

February 1969

LENT

How awful - a time when you give things up. No, this is unfair to Lent. But this is the way it's popularly represented; and so we don't like Lent, we hope it won't come round in a hurry and when it does come we hope we can pass it by without its noticing. But it is here again - on February 19th - and we can, if we want to, see it for what it really is: an opportunity for getting closer to God, that is, becoming more integrated as a person, being your true self more fully. If we accept that this is a supreme aim and welcome Lent as an opportunity, the question then is, How? What shall we do or not do in Lent?

There isn't one detailed answer that applies to everyone. It all depends on the state of your soul, on the stage you've reached. If you're still at the stage of letting any days go by without saying your private prayers, or without worshipping publicly every Sunday (grave cause not preventing you), then obviously God is calling you to start there - to let Him bring you up to normal, ordinary Christian practice. But others are at different stages and God is calling them in different ways. He calls one to read more about his faith, another to love the hard-to-love neighbour, another to come to a week-day Eucharist, another to some real work in private intercession or another, in his leisure, to engage in some special Christian activity for others. You have to ask the Holy Spirit to help you find out where you are to move forward.

DISCUSSION GROUPS

One particular thing we, as a congregation, hope to do in Lent is have a discussion group on Friday evenings. The first meeting will be at The Old Parsonage on 23th February at 8p.m. and the dates of the next meetings will be announced in Church and in the next Newsletter. Our aim is to grow in our appreciation of how our faith and our world today are related, to grow in friendship and fellowship as a congregation and to explore practical ways forward. You could call it THE CHURCH- 1969. Please come - even if you're not regularly in Church, or feel rebellious about the Church.

WEEKDAYS

I've had several requests for celebrations of the Communion during the week and among the many things we shall be building up in the future these must have a vital place, I've been asked for one on a weekday morning and another in the evening. I suggest we try Tuesdays at 10 a.m. and Wednesdays at 7.30p.m. Do let me know if other times would suit you better - I can always change them. I hope that mothers with young chil-

children who find it difficult to get to Church on Sundays at 9 will find the Tuesday service meets their particular need. I want to explore the idea of having a nursery for the children during that service, possibly at my house, with coffee afterwards for anyone who likes to come, but until we have worked out the best arrangements please don't hesitate to bring your children with their prams into Church. These services will take place regularly each week, starting at the beginning of Lent. I do hope you will find them helpful - and they do offer a way of making it up if you miss your Sunday duty.

I want especially to thank villagers for all their kindness while my wife was in hospital - for the splendid meals they gave me, and for taking me about while my car was being repaired. You certainly make me feel I belong.

T. J. Nightingale.

#### ANY UNWANTED BOOKS?

Miss S. Boston has suggested that we respond to the appeal from the 'Feed the Minds' campaign for any unwanted books on theology, philosophy or psychology, to be sent to those who could make good use of them overseas. If you can help, books can be left at the Parsonage or Waller's Oak.

#### WOMEN'S DAY OF PRAYER

This year the Women's World Day of Prayer will be celebrated at Coleshill by a united service at All Saints' on Friday, 7th March at 2.30 p.m. This is international and interdenominational and the object of the service, which is held annually on the first Friday in March, is to unite women all over the world in prayer on a theme selected by a different country or countries each year. For 1969, the theme will be "Growing together in Christ" and this and the scriptures and prayers were proposed by women in Sierra Leone, Ghana, South Africa, Congo, Zambia and Kenya.

An address will be given by Mrs. D. R. Croad.

#### BRIDGE DRIVE

Bridge-playing friends of the Village Hall are asked to make up parties for the bridge drive in aid of the village hall which is to be held there on Friday, 7th March at 3 p.m. The price of admission will be 7/6 per person and tickets will be obtainable from any member of the Committee.

The same pair will play together all the evening but will meet another pair at the end of each rubber.

## ROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS OR SO -

Mr and Mrs Giles Howard have sent vivid reports back of their world tour, and we're sorry there's only space here for a rough summary and some extracts.

### NEW YORK AND JAMAICA

They arrived in New York on 9th November to find that the Hilton Hotel had disposed of their rooms to some conference delegates, and it was only after a night spent elsewhere and a great deal of trouble that they got then back. Everything in New York was very expensive - a glass of orange juice cost 15/- - and the residents of the Hilton had to queue in the corridors to get into any of the hotel's three restaurants. From the bitter cold of New York they flew to temperatures of the 80s at Montego Bay in Jamaica - to tropical thunderstorms, scarlet poinsettias and bougainvilleas and calypso serenades. They drove to the north coast to see the ruins of the great house, Rose Hall, where a woman called Annie Palmer had lived in the 1830s. 'She was the owner and mistress of the 7,000-acre sugar estate belonging to Rose Hall and was an Irish woman, though brought up in Haiti, where she learnt a lot of black magic. She murdered 3 husbands at Rose Hall as well as various slaves, whose bodies she had cremated in the grounds!'

On 'Stir-Up Sunday' they went to the Sung Eucharist at St. James's, Montego Bay, and besides finding that, like us, they used the new rite, they were struck by the general friendliness of the coloured congregations who took pains to speak to them afterwards. 'A great many of the women and girls wear white on Sundays and they really do look marvellous; they have white hats and gloves and shoes, and their dresses look as if they had all been freshly laundered specially for Sunday.' Two of the waiters in their hotel asked them about working conditions in England, 'which they seem to visualise as a land where every street is paved with gold. One of them told us that he was employed for 6 months out of 12, pay £5.10s. gross a week, 12 hours a day, and one day off in 8. It certainly sounded like sweated labour - they have to earn enough in 6 months to support them and their families for a year'. The sugar industry is a dying one and there aren't enough jobs to go round so that the Jamaican's one ambition is to get to England, 'work like mad for a few years and save enough to come back to Jamaica and build themselves a house for their old age'.

### California

December 1st found them in Los Angeles and they managed to see something of Hollywood. A shampoo and set cost £4, and they had the unfortunate experience of having their briefcase stolen. It contained all their airline tickets, Mrs Howard's passport and all Mr Howard's business correspondence. After much rushing round they got a new passport and new tickets, and then flew on to San Francisco which impressed them enormously

with its steep hills, street cable-cars and the Golden-Gate suspension bridge.

### Fiji

The next stop was Fiji where, compared with the Jamaican villagers they got a friendly welcome from the local population. 'We think the difference must be that the Jamaicans can't get over the fact that they were once slaves, whereas the Fijians have always been free, though cannibals - welcoming smiles for the white man may date back to that time!' In one of the villages Mr Howard was garlanded with flowers and ceremoniously offered the local drink. 'With fascinated horror we watched this potion being made - the Chief had what looked like something in a dirty bag which they poured water over, and then the Chief wrung out the bag into the tub and swirled it round with his hands!' Both acquitted themselves well and gulped down the brew. 'If anybody wants to know what lukewarm, very dirty washing-up water tastes like, we can now tell them!'

### Australia and Tasmania

Then it was on to Sydney, where they found no Christmas shopping rush and no decorations. The same was true of Hobart, Tasmania, where they spent Christmas in rather cold, damp weather. St. David's Cathedral was packed for the Christmas services and, instead of holly, was decorated with golden privet and madonna lilies. Christmas dinner was completed with strawberries fresh from the garden.

Their last letter is from Melbourne where they arrived on January 3rd at the height of the summer sales and found Australian shopping manners very bad. After stopping at Perth they mean to go on to South Africa and we hope to welcome Mr and Mrs Howard back early in March.

### EVENSONG EVERY SUNDAY EVENING

This is just to remind you that, beginning on the first Sunday in Lent (Feb 23) Evening Prayer will be sung every Sunday in All Saints', and not only twice a month as has happened since January 1967.

### GIVING OVERSEAS IN 1968

Last year All Saints' sent a total sum of £87 overseas - either to missions or to help the impoverished, and this is a splendid increase on the £47.12s.6d. we sent in 1967 and the £37 in 1966. Most of the total was made up of special donations, and if there is any one person to whom we particularly owe the achievement it is Miss Williams. Let's all make sure that in 1969 we don't rest on our laurels but continue the increase. The extent to which it gives beyond its own borders is one of the great tests of a church's quality of life.

## RAANS SCHOOL SPEECH DAY AND PRIZEGIVING

The Twelfth Annual Speech Day and Prizegiving of Raans County Secondary School was held on 20th November 1968.

In his report, Mr F.A.C. Lawrence, B.Sc., the Headmaster, said that 1968, their second year as a boys' school, had been a very busy and productive one. The number of boys at the beginning of the year was 332, an increase of about 10%; and nearly 80% of the previous fourth year forms stayed for a fifth year, the highest number in the history of the school staying voluntarily after the official school leaving age.

Clubs and societies flourished and it was a common sight to see boys on the premises some two hours after school had closed officially for the day. Games of many kinds were very popular and the school band was in demand at many local events, their highlight being the invitation to play at the National Schools' Festival in Oswestry in June.

To date, £1000 had been raised for the fund to enclose and heat the school swimming-bath and several hundreds of pounds had been sent to a number of charities during the year.

Proud as the school was of its extra curricular record, the importance of work in the classrooms must not be overlooked for it was there that one learned to think, and to learn the value of conscientiousness and perseverance. Results of examinations were exceptionally good. 31 boys gained passes in 78 subjects out of 110 taken, this pass rate of 71% being the best in the history of the school. In the C.S.E. 37 boys passed in 172 subjects with 36 Grade 1 successes.

Pupil-staff relationships, health and social problems, administration and school meal organisation depend for their successful handling on good constructive team work. Mr Lawrence was proud to be the leader of a first class team and was grateful for the opportunity to express his appreciation and thanks to the many people who contribute so much throughout the year.

The prizes were given away by Lady Bellinger and an address was given by her husband, Sir Robert Bellinger, formerly Lord Mayor of London.

## IN HOSPITAL

Mr. Jim Ware, an old village character, is very poorly in Amersham Hospital. There is much thought and concern in the village for him. Certainly he is having first-class treatment and is in no pain. Please pray for him and his brave wife.

## WHIST DRIVE

A whist drive in aid of school funds will be held on Wednesday, 5th March and further particulars will be published in the next number.

## EXCITEMENT AT THE MOTHERS' UNION

Let no-one say that our Mothers' Union meetings are staid; After a talk and discussion on the problems raised by the new Abortion Act, Mrs P. Harris fell over the threshold with a large pot of scalding tea. Miraculously, neither she nor anyone else sitting near was harmed, but we all leapt to our feet and minutes later one of the lights overhead crashed down where someone had been sitting. If you want excitement, join the Mothers' Union!

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Feb 2 (Sun) The Purification - Candlemass at 9 a.m.  
4 (Tues) Baptist Sisterhood - open meeting & Bring & Buy; 2.45  
11 (Tues) All Saints' Church Committee Meeting at 8 p.m.  
All Saints' Annual Church Meeting at 8.45 p.m.  
13 (Thur) Travelling library at Coleshill  
W.I. 2.30 - Mr R. Woolcott: 'A Tale of Two Cities'  
14 (Fri) - 17 (Mon) Half-term holiday at Coleshill School  
16<sup>+</sup> (Sun) Evensong at St. Mary's, Amersham at 6 p.m.  
Amersham-with-Coleshill Annual Parish Meeting in the  
Church Rooms at 7 p.m.  
13 (Shrove Tues) Baptist Sisterhood Bible study at Mrs Edwards: 2.45  
Village Hall Committee at 8.15 p.m.  
19 ASH WEDNESDAY (1st day of Lent) - H.C. at 10 a.m. and ~~7.30~~<sup>8</sup> p.m.  
20 (Thur) Mothers' Union at Winchmore Hill at 2.30 p.m.  
24 (Mon) St. Matthias, the Apostle - H.C. at ~~7.30 a.m.~~<sup>8 p.m.</sup>  
27 (Thur) Travelling library at Coleshill  
28 (Fri) Discussion Group at The Old Parsonage at 8 p.m.  
Mar 5 (Wed) Whist Drive in aid of the School  
7 (Fri) Bridge Drive in aid of the Village Hall  
Apr 18 (Fri) Wine and Cheese party in aid of the Village Hall  
Jun 14 (Sat) Church Fete

'Nowher so bisy a nan as he ther nas,  
And yet he samed bisier than he was.'

- The Sergeant of the Law in the Canterbury Tales.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, COLESHILL

Priest-in-Charge: The Revd. J.S.Nightingale, The Parsonage (tel.722)  
Pro-Churchwarden & Secretary: N.N.Nicholls, Orchard House, (tel.1834)  
Pro-Treasurer: G.T.Creber, Applecroft, Meadowcot Lane, (tel.3350)

Every Sunday            9 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION  
                              10 a.m. Sunday School

2nd & 4th Sundays     6 p.n. Sung Evensong

Morning and Evening Prayer each day at 7 a.m. and 6 p.n.

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

ST. ANDREWS MISSION CHURCH, WINCHMORE HELL

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(1135); or St. Mary's Parish Office, Church Street (1712):

Sunday Services:        8 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION  
                              10 a.m. Children's Service  
                              11 a.m. 1st, 3rd & 3th Sundays:  
  HOLY COMMUNION (New Service)  
  2nd & 4th Sundays: Mattins  
                              6 p.n. Sung Evensong

Every Wednesday:     HOLY COMMUNION at 10.00a.m.