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HALSALL PARISH MAGAZINE



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The Rectory,
Halsall,

17th May, 1966.

My Dear Friends,

In the midst of all the disturbing events surrounding our lives at the present time—murder, war, famine, and economic crisis, will you think with me about our position as Christians making our contribution to the extension of the Kingdom of God.

We are Christian. We have made our decision for Christ. We committed our life to Him. The assurance is now ours to rejoice in, that we are His for ever. We have taken the great step along the way of Christian discipleship: but now what of the future? What of all the other steps that must be taken because we are Christian?

These tremendous words were written by a saintly minister over a hundred years ago when he was nearing the end of his brief life:

"I am persuaded that I shall obtain the highest amount of personal happiness; I shall do most for God's glory and the good of men; and I shall have the fullest reward in eternity, by maintaining a conscience always washed in Christ's blood, by being filled with the Holy Spirit at all times, and by attaining the most entire likeness to Christ in mind, will and heart, that it is possible for a redeemed sinner to attain in this world."

Does that seem too high a standard? Surely nothing less than the best must be the desire of our hearts. Let us be sure it always is. Let us be ambitious in our Christian living. Never content with the second best. Remember always that it is our supreme goal: "the most entire likeness to Christ in mind, will and heart that it is possible for a redeemed sinner to obtain in this world."

Four things I suggest for our continual remembrance. First of all we must always remember our commitment to the Lord.

In that commitment our Christian life began. When it was made, however simply, however quietly, our life was set in God's hands. And there it is now. What a tremendous thought that is. "Your life is hid with Christ in God." We must keep reminding ourselves of this. Of course we shall

have our doubts, our difficult moments, our testing experiences. Of course our feeling will sometimes be on the mountain tops and sometimes in the valley. If our standing in Christ depended on our feelings or our experiences, then it would be a very doubtful thing; but it does not. It depends on God, and God is faithful. It is, of course, very important that Christian friends and the Christian Church should give us all the help they can. It is even more important that we should resolutely set about the steps that will take us along the Christian way. But let us never forget that the Holy Spirit Himself will keep us to the end.

Every day let us remind ourselves that His strong hands are about us. Every day let us commit ourselves afresh to Him until it becomes the deep settled assurance of our life that we are never on our own, that His strength and grace and power are round about us continually; that the foundation of our whole life is God Himself.

Secondly, we must always remember our communion with the Lord.

No friendship can last, certainly no friendship can deepen, unless there is continuing and regular communion between the partners in the friendship. This is most certainly true of our life in Christ. The word of God itself and the experience of every Christian are agreed that we must, regularly and faithfully, be in touch with God.

This means we must give a place of priority in our daily programme to prayer. Be very strict about this. It is so easy to speak about the need for prayer, so easy to read books about prayer, so much more difficult to be faithful in our prayers. Always begin the day by committing yourself to God, by asking His guidance, His strength, His courage, by praying for the work you will be doing throughout the day and the people you will be meeting. It will make all the difference in the world to your day. Remember, throughout the day that God is not far away from you, but so near that you may breathe a prayer to Him in every moment of opportunity or need. Do this continually until it becomes habitual. When the end of the day comes be sure that you end it with God. There will be things that you want to confess so that you may lie down at peace with God. There will be activities on which you wish to seek God's blessing. There will be so many things for which

you want to give God thanks. There will be people for whom you want to pray. And growing upon you more and more will be the glorious discovery that in prayer God becomes very real and very near.

Communion with God also means that we will read our Bibles regularly. The Bible is the Word of God and in it we meet Him.

This should be the aim of our Bible reading—to meet God revealed in Jesus Christ. This is not easy. The Bible must be taken up with reverence for our Bible reading is an interview with the living God.

Communion with God means that we must become part of a vital Christian Fellowship. The Bible knows nothing of solitary Christians. We cannot be spiritual Robinson Crusoes on a little island of personal faith. God has promised that His Presence will be especially near when we gather in His House. Be loyal to your Church, be regular in your Communion and your worship, enter into its fellowship, take part in its work, and you will find your fellowship is not only with your fellow Christians but with God through them. In Prayer, in Bible Study, in Christian Fellowship, we must remember our Communion with God.

Thirdly, let us remember our consecration to the Lord.

Our Lord Jesus Himself spent thirty out of thirty-three years in the obscurity of Nazareth. At His carpenter's bench He hallowed for ever the most trivial details of our everyday life. So we must never imagine that any part of our life is separate from our Christian faith. The whole of it is given us by God, and the whole of it must be consecrated to Him.

Let us be careful about the plain duties of our life and work. Let nothing, not even the call of Christian service, lead us to the neglect of a single known duty. How often do we spoil our Christian witness by our failure in this respect. The Christian faith requires the clerk, the manager, the foreman, the workman, the labourer, the office boy, to do his part, as if Christ were the head of the firm. At home, at work, in the church, we must be scrupulously careful about our plain duties.

It is also important for us to remember that our free time must be consecrated to the Lord too. There is a great need today for discipline in Christian living. As we pray and as God leads us we learn that in many things we must exercise care and wisdom. Friendships must be consecrated to the Lord, time must be consecrated to the Lord, and also our money which is part of our stewardship. Our interests, our reading, our TV, all these things may increase or hinder our growth in grace, they will either strengthen or weaken our witness for the Lord.

Finally, we must remember our commission from the Lord.

We were not saved for our own soul's sake only, but so that we might serve our Master. He calls us to be fellow-workers with Himself, to be witnesses to Him, to be fishers of men, to be a light in the darkness of the world. He calls us—what an amazing thought it is—to be that and to do that for Him. God has given us talents and opportunities. We must pray about them and He will lead us to use them to the full. He has set each one of us in a particular setting in life. We must try by His grace to work out His will for us there. We must not envy others their place, remembering that there is a work for God that only we can do. We must not seek for the prominent or spectacular task, remembering that God can be served equally in the humble and quiet work. Service in love, however menial, unpraised or unnoticed by men, never fails of its reward. Our Lord's words of commendation at the last, will not be to the brilliant servants, nor to highly successful servants, but to faithful servants.

We have entered upon the most wonderful way of life a man can know. Let us be sure now to go forward with a sanctified ambition to be our best for God; to achieve "the most entire likeness to Christ in mind, will and heart that it is possible for a redeemed sinner to attain in this world"—

and blessings be upon us all.

Your sincere friend,

Herbert Bullough.

I WILL

- I will study the language of gentleness, and refuse to use words that bite and tones that crush.
- I will practise patience at home lest my temper break through unexpectedly and disgrace me.
- I will remember that my neighbours have trouble enough without unloading more on them.
- I will excuse others' faults and failures as often and fully as I expect others to be lenient with mine.
- I will be a friend under trying tests, and wear everywhere a good-will face unchilled by aloofness.

. . . . Author Unknown.

"WE WANT THE CHILDREN TO CHOOSE FOR THEMSELVES LATER ON"

And the parents said it in full seriousness. I had asked the parents to let the children come to Church and Sunday School "No," they said. "We want them to choose for themselves later on." Choose what? Choose between good and evil? Choose between right and wrong? Between Atheism? Between this religion and that one? **HOW CAN THE CHILD CHOOSE WHEN IT HAS NO IDEA WHAT RELIGION MEANS? WHEN IT CAN NOT EVEN PRAY PROPERLY, BECAUSE THE PARENTS HAVE NOT TAUGHT THEM** When the children have no knowledge of the Bible, the CHURCH AND ITS TEACHING. . . . When St. Cuthbert's and St. Mark's are just another building.

In God's Name what sort of choice do the parents give their children? They are prepared to turn them out into the world with no religious training to help them. There is **NO CHOICE FOR THEM AT ALL**, other than drifting, taking all, giving nothing, weak of will and infirm of purpose. Religious Teaching provides a "moral background" it provides the children with invincible weapons with which to fight any evils, any problems that life can bring . . . and life can bring some great problems. A religious background is a staff to lean on at all times in trouble, and an anchor to prevent drifting, and a backbone to keep them upright and fearless. Religious training gives life's most precious gifts—integrity and courage. But "No" say the parents: we want them to choose for themselves later on. Do the children have the choice of going to school or playing about at home? Do they have the choice of what they shall eat or when they shall go to bed? Do they have the choice of what they shall wear?

Not a bit of it. Why then this inconsistent attitude to Religious Instruction and Church going? I am sorry to say it, but it seems to me as though parents just could not care less. You see, sending the children to Church or Sunday School implies that the parents have responsibilities towards God and the Church And that means effort or in one word, Duty. "As the twig is bent, so is the tree inclined."

LAUGHTER—A GIFT

"God hath made me to laugh," said Sarah, Abraham's wife, as she rejoiced over the birth of her son, Isaac. And God has made us all to laugh.

There are times when we all need to get away from the pressures and the tensions of life, and find relief in innocent laughter. It is God's happy provision for dispelling the gloom of life, for helping us to forget life's worries and its anxieties, and for giving life a new fillip and freshness, whereby life's challenges and duties may be taken up again with renewed eagerness and power.

The capacity to laugh, or to make other people laugh, may be regarded, in its right relationship, as a Divine commission. If God meant us to laugh, then He must have allowed for those who have the power to make us laugh. Why not, then, a Divine Order of mirth-makers, as well as a Divine Order of prophets, priests and kings?

But so many people seem to be afraid of laughter. They seem to imagine that the more serious you are, and the longer your countenance, the more heavenly Christian you are. Of course, it is not a sign of grace to laugh at those things which are wrong, distasteful and vulgar; but how much there is in the world that is pure and wholesome over which we may laugh, and still retain our Christianity. Funny books, funny magazines, funny songs, funny sayings, funny people—all these are as innocent in inspiration as they are recreational in character. Then why not take advantage of them and not be afraid to laugh?

I would go further, and suggest that the gift of laughter can be a great asset in our Christian service. It is surprising what a laugh can do to avert a crisis, and, once again, restore sanity and sweetness.

More, a cheerful atmosphere is so calculated to keep Christian workers happy in their service, and not only happy, but harmonious and united. While it is possible to be too gay, it is also possible to be too serious, and thus help to create an atmosphere that is both heavy and oppressive.

We ought, therefore, to thank God for this great and gracious gift. Not only thank Him for it, but use it in His service. In these sad days it is especially welcome. There is a spirit of heaviness that seems to be affecting not only the people outside the Christian Church, but also those who are inside it. We need to be thankful for a gift that be applied so effectively, and so helpfully, to such a situation.

THE BAZAAR—SATURDAY, 26th NOVEMBER

Before we can say "Jack Robinson" the Bazaar will be here. There are several events already arranged and we hope they will all be well supported. Thrift tickets are now on sale and the usual parishioners have them. This is a most useful and helpful method of saving up for the event and makes a vast difference to the final result. Gifts to the various stalls are welcome and the stallholders will be delighted to receive them. How near the £1,000 do you think we shall get this year? This would clear off a big slice of the debt on the organ. If we ALL do our share this seemingly impossible target CAN BE REACHED. What a thrill if we could do it! Let's have a Go! W.H.B.

THE FARMERS' MEETING

The first meeting of the 1966/67 session will be held on Saturday, 8th October, when we shall hold a Whist and Domino Drive in the School at 7.15 p.m. This will be a Poultry Drive and the proceeds will be for the Organ Fund. We hope the farmers will support the effort by donating prizes for both the Whist and Dominoes. We normally hold a Barn Social to begin our session, but this year we are having a change. On the Friday evening the Scouts are holding a Dance (7th October).

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

- Sept. 4—Mrs. Taylor.
Sept. 11—Mrs. Brett.
Sept. 18—Mrs. Blundell and Mrs. Park.
Sept. 25—Miss Mawdsley and Mrs. Parker.
Oct. 2—HARVEST FESTIVAL.

SIDESMEN'S ROTA

- Sept. 4—a.m. H. Baldwin, W. White.
p.m. W. Robinson, E. Blackhurst.
Sept. 11—a.m. R. Heaton, J. Colley.
p.m. J. Grimshaw, G. Midgley.
Sept. 18—a.m. R. Lewis, H. Rimmer.
p.m. J. Cheetham, H. Gaskell.
Sept. 25—a.m. G. Porter, S. Park.
p.m. W. Leadbetter, N. Britnall.
Oct. 2—a.m. E. Grimshaw, H. Gawns.
p.m. J. Heaton, J. Banks.

SERVERS' ROTA

- Sept. 4—8.00 a.m. Peter Balmer, John Davies.
Sept. 11—8.00 a.m. Harold Grimshaw, Malcolm Sergeant.
Sept. 18—8.00 a.m. Brian Heaton.
Sept. 25—8.00 a.m. Jim Heaton.
10.30 a.m. Harold Grimshaw,
Raymond Juba.
Oct. 2—8.00 a.m. John Pounds.

THE MOTHERS' UNION

The first meeting of the 1966/7 Session will be held on Tuesday 20th September at 7.30 p.m. Dr. Barbara Hitch our C.M.S. Link Missionary will speak to us and show us some of her slides.

HOLY BAPTISM

"Entered into the family of Christ's Church"

- Aug 14—Barry, son of Brian and Margaret Jane Austin, 2 Sephtons Cottage, Plex Lane, Halsall.
Aug. 14—David Stuart, son of Peter and Susan Marsh, 78 Carr Moss Lane, Halsall.
Aug. 14—Gillian Helen, daughter of John Rowland and Joan Higson, 5 Linaker Drive, Halsall.
Aug. 14—Karen, daughter of Joseph Gorden and Linda Mary Pimlott, The Kennels, North Moor Lane, Halsall.

BURIAL OF THE DEAD

"In sure and certain hope"

- July 18—Cremation remains of George Langford Woolston, 14 Hawkstone View, Guiseley, Yorkshire.
July 23—Maria Cheetham, age 90 years, 265 Southport Road, Lydiate.

HOLY MATRIMONY

"Those whom God hath joined together"

- June 15—Alan James Sephton, 35 Cemetery Road, Southport and Joyce Lea, 112 School Lane Haskayne.
July 30—James Waterworth, Gorsuch Hall Farm, Scarisbrick and Flora Margaret Kirby, Ashley Heath, Hale.
Aug. 8—Alfred Roughley, 42 Heathey Lane, Shirdley Hill, Halsall and Joan Christine Heyes, 158 Wennington Road, Southport.

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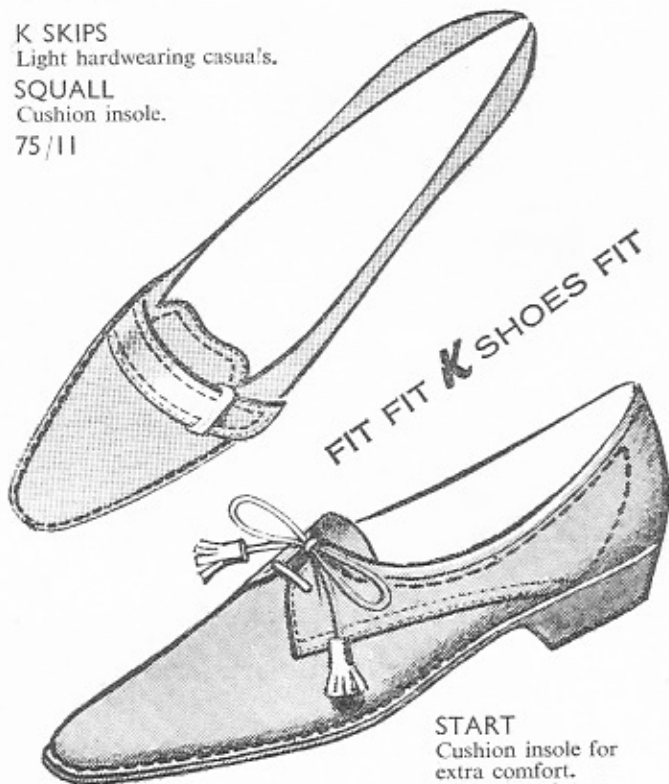
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