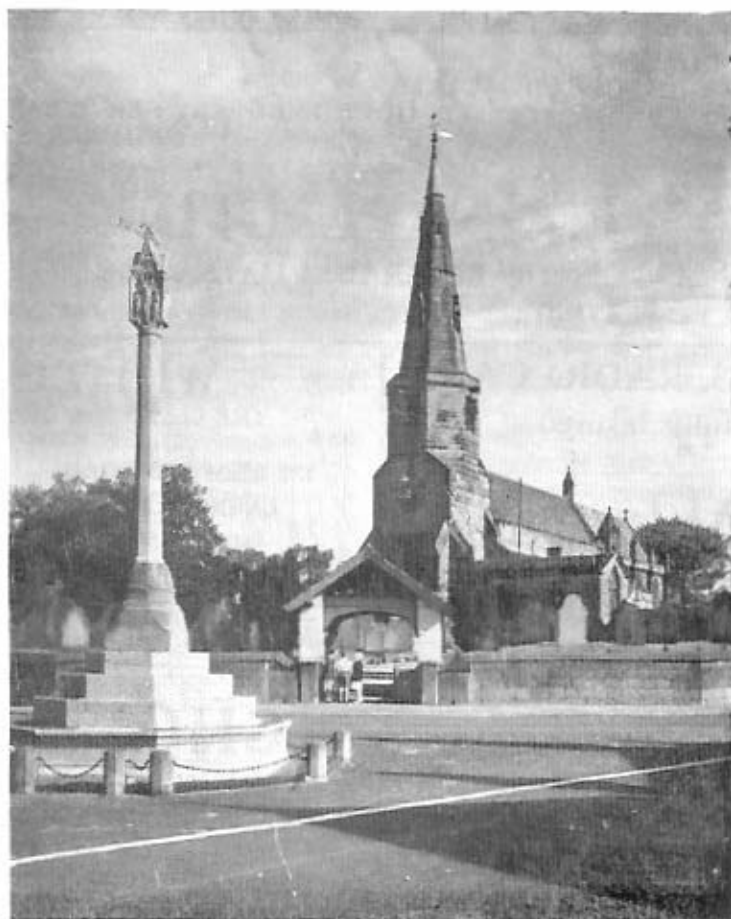


# HALSALL PARISH MAGAZINE



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The Rectory  
Halsall,  
25th April, 1971.

My Dear Friends,

What a wonderful Easter we had and how beautiful the Church looked. All the glory of the Spring seemed to be there. What a host of loyal friends St. Cuthbert has, for all the flowers were given by them through their gifts during Lent.

The day was perfect—the most glorious of April days! Everything conspired to capture the very spirit and meaning of the Resurrection. The numbers of communicants at our celebrations were an inspiration and what a vast congregation we had at The Eucharist when we shared not only the beauty of worship, but the joy of worship! What a grand liturgical service Eucharist is! The singing of the choir in the service and in the hymns touched the heights of joyful praise and worship. Thank you choir and Mr. Carr for a superb effort. The Bells breaking forth into a joyful note (one piece of ringing technique apart) after the service sent us all home with joy and gladness in our hearts. Thank you ringers and Mrs. Parker for your faithfulness.

The days between now and Whitsuntide are some of the happiest in our Church Calendar. We read in Gospels and Lessons of the Resurrection appearances of our Lord to his disciples. We share in the joy of re-union, and gain reassurance of the promise of life everlasting on finer planes of existence than anything we experience in this world.

We who live in the northern hemisphere are very fortunate that the Resurrection, and Ascension come in the spring of the year. The world of nature is in harmony with our deepest spiritual experiences. April and May in England! Life renewed, retrieved!

The culmination of Easter and Ascension is Whitsuntide. Whitsun Day is a day of equal significance with Christmas and Easter, but it never seems to take the popular imagination like the two latter festivals. If I may quote Laurence Whistler again, "A birth in a stable can be imagined, and clothed from early childhood in all the warm human symbolism of Christmas. Re-birth can be imagined too, less easily perhaps, though on it is pinned the most profound ambition of the human mind. But the gift of Imagination itself is less imaginable." The meaning of Whitsun Day is entirely novel in human experience. Christmas and Easter were foreshadowed in the old pagan religion, but the descent of the Holy Ghost has no counterpart in pagan beliefs. It is peculiar to Christianity. All the more reason for Christians to keep this festival with at least the same zeal as they keep the others.

On Whitsun Day again we decorate our churches with the loveliest flowers. In the Sanctuary the flame of

gladioli if possible! If not gladioli, then red of some sort for red is the liturgical colour for Whitsuntide.

It is a great mistake to allow Whitsun Day to become a pale reflection of Christmas and Easter. Its New Testament significance is quite on the level of the Nativity and the Resurrection, for on this day we commemorate the fulfilment of Christ's last promise to the disciples. The Holy Spirit is the dynamic power which built up and sustains the church.

I do hope at St. Cuthberts, Whitsun Day will be as great a day as Easter Day was. Do remember the prayer book rule that every Communicant shall receive the sacrament at least on three occasions each year, Christmas, Easter, and Whitsun.

May God Bless you all,  
Your sincere friend,  
HERBERT BULLOUGH.

### BE GLAD

"Now is the month of May"—of all months the most lovely and heart warming. The skies are high and blue; the sun shines warm and bright; trees, hederows, fields and gardens grow splendid in their fresh beauty and richness; the birds sing and rush merrily around in their home-making. Should we not be glad?

May also is rich in those days which can help and kindle our devotion and spiritual growth. The very first day of May is St. Philip and St. James' Day—with its searching gospel (St. John 14): "Let not your heart be troubled . . . I go to prepare a place for you . . . that where I am ye may be also . . . I am the way, the truth and the life . . ." Who can stop and study these words without feeling horizons lifting, a wider, greater world, a new call to following our Lord? Then comes Rogation Sunday (May 16th). If St. Philip and St. James' Day, Ascension Day (May 20th) and Whitsun Day (May 30th) take our thoughts and devotion right out of the ordinary everyday, then Rogation Day keeps our feet on this earth, thinking of the growing crops—and yet it also helps us to see nature and growth as all part of God's world and God's work. Be glad—and a glad May to you.

H.B.

### FESTIVAL WITH A MEANING

Stop for a moment and think what Whitsun Day is about:

There came the sound of a rushing mighty wind . . . and cloven tongues like as of fire . . . and they were filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with power . . . and there were added unto them about three thousand souls," (Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 2).

From that event Whitsun Day gets its title, and is known more fully as the Festival of the Holy Spirit or the Festival of the Church, recording its beginning so many centuries ago.

Whitsun Day is one of the three major festivals, Christmas and Easter being the other two. Yet it is the poor relation. It is by no means kept or understood in the fashion of Christmas and Easter. To miss this great

festival, however, is to lose the key link which ties Christmas and Easter with the Christian Church of today.

Whitsuntide is tremendously important and the more important we need to make it because it is so greatly ignored. It is the flower of which Christ was the seed. It is the witness of that which Christ came to create and created—the Church throughout all ages and throughout the world.

Now you may not be enamoured by what you see the Church to be today; and how right you are. But then, look at yourself—and repent in dust and ashes—this is all that Christ and His Spirit have been able to do with us—a complacent, half-hearted, doubting, sceptical, critical, uncharitable, perhaps mean and self-pitying and unattached part of that living, Christ-following community.

Yet here is Whitsun Day, reminding us that Christ has been with men all the long road. Away on those small hills of ancient Palestine, Jesus had dared to promise to that most unpromising group. "Ye shall receive power . . . ye shall be my witnesses unto the uttermost part of the earth . . . and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

It looked on that first Whitsun Day ridiculous. "Are not these Galileans?" men asked with contempt, "they are drunk."

How many movements have started in our world, and then fizzled out—thousands, possibly millions. The very fact that Christmas and Easter, if not Whitsun Day, mean so much to so many in every part of the world, even in 1971; the very fact that the Christian Church continues to the uttermost parts of the earth, tell us that Whitsun Day is something that we should observe and rejoice in.

Twenty long centuries—persecution, death, reviling, change and chance, rise and fall, betrayal and stupidity, unbelief—the Church like its Master has known the lot.

With good reason we claim that the Church is at heart 'of God'—the divine society. Else it must have died. And the Church is people not a "thing"—but you and me, who with all our failures still own allegiance to Christ and seek and know God's good grace.

Then this Whitsun Day come to church and join in the great Whitsuntide hymn and prayer—"Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire . . ."

#### ROGATION

H.B.

Spring in full flow . . . and full of promise of the riches of the earth. Much we have received, much we can hope to receive. Let us therefore thank God but think and pray for those who receive little or nothing and when opportunity affords let us "Give."

The opportunity will afford itself on Rogation Sunday, 16th May, which is also Christian Aid Sunday. Please put your own gift in a plain envelope and place it on the collection plate at any of the services or hand it to either of the wardens or to me. Do not fail those whose need is so great.

This year our Rogationtide Services will be held at the following farms:

Leaving the Church at 1.45 p.m. we shall make stations at Big Brick Farm, Mr. Serjeant; Tristram's Farm, Mr. W. Swift; Bangor's Farm, Messrs. E. and J. Banks; Aughton Cliffs Farm, Messrs. T. Silcock and Son Ltd; Wharton's Farm, Mr. H. Serjeant and Son; Clockhouse Farm, Messrs. Simpkins; Graze Farm, Mr. E. Martland; Charlesbye Farm, Mr. T. Grimshaw; Edge Farm, Mr. J. H. Grimshaw and Sons; Pemberton House Farm, Mr. A. Serjeant and Son; Halsall House, Mr. and Mrs. R. Brett. The Church Yard.

I hope that as many of our people as possible will join the procession. Please bring your car and fill it with your friends. It is a great occasion in the life of a country parish. I look forward to seeing you on Sunday, 16th May.

H.B.

#### TWO PRAYERS

Lord, let me meditate upon this hill  
That I may know  
The feel of gentle winds about me still;  
That where I go  
The peace of earth and tree and sky may be  
Forever there,  
Instilled into the humble heart of me,  
And may I share  
This peace with everyone who comes my way  
So they may feel  
The beauty of Thy world, the joys, each day  
Thy works reveal.  
Show us each bit of beauty as we pass,  
From lofty cloud to lowly blade of grass,  
Give us the power to see and feel and hold  
Thy wonders in a world grown blind and cold.

AMEN

Please God, erase the fear and hatred that exists  
between factions of the human race,  
Bring about a change of heart that Man will be tranquil  
and move at a 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.

AMEN

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### ST. CUTHBERT'S GUILD, HALSALL.

#### CONSTITUTION

1. The name of the Association shall be St. Cuthbert's Guild, Halsall.
2. The object of The Guild is to foster good fellowship between men and women of Halsall by regular meetings for discussion, talks, sports and other social activities.
3. The Officers of The Guild shall be President, Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. The office of Chairman will be nominated by the committee for election at the Annual General Meeting, the position to be held for three years. The Secretary and Treasurer retire each year and may offer themselves for re-election. Election for these offices will take place at the Annual General Meeting.
4. The committee of The Guild shall consist of eight persons, four males and four females. Members of the committee are elected for a two year period. Each year two ladies and two gentlemen will retire and may offer themselves for re-election for a further two years. The President, Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer are ex-officio members of the committee and, as such, are known as the executive committee.
5. If a committee member retires during any period, the committee has the power to co-opt a member of The Guild on to the committee.
6. The meetings of The Guild shall be held on the second Tuesday in each month from September to May. Other special meetings may be arranged from time to time to suit the convenience of members and to allow for sporting activities.
7. The committee of the Guild for the time being may appoint sub-committees consisting of not more than four persons to deal with specific activities. At least one member of any sub-committee shall also be a member of the general committee.

8. The membership subscription for the time being shall be :-

Full membership—£1; Junior membership—50p (under 16 years); Old age pensioners—free.

Any member joining on or after 1st January will be charged half the annual subscription.

9. The Guild's year will run from the 1st April and the Annual General Meeting will be held in May of each year. Extraordinary General Meetings may be convened if one third of the membership so desire.

### ST. CUTHBERT'S SCHOOL

Another chapter in the history of our School ends on Friday, July 16th when our esteemed friend Mr. Alfred Gaskell finishes his job as headmaster a position he has held for 15 years. What a great loss this is to our School and what a tremendous amount the community owes to Mr. Gaskell.

The story goes back to 1933 when Mr. Gaskell came to Halsall from Oldham Parish Church School as assistant master. In 1940 he joined the forces and came back to our school in 1946.

During his 41 years at St. Cuthbert's Mr. Gaskell has given of his best for the benefit of the children committed to his charge and into their hearts he has most assuredly won his way. His one aim has always been "the best and only the best for my children," and in that quiet way of his which we know so well, he has undoubtedly been a great power for good. Parishioners, friends and scholars past and present will wish him well and hope that he will have a long and happy and healthful retirement.

It is a source of deep satisfaction to know that Mr. and Mrs. Gaskell will retain their close connection with our Church and we pray that they will be "one of us" for very many years.

Herbert Bullough,

Chairman of St. Cuthbert's School Managers.

### THE BELLS

7th Jan.—A Peel of 5040 Surprise Minor (Wells, York, London, Norwich, Beverley Surfleet and Cambridge) was rung as a Compliment to our Rector. Rev. W. Herbert Bullough on his appointment as Honorary Canon of Liverpool Cathedral.

1—K. Edwards; 2—Celia D'aeth; 3—D. Simpson; 4—J. Richardson; 5—M. Snape; Tenor—D. Berret, Conductor.  
H.R.

### BELLS WILL MARK 1971 "WEEK"

Churches and Cathedrals throughout Britain are being asked to toll their bells at 2 p.m. on Sunday, 16th May — the start of Christian Aid Week. The toll is to mark the churches' concern for the millions dying through hunger — one a second.

Christian Aid Director, Alan Booth, is writing to Cathedral Provosts seeking their support. Christian Aid committees are being asked to involve their local churches.

To avoid confusion with normal Sunday bell-ringing, local committees, in a letter from Christian Aid, are being asked to recommend the use of single tenor bells.

The duration of the toll is being left to the initiative of local committees — but should be timed to provide a background to demonstrations and other events.

Area staff, clergy and others who discussed this idea are convinced — "It's not enough simply to have bells tolling. People must know why!"

Some areas are already discussing marches by clergy and others stressing the message that Poverty Kills!

The bell will toll at St. Cuthbert's reminding us all to put something in an envelope and place it on the plate.  
H.B.

#### SANCTUARY FLOWERS

- May 2—Mrs. H. Serjeant and Mrs. M. Banks.  
May 9—Mrs. W. Martin.  
May 16—Mrs. M. Aspinwall.  
May 23—Mrs. E. Grimshaw.  
May 30—The Congregation.  
June 6—Mrs. C. Shacklady.

#### A GARDEN PARTY

There will be a Garden Party at the Rectory on Saturday, 29th May. The opening will be at 2-30 p.m. by Mrs. I. Waddington (Shirdley Hill).

There will be stalls and sideshows and games for the children. One of the stalls is a "White Elephant Stall" You surely have something to send for this one! Gifts for the stalls will be welcome anytime at the Rectory. Teas will be served and if it is a wet day we shall go into the school. Admission will be 15p and the proceeds are for the Church.

#### SERVERS' ROTA

- May 2 9-00 a.m. Malcolm Serjeant.  
May 9 10-30 a.m. Harold Grimshaw and Michael Lewis  
May 16— 8-00 a.m. Raymond Juba  
6-30 p.m. David Stopforth  
May 23— 8-00 a.m. Jim Heaton  
10-30 a.m. Roger and Stephen Dutton  
May 30— 8-00 a.m. Peter Balmer.  
10-30 a.m. Christopher Pimlott  
June 6— 9-00 a.m. John Gaskell.

#### HOLY BAPTISM

"Received into the family of Christ's Church"

- April 18—Andrea Yvonne, daughter of William, Thomas and Enid Banks of East Crantum Farm, New Cut Lane, Halsall.

#### HOLY MATRIMONY

"Those whom God hath joined together"

- April 10—Thomas Henry Musker of 19, Roedean Close, Maghull, Liverpool and Joan Davies of 38, Summerwood Lane, Halsall.

#### BURIAL OF THE DEAD

"In sure and certain hope"

- April 2—Richard Blundell, aged 71 years of 15 Riding Lane, Haskayne.



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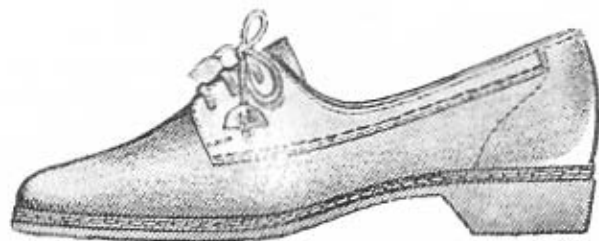
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