

ANSLEY CHURCH MAGAZINE

No. 672

JUNE 1981

Price 10p



Vicar : THE REVD. TIMOTHY M. GOULDSTONE

The Vicarage, Birmingham Road, Ansley

Tel.: Chapel End 392240

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

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WORSHIP

1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays in each month

11.00 a.m. Parish Communion
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer

3rd Sunday

11.00 a.m. Family Service
6.30 p.m. Parish Communion

1st Sunday

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

Sunday School each Sunday at 11.00 a.m., in the Village Church Hall except on the third Sunday when it will attend the service in Church.

The Vicar will not normally be available on Tuesdays.

Dear Friends,

Thank you very much for the warm welcome that Jane, Rebecca and I have received in Ansley. There are lots of new faces and new names and it will take time to get to know who's who but we've already made a start. We are settling in at the Vicarage and I'm getting the garden into shape at the back. Please feel free to call at any time. (N.B. **Not** for gardening !)

Nationwide the church has been through a tough time during the past few years but recently there have been signs of renewal and optimism amongst the people of God. Please pray that we may together take the opportunities for passing on the Christian message that are given to us.

OPTIMISM OR PESSIMISM ?

During the past twenty years there has been a lot of pessimistic talk about the church and what it is for. Many have lost confidence in the Christian faith and cannot see its relevance for today. Too often the image the church presents of God is that of someone who is interested in fund raising and the manner of worship. The questions about the ultimate meaning of life and the values that we should live by are dodged.

Despite this uncertainty, "religion" is still very much alive. The cults like the Moonies and the Jehovah's Witnesses attract attention because they know how to pass on their message. Many are attracted to them because they seem to offer certain answers in a hostile world. A great many members of the Jehovah's Witnesses, for example, are former members of one or other of the orthodox Christian churches. Does this show up our lack of certainty in what we believe and our inability to

communicate the Christian faith? We have lost our Christian optimism, or Christian hope. The word "hope" in the New Testament does not refer to a vague sense that perhaps one day things will turn out all right. It means the certainty and assurance that God has spoken to men through his Son, Jesus Christ. Do we as God's people in Ansley share this optimism?

GOOD NEWS OR BAD NEWS?

Another word for 'Gospel' is 'Good News.' But it is bad news if our main interest is in buildings rather than people or in preserving the past at the expense of the present. Jesus brought drastic and threatening change to the religious people of his day. They were not prepared to accept this need for change and destroyed him. Recently a minister in Birmingham said that regarding the life and worship of the church, 'constant change is here to stay.' We have to accept this fact if we are not to become irrelevant to the world and a disgrace to God.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . that throughout the world over 1000 Christian congregations start up every week? And 63,000 people are joining them every week? We need to open our eyes to what God is doing world-wide.

TIM GOULDSTONE

BAPTISM

We welcome into the Lord's family (May 24th):

Nicholas Richard Bates, Highfield House, Nuthurst Lane.
Teresa Ann Walton, 37 Birchley Heath Road.

LAID TO REST

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though he dies." (John 11:25)

May 27th (in Bentley churchyard):

Marjorie Oxford, late of Birchley Heath.

DIARY FOR JUNE

2—Tuesday. Parochial Church Council. Village Church Hall 8.00 p.m.

M.U. Parish Church Branch. Village Church Hall 3.00 p.m.
Speaker: Mrs. Haynes.

7—Sunday. Whit Sunday.

13—Saturday. Church Fete. Village Church Hall 3.00 p.m.

15—Monday. Deanery Synod. Village Church Hall 7.30 p.m.

16—Tuesday. Combined Mothers' Union Service. Corley Parish Church 7.30 p.m.

17—Wednesday. M.U. St. John's Branch. Mrs. Varden 7.00 p.m.

25—Thursday. Coffee Morning. Mrs. Varden 10.30 a.m. to noon.

THE CHURCH FETE

This will be held in the Village Church Hall and in its grounds on Saturday, June 13th beginning at 3.00 p.m. It will be opened by the Vicar and Mrs. Gouldstone—jointly ! There will be many stalls, games and competitions. Refreshments will be provided by the Mothers' Union and proceeds will go to the Church General Fund which cares for the day-to-day running of the Church. Did you know it costs £110 a week to keep it there ? Please do your utmost to support this fete with your presence and gifts for the various stalls. Admission will be 5p and there will be a door prize.

COFFEE MORNING AT 'HOMELANDS,' NURSERY HILL

This will be held at the home of Mrs. Varden on Thursday, June 25th at 10.00 a.m., in aid of St. John's Mothers' Union Funds and St. John's Hall Funds. Admission will be 20p and there will be a Bring and Buy stall.

Homelands is a lovely spot; come and enjoy your coffee and the social gathering there and also give support to these worthy causes.

MOTHERS' UNION COMBINED SERVICE

This will be held in Corley Parish Church on Tuesday, June 16th at 7.30 p.m. A bus will run as follows :

St. John's Hall	depart	6.40 p.m.
Gun Hill and Arley		7.00 p.m.

It will return after the service.

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REPORTS

The Buffet-Dance held on May 2nd was a splendid evening, enjoyed by all who attended. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Onions from Arley were most efficient M.C's and the refreshments were lovely. A profit of £55 was made for Hall Funds. There will be another one in September.

The Commissioning of the Revd. Tim Gouldstone as Priest-In-Charge of Ansley was a wonderful service. The church was full (not packed), the singing was hearty and the sermon by the Bishop of Warwick was instructed, most interesting and a help to us all. The social gathering in the school afterwards was very enjoyable and helped everybody to meet each other. It was a day to remember.

FRANK ARNOLD