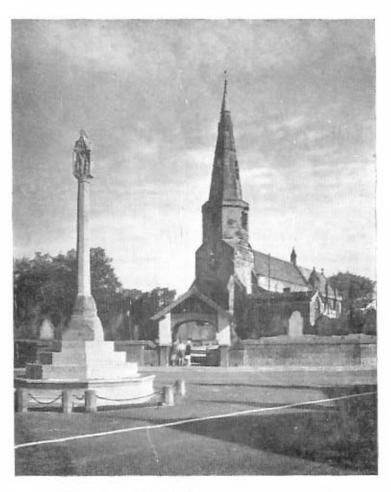
HALSALL PARISH MAGAZINE



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The Rectory, Halsall 19th May, 1966

My dear friends,

This menth we are busily engaged with the two Garden Parties, the first at Quarry Mount on the 11th and our own, two weeks later, the 25th. We depend very much on the help and service of our people. Think of the joy of serving.

Remember that our daily work, whether it is an office, factory, salesroom, field and garden, or in our own home, affords us an opportunity to express our God-given powers in rendering service, not only to others but to God and, actually, to ourselves.

God has given us physical strength to do work and also a mind to help us use our muscles in doing it. He also has given us other important powers to use in our work. These include joy and spiritual enthusiasm. We should remember to use these important but often-forgotten powers as we work.

We can do a much better job when we do not depend entirely upon our muscles and mind to do it, when we realise that God has given us these other wonderful spiritual powers to use while we render service to God and man. When we do our work, realising that God is with us and is helping us every minute that we will let Him, we shall enjoy our work and the oil of divine gladness will make it easier.

We are here on earth to express the wonderful powers that God has given us, and when we express them, God's love and enthusiasm draw more love and joy into our life. But when we do our work unwillingly and with a feeling of discontent, we are not using all the abilities and powers that God has given to us to make our life a glorious experience. God wants us to be happy and joyous. If we do not put the spirit of joy into our work and are waiting until a future time when we can be free from work to enjoy ourselves, we are denying the joy that is ours to use now.

In Psalms we read:

"Thou will show me the path of life: In thy presence is fullness of joy;

In thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."

And in Zephaniah we read: "Jehovah thy God is in the midst of thee, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love; he will joy over thee with singing."

God is very close to us, and when we work with Him in spirit and in truth, unselfishly, we shall find that the joy of serving is greater even than that which we find in participating in games and sports. The fact is that many people whom we do not know are serving us by doing necessary things for us that we do not have time to do for ourselves. Perhaps they are raising food for us and doing many other things that we do not take time to realise are being done. We also are helping others in whatever service we are rendering, so let us rejoice in the inspiration of all good service. But in addition to the number of people we may be serving, we must remember that we are also serving God when we glorify His good power by expanding its expression in constructive, harmonious ways. When we activate God's good powers in our life expression, we shall find that the joy of the Lord is indeed our strength and that every moment of our day is a blessed event. When we look for good in what we are doing, we are helping God to make His perfect, good ideas manifest in our life and in the lives of others.

God has given us an abundance of good to supply all our needs. We should therefore never be jealous of others because they seem to have more than we do. We should, rather, use our thought power in giving thanks to God, the great, abundant Source of all good, as we realise that He is with us every moment with all His goodness. We should give thanks always while we work or play and, also, in our association with others.

God has given us, His children, the ability to be happy every moment of the day; and when we accept and use this gift, we are helping to bring His kingdom into the earth. Real happiness is not a feeling of superiority over other people but is a feeling of humble sharing our good and our joy with others. When we share our good, we receive more good. When we are friendly, we make more friends.

When we send out positive, loving, harmonious, constructive thoughts, they return to us as increased blessings in every phase of our life. As we give, so shall we receive, and the best things that we can give and receive are peace, love, joy and harmony.

We as persons are not great, but the power of God working through us is mighty to overcome all the troubles in our world and to make us prosperous in spirit and in truth. Therefore, let us rejoice every day and every moment of every day as we abide in the consciousness of the presence of the joy of living and serving God. As we serve others, we are served, and as we live in the consciousness of true prosperity, we are prospered.

There are many wonderful angles to every job that can be discovered only with the help of our Father-God as we let His will be done in us and through us. It is God's will working through us that does the mighty works. Therefore, let us let His will be done through us as we rejoice in the glory of His kingdom. Let us seek out the jobs which need to be done and do them with all our might. If we do this both our outdoor events this month will be a great success.

God Bless you all, Your sincere friend, HERBERT BULLOUGH

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WHITSUN DAY—FESTIVAL OF THE CHURCH WHY WE SHOULD BELONG AND GO

"I can be a Christian without going to Church."
"I live a better life than some Church goers." How often we hear these excuses from folk who criticise "organised religion."

How can a believer willingly stay away from Church? There are so many reasons for going.

 As His followers naturally we should wish to emulate Christ's example. It was His custom (Luke 4.16) despite the imperfections of the Church in His day.

Christ is the Head of the Church—it is His Body

(Eph. 1.22,23) and we wish to do His will.

We are encouraged and exhorted by God's word.
 Hebrews 10.25 expressly enjoins us to assemble ourselves together,

4. Just as we would wish to visit and to know better a loved friend, so loving God, we go to His House to hear His Word. As members of God's family we

meet together in His Home.

5 As parents we can't bring up children to believe in, and love God without taking them to His House. By going ourselves we are helping to win them and others for Him.

 Not only do we go to Church to show we believe but because we believe. He promised to be where two or three are gathered together in His name and by going we receive His blessing.

7. Christians go to Church for worship, praise and

thanksgiving.

8. We go to enjoy the fellowship of other believers—to comfort, support and strengthen each other. The Church is an organism not only an organisation. A single twig is easily snapped but a bundle of similar twigs is hard to break so members may be weak alone but there is strength in unity. A burning coal removed from the fire soon loses its heat but when replaced it is quickly aglow again. So Christians need others to keep them zealous.

9. We need the sustenance provided in the public ministry of the Word and the Holy Sacraments. Christians need spiritual food given by His ministers: refreshment, inspiration and help for daily living. The soul needs nourishing as well as the body.

10. Organised Christianity is necessary for the business of Christian living. Whatever interests we have we join up with others of like interests. If all Christians decided Church going was unnecessary it would not be long before Christianity died. How can a true believer keep his joy to himself? Although the Church may have lost some of its drawing power because of past failures, to refuse to go is no remedy. Our regular worship will help it to be attractive once more.

11. Although private prayers and Bible reading are important there is a special value in corporate worship. Even the beauty and quiet of the building, and the reverent atmosphere have a soothing and healing effect. In the hallowed and dedicated place we can feel the presence of the Divine Spirit; we can draw aside from the world, get back into perspective, and forget wordly worries. It is inspiring and uplifting to join in the prayers and hymns. Strength and encouragement are received for the week to follow.

12. It is our duty to go to Church although we may not feel like it. It can be a great comfort in a crisis. There must be some discipline in Christian living and Christ was obedient even to the Cross. Surely the

least we Christians can do is to attend Church regularly.

WIND AND FIRE

There were only two words that could describe adequately the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost—"Wind" and "Fire".

Neither of them are gentle soothing words. Rather the opposite. Wind speaks to us of an invisible power, irresistible in its force, overwhelming in its strength, and invigorating in its freshness. We all know how the wind comes through our open windows to clean and refresh a hot and stuffy room. Wind speaks to us of power and life.

Fire speaks to us of an intense heat that burns up the unwanted and the useless. Fire purges the impure and melts the frozen. Fire warms the lifeless

and produces energy.

Wind and Fire, yes they are the words that describe the Holy Spirit in action. They are disturbing words. The Holy Spirit is a disturbing person. He comes into our lives as the Wind of God to clean and refresh our stuffy, self-filled lives. He comes to give power to our feeble desires for holiness. He comes to invigorate us with the love and joy and peace of God.

The Holy Spirit comes into our lives as the Fire of God. He comes to burn up our sins. He comes to melt our cold, hard hearts. He comes to fire us with enthusiasm, and zeal and energy for the things of God. The Holy Spirit brings to us the Wind and Fire

of God.

As Archbishop William Temple wrote: "When we pray 'Come Holy Ghost, our souls inspire', we had better know what we are about. If we ask for Him we must be ready for the glorious pain of being caught by His power out of our petty orbit into the eternal purposes of the Almighty. The soul that is filled with the Spirit must have become purged of all pride or love of ease, all self complacence and self reliance; but that soul has found the only real dignity, the only lasting joy. Come then, Great Spirit, come. Convict the world; and convict my timid soul."

O God the Holy Ghost, Comes to us, and among us; Come as the wind and cleanse us; Come as the fire and burn; Convict, convert, and consecrate our lives to our great good and thy greater glory; Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

MARKS OF THE SPIRITUAL MAN

The concept of spirituality varies among different Christian groups. In some circles the highly vocal person who talks religion continually is thought to be very spiritual; others accept noisy exuberance as a mark of spirituality, and in some churches the man who prays first, longest and loudest gets a reputation for being the most spritual man in the assembly.

Now a vigorous testimony, frequent prayers and loud praise may be entirely consistent with spirituality but it is important that we understand that they do not in themselves constitute it nor prove that it is

present.

True spirituality manifests itself in certain dominant desires. These are ever-present, deep-settled wants sufficiently powerful to motivate and control the life. For convenience let me number them, though I make no effort to decide the order of their importance.

1. First is the desire to be holy rather than happy. The yearning after happiness found so widely among Christians professing a superior degree of sanctity is sufficient proof that such sanctity is not indeed present. The truly spiritual man knows that God will give abundance of joy in His own time, after we have become able to receive it without injury to our souls, but he does not demand it at once. John Wesley said of the members of one of the early Methodist societies that he doubted that they had been made perfect in love because they came to church to enjoy religion instead of to learn how they could become holy.

A man may be considered spiritual when he wants to see the honour of God advanced through his life even if it means that he himself must suffer

temporary dishonour or loss.

Such a man pays, "Hallowed by Thy name", and silently adds, "at any cost to me, Lord". He lives for God's honour by a kind of spiritual reflex. Every choice involving the glory of God is for him already made before it presents itself. He does not need to debate the matter with his own heart; there is nothing to debate. The glory of God is necessary to him; he gasps for it as a suffocating man gasps for

The spiritual man wants to carry his cross. Many Christians accept adversity or tribulation with a sigh and call it their cross, forgetting that such

things come alike to saint and sinner.

The cross is that extra adversity that comes to us as a result of our obedience to Christ. This cross is not forced upon us; we voluntarily take it up with full knowledge of the consequences. We choose to obey Christ and by so doing choose to carry the cross.

Carrying a cross means to be attached to the Person of Christ, committed to the Lordship of Christ and obedient to the commandments of Christ. The man who is so attached, so committed, so obedient is a spiritual man.

4. Again, a Christian is spiritual when he sees everything from God's viewpoint. The ability to weigh all things in the divine scale and place the same value upon them as God does is the mark of a

Spirit-filled life.

God looks at and through at the same time. His gaze does not rest on the surface but peneirales to the true meaning of things. The carnal Christian looks at an object or a situation, but because he does not see through it he is elated or cast down by what he sees. The spiritual man is able to look through things as God looks and thinks of them as God thinks. He insists on seeing all things as God sees them even if it humbles him and exposes his ignorance to the point of real pain.

5. Another desire of the spiritual man is to die right rather than to live wrong. A sure mark of the mature man of God is his nonchalance about living. The earth-loving, body-conscious Christian looks upon death with numb terror in his heart; but as he goes on to live in the Spirit he becomes increasingly indifferent to the number of years here below, but increasingly careful of the kind of life he lives while he is here. He will not purchase a few extra days of life at the cost of compromise or faliure. He wants most of all to be right, and he is happy to let God decide how long he shall live. He knows that he can afford to die, now that he is in Christ, but he knows

that he cannot afford to do wrong, and this knowledge becomes a gyroscope to stabilize his thinking

and his acting.

6. The desire to see others advance at his expense is another mark of the spiritual man. He wants to see other Christians above him and is happy when they are promoted and he is overlooked. There is no envy in his heart; when his brethren are honoured he is pleased because such is the will of God and that will is his earthly heaven. If God is pleased, he is pleased for that reason, and if it pleases God to exalt another above him his is content to have it so.

7. The spiritual man habitually makes eternityjudgments instead of time-judgments. By faith he rises above the tug of earth and the flow of time and learns to think and feel as one who has already left the world and gone to join the innumerable company of angels and the general assembly and church of the First-born which are written in heaven. Such a man would rather be useful than famous and would rather serve than be served.

And all this must be the operation of the Holy Spirit within him, No man can become spiritual by himself. Only the free Spirit can make a man

spiritual.

BE YOURSELF

Our Christian duties to God and to our neighbour are set out in the Church Catechism. They ought to be so elementary to the average Christian that he should be able to say with justification: "All these things I have learnt from my youth." But it is one thing to learn a lesson and quite another to apply the knowledge. Many are Christian only by profession rather than by practice. They do good only in return for good done to them.

To barter good for good and wickedness for wickedness is to end up by having no distinctive character of one's own. This in effect is to place controls of one's personality outside oneself and be reduced to a mere puppet in the hands of a manip-

ulator.

Our Lord teaches us to turn the other cheek if we are smacked on the one; to do good to them that hate us; to love our enemy; to pray for them that persecute us. These precepts are looked upon as moral injunction and no more, but they are also potent prescriptions for the development of a really striking personality.

True personality can only be established by being consistently yourself regardless of whatever the other fellow may be with whom you have to deal. Let your description by people good or bad be that of the same person-that of a son of his Father, a

brother of Christ, a Christian.

WHAT AM 1?

Xvxn though my typxwritxr is an old modxl, it works quitx wxll xxexpt for onx of thx kxys. I havx wishxd at timxs that it workxd pxrfxctly. It is trux that thxrx arx forty-six kxys that function wxll xnough, but just onx kxy not working makxs all thx diffxrxncx.

I have sometimes thought that the Church is somxthing likx my typxwritxr-not all thx pxoplx arx working! You may say, "I am only onx pxrson. I won't makx or brxak thx church"-but it makxs a diffxrxnex. So thx nxxt timx you think you arx not nxxdxd rxmxmbxr my typxwritxr and say, I AM A KXY PXRSON!

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Ist HALSALL SCOUT GROUP NEWS

The Scouts and Cubs have been very active and put a great effort into the Bob-a-Job week raising a total of £31 8s. 1d., and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone who helped by finding jobs for the Boys to do, which has given them a great sense of achievement.

Halsall was well represented by both Scouts and Cubs in the St. George's Day Procession parading through Ormskirk to the Parish Church, attending the Service, then back to the Derby Street Playing Fields. The Troop were a great credit to Halsall in both smartness and efficiency.

As the Parents Committee is now completing its first year it has been decided to hold the Annual General Meeting on Thursday, June 30th, in the School Hall at 8 p.m. Any parents wishing to attend will be most welcome.

P. R. SAUNDERS, Hon. Treasurer.

SERVERS' ROTA

June		John Pounds. John Davies. Harold Grimshaw, Gaskell.	Tony
	19-8.00 a.m.	Peter Balmer.	
		Brian Heaton.	
	10.30 a.m.	Harold Grimshaw,	Roger
		Dutton.	
July	3 - 8.00 a.m.	Jim Heaton.	

SIDESMEN'S ROTA

June	5-a.m.	R. A. Gaskell, R. Hunt.
		T. Swift, T. Hunter.
	12-a.m.	E. Serjeant, D. Swift.
	p.m.	C. Shacklady, J. Balmer.
	19-a.m.	H. Baldwin, W. White.
	p.m.	R. Dutton, T. Grimshaw.
	26-a.m.	R. Heaton, J. Colley.
	p.m.	W. Robinson, F. Blackhurst,

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

June	5-	-Mrs.	E. (Grimshaw.
				Shacklady.
	19-	-Mrs.	H.	Grimshaw.
	26-	-Mrs.	J.	Huyton,
July	3-	-Mrs.	H.	Gaskell.

HOLY BAPTISM

"Entered into the family of Christ's Church"

May 8—Leslie Paul Gilbert, son of Arthur Henry
and Carol Mary Gilbert, 36 Linaker Drive,
Halsall.

8—Edward Mawdsley, son of Nicholas and Elizabeth May Mawdsley, Poplar Farm, Barton.

8—Jennifer Downie, daughter of James and Sylvia Hamilton Downie, 5A Heathey Lane, Shirdley Hill.

HOLY MATRIMONY

"Those whom God hath joined together"

May 14—Harold Grimshaw, Edge Farm, Burscough and Jean Susan Fazakerley, Clieves Hill Farm, Aughton.

BURIAL OF THE DEAD

"In sure and certain hope"

April 27—Mary Gertrude Jackson, 133 Liverpool Road South, Maghull.

May 19—Rosetta Mohapel, age 78 years, 11 Hawthorn Road, Gatley, Cheshire (Cremation).

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