

ANSLEY CHURCH MAGAZINE

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Arrangements for Baptisms, Banns, Weddings and Funerals should now be made with the Vicar.

Dear Friends,

This month we have some younger members reporting for themselves what they have seen and heard and understood about their activities. Sometimes we think of such folk as the "Church of Tomorrow." But this is a mistake—they are the church of today and as we seek to involve such people in our worship and teaching we hope and pray that as they continue growing up they will grow in understanding what it means to be a Christian.

I hope all have survived the hard weather, the worst for about twenty years. There were plenty of burst pipes and frozen tanks and also a lot of crops affected. Sometimes we ought to spare a thought to the people who call regularly in all weathers—the butcher, milkman, postman and so on—whose rounds seem so much more important in country districts than in towns. It does seem to me that country folk take these spells of weather in their stride far better than those in towns. At least we don't have to brave the commuter chaos which hits suburban areas when the weather is bad.

The changes in the weather should remind us that we can't control everything and that our powers are limited. We are surrounded by so many gadgets and products of technology these days that we can easily forget that our ultimate dependence lies beyond all these things, in the unchangeable love and mercy of God. We are to act in the world as responsible tenants of what has been given to us, not as masters of what we think we can control at will. It's a very long time to Harvest, but the sentiments of "All good gifts around us" should be with us all the year.

I have been thinking recently about the future of St. John's Hall in Ansley Common. Here we have a substantial building, the only public building in that community, which is available for Christian use. When St. John's Church was demolished about five years ago there was a lot of pain and misgiving, but the hard facts shown by the service register were that attendances were so small that the work was no longer capable of surviving. However there is still a need for a Christian witness there. From April 29th (a long way away yet—or is it?) I propose to start a short FAMILY SERVICE in St. John's Hall at 10.00 a.m. This

will be monthly, in the last Sunday of the month. Further details later ! It will have to be limited to half-an-hour so I can get back to St. Laurence's for 11.00 a.m. This will be an experimental run extending to the autumn—and its future depends on how well it is supported. Arrangements for services at St. Laurence's will continue unchanged, and we hope that people from the Common will still support the Family Service held in the parish church on the third Sunday in the month.

With Christian Greetings,
TIM GOULDSTONE.

SUNDAY SCHOOL — A SUCCESS STORY !

The Sunday School continues to flourish under the leadership of Mrs. Cove and Mrs. Jones. There are about 25 children who go and soon we shall have to be looking for another helper. It is a pity that the Church Hall is so far from the church, otherwise we could have some scheme by which the children come into the church for the first part of the service and leave at some point for their lessons. There is a real danger under the present set-up that children grow up without knowing what worship is like except for the monthly Family Service. But it is definitely good news when we have so many at the Sunday School. Here are some comments from the children who go :

At Sunday School we learn about Christianity. I like the way we talk about other people who worship God and the way we help children in need by Bazaars and sales—and we learn about people from other countries. Marie Whitmore

At Sunday School I like to learn about the saints and what they did for Jesus. Also I like the quizzes. Sharon McParland

At Sunday School we do quizzes and puzzles about Jesus. We also sing songs, and read about the saints. Alison MacDonald

At Sunday School we learn about other Christians all over the world. Siobhan Jones

We have been learning about early Christians and Christians today. Lynette Whitmore

In Sunday School we have been learning about Jesus and children growing up. Paula Newcombe

I like quizzes on the Christian people that Marie Cove sorts out for us. We have been learning about Cliff Richard and have learnt a lot about his life. Samantha Jones

ELEVEN PLUS

Friday proves to be the wrong day for this activity and I think it would be better if we met on Mondays at 7.15 p.m., either in the Hall or in the Vicarage. If we do this we can use the heat that has been generated from the GFS group which meets at 5.45 ! For further details contact the Vicar.

A GFS OUTING—REPORTED LIVE !

The best way to describe this is to get someone to write about it. So first of all its over to **Daniel Oliver**, aged 6 :

One Saturday David and I went on a big coach and we sat at the back. We went to Birmingham with GFS to see Sinbad. An eagle dropped him on a whale and the whale took him away to another land. When he got there some monsters scared him, so Sinbad called the genie to help him. In the break Mrs. Whitworth gave us all 20p to buy some sweets. I really enjoyed it and had a great time.

Next from **Rebecca Whitworth**, aged 8 :

On Saturday, 23rd of January thirty GFS junior members, leaders and friends went on a trip to Birmingham. We went to Cannon Hill Arts Centre to see the Voyages of Sinbad performed by puppets. We all went on a coach together.

There were eight puppets acting. They were about 3 feet tall and were worked by men wearing black clothes who tried not to be seen. I liked the witch-doctor best but the story of the roc-bird and the snakes was also very colourful.

A lady in eastern costume told the story which comes from "1001 Nights." At one point she asked us to blow Sinbad's ship along and we all blew.

We all bought lollies and crisps in the interval. I enjoyed it very much.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

We have a number of boxes which people have been kind enough to use for donations to this society over the past few years. Over the next few weeks they will be set out in church so that they can be collected for the coming year. We have sent a donation of £200 to the work of the CECS in addition to the amount raised through the boxes. This sum was set aside from the proceeds of last year's flower festival.

DIARY FOR FEBRUARY 1982

7—(Third Sunday before Lent) — "Christ the Teacher"

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
11.00 a.m. Parish Communion.
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

8—ELEVEN PLUS meets at Village Church Hall at 7.15 p.m.

14—(Second Sunday before Lent) — "Christ the Healer"

11.00 a.m. Parish Communion.
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

15— 7.30 p.m. HOME MEETING at the Vicarage.

16—10.00 a.m. Grand Clean-Up at Village Church Hall !

7.30 p.m. Deanery Synod at Attleborough.

19— 7.30 p.m. 'Desert Island Discs' — Village Church Hall.

21—(Sunday before Lent) — "Christ the friend of sinners"

11.00 a.m. Family Service.
3.30 p.m. Baptism.
6.30 p.m. Holy Communion.

22— 7.15 p.m. ELEVEN PLUS at Village Church Hall.

24— 7.30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service — St. John's Hall.

28—(First Sunday in Lent) — "Temptation"

11.00 a.m. Parish Communion.
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

Advance Notice—This year's LENT MEETINGS will take place on Wednesday's 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th March. At our first one on 3rd March at St. John's Hall we will be considering the meaning of Lent—there will be a small play entitled 'THE LENT COLLECTOR' (!)

Annual General Meeting is on Thursday, 11th March at 7.30 p.m., in the Village Church Hall.

In February there will be no meeting of St. John's M.U., but there will be an outing to Sparrow Hall—contact Mrs. Varden.

We will be having a short service at **St. John's Hall on 24th February** to mark the beginning of Lent. Lent is an important time in the year and in the early Church it was used to prepare candidates for baptism at Easter (you could only be baptised at Easter then). It was also a time of self-examination for Christians as they thought more deeply about what their faith meant to them. The celebration of Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday seem to have fallen out of favour in this area in recent years and it would be good to mark these two festivals and to consider their significance for us all as we seek to witness for our Lord in the world. Note that the St. John's service and the Lent meetings there are not just for people who live at that end of the parish !

CASTAWAYS

On February 19th Dr. Harris has kindly agreed to be cast away on a desert island (fortunately for him it is situated in the Village Church Hall). He will hopefully be accompanied by another hapless victim of shipwreck, at the time of going to press we don't know who ! Admission will be 25p for what we hope will be a good evening's musical entertainment. Begins at 7.30 p.m.

FUNERALS

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whosoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this ?" John 11:25-26

Jan. 14—John William (Jack) Green, 128 Ridge Lane, aged 84.

Jan. 22—Mary Gill, 13 Croftmead, Ansley, aged 84.

Jan. 25—Thomas Martin, 6 Croftmead, Ansley, aged 70.

Jan. 28—Kenneth Newman, 76 Birmingham Road, Ansley, aged 76.