

March 1967

My Dear Friends,

Since my ministry has been curtailed to one service a week and the churchwardens are determined that the **doctor's** orders shall be carried out literally, I have not had the opportunity of teaching or preaching, so at the risk of being considered tiresome I have decided to put into this newsletter some thoughts which I trust you may meditate on this Lent. Lent, if seriously used can be a most profitable time spiritually and as a Priest of the Church, this ought to be my **first concern for all my people.**

Tradesmen keep their books with care and count up gains and losses, The sick watch symptoms that tell of rallying or failing health (as perhaps I am prone to do at the present time). Travellers note landmarks and judge if they have left the path. Sailors mark on their charts rocks and shoals so that they can steer safely. Builders test their work and compare it with the plan. Much more should men, who have eternal interests at stake, search their hearts and try their LIVES.

We must, on some unknown day, stand at God's bar. We ought, every day, to **judge** ourselves and seek to learn our state. Times of **communion** and the Church's solemn seasons call us to more close and stern self-searching. Sloth and pride will tempt us to be careless and irregular; Satan will go tempting us that all will be well and that to be introspective is cramping and unnatural in this day and age. But how can we do any Christian duty well if we neglect to see how our spiritual life thrives and wherein it fails. Only by learning our sins can we know what to confess and where to amend. Only by learning where we are weak shall we know what grace to pray for. Testing our motives we shall be saved from pride; seeing where we have strayed, shall we be warned to return ere we have gone too far.

"Sum up at night what thou hast done by day
And in the morning what thou hast to do
Dress and undress thy soul. Mark the decay
And growth of it. If with thy watch that too
Be down, then wind up both. Since we shall be
Most surely judged, make thy accounts agree."

W.L.H.

GOOD FRIDAY AND EASTER

The services at All Saints will be as follows:

Good Friday	10.00a.m. One-hour service of meditation "Christ in the Passion"
Easter Day	8.00a.m. Holy Communion 10. 00a.m. Sunday School 11.00a.m. Matins 12.00noon Holy Communion 6.00p.m. Evensong

EASTER FLOWERS

The Church will be decorated for Easter on Saturday, 25th March, beginning at 10a.m.. Flowers and greenery should be brought to the Church by 9.30a.m. if possible. Those who prefer to give a small donation are asked to let Miss Boston or Miss Williams know a week before Easter so that the necessary order can be placed. Arum lilies will only be ordered by special request as last year they cost 7/6each..

IN MEMORIAM

The village and All Saints Church have lost another old friend by the death of Mrs. Higgs early in February.

Mrs. Higgs will be greatly missed by the many people whom she helped both in illness and in other ways, and her self-effacing readiness to do the dull jobs, whether at a Church Fete or a W.I. party has left an example to those who follow her. Sincere sympathy is extended to her family and friends .

A BOOK TO READ

Some readers may have heard extracts from the book "Ring of Truth" read by its author, Dr. J. B. Phillips, in the "Ten to Eight" programme on radio .

A review of this book states that "it is certainly one of the most valuable and important publications from a Christian point of view which has appeared for a long time pasta splendid piece of Christian apologetic, on which the author is to be wholeheartedly congratulated It will be surprising if the majority of readers do not put the book down with a sense of deep gratitude to the author"

There are copies of the book at the back of the Church and they may be borrowed by anyone interested,

THE MOTHERS' UNION

Each month under "Forthcoming Events" appears the cryptic announcement of a meeting of the Mothers' Union, which gives no idea of what the Mothers' Union is nor what it stands for. In actual fact, the Mothers' Union is valuable body which meets under the auspices of the Church and was honoured with a Royal Charter in 1926.

In precise terms, the objects of the M.U. are:

- (1) To uphold the sanctity of marriage
- (2) To awaken in all mothers a sense of their great responsibility in the training of their boys and girls - the fathers and mothers of the future.
- (3) To organise in every place a band of mothers who will unite in prayer and seek by their own example to lead their families in purity and holiness of life.

From this it must not be implied that meetings are stiff and stodgy. The reverse is certainly the case with our local branch, where the officials, Mrs. Douglas Pusey, Enrolling officer, Mrs. Antosiewicz, hon. secretary and Mrs. Collier, hon. treasurer do their best to ensure that meetings are friendly affairs where all mothers have that greatest gift in common - a family - and can meet, discuss and listen to talks which help to bring religion into the home.

Meetings are held monthly at Coleshill or Winchmore Hill when addresses are given on subjects of topical interest and the attendance varies from 18 to 25. In addition there is usually an annual excursion.

Membership is open to all women who are baptised and new members will be very welcome. All they need do is to turn up at any meeting, but it will assist arrangements if they give their names previously to Mrs. Pusey. You may attend meetings as a guest without becoming a member. Before membership and enrolment, there is a three months period of preparation,

MOTHERS' UNION PARISH SERVICE

Lady Day (25th March) this year falls on Holy Saturday so it has been transferred in the Calendar to Tuesday, 4th April.

It is the turn of Coleshill to have the Parish Mothers' Union Lady Day Service and this will be held at All Saints at 3.00p.m. on Tuesday, 4th April.

CHURCH FINANCES THROUGH THE AGES (continued)

As related in the last number, Queen Anne's Bounty and the Ecclesiastical Commissioners were merged in 1948 as the Church Commissioners with three main tasks, viz.- management of capital of the Church, proper distribution of income and the discharge of a large number of administrative duties.

Their annual income is now in the region of £19,000,000 or so. Frequently one hears the remark that they are among the richest land-owners in the country and people are inclined to ask why they cannot contribute more to the financial needs of the Church, The fundamental reason is that the Commissioners' funds, although large, have no regular source of replenishment. They draw no income from the State and are largely dependent upon ruling rates of interest and rent. Moreover they can only use their income for purposes authorised by Act of Parliament or Measure of the Church Assembly.

In 1963 the total expenses of the Church amounted to £42 $\frac{3}{4}$ m, to which the Commissioners contributed £15 $\frac{1}{2}$ m, and the laity £27 $\frac{1}{4}$ m. It is estimated that in 1968 the needs of the Church will be £52 $\frac{1}{4}$ m, to which the Commissioners will be required to contribute £19 $\frac{1}{4}$ m, and the laity £33m. as follows:

	<u>Commissioners</u>	Laity
Training, remuneration, houses, expenses and pensions of ordained clergy (including special endowments) and part cost of lay workers	16 $\frac{3}{4}$ m.	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ m.
Running expenses on the Church's buildings		12 $\frac{1}{2}$ m.
Support of the Church's work in secular spheres e.g. education and social service		2 $\frac{3}{4}$ m.
Provision of buildings, cathedrals, churches, colleges, parsonages etc.	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ m.	5 $\frac{3}{4}$ m.
Financial help to Anglican provinces overseas and missionary societies		3m.
Central and diocesan services etc. etc.	1m.	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ m.
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	19 $\frac{1}{4}$ m.	33m.
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continued.....

In simple terms, the Commissioners' income represents little more than one-third of the sum required to meet the needs of the Church. THE REMAINDER HAS TO BE PROVIDED BY THE LAITY. Parishes and dioceses are mainly responsible for providing the stipends of the majority of incumbents and assistant curates, and the practice is for curates to receive their stipends from an Assistant Clergy Fund which is made up by contributions from the parish concerned and from the diocese which in turn often receives contributions from the Commissioners. There are diocesan scales for the emoluments of assistant clergy and it is a matter of regret that they compare unfavourably with a number applicable to men of similar or inferior education in industry or commerce.

It will be seen that for years and years the Church has had to seek means of raising funds. Church rates were levied until the middle of the 19th century, but increasingly non-conformists refused to pay them and magistrates refused to enforce payment. In 1853 compulsion was brought to an end by the passing of the Compulsory Church Rate Abolition Act. A voluntary church rate can be, but seldom is, imposed, the parish of Kensington being one of the few remaining examples, where a voluntary rate is still imposed.

The renting and reserving of seats at Church provided another source of income but the custom of collecting pew rents is almost obsolete. Some bequests to the Church are made subject to the condition that all seats shall be free.

By the end of the 19th century the Church had become more and more reliant upon collections at church and voluntary donations for its funds and recourse had to be made to other sources of raising money - bazaars, fetes, sales of work etc..

Many churches now, however, are looking with increasing favour upon modern and more businesslike methods of securing the income which is vital for their survival, e.g. large numbers of the congregations of many churches subscribe to the tenets of Christian Fellowship and covenant to subscribe regularly to church funds a sum which has some relation to their income. Church Fetes and bazaars have, however, become accepted features of much parish life. They bring people together, they interest them in a worthwhile cause and there are many churches which will be loth to abandon them.

WOMENS' WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The collection at this service came to £6.15.7d. and was used to help the distribution of the scriptures and Christian literature throughout the world, and to further the work of the Womens' World Day of Prayer.

COLESHILL YOUTH CLUB

This club has made an encouraging revival with its new leader, Mr. W. Faulkner, Mr. W. H. Houlton, chairman; Mr. Rupert, hon. secretary and Miss Kendal, hon. treasurer. In the last number the limitation of space prevented it being recorded that the following had consented to serve on the committee: Mrs. Darvill, Mrs. Edwards, Mrs. Rupert, Mrs. Stanton, Mrs. Stubbings, Mr. Coorabes and Mr. Janieson and the following to represent the Youth Club - Miss J. Palmer, (hon. secretary), Miss Edwards, Miss M. Junger, Mr. R. Attridge, Mr. K. Edwards and Mr. G. Lubek.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Wed. Mch 1 Whist Drive in aid of school funds. Coleshill School at 7.30p.m. Tickets 2/6 each from the school
- Thur. 2 Mobile Library Van - Coleshill
- Tues. 7 Sisterhood - Mrs. W. H. Richardson
- Thur. 9 W.I. Sir Evelyn Fone on Rhodesia
- Sat 11 Performance of Haydn's "Creation" by combined choirs of Dr. Challoner's Grammar and High Schools at the Grammar School Hall at 7.30p.m.
- Thur. 16 Mobile Library Van - Coleshill
Mothers' Union General Meeting at Winchmore Hill
Speaker - The Revd. W. L. Holder.
- Fri. 24 GOOD FRIDAY
Choral Concert by the Harewood Singers in St. Mary's Parish Church at 7.30p.m.
- Sun 26 EASTSR SUNDAY
- Thur 30 Mobile Library Van - Coleshill
- Tues. Apr 25 Concert in the Royal Albert Hall in aid of the Christian Medical Hospital and College of Vellore.

SERVICES

ALL SAINTS, COLESHILL

Every Sunday

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

2nd. and 4th Sundays

6.00p.m. Evensong

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY
AMERSHAM

8.00a.m. Holy Communion
10.00a.m. Children's Church
11.00a.m. Matins and Sernon
(N.B. On the 1st Sunday in
each month the 10a.m. &
11a.m. services combine
for a Family Communion
at 10.00a.m.)
6.00p.m. Evensong & Sernon

RECTOR: The Revd. Allan Campbell (Tel. Amersham 1135)

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE: Revd. W.L. Holder, The Parsonage, Coleshill
(Tel. Anershan 722)

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

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

HON. TREASURER: & Creber. Applecroft, Meadowcot Lane,
Coleshill. (Tel. Anershan 3350)