

NOVEMBER, 1966

HALSALL PARISH MAGAZINE



Rector: The Rev. W. H. BULLOUGH A.K.C. (Surrogate)

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The Rectory, Halsall,
16th October, 1966

My Dear Friends,

There is a matter of very important parochial concern which must occupy our thoughts and prayers at the present time. I refer to our own Missionary Dr. Barbara Hitch. As you all know Dr. Barbara has been serving in Nigeria, and on the occasions of her visits to the parish we have come to know and understand something of the vast problems facing the Church there. We now learn that Dr. Hitch is to go back this time to the Sudan. This is a very big undertaking and one which calls for the utmost courage and faithfulness. The Sudan is a very restless and disturbed part of the African continent as the further information in this issue of the Magazine will show. We must have our Missionary continually in our prayers and give her all the support we can. We wish her God speed and extend to her our love and assure her of our continued remembrance.

What does it mean to have a "Link" Missionary?

The abiding commission to the Church is the one given by its Founder to its first members, nearly two thousand years ago.

"Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them all things whatsoever I have commanded you to do."

To play one's part to the full in obedience to this commission is the duty of every Christian, or to state the case rather differently, the more deeply one is influenced by the spirit of Christ, the greater will one's zeal become to aid in spreading the light of the Gospel amongst peoples who have not yet received it.

Everyone is not fitted to be an overseas missionary, but every Christian can be interested in the work. Opportunity to express our interest in a practical way is provided by the various Christian missionary societies which organise and support missionary operations overseas. These societies depend on voluntary subscriptions, mainly from us at home. Few of the newly-Christianised communities can yet be anything like self-supporting, and in this lies our opportunity to express our zeal to spread the Gospel in a practical way.

The parish of St. Cuthbert entered into an agreement with the Church Missionary Society four years ago which enables us to have a very intimate association with missionary work. Our arrangement with the C.M.S. is that our parish subscription to the society is directed to the costs of Dr. Hitch's mission which was formerly in Nigeria and will now be in the Sudan. What do we send her?

The Parochial Church Council pledges 10% of its income towards the work of the C.M.S. and U.S.P.G. This means 5% to support Dr. Barbara. If any parishioner makes a contribution of 2/6 each week in an envelope, 1½d. of this goes to support our Missionary. The question we must all ask our-

selves is this—"Am I still making the same contribution in my envelope as I did when the new finance scheme started four years ago?" The costs of the church's work at home and overseas have risen very considerably in the last four years. If our support is to be really effective it means more effort and still more sacrifice on the part of every one of us. Are we prepared to make it? I am sure if we all give the matter the serious thought it deserves, our support for the Missionary work of the Church will not only continue but grow stronger each year.

We shall look forward with great interest to hearing from our Missionary and learning now about the vast problems of the Sudan.

Brethren—pray for her.

God Bless you all

Your sincere friend,

Herbert Bullough.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH IN THE SUDAN

At the Episcopal Synod of the Middle East called by the Archbishop in Jerusalem, to meet on September 28th, the Bishop in the Sudan, the Right Reverend Oliver C. Allison, reported on his recent visit to the Church in the South of the Diocese.

For over a year following the tragic events of 1965, he had twice been refused access to that part of the Diocese by the Government of Sayed Mahgoub, which was then in power. Now once again, under the present Government and its new Prime Minister Sayed Saddiq el Mahdi, channels of communication between Church and State have been re-opened, and the Bishop's request for permission from the Minister of the Interior to visit the South, was readily granted. He was therefore able on September 10 to pay a short 10-day visit to the Churches in the three Southern Province Headquarters of Juba, Wau and Malakal. He did not seek permission to travel further afield in view of the prevailing conditions.

The authorities were most kind and considerate throughout his journey and invited the local Sudanese leaders of the Churches to meet him at official functions. This brought much encouragement to the Christians as well as to the people in the province headquarters. One of his first duties was to confirm those who still remained of the Christians of various tribes, who had previously been prepared for confirmation, and had twice been disappointed by the refusal of permission for the Bishop to visit the South. As is well-known, both the Sudanese Bishops, who were responsible for the oversight of the Church in the Southern Archdeaconries, had to flee owing to imminent danger to their lives in 1965, just as they were due to leave for the Episcopal Synod. Although the numbers were greatly reduced, 167 people were confirmed, and on each occasion the Churches, and the Cathedral at Juba, were filled to capacity by the various congregations of the four main tribal groups in the Church areas of the South. In Juba Cathedral, on his first Sunday, there were over 100 communicants at the early celebration, and about 1,000 attended the various services. On the following Sunday at Wau—where the Christian community is

much smaller—there were 75 communicants at the early celebration, and 130 people in the congregation; at Malakal the Church was far too small for the congregation both at the Confirmation Services and for a United Service which was held on a week-day.

The Provost of Juba Cathedral had informed the Bishop of his recent visits to Maridi, and spoke of encouraging signs there, with over 120 people for the last Holy Communion Service on a week-day afternoon, and 450 people present at a mid-week service. He was also able to baptise 12 infants and 85 adults during his last visit.

First-hand reports were received of services being started in several places where the Christians had previously been scattered and the churches destroyed. Regular services are now being held under trees, both at Yei in Equatoria and at Bor in Upper Nile Province. There are indications that in other parishes, although the people are still scattered and afraid, services are being held regularly in preaching places far from the main roads.

The Bishop spoke of the great encouragement that he had himself found during his visit, and of the real joy with which he was received, and of the encouragement which his visit brought, to the people, particularly to the Christian congregations. He is hoping to pay a further visit in February 1967 for a meeting of the Church Conference South, and for an Ordination.

It is sincerely hoped that the change of attitude and the possible approach will lead to a definite improvement in the situation in the coming months, and a restoration of confidence.

GUY FAWKES AND ALL SAINTS

We start November with a sense of dread; here is winter finally arrived, there will be fogs and days will be shorter and we shall probably start coughing

in church again. So it is hardly surprising that we look forward to our great November festivals rather dreadingly; All Saints with awkward extra services, Guy Fawkes with those little boys and big bangs, and Remembrance Sunday with its agony of looking back.

But November has, after April and December, the most triumphant Christian festival of all. The knowledge that the saints have not only conquered death, but have, through the glory of their living, conquered human life and sin as well.

Every Sunday we reaffirm our belief in our communion with the great company of saints whom we remember now. Our own special family saints and the splendid saints who belong to all the world are not remote spirits in outer space, but with us part of the whole militant family of God. The loving humbleness of St. Francis, the poetry of Keats, the daring of Joan of Arc, the beauty of Michael Angelo, the devotion of St. Theresa, are not something far beyond and apart from us. They, like us, were made in the image of God, like us they were saved by Jesus Christ and inspired by the Holy Ghost. We shall not rise to their heights, but through our admiration of them we can glory in the fact that we, too, are human and thank God that He has given us life to serve Him in this great family.

Service is the key word of Remembrance Sunday. All those brave men and women who did their duty and served their country, and were for a little while given to us as friends or sons or lovers, are remembered because when the call came they answered it. We so often spoil their answer by spending our lives regretting their departure, instead of thanking God for them and their service and for the life which we still have in which we can repay our debt to them.

Our call to service may not be so obvious as was theirs or so glamorous as was that to the Great Saints, but we may be sure that throughout our lives the calls will be frequent and will often be to do unpleasant, unpopular and unnoticed tasks for which no one will thank us. It may be there is one person too many for the outing, that Mrs. Smith wants to go to church or to visit her dentist and there is no one to look after her unpleasant sick child, or that we know an old friend is looking forward to a letter when we are longing to work in the garden. It may be a call to lifelong sacrifice—to abandon a cheerful neighbourhood and encourage a husband to fulfil his ambitions, to give up a cherished plan or job for the sake of an elderly parent, to take up ill-paid, unattractive work because it needs doing and we can do it. And when we have answered the call and made the sacrifice, we shall feel as did the saints of old and our heroes of yesterday, that what we have lost matters not at all and what we have gained will enable us to take our proper place in the communion of God's family.

After this Guy Fawkes seems rather unimportant, whether he was brave or fool or traitor. But what a fitting way of enjoying glorious November he

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has left us. As the rockets shoot up and the Catherine wheels whizz round we can celebrate, in this splendid use of God's much misused gift of gunpowder, all the beauty and devotion and bravery that men have made of their lives.

ALL SAINTS' DAY, TUESDAY NOV. 1st.

7.00 a.m.—Holy Communion.

10.15 a.m.—Holy Communion.

COMMEMORATION OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED.

The names of all those from our parish who have passed on to higher service will be remembered at the service of Holy Communion at 10-15 a.m. Will you be there to remember them?

ALL SAINTS' TIDE THOUGHT

There is an old story about an American millionaire (all rich Americans in anecdotes are millionaires) who was visiting the Oxford colleges and was impressed by the beauty and perfection of the lawns. Seeing one of the gardeners, he said, "Say, brother, how can I make my lawns back home like these?"

"Nothing easier," replied the gardener. "Merely sow them thickly with fine lawn seed, sift fine loam over it, and when the grass is well through, roll it and cut it, roll it and cut it. Keep on doing that for 400 years and you'll have a lawn like this."

It reminds me of the Psalm which says, "The days of man are but as grass, for he flourisheth as a flower of the field. For as soon as the wind goeth over it, it is gone, and the place shall know it no more." In several of the psalms man is likened unto grass.

How very unimportant in the eyes of the world are all but a microscopic proportion. We are people of no importance. When I was a boy I kept doves, and on one occasion they were feeding on our lawn when a cat swooped down, seized one and proceeded to devour it. The other birds took not the slightest notice of the tragedy, but calmly went on feeding as though such an occurrence was no concern of theirs.

So it is with people of no importance. The neighbours—used in the Biblical sense—take one look and proceed with their normal daily round. "It is gone, and the place thereof shall know it no more."

Physically, that is true; but does it tell the whole story? I do not think so.

Very few can hope to leave an imperishable name, even one remembered beyond one's immediate relatives; but if our lives helped fellow travellers on life's road, if our lives influenced somebody for good, if our wisdom, advice, character or faith turned somebody Godwards, can we have been people of no importance?

The Oxford lawns consist of millions of tiny blades of grass, any one of which can be removed without its absence being noticed. But unless it be replaced by another similar blade of grass, a weed will creep into the vacant space, which, if not

removed, will speedily spread and destroy the surrounding good grass.

So it is with the lives of people. Any one of us can go without adversely affecting God's pattern. If our lives are selfish and grasping, we are a weed—a canker of unrighteousness that spreads destruction; but those who are an influence for good, however humble their position in the affairs of this world, can never be considered to be people of no importance.

ADVENT

The new Church year begins on Advent Sunday, November 27th—Advent being the first season in the Church Calendar. The word means "The Coming" and refers to the coming of Christ. The object of the season of Advent, with its four Sundays, is the preparation for Christmas when we commemorate the birth of Jesus. During Advent we are directed to re-consider all that the coming of Christ meant for the world. The lessons read in church emphasise the fact that God is the Creator and the Judge of the world and all that is in it. The first lesson on Advent Sunday makes clear the necessity of being not men-pleasers, nor self-pleasers, but God-pleasers. It is also an appeal to reason and an assertion that God demands that we reason with Him. "Come let us reason together, saith the Lord." Careless opinions, prejudices, personal fancies, likes and dislikes are taken no account of in this vision of Divine Judgement. "I will sift you as wheat, saith the Lord." All is judged in the pure light of the critical and inexorable reasoning of God. All is to be seen for what it is really worth.

Together with this theme is the theme of the preaching of John the Baptist. John urged the people to go through this process of reasoning with God, in order to correct their errors and misapprehensions before the coming of Christ and the dawn of a new age. This reasoning with God—this honest and ruthless self-examination would lead to repentance and the desire to shed former sins, and erroneous views and practices. Therefore, John baptised those who responded to his call as a symbol that they were clean of the past, having held up their lives for the judgement of God and seen and repented the errors made manifest. They were then prepared to receive the joys and the responsibilities of the New Age in Christ.

The call of Advent is the same today as yesterday. The vision of Isaiah of the Judgement of God, and the "voice" of John in the wilderness have the same urgency and meaning today. Without hearkening to the voices of Isaiah and John we cannot enter fully into the religious meaning of Christmas—we can enter into the pagan festivities of the season without listening to either voice—but that is a different thing.

To use Advent well and earnestly will mean that we shall appreciate more fully the religious beauty of Christmas, and join more truly in the festal atmosphere of peace and good-will with which men quite rightly celebrate the Birth of Christ.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Parish Church of St. Cuthbert Halsall has recently received two most beautiful gifts. A fine Processional Cross the gift of the Rector's Warden for use each Sunday, to enable our very precious antique silver Cross to be preserved as carefully as possible. The antique Cross has been repaired and a case made for it.

The other lovely gift is a silver Alms Dish—sixteen inches in diameter—the Gift of No. 428 Halsall Company of the Girls Training Corps.

Both these gifts will be dedicated at the Family Eucharist which has been changed owing to Remembrance Sunday falling on the 2nd Sunday in the month. The Morning Services during November are as follows: Nov. 6th, Matins; Nov. 13th, Remembrance Service; Nov. 20th, Family Eucharist with the Dedication of the Gifts, Nov. 27th Matins.

The parish thanks most sincerely the donors and rejoices that further treasures are offered to the Glory of God and to make even more beautiful our lovely Church of St. Cuthbert. H.B.

1st HALSALL SCOUT GROUP NEWS

The Autumn Dance held in the School Hall on October 7th proved to be a most enjoyable evening, and the sum of £63 17s. 1d. was the nett proceeds, which when placed into our funds, makes the bank balance look more healthy. I would like to thank all concerned for their help and most generous support which made the event so successful.

The Scouts and Cubs Open Night was held on Monday, October 10th, when Mr. George Parsons presented First Class Awards to Scouts Brian Davies and Graham Mawdsley, and Cubs Barry Gaskell and Stephen Saunders went up into Scouts, and after taking the Scouts Promise were welcomed by Mr. Parsons and the Troop. During the evening David Fillingham was made Scoutleader and Cynthia Massam and Jacqueline Midgley received Cub Instructor Badges.

We all enjoyed the displays given by the Boys (and Mums and Dads), and the tea and biscuits afterwards was most welcome.

Our next event is the Bonfire on November 5th, behind Barretts Farm and Hot Dogs and Coffee will be available.

P. R. SAUNDERS, Hon. Treasurer.

THE MOTHERS' UNION

We had a very fine meeting on the occasion of the visit of our own Missionary, and it was pleasing to see so many friends join us on this occasion. All our friends are welcome again on Tuesday, November 1st, when the Rector will speak to us on the subject of "Gypsies."

THE FARMERS MEETING

On Thursday, November 17th, we look forward to welcoming Mr. J. Payne, County Farm Mechanization officer who will talk to us and discuss with us the vitally important subject of Grain Drying and Storage. Please—Farmers—make a note of this meeting.

STOP PRESS

On Sunday, 23rd October the Rector announced the setting up of the Halsall Village Aberfan Disaster Fund. This will be a Village Fund and all residents in Halsall are invited to support it. Contributions should be handed to the Rector, The Church Wardens, or to The Chairman of Halsall Parish Council. The wall safe in the Church porch has been set aside until further notice to receive contributions from any residents passing the Church.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Nov. 6—Mrs. Hesketh and Mrs. Winstanley.
Nov. 13—Mrs. L. Heaton.
Nov. 20—Mrs. Neale.
Nov. 27—Mrs. Kniveton.
Dec. 4—Mrs. L. Huyton.
Dec. 11—Miss M. Ballard.
Dec. 18—Mrs. N. Smith.

SERVERS' ROTA

Nov. 6—8.00 a.m. Brian Heaton.
Nov. 13—8.00 a.m. Jim Heaton.
10.30 a.m. Harold Grimshaw, Malcolm Sergeant.
Nov. 20—8.00 a.m. Roger Dutton.
Nov. 27—8.00 a.m. John Gaskell.
10.30 a.m. Harold Grimshaw, Raymond Juba.
Dec. 4—8.00 a.m. Peter Balmer.

SIDESMEN'S ROTA

Nov. 6—a.m. J. D. Grimshaw, G. Midgley.
p.m. R. Lewis, H. Rimmer.
Nov. 13—a.m. J. Cheetham, H. Gaskell.
p.m. G. Porter, S. Park.
Nov. 20—a.m. W. Leadbetter, N. Britnall.
p.m. E. Grimshaw, E. Gawne.
Nov. 27—a.m. J. Heaton, J. Banks.
p.m. T. Swift, T. Hunter.
Dec. 4—a.m. H. Huyton, A. Grimshaw.
p.m. R. Dutton, T. Grimshaw.

EURIAL OF THE DEAD

"In sure and certain hope."

Sept. 19—Margaret Neale, age 92 years, Park House Farm, Plex Moss Lane, Halsall.

We give thanks to God for the life and work of HAROLD NELSON. He will be remembered with great affection, in Halsall, for a very long time. To Mrs. Nelson and Geoffrey we extend our sympathy and the assurance of continual remembrance in our prayers.

HOLY MATRIMONY

"Those whom God hath joined together."

Oct. 1—David Christian of 55 Carr Moss Lane, Halsall and Rose Lindsay of 166 Lytham Road, Marshside, Southport.

HOLY BAPTISM

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

Oct. 16—Nicola Gwynneth, daughter of Leonard and Barbara Anne Sephton, Blundell Farm, 52 School Lane, Haskayne.

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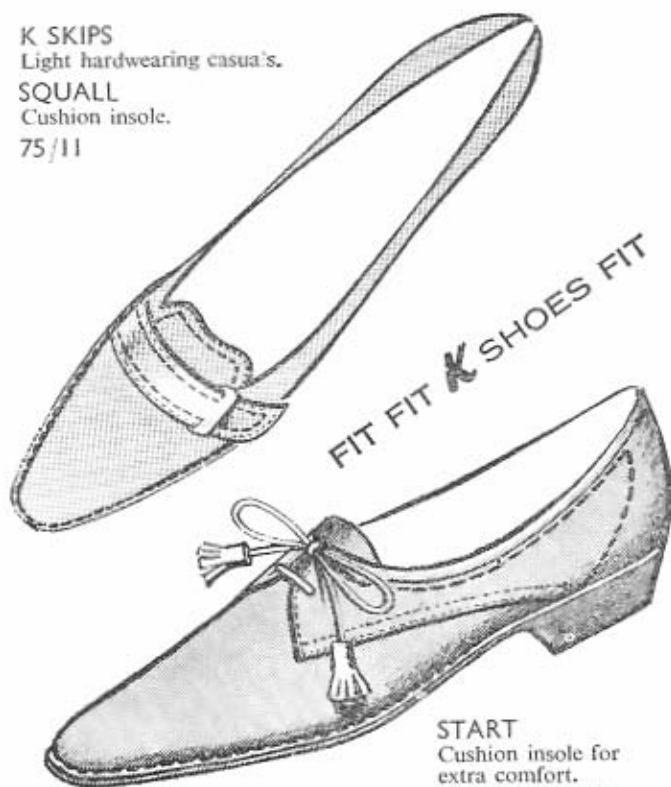
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