

# ANSLEY CHURCH MAGAZINE

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The Vicar would like to hear of cases of sickness. Please send messages to the Vicarage.

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January 1st, 1988

Our Dear Friends,

We trust that all who read these lines will look to the Lord and know His victory during all the events 1988 will bring to us.

New Year gives us the opportunity to start again; making a new beginning. We all like new things, it means that the old worn out things (once good and useful in themselves) can be discarded, abandoned and thrown away. We are able to keep in step with the times when we can buy new things, wear new things and introduce new things. We are doing it all the time. Take a look round anybody's home and you will find that the mangle and wash-tub has been replaced by the automatic washing machine. The old coal cooking range replaced by the electric or gas cooker. Kitchens are modernised, central heating introduced. All this means improvement, freshness and movement.

This too is the pattern within our Church. The Annual General Meeting gives the opportunity for new people, young people to be elected onto the Church Council. The Spirit of God is a Spirit of movement. We should not allow ourselves to become static, or to fossilise into patterns of worship which may have been a blessing in the past. Ruthless questions need to be asked in an attitude of prayer and submission to God, who alone is the head of the Church. Are our forms of services achieving anything today? Are we making the best of the privilege that is ours to worship God? Christian work and witness is constantly crippled by clinging to blessings and traditions, patterns and methods of the past. Their value yesterday is not the important point.

God is not the God of yesterday. He is the God of today. Are we guilty of being busy playing religious games in one corner when God's presence has moved to another? We must have the prayerful insight to know what the Lord wants to do amongst us here and move with Him, in order that the word Ichabod does not describe our Church's activities. (The word Ichabod is Hebrew and means 'The glory of God has departed: 1 Samuel 4 21).

A Church that neglects the young is a dying Church. But if a Church is to be relevant for them it must keep on its toes. It must change, in some measure, as the culture changes. It must be fresh and flexible in its presentation of the Christian truth, from the beginning to the end of a service; and young people must know that they are really wanted within the Church family. A Church that is unwilling to do this is digging its own grave!

May it be the prayer of each one of us that, as the Lord teaches us new things, we may be willing to learn.

God bless you,

James, Catherine, Mark and Rebekah



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR JANUARY 1988

### Sunday, January 3rd — Christmas 2

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 11.00 a.m. Family Communion.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer. "New Year—New relationships"

### Monday, January 4th

- 7.00 p.m. New Year Fellowship Party in the Church Hall, Ansley Village.

### Sunday, January 10th — Epiphany 1

- 11.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer — "Epiphany" (Isaiah 60 1).

### Wednesday, January 13th

- 8.00 p.m. Wednesday Fellowship meets at the Vicarage.

### Sunday, January 17th — Epiphany 2

- 11.00 a.m. Family Service.
- 6.30 p.m. Holy Communion — "Why is Communion so important?" (1 Corinthians 11 23-34).

### Monday, January 18th

- 7.30 p.m. Meeting of the Parochial Church Council in St. John's Hall, Ansley Common. (Please note the change of time).

### Thursday, January 21st

- 7.00 p.m. Coffee Evening at Vicarage, in aid of the Church Army.

### Sunday, January 24th

- 10.00 a.m. Family Service, St. John's, Ansley Common.
- 11.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer. "Reasoning together" (Isaiah 1 18).

### Wednesday, January 27th

- 8.00 p.m. Wednesday Fellowship meets at the Vicarage.

### Sunday, January 31st — Septuagesima

- 11.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer. "The Marks of a Christian Church."

**Has anyone got** a spare carpet suitable for use in the Porta Cabin please? Such an addition will help make the atmosphere more cosy and warm for the children and teachers each Sunday morning.

## CHURCH ARMY SISTERS CENTENARY

In 1987 the Church Army celebrated one hundred years of work accomplished by the Sisters of the Society. Wilson Carlisle commenced the Church Army with a group of men in 1882 and five years later asked his sister Marie, a frail little lady in middle life, to help him, as more and more need was evident amongst the women of London. Marie agreed to help for several months, but in fact worked closely with her brother until her death when she was over ninety. In those early days the Sisters work was mainly social work amongst prostitutes and hungry and homeless women of the streets. Later they opened hostels, worked with prisoners wives and families, provided holiday

homes by the sea for poor families, drew alongside families in the hop picking fields. In 1921 the first Sisters were commissioned along with the men as Evangelists and began to work in parishes, some went abroad as missionaries and gradually daughter societies came into being in other countries.

#### THE CHURCHMEN

Ten little Churchmen went to Church when fine,  
But it started raining then there were nine;  
Nine little Churchmen stayed up very late,  
One overslept himself then there were eight.  
Eight little Churchmen on the road to heaven,  
One joined a rambling club then there were seven;  
Seven little Churchmen talked of drinks to mix,  
One experimented then there were six.  
Six little Churchmen kept the place alive,  
One bought a video, then there were five;  
Five little Churchmen seemed loyal to the core,  
The vicar upset one of them then there were four;  
Four little Churchmen argued heatedly  
Over ceremonial then there were three.  
Three little Churchmen sang the service through;  
Got a hymn they didn't know then there were two.  
Two little Churchmen disputed who should run  
The next Church concert then there was one;  
One faithful Christian, knowing what to do  
Got a friend to come to Church then there were two.  
Two faithful Christians each brought in one more,  
So their number doubled then there were four;  
Four sturdy Christians simply couldn't wait  
Till they found four others then there were eight.  
Eight eager Christians, searching round for souls  
Working, praying, witnessing, drew others in by shoals;  
Shoals and shoals at every service, cramming every pew,  
God, supply this grace and zeal in Ansley parish too.

#### COFFEE EVENING IN AID OF THE CHURCH ARMY

Commencing at 7.00 p.m., at the Vicarage on Thursday, January 21st—Filmstrip of Work of Church Army.

#### ANSLEY CHURCH LIBRARY

We now have a small Church Library and Mrs. Joyce Alton is our librarian. She will have the books out at the services and occasionally will give a short book review. Please make use of the library we assure you that the books we have will be a spiritual benefit and blessing to you.

#### NEW YEAR FELLOWSHIP PARTY

This is held in the Church Hall on Monday, January 4th at 7.00 p.m. **Everyone invited.** Please bring either something sweet or something savoury.

**P.C.C. Members** please note that, following the December meeting decision, we shall commence at 7.30 p.m., for all future Council meetings.

**TEAR FUND.** Sale of items made in the Third World cottage industries held in Paul and Pauline Gaskin's home last month attracted a good deal of attention. Approximately £90 worth of articles were sold, thus meeting many Christmas present problems. Many thanks to the host and hostess and to Diana Keeley who organised the event.

#### **WHY MEET TOGETHER ?**

The story of Robinson Crusoe is a thrilling account of the kind of life a resourceful human being can lead for a considerable time in complete isolation. Robinson Crusoe Christians however are just not possible. Christian worship and fellowship are not optional extras but an essential part of the Christian life. To be a Christian is to share the common life of the Body of Christ—the Church.

The Lord Jesus taught His disciples the value of being together. He said "Where two or three are come together in my name, I am there with them."

It is therefore of the utmost importance that we meet together every week unless unavoidably prevented from doing so.

#### **The reasons for meeting:**

1—**To Worship The Lord.** That is to give God His Worth. Not so much to get something out of the service but to put something into it. To offer oneself wholly to God.

2—**To share Fellowship with others.** The Church is described in the Bible as the 'family' of God. It is a healthy sign for human families to want to be together. So it is in Christ's family. He taught His followers so much about learning to understand, respect and love one another. The early Church learnt to share their Christian triumphs, their temptations, joys, sorrows, sometimes faults and sins. Only by sharing ourselves at so deep a level will we be the 'Church' as Christ intends us to be.

3—**To serve together.** A few thousand soldiers fighting as individual units would lead to hopeless confusion in time of battle. These same men united and welded together into one striking force would constitute a factor to be reckoned with. Christians knit together, constitute the Church which is His body and this is the organism through which Christ does His work in the world.

In the Bible Hebrews Chapter 10 v 25 are the following words—"Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead let us encourage one another all the more, since you see that the day of the Lord is coming nearer."

Catherine Jasper.