

HAMPTON HILL PARISH MAGAZINE.

PAROCHIAL NOTES.

Churchwardens—Mr. W. F. Wigginton, 9, Oxford Road Teddington
Mr. B. Beckett, 35, Wellington Road, Hampton Hill.

Organist—Mr. C. Haydn-Bull, M.I.G.C.M.

Parochial Church Officer.

Mr. S. V. Forrow, 68, Sunnyside Road Teddington.

Sunday School.

Held at 11 a.m. every Sunday.

In the Parish Hall Infants—Superintendent—Miss B. Rooney.
Boys—Superintendent—Miss O. Wright.
Girls' Fellowship—Superintendent—Mrs. G. Casey

In the Club Room Senior Girls—Superintendent—Miss R. Phillips
Junior Girls—Superintendent—Miss B. Stewart

Children's Service every Sunday at 3 p.m. in Church

Missionary Association.

Hon. Sec.—Miss Cox, 6, Queen's Road, Hampton Hill.

Mothers' Union.

Monthly Meetings, First Wednesday in each month in the Club Room, 3 p.m., and Quarterly Services: Corporate Communion First Wednesday 10.30 a.m.

Enrolling Member (Temporary) Mrs. Beckett.

St. James's Youth Club.

Meetings in the Club Room, on Mondays and Fridays at 7.30 p.m.
Joint Hon. Secs.: Mrs. G. Casey and Mr. J. Sumner.

Girl Guides. Captain—Miss Cynthia Hayward.

Brownies. Brown Owl—Miss D. Proctor.

Meetings in the Club Room on Thursdays at 5.30 p.m.

Sea Scouts—"The Venture," Hampton Water Works
Group Scout Master—Mr. A. W. Lewer.

Scouts. Scout Master: Mr. G. Casey, 20, Windsor Road, Teddington

The Vicar may be seen at the Vicarage on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. and on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 6.15 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Sickness.

The Vicar will be grateful if cases of sickness are reported to him at once.

District Nurse—Mrs. S. Shaw, 5, Regina Court, Gloucester Road
Teddington

Churchyard.

Contributions towards the upkeep of the Churchyard will be gratefully received by Mr. E. Beckett, 35, Wellington Road, Hampton Hill.

Magazine.

Hon. Sec. & Advt. Sec.: Mrs. H. F. Beckett, 6, Cross St. Hampton Hill
Editor: Miss H. Stanton, 63, Park Road, Hampton Hill.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE REV.

H. A. HARPER, B.A.

My dear Friends,

I have been asked to write you a few lines in this magazine, and I am glad to have the opportunity. It enables me to express something of the pleasure I have found in ministering these few weeks at St. James', Hampton Hill. It is not easy to get to know you when I am only able to get to services on Sundays and Holy Days. But even under these circumstances I feel that some friendship does develop, not only with individuals but with the congregation as a whole.

Then this letter gives me the chance to wish you all "A Merry Christmas", which I do most cordially. We mustn't be afraid of the word "Merry", the Bible certainly isn't. There is great cause for merriment, for we are going to commemorate the greatest event in history; an event which is not only historical, but which is a reality in our lives and in the world today. The God, who 1950 years ago took our nature upon Him, has never discarded it. The Christ, who came to dwell among us, has never left us. Where there is the faithful heart, there he is present. Where there is need or repentance, there he comes. He comes, and keeps on coming, until that great coming of which the creed speaks. Love came down at Christmas, and the love of God, then so wonderfully revealed, has never left us.

So let us by all means wish each other 'A Merry Christmas', but let us not forget the inner meaning of it all. We rightly prepare for the social side of Christmas, for parties and good cheer, but there is another kind of preparation for Christmas which raises the whole festival on to a higher plane of enjoyment. What a lot of time and energy is spent in shopping and other preparations for Christmas. There is nothing wrong in that. Christmas should be well prepared for—but in more ways than one.

The right attitude, it seems to me, is not to resolve to spend an equal or greater amount of time on our spiritual preparation, but to seek for the grace that will make our preparation an act of love and devotion, expressed not only in the Eucharist and other worship,

but in the joy of the family circle, and similar festivities. The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. God and man, spiritual and the physical, were brought together for the salvation of mankind. Our response should be of a similar nature. The physical and the spiritual; social and the religious; the eating and drinking at our own tables; the eating and drinking at the Lord's Table; must all be brought under one dominating purpose of response to the love of God, so vividly and wonderfully revealed at Christmas.

Yours very sincerely,

A. H. HARPER.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF OUR NEW VICAR.

The Vicar of Hampton, the Rev. C. P. C. Knapp, M.A., who is Patron of the Benefice of St. James', Hampton Hill, attended a meeting of the Parochial Church Council in the Vestry on Thursday, November 16th, and informed the Council that he had offered the living to the Rev. Rupert Hoyle Brunt, B.A., A.K.C., Vicar of St. Faith's, N. Wilford, Nottingham, and that it had been accepted by him.

In the name of the Church and Parish we extend most hearty greetings to him, to Mrs. Brunt, and their family, and pray that their coming amongst us may be richly blessed, and his ministry crowned with success.

We hope that our next issue will contain a New Year Message from our Vicar-Designate.

Edward V. Beckett

William F. Wigginton

Churchwardens.

MESSAGE FROM THE REV. F. P. P. HARVEY.

The Rev. F. P. P. Harvey wishes to thank all who contributed to the Presentation made to him on his retirement. He is most grateful to all kind friends and bids them to remember that they are ever in his thoughts and prayers.

DAYS OF SPECIAL REMEMBRANCE.

Dec. 3rd. Advent Sunday.

Dec. 10th. Collections at all Services will be divided between the C.M.S. and S.P.G., and liberal offerings

It may not be known throughout the Parish that in order to keep the Clock going (which is, we feel, relied upon more than is generally admitted) it is necessary to wind it almost every other day, an onerous task calling for great diligence.

For some years now it has been done voluntarily, by Mr. Vickery until his unfortunate accident prevented him, also by Mr. Christie who is now having to resign.

May we therefore appeal for another volunteer who will be willing to co-operate with Mr. H. Beckett and do this service for the Church and Parish?

CARING FOR THE LEPERS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

My address was an Institution. Ten miles within its boundary I reached it. It was a beautiful corner of trees, shrubs and flowers, a blaze of colour before the bungalow where lived the three Nursing Sisters. At the end of the garden were the well built wards, operating theatre, many pairs of houses for the patients, stores, kitchens, laundry, school, creche, shop, up the hill the churches and beyond the staff compound.

The 120 patients have the same beauties of nature around them. They are forced to be there. Their relations can visit them twice a year, sitting apart. Some must end their days there. Numbers have a good chance of returning home with a discharge certificate. Many have done so over the years. With money for the use of quicker acting powerful new drugs more ought to have that joy. It is not their fault they have contracted leprosy. Children are very likely to develop it, if they remain in contact with the disease, even more so if they remain undernourished, living in overcrowded insanitary conditions and weakened by other diseases, unhappy and later perhaps outcast.

South Africa helps support the family if a parent undergoes treatment for leprosy, and for a time on his return. If at one of his future examinations he is found to need a short course of treatment again, he will return.

One patient who came back to have a toe removed, and so stop more bone rotting and the leprosy becoming worse, was a dignified old chief. He came proudly in the ambulance and went away after a short stay even more proudly escorted by a large retinue on horseback. He had been so busy in the ward learning to read. He did not join in the general class, but had private tuition from Freddie in the next bed.

An occasional witch doctor patient tries to obstruct the work. I have felt the power of evil and shared in the joy when the power of good has overcome it.

At least once a year at the 'Board Meeting' visiting doctors examine all the patients. Afterwards the Sister in charge will say "Such a fine crowd to go home, but what will I do about helpers? I will have no hospital cook or laundry woman, no ward orderlies, dressers, headwomen, police or committee, and who can I have to be house mother for the girls?" Somehow they are selected from among the remaining patients and trained.

The children have excellent training and become devoted to their duties and interested in their treatment. One bandages the sores of the others, several pound mealies (maize) for the cripples, one sews for the fingerless and two little girls will be one another's comforters as they have their injections. They play as well, sing and dance and have their own entertainments.

One little girl, Daliswa, was too crippled to dance and too ill to sing when she arrived. Gradually she improved. She was happy then and sang and made friends. She rode in the donkey cart to Church and when she could use her crutches Daliswa left the ward and joined the Girls Home and Day School.

The teacher, and ex-patient, has for friends the healthy young women who look after the uninfected babies of patients. Such a happy place the creche is—the toddlers are just delightful. Their parents see them twice a week and proudly note them through the wire netting getting strong and big. When they are about 2 years old they will go to relations and their parents hope soon to rejoin them.

Most days of the week the patients can be found fairly easily. They may be around the hospital or the house of rest for the invalids, or one of the compounds or gardens. They may be in either of the two well built churches of the Methodists or Anglicans. On Saturdays, however, we may have to go a good walk down to the sea to find some. Different groups take it in turn to have the ox-waggon, and do they enjoy their outing! So do the Sisters and the dog on their stretch of smooth sandy river mouth or rocky headland. Well refreshed, they return.

R. Wright.

NOTE:

It is with great pleasure that we have, in this issue of our Magazine, been able to find space for the first instalment of Miss Rachael Wright's articles on her work in a leper colony—from which she returned last year.

I think it is particularly suitable at Christmas time, when we attach so much importance to festivities in our homes, to think of these people who through illness are separated from their homes. May we remember very specially the lepers in our Christmas Prayers.

Ed.

NEWS FROM FAR AND NEAR.

Many members of the congregation will be delighted to welcome Mrs. Brunt, the wife of our new Vicar, as an old friend. Before her marriage she was Miss Middlemiss and taught at the Lady Eleanor Hollis School. We shall all be looking forward to meeting her with the greatest of pleasure.

We welcome Mr. and Mrs. Barrett back to our parish after their visit to South Africa. We hope that they have had a very enjoyable visit abroad, and that we shall be able to hear something about it in due course.

We are very glad to hear that Mr. Cox is better after his recent ill-health. Mr. Cox has been a sidesman for many years, and many people miss him from the church. We hope he will soon be well enough to come again to our services.

At this very special season of the year we want to send most sincere greetings to all the friends who have been connected with St. James in the past. We send our love and best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Harvey, Mr. and Mrs. Pooley, Mr. Sturt and Mr. and Mrs. Miles have all moved away from Hampton Hill in recent months, and we want to assure them of our good wishes. We shall always welcome news of these and other dear friends of our Church.

Ed.

CHRISTMAS CONUNDRUM.

From "A Christmas Carol".

The Ghost of Christmas Present unquestionably showed Scrooge the Cratchits eating goose; as unquestionably, Scrooge on Christmas morning sent a boy in a cab to Camden Town carrying to them the big prize turkey, which that admirable boy described as "as big as me". On which bird did the Cratchits really make merry or was it on both?

The Times. 18.11.50.

A CAROL FOR CHILDREN.

Joyfully, Joyfully
Carol Christmas bells;
Merrily, merrily
Carol Christmas bells;

Christ our Lord was born today,
Let us all be glad and say
We will love Him and obey,

Joyfully, joyfully
Carol Christmas bells.

Joyfully, joyfully
Carol Christmas bells;
Merrily, merrily
Carol Christmas bells;

Here around the Christmas tree

All our hearts are glad and free
While we carol lovingly
Joyfully, joyfully
Carol Christmas bells.

SHORT STORY.

An earnest and eloquent lay preacher was expounding the parable of the Prodigal Son. Riotous living in a far country proved expensive and so wasted his substance that, in dire poverty, he was driven to extreme measures:—

"First he sold his coat, then he sold his shirt and then at last, my friends, he came to himself".

THE SUMMER FETE.

As promised we give the Financial Result of the Fete held on the 1st July.

Takings from Stalls, Sideshows, Refreshments, etc., amounted to £201 9s. 9d. and after deducting Expenses £75 19s. 11d., the sum of £125 9s. 10d. was added to Church Funds.

A complete statement is posted in the Church Porch for all who wish to know further details.

BURIALS.

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord".

November 15th. Catherine Curtis, aged 73 years.