

LIFE IN A THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

'Er . . . what do you do at Theological College?' This is the embarrassed question of friends and relatives. And after a year at Ridley perhaps I can begin to make a reply.

The main emphasis is unashamedly academic: to study the Scriptures in depth; to consider important philosophical questions—e.g. Can God's existence be proved? Why do men suffer?—and to study the history of the Church. To be freed by Christians to go deeply into these subjects, so that what is learnt may be shared amongst those whom the minister serves in the parish, this is a great privilege and joy.

There is also clear spiritual direction: patterns of worship, private prayer and Bible Study, are established, and there is the constant reminder that a Christian must not only think about God, but know him, love him and worship him. And there is the beginning of pastoral training: learning to lead public worship, learning to preach, courses in 'Pastoral Studies', with visits to hospitals, schools, industry, prisons, Borstals, as well as 'normal' parishes. Of course much of the pastoral training comes during curacies—'on the job', so to speak!

All this is within the context of a rich and varied community-life, which is stimulating (almost to the point of frustration sometimes!), and great fun. Wives are very much part of the community and are encouraged to play as full a part as time permits in the training-courses.

Sometimes the course is dull—flogging through Greek principal parts, or reading some way-out German theologian who keeps on apologising for God (as if he needed it!), but the warmth of parish life is a great comfort to us—both that of the parish from which we come, and those which we visit as part of our training. They raise the issues which we turn to our books to try to answer; they remind us of the opportunities of parish work. These are the opportunities we long for . . . and for these, we hope, we are preparing.

Raymond and Gil Draper.

HARVEST SUPPER 1972

As I finished my enormous helping of turkey my neighbour said "Well, I've been coming to the Harvest Supper for years and this meal beats the lot", and just before we all went reluctantly home one of our good friends from St. Mary's said "I've been coming for years and enjoyed all the entertainments but this has been the best—it was so funny". On this evidence I think it safe to assume that gastronomically and histrionically our celebrations were A.1.

The hall looked most inviting. So many people had worked so hard—it was fitting that their efforts on our behalf should have been

so very worthwhile and so obviously appreciated. I think it is a good thing to rejoice, to provide and enjoy a little happiness and to have the courage to make merry despite tragedies at home and abroad. Good fellowship, good will and laughter are a crop worth sowing and worth harvesting with thanksgiving.

The "Dress Rehearsal" playlet, allowing the actors to burlesque under their own familiar names, was a find indeed. Our Mrs. Brunt, out Cassandraing Cassandra, crying "Woe, Woe" with even more abandon than Senna the Soothsayer; be-aproned, gumbooted Mrs. "props" Rockcliffe stomping pugnaciously through thunderclaps and buckets of water, Mrs. "Producer" Young being reduced alternately to nervous flattery and wild despair—these three hilarious mainstays of the show, ably supported—or should it be let down?—by Martin Edmunds, an unwilling and disgruntled "dying man" whose only two words "water, water" earned him a drenching from Mrs. Rockcliffe; Andy Woods, a sou'westered, would-be gallant, slipped-dised coastguard and Roger Severn Seth the sailor son, spared by Providence from a watery grave to be brought low by Mrs. Rockcliffe's buckets, as he rushed to his mother's arms.

In the words of the producer "Stark it were, proper stark" (Stark, staring mad, but very, very funny).

Thank you everyone who helped to provide us all with an evening which I for one will remember pleasurably for a very long time.

M.O.

HAMPTON HILL OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE COMMITTEE

On Thursday 19 October we were invited to visit the Clarendon Special School for their Harvest Festival. Mr. Dory, Headmaster, welcomed the guests comprising Hampton Hill, Hampton and Teddington elderly people; the parents of the children and children of other special schools in the area.

A number of the children took part in reading poems and the lesson, and after Harvest Hymns the elderly people were presented with baskets of provisions. The hymn, 'All Things Bright and Beautiful', was mimed by the children, the costumes were exremely good. The 'flowers that open' were daisies, one little person wanted to open before it was time! The 'birds that sing' were blackbirds, thrushes, sparrows, wren and a robin and one bird I couldn't recognise, but think it must be Mrs. Robin, she had a white breast. There were animals, a cat, squirrel, rabbit, a realistic cow and lion. The 'river running by' was very effective, as also 'the sunset and the morning', children playing and gathering rushes and behind all was 'the purple headed mountain'. We enjoyed it all very much.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP

Our A.G.M. was held on 13 October in Wayside, and we had a fairly good attendance.

The usual reports were given, proving we had had a livelier year than usual. It was stressed that people should be aware of their Christian commitments.

As is our usual practice the whole committee retired and were thanked for all their hard work during the past year. We then elected our new committee, three of whom had never served on any committee before.

They are as follows:

Treasurer—Ian Kirkwood

Secretary—Roger Severn

Membership Secretary—Linda Barratt

Catering—Sue Brown, Michael Fainsworth, Linda Mabley

Our four leaders remain unchanged—they are:

Martin Edmonds—Chairman

Trevor Atkinson

Alan Taylor

Andy Woods

The meeting closed with a prayer and we all set off to do the work we had undertaken, praying that God will guide us in our new-found responsibilities.

PAROCHIAL WASSAILING

If you, your family or friends like singing carols, then come and join us on Wednesday, 20 December. We will be assailing the unsuspecting inhabitants of Hampton Hill with our rousing voices. If you decide to come, we will leave the Church at 7.00 p.m. Our route will be fixed to the church notice board so if you can't make it by 7.00 p.m. you can join us en route. Traditionally, and this year is no exception, we will end up in Wayside for seasonal refreshments.

FANCY THAT

Remember this date—13 January 1973

Remember this time—7.45 p.m.

Remember this venue—the Parish Hall

Remember these prices—35p and 20p for under 14s—
including refreshments.

Why bother, you may ask!

That is the date of the New Year Fancy Dress Party. Tickets available from your friendly Social Committee Members.

Don't make an ass of yourself and then forget to come; if you don't come, I won't see you there!

THE MOTHERS' UNION

Those who were present at our October meeting found Mrs. Audrey Taylor's talk on "Prayer and Prayer Groups" most inspiring, and it was good for the Branch to meet the Diocesan Prayer Correspondent; she is responsible for organising twice yearly Retreats. For her part Mrs. Taylor, who lives in the heart of London, found her visit to us equally pleasant. Now we must think about putting some of her ideas into practice, remembering that our Third Object requires us to "organise in every place a band of mothers who will unite in prayer and seek by their own example to lead their families in purity and holiness of life".

To commemorate our Diamond Jubilee (I can find no other way to describe our 75th anniversary) the Vicar will conduct a special Communion Service at 10 a.m. on Wednesday December 6. At 7.30 p.m. we shall be in festive mood at a party in the Parish Hall to which all members from all branches in Hampton Deanery will be invited. Make a big effort and try to come to both very important events in the life of our branch; transport will be arranged, so no one need stay away.

The Overseas Sale on 17-18 October raised over £10,500 and beat the record for this annual sale. This money is needed for financing more than 100 trained Church workers in 21 countries embraced by provision of Anglican Communion membership which today stands at 48 million peoples of all races.

I. V. R.

ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS

We often meet our friends from what was until recently the Congregational Church, and is now the Hampton Hill United Reformed Church, but largely because the Hampton Methodist Church is right outside our parish and much further away, our active contacts with its members tend to be few and far between. Now a gracious initiative has come from their side, and we have been invited to join them for an informal social evening on St. Andrew's Day, Thursday November 30, in their hall in Percy Road. A representative of each of our Churches will speak about its life, worship, history, traditions and hopes: then there will be an entertainment provided by our kindly hosts, refreshments, and ample time for conversation and getting to know one another. To enable our friends to have some idea how many of us to expect, and to help in arranging transport to Hampton for those who need it, there will be a sheet in church for people to sign if they intend to be present—and I hope that a goodly number of us will.

BAPTISMS

October

- 22 Kay Victoria Armstrong, 4 Vincent Row.
Mark Douglas McGillivray, 32 Linden Road.
Olivia Justine Pailthorpe, 113 Queen's Road, Teddington.
Diane Williams, 3 Lime Tree Court, Burton's Road.

MARRIAGES

October

- 28 Robert John Lineham to June Maureen Skinner.
Adrian Hilary Smith to Constance Sarah Newman.

BURIAL

October

- 23 Leonard Jesse Scriven, 1 School Road Avenue (at Hampton Cemetery).

SOME DATES TO NOTE

November

- 27 10.30 a.m. Editorial Board (21 St. James's Road).
28 8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club: The Reverend G. L. Carnes speaks on 'Haitian Art' (W).
30 SAINT ANDREW'S DAY: 7.30 a.m. Holy Communion; 8.00 p.m. St. James's PCC and congregation are guests of the Hampton Methodist Church at their Hall in Percy Road.

December

- 1 8.00 p.m. B.P. Guild: Country Dance Evening: tickets 25p Hall).
2 3.00 p.m. Old People's Party (Hall).
6 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion; 7.30 p.m. Mothers' Union: Jubilee Party (Hall).
7 7.30 for 8.00 p.m. Deanery Synod (venue to be announced).
8 8.00 p.m. GRAND OPENING RECITAL ON REBUILT ORGAN (N.B. As this magazine goes to press, it is not certain whether the work on the organ will be completed in time for this recital to take place, so UNLESS A LEAFLET GIVING FULL DETAILS IS INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE, IT WILL MEAN THAT THIS RECITAL HAS HAD TO BE POSTPONED UNTIL EARLY IN THE NEW YEAR).
10 Second Sunday in Advent: DEDICATION FESTIVAL. Sunday services at usual times.
12 8.0 p.m. Tuesday Club (W).
13 8.00 p.m. Parochial Church Council (Vestry).
17 5.15 p.m. Members of YPF lead service at Laurel Dene.
18 3.00 p.m. Hampton Hill Primary School: Carol Service in St. James's Church.
20 7.00 p.m. onwards, Parish Carol-Singing.

N.B. CHRISTMAS SERVICES: These begin on Christmas Eve at 3.00 p.m. with a special form of CRIB AND CAROL SERVICE especially intended for families with young children; at 5.15 p.m. there will be a Carol Service at Laurel Dene; Evensong will be a said service at 6.30 p.m. and then there will be the usual MIDNIGHT EUCHARIST at 11.45 p.m. On Christmas Day, Holy Communion with Hymns at 8.00 a.m.; Parish and Family Communion at 9.30 a.m.; and Holy Communion (said) at 12.10 p.m. All offerings, as last year, will be for Christian Aid—and Christian Aid Christmas Cards are now on sale in church.