would like to thank everybody. Working in partnership, friendship and mutual love as we all have done, has made many things possible that were once thought beyond us; the past has indeed been richly blessed, may the future be so too. We both thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.

CHRISTIAN AID

It is too soon for the total collection for the Hamptons area to be known as we go to press, but St. James's area collected £155.64—some £19 more than last year. This increase, which has been steadily maintained through the years, is a very encouraging sign, as this year first figures elsewhere would seem to indicate that takings may be generally down on those of last year. There has been a plethora of flag and collection days recently and people are getting a little tired, not so much of giving, but of being bombarded by envelopes and callers at their doors.

Thanks are due to all who contributed—our helpers report very few instances of discourtesy towards them. Theirs is an unenviable task—they deserve sincere appreciation for the way they faithfully perform this useful task year after year. Thirteen of the collectors were from the Y.P.F.—one third of the total force.

May we pause, though, to consider that £155.64 is still a rather pitifully small sum, coming as it does for what is quite a well-to-do area, and perhaps next year can we deny ourselves a little more as we remember the greatness of the need in the world around us? It is a little difficult to realize that IF WE WERE REALLY TO DENY OURSELVES FOR ONLY ONE WEEK of the things a lot of us take for granted as the little luxuries that cushion our lives, we could materially benefit the lives of, maybe, ALL the people in an underprivileged country, not just the few we touch now.

For example:

1 pint of beer per day per week.

1 tot of "the hard stuff".

10 cigarettes per day or 2 cigars.

1 oz. of tobacco.

The Betting Shop, the Pools and Bingo.

Hobby expenses, cinema and theatre ticket.

Newsprint, magazines, sweets and ice-cream.

Flowers for the weekend.

Etc., Etc.

Just for *one* week? WE'd survive all right!! and through our very small sacrifice, so would so many others now on the world's scrap heap.

Christ said "Tend my Sheep". In this century the means to do so are in the reach of practically all of us, if we will it so.

M.O.

WHITSUNDAY

It was a change to have the sermon replaced by a meaningful series of play-readings concerning the Ascension of Jesus and some subsequent events, taken from Hugh Ross Williamson's "The Story Without End".

No one can be singled out for special mention—the whole cast was convincing enough for all present to feel they had witnessed the Ascension and subsequent fear and confusion of the disciples. The contrasting exultation after the coming of the Holy Spirit was almost infectious. (One mention—the Rushing Mighty Wind—It was most impressive—maybe the more so as I was sitting on one of the loudspeakers!)

I, who have no imagination, could see the miserable beggar at the Beautiful Gate, and his healing. (I'm still wondering about his rehabilitation and if being forty means one is normally beyond hope!) The confusion and cunning of the jealous Sanhedrin, powerless against the Holy Spirit in the disciples was evident in the final scene. The plays depicted stories we all know but Sunday's service did much to help us see a new angle and think about them again.

The coffe and biscuits in the church at the end of the service gave us an opportunity to discuss the plays, to congratulate the producer, and talk over the lack of space in the church for such occasions as coffe and biscuits and discussion, and also to find out more about each other besides where we sit and what we wear in church!

R.M.

KEEP FIT

Our Summer Term will end on Friday, July 28. Until then we will continue to meet every Friday at 2 p.m. in the Parish Hall and it is never too late to join us—10p per session.

Autumn Term will commence on Tuesday, September 12, 2 p.m. in the Parish Hall. We are changing to Tuesdays for a trial period, as it has been suggested that this day may suit more people.

PARISH DANCE

Fear gnawed at my heartstrings as I was approached to buy a ticket for the Parish Dance. Duty prevailed and I gave up my 75p. Saturday May 6 drew nigh and with one eye on the television and the other on my 75p ticket, I reluctantly left home for the Church Hall feeling that come what may I would put on a brave face and face the worst.

The start to the evening was good, I was given three free tickets for drinks, and that can't be bad! The hall looked clean, fresh and inviting, the stage well decorated—so far so good, but where was the snag? Perhaps we would have the usual church dance band; not on your life, there was a good set of musicians who knew how to play and keep good time. Then it must be the drinks, perhaps orange and lemon squash? Not likely, excellent wines and beer (well served!) followed at the interval by excellent refreshments. Once again where is the snag? Will the actual dancing be a flop? Well, we danced from London to South America via Spain, we jived and rocked and “modded” our way back to Hampton Hill, finding, on the way muscles that we were sure didn't exist; an evening of delight flashed past and at the end we climbed into our cars, exhausted and exhilarated at the thought of the Parish Dance. I feel certain that our guests, the Vicar and Mrs. Brunt, Alderman and Mrs. Harris, Dr. and Mrs. McClean, enjoyed themselves and had an excellent time and will want to come again—I know I do.

HELP TO THE SOUTHERN SUDAN

On Whitsunday a year ago all the collections were given towards relieving hardship in the Southern Sudan. In particular the money we sent was spent on medical supplies to help equip a rural medical aid centre. This year, thanks to the generous interest of the P.C.C., the Whitsunday collections are also going to be devoted to objectives in the Southern Sudan.

Since last year there has been a settlement arranged between the Arab north and the African south of the Sudan. This has come about through the mediation of the World Council of Churches, Christian Aid and the Organisation of African Unity, and all can be thankful indeed about the cessation of hostilities, and the negotiations to reopen the Southern areas of this vast country to organisations which will get schools and health centres going. There has been ghastly suffering, starvation and disease; it will take years to rehabilitate the area, and much help is needed.

Our contributions will go to help in this reconstruction, and we hope that in a later issue of the magazine we may be told more about this in detail.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

June

- 19 8.00 p.m. Parochial Church Council (W).
- 20 8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club (W); 8.00 p.m. Stewardship Committee (106 Park Road).
- 21 8.00 p.m. Older Citizens' Centre Association Annual General Meeting (Methodist Hall, Percy Road); 8.30 p.m. Hampton and Sunbury Council of Churches: Quarterly Committee Meeting (All Saints' Church, Hampton).
- 26 10.30 a.m. Editorial Board (21 St. James's Road); 7.30 p.m. for 8.00 p.m. Deanery Synod (St. Mark's Hall, Teddington).
- 27 9.30 a.m. Mothers' Union: Outing to Knebworth Hall.
- 29 ST. PETER'S DAY: 7.30 a.m. Holy Communion.

July

- 1 3.00 p.m. Old People's Party (Hall).
- 2 5.15 p.m. Members of YPF lead service at Laurel Dene.
- 4 8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club: Members' Slides (W).
- 8-10 Flower Festival—'Songs of Praise'—at All Hallows' Church, Chertsey Road, Twickenham.
- 16 5.15 p.m. Service at Laurel Dene led by senior members of congregation; 6.30 p.m. *No* service here, but cars will be available outside the church to provide transport to UNITED SERVICE at ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, Hampton, beginning at 6.45 p.m.
- 17 8.00 p.m. Parochial Church Council (W).
- 23 PATRONAL FESTIVAL: Sunday arrangements as usual for fourth Sunday, but special form of FAMILY SERVICE at 6.00 p.m., preceded by TEA served from 4.45 p.m. onwards.
- 25 ST. JAMES'S DAY: Holy Communion at 10.00 a.m.

BAPTISMS

May

- 28 Samantha Marie Buck, 13 Eastbank Road.
Jason Peter Downes, 185 High Street.
Andrew John Garratt, 19 Ringwood Way.
Gary John Martin, 20 Beech Way, Twickenham.

MARRIAGES

May

- 20 Anthony Charles Hillier to Nicola Jane Hardy.

June

- 3 Michael Patrick Crimmin to Barbara Gladys Staniford.
Paul Graham English to Kathleen Hilary Ann Carroll.

CREMATION

May

- 23 Ada Crisp, 21 Laurel Road, aged 78 years (at South West Middlesex Crematorium).