

April 1967

My dear Friends,

To begin with I wish to thank all those who have so kindly transported me around the parish in their cars to enable me to do my work, or go to the hospital to see the doctor from time to time. Before long I hope I will be back in full harness, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Lovelock-Jones and the excellent staff of nurses that has brought this about.

I wish to thank Miss Williams of the Old Parsonage for placing in Church a book by J.B. Phillips - "The Ring of Truth", being a translator's testimony. He writes as an expert in assessing the evidence of Christianity. He tells of an elderly clergyman who, in the face of modern destructive criticism, lost his faith and took his own life as there was nothing more for him to live for. Without faith in the truths proclaimed in the Gospel there is nothing left for one to live for. Several copies of this booklet have been left in Church together with "Letters to Young Churches" by the same author. I hope everyone in the parish will read them. "The Ring of Truth" deals with the whole subject of the Resurrection. We shall be celebrating Easter - the Queen of Festivals - as these notes come to you. St Paul was in no doubt at all when he wrote: "If Christ be not risen from the dead, your faith is vain and there is no hope of a blessed immortality" Easter reminds us that we do not preach a cunningly devised fable that the world of today has shown to be false. The evidence is solidly based and the best and most hostile critics have failed to discredit it.

In Psalm 19 the Word of God is said to be more to be desired than silver or much fine gold and that it is sweeter also than the honey in the comb. Do we approach the Word of God with this treat in mind? Do we really believe this or are our sense of values distorted? Do we read our Bibles with joyous anticipation regularly? And are we growing in the knowledge of God? Lent is "growing time". Is this true of us? Only so will Easter be the assurance of our own immortality.

You are asked to remember in your prayers our Pro-Churchwarden, Mr. Cyril Saunders, who is recovering from a major operation.

W.L.H.

ST. GEORGE - THE PATRON SAINT OF ENGLAND

The historian, Gibbon, took a perverse pleasure in identifying St. George with an energetic and unscrupulous pork contractor, George of Cappadocea, who was Arian Bishop of Alexandria 356-361 A.D

Now it is almost universally agreed that he was a martyr who suffered death during the reign of Diocletian some 50 years previously, for refusing to sacrifice to idols.

The golden legend about saving the life of a princess who was about to be handed to a dragon as a propitiatory offering appears to be fictitious although worth preserving. Nevertheless St. George was venerated before the Crusades, when he was invoiced by Christian soldiers before battle, and at Agincourt and other engagements in that campaign the cry was "St George for England".

He was officially approved as the Patron Saint of England by Pope Benedict IV (1675 - 1758)

OXFAM

Mrs. Rann is to be congratulated upon her collections for Oxfam which enabled her to send £22 to the fund last year.

WHISTDRIVE

Ten and a half tables were occupied by players at the Whist Drive in aid of Coleshill School on March 1st when Mr. J. Ware was the popular M. C.. £19. 2. 6d. was raised for the school funds and it is thought that more people would support this function if they realised how enjoyable it is.

PERSONALIA

Mrs. Elkerton

Best wishes are extended to Mrs. Elkerton who has been elected Mayor of Buckingham.

Mrs. Elkerton came to Coleshill in 1947 when her husband, the Revd. J. H. B. Elkerton succeeded the Revl. W. L. Bunce as Priest-in-Charge. It affords great pleasure to her many friends to know of this well deserved honour.

THE LATE FRED STUBBINGS

Many happy memories were evoked by the mention of the name of Fred Stubbings in the articles about Coleshill School in this newsletter last year. That grand old man died on September 24th 1956 - a week after the sixth of his one-man art exhibitions, which enabled him to give £82 to Church funds.

He had been Headmaster of Coleshill School for 34 years and organist and choirmaster for 48 years. For a time, he was Superintendent of the Sunday School, secretary of the Church Council, chairman of Coleshill Parish Council and a member of Amersham R.D.C..

In addition to his aptitude for public service, he had human qualities which endeared him to all. A past pupil recalls walks when the boys who were with him were encouraged to see how many wild flowers they could spot and name. His son, Mr. Bob Stubbings, tells how his father would run from Coleshill to Amersham to play football and after the match run back again. Football was not his only sport; he was a good shot and once on a miniature range shot a mouse with a .22 rifle. An accomplished musician, he gave great pleasure to many people with his flute playing, and on wet days would play to the children - who came to know a lot of good music this way. After he retired he turned to painting as his main hobby and delighted in local subjects, particularly the pond. He made a point of painting scenes from Amersham Fair - and chuckled with delight when a lady dropped twopence into his hat.

Memories of such a man are well worth reviving.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH - WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

Before we look at where the money comes from, perhaps we should look at the expenses which must be met.

First, we must contribute to the stipend or salary of our **Priest-in-Charge**. We do not do this directly but through a fund called the Assistant Clergy Fund. The Diocese of Oxford makes an annual grant of £420 to this fund and our own contribution at the moment is £320. A further £126 comes from the covenanted subscriptions of some good people at St. Mary's.

Next we have to pay a sum of money to the Diocese of Oxford each year which is called our "quota". This quota is assessed on our income over previous years and is used to provide new churches, parsonages and aided schools in the Diocese. Our quota for this year has been raised from £84 to £188 to meet urgent needs.

Then we have our regular overhead expenses. These cover such things as heating, lighting, insurance and cleaning of the Church and the upkeep of the churchyard and the parsonage.

Finally we have the costly bills which arise all too frequently for fairly major structural repairs on the Church and parsonage. At this moment we are faced with the cost of re-roofing the vestry and dealing with dry rot and woodworm in the Church which will cost several hundred pounds.

Now where does all this money come from? The largest single source is the collection at Church services, which includes the envelope scheme. The next is the Church Fete held each year. Hitherto, we have usually been able to devote the proceeds to some special purpose - for example, last year's Fete was used to raise funds for Church repairs. In future years, we may be forced to use them just to cover our day-to-day running expenses. Apart from the Fete, we hold events like jumble sales, coffee mornings and the occasional gift day to raise funds.

A further important source is provided by deeds of covenant where a person commits himself to give a regular sum for at least seven years. This arrangement enables the Church to obtain a

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refund of income tax so the donations are worth considerably more .

This then, is where the money to run our Church comes from, and it can be seen that we have to provide most of it ourselves. Moreover, we have a wider responsibility than to our Parish alone, both to the world-wide Church and to all in need, and these we should take into account in our budget.

Undoubtedly, most people find the simplest and most effective way to support the Church is through the envelope scheme. This scheme, which is entirely confidential, has the advantage that it enables a person to make a regular donation, large or small, even when he is not able to attend Church.

It is very tempting to leave it to the next person to do the supporting, because apart from anything else it is much less bother. But whether we have a Church in Coleshill or not depends on how highly we value it and are prepared to put ourselves out for it. One thing is certain - if we ourselves do not help, no one else will .

Do you support the envelope scheme? If not, you are invited to do so and to communicate with Mr. G. Creber, Applecroft, Meadowcot Lane, Coleshill (Tel. Amersham 3350)

N.N.N.

COMMEMORATIVE TREE

On the cold and blustery afternoon of Saturday, March 11th, quite a number of people assembled opposite the parsonage to witness the Earl of Courtown plant a tree, presented by the Society for the Preservation of Rural England, Penn Branch, to commemorate Coleshill having gained the award for being the most tidy village in its class in 1966.

Coleshill has now earned the award three times in all and for the last two years in succession. Every effort must be made to complete the hat trick.

REQUIEM

On Good Friday, March 24th, the Harewood Singers will present the Requiem by Gabriel Faure together with other works by Byrd, Tomkins, Purcell, Bach, Rubra and Messiaen. The soloists will be Barbara Heywood, Soprano; Richard Fairbairn, tenor; Frank Boothman, bass; the organist will be Oliver Morley (many will remember his brilliant playing when he was organist at Coleshill some years ago); The programme will be directed by Dr. Anthony Watts and will take place at the Parish Church of St. Mary at 7.30p.m.. There will be a collection in aid of the Restoration Fund.

FORHCOMING EVENTS

- Tues. Apr. 4 Joint Service for the Mothers' Union and the Sisterhood. All Saints 3.00p.m.
- Thur. 13 W.I. Mrs. M. Crapnell on "The History and Romance of Inn Signs"
Mobile library van - Coleshill
- Tues. 18 Sisterhood - Mrs. Winny
- Sun. 23 St. George's Day
- Tues. 25 Concert at Royal Albert Hall at 7.30p.m. in aid of the Christian Medical College and Hospital, Vellore, South India. Tickets 15/-, 12/6, 10/6 & 7/6. For coaches going from Anersaia, please contact Miss Hall of Brownings of Amershaa, Sycamore Road,
- Thurs. 27 Mobile library van - Coleshill
- Wed. May 3 "Beauty for sale" by the W.I. Players combined with sherry party in aid of village hall. Tickets 7/6 from Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Harvey or any Committee member.
- Sat. July 8 Church Fête at Luckings Farm by kind invitation of Mr. & Mrs. Grindley.

S. O. S.

The Editor pleads for advance notice of local events. Copy is "made up" about the 16th of each month and sent to press on or before the 20th.

It will help enormously if contributions are received before those dates,

SERVICES

ALL SAINTS, COLESHILL

Every Sunday:

9.00a.m. Parish Communion

10.00a.m. Sunday School

2nd & 4th Sundays:

6.00p.m. Evensong

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
AMERSHAM

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
10.00 a.m. Children's Church
11.00a.m. Matins & Sermon
(N.B. On 1st Sunday in the month
the 10 and 11a.m. services com-
bine for a Family Communion at
10.00a.m.)
6.00p.m. Evensong & Sermon

SERVICES FOR GOOD FRIDAY & EASTER DAY

ALL SAINTS, COLESHILL

EASTER DAY:

8.00a.m. Holy Communion

10.00a.m. Sunday School

11.00a.m. Matins

12 noon Holy Communion

6.00p.m. Evensong

GOOD FRIDAY:

10.00a.m. One hour service
of meditation. "Christ in
the Passion"

RECTOR: The Revd. Allan Campbell (Tel. Amersham 1135)

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE: The Revd. W.L. Holder, The Parsonage, Colehill
(Tel: Amersham 722)

PRO-CHURCHWARDEN: C. Saunders, Chapel Cottage, Colehill

PRO-CHURCHWARDEN & HON. SECRETARY: N.N. Nicholls, Orchard House,
Colehill (Tel: Amersham 1834)

HON. TREASURER: G. Creber, Applecroft, Meadowcot Lane, Colehill
(Tel: Amersham 3350)