

ANSLEY CHURCH MAGAZINE

No. 692

FEBRUARY 1983

Price 10p

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1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays

11.00 a.m. Parish Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

3rd Sunday

11.00 a.m. Family Worship.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

Sunday School meets on Sundays at 11.00 a.m., in the Village Church Hall except for the 3rd Sunday when it joins the Family Service.

St. John's Hall—Family Worship at 10.00 a.m., on 4th Sunday.

A bus runs for the evening service. Leaves Ansley Corner at 6.00 p.m., picks up through the village, leaves Ansley Common at 6.10 p.m., and Birchley Heath at 6.15 p.m.

Dear Friends,

FACING THE PRESENT

Amazing ! The lack of reality in political debate about jobs. An unwillingness to face the truth.

What is the truth ?

It is that employment is going to be different. Perhaps there aren't enough votes to be caught by facing up to this fact. Britain needs to face the truth—so-called 'unemployment' is with us to stay. We are no longer the world's workshop and have been overtaken by other countries.

VALUES AND WORK

We still judge our own value by our job. There are still those who think unemployment is a sin ! We must find ways to give a family hit by unemployment real social security and standing. There are not enough 'jobs' in the old sense to go round. Community Programmes are not the long-term answer. In the words of their brochure, 'The aim is to provide 130,000 **temporary** jobs for unemployed adults on projects doing work which benefits the community.' A more honest approach would be to finance 130,000 **permanent** jobs.

A person's working life could soon be over at 55—or less. Have we, as a country, taken seriously the change in community life that is implied by this ? Are we in danger of having millions of people 'kicking around, bored, doing nothing ?'

CHRISTIAN VIEW OF MAN

What is the duty of those who follow Christ ?

First, we must show what God's love means in our own situation. In Christ, God was incarnate—made flesh, like us. Just as Jesus witnessed to God in the streets of his world, so we are

called to the same task—not on great pronouncements from the safety of on high. It takes a remarkably small number of people in a community to change the direction of people's lives, to give hope when there is despair and bring light to dark places. Christians don't have to be the community's games master, the organisers of fantastic revels (though they help get folk together). But we must be prepared to take our faith out into the open and act upon it.

Second, we must show that as converted people we have a new view of the world; 'No longer do we judge anyone by human standards . . . ' (2 Corinthians 5 : 16). Those without jobs are not inferior beings. If our society makes them think that, something is wrong. We are judging by human standards and not God's.

Third, we must have a new view of consecration. I have never understood what it means to have consecrated objects, buildings, places, etc. I have met people who really do imagine that God lives at Church End in a stone house of considerable antiquity. Thus the building stops being a community centre and becomes a place where 'religious things' take place. The rest of the world becomes secular, given over to the absence of God. Consecration applies to people, those whom God has used to shine light into the world, those who live their lives closely to him yet do not withdraw from the world. Consecration starts when we take seriously, 'There is nothing that can be hidden from God; everything in all creation is exposed and lies open before his eyes.' (Hebrews 4 : 13).

Help us to respond joyously to your love Father,
by committing ourselves in obedience and service,
by faith strengthened by a living experience of Christ,
through hearts warmed by your Spirit to love,
and with freedom and courage to follow where you lead.

Amen.

TIM GOULDSTONE

ANOTHER ANSLEY

The vicar has discovered a community with this name in Nebraska in the USA. It is miles from anywhere, right in the middle of the country and romantically situated on Mud Creek ! I have written to 'The City Manager' (impressive title) to see if I can find out more about this place and how it got its name. Nebraska state was only settled in the 1850's so it can't be very old. If I have any more information I'll put it in the magazine.

GOOD COMPANIONS

This 'do' on Tuesday 18th was most enjoyable—an example of a village organisation that works ! North Warwickshire Mayor Ray Sweet and his wife Annette enjoyed themselves and there was an excellent meal (especially the trifles !) Mr. and Mrs. Thurman and Mr. and Mrs. Coleman competed in 'Mr. and Mrs.'—and drew. It is interesting to see that this group of people draws its membership from the surrounding villages such as Arley, Fillongley and 'down the hill' from Robinson's End. Someone said to me a couple of weeks ago that Ansley was becoming a suburb of Gun Hill ! (All strength to the church's group ministry).

AS OTHERS SEE US

In January the Deanery held a 'overseas weekend' at which Christians from overseas who had been staying in some local parishes gave their views on the Church of England. The main feature was the stark difference in the wealth of this country and many countries in Africa, etc., and what an incredibly wasteful society we are. One man found it amazing that we threw away pieces of paper when we had only written on one side; another commented on how one pencil was often broken into five bits in order that every member of his family could have a piece.

They could not understand the constant whining that goes on in this country about church finance, etc., for all their churches are fully self-supporting. It is a comment on our lack of vision and optimism about the future ministry of the church which needs radical thinking on our part.

Another feature was their widespread use of lay ministry. Ansley is something of an exception here, as having survived an interregnum, for three years people got on (and still get on) with jobs and tasks in the local church. But how ridiculous it is, that when the vicar goes on holiday he should have to spend a considerable amount of time looking for a spare man in priest's orders to take Holy Communion services! This can result in the central service of the church, the Holy Communion, being taken by a man who is all but unknown to the local people.

Why in the name of sensible and biblical Christian ministry can this task not be given to an accredited layman?

NOTES AND NEWS

The next Family Worship at St. John's Hall will be on **Sunday, February 27th at 10.00 a.m.** We had 30 this month, more still please!

We record the passing of Tom Lovegrove of Ansley Common this month. He farmed for some years at Bret's Hall Farm in that part of the parish. Also the death of Mrs. Mary Robinson who lived for many years in St. Lawrence Road, but had latterly moved with her husband to Robinson's End. The Robinson family moved down from Durham after the last war. Mr. John Adams had lived in Ansley Common but in recent years he had been at Arden House, Atherstone. He worked for some years at Ox Hayes Farm. His life was not without tragedy and illness. Mrs. Bates endured a painful illness with strength and courage. Our thoughts are with her husband George, their son's family in Nuthurst Lane and with their relatives near and far. Mr. Horace Evans died very suddenly after a short illness. Our prayers are with Mrs. Evans and Mr. and Mrs. Pugh and all those who will miss these members of our community.

ADVANCE NOTICE—there will be a Barn Dance in the Village Church Hall on **Friday, April 8th, 8.00 till 11.30 p.m.** Further details in next month's parish magazine. Book the date now.

Thanks to all those who have played the organ in recent weeks following Mr. Moore's illness. These include Dr. Bland, Mrs. Woolliscroft, Dr. Whitworth, Mrs. McDonald as well as our

regulars, Mrs. Richardson and Mrs. Kimberley—and Mrs. Tatum from Arley. We are fortunate to have such a large number of people who volunteer their services, even though occasionally there is some fear and trembling. We wish Mr. Moore a full recovery.

TODDLERS' GROUP

Support for this group is falling and if it falls further we will have to wind it up . . . So we warmly invite any mums with children, or babies, to come along to the church hall on Wednesdays at 1.20 p.m., for chat and refreshment. Any gifts of toys for the group will be gratefully received—contact Jane Gouldstone at the Vicarage.

CHURCH HALL

We have now installed the new boiler which is proving a success and somewhat easier to keep going. Thanks to Mr. Pugh and his men for such a good job. Remember the hall is available for private parties, eighteenth or wedding receptions, etc. Bookings to Mr. Arnold please. The Coffee Evening on January 27th is for heating funds (the job cost over £1,000) but at the time of writing we don't know the financial result of this event.

At the village branch of the **Mothers' Union on Tuesday, February 1st** Jane Gouldstone will be giving an illustrated talk on the work of **TEAR Fund**. Some of the goods, produced by countries in the 'Third World,' will be on display and there will be an opportunity to buy some of the display goods as well as order some. Bring your purses !

Wednesday, February 23rd, 7.00 p.m. at St. John's Hall, Mothers' Union Holy Communion.

MIND THE ROADS

Recently Claire Robinson of Ansley Common had a narrow escape when she ran out into the road. There have been a large number of accidents on this road resulting from speeding (lorries mainly) and carelessness. There've also been a large number of bent cars at the poorly-designed junction at Church End.

Children especially—look before you cross !
Drivers—slow down !

FUNERALS

- January 6—Edith Mabel Bates, 237 Birmingham Road, aged 67.
January 11—Mary Elizabeth Robinson, 125 Brendon Road, Stockingford, aged 68.
January 12—Tom Lovegrove, 'Hillview,' Nursery Hill, Ansley Common, aged 83.
January 19—John William Adams, formerly of Ansley Common, aged 72.
January 27—Horace Edward Evans, Croftmead, Ansley, aged 78.

BAPTISM

- January 16—Vikki Georgina Wale, 87 Birmingham Road.
Thomas James Walton, 37 Birchley Heath Road.

CONFIRMATION

(By the Bishop of Coventry in St. Giles, Exhall on January 9th)
Ian Kimberley; Jane Kimberley; Martin Kimberley of Holly Tree Farm, Attleborough Fields.