

# HALSALL PARISH MAGAZINE



Rector: The Rev. Canon W. H. Bullough A.K.C. (Surrogate)  
Rural Dean of Ormskirk

The Rectory, Halsall. Tel. 321.

Church Wardens:

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MR. H. SARJEANT, People's  
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Vergers:

MRS. E. HUYTON, 28 Gregory Lane, Halsall.

# Services at St. Cuthberts

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## 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,  
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19th May, 1975.

My Dear Friends,

At a recent meeting of the Parochial Church Council the treasurer reported yet another increase in the cost of printing the Parish Magazine. He reminded the Council that the magazine had been losing large sums of money for many years and that as a result of the increased cost of printing a further subsidy would be required. The Council carefully considered the situation and unanimously decided to cease the publication of the parish magazine. It was decided that a monthly news sheet should be produced in its place.

The first letter that I wrote for a parish magazine was way back in 1939 and every month since then I have had the pleasure of writing a letter to my parishioners. I feel sad that this will be my last letter in the Halsall Parish Magazine. The news sheet will greatly restrict the amount of reading but we shall endeavour to make it very broadly based in its outlook.

There are numerous people I would wish to thank for their valuable assistance in the production and circulation of the magazine. First of all I want to thank Mr. Tom Marsh of the Ormskirk Advertiser Office. He has been a very great help to me in ensuring the magazines arrived on time in spite of numerous difficulties on many occasions. He has always been willing to assist me and his kindly smile has always been encouraging. I shall miss my monthly "chit-chat" with him. I would also like to thank all other employees of the Advertiser Office for their help and friendship over the years. Secondly I wish to express to Miss Ballard the indebtedness of the Parish for the splendid way over so many years she has undertaken the circulation of the magazine. She has been a tower of strength and utterly reliable. To all those who have taken the magazine to the homes of our people our thanks are also due, and not least to those who in spite of the rising cost of the magazine continued to receive it.

We hope that the first news sheet will be circulated in July and that you will find it a valuable link between our people and our Church and School.

May God Bless You All,  
Your Sincere Friend,  
HERBERT BULLOUGH.

## A LIVING FAITH

I have no faith in that! **Why must I believe?** These words, we have ourselves uttered at one time or another or heard, said. They put forward an opinion or idea, or express a doubt, or represent the ground work towards conviction and decision. For successful cooking, the ingredients must be assembled properly and in the right proportions. For successful and victorious living certain attributes and ingredients must also be present. One of such vital ingredients is FAITH.

But, Faith in what? Faith, in believing that there will be a brighter tomorrow, faith in the present, faith in the future, faith in persons, . . . ? Herein lies the crux of Christian conviction, and the hallmark that distinguishes the Christian from the non-Christian or unbeliever. Christians begin from the standpoint of Faith in God, the ultimate, immutable and unchangeable ruler of the universe, and from whom all things else derive their being. The possession of this faith, that always needs to be nurtured for growth, is important, else we drift backwards and forwards; life then becomes a gamble, unstable, because we try all the time with changing circumstances, to shift our ground and pin our faith on too many things.

And what really is this Faith? The writer of the Epistle to the Hebrews describes it thus: 'Faith gives substance to our hopes, and makes us certain of realities we do not see' (*New English Bible or in Weymouth translation: 'faith is a well-grounded assurance of that for which we hope, and a conviction of the reality of things which we do not see'*). Vaughan says 'Faith is that principle, that exercise of mind and soul, which has for its object things not seen but hoped for, and instead of sinking under them as too ponderous whether from their difficulty or from their uncertainty, stands firm under them—supports and sustains their pressure—in other words, is assured of, confides in and relies on them'. We are concerned at present not in the theological or philosophical implications or definitions of faith; no: rather our plea is that our involvement must be practical.

Therefore we need to possess a **LIVING FAITH**, in God, a faith kept alive and burning, buoyant and resolute, independent of outer circumstances; a faith that derives from the inner mind, renewed by the spirit of God. We must pray for

this grace. A living faith will give better meaning to our lives will make our church pews filled with faith-filled persons, people who are always looking upwards to God, lifting up their thoughts from the humdrum and the trivial to the major issues and primates of life. Here then is the challenge for us—to seek this living faith. God's abounding grace is available for us: So is the gift of His Holy Spirit. Let us use them. This can be our response to God's love.

### THE OMNIPOTENCE OF GOD

As long as man continues to be humble enough to accept the axiom that the part can never be equal to the whole (and which he ignores at his peril) there is hope that mankind will continue to be saved from itself. The danger is, however, always present for man to lose his head at every achievement made and at every advance which has been mercifully vouchsafed—splitting the atom or reaching the moon for instance—and to tend to turn such achievement to the fury, rather than to the praise, of God. When the splitting of the atom was vouchsafed, man used it for his own erratic purposes in Hiroshima and Nagasaki and it was years later that the peaceful uses of the atom were learnt. Already, we are thinking of the military uses of space flight rather than its peaceful use; and this makes our achievement less inspiring.

Knowing man for what he is, wayward, selfish, stubborn, vicious, and full of ingratitude, God has never taken any chances and He has never intended to abdicate His authority or wash His hands clean from the affairs of men. He is in full control and He asserts His authority as clearly exemplified by part of the first verse of the 93rd Psalm: **THE LORD IS KING...AND HAS GIRDED HIMSELF WITH STRENGTH**, and 't is only He that can turn man's fury to His praise. And it is in man's best interest that God has not abdicated His authority, or the excesses of tyrants who are to be found in every class of society would not have been curbed or restrained—much to the oppression and deep-sighing of those who work with or under them. But for God's purposeful intervention through the hands of Moses, the exploitation of the Israelites in Egypt would have continued unabated. But for all that, the Israelites sinned yet more in the wilderness and even caused their leader, Moses, to offend God. This sets one wondering whether we have ever really proved

worthy of the mercy bestowed upon us.

If God had not always been in control many of our wicked devices would have prospered and many of our intentions would have ripped into action. To think that man can turn the wonderful opportunity which God has given him of quick and speedy air journey to other lands, thus bringing us all close together, into aerial warfare and bombardment and destroying whole cities including their cathedrals and not sparing their civilian population, women, children and all! What can beat that for ingratitude and abuse of the revelation of the mysteries of God to man? The words of the Prophet Jeremiah in his 17th Chapter are very apt and telling in this type of situation: **"The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked, who can know it?"** The answer to this rhetorical question is immediately furnished in the following verse thus: **I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins**... Many of our wicked intentions are unearthed before they can do any harm as when a live-bomb which should have wrought destruction is promptly detonated.

I wonder if it has ever struck us why man was the last creature to be created according to the creation story to be found in the book of Genesis. All the elements which our scientists compound and turn into new uses were there before any of us. The minerals and mineral oils which lie in the bowels of the earth and even beneath the sea were already bestowed by Nature before the first scientists were created. All the living creatures in the forests and beneath the sea were also there before any of us and no scientist can claim any credit for the existence of any of these things. Our only achievement is in striking a mine of information as a result of our researches, and sometimes even fortuitously, which information enables us to harness things which are already bestowed by God. Even the fish ponds which we establish are fed by fishes obtained from the sea or river beds. Hence the validity of the 3rd verse of the 93rd Psalm: **"Ever since the world began hath thy seat been prepared: thou art from everlasting."**

If we allow ourselves to be guided by these simple but unavoidable truths, we will approach all our assignments, great or small with a deep sense of humility and not confuse our own functions with those of the Almighty God. We are mere harnessers of God's bounties and not the creator; and, at best, we are the instruments of His policy if we let Him

use us. He is the policy maker who has the keys of life and death—we are only, by privilege and assignment, mere executors of His policy and very feeble agents at that, for we cannot carry our assignments without His support, as witness our dismal failure to form a union with the Methodist Church in spite of the staggering amount of preparation which had gone into it.

We should henceforth ascribe all the power to the only wise God who has the power to make and to turn the wrath of man into His praise.

"Without our aid He did us make;  
We are His folk, He doth us feed,  
And for His sheep He doth us take."

### CHRISTIANS FOR EUROPE

Is there a specifically Christian interest in Britain's membership of the European Community? We do not suggest that Christians are necessarily bound by their faith to be committed to supporting the continuation of Britain's membership of the Community, but the following are some of the reasons why a number of individual Christians believe that they must do all that they can to ensure it.

1. In a world increasingly given to judge on purely materialistic and economic grounds, it is important that ethical, spiritual, cultural and religious values should assume their due place. A Europe that can rediscover its historic vision is the best guarantee that this will happen. A larger Europe, in which each partner brings its own specific insights, will be better able to defend those cultural and spiritual values which, in the past, have been an inspiration to mankind and which, can still influence men to realise that they do not live by bread alone.

2. A Europe striving to forget its past quarrels and united to meet the threats that face it today will also help to reunite the separated Churches and restore that Christendom which broke apart in the sixteenth century (if not earlier) as much because of political and social factors as because of purely theological considerations.

3. The Community has already overcome the age old hostilities in Western Europe which, in the past, led to destructive wars. It is surely a British responsibility to maintain this movement towards peace, and help to extend it throughout the whole

of Europe and to a still larger world.

4. A continuing British presence concerned with social justice in Europe and inspired by a sense of responsibility towards the world beyond can help to ensure that the Community does not become a "rich man's club" but will serve the larger interests of mankind.

"Christians for Europe" include men and women of many Churches and religious traditions united in a common conviction that the British people should be encouraged to realise the immense potential for good in the growing unity of Europe, and, consequently, the great loss to our country, the Commonwealth, and to the whole world that would ensue if we were to withdraw from the Community.

Published by Christians for Europe, 7 Vauxhall Walk, S.E. 11.

### THE JUNE WEDDING

#### Can love last through December too?

Is there any one thing that will keep a marriage from going on the rocks? Our solar system is held together by a great sun at its centre. Were it not for the sun, our solar system would fly to pieces. Unless the Lord Jesus Christ, is placed at the centre of our home, it too will fly to pieces.

The reason why one out of every four marriages in America falls apart is that at the centre there is no Lord. But in a recent survey it was found that only one divorce took place in every 57 marriages where the family attended church regularly. It was also found that there was only one divorce in 500 marriages where regular Bible reading and prayer took place in the home. A Christian marriage is the best possible security against a broken home.

The moment a person gives his life to Christ, the Holy Spirit comes to live in the heart. He gives us supernatural strength. He doesn't take away our sex desire but it no longer dominates us. We are dominated by the Holy Spirit. That is why it is so important for young people in love and planning a home, to read the Bible daily and to have a devotional life.

God can help us choose our mates—and if you get God's choice, follow God's rules in marriage, and both live deeply committed lives, there will be no divorce.

### QUOTE

To know that one is loved and wanted is the biggest single factor in a stable personality.

### SERMONS!

Many years ago, long-winded sermons were fashionable. A certain nineteenth century clergyman



is reputed to have made all his sermons last for over an hour. And apparently his congregation loved every minute of them! He once concluded a two hours' sermon by saying that he would no longer trespass upon their patience. "For God's sake, sir, go on," shouted one of the congregation. I feel that until the clergy of today are given similar encouragement fifteen minutes should be the maximum.

A modern sermon is really only a "lick and a promise" compared with an "old time masterpiece". Just imagine being present at the one St. Paul preached at Troas which lasted until midnight. This, of course, is a very memorable occasion because it is the very earliest record we have of anyone daring to fall asleep during a Christian sermon. The culprit not only "dropped off" but during his nap fell out of the window. Paul revived him and then went on talking till daylight.

The fact that modern sermons are much more brief and to the point is a good thing. People find it difficult to concentrate for more than twenty minutes and if the sermon can be kept to within this limit there is every possibility that the congregation will be able to share in the sermon.

Sharing in the sermon is absolutely vital. The old idea of the sermon being something done to the congregation whilst they themselves remain passive is a wrong one. Preaching should be a co-operative venture—a joint offering of all who are present. The more people realise that preaching is as much their concern as the clergyman who does it, so much the better.

I like the way Soren Kierkegaard, the great Danish writer, illustrates the part which the congregation should play in preaching. In the theatre, he says, there is always a prompter, an inconspicuous person who prompts by whispers, but the actors stride out prominently in full view of the audience. They depend on the prompter of course but he is in no sense more important than they are. In Church, the stage is eternity. The man in the pulpit is the prompter and the congregation—who must never be compared with theatregoers for each of them should be looking into his own heart—are the actors called on to respond to what the prompter is saying. The only member of the "audience" is God. He looks on to see how the lines are spoken by the prompter and how the congregation, the actors in the drama, are responding.

Seen in this light, preaching is the means by which we are brought to have real dealings with God; to face the reality of Christ; to respond to the power of the Holy Spirit and to take a full share in the ongoing life of the Church in its mission to the world.

#### **SERVERS ROTA**

##### **JUNE**

- 1 9.00 a.m. Malcolm Serjeant.
- 8 10.30 a.m. Barry Gaskell & Nigel Gidney.
- 15 9.00 a.m. Jim Heaton.

- 6.30 p.m. Simon Andrews.
- 22 9.00 a.m. Maurice Core.
- 10.30 a.m. Stuart Simpkin.
- 29 9.00 a.m. Colin Stopforth.
- 10.30 a.m. Tony Gaskell & Clive Gidney.

##### **JULY**

- 6 9.00 a.m. Keith Stopforth.
- 12 10.30 a.m. David Stopforth, Malcolm Serjeant.

#### **SANCTUARY FLOWERS**

##### **JUNE**

- 1 Mrs. E. Grimshaw.
- 8 Vacant.
- 15 Mrs. H. Grimshaw.
- 22 Mrs. J. Huyton.
- 29 Mrs. H. Gaskell.

##### **JULY**

- 6 Mrs. J. Silcock.
- 13 Mrs. R. Pounds.

#### **SIDESMENS ROTA**

##### **JUNE**

- 1 E. Blackhurst, J. Rimmer H.S. P. Attwood, H. Rimmer.
- 8 J. D. Grimshaw, R. Dutton R.N. S. Park, J. Chisnall.
- 15 J. F. Smith, H. Wood J.H. E. Grimshaw, D. Sephton.
- 22 J. Critchley, R. Gaskell J.B. T. Swift, T. Hunter.
- 29 H. Huyton, W. Grimshaw H.S. J. Heaton, E. Orritt.

#### **HOLY BAPTISM**

'Received into the family of Christ's Church.'

##### **MAY**

- 11 Martin John son of Geoffrey Martin and Janet Ann Skinner of 56 School Lane, Haskayne.
- Duncan, son of Eric Charles and Jean Green of 45 Carr Moss Lane, Halsall.

#### **HOLY MATRIMONY**

'Those whom God hath joined together.'

##### **MAY**

- 20 William Raymond Pounds of 162 Carr Moss Lane, Halsall and Valda Wright of The Hermitage, Southport Road Halsall.

#### **CHRISTIAN BURIAL**

'In sure and certain hope.'

##### **MAY**

- 6 Mary Banks, of North Moor Lane, Halsall, aged 66 years.
- 15 William Prescott of Wharton Farm, Asmall Lane, Halsall, aged 80 years.
- 16 Eva Tolmie of 143 Moss Road, Halsall, aged 76 years.

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