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THIS ISSUE FREE

MARCH, 1979

"Friends of Haydon Bridge" -
A Christian View

The quality of life enjoyed by any community is an important factor in my philosophy of life as a Christian minister, and if I find it difficult to understand why so many people fail to accept the Christian way of life which Jesus taught, I can still ensure that all I do as a Christian councillor is for the benefit of the whole community.

That is why I have always regarded any participation in Parish or District Council work as part and parcel of my total ministry, and I have never had to compromise my Christian faith to accommodate any political expediency in council business. Rather than being a contradiction to my ministry, I see my job as a councillor as a compliment to my work in offering a better quality of life to everyone - not just those who attend my church and accept my ministry.

We hear so much these days about the unwillingness of members of Trades Unions to exercise their right to participate in union affairs - and we see all too often the results of opting out of such responsibility.

My own commitment to the Christian Ministry will always involve me in every aspect of life which concern people in my parish. In the words of my Master and Lord, "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" (in every aspect and in greater Fulness).

The other principle or aim of the Friends of Haydon Bridge which prompts comment from me as a Christian is that which mentions the "sense of Community within the parish". My own interpretation of the Church is that it is - or should be - the Christian community in a place, which meets together for worship of God in order to show people our commitment to the Christian life both in, and out of the Church building: I have always believed that any involvement in the life of the world can only truly come from the prior involvement in the life of Christ as portrayed by the Church and its committed members. Faith must always come from good works; love of God is always a prerequisite of my concern for people.

To those concerned about the quality of life in Haydon Bridge I would ask them

to consider the source and motivating power of their own life - is what they are offering to others a share in what they enjoy, or only the remains of what they don't want? And if their aim is to strengthen the sense of community in the parish, should they not first seek to strengthen the Christian Community (in several churches already in existence here) by lending their voices to swell its worship and committing their persons to increase its numbers?

A. Beniams.

A Possible Future

If you do not tell the driver where you would like to go it is not unreasonable to blame him entirely if you get taken for a ride to a place you dislike so, as a starting point for discussion of how Haydon Bridge could develop, I would like to express some of my ideas of how I would like to see things. Haydon Bridge has grown over the past ten years and I would guess it will continue to grow partly from more council houses and as more commuters choose to live and raise their families in the country rather than in the towns. Unless such growth fits into some sort of basic plan and is accompanied by social amenities that make it easy to absorb newcomers and meet the reasonable needs of all members of the community there is the danger of the growth of a rural slum while if development is on the right lines it would be to the benefit of all and give scope to much latent talent and decency in the village.

The main problem groups in the village, as elsewhere, are the Elderly, the Young, and the Lonely and although no easy or glib solution will solve every problem of individuals in these groups, certain developments would go a long way to help these people help themselves.

For the Elderly, sheltered accommodation is a development that has been well tried elsewhere and is widely recognised as meeting the physical, medical and social needs of this group. It is expensive and wasteful of medical, nursing and social work facilities to accommodate old people in separate houses, no matter how well equipped and, if those houses are away from the centre of the village it makes life

harder and more boring for the occupants while to have to banish them from the village when they are no longer able to manage on their own is cruel.

With sheltered accommodation, where everyone has their own private rooms but access under the same roof, to common rooms, much of the fear of loneliness of old age can be removed while 'on the spot wardens' and the opportunity for self help would make it much easier to help our old folk in the village without having to admit them to hospital or send them away from us to end their days.

Young people can be a darned nuisance when they are roaring around on their Suzukis and Yamahas at night or larking around in noisy groups but what alternatives do they have? They do not want to sit in all night watching telly but do need to meet and talk to each other but where?

I believe they need and deserve a nice place and that if it was a place where other members of the community could meet and 'socialise' they would treat such a place with respect and get to know and respect other members of the village. In Austria, in many villages of the Tyrol, a cafe/restaurant is the social meeting place for young and old while in Haydon Bridge, as in many of our towns and villages there is nowhere, apart from the pubs, that is regularly open for casual socialising in the evenings. Such a place could be a profitable economic enterprise useful for tourists that could do much to meet the needs of the young and the lonely. It could be combined with the sheltered accommodation complex and help to break down the unhealthy tendency to isolate the young from the old which is a pity because both groups have much to give each other.

It had been my hope and dream that facilities on these lines could, in time be developed on that area of land bounded by the river to the south, the railway to the north and Church Street which could have made an attractive "heart" to the village.

The factories have made such a development less easy and it may be more difficult to achieve the aesthetic attraction of these facilities and, perhaps a library and other village amenities (a blacksmith and other small workshops?) flanking a village green - but must the idea be written off?

There is still quite an area of land on that site which is not being used to what I think is its best advantage.

Development towards an ideal often turns out best when there are difficult obstacles in the way. Would Durham have

its present charm if land for development had been plentiful and architects had not had to scheme and exercise ingenuity to fit houses, shops and other amenities into a limited compass? During last year's uproar over the factories Professor Ralph Crowe, Professor of Architecture at Newcastle University, became very interested in the problems of Haydon Bridge and has it in mind to set the village as an exercise for his final year students to consider all aspects of the layout of the village as it is now and how it might be adapted, modified and developed in the future to meet our present and future needs. It is possible that, during the summer term this year he and his students will come and live in the village for some weeks, to get to know us and our problems intimately before they draw up their plans. Professor Crowe warns me that some of these plans may be "a bit way out" but it will be interesting to have a group of budding architects looking at our situation and giving us their ideas. How those ideas develop will, obviously, depend on how we put our ideas to them so I hope that they will be welcomed by all. What use we may make of any plans they put forward will be for the future but, in the meantime, I would like to thank "The Friends of Haydon Bridge" for taking the initiative in opening discussions on how we would like our village to develop for, as I said at the beginning it is only by having some vision of where we want to go that we shall have any hope of getting where we want to be. If you have any comments on my ideas or suggestions of your own, please write to the Haydon News about them.

R. High.

Junior Football

After the long spell of bad weather our Junior Football teams are looking forward to resuming their programme of fixtures.

At present the village has two junior teams one, Under 14 and one, Under 16. These boys play their matches on Sunday afternoons and interested spectators are welcome. The younger boys play their home matches on the junior school field and this season the older team have permission to use the Village Football Field.

Through keen effort from the boys, fund raising by the parents and generous help from the Promotion Department of a league football club, both the teams have smart strips and two new footballs. The Under 14's have a young side this

season and as yet have not reached their full potential but are doing well for a small village team facing strong competition against teams from larger communities. Under the careful guidance of Colin Irwin they should improve their position in the second half of the season. The Under 16 have fared better and have secured two cup final places against Top of the League, unbeaten Prudhoe, who have not, as yet, failed to beat anyone by less than 3 goals.

After 10 years in charge of the Under 18 team D. Tulip decided to retire and as no one volunteered to take over in time, they could not enter the league this season. David has done a great service to the village in running the team for so many years. Though not winning any trophies he has been successful in transferring two of his players to professional clubs. First George Hope who played for Newcastle, Charlton and York and who scored the winning goal for Newcastle on his debut against Manchester United.

Then Shaun Elliott who plays for Sunderland and by his ability and honest work has become a first class player doing both himself and his village a great honour in being selected for the Under 21 England Squad. Best of luck Shaun, we are hoping to see you play in the England side thus giving David just reward for his years of service.

J. Hoslop.

Cycling and Hostelling

Paul and Elizabeth Bennett enjoy cycling and youth hostelling at weekends, but because of family commitments need to follow these pastimes alone.

If you would like to join us on a ride or try a hostelling weekend (cycling or walking), please contact us at 9 Langley Gardens, Haydon Bridge.

Not That High

In the report in the last issue headed "Protection from Railway" we said "A four metre high concrete fence....will be erected between the Newcastle-Carlisle railway line and Strother Close." It has been pointed out to us that this figure is incorrect.

"If in February thou hearest thunder
Thou shalt see a summer wonder."

Cruelty to Planners

"Planners and designers! Most of them

couldn't plan a muck up in a midden."

"Oh, come on, some of them must be quite good."

"Possibly, possibly. There are two troubles with them; one is that when they make a mistake it is so often something that sticks out like a sore thumb"

"For example."

"Take the heating in Langley Gardens."

"You take it."

"Have you been in one of the houses?"

"Can't say I have. Not very pretty are they." "Houses are made for people to live in, not for you to look at, besides worse looking places have been built not a million years ago."

"True. What about the heating there?"

"In the first place it is not just background heating to supplement a coal fire. The houses are all electric and when there is a cut, an event not unknown, it's all out one out, as they say."

"And in the second Place?"

"And in the second place, the system has a central storage unit which pumps warm air into the living room, so far so good but the storage unit is in a cupboard in the kitchen which gets so hot that the busy housewife, sweating over a hot stove has to open a window to let the heat out."

"Posting pound notes out of the window, like!"

"Quite. The upstairs has no heating, but do they put the storage unit in the hall so some of the heat finds its way upstairs? Not on your nelly.

Conclusion: the so called designer is either short on marbles or he is making a lot of money for the electricity board."

"What is the second trouble with planners and designers?"

"They are faceless and nameless. How often has a councillor said, 'we know who planned this and we won't let him plan anything for us again?'"

"Not at all that I remember."

"There you go. For all we know the man who inflicted misery and expense on the people in Langley Gardens in the exercising of his tiny mind on another scheme. Further more his design was presumably approved by planners and planning committees who get paid."

"With our money."

"With our money. Rate payers money, thousands of pounds of it, goes into building the heating systems. Tenants pay thousands of pounds to run the systems. Now thousands of pounds will be needed to put new systems into the houses. In the meantime the authorities earn their salaries and fees. Everyone suffers but them.

"Pity there isn't some way of paying them by results."

"Pity we can't make them live in similar houses."

"Next to the new factories."

"Why not."

"Cruelty to planners and designers. Still there is one thing we can do. We can all go to the meeting, find out what they are planning and raise our voices if we don't like it."

"We certainly can."

Notes on Haydon Parish Council Meeting, 22nd February, 1979

There were no matters raised at the Public Session.

Trees

It was suggested that it would be better to have the 4 standard trees offered by the County Planning Committee planted within the village rather than on the parish boundaries and that they should be from stock that was about 8' high. Suggestions as to the place of planting and variety of tree were required. Councillor Waite hoped that the Friends of Haydon Bridge might make suggestions as to the places of planting, variety of tree and contribute towards the cost. He was prepared to pay for the project if not. Tynedale Council would carry the work and Councillor Bates offered timber for the trees support and protection.

Gas Supply

The figure of £250,000 to supply gas to the Council Estate was correct but it was pointed out that as with water supply the cost of pipe work from the main to a property was the owners responsibility. Average cost figures would be found out. The best initial step would be to have a public meeting at the end of March before which a circular would be sent out to see what the demand was.

Flooding

On land at the end of Belmont surface water was flooding back into the school's sewers leaving sewerage on the surface when the water eventually drained away. The owner of the land was to be served with an official notice of nuisance but there were public funds available to

carry out the work.

Double white lines. Pelican crossing

The County Surveyor has agreed to double white lines east of the 30 mph sign at the east end of the village. These however would allow overtaking when travelling down hill west but not when travelling east, uphill.

Some councillors thought that this arrangement would be worse than the present single centre line lane marking and would encourage drivers to overtake when approaching downhill towards the village. However it was pointed out that Department of Environment legislation did not permit two continuous white lines in a situation such as ours and it was agreed that work should be carried out as soon as the weather allowed.

The traffic survey regarding a pelican crossing in the village had not yet been carried out due to the bad weather.

Electricity supply and lighting

Praise was given to NEEB workers for their efforts in restoring supply after power failures in recent blizzards but were our problems caused as the result of general deterioration in power lines. For example in the Staward area the power was off for 3 days when 7 old concrete pylons failed. The Chairman said he would write to NEEB asking what was going to be done to overhaul the system.

There was a request for improved street lighting in the Chesterwood area.

St. Cuthberts Churchyard

The Public Works Officer has reported that more than normal maintenance was required. He estimated an expenditure of £4,000 mainly to put the drainage right. Councillor Beniams said he had inherited the problem and that little work had been carried out in the last 25 years. The parish had complained and so the parish should contribute towards the cost. There may be the need to move kerb stones but not headstones, public notice would be given if such work was carried out. Such measures would ease grass cutting once initial clearing had been carried out.

The council decided to ask for a more definite idea of cost before it decided the percentage it would contribute.

Keeping warm

£600 from the Grant Aid Fund has been

made available to the Community Association by Tynedale towards the cost of the new boiler.

The Housing Services Committee will meet on the 21st of March by that time having visited Langley Gardens to view heating systems. Residents would then be advised of a future meeting that they could attend.

Community Council of Northumberland

£10, the same amount as last year was to be contributed to the Community Council who publish items as "Town and Country Planning in Northumberland - A Brief Guide for Parish Councillors."

Repairs

The Council agreed to go ahead with the repair of the bus shelter and to look into the repair of public seats.

Men's Fellowship

Many men in the village may not be aware of this Fellowship. The Fellowship meets fortnightly in the Methodist Church Hall and is non-denominational. It is an ideal opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones.

Our activities consist of film shows, talks and discussions by various people from all walks of life. It is not expensive at 10p for tea and biscuits.

Among our guests last month we had Mr. Dennis Telford of Aladdin fame. Dennis gave us a nostalgic film show bringing back memories of the Jubilee and other village celebrations.

On the 20th February we again had the pleasure of the company of Miss Hilda Foster who gave us a glimpse of Turkey in the form of slides and a running commentary.

On March 20th Mr. Colin Smith, of well know voice, but this time he will be talking about a trip to Bermuda.

For our final meeting on the 3rd April we welcome Mr. Will Rutherford, a Young Farmer of note and no mean rugger player. His film show will be on a recent visit to the U.S.A.

Take a note of these dates as you can be assured an interesting evening and a welcome in the spirit of the movement.

Are you a member of the Mobile Library?

The mobile library comes to Haydon Bridge every other Thursday. Membership is free and open to all ages. Even if you are a member of Haltwhistle or Hexham library you can still join on the mobile. There is a selection of novels and non-fiction to suit most tastes, plus a selection for the children.

The next visits are on the 22nd March and 5th April, 19th April.

- Anchor car-park 10.45 - 12.15
- Church Street 1.30 - 4.30
- Greenwich Gardens 5.05 - 7.30

Services at the Parish Church:

- Every Sunday: 10 a.m. Parish Communion or Morning Prayer (alt.)
- 2nd & 4th Sundays: 8 a.m. Holy Communion
- 1st & 3rd Sundays: 6 p.m. Evensong
- Wednesdays in Lent: 9 a.m. Holy Communion
- Holy Week (9-13 April) 9 a.m. Holy Communion
- Good Friday: 10 a.m. Ante-Communion
- 2 p.m. United Service
- Easter Day: 8 a.m. Holy Communion (at old Church)
- 10 a.m. Parish Communion
- 6 p.m. Evensong

N.B. The Annual Meeting of the Parish Church will be held in the Church Hall on Wednesday April 4th 1979 at 7.30 p.m.

Haydon Bridge Methodist Church

About six months ago we began a Family Service on the second Sunday of each month at 10.45 a.m. The purpose of these services is to gather together people of all ages, from small children to old people, in a short act of worship followed by a short time of fellowship together.

One does not always judge the success of anything by the numbers attending but it is obvious that these services are filling a need of families gathering together for worship. Many people are concerned about the state of the country at this time and realise the need for a moral basis for life. The church has many faults but always tries to speak of God and the answers He gives to our needs. If you do not attend any church may we give you a very warm welcome to join with us in the Family Service.

R. Rushworth

Methodist Church Haydon Bridge

March

28th Women's Own, Mrs. T.G. Hall-Riding Mill.

April

- 1st A.M. Mr. S. Rutherford.
- P.M. Mr. J. Green.
- 3rd Men's Fellowship-Mr. W. Rutherford
- 8th A.M. Family Service - Rev. H. Rushworth.
- P.M. Mrs. Graham Wilson-Wylam
- 11th Women's Own-Rev. H. Rushworth

13th GOOD FRIDAY - 2 P.M.
UNITED SERVICE IN PARISH CHURCH.

15th EASTER DAY
A.M. Miss V. Little.
P.M. Rev. H. Rushworth - Sacrament.

22nd A.M. Rev. Glynn Lister.
P.M. Mr. J. Graham.

25th Women's Own - Miss Walton Henshaw.

29th A.M. Mr. T. Willis.
P.M. Rev. H. Rushworth.

Advance Notice -
May 13th Family Service.
Sunday School Anniversary.

English Village or Town Government.

What is a Parish?

There are two sorts of parishes which now do not always coincide. These are the Ecclesiastical Parishes each centred on a church with a parochial church council under the chairmanship of the vicar or rector, and the Civil Parishes some of which are called "towns".

What is the Civil Parish?

A civil parish is a unit of administration and democracy. It has a Parish or Town Meeting consisting of all its electors and a Parish or Town Council. Over 10 million people live in such parishes.

What is the Parish Council?

A parish council is a small local authority. Its members are elected for four years at a time in the same way as any other council. There are 7,200 such councils.

What can the Parish Council do for its Area?

The parish councils can do more things than are often suspected. Nearly 2,000 light their streets. Many provide allotments. Still more look after playing fields.

Village greens and other ways of getting exercise such as swimming-pools. They have a hand in rural communications by maintaining or guarding such things as rights of way, bus shelters and public seats; a very important thing in which they are concerned is the provision of halls and meeting places.

How do they do it?

The parish council can do these things by actually providing them itself or by helping someone else (such as a volunteer of charity)

financially to do them. Parish councils thrive on volunteers.

What else do they do?

Some provide guides of leaflets to newcomers, or help the Meals system, or a local bus service. Several have made traffic surveys. At least one runs a holiday hotel. They have the power to improve the quality of village life by spending sums of money on things which, in their opinion, are in the interests of the parish of its inhabitants.

Editor's Note.

Thanks to all those who contributed to this second edition. Articles, letters and diary notes for the next edition should be sent to Dale Cottage, North Bank, H.B.*

The Parent

Children aren't happy with nothing to ignore,
And that's what parents were created for.

Ogden Nash.

* We hope the following editions of Haydon News will be published every 2 months - Mid May, July, September and so on.