

ALL SAINTS VILLAGE NEWSLETTER NO. 12

February 1967

Message from the Rector, the Revd. Allan Campbell

My Dear Friends,

Mr. Holder is now home from hospital. We are pleased to see him and hope that he will soon regain his strength and be able to do at least some light duties.

May I commend to you LENT as a special time when we should think deeply and daily about our discipleship under the headings of (1) Holy Communion (at least once per week) (2) daily prayer (morning and evening) and (3) daily bible reading.

Ash Wednesday is on February 8th. Please try at least until Easter to observe these three things.

Yours sincerely,

Allan Campbell. Rector.

Message from the Priest-in-Charge the Revd. W. L. Holder

Mr Dear People,

At long last I am home again and am delighted to meet my old friends and to be with my family in Coleshill. I am still not on full duty but am fast gathering strength and will, I feel sure, be able to do all that any parish may require of its Priest.

With Epiphany still in our minds, here are some of the places where men have found the star which led them to Our Lord:

In our homes "where Christian parents have taught and prayed for their children.

In our schools where clergy and church workers have known and loved our Lord.

In their joys where good and happy experiences have helped men to believe in Him and come to bring "life more abundant"

In their sorrows when men have learned that He "bore our sicknesses and carried our sorrows"

In the needs of others when men have found Christ in the poor and hungry and served them

Have you found your star?

I earnestly ask you to think on these points and pray that God will lead you on to the next step. William L. Holder.

W H Y ? (2)

Why, in some Churches, does the Priest wear special robes at the Service of Holy Communion?

The special garments sometimes worn by a Priest at a celebration of Holy Communion dates back to the clothes worn by the Roman and Syrian citizens during our Lord's lifetime. Over the cassock is worn a long white linen garment called an alb. It is longer than an ordinary surplice and some think it represents Christ's seamless robe for which the soldiers cast lots on Calvary. Round the left ana is fastened a strip of material of the same colour as the frontal. This is a maniple and is a reminder of the towel with which our Lord girded himself before washing the disciples' feet. Round the Priest's neck is an oblong piece of linen - the amice; this, when fastened is turned back to form a collar. Then comes the stole - a symbol of the yoke of Christ, and over this the chasuble. This is the coloured vestment which frequently has a 'Y' shaped cross embroidered on the back. The colour of the chasuble varies with the season. It reminds ud of the "gorgeous robe" with which Herod arrayed our Lord before sending Him back to Pilate. Thus these special garments have a close connection with the last hours of Christ's life on earth before His death and resurrection.

There is another vestment, not primarily connected with the service of Holy Communion. This is a cope. It is a large semi-circular cloak of silk or other material fastened in front by a clasp and worn in processions and at other solemn functions, as, for example, the coronation of the Sovereign. It is thought to be symbolic of rule.

Finally, the mitre worn by a Bishop and said to resemble the headdress of the Jewish High Priest, signifies the helmet of salvation. It is "cloven in the midst" like the tongues of fire which fell on the Apostles and shows that the wearer shares with them the Pentecostal gift.

M.W.

CHURCH FINANCES THROUGH THE AGES

It is difficult to determine when Christianity first reached this country. It seems probable that it was introduced from Gaul in the second or third century, i.e. during the Roman occupation, for Alban, the first English martyr, was put to death at Verulamium during a religious persecution in 303 A.D.. There is, however, a popular legend that Joseph of Arimathea carried the Holy Grail to Britain about 63 A.D. and settled at Glastonbury, which claims to be the only Christian sanctuary of Roman Britain to survive when the Romans gave place to the pagan Saxons about 442 A.D..

What happened during the next 150 years is obscure, but in 597 A.D. St. Augustine, despatched by Pope Gregory, landed in England and commenced his task of converting the Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes. In 601 A.D. he consecrated under the name of Christ's Church a church said to have been used formerly by Roman Christians, and this, enlarged and rebuilt, became Canterbury Cathedral.

The pagan invaders had brought with them a custom which endured. From time immemorial Saxon landowners had been obliged to maintain a temple and priest on their properties, and for these a tenth (tithe) of the produce of the land was set apart. When paganism was superseded, the Christian Church and Priest were maintained in similar manner. By the time of the Norman conquest, bishops and monasteries were liberally endowed with land and kings and great nobles could be relied upon for large gifts for such purposes as cathedral building. In all probability there were appeals for funds as in our days, for when Bishop Poore started Salisbury Cathedral in 1220 he sent his canons to raise money in other dioceses. In addition there were offerings at shrines. A feudal lord might maintain a church within his domain and might endow it. There are parishes today which benefit from endowments.

In many cases, the endowments of a church would consist of tythe offerings made by parishioners and glebe, the latter being land given for the support of the incumbent. Today the modern incumbent is unlikely to engage in farming and so the tendency is to sell the glebe and invest the proceeds. Today there are about some 164,000 acres of such land as against 659,000 acres in 1887.

In the primitive economy of an Anglo-Saxon village, a levy in kind on the products of the village by way of tithe was the natural way of raising funds for the church.

Many attempts were made to adjust the system to the current structure of society but for years it was a constant source of friction between the Church and agriculture. Finally the Tithe Act was passed in 1936 compelling the Church to surrender its income from tithes in return for £70,000,000 Government stock - an arrangement not in favour of the Church. About 7,000 benefices were affected and the average loss of stipend was $18\frac{1}{2}\%$.

Until 1535 the entire first year's profits of all spiritual preferments - and after that, one tenth of the annual profits - were paid to the Papal exchequer. Among the amounts collected in 1460 and remitted to Rome was 3s.1d. from Amersham Church and the original "Peter's Pence Chest" is on view at St. Mary's, our Parish Church. In 1535 Henry VIII stopped the payment of "first fruits" and "tenths" as they were then called, to the Pope and annexed them to the Crown. This continued until 1703 when Queen Anne, moved by the poverty of many of the clergy, surrendered the first fruits and tenths and created a fund, which became known as "Queen Anne's Bounty", the object of which was to improve the maintenance of the poorer clergy.

By 1836 the income and expenditure of the Church had become very uneven and that year the Ecclesiastical Commissioners were set up to take over the revenue of the bishoprics and chapters and redistribute the income so as to provide for the "cure of souls in the parishes"

Queen Anne's Bounty and the Ecclesiastical Commissioners were merged in 1943 as the Church Commissioners and future articles will deal with the work of the Church Commissioners, other sources of Church income and the finances of our own church of All Saints in particular.

(Compiled from an article by Mr. G. Creber, information supplied by the S.P.C.K. and other sources).

NEW ARRIVALS

On January 8th, to Mr. and Mrs. N. H. Nicholls - a son

On January 13th, to Mr. and Mrs. E. Bolton - a son

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Will someone with a good sized washing machine please volunteer to wash a large linen cover, now used to protect the Altar frontals in the chest?

Anyone prepared to do this is asked to communicate with Miss Williams.

NOTE FROM MAGILA HOSPITAL

Sister Edith Francis sends many grateful thanks for the Christmas present sent to Peter. With the money she bought toys and a new pair of shoes. She says that all the children were taken to Church on Christmas Day and behaved very well. Peter is well and growing into a comical little boy who is in every mischief.

There are now 17 motherless babies in the Hospital - five under six months and twelve between six months and three years.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thurs. Feb 2	Mobile Library Van - Coleshill
Tues. 7	Parish of Amersham-with-Coleshill Annual General Meeting at 8p.m. in the Church Rooms, Amersham
7	Sisterhood. Open meeting and Bring and Buy stall (postponed from January 31st)
Thurs. 9	W.I. - Mr. R. J. Woolacott
Thurs. 16	Mobile Library Van - Coleshill
	Mothers' Union. Parish Room, Coleshill. General discussion with Bring and Buy stall
Sat 18	Musical Recital - the Parish Church of St. Mary 7p.m. Collection for the Restoration Fund.
Tues. 21	Sisterhood - Mrs. L. Gamston

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Women's World Day of Prayer will be celebrated by a united service at All Saints Church Coleshill on Friday February 10th at 2.30p.m.

The object of the service, which is held annually, is to unite women all over the world in prayer on a theme selected by a different country each year. For 1967 the theme will be "And of His Kingdom there shall be no end" (Luke 1:33) and was chosen by the late Queen Salote.

ALL SAINTS, ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Rector, the Revd. Allan Campbell M.A., presided at this meeting on January 23rd and said how pleased everyone was to see Mr. Holder present.

The Hon. Treasurer, Mr. G.T.Creber, reported that there was a small surplus of income over expenditure and that the covenanted income remained a substantial source of funds. The bulk of the proceeds from the Church Fete had been added to the Church Fabric Fund in view of heavy expenditure which would be entailed by urgent repairs and renovations.

The Rector stressed the importance of the Treasurer being able to budget the income for the coming year. To assist him to do this it was agreed to see if the envelope scheme for free will offerings could be extended throughout the parish. This scheme enables members of the Church to plan their giving on a regular basis.

The pro-churchwardens, Mr. C.Saunders and Mr. N.N.Nicholls, and the Hon. Treasurer, Mr.G.T.Creber, were re-elected. Mr.Nicholls agreed to continue as Hon. Secretary and Mrs. Raymond Pusey was elected to the Committee.

Finally it was agreed to hold the Church Fete on Saturday July 8th and to commend to future committees that the Fete should be held on a corresponding date each year.

COLESHILL YOUTH CLUB

An adjourned meeting was held on January 19th to discuss the future of this Club when the welcome announcement was made that Mr. Keedle of the "61" Club, Amersham had secured a leader, Mr.W.Paulkner of Newlands Park College and that the club would re-open under his leadership on January 23rd.

Mr. W.H.Holton agreed to act as chairman, Mr. Rupert as Hon. Secretary, Miss Kendal as Treasurer with a committee of 7, together with 6 members of the Youth Club,

SERVICES

ALL SAINTS, COLESHILL

Every Sunday

9.00a.m. Parish Communion

10.00 a.m. Sunday School

2nd & 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 Sermon
(N.B. On the 1st Sunday in each month the 10a.m. and 11a.m. services combine for a Family Conaunion at 10.00a.m.)

6.00p.m. Evensong and Sernon

BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES, BURIALS

Arrangements for any of the above are to be made direct with the Rector, the Revd. Allan Campbell, M.A. at the Parish Office or Beaumont, Hervines Road, Amersham.

Please telephone Amersham 1135 and give as much notice as possible.

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

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

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

HON. TREASURER: G. Creber, Applecroft, Meadowcot Lane, Colehill. (Tel. Amersham 3350)