

# ANSLEY CHURCH MAGAZINE

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

Dear Friends,

One cannot fail to be reminded at this time of year of the wonder of creation—'Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds; cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.' (Genesis 1 : 24). There cannot be that many churches where the parson can actually see daffodils, sheep and lambs from his desk as he takes the service, not to mention the new calf in the field when he is leaving the church !

The great feature of the first chapter of Genesis is its constructiveness; the inventiveness of God who saw that his creation was 'good'—the text says this five times in all, and at the end 'God saw everything he had made and behold, it was very good.' (verse 31).

However we are all too aware that things are no longer all 'good' in the sense that God intends them to be. What then ? Is God a liar ? Is belief in him untrue ? The Christian faith claims that God is true but that men and women have exchanged the truth about him for lies.

Hence there is dispute, war and pain in the world. At present we are engaged in a dispute as to who 'owns' the Falkland Islands. The Christian truth is that there is no such thing as ownership in this absolute sense. Every nation receives the earth on trust—and if that trust is abused then there will be judgement, like that which befell Israel—their land was taken away from them because of their disobedience and sinfulness.

On a first reading it seems unjust to 'visit the sins of the fathers' on the third and fourth generation of people. But the way of the world suggests this is a fact of life. We are now paying for our seizure of the Falklands in the early years of the nineteenth century—not a very long time ago. And Argentina is trying to divert attention from its own oppression and cruelty to an old territorial claim which it must be admitted is not entirely without foundation.

Who are going to be the winners and the losers ? Everyone will lose—everyone will have to pick up the bill for the money, the physical and mental suffering involved. There will be no winners, war or not. Argentina will sink further into economic

chaos with hundred per cent inflation, the unfortunate Falkland Islanders will lose what security they have and Britain will go on thinking that we can still afford to protect tiny communities at the ends of the earth with 'gunboat diplomacy.'

This is the picture of the supposed 'good' creation that God made. And yet . . . The Gospel of God is about grace, redemption and the love of God. Would that more of us could see this and realise how petty our squabbles look from the perspective of God. A few years ago we looked at the first pictures of the world from outer space, and wondered, perhaps even prayed a prayer of thanksgiving for our planet. But how easily we forget.

On the first Sunday after the first Easter, Jesus came and stood amongst his disciples. They were understandably frightened by the world and by evil forces which could overcome them. But the Lord said 'Peace be with you.' A Christian can know God's peace everywhere, not by turning away from the world but by turning towards God and looking at the world through his eyes.

Lord Jesus Christ,  
Alive and at large in the world,  
help me to follow and to find you there today,  
in places where I work, meet people,  
spend money, and make plans.  
Take me as a disciple of your Kingdom,  
to see through your eyes,  
and hear the questions you are asking,  
to welcome all men with your trust and truth,  
and to change the things that contradict God's love,  
by the power of the cross  
and the freedom of your Spirit.                      Amen.

With Christian Greetings  
TIM GOULDSTONE

#### **POPE'S VISIT — THE REAL QUESTIONS**

There seems to be some doubt about the visit of John Paul II at the moment because of international events. But if he does come, we hope and pray for a real time of blessing for the Roman Catholic community in our country. We thank God for increasing understanding and the tolerance between the Roman Catholic Church and the Church of England. But both sides must remember that there are still serious differences of belief and church order between the two communions. I am afraid that the recent report which received some publicity on television only papered over the cracks. The present claims made by the papacy make it quite impossible for Anglicans to accept him as the head of a united church. It would not be in the interest of the integrity of either the Roman Church or the Church of England to sacrifice truth on the altar of a bogus unity scheme. Many people locally have said to me over the past few weeks that they consider Roman Catholicism 'a religion of fear.' What they mean by this is (I think) that they disagree with the Roman Catholic authoritarianism of Pope and Church over 'the faithful.'



This authority question is certainly one of the most important. The ultimate authority in the churches of God is that of Christ himself and his revelation in the Scriptures. We have to ask ourselves the searching question—how seriously do we take the authority of Christ's words? Far too many people dispose of authority completely in matters of belief and conduct with the result that their spiritual discipline is non-existent and their relationship with God through Christ is immature and worthless.

What is needed in all the Churches is a recovery of the Lordship of Christ; his love, his humility, his commands. Only then will we be able to perceive the true basis of unity.

#### NOTES AND NEWS

Mrs. Hammersley, who used to live at Rye Hills Farm, passed away at Corley in late April. Our sympathy goes to Mrs. Callwood and their family at Monwode Lea Farm.

**The 'outing' to Dovedale** is due to take place on May 8th. This is open to all children in the Sunday School, 'Eleven Plus,' GFS and Ansley Common Brownies. We will be leaving the Nelson Inn at 9.15 a.m., the Village Hall at 9.20 a.m. and Ansley Common at 9.30 a.m. Please bring a packed lunch. We will walk along Dovedale from Ilam Hall (a distance of about 7½ miles). It should be possible to arrange for the coach to pick up people halfway along the walk if they can't make it all—and there will be plenty to do at Ilam Hall end of the walk. The walk itself is not suitable for pushchairs. Cost is £2.25 for adult and £1.25 for children. We expect to get back by late afternoon.

Please see Mrs. Cove, Mrs. Whitworth or Mrs. Batchelor if you would like to come. We are limited to 41 places on a 'first come, first served' basis.

**Polite request**—to all evening users of the Village Hall. There have been complaints about excessive noise on nights when there is a party there. Please note that ALL users MUST stop live or recorded music by 11.30 p.m., and have vacated the hall by 12 midnight. Failure to comply with this rule in the future will mean that we shall discontinue the use of the hall for such functions; — and it's not only the Vicar who is kept awake!

There will be a **Coffee Morning at Merrybrook Cottage** on Tuesday, May 11th from 10.30 to 12.30 in the morning at the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Truelove. Admission 25p; there will be a 'Bring and Buy' stall. Anyone who wants a lift please contact Mrs. Truelove. Proceeds to Church Funds.

A start is to be made on the redecoration of the church in the next few weeks by the firm of W. H. Carter (Nuneaton) Ltd. This job was last done in the early part of 1969 when the Coal Board removed the girders from the building. We hope that the interior will be brighter after this task is carried out.

Thank you to all who contributed to decorate the church over Easter and all those who did the practical work. The resulting flowers were a real witness to the resurrection faith that we proclaim at this time of year and every Sunday in our worship.

We continue the tradition of joint Ansley-Arley Ascension Day services with a service at Ansley on Thursday, May 20th at 7.30 p.m. We will be joined by the congregations of St. Michael's, St. Wilfrid's and Arley Methodist Church.

We hope to run a **Treasure Hunt** from the Church car park on Wednesday, May 26th at 6.45 p.m. Watch for further details.

The Archdeacon of Coventry will be present at our worship at 6.30 p.m., on Sunday, May 2nd to induct the Vicar into the parish. This completes the formalities involved in setting up the 'Group Ministry.'

**The Church Fete** (sale mainly) will be held at the Church Hall on Saturday, June 12th. Mrs. Truelove is organising a competition with the title 'Fruity Quest' — entry forms are 20p and answers and prize at the Fete.

#### **DIARY FOR MAY 1982**

##### **2—3rd Sunday after Easter.**

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said).

11.00 a.m. Parish Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer with Induction of the Vicar.

4— 3.00 p.m. Mothers' Union—Village Church Hall.

8— 9.15 a.m. Depart from Nelson Inn for ramble in DOVEDALE.

##### **9—4th Sunday after Easter.**

11.00 a.m. Parish Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

11—10.30 a.m. Coffee Morning at Mr. and Mrs. Truelove's, Merrybrook Cottage.

8.00 p.m. Parochial Church Council—St. John's Hall.

13— 6.45 p.m. Church End School Governors' Meeting.

##### **16—Rogation Sunday.**

11.00 a.m. Family Service.

6.30 p.m. Holy Communion.

19— 7.00 p.m. Mothers' Union Communion—St. John's Hall.

20— 7.30 p.m. Ascension Day Service—St. Laurence.

##### **23—Sunday after Ascension.**

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

26— 6.45 p.m. Car Treasure Hunt (hopefully !)—start at Church car park.

29— 1.00 p.m. Wedding of Nigel Smedley and Alison Wonfor.

##### **30—Whit Sunday.**

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

#### **BAPTISM**

"We welcome you into the family of the Church"

April 18—Sarah Young, 3 St. Laurence Road, Ansley.

#### **FUNERAL**

Jesus said 'I am the resurrection and the life'

April 2—Ellen Spencer, 38 Arden Forest Estate (cremation).

#### **WEDDING**

April 17—James Kerrigan and Lesley Burnham.