



Ansley Church News

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BARN DANCE

Sutton's Farm, Saturday, June 29th at 8.00 p.m.

Glorishears with caller John Meacham.

Bar. Tickets £2.50 from Mrs. Woolliscroft, Mrs. Gaskin, Mrs. Cove, Mr. Arnold, Mr. Oliver, Mrs. Berridge and Mrs. Sutton.

CHURCH FETE

Vicarage Garden, Saturday, June 15th at 3.00 p.m.

Stalls, White Elephant, Farmers, "1lb. Stall," Books and Toys, Raffle, Skittles, Spinning Demonstration.

ALL WELCOME.

Dear Friends,

The celebration of Whitsun tends to be a 'lost' Festival. And our Christian belief can relegate the Holy Spirit to the world of the unreal, the world of the irrelevant and possibly even the slightly sinister subject of ghosts and spiritualism.

Today there is a widespread belief in the occult, the unusual experience, the unseen, hidden world of forces that we cannot explain. A recent survey of opinions amongst young people found that belief in spirits and in the ability to experience direct contact with the unseen world was much more common than belief in 'Christianity.'

There are a number of reasons for this. First, Christianity can be imprisoned in institutions which are often scarcely distinguishable from other organisations of the world. The priorities of the church appear to many to be the exact opposite of what Jesus stood for. There is sometimes a narrowness of Spirit and a pre-occupation with maintenance and security that fetters the freedom of the message of Jesus Christ and makes it hard to hear.

Second, with the decline in Christian belief, there must be something to fill the void. So men and women turn to bizarre experience-orientated cults, to seances and other undesirable replacements.

But the Holy Spirit is given to us so that we might see the world through the eyes of Jesus Christ. This means that we are to take an interest in everything and everybody. As Paul says, '... the law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus has set me free ...' (Romans 8 : 2):

... We are set free as Christians to **look** at the world through the eyes of God; the wonder and joy of the created universe, the pain of suffering.

... we are set free to **serve** our neighbour with the priorities of Jesus Christ; love, sacrifice, patience, time.

... we are given power and peace to **know** that God has made us his own and adopted us into his family. We ... '... did not receive the Spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of Sonship.' (Romans 8 : 15).

Spirit of life, source of all power and beauty,
Open our eyes to the wonder of the universe.
Spirit of truth, source of all knowledge,
Open our minds to truth, from wherever it comes.
Spirit of Christ, source of all love,
Open our lives to the needs of our neighbours.

Amen.

TIM GOULDSTONE

CHURCH END SCHOOL

It is with great regret that we learnt on May 8th that the Church of England (Controlled) First School at Church End is to close from July 12th, 1985 and the pupils be transferred elsewhere. This is a sad blow for the parish of Ansley as this school has served the community well since its inception in 1873. There have been two attempts to close it down in the late 60's and early 70's but this time the Secretary of State for Education and Science did not think that the case made by parents, governors and other local interested parties warranted the continued maintenance of the school. As there are at present 42 children on the school roll (and it would have been 50 had not closure been threatened) the decision seems a hard one. There are many First Schools with far fewer pupils still open in the county.

It also means a break with a long tradition of Church interest in education in Ansley parish. The Vicar has been in to take assembly once a week in term time and has served as Chairman of the Governors and tried to be available when needed for advice and care. Also, a Church School does serve to retain a distinctive Christian emphasis in the broader fields of education at a time when the spiritual dimension of life is being lost.

My fear is that if the Church loses an interest in education nationally it will lead to the setting up of independent 'Christian' schools with a very narrow outlook on life; this has already happened in the United States and is beginning to happen here. This would be a tragedy. Such schools are often profoundly suspicious of the discoveries of science and promote a very narrow outlook on all types of human enterprise.

I would like to thank all those who have given such an enormous amount of their time and patience and knowledge to the life of this school, not only in our two-year long campaign to keep it open but also over the past years. The dinners, the cleaning and the secretarial work and all the duties that have to be done to keep the school running smoothly have always been performed cheerfully with the best interests of the children at heart. During the past two years parents and governors have always had the interests of the future of the school and of local education at heart. Many people have cause to be thankful for Mrs. Christine Jones as Headmistress and to the staff who have worked for the well-being of the children. They have been working under considerable pressure in recent times.

VILLAGE CHURCH HALL

The parish council men have now completed the clearance of the site and it now looks much tidier (and bigger) than before. Some slabs have been laid at the front of the hall and surfacing put down. In addition the North Warwickshire Project have been painting the outside of the building and repairing the window frames where they have been damaged by damp. We would like to thank the parish council for their interest in this building and the provision they have made for its appearance and upkeep.

WHO WOULD YOU CHOOSE ?

The following letter was composed to show us how ill-fitted the standards of the world are when it comes to choosing people likely to be the most gifted in serving the Lord in his church:

To: Jesus, son of Joseph
Woodcrafter Carpenter Shop
Nazareth

Dear Sir,

Thank you for the names of the people you have chosen for key positions in your new organisation. We have arranged personal interviews for them with our psychologist and our personal aptitude consultant.

It is our opinion that most of your nominees are lacking in background, education and vocational ability for your enterprise. They do not have managerial capability and proven ability. Simon Peter is emotionally unstable, opens his mouth at the wrong moment, is too ready to contradict authority and given to fits of temper. The two brothers James and John place personal interest above company loyalty. Thomas lacks confidence and displays a questioning attitude that could well rock the boat when clear no-questions-asked guidance is needed. We feel it is our duty to tell you that Matthew is in deep trouble with the inland revenue.

However, one candidate showed great potential. He is a man of administrative ability and resourcefulness, meets people well, has a keen business mind and has contacts in high places. He is highly motivated, ambitious and responsible. We recommend Judas Iscariot as your controller.

Sincerely yours,

Jordan Management Consultants.

For Bible references see:

Peter	— Matthew 16 verse 22. John 18 verses 10-11.
James	— Mark 10 verses 35-37.
John	
Thomas	— John 20 verse 25.
Matthew	— Matthew 9 verses 9 to 13
Judas	— John 13 verse 29.

COFFEE MORNING

Our Coffee Morning at Mr. and Mrs. Truelove's was very enjoyable despite the wet weather—quite a change from last year when we were able to get out into the garden. The sum of £121.04 was raised for the church general fund and it proved to be a good get-together particularly for some people who find it difficult now to get out and travel about. Thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Truelove for holding this event and to all who contributed with goods and lifts.

The next meeting of the PCC is on Tuesday, May 28th at 8.00 p.m., in the Village Church Hall. The Social Committee will meet at Mrs. Sutton's on Tuesday, June 18th at 8.00 p.m.

The 'Deanery Eucharist' this year will be held at Bramcote on Thursday, June 20th at 7.30 p.m. This will take the form of a farewell from the Deanery to Bishop John who will be retiring in July. We hope to run a coach between the four parishes for this event—if you wish to join us for this evening trip and service please see the Vicar.

Don't forget the BARN DANCE on Saturday, June 29th and the CHURCH FETE on Saturday June 15th—details on front of this magazine.

The passing of Mrs. Bradley came as a shock to her family; she appeared to be improving after a period of illness over the winter. She collapsed in hospital and passed away suddenly during what was to have been a short stay. Our sympathy is with her daughter Ann. John Baxter had been ill for a considerable period. Older members of our community will remember his links with Church End, the shop there and with the Poole family. Percy Whordley died suddenly, a member of a large family with representatives in both Ansley and Arley. He was actively concerned with the Nuneaton crown green bowling and since 1980 had been a member of the Griff and Coton Bowling Club, helping to keep the greens in excellent condition. Our prayers are with his wife Nellie and with his relatives. Mrs. Moore was the sister of the late Revd. Percy Morris who will be remembered by many Ansley folk for his ministry in the parish. She died at the home of her daughter, in Bourne End, Buckinghamshire. She was the wife of 'Sammy' Moore the baker who served the village well for many years from the bakery in Birmingham Road.

FUNERALS

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

May 2—Ada Bradley, 265 Birmingham Road, aged 83.

May 7—John Walter Baxter, formerly of 'The Rookery,' Birchley Heath, aged 79.

May 10—Percy Edwin Whordley, formerly of Ansley, aged 73.

May 17—Annie Moore, formerly of 59 Birmingham Road, Ansley, aged 93.

BAPTISMS

Peter said, 'Each one of you must turn away from his sins and be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins may be forgiven.'

May 19—Gary Steven Day, 77 Birmingham Road, Ansley.

Nicola Hadley, 62 Ansley Common.

Sarah Alexandria Wigmore, 123 Wyclif Way, S'ford.

Joleen Wood, 13 St. Lawrence Road, Ansley.