

March 1975

THE PASTORAL LETTER

My Dear Friends,

It is no accident that Easter is a Spring Festival and that we proclaim the resurrection to life at the same time that we celebrate the rebirth of the land. There is a harmony in our universe, and a rhythm of seasons, winter and spring, seedtime and harvest; an awareness that there must be in human life, a kind of dying before there can be the possibility of new life. That is the way St. Paul uses the imagery of nature to describe resurrection - "the seed you sow does not come to life until it has first died". Or as an English poet wrote:

See the land her Easter keeping
Rising in her Maker rose
Seeds no long in darkness sleeping
Burst anew from winter snows.

Resurrection is both cosmic and intimately personal. The renewal of the earth witnesses to the power of life over death, and it is also possible to discern the resurrection within people. For resurrection is not just the promise of new life in the future, it is seizing and being seized by new life now. The hearts of some of those who have been touched by the resurrection are lighter than other men's hearts; they have a confidence about them born of the knowledge that suffering leads to joy, that hope can never be quenched, that life is full of unlimited possibilities.

So at Eastertide, we celebrate our re-birth into a world that is fresh and invigorating. We are aware that there will continue to be for ourselves and for others, dark nights of the soul, moments in which we feel deserted by our friends and our talents, periods when we are bewildered by the apparent silence, absence or ambiguity of God in our world. Yet we at all times have the assurance that in Jesus all things are made new.

What is our response to be? Perhaps the exaltant proclamation of Wulf:

O my sisters, O my brothers
It is a fine and joyous thing to be
It is a fine and very fine thing to be all as one
It is a joyous living thing to be one with place and
sea and sky and growing living things
And all of them and us together, living breathing laughter

Richard Elliott

HOLY BAPTISM

On February 9th Mark Antony, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Dickinson
(nee Marilyn Jerram)

IN MEMORIAM

John Wand-Tetley.

The village was saddened to hear of the death on December 28th of John Wand-Tetley of Bowers Farm. "Dr. John" as he was known to his many friends was an extraordinarily talented man. He was educated at Marlborough, Cambridge and at Barts, and combined medicine with a career as an artist. He was consultant physician, at Edgware and University College hospitals, a sensitive painter and poet, and he took a delight in his home and garden. He will be remembered by all who knew him as a man of great energy, intellectual clarity, keen wit and refreshing humour.

Henry Herbert Aldridge

Another well known and much liked character has left us. Henry Herbert Aldridge died on March 6th at the age of 78.

As a boy he sang in the choir and often blew the organ. Under -age, he joined the Ox and Bucks Light Infantry and was discharged in 1916 from war wounds. He was married and lived in Nightingales from February 1933. After 40 years with the Gas Company he retired in 1962 and then devoted himself to his garden with wonderful results as he was a frequent winner for vegetables at the Horticultural Show. In addition he was a great animal and bird lover and always had some tame blackbirds in his garden. For years, he tended the path across the common, to the benefit of all concerned.

* * * * *

Sincerest sympathies are extended to Mrs. Aldridge and to Mrs. Wand-Tetley.

Steuart Gow

We much regret that in the last number the name of the late Steuart Gow should have been shown as Steuart Murray Gow and not as stated therein.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH COMMITTEE A.G.M.

The Annual General Meeting was held in the School on Tuesday, January 28th at 8.30 p.m.

Mr. Nigel Nicholls was re-elected Churchwarden. Mr. David Powell-Price, who has served as Churchwarden for a number of years, was unable to stand for re-election in view of the fact that he will be leaving Coleshill in mid-August to take up his appointment as Headmaster of Granville College near Bideford, one of the eleven Woodard Foundation Church Schools. Mr. John Chenevix-Trench was nominated and elected Churchwarden in his place. Other Church officers were confirmed in office with the addition of Mr. D.C. Urry as sidesman.

One of the more depressing features of modern life has been the disruption, and in some places the disappearance of, the experience of community. In our era of rapid industrialisation, when quality of life has been sacrificed to means of production, too little thought has been given to the way in which people live together. The former slums of our great cities have been rebuilt, with the best of intentions, into concrete and glass jungles. The most advanced social work techniques and a highly developed welfare state tend to minister only to symptoms. The real problems faced by newly planned "communities" as well as some of the more established ones - insularity, violence and apathy are increasing rather than decreasing.

In the face of this disintegration of community in which it is no longer possible for people to enjoy face-to-face relationships, and in which it is more important to be able to relate to impersonal structures - employment, housing etc. - rather than to persons, there have grown up a number of techniques which can be used to promote or to restore a sense of community. These techniques are collectively known as "community work" but include at least five different disciplines - community organization, community action, community development, community relations and community education.

One writer has identified 94 usages of the word "community" and I imagine there are at least 94,000 definitions of "community work". Every fieldworker tends to have his own! Any community worker however has two aspects to his work, no matter which set of techniques he chooses to employ; firstly the worker helps a community to identify and to articulate its real needs; and secondly, he encourages the community to make use of the resources it possesses to meet those needs. Of primary importance to community work is the recognition that decisions which are imposed upon people are nearly always dehumanising; people have to be encouraged to participate in the decision-making processes of a democratic society.

So my own definition of community work would be something like this: "Community Work aims to stimulate change so that, within a supportive web of relationships, people are liberated both to develop their individual potential, and as a group to become so competent in the use of resources and power that they are able not just to control but also to create the environment within which they must live". And these aims I believe to be in essence, theological statements.

The theological implications are not at all obvious, but they are these. The only model that we have of fulfilled human potential, or of maturity, is as St. Paul points out, the man Jesus. And in his ministry Jesus was quite clear about two things: firstly he emphasised that structures should serve people rather than people be enslaved to structures ("The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath"); and secondly, he always thrust people's questionings back upon themselves, made them wrestle with the problems and take responsibility for the answers. He did not make decisions for people.

So then, I see the Church both as standing in a particular relationship to community (in Coleshill, as in the mediaeval village, Church, pub and school stand at the centre of the village), and having particular insights to offer the development of community work.

In the mediaeval parish the church building was used for a wide range of community activities, in addition to regular worship. The Reformation Tradition, however, allied with evangelical convictions and Victorian attitudes made people feel that it was not right to have so-called "non-religious" activities in churches, and the Church's whole attitude to society changed as a result. It then became important to encourage people away from other activities (into which the Church had forced them by closing its doors) into the worshipping family. And more and more the fellowship of the Church developed independently from the life of the community around it, until in some inner city areas we are left today with tiny congregations which have neither interest in, nor commitment to, their wider community.

If, however, a priest or pastor is able to see his ministry other than in terms of being leader of a congregation, he is, by being responsible for a considerable amount of plant strategically placed in the midst of a community, by living in that community himself, and by being paid to be free to minister to people, the ideal community worker. Today an increasing number of clergy are seeking training in community work skills and by combining pastoral ministry to the congregation with more general community work, are again making their church buildings centres of community life and renewal.

This is the context of my work with the British Council of Churches. My "parish" is the entire country and my task is to act as consultant to individual churches or dioceses or districts wanting to make use of community work insights, and to advise individuals about the availability of training. I also lecture in Universities and theological colleges introducing students, especially theological students, to some of these concepts. And I am responsible for the evaluation and development of some two hundred projects which the British Council of Churches has totally or partially financed. These projects include community centres, youth clubs, nursery schools, accommodation for homeless youngsters, welfare and advisory services, language and literacy schemes, and a wide range of other initiatives by community groups which are committed to social change and the emergence of a renewed sense of community.

ANOTHER RECITAL BY TWO WELL KNOWN ARTISTES

On the 20th December a recital was given by Miss Patricia Scanlon, mezzo soprano, and Mr. Ralph Davier, organist.

Both artistes enjoyed playing to a 'full house', particularly since they gave a very successful recital the previous year.

Miss Scanlon gave thirteen songs which she presented with a sound knowledge of the composer's intentions in each case. Although her voice was not quite back to normal after a recent illness, her interpretation of Titherington's Sheiling Song was superb and her mezza-voce and pianissimo singing was exquisitely rendered in songs by Vaughan Williams, Warlock and Howells.

Mr. Davier did not exactly display as much of his talent as we could have expected but his Toccata and Fugue in D minor from last year showed once more that he is a supremely capable and accomplished organist. Despite the sparseness of his contribution, the evening was enjoyed by all present.

As a result of the generous gesture by the two artistes, a donation of £79.50 was made to the Church Fabric Fund.

A.L.H.

THE CHAPEL

On behalf of the fellowship at the Baptist Chapel, we would like to thank all those of the village who have shown a concern for the future of the Chapel, also those who have kindly offered to help in any way they could.

We could, if we so desired, take the matter to Court and there is no doubt the result would have been in our favour and the Chapel would remain as it always has been, a place of worship. However as a company of believing Christians, we committed our way to the Lord (Proverbs Chapter 3, 5 & 6) and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, have reached a unanimous decision to vacate the Chapel some time during May.

On one hand it is with regret and sadness that we have to do this, but on the other it is with rejoicing because we know that He who has guided our paths so far will continue to do so in the future.

Once again, we give you our thanks.

Jim and Pleasance Riley

1st COLESHILL GUIDE COMPANY

On Sunday, 9th February, our new Company Colours, the money for which was kindly given us by I.B.M. United Kingdom, were dedicated at All Saints during the Service. We were so pleased to have with us on this special occasion, Mrs. Griffiths, our District Commissioner, Miss Dollemore, long connected with Coleshill Guiding, and so many Brownies, who we look forward to becoming Guides in the future. Afterwards we had a small party for Mothers, friends and Guides at Grove Mill.

On Sunday, 23rd February we attended the District Thinking Day service at the Free Church in Amersham, and this year our Colours were carried up the aisle in company with all the others. Thinking Day is the birthday of both the late Lord Baden-Powell and his wife Olive, Lady Baden-Powell, Chief Guide of the World. On this day we think of the World family of Guides, pray for them and wish them a Guiding Happy Birthday.

Our joint Coffee Evening with the Brownies in December was a great success and we made £27.71 for the Save The Children Fund, this fund also benefitted by some of the Guides carol singing round the village. Many thanks to everyone for their kind support. We also went carol singing with Brownies and parents to Coleshill House.

We continue to hold our meetings in the Village Hall entirely due to the generosity of Miss Williams, who bears half the cost, which doubled in price on the 1st February. We are most grateful to her.

This term Wendy Williams has gained her Stitchery badge and Rachel Wege her Craft badge.

We still need an assistant Guider, preferably someone who likes to camp. Guides are friendly and have fun, it is not a daunting occupation and there are plenty of helping hands, so please can we have a response.

Next term starts on 21st April.

H.J.M.C.

BROWNIE NOTES

We started this term on the 13th January with 3 new recruits also another one who joined us on the 3rd February, and with two Brownies having left us, we now number 22. We have a waiting list of under age girls but we can accommodate 2 girls over 7 years, if anyone wishes to join us.

Zoe Horsbrugh-Porter, Susie Williams and Kate Blunt passed their Music Badges at the beginning of the year. Sally Lee and Kay Speller attained their Cook's Badges. Lois Plumridge received her Pony Badge on the 6th February and my daughter Judith her Craft Badge on the 10th February. More badges are in the offing so you can see we are still quite busy

We are very grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Bowler who have paid for our Brownie Magazine (which is shared by the Pack) up to the end of last year. This kind deed is very much appreciated.

The last meeting this term is on the 24th March. Next term re-opens on the 21st April.

N.B. Some Brownies attended the Annual Thinking Day Service in Amersham on February 23rd. We hope that the majority of our Brownies will attend Coleshill Church on Mothering Sunday, March 9th.

A.J.R.

CCLESHILL CLUB

Our December meeting proved most festive and cheerful. A delicious tea was provided by our many generous friends, and the occasion took on a party atmosphere with entertainments from Mrs. Kay Ware, the Missenden Club Choir and Mr. Jack Emblow and two of his musical friends. Our sincere thanks go to everyone who helped to make the afternoon so successful.

An instructive and cautionary talk was given at our January meeting by P.C. Bruce Riley. He described the many dangers and risks that are present in our everyday life and emphasised the importance of asking for police help when in doubt.

Scenes that were familiar to many of us appeared on the screen when Mr. Martin of Marlow gave us an illustrated lecture at our February meeting. He took us down the Thames from the source to Teddington Lock.

In May, we are hoping to hold a Cake and Produce Stall by the pond to raise funds.

M.W.

SCHOOL CONCERT

On Monday, 16th December 1974, the children of Coleshill C.E. First School entertained over 100 friends and relations at their Christmas Concert.

The highlight of the evening was the youngest children's version of "The House that Jack Built". In appropriate costumes they brought the old jingle to life in a captivating and exciting way, so much so that by popular requests it was repeated.

The older children led the singing of "The Twelve Days of Christmas" with illustrations, and the Warwickshire Keeper.

The final item of this varied programme was a short play about the first Christmas, followed by the Hymn "O Come All Ye Faithful". A collection raised £7 for the Christmas party and school funds. The party was on the following Wednesday when, after an excellent tea and many games, each child received a present, a balloon, a chocolate bell and an orange. The latter was generously given by Mr. Bowler.

DO YOU KNOW?

- (1) That there is an excellent monthly Oxford Diocesan Magazine at the back of the Church which you can borrow and read?
- (2) That there is a paper "Network" which can also be borrowed which gives you news of work going on all over the world?
- (3) That twenty-two cot blankets and forty five books of Green Shield stamps have been collected for the work at Magila since January 1974?
- (4) That four large parcels of used postage stamps have been collected in the same period, three for Cancer Research and one for the Blue Peter Special Appeal?

Very many thanks to all concerned

CAROL SINGING

I would like to thank the carol-singers who joined me on the tour of the Village at Christmas, and also those who contributed to our collection. We raised £30, which has been divided between the Church Fabric Fund and Save the Children Fund.

Penny Weedon

THANKS

Mrs. Pusey wishes to thank most sincerely all those who sent sympathy and best wishes in connection with her husband Mr. Douglas Pusey's recent severe accident. He returned home on the 4th March and is making good progress.

MAN-MADE CAKE COMPETITION

Again the man made cake competition organised by Mr. Mounier of the "Red Lion" on the Sunday before Christmas was an outstanding success.

Owing to the blandishments of Mr. Ruperti, as honorary auctioneer, some cakes realised £30 or more. Then there was a raffle and the total proceeds amounted to £215 - a record - which was sent to the Princess Marina Centre for Spastics at Seer Green which was gratefully acknowledged.

WOMEN'S DAY OF PRAYER

The Service for the Women's World Day of Prayer was held as usual on the first Friday in March. Mrs. P. Riley gave an address on the theme "Become Perfectly One" and members of the congregation led the readings.

The collection of £8.45 was sent to H.Q. who allocate their total for the spread of Bible literature throughout the world.

Date of the next Women's World Day of Prayer Service - March 5th 1976.

SPECIAL EVENTS

ST MARY'S

March

- Tues 18th Illustrated lecture in the Church, "Bucks Church Treasures" by Mr. Elliott Viney, D.S.O., M.B.E., T.D., D.L., F.S.A. 8.00 p.m.
- Sun 23rd Palm Sunday, Organ Recital by Ian Hooker, G.R.S.M., A.R.C.M. 3.00 p.m.

April

- Pri 4th In the Town Hall - an evening's Entertainment arranged by Mrs. Almond. 8.00 p.m.
- Fri 11th Sherry Party and Bring and Buy Sale at the home of Mrs. Coldwell, 62 High Street. 11.45 a.m.

May

- To be arranged: Harpsichord Concert in Church arranged by Mr. Knight.
- Sat 17th) Gardens open at Woodrow House from 2.00 p.m.
- Sun 18th)

July

- Sat 12th Garden Pete at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C.W. Goodwyn, Hinton House, 132 High Street.

ALL SAINTS'

March

- Thurs 20th Bring and Buy Sale at "Dewpond", Village Road. 10.30 - 12.30
Coffee & Biscuits: 15p. In aid of the new fence for the Parsonage.

April

- Pri 11th A SPRING FESTIVAL - The description of an event to be held on the evening of Friday, April 11th, at 8.30 p.m. in All Saints' Church. It is an evening in which people are using their talents to celebrate the themes of springtime. In addition to individual items, there will be major contributions from the Coleshill Village Drama Group and from All Saints' Church Choir. A warm invitation is extended to all. The tickets will be available from Mrs. Chenevix-Trench and Mrs. Elizabeth Harvey.

June

- Sat 14th CHURCH FETE

OTHER EVENTS

March

- Thurs 20th Mobile Library Van, Coleshill
- Wed 26th W.I. Group Meeting, Village Hall,
- Thurs 27th Maundy Thursday
- Pri 28th Good Friday
- Sun 30th EASTER DAY

April

- Thurs 3rd Mobile Library Van, Coleshill
- Thurs 10th W.I. "Prom Ballet and Bedpans to the World of Books".
Mrs. Christine Pagg.
- Thurs 17th Mobile Library Van, Coleshill
- Tues 29th Village Hall A.G.M. Village Hall 8.15 p.m.

May

- Thurs 1st Mobile Library Van, Coleshill
- Thurs 8th Ascension Day
- Thurs 8th W.I. Mrs. Sunley V.C.O. - Albert Hall Resolutions
- Thurs 15th & 29th Mobile Library Van, Coleshill
- Sun 18th WHITSUNDAY 9

THE PARISH OF AMERSHAM WITH COLESHILL

Rector: The Reverend Allan Campbell M.A. (Cantab)
Beaumont, Ecrvines Road, Amersham (Tel. 7135)

The Parish Office is now in the Parish Church of
St. Mary's Worth Side.

St. MARY'S PARISH CHURCH, AMERSHAM

Sunday Services 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
10.00 a.m. Children's Service - 1st Sunday in the month
this service is Holy Communion, Series III
11.00 a.m. Matins (plus Holy Communion on 3rd Sunday)
6.00 p.m. Evensong
Each Wednesday 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion

Arrangements for Holy Week and Easter

March 27th Maundy Thursday 8.00 p.m. Holy Communion
March 28th Good Friday 11.00 a.m. Ante Communion & Litany
2.00 - 3.00 p.m. Service of Devotion
March 30th EASTER LAY 11.00 ' Choral Eucharist
6.00 Choral Evensong

ALL SAINT'S COLESHILL

Sunday Services 9.30 a.m. Parish Communion
10.45 n.n. Sunday School
6.00 p.m. Evensong (First Sunday only)

Arrangements for Holy Week & Easter

March 27th Maundy Thursday 8.00 p.m. Commemoration of the Holy Communion
and Stripping the Altar
March 28th Good Friday 11.00 a.m. Matins and Devotions
March 30th FASTER LAY ' 9.30 a.m. Parish Communion

St ANDREW'S MISSION CHURCH Winchmore Hill

2nd and 4th Sundays 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

Assistant Curates Michael Elliott M.Div The Parsonage, Coleshill
(Tel: 4229)

Pro-Churchwardens: N.N. Nicholls, Orchard House (Tel: 5734)
J.J.G. Chenevix-Trench
Windmill Farm (Tel: 5439)

Hon. Treasurers: A.M.V. Panton, Wallers Oak (Tels 6183)

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. J. Dryden, 14 Woodside Close
Amersham (Tel: 3449)

Brownies: Monday Evenings in the Hall at 5.30 p.m. -- 6.45 p.m.

Guides: Monday Evenings in the Hall at 6.45 p.m. -- 8.00 p.m.

Choir: Thursday Evenings in Church at 7.00 p.m.

Mothers' Union: 3rd Thursday afternoon of every month at 2.30 p.m.