

April 1970

ASTER is the feast of hope - of new life in Christ. And yet, the present-day observer will say, what hope is there now for the Church and Christianity after the great retreat from the churches in the 1960s? All the hope in the world.

There may indeed have been in this country yet a further drop in the number of practising Christians, several Christian denominations may have gone further down the road of emptying their message of that irreducible spiritual content it is Christ's will it should always possess, but the Christian seeing the whole thing with the essentially spiritual eyes of faith, knows that our Lord has promised never to forsake those who are truly trying to follow him. This means that it is never adequate to judge the church just by numbers. The criterion is rather that of the quality of the life of a Christian community and the nature of its message, its gospel. This is no doubt why those Christian communities who have most watered down the content of their life and message in the past few years are those who lost most in numbers. For Christ is indeed calling all men to be saved, but whether a Christian can be saved or not must depend on the whole quality of his life, on the sort of person he is becoming, whether he is growing into 'the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ'. For mature life he is both the means and the end.

J.S.N.

P.S.:

CHRISTIAN-AID WEEK

I have just discovered that Christian-Aid Week has unusually been put a month earlier this year - 13-18 April - and this I discovered only by a chance look at an advertisement in a newspaper. Perhaps the clergy were sent advanced notice but mine hasn't reached me.

Anyway this means that this year we shall have to make rather ad hoc arrangements for the week, and an announcement will be made later in the month. Certainly there will be opportunities in church to give.

SCHOOL WHIST DRIVE

The school whist drive made a profit of £19.1s.0d. and fifty people enjoyed a very pleasant evening. The prize-winners were; 1st Mrs. Donaldson and Mrs Harris; 2nd Mrs Keene and Mr Junger; 3rd Mrs Attridge and Mr Meeks. The winners of the raffle were: 1st Mrs Newton, 2nd Mrs Bethel, 3rd Mr Wingrove.

MR GILBERT STUBBINGS

We have heard with regret of the sudden death of Mr Gilbert Stubbings of Aylesbury, the brother of Mr R.G. Stubbings, our church treasurer and the chairman of the Parish Council. Our prayers and sympathy are with his family. May he rest in peace.

MOTHERS' UNION :

Mrs Newbury-Fox gave a stimulating talk at the March meeting at Winchmore Hill. She took as her theme 'Something for the Seventies' and asked us to think about our faith in relation to five subjects; satisfaction, serenity, service, sabbath-keeping and the second coming of Christ. It was a pleasure to see Mrs Trembath at the meeting

Lady Day when we commemorate the annunciation of Our Lord's birth has been transferred this year to Tuesday, 7 April. There will be an evening service of Holy Communion at All Saints at 7.30 as well as the usual Tuesday celebration at 10 am. The Mothers' Union has always observed Lady Day as a special day in the year.

Deanery Festival. This will take place on Tuesday, 28 April at St. Michael's at 2.30 pm.

ENGAGEMENT

It is a pleasure to hear of the engagement of Jessica, the daughter of Mr and Mrs Chenevix Trench of Windmill Farm to Jonathan Yardley of Beaconsfield. They plan to marry in September. We wish them every happiness in their life together.

COLESHILL AND THE AMERSHAM BY-PASS

The Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council was very well attended and a unanimous resolution was passed in favour of the southern route for the proposed Amersham by-pass. This route would take the by-pass on the Coleshill side of the town, near the hospital.

AMERSHAM NATIONAL TRUST

An Amersham branch of the National Trust has been formed and is holding a social evening on 15 April at 8 pm in St. John's Hall, Woodside Road. Slides of local National Trust property will be shown. There will be refreshments and a collection.

MARCH BABY

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Payne of Romany Cottage, The Bit, on the birth of their daughter, Santha Kate, on 4 March. She should have arrived in February but preferred to make her appearance on a day of deep snow in March which made things a lot more complicated for her parents.

INVLIDS

We have all missed seeing Miss Williams and Miss Baxter about during the last few weeks. Miss Baxter had a bad fall in February and injured her back. She has had to stay in bed and has been looked after by Miss Williams with the help of friends. We hope it will not be long before she is up and about again.

Mr Dennis Harris has not been well lately and has had to rest for six weeks. Mr. Wingrove has been making progress and has been able to take walks again around the village.

Finally we are glad to report that the Rector has recovered and will be able to work normally from Good Friday onwards.

TEACHERS AND AUTHORITY

It was suggested in an article in the last issue that it was morally wrong for teachers to strike, at the present time. I should have thought the decision could have been left to the teachers themselves to decide. 50,000 teachers from every type of school in England and Wales plus 50,000 teachers in Scotland and Ireland cannot all be wrong. It was the first national strike in a hundred years by teachers and was entered in after years of discussion and with the very greatest reluctance. We here, in this village, supported the strike but reduced its effects on the children to a minimum.

The teachers in this country are, at present, engaged in a struggle for professional status, for improved standards and qualifications and for an increased say in the whole field of education which, in the main, is still run by amateurs. (I am not using this word in any pejorative sense.) The trifling salary increase which has been won will put the writer of this article out of pocket at first and only shillings in pocket eventually. Hence money is a minor issue. "The conditions upon which God hath given liberty to man is eternal vigilance."

Several significant changes have been won by the teachers through efforts which have lasted many years. For example, representation on the Provisional Executives. First and foremost a right has been achieved to have a larger say in the educational patterns of the future. A professional council to govern the teaching profession in the same way the General Medical Council controls doctors has been recommended and agreed. Teachers will have to be registered and can be 'struck off'. The Council will control entry and training, standards and professional conduct. The Council will have a large majority of teachers on it.

From this will follow higher status and salaries for teachers and a higher and improving standard of education for every child in the State system of education. It is precisely that teachers are taking a higher view of their profession and status and wish to give greater service that a clash was inevitable with some entrenched members of the Burnham Committee. The fact that teachers were successful is a major victory for forward-thinking and enlightenment. The teachers in this village school are proud to have taken a small part in this important matter.

We are demanding the right to follow our chosen vocation more fully so that we can help our pupils to reach the fullest life possible. That is why the National Union of Teachers, for example (not a trade union but the Teachers' Learned Society) has had to clash head on with authority which was in danger of continuing to be a form of reaction.

We looked to parents and friends for their support and "were dismayed to see our motives impugned even through ignorance.

Francis Bacon says "As in nature things move violently to their place I (rest) calmly in their place, so virtue in ambition is violent, in authority settled and calm."

L.W.B.

OF INTEREST TO ALL PARENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

An open meeting has been arranged at the Council Chambers, Amersham, on Wednesday, 8 April, at 7.45 pm., which will be chaired by the Bishop of Buckingham. The theme is 'Pressures on the Family' and the Speakers are Dr. Margaret White, Mr H.C. Norton (Chairman of the Bench) and Mr D.W. Smith, a probation officer. It is felt that young people are bewildered by all the knowledge that is so readily available to them on drugs, sex etc. and that they and their parents would welcome some help in dealing with the problems that arise from the misuse of this information.

THE CHURCH FETE

There will be a meeting for everyone interested in helping with the Church Fete on Tuesday, 7 April, at Orchard House at 8.15 pm. Please don't leave it all to the old hands. We would very much welcome new ideas and new helpers.

SPRING WEDDINGS

The wedding took place at All Saints on Saturday, 21 March, between Christopher James (Jim) Kelly of 5 Chase Close, and Miss Janet England of Chestnut Lane, New Amersham. A reception was held in The Black Horse and the couple will live in Parkfield Avenue, New Amersham. We wish them every happiness in their married life.

Another wedding of interest to Coleshill people is on 2 April between Tim Weedon, the son of Mr and Mrs Weedon of Potters Meadow, and Miss Susan Forsyth of Leek Wootton, near Warwick. The couple will live at Leek Wootton for a time after their marriage where the bride has a farm. We wish them every blessing.

FLOWER ARRANGING

If you are a keen flower-arranger or want to know how to begin you will find illumination at the W.I. meeting on 9 April when Mrs Adamson will talk about and show some flower arrangements.

Easter will be here when the newsletter appears and there will be a new flower list on the church notice board awaiting signatures. Giving and arranging the flowers in church is a helpful way of remembering the anniversary of someone close to you or of thanking God for his many blessings.

CAN YOU HELP?

The Amersham branches of the 'Save the Children Fund' and 'Help the Aged Campaign' are combining to collect clothing for the elderly and young who are in need. If you have any serviceable clothes which you no longer want (but not shoes) you can take them to St. Michael's Hall, Amersham on Tuesday and Wednesday, 7 and 8 April from 10 am to 5 pm and from 7 pm to 9 pm.

ALL IN THE DEEDS - A GLIMPSE OF COLESHILL IN THE 19th CENTURY

Continuing the story of Wheatsheaf Cottage, its owners and tenants:

The Slades

By 1834 Edward Ivory's widow and two of their children were dead, leaving Daniel and Charlotte as heirs of his estate which was then valued at £234. The former 'Black Horse' was still divided into two cottages, and two members of the Slade family, Thomas and Job, lived in them. Another Slade, James, had bought the pot-kiln and kilnyard, but there were still 34 perches of land as part of the property. This was bounded to the north by a close of land called Potters Meadow (the name still continues), then part of Bowers Farm, and to the south by another close belonging to Bowers Farm called 'the Cow Pastures', formerly arable, but then planted with woods.

The London Relations

Daniel decided to buy out Charlotte's share and he borrowed £120 from his father's friend, John Page, the blacksmith. In 1835 he married a Coleshill girl, Martha Shrimpton. Evidently his family expenses were too much for him for in January 1838 with his debt still unpaid he sold the whole property to his wife's brother-in-law, James Muckley, of Henrietta Street, near Covent Garden. Muckley, too, came of a Coleshill family, but he had evidently prospered by his removal to London where he had a business as a herbalist and seedsman. Fortunately for the country cousins he and his wife were childless and when Lydia Muckley, his widow, died in London in 1854 she left all the Coleshill property to her sister Martha, the widow of Daniel Ivory. She also left two cottages at Larkins Green to Thomas Muckley, a licensed victualler of Coleshill.

The White Horse

When Martha Ivory died after her husband in 1866 part of the house was again being used as a public bar, this time called 'The White Horse'. This part of the house, which also had a parlour and adjoining brewhouse, she left to her son George, while the rest of the house, containing the cellar, small parlour and two bedrooms went to her daughter Mary. They were to share the well in the garden and the expense of its upkeep. There was another daughter, Sally, who also shared in the inheritance,

Money Problems

Martha had already mortgaged the property for £80 before her death, and George, a farm labourer, immediately added a further £50 to the mortgage, no doubt to pay for his mother's funeral and other expenses. The mortgagee was Charles Statham of Amersham, and the interest was 5%. Within a year George had sold the property to his sister Mary and her husband George Palmer of Winchmore Hill, a chairmaker. They took out a mortgage of £240 on it from the Wellers who were brewers in Amersham. But the new wealth of the 19th century had not enriched the country

villages and the small craftsmen. Agriculture was depressed and the villager's lot was hard. The Palmers could not keep up the interest on the mortgage and in 1370 they **surrendered** the Ivory inheritance.

The Man from London

The property was sold to Henry Turner of London Fields, Hackney, a baker, for £220. So one of the first Londoners to retire to Coleshill moved in. The effect on the former 'White Horse' was immediate. Up went the new front, which proclaimed London wealth rather than country taste, A new stable, coach-house and green-house were also added. But Coleshill was perhaps too great a change from Hackney and after seven years Henry Turner sold the house to Mrs Elizabeth Coleman, a widow from Amersham. The price was £625, a handsome sum.

It would certainly have astonished Edward Ivory, the potter. But even Henry Turner (or was it his wife?) who prided himself in 1870 on being up to date would never have dreamt how the next hundred years would change the village he had retired to.

(This article is based entirely on the title deeds of Wheatsheaf Cottage in the possession of Mr and Mrs Ewart Smith. Perhaps other people with interesting title deeds or memories of the village in the past would care to make a contribution to the newsletter)

P.N.

AMERSHAM CONCERT CLUB

The Robles Trio (harp, flute, viola) will give a concert on Friday, 10 April at 8 pm at Dr Challoner's Grammar School.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- April
- 3 (Fri.) Village-Hall Bridge Drive at 8 p.m.
 - 7 (Tues.) The Annunciation - Lady Day: HC at 10 a.m. & 7.30 p.m.
Church-Fete Meeting at Orchard House at 8.15 p.m.
Also clothes collected today at St Michael's Hall, Amersham
 - 8 (Wed.) Meeting on drugs & sex at Amersham Council Chambers: 7.45 p.m.
W.I. - Flower-Arranging 5
 - 9 (Thurs.) Mobile Library
 - 10 (Fri.) Amersham Concert Club: 8 p.m. at Dr Challoner's School.
 - 13 (Mon.) Christian-Aid Week begins
 - 15 (Wed.) National-Trust Meeting: 8 p.m., St John's Hall, Woodside Rd
 - 21 (Tues.) Village-Hall Annual General Meeting at 8.15 p.m.
The Lord Bishop's visitation of the deanery at St John's, H.Wyc.
 - 23 (Thurs.) Mobile Library
 - 25 (Sat.) Servers' Guild Office sung at All Saints' at 3.30 p.m.
St Mark's Day - HC at 11 a.m.
 - 28 (Tues.) M.U. Deanery Festival at St Michael's, Amersham, at 2.30 p.m.
 - 30 (Thurs.) All Saints' Church Committee at 8 p.m.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, COLESHILL

Priest-in-Charge: The Revd. J.S. Nightingale, The Parsonage (tel. 4229)
Pro-Churchwarden & Secretary: N.N. Nicholls, Orchard House (tel. 6734)
Pro-Treasurer: R.G. Stubbings, Springfield, Tower Road, (tel. 4738)

Every Sunday: 9.00 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION
10.15 a.m. Sunday School
6.00 p.m. Evensong

Every Tuesday: 10.00 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION

Every Wednesday: 7.30 p.m. HOLY COMMUNION

Every Friday: 12.00 noon HOLY COMMUNION

Morning and Evening Prayer each day at 8.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m.

For other services, please see the weekly notices in the church porch.

ST. ANDREW'S MISSION CHURCH, WINCHMORE HILL

HOLY COMMUNION on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 10.30 a.m.

ST. MARY'S PARISH CHURCH, AMERSHAM

Rector: The Revd. A. Campbell, M.A. (Cantab), Beaumont, Hervines Road, Amersham ((tel 7135) or St. Mary's Parish Office, Church Street (Tel 4712).

Sunday Services: 8.00 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION
10.00 a.m. Children's Service
11.00 a.m. 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays:
HOLY COMMUNION (New Service)
2nd & 4th Sundays: Mattins
6.00 p.m. Sung Evensong

Every Wednesday: 10.00 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION

Published by All Saints' Church Committee.