

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MISSION SCHOOL. PENHALONGA.

With the Rhodesian fighting in the background, but not in the immediate vicinity of Umtali, the High School at St. Augustine's Mission, Penhalonga, goes steadily on; it is one of a number (perhaps 20) Mission and State High Schools in Rhodesia, and is run by the Community of the Resurrection. The school has about 450 African boys and girls, mostly boarders; and literally hundreds have to be turned away each year because there is no room for them.

The school children enter from primary school, and move up from Form 1 into the Form Vs where they do O levels; all this in English which in general is not their home language. Up to now there has not been enough room in the Form V1s to accommodate all the girls and boys who qualify to proceed to A levels. This is a serious position because it is on these intelligent young people and on others like them that the smooth running of the future Zimbabwe will depend. They will be needed in the civil service, as teachers, as operatives in every sphere.

To meet this serious lack of opportunity in the limited sixth form at St. Augustine's the Community of the Resurrection is appealing for funds to be able to extend this form so as to provide an additional stream. A lot of money is needed, but an appreciable amount has been already given and the building of additional dormitories has already been started. New classrooms and labs are also needed with additional equipment.

It is hoped that, as in Kenya, many of the white people will stay on in Rhodesia, and help to build up the new Zimbabwe. If they leave, and many may leave, these educated young people, many of whom will go on to the University, will be needed urgently to fill the gaps.

It would be grand if the congregation of St. James's would feel that they could help on this project, about which it would be possible to get much more information. It would be a symbol of faith in the future.

Hannah Stanton.

(Hannah's brother, Father Tom, whom we were delighted to have with us over the Christmas period, teaches Biology in this school. After Evensong on January 15 he gave us a masterly and moving account of the situation in Rhodesia today, and when he spoke of his school his deep concern that the present limited opportunities in higher education for black children should be extended in every possible way became our concern too, and at the end we were all of one mind behind him. The Church Council has now endorsed our concern, and approved the idea that a link should be made between us and St. Augustine's, and that we should go into the matter of how we can best support the development-project at the school. - Ed)

THE NEW ST. JAMES'S HYMN BOOK

"Mobbed" may be too strong a word, but "assailed" I certainly was, after the New Year's Day Parish Communion, by several ladies of the congregation, when our new hymn book, which I have edited, was used for the first time. Comments about unknown hymns and no music were vehemently made.

Perhaps it was unwise of Rupert to take all the hymns for the service from the new book but, as he said, they were seasonal, and we will not be able to use them again until next year.

By now many people will have seen and used the new book. It is a collection of 50 hymns, songs and carols mainly included because we have used them in Welcome and other special services or because they fill gaps in our present books. Several are from the Oxford Book of Carols, and are worthy of inclusion for both words and music-and this cannot always be said of hymns!

The book has cost 67p a copy to produce and has taken some time to collate. We would like to increase the number of hymns when we can afford it. This can be done by inserting more sheets into the binders.

If you have any favourites which you cannot find in any of our books at church please contact me - Janet Robinson - giving details of the source so that I can enquire about copyright permission and I will try to include them in the next batch.

A plea - if you find these songs unfamiliar please believe that some of us have found great pleasure in singing them and have a go yourself. It doesn't matter if you sing the wrong note. Sing heartily and make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

J.H.R.

(Janet modestly does not mention the hours of work which she, with the backing of the Liturgical Committee, has put into this work of collation, including many letters to holders of copyright at home and overseas, some of which produced most interesting answers. A large number of hymns and songs which we should have liked to include had to be omitted because the terms laid down for use of the copyright material were such as we could not meet, but we hope to go steadily on building up a book which will be a worthy companion and supplement to those already in use. - Ed).

REPORTS:

(2) ST. JAMES'S YOUNG FAMILIES' GROUP

We have now been in existence for over a year, and since this has been something of an experimental group we have had a number of changes in our activities, our overall activities, and even our name - we started life as "Bib & Sucker".

We are in fact a young-member group of the Mothers' Union, but run completely independently. We uphold the strong family traditions of our parent group and try to understand better what it is to be a "good mother".

Of course a lot of our activities are on a very sociable level, since with babies and young children attending meetings with us it is quite difficult to hold serious discussions. We had hoped to start occasional evening meetings for this sole purpose, but unfortunately all three of our present committee moved house in the same week, two of them outside the area, and this has curtailed some of our programme-planning.

We are still a little-known group, but we have steadily built up and maintained a regular number of members; we have about eight to ten mothers attending our fortnightly meetings at Wayside, and we have found that, with children, this is about the right number, although new members would be most welcome. The subjects covered by our speakers have been very diverse and we have had a lot of support from our own parishioners, all of whom have coped admirably with our often noisy offspring.

We have developed other interests arising from the talks given by speakers, one which has been a great success is the Keep Fit class held every Friday afternoon at the Church Hall (as it happens it is run for us by two Mothers' Union members - thank you.)

We hope to run on more established lines this coming year once we have settled down, but even as it is now, we all enjoy attending and running this group since it gives good opportunities for newcomers, mothers and toddlers, to establish new friends and outside interests.

(3) ST. JAMES'S MOTHERS' UNION

These are some notes on M.U. activities since last April, when we sent our report to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

There is some difficulty in reporting on the work of the M.U. whose aim is to be concerned with ' all that strengthens and preserves Christian family life', since clearly this is not done through monthly branch meetings. This concern is channelled through five spheres: that connected with bringing up children; that connected with Christian teaching on personal relationships in family and community; to help those whose families have met with adversity of one kind or another; to try to understand conditions favourable or unfavourable to family life; to encourage a world-wide fellowship which involves mutual support, understanding, and prayer between members of the local neighbourhood and across the world. (And the more I think about it, the more it has seemed to me that this isn't a bad programme for the whole Christian Church, let alone the half-million M.U. members!)

The trouble is that this is a very broad canvas for a branch of only 37 members, all of whom are active in one or more forms of voluntary work quite apart from their M.U. membership - a very good thing too, if membership means anything at all. Since it is clearly impossible to cover all our special interests, it is difficult to know which we should concentrate on at any time.

Monthly branch meetings are arranged to try to introduce something of what is currently going on in the departments or to give help in members' day-to-day living, and so during the last part of this year we have had an afternoon on the subject of Prayer; a talk on 'Safety in the Home' by the Borough Safety Officer; another on T.V. and the Family, with special reference to the Annan Report; an introduction to 'relaxation', which was intended to help us to prepare for a meeting about meditation which we shall be having later.

In July we welcomed friends from Hampton Methodist Church to a service at which their Minister, the Rev. Harry Dodd, was the preacher, and afterwards we enjoyed one another's company for tea under the churchyard oak tree, whose shade was much appreciated, as this was one of last summer's hot days.

It was quite a year for St. James's because Pat Young was elected Deanery Presiding Member and was commissioned for her work at the Deanery service here by the rural dean, the Rev. John Cotgrove. Then Mrs Edmonds, who has been Deanery Overseas representative, has been appointed the Diocesan Link Correspondent.

We have amused ourselves with our own party and visiting others, and with a special outing last summer to Dorchester Abbey and Blenheim. On our way home from Blenheim we called in to visit Bladon churchyard and were moved by seeing the only flowers on Sir Winston Churchill's grave were in a wreath of red and gold with the simple dedication "To the memory of a great man, with thanks from the people of Belgium" We hope we entertained others at our Austerity Lunch for Christian Aid and at our Coffee morning for Overseas Funds. We collected toys and presents at Christmas for our London 'Needy families' and for Children's homes, and we have collected clothes etc. for Welcare. The branch sponsored the Young Families Group and the relationship is maintained.

Last year we were very happy to enrol seven new members and already we have one more waiting for the next enrolment. What we most need is a lot more members.

C.H.B.

AROUND THE SPIRE

Christmas was truly a family affair for the Rockliffes this year, when their daughter, Barbara, her husband and their four children came over from Canada for a few weeks. They have now returned home after their stay and have arrived safely.

We will be welcoming the Bucknell family back to Hampton Hill in a short time. It will be lovely to have them amongst us again after their trip abroad.

Congratulations to Paul and Heather Crompton (nee Gostling), whose baby daughter (name not yet finally decided) was born on January 15. Paul and Heather and 3 year-old son, Ben, live in Cheshire, but we will look forward to seeing them all when they next come down to visit Jack and Ruth - the proud grandparents.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Theme: Community Spirit in Modern Living.

This year's service has been drawn up by women in Canada and they have sent a message to go out with it to those across the world who will be praying together on this day: "Our life in Canada is becoming a fuller and richer one as people of many cultures, many races, many creeds and many tongues have come to make their home here. As Canadians, we call our brothers and sisters around the world to share their lives with us and with one another so that all of humanity may grow into unity and wholeness through fellowship with one another. And in so doing we are doing God's will."

Place: St. Mary's Church, Hampton

Date: Friday, March 3.

Time: 2.30 p.m. with Mrs Jones from Sunbury speaking.

8.00 p.m. with Mrs Harker from Hampton speaking.

The chairman of the British National Committee has prepared Bible study notes on this year's theme which I will pass on to anyone who would like them, and I quote from her preface:-

O Lord how long
Shall we say we are all brethren
That we love our Father in heaven
And our life give it the lie?

O Lord how long
Shall we speak of love
Of our hearts going out to mankind
And our love be asleep?

O Lord how long
Shall we talk of prayer
And rejoice in the beauty of worship
And our prayer be a dream?

" the word 'community' means giving serving and sharing. We can only know anything of this as we first know what it is to know and love God,"

Note. Four or five years ago it was agreed that 'Women's Day' meant 'Everyone's Day', so why not say so? The official answer is that there are too many parts of the world where it is still only possible for women to pray with one another and not in public, so that for their sakes we must keep the old title. However, at the Hampton service men will be welcome to join with us and in the evening we shall be helped by the organist and male choir of St. Mary's.

C.H.B.

THE 3rd HAMPTON HILL SCOUT GROUP.

Owing to his increasing commitments Michael Childs has reluctantly had to relinquish his leadership as Akela of the Cub-Scout Pack. He began his service with the Group twenty seven years ago, whilst still a member of Tiffin's Scout Group, when he helped his father run the Cub Pack. Eventually he took out a warrant as Cub-Scout Leader in 1963 and has been working hard and enthusiastically ever since, sometimes with very little help. In 1975, when Mr. Stan Childs retired, Michael became Group Scout Leader and has been doing the two jobs. Knowing his keenness for working with Cub Scouts, I am sure that Michael will still be looking in on the meetings from time to time!

Besides the weekly Pack meetings, he has been running swimming sessions on Friday evenings and football on most Saturdays. Under Michael's leadership the Cub Pack has prospered, and on more than one occasion has won the District Swimming and Sports' Trophies. The Pack also has a very good badge record, and with the help of his wife, Yvonne, the boys have been able to enjoy a summer camp each year.

The boys have always been encouraged to support Church activities including the Open Day, Parish Concerts, and the Parish Carol Singing this year. Since in the Scout Promise the boys promise to do their best to do their Duty to God and to the Queen, Michael has always stressed the importance of attending the monthly Church Parade.

The Pack will now be in the capable hands of Phil Carter, who becomes Cub-Scout Leader, and he will be assisted by Mrs. Nielson who is working for her warrant.

Alfred Spashett.

PARISH CAROL SINGING

One mild December evening just before Christmas, a large company of cheerful carol singers of all ages assembled outside the Parish Hall. On the arrival of members of the Richmond Youth Band led by Malcolm Smith, everyone moved off to spread Christmas cheer amongst the residents of Hampton Hill in Holly Road, Myrtle Road, Wolsey Road and Windmill Road (including "The Windmill" itself). With the help of the brass band, we struck up a merry note and there were so many of us that it did not matter whether we hit the right note or not.

After two hours of singing our favourite carols, including several renderings of "We wish you a Merry Christmas" (saving the threats about figgy pudding to the last time), we returned to the Parish Hall where tea, coffee and delicious hot mince pies were awaiting us - just what we needed. A very enjoyable evening was had by all, and let's hope the residents enjoyed it as much as we did; especially the children singing "Away in a Manger".

We were all very grateful to Malcolm Smith and his stalwart bandsmen who kept in such good wind for so long, and also to all those who baked the lovely mince pies for us.

A.K.

THE CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

The church lit only by the flickering light of a hundred candles; the wonder in the glowing faces of the hundred children grasping the oranges supporting the candles; the restless shadows in the nave as the procession moved round the darkened building - all this made a truly magical start to St. James's Christmas celebrations, and a scene not easily forgotten. The candlelight procession had formed the climax of the Christingle Service, at 4.30 p.m. on Christmas Eve, in which each orange represented the world; the lighted candle, Christ, the light of the world; the peanuts and raisins on the orange, the fruits of the earth; and the red ribbon around the orange, the blood of Christ.

Earlier, in addition to the carols sung by all, we had been delighted by carols sung to their own musical accompaniment by some of the Questers and other children, and Alan Taylor had spoken of the feeling for the true significance of Christmas lying below the tinsel and gaily packaged presents. And then, the children of all ages, some of the smaller ones with their mums, had gone forward to receive their oranges and candles from beside the lighted crib in the chancel.

It was indeed a beautiful act of worship, and, incidentally, the offerings formed a substantial donation for the Church of England Children's Society.

R.E.B.

THE FANCY DRESS PARTY

We were welcomed with Sangria and the evening continued in the same slap-up style. A skilfully-fashioned Humpty Dumpty dominated the platform and a superb mural of a Fairy Tale Castle adorned the opposite wall. Talent was displayed, not only in the hall decor itself, but in the attire of the party-goers who had used both imagination and ingenuity.

Alan Taylor - King of Hearts (!) - mastered the ceremonies with his two stalwart Knaves Roger Severn and Keith Lambert to assist him; they were also responsible for the games in which all participated with vim and vigour. Congratulation to Sue Brown who scored 50 out of 50 in the "Guess Who This Is" competition. Didn't she do well!

The six Queens of Hearts, looking quite delightful, did us right royally in the manner of food and did indeed regale us with tarts but also delicious Spaghetti Bolognese and gingerbread men. We, the recipients of so much good cheer, render our hearty thanks to this Hearty Family - not least to those, who being called to the bar, were so steadfast in ministering to our assorted thirsts.

The surprise Panto was really excellent. Cinderella Dolcis Bridges was in turn pathetic, pert and princessy, and her transformation was very cleverly thought out and executed. Buttons Young was exactly right. It's not ever a rewarding role but this Buttons had certainly got it off pat. (Clever stuff this!) The Baron was suitably browbeaten but Brenda Oliver's warm-heartedness came through making a perfect foil for Virago Vera, that rockycliff-hearted Stepmother whom the audience loved to hate: and as for the Ugly Sisters - some of the audience did not even recognise in the platform-soled, red-skintight-sausage of a parvenu, bedizened Bella our own, our very own Eila Severn, and in the football-booted-and-socked, gaudy, shockheaded and absolutely dreadful Della, our jaunty Joyce Brown. They really were a pair of aces but were finally trumped by the most original and funny Prince Charming I have met. Not just a pretty face, this one, but a 'character-part' put over with all the humour and

expertise we have come to expect from our First Lady. Dignified Dandini-Gloyns was a suitable attendant for such a pompous prince and the Fairy Godmother - Dorothy Edmonds in ballet-dress and fur stole-made this a truly wand-stirring role, producing as she did a mini-cab instead of a coach and displaying a truly modern 'take it or leave it' attitude to her not always successful magic. Full marks to Mary Wiggington's ability in supplying the 'drop of a hat' kind of accompaniment needed for this kind of presentation and full marks to the producer. Many rehearsals and hard work went into this production to make it so slick. Thank you, Margaret Leatherdale, and your entire company.

The audience participation showed their enjoyment of the proceedings during the whole evening. We are used to being excellently entertained by the Social Committee and their willing recruits. We are very lucky and we thank them very much.

Margery Orton.

FAREWELL TO CHRISTMAS WELCOME TO LENT

This year we have barely passed out of the Christmas season before Lent is upon us. We have mentioned some of our Christmas joys and enjoyments in preceding articles, but these of course cover only a part of what makes Christmas-tide at St. James's so meaningful and memorable. The many acts of worship in a beautifully-decorated church; the warmth and the welcome, the fellowship and the love; 'Carols by Candlelight' - this year a good balance between contributions by choir and congregation, most interesting readings and much beautiful music. On the Sunday after Christmas, the staff and children of our Junior Sunday School presented, as they have for many years now, a moving and original act of worship which included a play devised and written by Betty Stewart - and brought home most convincingly to us by the enthusiasm and clear speaking of the young people. Entitled 'In Search of Christmas', it consisted of seven scenes which made Christmas past a very real and relevant Christmas present. At the Epiphany Welcome Service, the past was again brought into vital connection and relationship with the present. The three youthful kings made an impressive impact, and the modern poems read by Janet Robinson opened our eyes to new aspects of the old story.

The number of communicants on Christmas Day - most of them at the glorious midnight Eucharist - was 270, about 30 more than last year, and the offerings for Christian Aid came to £116. £32 was also sent to the Church of England Children's Society in respect of monies given at and after the Christingle service. If space permitted, we could also give glowing accounts of the celebrations in our local schools - for instance, the one in our excellent primary school in Winmill Road, which was wonderfully joyous and colourful. But we must say something about the enormous Christmas tree in church - erected with great skill and daring by Bill Robinson and David Nunn. We thought we might have to do without this traditional festive feature this year, as the Thompson family, who have so generously done it all in the past, could not undertake the provision and erection this year, and trees were known to be both hard to get and expensive. But the Church Council rallied round, a local tradesman helped, Mr. and Mrs. Thompson lent their magnificent lights, and the result was a mass of splendour we shall sadly miss after Candlemas. But the

expertise we have come to expect from our First Lady. Dignified Dandini-Gloyns was a suitable attendant for such a pompous prince and the Fairy Godmother - Dorothy Edmonds in ballet-dress and fur stole-made this a truly wand-stirring role, producing as she did a mini-cab instead of a coach and displaying a truly modern 'take it or leave it' attitude to her not always successful magic. Full marks to Mary Wiggington's ability in supplying the 'drop of a hat' kind of accompaniment needed for this kind of presentation and full marks to the producer. Many rehearsals and hard work went into this production to make it so slick. Thank you, Margaret Leatherdale, and your entire company.

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austerities and discipline of Lent have to come, and it can be 'this joyous season', as it was described of old. 'Joyous' indeed in a different way from Christmastide, but in a true and deep manner.

Some of the opportunities which are being offered to us in Lent:

1) Within the parish: Holy Communion every Wednesday evening at 19.15 hours, and on Friday mornings at 07.30 (in the vestry when cold)

Three study and discussion groups meeting weekly, as follows:

On Tuesday evenings at 75, Burton's Road, beginning on Feb. 14:

A study of the Epistle to the Galatians.

On Wednesday evenings at 63, Park Road, beginning on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 8:

'The Meaning of Faith'

On Thursday evenings at 68, Park Road, beginning on Feb. 16. No set subject - suggestions will be made at the first meeting of the group, and proceeded with if generally acceptable. All these groups will begin their meetings at 20.00 hours.

2) Sponsored by the Hampton Council of Churches, at 20.00 in St. Mary's Parish Hall, Hampton, a series of open meetings beginning in Lent and continuing throughout the summer on the general theme of 'A Christian Look At'

The first meetings are as follows:

Growing up today (Tuesday Feb. 21)

Growing old today (Tuesday March 14)

Care for the sick and dying (Wednesday April 19)

Personal Ethics in secular society (Tuesday May 16)

LATE DUTY CHEMISTS' ROTA

Week commencing Sunday

Feb. 5 Kirby, E & R (Rajaball) A.P. 53 High St. Teddington.

Feb. 12 Boots the Chemists Ltd. 66 Broad St. Teddington

Feb. 19 Thomas, D.R. 113 Stanley Road. Teddington.

Feb. 26 Hall, H. 62 High St. Hampton Hill.

Mar. 6 Moss, E. Ltd. 14 Broad St. Teddington.

Mar. 12 Martin, F.C. (Chemists) Ltd. 28b Priory Road. Hampton.

OTHER DATES TO NOTE:

February

- 13 14.30 Editorial Board (21, St. James's Road)
- 23 20.00 Deanery Synod
- 27 20.00 Liturgical Committee (63, Park Road)
- 29 20.00 Parochial Church Council (W)

March

- 1 14.30 Mothers' Union : Branch Meeting (W)
- 3 WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER ; Services at St. Mary's, Hampton at 14.30 & 20.00
- 9 20.00 Band Concert by The Richmond Band (in church)

BAPTISMS

January

- 22 Paul Elliott Cassar, 88, Rectory Grove
Steven John McCall, 9, Wordworth Road
Lorraine Tamsin Waddoups, 73, Rectory Grove

MARRIAGES

January

- 7 Stephen Francis Webber to Paula Janet Day
Anthony Hughes to Sally Anne Lansley

BURIAL

January

- 10 Wilfrid Neville Davey, 5, Camps House, Edward Road, aged 87 years
(at Teddington Cemetery)