

ANSLEY CHURCH MAGAZINE

No. 693

MARCH 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,

What have we done in the past year ?

We've made a start on the family worship at St. John's Hall; there are some new faces to be seen in our worship (make sure you know who they are); the church building has been redecorated and some remedial work done on the walls and window sills. I hope there are readers and families which have been helped pastorally in the past year to know more of what it means to believe in the true meaning of the Christian faith, God with us in Christ.

It would be better if some of the children who come to our monthly family worship at the parish church were supported a bit more by their parents. This is not just a 'kid's stuff' service. A friend in a neighbouring parish said that he often got more from their family worship than he did from a more formal sermon !

Our membership on the electoral roll is about 160 (a pretty good figure these days for a parish such as this) but there are always more people who could come along. Folk are beginning to respond to the need for increased giving and local financial support for the church and its work.

OFF OR ON THE MAP ?

Someone said to me recently that Ansley Common was sliding off the map. Now I know when I first came to look for Ansley I had some difficulty in locating it, but that doesn't mean to say we are totally off the map. I think what the person meant was that residents have little confidence in their community.

STAND UP AND SAY THAT

Many of the letters to our local paper 'The Tribune' are anonymous—maybe there's a good reason for this sometimes, but I get the impression that people are unwilling to put their names to their opinions. Is this insecurity? One such anon. writer described the 'Common' as a 'rubbish tip' ('Tribune' February 11th, 1983).

It is a sign of the good old fashioned sin in us that makes us run something down rather than to look for the things that are good. 'Fill your minds with those things that are good and that deserve praise . . . ' (Philippians Chapter 4 verse 8). A bit of hope and optimism about what can be done in Ansley Common, or anywhere else in our parish, wouldn't come amiss. If I thought that this place was a 'rubbish tip' I wouldn't have bothered with you!

Talking of Ansley Common, we might sometime this year be able to 'do up' St. John's Hall into something of a community centre and worship centre. Christian buildings have to be both shrines for the saints and centres for a community life lived in the strength which God supplies. They are not mausoleums for the miserable.

Unfortunately the fact we are a divided parish geographically sometimes means that we are divided from one another socially, one area having little to do with another and calling people from another road 'Them.' We can't afford this thinking.

For the Christian, the common focus of unity is faith in Jesus Christ, which can overcome our petty differences and fears of each other. A prominent Christian worker once said that the ground is level at the Cross—we are all saved the same way, by God's grace alone. In 1983 let's make our church life a witness to that sort of unity.

Best wishes,

TIM GOULDSTONE

LENT MEETINGS

These should be in operation by the time you receive this magazine. Dates of the remaining ones are as follows:

Thursday, March 3rd, 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 9th, 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 16th, 7.30 p.m.

All meetings are at the Vicarage and will include a short service of Holy Communion, some Bible Study and a bit of chat, coffee, etc. Come if you can.

BREAK-IN AT CHURCH

As the 'grapevine' has probably told you or you read in the press, the church was broken into some time on the night of February 15th/16th. A small window in the north aisle was smashed and five vases were taken including the two from the

Holy Table and the one near the old stone coffin, two from a windowsill, as well as the big brass jug next to the font. It coincided with quite a rash of break-ins, but no-one seems to have seen anything suspicious.

We are fortunate indeed that we can still keep our church open during the day—this is a rare thing nowadays, but I value it as there are often visitors about, especially in the summer. Some of them are parishioners, but others are from further afield and are simply interested in our church building and its history. When our 'guide' is finished I hope to put some in the church for visitors. We can add a personal touch to the place we use weekly for worship and prayer and quiet.

Nothing of great value was stolen, but each item represented the generosity of some grateful parishioner in times past.

EASTER ARRANGEMENTS

Easter is very early this year so here they are :

Maundy Thursday—March 31st Holy Communion, St. John's Hall

Good Friday—April 1st Devotional Service, St. Laurence

Easter Day—April 3rd
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
11.00 a.m. Parish Communion.
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer
(7.35 p.m. Holy Communion)

Christians should make a special effort to be at one of the services of worship on Easter Day. This is THE day when we proclaim the resurrection which should ALWAYS be a part of our lives. The quality and effectiveness of our worship is only as good as the effort we all put in to it.

Don't forget also :

Friday, April 8th, 8.00 p.m. Barn Dance at Village Church Hall.

JOINT WORSHIP OF THE GROUP

The next joint service of what has become known as the 'Ley Group' of parishes will be held at **Gorley Parish Church on Sunday, April 17th at 6.30 p.m.** The 'bus will run as follows :

Ansley Common 5.50 p.m.

Birchley Heath 5.55 p.m.

Village 6.05 p.m.

This is an advance notice, there will be another reminder next month ! There will be no service at Ansley on this evening.

CHURCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This will be held on **Wednesday, March 23rd at 7.30 p.m.**, at the Village Church Hall. If you are interested in the life of Christian witness in our community, the future of the church in this area and the possibilities that lie before us then COME ! We want a lot more than the 17 who came last year. That was one person for every 134 members of our parish which wasn't exactly sensational commitment on our part.

MR. R. G. SPARKS ('STAN')

It is with regret that we have to report the death of Mr. Sparks at his home in Blackheath in London. He came to Ansley as headmaster of the Church School on November 2nd, 1936 and served there for many years. At the village end of the parish there are many people who remember him with affection and still remind us that under his guidance it was a 'good' school. It will be a long time before 'Sparkie' is forgotten.

To Mrs. Sparks, who is the younger sister of the late Ernest Mander, and her daughter Jean we send our deepest sympathies at this sad time. Mr. Sparks was aged 87. Frank Arnold

MANY THANKS

Donations given in memory of Lucy Bradley from her friends amounted to £127. Of this £85 has been sent to the Myton Hospice for Incurables at Myton, Warwick and £42 has been given to Ansley Church. Mr. Les Bradley would like to acknowledge these gifts with sincere thanks.

Friends, neighbours and relatives of the late Mr. Sidney Cart of Bretts Hall kindly gave £95 to the church in memory of his life and witness.

Please continue to remember in your prayers all those who have lost loved ones this winter.

ST. JOHN'S MOTHERS' UNION

On Wednesday, March 16th Mrs. A. Harris and Hartshill Ladies' Choir will be singing at this meeting. It will be held at 7.00 p.m., at St. John's Hall and visitors will be very welcome.

SAME PLACE, DIFFERENT TIME

The Civil War brought with it much disruption and poverty as is evidenced by this extract from Warwick Quarter Sessions Order Book for January 2nd, 1649 :

This court being informed by a certificate under the hands of some of the . . . inhabitants of the town of Anceley . . . showing that William Clarke having served in the office of a churchwarden for the said parish by the space of six years during the time of the late wars . . . he did disburse to and for the benefit of the inhabitants there the sum of two and thirty shillings of his own money over and above the receipts . . . which as yet he cannot reobtain, it is therefore ordered that the present churchwardens of Anceley aforesaid shall make a levy and collect . . . the said sum of two and thirty shillings and pay the same forthwith to the said Clarke, and in case any of the said inhabitants shall refuse to pay his or their proportionate part of the same then the person or persons so refusing are hereby ordered to appear at this court at the next General Sessions of the Peace for this county to answer for their refusal.

I wonder if Mr. Clarke got his 32 shillings back ! Incidentally the cost of maintaining the buildings and Christian ministry in Ansley in 1983 will be **£20 a day**—take note !