

HALSALL PARISH MAGAZINE



Rector: The Rev. Canon W. H. Bullough A.K.C. (Surrogate)
Rural Dean of Ormskirk
The Rectory, Halsall. Tel. 321.

Church Wardens:

MR. R. HEATON, Rector's Warden. MR. H. SARJEANT, People's
Warden

Organist:

MR. E. CARR, L.L.C.M., 99 New Lane Pace, Banks. Tel. 85650.

Vergers:

MRS. E. HUYTON, 28 Gregory Lane, Halsall.

Services at St. Cuthberts

1st SUNDAY IN THE MONTH

9.00 a.m. Holy Communion
10.30 a.m. Mattins and Sermon
6.30 p.m. Evensong and Sermon

2nd SUNDAY IN THE MONTH

10.30 a.m. Family Eucharist
6.30 p.m. Evensong and Sermon

3rd SUNDAY IN THE MONTH

9.00 a.m. Holy Communion
10.30 a.m. Mattins and Sermon
6.30 p.m. Evensong with Holy Communion

4th SUNDAY IN THE MONTH

9.00 a.m. Holy Communion
10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist
6.30 p.m. Evensong and Sermon

5th SUNDAY IN THE MONTH

9.00 a.m. Holy Communion
10.30 a.m. Mattins with Holy Communion
6.30 p.m. Evensong and Sermon

Holy Baptism: Second Sunday in the month at 3.30 p.m.

Churchings: By appointment

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The Rectory
Halsall
18th July 1974

My dear Friends,

The chaotic times through which we are passing should raise in our minds the message and mission of the Church to the Nation. Whilst so many things around us are changing the message and mission of the Church does not change. The MESSAGE is the eternal Gospel of what God has done, for man in Jesus Christ. The MISSION is the task of bringing this good news to the whole world. It is the same today as it was on the day of Pentecost. It is the same in England as it was in Corinth. But the WAY in which the message is presented must change with the passing of time. So must the MANNER in which the mission is discharged.

What does the nation expect from the Church? Most certainly the nation looks for a lead and for an example. Our leaders in the nation are calling for unity. It is extremely sad that we are not able to demonstrate to the nation that the barriers of denomination can be overcome. The Church also expects to find honesty, truthfulness, and incorruptibility within the life of the Church. Let us each make sure that so far as in us lies, the Church does not fail the nation in these respects.

What does our Lord expect of the Church which is His Body?

He has given to His Church a message and He has entrusted her with a mission. What is the MESSAGE. It is the good news, the Gospel of what God has done for us. "He has reconciled us men to Himself through Christ"

Reconciliation presupposes previous estrangement. It is sin which makes us strangers to God. When Adam and Eve sinned the first thing they did was to hide from the presence of God. This is a picture of the effects of sin on all mankind. The good news is that "God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, no longer holding men's misdeeds against them." Whatever those misdeeds are, however terrible or prolonged, God no longer holds them against us. He treats us as if we are not sinners, as if we are just and righteous. That is why Jesus was known as the friend of the longatherers and sinners.

He did not hold their misdeeds against them. God was there in Jesus—God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself.

This message of reconciliation, the declaration of what God has done for man in His Son, the fact that He accepts us as we are—in spite of our misdeeds—is good news for this and every age. It is basic to the New Testament. It must be the heart of the message of the Church to the nation.

Those of you who are called to the Ministry of the laity, do you know the message of reconciliation in your own experience well enough to be able to share it with other people as good news for them and the whole world? The burden of the great Ministry of Paul the Apostle was that he wanted to share the good news with all men. The Gospel that Paul preached was not basically different from that which we must preach today. The message does not change. We need the Gospel today as much if not more than our forefathers of the last century. Our message to the people of our land is not one of condemnation and judgement. It is the most wonderful news. The message must come alive in us that we may share it with others—this is the message to be proclaimed by the whole Church—both by the ordained clergy and by the lay people in their daily life. The whole Church is called to be God's reconciling agency in the world.

This is the message which will change men's lives. Messages of exhortation—telling people to be good—or messages of condemnation—denouncing the sins of people—such messages will be ignored.

In the eighteenth century, England was saved from the bloody massacres of a revolution, such as there was in France, by the Evangelical Revival; by the preaching of the Gospel of God's reconciling love, this is the MESSAGE which can change the lives of men and women of England today.

What is the Mission of the Church to the nation today?

"We come as Christ's ambassadors" says St. Paul again to the people of Corinth. An ambassador is sent on a mission to another country to represent his own country. The Church is sent on a Mission to the world to represent Christ and His Kingdom. We are all called to share in the mission. The whole

Church is entrusted with the Gospel message but it is the ordained ministry that has a special responsibility to declare it. The whole Church is sent on her mission to the world, but it is the lay ministry, the men and women of the pews, who have the special responsibility to discharge it. It is the task of the clergy to instruct and inspire and assist the lay people to fulfill their mission.

Every Christian goes into his place of work as somebody especially sent by Christ to represent Him. "We come as Christ's ambassadors". You go into the shops of Ormskirk and Southport to the factories of Skelmersdale and Kirkby, to the offices and docks of Liverpool, to the Ormskirk market on a Thursday and Saturday to bear witness for Him by your words and by your life.

There are also different spheres of life into which the Lord sends His Church, such as the world of education, in which I have worked over thirty years, the world of industry where I served for four years, the world of the Trade Unions, and the social services and health services in which latter I am now deeply involved in Ormskirk. There is also the world of journalism, broadcasting and the television. These are some of the great spheres of opportunity and service for the Church and into all of these "We come as Christ's ambassadors" to represent Him.

This means that our attitude must be His. "He has enlisted us in this service of reconciliation." Note the word "service". Our Lord Jesus Christ came as a servant. He said of His mission. "The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve. Here am I among you like a servant." He came to serve the world.

This is our calling as the Church of Christ, His Body, to serve England—to be at the disposal of people who are not Christians. We are not to domineer, but to serve the world, the people of the world, loved by God, for whom Christ died.

Jesus described His own mission in these words: "the blind recover their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are made clean, the dead are raised to life, the poor are hearing the good news."

He was concerned for the blind, the lame, the lepers, the deaf and the poor.

When the nation sees that the chief concern of

the Church is not the maintenance of her own life, not the building of bigger and better churches, but the service of the needy in every sphere, then people will be far more ready to heed the message of the Church—because they will see Jesus Christ in His Church.

How much of the money and the resources of the Church is being used in this type of work? This is not something on the fringe of the life of the Church, but it is to be at the centre if the Church is to be the Church, the Body of Christ.

The mission of the Church today is to continue Christ's service—both by the corporate action of the Church as a whole, and the individual Christian—with the support and help of his local church and minister—going into such spheres of service in the name of Christ, as His ambassador.

This is the MESSAGE and the MISSION of the Church to the nation. The MESSAGE is the eternal Gospel.

"God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself."

The MISSION is that of the whole Church—sent to the nation as "Christ's ambassadors!"

What is the INSPIRATION for the MESSAGE and the MISSION? How are we to be moved to declare and fulfill it?

St. Paul gives us the answer again. "The love of Christ leaves us no choice, when once we have reached the conclusion that one man died for all."

The love of God as we see Him in Jesus Christ, dying for us and for all men is the inspiration that we need.

As we realise more and more of the wonder of this in our own experience, we shall be constrained to go out with this message on our lips, sent forth on our mission by the Holy Spirit who floods our inmost heart with God's love.

Today the nation needs the MESSAGE and the MISSION. Let us not fail the Lord whom we serve.

God bless you all

Your sincere friend,

HERBERT BULLOUGH.

FINANCE

I wish there was no need to refer to this, I hate having to do so. The fact is that we are in very low water. Our annual income for keeping the Church going is totally inadequate. Our Sunday collections are incredibly small for a parish such as Halsall. They need to be more than doubled to bring us anywhere near solvency. The average congregation at Evensong (excluding 3rd Sunday is 18) and the collection around £1.50p. Imagine how much it will cost when we switch the heating on at 85p per hour, then add to it the high cost of electricity and it will mean a big financial loss everytime we open the Church for the service. Please will you all realise that the 10p coin is no longer sufficient as the half crown used to be. Please help all you can it is a big worry to me.

H.B.

ST. CUTHBERT'S SCHOOL

The Managers are delighted to report that after long and protracted negotiations with the County Authority the Department of Education and Science have given sanction for the building works to commence on the improvement of the foyer area and building of a new toilet within it. The total cost to the Managers will be in the region of £6,500 which means the Managers must find at least £1,300, most probably £1,500. This improvement is long overdue and much needed. People always inform me that when Halsall needs anything it always gets it. Well here is the chance to prove it. We shall be launching an appeal for £1,500 in the very near future. Please remember that every pound given to the appeal does £5 worth of work. The work should be completed by the beginning of October.

H.B.

CRISIS IN COUNTRYSIDE WORSE THAN IN 20's

People in Warwickshire villages must be willing to forego some of their long accepted privileges and have only one service each Sunday in their churches.

This warning comes from the Bishop of Coventry.

The Bishop believes that the Church in the rural areas faces its greatest crisis since the twenties and he pinpoints the disappearance of acknowledged

leaders of the communities in past years—the squires, school heads and doctors, and this, he says, has been followed by the creation of group or team ministries.

“What is the Church to do?” Dr. Bardsley asks. “Numbers of men offering for the full-time ministry are declining. Finances with which to pay for the training of clergy are declining. Are we to strip the great urban areas of full-time priestly leadership? Are we to strip the agricultural areas of full-time leadership? Either alternative spells disaster. Surely we must think in terms of alternative ministry—the ministry of auxiliary priests who, while full-time priests will earn their salary in secular occupations.

“We must think in terms of a far greater use of lay readers, expecting them not merely to be service takers but men and women capable of exercising a full and effective pastoral teaching and reconciling ministry. We must think in terms of a far more effective training of the laity, so that they may be better equipped to lead the Church in the rural areas.

“The Methodist Church has done this for a long time past, but we in the Church of England have sat back believing that financial resources will always be available, and that man-power will be such as to fill every village vicarage. But this is not so today.”

Dr. Bardsley warns that they must never forget that in the past a village community had been centred upon the village church, which they closed at their peril. “Nevertheless, some of these churches should never have been built. They are sometimes the result of the pride of a well-to-do landowner who wanted to express his leadership in the stones and mortar of an ecclesiastical building. These churches should never have been built and should no longer be used. But many churches are still playing an effective role in the life of a village community, and their closure would be to its detriment. We must think long and hard before we close these churches.”

“Furthermore, one does not know what will be the future development of population. Some rural communities may well increase in the coming years, and then we might regret the premature closure of a village church.”

He admits that there are no easy answers to the problems of the Church in the countryside, but while sentimentality or an ostrich-like mentality would achieve nothing the Church must not be foolhardy or act unwisely to what could be a temporary clerical and financial problem.

SERVER'S ROTA

- Aug. 4 9.00 a.m. Michael Lewis.
11 10.30 a.m. Tony and Barry Gaskell.
18 9.00 a.m. Peter Balmer.
6.30 p.m. Keith Stopforth.
25 9.00 a.m. John Gaskell.
10.30 a.m. Stuart Simpkin and Colin Stopforth.
Sept. 1 9.00 a.m. Brian Heaton.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

- Aug. 4 Mrs. J. Moorcroft and Mrs. McCoy,
11 Mrs. Stopforth,
18 Vacant.
25 Mrs. Crook.
Sept. 1 Mrs. E. Orritt.

SIDESMEN'S ROTA

- August 4th, H. Grimshaw, M. Manners, R.H. W. Pounds, C. Armstrong.
August 11th C. Shacklady, W. White, J.H. E. Serjeant, D. Swift.
August 18th, B. Heaton, J. Gaskell, J.B. P. Saunders, T. Grimshaw,
August 25th P. Attwood, H. Rimmer, H.S. E. Blackhurst, H. Wood.
Sept. 1st G. Porter, S. Park, R.H. J. D. Grimshaw, R. Dutton.

RECTORY COFFEE EVENING

It is now more than ever necessary for us to organise efforts in support of our Church. There will be a coffee evening and bring and buy sale at the Rectory on Friday evening, August 23rd from 7 to 9

p.m. Do please support this effort and ensure its success.

H.B.

HOLY MATRIMONY

"Those whom God has joined together"

- July 20 Edward Russell Carr, of 99 New Lane Pace, Banks, Southport, and Pamela Robertson, of 6 Gore Drive, Aughton.

HOLY BAPTISM

"Received into the family of Christ's Church"

- June 30 Sarah Louise, daughter of Roger John and Diane Comfort, of 15 Woodmoss Lane, Scarisbrick.

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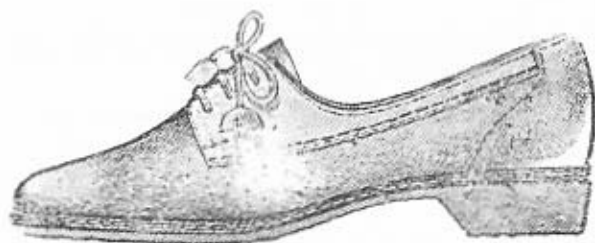
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