



THE Festival of Britain is a matter which will become prominent as time goes by and in answer to a question asked recently the Bishop of the Diocese replied as follows:—‘The main purpose of this Festival of Britain is to bring before the world the great contribution which our nation has made and is making to civilisation. It is of great importance to show what a large part religion has played in forming national character. The chief contribution made by the Church of England to the religious and social life of the nation lies in the unpublished records of thousands of parishes where for centuries the Church has been the spiritual and social home of the people of the country towns and villages. The Clergy and Church Councils of every parish should try to bring this out in any arrangement for sharing in the Festival.’

* * * * *

IT is particularly interesting to learn that the Mayor and Corporation of the City of Salisbury have made a special request that the Cathedral may be the centre for almost all the City’s part in celebrating the Festival. So far the arrangements have not been made public but we are able to say that a Mystery Play is to be performed in the Cathedral on several days and also that vocal and orchestral music—especially English Church music—of the very highest quality will be produced in the Cathedral at intervals during the Festival months.

It is worth noting that at the request of the City Council the Festival will open at Salisbury with a great Service in the Cathedral.

* * * * *

NOW let us turn to our local hopes as far as our Parish Church is concerned. First of all the Parish Church belongs to the whole Parish and all parishioners are entitled to its services. It is, of course, the oldest foundation in the Parish and is steeped in its social and historical past. It should, therefore, be the centre of our celebrations. As the Bishop said, it is of great importance to show what a large part religion has played in forming our national character. This is a fact which has been painfully overlooked in those country villages where the Festival is to be recognised merely by some secular manner such as opening new recreation grounds and swimming baths.

Our plans must be subject to alteration and perhaps enlargement but so far we are hoping to have special services on June 3rd and 10th, and Canon Archer, Rural Dean of Poole, has promised to preach at Evensong on June 3rd. Other details of the services will be given in due course. During that week we hope to have an Exhibition of Church Plate from Churches in the Rural Deanery. This can only be on one day as the safeguarding of these almost priceless treasures will require most careful planning. Also during that week we may perhaps arrange a social event of some kind in the Vicarage Garden.

It should be understood that there will be an unusually large number of visitors from overseas next summer and gardens, etc., should be made as gay and full of flowers as possible.

* * * * *

LAST month Mrs. Collison most kindly arranged a very successful dance in the Drax Hall and after paying expenses, handed over the most acceptable sum of £6 2s. 0d., which will go towards the cost of the Churchwardens' staves.

* * * * *

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON is to be congratulated on the new housing estate which is nearing completion. The houses are most attractive in every way and the lay-out with an attractive open space in the centre should be the envy of many other villages where imagination has not been a strong point.

* * * * *

Register.

Holy Baptism. October 1st.

Valerie Margaret, daughter of Ronald Frederick and Mary Elizabeth Elford.

Holy Baptism. October 8th.

Robert, son of Ronald and Joan Hewitt.

Holy Matrimony. October 14th.

Alfred Graham House and Rose Iris Primrose Gale.