

January 1970

DO YOU BELIEVE IN PURGATORY ?

I hope you do, for it is a source of inexpressible hope and joy for christians.

No Christian can claim that when he dies he is worthy enough to see God face to face in heaven. Such a claim would be the worst kind of pride, because when we leave this life we still have in our natures the effects of sin and ignorance which stain every soul. If therefore when we die we are imperfect and not yet fit for heaven, the only alternative is hell, unless there is an intermediate state where our sinfulness and its effects will be done away and our natural ignorance progressively enlightened. Here is the hope and joy of purgatory - the chance of cleansing and enlightenment by God so that made ready by him we may enjoy for ever the home he has prepared for us. A scheme of life after death without purgatory only induces feelings of pride or despair here on earths either "I'm going to heaven (i.e. I think myself already made worthy to go)", or "I realise I'm not worthy to go to heaven, so I can't go". Thank God he has in store for us more purity and knowledge than even the best of us dare acknowledge in ourselves in this life.

And to anybody who has read thus far, and wonders why I'm wasting any time at all discussing such an occult thing as the distinction between the states in a problematical after-life, I can only reply how very odd it is that we should spend so much time and trouble in Britain trying to prolong our earthly existence for just a few years and hardly bother at all about gaining life for ever

CHRISTIAN UNITY

I hope Christians in our two villages will keep the annual week of prayer for Christian unity which falls during this month. We must try ever harder to seek for unity, but this movement, ecumenism, is of course not an end in itself - love and truth are.

J.S.M.

MRS. MARY HARRIS

Mrs. Mary (Polly) Harris, formerly of Bottle Cottages, who died on 20 December at the age of 89, was buried in the churchyard on 23 December after a funeral which was attended by many villagers. Until she went to live with her daughter in Amersham, Mrs. Harris was said to be Coleshill's oldest resident. She was fortunate in remaining active until the day of her death. May perpetual light shine upon her.

### MR MICHAEL CANFIELD

Mr Michael Canfield of Hertfordshire House suffered a heart attack and died while flying home from America on 20 December. His premature death at the age of 43 was a sad shock and our prayers are with Mrs Canfield at a time of great distress. He was buried in the churchyard on 24 December. May he rest in peace.

### CHRISTMAS CRIB COLLECTION

The money given at the crib this year which is to be divided equally between the Magila Hospital in Masasi Diocese, Tanzania, and 'Shelter' the organisation to help the homeless in Britain, has amounted to £17.2s. (including a single gift of £10) at the time of going to press. We are grateful to everyone who contributed,

### IN HOSPITAL

We are very sorry that Mrs Baldwin, Miss Crighton and Mr. Leith have all been in Amersham Hospital. We wish them a speedy recovery.

Mr. L.J. Edwards of Globe House has also been unwell for some time, and we trust that it won't be long before he's back to normal again.

### THE MAGPIES

We were very sorry to see the departure of Mr and Mrs Knight from the Magpies public house after a tenancy of close on fourteen years. They have gone to live at Wendover - but not without a very pleasant farewell night on 10 December. We wish them every happiness in their retirement.

We wish every happiness too to Mr. Jim Petit, the new landlord, and his wife and three sons who come from London. May his tenancy be a long one.

### 50 YEARS IN THE CHOIR

Congratulations to Mr. Raymond Pusey of Little Bowers on completing fifty years in the church choir, a service for which All Saints people are very grateful. In an age when nearly everyone moves from place to place this sort of record is becoming increasingly rare. We hope there will be many more years to add to it yet.

### QUEEN ELIZABETH I'S WORDS ON THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Christ's was the word that spake it,  
Christ's was the hand that brake it;  
And what that word doth make it  
That I believe and take it.

### IN OUR OWN INTERESTS

At a time when a flu epidemic has made it almost impossible to get into hospital unless your case is an emergency one, we read of wards having to close because there aren't enough nurses. In Stoke Mandeville a brand-new maternity unit has been standing empty since the autumn because there is no one to staff it. Clearly there is a nursing crisis which will get worse unless the public press the nurses' case for better pay and conditions. We suggested to Miss Love-day Pusey that she should write a short article on the nurses' case, and this appears below. If you want to do something practical about it forms are available, and we hope to have some in church, which you can sign and send to the Minister of Health supporting the nurses' cause.

### FAIR PAY FOR NURSES

Nurses are fighting for fair conditions, not just for themselves but for their patients.

The recruitment of student nurses has fallen almost by half in the last two years. Why? Because of the hours that nurses work, and the conditions they have to work under. Naturally a student nurse has to do her practical training, but this takes up a full working week, and her equally important theoretical studies have to be fitted in after she has worked an 8-hour shift. All this for £7 a week to live on. To work a 40-odd hour week and study for an important exam is too much to expect.

A first year nurse is given a staggering amount of responsibility. She has to look after a ward of 16 or more patients entirely alone on night duty. If she has to leave the ward for a moment, anything could happen in the short time she is away.

Owing to shortage of staff and overwork, tempers become frayed, and mistakes can be made - no one is infallible, least of all a tired, overworked underpaid student nurse. Because they have to work so hard, nurses find themselves at times unable to give that little extra attention to a patient that makes his or her life worth living.

And yet WE WILL NOT STRIKE. This would cause suffering among our patients and no nurse's conscience would enable her to strike when there are sick patients to be nursed.

If only a more realistic salary were offered, more people would be attracted by the nursing profession; more nurses would mean shorter working hours for everyone, and nurses would be happier and able to give more to the patients.

## DECEMBER DECLARATION ON WORLD POVERTY

This petition to our MP which is also known as the National 'Sign-In' was signed by 27 people - a poor response considering the number of people living in our two villages. It has been sent to be presented to our MP, Mr Bell, this month. To sign it you could be of any or no religion; all that was necessary in those who signed was a concern for the poor of the world and agreement with what the petition said. Here is the text of it:-

We, the undersigned believe:

that mass hunger, disease and illiteracy are intolerable anywhere in the world;

that the skills and resources to change these unjust conditions now exist;

that to obtain justice among men the international financial and trading system can and must be changed;

that as a first step the poorer countries must receive more aid, and that the terms of international trade must no longer discriminate in favour of the rich.

We ask you, as our representative in Parliament, to support as immediate practical aims:

- 1 The achievement by 1972 of the target of 1% of the wealth (i.e. Gross National Product) of the United Kingdom for overseas aid, with at least three-quarters allocated in the form of effective Government aid;
- 2 An increase in the amount of United Kingdom aid channelled through international agencies, encouraging other rich nations to follow this lead;
- 3 The negotiation by our Government of trade agreements favourable to the poorer countries.

We hereby commit ourselves to continuing action for world development.

-MRS CHILD

Mrs. Jane Child of Rushmead died on Sunday, 28 December, from bronchial pneumonia. She was over 80 but was cheerful and active and came to a Mothers' Union meeting only a few weeks before her death. She was a regular communicant at the Anglican services held at Rushmead.

HALFCROWNS

We have it on good authority that if you put halfcrowns in the collection during January the banks will receive them from us!

### DECEMBER MEETING AND PLAY

The W.I. meeting on Thursday 11 December was opened by our now President, Mrs. Collier, who welcomed 12 guests.

Plans were made for a visit to the Beaconsfield W.I. pantomime on January 16 and for various outings later in the year. Two stalls of left-overs from our bazaar last month did brisk business and added considerably to the bazaar total.

Then came the play which members had come to expect from their talented drama group, this year's title being 'The Little Heir'. Introducing herself Mrs. Post said she had written a play which she proposed to produce. For the time being the audience were asked to imagine scenery and props.

The players however had their own ideas as to what they should say or do, which no prompter could put right, and the result was a series of contretemps to the intense amusement of an appreciative audience.

The players taking part were Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Antosiewicz, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Post, Mrs. Plumridge and Mrs. Schlatter with Mrs. Elizabeth Harvey as producer to whom much credit is due.

The afternoon finished with a sumptuous tea party provided and made by Mrs. Grayce and the two Miss Bostons.

### WOMEN'S INSTITUTE ANNUAL BAZAAR

Mr Douglas Pusey opened the W.I. Bazaar on November 29 and said it was a jelly good show - as indeed it was, for a dazzling display of Christmas decorations, stuffed toys and needlework indicated months dedicated to their preparation whilst the cooks of Colchill had combined to produce a table of rich delicacies.

The hall was full in spite of a snowstorm and the result was a useful contribution to the funds of the W.I. to allow them to carry on with their work.

### HEATING AT ST. MARY'S

Amersham Parish Church has just had a new and impressive heating system installed at a cost of £3000. It heats the church by hot air and does away with pipes and radiators. The old pipes were put in in the last century, and the boiler which is broken beyond repair has been there for twenty-two years. If you would like to help St Mary's to meet this important and necessary expenditure, old newspapers and magazines can be left for pulping in St Mary's Church Porch before the first Wednesday in each month

## MEN'S CAKE COMPETITION

This took place as usual at the Red Lion on Sunday evening, 21 December. The entries were impressive and the standard of judging was certainly an improvement on last year's. The first prize went to Mr. John Orchard, the second to Mr. Rupert and the third to Mr. Tony Barber. Mr. Rupert made an accomplished auctioneer, and at the end of the solemnities there was £15.10.0d. for the Ponds Home for Spastics at Seer Green. Mr. Percy Mountier, the landlord, was at pains to point out that this was less than last year only because this year more had been spent on prizes.

## OFF TO SINGAPORE

Mr. and Mrs. Desmond Bungey of Mount Pleasant, Tower Road, are leaving Coleshill for three years to go to Singapore. Mr. Bungey goes in January and his wife and two younger children in February. All Saints' will miss a valuable sidesman but we expect to see them all back each summer to escape for a while from the sun. Our good wishes go with them.

## \*THE DUPLICATOR FUND

Thanks to a very generous response to the appeal for a duplicator of our own for printing the newsletter the target of £60 was exceeded by £13.6s. and the surplus will be used in providing paper, ink and stencils. We hope the second-hand electric Gestetner which the church now owns will give us long service.

## MIST DRIVE

There were eight and a half tables at the whist Drive on Friday 12 December organised by the Village Hall Committee and members were delighted to see Mr Browné in great form as M.C.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

January

- 5 (Mon) Coleshill School re-opens
- 6 (Tues) THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD - HC: 10 a.m. & 7.30 p.m.
- 8 (Thurs) Meeting of the W.I.
- 15 (Thurs) Mobile Library
- Mothers' Union at 12 The Bit at 2.30
- Church Study Group at 8 p.m. (place to be announced in church)
- 18 (Sun.) Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins
- 25 (Sun.) " " " " " " ends
- 29 (Thurs) Mobile Library
- All Saints' Church Committee at 8 p.m., followed by the Annual Church Meeting.

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

Every Tuesday: 10.00a.m. HOLY COMMUNION

Every Wednesday: 7.30p.m. HOLY COMMUNION

Every Friday: 12.00 noon HOLY COMMUNION

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