

January, 1971

The Rector's Letter

My dear Friends,

At the end of each year all finance and business houses have a "stocktaking", and assess what has happened in the past year, how successful or otherwise it has been. In the light of what's found plans can be made for the new year.

What about us? What about the way we lived and behaved last year?. It is a Christian duty that we should assess our "stewardship" of God's Gifts during last year, and now in the new year make our plans for a new start in our Christian Living.

"The Christian seeks to regulate the whole of his life according to the will of God. His will, his law and his love are one: **comprehensive** and self-consistent. There is no part of our lives that is outside his interest - no part of which we can say: 'This does not concern God; this is my private affair'. To regulate the whole of our lives according to his will is thus not only the proper obedience of the creature to his Creator, which we do not give and apart from him are not capable of **giving**; it is also part of the response of gratitude and love to the unspeakable gift of free redemption and to **the** Divine Love wherewith he first loved us. The truth is that we have nothing to offer worthy of his acceptance but ourselves and our love - and only that as redeemed in Christ and offered in unity with his own perfect **self-offering**.

The stewardship of time, talents and money is only a part of this general and elementary teaching! but that we are stewards, not owners, of this world's good is made the more obvious by the practical considerations, that we **bring nothing** into the world and take **nothing** out of it, and that the powers of body and mind by the exercise of which we obtain temporary use of worldly things are themselves the gift of God. Thus what the Christian should be seeking in relation to his money is to know and do the will of God in relation to the whole of it.

If, then, we are God's **stewards**, if nothing is ours and all is his, our simple duty is to use all his goods as he would have us use them. This implies an attitude to the use of money which is responsible and ought perhaps to be austere, but which need not be either puritanical or ascetical. The good things of this life were created for our enjoyment; it is ungrateful, if not worse, to reject them as though we knew better than God what is good for us. Innocent amusement, health-giving recreation, the joys of literature, visual art and music - these things are not excluded, they are given us by God for the enrichment of our **lives**; but in so far as they involve the use of money (and not for that reason only) they need to be set in due proportion to other things. 'Responsibility' and 'proportion' are two of the key words. 'Priority' is a third.

In general terms we may **say** that the use of the whole of our **money** should **reflect** conscious and deliberate thought and careful judgement, with prayer directed towards using what is not in truth our money, but **God's**, as God himself would have us use it. It is out of this process that a decision should emerge as to what we ought to give to the Church and to other '**pious and charitable uses**'.

Thus the orderly management of personal income and its expenditure according to plan, becomes a religious duty. For all who have a minimum of competence in arithmetic, this means drawing up a weekly, monthly or annual budget and **expenditure**. We all know that for a host of reasons good and bad, such budgets rarely work out exactly (though we may hope that as we go through life they will become less **inaccurate**); but that is not the point. There is all the **difference** in the world between drawing up a budget conscientiously, in which what is given away comes first, and honestly trying to make it work; and **making** no effort to plan or control our expenditure and allowing giving to come last.

There are two reasons why what is given direct to the service of God through his Church must come first. The first is the practical reason that if it does not come first it will probably come last. The second and fundamental reason is that by the dedication of a part the whole is consecrated and brought before God for his blessing. This is a **familiar** principle. It is by setting aside a few hours exclusively for the worship of God that all time is sanctified; **it** is by the consecration of some bread that all bread is made sacred. If the **first** charge on our income is that portion of it that is given direct to the work of his Church, giving becomes an act of worship, the means whereby we ask **God's** blessing upon the management of all **our** money affairs, and a sacramental means of grace.

The Christian does not give -

RELUCTANTLY, because pressure is brought to bear on him;

**EMOTIONALLY**, because his feelings have been skilfully played upon;

TO MAKE HIMSELF FEEL GOOD, or to prove something to **himself**;

**BUT**

WITH DISCIPLINE, and after previous responsible thought about the use of the whole of his income;

IN OBEDIENCE, in gratitude and in love.

And it is important that any Christian should realise that new and unforeseen demands may be made upon him. Nevertheless the importance of a true commitment of a substantial proportion of his resources, is paramount".

**All** this may be new to you; it may all be difficult for you to understand; but I hope it will help you in your relationship with God and his Church.

Yours sincerely,

Allan Campbell

Rector.

## OBITUARY

With deep regret the deaths are recorded of two well-known **Coleshill** characters, Mr. Albert **Wingrove** on the 18th **December**, and Mr. **J.A.** Jones on the 23rd December.

For some years Mr. Wingrove was a sidesman at All Saints, he served regularly at Evensong and was a willing worker at Church functions. A keen gardener, he enjoyed considerable success for his exhibits at the **annual** flower show and his advice upon such matters was greatly appreciated by those who asked for it.

"Jimmy" Jones, as he was known, lived at the old Jubilee Cottages (now renamed No. 10 Amber Cottages) for many years. For at least 20 years he was employed by **Darlingtons** and as a genial plumber he was a welcome visitor in times of trouble.

Mr. Wingrove leaves a widow, and Mr. Jones a widow, a son and daughter, to whom we extend deepest sympathy.

## COLLECTIONS

On Christmas Day the collection at the Crib amounted to **£10.2.0d.** and this was divided equally between Shelter and Magila Hospital.

## CAROL SINGING.

On behalf of all the Carol Singers I would like to thank everyone for their generous donations and for their very welcome refreshments that we received on a cold and miserable night.

We were able to collect **£13.10.0d.** in all and this has been sent to the "Save the Children" Fund.

Loveday Pusey.

## W.I.

The U.I. Bazaar on the 28th November proved extremely popular and fully maintained its reputation for the high quality of its wares. In consequence several stalls were quickly sold out, and a Christmas gift stall was a welcome innovation. The nett result **was** a number of satisfied customers and a nice little sum for the funds of the W.I. which will enable them to carry on with their good work.

The Institute ended its year with a Christmas tea party preceded by a one act play performed by its talented drama group under the direction of Mrs. Elizabeth Harvey, the players being Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Post, Mrs. Pusey, Mrs. Trench and Mrs. Schlatter. Everything was well done and considerable effort had been put into the settings for the stage. Some genius provided candles and lamps so that they were able to overcome the lack of light due to the electricians' decision to work to rule.

In addition there were two amusing monologues well put across by Mrs. K. Ware.

### FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS.

The other evening I went to the Primary School's Festival of Lessons and Carols. I had expected the usual traditional music but I was pleasantly surprised. The music teacher, Mrs. Griffiths, had taught the children a selection of carols varying in date and the country from which they originated. Perhaps the two I enjoyed most were the Austrian Yodelling Carol and the American Indian Carol. In "See Amid the Winter Snow" Lynne Truett sang a solo verse, showing us what a lovely clear voice she has. Most of the music was accompanied by the recorder groups - they were most professional.

Lessons from the Old and New Testaments (the New English Bible) were read by Shane Riley, a former pupil; Mr. G. T. Creber, a parent; Mr. D. Powell-Price, a pro-churchwarden; the Reverend P.A.S. Harrington who gave the Blessing at the end of the Service; Mr. L.V.J. Barker, the Headmaster; Mrs. E. Stevens, Chairman of School Managers; and Stefan Junger, Clare Creber and Lynne Truett, pupils.

The Church was packed full with parents and friends for the evening and everyone commented on how much they enjoyed it. The children were not many and yet their voices filled the building and left us all with the real spirit of Christmas.

Lorna Pusey.

### WHIST DRIVE

Mr. George Pledge acted as M.C. at the Whist Drive on the 11th December - a jolly good M.G. he was. There were nine tables. There were ample prizes for the Whist Drive and for the inevitable raffle, and in that immortal but hackneyed phrase "a good time was enjoyed by all". Thanks are extended to the generous donors of the prizes for the raffle.

### MAN MADE CAKE COMPETITION.

It was well worth while going to the "Red Lion" on Sunday, the 15th December to see Mr. Rupert as auctioneer after the prizes had been announced for the man made cake competition, most impartially judged by Mrs. J. Faux and "Reg" a culinary expert. "Entries were anonymous.

Doubtless Mr. Rupert was inspired by the fact that he turned out to be the winner. He started by saying that these wonderful cakes had been made by men who rarely went into the kitchen except for washing up and followed this with an hour's entertainment in which the pluperfect was varied with telling effect, leading up to "two gentlemen bidding against each other - surely an auctioneer's dream come true".

The other winners were Mr. Greaves and Mr. Payne. The net result of the competition and of the raffle was £33 for the spastics, a result upon which the organiser, Mr. Mountier, is to be congratulated.

### COLESHILL C. of E. PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Mrs. Stevens has received the following letter from the Department of Education and Science in reply to the letter sent over the signatures of 70 electors to the Department in June, quoted in the August Newsletter:

"With reference to your letter of the 25th June 1970 in which you and other signatories submitted objections to the proposal made by Bucks Local Education Authority to change the character of the above-named school so that it will provide for pupils mainly of the ages 5 - 8. I am directed by the Secretary of State for Education and Science to say that, after careful consideration of all the circumstances, including the objections submitted by you, she has to-day approved the proposal under Section 13 (4) of the Education Act 1944, as amended"

This means that in a little over two years, Coleshill School will become an Infants School only, taking children from 5 - 8 years. There is no possibility of Coleshill having a "Right Through School", and for the sake of the School and the Village we **must** hope that the number of pupils will increase as has happened in the past.

### AN APPEAL FOR MORE CONSIDERATE DRIVING.

Several people are complaining about the thunder of motor cars and motor bicycles in our village. The drivers can scarcely know the trepidation which they inspire in passers-by, accentuated by narrow roads. An appeal is made to them to moderate their speeds.

### APOLOGIES

It is regretted that this Newsletter is late due to difficulties in connection with production. The next number will go to press in time to appear before Lent begins and notices for insertion therein should reach the pro-churchwardens before the 10th February.

It will help if anyone with a knowledge of the Gestetner will volunteer to assist with the duplicating. Mrs. Plumridge does the typing. The pro-churchwardens will be happy to receive the names of volunteers for the task which will take up about two hours each month.

### ST. MARY'S C. of E. AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL

In the August number there was a paragraph about the decision to enlarge St. Mary's School due to both normal expansion and also to take children up to the age of 12 against 11 as at present. The Parish could not find the 25% cost (i.e. £10,000) for this work and so it looked as though it would cease to be a church school.

A most generous offer has been received from the Oxford Diocesan Council of Education to pay for all the additional work undertaken because they consider St. Mary's to be a school of key importance to the Church.

This has met with the warm approval of the school managers who from the first have been unanimous that if at all possible the school should remain with the Church.

MAGILA HOSPITAL - REPORT 1970

The Church has continued its grant of £20 towards the upkeep of the Coleshill Cot in the motherless babies unit. Baby Grace, who occupied the cot most of the year, has now returned to her father and her aunt. Her place has been taken by a 14 months old baby boy by name Ngalawa. His mother died of T.B. and the child was brought to the hospital in a totally neglected condition, weighing only nine pounds. He was a little skeleton on arrival but can now smile and stand. In addition to helping in this way a Christmas gift of £10 was sent for presents for all the children, this sum being raised by generous subscriptions and a donation from the Mothers' Union. Other gifts of money have also been sent out to help the general hospital. Sister Edith Frances is delighted with the beautifully made blankets (11 in all) which she has received during the year and which are used for premature babies when they come out of the incubator.

**Green Shield Stamps** A record year thanks to much support and the splendid help being given by the Sunday School children. 29 books have been despatched (37,120 stamps) and these have helped to buy surgical instruments, the latest purchase being dental forceps for a nurse visiting villages where no medical help is available. There are several filled books to be despatched in the New Year.

**Stamps for Cancer Research** Three large parcels of stamps have been despatched to the Cancer Research Unit. Especially valuable are the collections of foreign stamps and the special issues of English stamps. Please save your Christmas stamps for this purpose.

M.W.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS. 1971

Thurs.	Jan.	14	Mobile Library Van, Coleshill
"	"	14	W.I. Mrs. Barbara Rees - "Hampten, the Verneys and the Civil War"
"	"	21	Mothers' Union, Coleshill.
"	"	28	Mobile Library Van, Coleshill.
Fri.	Feb.	26	<u>Buffet Dance in aid of the Village Hall.</u>

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.    3rd & 5th Sundays:  
    HOLY COMMUNION (New Service)  
    2nd & 4th Sundays: Mattins  
    6.00 p.m.    Sung Evensong.

N.B. -    1st Sunday: One morning Service only  
    at 10.00 a.m.

Every Wednesday:                    10.00 a.m.    HOLY COMMUNION

For an experimental period of six months starting on the 3rd January there will be one service only on the morning of the first Sunday in each month.

This service will be a Holy Communion Service for families worshipping together, i.e. father, mother and children.

It is hoped that parents will bring children up to the Altar Rail with them.

ALL SAINTS' COLESHILL.

Sunday Services                    9.00 a.m.    HOLY COMMUNION  
    10.15 a.m.    Sunday School.

St. Andrews Mission Church, Winchmore Hill.

There is a celebration of Holy Communion on the second Sunday of each month at 10.30 a.m.

-----

Pro-Churchwardens: N.N. Nicholls (and Hon. Sec.) Orchard House (tel:6734)  
    D. Powell-Price, Coleshill Lodge (tel: 3949)

Treasurer:                    R.G. Stubbings, Springfield, Tower Road (tel: ,4738)

Assistant Hon. Sec: Miss Asher, Radnor Cottage, Magpie Lane (tel: 6866)