

ANSLEY CHURCH MAGAZINE

No. 694

APRIL 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.

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

NOTE: JOINT SERVICE AT CORLEY ON APRIL 17th AT 6.30 p.m.
Details are given in this magazine !

Dear Friends,

RELIGION !

Two things have impressed themselves on my mind in the past few weeks. The first is how any Christianity which is worth the name must be lived out in the real world. The second is how frightened and how evil were the forces of religion opposed to Jesus in the months leading up to his destruction on the cross at Calvary.

The real world, God's creation. Jesus knew the way in which the visible signs of life and death in the everyday world were relevant to his message. He spoke of salt; he said to his disciples, 'you are like salt for all mankind . . .'; he compared the Kingdom of God to a mustard seed—it has tiny, insignificant beginnings but grows into something easily visible. He showed God's care for his disciples by pointing out to them how he cares for the wild flowers. Jesus said that he was the bread of life—everyone needs the strength and peace that he gives just as everyone needs basic foods.

Jesus' teaching confronted the 'religion' of law, custom, tradition, exclusiveness. The religious people could not see or understand Jesus' imaginative parables, could not tolerate the new and living picture of God that Jesus brought to people.

Today the concept of the Christian religion as an institution is increasingly meaningless to people; yet there is a widespread fascination with 'religious questions.' The number of people who pray or who turn to spiritual resources in times of crisis or joy is vastly larger than those who are regularly committed to formal worship in church.

Some people whose spiritual life is nourished by the more traditional and formal worship may regret this trend. Yet each one of us must make our own way towards God, guided by his revelation to us in Jesus. I do think that we all ought to be more free and imaginative in our worship together so that we do not become insensitive to each others' needs. If we feel threatened or uncomfortable by different pathways in worship we must have the courage to ask ourselves 'Why' ?

After baptism in our parish church, I usually take everyone to the chancel for the prayers, that we may see the cup and plate used for the bread and wine of Holy Communion. Water, bread, wine; commonplace but given a new meaning by the teaching of Jesus. The water of baptism speaks of God's judgement on us, and the cleansing from sin. The bread and wine of communion speak of the cost of baptism—Jesus' body broken by forces of religious fear, his blood poured out in sacrifice for us. The water, bread and wine of creation are God's visual aids from his creation so that we may be able to worship him 'in Spirit and in truth.' May this Easter be a time of renewal for us in our faith.

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those who have helped us, 'babysat' and given us gifts on arrival of David Trevenna Gouldstone on March 1st. It seems that he's the first baby to be born to a vicar at Ansley since 'Larry' Dunham about forty years ago. Although he is half cornish he is no relation of the David Gouldstone who now owns Land's End !
Tim, Jane, Rebecca and David.

OUTING TO THE MALVERNS

The outing to Dovedale last year was adjudged a great success. The young people from many churches in Warwickshire are planning another this year, to the Malverns. This will be on **Saturday, April 30th** and we will have to leave **Ansley Common at 9.00 a.m.**, and will call at the **Village Church Hall at 9.10 a.m.**, and **Ansley Roundabout at 9.15 a.m.** We hope to get back about 9.00 p.m. Please bring a packed lunch. The cost will be £2.50 for those 14 or over and £1.50 for children. Make sure you have good walking shoes. Pushchairs at your own risk. Distance about eight miles.

It might be an idea to sponsor someone on the walk for the fabric fund.

COFFEE MORNING

There will be a coffee morning at Mr. and Mrs. Truelove's on **Tuesday, April 26th** in the morning, from about 10.30 a.m., onwards. Proceeds for the church general fund. We are grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Truelove for this event as it does mean that quite a few of the members of the church and their families can get together for a chat; and some of the older folk can only see some of their friends on such occasions. There will be a bring and buy stall !

ST. JOHN'S MOTHERS' UNION—This branch will meet on Wednesday, April 20th at 7.00 p.m., when the speaker will be Mr. R. G. Vickers the director of 'Link-Up.'

The Village Church Hall Committee meets on Thursday, April 14th at 8.00 p.m., in the Vicarage.

SONGS OF PRAISE AT CORLEY

Our next joint service will be 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.

There will be NO SERVICE at St. Laurence, Ansley, on this evening.

BARN DANCE — DON'T FORGET !

The Barn Dance will be held on Friday, April 8th in the Village Church Hall, 8.00 p.m. till 11.30 p.m. The caller will be John Meechan. Tickets are £1.50 each and are available from Mrs. Priest, Mrs. Cove or Mr. Arnold. Our last event at the Harvest Festival last year was well attended and greatly enjoyed.

It was good to welcome back Sally Martin as our preacher on the evening of Mothering Sunday. Glenn and Sally are now helping Mr. Smith at Hartshill on a semi-regular basis, but Glenn has kindly agreed to take the Family Worship at St. John's Hall on Sunday, June 19th at 10.00 a.m. This really is using the local talent ! Perhaps for 1983 we ought to get some folk reading the lessons and taking the prayers in our usual services. The MU members always do this well—let's extend the idea.

On Saturday, April 23rd at 2.00 p.m., the bells will be rung by a party of ringers from Leeds.

NOTES FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING

We had 27 people this year, which was a lot better—I make this a 60% increase over last year ! People felt optimistic about the future but we need to have more confidence in our faith. We still have two services on a Sunday which are both well attended.

The number of people between 20 and 50 worshipping regularly is disappointingly low.

Please try and be on time for the 11.00 a.m., service. At 11.05 the congregation looks like ball-boys crossing a Wimbledon tennis-court !

Luncheon Club and 'Pop-In' club at Ansley Common are very popular. Group Ministry is evolving and we are learning what it means to share our ministry together and worship together.

Encouraging number of confirmation candidates, both adult and younger group.

Financially our income went up from £6000 to £7500, but needs to be around £9000-£9500 for 1983. Parish share is £2875. All areas of income increased substantially, but keep it up please !

Thanks to all those, known and unknown, who have made the Church a living possibility.

To heat the Church and run the bus costs £1800, or £35 per week.

Sunday School, G.F.S., and the two MU's progress—problem is what happens when children get to 12 years old (but I should add that this is a nationwide problem as far as the Church is concerned).

We thank God for all those who have made Christian witness possible in our community this past year and look forward with confidence to 1983, that more people may come to faith and see for themselves the reality of Jesus Christ.

Margaret Hunt of Birmingham Road passed away in March. She had been unwell for some time and had not been able to go out recently. Our prayers and thoughts are with Mr. and Mrs. Allen and the family from Attleborough. 'Mina' Forsyth passed away suddenly; she had only moved to a flat in Chapel End from her home in St. Lawrence Road a few months ago. She has many relatives and friends near and far as her family came from Scotland after the last war.

BAPTISMS

Mar. 20—Haydn Lawrence John Cartwright, 8 West View, Ansley Common.

Sharon Brown, 158 Birmingham Road.

FUNERALS

Feb. 25—'Mina' Forsyth, formerly of 60 St. Lawrence Road, aged 60.

Margaret Newman Hunt, 88 Birmingham Road, aged 83.