

ANSLEY CHURCH MAGAZINE

No. 695

MAY 1983

Price 10p

Vicar : THE REV. D. TIM GOULDSTONE, M.Sc.

The Vicarage, Birmingham Road, Ansley

Tel.: Chapel End 392240

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. Holy Communion.

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.

Dear Friends,

If you look on the inside wall of the church, just above the lectern, you will see a memorial tablet to a former incumbent of Ansley, the Revd. Joseph Hutchins.

He was Vicar of Ansley for at least 54 years, and died here at the age of 86 in 1835. (Nowadays no vicar is allowed to go on to that age !)

A study of parish records shows that there wasn't much change in his half-century. Ansley must have been a remote spot; the world outside the parish was perhaps rather an alarming, strange experience for villagers who ventured away.

Yet changes in the world horrified the vicar and parish leaders. There is a declaration of 26th December, 1792 'That we utterly abhor all such pernicious doctrines' of the French Revolution, which were spread by those who wish 'the destruction of all Government and the Substituting anarchy and Confusion in the place of it.' This was followed by an oath of allegiance to 'king, God and church.' Two hundred years ago people in Ansley felt their faith threatened.

It is the teaching of the Christian faith that human nature is the same in any age. There never was a golden age of faith, when the majority of the population were fervent, instructed believers. But there are always those who by their quiet witness and Christian conduct show their contemporaries the meaning of Jesus Christ. Most people like this leave no trace in history, yet their lives are not forgotten by God. To them, Jesus was the 'way, and the truth and the life' (John 14 : 6). Jesus

Christ's life and example are the way to God—as he said to the first disciples, so he says to us, 'Follow me.' His words of teaching are 'the truth' about himself and God. The 'life' he gives is not just animal existence, but communion and fellowship with God.

Our lives are unbelievably different from the Ansley folk of Joseph Hutchins' day. But today we still need to listen to the Gospel of God, who sent his Son Jesus Christ to live, love and die for us. Perhaps the collect for the fourth Sunday after Easter speaks to our need :

Almighty God,
who alone can bring order
to the unruly wills and passions of sinful men :
give us grace,
to love what you command
and to desire what you promise,
that in all the changes and chances of this world,
our hearts may surely there be fixed
where lasting joys are to be found;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

What is meant by 'fixed' in this prayer ? It does not mean obstinate, reactionary, old-fashioned for its own sake, inflexible or petty. We all know people like that ! It means that our hearts and lives are fixed upon the grace of God, our quiet assurance that he loves and cares for us 'through Jesus Christ our Lord.'

TIM GOULDSTONE

NOTES AND NEWS

Mr. Hammond, who passed away this month, was a well-known figure in the local farming community and was for many years at Astley at what is known as the 'Farm Shop.' Mr. Wood had not lived in Ansley for some time, but formerly lived at what is now the Post Office at Birchley Heath, where there was a small shop in times past. For many years he worked at Ansley Hall Colliery. Mrs. Chinn was an example of someone who was always active well beyond 'official' retirement, and was regularly serving on one of the market stalls in Nuneaton until just before her illness. A very painful illness was borne with much Christian courage and patience—an example to us all. She was a regular worshipper and treasurer of the village branch of the Mothers' Union for many years.

To the relatives and friends of these people we offer our care and prayers.

We thank relatives and friends of the late Mr. George Hammond for their generous gift of £80 to the church.

The **Barn Dance** on 8th April was a great success—this is a good event for getting folk together and it appeals to all ages. There were about 70 present and the 'caller' was very understanding ! Thanks to all those who did the refreshments and planning. The next one might be at harvest—but no plans have yet been made definite. Sorry the Vicar could not be there but 'flu and temperature of 103 wouldn't have been the best for me or those there ! £43 was made for Hall funds.

A **Coffee Morning** at Mr. and Mrs. Truelove's on April 26th was blessed with good weather, as was last year's event. 'Bring and Buy' stalls and other events flourished and old friendships renewed. The sum of £104 was raised for church funds.

The planned **Village Day** had to be called off—only five people came to the widely-publicised planning meeting in the village church hall on Monday, 25th April, despite about forty households being visited. One really needs thirty to forty people to get up great enthusiasm about this kind of event; it's NO USE leaving it all to someone else! So we've called it off—unless (as Esther Rantzen says) 'You know different !'

ANSLEY COMMON

Anyone in Ansley Common who is interested in forming a Mums' and Toddlers' Group to meet in St. John's Hall please contact Ann Cartwright at 8 West View.

St. John's M.U. meets on Wednesday, 18th May at 7.00 p.m. A talk will be given by Miss Stafford on 'The Third World.' It will be illustrated with slides.

The 'Pop-In' club at Ansley Common still attracts a good number, and on 13th April Mrs. Allen from Hartshill came to see what the older members could remember about Hartshill and Chapel End in days gone by. Mrs. Allen has written an interesting history of Hartshill and Chapel End entitled 'Heardreds Hill' which traces the area from Roman times to the present day.

SCHOOL NEWS

During April Mrs. Christine Jones celebrated ten years as headmistress of Church End School; the event was marked with tea and cakes (excellent in quality—congratulations to whoever made them). Quite a number of friends of the school past and present attended, with memories of the late 'Sparkie' and others.

Numbers at the school hover around the mid-thirties. Remember it needs the continued support of our community if its existence is to be assured. At present there are no threats to its closure but we need to watch the numbers of pupils attending.

As this magazine goes to press, news has come of the sudden death of Mr. Frank Shaw, the secretary of Ansley Club. Mr. Shaw had not been well for some years, but did not let his illness stand between him and his interest in the community. Our prayers and support are with his wife and daughter and relatives at this sad time.

MALVERNS MANIA !

We were granted with the best day of Spring, so far, for this walk, which everyone enjoyed; it was just right for walking and there were the breathtaking views over the countryside all the way from Birmingham to the Cotswolds and over the Welsh

border. All the children made the full distance but one or two adults dropped out at half-way. At the end we were able to enjoy the beauty of Malvern and drink tea !

What about another outing in the autumn ? What about York ?

Incidentally, a lunch box, a mauve cardigan and a small pair of trousers (!!!) were left on the 'bus. Claims to the Vicar on Chapel End 392240.

The preacher in the evening of Sunday, 8th May will be Dr. Robert Gurney who has been working as a doctor in Kenya. He was in charge of a large hospital in an area where most are Muslims or follow tribal religion.

There will be a meeting of the parochial church council at 8.00 p.m., on Wednesday, 11th May in St. John's Hall.

The **Ascension Day Worship** this year will be held in Arley Methodist Chapel at 7.30 p.m., on Thursday, 12th May.

On Saturday, 14th May there will be a '**Treasure Hunt**' on foot starting at the village 'rec' at 2.30 p.m., and finishing about 4.00 p.m. (unless you get lost !) at the Village Church Hall. It should be a pleasant afternoon's walk in footpaths in the fields between the Village and Arley; not more than two miles. Entry forms at 10p per person will be available on the day. Just congregate at the 'rec' at 2.25-2.30 on the day. Tea and squash in the Hall afterwards.

The Church Hall Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, 18th May, 1983 at 8.00 p.m., at Sutton's Farm.

NOTE : There will be a **Barn Dance** at Sutton's Farm on Saturday, 11th June at 8.00 p.m. to 12 midnight. Tickets £2 each, refreshments. Further information in next month's magazine.

Many thanks to Mr. Cadman for the provision of a seat in the churchyard, given in memory of his wife. We are very grateful for this and it will provide a comfort for our many visitors.

FUNERALS

Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and I am the life'

April 8—George Pemberton Hammond, 206 Arley Lane, aged 78.

April 22—Charles William Wood, aged 87.

April 29—Elizabeth Mary Chinn, 186 Birmingham Road, aged 79.

May 5—Frank Shaw, 235 Birmingham Road, aged 58.

BAPTISMS

Easter Sunday—Martyn Paul Forryan, 2 Bevis Road, Gosport.

April 17—Sallyanne Turner, 10 Railway Terrace.