

PARSONAGE PONDERINGS

"I am a Christian **but.....**"

I was talking in last **month's** Newsletter about some of the misconceptions about the Church and I should like to continue on this **topic**. Incidentally, if anyone cares to raise any points or to make any comments, I shall be only too pleased to try to answer them, and the Editor, I am sure, will welcome any letters for publication.

One of the favourite **comments** that I like to answer is **this:-**

"I am a good Christian, but I do not think it necessary to go to Church" or something **similar**. How often we hear that sort of thing.

I like to answer this because it deals with three fundamental **questions:-**

(1) **What** is a Christian and, incidentally, is there such a thing as a good Christian?

(2) **What** is the Church?

(3) What is the point of going to Church?

Obviously it would be impossible to deal with the whole of this issue in this Newsletter but I will try to deal with some of the first part now and the rest in next **month's** and the following numbers.

"What is a Christian?"

It is surprising how many different answers I get to that question and I have spent a lot of time asking it. Here are **some:-**

(a) Someone who believes in **God**

(b) Someone who keeps the Ten Commandments

(c) Someone who believes in Jesus Christ

(d) Someone who tries to live like Jesus Christ

Now, is it sufficient to say that "someone who believes in **God**" is a Christian?

Obviously not, as a **moment's** reflection will show. Christians are not the only ones who believe in **God**. Most **people**, before they became too sophisticated and self reliant believed in **God** or Gods of some sort, and they, most certainly, were not Christians.

In our own time, Hindus believe in many Gods and are not Christians. Moslems believe in one God but are not Christians. Jews believe in one God but are not Christians. It is obvious that "belief in God" is not a good enough definition. Of course, "belief in God" is a necessary requisite for a Christian - but what is so important is what we understand by God in the first place and what sort of a God we believe in, and what we believe about Him.

The distinctive fact about a Christian's belief in God is that we believe He has revealed Himself to us as fully as possible in the life and teaching of Jesus Christ. That revelation is enshrined in the New Testament and crystallised in the Creeds of the Church. We believe that He is One God who is righteous, pure and holy and who demands these qualities in His worshippers. He is also merciful and forgiving and prepared to allow us to make a new start when we have fallen. He is also continually active in His creative work, calling His creatures to Him, guiding and strengthening them when they will listen and obey. We know Him as Father, Son and Holy Spirit and we worship and adore Him for all His blessings to us, humbly, joyfully and thankfully.

I could go on but will spare you. I will continue with the next reply "A Christian is someone who keeps the Ten Commandments" in the next issue.

Holidays

August is a sleepy month for the organised Church in the parishes as so many people are away on holiday. We were fortunate in having good weather while we were away and I hope that all of you have been similarly blessed.

Of course, the Church does not cease to function whilst you are away - it goes with you for YOU ARE THE CHURCH or part of it, anyway, and I do hope that you linked up with the local Church wherever you went and worshipped with them.

Lambeth

Some of the Church - Bishops of the Anglican Communion - have been combining business with pleasure in their Lambeth Conference, as you are all, no doubt, aware. These conferences take place every 10 years. In these very confusing times, we look forward to the final report of the Bishop's deliberations and for guidance on some of the more pressing problems. Let us hope and pray that we shall not be disappointed.

Sunday School and Choir Outing - Adult's eye view

The Sunday School and Choir, accompanied by some brave parents, went for their annual outing to Littlehampton on August 8th. As this was my first trip, I have been given the dubious privilege of writing about it. Being an honest sort of a chap, I must admit that I enjoyed the coach trip there and back - even though it did start at 7.30a.m. - it was the bit in between that I found somewhat trying. Not that it was anybody's fault.

Littlehampton seems the ideal place for the outing with plenty of sand for the children to play in, on and with, and the water, I am told, was not too cold. I did not venture to try it myself - coward that I am. Unfortunately, the weather was not very kind to us, and I do think that a bit of sunshine is desirable for beach sitting (at least when you reach my venerable age). We must not grumble, though, for we were constantly diverted by showers of rain or sand, so we were not allowed to get bored. Children, fortunately, do not seem to worry about the sort of things that affect grown ups; they are impervious to rain and wind and they seemed to be perfectly happy and actually enjoying themselves. So much so, in fact, that I thought one, at least, intended to stay there permanently - Raymond Pusey Jnr. He seemed very loathe to leave an enormous hole which he had dug for himself. I thought that perhaps he was going to hibernate as winter seemed imminent. Our dear old English weather, though, true to form and capricious as ever (I do not know why we say "Old MAN weather") suddenly repented and we had a spot of sunshine - the first, I believe, all the week. This cheered up all the sun worshippers among us and kept us happy until we boarded the coach for the return. Of course, it was the traditional dish of fish and chips en route that added the final touch and led us to conclude that it hadn't been so bad, after all.

So there we are, then, another outing over children delighted no-one sickparents survived, I'M glad to say same number at the end as at the beginning, to Mrs. Pusey's relief - and all that remains is to give our very sincere thanks to Mrs. Pusey for organising everything - even, I am sure, that little drop of sunshine.

IN MEMORIAM

Nora Edith Street, buried at All Saint's Church on 17th August 1968.
R.I.P.

23rd. ANNUAL HORTICULTURAL SHOW

The Coleshill Horticultural Society will be holding its 23rd, Annual Show on Saturday, 14th September, to be opened by Miss S. Boston at 2.30p.m. in the Village Hall. Schedules and entry forms may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Mr. S.M.Rann, Red Lion Cottages, Coleshill.

The entries will be judged in accordance with the R.H.S. rulings. The Hon. Sec. has a copy of the show handbook and any prospective exhibitor is welcome to consult this. Each year the schedule is modified as a result of suggestions or problems of the previous Show. The children's classes caused the Committee some difficulty because of the age groupings, and this year the entry cards will indicate the exhibitor's age so that this may be taken into consideration by the judge.

Following the rules introduced at the A.G.M. in May, adult residents of Coleshill become members of the Society by payment of an entry fee to exhibit in any class, and thereby will be able to enjoy a number of benefits. The Society is affiliated to the Royal Horticultural Society and will receive a number of free tickets for its Shows and also for entrance to the R.H.S. grounds at Wisley. There will also be one copy of the monthly journal available for circulation. Messrs. Johnson, of Hill Avenue, Amersham have kindly offered to holders of a current membership card a discount to the following effect: Orders over £1 - a 10% discount for garden tools, fertilisers, bulbs and loose vegetable seeds, and 2½% on packet seeds. Membership cards will be available by the time of the Show.

At the last Show there were a number of classes with no entries and many more with only one entry. Anyone who enters a number of classes is almost bound to get some awards and the Committee hopes that readers will encourage neighbours to enter whatever they have mature in their gardens, and provide competition in cooking and preserves.

COLESHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Best wishes are extended to Mr. Raymond Pusey upon being co-opted to the Parish Council in the place of the late Miss Howard. This is no new experience for Mr. Pusey as he was a valuable member of the Council some years ago and did not seek re-election owing to his many commitments.

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 1968

Having held the Morris Cup as the best kept village with a population 500 - 1000 for the past three years, Coleshill has now relinquished it to Lavendon by the margin of two points, the top scores in this category being as follows:-

	Orderly Adverts (10)	Absence of litter (40)	General tidiness (20)	Total (70)
Lavendon	10	38	17	65
Coleshill	9	36	18	63

In this class there were other entries from Whitchurch (63), Higher Denham (62), The Lee and Lee Common (62), Penn Village (62), Knotty Green (61), Penn Street (61), Winchmore Hill (59) and Oakley (58).

Mentmore was adjudged the winner in Category 1 (under 500) with a score of 68 (12 entries) and Richings Park in Category 3 (over 1000) with a score of 64 (5 entries).

When Mr. Stubbings received the cup from Lord Carrington last year, he paid a special tribute to Mr. Albert Bates, who looked after and made a special feature of his part of the common.

In a recent interview with a representative of the "Bucks Examiner" Mr. Bates said that at one time he and Mrs. Bates took their ease in the shade of an oak, but horses waiting their turn to be shod at the nearby smithy kept on eating the leaves and reducing the amount of shade.

So 22 years ago, Mr. Bates put the seat under a hawthorn which his careful clipping and training has guided into its present charming shape. May you have the health and strength to carry on your good work for many years, Mr. Bates.

EXAMINATION SUCCESSES

It gives pleasure to announce the following successes in the examinations of the Associated Board of Royal Schools of Music, Summer 1968:

Jennifer Creber	Violin Grade 2
Penelope Weedon	Violincello Grade 2 with merit
Jeannette Darvill	Trumpet Grade 3 with merit
Paulina Antosiewicz	Flute Grade 4
Wendy Weller	Theory Grade 5

MOTES FROM MAGILA HOSPITAL

Sister Edith Frances has sent news from St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Magila, where 29 motherless babies are now being looked after. There are three sets of twins and the smallest baby to be admitted weighed only 2lbs.9oz. She had been brought from a village over 70 miles from the hospital, but is now a fat, thriving little girl.

Sister sends most grateful thanks for all the help she receives and especially for the £20 sent from All Saint's Church to maintain a cot for one of these babies, for other generous gifts of money and for the beautiful blankets which keep the children warm on cold nights.

Several of the bigger children have gone to live with relations and Peter (who is now 4) is shortly to join his father, who, having been baptised at Easter, is going to marry a Christian girl. So Peter will now have a home of his own.

WANTS

(a) **Wool.** Five more blankets are on the way to Africa but the wool so generously supplied is now used up and the cupboard bare. Can you help?

(b) **Green Shield Stamps.** There has been a splendid response to this appeal but many more stamps are needed. A new project is planned for a hospital at N'Kota Kota in the diocese of Malawe.

Details are not yet available as the doctor in charge of the Hospital is on his way to England but the need is urgent.

CRICKET - LADIES Versus COLESHILL C.C.

Mrs. Ruperti will be pleased to hear from ladies who would like to play in this match on Sunday, 1st September, when there will be a raffle and teas for the benefit of the funds of the Village Hall.

SERVICES

ALL SAINTS GOLESHILL

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY, AMERSHAM

Every Sunday:

9.00a.m. Farish Communion

2nd & 4th Sundays:

6.00p.m. Evensong

ST. ANDREWS, WINCHMORE HILL

2nd. Sunday (September 8th)

10.30a.m. Holy Communion

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

10.00a.m. Children's Church

11.00a.m. 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays:

Holy Communion (New Service)

2nd & 4th Sundays:

Mattins

6.00p.m. Evensong

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sun. Sept 1 Cricket Match, Coleshill C.C. versus The Ladies
Tues 3 Sisterhood - Open Meeting
Thurs 12 Mobile Library Van - Coleshill
W.I. - Ceylon Tea Centre
Sat 14 Coleshill Horticultural Society - 23rd Annual Show
Thurs 19 Mothers Union, Coleshill - Mrs Carey "Being foster Parents,
Thurs 26 Mobile Library Van, Coleshill
Fri Oct 18 Jumble Sale
Fri Dec 6 Whist Drive.

RECTOR: The Revd. Allan Campbell, M.A.(Cantab), Beaumont, Hervines Road,
Amersham, Tel: 1135 or St Mary's Parish Office, Church Street,
Amersham, Tel: 1712.

CURATE: The Revd. R.A.Thomson, M.A.(Cantab), The Parsonage, Coleshill,
Tel: Amersham 722

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

HON. TREASURER: G.T.Creber, Applecroft, Meadowcot Lane, Coleshill,
Tel: Anersham 3350

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