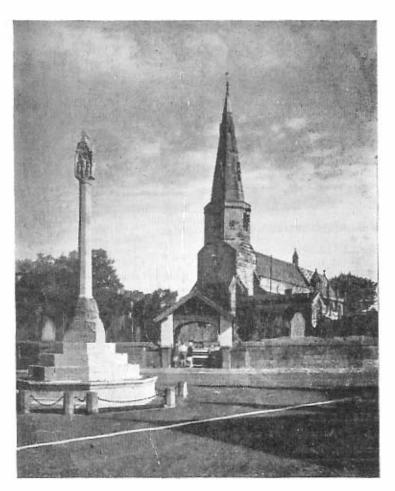
# HALSALL PARISH MAGAZINE



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The Rectory, Halsall, Ormskirk. 13th April, 1965

My Dear Friends,

After the solemnities of Lent and Holy Week the feast of Easter transferred our Church into a place of great beauty. We say "thankyou" to all those who helped to make the church so beautiful and gay for the festival. Unfortunately the Wednesday evening film services during Lent have been very poorly attended. It is sad to think that so many of you had not the time or inclination to attend. Although many did make their Communion at Easter, there were many who did not. Our Church of England Prayer Book considers Easter so important that it insists that its members shall receive the Sacrament at Easter. Our Church excommunicates nobody—those who fail in their Easter duty excommunicate themselves.

Those individuals who boldly call themselves "C. of E." but never appear at any service are just not telling the truth, for they surrendered their membership when they ignored the Church's rule regarding attendance at Easter. This is important. Such a lot of people think that Christianity consists in helping Grannie and being kind to the cat. It is not. Neither is it helping the cat and being kind to Grannie. Belief in God comes into Christianity and a sincere belief has to express itself in worship—the worship of God. That is why Churches have been built since the earliest days of Christianity. Blessings are promised where two or three are gathered together—how important this "getting together" is—for Christianity is a family religion. There is no "my" and "me" in the Lord's Prayer, it is our and "we".

If by any chance (and God still moves in mysterious ways) these lines are read by anyone who has let their Church membership lapse, I appeal to him or her to renew it again. You will not be alone and I am sure you will not regret it.

Of recent years great emphasis has been given to what might be called the business and organisational aspects of Church life. This seems to be true at all levels-Church Assembly, Diocese, Deaneries, and Parishes. Above all, perhaps, is the concern with finance. While all this may be necessary I personally fear that vital and basic New Testament principles may be suffering. Amongst other things the Church is a fellowship of people bound together by a common faith; united in love and worship of God. It is not enough that a parish should succeed in building up a big list of individuals who will subscribe to parish funds. It is possible to achieve this, and for the parish to remain anything but a fellowship; and there is the danger of becoming satisfied so long as parish finances are sound. It is indeed the responsibility of every Churchman to ask himself: "Am I contributing a fair proportion of my income to my Church?" It is also his responsibility to ask himself: "Am I contributing of my love and goodwill unreservedly to the fellowship of the Church?" This question is by far the more fundamental of the two. The Church needs money to carry on its work, but it needs people in fellowship with each other far more. The prior interest is with people for their own sakes, not for their money. Therefore, in all our planning the prior interest in people must be the spur of our deliberations and actions, and our goal a community of people reflecting "The Love of God, the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit."

May God Bless You All. Your sincere friend,

HERBERT BULLOUGH

#### FOR THE CHILDREN

Dear Children.

It is wonderful to see so many of you coming to the Family Eucharist with your parents and your friends. This service is now the most important act of worship each month and it is growing increasingly popular. It is inspiring to see you all in your place and coming up for your Children's Church Paper. We must not forget that it was the faithfulness of our teenagers in making their Communions which laid the foundation for this Family Service.

On the 21st of May we remember St. Godric of Whitby. Here is a story for you about him.

St. Godric, when he was a young man, was a sailor—some say a pirate. He sailed the seas with his friends, and took all he could get, sometimes honestly, sometimes not. But after a while he grew weary of this life of cheating and stealing and a change came into his heart. He decided that he wanted to serve God instead of thinking only of himself; and he came to settle in the woods in Yorkshire. There he built a little church of wood, and also a cottage for himself, with a little garden round it where he grew vegetables and herbs; and there he lived for many years, while people came from far and wide to see the holy man and hear his wisdom.

And it was not only people who came, the animals loved him, too—the hares who came to nibble his garden herbs, the cow who grazed in the woods and gave him milk, and the birds whom he found half frozen in the winter cold and carried in to grow warm again beside the fire in his cottage. They all knew that he loved them; and so they trusted him and let him handle them without fear.

One day, when he was quietly at work he heard the sound of horns blown in the woods. "The huntsmen are out," he thought to himself. Suddenly there was a crashing in the trees and out bounded a great stag, its eyes staring with fear as it fled before the hunters. Into the cottage it darted and crouched in a dark corner, There it stood, its sides heaving with its hard breathing.

"Stay there and rest, my brother," said Godric, "You are my guest and I will not give you up to

your enemies." He heard the huntsmen go riding by and said no word to them of what lay safely hidden in his cottage. The sound of the horses' feet and the blowing of their horns died away; and when all was still again the stag came quietly out of the cottage and slipped away among the trees.

Godric thought he had seen the last of his visitor, but every year, about the same time, the bushes would part and there was the stag's horned head looking out. It had come to visit its friend and protector, Saint Godric, the friend of birds and beasts.

God Bless You All.

Love from

THE RECTOR

#### HUMOUR

"CHARITY shall cover the multitude of sins." So writes St. Peter in his first Epistle. A sense of humour goes a long way towards achieving the same result, for where there is real humour there is also charity. I know we are frequently humorous at somebody else's expense, but unless we can take it ourselves in return, our humorous sallies will soon pall on our associates. The man who takes himself so seriously that he cannot accept a laugh against himself, is a man who is also devoid of charity; so is the man who tries to hand out more than he likes to take. Our sense of humour is a very sure guide to the assessment of the degree of charitableness which we possess. Indeed a good sense of humour is surely one of the major virtues. It breeds good comradeship and preserves it. Amongst men with the gift of humour there is rarely unresolved enmity.

Humour smooths out the hard lines of false pride, and anger, and "touchiness". The man without it is almost certainly a fellow with an intolerably good opinion of himself; a hard-natured fellow incapable of give and take; a fellow who puts a damper on the party the moment he appears, and one in whose make-up, charitableness, comradeship, does not appear. But where humour prevails warmhearted charity is ever around.

### TWELVE RULES FOR RAISING DELINQUENT CHILDREN

- 1—Begin with infancy to give the child everything he wants. In this way he will grow up to believe the world owes him a living.
- 2—When he picks up bad words laugh at him. This will make him think he is cute. It will also encourage him to pick up "cuter" phrases that will blow off the top of your head later.
- 3—Never give him any spiritual training. Wait until he is 21 and then let him "decide for himself".
- 4—Avoid the use of the word "wrong". It may develop a guilt complex. This will condition him to believe later, when he is arrested for stealing a car, that society is against him and he is being persecuted.

- 5—Pick up everything he leaves lying around books, shoes and clothes. Do everything for him so he will be experienced in throwing all responsibility on others.
- 6—Let him read any printed matter he can get his hands on. Be careful that the silverware and drinking glasses are sterilised, but let his mind feast on garbage.
- 7—Quarrel frequently in the presence of your children. In this way they will not be too shocked when the home is broken up later.
- 8—Give a child all the spending money he wants. Never let him earn his own. Why should he have things as tough as you had them?
- 9—Satisfy his every craving for food, drink and comfort. See that every sensual desire is gratified. Denial may lead to harmful frustration.
- 10—Take his part against neighbours, teachers, policemen. They are all prejudiced against your child.
- 11—When he gets into trouble apologise for yourself by saying: "I never could do anything for him."
- 12—Prepare for a life of grief. You will be likely to have it.

#### TWELVE RULES FOR RAISING RESPONSIBLE CHILDREN

- 1—Begin with infancy to teach the child he cannot have everything he wants.
  - 2-When he picks up bad words, correct him.
  - 3-Give him spiritual training early in life.
- 4-Make frequent use of the word "wrong" in correcting bad acts.
- 5—Måke him pick up his own things and do as many other things for himself as he can.
  - 6-Be careful what you let him read,
- 7—Keep the home atmosphere pleasant and warm.
  - 8-Make him earn his spending money.
- 9—See that sensual desires and cravings for food, drink and comfort are satisfied only in moderation.
- 10—Back him only when he's right and let him know you won't back him when he's wrong.
- 11—Accept your responsibility for his actions until he's of age to accept them himself.
- 12—Prepare for a life of satisfaction with your child. You are likely to have it.

#### U.S.P.G. A CONCERN OF YOUR PARISH

Where Our Money Goes

AFRICA—Diocese of Kimberley and Kuruman—
St. Michael's Hospital, Batlharos
Provision of New Nurses' Home
Amount Needed—£6,000

#### About the Hospital

St. Michael's Hospital, Batlharos, in the diocese of Kimberley and Kuruman, is in an African Reserve area where the language spoken is Tswana, Although the hospital is situated in a hot, dry area not far from the fringes of the Kalahari Desert, it is fortunate in being placed just where an underground river comes to the surface for a short distance. This means that although the surrounding country is flat and dry and produces little vegetation other than a few low thorn bushes, the actual site of the hospital is green with tall shady pepper trees, through which the red roofs of the hospital peep attractively as one approaches. The Kuruman Hills, which are visible on the skyline, also help to relieve the monotony of the scene.

Recognised as a Training School

The hospital, which has 140 beds and cots, treated 1,434 in-patients last year, as well as a large number of out-patients.

It is a training school for Assistant Nurses and is recognised by the South African Nursing Council.

#### Staff

The Medical Superintendent is Dr. William Murdoch, M.B., B.S., D.A., D.R.C.O.G. He was trained at University College Hospital, London, and went to take charge at Batlharos in April, 1962, since when there has been a big increase in the hospital's work. He is married with two young daughters.

Miss Mary Carter, R.N., R.M., is the Matron. She took over in 1960 from Mrs. I. F. E. Cordon, R.N., R.M., M.R.S.H. Sister Cordon had been Sister-in-Charge of the hospital for 28 years, during which time she had raised it from tiny beginnings in a disused store to its present status.

There are three European Sisters besides the Matron. The African nursing staff, according to the latest figures available, include two Staff Nurses, seven Auxiliary Nurses and 28-30 Student Nurses,

#### The Purpose of this Project

As we mentioned earlier in this bulletin, St. Michael's Hospital had its beginnings some 30 years ago in a disused and lonely store. When a proper hospital was built this old store building became—and still is—the Nurses' Home.

It is a matter of extreme urgency that the nurses should be given a proper and adequate Nurses' Home, for it is difficult for any nurse to give of her best if her living quarters are as poor as those at Batharos. It is to the very great credit of the nurses that they have continued happy and efficient in spite of their uncomfortable living conditions, but this situation must be remedied without further delay.

The rebuilding of the Nurses' Home was the number one priority on the list of needs and plans drawn up by the former Medical Superintendent, Dr. G. C. Malherbe, in 1960. It is now 1965 and the new Nurses' Home is still unbuilt. It is the purpose of this project to raise £6,000 for the rebuilding of the Home.

#### ROGATION-TIDE

The Rogation days in the Church Calendar are the three days preceding Ascension Day. Nowadays we name the Sunday which begins the week Rogation Sunday. Like so many of our Church practices, this one is a Christian rite superimposed upon an ancient pagan ritual. Long before the Christian era, in lands where the ancient Greek and Roman culture had been established—this is in all Europe—religious ceremonies had been enacted in the early spring in honour of the return of Persephone (goddess of vegetation) from the Underworld, and also in worship of her mother Demeter (the Roman name—Ceres, goddess of the corn, from which we get the term cereal).

Sometime in April in the old days these festivals took place, amongst the agricultural population. In the early morning people washed in a clear stream and put on clean, white clothes. Ploughs and other implements were put away speckless; oxen were set free after being well fed, and garlands of spring flowers were draped around their heads. In the farm houses tables were laden with food and wine. After these preparations, at the time appointed, in each locality a procession formed, headed by a priest leading a white lamb. The procession made a circuit of the fields and at a fixed point the lamb was sacrificed to the gods, with prayers that the young erop might come to a rich harvest. The procession then returned and the rest of the day, or days, was devoted to feasting and dancing,

Long after Christianity had supplanted the old pagan religions people continued to keep the old customs; they were rooted in the social life of peoples. Although they had ceased to worship Persephone and Demeter the habits of centuries died hard, or even refused to die at all. ("Easter", for example, is derived from the name of a Saxon spring goddess named "Eostre".)

About the year A.D. 460 there was widespread famine in certain parts of France, and the situation was made worse by the last eruptions of the volcanoes of Auvergne.

Mammertus, Bishop of Vienne, called upon the people of his diocese to join in a common act of prayer to God on behalf of the growing crops, and fixed the three days preceding Ascension Day to be used for this purpose. He thereby gave Christian significance to rites which had been enacted from time immemorial. The processions round the fields were now accompanied by prayers to the Christian God for the growth of the crops, In A.D. 501 these days were appointed to be observed throughout the Western Church. The word "rogation" is from the Latin, and in this context means a "formal request". It is the formal or common prayer, or request to God by the Christian Church that God will continue to bring the crops to a rich harvest.

It is good that in this technical and industrial age the Church continues to remind mankind that ultimately we depend upon God for all life's necessities.

#### WHITSUNTIDE

The days between now and Whitsuntide are some of the happiest in our Church Calendar. We read in Gospels and Lessons of the Resurrection appearances of our Lord to his disciples. We share in the joy of reunion and gain reassurance of the promise of life everlasting on finer planes of existence than anything we experienced in this world.

We who live in the northern hemisphere are very fortunate that Resurrection and Ascension come in the spring of the year. The world of nature is in harmony with our deepest spiritual experiences. April and May in England! Life renewed, retrieved!

The culmination of Easter and Ascension is Whitsuntide. Whitsun Day is a day of equal significance with Christmas and Easter, but it never seems to take the popular imagination like the two latter festivals. If I may quote Laurence Whistler: "A birth in a stable can be imagined, and clothed from early childhood in all the warm human symbolism of Christmas, Rebirth can be imagined, too, less easily perhaps, though on it is pinned the most profound ambition of the human mind. But the gift of Imagination itself is less imaginable." The meaning of Whitsun Day is entirely novel in human experience. Christmas and Easter were foreshadowed in the old pagan religion, but the descent of the Holy Ghost has no counterpart in pagan beliefs. It is peculiar to Christianity. All the more reason for Christians to keep this festival with at least the same zeal as they keep the others.

On Whitsun Day again we decorate our churches with the loveliest flowers, On the Altar the flame of gladioli-if possible! If not gladioli then red of some sort, for red is the liturgical colour for Whitsuntide.

It is a great mistake to allow Whitsun Day to become a pale reflection of Christmas and Easter. Its New Testament significance is quite on the level of the Nativity and the Resurrection, for on this day we commemorate the fulfilment of Christ's last promise to the disciples. The Holy Spirit is the dynamic power which built up and sustains the Church.

I do hope that at Halsall Whitsun Day will be as great a day as today.

May I suggest that gifts of flame-coloured Gladioli for the Altar and Sanctuary would help greatly to give our church a Whitsun Day look.

#### THE MONTH OF MAY

Here is the merry month. We will rejoice and be glad in it-for May is delightful and exciting. Whose heart does not rejoice at the bright mornings, the song of happy birds, the endless variety of most wonderful shades of green in hedgerow, field and forest; the richness and colour of late spring flowers: the blossom.

How right is Rogation in this month-for who can possibly in this month be unaware of the power of God in nature—and pray for His continued help? Rogation Sunday falls on May 3rd.

This year this month has within its 31 days a number of great Christian occasions. Lest you overlook them or forget them I tabulate them;

- I SS. Philip and James, A.M.
- 23 Rogation Sunday
- 27 Ascension Day
- 30 Sunday after Ascension

If church folk made much more effort to note and observe the greater and lesser days of the Church Year, I am sure beyond the shadow of a doubt that our religious life would benefit enormously from this reflecting upon the Faith in all its aspects and of festivals and persons and occasions.

#### SIDESMEN'S ROTA

- May 2 a.m.-R. A. Gaskell, R. Hunt,
  - p.m.—T. Swift, T. Hunter. 9 a.m.—E. Sergeant, D. Swift. p.m.-C. Shacklady, Jos. Balmer.
  - 16 a.m.-H. Baldwin, W. White.
  - p.m.-R. Dutton, T. Grimshaw. 23 a.m.-R. Heaton, W. Robinson. p.m.-R. Lewis, H. Rimmer.
  - 30 a.m.-G. Porter, S. Park. p.m.-J. Cheetham, H. Gaskell,

#### SERVERS' ROTA

- 2-8 a.m. Raymond Juba May
  - 9-8 a.m. Jim Heaton
  - 10-30 a.m. Harold Grimshaw, John Pounds
- " 16-8 a.m. Tony Gaskell May 23-8 a.m. John Gaskell
- - 10-30 a.m. Harold Grimshaw, Colin Huyton
- 30-8 a.m. Brian Heaton
- June 6-8 a.m. Peter Balmer
  - 10-30 a.m. Harold Grimshaw, Malcolm Sergeant.

#### SANCTUARY FLOWERS

- May 2-Miss Mawdsley and Mrs. Parker
- 9-Mrs. H. Sergeant and Mrs. H. Banks 17
  - 16-Mrs. W. Martin
- 23-Mr. E. Lord 12
- 30-Mrs. E. Grimshaw
- June 6-The Congregation

#### THE MOTHERS' UNION

The speaker at the meeting on Tuesday, May 4, at 7-30 p.m. in School, will be Mr. Duffy, of Liverpool. Those who intend to go on the outing on June 1 should give their names to the Secretary as soon as possible.

#### HOLY MATRIMONY

"Those whom God hath joined together"

March 27-Geoffrey Eaton Culpitt, The Officers' Mess, Swinderby, Lincoln, and Janice Varney Britnell, 7 Grosvenor Road, Birk-

#### BURIAL OF THE DEAD

"In sure and certain hope."

April 14-Elizabeth Serjeant, age 61 years, Fairhaven, North Moor Lane, Halsall.

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