

VESTRY AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL 'CHURCH MEETINGS

The bad weather might be partly to blame for the poor attendance at these meetings held on the March 18. The Vestry Meeting was held first and after prayer and the reading and approval of last year's minutes, Messrs. Robinson and Rockliffe were asked unanimously by the meeting to serve for a further year as churchwardens. They were thanked for the work they had done over the past year and for taking on the onerous task again.

The 45th Annual Parochial Church Meeting followed on directly. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved, and the Vicar reported that during the past year there had been no overall change in the number on the electoral roll. Miss Stanley then gave a most lucid report of the work of the council over the past year, which is printed elsewhere in this magazine.

Following on this, Mr. Robinson reviewed the General Fund Account for the past year and drew attention to the fact that during the early part of the year we had actually received interest from the bank. However, when the large bills for the roof came in we soon returned to the normal reverse state of affairs. In spite of these heavy commitments for the roof, we were able to double our payments to the diocese. Another interesting point was that money received from the income tax authorities as a result of deeds of covenant, offset the slight decrease in direct income from the Christian Stewardship Scheme.

The Magazine Account, which was presented by Mr. Smith, showed that the magazine cost the church £84 last year. This deficit finally used up the credit balance which accumulated when a charge was made for the magazine. The Wayside account only broke even. This was due to the unpaid rent, vacancy and redecoration associated with a change in the tenancy of the flat, and it is hoped that the account will show a credit next year. Mr. Rockliffe gave the statistics for receipts from the Stewardship Scheme and said that they followed the general pattern for all parishes using such schemes, and were satisfactory. Appreciation was expressed to all the treasurers, and to Mr. Gostling for auditing the accounts at short notice.

After tea and biscuits, the Vicar spoke of the stirring in the whole Anglican Church, which expressed itself in the publication of the Toronto, Paul and Anglican-Methodist Reunion Reports, and also in books such as "Honest to God." He wondered whether in view of the difficulties of relating the contents of these reports to life in our parish, there might almost be too much going on. Statistics on parish life in the Church of England were now available and showed that on average a parish of 6000 with only a vicar could expect to have 171 communicants at Christmas and that the addition of a curate would increase this to 261. At St. James we are above average with 238 communicants. This is to be expected from the nature of our parish and we must not be complacent. More and more work is being taken on by the laity in parishes throughout the country, and if the church is to grow we must question ourselves on how we are spending our time and energy.

The election of the Church Council and Ruri-decanal Conference representatives followed. As in past years no vote was necessary, the

number proposed being only just sufficient to fill the number of seats.

It had been hoped to conclude the meeting with a parish discussion on worship, mission and service, with particular references in the case of worship to the proposals to introduce a Parish Communion Service. However as nearly all those present were members of the previous church council who had already had discussion on some of these subjects, it was felt that little point would be served by further discussion at that time. This was disappointing, as the working party on Parish Communion are very interested to hear the views of the whole parish. There was no further business, and after an appeal for area representatives for Inter-Church Aid Week, the meeting closed in prayer.

M.R.J.

SECRETARY'S REPORT TO ANNUAL MEETING

The Council has met ten times in the past year, and attendance has been consistently high. Officers were elected and committees formed as usual at the first meeting.

One of the main activities of the year has been the work of **the Commission on Worship**, which has spent much time preparing detailed proposals for what is hoped would be an improved pattern of Sunday services. As many of you will know, the introductory of a Parish Communion Service has already been proposed at Parish Meetings, and there will be an opportunity for further discussion later this evening.

The Centenary Committee, too, has worked hard preparing a programme for the year which began on December 11 last. An "off-shoot" of the Committee, if one may use such a term, has been the flourishing and very diligent Hampton Hill History Society, now compiling an eagerly awaited history of the Church and Parish, under the guidance and inspiration of Mrs. Orton.

Many of the events planned by the Centenary Committee, as well as a varied programme earlier in the year, have been organised with great imagination and success by **the Social Committee**, and thoroughly enjoyed by all who have been able to join in these parties and outings. We heartily thank Mr. Robinson and all members of his Committee. Though I cannot, unfortunately, say I have attended many of the parties myself, I know from reports that I have missed a great deal!

After the long period of negotiations and frustrations, **the Building Committee** have at last seen their work crowned with success as the new roof has gone on to the Church. Now we can all hope never again to hear the clank of water dripping into buckets during the sermon. It has been a great encouragement, too, to see a "new look" appearing as we glance up **inside** the church. The Council has been able at this stage to undertake only a very limited redecoration, since the next major work is the new lighting scheme, plans for which are in progress.

After the sudden retirement last May, on his doctor's orders, of Mr. Hawkins, whom we greatly miss both working in the churchyard and in his place at church each Sunday evening, the Council appointed two of its members, Mr. Brooks and Mr. Leatherdale, as

Churchyard Guardians. These two gentlemen have put in much hard work themselves, as well as enrolling volunteers to help, so that the churchyard looks increasingly well cared for.

The Council has spent some time this year considering attempts by building speculators to violate the **restrictive covenants** held on land in Park Road and St. James's Road. It has given full support to the Vicar in upholding these covenants for the sake of nearby holders of property and because it was considered that the proposed development would be detrimental to the amenities of the church.

All Church property continues to be well used and maintained. The Parish Hall has been re-painted, the smaller room at Wayside has been redecorated and furnished by the Young People's Fellowship, and an additional gas radiator has been installed in the larger room. Safety measures are being taken to avoid any possible leakage of gas when rooms are not in use. A new resident caretaker, Mr. Thomas, has been appointed in place of Mrs. Burton, and the flat above has been leased to a new tenant.

Though we have not as yet been able to start a "Good Neighbour" Scheme, we have tried not to let large numbers of new residents come into the parish unnoticed, and so arrangements were made for all newcomers to the flats at Fairlight and Sussex Lodge on the Uxbridge Road to receive a "welcome" visit from a member of the Church.

This is a report of varied activities carried out on your behalf. The Council has worked together throughout the year as a friendly and united team, both as a whole and in committees. I should like to thank Mrs. Saunders for finding time, in her own busy life, to relieve me of the work of writing and delivering notices of meetings. Our representatives on the Ruri-Decanal Conference have discussed many interesting subjects, and particularly have considered the proposals put forward for Anglican-Methodist Reunion. This, and other important matters, will be further considered in the coming year.

VISIT TO WESTMINSTER ABBEY

On March 20 a party of forty went by coach on a visit to Westminster Abbey, one of the special events arranged for our Centenary Year. Arriving just before 3 p.m., we were conducted to our reserved seats for Festal Evensong. As this was St. Benedict's Day, one of the Abbey's High Days, the service was more impressive and ceremonious than usual, whilst the singing of the choirboys was of that wonderful standard that only such a choir of highly-trained young voices could be.

Following the service, we were very charmingly received by the Dean in the Jerusalem Chamber, not normally open to the public. This is where the business of the Abbey is conducted: dinner after the General Audit and special meetings of the Westminster School governors, for instance. And it is used for the chapter meetings because it appears that no one has remembered to give the Chapter House back

to the Dean since the Commonwealth took it over in the 17th century. This was the same Jerusalem Chamber where Henry IV died (see Henry IV, part II), and where later, oddly enough, the Scottish Presbyterians wrote their articles of faith; and quite recently the scholars working on the New English Bible held their main meetings here.

We learned all this from the Dean in his introductory talk before his Verger took our party on a most interesting tour of the Abbey. Unfortunately time did not enable us to examine all the building as thoroughly as it deserved, but we saw sufficient to whet our appetites for future visits. We arrived back at Hampton Hill at 6 o'clock a trifle weary but well satisfied.

H.S.

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL, SATURDAY, MAY 23

The coach will leave the church at 8 a.m. There will be a stop half-way for coffee and we should reach Coventry at mid-day. The outward journey will be by the way of the M.1. We plan to leave Coventry at 4.30 p.m. and return home by way of Stratford-on-Avon, where we can stop for tea, and Banbury or Oxford.

There are a few seats left and very early reservation is advised.

G.I.R.

RIVER THAMES, SATURDAY, JUNE 20

A boat to carry a party of 100 has been booked. It will depart from Boulter's Lock, Maidenhead at 10.30 a.m. and travel up river to Henley. This is reputed to be the most beautiful stretch of the river. We should reach Henley at about 2 p.m. where it is thought about two hours might be spent ashore. The return to Maidenhead will take, roughly, three hours. Arrangements can be made, provided advance notice is given, for cold luncheons and teas to be served on the boat. The charge for the boat will be 10/- per person, excluding meals.

A coach will leave the church at 9 a.m. and will pick us up at Maidenhead in the evening. The charge will be 7/6d. per person.

Avoid disappointment by making a very early reservation. P.S.— We may stop at Cookham for Valerie.

G.I.R.

THE MOTHERS' UNION

Undeterred by the memory of last year's very wet coach trip, the Mothers' Union arranged one for April 8, and were rewarded by a really beautiful spring day. We went first to Shere in Surrey, where we looked in the lovely church dedicated to St. James and dating in part from the 13th century. Shortly after leaving Shere, the driver stopped the coach and a called out, "Two minutes to see the Hammer!"— we were at Abinger Hammer, and the more agile among us scrambled out in time to see the little man strike the bell three times with his

hammer. We then went on around the foot of Box Hill, and reached the summit by way of Headley Heath and a very narrow road obstructed by drainage works, which our driver negotiated with great skill! After admiring the celebrated view, we had tea at the Fort Tea Rooms and then returned to Hampton Hill by way of Oxshott and Esher. All the members who come, with their children and friends, voted it a most enjoyable afternoon. We were sorry Mrs. Brunt was unable to be with us but we were glad to have the Vicar in her stead, with Bernard and Francis.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 6, at 2.30 p.m. at Wayside, when Mrs. Ackroyd will speak to us on "Preparation for Old Age."

The annual Deanery Festival Service will be held on Tuesday, May 12, at 2.30 p.m. at St. Mary's, Hampton, whose branch is celebrating its Golden Jubilee this year.

THE SCOUT GROUP COMMITTEE A.G.M.

The A.G.M. was held on March 23 last. The evening commenced with a Gym Display by the Cubs and two short sketches by the Scouts. Our President, the Vicar, then took prayers and the serious business of the evening commenced.

After opening remarks by the Chairman, the Secretary's Report on the previous year's working and the presentation of Accounts by the Treasurer, the three Scouters, Mr. M. J. Childs, Cubmaster, Mr. C. Wren, Scoutmaster and Mr. E. Edwards, Rover Leader, gave a very comprehensive account of the activities of their various Sections during the past year.

After the election of Chairman and Committee for the ensuing year very attractive refreshments were served, for which I would like to thank our Catering Officer and her helpers.

I was very pleased to welcome so many parents, also our District Commissioner, Mr. De Graaf. S. R. CHILDS, G.S.M.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

- May 1.—SS. Philip and James.
10.30 a.m. Consecration of the Venerable R. O. Goodchild as Bishop of Kensington (St. Paul's Cathedral).
- .. 3.—Rogation Sunday.
Holy Communion at 8 a.m., 12.15 p.m., Sunday Schools 9.45 a.m., Matins 11 a.m., Evensong 6.30 p.m.
- .. 6.—2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union. Speaker: Mrs. Ackroyd (W).
8 p.m. Scout Group Committee (Hall).
- .. 7.—Ascension Day.
Holy Communion at 7.15 a.m. and 10.30 a.m., Evensong 7.45 p.m.
- .. 9.—8 p.m. Scout Group Dance (Hall).

- .. 10.—Sunday after Ascension.
Holy Communion at 8 a.m. and 9 a.m., Sunday Schools 9.45 a.m., Matins 11 a.m., Evensong 6.30 p.m.
- .. 11.—11.00 a.m. Editorial Board (52, Park Road).
8 p.m. Ruri-decanal Conference (St. Mary's Hall, Twickenham); 8 p.m. United Prayer and Discussion Group (W).
- .. 12.—2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union Deanery Festival (St. Mary's Hampton).
- .. 14.—8 p.m. Stewardship Committee.
- .. 17.—Whitsunday.
Holy Communion at 8 a.m., 9 a.m. and 12.15 p.m.
Children's Service 9.45 a.m., Matins 11 a.m.
Evensong 6.30 p.m.
- .. 21.—8 p.m. B.P. Guild (Hall).
- .. 23.—8.30 a.m. Parish Visit to Coventry Cathedral.
- .. 24.—Trinity Sunday.
Holy Communion 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. Matins (Parade and Family Service) 11 a.m., Holy Baptism 4 p.m.
Evensong 6.30 p.m.
- .. 25-30.—Christian Aid Week: House-to-house collections throughout district.
- .. 27.—8 p.m. Young Wives' Group: Speaker; Mr. Hughes, Headmaster of Hampton Hill Primary School.
- .. 28.—8 p.m. Church Council (W).
- .. 31.—First Sunday after Trinity.
Holy Communion 8 a.m., Sunday Schools 9.45 a.m.
Matins 11 a.m., Evensong 6.30 p.m.

MARRIAGES

- Mar. 21.—David Ernest Leslie Leggett to Patricia Irene Mills.
- .. 21.—John Garrick to Maureen Edna Tozer.
- .. 28.—David James Jupp to Beryl Elizabeth Harrison.
- .. 28.—Roger David Hoyle to Judy Naylor Clews.
- .. 28.—Brian James Lewis to Sandra Doris May Day.

BURIALS

- Mar. 25.—Margaret Jane Underdown, 151, Burton's Road, aged 91 years.
- Apr. 18.—Leonard Mant, 1, Westbank Road, aged 50 years.