

ST PETER'S HAMBLETON

The Rector writes:

"ALL CHANGE"

"All change!" came the dreaded cry at Guildford. Grumbling we got off. Our routine upset. A new challenge as to how to get home!

"All change!" has come the cry in recent years to the Church of England. Indeed the whole Church of God. New forms of worship - a new prayer book - more people leading and taking part. Dance, drama, music, painting and side-shows in church. New forms of ministry - away from the "one man band" to the collaboration and co-responsibility of the many. A new response to our stewardship of our time, gifts and money. The living church begins to pay its way with less dependence on the generosity of the church of the past.

A new realisation of the power of God's Holy Spirit in healing, in evangelism, in social concern and in involvement within the structures of our society.

As the cry "All change!" has come, so has the grumbling. Our routine is being upset - the new challenge disturbs, so we dig in our toes. Of course, not all the new things are necessarily for the better, but neither is clinging to the past in a state of nostalgia for the "good old days".

At the birth of Jesus a new era of history began. The Good News is that by His creative power He can make us NEW. Will we let Him? May I give you a verse from Isaiah for 1986 - "Do not cling to the things of the past or dwell on what happened long ago. It is already happening - you can see it now."

How will we respond in this New Year to the cry "All change!" as God seeks to re-make us into the likeness of His Son?

PETER SERTIN

CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 1986

- Jan. 5 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
 8 00 am Holy Communion
 10 00 am Family Service
 (followed by coffee at the Rectory)
 12 00 noon Holy Communion
 6 30 pm Evening Prayer (1662)
- Jan. 12 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
 8 00 am Holy Communion
 11 00 am Morning Prayer (1662)
 (Sunday Club re-opens at the Nursery School)
 6 30 pm Evening Prayer (ASB)
 7 45 pm Youth Fellowship
- Jan. 15 8 15 pm MEETING FOR BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER
 AT THE RECTORY
- Jan. 19 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
 8 00 am Holy Communion
 10 00 am Children's Church
 11 00 am Morning Prayer (1662) :
 The Rev. George Young of the
 South American Missionary Society.
 6 30 pm Holy Communion (ASB) :
 The Rev. George Young
 7 45 pm Youth Fellowship
- Jan. 26 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY SEPTUAGESIMA
 8 00 am Holy Communion
 11 00 am Morning Prayer (1662)
 (Sunday Club meets at the Nursery School)
 6 30 pm Service taken by the Chiddingfold
 Baptist Church for Week of Prayer
 for Christian Unity.
 7 45 pm Youth Fellowship
- Jan. 29 8 15 pm MEETING FOR BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER
 AT THE RECTORY

AND IN FEBRUARY

Feb. 2 ~~SEX~~ SEPTUAGESIMA

8 00 am Holy Communion

10 00 am Family Service

(followed by coffee at the Rectory)

12 00 noon Holy Communion

6 30 pm Evening Prayer (1662)

7 45 pm Youth Fellowship

Feb. 9 ~~SEX~~ QUINQUAGESIMA
SEXAGESIMA

8 00 am Holy Communion

11 00 am Morning Prayer (1662) :

Bishop Ambrose Weekes, Assistant

Bishop of Europe and Hon. Canon of

Rochester Cathedral.

(Sunday Club meets at the Nursery School)

6 30 pm Evening Prayer (ASB)

7 45 pm Youth Fellowship

Feb. 12 8 15 pm MEETING FOR BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER
AT THE RECTORY

CHURCH REGISTERS : BAPTISMS : December 1st 1985

Karen Louise Fish

Bryn Edward Fuller

BURIAL : December 10th 1985

Mary Amy Hammond

We send our condolences and sympathy at this time to
Alfie Hammond and his family on the death of his mother
Mary, a much-loved friend to many.

CHURCH FLOWERS : January 5 Mrs A Stedall

12

19

26

CHURCH CLEANING : January 3/4 Mrs R Taylor and Diana

10/11 Mrs J Corbett/Mrs G Cave

17/18 Mrs J Hassard-Short

24/25 Mrs D Newel/Mrs B Mitchell

Jan.31/Feb.1 Mrs V Stevens

FREEWILL OFFERING SCHEME :

Total for November 1985 : £324.64 - E F Denny

PERSONALIA

We extend our sympathy to the family of Mrs Roz Gammidge who died on 28 October 1985. She had lived in Hambledon for over 35 years and in her early days had been very active in village affairs.

Our good wishes go to several in the parish who have recently had a spell in hospital and who are now convalescing at home; among these are Brian Baldry and John Anderson. Mrs Judy Leeper of Bonners is making good progress in Mount Alvernia and was expecting to be spending Christmas there; it has been an especially good Christmas treat to see Mavis Harvey back with us again after such a long spell of ill-health.

The collage in church has received much admiration - our congratulations and thanks to the ladies of the Wednesday Bible Study Group for producing such an admirable piece of work together with its challenging message.

Our thanks to Audrey Stedall and her large band of helpers for all the work they have done in decorating the church over the Christmas period. It really has looked splendid and we are particularly grateful to all who give in kind and time - not forgetting the after-care service of watering and dismantling - never a very enviable task but it is always done with such quietness and efficiency. Thank you too to the families who provided and installed the tree and the crib - always much appreciated by those who are young in years and in heart!

HUNGER LUNCH

A total of £107.36 was donated towards the work of Tear Fund at the Hunger Lunch held at the Rectory on Sunday 22nd December. Many thanks to all who came and supported the Lunch and to those who sent donations in money and kind.

CAROL SINGING

A Christmas carol party went round the village on December 16th and collected £75 for the Church of England Children's Society. Many thanks to those who came and sang, to the kind people who welcomed us into their homes, and to the many friends who gave so generously.

M R Parker

HAMBLEDON NURSERY SCHOOL

Christmas Sale

Our warmest thanks to all who came and supported this event and congratulations to the organisers, stallholders and helpers. The total raised was £365 - a magnificent sum!

The sale of the building is proceeding - albeit still slowly but negotiations over the contract are incomplete as the Diocese now wishes to make an alteration and we have had to get approval for the sale from the Charity Commissioners. We will hope to complete early in the New Year.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Women's Fellowship will re-open on Thursday 23rd January at 3pm and will be held, as usual, at Ellingsons by kind invitation of Mrs Ellingson. It will take the form of our New Year Party and we will welcome any new members or guests for that afternoon. Please come prepared to tell us about your Christmas activities.

M S Symonds

Contributed article on Islam by D G C Symonds

Mohammed

Mohammed was born in 570 AD in Mecca. He grew up to believe that he had visions from God through the angel Gabriel to preach that there was only one deity, Allah, and that idols were an abomination.

In 622, because his proclamations caused offence to the people of Mecca, he had to flee to Medina where he gathered a small loyal band of fighting followers, and returned to Mecca in 630 as an acknowledged conqueror.

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He had four wives and, in 632, he died in the arms of his favourite wife, Ayesha. He was buried in the Kaaba, the cube-shaped temple, built, according to Muslims, by Abraham.

Mohammed's revelations from the angel Gabriel were recorded in the sacred Koran, but much that is recorded can be traced to Old Testament and Rabbinical sources.

The Faith of Islam

The five 'pillars' of Islam on which the faith depends are as follows:

Witness

Set prayers five times daily

Almsgiving

Pilgrimage (to Mecca)

Fasting (the month of Ramadan)

The word 'Islam' itself means self-surrender to God. Abraham and Moses are revered as prophets, but Muslims believe that it was Ishmael who was offered on the Rock of Moriah. Jerusalem, Medina and Mecca are the three sacred cities.

An orthodox Muslim does not believe that a woman has an immortal soul, and so it could formerly be said that a girl was unwanted as a baby, uneducated as a child, unloved as a wife, unhonoured as a mother and unmourned when dead.

A Muslim was allowed up to four wives, and divorce was easy. Three statements before witnesses broke the marriage bond, and the divorced wife was allowed to take her jewels with her so that she was not left in penury.

Alcohol is forbidden to a good Muslim.

What Muslim's believe about Christ

Muslim's accept the historicity of the person of Jesus Christ and believe various things about Him -

He was born of the Virgin Mary. (Isa bin Mariam is His Arabic Name).

He was a Prophet. He is called 'The Spirit of God'. His Divinity is strongly denied.

In the garden of Gethsemane He was miraculously caught up into heaven and Judas Iscariot was arrested and condemned in His place.

He will come again and convert the world to Mohammed.

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In one place in the Koran Muslim's are recommended to read the Gospel, but this advice is contradicted in another place. They maintain that, where the N.T. contradicts their beliefs, the text has been altered from that of the first century authors.

Muslim's maintain that the revelation to Mohammed was God's last revelation to men. They accept Christ as a prophet because He was before Mohammed, though the Ahmadiyya Sect maintains that He was a prophet to Jews only. But they bitterly oppose members of the Bahai community who claim that their leader had a revelation later than Mohammed.

The Christian Approach to Muslim's

In their approach to Muslim's Christians need to realise that Islam is not merely non-Christian in the way, for example, Hinduism is, but anti-Christian. It is the only religion which has conquered Christianity in that it has destroyed churches and removed their witness (how grieved St Paul must be if he knows the churches he founded in what is now Turkey have had their candles snuffed out!) Communism and other false religions have persecuted Christians and have tried to close churches, but Christian witness has been maintained even under persecution.

In conversation with a Muslim a Christian can ask if he has any knowledge of divinely forgiven sin and an assurance of salvation in the life to come. The Muslim is bound to say that God is merciful, but that no one can tell whether his sin has been forgiven or not. The Christian can testify to assurance and can refer to a gospel passage such as John x 27-30.

Again, the Christian can ask why Muslim's go to Mecca on pilgrimage. The answer will be that they can gain merit by visiting the grave of a great prophet. The Christian can refer to Titus iii 4-7. He can go on to say that if a visitor goes to Jerusalem, he can see a Tomb which holds no corpse, for the One who was laid there for three days rose again and has now ascended to heaven whence He will indeed come again to earth at some future date.

Muslim's will admit that Protestant Christians (who do not have statues in their churches) are not idolators, but they do not understand the doctrine of the Trinity and feel that they can accuse Christians of polytheism. They are puzzled, if not horrified, at the idea of God's having a son, asking

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how could God marry. A Christian must explain that the 'trinity' of God, Mariam and Isa is not the Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He must point to St John's Gospel, particularly to x 30 and 37; xiv 6 and 16-18; and xv 26. The final challenge comes from St John's first epistle, ii 22 and 23. The liar is the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ, who denies the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father, but the one who acknowledges the Son has God the Father also.

Muslim's do not speak of God without referring to Him as 'Almighty God'. If God, therefore, is Almighty, He can do anything (Luke i 37). Parts of the first chapters of Matthew and Luke are of interest to enquiring Muslim's.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON GROUP

We pulled crackers, enjoyed games and the warm hospitality of Dorothea Ellingson's home for the first W.A.G.'s Christmas party. After much laughter, we threw the thought of diets to the wind and enjoyed sandwiches, cakes, mincepies, etc. followed by Christmas cake. Oohh.....!!! Too full to do anything more but thank you all for providing such a lovely afternoon.

We have had some good meetings and speakers in our first year and now plan a varied programme starting on Wednesday January 8th at 2 45pm at Feathercombe, when we will achieve the illusion of better weather with holiday slides - do bring yours along to show.

See you all and our new friends in January and looking forward to February when Mr Chamberlain is coming to give us an insight into the running of the Cheshire Homes.

Hope you all had a blessed Christmas and we wish you a happy, healthy and peaceful 1986.

Joan Hardy