

JANUARY, 1967

HALSALL PARISH MAGAZINE



Rector: The Rev. W. H. BULLOUGH A.K.C. (Surrogate)

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10th December, 1966

My Dear Friends,

The dying of an old year often enhances our awareness of the passage of time. Each year has its own particular associations, and recedes into the past with its memories of irretrievable days. There are incidents in this old year which you will never forget, and which I shall never forget — new friendships sealed, old friendships retained; new experiences of good and evil, new insight into our own natures and into the natures of our acquaintances! Above all, this year will be remembered by those for whom it has brought new understanding of the Gospel of Christ, for therein lies the key to the knowledge of ourselves, of other people, and of the world. At this season other years, too, come back to mind—years long since departed, and with them come memories of much that was beautiful in men and women and children of other times. All of us, especially older people, find pleasure, even if at times it is tinged with melancholy, in contemplation of these bygone fields of experience "Where the Enchanted Long Ago murmurs and smiles anew."

But a new year is beginning, in which we have to meet the continued challenge of life, and of our faith. We must learn not to put ourselves first, but rather to live for others. If we live to give and not to get we shall not be disappointed nor disillusioned. To live in this spirit we need the inspiration of Christ. It is not the life of the "natural man," but the life of the man who has been born again — who has entered into the new life of the spirit, and fulfils the loyalties of citizenship in a spiritual Kingdom. This is the life which Christ lived. It is the life we must accept from Him, and use in our turn, to transform the world. We can only do this by putting religion in the only place it can be put, that is *first*. And religion is the worship of God—the knowledge which comes through that worship, and the knowledge of life which only comes through knowledge of God. Not one of us can say we need to progress no further. There is no time when the Christian can rest and say, "I've done enough, I understand enough about God." It is far easier to find many men converted to good, than to find one man passing from good to better. In this new year let it be our aim individually, and as a parish, to be more seriously concerned with our religion, and to pass from good to better in our understanding of God and in our fellowship with Him.

With all good wishes for the New Year,

God Bless you all,

Your sincere friend,

Herbert Bullough

LOOKING BACK

The year 1966 has been another wonderful year in our parish history. First things first! Our church services have been consistently well attended; and during the year new members have joined our congregation. Most inspiring feature of all is the number of families many with young children attending the Family Eucharist on the second Sunday in the month—this, and the continued regularity of

so many worshippers of long standing at St. Cuthbert's! An important contribution to the inspiration of our services comes from three sources—the almost unfailing attendance of both churchwardens and deputy wardens; the regular attendance of a fine body of sidesmen; and a loyal and faithful choir. The Liturgical services of the Prayer Book are ordered not so much for private acts of devotion, as for communal worship. As a body we offer to God our confessions, our praises, our thanksgiving, our intercessions; and we do this in the ordered services of the Book of Common Prayer. They are the services of the Church, and in each parish there is the responsibility to offer them to God with all the beauty and dignity we can. Churchwardens, sidesmen, choir, have a great contribution to make to EVERY service. The emphasis is on the word "EVERY". In reply to someone who once said: "We must be at our best on Sunday, it's a special occasion," a former organist in my last parish said: "Oh! Every service is a special occasion." She was absolutely right, and I am sure it is because not only our choir but our churchwardens and many sidesmen, and the congregation take this view, that the services at St. Cuthbert's continue to be so well attended, and such an inspiration.

LOOKING FORWARD

However good the past, the present and future can be even better. However good the past, it is far from perfection. This is true in our parish affairs, as I believe in business and industry.

In our brief retrospect I spoke of our well-attended and well ordered services. Church attendances could be far better. I am never surprised by the people whom I see in Church, but I am surprised by the continued absence of so many who do not come, or who come very rarely. Many who have worked well for our recent Christmas Bazaar are rare visitors at our Sunday Services, and yet all our work for the church is incomplete unless we join regularly in the public worship of God. There are many people whose Sunday would be wasted if they failed to come to church, it would be a great thing if their number were far greater.

And now a word to those who come regularly! New people are coming into the district continuously. You can encourage them to come to church. The Church needs all its members to be missionaries.

Another very important matter is one that concerns the individual member of the congregation. We all have our personal likes and dislikes about sermons, special prayers, hymns and chants, and all the details of a church service. It is an utter impossibility to conduct a service which suits the private fancy of every member of the congregation in every way. It is the responsibility of everyone to put the unity of the act of worship before their own personal preferences. We must "Keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace."

Attendances at the early service of Holy Communion are far from satisfactory but it is only fair to add that the average attendance at the Sung Eucharist is around the hundred mark. May I suggest that every confirmed member of our congregation should make a point of attending Holy Communion AT THE VERY LEAST, one Sunday a month.

Now on a personal note. Almost every Sunday I have to preach myself at Mattins and Evensong. I am very fully aware of the fact that it is far more interesting to a congregation to have a change of preacher. Moreover, it is easier for a preacher to maintain a higher standard of sermon if he has not to preach twice a Sunday every week in the same church. I can only appeal to our congregation to realise that this is a difficulty which I cannot help. One can only do one's best, and what is more there is no other church that inspires me in my worship as St. Cuthbert's does. H.B.

THE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Here is the balance sheet for the recent Bazaar. What wonderful reading it makes. It speaks volumes for the great effort and sacrifice made by so many of our faithful folk. It is an all time record and I would like to express my sincere thanks to you all for your wonderful support. Hard work it surely was but God blessed the result. A special word of thanks to those who worked behind the scenes, selling thrift tickets, knitting and sewing and organising various efforts. I am sure that you are all thrilled with the result and the reason it was so successful is because you worked so hard to make it so. God Bless you all for it. Well done St. Cuthbert's, Halsall.

We await with interest the results of our year's work from the financial point of view. It would seem to me that 1967 will see the £2,000 we borrowed from our Fabric Fund, back again in whatever we decide to invest it in. When this is so we can breathe again. Not that there is not much more to be done, there is, the Church needs—re-lighting—re-kneeling and the Church wall needs pointing very badly, the winding mechanism needs electrifying (Arthur simply cannot go on forever) but these are all things which we can take in our stride as it were. Above all we must take a very careful look at our contribution to our Bishop's Call to Build, of all the commitments, this is by far the most important. H.B.

THE WORLD WIDE CHURCH

Bored with Famine

As we go to press the national newspapers carry the news of bad harvests in the Indian states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar—the threat of famine again.

Not many maps exist which show what this means in terms of the Church. For Anglicans the area affected will be parts of the dioceses of Lucknow, Patna, Chota Nagpur, and Calcutta.

But the problem is not simply one for the Anglican dioceses. It is something bigger, more serious, and — sad to say — something so often repeated that it is hard to take it seriously. 'Famine in India' is a headline we have all come to take for granted.

And anyway what can we do? No doubt the state governments and the Indian government will organise some kind of relief. America can put its hand in its pocket again.

If that is our only answer to the problem then we shall go down in history as the church which got bored with famine. USPG and Christian Aid and non-religious agencies like Oxfam are not bored. They know that by themselves they can only touch small parts of the national sufferings and problems. But where they can reach out and touch them they do.

WANTED: TWO CEILINGS

Neither Stew nor Freeze

This month we have the rather unusual request for two ceilings, both of which will cost about £50.

In St. Monica's Hospital, Maciene, in the Diocese of Lebombo they want a ceiling for the nurses' classroom so that the nurses and those trying to teach them do not stew during anatomy lessons. They cannot use fans, for as an economy the electricity is not switched on until sunset, and the climate of Mozambique is the sort where you can fry an egg on the pavement.

At Milo Hospital in the Diocese of South West Tanganyika, it can get very cold, and the bedding is very scanty. So the new tin roof which has been put up to keep the rain out will be both cold and noisy for the poor patients underneath it unless there can be a ceiling. This hospital needs much more, for example, it has only four mattresses among 50 beds! But the ceiling by itself would be a big improvement.

Tinfoil—Why Tinfoil?

The proceeds of foil and milk-bottle tops underwrite the salary of Dr. Anthony Barker of the Charles Johnson Memorial Hospital, Nqutu, Zululand, and at the end of October the sum realised this year by this means amounted to £90.

The Rules: Thoroughly wash milk-bottle tops and all odorous wrappings; keep milk-bottle tops separate from other foil; do not include paper linings; do not make foil into a solid ball—it will not melt if you do.

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REFLECTIONS

The season of Epiphany which begins on January 6th commemorates the visit of the Wise Men to Bethlehem. The word Epiphany is derived from the Greek and means "the showing forth of divinity." It is the season of light. Light in the very widest meaning of the word. Applied to ourselves in everyday life it means diffuse light rather than darkness, or dullness. Think for a moment of the behaviour which brings light, darkness, or dullness into life.

Darkness is introduced by the quarrelsome, touchy, selfish, jealous person; by temper and spite. It is produced by the thoughtless, who indulge in rash speech, who are swayed by prejudice; who have little regard for exactitude; who are content to express opinions very forcibly without recognising any obligation to seek for truth.

Dullness is something not so definite as darkness, yet it dims the light. Dullness is produced by the sort of person we call the "wet blanket," who pours cold water on everything; for whom nothing is ever right. He is the know-all, and the bore, because he is really very ignorant.

If we accept the judgment of Christ, the person who is nearest the image of the Creator is the one who brings light; who is cheerful, generous, tolerant, kind—who would rather forget his own prejudices, and preferences, and try to make other people happy—who is always ready to believe the other person may be right.

Christ said: "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." Here lies the secret, I think. So many people are only half alive. They do not realise the possibilities of their own nature, nor the wonders of the world in which they live. (And many of them would be terrified if they did!)

What a blind, narrow, puny mind is that of the quarrelsome, touchy, criticising, spiteful person! What a slow, muddy, perverted mind is that of the "wet blanket" and the bore!

R. L. Stevenson said that desire and curiosity are the two eyes through which we see the world in its most enchanting colours. To be deeply interested in the affairs of life; to enjoy keenly the varied experiences which the world offers; to enter into life trying to understand, to discover, to appreciate more and more the inexhaustible riches that it holds—this is to be truly alive, to possess light, and to be in a position to give it out. "Vast is the stretch of earth, and wide the territory of one's life should be." Why dwell a mere rabbit of a man in one field and one burrow, when the whole wide world, and the wonderful variety of experience is at one's disposal? "Alack for the years that are forfeit if we fail to perform one great task of happiness, and truly live while alive."

Stevenson epitomised the bore, and the bringer of darkness in the following passage—and this before the days of television!

"The air of the fireside withers all the fine wildings of a man's heart. He is so comfortable that he begins to prefer comfort to everything else on earth. Twenty years ago he was equally capable of crime or heroism; now he is fit for neither. His soul is asleep, and you may speak without constraint; you will not wake him" . . . But this is the man who is a perfect menace when he does leave the fireside, and mix for a brief hour with others. He is selfish, self-centred, touchy, self-opinionated, utterly intolerant—as a rule. He has lost the ability to live. He has become a mere cabbage of a man, and he cannot understand those who still can live.

The Epiphany message is to show forth divinity. The fundamental quality of divinity is Light. With all our imperfections we can give light rather than darkness. The ordinary man can bring good cheer and brightness; humour and generosity into the circles in which he moves—and to conclude with yet another quotation from Stevenson:

"Every heart that has beat strong and cheerful, has left a hopeful influence behind it, and bettered the traditions of mankind."

SEVEN PRINCIPLES FOR HEALTHY LIVING

Learn to live relaxed. Find time to relax, physically, mentally, emotionally.

Live one day at a time. This is one of the most practical lessons of life.

Live positively, think positively. Develop positive attitudes.

Enjoy yourself. Happiness is largely a matter of attitudes. Lincoln said, "Most people are about as happy as they make up their minds to be."

Do something for someone else. Find someone who needs you, someone you can help.

Live by love. Only he who can love and be loved, is mature. This means making an honest effort to understand, to see life from the other person's point

of view. It also means thinking of others ahead of ourselves—being willing to forgive, even those who have wronged us. Jesus said that to love God and to love one's neighbour are the two basic requirements of all life.

Live by faith. This doesn't mean we have all the answers. It means taking God at His word, making the "leap of faith," and facing all experiences in prayer. It means making life an adventure. As we launch out in an experiment of faith, we find our faith grows and becomes strong.

These things are not achieved suddenly. They must be developed. It takes time; it takes patience; it takes persistence—but it can be done. No one does them perfectly, but we all can continue to grow in these areas and, as we do so, the practices do produce results.

A PRAYER

Will you allow me to give you a prayer which for a long time has meant a great deal to me. I hope some may make it their prayer in this new year.

Almighty God who has given me the precious gift of life; help me this day to know and feel that it is a gift from Thee. Help me to live as I ought to live; with great humility; with great and loving understanding; to live worthy of Thy Holy Name; to live wisely, knowing that only this present moment is mine to serve Thee. And so bless my days that at the last, with head unbowed I may come to Thy Kingdom of unending joy, through Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen.

A THOUGHT

"I do not believe that we shall ever convert England with a laity which does nothing more than spend its time on its knees before the altar and on its seat before the pulpit."

—The Bishop of Barking.

THE MOTHERS' UNION

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 3rd January, when Mrs. I. D. Self will speak on the origin of surnames. Let us hope for much better attendances. Only 20 members heard the last wonderful address by Mrs. Orr of Southport.

THE FARMERS' MEETING

After the excellent meetings of November and December when we had record numbers we look forward very much to hearing Mr. Brian Richardson speak to us on the subject of Potato Production. We also hope to see a film of some of the latest potato digging and planting equipment.

The date of the next meeting is Thursday, 19th January, at 7.30 p.m. in the schools.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Jan. 1—Mrs. R. Heaton.
8—Mrs. K. Edwardson.
15—Mrs. H. Gaskell.
22—Mrs. D. Sutton and Mrs. R. Lewis.
29—Mrs. Sumner and Mrs. D. M. Dickinson.
Feb. 5—Mrs. H. Dickinson.

ST. CUTHBERT'S, HALSALL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

1966
November 26

Stalls

Apron	50	0	0
Barton	28	4	8
Bottle	34	1	0
Cake	63	0	0
Christmas Gifts	200	0	0
Fruit and Vegetable	48	5	3
Grotto	13	15	0
Guides and Brownies	7	2	9
Hand Knitted Goods	27	2	6
Hoop-la	6	10	3
Linen	46	10	0
Mothers' Union	47	11	0
Raffle	45	16	0
Refreshments	12	15	4
School	14	4	1
*Sweets	7	14	9
Tombola	56	3	0
Whist and Dominoes Drive	14	12	9
Donations	34	0	0
†Pre-Bazaar Efforts	125	11	6
‡Unspent Thrift Tickets	13	0	0
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	£883	12	10

Hire of Hall	4	4	0
Caretaker	1	10	0
Advertising etc.	4	1	0
Insurance	11	6	0
Whist and Domino Prizes	7	0	0

	17	6	6
Balance to Treasurer	866	6	4
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	£883	12	10

‡Thrift Tickets sold ..	145	2	6
Thrift Tickets spent ..	144	9	6
<hr/>			
Balance	£	13	0

*Net profit

†Pre Bazaar Efforts			
Jan. Whist Drive ..	14	7	6
July M.U. Effort ..	15	0	0
Sept. Jumble Sale ..	50	0	0
Oct. Coffee Evening			
Rectory ..	25	0	0
Oct. Whist Drive ..	21	4	0
<hr/>			
	£125	11	6

SERVERS' ROTA

Jan. 1— 8.00 a.m.	J. Heaton.
8— 8.00 a.m.	J. Davies.
10.30 a.m.	Harold Grimshaw, Tony Gaskell.
15— 8.00 a.m.	Roger Dutton.
22— 8.00 a.m.	Peter Balmer.
10.30 a.m.	Harold Grimshaw, Malcolm Serjeant.
29— 8.00 a.m.	John Pounds.
Feb. 5— 8.00 a.m.	John Gaskell.
12— 8.00 a.m.	Brian Heaton.
10.30 a.m.	Harold Grimshaw, Roger Dutton.

SIDESMEN'S ROTA

1967

Jan. 1—a.m.	R. Heaton, J. Colley.
p.m.	R. Heaton, N. Britnall.
8—a.m.	R. Lewis, H. Rimmer.
p.m.	J. Heaton, J. Banks.
15—a.m.	G. Porter, S. Park.
p.m.	H. Huyton, A. Grimshaw.
22—a.m.	E. Grimshaw, E. Gawns.
p.m.	E. Serjeant, D. Swift.
29—a.m.	H. Huyton, A. Grimshaw.
p.m.	C. Shacklady, J. Balmer.
Feb. 5—a.m.	T. Swift, T. Hunter.
p.m.	R. A. Gaskell, R. Hunt.

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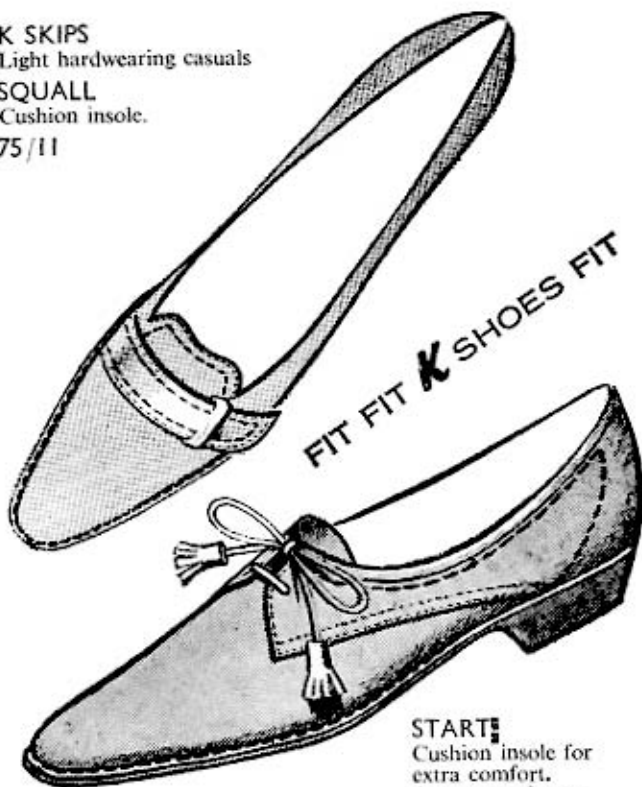
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