

VICAR'S NOTES

Electoral Rolls: To some people these are mysterious things which they do not wish to have anything to do with. In my first parish the word commonly used was 'electrical' — and though a misnomer, I often thought how appropriate it really was — for this surely is what the roll ideally should be — a list of names of people who are 'live-wires', glowing with spiritual energy for God and the community. Be that as it may, the practical point which concerns us at the moment is that this spring the present rolls, which came into existence in 1919, and in many parishes still bear names which have been there for 50 years or more, come to an end. In future, rolls will last only 6 years, and then be replaced by new ones. In other years there will be the usual annual revision. This means that in 1972, and again in 1978, we all start from scratch. Even if your name has been on the roll since 1919, you now have to apply again. We hope that if you are still interested, you will. This is indeed the main reason for being on the roll — interest in, and concern for, the work and worship of the Church.

The number of names on a roll should be an indication of how widespread this interest is locally, and so it is used as a yardstick to decide such things as how many representatives a parish should have on the Deanery Synod. So it should be a fair reflection of a church's manpower, and not be swollen as a result of an intensive drive to net as many people as possible, or by adding the names of people who had to be pressurised to sign. On the other hand, with regard to our own parish, we have presented a picture which fell far short of the real position because so many people who were eminently eligible had not signed.

People who live outside the parish can be enrolled if they are regular worshippers: the minimum requirements for residents is that they should declare themselves to be baptised members of the Church of England, and be seventeen or upwards years of age. Forms of application will shortly be available in church, and though later there may be visiting and letter-writing, we hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity. Once your name is on the roll, you are entitled to — and we very much hope that you will — come to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, have your say on church affairs, and take part in the election of members of the Parochial Church Council. Further details about all this, and application-forms, can be obtained from our Electoral Roll Officer, Mrs. Milns, 71, St. James's Avenue.

Confirmation 1971: Three groups had been preparing for this, one for over a year, and as time went on three members moved from the parish but were so interested that they all wanted to come back for the service itself, and with the whole-hearted approval of their new vicars, all did so. One of the groups met in the early morning at the Lady Eleanor Holles School, and one of the girls prepared there is a regular worshipper at our

church, so her name is given in the list below. Another group consisted of young adults, and met in the very pleasant home of one of its members and developed a delightful spirit of fellowship and friendship. As in several former years, the Bishop of Kensington ministered Confirmation at the Parish Communion on the occasion of our Dedication Festival, December 12. After the service there was a reception and refreshments at Wayside, and fortunately it was a very mild day, so that to relieve over-crowding people could overflow into the forecourt.

Those belonging to—or recently belonging to—St. James's who received the laying on of hands were: Vernon Bridges, Robert Brittain, Paul Brown, William Dallas, Ian Fisher, Ian Kirkwood, Julie Anderson, Susan Brown, Hilde Bucknell, Patricia Carrick, Joanna Gee, Nicola Hardy, Jacqueline Hetherington, Linda Mabley, Anita Sheehan, Elizabeth Sykes.

Just before this, on December 8, Irene McLean, now studying at the University of East Anglia, was confirmed in St. Peter's Parmentergate, Norwich, by the Bishop of King's Lynn.

'Godspell': I was privileged to see this recently, just after its move to Wyndham's. It is a wholly delightful presentation of some aspects of the Gospel, in which 10 people, all of them skilful and agile actors, singers and dancers, give a most energetic and enthusiastic performance which must leave them exhausted at the end. The overwhelming impression is one of joyfulness and zest, of new wine bursting the old bottles, of overflowing and abundant life. At the interval the audience is invited to go on to the stage and take wine with members of the cast. You leave the theatre with the triumphant phrase 'Long Live God' ringing in your mind. I strongly recommend you all to see it (the Social Committee is hoping to arrange a party as soon as block-bookings become available).

PARISH PARTY

Parish parties are always enjoyable whether one joins in all the fun and games, or just watches from the side or the stage, as did the writer. The latest effort of the Social Committee, with its Romany theme, was voted a great success. To judge from the many attractive and colourful costumes which were worn, Romanies are to be found in all parts of the world. The older, less glamorous members of the tribe were willing to tell fortunes and to sell pegs, pins, flowers and other impedimenta of their trade.

With scarcely a moment's pause the M.C.s organised games and dances to suit all ages. A heart-warming punch was served when guests arrived; Hungarian goulash, hot and spicy, was the main item at refreshment time. The Hall was gaily decorated with symbols of gypsy life, on the platform an iron cauldron hung from a tripod, lively music was broadcast all the time.

To sum up . . . "A good time was had by all". Anyone who did not enjoy himself or herself must have been hard to please.

I.V.R.

THE PARISH HALL

The Hall will be closed from Saturday 19 February until Sunday 5 March to allow the work of redecorating the main hall to be carried out. This work, which was begun in July last when the Parochial Church Council resumed control after a period of some ten years, represents the final phase in the task of putting the Hall in good order.

A vast amount of the repair and redecorating work has been done by voluntary labour and the grateful thanks of the Management Committee are due to those members of the Church and the Hampton Hill Association who have given so freely of their time and talents in this way.

Although the Committee are hopeful that a cleaner for the Hall will soon be engaged, it is hoped that all those using the Hall will assist by leaving it clean and tidy after use.

The Hall Management Committee wish to express their regret that the Hall was recently let for a purpose which conflicted with the interests of the Hampton Hill traders. This was an error of judgement, and steps have been taken to prevent a recurrence of a similar nature.

THE CHOIR PARTY

The annual choir party was held at Wayside on Friday 21 January. A new innovation was the inclusion of regular members of the Augmented Choir, and the basis that each choir member or augmented choir member could bring one guest again proved successful in restricting numbers to the capacity of the premises. It is, however, doubtful if the noise level was contributed most by the young or the not so young.

A hilarious team race of bursting balloons by sitting on them proved to be achieved with ease by the not so lightweight, whereas one or two very small contestants appeared at the first attempt to become airborne.

The organisers were Tony and Nicola (soon to share the same surname), and the refreshments, contributed by all members, were again well organised by Mrs. Brooks with several willing helpers.

R.J.C.D.

THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE

By the time this is printed, the Social Committee hope to have organised a coach outing to the Thorndike Theatre, Leatherhead, for Wednesday evening, 15 March to see the award-winning play "Hadrian VII" by Peter Luke. If you are interested contact Mrs. Leatherdale, 979 6999, or Mr. Harper, 979 7033, or any member of the committee.

THE MOTHERS' UNION

On 1 December Mrs. Haines from "The Company of Compassion" came to tell us of her work with divorced and separated women. She is obviously devoted to this work and her life is geared to being available at any time.

The Mothers' Union Christmas Party, held on 5 January at Wayside, started on a very happy note with "Happy Birthday To You" being sung to the Vicar as he came in the door. There were games for the active and not-so-active and lovely refreshments. Many thanks to the committee for an enjoyable afternoon.

"ORBIT 72"

"Orbit 72", organised by C.M.S. as the climax of "Project Pumwani" took place from 6-9 January. It started on the Thursday evening with about sixty young people gathering at C.M.S. Headquarters in Waterloo Road for refreshments and introductory session to the Congress. After this we dispersed in groups of six to ten to various local parishes to see how the Church was undertaking the task of mission, and what problems it was facing. We all slept in the local church halls, spending Friday visiting local schools, Youth Groups, etc., and having supper in ones and twos with some of the local residents. Then another evening of discussion followed by a second night in the halls. On Saturday morning we re-assembled at C.M.S. for reporting back and a service of Holy Communion.

After lunch some of us made our way to the crypt of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, where the afternoon started with a "think-in" on drug addiction at which one of the speakers was Michel Quoist, C.M.S. Holiday Reunions, and plenty of Gospel music.

At 6 p.m. we made our way up to the church itself for the "Communication in Orbit" session. This was a mixture of drama, music, and prayer, and all gifts collected for Project Pumwani by C.M.S. GO Clubs were presented. There was also an auction of some Pumwani local craft-work.

We then set off from St. Martin's (well surrounded by Police) in a torch-lit Gethsemane procession. This was led by three men carrying a cross, accompanied by four torch-bearers. When we arrived at St. James's, Piccadilly, for the final session, The Vigil, we were welcomed with cups of hot soup and rolls.

The Vigil started with an address and meditations led by the Bishop of Coventry. Other main events of the evening included a talk by Michel Quoist, a sequence of readings and slides, and a modern dance depicting "Jesus, the Life of the World" and man's rejection of Him.

The final climax was the celebration of Holy Communion at 6 a.m. on Sunday morning, after which those who had stayed all night departed for their beds.

G.M.G.

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The response to our Christian Stewardship Development Programme has been excellent, and the members of the Stewardship Committee are most grateful to all those who helped in many ways, especially with the visiting—both before the Parish Supper and afterwards. Well over forty people were involved in this work, and many new acquaintances were made, or old ones renewed. We are particularly glad that so many families (nearly fifty) who were not previously in the scheme have now joined. The total of the amounts which people have said they will try to give comes to some £3,250 a year, and many who are in a position to do so have signed covenants, as a result of which much Income Tax will be recovered each year for the work of the Church.

These offerings will go a long way towards enabling our Church to go forward with its plans within the parish and to continue to give help outside the parish on a substantial scale. We hope, too, that as a result of our visiting and of the increased interest in Stewardship, more and more parishioners will join more actively in the life of our Church in its many different aspects.

'ALL JOY BE YOURS'

This is the theme for this year's Women's World Day of Prayer. The order of service has been drawn up by the committee in Germany, with contributions from ten countries in East and West Europe. The compilers say that in trying to listen to the voice of God as it speaks to us from the Bible in our times, they are also trying to let us share something of their lives, their joys, their concerns and their problems. They put these before all of us, asking us to pray with them and for them as an expression of our world-wide Christian fellowship.

Date: Friday, March 3rd.

Place: St. Mary's Parish Church, Hampton.

Times: 2.30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. L. Hopkins.

8.00 p.m. Speaker: Miss Hannah Stanton.

Last year some of us found that the fact we had given time to study the theme in the preceding weeks was very helpful to the reality of our worship on the day itself. It is proposed that we try to do the same this year. The theme will have been introduced at the afternoon service on Ash Wednesday when this magazine reaches you, but it will continue to be studied and meditated on at the Vicarage at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesdays, Feb. 23 and March 1, and all interested are cordially invited to either or both of these meetings.

UNITED SERVICES

What a great occasion Sunday evening January 23 was! A church fuller than for many years, and people spending an hour after the service, having refreshments and talking to friends and strangers from other churches. More about this next month, and about plans for similar services in the future.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

February

- 16 ASH WEDNESDAY: 7.30 a.m. and 8.15 p.m. Holy Communion; 9.00 a.m. Holy Communion (in St. Anne's Chapel, L.E.H.S.); 2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union Service (W).
- 17 8.00 p.m. First Meeting of Lent Course—details in January issue (St. Mary's Hall, Hampton).
- 20 3.00 p.m. Hampton Girl Guide Association: Thinking Day Parade Service (St. James's Church).
- 21 10.30 a.m. Editorial Board (63 Park Road).
- 23 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (at Laurel Dene); 2.30 p.m. Study Meeting (Vicarage); 8.00 p.m. Parochial Church Council (W).
- 24 SAINT MATTHIAS'S DAY: 7.30 a.m. Holy Communion; 8.00 p.m. Second Meeting of Lent Course: The Reverend Donald Black (Christian Citizenship Secretary of the Baptist Union) speaks on 'The Christian and the Sanctity of Life' (in St. Mary's Church, Hampton—if Hall is not available).
- 25 8.00 p.m. House Group for Prayer, Study and Discussion (47 St. James's Road).
- 29 8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club: Mr. Cook speaks on the Work of a Solicitor (W); 8.00 p.m. Meeting to discuss Youth Work in the Hampton Area (1 Jillian Close).

March

- 1 7.30 a.m. Holy Communion; 2.30 p.m. Study Meeting (Vicarages).
- 2 8.00 p.m. Third Meeting of Lent Course: The Reverend John Rowe, a Priest-Worker, speaks on 'The Christian and Work' (St. Mary's Hall, Hampton).
- 3 WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: Services at St. Mary's, Hampton, at 2.30 and 8.00 p.m.
- 8 7.30 a.m. Holy Communion; 8.00 p.m. Liturgical Committee (68 Park Road).
- 9 8.00 p.m. Fourth Meeting of Lent Course: The Reverend Brian Rice (Education Secretary, U.S.P.G.) speaks on 'The Christian and Money' (St. Mary's Hall, Hampton).
- 10 8.00 p.m. House Group (47 St. James's Road).
- 14 8.0 p.m. Stewardship Committee (106 Park Road); 8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club: Mr. Jones speaks on 'Religions of the World' (W).
- 15 7.30 a.m. Holy Communion; 2.30 p.m. Trustees' Meeting (Vicarage); 7.00 p.m. Theatre Outing to Hadrian the Seventh.
- 16 8.00 p.m. Fifth Meeting of Lent Course: The Reverend Colin Hodgetts (Director of Christian Action) speaks on 'The Christian and Violence' (St. Mary's Hall, Hampton).

IMPORTANT FUTURE EVENTS: April 26—Annual Parochial Church Meeting (Hall); May 6, Grand Reopening Dance in the renovated Parish Hall: October 20 to 22—Fourth Parish Weekend (Hildenborough Hall).