



Ansley Church News

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EASTER WORSHIP

'The Lord is risen indeed'

Monday 16th —

Stainer's 'Crucifixion,' performed by the Choir of St. Nicolas Parish Church, Nuneaton, 7.30 p.m., in St. Laurence Church.

Thursday 19th — Maundy Thursday

Holy Communion 7.30 p.m.

Friday 20th — Good Friday Worship 7.30 p.m.

Sunday 22nd —

Holy Communion 8.00 a.m.

Parish Easter Communion 11.00 a.m.

Evening Prayer 6.30 p.m., followed by:

Holy Communion 7.40 p.m.

St. John's Hall Worship at 10.00 a.m., on Sunday, April 29th.

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.

Easter is the most important festival of the Christian year, so why not worship with us this year ?

Did you know that only three per cent of the parish of Ansley are 'regular' worshippers ? Your God needs **YOU !**

Dear Friends,

'A PLACE FOR PEOPLE TO LIVE IN'

One of those multitude of occasional tasks that seem to take so much of my time is the administration of our church records. They have by law to be inspected every three years to see if the vicar and churchwardens are looking after the rich heritage of history that is part of the parish church's image.

I was just completing this when news came that the working party had recommended closure of Church End First School, despite our efforts in the latter part of last year. Warwick County Council's Department of Education seems very firm in its desire to cut back facilities here.

In addition, the Warwick County Structure Plan Review (1984) which is now being publicised gives a very bleak picture of the rural parts of North Warwickshire until 1996. Building of new houses is to be severely restricted; the policy of 'Green Belt,' which is praiseworthy in theory, means that this area is marked out for leisure, recreation and 'Special Landscape Area.'

This is all very well, but what about those of us who live here? Has there been enough thought to the ageing population of both Ansley and Arley? If schools are closed, are young families going to move in? Is the population decline to continue?

Between them, the County Council's Planning Committee and the County Education Department seem to be undermining the facilities in this area and condemning us to stagnation and decline.

Some may say that matters which are the responsibility of the County Council should be left to them. But I believe that Christianity teaches that God is interested in what goes on everywhere, in the Area Education Office and Shire Hall, Warwick. This is GOD'S world. To hear some speak you'd think God's interests stopped at the churchyard wall!

Centuries before Christ, the prophet Isalah was granted a vision of the universal reign of God over the world, 'Maker and Monarch and Saviour of All' —

The LORD created the heavens
he is the one who is God!
He formed and made the earth—
he made it firm and lasting.
He did not make it a desolate waste,
but a place for people to live in.
It is he who says, "I am the LORD,
and there is no other God."

I have not spoken in secret
or kept my purpose hidden.
I did not require the people of Israel
to look for me in a desolate waste.
I am the LORD, and I speak the truth;
I make known what is right.

Isaiah 45 : 18-19

Part of the Christian's task is to make sure the world doesn't become a desolate, exploited waste, but, in the words of Isaiah, 'a place for people to live in.'

Ansley, too, should be 'a place for people to live in.' But we must be very careful that we don't just become one more isolated community in rural England which has no future and lives on its past—no change means no future.

At the time of writing it is too early to say what steps will be taken to put our case before the County Education Department—just keep your eyes and ears open, for we won't let the matter rest !

To return to my opening comments about our church records. Let's make sure that we have a FUTURE as well as a PAST to be confident about.

TIM GOULDSTONE

On March 2nd a very successful Coffee Evening and entertainment was held in the Village Church Hall in aid of Over Whitacre Church Appeal. About sixty people came and it was good to have some friends from Over Whitacre parish. We were entertained by dancers from the Nancy Bates School of Dancing and by singers from the Nuneaton Operatic Society. Thank you to all who made this a pleasant evening; the sum of £122 was raised.

Several people have been in hospital this past month. Mrs. Varden is not at all well and is in the George Eliot Hospital. Mr. and Mrs. Gill had both moved into their new home in Birmingham Road when they also had to be admitted to hospital, and Mr. Criswell has also been in the George Eliot for a time. Mrs. Neale of Birchley Heath is still unwell and confined to her home. Hopefully Mrs. Hodgkins will soon be well enough to go out—not the only one to be confined by the cold. To these and all those who haven't been too well lately we offer our prayers and concern.

The Mothers' Union Deanery service at St. Nicolas, Nuneaton was a great success, about three hundred attended and enjoyed the excellent tea provided by the Nuneaton Parish Church ladies. Elizabeth I disapproved of women who were connected with church affairs and even called clergy wives 'a monstrous regiment of women.' I'm sure she would have found the M.U. neither monstrous, nor a regiment !

The Vicar had the interesting experience of speaking at a meeting in the Methodist Church in Chapel End last month. There was a really warm and friendly atmosphere and they certainly have an impressive and useful building there. Actually, it's just outside Ansley parish, being just over 'the stream' but the ministry of the Christian community does extend into Bretts Hall and Ansley Common.

Two remaining Lent Meetings:

April 4—'Birth, Babies and Baptism'—Off to good start?—St. John's Hall, Ansley Common.

April 11—'Towards R.I.P.'—Problems of Later Life. Held at Spring Hill Clinic and conducted by the Health Centre Staff.

Both meetings at 7.30 p.m.

Next worship at St. John's Hall is on Sunday, April 29th at 10.00 a.m., and the St. John's Branch of the M.U. meets on Wednesday, April 25th at 7.00 p.m., for Holy Communion (Note: fourth Wednesday, not third Wednesday).

Don't forget the **Maundy Thursday Communion** service at 7.30 p.m., in the parish church. This is often badly attended, yet it is, in some respects, the most important communion service of the year as we remember what the Lord Jesus did for us 'on the night that he was betrayed'—date—**Thursday, April 19th.**

All other Easter services will be found on the cover of this magazine.

CONCERT (1)

On Monday of Holy Week (April 16th) the Choir of St. Nicolas Parish Church, Nuneaton will be performing **Stainers 'Crucifixion'** in our church, starting at 7.30 p.m.

Stainer lived from 1840 to 1901 and this work, composed in 1887, is a meditation for Holy Week that has become increasingly popular in recent years. Amongst other things, Stainer was organist of St. Paul's Cathedral and Professor of Music at Oxford.

CONCERT (2)

Looking ahead a bit, the pupils of Coleshill School have very kindly offered to come and sing and play in the parish church on **Wednesday, May 16th at 7.30 p.m.** There will be a varied programme of light classical music, including Vivaldi's 'Magnificat' and some solos. Tickets will be on sale soon !

BARN DANCE IN Village Church Hall

There will be a **BARN DANCE** in the Village Church Hall on Friday, April 6th at 8.00 p.m. Tickets, price £1.75 for adults and £1.00 for under 14, are available from Mrs. Cove (28 Nuthurst Crescent) and Pauline Gaskin (42 Nuthurst Crescent). Refreshments and Bar.

Have you seen one of these ? There was a sighting of one at our joint worship at St. Michael's Gun Hill last month ! About 75 people saw this rare object.

GUARD IT WELL !

These tuits have been
hard to come by, especially
the round ones. They are very rare

A ROUND TUIT

This is an indispensable item for every
Christian. It will help you be a much
more efficient worker for the
Lord. For years we have
heard people say, "I'll
do this when I get
ROUND TUIT"

Now that you have a ROUND TUIT of your own, many things that have needed to be accomplished will get done.

(Incidentally, what's happened to all the spare time our labour-saving devices have given to us ?)

BILLY GRAHAM AT VILLA PARK !

Many of you will already know that Billy Graham is coming to Villa Park in July as part of 'Mission England,' bringing God's message to our land. Several people have asked me if we are laying on a coach from this area.

The answer is YES ! The four parishes in the group will be laying on transport for the evening of Wednesday, July 4th. More details next month—meanwhile, book the date in your diary NOW.

Billy Graham is a man many love to hate. But that's often just an excuse for doing nothing and going on in the same old ways. Why not come and make up your own mind and have an evening out at the same time ? (And bring a friend).

COFFEE MORNING

There will be a Coffee Morning in aid of church funds at Mr. and Mrs. Truelove's on Tuesday, May 15th from 10.30 a.m., to 12.30 p.m.

PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING on Friday, April 27th at 8.00 p.m., in the Village Church Hall. Come and make your views about the parish known.

FUNERAL

The death of Fred Hill at work at the early age of 56 was a great shock to his family and friends. Our sympathies are with his wife in St. Lawrence Road and with his family in Arley.

March 19—Frederick Hill, 46 St. Lawrence Road, aged 56.

(At Arley Methodist Church).