



# Ansley Church News

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## DAW MILL BAND

A Concert of light music  
Friday, March 8th, 1985  
at 7.30 p.m., in the Church  
ALL WELCOME

Proceeds for restoration of the Church Fabric

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Dear Friends,

No one can have failed to notice the hardness of the weather recently—just as we thought that the mild days have come, so the frosts returned giving some of us burst pipes and other inconveniences in travel and arrangements; yet at the end of February there was one Sunday of marvellous sunshine.

No-one doubts that in the course of time the warmer days will come. Yet we easily doubt that God can bring us some of his warmth and love. Sometimes the prophets of the Old Testament looked out on the world and could at first see little sign of spiritual life, yet they never doubted that God would in his own good time bring revival and blessing to his people—'revive thy work in the midst of the years' (Habakkuk 3:2).

We may not be familiar with this prophet, but he lived in a time when spiritual dryness and apathy was all around him. We are more familiar with the Hymn 'Revive thy work, O, Lord,' found in our hymn books under the section to be used in Lent.

If you read this hymn carefully (No. 139 in our hymn books) you will find that it is a prayer to God—a prayer of a man whose mind is turned to God in meditation on his greatness and power, his ability to convert the mind, to renew the heart and strengthen the will. The words used—'speak,' 'disturb,' 'quicken,' 'create,' 'revive' all speak of action and change and growth. In Lent we shall be thinking about these matters in our services and in our Lent groups, the details of which will be found in this magazine. Let's make sure that our worship is worthy of a God who is alive, who acts, who is present with us, so that at Easter we may be able to say with all truth and meaning that 'HE IS RISEN.'

TIM GOULDSTONE

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The builders should be coming to start work on our church in March. The churchwardens' fund for the work has now reached £175 and we would like to thank all who have contributed to this work. The Diocese of Coventry have also promised us a generous donation under their quinquennial scheme which will meet nearly half the estimated cost of repair work.

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By the time this appears in print, the Miners' Strike will be in complete disarray, with about 50% of the men back at work. It has been a sorry story of inflexible management who know that in the long run they are sure to win because of the suicidal terms imposed by the NUM over pit closures. There is a genuine fear in many mining communities that there will be precious few job opportunities in the coming years if their pit closes—and so many places, such as Gun Hill, are or were places that owe their existence to one industry. The NUM has taken this stance because I believe it sees considerable hardship coming to villages and towns where mines that are uneconomical are going to be closed. Their point is a very serious one, that if you take away the economic reasons for a community's existence, the social and family problems created are enormous. This sad dispute is really a number of matters all coming to a head at the same time and points out the failure of successive governments (of any colour) to think constructively for the future of the industrial and social life of our country. It has been known for years that many jobs in the labour-intensive industries of our land would be lost and would never return, but there has been little serious thinking about the long-term consequences of this trend. Training has been unenthusiastically pursued over the years and the vision for the newer industries has been singularly lacking. The net result is that many of the revolutionary ideas in science and technology that were originally developed here have now been exploited by other nations and we have been left behind. There was a time in the late 1950's and 1960's



when the West Midlands area was 'booming' but this was only due to the post-war boom in consumer products and the motor car—even then little thought was being given to the all important question, 'What comes next?'

In all this I have been reminded of a story in Exodus about Joseph's management of the Egyptian economy 3400 years ago! In the 'seven fat years' of plenty he was prudent enough to plan for the future, so that when there was a period of 'seven lean years' there was enough to go round. In all this perhaps there is a lesson to be learnt for our nation.

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Some incredible snowfalls curtailed our activities in February—our trip to see the film 'Jesus' at Hinckley was one of them and on February 10th the church was all but inaccessible from the village. However eleven hardy souls braved the wind and snow and managed a service of Communion (said) in the morning and cancelling the evening worship. This is where the importance of our stewardship by means of our regular giving in the envelopes shows up—people make it up the following weeks if prevented from worship one week.

The best-attended event for some time was held in the Village Church Hall in February. Although the weather was very cold and we wondered who would turn out, over 90 people came to a very enjoyable cookery demonstration by the Milk Marketing Board—the tasty food was eaten by those fortunate enough to win a prize afterwards. Thank you to all who organised this very happy event and to the lady who came all the way from Loughborough on a cold evening to demonstrate to us.

It has been very apparent that our village church hall has been the subject of vandalism over the past few months. At the last count there were 14 broken windows in this building. Several youngsters have been warned off the premises, and if anyone sees anyone damaging the hall will they please see the vicar as soon as possible. Some youngsters get 'bored' and have nothing better to do than to get into trouble—witness the great tragedy at Coventry Colliery recently when a lad was killed foolishly trying to ride a coal train. Be warned!

We acknowledge a generous donation to the churchyard fund from the estate of the late Daisy Cartwright. A sum of money is to be invested for the maintenance of the churchyard which she and her family loved so much.

The vicar received a letter from the Revd. Carr-Gregg, the last vicar of Astley this month. Mr. Carr-Gregg died in 1956! I wonder how often some firms update their mailing lists?

The contractors are now at work on the site of the old St. John's Church in Ansley Common and soon all will be tidy there. A new wall is being built which will make our boundary neater and enable us to perhaps make some improvements in redecoration of the outside of St. John's Hall this year.

Here are the details of our Lent Meetings this year. As has become the custom we are moving round the four fellowships within our Group Ministry. We have chosen for our subjects some of the great themes of the Christian faith and practice and trust that people will join us so that our faith and our fellowship may be strengthened.

Wednesday, February 27th:

Arley St. Wilfrid's Vestry — 'Suffering'

Wednesday, March 6th:

Ansley U.R.C. Church, Birmingham Road — 'Praise'

We join with our friends from other churches for praise and testimony.

Wednesday, March 13th:

Arley St. Wilfrid's Vestry — 'Forgiveness'

Thursday, March 21st:

Fillongley Vestry — 'Love'

Wednesday, March 27th:

Corley Parish Church — 'Guidance'

All these meetings are at 7.45 p.m., and all are welcome. Any transport difficulties, contact the vicar.

#### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Monday, March 4th:

Social Committee, 8.00 p.m., the Vicarage.

Tuesday, March 5th:

Mothers' Union, 3.00 p.m. Speaker: The Vicar.

Wednesday, March 6th:

Ladies' Meeting in Village Church Hall—'Give us a Clue.'

Friday, March 8th:

7.30 p.m. Concert by Daw Mill Band in Church.

Tuesday, March 12th:

7.30 p.m. Parish Church Annual General Meeting. Please be sure to attend this important occasion in our church life. Remember if you are on the electoral roll it is YOUR church!

Wednesday, March 20th:

8.00 p.m. Ansley Ladies' Meeting, Village Church Hall.  
Speaker: The Vicar.

Sunday, March 24th:

**6.00 p.m.** 'Songs of Praise' at St. Michael's, Gun Hill. The 'bus will run as follows:

Village 5.35 p.m.

Ansley Common 5.40 p.m.

Birchley Heath 5.50 p.m.

Village (again!) 5.55 p.m.

Thursday, March 21st:

7.30 p.m. Rummage Sale in Village Church Hall. Admission 10p, tea 10p. For further information contact Marie Cove.

Also on Friday, March 8th Ladies' Meeting DINNER DANCE at Ansley Social Club. Tickets £7.50 available from Mrs. Ponder, Brenda Cart, Mrs. Carroll, Mrs. A. Phillips, Mrs. Flowers, Mrs. Horton.

**EASTER SERVICES**—as Easter comes at the very beginning of April here are the arrangements for this season:

**PALM SUNDAY** (March 31st)

11.00 a.m. **Parish Communion** with presentation of Palm Crosses.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

**Maundy Thursday** (April 4th)

7.30 p.m. Holy Communion.

**Good Friday** (April 5th)

7.30 p.m. Devotional Service.

**EASTER DAY** (April 7th)

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

11.00 a.m. Parish Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer followed by Holy Communion.

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**A PRAYER FOR LENT**

(for our home and our church)

O God, make the door of this house wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship; narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and strife.

Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling-block to children,

nor to straying feet, but rugged and strong  
to turn back the tempter's power.

God, make the doorway of this house  
the means of entry to your kingdom.

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Cynthia Allton of Birchley Heath passed away last month after a long illness born with great bravery. As so often happens, it is those who are passing through suffering and discomfort who bring home to us truths about human nature which we who granted the gift of health and mobility so often forget. Remember Tony in your prayers and all those who will miss Cynthia over the coming months.

'Charlie' Yardley died suddenly at his home at Atherstone. For many years the Yardley's had farmed at Church End before moving to Baxterley during the early part of the last war. A farming accident had meant retirement many years ago, but he and his wife were both regular attenders at the Flower Festival and other parish occasions.

**FUNERALS**

February 23—Thomas Charles Yardley, aged 86.

(interment of ashes)

February 28—Cynthia Cherry Allton, aged 44, 45 Birchley Heath.

**BAPTISM**

February 17—Lee James Alton, The Post Office, Birchley Heath.

**CONFIRMATION**

(at the Abbey Church, Nuneaton)

February 27—Maude Buckley, 17 Croftmead.