

## Vicar's Notes

The new monthly picture magazine, "Church Illustrated," has made a good start throughout the country, and as sales increase it is hoped to raise its quality and reduce its price. After this month we shall be able to obtain copies only for those who give a firm order for the rest of the year, as there is no 'sale or return' basis. Please decide therefore, with the March issue—which will be available on March 6th—whether you wish to become a regular subscriber or not.

I outlined at the Ash Wednesday Evening Service ways in which we might make profitable use of Lent, and there is no space to repeat these suggestions here. But let us remember that Christians are called to be "athletes of Christ," and like all athletes, we need periods of special training to reduce the unhealthy fat that clogs us (and there is a spiritual fat which is just as clogging as any other kind) and to increase our fitness to do what Christ expects of us in the great race of life.

One of the great changes that has come with regard to Lent is that, whereas a few years ago it was recognised as 'bad form' and against Church principles to get married in Lent except for very special reasons, it has now become the most popular period for weddings in the whole year. This is no doubt partly due to the income tax concessions made to those

getting married before April 5th, and in these times this relief is certainly not to be sneered at. Some churches still refuse weddings in Lent, or insist on a very early hour, no music, and so on. But though, when people consult me about this, I encourage them to get married later unless there is a good reason against this, I do not take the rigorist line on this matter, or say as some do "Yes—you can get married—but it will have to be at 8.0 a.m., and there can be no music." The church will be sombre and will be without flowers, reminding us that this is a time of discipline and training: but there will be no attempt to penalise those who, for one reason or another, feel that they must choose this time for their wedding.

I mention all this here because I have had more inquiries than ever this year on this point—"Would we be allowed to get married in Lent?"—and there is apparently much uncertainty about it.

On "Mothering Sunday," March 20th, there will be no special Service in the afternoon, as our Sunday School lessons for Lent form a complete course that allows of no break. Instead, mothers—and fathers!—will be welcome to come to the Junior Department of the Sunday School (which meets in the church), to take part in the opening and closing worship, and to sit near their children in the classes and see and hear what happens there.

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## AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about people, activities & organisations

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### MOTHERS' UNION AND YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

First we take the opportunity to congratulate Mrs. Thomas on the occasion of her 80th birthday last month. We were taken completely unawares as it didn't seem possible that this event could be so imminent, but now send our best wishes for her ninth decade.

The M.U. party was held on Candlemas day and was very well attended. The fact that it was cut shorter than we had anticipated only accentuated the fact that we were all enjoying ourselves immensely. Mrs. Hillier

provided the music. We were glad to have Mrs Jordan back and well.

The Annual General Meeting a fortnight later was not so well attended and in fact we only just had enough people to provide a quorum. Mesdames Brunt, Gloyns, Harper and Wiggins were elected to the committee for three years. It had not been possible to nominate a new Enrolling Member and the Committee proposal that its members should each take turn in organising and presiding at the meetings was passed by a large majority. For the time being, to avoid confusion, matters that di-

rectly concern the E.M. should be taken in the first place to Mrs. Brunt at the Vicarage and other matters to the General Secretary, Mrs. Beckett at 35, Wellington Road.

**A Quiet Afternoon** particularly for dedication of the year's work will be conducted by the Vicar in church on March 9th, from 3.0 to 4.15 p.m. Tea will be available at the Vicarage afterwards.

**Overseas.** All our members will be particularly interested to hear that Miss Kingstone, until now Enrolling Member of All Saints', Hanworth, is going to Africa as a Special M.U. Worker among homes and children there. We are proud to send her from this Deanery and look forward to having news of her. We send our best wishes for her journey and her future work.

Until now many of us were unaware that every member is "pledged" to giving a penny a month for the overseas work of the M.U. Our Branch has not in the past given as much as that, small though it is. In future we shall ask for a shilling in September from those who wish to pay in lump sum and the box will be available each month for others. This financial year ends on March 25th and it was decided to make up any deficit from general funds.

**South Africa.**

There is to be an Open Overseas Meeting held at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Tuesday, March 8th, at 2.15 p.m. The speakers will be the Bishop of Johannesburg and the Bishop of Lebombo, admission will be free, no tickets being required. It is hoped to give the collection from this Meeting to the Special Appeal that is being launched on behalf of the Church in South Africa. It is earnestly hoped that many, not only Mothers' Union members, will find it possible to attend this Meeting. Travel on the 1.9 p.m. train from Twickenham.

**Lady Day, March 25th.**

There will be a special Corporate Communion at 10.0 a.m. This is a special Service for mothers, and children will be welcome. We all have prayer books, so no-one is going to be disturbed by baby or toddler noises. The children should be brought up to the Altar

rail with their mothers. It is suggested that those who have difficulty in hearing or might be disturbed in other ways by the children should sit in the chancel.

In the afternoon the special Festival Service will be held at 3.0 p.m. in the Church of S. Michael & S. George, Fulwell, which is the Parish Church of our Presiding Member. The preacher will be the Rev. F. H. Hopkins, Chaplain to the London Diocesan Council for Adult Education. Tea will be available after the Service in the Parish Hall. Our members should meet at 2.20 at the end of Burtons Road or 2.35 p.m. outside the church.

**M.U. Diaries, 1956.** We have to do things more and more in advance and have had notice that these, price 3/-, should be ordered now to avoid disappointment. (Orders to Mrs. Beckett, please).

**N.S.P.C.C.** The Local Street Collections in this district will take place in April and to give more information about the Society the Y.W. Group has arranged an evening for a film and speaker on March 30th at 8.0 p.m. in the Parish Hall. We hope as many people as possible will come to hear and see.

**M.U. Subscriptions** of 1/6 and Journal subscriptions of 3/- should be paid now to representatives or direct to Mrs. Prentice.

**Group News.** We congratulate Mrs. Brown, last year's Vice-Chairman, on the arrival of her new daughter, Rachel.

Mrs. Davies of Westbank Road has been co-opted to the committee as an area representative and Mrs. Heaford of Whitton to fill Mrs. Severn's place.

Some more dates to put in your diary:—

March 14th. Coach Party to Ideal Home Exhibition, 6.30 p.m.

April 23rd. Jumble Sale. If you cannot store or bring your contribution please phone Mrs. Prentice (MOL 382).

April 26th. Diocesan Festival Service at St. Paul's Cathedral. Coach party tickets from Mrs. Beckett.

June 2nd. Y.W. Outing to Bognor. Tickets from Mrs. Ford, 83, Park Road.

June 15th. M.U. Outing. Place to be announced.

## THE RENOVATION OF THE CHURCH

The present phase of renovation has now come to an end. The most urgent work has been done, and well done—to roof, gutters, down-pipes and beams—and the church has been saved from the damp and decay which were slowly destroying it. For a great deal of the work done and money expended there is little to show. A stranger would notice the new gutters and pipes, but the extensive repairs to the roof might not pass unnoticed; and if he went into the church he would not realise that the ends of all the aisle roof-trusses had been cut off and removed in a badly-rotted condition and new ones scarfed in to replace them, soaked in fungus poison and solidly encased in copper. They still have to go into the wall, owing to the defective design of the building, but the treatment they have received should make them last for many years, even if the walls do get saturated with damp again, which we hope now to prevent. We were fortunate in that our contractors had supplies of copper in hand, for the price has recently soared to exorbitant heights; but though we were saved this expense, the last period of work has been costly, and when the final accounts for it to architect and builder have been paid there will be very little left in our Renovation Fund. Other urgent work—but not so immediately urgent as that which has now been completed—will have to wait until we have again built up some financial reserves.

It is very gratifying to note that, though no special appeal was made last year, money came in very steadily through the quiet, unspectacular but effective efforts of many individuals and groups. Here is a summary of the Renovation Fund's progress in 1954:—

### Individual and Group Efforts—

	£	s.	d.
Sale of Waste Paper (Vicarage)	1	14	0
Y.W. Group Badminton Section—Dance	14	9	0
Drama Group—Play	5	17	4
Cubs—Sale of Jam Jars	2	19	3
Mrs. Western's "At Home"	6	5	0

Mrs. Fraser's Whist Drives	6	5	0
Mr. and Mrs. Campbell's Tea Set Raffle	37	5	0
M.U.—Jumble Sale	23	12	6
M.U. Choir "At Home"	5	0	9
Mrs. Futter's Dance	20	0	0
Shilling "Trading" (Mrs. Gloyns)	25	14	2
Children's Play	1	17	10
Vicarage Coffee Party	1	0	6
Mrs. Warwick and Mrs. Cox—Coffee Party	1	10	8
Flower Show (Renovation Committee)	16	6	8
Mrs. Orton's Coffee Party	1	5	0
Miss Bassett— Hedley Tops	2	17	8
Drama Group—Sale of Surplus Properties	1	2	6
Young Wives' Group— Sale of Jam Jars	2	5	0
Church Tower Visits (Mr. Sargeant)	7	1	6
Vicarage Fireworks Party (Committee, and Mrs. Orton and Mrs. Dunk- erley)	5	9	0
<b>£189</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>4</b>	

### General Efforts and Interest—

	£	s.	d.
Contents of Boxes	36	8	2
Donations, etc.	16	17	2
Hampton Charities	12	10	0
Gift Day	32	9	3
Interest on P.O.S.B. Deposit	15	8	6
<b>£113</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>£303</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>

If we can go quietly on in this way in the years ahead, the task which sometimes seems immensely formidable will gradually be accomplished. So please everyone—do not slacken in your support of the Fund! There is much yet to be done—interior and exterior pointing, the overhaul of the clock, replacement of decayed stonework, renewal of electric-wiring, and so on—and after this, which is just the necessary making-good of the damage of the years, we should like to go on to improvements of various kinds: that is still far in the future—but we shall do it in time!

## SOME DATES TO NOTE

- March 8.—2.15 p.m. Overseas Meeting, Caxton Hall.  
March 9.—3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union Quiet Afternoon.  
March 10.—7.45 p.m. Men's Society (Vicarage).  
March 20.—2.30 p.m. Junior Sunday School Open Afternoon.  
Mar. 23.—8.0 p.m. Annual Church Meeting ((Hall).  
March 25.—The Annunciation.  
Holy Communion 7.15 and 10.0 a.m. (not 10.30 a.m.). 3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union Deanery Service at Fulwell. 3.30 p.m. Opening of New Extension of Laurel Dene. 8.0 p.m. Presentation (in a setting of worship) of Episode 8 of "The Man Born to be King" at St. Mary's, Hampton.  
March 30.—8.0 p.m. Young Wives' Group (Hall), N.S.P.C.C. Speaker and Film.  
April 1.—7.30 p.m. Magazine Distributors (Vicarage). 8.0 p.m. Junior Department S.S. Teachers (Vicarage).  
N.B.—(1) Holy Communion on Thursdays, March 17 and 31 at 10.30 a.m.  
(2) Lenten Study of "Christian Deviations" at 8.30 p.m. on every Wednesday except March 23 and 30 at Vicarage.

(3) Confirmation Classes meet regularly as arranged.

(4) The Rev. C. M. Lamb will preach at Evensong on March 6 and 27.

## BAPTISMS

- Feb. 27.—Janet Rosemary Hill, 51, Windmill Road.  
" 27.—Geoffrey David Deeks, 66, Laurel Road.  
" 27.—Peter Richard Makepeace, 34, Windmill Rd.  
" 27.—Janet Mary Sly, 19, Cranmer Road.  
" 27.—Paul Christopher Preece, 5, St. James's Road.  
" 27.—Peter David and Michael John Harrison, 37, Park Road.

## MARRIAGE

- Feb. 26.—John Warren Staggs to Sheila Lillian Mary Freemantle.

## BURIALS

- Feb. 9.—Marguerite Aline King-Stephens, 108, High St., Hampton, aged 76 yrs.  
" 10.—Frederick John Giles, 126, High Street, aged 46 years.  
" 10.—Albert Sutton, 22, Windmill Road, aged 64 yrs.

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# FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

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## THE CHURCH OVERSEAS

**"That is how it should be"**

Travelling in India a C.M.S. missionary was delighted to meet a young man who had recently been baptised and whom he recognised as a former pupil of a Mission School in Pakistan. The missionary writes: "He said that he had first met Christ not through any particular Bible Class but through the life and atmosphere of the School and through the witness of certain members of the School—that is how it should be."

### Eager to Hear

A young African boy was watching his father's cattle when

he heard an evangelist preaching to a small group of people. As he listened he made up his mind to find a Christian Church and hear more of the Christian Gospel. He travelled twenty miles to the nearest Church, and there he heard the way of salvation and was converted.

A family of five Muslims recently approached a C.M.S. missionary and asked for instruction for baptism. They said that they had travelled from a town forty miles away where they had first heard the Gospel from a Christian nurse. They have now been baptised and, in spite of persecution, are witnessing to those around them.