

## NEW FORMS OF WORSHIP

### Comment 4

On Sunday, 28th October, our special speaker for Evensong was the Reverend Ivor Smith-Cameron, Canon Missioner from Southwark, who spoke on "Mission". The following could in no way claim to be a full account of his sermon and the long and lively discussion that ensued. But some features of that evening were so thought-provoking that I just feel I want to relate them to those who could not be there. To my mind they missed a memorable service.

The whole atmosphere was remarkable. Staying together in the church after the service, for refreshments and the discussion, seemed a very natural and appropriate thing to do. Everybody wanted to talk; the spirit of community engendered by the service did not get a chance of being broken by a walk across to a different building. What was so remarkable was the fact that at first there appeared to be rather a strong feeling of "us" being united against "him". We resented this intruder who in his provocative sermon seemed to advocate pulling down church buildings, even ours (?), because they were obsolete. And then the discussion revealed the true message that Canon Smith-Cameron had for us much more clearly than any concise sermon could be expected to do. The longer we talked - and we carried on for a good hour and a half - the more receptive and grateful we became for his many wise thoughts and helpful phraseology. At the close of the evening I felt we had had a truly rewarding and uplifting experience, mainly because in the discussion the speaker had been able to enlarge on his theme.

Although his subject was mission, it surprised me only afterwards that foreign missionary problems were mentioned merely in passing. He was concerned with new ways of worship here, for instance setting up house groups, who function more or less independently of a church and where people can, and do, take part in worship who would not easily set foot in a church. Whereas Ivor Smith-Cameron believes that the established pattern of Church life will simply not be sufficient in future, he does not want to destroy. His sermon was provocative in order to break complacency. So often today the Church presents the image of a badly laid fire of damp wood in which the flame of the Spirit cannot burn. He queried the validity of a policy which has allowed the Church as a whole in recent years to spend around 90% of its total on itself.

He stressed that we must want to see God's working in the world outside the Church. We do often not find God because we do not expect to find him. Man used to live in a sacral world. Nowadays we have stripped the world of any sacredness - we have confined God to the Church. God permeates everything. He manifests himself in every part of his creation. Awareness of that will teach us respect of the environment. Our society tends to rob the world (unreturned milk bottles, energy crisis). There is enough for our need, not our greed. - These are just a few of the thoughts Ivor Smith-Cameron mentioned that were not directly connected with his subject but helped to make the evening so worthwhile.

H.B.

### Comment 5

Although we have not yet come to the end of the present series of new forms of worship on Sunday evenings, it has been very interesting to notice the reactions towards them.

I have only been to three of these services - the introduction of dance in worship, the speaker on "Mission" and the Teach-in, and have felt deeply involved in all of them. I have never enjoyed Evensong, but came along nevertheless, hoping that the new services were in fact a change from the traditional form of worship. I was disappointed therefore to find we had first to go right through the established service before the new form was introduced.

It seems a pity that these new, challenging and exciting ideas have to be kept within the present formal and rigid structure - the two seem to be rather incongruous, and I felt I was attending two services - in one I was merely the audience being led, and in the other I was participating, thinking and making some progress towards my understanding of Christianity. Through discussion I found myself appreciating other people's points of view, their feelings and attitudes, and I was questioning some of my own long held theories - surely all this should be part of our community life within a parish? I was beginning to understand people with whom I have had very little contact throughout my life in the Church. On this foundation, we could become far more united and use our strength for further, more valuable work.

However, I would not like to see any existing form of service abolished yet because I believe there are a lot of people who would certainly not want to attend any other form of worship, but perhaps there is room for some adjustments. I would prefer to have a short, corporate act of worship, followed by a discussion, teach-in, visiting preacher or alternately, special service when the occasion demands. To give a fair balance - could this type of service be alternated with the traditional Evensong? Or perhaps have Evensong earlier, allowing those of us who would like it, to have the opportunity for discussion, finishing at a reasonable hour (at both the discussions I attended, the general feeling was that, just as we were becoming interested we were also aware that it was getting late).

I feel strongly that having achieved this much, we must go on and establish our needs in the church. Far too many of us are drifting away because the traditional services are not offering us any depth, and we certainly cannot always feel that we are participating in every possible way.

C.R.

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### Y.P.F. ACTIVITIES

Since our A.G.M. things have started to look up. However there is still a need for new members to come along. On October 12 we had a film evening, consisting of old holiday films, some of which were quite hilarious. This was followed on October 26 by a Folk evening, and although there was a poor attendance, it was made up for us by the excellent playing of Mr. Strobes, William and Roger. November 9 brought a L.P. tracks evening which was very enjoyable. Sunday evenings we have had a talk from Pam and Trevor on the problem of W. Indian children at school, and an excellent talk on Modern Music in Religion. Future events are a formal dinner (D.J's) of baked beans on Friday, December 14 and a talk on the "Down & Outs" on Sunday December 16. Invitations will be sent for the former.

I.F.

## READERS

By the time this magazine appears in print, we should have a parochial staff of **three** Readers - there has never been anything like this in all the previous history of St. James's!

At a service for the whole Kensington area on Sunday evening, December 2, in St. Paul's, Hammersmith the Bishop will relicense all active Readers in his jurisdiction, and admit new ones to office. Seymour Harris will be amongst those to be relicensed: we are very grateful for his valuable ministry - he is always with us except when away at his now frequent courses in preparation for ordination. Hannah Stanton, who will be admitted to office, is of course well-known to us all, and Don Rawlins is becoming so. The licensing of Don and Hannah will be deferred until the Bishop visits us on December 16, so that we can all rejoice with and pray for them as they are commissioned for fuller ministry amongst us.

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## THE MOTHERS' UNION

It was no ordinary Annual General Meeting on November 5. It was also a celebration of the nine successful years of service from the retiring Enrolling Member, Mrs Vera Rockliffe. The rules of the M.U., specify a maximum continuous period of nine years for its official workers so this was for our Branch a rather sad occasion, but lightened by the knowledge that our Mrs. R. will still be one of our members, and indeed will continue some of the caring work she has so unstintingly done over the past years, work that she has done even when family considerations were of a kind that would have caused most of us to give up everything else.

During her time of office Mrs. Rockliffe has also at various times served the Movement in wider fields. She has been Secretary to the Deanery Committee; Secretary to the Diocesan Overseas Committee; is still Editor of the Diocesan Inset to the Quarterly Journal and is an Incorporated Member. All this has often meant a heavy programme with frequent visits to Westminster; but she is also much sought after as an Official Speaker and for this she has to attend many training-sessions as well as travelling to visit the Branches to which she is invited. From all this our Branch has benefitted: for one thing we have always been kept particularly well informed about what was going ahead at the centre, and we have been given a broader view than our local one. (Since becoming Enrolling Member Elect I have been much impressed with the lively, modern and responsible outlook at Mary Sumner House, and with the kind of social and religious leaders called in for professional advice. I think some of our critics would be surprised. But it is difficult to spend time on a good P.R. job when there is so much real work to be done).

Mrs. Rockliffe was obviously surprised by the way the meeting went after she had closed the A.G.M., part of it. Many months ago it had been arranged that the last part of the afternoon should be given to "Overseas" transparencies, but for once the committee had behaved very unconstitutionally and without the Chairman's knowledge, had quietly rearranged that the slides should be very parochial indeed and that they should be a reminder of the many happy occasions we had had over the nine years.

The slides finished with one in full sunshine at a Deanery Service with our Enrolling Member in full splendour between the magnificence of the Deanery Banner and our own colourful one. The Vicar then took the opportunity to thank Mrs. Rockliffe and to voice his appreciation, and that of the whole Parish, for all that she stood for and had achieved. He then called on Mrs. Bellingham, the retiring Secretary to add the committee's thanks and love, and to present on behalf of all of us first a bouquet of Chrysanthemums, then a Book Token and finally a diamante replica of the M.U. Brooch. We were all delighted with Mrs. Rockliffe's obvious surprise and pleasure. A handsome tea ended the afternoon with a flourish.

C.H.B.

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I should like to express my deep gratitude to all who subscribed so generously to the gifts I received after the Annual General Meeting of Mothers' Union on November 5. I was so surprised and overwhelmed that, for once, I was bereft of words. To all their other virtues St. James's members can add the fact that they can keep secrets! Not even the proverbial little bird had dropped a hint to me of the pleasant ceremony which followed the business meeting. I was gratified by the large turn-out of members but attributed this to the fact that Mrs. Brunt was to show transparencies. How wrong I was. It is delightful to receive a reward for work that one has enjoyed doing, the last nine years have been very happy ones for me, so much love and kindness has been given to me and to my dear husband, by all of you.

I hope that all members will be present in Church on Wednesday 9th January, 1974 when Mrs. Brunt will be officially admitted as Enrolling Member, a position to which she is no stranger since she held this office in the early days of her arrival here. Now she will guide us all through the changes which are taking place, and will have our love and loyalty to sustain her.

Vera Rockliffe.

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## MISCELLANIA

### Christmas

The Parish family carol singing will start at the church at 7.30 p.m. on December 19. Bring all the family and help swell the noise. Our route will be pinned to the Church notice board in case you are late for the start.

### Christmas Cards

A Christmas Greetings Card is being prepared: a simple one, which is giving a list of the Christmas services at St. James's Church.

This is being distributed to every house in the parish, and if members of the congregation would like to offer help in this distribution they would be most welcome.

Names should be given in, please, to the Vicar, or to the Chairman of the Liturgical Committee, Alan Taylor.

## Christmas Offerings

At its last meeting, in considering the allocation of monies to be given to the overseas work of the Church and other good causes outside the parish, the Church Council arranged for £100 to be sent immediately to Christian Aid for urgent relief work in the drought-ridden and famine-stricken areas of Africa, especially Ethiopia. It was also agreed that the offerings at the main Christmas services, this year as last, should be sent to Christian Aid for the same great purpose of the saving of human lives.

## Christmas Oil

Whether we shall be able to have a warm church for Christmas or not is very much in the balance - but whatever happens, as in similar crises in the past, whether we have to go to Wayside or somewhere else, or come to a cold building wrapped in blankets - **the worship of the Church will go on!**

## New Year

Don't forget the party in the Parish Hall on January 12, 1974 at 7.45 p.m. Tickets are available from all members of the Social Committee, price:- 40p. adults, 20p. children 16 & under, inclusive of all refreshment. Pantomime is the theme if you like dressing up, but one always has to have an audience!. If you can't find a ticket, 'phone 979 1954

## A Prayer (taken from Everyday Prayers published by Student Christian Movement Press).

O God of love, Father of us all, help us to banish from amongst us all jealousy, suspicions, quarrels and pride. Give us the spirit of comradeship, and teach us the joy that lies in helping one another. Enable us to take pleasure in the success of others: to be generous of praise and slow to criticise: to frame our actions and thoughts in conformity with those we learn of Him in whom, we all, though many, are called to be one body, ever Jesus Christ our Lord.

Source not known.

(Have you a "favourite" prayer which you often use, and which you think may help others? If so, send it to the Editors, with any comments you like to make, and we will do our best to include it when space permits)

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## DEANERY INTERCESSION LIST

### December

16	St. Augustine of Canterbury, Whitton
23	St. Alban with St. Mary, Teddington
30	St. Mark, Teddington

### January

6	St. Peter & St. Paul, Teddington
13	St. Michael & St. George, Fulwell
20	The Chapel Royal, Hampton Court

## SOME DATES TO NOTE

### December

- 10 10.30 a.m. Editorial Board (4, Ormond Drive); 7.30 for 8.00 p.m. Deanery Synod (St. Mary's Hall, Hampton)
- 11 10.15 a.m. Deanery Chapter meets at Wayside
- 12 7.30 a.m. Holy Communion; 8.00 p.m. Liturgical Committee (68, Park Road)
- 13 8.00 p.m. Group for Welcome & Contact (W)
- 14 Y.P.F. Dinner (W).
- 16 DEDICATION FESTIVAL: 9.30 a.m. Confirmation, Licensing of Readers, and Parish Communion, followed by refreshments; 5.15 p.m. Senior members of Church lead service at Laurel Dene; 6.30 p.m. Evensong, followed by refreshments and discussion: 'Church - building and people- dedicated.... but to or for what?'
- 18 8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club: Social Evening (W).
- 19 7.30 p.m. Parish Carol-Singing
- 21 SAINT THOMAS, APOSTLE: 7.30 a.m. Holy Communion
- 23 Sunday Services as usual, and also at 3.00 p.m. a Christingle and Carol Service for all the family.
- 24 CHRISTMAS EVE: 6.00 p.m. Service of Carols and Lessons at Laurel Dene; 11.45 p.m. First Communion of Christmas: Midnight Eucharist.
- 25 CHRISTMAS DAY: 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion with Christmas Hymns; 9.30 a.m. Parish & Family Communion; 12.10 p.m. Holy Communion; 5.30 p.m. Carols by Candlelight (if the weather is fine, the choir will be singing in the car-park from 5.15 p.m. onwards, and at 5.30 p.m. there will be a candlelit procession into the church).
- 26 SAINT STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR: 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion
- 27 SAINT JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST: 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion
- 28 THE INNOCENTS' DAY: 7.30 a.m. Holy Communion
- 30 Morning Sunday Services and Parish Breakfast as usual: also at 11.15 a.m. a special Children's Christmas Service arranged by teachers and pupils of the Junior Sunday School: parents and friends warmly invited; and at 6.30 p.m., instead of Evensong, a dramatic presentation of the events of the first Christmas - 'HE THAT SHOULD COME', by Dorothy Sayers - lasting one hour.

### January

- 1 THE NAMING OF JESUS; 9.00 a.m. Holy Communion
- 6 EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD: Sunday Services and arrangements as usual
- 9 7.30 a.m. Holy Communion: 2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union: Service of Admission of Enrolling Member, followed by tea
- 12 7.45 p.m. PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY (Hall)
- 14 2.15 - 2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union: Wave of Prayer

## MARRIAGE

### November

- 17 Paul Augustus Smith to Penelope Maddox