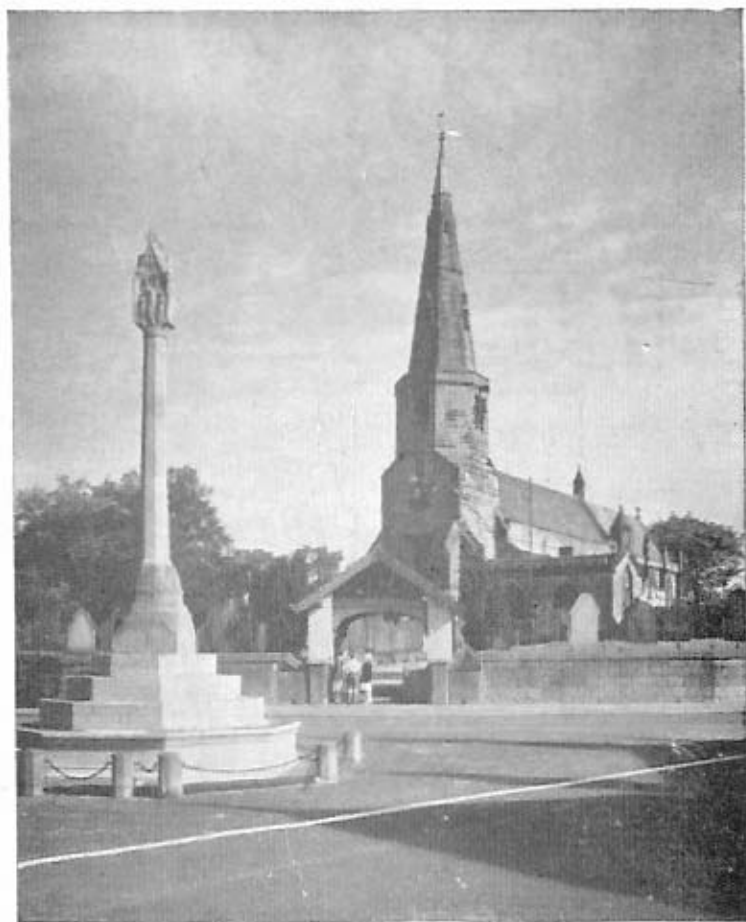


HALSALL PARISH MAGAZINE



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

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Warden.

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MR. E. CARR, L.L.C.M., 16 Green Hill Crescent, Billinge, Nr. Wigan.
Telephone Billinge 894342

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,
16th December, 1974

My Dear Friends,

What a splendid effort the Christmas Bazaar was and how very much we enjoyed it. Many of you worked hard and sacrificed much to make the effort a success. I am grateful to you all for this, and heartily congratulate the stall holders and catering committee on the success of their enterprise. I do want you all to realise what a great tragedy it is that the Church of God should have to depend on "Bazaars and Fetes" to keep its finances in order. Surely we all wish this situation to be put right! It should be our first concern to ensure that by the regular weekly gifts of all those who love St. Cuthbert's Church, and claim their membership of it, the work of the Church in Halsall is on a sound financial basis. It should not be difficult to achieve this for there is already in existence a "Free Will Offering" Scheme which could quite easily become the means of making our finances sound. If all those who claim membership of St. Cuthbert's Church were making a weekly gift through the Free Will Offering Scheme, having first carefully thought about what they ought to give to God each week for His work, then there would be no further financial worries. I commend this to you as a priority. The new financial year is about to begin and I hope that you will respond to this appeal to make a regular weekly gift to God in the Scheme. Please speak to me about it and I will give you further information. If the response is what it ought to be next year's Bazaar will be a wonderful social occasion and the amount it raises will be a secondary consideration.

I beg every Churchman to take this New Year message to himself, as I do. God wants all your special qualities and gifts devoted to His Church, but cannot use them as He would, unless you are a man of God. "Abide with Me," said our Lord to His friends on the eve of His death, "for without Me ye can do nothing." How are your prayers? Do you feed on Christ in His Word

and Sacrament? Do you covet for yourself holiness, the gift of manly or womanly goodness? For gift it is — the gift of God to those who take pains to live near to Him. The Church sorely needs truly good men and women. Are you willing to try to be one?

With New Year we turn over a page and have a clean sheet before us. How we wonder what is going to be written on it. Our mutual good wishes, so warm and sincere, imply that we enter upon it with hope in our hearts, for each other and the world. How could it be otherwise with the Light of Christmas still shining brightly? Christmas stands for the most wonderful thing that ever happened. It means that not only is God ever watchful and caring, but that, in Christ our Lord, He Himself entered into this tangled skein of human history to fashion a better and happier world. We are troubled because He seems to work so very slowly, and sometimes there seems more of destruction than of building; but if the event of Christmas Day really happened as we know so well that it did, we cannot doubt that His purpose is going steadily forward. "For God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

Now as we face together the New Year, let us put behind us past discouragement, and it may be, even failure, and let us echo to each other the old message, "Speak to the people that they go forward." There is so much land to be possessed and so much to encourage us in our forward movement. With Jesus Christ as our Leader we have nothing to fear, for He moves on to victory, and ultimately He will see the final triumph of good. Surely this will inspire us to more heroic practise of our Christian Faith.

In order that we may all work together for the good of the whole Body of Christ which is His Church, and for the Glory of God, I would ask definitely that of your goodness you would sometimes have me, and the work that God is calling me to do in this parish, in your thoughts and

prayers, as indeed I have you in mine, each day and will you also pray for one another.

Let us make an act of faith and say: "In the Lord put I my trust . . . I will not be afraid." And let our life, weekday as well as Sunday, be in harmony with such an act. What our Father does is well. In so far as we put our hand in His and walk with Him shall we understand His Will and purpose for us and for His World; and being one with Him may we be used of Him than which there is no higher honour or joy.

May Jesus Christ by His Sacramental indwelling be the source of all our strength in the days that are to come.

God Bless you in your homes and in all your work for Him.

God Bless your absent ones.

A very happy new year to you all.

Your sincere friend,

W. HERBERT BULLOUGH.

THE WISE MEN

The wise men travelling from the countries to Bethlehem have always appealed to the imagination. Legend has been woven round them. Three kings they were, endowed with occult powers by which they read portents in the stars. There is magic in the very words of the Authorised Version, "In the days of Herod the king, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem saying 'Where is He that is born King of the Jews, for we have seen His star in the east and are come to worship Him'."

In generations of carols the theme has been sung, and its magic enshrined in verse. Here is an example from Saxon days:—

"They gave Him gifts of far brought things;
Of Recells, myrr, and gold of kings.
And setten there in strawy tent
Their mystic signs of Orient."

The story has a special significance for Western races. It is the fulfilment of the prophecy that the Messiah should be "A light to lighten the Gentiles" as well as to be the glory of Israel.

Hence, the Epiphany holds a high place in the festivals of the Church. In these days much of its meaning is incorporated in our Christmas festivities. The fact that we do not make so much of January 6th as we do of December 25th does not mean that we lose sight of the significance of the Epiphany, but that we tend to merge the two at least in our festivities.

The Epiphany is the day of lights in the Church. In the early Eastern Church, churches were brilliantly illuminated to symbolise that the light of the Gentiles was come into the world. Whether ceremonial be elaborate or simple the same story is the basis of all our worship on this day—wise men from far countries guided by a star to the source of all wisdom.

TWELFTH NIGHT

Epiphany ends the Twelve Days of Christmas, and until the middle of last century was observed as a festival for public rejoicing and merriment. Kings, lights, spices, were the emblems of the season. Here is Laurence Whistler's description of Twelfth Night in London during the reign of George IV:

"As daylight faded, certain windows were seen to be shining with unusual brilliance. They were pastry-cooks' windows, and closer inspection revealed that the brilliance emanated from an immense number of candles, embowered in holly and ivy, these lights were doubled and redoubled thrown back and forth by sheets of looking glass, set one way and another and festooned in flowers. . . . Each shop was entirely filled with Twelfth Cakes garnished with stars, castles, kings, palaces and churches."

The cakes were richly spiced and covered with snow white icing, "dark with citron and plumbs, and heavy as gold; studded all over with glittering stars, and red and green knots of sweetmeat and hollow yellow-crusteds crowns, and kings and queens" — so the description reads in "The Everyday Book" by Hone.

It was, and still might be, a night for children's parties. In time past the first business of the evening at a children's party was to choose a king

and queen; sometimes an entire court or government was chosen. The method of choosing was usually by lot. Improvised regalia was provided for each character—king, queen, archbishop, prince and princess, chamberlain and all the rest, with their ladies.

There would be a great Epiphany or Twelfth Cake, and varieties of smaller ones, all iced and gaily decorated. The King, with his Queen, would govern the evening's jollification.

This is a custom worth reviving. Children's parties are many and varied during the Christmas holidays. Why not hold one on Twelfth Night, using all the traditional emblems to commemorate the visit of the Three Kings to Bethlehem, led by the star in the east, and bearing their gifts? Here is your party idea for 1975!

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 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 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 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!

GETTING IT ACROSS

As one might expect, all Bishops the world over are concerned with how to get the Christian message across both to outsiders and to the nominal Christians who claim to be Church people. Here is an extract from America.

A lot of Christians are like WHEELBARROWS—no good unless pushed.

Some are like CANOES—they need to be paddled.

Some are like KITES—if you don't keep a string on them, they fly away.

Some are like FOOTBALLS—you can't tell which way they'll bounce next.

Some are like BALLOONS—full of wind and ready to blow up.

Some are like TRAILERS—they have to be pulled.

Some are like a GOLD WATCH—open faced, pure gold, quietly busy, full of good works, reflecting their Maker well.

WATCH THE WORDS

It is quite surprising how often we sing hymns with our mouths and voices yet fail to bring our understanding to bear on the subject. The following story illustrates this point.

A boy was asked to read the last verse of the hymn "The Son of God goes forth to war" (A. & M.). He read:—

"They climbed the steep ascent of heaven
Through peril, toil, and pain;
O God, to us may grace be given
To follow in THE train."

A Sussex Vicar tells of being called out to see an old shepherd who was dying. It was Christmas Eve and the old man asked the Vicar if he would sing 'the Christmas hymn.' 'Which one?' asked the clergyman. 'Is it "While shepherds watched"?'

'No! that's not it,' replied the shepherd. 'The one I mean is "The rows of ewes at early dawn".'

* * * *

A pedestrian is a person who can't find the place where he parked his car.

* * * *

COMMANDMENT

A shrewd if unconscious comment on a good deal of current social ethics was made by a schoolchild who, asked to write out the Ten Commandments, put for the seventh "Thou shalt not admit adultery."

BAZAAR 1974

Coffee Morning	..	..	..	..	70.08
Guild Dance	..	..	..	..	39.04
Cake Stall	..	..	..	..	129.84
Fancy Goods	..	..	..	..	28.85
Barton	..	..	..	..	10.00
Grotto	..	..	..	..	11.85
Bottle Stall	..	..	..	..	23.60
Knit Wear Stall	..	..	..	..	64.40
Rose Queen	..	..	..	..	3.60
Christmas Cards	..	..	..	..	93.08
Choir Stall	..	..	..	..	39.13
Sweets Stall	..	..	..	..	95.58
Fruit Stall	..	..	..	..	56.70
Rector's Stall	..	..	..	..	46.01
Tey Stall	..	..	..	..	139.17
Linen Stall	..	..	..	..	80.00
Refreshments	..	..	..	..	31.88
Whist Drive	..	..	..	..	9.90
Draw	..	..	..	..	60.53
Thrift Tickets unused	..	..	..	..	0.15
					<hr/>
					1033.39

Expenses School	..	..	..	..	10.00
Caretaker	..	..	..	..	6.00
Advertising	..	..	..	..	1.50
					<hr/>
					17.50

Total received by Church Treasurer £1115.89

SCHOOL MANAGERS APPEAL

May we take this early opportunity of thanking those who have already responded to our appeal to raise the £1,500 necessary to meet our share of the £6,500 improvement scheme at our school. At the time of going to Press £200 has been sent in to the chairman. Thank you very much. We hope others will quickly respond to avoid the Managers paying heavy interest charges. This was the reason for launching the appeal when we did—right in the hectic Christmas period.

W.H.B.

SIDESMEN'S ROTA

DECEMBER

29 E. Grimshaw, D. Sephton J.H. J. F. Smith, H. Wood.

JANUARY

5 T. Swift, T. Hunter J.B. J. Critchley, R. Gaskell.

12 J. Heaton, E. Orritt H.S. H. Huyton, A. Grimshaw.

19 W. Pounds, C. Armstrong R.H. H. Grimshaw, M. Manners.

26 E. Serjeant, D. Swift J.H. C. Shacklady, W. White.

FEBRUARY

2 P. Saunders, T. Grimshaw J.B. B. Heaton, J. Gaskell.

SERVERS ROTA

DECEMBER

29 No Holy Communion at 9.00 a.m.
10.30 a.m. Colin Stopforth.

JANUARY

5 9.00 a.m. Jim Heaton.
12 10.30 a.m. Tony Gaskell and Simon Andrews.

19 9.00 a.m. Maurice Gore.
3.45 p.m. Keith Stopforth.

26 9.00 a.m. Stuart Simpkin.
10.30 a.m. David Stopforth and Barry Gaskell.

FEBRUARY

2 9.00 a.m. Peter Balmer.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

JANUARY

5 Mrs. R. Heaton.
12 Mrs. H. Gaskell.
19 Mrs. Lewis.
26 Mrs. Sumner & Mr & Mrs. D. Dickinson.

HOLY MATRIMONY

"Those whom God hath joined together"

November 23rd—Peter John Milford, of 85 Marians Drive, Ormskirk and Catherine Nora Hulm of 70 Moss Road, Halsall.

CHRISTIAN BURIAL

"In sure and certain hope"

December 4th—Lilian Melling, aged 78, of 44 New Street, Halsall. (cremation).

December 5th—Nellie Edwardson, aged 70 years of 7 Mill Road, Ainsdale. (cremation).

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