



# Ansley Church News

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**Vicar :** THE REVD. TIM GOULDSTONE, M.Sc.

The Vicarage, Birmingham Road, Ansley

Tel.: Chapel End 392240

## WORSHIP ?

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. Holy Communion.

Holy Communion also on 1st Sunday at 8.00 a.m.

St. John's Hall—Family Worship at 10.00 a.m., February 26th.

## CHILDREN ?

Sunday School starts on Sunday, 8th January at 11.00 a.m., in the Village Church Hall except for the 3rd Sunday when it joins the Family Service. Family Service on February 19th.

## TRANSPORT ?

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,

### **THINK IT OUT**

One of Jesus' methods of teaching was to try to get people to realise for themselves the truth about God. In John chapter 4 Jesus meets a woman who seems to have had at least five husbands, yet he does not openly denounce her and tell her to clear off! Instead he takes a positive line—he brings to her desperate situation something of God's love and care. This woman was a Samaritan (therefore a foreigner or outsider); she was immoral; and she was 'a woman' therefore decidedly a second-class human being to the men of Jesus' time! Jesus' action must have seemed shocking to those who got to hear of it.

### **GET PRIORITIES RIGHT**

Jesus said to this woman, 'You worship what you do not know.' She was searching around in her failure, in her desperate attempts to get some meaning from life by passing from one relationship to another—anything to fill an empty life. She didn't know what she believed. She was more interested in **where** to worship not **who** to worship—she said, 'Our fathers worshipped on this mountain; and you say that Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship' (John 4:20). What are our priorities? It's the same today—people more interested in where they were baptised, married or buried as a physical place than they are interested in God himself.

### **WHAT REALLY MATTERS**

Jesus said to the woman that the place is irrelevant. What matters is that you worship in Spirit and in truth. Is our worship 'in the Spirit?' Not a repetition of tired words, but a meeting with God? Is our worship 'in truth?' No, not a vague realisation that God might be around somewhere and church is a good thing, but knowing the truth that Jesus brings?

People are turned off 'church' by its apparent priorities. If we put religious quarrels, family feuds, or places of worship before 'Spirit and truth' we are denying what Jesus stood for. We are not just animals. We are made to respond to God, to respond to Jesus, his message and his love. We busy ourselves with other things when his words demand a big shake-up in our life, just like the woman that Jesus met. Our consciences are touched, but we easily silence it or dismiss God's still, small voice.

Are we listening?

Are we learning?

Are we obedient?

TIM GOULDSTONE

### **NEW RECTOR FOR ARLEY**

It is only a short time since we said goodbye to Grahame Humphries from Arley and now we welcome Peter Phillips, who will be coming to that parish on May 1st. Mr. Phillips is a Somerset man, aged 57, who before ordination had a varied

career as an auctioneer, a spell in the Royal Navy and then a period working in the retail clothing trade. He trained for the ministry at Oak Hill College and was ordained in 1965, serving curacies at Eastbourne and St. Albans. He became vicar of Riseley and Bletsoe in Bedfordshire in 1973 and will be coming to Arley at the beginning of May. He and his wife Betty have five daughters, three of whom are married, whilst Kate (17) and Lucy (15) are still at home. He names his interests as cricket (now a 'non-player'), painting, photography and porcelain.

It so happens that today's reading from the lectionary speaks of 'Your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now' (Philippians 1:5). We congratulate Peter on his appointment and pray for God's blessing on his ministry now and in the future.

#### **ALAN GRANT**

We were all shocked to hear of the sudden death of Alan Grant of St. Lawrence Road at the early age of 28 due to an accident at Baddesley Pit. Our thoughts and prayers are with his widow Jeanette and all the members of the Smith and Grant families at this sad time. We need to bear in mind that much work is still potentially dangerous despite the many improvements over the years in our industrial conditions. The vicar remembers his own trips underground from his own days as a geologist and his feelings about having to spend a life's work in such an environment.

#### **PUTTING IT TOGETHER !**

Love thy neighbour  
Bring thy neighbour  
Help thy neighbour  
and enjoy doing it.

Travellers along the road to Furnace End will no doubt have seen the scaffolding which shrouds the church at Over Whitacre. This signifies a major repair programme on that parish church which has been in progress for some considerable time. The present church there was built in 1765 and is attributed to the mason architects William and David Hiorns, the same who built the Shire Hall at Warwick. It is one of the few entirely Georgian churches in Warwickshire. The work is costed at about £70,000 and the Department of the Environment and other grant bodies have provided substantial part of this target. However Over Whitacre is still expected to provide considerably more than £10,000 towards the cost, which must come from the parishioners.

In order to help them the PCC has arranged an evening of entertainment to be given by some members of Nuneaton Amateur Operatic Society and Children from Nancy Bates School of Dancing. This will take place at the Village Church Hall on the evening of Friday, March 2nd starting at 7.30 p.m. Admission will be 75p and Children 50p—there will also be a 'Bring and Buy' sale. A competition about trees is also being circulated, price 20p.

Do come and enjoy being a 'good neighbour.'

E. TRUELOVE, T. GOULDSTONE



## LENT 1984 — IN THE LEY GROUP OF PARISHES

Each Lent gives us the opportunity to think and pray about aspects of the life and death of Jesus in relation to our life. As we move towards Easter Day, Lent should make us better Christians through a better understanding of ourselves in relation to the Cross of Good Friday and the empty tomb of Easter Sunday.

Our meetings this year move around a bit and are as follows:

Ash Wednesday — March 7th — 7.30 p.m. Holy Communion in St. Laurence Church with sermon.

Wednesday, March 14th — 7.30 p.m. As far as Ansley is concerned this is the date of our ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. ALL church members and interested parishioners are invited to attend. We hope this will not be too formal an occasion but a time when we can give thanks to God for the past year and look forward in faith to 1984.

Wednesday, March 21st — 7.30 p.m. Evening sponsored by the Mothers' Union at Corley and Fillongley at Corley Village Hall.

'Parents and Teenagers' — film and discussion.  
(Parents only, says John Law !)

Wednesday, March 28th — 7.30 p.m. Fillongley Meeting Room. 'Tearcraft' — slides and talk by Mrs. Jane Gouldstone; an opportunity to learn something of a job-creation project in the third world. Some items will be on sale.

Wednesday, April 4th — 7.30 p.m. St. John's Hall, Ansley Common 'Birth, Babies and Baptism — off to a good start?' What is the church's ministry and mission to young families? Filmstrip, discussion and thoughts presented by Tim Gouldstone.

Wednesday, April 11th — 7.30 p.m. Spring Hill Clinic Centre. 'Towards R.I.P.' — what are the problems and opportunities of later life and terminal care?  
Meeting conducted by the staff of the Spring Hill Clinic.

There should be something for everyone here, so make sure you are there at these meetings; it is abundantly evident from village organisations like the 'Good Companions' that people are quite willing to cross parish boundaries for social events, so we should do the same for Christian ones . . . .

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The Village branch of the Mothers' Union will meet on Tuesday, February 7th at 3.00 p.m., in the Village Church Hall. The speaker will be Mrs. Harris. We hope and pray that Mrs. Hodgkins' recovery from her stroke will continue and that we shall be able to see her 'out and about' again in the next few

months as the weather improves. Mrs. Harris will be speaking to the St. John's Branch of the Mothers' Union at 7.00 p.m., on Wednesday, February 15th.

The next meeting of the PCC will be held on Wednesday, February 15th at 8.15 p.m., in St. John's Hall (note place and time).

Any Arley folks reading this magazine are reminded that the next meeting of Arley PCC will be on Monday, February 20th at 7.00 p.m., in Arley Vestry.

Girls' Friendly Society starts again at 6.30 p.m. (note the time) on Monday, February 6th in the Village Church Hall. For further details contact Val Whitworth on Chapel End 393626.

We congratulate PCC member Ann Cartwright of West View, Ansley Common, on the birth of twins on January 29th. With Haydn that gives Ian and Ann three children under two. We found two children under three pretty tiring. I think this is the first set of twins to be born in the parish for some years. Can anyone remember the last time this happened?

Remember Ian the fortunate (?) dad as well.

Last month we had our 'Quinquennial' inspection of the church building—several people were to be seen capering about on the roof and the tower of the church on a cold day as if they had taken leave of their senses, the vicar being one of them. I'm glad to report that nothing too expensive or horrific was found, but sometime over the next year or so we must do some repair work to the pointing of the top of the walls, the south side of the chancel (outside wall) and attend to the mullions of a couple of the windows; there's nothing here that faith and patience and commitment can't take care of. Although the spiritual life of the church and the pastoral ministry to people must always come first, we owe it to former generations and to the future to keep this little part of our national inheritance of ancient buildings in good order. Did you know that our parish church is first recorded in the eighth year of the reign of King John (1208) and is in fact considerably older than this?

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Comment overheard in the parish:

"If there were no such people as Vicars, it would be necessary to invent them."

MAKE SURE your name is on the Church Electoral Roll by the end of February if you are a church member.

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#### **FUNERAL**

January 18—Alan David Grant, 36 St. Lawrence Road, aged 28.