

# 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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James & Catherine Jasper,  
The Vicarage,  
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June 1st, 1986

Our Dear Friends,

Both Catherine and I are finding a great deal of pleasure spending time in the garden. Digging the soil, cutting the grass, planting seeds, moving shrubs, together with a host of other odd jobs needing to be done at this time of year. I find myself being impatient, wanting to see immediate results of my labour; but it is only after a period of time that plants begin to grow and mature and show themselves at their best.

A lot of people have expressed their appreciation of our well kept Church garden. We all value the time and care and labour that both George and Henry put into that large ground. That too, like our own gardens demands faith and patience, love and thought.

We ourselves as personalities are something like a garden in which God wants to work. St. Paul says of the Christian "We are God's workmanship." Ephesians 2-10.

Several centuries ago, a Japanese emperor commissioned an artist to paint a bird. A number of months passed, then several years, and still no painting was brought to the palace. Finally the emperor became so exasperated that he went to the artist's home to demand an explanation. Instead of making excuses, the artist placed a blank canvas on the easel. In less than an hour, he completed a painting that was to become a brilliant masterpiece. When the emperor asked the reason for the delay, the artist showed him armloads of drawings of feathers, wings, heads and feet. Then he explained that all of this research and study had been necessary before he could complete the painting.

In a sense we Christians are similar to both a garden, or to that piece of art. God has got one goal for us, "to be conformed to the image of His Son." Romans 8-27. But the process takes time. The "artist" or "gardener" is the Holy Spirit. Slowly, but surely, He leads us to spiritual growth and maturity. Our transformation requires years of patience and will not be finished until we enter the presence of the Lord.

Now we are in a time of growth and preparation. God guides us through one experience after another (and some of those experiences are not those sort we would choose) to become more like the masterpiece we will be in Glory.

Let us ask the Lord to help us to respond positively to all that He is attempting to do to us and amongst us.

God bless you,

James and Catherine, Mark and Rebekah

## PENTECOST SERMON — SUNDAY, MAY 18th, 1936

Tonight we will look together at a fellowship of believers, a group which numbered about a hundred and twenty, in the upper room of a home in Jerusalem. They were there in obedience to Jesus—believing, waiting, praying, and expecting His blessing. I would like to ask if we are in that same frame of mind here in Church tonight? God can only bless us if that is our attitude. These people experienced three wonderful things of the Lord.

### **They saw the Glory of the Lord**

John wrote later in his gospel "We **saw** His Glory, the Glory of the Father's only Son, full of Grace and Truth." John 1 v 14.

Peter wrote in his second letter "We were eye witnesses: with our own eyes we **saw** the greatness of His Majesty." 2 Peter 1 v 16.

A number of Greeks came to Philip one day, when no doubt they had seen the excitement of the disciples, enquiring and saying "Sir we want to **see** Jesus."

After the resurrection of Jesus His friends went everywhere saying "We have **seen** the Lord." Thomas must have said after his initial doubts, "I **saw** in His hands and feet the nail prints."

Yes they **saw** the Glory of the Lord—Jesus was God, God and Man.

You and I need a constant fresh glimpse of Jesus, we need to **see** Jesus' Glory and this should be our prayer and our hearts desire.

Some friends and I went along to Newcastle airport one day to try and catch a glimpse of Princess Diana as she came to visit the North East. We waited and eventually the cars came along but alas they whizzed by and we hardly saw the Princess. One friend saw that there were two ladies in the car but "which was the Princess and which her lady in waiting" we were not sure! We saw the escort, the cars, the hats but you see we really missed seeing the Princess herself. This can be so true of us, we can be caught up with the trimmings, the organisation and ceremonies of the Church and miss seeing the Lord Jesus. Don't be amongst those who miss the vital saving glimpse of the Glory of the Lord.

### **They sought the Greatness of the Lord**

All the time they were **seeking** more of the Greatness of the Lord. They were like the tulips opening out to get the full blessing of the sun. Are you and I guilty of making God too small, having a God who we have 'thought up' in our own minds. Credo last night spoke of the liberal theology which says, we "think" this, that, and the other rather than acknowledging the TRUTH God has revealed. The scientist often tries to analyse God, as he does an experiment. Philosophers try to put God into a "reasonable" design of thought.

Through your daily Bible reading, prayer and meditation make this your constant aim to **seek the Greatness of the Lord**. The psalmist said "I will proclaim your Greatness my God and King, I will thank you for ever and ever."

### **They spoke of the Goodness of the Lord**

They couldn't help it, and neither can we help sharing with others what Jesus is doing for us when we know a daily openness of heart to the outpouring of God's Holy Spirit.

The wonder of knowing that because of Jesus' death on the cross we can be fully forgiven. The fact that Jesus is ALIVE and will guide us and accompany us in life, that one day He will come again brings a song of love from the depth of our heart and makes us speak out about the **Goodness of the Lord**.

### **SERVICES IN ANSLEY CHURCH — JUNE 1986**

#### **Sunday, June 1st — Second after Pentecost**

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said).
- 11.00 a.m. The Parish Communion.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer and Sermon.

#### **Sunday, June 8th — Third Sunday after Pentecost**

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

#### **Sunday, June 15th — Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

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

#### **Sunday, June 22nd — Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

- 10.00 a.m. Family Service at St. John's Hall.
- 11.00 a.m. The Parish Communion.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

#### **Sunday, June 29th — Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

##### **St. Peter's Day**

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

#### **Sunday, July 6th — Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said).
- 11.00 a.m. The Parish Communion.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

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Arrangements for Holy Baptism, Banns, Weddings and Funerals to be made with the Vicar at the Vicarage or Telephone Chapel End **396403**.

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The Sunday School meets in the Village Church Hall on Sundays at 11.00 a.m., except June 15th when it attends the Service at 11.00 a.m., in Church.

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The Village branch of the Mothers' Union will meet in the Village Church Hall on Tuesday, June 3rd at 3.00 p.m., when the Vicar and his wife will take part in the meeting.

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St. John's branch of the Mothers' Union will meet at St. John's Hall on Wednesday, June 18th at 7.00 p.m., and the speaker will be Mrs. Love.

## **THE ANNUAL CHURCH FETE — SATURDAY, JUNE 14th, 1986**

This year the Church Fete will be held at the Vicarage (if wet in the Village Church Hall) at 3.00 p.m., on Saturday, June 14th. The P.C.C. have tried very hard to avoid clashes with other local events but it is hard to do this at this time of the year.

There will be many stalls and games which will include: Plants for the Garden, the Sunday School Groceries, The "Suttons" mystery Stall, a delicious Cake Stall, The Country Produce on the Farmer's Stall, a White Elephant Stall, together with games and competitions such as: Skittles, Bean Bags, Clock Golf and Mrs. Truelove's varied competitions.

The Mothers' Union will be behind the tea urn with their refreshments. Given good weather (what a hope) this should be a most pleasant afternoon spent in very attractive surroundings.

This is one of the major events the Church uses to get everybody together socially and at the same time to raise some extra cash for the Church General Fund to pay for heat and light, quota to Coventry, insurances and the many other little things that have to be paid for day by day.

Please come, enjoy yourself, and help the Church in its very important work.

If you would like to help and have not received an invitation please offer your service by having a word with the Vicar or his wife.

## **COFFEE MORNING IN JULY**

Both branches of the Mothers' Union are holding a Coffee Morning together at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Salisbury, No. 4 The Villas, Izons Croft, Ansley Hall at 10.30 a.m., onwards on Thursday, July 10th. The proceeds will be divided between the funds of both branches.

Tell your friends, come and bring them and enjoy another morning in a very pleasant garden atmosphere.

## **THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

The service we now use is called Series 2 of the new order of services and became out of date on December 31st, 1985.

This service is liked by us all but the Church Council is of the opinion, that as a change has to be made we should move forward into the realm of new ideas and use the new service called "Rite A" which is to be found in the Alternative Service Book published in 1980. Some sixty copies of this Service have been ordered, and will be put into use at a date to be announced after they have arrived.

It is not too different from Series 2 and given time for us to become familiar with it, it should do much to improve our standard of worship, and thus increase the benefits the worshipping congregations will receive from it.

Let us pray that we shall all welcome this change.