

March 1963

My Dear Friends,

Lent has never been an easy time to keep properly, but then it has never been easy to be a Christian - properly.

If we spent more time with the Gospels during Lent, reading and studying a portion each day, I am sure we would be more worthy disciples of our Lord, The temptation stories are the obvious ones to read first and that important verse, St. Matthew 4.10 - "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God and Him only shalt thou serve".

The third temptation suggests that success will consist in the capture and not the conversion of the world. There would be little profit in the children of men crowding the Church of God unless they became children of God. The purpose of the season of Lent is not to get crowds into churches but souls into heaven.

You may like to use the following prayer each day during Lent:-

For the Spread of Truth at Home.

O God, who in ancient days did raise missionary servants to bring the Gospel to these islands, grant that in our day the message of Jesus Christ may go out to our people with renewed power through the written word. Raise up writers who can speak of the needs of our time with unfaltering faith and with a winning simplicity: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Yours sincerely,

Allan Campbell. Rector.

CHURCH NEWS

At long last, it has been possible to replace the overhead electricity cable leading to the Church by a more powerful underground cable into the vestry. To this have been added two large night-storage heaters which have made all the difference to the heat and comfort of the Church. A very well worthwhile piece of work, expensive, but money well spent.

It has now been possible to dismantle the old chimney to which the overhead cable had been connected. The chimney space has been tiled over and so eliminates one of the leaky places in the roof. The flat roof over the vestry, however, leaks badly and must be replaced. At the moment it is only covered with asbestos and has accumulated two or three inches of soil, weeds and grass. It is hoped to carry out work on this during the summer.

DOGS IN THE CHURCHYARD

Many graves have been disturbed and bulbs and plants on them dug up by dogs.

Will all dog owners please note and endeavour to see that this is stopped,

THE WAR MEMORIAL

The War Memorial, being so close to a large evergreen tree, is prone to collect a dirty green deposit from the tree.

Over the past three or four years, efforts to clean it with soap and water etc. have been less and less effective. The Parish Council has agreed to have it cleaned professionally and a local firm of Stone Masons has been engaged to carry out the work,

It has been suggested that some residents of the village may wish to contribute to the cost of cleaning. Any contribution, however small, will be most welcome and should be sent to Mr. Sydney Ware, Littlelands Coleshill. The minimum cost is expected to be about £40.

COLESHILL FACTORY CLOSING DOWN (?)

There is a grave risk that the workers who make beautiful cot blankets for Magila Hospital may have to stop work. This is not due to a strike but to a complete lack of wool. Can you please come to the rescue and let Miss Williams have any wool left over from your knitting so that the babies can be kept warm.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mr. Creber gratefully acknowledges the receipt of a donation of 10/- for the Church Restoration Fund from Mr. E. F. Shrimpton, who sends best wishes to his friends in Coleshill.

ASH WEDNESDAY, DRAMATIC PERFORMANCE

Parishioners are asked to support the Dramatic Performance at St. Mary's on Ash Wednesday at 8p.m.. Tickets are obtainable from Mrs. Ovington.

FROM THE CHURCH REGISTER

Harold Llewellyn Adams, died 20th January; cremated at Chiltern Crematorium on January 29th. Ashes interred at All Saints, January 31st

L.I.P.

A CHOIR IN CALIFORNIA
by Joan Dryden

I was extremely fortunate to be one of the people invited to go to California with Dr. Kenneth Abbott, Head of Music at Ambassador College, St. Albans, and his choir of students. The choirs from the two sister Colleges at Pasadena and Texas joined us and the complete choir was about 250 singers, together with the four well known British soloists, Sheila Armstrong, Maureen Lehane, Robert Tear and John Dethick. We gave two performances each of "Elijah" and "Messiah" in the Civic Auditorium, which holds 6,000 people. All tickets for the four performances were sold before we arrived in California and the audiences were wildly enthusiastic about our music. We discovered that oratorios are seldom performed there and although many people were familiar with sections of the works, very few had ever heard a live performance of either of them. We were accompanied by the Pasadena Philharmonic Orchestra, which was very competent, but not inspired. It was obvious that most of the players were unused to this kind of work and they had very little idea of how to accompany recitative.

Rehearsals and concerts occupied us for most of the first ten days of our stay but for the whole of the last week we were free for sightseeing. The College lent us a 'bus and a driver and we made the most of this generosity.

Pasadena is really a suburb of Los Angeles - a city which extends for over 50 miles in each direction from its heart. There are 8 million inhabitants and 8 million cars, but as the area has been built up since the advent of the motor car, there are few traffic hold-ups. All the roads have at least six lanes and on the Freeways I saw as many as 12 lanes. These enable traffic to flow quite quickly, although if one gets in the wrong lane, it can mean up to 25 miles extra on one's journey to rejoin the Freeway. Mountains surround the whole area, which is built completely on desert. Except for the shopping streets, which have very wide sidewalks, there are few pavements and walking on such roads is not only dangerous but extremely dusty. Most of the houses are of one storey only, due to the incidence of earth tremors. Few have occurred of late, and here and there apartments of up to six storeys are being built - although these look sadly out of place. In a climate such as exists there (it was winter and the temperature averaged 85 degrees F.) one finds few flowers as we know them, and such as there are look washed out and faded. Many houses have no gardens at all and the few lawns we saw were made over built-in sprinklers. These are turned on for a large part of every day. In contrast, citrus fruit trees abound and one can gather fallen oranges, lemons and grapefruit to one's heart's content along the roadside.

Among the more memorable places of interest that we visited were: Hollywood, Sunset Strip and Beverley Hills, where we saw the fabulous mansions owned by film stars - the only dwellings, in fact, built on the hillside, all other buildings being located on the flat desert; various parts of Los Angeles - the Spanish Quarter, Chinatown - one of the largest Chinese communities in the U.S.A.; the New Music Centre which cost 35 million dollars and which consists of three magnificent halls, built on a plaza high above the city; the harbour choc-a-bloc with Japanese merchant shipping; Long Beach - certainly not our idea of a beach, but rather a huge sandy area with every inch of space occupied by oil-drilling and pumping apparatus. To our eyes, the only redeeming feature there was the familiar sight of the "Queen Mary" whose magnificence overshadowed the otherwise tawdry scene; the observatories at Mount Wilson and Mount Palomar to see the 100-inch and the 200-inch telescopes - the latter being the world's largest, with a mirror weighing 16 tons; the University of Southern California, a new enormous campus on a most beautiful site; Universal Studios, where many of my illusions regarding film-making were shattered; Marineland, with its performing seals, whales, porpoises and dolphins; Disneyland, which in our ignorance we had supposed to be a giant funfair. No-one could be more surprised than we were to find that it is a unique 160 acre park lodged in American folk-lore. Here one goes down Main Street into Frontierland, Adventureland and Tomorrowland, rides a river-boat, a submarine, a monorail train, a rocket to the moon. There is certainly nothing else like it in the world; Knotts Berry Farm, a 200 acre authentic 1850 ghost town where one can pan for gold (I had no success; ride a stage coach and Ghost Railroad; The Huntington Museum and Library - the Art Gallery there contains nothing but old English furniture and a wealth of old English masters (Gainsborough, Reynolds, Constable, Turner), a continual source of attraction to the local population.

To crown an unforgettable experience, we were favoured with a cloudless sky for the first half of our return flight and were thus afforded magnificent views of the Mississippi, the Rockies, the Grand Canyon (which even from 35,000 feet showed up as an immense dark chasm enclosed by massive red mountains) and the snow covered peaks of Canada, Labrador and Greenland.

THOSE PYLONS

Once upon a time, life was simple. To obtain light, we lit a tallow candle. To get warm, we lit a log fire. Then there were more of us and we wanted a lot of heat, light and power and we wanted a constant supply at prices which we could afford. That entailed centralisation and mass-production - power stations, hydro-electric stations, atomic stations and gas from the North Sea - which brought in problems of distribution.

It was not practicable to carry the power underground; it had to be carried by overhead cables held up by pylons. The Electricity Authorities have done their best to follow the contours of the country with their cables and we are beginning to look at the cables with a blind eye as we want the power.

Now the Electricity Authorities say that they have to put up a sub-station and switching station, covering some 50 acres, with the inevitable pylons, somewhere in the neighbourhood. The site has been the subject of much controversy and last August there was a public enquiry into the suggested site at Mop End, the result of which should be announced within the next month or so. Naturally, the local Residents Association and the Chiltern Society are particularly interested in this project.

We thought that no such problems would arise with the 1,300 miles of large diameter pipes - the grid - which is to carry North Sea gas all over the country. The local feeder runs from Whitwall in Herts to Ascot in Berks, past Ley Hill Common to cross the Chess west of Latimer and the Midsbury east of Amersham. It then runs southwards a little east of the B.473 (the Amersham-Beaconsfield road), turns west near Hedgerley and then with Burnham Beeches on the East, goes south to the Thames.

It now transpires that the Gas Council plans to control the pressure of gas by telemetric control and has applied for permission to erect an instrument house at Hedgerley. It is not known whether the Council intends later to apply for permission to erect a 100 foot mast near the house and the Chiltern Society has urged the Eton R.D.C. to take full account of the Gas Council's ultimate intention for the site. The Society is reminded of the Gas Council's constant assurance that it is most anxious to safeguard countryside amenities.

BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY

A course of Home Nursing lectures will start on Thursday, 29th February at 8.00p.m. at the headquarters in Chiltern Avenue. All are welcome.

WHIST DRIVE

A Whist Drive in aid of the School funds will be held at Coleshill School on Wednesday, 5th March at 7.30p.m., when Mr. J. Ware will act as M.C.. Admission will be by ticket (2/6a)

BRIDGE DRIVE

Bridge players are asked to reserve the evening of Friday, 19th April to attend a Bridge Drive being organised by the Committee of the Village Hall to augment funds which are being depleted by the cost of repairs and decoration.

The same partners will remain together all the evening and will meet other pairs according to whether they win or lose the various games. This is a new departure in Coleshill and bridge players are asked to make up parties and bring in friends from outside the village as well as local players. The price of admission will be 5/- per person and tickets will be obtainable from Mrs. Browne, Mrs. Ovington or any member of the Committee.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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| Sun. Feb. | 25 | Amersham-with-Coleshill Annual General Meeting at St. Mary's Church Rooms, immediately following Evensong. |
| Wed. | 28 | ASH WEDNESDAY. Holy Communion All Saints 11 a.m.
Dramatic performance at St. Mary's 8p.m. |
| Fri. Mch | 1 | Women's Day of Prayer. Baptist Chapel, Coleshill 2.30pm |
| Tues | 5 | Sisterhood - Revd. E. Chambers |
| Wed | 6 | School Whist Drive |
| Thurs | 14 | Mobile Library Van - Coleshill
W.I. Mrs. Williamson & Mrs Thirlway "Public Speaking" |
| Tues | 19 | Sisterhood. Open meeting arranged by Mrs. Chambers |
| Thurs | 21 | Mothers Union. Annual General Meeting, Winchmore Hill |
| | 28 | Mobile Library Van - Coleshill |
| Wed. Apr. | 17 | Annual General Meeting - Village Hall |
| Fri Apr. | 19 | Bridge Drive in the Village Hall |
| Sat. June | 8 | Church Fête |

SERVICES

ALL SAINTS, COLESHILL

Every Sunday:

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

2nd & 4th Sundays:

6.00p.m. Evensong

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
AMERSHAM

Every Sunday;

8.00a.m. Holy Communion
10.00a.m. Children's Service
6.00p.m. Evensong
1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays;

11.00a.m. Sung Eucharist

2nd & 4th Sundays:

11.00a.m. Mattins

RECTOR: The Revd. Allan Campbell, M.A. Beaumont, Hervines Rd, Amersham
Tel: Amersham 11
or The Parish Office, Amersham. Tel: Amersham 1712

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

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

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