



CATSHILL CLARION

The monthly newsletter of the
Catshill Methodist Church

MARCH 1971

MINISTER'S LETTER.

Dear Friends,

INVEST IN ADVANCE

It is no news that prices are increasing, and that such increases affect our living. It will be no surprise to you to learn that prices in relation to the cost of running a church are increasing as well. New buildings apart, the cost of maintaining our buildings, and paying the ministers is increasing, as both are either directly or indirectly related to the cost of living index. This means that to maintain our work as it is, will call for increased giving.

At the Leaders Meeting last week, our increased financial responsibility was made clear for the next twelve months, and details of this as it affects each member of our congregation will shortly be circulated to everyone.

I am sure however that our people at Cotshill will not be satisfied with merely maintaining our work as it is, (We have not built a New Church so that our work may stand still.) but will be looking for ways and means to build up, increase, and extend the life, worship, and witness of our church.

This will demand a re-appraisal by everyone of our Stewardship of Gods Gifts of Time, and Talents, as well as Money.

Will YOU therefore Invest in the Advance of God's Kingdom through our Church Life by prayerfully considering your contribution in giving week by week, and whether or not you could join the Envelope Scheme, or Covenant your Giving.

Will you prayerfully consider who you can invite to share in the activities and worship of our church.

Will you prayerfully consider how you can serve, or use any particular talent to make our church work more effective.

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I believe there have been real signs of growth of late, and plans are in hand to encourage that growth, let us therefore mobilise all our resources and be in faith committed to make sure that growth continues and flourishes, for anything else is decline.

With best wishes,
Your sincere friend and minister,

TONY BULLOCK.

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BUILDING FUND.

TOTAL collected by church	£ 9,225.20
Grants	<u>13,500.00</u>
TOTAL	£22,725.20

(Cost of building, furnishing and fees for the New Church.)

New Building Fund	£97.53
Less Loan to Trust	<u>80</u>
Cash in hand	<u>£17.53</u>

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Preachers for the Month.

	<u>10.30 a.m.</u>	<u>6 p.m.</u>
7th March 1971	Rev. T. Bullock	Mr. M. H. Wilkes
14th " "	Mr. D. J. Masfield	Rev. T. Bullock (Sacrament)
21st " "	Mr. K. J. W. Powell	Mr. K. J. W. Powell
28th " "	Rev. T. Bullock	Rev. D. A. Grooves

TUESDAY AT EIGHT.

Since our last report of 'Tuesday at Eight' we have been favoured with two very enjoyable evenings. The first was a most interesting talk by a women police officer who told us of some of her experiences since being stationed in the Bromsgrove Area. This evening proved very popular and we hope that we shall be favoured with another talk in the near future.

The second evening was a talk on dressmaking by Mrs. Mole, who demonstrated to us how to use patterns and the best types of materials to use. I am sure that many of our ladies will tackle their dressmaking more confidently in future.

During March we anticipate an interesting evening on the 16th when Mrs. Boyer will give us a talk on the history of Bromsgrove and on March 30th, Rev. Tony Bullock will speak to us on "Home Missions."

A very warm welcome is given to all ladies to these meetings which are held in the old Vestry at 8p.m.

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CATSHILL GUIDES AND BROWNIERS invite your support at a MINI FAYRE to be held in our Youth Hall on SATURDAY, 20th March, to be opened at 2.30 p.m. by MISS S.CULLEN of Bromsgrove General Hospital; proceeds in aid of the Geriatric Lift Fund there.

Stalls will include - White Elephant, Bottle, Sweets, Bran Tub, Garden Produce, Handicrafts, etc., and there will also be competitions and refreshments. PLEASE DO COME ALONG AND SUPPORT US.

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POSTER AGENT REQUIRED. Duties include ordering of posters - see Trust Secretary.

CHOIR NEEDS MEN. Please see choirmaster. Practise every Wednesday night at 8 p.m.

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GOODBYE "LOLLY" I MUST LEAVE YOU or THE OLD COIN--AGE !

During the next few months we will see the disappearance of the good old "shillings and Pence" as we know them. The occasion must not be allowed to pass without some mention in the 'CLARION'.

Part 1 - 240 Pence to the Pound.

The first (silver) pennies were minted in England by Heaberht the Anglo Saxon King of Kent about the year 765. The standard weight of each penny soon became 1 pennyweight (24 grains) and 240 weighed exactly 1 Roman Pound or 'Libra' (once the £ sign of our Pound) The d. sign of our penny stands for 'Denarius' the Roman penny. This system of 240 pence to the Pound has been with us right up until 15th February this year, even though the actual coin has changed size and metal several times over the years due to its decreasing purchasing power.

Up to the year 1800 the silver penny decreased in size until it was too small to handle properly. In 1797 Matthew Boulton succeeded in obtaining the permission of King George III to mint large copper pennies which actually contained one pennyworth of copper (a lot in those days.) These first 'coppers' were minted at the Soho Mint in Birmingham and successive issues were minted (mainly in London) up to 1860 when it was decided to replace the heavy soft coin with a smaller, thinner and harder bronze penny. These first bronze pennies were the well known Victorian 'bun' pennies, and up until recently could be seen (rather worn) in circulation.

In the years 1912, 1918 and 1919 Birmingham once again had the honour to mint pennies which bear the mintmarks 'H' or 'KM' standing for Heaton's (now The Birmingham Mint) and The Kings Norton Metal Co. The 1967 bronze penny was the last dated large 'Britannia penny to be issued, and is replaced by the much smaller decimal penny. It is interesting to note that the size of this new penny is much nearer the size of the original Anglo Saxon pennies minted over 1200 years ago!

THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE, met on 19th February in the Church Vestry. Nine members were present. The Chairman, Mr. Brian Cawson, presided and the meeting was opened with prayer said by the Minister.

Mr. Brian Cawson announced that he felt he must resign from the chair because of pressure of other commitments. Mr. Stan Howard expressed the wish that it be recorded that Mr. Cawson be thanked most heartily for his outstanding and most successful hard work in his office as chairman.

In view of the present uncertainty of objectives, it was decided that this committee should cease to function, until such time as the Trust gave new directives, when a revived committee would be formed.

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WOMEN'S OWN.

On the first Wednesday in February we held our usual Social arranged by Mrs. Rose. We also had a gift table, proceeds to go to Women's Own Fund. Tea and biscuits brought to a close a very happy meeting.

The 10th February was our devotional meeting, taken as usual by our Minister. At the close of this meeting a short committee meeting was held.

At our meeting on the 17th February our speaker was Mrs. Stanley. She gave a very interesting talk on "Time and the way we either use it or waste it."

Mrs. Diamond was our speaker for the last meeting in February. Her talk illustrated the way in which small incidents in our lives may be the way through which God's purposes are fulfilled.

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1st Bromsgrove Boys' Brigade Company.

The Company have been very fortunate in obtaining a car engine from British Leyland and have started a car mechanics course. We are grateful to Mr. T. Keight who has willingly agreed to take charge of this class.

The Company Section boys have now won 3 of the 4 matches they have played in the Battalion Football

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Championship. Their latest win was by 8 goals to 1 against the 2nd Kidderminster Company.

We are pleased to report that as a result of our Bring and Buy Stall and other fund raising efforts we have been able to donate £5 to the Friends of Bromsgrove Hospital Geriatric Lift Fund.

On February 27th Miss Rutter and Miss Howard took a party of Juniors to the Battalion Junior Section Festival held in Sion Hill School, Kidderminster. Teams from all over the County took part in a Physical Activity Competition and under the leadership of Miss Hilary Howard, Bromsgrove did well to finish 5th (2 marks behind the winners) in a very even contest.

In the Handicrafts Section the following Bromsgrove boys gained awards:

Handwriting - Andrew F. Kings 1st (8 year olds);

Stephen Hobley 1st, Martin Sanday 2nd (9 yr. olds).

PAINTING - Graham Thorley 1st (8 yr. olds)

Andrew Kings 3rd (9 yr. olds) and

Robert Thorley 2nd (10 yr. olds.)

Can anyone help us? We wish to beg, buy or borrow a copy of Little White Bull (word and music).

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We publish in this edition the first of a series of poems on our faith by Mr. David Morgan. The editor would like to make clear his personal gratitude for the offer of these; he is sure they will give inspiration and delight to all readers.

David is interested in forming a Gospel group, which would perform at special events and occasionally at our services. He is a drummer. A pianist another instrumentalist and about 4 singers would, he thinks, make a suitable combination. The Leaders' Meeting on March 1st considered the idea and gave it their unanimous support. Would anyone interested please contact either David Morgan or the Editor.

The Creation

(Genesis Chapter 1 & Chapter 2 verses 1 - 3.)

The earth was in darkness,
And Darkness ruled the deep,
The earth was without life,
The planet was asleep.

Then came the creation
Of man, the same as He,
And God gave man dominion
Over all on land and sea.

And so on the first day
God created light;
And called this the daytime
And the darkness He called
night.

Then came the seventh day
And our Lord took His
rest,
Now it's called "The
Lord's Day",
For that day has been
blessed.

Then on the second day
Out of the seven,
God made a firmament
And called this His Heaven.

David L. Morgan.

The third day God parted
The dry land from the seas,
And then God created
Grasses, shrubs and trees.

On the fourth day of creation
Of this world of ours,
God made the sun and moon
And each of a billion stars,

And God created creatures
That lived not in the dry,
But some lived in the deepest seas
And others in the sky.

On the sixth God created
Insects that could crawl,
Cattle, beasts and creatures
Some were large and some were small.