



# Ansley Church News

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The Vicarage,  
Birmingham Road, Ansley.  
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## WORSHIP

11.00 a.m. 1st and 5th Sundays — Morning Prayer.  
2nd and 4th Sundays — Parish Communion.  
3rd Sunday — Family Worship.  
6.30 p.m. 3rd Sunday — Holy Communion.  
Other Sundays — Evening Prayer.  
(Holy Communion also at 8.00 a.m. on 1st Sunday).

## “SONGS OF PRAISE”

6.30 p.m. on Sunday, January 27th.

Preacher: The Revd. Roger Spiller  
Rural Dean and Vicar of Chilvers Coton

Have you got a set of 1985 envelopes yet ? Collect from church  
or see Mrs. Truelove.

Dear Friends,

'For God has revealed his grace for the salvation of all mankind' (Titus 2 : 11).

January marks the season of Epiphany, and what we know as the 'twelfth day of Christmas' (January 6th) is the 'Feast of the Epiphany.' But what does it mean to us ?

During the season of Epiphany the church thinks of what Jesus Christ's coming means for the world—for everyone. It is of course true that Jesus Christ is the head of the church, and that every one of us who is a follower of him should by their words and deeds try to bring God's great love in Jesus Christ to their friends and neighbours. But is God only interested in the church, or is he interested in the world ? Should Christians only involve themselves in activities which 'support the church' or should they remember the world ?

Epiphany tells us that Jesus Christ came to save—it is the season when we continue to think about the meaning of Christmas. We are very good at building up to Christmas, and Harvest Festivals these days are sometimes overlapping with the first carols. But we aren't so good at remembering what Christmas means for the months afterwards. We need to think of practical ways in which the Christian church can show that God's love is to be taken into all the different corners and places of the world which God made. We have our activities in this parish which are supported by the church in one form or other—for example, the luncheon club, the youth training scheme and others. The Church End School, although not directly supported by the local parish church in these days of centralisation, is an example of the spirit of Epiphany—that through education and through a regular teaching of the Word of God and the Christian faith Christians seeks to 'make Christ known.' I know that some ministers think that the Church should pull out of education and do all the teaching of the faith in their churches, but I for one believe that this would be a great mistake. We have to take the risk of involvement with the world if the faith is to remain credible. God got himself involved in the 'Word made flesh,' that is, in the vulnerable and weak human being who was Jesus Christ, our Lord. As his disciples, Christians must continue to be involved in God's world. As the apostle John says, much of the world 'lies in the power of the evil one'—but we can't leave it there !

'The grace of God is revealed for the salvation of all mankind . . . ' — but have we received that salvation ? Do we know personally the love and power of the Lord Jesus Christ ? Do we express his love in our church, our families, in God's world ? That's what Epiphany is about.

TIM GOULDSTONE

#### **CHURCH END SCHOOL NEWS**

The nativity play at the end of term was very well produced and there were many more who came to see it. It was very hard indeed to find a seat after the beginning and I think there must have been over 80 people there. Congratulations to all



who made this annual event such an enjoyable time for the children and such a challenging message for us all.

The deputation from the school who are concerned about its proposed closure is going to meet Mr. Dunn, The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in the Dept. of Education and Science on January 30th. We hope that our case is successful as the final decision on the future of the school after July 1985 rest with his department.

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A very big thank you to all those who have raised over one thousand pounds in a remarkably short time for a special bicycle for Stephen Lyons of Nuthurst Crescent—for all who gave of their time, their money and their hospitality for this very worthwhile parish venture.

Following the notice about the Sunday afternoon worship at Ridge Lane Methodist Church, I am glad to say that a number are now worshipping regularly there and I found it a new and interesting experience to preach in this little building on December 2nd at a service which is also supported by The Revd. Peter Cole, the Methodist minister and The Revd. Adrian Mairs, the Vicar of Mancetter. A 'Christmas Fayre' on December 8th raised about £125 for chapel funds.

We tried another sale of goods at the Village Church Hall on December 13th but attendance was very disappointing. We have the opportunity of using Manpower Services Commission schemes to redecorate both the inside and outside of this property in the near future and we should be able to avail ourselves of their labour. These two jobs will cost in the region of £500. I don't think that's very much money at all—after all, there are those in our parish who earn that in a month—so we should not be put off by financial considerations from making use of what will be a very worthwhile scheme.

The Youth Training Scheme put on an excellent Christmas Lunch at 'The Jam Pot' at Arley for the luncheon club which meets at the St. John Ambulance Hall—it was followed by some entertainment (including a 'Sand Dance !') by the trainees. This Christmas the scheme said goodbye to one of the senior supervisors, Mrs. Dee Hall. Thank you for all the work you have put in, both practically and in 'the books.'

On Friday 21st the Luncheon Club held their Christmas Party at St. John's Hall. Enlivened as usual by an after-dinner speech by Mr. Cos which was almost a sermon on Ecclesiastes 10 verse 9 (you will have to look it up) and an excellent memory of what he said last year ! When I looked in at 4.30 p.m., they were still going strong, having started at 12.30 p.m. The new railings fabricated by Mr. Bailey are now in position and we thank him for their installation, trusting that it will make access to the hall easier.

Christmas worship was well patronised this year, a great crowd at the Carol Service which filled the 'box pews'—the first time for many years—and nearly 100 at Christmas Eve Midnight Communion. Christmas Day was a bit of a let-down with only 20 ! Incidentally it is very much easier to lead worship with 200

people than it is with 20, and of course the involvement and enjoyment is so much better. Thanks to the generosity of the Carol Service Congregation we will be able to send £110 to the Church of England Children's Society, plus another £30 collected by the Sunday School Children who sang carols around the village on Sunday morning.

For the past couple of years the Sunday School have put on a short play in the Village Church Hall, and this year they did 'Trig Trog and the Christmas Children'—nail-biting rehearsals ensued that all went well on the evening although I think there were four wise men! Thank you to the Sunday School staff for their time and imagination. Remember that if you want your child to go to Sunday School, contact Mrs. Marie Cove on Chapel End 394114. It meets at 11.00 a.m., on every Sunday except the third Sunday of the month when there is a 'Family Service.'

The 20 pence piece fund for the repair of stone work on the church stands at £35. The churchwardens thank all those who have helped, but we still have a long way to go if we are to reach our target by the spring when we plan to start the work.

Who will win—the masonry bees or the busy bees?

### SONGS OF PRAISE

On Sunday, January 27th there will be one of the Group Ministry's 'Songs of Praise,' this time at Ansley at 6.30 p.m., where we welcome our neighbouring congregations from Arley, Fillongley and Corley. We welcome as our preacher on this occasion The Revd. Roger Spiller, Rural Dean and Vicar of Chilvers Coton.

————— DON'T MISS IT —————

### GLENN MARTIN WRITES . . . .

Vicars don't fall from heaven or grow on trees . . . . here is a note from Glenn Martin who is training at Queens College Birmingham for full-time ordained ministry:

Well, I've completed my first term at college now. It is hard to write a full report without being analytical so I'll concentrate on just a few areas. **STUDY**—During the first term academic work consisted of Old and New Testament Studies, Church History, Greek, Doctrine, Prayer, Spirituality and Human Studies in pastoral work and essays were written on these subjects. **PRACTICAL WORK**—visits to a local hospital on a weekly basis and work with various local churches, mainly in preaching. **COLLEGE LIFE**—consists of chapel services, lectures, periods of study and eating meals together with various external contacts. Queens is unique in that it trains for ministry Anglicans, Methodists, URC's and also has very close links with the local Roman Catholic Seminary. Sharing with other denominations has its problems but also brings a richness and variety. The Methodist and URC churches ordain women and obviously allow them to celebrate Holy Communion—the Anglican Church, as yet, has not agreed to this. So for some, when a woman minister celebrates it can pose problems. However it is good to look at each other and



observe our traditions and discover our true and fuller identity in Christ and to try and grow more fully into that image as a 'body' of Christians.

Queens is situated in Edgbaston, Birmingham and therefore has a lot to offer in terms of facilities, and I'm particularly looking forward to next term when there will be greater involvement outside college.

How have I personally felt? Well, the tension between college life and family can be tough—it's difficult leaving Sally and the family at home—but that apart I am, I believe, growing into who I feel God wants me to be and growing towards the type of priestly ministry He wishes me to exercise.

There is of course much more to learn and I am aware at all times of my own weakness and inadequacies. However at the end of the day I am confident God's will is being done and I rejoice in that. I look forward in a year or so's time to returning to Ansley to celebrate Holy Communion with you some day.

Your prayers have been, and will be greatly appreciated and valued by us.

GLENN & SALLY MARTIN

### PEOPLE

Mrs. Locke had been ill for some time but maintained a cheerful disposition that was in itself an inspiration. Rowland Phillips had been very far from well for a long time and it is a relief that he is now at rest. Some will remember his daughter Sonia's early tragic death at the age of 7 in 1953; Rowland's ashes are interred in her grave. Mrs. Mary Groome had been very able until late on last Summer and had become a familiar figure about the village. Her sudden passing was something of a shock. To all the relatives and friends of the above we offer our prayers and thoughts at this Christmas-tide.

We offer our congratulations to Kim Belcher (nee Flowers) on the birth of Emily Elaine. Kim was once a member of the Sunday School in the village. Also to Klaus and Carol Grasskamp of Birmingham Road on the birth of Hannah.

### BAPTISM

December 16—Amy Clare Smith, 160 Birmingham Road.

### FUNERALS

November 30—Nora Locke, 16 Croftmead, Ansley Village, aged 72 years.

December 20—Rowland Ernest Phillips, 198a Birmingham Road, aged 75 years.

December 28—Mary Groome, 175 Birmingham Road, aged 89 years.