

August 1969

THE RECENT VOTE of the Anglican Convocations rejecting the proposed unity scheme (while the Methodist Conference at the same time accepted it) has brought much disappointment to some and relief to other.

It is certainly clear that this decision, like the astronauts' even more recent trip to the moon, was the subject of much prayer to God for his favour and guidance. Yet many of those who would have greeted a favourable vote all round for the scheme as demonstrably the will of God, cannot see his hand in what has happened. Is God's will seen to be done only when we get what we believe to be right when we believe it ought to happen?

I wonder whether God doesn't intend to say to the Church of England through this outcome: Put your own house in order and be united among yourselves before you get down to uniting with other Christians.

The Church of England may well have been right in trying in its history to reach an amalgam of the traditions of Catholicism and protestantism it has inherited, but where I believe it has gone wrong is in trying to include or 'comprehend' all the tenets and vagaries of these two traditions whether they're right or wrong, rather than in making a true synthesis of them by seeking and following from each only what is right and true. The next question is: Who decides what is right and true? The church can't do its job properly if it doesn't know the answer to this question.

THE NEWSLETTER

Since this newsletter began in March 1966, 42 issues ago, Mrs Dryden of Woodside Close, Amersham-on-the-Hill, has typed and duplicated it. We all owe her a great debt for this unstinting service, and she deserves a rest. Is there anyone who can type who will have a try a taking it on? You don't need to know how to work a duplicator: we can provide this and show you how to work it, or alternatively the two jobs of typing and duplicating can be divided among two or more people.

I do hope your holidays are happy and satisfying ones - please don't forget your duty of weekly public worship when you're away, will you. That is, for the Christian, God's first recipe for happiness.

J.S. Nightingale.

MARILYN JERRAM

It was good to see Marilyn Jerram walking about the village again after five weeks on her back in the nurses' sick bay of Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital. Marilyn had the misfortune to damage her back through lifting children, but now she has recovered we hope she won't have any more trouble of this sort.

3ABY GIRL

Congratulations to Mr & Mrs B.G. Lawson of 2 Church Cottages on the birth of Joanne Clare on Wednesday 25 June - their second child.

USED POSTAGE STAMPS

A letter of thanks has been received from the British Empire Campaign for Cancer Research for the $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. of used postage stamps dispatched recently. The value of used stamps is roughly:

Ordinary English stamps 4/- to 6/- per lb.

British special issues 7/6 to 12/6 per lb.

Foreign stamps 25/- per lb.

Our consignment was mixed and would have been worth about 10/-. Please continue saving your stamps.

SLIPPERY SLOPE

"In Germany they first came for the Communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me - and by that time there was no one left to speak up" (Pastor Niemoller).

QUID PETITIS AB ECCLESIA PRO TIMOTHEO? - INGRESSUM IN ECCLESIAM

Timothy James Leslie Blunt, aged just under 3 months, was baptised last month at All Saints'. It is our hope and prayer that Timothy will grow up to be a fine christian and member of the Church.

TIDY VILLAGE

It wasn't exactly a yellow submarine on Coleshill Pond one fine evening last month, but the Rann Family's yellow boat was the next best thing. Inspired by Mr & Mrs Weedon's yeoman work in cutting and carrying away the grass round the pond, an attempt was made to haul out some of the objects which had made their home in the water. Progress, because of the duck-weed, was slow, until the boat was suggested and launched on the pond. The crew netted a finehaul of tin cans and other litter, a garden rake, and the strange fin-like object which had stuck up above the water for months. It turned out to be nothing more dangerous than a handbag.

A good many other public-spirited people have worked hard in tidying the village, but it won't be known until after this newsletter is published whether we have been successful in the best-kept village competition.

W.V.S.

It is good to hear that so many Coleshill members of the W.V.S. are taking part in the running of a trolley service in Coleshill House and

Rushyhead. The W.V.S. do a great deal of quiet but valuable service for the community and several members of our church play an active part in the organisation.

DANCE IN THE VILLAGE HALL

The landlord of the Red Lion, Mr Percy Mountier, organised a dance on Friday 11 July in aid of the Pond's Home for Spastics, Seer & Green. It was the first one of its kind here and went very well, with well-nigh 200 to support it. After expenses had been deducted, the amount raised for Pond's was £45.12s. We very much hope that Mr Mountier will be sufficiently encouraged by this success to have another occasion like this in the not-too-distant future. He would meanwhile, through this newsletter, like to thank all those who did so much to make the dance go so well.

MR WILLIAM REDDING OF WINCHMORE HILL

We are sorry to hear of the death of Mr William Redding of The Little Cottage, Fagnall Lane, on Monday 14 July, aged 73. Mr Redding was travelling in a bus along Whielden Lane on his way to a medical examination at the hospital when he suffered a heart attack. We extend our sympathy to Mrs Redding in her bereavement.

Another bereavement at Fagnall Lane was the death of Mr Alfred Asher New, who lived at Chesham is the father of Mrs Mavis New of Anley Cottage. He died on the same day and his cremation took place at the local crematorium on the same afternoon as Mr Redding's, Friday 18 July.

ADDITION TO THE BIBLE?

Have you ever noticed that the New English Bible adds a verse to chapter 16 of St. Mark (after v.8)? The addition runs: "AND they delivered all these instructions briefly to Peter and his companions. Afterwards Jesus himself sent out by them from east to west the sacred and imperishable message of eternal salvation".

EARLY, WORK.

"At the corner of Well Road, THE LOGS, a formidable atrocity, 1868, by J.S. Nightingale. It exhibits yellow, red, and black brick, excrescence in all directions, arches pointed and round, motifs Gothic and Frenchified. The details of the tower are as wilful as if they were by Belcher about 1910" - From the description of Hampstead in Professor Nicholas Pevsner's "London, except the Cities of London and Westminster" in the Penguin series, "The Buildings of England". These county guides are cheap and well worth getting and using.

INVALIDS

Mrs Ellen Saunders, the widow of our late pro-churchwarden Mr Cyril Saunders who has been staying at a nursing home at Denham, has unfortunately fallen and broken her leg. She is at present in hospital at Ascott. Another broken leg, unfortunately a thigh, was sustained by Mrs Atzema who is of a ripe old age and lives in The Cottage, The Bit, Coleshill.

We do hope that both of these ladies will soon be healed and out of hospital.

FROM OUR MISSIONARY SOCIETY - the USPG

LO THERE. "Of course if you are looking for a condemnation of Socialism, Scripture is hardly the place"

SUNDAY SCHOOL

All Saints' Sunday School will be closed during the whole of August and will begin again on Sunday 7 September at 10.15a.m..

A PRIVATE PRAYER BEFORE PUBLIC WORSHIP

So I'm not late after all thank goodness I was afraid when I saw Mrs Goodbody in front of me that I was all behind she is notorious for arriving during the last verse of the first hymn if only I hadn't been quite so long out with the dog everything would have been all right and then what with getting home late from the dance last night the shoes hadn't been cleaned and then I discovered I hadn't anything under half-a-crown for the collection and after all that Jack coughed up for the drinks last night I couldn't possibly put in all that its funny how impossible it is to ask the next-door neighbour for change without being caught up in conversation about the weather and baby's teeth and what Mrs Green thought Mrs Brown said to Mrs Blade I wonder if Mrs Brown really said such a thing I wouldn't put it past her anyway I've managed to get here on time even if the choir are just going to begin after all it does look so irreverent to come rushing into church after everything has started. Amen.

AS WORN BY THE NOBILITY, CLERGY & GENTRY

Jumble Sales do not appear in the Stock Market closing reports, but along with I.C.I. and Unilever they have an important part to play in our economic life. With the minimum of capital expenditure, the nation disposes, exchanges and acquires, and a multitude of causes benefit from the profits. The Church Youth Club went into business last month and an enthusiastic labour force filled the parish room with furs, boots, birdcages and clothes of every description. A brisk trade was done with the 100 or so purchasers, and at the end of the evening many bargains were still to be had at a penny each. The final total was £18.16.6d. half of which at the club's suggestion went to the church. A grand barbecue followed a fortnight later and before the holidays are over we hope to have a club outing.

OUTING TO LITTLEHAMPTON

Thursday 14 August - 7.30a.m. from Coleshill Church

Sunday School, choir and youngsters' discussion group free.

Otherwise 13/- a head for adults & children who take up a seat.

Please apply to the priest-in-charge or Mrs Jean Pusey, Little Bowers.

AMERSHAM OF YESTERDAY

Few areas within a distance of thirty miles of the Metropolis have seen such drastic changes as Amersham within living memory. The Old Town with its gracious and wide high street and town hall looks much the same as it did some sixty years ago, thanks to the efforts of the Georgian Society, except that in those days one did not take one's life in one's hands to cross that wide street as is the case today.

The fine Georgian mansion Elnodesham House that the Council now occupies was the home of the Cochrane family. Mr Cochrane was Clarenceaux King-at-Arms. Further along the high street on the corner of Cherry Lane was the house occupied by a much-loved person, Dr Gardiner, a famous athlete when young. He stroked the Cambridge crew for two years running and his study was full of silver cups won for boxing and other sports. It was even rumoured that he indulged in the secret and illegal practice of cock fighting in a barn at Affric's farm near Little Kingshill which he owned. He made his rounds in a chauffeur driven Lancia limousine and was never known to set out without a fresh flower in his button-hole. His partner, Dr Hardwicke, who was held in high esteem and lived at what is now known as Amersham-on-the-Hill, sported an open De Dion Bouton motor car which was reputed to have covered a quarter of a million miles before he parted with it. For its size, the Old Town possessed a record number of public houses and its inhabitants were not renowned for their sobriety; in fact it used to be a standing joke that anyone the worse for drink at Marylebone Station was put on the Amersham train.

The Old Town owes its character largely to the squire Thomas Tyrwhitt Drake who refused to let the railway of that day - known as the Great Central and Metropolitan Joint Committee - follow the path of least resistance on its way to Aylesbury, by following the route of the River Misbourne, through the park of Shardeloes, thus forcing it up onto the hill to the north, Amersham-on-the-Hill hardly existed in those days, - the residential area, such as it was, being confined to Chesham Bois. Land could then be bought for about forty pounds an acre.

The first World War really saw the beginning of development on the hill. Many folk came down in order to avoid the air raids and, finding the neighbourhood healthy, settled there. The first shops to be built were in Station Parade under the railway arch. They consisted of a Post Office, now the sales room of Pretty & Ellis, a grocer and an outfitter - the latter still in business. Sycamore Road was then a quiet country lane.

The old Great Central which, incidentally, never paid its way from its inauguration, was a line to be proud of. The immaculately kept locomotives, painted apple green, with their gleaming brass and squat funnels pulled their equally immaculate rolling stock which were the acme of comfort and cleanliness. The first class carriages were beautifully upholstered and the return first class fare was then about four shillings.

The Metropolitan, in contrast, was quite one of the most uncomfortable forms of transport. The carriages were old, dirty and worn out, with straight upright backs and the minimum of leg room, the engines also were old and dirty and painted a dull red.

The first bus service to start up after the 1914-18 war was run by a local company known as the Amersham and District Haulage Company. The initial service ran between High Wycombe and Chesham at very long intervals. With solid tyres, the buses gave a very rough ride. They were deliberately driven off the road by the General Omnibus Company who undercut them in fares. The buses in those days filled a great social need, since the private motor car was a comparatively rich man's luxury.

Anon.

LEAVING COLESHILL

Mr & Mrs R.G. Barrett of Friars Lane, Barrack Hill, Captain & Mrs Kerswell of Park End Cottage and Mr & Mrs D.W.T. Shannon of 3 Amber Cottages have all left Coleshill during July. We shall especially miss Mr Barrett who has been a familiar figure in the village - friendly and good-humoured. He has been a member of the Church Committee and has served as honorary auditor of the church accounts.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

August

- 6 (Wed) The Transfiguration of Our Lord - HC: 7.30p.m.
- 7 (Thur) The Holy Name of Jesus - HC 7.30p.m.
- 14 (Thur) Outing to Littlehampton leaves Coleshill Church at 7.30a.m.
Mobile Library
- 15 (Fri) THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY - HC 12 & 7.30p.m.
- 24 (Sun) St Bartholomew, the Apostle - HC 9a.m.

What's expected of a Christian congregation - Quality rather than quantity.

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** IDLY COMMUNION

Morning and Evening Prayer each day at 8 a.m. and 6 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 10.30a.m.

ST. MARY'S PARISH CHURCH, AMERSHAM

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

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

Every Wednesday: **10.00 a.n.** HOLY COMMUNION.