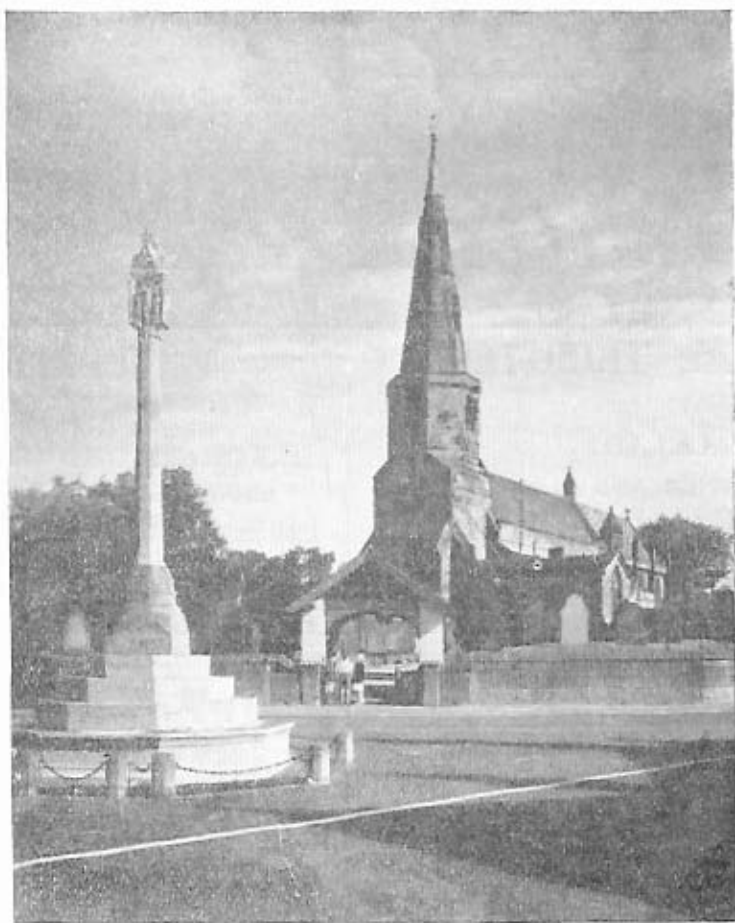


JANUARY 1968

# HALSALL PARISH MAGAZINE



Rector: The Rev. W. H. Bullough A.K.C. (Surrogate)  
"The Rectory," Halsall. Tel. 321.

Church Wardens:

MR. H. GRIMSHAW, Rector's Warden. MR. H. SERJEANT, People's Warden.

Organist and Master of the Choristers.

MR. G. J. P. HUGHES, A.R.C.M., 51 Alma Road, Birkdale. Tel. 66706.

Sub Organist:

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

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MR. A. MAWDSLEY, The Post Office, Halsall. Tel. 201.

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ST. CUTHBERT'S CHURCH, HALSALL

*Services*

**1st SUNDAY IN THE MONTH**

8.00 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION  
10.30 a.m. MATTINS AND SERMON  
6.30 p.m. EVENSONG AND SERMON

**2nd SUNDAY IN THE MONTH**

NO CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION AT 8 A.M.  
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

(Please note the change in the time of the early service of Holy Communion. It is now 9 a.m. on this Sunday; there is no service at 9 a.m. at Shirdley Hill).

**4th SUNDAY IN THE MONTH**

8.00 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION  
10.30 a.m. THE EUCHARIST  
6.30 p.m. EVENSONG AND SERMON

**5th SUNDAY IN THE MONTH**

8.00 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION  
10.30 a.m. MATTINS WITH HOLY COMMUNION  
6.30 p.m. EVENSONG WITH SERMON

The Rectory,  
Halsall.

20th December, 1967.

Dear Friends,

By the time you read this Christmas will be over, your digestion will have returned to normal, and probably even the Christmas Cards and other decorations will have disappeared from your homes.

Yet we could learn a valuable lesson from our Christmas Cards. I daresay that on many of them you will see depicted the Nativity Scene at Bethlehem; there right in the centre stands the Holy Family — Mary, Jesus, and Joseph. At the very heart of things is the age-old mystery of birth, with all its joy and happiness. What a sad world this would be without children. The bearing of children is the desire and longing of every mother. Every man looks forward to the starting of a family — to have sons and daughters of his own. What plans and dreams the happy couple have as they stand round the cot of their first baby; what a pride the father has in his child.

Now the birth of a baby makes a difference to any home. Not only is the routine altered, but a whole field of new interests and concerns is opened up for the parents. There are new responsibilities and duties. This new life has to be nurtured and trained for the child's whole future will depend upon the parents. Great calls are made upon their wisdom, love, and sacrifice. There is nothing more beautiful in the whole wide world than to see a young couple with their baby.

This is why the picture of the Holy Family finds an ache in every heart, and rightly so.

This makes it all the more sad when, several years later, we see the same happy couple in very different circumstances. They sometimes bicker and quarrel, they shout and accuse each other, sometimes they consider their children a nuisance, sometimes they come to blows and the fire of hatred smoulders in their hearts. This happens all too often. Why?

If you asked them they would say they have ceased to love and care for each other. Their delight in each other has gone sour and they have gradually drifted apart. How sad this is, and how common today. Home life seems to be breaking down and unhappy homes are on the increase everywhere.

In almost every case whenever this happens God has been left out of that home. It is God who joins two people together, and it is He who keeps them together — not just in the sense of living under the same roof, but keeping them "together in love." The Bible says "God is Love, and love without God is no love at all."

If we keep God in our hearts and homes we shall be big enough to realise that we are not perfect, and so not expect perfection from those with whom we live. There is no such thing as the perfect man and wife; we must be willing to forgive the mistakes of others, but we can only do this if we realise our mistakes — or sins as He calls them.

Look again at the Christmas Card: there you see not an individual, but a family. We call it the Holy Family because it is centered around Jesus, YOUR

**FAMILY OUGHT TO BE CENTERED AROUND JESUS, TOO.** A family with Jesus at its heart is a holy family. It is often said that the family that prays together stays together. **THE KEY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF FAMILY LIFE IS WORSHIP.**

Ideally, the family ought to worship together. When this is not possible then every member ought to worship separately, but certainly every member of your household ought to worship regularly — and this includes father.

If you come to the Family Eucharist on the second Sunday each month at 10-30 a.m. you may bring your young children with you to the altar rail. It is a great joy for me to bless them and so unite them with God. This practice has tremendous value in training and preparing your children for the day when they will be old enough to receive Our Blessed Lord in Holy Communion along with you. Your whole family can worship together at Mattins on the first and third Sundays.

It saddens me to see young mothers who, a few years ago, were regular worshippers, who now only worship perhaps on a festival.

Please look again at your Christmas Cards. Look at the **HOLY FAMILY** and **RESOLVE THAT IN 1968 YOUR FAMILY — FATHER, MOTHER, CHILDREN — WILL BECOME A HOLY FAMILY, TOO.**

If you have for one reason or another ceased to worship God on Sunday, why not resolve to make a fresh start in 1968.

May Almighty God grant that your entire family, week by week throughout this year, may be blessed and hallowed by His presence and power.

A very happy New Year to you all.

Your sincere friend,

Herbert Bullough.

### 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 right. He is the know-all, and the bore, because he is really very ignorant.

If we accept the judgement 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 might 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, muddied, 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 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 cheerfully, has left a hopeful influence behind it, and bettered the traditions of mankind."

### C.M.S. HOSPITAL, OMDURMAN

#### The Children's Ward

Dr. B. Hitch.

We are kept very busy these days in the work with the children. The heavy rains and the increased number of flies mean that more children are sick than at other times of the year.

Many come to us with Diarrhoea and vomiting. They are often emaciated and undernourished due to ignorance as well as poverty. Some suffer from pneumonia and others from anaemia. Typhoid and Meningitis (in the dry season) are also found.

The three towns were once thought to be Malaria free but we see cases of malaria amongst both children and adults. Measles is also common with danger to ears and eyes.

#### Some problems in treatment

It is often difficult to get medicines and nourishment into debilitated children. Mothers are frequently reluctant to give them the fluid they need which makes it hard to combat dehydration. Diagnosis is difficult where a child has been ill for some time and has already received multiple medication elsewhere, including harmful traditional remedies. The key to successful treatment of a child is often the winning of the confidence and co-operation of the mother. It is often encouraging to see children that seemed almost beyond hope make remarkable recoveries.

## THE NEW ORGANIST and Master of Chorists

By now you will all have heard that Mr. Gordon J. P. Hughes, A.R.C.M., of 51 Alma Road, Birkdale, has been appointed Organist and Master of the Chorists at St. Cuthbert's Church, Halsall. We are all looking forward to welcoming him and surrounding him with our wholehearted support. We need more boys and certainly more men. Please do not hesitate to come and offer your services if you feel that you are able to do so. There are great things in store for us if we give Mr. Hughes our support.

### THE FIGHT FOR A CHARACTER

There is a proverb in Scotland that says—"I may not prevent a crow from alighting on my head, but I need not let it build a nest there". And why should we? This is an ancient saying but for ever up to date. The fight for a character is waged in the mind, on what Ezekiel calls "the chambers of a man's imagery". That is the battlefield of man's soul. There, victory or defeat is determined. Often there is quite a lapse of time before the world sees the consequences of our choice of thoughts; indeed, before we ourselves realise the results of certain mental reactions to temptation. But the consequences will be what they will be. What is whispered in the house will one day be shouted from the housetop. It is clear from the experience of the race that none of us can escape the moral testing known as temptation, nor should we want to. Our Lord Himself was led by the Spirit into the solitude to be tested. He was, as the writer to the Hebrews says, tempted in all points like as we are—and emerged a Conqueror. And because He suffered being tempted, He is able to save those who are tempted and this help is available for us "in the nick of time".

In the real sense this testing is an honour conferred on man. Where is courage if we never feel afraid? Where is goodness if we are not tempted to do evil? It is easy to score goals when we have no opponents, to take wickets when there is no batsman! But they don't count; they are worthless. Our Lord in the days of His flesh submitted to temptation all His life, but did not surrender. In the wilderness, after many vain attempts to inflict his will on Him, the devil left Him, as Luke says, *for a season*. We know from the sacred records that many times Christ was tempted to turn aside from the appointed path, to bypass the Cross, to save Himself. And in the human sphere, temptation is a constantly recurring experience—especially, during the dangerous, tempestuous, explosive years of our youth. It is, however, our chance to build moral manhood and womanhood.

These assaults of the enemy of our souls are directed against the mind of man. The incendiaries of Satan are thrown as thoughts of evil into our conscious mind, our mental picture gallery, our imagination. There is no sin in that. But how can we deal with the fiery darts which none of us can escape? That is what matters.

We can reject them instantly, that is to say, put them out. But if we fail to put them out they will burn themselves deep into our souls where the fires of hell may be lighted. By giving these thoughts of evil house-room in our conscious thinking, by turning them over in our minds, by giving them our attention, they gradually give colour and tone and atmosphere to our lives. What began as thoughts of evil become evil thoughts—a very different thing. Then we have sinned, for "yielding is sin"; not the temptation, not even the evil. It is well to distinguish between evil and sin. All sin is evil; but evil within us only becomes sin when we acquiesce in the evil. Perhaps the strain of evil in our nature is wrongly called "original sin". But there is for the theologians to argue about. Anyway, we can

ponder profitably the proverb we started with, and sing to ourselves:

*"Christian! seek not yet repose,  
Cast thy dreams of ease away;  
Thou art in the midst of foes:  
Watch and pray,*

*"Watch, as if on that alone  
Hung the issue of the day;  
Pray that help may be sent down;  
Watch and pray."*

**The real problem for all of us is how to prevent the invasion of our minds by evil things.**

### FROM OUR MISSIONARY DR. BARBARA HITCH

C.M.S. Hospital,  
P.O. Box 65,  
Omdurman,  
Republic of the Sudan.  
December 10th, 1967.

Dear Everyone,

Another letter from me is long overdue and may not now reach you for Christmas. It nevertheless brings my good wishes to you all, and thanks to those who have written to me. It is always an encouragement to know that people at home are supporting us in prayer and sharing the burden of work and witness here. If it were not so we should faint more often than we do.

For the whole of my time here we have been struggling in adverse financial conditions, trying to economise and make ends meet since the government grant was stopped at the beginning of the year. We have had to send some of our workers away and raise our fees and we have tried, by doing evening clinics in addition to morning ones, to earn more money. We have reduced the deficit but we cannot make the hospital pay its way: we have formulated and discussed many different plans for working to a budget which we might expect to meet. Each month we have had just enough money (through the generosity of friends and by drawing on a reserve fund) to pay our workers and so have escaped having to give them notice. In November the situation was saved by an anonymous gift without which we should have had to say goodbye to many of our nursing staff. Now we are waiting to hear whether we shall receive the grant from the government for which we have applied. The uncertainty of the future has caused us to look closely at what we are doing, what we should like to do, and what we might hope to do in the hospital.

We should like to expand our leprosy work for which there is a great need, and improve the facilities and care given in the leprosy wards. At present, due to shortage of workers and finance we can give only minimal care, although the more able-bodied patients help the others and do various jobs for us. If we expand this part of the hospital we shall probably have to reduce our work in the non-leprosy women's and children's wards. As there are other hospitals and clinics this would not be too serious for the patients. It would mean, however, the end of our general nursing training. You can help us by praying that we may know what is God's will for the future here, and that we may have wisdom in all the problems and in the decisions that have to be taken every day.

Sister Irene Lord replaced our Swiss sister at the end of May and is doing well in the children's ward. My colleague Dr. Margaret Coles, the medical superintendent, left a week ago for home-leave, which has left me in charge here sooner than I expected. Our Egyptian Dr. Gamal is still here doing the children's morning clinic and some ward rounds and teaching the nurses (in Arabic). But I have Margaret's clinics and evening rounds to do in addition to what I was already

doing. Hazel Caren, the matron, is giving much help in the leprosy wards and women's clinics for which I am thankful, and Sister Erica Waser comes every Tuesday to do the men's leprosy clinic. She works at other times with Dr. Trub at the Abu Rof clinic which is run by the Swiss mission in another part of Omdurman.

I am finding very little time for Arabic study and am forgetting what I have already learnt in the textbook. I still find it very difficult to hear what is said and to understand, which makes life more trying and takes time and patience, and can be frustrating. Fortunately the weather is very nice now with the wind blowing from the North and the nights cool. Even at midday it feels cool in the house, though I see the thermometer register 78 degrees F., but that is 20 — 30 degrees below the summer shade temperature. I found the summer very hot and tiring but was refreshed by a wonderful holiday in Rwanda in September.

As you will understand my thoughts are often with my friends in E. Nigeria (Biafra) from where I have had no direct news for several months. Do remember our missionaries and all Nigerians in your prayers that a peaceful solution may be found.

Wishing you every blessing at Christmas and in the coming year.

Yours very sincerely,  
BARBARA HITCH.

### HOLY BAPTISM

*"Entered into the family of Christ's Church."*

- Dec. 10—Amanda Jane, daughter of Cyril James and Rosemary Bailey, 17 Carr Moss Lane, Halsall.  
10—Sarah Jane, daughter of Kenneth Edward and Sarah Olverson, 103 New Street, Halsall.  
10—Paul Edward John, son of James and Flora Margaret Waterworth, Gorsuch Hall Farm, Scarisbrick.  
10—Helen Louise, daughter of Eric and Jean Mary Stopforth, Trundle Pye Farm, Small Lane, Halsall.  
10—Jill Carole, daughter of Edwin Roger and Juliet Bromley, 27 Green Lane, Ormskirk.  
10—Henry Victor William, son of Dermot Hugh and Stephanie Eve Marie Blundell, Hollinshead Blundell of La Mancha Hall, Shirdley Hill, Halsall.

### BURIAL OF THE DEAD

*"In sure and certain hope."*

- Nov. 28—Thomas Webster, aged 81 years, 8 Manor Gardens, Burscough.  
29—Ellen Craven, aged 74 years, 86 New Street, Halsall.  
Dec. 6—Alice Threlfall, aged 85 years, 20 County Road, Burscough.  
7—John Aldred Wilson, aged 65 years, 82 Summerwood Lane, Halsall.  
16—John Parker, aged 74 years, Plex Moss Lane, Halsall.

### SANCTUARY FLOWERS LIST FOR 1968

Here are the dates for the flower list and also an expression of grateful thanks to all those who help us in this way. The flowers always look really beautiful.

- Jan. 7—Mrs. K. Edwardson.  
14—Mrs. H. Gaskell.  
21—Mrs. Sutton and Mrs. Lewis.  
28—Mrs. Sumner and Mrs. D. and M. Dickinson  
Feb. 4—Mrs. H. Dickinson.  
11—Mrs. W. Barwiss.  
18—Mrs. J. Morris.  
25—Mrs. H. Dean.  
Mar. 24—Mrs. Pilling.

- April 14—THE CONGREGATION.  
21—Mrs. W. White.  
28—Miss Mawdsley and Mrs. Parker.  
May 5—Mrs. H. Serjeant and Mrs. H. Banks.  
12—Mrs. W. Martin.  
19—Mr. E. Lord.  
26—Mrs. E. Grimshaw.  
June 2—The Congregation.  
9—Mrs. E. Shacklady.  
16—Mrs. H. Grimshaw.  
23—Mrs. J. Huyton.  
30—Mrs. H. Gaskell.  
July 7—Mrs. J. Silcock.  
14—Mrs. J. Pounds.  
21—Mrs. P. Saunders.  
28—Mrs. H. Grimshaw.  
Aug. 4—Mrs. Moorcroft and Mrs. Sephton.  
11—Mrs. Stopforth.  
18—Mrs. McCoy.  
25—Mrs. Crook.  
Sept. 1—Mrs. Lawson.  
8—Mrs. Brett.  
15—Mrs. Blundell and Mrs. Park.  
22—Miss Mawdsley and Mrs. Parker.  
29—Mrs. Ord.  
Oct. 6—The Congregation.  
13—Mrs. W. Halsall.  
20—Mrs. T. Rimmer.  
27—Mrs. Ainscough.  
Nov. 3—Mrs. Hesketh and Mrs. Winstanley.  
10—Mrs. L. Heaton.  
17—Mrs. Neale.  
24—Mrs. Kniveton.  
Dec. 1—Mrs. L. Huyton.  
8—Mrs. Britnall.  
15—Mrs. N. Smith.  
22—Mrs. Foster.  
29—Mrs. Hunter.

### SIDEMEN'S ROTA

- Jan. 7—R. Lewis, H. Rimmer, J. Heaton, J. Banks.  
14—G. Porter, S. Park, H. Huyton, A. Grimshaw.  
21—E. Grimshaw, E. Gawne, E. Serjeant, D. Swift.  
28—H. Huyton, A. Grimshaw, C. Shacklady, J. Balmer.  
Feb. 4—T. Swift, T. Hunter, R. A. Gaskell, R. Hunt.

### SERVERS' ROTA

- Jan. 7 8.00 a.m. John Pounds.  
14 10.30 a.m. Harold Grimshaw, Roger Dutton.  
21 9.00 a.m. Malcolm Sarjeant.  
6.30 p.m. Michael Lewis.  
28 8.00 a.m. Jim Heaton.  
10.30 a.m. Harold Grimshaw, Raymond Juba.  
Feb. 4 8.00 a.m. Peter Balmer.

### MOTHERS' UNION

There was a very disappointing turn up for the December Meeting, only 13 members were present. This raises the question "Is it right to invite professional people who ask for time off to come to speak to us on important subjects and then find only a mere handful of hearers?" Apart from all the other things involved in arranging the meeting it hardly seems worth while. It must be remembered that the majority of our members asked for the afternoon meetings.

Can we do any better on the 9th of January, when we have Mrs. L. Gibbs of Ormskirk to speak to us on "Town Planning?" See what you can do about it please!

### THE FARMERS' MEETING

We all hope that we may be able to meet on January 25th, but we never know. You will all receive notification if the meeting is on. We should have Mr. W. J. Bevan to speak on New Advances in Pest Control.

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