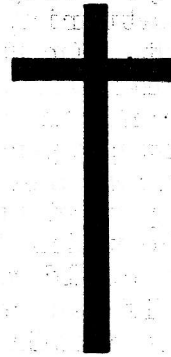


CATSHILL
• CLARION



THE CLARION

CATSHILL CLARION

The monthly magazine of
Catshill Methodist Church

MARCH 1980

68 Golden Cross Lane
Catshill

Dear Friends,

Easter seems to creep up on us in a way that Christmas is not allowed to do. Just think of all the preparations for Christmas. They seem to go on for months! In many ways all these material preparations obscure the real meaning of Christmas, and yet they can serve to remind us of the earth-shattering truth of God made man in Jesus Christ. On the other hand, Easter, with its equally glorious message of new life in Jesus Christ, can come and catch us out because we have not properly prepared for it. I am not suggesting we need the sort of commercial build up that we associate with Christmas, but I do think that a better planned observance of Lent could mean a real spiritual feast at Easter. If you are not already doing so, why not use the remaining weeks of Lent to prepare for Easter? How? Here are some suggestions:-

1. Read St. Mark's Gospel from beginning to end in one sitting. Often we miss a great deal of the impact of the Gospel because we split it up. St. Mark's Gospel can be read in quite a short time and to read it in one sitting can be a real blessing.
2. When you have read Mark, why not read another Gospel passage each day? Or read another devotional book. Mr. Cooper of Bromsgrove Books will always help you in your choice. There are a few copies of a very good Lenten Book in the Church Porch. ('Windows on the Passion' priced 50p).
3. Spend some time each day quietly reflecting on what you have read and then say some prayers. Why not join our weekly prayers in Church on a Wednesday evening at 7.00 p.m.

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4. Worship as often as you can on a Sunday during Lent. We have also planned a series of special services in Holy Week - look in the Diary Dates for the details and join us if you can.

Please make up your mind now to prepare yourself for Easter. Remember, the more you put in, the more you get out. This is true of most things in life - it is most certainly true of our spiritual lives.

May God bless you,

Your Minister and Friend,

David Ray

FAMILY NEWS

Our prayers and thoughts go to Carole Trigger following the deaths of her mother and father during the last month. May God bless you at this difficult time of adjustment. Your loved ones are in God's keeping.

It was a joy to share in the baptism of Sarah and Deborah, the daughters of Bruce and Judy Williamson on Sunday, 24th February. We welcome them into God's family

As from 1st March, 1980 Mrs. Janet Glover, who types the Clarion, will be moving to 8 Julian Close, Catshill. Her telephone number remains the same - 77658

DIARY DATES

- March 6th 8 p.m. House Group at 68 Golden Cross Lane.
- 8th 7.45 p.m. An evening with the Fairfield Folk arranged by the Boys' Brigade Friends Association. Tickets, including a Ploughman's Supper, priced £1, available from David Ray.
- 9th 8 p.m. After Eights at 39 Hazelton Road
8 p.m. God Squad at 68 Golden Cross Lane
- 15th 3 p.m. Marriage of Mr. Michael Harris and Miss Carolyn Bradley.
- 16th Mothering Sunday. 10.30 a.m. Family Service
- 18th 7.30 p.m. Circuit Meeting at Blackwell.
- 19th 8 p.m. Ways and Means Committee Meeting at 68 Golden Cross Lane.
- 20th 8 p.m. House Group at 68 Golden Cross Lane.
- 23rd *****
Passion Sunday. 10.30 a.m. Rev. Michael Smith will be sharing in this morning communion service prior to his leaving Catshill at Easter.
8 p.m. Sunday Joint (After Eights and God Squad) at 504 Birmingham Road.
- 29th 10 - 12 noon. Playgroup Spring Fayre.

Holy Week Services

- 31st 7.30 p.m. Service at the Gospel Union.
- April 1st 8 p.m. Easter Anthology at Methodist Church arranged in association with Tuesday at Eight.

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Holy Week Services Con't

April 2nd 7.30 p.m. Service at the Baptist Church

3rd Maundy Thursday. 8 p.m. Holy Communion at
68 Golden Cross Lane.

4th Good Friday. 12 noon - 3 p.m. Devotional
Service at Christ Church
7 p.m. Procession of Witness starting
from Christ Church
7.45 p.m. United Service at the Methodist
Church.

5th 10 a.m. - 12 noon. Please come and help
to decorate the Church ready for Easter
Day. Please bring some flowers and vases
and make the Church beautiful for the Day
of Resurrection.

6th Easter Day. 8 a.m. Holy Communion.
9 a.m. Easter Breakfast. Tickets available
nearer the date - watch out for details.
10.30 a.m. A Family Celebration of Easter.
This will also be our monthly Parade
Service.
6 p.m. Evening Service.
8 p.m. The Young People will join for an
evening walk. Meet at 68 Golden Cross
Lane. All young people will be most welcome.

13th Church Anniversary - Services at 10.30 a.m.
and 6 p.m. conducted by a former Minister
of our Church, Rev. Jim Hutchens.

PLAYGROUP NEWS

How quickly the time goes by - it is hard to believe that half this term has gone already. To date we have had a happy term, although some of our older children have been eagerly waiting for us to be able to build snowmen and play snowballs (fond memories of last winter), and, of course, have been disappointed. However, perhaps there is still time to do so! We are pleased that our new children have settled happily and seem to enjoy their time with us.

We now look forward to a busy time ahead.

On the 15th March our committee and staff are organising a 'Kiddies' Corner at the Bromsgrove Branch of the Pre-school Playgroups' Association Spring Fair to be held in the Dolphin Suite - so if you are in Bromsgrove between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. on that Saturday, do pop in and see us - we'll be pleased to have some local support!

On Friday, 28th March at 10.30 a.m. the Playgroup children, with the help of David Ray, will be in Church with their parents and friends for an event with an Easter theme to mark the end of term. After this, coffee and cakes will be served by the committee in the Youth Hall. You are most welcome to join us on this occasion.

Finally, on Saturday, 29th March at 10 a.m. we shall be holding a Spring Fayre in the Youth Hall. Do come along! There will be Plants, Cakes, Toys, and Handicrafts Stalls, as well as games and many other attractions, including excellent refreshments. We look forward to meeting friends old and new at this end of term get-together.

Playgroup News Con't

Dear Friends,

I would like to say thank you to you all for all the kind thoughts and messages which you sent us when Elisabeth was in hospital. We were very grateful for everything that you did for us, and may I say a special thanks to David Ray for his visits to Elisabeth in the hospital. I am glad to be able to say that she is now fine and gaining weight every day.

Thank you once again to you all.:

Best wishes,

Marion K. Holdsworth.

THE ROBINS

We are still averaging 18 boys on a Friday evening but one or two more will soon be 'flying up'.

Can we make an appeal for artificial flowers? We shall be needing hundreds of them for our float at the Carnival in June. Unfortunately we have nowhere to store them, which means we shall have to ask you to keep them for us until the morning of the Carnival. Thank you!

1ST BROMSGROVE BOYS' BRIGADE COMPANY

We have taken part in two Battalion events during February, the first one being the Cross Country held in the grounds of Halesowen Athletic Club. Several of our Company ran exceedingly well, notably Peter Singleton who finished 3rd in the Intermediate race, while his brother, Andrew, came in 1st in the Senior race, with Clive Poyner filling the 3rd spot. Unfortunately, this year we were unable to clinch any team award.

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1ST BROMSGROVE BOYS' BRIGADE COMPANY CON'T

Secondly, the Band Competition held at Bromsgrove Youth Centre. Our band had won the trophy four years running, but this year had to be content with second place, 2½ marks behind 3rd Warley.

We were very pleased to receive a picture postcard signed 'cpl. Prune' (alias Ian Prust) all the way from the exotic East, Japan to be precise.

Our congratulations and good wishes go to Warrenton Officer Maurice Weaver on reaching his 21st birthday. Maurice, amongst other things, has taken over as Manager of the Company Section football team since the retirement of Mr. Ron Price. Unfortunately, his birthday joy did not rub off on the lads when they finally managed to play their semi-final match against 1st Halesowen, being convincingly beaten 8-1. Nice to know that the Junior football team kept up their recent improvement by drawing 4-4 against Longbridge Baptist Boys' Brigade. It was good to see more parents supporting the 'Blues'.

On 22nd March the Junior Section boys will be taking part in a Festival at Trinity Methodist Church, Churchfields, Kidderminster.

Can anyone help? We would like to beg, buy or borrow a bowler hat and some Chorus books (Cliff college or similar).

Hurry and get your tickets if you intend to come along to hear the Fairfield Folk on 8th March - they are going fast (the tickets, not the folk!).

YOUTH CLUB

The Church Youth Club challenges the 'Older' (over 21) members of the Church to a games evening. The games will include pool, table-football, darts and table-tennis. Refreshments will be available, spectators are welcome. A notice will soon be appearing in the Church Porch and if you would like to participate, please sign it. Both male and female competitors will be welcome.

The Youth Club membership numbers have decreased greatly since last year. The Club has many facilities, including darts, table-tennis, table football, pool and rounders in summer. There is also a tuck-shop. The membership fee is 35p and the 10p subscription fee, which is paid weekly, is used for such things as the upkeep and repair of equipment. If you would like to join and are 13 years of age or over, come along at 7.45 p.m. on Friday evening or contact the club leader, David Morgan at 504 Birmingham Road, or on 021 445 3595.

BOOK STALL

The Ways and Means Committee are organising a Book Stall in Bromsgrove Market on Saturday, 19th April, and they would like some books to sell!! The books can be put in the appropriate box in the Church Porch, or arrangements can be made to collect them if required. Please see Geoff Neal or Joan Mayo if you would like them collected.

TUESDAY AT EIGHT

At the meeting held on 12th February Miss Cuzner gave us a talk on "Family Antiques". She outlined the history of her family and how they came to England; her father was a local man who lived at Alcester. I think we all found this talk most interesting - Miss Cuzner also brought some very lovely silver to show us, which had all been made by her father. If anyone is interested, her father's workshop is in the Museum in Birmingham for anyone to visit.

At our next meeting a talk will be given by J. Sainsbury's Ltd. on 11th March, when we hope as many as possible will attend. Please bring a friend, as we have been asked by Sainsbury's for a minimum of 40 to attend.

THE FAMILY OF GOD

I recently spent two weeks in America, on business, travelling with an executive of the company I am employed by. During the two weeks, we found we had the middle weekend free, and as we had concluded our business on the Friday in Detroit, Michigan, and were due to meet with another company on Monday in San Antonio, Texas, we could spend that weekend in any town between these points. We eventually chose New Orleans, Louisiana and duly arrived there late on Friday evening after a 1,000 mile flight from Detroit..

We spent all day Saturday sightseeing in New Orleans - "the birthplace of jazz" - walking down streets the names of which would sound familiar to anyone with the remotest interest in jazz, such as Bourbon Street, North and South Rampart Street,

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THE FAMILY OF GOD CON'T

and St. Louis Street, all located in the French Quarter of the city. We also walked along the banks of the Mississippi River, watching the paddle steamers ferry their passengers on pleasure trips up and down the river.

As we were both Christians (in fact both Methodists), we had placed a visit to a church on Sunday morning high on our priority list. We eventually decided upon the First United Methodist Church located just outside the centre of New Orleans. We were welcomed at the door and given a copy of the order of service, which was extremely well presented, more reminiscent of a wedding order of service. One of the items in the service was "The Moments of Fellowship", and it was at this point that all visitors were invited to stand up and say who they were. Of the visitors present, most were from other parts of Louisiana, so when we introduced ourselves from England, it caused quite a stir.

After the service it seemed that every member of the congregation wanted to shake our hands and personally welcome us. It gave us both an incredible feeling that we "belonged", even though we were 4,000-odd miles from home. During the hour long service, and over coffee afterwards, in the "Church Parlour", I felt very homesick, but at the same time felt very close to home. I also felt very close to God.

It was interesting to note that the welcome we received was, to me, very sincere and very, very warm and that was before we explained that we were members of the Methodist Church in England. I only hope that visitors to our Church have that same feeling, for it really made us realise that we were truly members of the largest "family" in the world.

David L. Morgan

WOMEN'S OWN

The first meeting of the month on 6th February was a social afternoon under the Chairmanship of Mrs. Rose, followed by a successful bring and buy. Tea and biscuits concluded a very pleasant meeting.

On the 13th, after a shortened service, Rev. David Ray opened the Annual General Meeting by asking the Secretary to read the minutes of last year's A.G.M. These were approved as correct. Reports from the other officers were also presented and matters arising from these reports were discussed, including the programme for the coming year. Voting for the officers and committee showed few changes and sincere thanks were extended to them for their work during the past very successful year.

We were very pleased to welcome Mrs. David Roberts as speaker on the afternoon of 20th February. Mrs. Roberts gave details of jobs they, as missionaries in Nigeria, were expected to undertake in isolated districts when their experience was not so extensive but they soon realised that necessity brought out unknown talents. The Chairman thanked Mrs. Roberts for making the afternoon so entertaining and instructive.

On the 7th, Mrs. Marvin, a very welcome speaker, gave her usual enlivening message.

ST. MARY'S HOSPICE, SELLY PARK, BIRMINGHAM

In Raddlebarn Road, stands St. Mary's Hospice, opened 10th July 1979 by H.R.H. Princess Alexandra. Inspired by a deep rooted belief in man's dignity, the Hospice was founded to help seriously ill patients for whom a cure is not always possible.

Its Main Aims are:-

1. To care for those for whom treatment has

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ST. MARY'S HOSPICE CON'T

become one of caring rather than curing, especially for those whose severe pain needs careful assessment and control.

2. To admit the chronically sick who are being nursed at home, to give their family a short much-needed rest.
3. To assist in the training of medical students, nurses and clergy in the specialised care of these patients, particularly of those who are dying.

All patients are accepted regardless of creed or race, for it is their NEED that is the criterion for admission.

The 100 year old house, provided by His Grace, the Archbishop of Birmingham, is surrounded by recreation grounds that include a bowling green and tennis courts, ideal for the Hospice which needs an atmosphere of peace, yet one of life and movement. The three-storey building contains catering, office and staffroom facilities, whilst a new 25 bed unit, chapel and dayroom has been carefully integrated. Above part of the new ward is a conference room for teaching, social and formal meetings. A small courtyard is to become the focal point in the ward area which, together with shrubs and planted flowers, will house an aviary to bring colour and movement into the patients' environment. Provision is made for those who seek spiritual help. There is a resident chaplain, and ministers of all religions are welcomed and encouraged to participate fully in caring for the sick, supporting relatives and helping the staff. The chapel is designed to cater for those confined to a wheelchair, or even a bed. It is available at all times for private prayer, and patients, relatives and staff are invited to attend the frequently held services.

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ST. MARY'S HOSPICE CON'T

Arrangements have been made for students from the Birmingham Medical School to visit the Hospice during their final year, and student nurses and physiotherapy students will also be studying the specialist work carried out at St. Mary's. An important aspect is the training given to those preparing for and engaging in the Christian ministry. Whilst control of pain is at last receiving attention, there is still much to be done both in this and in the relief of the unpleasant symptoms that accompany so many illnesses. There is time in the Hospice, and the necessary skill and understanding, to study means of controlling this distress, and so consider the special needs of every patient.

There is always room for voluntary help, including the patients' families, who are welcomed and encouraged to become part of the caring team. They can help feed their relatives and undertake many other small tasks such as running the visitors' tea and coffee bar, and arranging flowers. The family retains its unity, the patient always being the central figures.

Although St. Mary's derives a large part of its revenue from contractual arrangements with most of the surrounding Area Health Authorities, IT IS NON-FEE PAYING and needs all the support it can get. The cost of keeping ONE patient in the Hospice was estimated in January 1979 to be around £8,500 per annum (over £163 a week), and it was also estimated that around £40,000 per annum (over £769 a week) would be needed to support those beds outside the N.H.S. contract, and to provide those little extras that help a patient's stay more comfortable.

THE FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S ... was founded as a fund-raising body to help meet these costs, and in addition to the income from donations from individuals and groups, the 'friends' are

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ST. MARY'S HOSPICE CON'T

encouraged to make a Deed of Covenant in favour of the Hospice. We bless those whose vision it was to found St. Mary's; we hope and pray for the support of the community the Hospice seeks to serve.

A FEAST FOR LENT

- Fast from criticism, and feast on praise.
- Fast from self-pity, and feast on joy.
- Fast from ill-temper, and feast on peace.
- Fast from resentment, and feast on contentment.
- Fast from jealousy, and feast on love.
- Fast from selfishness, and feast on service.
- Fast from fear, and feast on faith.

Faint, illegible text, likely a list of names or numbers, possibly from a membership list or financial records, located at the bottom of the page.

ABOUT THIS CHURCH:

Minister: Rev. David Ray
68 Golden Cross Lane,
Catshill.*****Tel. Bromsgrove 76405

Services: 10.30 a.m. Family Service and
Sunday School
6.00 p.m. Evening Service

Mid-Week Events:

- Monday 7.00 p.m. Guides
- Tuesday 9.30 a.m. Pre-school Playgroup
2.00 p.m. Mums and Toddlers Club
8.00 p.m. Tuesday at 8 or
House Fellowship
- Wednesday 9.30 a.m. Pre-school Playgroup
2.45 p.m. Women's Own
6.30 p.m. Brownies
7.00 p.m. Midweek Worship and
Prayers
7.45 p.m. Choir Practice
- Tuesday 9.30 a.m. Pre-school Playgroup
10.30 a.m. Neighbourhood Ladies
Coffee Meeting(Alt.Weeks)
1.30 p.m. Pre-school Playgroup
6.30 p.m. Boys'. Brigade(Junior Sec)
7.40 p.m. Boys' Brigade(Company Sec)
- Friday 9.30 a.m. Pre-school Playgroup
6.00 p.m. 'Robins'(Pre-JunBoys Bgde)
7.45 p.m. Youth Club