

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about
people, activities & organisations

"THE VIGIL"

This play, presented by the Hampton Council of Churches in St. James's on April 15th and 16th, brought together as actors, 9 people from the Methodist Church, 6 from ours, one each from St. Mary's, All Saints', and the Congregational Church, and 3 from Churches outside the district. A representative group also helped behind the scenes, and with all the other chores that are necessary before a play can be produced. The whole venture was a triumph of team-work and fellowship, and it made a deep impression on those who took part in it as well as those who came to watch and who sat for over two hours on the hard wood of our pews. The contrasting characters and the clash and sifting of testimony kept interest sustained throughout, and there were memorable highlights such as the seeming triumph of the prosecutor's case when the private detective declared that he discovered a buried body which he identified as that of Jesus; the tense scene in which Mary Magdalen strikes the gardener for the glory of God; the simple unshakable evidence of Peter; the return of Paul no longer Saul.

The expenses this year were larger than those in connection with 'Everyman' last year, largely because this time a royalty-fee of 9 guineas had to be paid. But when all has been cleared, there should be about £8-10-0 for Christian Aid Week.

THE CHURCH COUNCIL

The Council had some knotty problems to face at its first meeting of the new session on April 21st and had to adjourn until Ascension Day, after Evensong, to give fuller time for further consideration of one of them. It had also many things to be thankful for, and in particular the very good work done by the members of Young People's Fellowship, who had just finished the re-decorating of the Vestry. This, combined with other voluntary work, such as that of Mr. Baker in the electricity-line, and the work of professionals, has transformed the cold, dingy, damp old

vestry into the bright, cosy room it is to-day. The gift of a piano from an anonymous donor in Twickenham who heard of our need enables it to be used as a song-room by the choir, and it is an excellent place for meetings and classes.

The Council was sorry to learn that its Secretary for many years, Mr. Farrow, was likely to have a protracted stay in hospital, but glad to know that his progress since admission had been uniformly good. We all hope and pray that this may be continued until recovery is complete.

Mr. G. Robinson was unanimously elected to one of the vacant places on the Council; the other will now have to remain unfilled until the Annual Church Meeting next year.

The problem of giving adequate oversight and regular attention to Wayside has given the Council much concern for some time. It was therefore very gratifying to find that at last the problem could be solved and satisfactory arrangement made. The position now is that Mrs. Melville (Tel. Mol 6613) and Mrs. Warwick (Tel. Mol. 7004) have been appointed to act as supervisors of Wayside on the Council's behalf and with the Council's full authority and backing. They will deal with all bookings and meetings and all day-to-day matters and points of general administration as they arise. Would Secretaries of our organisations please note this, and if they want a room at Wayside, go direct to them.

THE YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

The March talk to the Young Wives' was given by Mr. Bury, whose subject was the History of the Fur Trade. He described how it had developed from the Middle Ages up to the present day, and delighted his audience by showing them a most wonderful collection of modern Mink pelts, which are now produced in a wide range of very attractive shades.

An important day to remember: 6th May—President's Evening, at Wayside, 8.15 p.m., when all members are invited to come to meet Mrs. Charles.

B. HARDING.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP

While normal activities continued during the Easter holidays, a party of us branched out in a new direction by going on a cycling tour from April 6th to 12th. We took two days down to the South Coast at Brighton and then travelled via Goudhurst, in the heart of the hop country, to Canterbury. The party consisted of 6½ members (your scribe returned direct from Goudhurst). The pace was necessarily easy, since only one stalwart member succeeded in climbing **every** hill without dismounting. At the end of the day, we invariably found good accommodation at the Youth Hostels. Apart from being great fun, the tour gave us the opportunity to go off unled, unchaperoned and on our own initiative, cooking our own food and solving our own problems. And if anyone did get into difficulties, one prominent and very willing member reminded us, "Have no fear— . . . is here!"

Now, however, for most of us, it is time to return to school. We shall continue to have a varied programme of week-end activities throughout the summer. Our Annual General Meeting is on April 25th and a full report will appear here next month.

Meetings during May are as follows:—

May 3rd—The Judgement.

May 10th—The Person and Work of Christ.

May 17th—The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit.

May 24th—The Three Persons of the Trinity.

May 31st—Guest Speaker: Rev. R. Redman on "Christianity and Politics."

June 7th—Competition.

Additional activities will be:—

May 2nd—Christian Aid Week Stall, in High Street.

May 3rd—Communion and Breakfast at 8 a.m.

May 9th—Treasure Hunt. Meet at the Church, 3 p.m. sharp.

Whitsunday—Evensong at Laurel Dene, 5.30 p.m.

Monday in Whitsun Week—
Ramble.
R.E.P.

THE SCOUT GROUP

Bob-a-Job Week has once more been successfully tackled. May I thank all our readers who found jobs for the boys.

The Cubs had a successful outing to Oxshott Woods on March 31st. A lot of hard work was done in the form of tracking. I'm not sure, but I expect some mothers will have had to sew the Tracker's badge on their son's uniform. Games of a wide choice were played and Kim, who was in charge, returned with a very tired party.

Cub T. Clements has now joined the Pack—may his stay be long and happy.

Plans for the Garden Fete at Laurel Dene are progressing favourable, but it is with regret that I have had to cancel the Baby Show. I sincerely hope that all you proud mothers will not be disappointed.

I am hoping that the Metropolitan Police will be able to come along and give their Road Safety Display, for at the time of writing I am waiting for confirmation of the booking, also I hope to have a band or an orchestra to entertain you.

The Valcheros, Carlos and Ilona (Continental singing stars) are coming to entertain you.

The date: June 6th. Place: Laurel Dene.

The Scout and Cub parents have still got a few Grand Draw Tickets, so don't delay get yours now, for you may be a lucky person.

The A.G.M. of the Hampton and District Boy Scout Association takes place at 3rd Hampton Scout H.Q., Priory Road, on May 11th at 8 p.m. All Scout and Cub parents are welcome, a film show will be given.

A. R. COOK.

CORRECTION TO STANDING MATTER

P.4—Under 'Churchwardens' read "Mr. W. F. Wigginton, 18, Cranmer Road," Delete 'Teddington,' All addresses are in Hampton Hill unless otherwise stated.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

May 6.—3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union. Speaker: Mrs. G. Thomas (W).

8.15 p.m. Young Wives' Group. Speaker: Mrs. Charles (W).

May 7.—Ascension Day, 7.15 and 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion. 7.45 p.m. Evensong. 8.30 p.m. Church Council (Vestry).

May 9.—3.0 p.m. Sunday School Teachers' Meeting (Woodlawn, Hanworth).

May 11.—8.0 p.m. Christian Giving Scheme Committee (Vestry).

May 12.—8.0 p.m. Prayer Group (Vestry).

May 17.—**Whitsunday.**

8.0, 9.0 a.m. and 12.15 p.m. Holy Communion; Matins and Evensong as usual; 2.30 p.m. Children's Service.

May 24.—**Trinity Sunday.**

Services as usual, Matins being the usual monthly Family and Parade Service.

May 23.—7.30 p.m. American Barbecue and open-air Dance, in support of Hampton Hospital Extension Fund. (Beveree, Station Road, Hampton).

May 25.—7.30 p.m. Public Meeting at the Royal Albert Hall—"Modern War: A Challenge to Christians." Coach party leaves at 6.25 p.m.

May 27.—8.0 p.m. Young Wives' Group—"The History and Care of Carpets." (H).

May 29.—7.30 p.m. Magazines should be ready (V).

BAPTISMS

Apr. 5.—Susan Elizabeth Brown, 30, Longford Close.

" 5.—Ian Donald Salmon, 24, Uxbridge Road.

" 26.—Anthony Frederick Pope, 9, Malvern Drive, Hanworth.

" 26.—Stephen William Frampton, 69, Clarendon Crescent, Twickenham.

" 26.—Valerie Jane Barclay, 56, Myrtle Road.

" 26.—Alison and Jill Vickers, Derby Lodge, Anlaby Rd.

CREMATION

Apr. 21.—Grace Mary Sendell, 48, Laurel Road, aged 68 years (at Garston Crematorium, near Watford).

FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

HAMPTON HOSPITAL EXTENSION FUND

This seems a very worthy cause which so far we have done little to help. The Hampton Council of Churches has considered ways and means, and is sending a donation. In support of the Fund an American Barbecue and Open-Air Dance have been arranged to take place on the Football Ground at Beveree, in Station Road, Hampton, on Saturday, May 23rd, beginning at 7.30 p.m. and finishing at about 10.0 p.m. It will be prepared by members of the United States Air Force from Bushy Park. Tickets, obtainable from Mrs. Ellerton, September Cottage, High Street, Hampton. (Tel. Mol. 6128) are 10/- each.

MODERN WAR CHALLENGES CHRISTIANS

It certainly does—but when we try to think out how best to meet this challenge, we find ourselves in difficulties. There are so many different opinions and no clear guidance. We tend either to become confused and hesitant, or to evade the issue altogether and push it out of our minds. To help us really to face up to the problem with courage and conviction, a meeting

is being held at the Royal Albert Hall on Monday, May 25th, at 7.30 p.m. There will be many distinguished speakers, including the new Bishop of Southwark, the Dean of Berlin, and Father Trevor Huddleston. The meeting is sponsored jointly by Christian Action and the Peace Committee of the Society of Friends. The Hampton Council of Churches has undertaken to arouse interest in the meeting locally, and has booked a coach which will leave the Congregational Church at 6.25 p.m. Fare 3/- return. Seats in the Hall are 2/6 reserved, 1/- unreserved, and free seats will also be available in the evening. Application for seats on the coach or at the meeting should be made as soon as possible to the Vicar or to Mrs. J. Woodward, 12, Park Road (Tel. Mol. 5388).

"GIVING IN ENGLAND IS DISGRACEFUL"

says Bishop

Bishop Eric Trapp was speaking at the Annual Meeting of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, of which he is Secretary, on April 15th. He was pointing out how opportunities were slipping through the fingers of the Church

overseas through the lack of money and manpower. How could they make the situation clear to the Church of England? The Church was doing a tenth of what ought to be done. "We have never learned to give in England," said Bishop Trapp. "The new giving movement as exemplified in the booklet 'The Christian Stewardship of Money,' is a timely one; we in England sorely needed to learn this lesson."

Copies of the booklet to which the Bishop referred are now being read and studied in every parish in England, including our own. There are one or two copies available for lending, and others for purchase at 2/6 each. Here are two quotations from a book packed with food for thought:

(1) The Christian does not give reluctantly, because pressure is brought to bear on him; emotionally, because his feelings have been skilfully played upon; to make himself feel good, or to prove something to himself; but

with discipline, and after previous responsible thought about the use of the whole of his income; in obedience, in gratitude and in love.

This does not exclude the occasional spontaneous act of generosity called forth by an immediate encounter with need or distress; but it does exclude a great deal that has been typical of appeals for Church objects and of the response of Church people to such appeals in the past.

(2) Having decided, by one means or another, how much . . . he will give away, each man must next decide for himself what proportion of the total he will give to the Church and what proportion he will give elsewhere. The Church does not claim the whole . . . Where the parish budget provides sufficiently generously for philanthropic objects not directly connected with the Church . . . a man may be satisfied that almost the whole of his giving should be made through the Church; and there is much to be said for this practice, whereby charitable giving becomes a corporate act. Where, on the other hand,

the Parochial Church Council gives little or nothing to charitable causes unconnected with the Church, there will be a greater need for thoughtful and generous philanthropic giving on the part of the individual.

DOCTORS IN EAST AFRICA

It is stated that in 1957 for every 1,000,000 persons in Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika there were respectively 87, 58 and 52 doctors.

In England and Wales in 1957, the average number of patients per doctor was given as 2,272—that is about 440 doctors to every 1,000,000 of the population.

THE WORLD'S FOOD SUPPLY

Some two-thirds of the human race are underfed, and no way has been found to provide them with an adequate diet. People are multiplying faster than ever, and at a rate that threatens to outrun the world's capacity to produce more food. To some, the solution may appear simple: get the surpluses in one part of the world to the empty stomachs in another part. But this prescription for curing the world's hunger is merely an illusion. Based on latest available food-supply estimates—800 million metric tons in 1956—if equitable distribution to the world's dinner tables were possible, every living person would be on short rations.

SPENDING ON TOBACCO AND DRINK

The amount spent on tobacco in the third quarter of 1958 was £270 million, and £16 million more than in the same quarter of 1957. Expenditure on beer was £157 million, £10 million more than in the same period the previous year.

IN BRITAIN LAST YEAR

In the year ended March 31, 1958, the British public smoked more, bought more cars, radio and television sets, record players and records, drank more spirits and wine—but not more beer—and spent more on football pools than in the previous year. They went less often to the cinema and betted less on the dogs.