

MAY 1968

HALSALL PARISH MAGAZINE



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

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Sub Organist:

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12th April, 1968.

My dear Friends,

Some years ago I read a very moving story about a lighthouse keeper. He had been in charge of the lighthouse for twenty-five years and for many years before that he had been working in the same place as assistant. Man and boy he had been in the same lighthouse for sixty years—a whole life-time. The lighthouse had meant everything to him. He found his enjoyment in his work. Keeping everything in order provided him with his life's purpose and meaning. His lamps were always trimmed and bright. His deepest satisfaction was derived from seeing the lights at night spreading their beams across the dark waters. His lamps never went out. They were a guide to ships far out at sea. "My lamps," he said, "never go out."

The story tells all of this. And at long last, after a lifetime of devotion to his lighthouse, he lay dying. He was being nursed by his wife, who had been also his comrade in his work. He tossed about in pain and fever and became unconscious. But just before he died, he recovered consciousness and, turning to his wife, he said with almost his last breath: "Mary, lass, keep the lamps alight. Keep the lamps alight."

Now on that one man's devotion to duty depended the lives of men and the safety of ships. It doesn't need much imagination to understand how much, in turn, depended upon the safe navigation of ships. A nation's food, for instance, and a thousand and one other necessary things. All hung upon individual devotion to duty. If you think things out, you will see that it is upon men's sense of duty that the whole of civilisation depends. Without it our whole world would collapse. The ordinary, daily routine of our life hangs upon this one factor—that the individual can be relied upon to do his duty. If at any time the number of people scamping their duty were to become greater than the number who were faithful to it, social life would break down hopelessly. Let us for a moment imagine that to be the case. What would happen?

You could never be sure that the milk would be on the doorstep in the morning, which would mean baby going without his feed. When you got to your 'bus-stop in the morning to catch your 'bus to work, you might find a queue a mile long because the 'busmen didn't feel like turning out on that particular morning. Or you might find that your grocer or butcher's shop was shut when you went out shopping. Just work it out for yourself. Life would become impossible. It is because at any given time the number of people who are indifferent about their obligations are but a minority in the community that civilization is able to function. If they ever become a majority, we should be done for absolutely, lock, stock and barrel.

How do we know that they never will become a majority? Is that something that we can take for granted? I don't think so. If the tendency to think only of our rights whilst forgetting about duties goes on increasing, we might wake up some fine morning to find that the worst had happened. All dressed up and nowhere to go, because too many people had stayed off duty. In a world where collective action has reached greater proportions than ever before in all history, the

old-fashioned idea of individual, personal duty and responsibility is still overwhelmingly the most important. "Keep the lamps alight." On that everything at last depends.

God bless you all,

Your sincere friend,

Herbert Bullough.

WHITSUN DAY

Sunday, June 2nd is Whit Sunday, the Great Festival of the Holy Spirit. Although we may never know precisely what happened on the Day of Pentecost, we do know that the Holy Spirit came to the Christian Church in a very special way and so it was one of the great days of the Christian Church.

Unfortunately many people speak of the events at Pentecost as the coming of the Holy Spirit. It is wrong to think that the Holy Spirit only came into existence at that time. God is eternally Father, Son and Holy Spirit and that is made clear in the "Acts of the Apostles", which is sometimes called "The Gospel of the Holy Spirit". The Holy Spirit is God in every age and in every generation revealing His Will and His truth to men. St. Stephen accused the Jews of having, all through their history, opposed the Spirit.

The Day of Pentecost was a special occasion for from that day the Holy Spirit became the dominant reality in the life of the early Church. The Holy Spirit was the source of all guidance. No great decision was ever taken, no important step was ever embarked upon by the early Church, without the guidance of the Holy Spirit. It was the Holy Spirit who ordered the setting apart of Paul and Barnabas for the momentous step of taking the gospel to the Gentiles. It was the Holy Spirit who guided the first Council of the Church in Jerusalem. St. Paul was guided by the Holy Spirit past Asia, Mysia and Bithynia down into Troas and thence to Europe. The early Church was a Spirit-guided community.

As we read the "Acts of the Apostles" we notice that all the leaders of the early Church were men of the Spirit. We read of Paul telling the elders at Ephesus that it was the Spirit who made them overseers over the Church of God. Stephen and Barnabas are described as being "full of the spirit". They all lived in the Spirit as they lived in the very air which they breathed. It was the source of their courage and power.

In Chapter 5 of the Acts of the Apostles the Holy Spirit is described as being given by God to those who obey Him. The great truth is that the measure of the Spirit which a man can possess is conditioned by the kind of man he is. The person who is honestly trying to do the Will of God will experience more and more of the wonder of the Spirit. The living of the Christian life brings with it its own power.

On Whitsun Day this year the Bishop of Warrington will administer the Rite of Confirmation. There are many of our young people who are looking forward to this great day. They need your prayers and mine. Please give them your encouragement, and support them by your presence on June 2nd at 6-30 p.m.

ARE YOU LIMITING GOD?

- By not taking sufficient time **every** day to be really in touch with Him and to listen earnestly for His leading?
- By refusing to deal fully and finally with some sin that stands between you and God?
- By not obeying promptly and wholeheartedly **all** the guidance He gives you?
- By not trusting His almightiness, by lacking faith in His promises, or doubting His wisdom and caring?
- By reserving the right to decide certain matters as you choose, or to manage things your way?
- By being unwilling to regard your time, money, ability and possessions as a trust to be used as God directs?
- By trusting in your own ability and resources and not venturing beyond them when He guides you?
- By pursuing your own ends, and letting motives other than that of doing God's will, govern your thinking, inspire your ambitions and influence your actions?
- By persisting in an attitude to some other person, when you know it to be wrong?
- By imagining you cannot be used by God to give leadership to others or change others, because you are thinking only of what you can, or cannot, do instead of what God wants to do through you?
- By allowing the fear of what people will think or say about you to hold you back from doing what you know to be right?

"MUDDLING INTO HEAVEN."

"There is a great deal of frothy religious sentiment which does duty for religion with multitudes of people, and often destroys true religion, just as a schoolboy destroys a healthy appetite by eating too many cream buns.

I have tried to formulate this religious sentiment in a creed. I think it would run something like this:-

I believe in God, the Father, because I feel sure that there must be a God of some kind; a sort of eternal good nature and easy-going tolerance.

I believe that Jesus Christ lived a holy life which I ought to admire, and I believe that I ought to obey the teaching of the Sermon on the Mount. I am not quite clear what it contains, but I imagine no one can really be expected to live up to it. I have great reverence for the Cross, but I do not pretend to understand what it means.

I am not sure whether I believe in life everlasting, but if there is such a thing I believe that somehow or other everything will turn out all right for everybody in the long run; at any rate, I hope so. Amen.

"This 'religion,' which means in practice that we shall all 'muddle through into heaven,' and that we must all subscribe to the local hospital to cover a multitude of sins, is certainly not Christianity. I have heard it described as 'the religion of the hot-water bottle.'

"It creates a feeling of snugness and somnolence. It has affected a large number of churches, and this is one of the principal reasons why so many people have abandoned church-going. No one wants a religion which does not make serious demands on one's life."

THE GOOD LISTENER

As soon as he hears 'In the name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit', he composes himself to listen. Relaxed, but not slumped in his seat, he shows outwardly with his body the attention he means to give

with his mind. Though at home he sometimes thinks deeply when his eyes are shut, he considers this habit might be misunderstood in church, not only by the Minister but also by the choirboys. Nor does he confuse them by frequent glances at his watch, as Gulliver did the Lilliputians and thought that the watch so often regarded must be the god he worshipped.

He knows that while some occupations such as cleaning an office or minding a conveyor belt can be done with only a fraction of the mind's attention, the whole of it is required for listening to a sermon or speech. The listening required of a judge in a court of law, an M.P. in the House of Commons, or of a devout worshipper in church is not a hazy, half-hearted dreaming thing, but a strenuous exercise of all the powers of the mind.

If and when through weakness of the flesh or dullness in the pulpit his mind is tempted to wander, he recalls some good reasons why he should attend with all diligence.

It is always a good exercise to do anything which trains the mind in the habit of attention. He knows how apt it is to wander, to get out of control, to be troubled by idle, evil, intrusive thoughts even at prayer time. If the preacher has the art of making attention difficult, the greater the opportunity it seems to him for practising the valuable art of concentration.

'In the name of God...' The Good Listener listens not only to what the preacher is saying, but to what God says through him. The Word of God comes to us, he believes, in and through the word of our fellow men. What the listener hears is often more and deeper than what the preacher speaks, knows or intends. What left his lips as crude illustration, dull platitude, doubtful exegesis, speaks by the operation of the Holy Spirit vital and timely truth to open hearts in the congregation. The unworthiness of the minister hinders not the effect of this Sacrament.

A sermon by definition is an interpretation of some passage of Holy Scripture. There is always more light and truth to break forth from this holy Word, even when there is little of either apparent in the preacher. Any discourse which makes the hearers think again about the Beatitudes, the Cross, the Walk to Emmaus, cannot be unprofitable or in vain. If the exegesis is weak or defective, the Good Listener supplies from his own resources of memory and reflection.

Eager and sympathetic listening helps every speaker to give voice and word to his thoughts and beliefs. There is nothing like good listening in the pew for making good preaching in the pulpit. When the congregation listens, not only with the outward ear but with the heart's depths, the preacher is again and again delighted and surprised to find himself saying better things than he had prepared, or saying prepared things with more force, liveliness and conviction. Like the quality of mercy, good listening is twice blessed. It blesses him to whom it is given, as well as him who receives through it.

MY PRIDE

A neighbour called the other morning, and all I did was think—

Oh Lord no, I mustn't ask her in—there's dishes in the sink,

And her house is always spotless, not like ours, the worse for use.

So I kept her on the doorstep, while I made some weak excuse.

If I hadn't been so busy, with my needless little lies,

I'd have noticed her unhappiness, her sad and tired eyes.

But I merely kept her standing there, my head poked round the door.

So she wouldn't see the children's toys strewn all across the floor.

Then a little voice within me said, "Now ask her in, you must—"

It's friendship she is looking for, not little specks of dust."

As I asked her to forgive the mess and step around the toys

She said, "My dear, you're very lucky to have such lovely boys.

For I've lost both child and husband and now there is only me."

And she told me her sad story as we sat and sipped our tea.

When eventually we parted, she smiled, "Thank you for the chat

And the little bit of sympathy—God knows, I needed that."

As her tired eyes grew brighter, I just thanked the voice inside

For, in making someone happy, I had lost my foolish pride.

Doreen Staines

U.S.P.G.

33 Whitbarrow Road,
Lymm, Cheshire.
April, 1969

Dear Brother,

As I leave to return to parish life in June this will probably be my last letter as Area Secretary to you. I want therefore first of all to thank you and your parishioners for all the prayers and financial support that you have given in times past to S.P.G. and U.M.C.A., and more recently to U.S.P.G. For me it has been a joy and privilege to stand and serve between the Church at home and overseas. I am only too well aware of how much I shall miss the generous hospitality of so many clergy houses, and of the welcome so often given me by them and their families. To this must be added one's appreciation of an equal welcome given by so many laity.

Secondly I would express the hope that your efforts will continue and perhaps increase. There is no need for me to indicate here the increasing problems of all kinds that confront us at every turn — but the extension of Christ's Kingdom must and will go on.

Thirdly the enclosed returns include contributions received in London between Jan. 19th, 1967 and Jan. 18th, 1968.

I am being instituted and inducted to Colton on June 1st. I should be glad if you would remember us then and on Whitsunday. For my part I shall be remembering all of you and the eleven happy years of service spent together extending Christ's Kingdom at home and overseas.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely,

Frank Hambrey.

ORMSKIRK DEANERY

Aughton, St. Michael	393	5	3
Halsall, St. Cuthbert	110	5	0
Lydiat, St. Thomas	70	0	0
Maghull, St. Andrew and St. Peter	65	0	0
Lathom Park Chapel, St. John	1	0	0

Deanery Total 639 10 3

ROGATION SUNDAY

This year Rogation Sunday is on May 19th and this serves to remind us that agriculture is one of the greatest and most important of our industries. On Rogation Sunday we shall as usual visit many of the farms in the Parish and we hope many of you will join us. We ask God's blessing upon the growing crops for which we give thanks at the Harvest Festival.

YOU WILL BE GLAD

When the years have slipped by and memory runs back over the path you have come, you will be glad that you stopped to speak to every friend you met and left them all with a warmer feeling in their hearts because you did so.

You will be glad that you have been happy when doing the small, everyday things of life; that you served the best you could in earth's lowly round.

You will be glad that men have said all along your way, "I know that I can trust him; he is as true as steel."

You will be glad that there have been some rainy days in your life. Clouds and storms are not the worst things that can happen. If there were no storms the fountains would dry up, the sky would be filled with poisonous vapours, and life would cease.

You will be glad that you stopped long enough every day to read carefully and with a prayer in your heart some part of God's message to those He loves.

You will be glad to shut your ears tight against all the evil things that men said about one another and tried the best you could to stay these words winged with poison.

You will be glad that you have brought smiles and not sorrow to men.

You will be glad that you have met all hard things that have come to you with a hearty handshake, never dodging one of them, but turning them all to the best possible account.

THE MOTHERS' UNION

On Tuesday, 7th May, we look forward to the visit of Miss A. Snelson, of Pemberton. Her subject is "A visit to Canada and the U.S.A." and it will be illustrated by colour slides. Please make an effort to attend.

THE A.G.M.

The Annual Meeting and Vestry Meeting will be held in the Vestry on Monday, 6th May, at 7-45 p.m. The Wardens Parochial Church Councillors and Sidesmen will be elected and the Church Accounts and Electoral Roll presented.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO C.M.S.

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	1968	1967
Aughton Christ Church	82	172
Aughton St. Michael	220	230
Bickerstaffe	177	156
Burscough	421	76
Dalton	50	50
Halsall	105	110
Lathom St. James	144	135
Lydiat	—	68
Maghull	585	592
Newburgh	75	70
Ormskirk Parish Church	584	554
Lathom Park Chapel	100	57
Searisbrick St. Mark	76	142
Skelmersdale	83	28
Ormskirk Association	44	43
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SIDESMEN'S ROTA

- May 5—G. Porter, S. Park, P. Aynsley, T. Grimshaw
 12—F. Grimshaw, E. Gawne, W. Robinson,
 E. Blackhurst.
 19—H. Huyton, A. Grimshaw, J. Grimshaw,
 G. Midgley.
 26—T. Swift, T. Hunter, J. Cheetham, H. Gaskell.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

- 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.

SERVERS' ROTA

- May 5—8.00 Tony Gaskell.
 12—10.30 Harold Grimshaw, Michael Lewis.
 19—9.00 John Pounds.
 6.30 Raymond Juba.
 26—8.00 Brian Heaton.
 10.30 Malcolm Serjeant, Roger Dutton.
 June 2—8.00 Peter Balmer.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

We give thanks to God for the most faithful service given to the Sunday School by Mrs. Moorcroft, Annie is dedicated to work among children and she has spent all her life serving God in this way. May she long continue. Alas! where are the helpers? We are desperately in need of teachers in the Sunday School. Is there no one in the parish who will offer to help on Sunday afternoon from 2-15 p.m. to 3 p.m. The children are there but there are no teachers. Please think about this seriously and if you feel you can help Annie, come and see me about it. H.B.

HOLY BAPTISM

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

- April 14 Kathryn, daughter of Ralph Henry and Leonora Massam, of 11 Linaker Drive, Halsall.
 Jason Paul, son of William Linaker and Vera Ann Neale, of 3 Linaker Drive, Halsall.
 Diane, daughter of Brian Alfred and Margaret Jane Austin, of 34 Sumner Ave., Haskayne
 William George, son of William and Florence Barbara Seddon, of 15 Greenways, Tawd Bridge, Up Holland.
 Sara Jane, daughter of James and Ann Critchley, of 11 Summerwood Lane, Halsall.

HOLY MATRIMONY

"Those whom God hath joined together."

- Mar. 23 Raymond David John Lawrence, 38 Briar Rd., Ainsdale and Barbara June Cooper, Walden House, Renacres Lane, Halsall.
 George Colin Haulgrave, 143 Guildford Rd., Birkdale and Eileen Blundell, Byways Small Lane North, Halsall.
 20 Roger Alfred Brown, 36 High St., Kislbury, Northampton and Mary Shacklady, 74 Heathy Lane, Shirdley Hill, Halsall.

BURIAL OF THE DEAD

"In sure and certain hope."

- Feb. 20 Elizabeth Milbourne, aged 72 years, 81 Hartington Road, Liverpool 8.
 23 Mary Shaw, aged 84 years, 29 Renacres Lane, Halsall.
 April 10 David Henry Huyton, aged 51 years, 28 Gregory Lane, Halsall.

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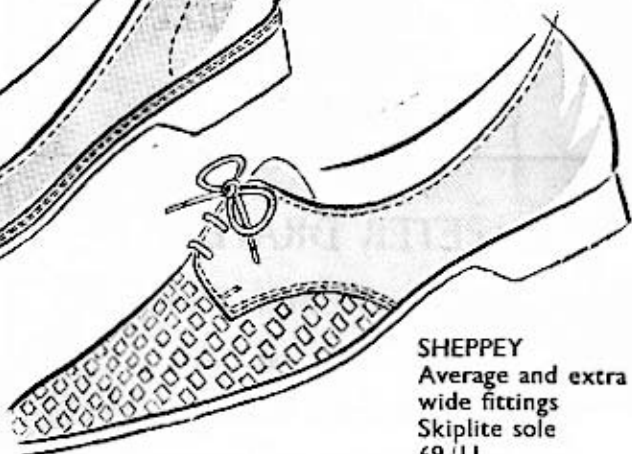


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