

Vicar's Notes

The September magazine appears late as usual, but it does appear! In an increasing number of parishes it does not appear at all, and the August issue is made to cover two months. Other parishes are cutting down still further, and producing their magazine only nine or ten times in the year. They say they find this arrangement more economical, as well as saving the Vicar's time. It is something to be considered anyhow. A friend sent me several magazines from different parishes recently, and I also saw others on my holiday, and I noticed that in each case the charge made was 6d., sometimes for a magazine considerably smaller than ours. It is, I think, a distinct achievement that we can keep the price of our magazine as low as it is, especially as the circulation is far from being as high as it might be. Please help to increase this.

WIND AND STORM

Many holidays this year have been spoilt by the gales and storms which have swept the country. There have been very few warm and pleasant days. We were fortunate to be travelling on one such when our hired car broke down on the way to the coast, and we had to spend the night 'sleeping rough' in a garden by the roadside. The Scout Group were favoured with another when they held their "Penny Party," and raised over £40—as earlier the Fête at Laurel Dene had fallen on the one good day amidst many bad ones. But on the whole it has been a wretched summer, causing not only inconvenience to holiday-makers, but difficulties and dangers for farmers, sailors, and many more.

The weather has also tested the weak places in buildings of all kinds—but certain buildings seem more prone to let water in than others. As was said in "The Archers"—"Churches and barnes seem always to be needing repairs in their roofs." Certainly our church has been having trouble with its roof for many years. No sooner has one spot been repaired than rain has started coming in at

another a few feet further along. We have had for some time the architect's advice about the way to deal with the present spot which causes the flooding of a large area near the font, and now we have received estimates telling us how much it might cost to carry out this advice—between £600 and £900—and other spots are now developing as well. The Church Council at its September meeting came to the conclusion that it might well be better to tackle the whole job thoroughly, rather than continue spending large sums on piecemeal patchings year by year. This would mean having the whole roof stripped and relaid, with better materials, than were first used, and with the omissions and deficiencies of the original structure made good as far as possible. The cost of such a major work would obviously run into some thousands of pounds, and a large loan would have to be raised. The Renovation Fund, after being drained dry, is now just starting to be built up again; and we must remember that it is not the roof alone that needs attention. Mr. Sargeant has recently reminded us of the serious condition of some of the brickwork within the tower. He has himself spent hours doing some voluntary re-pointing of that which is most accessible, and we are very grateful—but much remains for professional skill to do—and no money as yet to pay for any of it.

THESE ROOFS!

But it is not only our church roof that needs urgent attention—our parish hall roof has also apparently had its day, and water has poured in on many a festive gathering recently, and caused others to be cancelled or postponed. We have to tell people who want to use it that we cannot guarantee its dryness, and are advising them not to book it. The spots at which rain-water may come in are unpredictable—perhaps just above the wedding-cake!—and in a bad storm it will leak like a sieve. It is obviously not right to book a special function until this has been remedied—but what of the cost? We have ascertained that this will be at least

£400—£500. Again—no money in hand (but plenty of grumbles from people who think that St. James's is rolling in wealth!). So—another loan, though a smaller one, and we hope not too difficult to negotiate, despite the credit-squeeze.

But you can see the dire financial position we are in—with a large loan necessary for Wayside too. We may soon be many thousands of pounds in debt.

While emergencies mean that money has to be raised in a hurry, we also need a long-term scheme of sound finance. This must involve, not just a series of special efforts, but a great increase in direct and regular giving. With 2/6 a week from one out of every ten of Hampton Hill families, or 1/3 from one in five, the whole position would be transformed. The Church would be able to do many things which at present it cannot do. One of these would be maintaining in sound condition the buildings which so many people say that they value, but at the moment do little or nothing to support. The Parish Hall, for instance, has long ceased to "pay for itself." From the business angle, the wisest thing might be to sell it, and (if permitted) use the money for other urgent needs. But we believe our hall is still an asset to the whole local community, and are reluctant to consider such a step. For the moment the Church Council has definitely put it aside. But we may be forced to reconsider this, unless greater help is received from those who realise its importance as a meeting-place and a centre of social life and recreation.

OPERATION FIRM FAITH

Further news about this. The October issue of "The London Churchman" will be specially devoted to information about what is happening in the Diocese, and so I have ordered 18 extra copies of this particular number, and I hope that they will all be sold.

A Diocesan Family Service is to be held at St. Paul's Cathedral on Saturday, October 13th, at 2.30 p.m. The Bishop of London will preach, and there will be a processional pageant, illustrative of Christian family life. One complete representative family—Father, Mother, and not less than two children—is required from each parish. We are having difficulty in finding ours—so in case we haven't succeeded by the time you read this, will one eligible family please volunteer? It should be a grand and memorable occasion.

Every fourth Sunday in the month at 11.0 a.m. we hope that all our older Sunday School children will be present at Matins, and that their parents will come with them. To help the children to understand the Service, we have on order 60 copies of "A Child's Guide to Morning Prayer" (S.P.C.K. 1/-). At the moment this is re-printing, so is not yet available. A similar guide to Evening Prayer is obtainable. Parents may like to give copies of these as a personal gift to their own children.

At 2.30 p.m. on Harvest Thanksgiving Sunday, October 7th, there will be a Special Harvest Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication for children and parents, and we look forward to seeing many families in church on that occasion.

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about people, activities & organisations

THE MOTHERS' UNION

In September we started our new session with our annual C.E.Z.M.S. meeting. Miss Gough came to open the collecting-boxes and brought with her two missionaries on furlough from India and Miss Jusur Iya, who is Headmistress of a girls' school in Ceylon and who has come to England

to take a course at the Institute of Education.

Miss Stone, who is working in Bengal, told us about her work in the new Diocese and among the women and children in the village where she lives. The Church women there have a M.U. Branch. She spoke of the extreme poverty of her people and of the illiteracy

of the women. She asked us to read widely so that we could pray intelligently and help with the material needs of the society. The Vicar dedicated the offering and led the closing prayers.

The programmes for 1956-57 (price 3d.) were available at this meeting. If you haven't had one ask your committee member, or be sure to get it at the next meeting.

If this appears in print in time may I remind you that there is a special visit to the old Church of St. Nicholas, Compton, on the afternoon of September 26th. There will be an opportunity for tea and then the Vicar will conduct us round the church before we join in Evensong. The fare will be 3/6. Please ask Mrs. Wiggins, 38, Myrtle Road, at once if you would like a seat.

Rededication. In October we start on our special year of rededication. In all societies there is from time to time a necessity for taking stock, for spring-cleaning and then going ahead with renewed vigour.

In a society like ours it is very easy to take its principles for granted so readily that we are apt to forget what they really are and whether as individuals we are trying to live according to them.

It is a good thing to stop and ask ourselves seriously: Do I really think these Objects are as relevant to homes of 1956 as they were to those of 1876? Do I really try to do the things I promised at my enrolment? Do I still want to do them? And so this year we are all of us going to ask ourselves these questions as we hear at each meeting one or other aspect of the Mothers' Union put before us. (In the eight meetings at our disposal for this it won't be possible to cover all the work of the M.U., but we have chosen that which we think would be considered the most fundamental, and in future years we will take time to consider some of the trimmings).

At the end of the year—next July—those of us who still wish to belong to the movement and who feel that we have tried to carry out our obligations as far

as possible during the year, will retake membership at the Rededication Service in church.

All this means that it will also be a very good year for any Churchwomen who are interested, to come and find out about the M.U. and to be enrolled along with all the old members in July.

At the October meeting there will first be a Service in church when Mrs. Beckett will be installed in her office as Enrolling Member. In the address the Vicar will speak about his views on the rôle of the M.U. in Hampton Hill.

After the Service there will be the "Quarterly Tea" at Wayside and we shall also have a special exhibition lent to us by Mary Sumner House and a bookstall.

We have a coach booked for the Mass Meeting at Westminster on October 16th. There will only be a limited number of seats, so please let Mrs. Wiggins know as soon as possible if you would like one.

N.B.—Will you alter in your new programmes the dates for the film shows? The first one will be December 19th, and the second on February 13th.

Renovation Fund. Jam made from fruit from Wayside has realised 11/- for the Renovation Fund.

Holiday notion. We had a M.U. "Book Box" sent to our holiday address for the children. It contained 16 books of their favourite authors—we had listed these—and it cost 5/- for six weeks. As it rained every day but one this was a great boon and other mothers might find it helpful for the winter holidays!

N.S.P.C.C.

Our Hon. Secretary couples her thanks with those expressed in the following letter received from the above Society.

"Dear Mrs. Beckett,

"I was delighted to receive your recent letter together with your remittance of £29-3-3, for which our receipt is enclosed. It was most gratifying to know that the collections made on our behalf exceed last year's and both you and the ladies who took part in this effort are to be heartily congratulated.

"I can assure you all that this present sum is indeed most welcome, especially in this rather difficult phase through which our Society is passing and that the continued interest taken in our Society's welfare is a source of encouragement to us here.

"With renewed thanks and very good wishes,

Yours very truly,

ARTHUR MORTON,
Director."

The official receipt mentioned above may be seen in the church porch.

THE SUMMER FETE

The proceeds were made up as follows:—

Stalls: Cane Work £12-17-8, Children's £9-2-6, Fancy & Plain Needlework £20-7-3, Greengrocery £17-12-11, Holiday Needs £20-8-2, Novelties £4-1-2, Provisions £11-5-6, White Elephant £25-7-0, Ice Cream £8-17-0 Soft Drinks £3-4-5, Teas £22-13-0.

Exhibitions: Golden Hamsters £2-0-9, Model Railway £4-14-6.

Side Shows: "Bunty Pulls the Strings" £27-0-10, Bran Tub £6-7-6, Bowl for a Pig £4-3-9, Scouts £3-9-6, Church Lads' Brigade £2-1-5, Darts £3-13-0.

Special Attractions: Roundabout £1-0-0, Mechanical Space Ship and Rocking Horse £3-3-0, Ponies £1-0-6.

Miscellaneous: Posies £3-4-0, Sweet Peas 8/-, Programmes £4-5-8, Donations £3-0-0.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

Sept. 23.—11.0 a.m. Youth Organisations and Junior and Senior Sunday Schools in Church (No S.S. in Church in afternoon).

Sept. 26.—2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union Outing to Compton; 8.0 p.m. Young Wives' Group (W).

Sept. 29.—St. Michael and All Angels.

7.15 a.m. Holy Communion.

4.30 p.m. Old People's Party (Congregational Hall).

Oct. 1.—7.30 p.m. R.D. Conference —"Finance in the Parish" (St. Mary's Hall, Twickenham).

Oct. 2.—8.0 p.m. Prayer Group (W).

Oct. 3.—3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union Service: "Ideals of Re-dedication."

Oct. 4.—7.15 p.m. Harvest Thanksgiving. Preacher: The Archdeacon of Middlesex.

8.40 p.m. Harvest Supper and Entertainment (Hall). N.B.—Tickets to be obtained beforehand, price 3/-.

Oct. 7.—Continuation of Harvest Festival: 8.0 a.m. and 12.15 p.m. Holy Communion; 11.0 a.m. Matins; 2.30 p.m. Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication for Children and Parents; 6.30 p.m. Evensong.

Oct. 12.—7.30 p.m. Magazine Distributors (V).

BAPTISMS

Aug. 26.—Deborah Julie Stiles, 16, Seymour Road.

" 26.—Martin Jonathan Hilsden, 265, Uxbridge Rd.

MARRIAGES

July 21.—Jack Beaver to Beryl Monica Farrow.

Aug. 4.—John Charles Adam to Pamela Jean Swane.

Sept. 12.—Volkmar Hans Leisching to Sheila Dorothy May Wilkins.

BURIALS AND CREMATIONS

July 11.—Henry William Wright, 15, School Road, aged 84 years (at S.W. Middx. Crematorium).

" 14.—William Henry Lewis, 54, St. James's Avenue, aged 64 years (at S.W. Middx. Crematorium).

" 27.—Auguste Jeanneret, 19, Edward Road, aged 71 years.

" 28.—Henry Colbeck Murray, 64, Sixth Cross Road, aged 58 years (Interment of Ashes).

Aug. 28.—Harry Nash, 127, Uxbridge Road, aged 55 years.

Sept. 4.—Sarah Ann Bowler, 21, Myrtle Road, aged 80 years.

" 5.—Florence Jemima Atkinson, 26, Connaught Rd., aged 86 years.

" 5.—Ellen Martha Bonner, 48, Percy Road, aged 68 years (at Hampton).