

ANSLEY CHURCH MAGAZINE

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The Vicar would like to hear of cases of sickness. Please send messages to the Vicarage.

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The Vicarage.

May 1st, 1987

Our Dear Friends,

At our Annual General Meeting on March 23rd I told the 26 people present that the past 12 months has been, for Catherine and me, a period of observation. Seeing how the general life of the Church is going. Asking ourselves such questions as, "What is the impact of the Church on the life of the parish?" We have listened to what parishioners have said. Many of you have told us of your memories of the past, and of your hopes for the future.

It is clear that this parish has gone through a period of considerable change in recent years which has left our church building at a disadvantage. The school has been closed and the vicarage has been moved. This has meant that the Church has been robbed of a necessary building for the Sunday School to use. Consequently families are unable to come Sunday by Sunday to worship. The Sunday School meets in Ansley Village Hall and few of the children ever come to Church, and most of their parents do not come to worship together either.

If the Church here is to have a future this state of affairs has to be reversed. We need to have a strategy of advance, not decline. The easiest reaction to this situation is to raise our hands in despair and do nothing. But if we do nothing, things will not stay as they are, simply because we are all getting older and none of us are here for ever. We need to provide for the future generations by having facilities which will encourage them to worship as families together at Church.

At our Parochial Church Council meeting on March 30th we discussed further about this issue and unanimously agreed to explore the possibilities of building a room onto the Church, and also of using a mobile unit as a temporary and immediate facility.

An added building at the Church will provide us with accommodation for centralising all our Sunday worship together, being a centre for our work with children and young people.

It will mean, for example, that young married couples can come and worship in peace knowing their toddlers are being well cared for just next door.

It will mean the whole family can come to worship together first in Church, before the children go to their own instruction in the hall, then all joining up together for the close of the service.

It will allow for the serving of refreshments for social gathering and fellowship after worship.

It will also mean that we shall need to run the Church bus around the parish for the morning worship in addition to having the bus for the evening worship.

Our next P.C.C. meeting is on June 8th, by then we should have received some useful information sufficient for us to decide on the next move. If you are not on the P.C.C., do express your opinion with those who are, in order that we may know the reaction of our parishioners when this matter is further discussed.

God bless you,

James, Catherine, Mark and Rebekah.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR MAY

Sunday, May 3rd

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 11.00 a.m. Family Communion.
- 6.00 p.m. Songs of Praise united at St. Michael's, Gun Hill.

Monday, May 4th

- 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon Coffee Morning at Mr. and Mrs. Henry Truelove's home 'Merrybrook' Cottage, Hood Lane.

Wednesday, May 6th

- 8.00 p.m. Fellowship at the Vicarage.

Saturday, May 9th

- 4.30 p.m. Visit of Rev. Roger Morgan with 12 members of his congregation from Corby, Northants to tea at various homes in our parish.
- 6.45 p.m. Ansley Village Hall. In connection with the Bishop's Call to Mission-in-Partnership. Corby parishioners introduce themselves.

Sunday, May 10th

- 11.00 a.m. Parish Communion.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer. "The Resurrection Appearances."

Saturday, May 16th

- 12 o'clock Ley Group parishes outing, Barge trip. £4.00 per person. Telephone: Fillongley 41237.

Sunday, May 18th

- 11.00 a.m. Family Service.
- 6.30 p.m. Holy Communion. "Our Father."

Wednesday, May 20th

- 8.00 p.m. Fellowship at the Vicarage.

Thursday, May 21st

- 7.30 p.m. Coffee Evening at the hall in aid of T.E.A.R. work in the Third World.

Sunday, May 24th

- 11.00 a.m.
- 6.30 p.m.

Thursday, May 28th — Ascension Day

- 7.30 p.m. Special Service united at St. Wilfred's, Old Arley.

Sunday, May 31st

- 11.00 a.m. Parish Communion.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer. "Who art in Heaven."

Saturday, May 9th. In connection with our Bishop's call to 'Partner's in Mission' we welcome members of the congregation from Corby. Do come to the Church Hall at 6.45 p.m., to hear what people from Corby, Northants have to say. They will be arriving at the hall at 4.30 p.m., to be taken for a meal in various homes in our parish, prior to the 6.45 p.m., meeting. We trust that we shall come to know them as real friends in readiness for their weekend with us all at the Harvest Festival in October.

Please note that the Songs of Praise United Service will be at St. Michael's, Gun Hill on Sunday, May 3rd at 6.00 p.m. There will be no service at the Parish Church that evening. The bus will run from Ansley Common at 5.30 p.m., Birchley Heath at 5.40 p.m., and Ansley Village at 5.50 p.m.

Lent Boxes. Please return your Lent Box to Diana Keeley by Sunday, May 10th. When your box has been emptied it can be returned to you if you so desire. Do let Diana know, if you want to have it back.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School children were asked to write about their favourite Bible lesson. The winning entry is included here, and Robert Park will receive his £1.50 book token at the Family Service on Sunday, May 18th at 11.00 a.m.

Once upon a time there lived a man called Saul, he wanted to kill all of the Christians. He went to Damascus to kill all the Christians but on the way a light blinded Saul and it said, "Why do you hurt me?" His guards guided him to Damascus. When he got to Damascus God said, "Ananias go to Saul and put your hand on his eyes." Then Ananias said, "But he will kill me." But God said, "I have chosen him." So Ananias went to Saul and put his hands over his eyes and he could see again. So that night they lowered him over the wall and he followed God, and he changed his name to Paul.

Robert Park, 9 years old

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms "Repent and believe the Gospel"

March 8—Rachel Apinis.

Marriage "The two shall be one"

March 28—Richard Parker and Hilary Norton.

Funeral "I go to prepare a place for you"

April 3—Frederick Arthur Martin, 115 Birmingham Road, aged 83 years.

MR. FRED MARTIN

With the death of Mr. F. Martin at the age of 83 years the church in Ansley has lost another of its faithful and reliable workers.

For years Fred was keen to collect garden produce to sell on a stall at the Annual Church Fete, and he was one of the key

figures in the tent at the Flower Festival. He was responsible for the profits at these events going to help Church Funds.

He was a very reliable and helpful Sidesman, doing his duties faithfully on the second Sunday in each month.

He always had a cheeful word to say to all he met, and he will be greatly missed at Ansley Church for the many other jobs he did.

The Church sends its sympathy to his sorrowing family at this sad time.

FIFTY PENCE

I am a fifty pence piece.

I'm not much use in a supermarket, and I won't buy even a half gallon of petrol.

I'm too small to get into a football game, or to buy a box of chocolates; I'm not big enough to be left as a tip after a restaurant dinner. I'm too small to pay the milk bill, but when I attend church on Sunday I'm considered **Big Money** !

When as a child I laughed and wept . . . Time crept.

When as a youth I dreamed and talked . . . Time walked.

And later as I older grew . . . Time flew.

Soon I shall find while travelling on . . . Time gone.

Will Christ have saved my soul by then ? Amen.

(Ancient poem found in the old Chester Cathedral clock)

YOU'VE MET 'EM

Have you heard of the famous Tate Family who belongs to every church ? There is the old man Dick Tate who wants to run everything in the church. Uncle Ro Tate tries to change everything, and sister Agi Tate stirs up trouble whenever possible. Her brother Irri Tate helps her to do this most effectively. Whenever new projects are suggested brother Hesi Tate and sister Vege Tate pour cold water on them. Now there is sister Imi Tate who tries to have the church mime everywhere. When the church budget is being reviewed everybody tends to quake if brother Devas Tate stands up in the meeting, and brother Poten Tate is just as terrifying because he wants to be the big shot and get his own way. But not all the family is bad. Brother Facili Tate is quite helpful—a delightful member of the family is Miss Felici Tate and the Minister is always inspired by the twin brothers Cogi Tate and Medi Tate. No doubt you can think of more members of this family. We must decide which are the most heloful to the life of the Church and by God's Grace seek to emmulate them.