

October, 1970

The Rector's Letter.

My dear Friends,

I regard Harvest Festival as a very important Sunday in the Church's year. For at least one Sunday out of fifty two, our attention is focussed on saying "Thank you", and how very essential that is. In the secular world to-day, gratitude, and even good manners, are not readily seen. This is another way in which the Church can give a lead - the Church being you.

This may well be the place to repeat an old saying which you may care to cut out and put on your mantelpiece:-

"I will pass through this world but once. Any good thing therefore that I can do or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer it or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again".

This also applies to you as an individual; no one else can do it for you.

Yours sincerely,

Allan Campbell.
Rector.

NELSON'S PRAYER.

October 21st. 1805

" May the great God, whom I worship, grant to my country and for the benefit of Europe in general, a great and glorious victory; and may no misconduct in any one tarnish it, and may humanity after victory be the predominant feature in the British fleet. For myself, individually, I commit my life to Him who made me and may His blessing light upon my endeavours for serving my country faithfully.

To Him I resign myself and the just cause which is entrusted to me to defend".

Amen, Amen, Amen.

Note:

At about 11 o'clock Lieut. Pasco, the Signal Lieut. of the Victory went to make a report to the Admiral and found him on his knees writing. He withdrew at once but afterwards the paper was found, just as it had been left, and the above is what Nelson wrote.

Prof. G. Callender, M.A., M.R.H.S., Mem.Soc.Nautl. Res.

CHURCH REPAIRS

The Vestry roof is now being repaired under the supervision of our Architects, Messrs. J.H. Martindale & Son.

For some long time we have been anxious about its ability to keep out the rain. We trust when the first part of our quinquennial survey repair is completed, we will be able to go ahead with some of the other pressing work.

MARRIAGES

At All Saints' Coleshill, Saturday 5th September.

Raymond George Lineker and Teresa Diane Steel of Coleshill.

At St. Joseph's Gerrards Cross, Saturday 12th September.

Jonathan Yardley and Jessica Chenevix Trench of Coleshill.

COLESHILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The 25th Village Show

Torrential rain did not prevent exhibitors from talcing their produce to this show on the 12th September for the entries were up on last year in spite of the absence of a number of regular supporters.

The Show was graciously opened by Mrs. Jean Smith and the auction was conducted by Mr. Peter R. Donaldson.

Nineteen single roses were entered for the Rose Bowl and the new section for floral arrangement proved very popular.

Congratulations are extended to the organisers upon a smooth running exhibition which entailed a lot of work before and afterwards.

Gup Winners:

The Grindley Cup - open to residents who cultivate their own gardens and allotment holders.	Mr. H. Aldridge (6th Year)
The Jerram Cup - for vegetables	Mr. R.J. Beasley (4th Year)
The Cotswold Cup - for flowers	Mrs. C. Stanton
The Coleshill Cup - for preserves	Mr. C.G. Prouse (2nd Year)
The Edmund Waller Cup - for pastries	Mrs. V.G. Darvill
The Wheatsheaf Cup - for children	Miss Shane Riley
The Ovington Rose Bowl	Mr. E. Post.

John Stuart Anderson

John Stuart Anderson, the distinguished solo actor, will be making a return visit on Friday, 16th October, at the Parish Church of St. Mary's at 8 p.m. in the new solo dramatic programme entitled "The Living Word". This unusual presentation includes a Biblical sequence followed by a striking monodrama on the martyrdom of William Tyndale.

OBERAMMERGAU KEEPS ITS VOW

First performed in 1634, the Passion Play of Oberammergau has been presented to the world every 10 years for nearly 3½ centuries in fulfilment of a vow made in 1633. In that year, the Plague was ravaging Europe bringing a ghastly death to thousands. Eventually it reached Oberammergau, a tiny village in Bavaria and over 100 of its inhabitants died in agony. The survivors sought God's help if he could spare them and they promised to perform in thanksgiving a play about Christ's suffering and death "every 10 years from now until the end of time". And from that day the story goes, there were no more deaths from the plague.

In 1680, it was decided to perform the Play in decade years, and in May this year I was fortunate in being able to see a performance in this 36th season. The Play depicts Christ's Passion, from the entry into Jerusalem up to the Resurrection and Transfiguration. Although this is probably the longest live dramatic production in the world - it starts at 8.15 a.m. and ends at 5 p.m. - the amateur players stage it 5 times a week for 20 weeks, from May to September.

To be born in Oberammergau is to inherit a task which is also a proud privilege. 1,700 of the Village's population of 5,000 play an active part in the production and it appears that their lives are deeply influenced by it. The outside walls of their houses are beautifully frescoed with religious scenes and the whole village is dominated by the great Cross on the Kofel mountain.

Two years before a Play year, a committee chooses the cast and the players start to grow their hair and beards. Wigs, artificial beards and make-up are not permitted. Many of the performers are shop-keepers, farmers, hotel workers, etc., and during the season of the Play, they and the rest of the villagers manage to accommodate feed and transport more than 5,000 visitors each night as well as perform during the day. (The shops are closed while the Play is in progress). One meets and immediately recognises the Players everywhere. The Apostle John served me in his shop; Caiaphas drove our coach from the hotel; Mary Magdalene helps her widowed mother run a guest house and morning and evening exchanged blue and gold robes for an apron; the Virgin Mary is a school teacher and so it goes on..... The music for the Play was written in 1815 by an Oberammergau school teacher - the same beautiful moving music is played and sung to-day by the orchestra and a choir of 50.

The theatre used to-day was built in 1900 and although the audience is under cover, much of the stage is open to the sky; swallows flit across the stage; Jesus enters Jerusalem on a live donkey; the sound of cowbells and the sight of the majestic mountains beyond the stage increase one's feeling of the involvement. No-one, I am sure, could fail to be moved by the story, so glorious and heart rending, yet so joyful in the way in which it unfolds.

Joan Dryden.

ST. MARY'S PARISH CHURCH, AMERSHAM.

Rector; The Revd. A. Campbell, M.I. (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

Sunday, 11th October. HARVEST FESTIVAL - see special notices.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, COLESHILL

SERVICES IN OCTOBER

October 4th	<u>HARVEST FESTIVAL</u> 9.00 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION 6.00 p.m. Special Festival Evensong.
11th	9.00 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION 10.30 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION at St. Andrews.
18th	9.00 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION
25th	9.00 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION 3.00 p.m. Evensong.

N.B. Sunday, 1st November. - Patronal Festival.

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 Lasher, Radnor Cottage, Magpie Lane (tel: 6866)