

# ANSLEY CHURCH MAGAZINE

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

Dear Friends,

March was overshadowed by the tragic death in Ansley village of Elaine Murray and the serious injury to her friend Adrian Pinnegar. The anti-social noise and danger from an active minority of young motor-cyclists has been a source of complaint for months; sooner or later this lunatic element which indulges in stupid and dangerous showing off and racing on the public highway was bound to give rise to tragedy. But we did not expect it to affect the innocent pedestrians in quite this way. This is the fourth local accident involving motorcycles, death and serious injury this year. WHEN will some people learn that such behaviour wastes lives, wastes medical time, wastes people away in grief—in short, is selfish?

## **WHY ?**

The innocent suffer and we ask, "Why?" We ask because we expect some moral basis to our existence. We expect justice and fair deals from life. Yet there is innocent suffering because of our own imperfection and sin which spoils and damages us all. In the Old Testament there is a book known by the name of its main tragic character, Job. He suffered and asked "Why"—yet he was innocent. He knew, over two thousand years ago, that there are no easy, clear answers. His friends try to comfort him with slick and easy answers but Job has the sense to reject them—but this only increases his misery—"Why?" He cried to God from his despair for someone to explain, someone who knew. "Who?"

## **WHO ?**

Easter is nearly here. On Maundy Thursday the man Jesus agonises in Gethsemane, 'a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.' Before the Cross God joins us in our questions and fear in the person of Jesus. In the sufferings we remember on Good Friday Jesus carried our sins to the Cross. HE was the innocent sufferer—and all of us who suffer as innocent victims can stand close to the heart of God, who saw his own Son suffer for the sins of others. God feels the pain, but goes through death to Resurrection, the empty grave, the message of Easter Sunday—"He is risen!"

## SIGNS

The Bible looks at the world in picture-language. The men and women in it saw signs in the world of nature and saw God at work. Even Job when he was in despair looked at the trees and saw that :

There is hope for the tree that has been cut down  
It can come back to life and sprout. (Job 14 : 7)

The Spring is a visual reminder of the Resurrection. Let us remember the great fact of Easter with renewed hope and life, a sign of the God who stands with us whatever our circumstances. Look at the world—not man's world of destruction, but God's renewed Easter-world. These words written by an early Christian hymn writer express this in verse :

Earth with joy confesses, clothing for her spring,  
All good gifts returned with her returning King :  
Bloom in every meadow, leaves on every bough,  
Speak his sorrows ended, hail the triumph now.

May these words be true for us this and every year. Why not celebrate Easter with us this year at our services on April 9th to 12th ? Details on the back page.

With best wishes,

TIM GOULDSTONE.

## HALF A CENTURY AGO — 1932

Recently I was leafing through some old parish magazines and came across those for 1932—fifty years ago. The Vicar was The Revd. R. P. Rowan and the organist Mr. Riley Brown. There must be many people who still remember them. There was a 'Young Men's Class' at 10.00 a.m., on Sunday. St. John's flourished, with Sunday School at 10.00 a.m., and a second sitting at 2.30 p.m. ! There were 148 communicants on Easter Day at the parish church and 57 at St. John's. The Church finances showed a credit balance of £60, but only because of the efforts of the Phillips family . . . . We sent £45 17s 2½d to the Church Missionary Society (at least £600 at today's prices) . . . . 312 eggs were given to Nuneaton hospital at Easter . . . . evidently visual aids were in use, as in December 1932 there was a 'Magic Lantern Service' at St. John's; we were told, "no need to bring Hymn and Prayer Books, the whole service is on the screen." (I think we should copy this idea . . . .). There was an orchestra at St. John's and complaints were made about rubbish being thrown into the Church land there ! The 'Swift Bus Company' brought people from Ridge Lane to St. John's at 6d a time . . . . the vicar comments on 'the spectre of unemployment with the struggle that means to make both ends meet' . . . . is this 1932 or 1982 ? Evidently the 'Young Men's Bible Study' at 2.30 p.m., was strictly separate from the 'Young Women's Bible Study' at the same time—a pity, a mixed group is always more interesting . . . . The Lay Reader was Mr. P. John Lafford.

## BELLS

It would be good to have more people training for bell ringing. Provided you are 12 or over and sound in wind and limb there are no qualifications for starting. Contact Margaret Truelove on Fillongley 41105 or have a word with the Vicar.

## FAMILY SERVICE

It was good to see a crowded church for our March "Family Service" on 21st—let's have more occasions when people come in such numbers. Six members were enrolled into the GFS—Jyoti Day, Rachel Mayne, Lindsey McParland, Kaye Newcombe, Daniel Oliver, Alexander Whitworth.

## NOTES FROM THE AGM

This was attended by the Vicar, half the PCC and 2 others . . . . 17 in all . . . . enough said !

A foundation for work amongst young people is being laid. Our three buildings cost £75 per week to maintain in 1981. There are signs of increased financial commitment . . . . St. John's needs redevelopment . . . . Much work of a practical nature is carried out at no charge by a number of folk to whom we should be grateful . . . . we need to take a positive attitude towards the future and not despair !

A Beetle Drive on March 15th was only moderately attended, but we all enjoyed ourselves.

## FAMILY SERVICE AT ST. JOHN'S — SUNDAY, APRIL 25th

There will be a short service (10.00 to 10.35 a.m.) on every last Sunday in the month throughout the Summer. ANYONE is welcome—not only children, but all ages. The continuation of this service depends on demand—so COME !

There is a joint 'Songs of Praise' at St. Michael's, New Arley on Sunday, April 25th at 6.30 p.m. There will be no service at St. Laurence that evening.

Our Palm Sunday Service on April 4th will be a FAMILY COMMUNION—all ages welcome, let's have a full church.

A big thank you to all villagers who have supported the Murray family in the past weeks.

## WHAT WILL BUY :

Less than two tins of cat food . . . . or  
4 copies of the "Tribune" . . . . or  
Much less than 1 pint of beer . . . . or  
Less than 2 Coventry car park tickets . . . . or  
Less than 3 pints of petrol . . . .

Answer : Average giving per worshipper in 1981—48p.



## DIARY FOR APRIL 1982

1— 8.00 p.m. Social Committee—Vicarage.

### 4—(Palm Sunday) — "The Way of the Cross"

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said).

11.00 a.m. Family Communion with presentation of palms  
(Children will attend).

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

5— 7.30 p.m. Eleven Plus at Vicarage.

6— 3.00 p.m. Mothers' Union—Village Church Hall.

8— 7.30 p.m. MAUNDY THURSDAY — Holy Communion in Church.

9— 7.30 p.m. GOOD FRIDAY — One hour's meditation service in Church (with anthem).

### 11—EASTER DAY — "The Resurrection"

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

11.00 a.m. Parish Communion.

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

17— 2.00 p.m. Wedding of James Kerrigan and Lesley Burnham.

### 18—(Low Sunday) — "The Beloved Son"

11.00 a.m. Family Service.

3.30 p.m. Baptism.

6.30 p.m. Holy Communion.

19— 7.30 p.m. Eleven Plus at the Vicarage.

21— 7.00 p.m. Mothers' Union — St. John's Hall. Mrs. Goode of Meriden — "My Pilgrimage to Jerusalem" — slides.

### 25—(Second Sunday after Easter) — "The Road to Emmaus"

10.00 a.m. FAMILY SERVICE AT ST. JOHN'S.

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

6.30 p.m. Songs of Praise — St. Michael's, Arley (no service at Ansley).

GFS — Every Monday at 5.45 p.m., in the Village Church Hall.

Brownies — Every Tuesday at 5.45 p.m., in St. John's Hall  
(Contact Mrs. Batchelor, 105 Ansley Common).

## BAPTISMS

March 21—Siobham Kathryn Jones, 37 Nuthurst Crescent, aged 10 years.

Samantha Louise Jones, 37 Nuthurst Crescent, aged 11 years.

John Steven James, 57 St. Lawrence Road.

## FUNERALS

March 8—Maria Mary Lovegrove, late of 85 Plough Hill Road, aged 83 years.

March 19—Elaine Murray, 31 St. Lawrence Road, aged 16 years.  
(Cremation).