



Ansley Church News

No. 719

MAY 1985

Price 10p

Vicar: The Revd. T. M. GOULDSTONE, M.Sc.,
The Vicarage,
Birmingham Road, Ansley.
Tel.: Chapel End 392240

WORSHIP

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion — 1st Sunday only.

11.00 a.m. 1st & 5th Sundays — Morning Prayer.

2nd & 4th Sundays — The Parish Communion.

3rd Sunday — Family Worship.

6.30 p.m. 3rd Sunday — The Parish Communion.

Other Sundays — Evening Prayer.

Dear Friends,

In this parish we have a complete set of parish magazines dating from the first issue back in 1893. Before that, presumably news of what went on circulated by word of mouth. So you see that this institution is not very old, only 90 years or so.

Why was it started? Charles Heaton, the vicar, wanted to put the church 'on the map' and to keep the rapidly-expanding population of Ansley parish informed of what was going on. In those days the parish population was doubling every ten years or so as more and more people moved into the area to work in mining.

The magazine also offered a means of providing a short thought or meditation on some text of Scripture, or some Christian viewpoint on a topical event local, or (rarely in the early days) national. Thus it was a means of reaching those who did not come to church with the message of the Gospel.

Well, the world of No. 719 is very different from the world of No. 1. Yet we still proclaim the same message that Jesus Christ came to give to the world. You, the reader, live in a very different world from that of the first readers of this magazine. However our human nature is just the same. Our lives continue on their daily task and common round, punctuated by moments of joy and sorrow, by special events in family life and by the tensions and fulfilments of our own abilities or stupidity.

So we are called to respond to the Gospel today. After the first Easter, the disciples sat around saying that 'we had hoped . . . that Jesus would be the one who would have made everything just as we wanted it.' So they met in a secret room behind a locked door, they were afraid of the future.

Yet there wasn't any need for this—for they were suddenly aware of the risen Lord Jesus Christ standing amongst them. They realised that Easter **was** true and **is** true. They realised that his words and his teaching really were **true**.

All of us need to understand what the Lord meant by the words he uttered on that occasion, 'Peace be with you.' They are true for us now just as they were true for the readers of No. 1 of this magazine, were true for all Christians everywhere in all generations, were true in the Upper Room after Easter.

May you in your situation, your home, your room in which you are now sitting, know this peace, and the presence of the Lord.

TIM GOULDSTONE

YOUTH TRAINING SCHEME

These schemes are becoming part of the national scene now and the one at the St. John Ambulance Hall at Gun Hill is 'fully booked' at least for the foreseeable future. I am glad to say that a very large proportion of those engaged on the scheme in the first year subsequently found employment locally. If you want to know more of what is happening there contact Mrs. Yvonne Roan on Fillongley 42172.

EASTER

Easter worship was quite well attended—as a matter of interest the number of communicant members at Easter isn't all that much less than it was before the First World War, which should give us some food for thought. The church looked very attractive with the displays of daffodils and spring flowers. The darkness of Good Friday stands in sharp contrast with the decorations of Easter Day, a visual reminder of the faith that we profess in our worship at this season. Thank you for all who made the church look so attractive.

The latest I have heard from the builders is that they hope to start sometime in the middle of May on the repairs to the church fabric. The '20p fund' has now reached £412 which is a mark of the generosity of parishioners and worshippers at Ansley over the past four months. There has also been a start on the work for the village church hall.

The 'pop-in' venture at Chapel End Methodist Church announced in December proved to be unworkable due to lack of support, but there is now a playgroup and facilities for toddlers on Wednesday mornings at this building; I understand that it is proving quite popular. Further details from Mrs. Hughes at 143 Coleshill Road, Ansley Common.

You will have heard of John Ludford of Ansley Hall, or rather the several John Ludfords who lived there at various times. Some devoted admirer in the eighteenth century actually wrote a song to celebrate his birthday. The music is lost (try writing some !) but the words have survived:

Hail the Happy day whereon
Was Born a Ludfords Hopeful Son,
Join in dance ye nymphs and swains
Sing his praise in lofty strains.

Chorus:

All advance, your voices raise
Sing with me a Brittons praise
May he ever happy be,
Bless'd with sweet tranquillity.

May he live in sweet delights,
Happy days and Blissful nights.
And the partner of his love,
Share his fate and fruitful prove.

(Chorus)

May their progeny extend
A mortal race without an end,
Wisdom guide their sentiments
With love and joy in all Events.

(Chorus)

The document is signed 'J*B' who may be John Bracebridge. The hopes for an extended progeny in this area died out around 1900 unfortunately !

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

May 16—(Thurs.) Ascension Day.
May 18—(Sat.) Village Playgroup Sale 2.00 p.m. Village Church Hall.
May 21—(Tues.) Coffee Morning. Mr. and Mrs. Truelove's House.
May 26—(Sun.) Whit Sunday.
June 15—(Sat.) Church Fete 3.00 p.m. Vicarage Grounds.
June 29—(Sat.) Barn Dance 8.00 p.m. Sutton's Farm.
Aug. 23 to 26—(Friday to Monday). Flower Festival.

COFFEE MORNING

There will be a Coffee Morning at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Truelove on Tuesday, May 21st at 10.30 a.m. Merrybrook Cottage looks lovely at this time of the year. Come and have a pleasant morning at the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Truelove. Admission will be 30p. There will be a Bring and Buy Stall and a Raffle. All proceeds will be for Church Funds.

EASTER FLOWERS

The churchwardens wish to thank all who gave money, flowers and time to make our church so beautiful for the Easter Festival.

THE 20 PENCE PIECE FUND

We hope the restoration work on the church will be started in May. The estimated cost will be £4000. The diocese has promised to pay half. Interest on our investments will give us £1700 approx. Which leaves the 20 pence piece fund to find £550 approx. The fund now stands at £420 for which the churchwardens thank you most sincerely.

We hope the coins will keep rolling in so that when the work is done we will be able to pay in full.