

HALSALL PARISH MAGAZINE



Rector: The Rev. Canon W. H. Bullough A.K.C. (Surrogate)
Rural Dean of Ormskirk
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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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**EVENSONG WILL BE AT
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The Rectory,
Halsall,

24 December, 1973

My dear Friends,

As I write this letter I am looking forward to my Christmas Eucharist when we celebrate in a blaze of Glory the Coming of Jesus Christ. Let us think for a moment what a vast difference this "breaking in" of Jesus Christ should mean to us. By His teaching Jesus Christ showed us how to become aware of other people, we are not just ourselves alone we belong to a family — the family of God. Through the eyes of Jesus we should see others as people of value. People are not numbers in a computer or on a "clocking in" card, they are human beings created in the image of God to be respected and treated reverently because they are of value to God.

If we watch Him closely we shall soon realize that He was always aware of the nearness of God. Jesus loved His Father's world and blessed it. He took time to notice, to become aware and to acknowledge the wonderful handiwork of God. He taught us that "closer is He than breathing, nearer than hands and feet." He taught us that we are always sought by God. He always comes to us before we go towards Him. From Jesus we learn that God believes in us.

From Jesus we learn perhaps the one lesson needed more than ever as we enter 1974 that the unhappiest people are those who live only for themselves. The Toc H motto is that "Service is the rent we pay for our room on earth." Christ taught us that in giving to others we find ourselves.

Again from Jesus we learn to look "up" to our Heavenly Father — beyond time to eternity. Many of the things we have believed in somehow or other

seem to have failed us — a great empire which has largely disappeared — the Welfare state the vision of which has now failed the United Nations Organization which has failed to live up to expectations. Such objects of our faith are bound to be inadequate because they do not stretch our thinking beyond this life, beyond this world, beyond today, or the immediate tomorrow.

One of the most fundamental differences between people must be the question whether they believe in God or not; for on that depends their whole interpretation of the universe and history . . . those who think they are sitting on the fence are entirely deluding themselves.

Belief in God will not provide us with immunity from disaster but it does guarantee what the New Testament claims so exultantly — "A mission in the world, and the kind of Triumph that may come out of apparent defeat, the kind of good that can be wrested out of evil."

Finally, and this should be pondered on by us all, Professor Butterfield of Cambridge writes in his book "Christianity and History", "I am unable to see how a man can find the hand of God in secular history unless he has first found that he has an assurance of it in his personal experience."

With such an assurance we may face the New Year with courage and hope.

God Bless you all and give you a Happy New Year.

Your sincere friend,

HERBERT BULLOUGH.

WISE MEN AND RESOLUTIONS

These thoughts are based on the Bishop of Warrington's Christmas card. The picture is divided into two parts. On one side the stable and the Blessed Virgin Mary with the Christ child. The wise one bringing their gifts and kneeling down to worship. Underneath are the words:- "Wise men worshipped Him." On the other side of the picture there is a parish church lighted and parishioners of all ages are going into Church. Underneath are the words:- "They still do." "Wise men worshipped Him — They still do".

If we want to visit anyone a few hundred miles away we catch a train or an aeroplane, but when the wise men set out to worship the baby Jesus their journey meant both hardship and danger. St. Matthew's Gospel tells us they came from the east. The Syrian desert, five hundred miles wide, lies immediately east of Palestine. They may have travelled from Persia, Arabia or even India or China. For such a journey they must have had to plan how to feed themselves and their servants and animals. We know from their gifts they must have been rich men, possibly kings. This means they had to give up the comfort, luxuries and safety of their homes do something that they thought worth such sacrifice and risks.

Whenever anyone sets out to do something worth while there is something they have to give up for the sake of it. For instance an explorer will give up the safety and comfort of home life, endure extreme heat or cold, risk the danger of disease and lots of other hazards. Similarly an athlete gives up time and pleasure in training to keep hard and fit. Artists and writers may have to live in poverty for the sake of their work.

Our catechism clearly shows that in order to become "a member of Christ, the child of God and an inheritor of the kingdom of heaven"—three things which are very much worthwhile—we have to give up something too. There are three things we have to give up (or renounce), as promised at our baptism, the world, the flesh and the devil. In short we are to give up, and fight against, everything which tries to separate us from God, and our happiness.

The beginning of a New Year is an excellent opportunity to look at our lives over the past year. Did we try to give up the world, the flesh and the devil? Even for a few weeks? Are we going to try harder this year? What will your New Year resolution be? Perhaps you ought to give up your comfortable bed every Sunday morning to go to Church, perhaps you ought to give up your TV to go to a Church or a union meeting or say the prayers you never get round to praying.

To find Jesus the wise men renounced their leisure, comfort and safety; we will be wise to follow them.

SUFFERING "OUTSIDE THE EXPERIENCE OF OLDEST TRIBESMEN"

As Christian Aid's convoy of Land-Rovers and trucks was speeding across the Sahara to the drought-affected regions of the Sahel Britain's 'big five' overseas aid charities — including Christian Aid — issued a joint national appeal for funds to combat drought both in the Sahel regions and in Ethiopia.

The appeal was largely prompted by shock reports from Ethiopia where drought — which has gripped all or part of twenty African nations — has produced suffering outside the experience of even the oldest African tribesmen.

As in the Sahel regions, the drought in Ethiopia has led to a massive migration of people. In the worst-hit area in the provinces of Tigre and Wollo — stretching from the mountain ridge of Addis through the Danakil desert to the Red Sea — nearly two million have been affected after the seventh consecutive dry year.

Vernon Littlewood, Aid Administrator flew to agencies related to the World Council of Churches. Immediate and long term measures are being prepared.

The Christian Famine Relief Committee — comprising members of major local churches — and through which Christian Aid and other agencies are directing funds — cabled the following information from villages and 'malnutrition' centres:—

Combolcha: The town is 100 miles north of Addis where over 669,000 registered for drought relief in September. Food has to be taken to some because they are too weak to walk. The feeding and rudimentary medical treatment keeps death to about 50 a month—in nearby Rusa Guda death rate is 15 a day.

Bati: Things rapidly get worse after Combolcha. In the last three months over 600 of the 10,000 destitutes have died. The committee has erected a shelter 30 feet long and six feet wide and 'housing' 225 people. In such conditions disease spreads rapidly, but the alternative is to die of cold outside.

Dessie: One of the worst-hit areas — 10,000 were registered for official food handouts, but in

August the food failed to arrive. Afterwards hundreds of corpses were to be seen on the road to the north and south. By September only 3,000 were left.

Obbo: Sister Jutta and Sister Hamadek run a government food centre where they cope with 200 patients a day. They estimate 80 per cent of the children are starving. Last month 400 died.

Aerial surveys indicate only 12 per cent of the great cattle herds of the Danakil desert still survive. A cow would once fetch enough grain to feed a family for a season, now it will only bring enough for a week.

The Ethiopian government is providing food, transport and seed. Numerous voluntary groups have sprung up to give help and Britain's Oxfam and Christian Aid began giving funds later followed by grants from other UK agencies and the British Government.

The £16,000 given by Christian Aid prior to the national appeal was used largely to help create food for work programmes — mainly road projects so as to make better connections to remote areas to allow development work to begin.

Christian Aid say that with their share of the national appeal and with further funds from supporters they hope to concentrate on permanent reconstruction work both in the Sahel and Ethiopia — 'otherwise these kind of disasters will always be with us,' said deputy administrator David Smithers.

AN APPRECIATION

Thank you St. Cuthberts Church Choir for giving up three nights of the week before Christmas, when there is always so much to be done, to sing carols in the Scarisbrick Arms, The Blue Bell, and the Saracen's Head. Everyone enjoyed your visits and many people asked me to pass on their thanks to you. The total collected for charity was £38. Of this sum £25 was sent to The Mersey Mission to Seamen and £13 to Christian Aid. A Happy New Year to you all.

W.H.B.

THE CHALLENGE OF 1974

As we face the New Year we, as Christians should be awake to the critical situation in which we live. We should be aware that the enemy is very much awake and active but we ought not to be depressed because the opportunities at home and overseas are very great.

There are three things which are needed among our parishioners today.

First a more definite sense of obligation to worship in Church on Sundays without fail (except in cases of emergency). If every confirmed person accepted this as a rule of life the Church to which we belong would be immeasurably stronger than it is today.

Second, a more determined resolve to work out the Christian life in the situation in which we live and work. We need a stronger social sense; a deeper concern for the sufferings and perplexities and strivings of our fellow men. When people ask what the Church is doing about this or that situation, the satisfactory answer is not given by referring to a pronouncement of a Church leader, but rather to the effective humble witness of a Christian layman or woman in his or her daily avocation.

Thirdly, a genuine desire to further the work of the Church by a carefully thought out system of sacrificial giving. This will most certainly then be related to the great need of increased contributions to keep pace with the tremendous rise in the cost of all our necessities.

W.H.B.

ST. CUTHBERT'S GUILD

Many of our members and friends will remember the magnificent slide lecture we had last year when Mr. Hoyle came to talk about the Coast Line of Great Britain. We are delighted that Mr. Hoyle is coming again. The meeting is on Tuesday, 8th January, at 7.45 p.m. and the subject is "Europe—Scenic Wonderland". If you want a really enjoyable evening, book this date and come along with your friends. All are welcome. Don't miss it this time!

CONFIRMATION

After the Family Eucharist on Sunday 13th I would like to have the opportunity to talk to the parents of the candidates. Will you all please try to be present in Church for ten minutes at the end of The Eucharist. Thank you! W.H.B.

THE FARMERS MEETING

On Thursday 24th at 7.30 p.m. we shall welcome the members of The Parbold Discussion Society to our meeting in School. The subject is "Comfort and Efficiency in Farm Machinery" and the speaker is Mr. B. A. May, B.Sc., N.D. Agric. Engineering, M.I. Mech.E. I hope all the farmers will be present and bring their friends. Will the farmer's wives please remind their husbands! Thank you! W.H.B.

HOLY BAPTISM

"Received into the family of Christ Church"

December 9th—Margaret Kate daughter of Peter Graham and Margaret Angela Webster of Trundle Pie House, Small Lane South, Halsall.

December 9th—Mark Richard son of John Richard and Christine Egerton of 20 Unit Road, Ainsdale.

December 9th—Karl son of Margaret Huyton of 28 Gregory Lane, Halsall.

SERVER'S ROTA

- Jan. 6 9.00 a.m. Peter Balmer.
- 13 10.30 a.m. Colin Stopforth, Michael Lewis.
- 20 9.00 a.m. Barry Gaskell.
3.45 p.m. Stuart Simpkin.
- 27 9.00 a.m. Maurice Core.
10.30 a.m. Malcolm Serjeant and Simon Andrews.
- Feb. 3 9.00 a.m. Jim Heaton.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

- Jan. 6 Mrs. R. Heaton.
13 Mrs. H. Gaskell.
20 Mrs. Lewis.
27 Mrs. Sumner, and Mrs. M. and D. Dickinson.
- Feb. 3 Mrs. H. Dickinson.
10 VACANT.

SIDESMEN'S ROTA

- January 6; B. Heaton, J. Gaskell, J.B. P. Saunders, T. Grimshaw.
- January 13; P. Attwood, H. Rimmer, H.S. E. Blackhurst, J. Rimmer.
- January 20; G. Porter, S. Park, R.H. J. D. Grimshaw, R. Dutton.
- January 27; E. Grimshaw, D. Sephton, J.H. J. F. Smith, H. Dean.
- February 3; T. Swift, T. Hunter, J.B. P. Aynsley, R. Gaskell.

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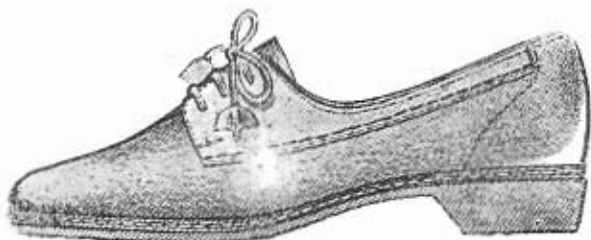
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