

# AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about  
people, activities & organisations

## THE HAMPTON COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

We regret that the Rev. C. P. C. Knapp, Vicar of Hampton, who was the prime mover in the founding of the Council in January 1956, and its first chairman, is leaving the district and going into retirement at Cheltenham. He will be greatly missed. At the October meeting his Curate, the Rev. D. Richardson, was elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

The Drama Section of the Council is now hard at work preparing for the second play to be presented in the course of the current year. This time it will not be performed in our church, but at St. Mary's, Hampton, at 7.45 p.m. on December 29th and 30th, and as usual the retiring collection will be for Inter-Church Aid and Refugee Service. We want to make a special effort for the Churches' own agency in this great work during World Refugee Year.

The play now in rehearsal is the old English York Nativity Play, to be presented in 14th century costume, and spoken in vigorous medieval poetry—sufficiently modernised to be easy to follow, but sufficiently unusual to make us sit up and take notice. Interspersed with the different scenes will be some of the finest traditional carols. Six people from our church will be in the cast (Mrs. Rockliffe, Judith McMinn, Seymour Harris, Rodney Bishop, Geoffrey Harding and the Vicar). There are five from Hampton Methodist Church, three from St. Mary's, two from Hanworth, and one from All Saints'. In addition, many people from all the local churches are helping behind the scenes, and Mrs. Eustace is producing.

The play is a striking one, and to take part in it or to see it should prove to be a deep and moving experience. The characters are real people, simple, direct and true, with a robust conviction born not of sentiment but of faith, and with the dignity which is natural to the humble believer when confronted with the greatest event in the history of the world.

## THE MOTHERS' UNION

The Branch will meet in Wayside an Wednesday, December 9th at 3 p.m. when the speaker will be Mrs. M. Bligh, who will speak on the work of Josephine Butler. All who are interested will find a friendly welcome.

Other dates to remember are as follows:

Jan.. 6.—Carol Service in the Church Hall at 3 p.m.

Jan. 21.—New Year Party in Church Hall at 3.30 p.m.

Feb. 3.—Meeting in Wayside 3 p.m.

Feb. 17.—8 p.m. in Hall a Film Demonstration by Brook Bonds Tea.

Mrs. Palk has unfortunately had to withdraw from the Committee for reasons of health. In her place we welcome Mrs. Allport, who would like to be informed as soon as possible of any members who are ill.

The Committee is trying to trace certain articles not at the moment to hand, and especially would like to know where to find the remainder of the small tablecloths which were made and purchased jointly by the Mothers' Union and Young Wives' Group in 1953. Twenty-three of these have been located, but the whereabouts of another dozen or so are still unknown.

## THE YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

The Pestalozzi Children's Village was the subject of a talk and film given by Richard Bettesworth (until quite recently Organizing Secretary for the Pestalozzi Trust) at our meeting on October 28th.

It was a pity that having such a large attendance—some sixty young wives and friends—we should on this evening have had difficulty with the projector, no heating in the Hall, and a sudden spell of very cold weather. However, against these difficulties our speaker managed to give us a clear idea of the work of a Pestalozzi Village and showed some very fine pictures. As the Swiss snow-scenes appeared, our shivers were audible!

We are happy to be able to hand over to the Trust the sum of 30/- which normally would have gone towards the cost of refreshments.

On November 4th we held our Annual General Meeting at Way-side when just over 30 members were present—we had hoped to see more of the newer members this year.

Mollie Ford, the retiring Chairman, thanked the committee for all their hard work and co-operation during the year and said that her two years as Chairman had been very happy ones. She welcomed the new chairman and her committee and hoped they would find their term of office as enjoyable as she had.

Among the points mentioned in her and the Secretary's (Mrs. McMinn's) reports was the invaluable work done by members in visiting new young families who come to live in the Parish and in visiting mothers of the babies baptised in church. Apart from her work as Chairman, Mrs. Ford was now sending out the baptismal anniversary cards and was keeping the Baptism Roll up to date.

Meetings during the year had been well attended.

Various reports were received. The Badminton Section would welcome a few new members.

The new committee for 1959-60 was:—

Chairman—Mrs. Eila Severn, 4, Ormond Drive.

Vice-Chairman — Mrs. Margaret Robinson, 36, St. James's Road.

Secretary—Mrs. Pamela Humphrey, 18, High Street.

Treasurer—Mrs. Marion Nickols, 56 St. James's Road.

Caterers—Mrs. Peggy Farnsworth, 30, Wolsey Road.

Mrs. Betty Plumley, 77, Longford Close.

Committee Members—Mrs. Phyllis Dowse, 253, Uxbridge Road.

Mrs. Mary Harper, 249, Uxbridge Road.

President—Mrs. Constance Brunt, The Vicarage.

The Speaker at our meeting on November 25th was Miss Elmslie, Headmistress of a Comprehensive School—a report of this will appear next month.

There will be no meeting in December and the Children's Party has been postponed until Easter next year.

We are following up the suggestion that some of our members and their children might like to join in some Scottish dancing on one or two afternoons in the Christmas holidays. If anyone is interested, please let Mrs. Ford (Molesey 4556; 83, Park Road) know as soon as possible.

## THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP

"Ach!" said a gum-booted member as he placed his foot on an unexpectedly deeper part of the river-bed. It was the foggy afternoon of Saturday, November 7th and eight of us, who thought that fog made no difference to pulling boats out of rivers, had gone down to Hampton. The story began the Saturday before when a keen-eyed parent had spotted a small notice in the grocer's shop in Uxbridge Road. That afternoon we went over to Walton Bridge to have a look. And now a sixteen-foot launch without a motor was ours for 6/3d. a foot (how's your arithmetic?). We luggered it up to Hampton Hill with white light for'ard and a red waving aft (? correct nautical procedure for foggy fairways) but the noise the iron-wheeled trailer made was sufficient to keep everyone away from us. And now we want to be put in contact with a boat-expert—can anyone help?

Two nights before this episode certain members excelled themselves in fire-and-guy-making. Mr. Hawkins kindly tended and controlled it for us.

November otherwise has been a month of Jumbling and Public Speaking. On November 21st six of our more glottic members took part in the Twickenham area Youth Club Public Speaking contest. Congratulations to all of them for their noteworthy performance, for Team A (Chairman: Seymour Harris; Speaker: Ruth Mills; Voter of Thanks: Richard Palk) came first, and Team B (Chairman: Rowena Harris; Speaker: Geoffrey Harding; Voter of Thanks: Pene Allport) came third. Miss Mills spoke on the "Agricultural Value of the Earthworm," subtitled "Farmers like their worms," and G. Harding, Esq. spoke on "The Birch in Corporal Punishment," personally advocating it, I understand (from experience?)

While these members were talking (so often the way), others with the valued help of parents and friends were preparing for the Extra Special Jumble Sale and Auction which took place the following afternoon on behalf of our boat-fund. "Never seen so much stuff" was a comment which reflected the hard work of the many members, parents and friends in the weeks preceding and the kindness and well-wishing of so many local people on our behalf. At the time of going to press, the amount made stands at £47. Thank you all very much for such a splendid effort. A special thank you to Mr. Tickner of Hampton who inconvenienced himself on our behalf at late notice to be our Auctioneer. And to Mr. Arthur Nightingale for the use of the amplifying equipment.

Some helpers made the very satisfactory suggestion towards the end of the Sale that the remaining suitable clothes be put aside for the refugees and this was carried out.

Our intention is to build a sailing dinghy which afterwards we shall be able to race. The amount obtained at this sale is nearly half what we shall require.

R.P.B.

### THE SUNDAY SCHOOLS

Not so many members of the Sunday schools took the Diocesan Examination earlier this year, as the day clashed with a week-end school camp which a number attended. Then after the examination itself, there was a longer wait than ever before for the results to be made known. The reason for this was that other dioceses have now joined London in the scheme, and there were thousands more papers for the examiners to mark. We now know who were successful from this Parish, and they received their certificates at a recent family service. The standard of those who have passed seems higher than it has ever been, despite the small numbers.

The successful entrants were as follows:—

**Senior:** **1st Class**—Patricia Stichbury; **2nd Class**—Ann Harper; **Pass**—Clare Brunt.

**Upper Junior (9-11 years):** **2nd Class**—Ceridwen Roberts, Susan Dix; **3rd Class**—Jacqueline Stichbury, Raymond Draper; **Pass**—

Gillian Howard, Andrew Fisher, Richard Melville.

**Lower Junior (7-9 years):** **1st Class with Distinction**—Bernard Brunt, Elaine Hunt, Hugh Roberts, Rosalind Melville, Sian Roberts; **1st Class**—Ann Warwick, Ann Stuart; **2nd Class**—Elizabeth Clack, Michael Farnsworth, Edward Wright, Susan Harper; **Pass**—Mary Plumley, Penny Maddox, Jeffrey Neesham.

The Christmas visit to the Pantomime (this year at Wimbledon for a change) will take place on December 30th. The Church Council has also said that it is high time that the teachers had a more adult kind of outing on their own, as a token of appreciation for their faithful work week in, week out—in most cases also year in and year out as well. We hope that they will plan something like a dinner and theatre in town.

It appears that the parents of a number of the children baptised here think that another Sunday School in the parish is connected with the Church, and that they are fulfilling their baptismal obligations by sending their children there. But this is far from being the case, and many children are lost to the Church as a result. The only Church groups are those which meet in the Church itself (juniors and seniors) at Wayside (ages 4-7) and at Rectory School (for those who live near-by, all ages). It is also disquieting when the majority of the children in organisations sponsored and helped by the Church give their loyalty on Sundays to bodies unconnected with it and working to lead them elsewhere.

Forty members of the Sunday Schools have become a 'stand-by crew' of the "John Ashley," the Missions to Seamen ship which serves the London river and in the summer visited Teddington Lock. Between them they have raised £5-0-0 to help the ship carry on its work. We hope that Mr. Mitchinson, who is preaching here on the morning of December 6th, will be able to stay to talk to the children about the "John Ashley" and its adventures in the afternoon.

### THE BROWNIE PACK

The annual Brownie Pack party, when the 41st birthday was celebrated, was held in the Parish Hall on Saturday, November 7th.

Besides members of our pack we had the pleasure of a reunion with the brownies that shared the pack holiday last August.

Visitors included the district quide captain, Miss Hammerton; Miss Brown a former Brown Owl of the pack, and also guiders from other packs.

A very enjoyable tea was provided by the mums, who also provided lots of cakes. After tea guide and brownie film strips were shown.

D. M. CASEY (Brown Owl).

### SOME DATES TO NOTE

- Dec. 6.—11.0 a.m. Preacher: The Rev. P. Hutchinson (The Missions to Seamen).
- Dec. 9.—3.0 p.m. Mothers Union (W).
- Dec. 13.—Dedication Festival: Presentation of Gifts for work outside the Parish, and renewal of Christian Giving Scheme.
- Dec. 15.—8.0 p.m. Prayer Group (Vestry).
- Dec. 21.—St. Thomas. 7.15 a.m. Holy Communion.
- Dec. 22.—Borough-wide Carol-singing effort in aid of Refugees.
- Dec. 24-25.—**Christmas Day.** Holy Communion at 11.45 p.m. (Midnight Eucharist). 8.0 a.m., 9.0 a.m., 12.15 p.m. Matins at 11.0 a.m.
- Dec. 26.—St. Stephen, Holy Communion at 10.30 a.m.
- Dec. 27.—St. John. Sunday Services as usual, but no parade service. Children's Service at 2.30 p.m. instead of Sunday School, and Festival of the Nine Lessons and Carols at 6.30 p.m.
- Dec. 28.—Holy Innocents. 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.

Dec. 29 and 30th.—7.45 p.m. The York Nativity Play to be presented in St. Mary's, Hampton.

Dec. 30.—1.45 p.m. Sunday School Outing to Pantomime.

Jan. 1.—The Circumcision. 7.15 a.m. Holy Communion.

Jan. 6.—The Epiphany. 7.15 a.m. Holy Communion. 3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union: Carols (H).

Jan. 9.—7.45 p.m. Parish Christmas Party (H).

Jan. 17.—All those intending to be confirmed in 1960 are asked to attend Evensong at 6.30 p.m. and to stay for a short meeting afterwards.

Jan. 18.—8.0 p.m. Hampton Council of Churches (St. Mary's, Hampton).

Jan. 24.—6.30 p.m. United Service at St. James's.

All matter for the January magazine should be sent to the Vicarage by January 5th. It is hoped to be able to have the magazine published on Friday, January 15.

### BAPTISMS

- Nov. 1.—Gregory Thomas Macaskill, 125, Uxbridge Road.  
,, 22.—Rosemarie June Bennett, 4, Cannon Close.  
,, 22.—Helen Probert, 24, St. James's Avenue.

### BURIALS AND CREMATION

- Nov. 7.—Ada Smith, 32, Wolsey Road, aged 83 years.  
,, 17.—James Ross, 14, Lindsay Road, aged 59 years (at S.W. Middx. Crematorium).  
,, 25.—Alfred George Allen, 41, Windmill Road, aged 76 years.  
,, 28.—David Julius Oscar Brandt, 233, High Street, aged 39 years.