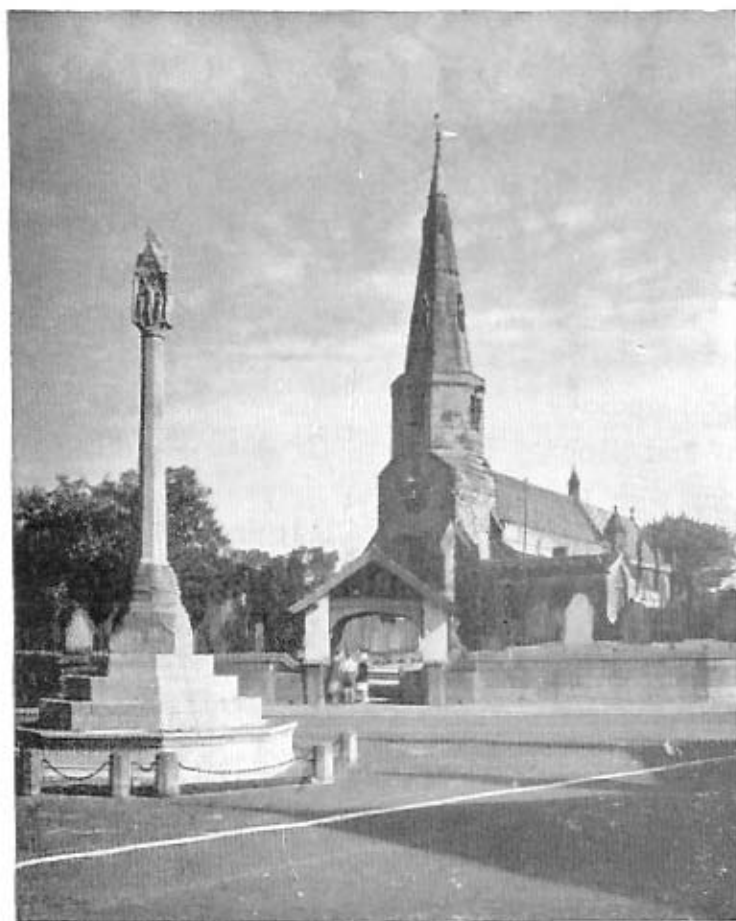


HALSALL PARISH MAGAZINE



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Rural Dean of Ormskirk
The Rectory, Halsall. Tel. 321.

Church Wardens:

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MR. H. SARJEANT, People's
Warden

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MR. E. CARR, L.L.C.M., 16 Green Hill Crescent, Billinge, Nr. Wigan.
Telephone Billinge 894342

Vergers:

MRS. E. HUYTON, 28 Gregory Lane, Halsall.

Services at St. Cuthberts

1st SUNDAY IN THE MONTH

9.00 a.m. Holy Communion
10.30 a.m. Mattins and Sermon
6.30 p.m. Evensong and Sermon

2nd SUNDAY IN THE MONTH

10.30 a.m. Family Eucharist
6.30 p.m. Evensong and Sermon

3rd SUNDAY IN THE MONTH

9.00 a.m. Holy Communion
10.30 a.m. Mattins and Sermon
6.30 p.m. Evensong with Holy Communion

4th SUNDAY IN THE MONTH

9.00 a.m. Holy Communion
10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist
6.30 p.m. Evensong and Sermon

5th SUNDAY IN THE MONTH

9.00 a.m. Holy Communion
10.30 a.m. Mattins with Holy Communion
6.30 p.m. Evensong and Sermon

Holy Baptism: Second Sunday in the month at 3.30 p.m.

Churchings: By appointment

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Lent at St. Cuthberts

ALL WEEKDAYS ARE FASTS

A DAILY PRAYER FOR LENT

Lord Jesus, help us to pray. Increase our faith, that no problem we face may be too big for us to overcome. Help us to see that by keeping us on our knees you are strengthening our trust and obedience in your purpose, through Jesus Christ our Lord,

AMEN

SUNDAYS AT 9.00 A.M.

2 March, 9 March, 16 March, 23 March, 30 March.

SUNDAYS AT 3.45 P.M.

16 March.

SUNG EUCHARIST AT 10.30 A.M.

9 March, Family Eucharist.
23 March 30 March Family Eucharist.

PRAYERS AND DEVOTIONAL READING FOLLOWED BY HOLY COMMUNION

Monday or Tuesday Evenings at 7.30 p.m. in Church, there will be Prayers with devotional readings as announced. The dates are:—

Tuesday 4 March.
Monday 10 March,
Monday 17 March.
Monday 24 March.

MOTHERING SUNDAY

9th March at 2.30 p.m.

FAMILY SERVICE

Preacher:—Rev. Alan Ripley,
Diocesan Youth Chaplain.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

27th March 7.30 p.m.

SUNG EUCHARIST FOLLOWED BY THE
STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR.

GOOD FRIDAY

28th March
10.30 a.m. Mattins and Litany.
2—3 p.m. Devotional Service.

HOLY SATURDAY

29th March 7.30 p.m.
Evening Service and Lighting of The Paschal
Candle.

EASTER DAY

30th March
9.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
10.30 a.m. Easter Eucharist.
6.30 p.m. Evensong Sermon,
followed by Holy Communion.

EASTER DECORATION

With the ever-increasing costs of floral decoration we depend once again on your valuable contributions during Lent towards the costs of our Easter decoration. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

THE EASTER OFFERING

According to the ancient custom, offerings on Easter Day will be presented to the Rector. Those unable to be present may send their gifts to the Church Wardens.

R. H. and H. S.

The Rectory
Halsall
Ormskirk L39 8RN

My dear Friends,

What troubled weeks we are facing, with all the deprivation that comes when men go slow, and will not fulfill their allotted duties. The loss of trade and of wages that has resulted from all the strikes must be colossal. The dreadful inconvenience and hardship that those who travel on the railway to their work have had to face, has been disgraceful. Why cannot men see that money in itself is far less important than the satisfaction we get from work well done, and from a sense that we by our work are helping to supply the need of others?

Our Lord who was brought up in a humble home knew only too well that money means food, and clothing and security for ourselves and our families, but He also stresses that the finest things in life, the things which mean most to us, are not sold in any shop, or bought with money at all. You cannot purchase with money true happiness or true love. Many a family has been poor in this world's goods, but has had treasures far more valuable. There is in their homes the spirit of give and take, of helpfulness and kindness and of real generosity, which brings with it gayness and fun and joy that many a rich man would envy.

But let us not forget that God can use our troubles and our trials to make us kinder, better, more thoughtful people. It will be good both for ourselves and for future generations, if we have learnt through the oil and coal crisis, to be more careful with the irreplaceable stocks of fuel that our good earth possesses than in the past. It may have made us see as never before that our own well-being is dependent upon the willingness of others to work as well as upon our own work, and have made us more ready to serve one another. It may have made us less complacent about the existence of the terrible poverty and hunger in many parts of the world.

We are now well on the way to the middle of Lent. This is a time when we must follow the way of Jesus, the way of sacrifice, the way of fasting and prayer. But how are we to follow the way of Jesus, the way of sacrifice, this Lent? For centuries Christians have used the season of Lent as a special preparation for Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter. This time of preparation was quite early linked with our Lord's own time of preparation for His life's work, the time He spent in the wilderness.

How can we follow the way of Jesus this Lent and use our time of preparation in a similar way to that of Jesus?

As we think over the gospel accounts of Our Lord's time of preparation in the wilderness we see that for the Lord Jesus it was a time of making certain decisions on the way in which He was going to tackle His life's work. Whether in the historical facts of the temptations, to turn stones into bread, to jump from the temple roof and to fall down and

worship the Devil—or whether these were visions decribng deliberate choices being placed before Christ: whatever your view of the temptations in the wilderness, one thing is clear. It was a time of decision. A time of getting straight once and for all the way and purpose of the life of Jesus. He chose the appeal of the spirit, not the attraction of the material. He chose the way of love, not the way of spectacular power. He chose the way of loyalty to God, not the cheap short cut of compromise with evil.

These decisions were the preparation for the life work of Jesus. These same decisions can be our preparation this Lent. It will be a costly business for you and me to say—material gain is not going to be the ambition of my life—I will choose to serve. It will be a real sacrifice for you and me to say—I will forgo status and power over others, I will help my fellow men as a brother by the way of love. It will take deep prayer for us to vow before God one hundred per cent loyalty to Him—in everything, and no place at all for the Devil.

This time of Lent, this time of decision must be expressed in practical ways in the way we live in all the months and years ahead. If this Lent is to be of any value our future way of life must follow on in character from the decisions and the vows we make in this season of Lent.

We shall celebrate the glorious festival of Easter in a few weeks and it is my fervent hope that you will all join me for your Communion on this Great Day. The happiest moments of my life are those at the Altar with my God, my family and my parishioners. Let us make this coming Easter the best we ever had in thankfulness for all God's mercies and forgivenesses.

May God bless you all
and a very happy Easter to you all.

Your sincere friend

Herbert Bullough

TOP OF THE POPS . . . LENT 1975

I turned on television the other evening—to be blasted by one of these frightful beat groups! The joy apparently of so many hearts these days: hair and noise, gyrations, groans and screams.

A few minutes of that was sufficient! I turned it off and turned to listen to a record of classical music: harmonious, soothing, searching; lifting one's mind and spirit into an exquisite experience of sense and sound.

Two worlds: the one, incredibly rough and tough and extroverted and physical—and repetitive and blaring and crashing; leading nowhere, I felt, but to a pretty certain exhaustion of mind and body—I couldn't see spirit coming into it at all!

The other, with its dignity and spaciousness, its rise and fall, its change of mood and tempo, its sense of movement and meaning and innate quality, quietening, uplifting, purifying mind and soul and

spirit as one could relax and listen.

Two worlds: in some ways miles apart; in some ways close together; in some ways entirely hostile, and yet shoulder to shoulder in one world. Like life itself—with its basic and physical, its rough and its tough and its discordant and its wayward. And the other—with its calm and quiet and reflective, speaking of order and meaning and high intelligence and spiritual striving and idealism.

Such is Lent—if we have the will and courage to switch off for a time the noise and toughness of the ordinary rough world. Lent offers the opportunity to allow our minds and souls to listen and try and lay hold of the calming and purifying chords of the world of the spirit. And like listening to classical music, because we are so untutored, we do not too easily grasp or understand without great concentration and continued application, even though we may feel the beauty and quality and worth and joy.

Have we the will-power to switch on Lent this year? Each one of us will decide. We shall encourage ourselves if we also encourage others. Whether we do or not, one thing is certain, we all desperately need that quietening of mind and spirit which Lent offers, that struggling to appreciate the deeper chords, which is its purpose.

THE LENTEN ARRAY

We are indebted to Mrs. P. Forshaw and Mrs. H. Serjeant for their gift of the Lenten Array now on the altar. Our two faithful worshippers have spent many hours arranging flowers on various occasions and the donations they have received were saved until there was sufficient to purchase the Lenten Array (£140). On behalf of all I say a very sincere "thank you" The frontal was designed by Mr. George Pace of York and made by Watts and Co., of London. H.B.

THE DIFFERENCE CHRIST MAKES

Christian discipleship must mean living for God life being different because it is not only our personality, our ego anymore; no, this has become transformed by the life of God. New life means discipline, and this must be our aim this Lent.

Dear reader, strive, to see that Christ's presence in you, makes a difference

.....in what you do;
.....in your knowledge of God;
.....in your assessment of life's priorities;
.....in what truth means;
.....in your love of God;
.....in your relations to your fellow men;
.....in your finding true peace;
.....in life's abundance;
and finally.....in the totality of your commitment.

Only then, will **your walk be close with God, calm and serene your frame.** May the Lord Himself bless you all our readers, real good, this Lenten season.

LOOK WITHIN

As I walked down the street the other day,
A notice in a window caught my eye;
"Please look within" it read in letters high;
And then in smaller print went on to say,
"Our window space is limited so, pray,
If you don't see the thing you want to buy,
Please look around inside."

Lord, who am I

To be so quick to judge from their display
The people whom I meet? What I behold
Is merely camouflage. I do not well,
That notice has convicted me of sin,
As miner midst the sand discovers gold;
As diver finds the pearl inside the shell;
Lord, let me learn from you to look within.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

❖ Pray for shopkeepers and assistants that they may offer a good and honest service, that our homes may be homes of love, our streets places of joy and friendship, our community upright and generous and there be no decay.

❖ For our schools—for Head Teachers and Staff that they realise they are shaping the minds and spirits of the next generation, that they may not grow tired of giving of their best, not disillusioned in their tasks. Give thanks for those who over past years have given such excellent service.

❖ Pray for the spirit of toleration and friendliness and care for one another, for a willingness to believe the best and hope for the best in one another.

❖ Pray for children who come from unhappy homes and find it hard to be normal, happy persons.

❖ Pray for all involved in medicine and all psychiatric services—that to their skills may be added compassion.

❖ Pray for all who seek to guard and keep proper order—police, magistrates, the councils, and all who seek to serve the community.

Please, God, erase the fear and hatred that exists
between the factions of the human race,

Bring about a change of heart that Man will be
tranquil and move at dignified pace.

Keep the sea and sky forever free from death or
evil power,

That eventide with moon and stars will always be
the sublime hour.

Let there be great joy and all oppressed be freed,
That each will give to each when comes the hour of
need.

Accept this prayer, O Lord, although in body weak,
Be my inner strength that I may safely reach the
peak.

A COFFEE EVENING

On Friday, March 7th we once again hold our Mid Lent Coffee Evening to begin the Mothering Sunday weekend. May I make a very special appeal to you all to support us by sending a gift for the Bring and Buy Stall and if possible coming yourself

to enjoy the fellowship of the evening. We need to raise as much as we can very urgently to avoid bank charges. Please help us and join us. The Rectory doors open at 7 p.m. and we don't mind what time you go home. "Let's have a party." H.B.

EASTER

The "Feast of the Resurrection" is by far the oldest of Christian festivals. We can be sure there has never been an "Easter" unobserved since the first Resurrection morning, which is more than we can safely claim even for Christmas. It is of course the greatest of Christian festivals.

Nothing can surpass the beauty of the Gospel story of the Resurrection, especially as told by St. John. Mary Magdalene entered the garden before dawn, found the tomb empty, saw the angel, and turning away came face to face with another Presence whom she mistook for the gardener in the dawn. "Thus the Resurrection was revealed to a woman at sunrise." And so Easter is particularly a festival of the early morning. Sunrise and Spring-time! This is Easter. Even in this present age when so many Church customs have been forgotten, the early morning services are by far the best attended on Easter Day. All the beauty of a Spring festival is there too. The awakening to new life and joy in brightness and fragrance. On the altar there should be only white and green on Easter Day. The white of Resurrection, and the green of eternal life. "Arum lilies and narcissi, white as angels' flesh by an empty tomb, and the deep green of English yew, the one evergreen that belongs to Easter, and to no other festival. Yew in a churchyard is an emblem of life, not of death."

White and green only, on the altar, but anywhere else in church all flowers are in favour. Primrose, violet, crocus, daffodil and hyacinth; wind-flowers and anemones—all the profusion of Spring.

"Easter Eggs" are centuries old. The egg from time immemorial—before history—has been an emblem of new life. Christians at an early date adopted them as symbols of the Resurrection. They were known as Paschal Eggs, and eventually in England as Pace Eggs. The true Pace Egg or Easter Egg is a hen's, duck's or goose's egg decorated at home. The true design always contains a leaping hare, which was sacred to the Spring deities of pagan times. The industrial modern world has put on the market artificial eggs—Easter Eggs made of chocolate and wrapped in silver paper. I suppose the children find them more palatable, but it is good to remember the meaning behind the custom. Even the lamb and mint sauce of the traditional Easter dinner originates from the old belief that it was the principal dish at the Last Supper.

SERVER'S ROTA

MARCH

- 2 9.00 a.m. John Gaskell.
- 9 9.00 a.m. Barry Gaskell.
- 10.30 a.m. Tony Gaskell and David Stopforth.

- 16 9.00 a.m. Peter Balmer.
- 3.45 p.m. Keith Stopforth.
- 23 9.00 a.m. Staurt Simpkin.
- 10.30 a.m. Maurice Core and Simon Andrews.
- 27 7.30 p.m. Jim Heaton and John Gaskell.

Easter Day

- 30 9.00 a.m. Maurice Gore.
- 10.30 a.m. Brian Heaton and Malcolm Serjeant.
- 6.30 p.m. Stephen Dutton.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

MARCH

- 9 Mrs. Pilling.
- 30 The Congregation.

APRIL

- 6 Vacant.
- 12 Mrs. W. White.

SIDESMEN'S ROTA

MARCH

- 2 J. Critchley, R. Gaskell J.B. T. Swift, T. Hunter.
- 9 H. Huyton, A. Grimshaw H.S. J. Heaton, E. Orritt.
- 16 H. Grimshaw, M. Manners R.H. W. Pounds, C. Armstrong.
- 23 C. Shacklady, W. White J.H. E. Serjeant, D. Swift.
- 30 B. Heaton, J. Gaskell J.B. P. Saunders, T. Grimshaw.

APRIL

- 6 P. Attwood, H. Rimmer H.S. E. Blackhurst, J. Rimmer.
- 13 G. Porter, S. Park R.H. J. D. Grimshaw, R. Dutton.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The A.G.M. will be held on Tuesday, 11th March in the Vestry at 7.30 p.m. The meeting will be preceded by the Vestry Meeting for the election of Church Wardens. H.B.

HOLY BAPTISM

"Received into the family of Christ's Church.

February 9—Anla Jean, daughter of George Eric and Elizabeth Jean Kenyon of 81 Yew Tree Road, Ormskirk.

CHRISTIAN BURIAL

"In sure and certain hope."

January 29—Joseph Whalley of New Hill House Farm, Altcar, aged 70 years. (Cremation).

January 31—Margaret Ainscough of 35 Linaker Drive, Halsall, aged 70 years.

February 11—Jane Aindow of 68 School Lane, Haskayne, aged 72 years.

February 18—Ellen Serjeant of 469 Southport Road, Scarisbrick, aged 81 years.

February 26—John Morris of Summerwood Lane, Halsall, aged 66 years. (Cremation).

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