

February 1968

My Dear Friends,

The time between Christmas and Lent is only very short and here we are on February 28th with Ash Wednesday.

Lent is not an old fashioned period of six weeks in the Church Calendar. It is something vital to the life of Christians. There has been no other time in the history of the world when everything has been moving with such speed, when everybody is in such a hurry and no one has any time to do anything for anyone else, let alone for themselves. What a God given opportunity Lent is to pause for a time and think, or better still, listen to God. "Be still and know that I am God" says the psalmist. We sometimes forget.

Yours sincerely,

Allan Campbell. Rector.

### SPECIAL NOTICES

In addition to the customary services at St. Mary's and All Saints' the following will be held in February:

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21st. The Parochial Church Council have been discussing the new Holy Communion Service for several months. Before reaching any decision, they ask to be present at a service when it is used. A special service for this purpose will be held at St. Mary's on Wednesday 21st February at 8p.m. All Colehill Church members are invited to attend.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25th. Parish of Amersham-with-Colehill Annual General Meeting at St. Mary's Church Room immediately following Evensong at St. Mary's at 6p.m. There will be no Evensong at All Saints on that day.

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28th. All Saints: Holy Communion 11a.m.

### THE CHURCH AND A NEW DIMENSION IN DRAMA

There will be a Lenten Service at St. Mary's at 8p.m. each Wednesday during Lent and all people at Colehill are invited to attend.

The first of these will be held on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 28th and will take the form of a unique solo dramatic presentation by John Stuart Anderson of the "Serpent and Prophet", a melodrama drawn from the Old Testament and Apocrypha.

John Stuart Anderson, a young British actor, has made a name for himself for his striking presentations in the field of drama today and has given performances at over 2 dozen cathedrals in this country and the United States. Programmes will be sold to defray the cost of the venture and may be obtained in Colehill from Mrs. Ovington.

ALL SAINTS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Rector, the Reverend Allan Campbell, M.A., presided at this meeting on January 17th.

Presenting the accounts, Mr. G.T.Creber, hon. treasurer, said that the offertory income showed a small increase upon the previous year's figure and with the fixed quota running at £558 p.a. it was only the substantial covenant income that enabled overhead expenses to be covered. A welcome sum of £23 had been received as a result of two organ recitals. The dominating feature of the accounts was the sum of £243 paid to establish the legal ownership of the Parsonage, which necessitated the retention of £265 of the Fete proceeds, the remaining £30 being transferred to the Fabric Fund.

The Fabric Fund stood at £781 and a substantial part of this would have to be paid out during 1968 for the installation of electric heaters and church repairs.

Two electric heaters had been installed and the Rector said that repairs to the roof of the vestry, which was in a very bad state, would commence as soon as the old electric wires were removed.

The pro-churchwardens, Mr. C.Saunders and Mr. N.N.Nicholls and the hon. treasurer, Mr.G.T.Creber, were re-elected and Mr.N.N.Nicholls agreed to continue as hon. secretary. Miss M.Malyan and Mr. D.K.Bungey were added to the Committee. The following were appointed to represent the Committee: Parochial Church Council: Miss Boston, Mrs. Dryden, Mrs Harris, Miss Williams, Messrs Creber, Nicholls, Saunders and Stubbings; Moral Welfare: Mrs. Nicholls; Missions: Miss Williams; Village Hall: Mrs. Harris.

It was agreed to accept Mr.and Mrs Raymond Pusey's kind offer to allow the fete to be held at Little Bowers on Saturday, June 8th, and the Committee appointed at the previous meeting, viz. Mrs.Ovington, Mrs.R.Pusey, Mrs Nicholls, Mrs Young, Mr.Saunders and Mr.Nicholls were asked to make the necessary arrangements.

CHURCH FLOWER ROTA

Sunday, February 11	Mrs. Grindley Mrs. Harrison	February 18th 25th	Mrs. Kunzer Miss Malyan
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Thanks are extended to:

Mr. Holder for a red chasuble in addition to the other chasubles which he presented last month, £ ad to

Miss S. Boston for making two new white alms bags for use at festivals.

## HYMNS AND SOME OF THEIR ORIGINS

"A hymn is a song with praise of God  
If thou praisest God and singest not, thou utterest no hymn  
If thou singest and praisest not God, thou utterest no hymn;  
A hymn then containest these three things  
Song and praise and that of God".

This description of a hymn was written some fifteen hundred years ago by St. Augustine and seems a fitting prelude to some stories of hymns and their writers.

Two hymns which we sing frequently were produced under some very unusual circumstances.

### "Rock of Ages"

"Rock of Ages Cleft for Me", written by the Reverend Augustus Toplady in the late eighteenth century is a case in point. One day, walking through a glen in the Mendip hills, Toplady was overtaken by a violent thunderstorm. There was no shelter at hand, but having caught sight of a deep cleft running down a rocky ledge, he hastened to seek protection. Crouching beneath the rock, his thoughts turned to the spiritual significance of his experience, reminding him of another refuge and strength, and so the words of the famous hymn took shape in his mind. He found he had no paper on which to write but he caught sight of a playing card lying on the ground and picking it up, he managed to write the hymn on the back. This card is still preserved in America. The hymn is usually sung to a tune by R.Redhead who was born some fifty years after Toplady's death.

### "Our Blest Redeemer"

An almost stranger story is connected with the well known Whitsun hymn "Our Blest Redeemer". The author, Harriet Auber, lived a very quiet life with a friend in a village in Hertfordshire. One Whit Sunday, Miss Auber was resting in her room thinking over the sermon she had heard that morning when the words of this hymn came to her mind. After an unsuccessful search for pencil and paper, and being anxious to set the words down while still fresh in her mind, she took off a diamond ring and scratched the verses on the window pane. After her death an antique dealer tried to buy this very unusual manuscript from the owner of the house. Unfortunately, permission was refused and a little later the glass was cut out of the window and stolen. Since then its whereabouts has never been discovered. There seems no doubt that this hymn was scratched on the window, but there is no direct proof that Miss Auber herself scratched it. The tune commonly used was written by the Reverend J.B.Dykes, a minor Canon and Precentor of Durham Cathedral. He was joint editor of "Hymns, Ancient and Modern".

## "All Glory, Laud and Honour"

On Palm Sunday, 821 A.D., King Louis the Pious of France was riding through the streets of Angers on his way to Church. Crowds waiting to see the glittering procession were startled when the king suddenly stopped and appeared to be listening intently. A hush fell on the crowd and a man could be heard singing in a dungeon near the route. It was possible to see a radiant face through the bars of the cell and, on making enquiries, the King was told that the prisoner was Theodulph, Bishop of Orleans, who had been imprisoned on false charges. Deeply moved, the King ordered his immediate release and commanded that the song which he had heard should henceforth be sung always on Palm Sunday.

This was the hymn "All glory, laud and honour", written by Theodulph during his imprisonment. In the original form, it had 39 verses, one of them being:

"Be Thou, O Lord, the rider  
And we the little ass  
That to God's Holy City  
Together we may pass"

This verse was always sung up to the 17th century, but since then we are told that "it has been considered not quite suitable for congregational singing". The English version of the hymn is by Dr. James Mason Neale. The melody of the present tune was written about 1613; this was adapted and harmonised by J.S. Bach.

## WOMEN'S DAY OF PRAYER

Women's World Day of Prayer will be celebrated by a united service at the Baptist Chapel, Coleshill on Friday March 1st at 2.30p.m. This is international and interdenominational and the object of the service, which is held annually, is to unite women all over the world in prayer on a theme selected by a different country each year. For 1968 the theme will be "Bear one another's burdens" and was selected by the Asian Church Women's Conference.

Dr. H. M. Haythornthwaite, M.B., B.S. will give an address on medical work in India for 40 years.

Our young musicians reflect great credit upon their teacher. Anthony White has gained a place as a junior exhibitor at the Royal Academy of Music, London, where he will study the French horn, and the following successes have been obtained in the examinations of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music:

Jennifer Creber: Grade 1 Violin; Robert Griffiths: Grade 1 Violin with merit; Pauline Antosewicz: Grade 3 Flute with merit; Lorna Pusey: Grade 6 Flute with merit.

## THE OLDEST ROAD THROUGH COLESHILL

In prehistoric times, the cross country roads (or rather, tracks) were very often made on alignments from a sequence of high points along the route and this procedure was also largely used by those industrious roadmakers, the Romans, when they occupied Britain.

Also, prehistoric trackways in this district were marked at intervals by what are locally called "pudding stones". Over the border in Hertfordshire, these are conglomerates, but in the Chilterns they are sandstone blocks, the main supply coming from Denner Hill, although they also occur at Prestwood and in other areas in the chalk.

It is fascinating to follow these early roads, some of which are 3 or 1+ thousand years old. They can be traced by significantly local names as well as by marker stones, although many of these have been removed to make garden rockeries.

One such road runs from Ley Hill at Chesham (ley being the old English word for aligning point) across the River Chess and up the equally significantly named Hollow Way Lane in Chesham Bois.

It can no longer be traced through Amersham on the Hill, although from a point there another "ley" must have been made to Coleshill, for this old track went up Gore Hill (the original lane and not the present road) past Cold Harbour Farm (another name which always indicates the proximity of ancient roads), and a further "ley" was then taken to the high point of Penn; and so on - this particular track having now been traced southwards across the Thames and nearly to the Sussex coast.

Although not particularly associated with this very ancient road through Coleshill, a considerable amount of broken pottery has been ploughed up from time to time on the hillside below the water tower, which could well suggest that the original centre was nearer to Amersham than it is now.

L.E.Pike.

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The organisers of the Church Fete, to be held on Saturday, June 8th, ask people to cherish with loving care crockery and pottery which does not come up to the household standard but which will prove very attractive on the smashing stall.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

On December 30th 1967. a party was held in the Village Hall for all members of the Sunday School. Those same children who come week after week to join in worship at Church joined in the fun and games as one huge happy family.

The party commenced with games and was followed by tea, and judging from the children's faces and appetites, this was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The usual type of games then continued until it was time to go home, each child being presented with a small gift upon departure.

We should like to thank all who made the party such a success - the Women's Institute who kindly donated a sum of money, the families who helped financially, the ladies who found time to cook such tempting cakes and savouries, and last, but by no means least, the unexpected helpers on the day. To all of you, we say "Thank you".

J.P.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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| Thur. Feb 1 | Mobile Library Van, Coleshill.   |
| Tues 6      | Sisterhood. Talk by Miss Williams upon her recent visit to Africa, illustrated with coloured slides.<br>Coleshill Cricket Club. Red Lion 8p.m. |
| Thur. 8     | W.I. Mrs. Neale - First Aid in the Home. Trading stall   |
| Thur. 15    | Mobile Library Van, Coleshill.<br>Mothers Union at Mrs. Lewis's.   |
| Tues 20     | Sisterhood. Open meeting arranged by Mrs. Chambers   |
| Wed. 21     | Special Holy Communion Service, St. Mary's, 8p.m.  |
| Sun. 25     | Amersham-with-Coleshill Annual General Meeting at St. Mary's immediately following Evensong  |
|             | 28 ASH WEDNESDAY. Holy Communion, All Saints 11 a.m.<br>Dramatic performance at St. Mary's 8 p.m.  |
| Fri. Mch 1  | Women's Day of Prayer, Baptist Chapel, Coleshill, 2.30p.m.   |
| Wed. 6      | Whist Drive in aid of Coleshill School, 7.30p.m.   |
| Sat. June 8 | Church Fête.   |

SERVICES

ALL SAINTS, COLESHILL

Every Sunday:

9.00a.m. Parish Communion  
10.00a.m. Sunday School

2nd, Sunday:

6.00p.m. Evensong

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY,  
AMERSHAM

8.00a.m. Holy Communion  
10.00a.m. Children's Service  
11.00a.m. 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays  
Sung Eucharist  
2nd & 4th Sundays  
Mattins  
6.00p.m. Evensong,

RECTOR: The Revd. Allan Campbell, M.A., Tel: Amersham 1135

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

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

HON. TREASURER: G.T. Creber, Applecroft, Meadowcot Lane, Coleshill.  
Tel: Amersham 3350