

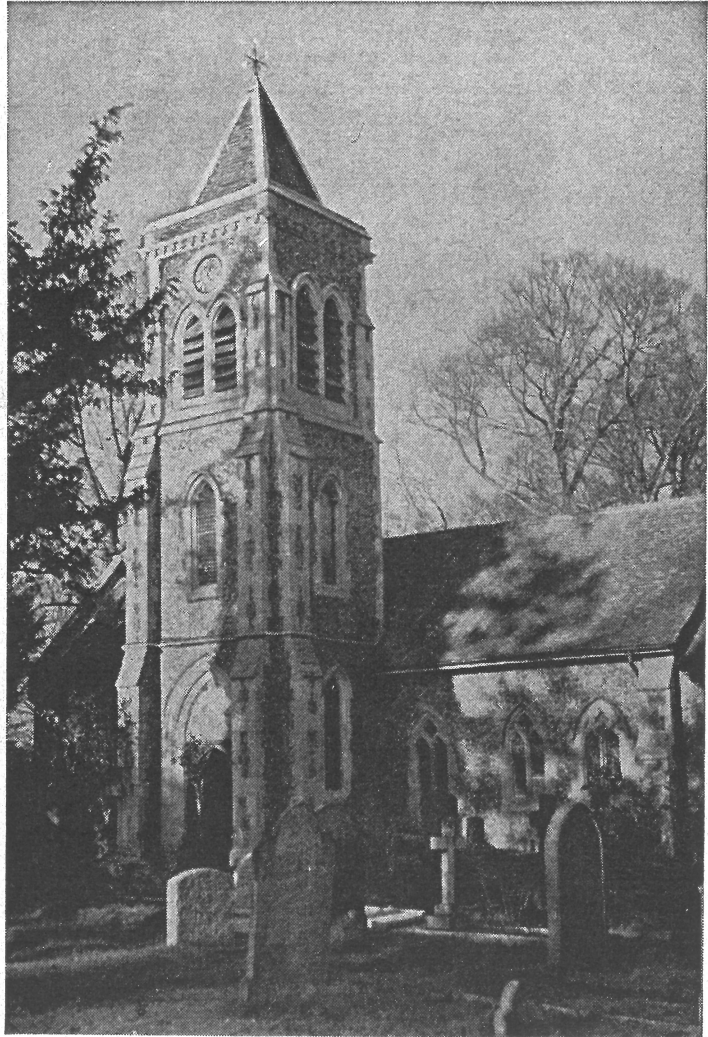
# St. LEONARD'S

APRIL, 1975

**CHURCH NEWS**

5p

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Revd. JOHN STANTON, M.A., The Rectory, North Road,  
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*Lay Readers:*

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Mr. R. J. COLE (Am. 3664) Mr. M. E. TAGENT (Am. 7675)

*Churchwardens:*

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*Deputy Wardens:*

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## SERVICES AT PARISH CHURCH

### *Holy Communion:*

8 a.m. every Sunday (alternately 1662 and Series III)  
9.45 a.m. on 2nd Sunday (Series III)  
12 noon on 1st and 3rd Sundays (1662)  
6.30 p.m. on 4th Sunday (Series III)  
10.30 a.m. on Wednesdays (1662)

### *Morning Prayer:*

11 a.m. Sundays (Family Service 4th Sunday)

### *Evening Prayer:*

6.30 p.m. Sundays (4th Sunday Holy Communion)

### *Children's Church:*

at 11 a.m. in Chesham Bois School, Bois Lane.  
Leaders: Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Flory, 37 Longfield Drive,  
Amersham (Am. 3772)

### *Vestry Class:*

In Birkett Room 11 a.m.

### *Crusaders' Bible Class:*

Church Hall, Annes Corner 11 a.m.  
Leaders: Dr. C. J. Brown, Hollybush House, Devonshire  
Avenue, Amersham (Am. 5184) and Mrs. D. M. Stringer, 38  
Orchard Lane, Amersham (Am. 21672).

The Rector normally reads Morning Prayer at Church at 7.45 a.m.  
and Evening Prayer at 5.30 p.m. except Thursdays.

### *Church Room, Bois Moor Road:*

Services on 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays at 6.30 p.m.  
Holy Communion 1st Sunday in the month.  
Women's meeting 4th Tuesday in the month at 2.45 p.m.

### *Holy Baptism and Churchings*

By arrangement with the Rector

### *Banns of Marriage*

Forms to be completed for Notice of Banns  
obtainable from the Rector.

The Church Car Park is up High Bois Lane, off Bois Lane.

For details of Prayer and Bible Study Groups, St. Leonard's  
Women's Afternoon and Evening Fellowships, Wednesday Club,  
Twenties Group, Outset Club and other organisations, see Diary  
for the Month.

## FROM THE RECTOR

Which is easier to say, "Thy sins be forgiven", or "Take up your bed and walk"? Having asked this remarkable question to critical onlookers, Jesus went on to tell the man to take up his bed and walk, to show that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins.

Does this mean that when we are seriously ill we have committed greater sins than those who are well? Certainly not. Some of the most saintly people have borne painful illnesses, and some less saintly ones have enjoyed robust health.

Yet if God created men to live full lives, healthy in soul and body, something has gone wrong both when we commit sins and when we are physically ill. To this extent sin and illness are linked, in that neither conform to God's all-loving purposes, so we can understand in some measure why Jesus so often forgave sins in the same breath as He healed people.

Perhaps the greatest blessing Christianity offers to all men is the ability to be at peace within themselves and with their God. It invites us, not to try to hide our personal faults, but to bring them out into the open and ask a loving God to forgive us through the Cross of Jesus Christ.

Nothing—absolutely nothing—can separate us from this love of God. We have only to accept it. With this acceptance comes a deep inner peace, and an end to the ghastly pretence of being all right when we know we are not. In a different way, psychiatrists are telling us the same truth when they say that many mental and some physical illnesses result from a sense of guilt.

So much for the peace of God, which passes understanding. Many a person, once having reached this stage, finds that, from then on, he is far better physically as well. This sort of healing we can understand. But what of the person who has cancer or some other serious illness, which is very much more than mere indifferent health? Dare we, in the name of Christ, promise physical recovery? Here it is necessary to be utterly honest, and say that many people in such a physical state have received a blessing in the name of Christ, have found peace and strength beyond their expectation; but have not yet been physically cured.

But we may not end on this note. There are some instances, not just in New Testament times, but today, when people who are seriously physically ill have been prayed for, or have received the laying on of hands in the name of Christ, and have regained full health. Why does this not happen more often? Is it because we lack sufficient faith, or indeed that so seldom do we even consider turning to this source of healing?

What is a fact is that in a rapidly increasing number of churches a regular ministry of healing is being offered; and, in certain special centres, those with gifts of healing are allowing God to work

through them. It seems that when we turn to God in faith, His ancient promises are often fulfilled today. We have still much to learn. Perhaps our prayer should be: "Lord, increase my faith".

JOHN STANTON

#### NOTES AND NEWS

**Vestry Rota:** Mrs. Free (6th), Mrs. MacKenzie (13th), Mrs. Pangbourne (20th).

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We congratulate our church member, **Mr. Peter Harland**, chief assistant editor of the "Sunday Times", who has been appointed to edit "Vision One". This will form an inset to "One World", the new monthly publication of the World Council of Churches and will be concerned with ecumenical and social issues in Britain.

---

We look for a good attendance at the **Vestry and Annual Church Meeting** on Tuesday, 8th April, in the Church Hall at 8 p.m. Following the election of wardens, the parochial accounts will be presented and the various church officers will make their annual reports, also the new P.C.C. will be elected. After coffee has been served there will be the opportunity for general discussion, questions and suggestions. Everyone whose name is on the electoral roll (exhibited at church prior to the meeting) is eligible to vote at the Church Meeting, and everyone who is a local ratepayer has the right to vote at the Vestry.

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In 1965 we celebrated our three-quarter millennium, and this year the church at **Little Missenden** is celebrating its full millennium. It was founded in Saxon times and still retains parts of the original building of a thousand years ago. A most interesting programme for the whole year has been compiled, copies of which can be obtained on application. These celebrations terminate most appropriately on 10th January, 1976, which marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the present vicar with the parish.

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The Institution and Induction of the **Revd. Nicholas Molony**, former curate at Beaconsfield, will take place at Christ Church, Waterside, Chesham, on 10th April, at 7.30 p.m.

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There will be a **Confirmation** service at St. Leonard's, Chesham Bois, on Sunday, 4th May, at 6.30 p.m., by the Bishop of Buckingham.

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We would remind all who are supporters of, or interested in the splendid work being carried on at **Vellore Hospital** that the annual concert in aid of funds will take place at the Albert

Hall on Monday, 14th April. Tickets may be obtained from Mr. H. Havercroft, 6 The Grove. Telephone: Amersham 4681.

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The Bishop of Oxford has announced that this year's project for the children of the Diocese will be to raise £1,500 for special teaching and play equipment for the **deaf children** at the Borough Court Hospital, Reading, which will include vibrator tactile units designed for deaf children who are deeply handicapped also by blindness. As in previous years, our own Children's Church will be raising its own contribution.

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The **Fountain Trust Conference**, an international event, will take place at Westminster from 28th July to 2nd August. Five vacancies have been booked for our parish, and anyone wishing to go should let me know as soon as possible. If more than five go, we shall have to book the extra places very soon. Speakers at this conference will include David Watson, Colin Urquhart and Graham Pulkingham. The Fisherfolk will also be present. Books by each of these leaders are available in church. J.M.S.

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Further to our report in last month's magazine of the annual **Combined Evening Service** at the Free Church, we are pleased to say that we have since heard that at least twelve members of the Roman Catholic Church were in the congregation.

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There are now 327 names on our **Electoral Roll** as against 306 last year. Of these people 56.5% are resident in the parish and 43.5% live outside Chesham Bois.

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The **Women's World Day of Prayer**, which is both international and interdenominational, was held on 7th March in the Chesham Bois Roman Catholic Church. Last year the service was compiled by the women of Japan, and this year by the women of Egypt, comprising Coptic, Episcopal, Roman Catholic, French Reformed, German Protestant and United Presbyterian representatives of the Women's Ecumenical Prayer Fellowship. The full congregation consisted of members of all the local churches, the theme of the service this year being "Become Perfectly One". The Leader was Mrs. K. R. Sturley and the address was given by Sister Eileen Williams. Afterwards tea was served in the vestries.

#### **MY FAITH AND MY JOB**

To write about **my** faith and my job, as requested by the Editor, has induced in me an attack of that complaint known to readers of P. G. Wodehouse as the "heeby-jeebies", as I am conscious that all too often my faith has been a puny and inglorious thing.

However, there is an encouraging word of Scripture which assures us that even "when we are faithless, He remains faithful". To this I cling.

It is some satisfaction to me that I spent my time in the business of Insurance, based as it is on the impeccable principles of the misfortunes of the few being borne by the many. Without it most of the great industrial enterprises could not be undertaken, and the great bulk of the business so engendered finds its way originally or ultimately to the London market.

The City of London is a good place for the Christian to work in. Those who regard it as a sink of iniquity would be astonished to discover the degree to which day-to-day business, often involving very large commitments indeed, is transacted on a basis of mutual trust. An initial on a slip of paper, even a telephone call, and a binding agreement is made and honoured. If that is not the right atmosphere for a Christian, I don't know what is. Moreover, personal relationships are built up and friendships formed among men who trust one another.

In addition to these operations in the City itself, my own work was concerned largely with overseas business. It was my experience that being a Christian was no bar to, but was actually an asset in establishing sound business relationships, and that many personal friendships developed.

Not a few "business" lunches and dinners provided quite unforced occasions for talking over matters of faith and practice. It should not, I think, be considered surprising that many men welcome an opportunity of discussing these subjects—not infrequently in a spirit of genuine enquiry.

In a conversation with two colleagues in my early days in business I acknowledged myself, somewhat diffidently, a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. They predicted—in the friendliest way—a maximum of five years for my faith. That was just over fifty years ago.

R.J.C.

#### WOMEN'S EVENING FELLOWSHIP

The subject of our March meeting was "Meet the Rector". Mr. Stanton was asked by the committee to open the meeting with a few words on "Women in the Church" which led to much discussion by the members on a women's role in the life of the Church, and whether or not it was desirable to have a "Rectoress", as our Rector put it. Although the subject was discussed seriously, the whole atmosphere of the evening was very friendly and had a spirit of jollity too. It proved a good opportunity for our members to meet the Rector on an informal and friendly basis.

At the time of choosing the subject of this meeting we were unaware of the significance of the week as a whole. Friday was Women's World day of Prayer, Sunday was Mothering Sunday, and on the day of our meeting it was announced that, in recognition of Women's International Year, five women had been invited to preach in St. Paul's Cathedral. When these facts were mentioned to the Rector he quoted Romans 8 verse 28.

H.J.T.

## INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY WEEKEND

The Amersham Hospitality Weekend has been held twice yearly since 1967. It began as a St. Michael's project but gradually grew and is now organised by a Committee whose members represent each of the churches of the Amersham Five Churches committee, and the Quakers. Other groups, for example, the Townswomen's Guild and the Women's Institute, provide support both practical and financial.

The forty to fifty students who come each weekend are contacted through the British Council, Victoria League, church hostels and student groups in London; they come from every continent in the world. Most are in their 20's, although some are older, and are studying a variety of subjects from secretarial work, nursing and banking, to post-graduate study in medicine, law and engineering.

For many this is the only contact they ever have with British people and their children in their homes; some have never previously moved out of London and are delighted with the local countryside. Most are intensely interested in our way of life—in our social customs, religion, education and politics; and, in return, have given fascinating insights into life and customs in their own countries, especially when these are as remote and unfamiliar as Nepal and Ethiopia. One has only to read some of the letters received after each weekend to realise how much the hospitality is appreciated.

These weekends follow the same pattern; students are met at Amersham station on Saturday morning and taken to a church hall to meet their hosts. In the evening they attend a supper party followed by a social to which hosts and other friends are invited. This social is usually a great success, and consists mainly of square dancing, arts of which neither host nor guests can claim much previous knowledge and which produces just the right energetic mix-up of all present.

A first rate group of Morris men and folk singers usually provides an interlude, and one of the local societies often stages an exhibition, which gives a welcome opportunity for recovering one's breath. The growing popularity of these evenings has led to their being transferred to the more spacious hall of Dr. Challoner's Grammar School. On Sunday afternoon there is a walk to a place of interest nearby, followed by tea provided by some local organisation. The students leave Amersham by the 6.38 train.

These weekends are memorable occasions, and in spite of the very occasional misfit, have been increasing in popularity over the years, which requires an ever growing number of host families, especially those with children. The next weekend is May 10/11 when St. Leonard's families will again be invited to act as hosts to these young people who are so far from their own homes.

A.H.V.

### OBJECTS FOR PRAYER

1. Praise God for the love of Jesus Christ shown by His willing acceptance of death on the Cross.
2. Praise God for the resurrection of Jesus Christ, assuring us that in Him we have seen God, and of His presence with us for ever.
3. Pray that our hearts may become like the heart of Jesus Christ, that He may live in us.
4. Pray that in each person we meet we may see Jesus Christ, that in all our relationships with them we may act in His name.
5. Pray for our nation, for God's forgiveness for our wickedness and for the gift of His Spirit to rebuild us.
6. Pray that, as we wait on God in silence at prayertime, He will come to us.

**Prayer should be the key of the day and the lock of the night** (George Herbert).

### WOMEN'S AFTERNOON FELLOWSHIP

At our February meeting Mrs. Painter, an ordained minister of the United Reformed Church, spoke to us on the very topical and controversial subject of "Women in the Ministry". She described her own training, ordination and ministry, and discussed the theological and practical views that are widely held "for and against" the Ordination of Women. One most helpful suggestion to guide our thinking in this matter was that we should study the attitude of Jesus towards women, against the background of His day when society had little or no regard for the place of women.

Programmes for the rest of the year are now available on the table near the door of the church. Please take some to give to your friends, and assure them of a warm welcome.

A most enjoyable coffee morning for members of the Fellowship (without a bring-and-buy stall!) was held at Yew Tree Cottage, South Road, by kind invitation of Mrs. Pamela Wigmore on 27th February. This is intended as the first of a series on Thursday mornings, every other month, for members to get together on a friendly basis. The next one will be given by Mrs. Giva Dicks at 3 Weedon Lane, on 24th April.

Nearly forty members attended the March meeting which was a Corporate Communion service at church. The lessons were read by Mrs. Peggy Burn and Miss Lydia Davy. The Rector gave a short address, pointing out the power of prayer exercised by church groups such as this. The members were afterwards entertained to a delicious tea at Whistlers Wood by the very kind invitation of Mrs. Kathleen MacKenzie.

It has been arranged that a members' sewing party will be held at the Rectory monthly on Mondays at 2.30 p.m., starting on

21st April, to make articles for the Fellowship's autumn stall, the proceeds from which last year were given to Sister Betty Lewis's Christmas fund. M.B.W.

### COVENANTS

The Rector has mentioned in recent weeks the financial advantages to the Church of gifts or offerings linked with a covenant.

I am wondering whether perhaps there may be people who do not really appreciate what is involved by this, and may therefore have been deterred from participating.

Very briefly, a covenant is an agreement by which a person undertakes to pay a specified sum annually for a period of seven years. The Inland Revenue look upon these payments as being net after deduction of tax providing the donor is a taxpayer, and although there is no added personal liability, the Church is in a position to recover the tax equivalent to almost half of the payment being made (i.e. income can be increased by very nearly 50%).

Concerning payment, a covenant may be of any amount, large or small, and effected either by the Freewill Offering Envelope Scheme during the year or by annual payments through a banking account.

The agreement does, of course, terminate in the event of death; or in the case of the donor removing, arrangements may be made, if required, for the new parish to receive the payment and the appropriate tax refund.

If further information or form of covenant are required, please contact either Mr. Parton or myself—Sidney Cockbain, Treasurer, 36 St. Leonards Road. Telephone: Amersham 4064.

### DIARY FOR APRIL

- 2 Holy Communion 10.30 a.m.  
Women's Evening Fellowship, Church Hall 8 p.m. "Advertising and the Consumer."
- 4 Men's Bible Study at "Orwell" 8 p.m.
- 6 LOW SUNDAY. H.C. 8 a.m. (Series III), 12 noon and 6.30 p.m. (Church Room).
- 8 Women's Afternoon Fellowship, Quiet Hour 2.15 p.m. at Tylers Hill.  
Vestry and Annual Church Meeting, Church Hall 8 p.m.
- 9 Holy Communion 10.30 a.m.
- 13 2nd SUNDAY AFTER EASTER. H.C. 8 a.m. and 9.45 a.m. (Series III). Preacher at 6.30 p.m.: Canon Bryan Green.
- 15 Intercession at the Rectory 10 a.m.
- 16 Women's Evening Fellowship 8 p.m. at 18 Milton Lawns.
- 18 Men's Bible Study at "Orwell" 8 p.m.



- 20 3rd SUNDAY AFTER EASTER. H.C. 8 a.m. (Series III) and 12 noon. Preacher morning and evening: Revd. J. M. Scutt, Commonwealth and Continental Church Society.
- 23 Holy Communion 10.30 a.m.
- 27 4th SUNDAY AFTER EASTER. H.C. 8 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. (Series III). Family Service 11 a.m.
- 30 Holy Communion 10.30 a.m.

The 1662 Order of Holy Communion will be used at all services other than those where Series III is indicated.

The Outset Club for teenagers meets on Tuesday and Saturday evenings, and the Twenties Group on Sunday evenings.

There is a Parish Prayer meeting in the Birkett Room on Wednesdays at 8.15 p.m.

Choir practice on Tuesdays: Juniors 6.30 p.m. Seniors 7 p.m.

The Church Hall is open on Wednesdays from 2.30 p.m. to 4 p.m. for older residents and friends to meet together.

#### COLLECTIONS AND FREEWILL OFFERING SCHEME

February				Collections	Envelopes
2	Diocesan Quota	...	...	£46.30	£19.10
9	Church Expenses	...	...	£44.15	£23.25
16	Diocesan Quota	...	...	£40.84	£30.35
23	Church Missionary Society	...	...	£47.56	£27.85
	Parochial Fund	...	...	£22.93	
	Quota (extra)	...	...	£39.00	
	Church Room	...	...	£4.75	
				<hr/> £245.53	<hr/> £100.55

#### COLLECTIONS FOR APRIL

April 6th—Church Expenses, 13th—Diocesan Quota, 20th—Church Expenses, 27th—Diocesan Quota.

#### WELCOME

February 23 Matthew Stephen Hill, 7 Chestnut Close, Amersham.

#### IN REMEMBRANCE

February 17 Elsie Beatrice Shapland, 71 St. Leonards Road.  
 March 6 George Clarke, Annes Corner.  
 March 8 David William Plaistowe, Chesham Bois House.

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