



# Ansley Church News

No. 707

MAY 1984

Price 10p

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The Vicarage,  
Birmingham Road,  
Ansley.

Chapel End 392240

## WORSHIP ?

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.

St. John's Hall—Family Worship at 10.00 a.m., on 4th Sunday.

## CHILDREN ?

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.

## 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.

Dear Friends,

### **'JESUS IS ALIVE'**

By now many of you will have seen the posters around the Nuneaton area with this simple message, a message that should be especially valuable to us as we remember what Easter means.

I sometimes find an unbelievable pessimism in church members about the future of the Christian church, a pessimism that is so deep-rooted that I'm sure that some folk don't know they are in a condition of spiritual frustration and despair. Yet the message 'Jesus is alive' is for everyone. Sometimes I get the impression that the Vicar is supposed to be the spiritual person in a community and that 'ordinary folk' can forget about their own belief, their own confidence in Christ, their own relationship with God because in some obscure way the clergyman represents what they would wish to be but can't find the time or the will-power to do.

This is a completely pagan notion. We stand before God as individuals; one by one we come to God; one by one we face the facts of Easter and have to make our own, personal response. There **IS** no other way to become a Christian, a follower of Jesus.

Is Jesus 'alive' in our worship ?

Is Jesus 'alive' in our homes ?

Is Jesus 'alive' in our hearts ?

Some homes have a little poster or mural that says that Jesus is the 'silent listener to every conversation.' That can sound a bit threatening, making God into a sort of spy. But it contains the important truth that God is present everywhere at every moment to those who love him and seek to serve him. Faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, that 'Jesus is alive' is not a trite saying of pious people who don't face up to the hard realities of life. We thank God that the failure of Good Friday was turned into hope and life and truth on Easter Sunday; we thank God for all who bring this great Christian message to us; we thank God for all working in 'Mission Nuneaton' and 'Mission England'; we thank God for those whose Christian faith has brought us the resurrection when we most needed it; we thank God for Jesus.

TIM GOULDSTONE

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### **SOME DATES TO REMEMBER**

14th-20th May, 'Mission Nuneaton' 7.30 p.m., every evening at the Manor Court Baptist Church in Nuneaton. All welcome at any of these meetings. I shall be going down on Tuesday, May 15th.

so anyone interested in going on this evening contact me at the Vicarage on the weekend of 12th/13th.

**15th May, Coffee Morning** 10.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m., at Mr. and Mrs. Truelove's, proceeds in aid of Church funds. If you require transport or have difficulty attending please 'phone Mrs. Truelove on Fillongley 41105.

**16th May, Concert in Church** by Coleshill School Orchestra. There will be a varied programme including Vivaldi's 'Magnificat.' There will be solos and orchestral pieces—the programme will last about 1½ hours including an interval of 15 mins. Come and enjoy a spring evening of music at your parish church. There will be a collection at the concert.

**Also on 16th May at 7.00 p.m., St. John's M.U.** will hold an informal meeting in St. John's Hall.

**19th May, Coach Outing to Church Stretton.** Adults £3.00, children under 14 £2.00. Bring a packed lunch and a good pair of shoes. Names and money as soon as possible to Mrs. Cove, Mrs. Bachelor (105 Ansley Common) or the Vicar. Payment in advance is necessary as in the past we have had folk drop out and threaten us with being unable to pay the coach hire! The above people have **sponsorship forms** for the walk; the proceeds will be divided equally between the Arley Kidney Machine Fund and Church funds.

**20th May, Family Service at 11.00 a.m.** At this service there will be a baptism using the font which formerly stood in St. John's Church, Ansley Common and has now been restored. Please, the Vicar doesn't mind small children crawling around in this service (he is not inexperienced himself with such creatures!) If you have a baby with you who gets 'out of control' please feel free to go into the vestry at the back of the church.

**26th May, Wedding** at 3.00 p.m., of Julie Marshall of Ansley Common with Timothy Iliffe.

June dates—5th June, School Governors' Meeting at 6.30 p.m. . . .  
6th June, PCC Meeting in Village Church Hall at 8.00 p.m. . . .  
9th June, Barn Dance, 8.00-12.00 at Sutton's Farm, tickets later . . . 16th June, Ansley Church Summer Fete and Bazaar on the Vicarage Lawn if fine, if not in Church Hall, starts 2.30 p.m.

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We have just heard of the death of Mrs. Neale of Birchley Heath after a long and painful illness bravely born. We remember the Neale family in their loss but are thankful that Mrs. Neale is now at rest. Mr. Charles Bradley of Bretts Hall has not



been well and has been in hospital in Nuneaton. Parishioners will remember Mr. Bradley when he and his wife lived at the school house at Church End. Mrs. Ford, also of Bretts Hall, is recovering in hospital after a stroke and we wish her a full recovery and ability to cope at home. Mrs. Varden should soon be back home again. James Morley is once again active after a spell in the George Eliot. Mrs. Groome of Birmingham Road is also in our thoughts as are the Comer family of Bretts Hall after the loss of their daughter in a tragic car accident in Weddington on Easter Sunday.

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**THANKS** . . . to all our magazine distributors (about twelve in all) who each month enable you, the reader, to obtain this magazine regularly.

We welcome The Revd. Peter Phillips to the Ley Group Ministry as Rector of Arley and look forward to seeing him among us in the near future.

The Barn Dance on April 6th was a great success and over 70 people enjoyed a good social evening. £65 was made for Church Hall funds.

Easter Day services were quite well attended (for these days) and there were 87 communicants, about the same number as in recent years. About thirty people came to the performance of Stainer's 'Crucifixion' which proved to be a moving experience as we began Holy Week thinking about Our Lord's own experience of death and resurrection. Many thanks to our friends at St. Nicolas for this event.

#### **WINDOW PROBLEMS**

At its last meeting the PCC discussed the possibility of stonework renovation of the west (Phillips memorial) window of St. Laurence church, and also the renovation of the window on the south side of the old chancel; you pass this one as you walk from the church gate to the porch. Any worthwhile renovation here is likely to prove expensive, in the order of thousands of pounds, but if this work is left to later generations it will prove an even greater problem. Do have a look for yourself at these windows and see what wind, weather and water can do! If we do undertake such work I do not believe the financial aspects should be beyond the means of a parish the size of Ansley if

we value our church as a place of worship and as a symbol of our parish's history — and OF COURSE have the faith and patience to trust that the work CAN be done.

#### **ANOTHER TIME . . .**

Speaking of history, the Vicar recently came across an old list of valuables in Ansley church, dated 1561. The list was made because Edward VI ' . . . had need of a great masse of money' (what government before or since has not said the same) so he decided the church should pay up with its valuables.

#### **Ansley**

Itm there iii belles in the steple  
ii vestmts veluet and silke  
v vestments dornix  
a cope  
two towells diap'  
iiii altar clothes  
a clothe before the roode  
a crosse cop' (?Copper) and gilt.

Md that the pishe (parish) haue solde sithence  
the last Svey to the relief of the poore inhit'aunts  
there theis pcell folowing.

two candlesticks  
two lampes  
certaine wax  
a bell ou' and besyd the iii aforesaide

Note also that their chalice is stollen.

It is interesting that the chalice is 'stolen.' Was it concealed by cunning churchwardens to avoid possible confiscation ? Also that a bell had been sold to relieve the poor.

#### **FUNERAL**

May 1—Iris Neale, 2a The Rookery, Birchley Heath, aged 52 yrs.