

VICAR'S NOTES

The work on the beams is now proceeding with great vigour and thoroughness, and it is good to see the rotten and decayed pieces coming out and the new sound timber going in. At the same time as this is happening, we ourselves are planning and doing various things to improve the interior of our church and set it in order. We are tackling the question of old books and hassocks, repairing some, and buying new ones to replace those which are irreparable. The work has its amusing side, as when three of us recently spent an hour separating books in need of repair from those in good condition, and then hid them away, only to find the next day that the hiding place had been discovered and the books mixed up again! It was our fault for not labelling our store "Not to be used"! New book-markers have been made by Mrs. Futter; many prayer books have had their lives prolonged by Mr. Harper; the Choirboys are to have new cassocks—and so little by little things are being done to make the church more seemly and well-ordered. It must also be a place where people feel welcome and at home, and I have long had a feeling that the system of pews did not help towards this. The Commission on Worship felt this too; and that the time had come for considering their abolition. At the last Church Council I proposed that this should be done, and it was unanimously agreed that they should cease from the end of this year. I know that those who hold pews in this way have done so mainly to help the Vicar, as the fee forms part of his stipend, and I am grateful to them for their kind support. But many new-comers have found the little labels of reservation somewhat chilling, though the only case I have heard of someone's actually being asked to move from a pew did not occur in a rented pew, but in one to which a person evidently felt a proprietary claim through having sat undisturbed in that same place for some time. There is, of course, no reason why people should not normally go on sitting in the places to which they are accustomed, but we should all practise give and take in these

matters, and not be unduly perturbed if we find a stranger sitting in our favourite corner. All we can do to make our church a home in which all people feel truly welcome without being fussed or bothered we should do.

The Autumn Fair was again very successful owing to the hard work and planning of many people, and thanks to Mr. Cyril Tarrant's organizing ability everything went most smoothly on the day itself.

Sunday, December 12th, is our Dedication Festival, and we shall again be asking for your generous giving—the gifts this time to help to pay for the very costly renovating of our 91-years-old church. Gift-envelopes will be distributed with this magazine, and they can be brought back to any Service or given to the Churchwardens, but we hope that, as in other years, as many people as possible will bring them to the evening Service, and present their gifts in a more personal way at the chancel steps. Our preacher will be Prebendary E. S. Duval, until recently Rector and Rural Dean of Hornsey, and now living in—only partial!—retirement in our parish.

Soon after this, Christmas will be upon us, but we will do well to heed our Bishop's warning about anticipating it, which I find churches do very much more readily here in the South than in the Midlands and North. We at this church will again try to keep Advent faithfully, and keep our parties, carols and other expressions of joy until Christmas is really here. The only exception will be a new event for us: the Day School's Carol Service on December 20th. If schools are to have any corporate celebration of Christmas, it unfortunately nearly always has to be an anticipation, because of the break caused by the holidays; but there is no reason for making this exception a general rule, as many would have us do. The whole impact of Christmas is blunted if carols are sung and festivities begin in what should be a time of training and preparation—and only those who make a serious attempt to undergo some preparation can really enter into the deeper and more lasting joys of Christmastide.

After an interval of three years, a Nativity Play will again be presented in church—on January 2nd and 3rd. The Play is a forceful and moving one, and was originally written for the Pilgrim Players of Canterbury, who presented it in many parts of England during the war.

Many people knew Charlotte Moss, though she never in any way drew attention to herself, but her quiet faithfulness to her church over many years could not fail to be noticed. Nothing could keep her back from her regular worship, and in the worst times of the war, as before and since, she was one of those one could rely on to be always there—and she had been there on the day she died—worshipping at Matins, and passing peacefully in the evening.

Next year it will be our turn to have a Confirmation in this church. Instead of being in November as in the past—a month difficult and uncertain for travelling in this part of the world because of fogs—it will be, at the Bishop's request, in July, and instead of being in the evening as has been usual, it will be in the morning—9 a.m., to be followed by a Parish Communion and, I hope, a Parish Breakfast. The Bishop will not only confirm the candidates, but also give them their first Communion, and then meet them at breakfast afterwards. The time of preparation for this will begin early in the New Year, and I should be glad to receive more names of intending candidates, both young and old. It should be a very special and happy parish occasion.

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about
people, activities & organisations

THE MEN'S SOCIETY

It is pleasant to be able to report that Mr. F. Sargeant has volunteered to take up the duties of C.E.M.S. Branch Secretary again. Now that we are assured of an active person in this post it will be possible to recommence regular Branch meetings. This will be done as from this month.

At an exploratory meeting held on Thursday, 11th November, to discuss future plans, it was decided meeting on Thursday—normally the second in the month—should be tried. It was further decided to experiment with a changed form of meeting: the first half to be a discussion on some aspect of Church belief or practice, opened by the Vicar with a short exposition, and the second half a speaker on some lay subject; it is hoped for the next few meetings to recruit speakers from amongst Branch members or their acquaintances. To ensure that such meetings end not later than 10 p.m., it was decided that the time of assembly should be 7.45 to 8.0, for commencement at 8.0 p.m. sharp.

Exceptionally, the meeting this month will be on the third Thursday, December 16th, at the Vicarage. The Vicar will open a dis-

ussion on "The Meaning of Faith," and Mr. Sargeant will speak on "Ships and Shipbuilding."

Non-members (as yet!) are cordially invited to our meetings: we were very pleased to welcome Mr. Bayley last month. C.W.S.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOLS

The size of classes goes on growing, and several now have more than twenty children. For the time being it may not be possible to admit any more children, and parents are advised to get in touch with the Vicar instead of just "sending their children along." We have been glad to welcome Mrs. Melville and Mrs. Brunt as members of the staff of the Junior Department. Both have the advantage of being trained teachers, and Mrs. Melville also has musical qualifications which will be a great asset to the school. It has also been a great boon to the teachers to have Mrs. Mills as secretary and registrar, relieving them of many worries, and always on hand to deal with emergencies.

We are grateful to Miss Scott, the Head Mistress of The Lady Eleanor Holles School, for her readiness to hold training classes for intending teachers as soon as any such are available. We are

also grateful to two members of her staff, Miss Barclay and Miss Moffatt, for making arrangements at great inconvenience to themselves to take charge of Mrs. Brunt's class on the two Sundays when she expects to be undergoing hospital treatment.

The Diocesan Council for Religious Education is hoping to arrange another course for teachers and possible recruits early in the New Year at Twickenham. As this is more accessible than Hampton Wick, where the last such course was held, it may be possible for a stronger contingent from this parish to take part. Further details later.

The Party for the older children and the Bible Class will take place soon after Christmas, when we hope to be able to present a short play to which parents will also be invited.

THE MOTHERS' UNION and YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 5th, in the Hall, when carols will be sung, and a collection taken for the Children's Society (formerly known as Waifs and Strays). Tea will be provided.

At the Annual General Meeting in February we shall be electing three new members to the Committee in the place of those who have served for three years. One of these will be the Enrolling Member, and I do ask the Branch to think about this appointment, and to pray for guidance.

The Young Wives' Group hold their Children's Party this month, on the afternoon of the first Wednesday after Christmas. Tickets for the children (6d. each) can be obtained from members of the Committee. New members of this after the recent Annual Meeting, are Mrs. Dunkerley (vice-chairman), Mrs. Southon (secretary), Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Davies (co-opted member). C.H.B.

THE BROWNIE PACK

To celebrate their 36th birthday, the 1st Hampton Hill Pack held a large party in the Parish Hall on November 6th. Amongst the many visitors were parents, former Brownies now in the Guides, two mothers who were

Brownies in the early days, and two former Brown Owls: Miss Brown and Mrs. Pope.

Two dozen Brownies and twelve Guides, together with several Brownies and Guides from the Church of England Children's Home, Ealing, sat down to tea. This was provided by parents and friends, and included a large birthday cake.

After tea a programme of games was enjoyed until five o'clock, when the Commissioner, Dr. Frayn, was welcomed with a special tableau to commemorate the birthday. At the conclusion a large box of sweets, donated by members of the Pack, was handed to the visitors from Ealing.

D.M.C.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

- Dec. 4.—7.30 p.m. Dance (organised by Young Wives' Group), in support of Renovation Fund. Tickets 3/6.
- Dec. 7.—8.0 p.m. Street-Wardens' Meeting (Vestry).
- Dec. 8.—3.0 p.m. Sanctuary Guild (Vicarage).
- Dec. 9.—8.15 p.m. Church Council (Vestry).
- Dec. 12.—Dedication Festival, and Gift Day for Renovation Fund. 6.30 p.m. Preacher: The Rev. Prebendary E. S. Duval.
- Dec. 16.—7.45 p.m. Men's Society (Vicarage).
- Dec. 20.—3.0 p.m. Primary School's End-of-Term Carol Service.
- Dec. 21.—St. Thomas. Holy Communion 7.30 a.m.
- Dec. 24.—11.45 p.m. The Midnight Eucharist.
- 25.—CHRISTMAS DAY.
Holy Communion 7.0, 8.0, 9.0 a.m., and 12.15 p.m.
Matins and Sermon 11.0 a.m.
- 26.—St. Stephen. Holy Communion 8.0 a.m. Matins 11.0 a.m. Children's Service 2.30 p.m. Evensong 6.30 p.m.
- 27.—St. John. Holy Communion 10.30 a.m.
- Dec. 28.—Holy Innocents. Holy Communion 10.30 a.m.
- Dec. 29.—3.0 p.m. Young Wives' Group: Children's Christmas Party.
- Dec. 31.—8.0 p.m. New Year's Eve Old-Time Dance (in support of Hall Fund).

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- Jan. 1.—The Circumcision. Holy Communion 7.30 a.m.
- Jan. 2.—6.30 p.m. Nativity Play in Church: "Beginning of the Way."
- Jan. 3.—7.30 p.m. Second Performance of Nativity Play.
- Jan. 5.—3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union Carol Service. (Collection for the Church of England Children's Society).
- Jan. 6.—The Epiphany. Holy Communion 7.15 a.m. (note new time), and 10.30 a.m.
- Jan. 7.—7.30 p.m. Magazine Distributors' Meeting; 8.0 p.m. Sunday School Teachers' (Junior Department) Meeting (Vicariate).
- Jan. 8.—3.30 p.m. Sunday School Christmas Party (Junior and Senior Departments; Infants' Party on Feb. 12); 7.45 p.m. Drama Group Christmas Party (Hall).
- Jan. 9.—6.30 p.m. Festival Service of the Nine Lessons and Carols.

N.B.—Owing to the repairs to the interior of the church, there will be no services on Thursdays at 10.30 a.m. until January 6th, and thereafter at fortnightly intervals until further notice. On and after this date also, earlier Celebrations of Holy Communion will always take place at 7.15 a.m. instead of at either 7.0 or 7.30 a.m.

BAPTISMS

- Oct. 24.—Jacqueline Winford, 1, Roy Grove.
- Oct. 24.—Christine Winifred Haley, 8, Regina Court, Gloucester Rd.
- Oct. 24.—Nicholas John Howard, 8, Longford Close.
- Nov. 14.—Angela Joan Jenkinson, 261, Uxbridge Road.

MARRIAGE

- Nov. 20.—Philip John Warren to Wendy Dorothy Lyne.

BURIALS AND CREMATIONS

- Oct. 9.—Melissa Beatrice Tomlinson, 32, Castlepark Park, Ealing, aged 76 years.
- Oct. 20.—James Draper, 42, Windmill Road, aged 65 years.
- Oct. 28.—Sarah Lavinia Turner, Laurel Dene, aged 78 years. (at Teddington).
- Oct. 29.—Emma Read, 72, Myrtle Road, aged 85 years (at Mortlake Crematorium).
- Nov. 18.—Charles Vince, 17, Myrtle Road, aged 79 years (at Hampton).
- Nov. 19.—Annie Townrow Groves, 44, Acacia Road, aged 80 years (at Twickenham).
- Nov. 22.—Charlotte Moss, 13, Eastbank Road, aged 79 years.
- Nov. 24.—William James Hope, Lavernock, Albert Road, aged 81 years.

FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

THE DIOCESE OF LONDON

A Brief History

4. The Twentieth Century

In 1901 Arthur Foley Winnington-Ingram became Bishop. He was a man who through his experience in the East End as Rector of Bethnal Green and Bishop of Stepney had a deep understanding of the needs of the Diocese, which now consisted of 620 parishes, with a population of 3,610,000. In the thirty-eight years of his episcopate many changes were to take place. He threw himself into the task of raising funds to ease the lot of the poorer clergy and to provide new churches. By some it was felt that the task of administering so large a diocese

was too heavy a task for one man, and a proposal was made to divide it into three. The Bishop was against it, and the matter came to nothing. He felt that the expenditure involved would divert money from areas where it was badly needed. He incurred much adverse criticism by his willingness to sacrifice a number of the City Churches to build churches in the suburbs, but the fruits of his zeal are seen in the fact that he consecrated 79 new churches, and was responsible for the rebuilding or enlargement of 38. This is no mean record for one who is chiefly remembered for his constant pastoral activity, his Preaching Missions and his approachability.

To be continued